

THE CONVICT JAMES BROWN RESPIRED.

Yesterday Mr. Sheriff Davis received a communication from Chief Justice Draper, respecting James Brown, (who was sentenced to be hanged to-morrow for the murder of Mr. J. S. Hogan) until the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General could be ascertained, and until the Court of Queen's Bench had given its decision relative to the application for a new trial. A copy of the communication was forwarded to Mr. Allen, Governor of the Gaol. In the afternoon one of the turnkeys entered Brown's cell, and told him that he had a letter from the Sheriff which he was instructed to read to him. Brown said, "I suppose it is all over with me and I shall be hanged on Monday." The turnkey replied that he had better listen to the letter before he said anything, and proceeded to read it. While he was doing so, Brown said that he felt just the same at that moment as he would if he lived ten years more. After the turnkey had finished reading the letter, Brown turned round and walked up the corridor apparently unconcerned. Since he was sentenced he has been visited regularly four times each week by the Rev. Mr. Boddy, chaplain of the gaol. Rev. Mr. Fish, and other clergymen and laymen, and several ladies have paid him several visits. He has always listened to the kind instructions which they gave him, and was ready to engage in devotional exercises. It is anticipated that the Court of Queen's Bench will give judgment in the case next week.

The secretary of the United States Navy thus alludes to the arrest of Messrs. Wilkes and Sillidell in his report which has just been laid before Congress. Captain Charles Wilkes, in command of the San Jacinto, while searching in the West Indies for the Sumpter, received information that James M. Mason and John Sillidell, disloyal citizens and leading conspirators, were on their way to embark from Havana in the English steamer Trent on their way to Europe to promote the cause of the insurgents. Cruising in the Bahama channel he intercepted the Trent on the 8th of November, and took from her these dangerous men, whom he brought to the United States. His vessel being ordered to refit for service at Charleston. The prisoners were retained on board and conveyed to Fort Warren, where they were committed to the custody of Colonel Dimmick in command of that fortress.

The prompt and decisive action of Captain Wilkes on this occasion merited, and received the enthusiastic approval of this department, and if a too generous forbearance was exhibited by him in not capturing the vessel which had these rebel enemies on board, it may, in view of the special circumstances and his patriotic motives be excused, but it must by no means be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for the treatment of any case of a similar infraction of neutral obligations by foreign vessels engaged in commerce or the carrying trade.

NEW PARTICULARS ABOUT LORD NELSON.—A nephew of Lord Nelson writing to the Times to correct some misrepresentations quoted in that paper from a book, supplies the following interesting particulars:—"Lord Nelson in private life was remarkable for a demeanor quiet, sedate, and unobtrusive, anxious to give pleasure to every one about him, distinguishing each in his turn by some act of kindness, and chiefly those who seemed to require it most. During his few intervals of leisure, in a quiet conversation with friends, he delighted in quiet relations, through which occasionally ran an undercurrent of pleasantry not unvarnished with caustic wit. At his table he was the last heard among the company, and so far from being the hero of his own tale I never heard him voluntarily refer to any of the great actions of his life. On his return from his last interview with Mr. Pitt, being asked in what manner he had been received he replied that he had reason to be gratified with his reception, and conclude with animation, "Mr. Pitt, when I rose to go, left the room with me, and attended me to the carriage. A man more temperate in his habits could not have been found. Lord Nelson was not, as described, a 'little man' but of the middle height and of a frame adapted to activity and exertion. He was a sailor of a warm and generous disposition; yet I never heard a coarse expression issue from his lips. If such did arise, it was drawn forth when a friend was attacked, or even an enemy unjustly accused; for his disposition was so truly noble that it revolted against all wrong and oppression. His heart indeed was as tender as it was courageous."

A HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE.—THREE CHILDREN BURIED TO DEATH.—The Parish Reformer learns that on the 19th ult. Mr. Andrew Caswell, residing in Minto on the Wallace boundary, had his house and all its contents burned down. It appears that while he and his wife were out a short distance from the house, at work pitting up potatoes, they discovered it on fire. He immediately ran to the rescue of their little ones which they had left during their absence. He rushed in amid the flames, but could not find them, and had to return in order to regain his breath. He attempted in a second time but had to relate, he failed in his attempt also—and the innocent little ones perished in the flames. Mr. C. is also in a very pained state of mind, having been severely injured in the attempt to save his children. We hope this will be a warning to parents when they leave home, either to take the children with them or leave some responsible person in charge.

TWO BULLIES SHOT DEAD.

The Western correspondent of the New York Times says:—"A few days since, while Lieut. Sloan, of the New York Thirty-first Regiment, was officer of the guard, a number of bullies of the regiment who have always been a turbulent element in the organization, attacked him. He called out the guard, but they not obeying, he drew his revolver and shot one of the leading mutineers, named Scottie, dead. Gen. Franklin investigated the matter, and finding it to be a clear case of self-defense, he took no further notice of it. Three days since a round robin was sent to Gen. Franklin threatening the life of Lieut. Sloan. He was not tried for the killing of Scottie. Two days since, Sloan was again attacked by the same party, and he again settled the difference by shooting another dead, since which even he has not been molested."

MEDICAL AND ANTI-PHRENUIC.—A gentleman, afflicted with some chronic complaint, was recommended Brandreth's pills as a sure cure. In following the directions, which say the dose for inveterate cases must be daily increased till cured, he found it necessary, after three months' trial, to sit down with his mouth open, while his servant pitched into him with a soap-sud.

A TIGER KILLED BY BABOONS.

The following account of a tiger chase is extracted from the North Lincoln Spy, a regimental paper published at Graham's Town, Cape of Good Hope. The writer, after alluding to his sporting experience, of all kinds, and in all quarters of the globe, declares that he never witnessed so novel and intensely interesting a chase as that about to be described.

"Not long ago I spent a few days at Fort Brown, a small military post on the banks of the Great Fish river, where my friend W. was stationed. One evening as my friend and I were returning home after a somewhat fatiguing day's duck-shooting, we were overtaken by a pack of baboons, the most extraordinary notes not far from us. It seemed as if all the demons in the infernal regions had been unchained, and were amusing themselves by trying to frighten us poor mortals by their horrid yells. Some, however, in breathless expectation, not knowing what might possibly be the cause of this diabolical row, with all sorts of strange conjectures, flashing across our minds.

Nearer and nearer the yelling and screaming approached, and presently the cause became visible to our astonished eyes. Some three or four hundred yards to our right, upon the brow of a small hill, a spotted leopard commonly called in this country a tiger, though much smaller than the lord of the Indian jungles, came in view bounding along with all the speed and energy of despair, while close behind him followed an enormous pack of baboons, from whose threatening and demoniac sounds that had proceeded the demoniac sounds that had startled us. Our ex- lement in the chase, as you may suppose, was intense. On went the tiger, making for the river, the baboons following like avenging demons, and evidently gaining ground upon their exhausted foe, though their exultant yells each moment became more and more terrific. They reached the stream, the tiger still in advance, and with a tremendous bound he cast himself into its muddy waters, and made for the opposite bank. The next moment his pursuers, in admirable confusion, were eagerly after him, and as the tiger, now fully exhausted, clambered on the land again, the largest and strongest of the baboons were close at his heels, though many of the pack (the old, the very young and weakly) were struggling in the water.

In a few moments all had passed from our sight behind the brow of the opposite bank, but their increased yelling, now stationary behind the hill, told us that the tiger had met his doom, and that their strong arms and jaws were tearing him limb from limb. As the evening was far advanced, and we were still some miles from home, we did not cross the river to be in at the death; but next morning, a few bones and scattered fragments of fur and skin showed what had been the tiger's fate. On our return home we were told by some Dutch gentlemen that such hunts are not uncommon when a tiger is rash enough to attack the young baboons, which often happens. All these creatures for miles around assemble and pursue their enemy with relentless fury; but in invariably closes with the destruction of the tiger—a striking instance that the idea of retributive justice is not confined to man alone."

A CONFIDENCE GAME.—About two weeks ago a German "bearded like the Pard," paid a visit to the flourishing village of Newmarket, took up his quarters at the principal hotel, and informed the landlord that he was in quest of another Teuton against whom he held a note for \$250. He made inquiries around the village, but could find no trace of his debtor, and gave up the search under the impression that he had left for parts unknown. To his evident surprise, however, the man whom he was in search of presented himself at the dining table of the hotel on the following day. After dinner the creditor presented his note, but he was immediately told there were no funds on hand to meet it. It then came out that the creditor in making inquiries had called upon the station master and learned from him that there were three English cabs in the village, and one of them belonged to the man who owed him the money. He therefore demanded that the bill of lading or invoice of the liquor should be assigned to him, which was reluctantly complied with. Having got possession of the liquor he next called on "mine host" and related the whole transaction, when the liquor was assigned to him, and he was in great want of money. He proposed to place the liquor in the cellar of the hotel if the hotelkeeper would advance him \$250, about one third as he said, of its legitimate value and he would return and redeem it on the 22nd of last month. To this proposal "mine host" reluctantly consented, and paid over the money, and it was hoped that the morrow would bring him to redeem his promise. Days passed and the hotel keeper began to fear that he had been duped but still he considered he had value for his money in his cellar. A change, however, "came o'er the spirit of his dream" when the liquor was taken out by an expedition merchant from Toronto, on Saturday who declared it to be "trash," the poor hotel keeper has doubtless seen the last of the Germans and his 250 dollars the transaction was a deeply laid scheme to obtain money under false pretences.—Toronto Globe.

WHEAT A WEED.—It has long been suspected that the cereal grains are but cultivated examples of wild cereal grasses—that they were not created as corn, but that they have been improved by culture into their present condition. This supposition is confirmed by M. Fabre, of Agde, in the south of France, who, in 1838, sowed some grains of the *Aegilops ovata*, a common cereal grass, and, by successive sowings in garden soil, produced, in 1846, crops of real wheat as fine as any to be found in the neighborhood. This experiment is now being carried on by the Professor of Geology and Botany in the Royal Agricultural College, and the grass is gradually undergoing the same transformation into the true cereal grain.—Once a Week.

A TEST.—Kossuth, at the time of the Hungarian rebellion, came to this country avowedly to raise funds for his support. I forgot how he crossed the Atlantic; but let us suppose he had started to come in a Collins steamer, and on the passage the steamer had been stopped and taken out by an American frigate. Would the fierce indignation of this country have been appeased by anything less than his release? Is not the case very similar to that of Mason and Sillidell, and may we not fear that the English will see for it no excuse—that they will esteem it a daring attack on their rights and on their flag.—Letter in Boston Journal.

Lieut. General Sir F. W. Williams, accompanied by his staff Col. Napier, Col. Wilmont, Lieut. Col. Robertson, Captain De. Winton and Captain Grant, visited Hamilton on Saturday. The distinguished party left on Monday for St. Catharines, where they will visit London and other points in the west. The movements of Sir Williams, at this time, bear a warlike aspect, and look as if an effort were to be made at once to put our defenses in working order.—News.

OIL CAKE.—The amount of oil cake now being made in the United States is truly immense. The Working Farmer estimates that millions of dollars worth of linseed is annually imported into the United States, in addition to that produced at home, which is used for the purpose of expelling linseed oil. The linseed oil cake is almost entirely shipped to England for the benefit of English agriculturists. This can hardly be viewed as a correct practice on our part.—If the English farmer, in obtaining the oil cake, can afford to pay a freight across the Atlantic, a profit to the American, and another to the English dealer, it is fair to infer that it should never be permitted to leave our shores. In the year 1880, Stockhardt wrote as follows on this subject: "England imports at the present day nearly 1,500,000 cwt. of oil cake for the purpose of feeding her cattle and fertilizing her fields. Of this amount Germany contributes fully one fourth, and France at least half. In this way alone 400,000 cwt. of provender and manure are annually lost to German agriculturists, which, if used exclusively as a means of manure, might yield, at the lowest estimate, 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, besides a corresponding quantity of straw. Were this oil cake employed again, simply as fodder, at least 80,000 cwt. of meat, in addition to some 450,000 bushels of rye, obtained from the surplusage by its conversion to manure, might also be produced."

A BRIDGE FALLS.—We learn that a bridge crossing the Thames about six miles east of the city, known as Norton's Bridge, has fallen. It seems that yesterday, the 21st inst., while the bridge was under repair, a team loaded with staves, belonging to Mr. Cowan, of Edwardsburgh, attempted to cross when the entire structure gave way, and horses and wagon, together with the driver, Edward Cowan, and two of our follow-citizens who were engaged in repairing the bridge, fell through into the river. Happily no one was killed, though all of them were much shaken and bruised. The two horses, however, were killed, and one of the men who fell through was Mr. Wade Owen and Mr. Frank Holman; their escape from a severe accident was almost miraculous.—London C. W., Free Press.

Nautical men in England express rather very discouraging opinions in regard to the Great Eastern. They think it doubtful whether she will ever be able to get to sea, and think that after remaining a while at Milford Haven, she will be converted into a bath house or floating hospital. The captain and crew have been paid off, and the unlucky shareholders are called upon for more money for repairs.

Fort Ontario at Oswego is to receive a new armament of 42 and 64 pounders.

HOW TO MAKE A HORSE SHINE.—Every man who has pride enough to own a horse, is anxious to have him appear well. We clip from an exchange the following universal panacea for all the ills that horses are heir to. For the sake of propriety it is couched in horse Latin, but it is easy to translate. All the ingredients are warrantably healthful:—

Recipe.—Brushes cut quercubus, ad libitum; elbow grease, quibus sufficiens; first ratu; stibius (in Winter) warmus; fodderus, never say dictus but mealus et castus; exercisus, non compromissus. The effect will be:—Coatus shinus; appetitus volutus; muscularitus, two-forty-tus.

The Herald.

CARLETON PLACE,

Wednesday, December 11, 1861.

THE WAR FEELING.

We would not wish to be considered alarmists, but to judge from the signs of the times, and the tone of the newspapers on both sides of the St. Lawrence, the war feeling is increasing. The following language in reference to expected disagreement between the governments of Great Britain and the Federal States, is uttered in a late number of the Ogdensburg Journal, and shows latent feelings of animosity which only require an excuse to awaken them into deadly hatred. It is a melancholy fact that the nearer the frontier, the more intense the hatred towards everything British. The milk and water politicians who "spread" himself so grandiloquently in the extract below, may plume himself on the fact, that if he or any his Ogdensburgh acquaintances choose to visit this portion of her Majesty's dominions, they will be well watched. The genius disposes as follows:—"In the event of a war with John Bull, we must make Canada the battle ground, and be prepared to punish our enemy on his own territory. When the people of Canada and the States were holding the most friendly and amicable relations, the British government began to send out to the Provinces soldiers and arms, and now we are told they are making fortifications along the lake and river ports. The first act of the Legislature of the State of New York, should be to put the frontier in a state of defense, and raise an army to invade the Provinces upon the first indication of hostilities."

Such is the language held in general by our neighbors over the border, and even repeated by American Agents travelling and doing business through Canada. That a feeling of hostility against our country is abroad in the Northern States is quite apparent, and that the warlike preparations entered into by the Government of this Province is anticipatory of trouble with the Federal Government, is another fact staring us in the face. The feeling at present through this country is not defiant, but amounts to a stern determination to fall in the breach in defence of the soil, and to hurl invasion from our shores. On the subject of raising an army of 10,000 men in the State of New York, for the invasion of Canada, we can impress on the mind of the Ogdensburgh editor, that an army of twice the numbers mentioned, might find footing in the Province but they would never return to tell the tale of their disasters.

On the subject of the militia, considerable discussion is taking place in the newspapers of the Province, and among them the Montreal Gazette has a pointed article, of which the following is an extract:—"Our Sedentary Militia is in a most unsatisfactory state. It is quite time that should be placed in a more efficient state. Every youth ought to learn his drill as he does arithmetic or book-keeping; but we fear it will be long years before our militia system adopted which will make of every citizen a trained defender of his country. No man ought to be granted the political franchise, unless he has learned how to serve his country in defense of its franchises and interests, and unless he is physically disabled, he must be able to do so. We can hope to see these great truths embodied in our laws, thus much may be done, that no man shall receive further promotion until he has proved, that by receiving instruction and drilling, he is able to fulfill the duties of the grade next above that to which he is about to be promoted. If the men are not all drilled, if they are too poor or indifferently to give time and exertion to the matter, there shall be no such excuse for the officers. Suppose the Militia were called out to-morrow, what a spectacle would the officers not offer for 'the mirth of gods and men.' If men are willing to accept commissions they should be willing to learn to discharge the duties devolving upon them. In short, the sooner the organization of the Militia of the Province is changed from a farce into something with an earnest meaning in it, the better for the country. The winter evenings are coming on now, and the soldiers on the frontier are the several battalions of sedentary militia, either to join in the necessary drill to fit themselves for service if required, or resign their commissions and make way for men who will do so. Doubtless they would learn the rudiments of the drill, either by drilling along with the regulars, or by attending to the drill together and hiring an instructor to drill them two or three nights in the week during the winter. It is quite time they should set about it."

In the recent message delivered by President Lincoln, there is no unfriendly feeling perceptible towards Britain, but the actions of the Government under him in arresting British subjects of suspicion, and imprisoning them, tell more forcibly of the jealousy with which they regard everything claiming British protection. The last instance of this arbitrary system adopted towards British subjects travelling in the States, is that of a person named "J. I. Shaver," who has lately addressed a letter to a friend in Toronto, in which he states that he had been informed by Lord Lyons that the American Government had refused to release him, nor will they inform him on what charge he is detained.

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The papers accompanying the President's Message, and now published, contain some interesting matter in reference to the foreign relations of the United States. The appeal to Great Britain on the score of descent in the despatch from Secretary Seward to the American minister in Britain, is eloquent. The European nations which have recognized the Confederate States as belligerents are Great Britain, France and Holland, the Austrian and Prussian governments do not recognize them, Sweden, Norway and Denmark profess unity with the Federal power, while Russia, and Italy have expressed sympathy with the Washington Government in their present troubles. The other nations await the course of events. In reference to the attitude of Britain, Mr. Seward writes to Mr. Adams as follows:

"The President would regard it as inconsistent with his habitually high consideration for the Government and people of Great Britain to allow me to dwell longer on the merely commercial aspects of the question under discussion. Indeed he will not for a moment believe that upon the consideration of merely financial gain that the Government could be induced to lend its aid to a revolution designed to overthrow the institutions of this country, and involving ultimately the destruction of the liberties of the American people."

"The President will not dwell on the pleading recollections that Great Britain not a year ago manifested by marked attention to the United States, her desire for a cordial reunion, which, all ancient prejudices and passions being buried, should be a pledge of mutual interest and sympathy forever, thereafter. The United States are not indifferent to the circumstances of common descent, language, customs, sentiments, and religion, but they are not less anxious to see the people of themselves and Great Britain than any other nation. The United States are one of many nations which have sprung from Great Britain herself. Other such nations are rising up in various parts of the globe. It has been thought by many, and have studied the philosophy of modern history profoundly, that the success of the nation thus deriving their descent from Great Britain, might, through many ages, reflect back upon that kingdom the proper glories of its own career. The Government and people of Great Britain may mistake their commercial interests, but they will be concerned in the philosophy of modern history, that the success of the nation thus deriving their descent from Great Britain, might, through many ages, reflect back upon that kingdom the proper glories of its own career. The Government and people of Great Britain may mistake their commercial interests, but they will be concerned in the philosophy of modern history, that the success of the nation thus deriving their descent from Great Britain, might, through many ages, reflect back upon that kingdom the proper glories of its own career."

The correspondence between the United States and Great Britain is very voluminous and from which we will make extracts in future numbers. In the correspondence between France and the Federal Government Mr. Seward says:—"I first desire that M. Thouvenel may be informed that this Government cannot but regard any communication held in confidence by the United States as confidential, and that the agents of the insurrectionary movement in this country, as exceptional and injurious to the dignity and honor of the United States."

The United States cannot for a moment allow the French Government to be deceived by the delusion that they will be content to have the Confederate States recognized as a belligerent power by States with which this nation is in amity. No concert of action among foreign States so recognizing the insurgents can reconcile the United States to such a proceeding, whatever may be the consequence of resistance.

Our readers will perceive by the two extracts above quoted, that the tone adopted by the Federal Government at the commencement of the revolution was at once manly and plucky, and whatever the issue of the fratricidal conflict may be, the Executive of the Washington Government has out their foreign policy after a thorough Palmerstonian pattern.

We observe by the Toronto papers that the produce trade of Chicago has increased enormously this year, attributable to the blockade of the Mississippi, and the great demand for breadstuffs in Europe. The amount of all kinds of grain received in Chicago, (including flour reduced to wheat), during the past eleven months is 54,003,219 bushels. In 1860, the receipts for the same time were 26,524,772 bushels, showing an increase of 17,488,447 bushels.

The Secretary of War for the Federal States has published his report, from which we observe that the estimated strength of the army at present is as follows:—3 months soldiers—17,875; For the war—640,000: Estimated strength of the regular army—20,334. The several arms of the service are as follows: Volunteers—357,208 infantry; 54,654 cavalry; 20,380 Artillery, 8,395 Rifles and sharpshooters. Regulars—11,175 Infantry; 4,744 Cavalry; 4,308 Artillery; 107 Engineers.

The naval strength of the Federal Government is as follows: Old Navy—Vessels of all grades 76: guns 1,783; tonnage 105,271. Purchased Vessels of all kinds—136, guns 518; tonnage 71,297. Vessels constructed 52; guns 256; tonnage 41,448: making a total of 264 vessels, 2,557 guns, and 218,019 tons. From this it appears that the army and navy of the United States at the present time is on a most formidable scale, and should peace be restored between the North and South, warlike demonstrations would probably be made on Mexico against the encroachments of the European powers. In this case, Canada would also probably be made a point of attention, if we are to judge from the tone and spirit of the Northern papers.

In reference to the retaliatory measures adopted by the Confederates towards Colonel Corcoran and other officers of the note, has had the effect of bringing out the following resolutions in the House of Representatives:—

Resolved—That the President of the United States be requested to similarly confine James F. Mason, late of Virginia, and now in custody at Fort Warren, until Col. Corcoran shall be treated as the United States have treated all prisoners taken by them on the battle field.

Mr. Odell submitted the following, which was adopted:—Whereas Col. Alfred M. Wood, of the 14th Regiment New York State Militia, was taken prisoner on the battle field of Manassas, and, after suffering other indignities, been confined by the Confederate authorities in the cell of a convicted felon, therefore

FLANK COMPANIES.

We learn that Lt. Col. Jarvis has made application to the Governor General, through the Adjutant General's department, for permission to raise two Volunteer Flank Companies, of 50 men each, from amongst the first class service men of the 3rd battalion of the Toronto Militia, to be armed and to be put through a course of drill during the winter.

The above is from a Toronto paper, and we think that the example ought to be followed throughout the Province. We think that our own village could furnish a very efficient Rifle Company, if the idea was taken hold of and prosecuted by some of the influential residents of the place. We think that it properly belongs to those holding commissions in the Militia to put a matter of this kind into existence, and certain we are that there are many riflemen in the village and vicinity, who could make a good score, and would do honour to the place if only armed, uniformed and drilled. Military movements throughout the Province are becoming common in view of the threatening attitude of our republican neighbors, and the military spirit among our Canadian citizens should be nursed by those in authority or influential positions.

Another serious accident, resulting from the careless use of a gun, happened near Arnprior, a few days ago. A Mr. Baldwin, of that place, was carrying his gun on his shoulder with the muzzle in his hand, when he slipped and fell, the hammer striking against a tree caused the gun to go off, the ball passing through his ankle inflicting a terrible wound.

Amidst all the blaze of conscious strength and anticipated triumph over the revolted South, the Federal government finds it rather tight work to raise the funds to keep the immense machinery of their government in working order. In the money market the New York Tribune points to the critical position of the money market and the necessity of private individuals coming to the relief of the government.

It is stated that Mr. Onard, of the well known steamship line had visited Quebec for the purpose of making arrangements for conveying two regiments of regulars from Halifax to Quebec.

A company of Sappers and Miners from Halifax for Canada, is on its way and may be expected in a few days. We believe their first work will be the erection of defences for the Beauharnois Canal.

The most of the telegraphic reports of the Revolutionary war in the United States are lately all in favor of the Federal arms, and the most sanguine anticipations are indulged in by the Federal authorities.

Recent explorations made in the valleys of St. Juan and Rio de las Animas in New Mexico, have led to the discovery of the ruins of many Aztec cities, of solid masonry in which stone buildings three stories high are yet standing.

We regret to learn that \$30,000 of debentures due by the City of Hamilton fall due in England next week, without any provision being made for their payment; and that an equal amount will be due next month to share the same fate.

The Yonge street railway is now being extended a mile beyond Yorkville. Work has commenced operations yesterday, and the road will be completed in a week or ten days. It will prove a great boon to residents on Yonge street outside the toll-gate.

UNIVERSITY REFORM.

LETTER FOURTH.

To the Editor of the N. Herald.

Sir,—In my last letter I noticed the statements made before the parliamentary committee in reference to the standard of examination for matriculation in the University college, and also to the parties who have been instrumental in lowering that standard. It is consoling to know that the Provincial Institution should not have been the first to set such an example before the other colleges of the country. We often hear the advocates of the one college monopoly, saying, that we ought to have in Canada, one institution at least whose *Alumni* would be recognized by the learned men of older countries as scholars of the first rank, having taken their degrees from an institution whose standard would not suffer in comparison with that of Oxford or Cambridge. Let us have, they say, one great National College towering above every thing else in the country—a college that shall be the centre and source of all intellectual greatness, and which shall look down upon our Endowment in supporting such an institution. Such is the language of many who are blinded and deceived by the lofty pretensions of those, whose first act was to lower the standard of Matriculation, in order to put it in harmony with the capabilities of defective Grammar schools.

Who would have thought that an institution claiming to be a great National one, would have started out in its career of glory and greatness, by reducing the standard of old King's College, until even the graduates themselves are ashamed of their cheap honors, while graduates from the old country look upon them with scorn upon such idle pretensions. If the Grammar schools of the country were as defective as Dr. Wilson represented, who does not see that to lower the requirements of the colleges, was only to sanction and perpetuate those deficiencies. Why not raise the Grammar schools instead of lowering the Colleges?

I will here furnish our readers with an extract from the "Canadian Church Press" (the organ of the Church of England) says the Editor in his issue of June 6, 1860, "We would call attention, also, to the reduction of the standard of the University of King's College," and in the same article the Editor says, "To sum up, we find, strange to say, Dr. Ryerson defending, against a Professor of University College, all that is true and genuine in education, as opposed to the merely superficial, shallow and pretensions, and contending for religious education for our university students at the most critical period of life."

This institution cannot claim to be national, or great, in any true sense. It cannot claim to be Provincial, because it does not in any sense meet the wants of the Province. It cannot point to numbers as the ground of its claims, for its colleges do not carry a large work, and do it well. Its claim must rest solely on the ground that it has shown great extravagance in expending the income of a National Endowment.

Before I proceed to show how the charges of extravagance were proved before the parliamentary committee, I must in a brief space now the course pursued by this great National University in reference to the Medical profession. I referred in a former paragraph to the advantages that might accrue to the profession and to the country from one medical board of examiners, properly appointed and duly qualified.

It is easy to see how several medical schools competing one with the other, might be induced to offer to students a cheap and easy road to professional honors, and in so doing to narrow down to the shortest possible limit the time for attendance at close study in the dissecting room, the lecture room or in attendance at the Hospital, but it is not so easy to find arguments to justify a great university in pursuing such a course, and especially in leading the way to the bestowment of cheap honors. That it did so, will appear evident by referring to the senate records of the 4th of March, 1857, where we find the standard modified in compliance with a memorial from the Toronto school of Medicine—previous reductions had been made prior to that date. I wish I had room to present to your readers the answer in full which Mr. Langton, ex-Vice Chancellor gave to question 457, in reference to the school of Medicine. That answer shows that the standard is now below par on some very important subjects, and that were pretensions have been the loudest, the curriculum is the lowest.

"Toronto school requires only six months of Materia-Medica, whilst McGill, Queen's, and Victoria require twelve months."

"Victoria requires six months and Queen's nothing in Medical Jurisprudence, whilst Toronto, McGill and all the English schools require three months."

"Victoria requires twelve months attendance on chemical lectures, whilst Queen's and Toronto only require six, and McGill two courses of two hours a week, but in this respect Victoria is supported by the practice of the British schools."

It will be seen from these quotations which I have condensed as briefly as possible, that those institutions spoke of at public dinners, and referred to in the newspapers as "patron" and "insignificant," need not blush to have their curriculum compared with the best in this land or in older countries. The requisites for a medical degree or license in our Canadian institutions as a whole compare very favorably with the old country schools, and in some very important branches quite excel them.

If we look at the practical working of the present system, we will see the necessity of reform in the medical department of the University. There is in Toronto a board of examiners professing to represent the whole Province. That board is composed of seven persons residing in the city, and is composed of the funds of the University, the sum of \$80 each, per annum, whether they examine five or fifty candidates.

In the year 1856 the degree of M. D. was conferred on one student for which the University paid to the examiners an equal amount for each candidate, the sum of \$600. These seven persons professors for the same degree in the Province. Instead of this we find another medical faculty in the same city, doing the same kind of work only having a much larger number to examine and receive, having no claim whatever on these funds; this latter examining body known as the Medical Department of the University of Victoria College. Then we have Trinity, Queen's and McGill, each faculty examining and honoring their own students, now on what ground can the examiners of Toronto school claim to receive remuneration for their services being selected from different parts of the Province and the travelling expense of distant members paid, then it might claim, to be Provincial, and it could scarcely fail to give satisfaction. With such a provincial board of examiners, well remunerated, there would be a much better guarantee for the safety and happiness of the community, while the profession would be much more respected.

I am sure that no one would believe that such an arrangement, as is here alluded to, would destroy the university or lessen any of its powers, so far as the medical profession is concerned. And if those principles will apply to one of the learned professions, why not to another—and if to the colleges of medicine, why not to the colleges of arts.

Victoria and Queen's Colleges have taken the right ground on these important questions the public need but to be informed on the subject in order to sustain them. Such at least is the opinion of one, who, while closing this letter, begs to thank your proof-reader for his care with my last.

Dec. 3rd, 1861.

W.

For the Herald.

COAL OR ROCK OIL.

A discovery of a new illuminating substance was made in Scotland less than six years ago, which is likely to result in the speedy and entire displacement of Pale Seal, Sperm and Tallow oils as means of light. This new illuminator is made by manufacturing coal into an oil by a peculiar process of distillation, which was patented by a Mr. Young of Glasgow, under the name of Paraffin oil. N. M. Livingston, formerly of the village of Lanark, and nephew of the renowned African trader, was the first to introduce it into Canada. Paraffin Oil as at first manufactured had a very disagreeable—but not unhealthy—gas-like smell, which formed a great objection to its use by many persons. So very strong indeed was this odour, that considerable difficulty was experienced in getting it conveyed to this country; passengers being unwilling to receive it on board. However, this objection has, by a superior process of distillation, been removed, and the best qualities of coal oil now manufactured gives out no perceptible smell when burning.

Scarcely had the manufacture of coal oil been fully commenced, when the discovery of large quantities of petroleum in the neighborhood of Pennsylvania, and more recently near Sarnia, in Western Canada took place. This Petroleum is of the same nature as coal oil, and as it can be refined much cheaper it has to a great extent superseded the use of paraffin in this country. The Petroleum is found on boring a few hundred feet into the earth, to issue from a bed of shaly rock, and on this account the manufactured article has been named Rock oil. So great was the quantity issued from some of the wells, vessels could not be got to contain it, and thousands of gallons ran to waste; indeed, we have heard of wells being bored 90 cents per barrel in its crude state. Now, however, by means of double iron tubes and faucets, the proprietors of wells are enabled to confine the petroleum so as to be drawn off only when required. Crude oil is now worth from fifteen to twenty cents per gallon at the wells, and when manufactured, from fifty to seventy-five cents according to quality. As soon as a sufficient number of refineries have been erected, no doubt this oil will become one of our chief articles of export, as the supply of the crude article is said to be inexhaustible.

So very much superior has coal and rock oil been found to be, as for illuminating public buildings, churches, factories, workshops and private dwellings, that although so short a time has elapsed since its first introduction, it has now become one of our first articles of commerce, and is in use in every town and village in Canada to the almost entire exclusion of candles. The oil, as we were formerly told, is so pure, that intelligent farmers are also abandoning the dim light of dirty, greasy, tallow candles for the bright and pleasant flame of the coal oil lamp. A few of the advantages of coal or rock oil over candles, are, 1st—its cheapness; a lamp will give the light of three candles at the cost of one. 2nd, It is safer; the flame not being exposed, there is no danger from sparks, &c. 3rd, the light can be increased or diminished at pleasure by a simple contrivance attached to the burner; the amount of oil consumed being in proportion to the amount of light. 4th, It is cleaner, and requires less time and attention. 5th, It is easier on the eyesight—especially when a shade is used.

We would advise the readers of the Herald, who have not yet tried this oil to do so at once; they will not regret the experiment.—Com.

Perth, Dec. 24, 1862.

BECKWITH COUNCIL.

The Municipal Council of the Township of Beckwith, met at the Town Hall on the 19th day of Dec. 1861. Present the Reeve and all the Councilors.

The Minutes of the last sitting of the Council were read and approved of.

The following original communications were then presented and read:—

Presented by the Clerk, the letter of the Town Clerk of the Township of Goulbourn, with a copy of a Resolution of the Council of that day of Oct. 1861, granting twenty dollars to improve the Town Line between Beckwith and Goulbourn, provided the Beckwith Municipal Corporation do grant an equal amount for the same purpose, but as no particular locality was mentioned in said motion, for the expenditure of the money, and the Town Line aforesaid being a County Road no action was taken on said motion.

Presented by Mr