Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., APRIL 18, 1865.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

The telegraphic announcement of the cold-blooded murder of the President of the United States, in Ford's Theatre, Washington, on the evening of Good Friday, sent a thrill of horror throughout the American continent, and will startle the civilized world. Assassination, under any circumstances, is a brutal crime, but when it strikes down the Chief Magistrate of a great nation, in the prime of life, and at an important crisis of his country's fate, it may well fill men's minds with feelings of gloom and apprehension. How awful are the antitheses of Life! The American people one week ago gave themselves up to the most extravagant joy at what they firmly believed to be the closing triumphs of the civil war; but, ere the illuminating fires had paled—ere the booming roar of cannon had ceased to reverberate through the hills—suddenly, like a lightning-flash, the bullet of the merciless Maryland desperado crashed through the President's brain, and the cup of joy is instantaneously replaced by a chalice of bitterest sorrow. The death of Mr Lincoln is a calamity to his people which no words can express, and the inscrutable alone knows what the far reaching political results may be. "Andy Johnson," who succeeds the late President by virtue of his office as Vice-President, possesses, we fear, but few of the qualities of a great or successful statesman. His inaugural speech, while in a state of intoxication, is not a very hopeful commencement, but it is to be hoped that as President, he will act with a degree of dignity and wisdom that will happily disappoint those who fear an exhibition of executive Parson-Brownlowism.

When the almost incredible news from Washington reached Goderich, (by way of *Seaforth*, for it seems that the Montreal telegraph could not or would not give us the refusal of this most important news,) the excitement was intense, and the feeling of regret and horror universal. No former manifestation of sympathy for the South restrained heart-felt expressions of sorrow at the shocking occurrence, and amongst the excited groups of men eagerly canvassing the news, reprobation was the one sentiment uttered. We are glad to observe that the feeling throughout Canada was the same. The heart must be hard indeed that could rejoice over such a terrible announcement. Elsewhere we give full particulars of the bloody occurrences.

THE HARD TIMES.

A veteran press man once said that one of the duties of an editor is to write upon any subject which forms the general topic of conversation in his locality. We believe the gentleman was right, and that it is impossible for a secular newspaper to fulfil its mission as a mirror of the times without reflecting that which affects the material interests of society. This duty is pleasant or painful to the earnest, candid editor, just as the subjects pressing upon his attention may be "grave or gay, lively or severe." In all conscience, a *hard times* topic affords but little margin for liveliness or gayety. A man having heavy notes to meet is deaf to the strains of sweetest music; regardless, often, of the little delicacies of social life, and conscious only of a terrible struggle against the current which presses him downwards with vehement force; and as many of our readers are in this position, we feel that it will be almost impossible for us to write them into confident joyousness. The times are most awfully hard in these counties, as they are throughout the Province generally. Many of our most enterprising merchants and traders have gone under already, and numbers of those left hardly know how to turn themselves under the pressure caused by the scarcity of money, which is increased to an appreciable extent by the retrenching policy of the Banks, which positively refuse to discount even the best paper—hotel-keepers, small traders and even mechanics, are taking advantage of the Insolvency Act or levanting, very foolishly, in our opinion, to the regions beyond—trade is stagnant—enterprise has come to a dead-lock—and, in short, the country seems to be going to Jericho just about as fast as *hard times* can propel it. We foresaw this deplorable state of affairs months ago. The short crop of last year could not possibly pay off the heavy interest due upon Mortgages and store-keepers' bills as well, and the consequence is that all our business men will be required to solve for themselves the problem of how to tide over three or four months—between March and August—without the means necessary for that purpose. It is comparatively useless to push debtors. The only thing that can be done is to possess our souls in patience and pray that a kind Providence may bless and reward the labors of the Agriculturist. By the way, we observe that some correspondent takes the trouble to write to the Hamilton *Times* about the dullness of times in Goderich.—We acknowledge to the dullness, but we would ask those cities or towns of the Province which are without suffering in this respect to cast the first stone at us in our financial troubles. Is Hamilton in a position to single out any locality as being very dull, friend *Times*? How about that city debt, and heavy taxation, consequences of hopes crushed out by the *hard times*?

But, after all, we must not give way to despondency. Our merchants generally will, we trust, weather the storm by careful management, and certainly never, perhaps, did a Spring open up with a better prospect for a full crop in the coming harvest. The fields of fall wheat, on the whole, promise finely, and the delightful sowing weather is encouraging our farmers to put a greater breadth than usual under crop. Under fair average circumstances we may confidently depend on a better yield in all branches of Agriculture than for years back, and certain indications point to an advance in the prices of breadstuffs. If the year's labors are thus crowned, it may not lead to sudden prosperity, but it will inevitably bring about a healthier state of trade and a greater abundance of money, and it is to be hoped that ere the return of a New Year, many a man will be enabled to breathe easy who is now tormented in the devising of ways and means. Let us not despair—after a season of suffering we have frequently, in the order of human events, a return of prosperity. When things are at their worst, a change for the better is to be expected. Let every man in his peculiar sphere endeavor to labor for the general good, as well as for his individual advancement,—remembering that the interests of society, although diversified, are yet so thoroughly interwoven that benefits to be really such must be reciprocal—and let us study to improve upon the experiences which now cause so much anxiety and suffering. Good will grow out of these hard times. Men will discover that a *cash* basis is the only healthy one for all business transactions, and they will eagerly strive to introduce and adhere to a system which would prove of incalculable advantage to all parties. And then, too, we should all be taught a lesson in economy. We have, as a people, speculated too rashly, lived too fast, consuming more than we have produced, and in "the *better* times coming," we will surely try to turn over a new leaf, and profit by that experience which is said to teach the overconfident. In the meantime the watchword of the next few months should be, *patience, carefulness* and *hope!*

Death of Mr. Cobden.

By the arrival of the Germania we learn that Mr. R. Cobden, the eminent reform Member of Parliament died on the 2nd inst. much lamented by the nation.

VERY LATEST NEWS.

Booth, the supposed murderer of Mr. Lincoln, and Surratt, the supposed assassin who made such a savage onslaught in Mr. Seward's residence, have not been arrested yet. It is believed that they have got off to Moseby's guerillas. $30,000 are offered for their apprehension.

Gen. Johnson has surrendered to Sherman, Davis is at Macon, Ga., Mobile has been captured and the war is considered over.

Secretary Seward appears likely to recover.

The Portuguese Government has acceded to the demand of the American Consul.

Messrs. Cartier and Galt in Halifax.

HALIFAX, April 14.

Messrs. Cartier and Galt, Canadian delegates to England, arrived here by the *Asia* at about 12 o'clock last night. They were received on the wharf by members of the Government and many leading citizens, and taken in four-horse carriages in procession through the city to the Temperance Hall.—Though the hour was so late, the procession was a mile in length, and embraced all classes of the community. The streets were crowded with a mass of people. At least two thousand were crammed into the Temperance Hall, and several times that number were unable to obtain admission.

The Mayor of the city presented an address on behalf of the citizens, couched in the strongest terms in favor of Confederation.

Messrs. Cartier and Galt replied in appropriate terms.

Hon. Mr. Tilley, of New Brunswick, was also present, and gave a most favorable account of the prospects of Confederation in his Province.

The meeting was most enthusiastic throughout, and separated with rousing cheers for the Queen, for the Canadian delegates and for Mr. Tilley.

The *Asia* left the harbor at 3 o'clock.

Arrival of the "Europa."

HALIFAX, April 14.

The steamship *Europa*, from Liverpool on the 1st, via Queenstown on the 2nd, arrived here at two o'clock this morning. She has forty three passengers for this port and thirty for Boston. Her dates are two days later than those already received. A Lisbon despatch of the 31st of March says that the American Minister at Lisbon has demanded satisfaction of the Portuguese Government for firing upon the *Niagara Sacramento* by the Portuguese forts. He also requests the dismissal of the commander of Fort Belem and a salute of 21 guns to the American flag. Nothing as yet has been decided in regard to the matter. The American commanders deny any intention of sailing when fired at. The surrender of Monterideo to Flores, and its occupation by the Brazilians, is confirmed.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday, April 1.—Cotton sales to-day, 6,000 bales; market less firm, but quiet and unchanged. Breadstuffs quiet and steady. Provisions dull. Produce quiet. The correspondent of the London *Times*, writing from Richmond on the 4th of March, says: I am daily more convinced that if Richmond falls and Lee and Johnston are driven from the field, it is but the first stage of the colossal revolution which will then be completed. There will ensue a time when every important town of the South will require to be held by a Yankee garrison, when exultation in New York will be exchanged for soberness and right reason, and when it will be realized that the closing scenes of this mightiest revolutionary drama will not be played out, save in the time of our children's children. In the House of commons, on the 31st, Lord C. Paget said that the Admiralty had received no proposal for sanctioning or supporting any fresh attempt to reach the North Pole. He was, therefore, unable to say what course the Government would take if such a proposal were made. Mr. Newdgate put some questions as to the Pope taking up his residence in England, as indicated in some foreign journals. Lord Palmerston replied that the Government respected the Pope personally very much, but for him to come to England would be both an anachronism and a solecism.

REMEDY FOR OFFICIAL INCOHERENCE.—The following, clipped from an English journal, is warranted as a cure for drunkenness; sulphate of iron, five grains; magnesia, ten grains; peppermint water, eleven drachms; spirit of nutmeg, one drachm; twice a day. This preparation acts as a tonic and stimulant, and so partially supplies the place of the accustomed liquor, and prevents that absolute physical and moral prostration that follows a sudden breaking off from the use of stimulating drinks.

☞ Sir Frederick Bruce, the new ambassador from Great Britain to the States, has arrived in New York, and is staying at the Clarendon Hotel.

TERRIBLE NEWS!

Tragical death of President Lincoln!

HE IS SHOT IN A THEATRE IN WASHINGTON!

Attempt on the life of Secretary Seward.

HE IS STABBED IN BED!

The assassin of Mr. Lincoln arrested.

Andy Johnson President.

FULL PARTICULARS OF THE BLOODY DEEDS.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—President Lincoln and wife, with other friends, this evening visited Ford's Theatre for the purpose of witnessing the performance of the "American Cousin." It was announced in the papers that Gen. Grant would also be present, but that gentleman took the late train of cars for New Jersey. The theatre was densely crowded, and everybody seemed delighted with the scene. During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious, until a man rushed to the front of the President's box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming: "*sic semper tyrannis*," and immediately leaped from the box which was in the second tier to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, making his escape amid the bewilderment of the audience from the rear of the theatre, and mounting a horse fled. The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all rose to their feet, rushing towards the stage, many exclaiming, "Hang him, hang him." The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and of course there was an abrupt termination of the theatrical performance. There was a rush towards the President's box, when cries were heard of "Stand back and give him air," "has any one stimulants?" and on a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head, above and back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brains was oozing out. He was removed to a private house opposite the theatre, and the Surgeon-General of the Army and other surgeons sent for to attend to his condition. On an examination of the private box, blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking chair on which the President had been sitting; also on the partition and on the floor. A common single-barrelled pocket pistol was found on the carpet.

A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed. An immense crowd was in front of it, all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. The shock to the community was terrible. At midnight the Cabinet, with Messrs. Sumner, Belfay and Farnsworth, Judge Curtis, Governor Ogleaby, Gen Meigs, Col. Hay, and a few personal friends, with Surgeon-General Barnes and his immediate assistants were around. The President was in a state of syncope, totally insensible and breathing slowly. The blood oozed from the wound at the back of his head. The surgeons used every possible effort of medical skill, but all hope was gone. The parting of his family with the dying President is too sad for description.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln did not start for the theatre until 15 minutes past eight o'clock. Speaker Collax was at the White House at the time, and the President stated to him that he was going, although Mrs. Lincoln had not been well, because the papers had announced that General Grant and they were to be present, and as General Grant had gone North he did not wish the audience to be disappointed. He went with apparent reluctance and urged Mr. Colfax to go with him, but that gentleman had made other engagements, and with Mr. Astman, of Mass., bid him good-bye. When the excitement at the theatre was at its wildest height, reports were circulated that Secretary Seward had also been assassinated. On reaching that gentleman's residence, a crowd and military guard were found at the door, and on entering it was ascertained that the reports were based on truth. Everybody there was so excited that scarcely an intelligible word could be gathered; but the facts are substantially as follows:

About ten o'clock a man rang the bell, and the call having been answered by a colored servant, he said he had come from Dr. Verdi, Secretary Seward's family physician, with a prescription, at the same time holding in the ——

[OFFICIAL.]

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1.30, a. m.

To Major Gen. Dix:—

This evening the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and Major Rathburn, was shot by an assassin who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape in the rear of the theatre. The pistol ball entered the back of the President's head and penetrated nearly through the head. The wound was mortal. The President has been insensible ever since it was inflicted and is now dying. About the same hour an assassin, whether the same or not, entered Mr. Seward's apartments, and, under pretence of having a prescription, was shown to the Secretary's sick chamber. The assassin immediately pushed to the bed, and inflicted two or three stabs on the throat, and two on the face of the Secretary. It is hoped that the wounds may not be mortal. My apprehension is that they will prove fatal. The nurse warned Mr. Frederick Seward, who was in an adjoining room, and he hastened to the door of his father's room, when he met the assassin, who inflicted upon him one or more dangerous wounds. The recovery of Frederick Seward is doubtful. It is not probable that the President will live through the night. Gen. Grant and wife were advertised to be at the theatre this evening, but he stated to Burlington at six o'clock this evening. At a Cabinet meeting to-day, the President was cheerful, and spoke very kindly of General Lee and others of the Confederacy, and of the establishment of the Government in Virginia. All the members of the Cabinet, except Mr. Seward, are now in attendance upon the President. I have seen Mr. Seward, but he and Frederick were both unconscious.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2:12 a. m.—The President is still alive, but he is growing weaker. Ted ball is lodged in his brain. The ball is lodged in his brain. Hon. Andrew Johnson, Vice-President of the United States, stating that in consequence of the sudden and unexpected death of the Chief Magistrate his inauguration should take place as soon as possible, and requesting him to state the place and hour at which the ceremony should be performed.

Mr. Johnson at once replied that it would be agreeable to him to have the proceedings take place at his rooms in the Kirkwood House, as soon as the arrangements could be perfected.

At eleven o'clock the oath of office was administered by the Chief Justice of the United States in the usual solemn and impressive manner. Mr. Johnson received the kind expressions of the gentlemen by whom he was surrounded in a manner which showed his earnest sense of the great responsibilities so suddenly devolved upon him and made a brief speech in which he said:—"The duties of the office are mine—I will perform them.—The consequences are with God. Gentlemen I shall lean upon you. I feel that I shall need your support. I am deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion and the responsibility of the duties of the office I am assuming."

It is expected, though nothing has been definitely determined upon, that the funeral of the late President Lincoln will take place on or about Thursday next. It is supposed that his remains will be temporarily deposited in the Congressional cemetery.

NEW YORK, April 15.—The *Post's* Washington special says:—Mr. Hansell, the messenger of the State Department, who was in attendance upon Mr. Seward, is dead. Secretary Seward is in a very precarious condition.

The *Post* also publishes a despatch to Clarence A. Seward which says Mr. Seward's wounds are bad but not mortal. He is composed. He has lost much blood but no arteries are cut. Frederick's skull is fractured badly in two places above the temple, and he is insensible and I fear will die. His brother's wounds are very slight. The Governor's throat would have been cut if he had not rolled out of bed.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—There is no confirmation of the report that the murderer of the President has been arrested. Among the circumstances tending to fix a participation in the crime on Booth, were letters found in his trunk, one of which is, apparently, from a lady, supplicating him to desist from the perilous undertaking in which he was about to embark as the time was inauspicious, the mine not yet being ready to be sprung.

The *Intelligencer* says from the evidence obtained it is rendered highly probable that the man who stabbed Mr. Seward and his sons is John Surratt, of Prince George country, Maryland. The horse he rode was hired at Naylor's stable, on 14th street. Surratt is a young man, with light hair and goatee. His father is said to have been postmaster of Prince George country.

About 12 o'clock last night two men crossed the Anacosta bridge, one of whom gave his name as Booth and the other as Smith. The latter is believed to be John Surratt.

Last night a riderless horse was found, which has been identified by the proprietor of one of the stables previously mentioned as having been hired from his establishment.

Accounts are conflicting as to whether Booth crossed the bridge on horseback or on foot, but as it is believed that he rode across it is presumed that he had exchanged his horse.

From information in the possession of the authorities it is evident that the scope of the plot was intended to be much more comprehensive.

The Vice-President and other prominent members of the administration were particularly inquired for by suspected parties and their precise localities accurately obtained, but providently in their cases the scheme miscarried. A boat was at once sent down the Potomac to notify the gunboats on the river of the awful crime in order that all possible means should be taken for the arrest of the perpetrators. The most ample precautions have been taken and it is not believed the culprits will long succeed in evading the overtaking arm of justice.

Washington, 9:40 a. m., April 15.—It is believed that the assassins of the President and Secretary Seward are attempting to escape to Canada. You will make a careful and thorough examination of all persons attempting to cross from the United States into Canada and will arrest all suspicious persons. The most vigilant scouting on your part and the force at your disposal is demanded. A description of the parties supposed to be implicated in the murder, will be telegraphed you to day—but in the mean time be active in preventing the crossing of any suspicious persons.

New York, April 15, 9 a. m.—Intense sorrow is depicted on all countenances at the horrible events that occurred in Washington last night, and the grief of all good men is apparent everywhere at the demise of the President. No flags were hoisted in this city this morning until the state of the President was known, when they were all placed at half mast. People appear perfectly horrified.

Buffalo, April 15, 10:25 a. m.—The city is draped in mourning flags, all at half mast and draped in black. Every building on Main street is hung with black, and all business is suspended.

Rochester, April 15.—The intelligence of the assassination of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward caused the most profound sensation in the city. Business is suspended, public and private buildings are hung with emblems of mourning, bells are tolled, and a public meeting is to be held at three o'clock this afternoon, on a call of the Mayor. The expression of sorrow is universal in this community.

New York, April 16.—The Times' special correspondent says that Secretary Seward will recover.

Frederick Seward is still unconscious. He breathes calmly, and has an easy pulse. His head is dreadfully contused and lacerated.—An invalid soldier nurse saved Mr. Seward's life.

Secretary Seward's condition at midnight appears to be improving. He sat up a short time to day. That of his son Frederick is still very critical.

The Herald's special says that Booth has been arreststed near Baltimore, and will be placed for safe keeping on board a monitor at the Navy Yard, Washington, anchored in the stream, so as to keep him from the reach of the populace.

Maj Gen Augur has offered a reward of $10,000 for the arrest of the murderer of the President and the assassin of the Secretary of State.

Various arrests have been made of parties suspected of being implicated. Some have proved their innocence, but others are held.

The letter found in Booth's trunk, which showed that the assassination was to take place about the 4th of March, and urging a postponement, said the Government had become suspicious, and it would be imprudent to do anything then. It also advised Booth to go to Richmond and ascertain how such action would be regarded by the rebel Government. Further disclosures are withheld for the present.

Evidence sufficient has accumulated to implicate some six different persons in the diabolical plot, all of them from this section and Maryland.

Two pairs of handcuffs and a gag were found in Booth's trunk. It appears that Booth had leased a stable in the alley in the rear of the theatre. He hired a horse from a livery stable in the afternoon, took it to the alley, and hired a servant from the lady of whom he hired the stable to watch the horse while he perpetrated the deed.

Booth's mistress has attempted to commit suicide to-day.

An actress at Grover's threatre received an anonymous note yesterday not to sing the song "Sherman's march to the sea."

The day before yesterday Booth called on Mr. Hess Treasy, of Grover's theatre, and urged him to announce some new and exciting play for Friday evening, and invite the President and other officials, and get up a sensation.

The best data that can be obtained shows that there were not over five or ten minutes difference between the time of the assault on the President and Mr. Seward, showing that it was not done by the same person.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The corpse of the late President has been laid out in the room known as the White House. It is dressed in the suit of black clothes worn by him at his late inauguration. A placid smile rests upon his features, and the deceased seems to be in calm sleep. White flowers have been placed upon the pillow and over the breast. The corpse of the President will be laid out in state in the East room on Tuesday, in order to give the public an opportunity to see once more the features of him they loved so well. The preparations are being made to that end under the supervision of the upholsterer.

The following developments have been made within the past twenty-four hours, showing conclusively the existence of a deep laid plot on the part of a gang of conspirators, including members of the Order of the Knights of the Golden Circle, to murder President Lincoln and his Cabinet.

It was ascertained some weeks ago from personal friends of the late President that he had received several private letters, warning him that an attempt would probably be made upon his life, but to this he did not seem to attach much, if any, importance.

It has always been thought that he was not sufficiently careful of his individual safety on his last visit to Virginia.

It is known that on frequent occasions he would start from the Executive Mansion for his summer country residence at the Soldiers' Home without the usual cavalry escort, which often hurried and overtook him before he had proceeded far.

The acting Secretary of State has issued the following address:

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

The undersigned is directed to announce that the funeral ceremonies of the lamented Chief Magistrate will take place at the Executive Mansion, in this city, at 12 o'clock noon, on Wednesday the 19th inst. The various religious denominations throughout the country are invited to meet in their respective places of worship at that hour for the purpose of solemnizing the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

(Sd) W. HUNTER, Acting Sec S.

Chicago, April 16.—A special despatch from Cairo says that our forces occupied Mobile on the 9th inst.

VERY LATEST.

The assassins have not yet been captured, rumors to the contrary notwithstanding.

☞ The Hamilton *Times* regrets to state that Col. E. D. Holt, formerly bookseller and stationer in that city, was killed during the last great struggle before Richmond.

Town & Counties

☞ County readers will find Mr. John Eason's Insurance card in another column.

☞ Miss Skimmings gives notice of the re-opening of her admirable private school for children.

FROST.—During the past few days we have had a succession of cold winds accompanied by pretty severe frosts at night.

☞ We would direct the attention of all persons interested to the educational advertisment of Mr. John Nairn, whose long experience will be of great service to those patronizing him.

☞ The residence of Mrs. Brown, Huron Road, at present occupied by Mr. William Stewart, was entered by thieves last night, and a considerable quantity of clothing stolen.—No clue to the guilty party has yet been obtained.

ENLISTED.—The armies of the United States received an important accession last week in the voluntary enlistment of some half-dozen Goderich boys, who went to Buffalo for that purpose. They received $100 each, as bounty. The young heroes *might* find it dearly earned money before they get through.

WHAT LABOR CAN DO.—The magnificent field of fall wheat owned by Mr. Seegmillar, on the Huron Road, near Goderich, is a fair specimen of the results of good manure and thorough cultivation. It is really the best looking field we have seen about here for years, and under favorable circumstances must yield a rich return for the money spent upon it. If every farmer had twenty acres promising as well, we might expect a speedy return of good times. Farming *can* be made to pay.

CHAMBERS' JOURNAL for April has been sent to us by Mr. Moorhouse. The contents are as varied and interesting as ever. It is a Magazine that we cordially recommend to every general reader.

JEFF. DAVIS CAPTURED!

News was sent to Buffalo yesterday, it is said, by telegraph or otherwise, that Jeff. Davis had been captured in the streets of Goderich, and was held subject to demand for his extradition by the U. S. Government. The news created quite a sensation and we should not be surprised to see it in to-night's *Express*. The report was correct in one sense, but it will be seen by reference to our police report that it was not the President of the C. S.

A WEATHER SURPRISE.—Saturday evening last was one of the finest experienced this season. The wind blew softly from the South and the gathering clouds seemed to portend a warm shower. Appearances were so favorable that some of our gardeners were almost tempted to leave their hot-bed frames open. Imagine, then, the surprise of everybody when the first peep out on Sunday morning revealed a scene of snow-covered ground, and a regular drift from the N. W. It was quite cold all day. In this country of extremely sudden atmospheric changes we have never seen a more sudden transition.

LOST HIS WIFE.—A poor fellow living in this town was nearly distracted on Thursday night and Friday last by the loss of his wife, a rather good-looking young woman, who, it is said, has eloped with a fast young man about town. Failing to discover her whereabouts, the husband applied to the Mayor for a *search warrant* to effect his purpose. Wives not being in the category of goods and chattels as understood by Canadian statute-makers, the request could not be granted. The erring one has not yet turned up, we believe.

TO HORTICULTURISTS AND OTHERS.—Mr. Wm. Campbell, East Street, Goderich, has received a large consignment of superior standard and dwarf plum trees, dwarf pears and apples, and five varieties of Siberian Crab. His stock of grapes has arrived and will be ready for delivery to-morrow. Mr. Campbell has the privilege of selecting from the best nurseries of Rochester, &c., and from what we know of his carefulness and success during the past we can confidently recommend persons wishing to obtain first-class fruit to give him a trial.

POLICE COURT.—On Tuesday last a person rejoicing in the *bona fide* name of Jeff. Davis was, with a boon companion, brought up before his Worship the Mayor on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. Jeff. although he hailed from a locality in which Dunkin's Bill obtains, was found guilty. His Worship, in consideration of this being the first offence, only fined the couple $1.00 and costs, and asked Jeff, if he would promise not to come before him again, to which that worthy responded, "I didn't want to appear before you now—he-he-he."

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY DINNER.—The Anniversary Dinner of the Goderich St. George's Benevolent Society will be held at the Maitland Hotel, on Monday evening, the 24th inst., at 8 o'clock p. m.—Tickets $1.00. It is hoped there will be a full attendance of members and the public generally.

POLICE COURT.—On Monday a bevy of six hopeful boys were brought before the Mayor and H. Horton, Esq., on a charge of stealing from the station. The case was not fully proven and his Worship dismissed the juveniles with a suitable warning. Some of them were only big enough to rest their chins on the table.

Coal Oil in Bruce.

We are informed that a company has been formed for the purpose of boring for Petroleum at Kincardine with a fair prospect of success. Is there so little energy and enterprise in Goderich that the precious fluid is to be sought for all around us, without an effort being made here to sink a well, when there is such a fine prospect of an abundant reward?

HOLMESVILLE.

During the heavy gale of Wednesday, the 12th inst., the roof was blown off the new brick Episcopal Church in this place. It will cost considerable to replace it.

WAWANOSH.

The Assessor for this township has been authorised by the Council to take a vote of the ratepayers on a division of the township into two municipalities—North and South. It is believed that there will be a majority for division of at least 200. In the event of the scheme being carried out the division line will become a county road, with a bridge for the County Council to build over the Maitland.

TUCKERSMITH.

LAUDABLE LIBERALITY.—The Municipality of this township has resolved to give Dr. Fitzsimmons $57 for his valuable services during the prevalence of the small pox last summer among the Highland emigrants.

SPOTTED FEVER.—This strange fever has appeared in the English settlement—one case, that of a young woman of fifteen years, has proved fatal.

KINCARDINE.

THE OIL FEVER.—Mr. Vivian, of Stratford, who has been engaged in making preparations near Kincardine for the commencement of the boring operations, showed us, on Saturday, specimens of rock bearing unmistakable traces of petroleum. Of the success of the enterprise its projectors appear to entertain no doubts.

WALKERTON.

The wife of Mr. James Waterson, hotel-keeper of this place, died on the 9th inst., aged 36 years. Deceased was much respected by a large circle of acquaintances. Mr. Waterson's infant daughter Helena, aged 13 months, died on the 12th. The *Herald* is pitching into Dr. Scott for holding an inquest on the body of one Pearce, regarding whose death there was no suspicion of foul play.

PAISLEY.

The Spring has opened finely in this locality, and farmers are putting a greater breadth than usual in cereals. It is hoped that a fine harvest will give us a return of better times. Scores of our finest young men have gone off to better their condition in the States,—rather a doubtful experiment just now.

CLINTON.

SPRING SHOW—CROP PROSPECTS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

The Spring Show of Stallions and Bulls in connection with the Clinton Branch Agricultural Association came off on Thursday the 13th inst. The exhibitors were few in number, there being but eight horses exhibited—four in the class of draught stallions and four in that of general purposes—while in bulls there were but five, three Thorough breds and two Grades. The animals were all superior ones—the thorough bred bulls particularly eliciting laudatory remarks from all who saw them. Mr. Wm. Jenkins, of Goderich Township, exhibited a noble-looking four year-old thorough-bred called "Stanley," but Mr. Humphrey Snell carried off the prize, his neat-looking pretty two-year-old "Claude," (from the herd of the celebrated Mr. John Snell, of Chinguacousy,) though sustaining a hard contest with Mr. Edmund Manning's "St. George," (only twenty months old,) being finally declared the best. This animal of Mr. Manning's was much admired by the large number of farmers from the surrounding neighborhood whom the fineness of the day had brought out, and there were many dissentients from the opinion of the judges, as is often the case on like occasions. The exhibitors of Grade bulls were Mr. Appleton Elcoat, of Tuckersmith, and Mr. Edmund Manning, of Hullett. The exhibitors in the class of "Stallions for General Purposes" were Mr. Thomas Dodds, ("London Tom") John Nott, ("Rainbow Rockingham") Francis Fowler, jr., ("Royal Exhibition,") Hezekiah Help, ("Duke of Wellington.") The following draught stallions were exhibited: "Young Wawanosh," by Mr. George Stanbury, "Hard Fortune," by Mr. Joseph Fisher, "Robin Hood," by Mr. Charles Mason, "Prince of Wales," by Mr. Henry Lane.—I append the list of successful competitors:—

General Purposes Stallions.—1st prize, Francis Fowler jr.; 2nd prize, John Nott.

Draught Stallions.—1st prize, Joseph Fisher; 2nd prize, George Stanbury.

Thorough bred Bulls.—1st prize, Humphrey Snell; 2nd prize, Edmund Manning.

Grade Bulls.—1st prize, Appleton Elcoat; 2nd prize, Edmund Manning.

The Judges were Messrs. John Moore, Alexander Broadfoot and Robert Hunter.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Society held the same day proposals for the sale of a piece of ground for holding the Society's Shows on were considered. There were three offers made of suitable plots, one from the Assignees of the Owen & Rattenbury estate, one from Mr. Isaac Rattenbury, and one from Mr. Crombie. That of Mr. Crombie's was considered the most eligible as well as the most favorable, and an understanding was come to that a Joint Stock Company should be immediately formed for the purpose of buying it, and putting the necessary buildings and improvements upon it so as to make it suitable for the Society's and other purposes—the Company to be remunerated for their outlay by being allowed to charge visitors a small entrance fee for the privilege of viewing the society's exhibitions. The price asked for the land is only $500 for five acres, so that members of the Joint Stock Company cannot lose anything by the speculation in any event, as the land can be sold at any time for that amount, the price being very low. Parties wishing to become members of the Joint Stock Company can do so by applying to the Secretary of the Society, Mr. George Laycock, at the Clinton corner Book-store.

The Spring weather has done more to cheer up the spirits of the community hereabouts than anything that has happened for a long time. The bad harvests of the past three seasons had very much discouraged the farming portion of the population; and, of course, all other portions too; but the remarkable mildness of the Spring after such a severe winter as we have had, has kindled such glowing hopes of a favorable and abundant harvest that it is the theme in every one's mouth. The "oldest inhabitant" has never seen such a fine spring. The snow melted away pretty rapidly and did some damage to mills and persons on river flats, but not much in this immediate neighborhood. The dam at Cooke's Mill on the Bayfield, near Clinton, has been carried away, but this cannot be attributed to the freshet, as the waters had subsided long before it went. It was, no doubt, some faulty construction of the dam that caused the calamity, though probably it has been hastened by the large body of water during the freshet. Mr. Thomas Simpson is now the proprietor of the mills, and is a great sufferer by the destruction of his dam. Indeed he has been unfortunate ever since he bought the property, being unable to run the mills during all the last summer on account of the scarcity of water caused by the great drouth.

SEAFORTH.

HORSE STEALING.—On Wednesday night at half-past nine Mr. Ryan, Grocer, missed his horse from the stable under suspicious circumstances. The day previous a Yankee horse-dealer passed through the village with a drove of horses and endeavored to buy this one also. Suspicion fell on him. Next morning constables were sent in pursuit. Through the day the stolen horse found himself by returning to his stable. The halter and bridle were found on Mrs. Lapsly's farm. If such a practice is persisted in, somebody will pay dear for their ride.

HARD TIMES.—Times must be hard when Innkeepers fail, and if the devil was ever among the tailors he seems to be among the innkeepers at present, for lately we find that Walker has "skedaddled," McLeod broke down, Baxter died through fright of Dunkin's bill, Fishley became bankrupt, Powell seized on, Montgomery absquatulated, McBride ran away, Shaw poisoned, Griffin sent to Penitentiary, some in horrors and more in terrors.

GOOD FRIDAY.—This day was observed in various ways. Divine service was held in the Episcopal and Catholic Churches, stores were closed, target practice by the Volunteers, and the day observed as a holiday generally.

LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION.—Never did the inhabitants of this village receive such a shock as on the receipt of the telegraphic report of Mr. Lincoln's Assassination. All parties were struck dumb at the thoughts of the audacious desperado and the cold-blooded murder of the midnight assassin. Those of Southern sympathies condemned the perpetrators of the fearful tragedy in unmeasured terms.

WHEAT MERCHANTS.—As the Wheat Merchants cannot obtain cars to remove their produce accumulated through the winter, they speak of buying in Bayfield in the Fall.—There is a general desire to improve the harbor and thus be somewhat independent of the Grand Trunk.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

SIR,—In your issue of the 30th March I notice an article entitled Dunkin's Bill, saying that *Dan Steban* had been fined the sum of $40.00. No doubt the writer thinks he is hurting some one's feelings in his miserable attempt to be scurrilous; I can call it nothing else, and such a small attempt at sarcasm shows the dirty scource from which they emanate. I dare say the gentleman whom he alludes to as Dan Sleban can show as clean skirts as the writer of the article. He goes on in a small way to tell how Proctor's prosecution failed, and he is not over nice in sticking to the truth, and why should he, the gentleman excuse me for calling out of his name that can exalt over poor Dan being fined $40.00, why should he stick to the truth in bemoaning the failure of Proctor's prosecution. He states that some of the witnesses drank something bearing the name of coal oil, now I dare say, that no other individual but the writer heard any such testimony given in Proctor's case. In all likelihood the evidence is still to the fore to speak for itself. He also questions the veracity of the witnesses. Now, some of the magistrates who sat on these cases are personally acquainted with, I think, all of the witnesses who were examined, and I have no hesitation in referring to those gentleman for the character of the witnesses; they are neither bar-room loafers or men that would be likely to value their word lightly, or would sit down quietly and allow that very gentlemanly writer to amuse himself and his friends, if he has got any, with hints and doubts as to their veracity. Now, if the writer of that article would put himself to the trouble of looking over the evidence given in Proctor's case, he will see he has done them a gross injustice, and, perhaps it will be of some service to him in the future if he should ever wish to see his admirable compositions again in print.

☞ The Kincardine *Review* says that Mrs. R. Morrison of that place was bitten by a mad pup on the 4th inst.

REAL POETRY.—The following "Owed to Lake Huron" is worth preserving:

"Green are thy waters, green as bottle-glass—
Behold 'em stretcht thar!
Fine muskalonges and big black bass
Is often ketched thar.
Thar the Red Injin once took his delights,
Fisht, fit and bled;
Now, most of the inhabitants is whites,
And nary red!"

President Lincoln has told his "little story" in Richmond. While seated in the parlor of the Confederate President, some one related to him the circumstances of Mr. Davis' flight. He said it reminded him of the negro, who when the preacher told his congregation there were only two roads, one leading to hell and the other to damnation, exclaimed, "don dis nigger take to the woods."

Another of the Volunteers at Sandwich was injured by the premature discharge of a gun in the hands of a comrade on Tuesday last. It seems that a loaded gun had been brought into the barracks and was carelessly picked up by a private named Crow. He was advised to be careful, as the gun was loaded, but he continued to point it at objects, and to play with the trigger. After snapping once or twice, the gun went off, the ball grazing the head of lance-corporal Arell, who was lying in bed. The ball passed under the scalp, at the top of the head, but has not afflicted any very serious injury.