Listowel Standard.

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Intermarriage of Jews and Christians.

The Engagement of Miss Rothschild with Lord Rosebery.

The engagement is announced of the Earl of Rosebery to Miss Hannah de Rothschild, only daughter of the late Baron Meyer Amschel de Rothschild. Miss Rothschild will be the third member of the family who has married "out of the faith." The second daughter of Baron Nathan Meyer de Rothschild, the aunt of Lord Rosebery's fiancee, married the Hon. Henry Fitzroy, second son of the Earl of Southampton; and Miss Ann de Rothschild, the second daughter of Sir Anthony, married, four years ago, the Hon. Eliot Yorke, a son of the Earl of Hardwicke.

There will, no doubt, be much adverse comment in England upon the choice that Miss Rothschild has seen fit to make, and this will be more bitter because it has long been a matter of pride with the English Jews to be able to number the Rothschild family among members of the synagogue. In Paris, in London, in Frankfort, wherever the Rothschilds have resided they have always been found among the most consistent members of the old faith; they not only contribute munificently to the Jewish charities, but they also attend synagogue as regularly as the majority of their co-religionists, and take an active part in the administration of communal matters. The future Countess of Rosebery and her father were no exceptions to the rule, and, when in London, they were seen in the orthodox synagogue, of which the Baron was a member, on the occasions of festivals.

From one point of view it may be cause for regret that Miss Rothschild is to marry a member of the Christian faith, in so far as it may, to some extent, estrange her from her religion and her family. But, though she may outwardly be constrained to leave the Jewish Church, we doubt if she will entirely forsake it; the real old Jewish spirit is too strong in the breasts of the Rothschilds to allow them ever to entirely break loose from the faith of their fathers. As to the majority of the members of the family, they are, and are likely to remain Jews in fact as well as in name.

From another point of view the marriage of so distinguished a member of the British nobility, as Lord Rosebery undoubtedly is, into the Rothschild family is a pleasant and instructive sign of the times. It shows that the old and absurd social prejudice against the Jews—not yet entirely extinct in this land of boasted liberty—is fast dying out in conservative England, and the elevation of a Jewish girl to the rank of wife of one of the foremost peers of the realm will do much to abolish it altogether, and to show how little the best classes of the Jews differ from the best classes of the Gentiles.

The subject of intermarriages has always been a sore one with the Jews, but, we think, with little reason. The marriages of Jews with Christians are extremely rare, and there is not much reason to fear their increase. As the ban of social ostracism is removed from the Jewish people and they are left free to mingle in the world, it is not only natural that intermarriages should sometimes take place. This is not to be avoided and its danger, if any exists, should not be overestimated. Judaism, which has survived the most extraordinary dangers, trials and persecutions recorded in the history of the world; Judaism, which, as we believed, has been preserved so long by the will of God for God's own ends, is not likely to be so imperilled now by the marriage of a few individuals with members of other churches. Moreover, it may not be unreasonable to hope, that a part, at least, of the Messianic mission of the Jews may be accomplished by these same intermarriages, in that they help to elevate Jews socially, argument their influence and increase that respect for the race which cannot be withheld when the Jews are properly known and honestly understood.

Seized by a Devil Fish.

Victor Hugo's Thrilling Fiction Paralleled in Real Life.

Early last August a party of Cape Flattery or Makaw Indians, returning from a visit to their friends (the Songish of Victoria), encamped the first afternoon out on the beautiful Bay of Metchosen, V. I. The weather being very fine, most of the party went bathing, and among the number a maiden of perhaps eighteen summers, who had accompanied her grandfather on the trip. Desiring seclusion, she went round a point away from the other bathers, and being known as a bold swimmer, is supposed to have taken a header into deep water. However taken, it proved to have been a plunge into the arms of death, for when the swimmers reassembled around the camp fire the girl was missed, and, notwithstanding a diligent search that evening, could not be found. The following morning, with sad hearts, the party left; but very soon those in the foremost canoe, on rounding the first point, saw (the water being calm and clear) a human body as if seated on the sandy sea bottom, with what seemed like a flour bag immediately behind it. The natives knew what this meant. As soon as the canoes got together, two of the most active young men managed with daggers so to enrage the monster (for it was a gigantic devil fish) that the octopus with its victim was brought to the surface. The foregoing facts have been communicated to our informant by an intelligent and respectable half-breed woman from Metchosen, who saw the body of the drowned girl with some of the prehensiles of the mollusk still adhering to it. She compared the head of the octopus in size to that of a fifty-pound flour sack, full; and said that the tentacles were twelve in number, of different sizes, and the largest about the circumference of a man's arm.

PERSONAL.

VICTOR EMANUEL and Napoleon III. died on the 9th of January, precisely five years apart.

HON. JAMES H. PULESTON, formerly a banker of New York, but now a member of the British House of Commons for the borough of Devonport, addressed his constituents on the evening of Dec. 12 in a speech of considerable length and of decided merit. He reviewed the leading measures of the late session, and explained why he voted for or against certain measures of important public significance. Among these he voted against the opening of the public museums on Sundays, and in favor of giving the suffrage to unmarried women. He said: "I am in favor, gentlemen, of removing the disabilities of unmarried women, for I see no reason in the world why—it being a principle of our Constitution that representation goes by taxation—the property of a woman, merely because she is a woman, should go unrepresented, when at the same time she is responsible for all her duties to the state in the same manner as her male neighbor." Mr. Puleston is a Conservative, and is regarded as one of the rising men of the House.

WHITTIER.—The tradition that the poet is a master, a leader, in human society, has been somewhat lost in modern and highly-civilized communities, where he has been often told, as Jean Paul said to music, "Away! thou speakest to me of that which never was nor shall be." But his power is impregnable, and his influence sure. The man whose song reaches and touches the heart of youth inevitably affects it. If, as is sometimes said, the poet is the child of his time, so also is he its teacher, and, in a certain sense, its leader. The influence of Byron upon his generation is an interesting study; that of Wordsworth and Tennyson might also be traced. Our own poets, until the choir now living arose, were in great part echoes. But we should be surprised could we know the direct and positive influence that some of these have had upon the character and career of those who are more evidently public leaders. We are not now speaking of general but of special influence. The fact that Whittier, Longfellow and Lowell took part, as poets, in the anti-slavery protest was a distinct and efficient element of the movement, and Lowell's "Biglow Papers" were a powerful ally of good political influences. Those sharp and canny strokes of satiric humor were quite as effective as any speeches. But the most prolonged and noted influence of this kind, the leadership of the poet in affairs, is undoubtedly that of Whittier in the anti-slavery crusade. It was very quiet and unobserved but it was very radical. The heart that resisted argument and statistic was melted in the fervor of his appeal. It was absolutely impersonal and unselfish, and his voice was that of the pure conscience. The simplicity and directness of his Quaker training gave also a singular charm to his verse, and his personal isolation from politics and current affairs deepened its moral power. Those days happily are gone. The poet has lived to see the dawning of the golden age that he foresaw, and he has not sought to prolong bitterness of feeling as the condition of his opportunity for distinction. It is, indeed, within the last fifteen years that his fame has been most truly national, and it is pleasant and significant to see that on his seventieth birthday the tributes of honor and regard are not limited by sectional lines.—*Harper's Magazine.*

JAMAICA.

BY EDMUND C. STEDMAN.

I know an island which the sun
Stays in his course to shine upon,
As if it were for this green isle
Alone he kept his fondest smile!
Long his beams delaying flood
Its remotest solitude.
Mountain, dell, and palmy wood,
And the coral sands around
That hear the blue sea's chiming sound.

It is a watered island, one
The tropic rain pours down upon.
Off the westward, flating cloud,
To some purple crest is bowed,
While the tangled vapors seek
To escape from peak and peak,
Yield themselves, and break,—or glide
Through deep forests undescried,
Moaning their lost pathway wide.

In this land of woods and streams
Ceaseless Summer paints her dreams:
White, bewildered torrents fall,
Dazzled by her morning beams,
With an outcry musical.
From the ridges, plainward all;
Mists of pearl, arising there,
Mark their courses in the air,
Sunlit, magically fair.

Here the pilgrims may behold
How the bended cocoa waves
When at eve and morn a breeze
Blows to and from the Caribb seas,
How the lush banana leaves
From their braided trunk unfold;
How the mango wears its gold,
And the sceptred aloes bloom
Glorifies it for the tomb.

When the day has ended quite,
Splendor fills the drooping skies;
All is beauty, naught is night.
Then the Crosses twain arise,
Southward far, above the deep,
And the moon their light outvies.
Hark! the wakened lute and song
That to this fond clime belong.
All is music, naught is sleep.

Isle of plenty, isle of love!
In the low, encircling plain
Laboring Afric, bared wain,
Bearing sweets and spices, move;
On the happy heights above
Love his seat has chosen well,
Dreamful ease and silence dwell,
Life is all entranced, and time
Passes like a tinkling rhyme.

Ah, on those cool heights to dwell
Yielded to the island's spell!
There, from some low wail-pering mouth
To learn the secret of the South,
Or to watch dark eyes that close
When their sleep the noonday bring,
(List, the palm leaves murmuring!)
And the wind that comes and goes
Smells of every flower that blows

Or from ocean to descry
Great plantations sloping nigh,
Starry peaks, of sapphire hewn,
Whose strong footholds hidden lie
Furlong-deep beneath the sea!
Long the mariners wistfully
Landward gaze, and say aright,
"Under sun or under moon
Earth has no more beauteous sight!"

BY PROXY.

BY JAMES PAYN.

CHAPTER XXII.—CONTINUED.

A MAN OF BUSINESS.

"Very good; he will be delighted to see you, and will give you, I am sure, the best advice in his power. We shall find him in the drawing-room, and, I hope, awake."

She led the way into the room in question, where at the dessert-table—Nelly noticed with surprise that it was laid for three—sat Mr. Wardlaw, with a glass of spirits and water before him, a beverage he much preferred to wine.

"Now sit down, my dear, and take an orange," said he, patting Nelly's head as if she were a child; "you're as welcome as nutmeg to punch in this house, and always will be; how's your ma?"

"Mamma is pretty well as to health, Mr. Wardlaw; though in grievous trouble, as you may imagine. A new cause of worry to her cropped up this morning in the fact of Messrs. Boxe & Co. declining to pay her quarter's allowance, on account of my poor father's death. It was nothing more than what was to be expected, of course; but you know my mother's views; and now that matters have come to a crisis, she has sent me here to ask your counsel. She says I know as much about poor dear papa's affairs as she does, but indeed I know very little; and it seems to me that all that can be done at present is to make arrangements about our house. Of course we cannot afford to live there, in any case——"

"And why not?" put in Mrs. Wardlaw; "you must live somewhere, Nelly, and why not there?"

"I am afraid that our landlord will say, 'he does not see the necessity,' said Nelly smiling. "The house does not require much 'keeping up,' it is true, but it requires an income of some sort—and I don't know that we have any."

"You must have got *something*, Nelly," said Mrs. Wardlaw, confidently. "But there, John will tell you all about it."

"My dear, I must have the facts before me," said Mr. Wardlaw, with the air of a man who only needs the raw materials to indite an epic. "In the first place, Nelly, what does your father's will say?"

"We don't even know if dear papa left a will, Mr. Wardlaw."

"A will! of course he left a will!" answered the merchant. "The only question is whether the will is in England."

"But if he had nothing to leave," said Nelly simply.

"Stuff and nonsense! Everybody has something," said Mr. Wardlaw. "The idea of your mother being in such a state of helpless ignorance, Nelly! She must be worse than my wife. She always seemed to me a sensible, prudent woman, too."

"She is very careful and prudent, Mr. Wardlaw, so far as has been possible to her; but there were reasons—I think you will understand them—why she has not pressed dear papa of late as to our pecuniary position; they were not on confidential terms, and the subject of money——"

"Of course, my dear," interrupted Mrs. Wardlaw, willing to spare her favorite what she knew would be a painful explanation; "that is intelligible enough."

"Not to me, my dear, I confess," observed her husband drily. "Whether I were confidential with a party or not, I should insist upon knowing how my affairs stood. As matters are, then, you don't really know whether your father has left five thousand pounds or fivepence? You can tell me, I suppose, at least, whether his life was insured?"

"It was not so when he left England, nor has he mentioned having insured his life in any of his letters. You see," said Nelly, in mitigation, as Mr. Wardlaw beat the air with his hands in horrified dismay, "dear papa found it hard enough to save out of his professional income" (the poor girl knew nothing about his successes at play, or the little thoroughbred he had "financed" for a couple of racing seasons) "to support his wife and daughter, and had nothing to put by for an insurance premium."

"I see," said Mr. Wardlaw, in a tone that suggested that it was a bad look-out indeed.

"You will wonder what I came to consult you about, Mr. Wardlaw," continued Nelly, with a ghost of a smile, "since it appears——"

"Nay, my dear, I don't wonder," interposed Mr. Wardlaw kindly; "it is the most natural thing in the world that you should do so. And though, of course, until the China mail comes in, nothing certain can be known of your affairs, I can perhaps be of help in the mean time."

"That is what we thought," answered Nelly eagerly. "It was you who were so kind as to take the house for us; you will know what to advise us as to giving it up. We have got it for a year, mamma understands."

"Oh, yes; you have undoubtedly the right of remaining in it for the year."

"But it is not paid for up to the end of the twelve months."

Mrs. Wardlaw's face was a study; she had moved behind her young friend, and was making the most eloquent signals to her husband to answer the girl in the affirmative.

"Paid for!" echoed the merchant, with a clumsy laugh. "Oh yes, I paid for it myself—that is, of course, with your father's money."

"Then we have a roof over our heads at least," said Nelly, with a sigh of relief. "You see, if we had had to move at once into smaller lodgings, we should have had to part with all our furniture, and there are some things—though it is only a fancy—that I should be loth to part with, unless it were absolutely necessary."

"Which it never will be," put in Mrs. Wardlaw confidently. "Do you suppose there is not a room to keep things for you at Coromandel House?"

"What Miss Nelly is thinking of is that she may be obliged to dispose of some superfluous articles," observed the merchant gravely.

"Then she ought to be ashamed of herself," put in Mrs. Wardlaw indignantly, "since she ought to know that she has friends as would not stand by and see it done."

"Nay, wife, the young lady is right. It is better to look matters in the face, and make up one's mind to a thing when it has to be done."

"That is what I am striving to do," said Nelly simply; "to begin a new sort of life, where pleasure may still be pleasure, but a source of profit also. In case poor mamma is left with nothing—absolutely nothing, I mean—I think—indeed, I know that I can earn sufficient by my pencil, or rather my paint-brush, to supply our modest needs. I have already made inquiries at an artist-colorman's in town, who puts pictures for sale in his window; and I am not without hopes. I confess it is an immense relief to me to find that we can stay on for a time at least in our present quarters, since I could scarcely do my work so well in such lodgings as we had, for example, in Gower Street. And oh, Mr. Wardlaw, I am so much obliged to you——"

"Pooh, pooh! for nothing at all. Why, what have I done!" inquired the merchant, with an aggrieved air, as though some imputed misconduct of his own had melted the poor girl to tears.

"It is your kindness," sobbed poor Nelly. "I see you are so sorry for us."

"I am sorry for your changed circumstances, my dear," said the merchant, patting her head, as she took her leave, "that is, so far as you yourself are concerned, and of course, your mother also; but personally, and from a commercial point of view, my wife and I have cause to be pleased. We see our way to getting some excellent pictures, by an artist we have long admired, dirt cheap—cheaper even than at an auction."

"He shall pay their weight in gold for them, my dear," cried Mrs. Wardlaw indignantly.

"The market price—the market price, and a little under on account of personal friendship," answered her husband, waving her away with his toddy-spoon. "The great principle of buying in the cheapest market, and taking advantage of the necessities of the vendor, are cardinal points."

"You are a greedy, grasping, selfish wretch, John," cried Mrs. Wardlaw; "to talk like that, even in fun. Come along, my dear, and don't waste another smile on him."

Oh, rare and blessed gift of kindliness! what matters it in what guise you come to the bruised human heart? The rough but genial humor of the honest merchant touched poor Nelly as deeply as his wife's sympathetic tears. When we are in trouble, and find that friends are true, the benefit is infinite, since it seems to us a sign that God also has not forsaken us. And that visit to Coromandel House had for Nelly the same sweet solace that is found at shrines.

CHAPTER XXIII.

A BITTER TRIAL.

"You must not mind John, dear," said Mrs. Wardlaw, as she took Nelly's hand and led her with a gentle violence from the front door, to which she was tending, into the library once more.

"Mind him!" said Nelly, with a smile.

"Indeed, I only mind him in the sense of liking him very much."

"Well, I shall not believe that, if you run away from the house as though you were in a huff, and don't give me a minute's talk to myself. How nice my pretty pet does look," added she, holding the girl at arm's length, and sighing, "even in her black things!"

"I do not feel nice, dear Mrs. Wardlaw. I am very unthankful, I fear, for the good of the past, and very resentful of the evil to come."

"And quite right, too," exclaimed Mrs. Wardlaw impulsively; or, rather, it's only natural. It does seem very hard that a bright little innocent creature like you should suffer so, now, doesn't it?"

"Well, I don't think it ever struck me quite in that light, dear Mrs. Wardlaw," said Nelly laughing; "but of course it seems hard. My sense of loss, however, will wear away in time, I suppose, and poverty is a burden that soon fits itself to the back."

"Well, I'm not so certain about that, Nelly. I wouldn't admit as much to John for a fifty-pound note, but I will confess to you that I never got over the discomfort of those omnibuses. It was necessary, or I thought it was, to use them at one time, but I had rather have walked the whole distance if my legs could have done it. Never was more dismay and discomposure brought for twopence or threepence than I got for my money. In the first place, there were 'Pickpockets, male and female, beware!' staring me in the face, at the bottom of the table of fares. I never picked a pocket in my life, and the insult used to bring the blood into my face to begin with."

"But, surely," said Nelly, laughing, "that notice is meant for honest people."

"I don't know which way it is to be read, my dear; but it is just as bad to be put on your guard against everybody that sits next or opposite to you. Then I was always as much afraid of losing my purse as of having it stolen, for what would become of me when I got out, and couldn't pay? Still I went on with these omnibuses—out of principle, my dear—until I had that accident opposite my house in Gower Street. Then says John, 'Now, in future you take cabs.' But lor, that was nearly as bad as the other. Hansoms of course I would no more have trusted myself to than to winged griffins, but the very first four-wheeler I engaged to bring me home from a friend's house, where I had been to tea, took me right away among some strange streets, and presently down a steep place into darkness, and then stopped. When I expected nothing less than to be robbed and murdered, the man put his head into the window, and said, 'This is my mews; and I am a-going to put a fresh horse into the shafts, that's all.' But it was nearly enough to do for me. Then again I had sad colds at that time, and used to lose my voice. I could hail a cab, of course; but when I had to say where I wished to go, it was very embarassing. Many a time have I gone quite close to the wheel, and beckoned the man to lean his head down that I might whisper in his ear, and his only reply has been to drive off wildly, and almost over my toes, thinking perhaps I was a mad woman, and wanted to bite him."

"Well, now you have got a carriage of your own, Mrs. Wardlaw, all your troubles are over," said Nelly, who, though her mind was fixed on serious matters, had a great stock of patience and good temper, and knew that as a listener she was conferring happiness on her hostess.

"Not all, my dear, I do assure you, as I was afraid you would see by my red eyes when you entered the house. I'm fairly worritted to death about them tambourines."

"What tambourines?"

"Why, that gross of them as I told you John picked up at some auction, and brought home with him six months ago. One hundred and forty-four tambourines, all blocking up my store cupboard! Well, since it was so long since he bought the things, I began to hope he had forgotten all about them; and the fact is, I put them into a sale which I saw advertised in John's paper. And now, only think, they have all come back again on my hands."

"What, couldn't you sell them?"

"Oh, yes, I sold them fast enough, but unfortunately it was John that bought them. Bought his own tambourines, my dear, at an advance of a shilling apiece, as I'm a sinful woman."

"And does not he know what he has done?"

"Not a bit of it; and it makes me miserable, because I've got to tell him. He says, 'Here's another gross of tambourines, my dear; a little dearer than the last, I am sorry to say, but it would never do to let the price go down."

At this Nelly could no longer restrain herself, but broke into a hearty laugh—such as had not escaped her since her first day of mourning.

"That's music," said Mrs. Wardlaw, laughing too; "and there's one within hearing of it, who will rejoice in it even more than I do. Nelly dear, I've been a-talking about this, and that, and the other, but nothing—except the tambourines—has had any real hold upon me. I was striving to keep your heart up, and to turn it mayhaps, if I could see the chance, to listen to one as loves you dearly. Raymond Pennicuick is waiting in the boudoir yonder for one clasp of your hand—if that is all you will give him."

"Raymond here!" said Nelly, with a flush of anger as well as of distress, "why was I not told at first?"

"Because I was afraid you might have gone away, my darling, from a mistaken sense of what was right. Of course he did not know you were here. He was dining with John and me, not as I believe, because we are much attraction for him, but simply because we are your neighbors and friends, and like to talk about you. When he heard you were at the door, he was for running away, lest his presence should give you pain. But I said, 'No, (you just wait here till I talk to her a bit, and she'll see you, never fear.' And you *will* see him, won't you, Nelly?"

"Yes, I will see him."

She had grown pale again, now, and calm. Indeed, Mrs. Wardlaw thought she had never seen her "bright little fairy," as she was wont to call her, so quiet and resolute-looking.

"You are not going to be hard upon the poor lad, I trust," said she apprehensively. "I hoped I had put a little life and spirit into you; if it is not a good time for him to see you, let him bide awhile, or he will lay all the blame upon my shoulders."

"It is as good a time now, Mrs. Wardlaw, as any time will be."

"Lor, my dear, you talk as if you were an old woman; and life is but beginning with you."

"I know it," said Nelly gravely; though, indeed, she felt as if life—or all that was worth living for—was finished rather than beginning. "Where is Raymond?"

Mrs. Wardlaw rose and opened a door that communicated with her boudoir, an apartment which had been put to its first use that day. As she never wrote, or read for pleasure, nor played on any musical instrument, nor had any intimate acquaintances with whom to enjoy a *tete-a-tete*, the room was a superfluous luxury; but this afternoon it had offered an asylum to Raymond Pennicuick, where he had been placed in honorable imprisonment, until it should be decided whether Nelly was to see him or not. He had guessed pretty accurately the cause of her long silence, but that had only made it the more insupportable to him. If his visits were unwelcome now when he was his own master, how much less welcome would they be after his father's return, when it would be taken for granted that he was subject to his dictation. As Mrs. Wardlaw had stated with such characteristic humility, it was for some news of Nelly, some hint perhaps as to her position with respect to himself, that he had called that day at Coromandel House, where of course he had been pressed to stay for dinner. And now, by a stroke of fortune—which might be good or bad—an opportunity was afforded him of getting an explanation of the state of affairs from Nelly's own lips.

The room was as elegant as the upholsterer's art could make it—with dainty hand-paintings on the walls and ceilings, which (as that astute tradesman had observed) had "removed the department beyond the domain of upholstery," while a magnificent stretch of landscape was commanded from the open windows; but neither the view without nor the scene within attracted Raymond's attention. He stood with his hand upon the central table, waiting and watching for the summons that he felt would come, but to which he had looked forward by no means with delighted expectation. His eyes would indeed be gladdened by the sight of Nelly—it was a physical impossibility that it should be otherwise; but the words of her lips might be far indeed from those he longed for. He had begun to understand her backwardness to accept his proffered love since the change that had fallen on his own fortunes. If she really thought it her duty to oppose his wishes on the ground of his father's disapprobation of their union, there was small chance of his winning her, for that objection was not likely to be removed. He had thought it possible, when he had asked her permission to quote her own consent among the arguments he was about to make use of to his father; and of course, when he had thought his father dead, the marriage had seemed certain; the question had become one of "how soon" only. But from this last height of assurance his fall had been as severe as it was sudden. All the objections of his father had once again presented themselves to his mind, accompanied with a certain prejudice of the force of which he had not taken much account. He had long understood that Mrs. Conway and his father were antagonistic; so much so, that he and the Captain could hardly have been such close friends had the pillars of domestic peace at home been unshaken; but he had thought this enmity lay mainly on the lady's side—was one of those unreasoning prejudices which women so often entertain, and which in her case amounted to mania. But now he had begun to think that this hate was reciprocated. The terms of his father's telegram occurred to him again and again, and always with a renewed impression of hardness and antagonism. "Conway killed by Chinese. Break the news to family." The curtness of it almost bordered upon cruelty. Indeed, to his morbid apprehension, it seemed to have been couched purposely in that style, not to save a few sovereigns—which had probably been his father's chief motive—but to express a fixed hostility. And at the back of all this there was the ominous silence of Nelly for the last five weeks.

Thus it was with no high-wrought expectation Raymond saw the boudoir door open, and reveal the girl he loved by the side of his hostess. That she smiled upon him and shook his hand so frankly, were no longer the good omens he would have taken them for a while ago; if she had been long back and looked embarrassed or even sorrowful, he would have liked it better, for these friendly signs might well belong to that role of "sister" which she had already announced her intention of playing.

"I shall leave you young people together to make your own explanations," said Mrs. Wardlaw. "I suppose you have no objection to be left alone with him, Nelly?"

This was by no means said in a light vein. She understood that there was a kink in the cable of true love, so serious that electric communication was suspended; and she was not sure whether a private interview with Raymond would at present be agreeable to the girl.

"I have certainly no objection," said Nelly gravely. "Why should I have?"

The question was addressed to Mrs. Wardlaw, as she left the room, but Raymond replied to it.

"I know not why, indeed, Nelly; but it does seem as though you did entertain objections to see me. Do you know it is five weeks since we met last?"

"I know it is a long time, Raymond; I have felt it to be very long, believe me."

"You would have seen me, then, if the choice had lain with yourself?" said Raymond eagerly.

"Yes, I think so. I would not have so long delayed the—the explanation, as Mrs. Wardlaw calls it, between us—which must needs have come sooner or later. Matters are not as they were, Raymond, when you and I spoke to one another"—she hesitated and a faint flush overspread her cheek—"that afternoon in the garden. They were not favorable to the wish you were so good as to express, even then; I did not even share the hope which you entertained——"

"But you shared the wish," put in Raymond pleadingly; "whatever you are going to say, at least do not retract your own confession."

"I deny that I confessed to you anything, Raymond; and I am sure you are not so cruel as to put me to the question now. As things stood at that time, I repeat, the probability of what you desired being accomplished was very small. It has now dwindled into nothing."

"Who says that? Who has a right to say it?" inquired Raymond quickly."

"I say it, Raymond; I who have a right above all others to speak upon this matter, since my life—or the peace of my life—depends upon it. These are selfish words, you may say; Heaven knows that they are not so; but you are welcome to believe them selfish. If my mother and I were but poor, and my father were yet alive to be a bond in some sort between your father and ourselves, your love for me would be likely to meet with opposition from him; how, think you, would he regard it now, when we are not only poor but penniless, and the tie—slender at best—is snapped that bound him to us?"

"[illegible] at least a hope," urged Raymond.

"Why stifle it?"

"[illegible] Raymond, there is no hope; and even if there were, that is, even if your father could be induced to give his consent, and to make you some allowance such as would be fitting—you understand, I hope, that I am speaking of your position, not of mine—I say, even then I doubt whether my mother would permit me to accept his bounty. It may be prejudice; but it is no use to combat it, and she is my mother, the only being to whom my duty is now solely owed."

"Yet love is duty, too, dear Nelly," pleaded Raymond; "and though to my sole parent I also owe obedience, and have never shrunk from paying it, yet, in this case, I claim to be my own master; no man, not even a father, has a right to destroy the happiness of another. If I had anything—were it but enough to buy food and clothing and a roof to cover us—of my own, I would work, I would slave for you till better times, and in the meantime our poverty would be happiness. But since, Heaven help me! I have nothing certain—I cannot, I dare not, ask you to run a risk so perilous."

He spoke with vehemence, and trembled as he spoke, moved with o'ermastering love. Nelly trembled too; for had he but known it, she was on the very verge of passion's giddy height, while he thus held out his arms to her.

Her mother, as will be remembered, had informed her that Raymond would have an income of his own—though he was himself unaware of it—when he should come of age. If he had known it, how vehemently would he have urged his suit! When he should come to know it, how quickly would he renew his appeal. It was the foreknowledge of this that had caused her to lay such weight upon her mother's prejudice against his father, though indeed it had weight enough of its own. In her mother's present temper—and it was to the last degree unlikely that it would suffer mitigation—an alliance with Raymond, if it included the permission of the elder Pennicuick, would mean a practical separation from her remaining parent. The question that Raymond had put, "Had anyone a right, even a parent, for a mere personal whim, to destroy the happiness of her offspring?" had at least as great a force with her as with himself. Indeed, it had a greater, for her disposition was less dependent, though not less filial. She knew how her heart would make common cause with his, when he should say, "I am free to marry you; I have enough for both, though not to spare. Let us be happy." But in accepting him she felt that she would be destroying for him all that is included in what the world calls prospects. Thanks to her, he would be a poor man all his life, and alienated from the father to whom he had hitherto been an exemplary son. Had she a right to force him to this sacrifice, because she loved him? or was it not because she loved him that she ought to save him from himself—from the results of his own generous passion? The answer was plain to her: and it must be given him now—at once—while his strongest arguments could not be urged against her. Yet every word she was about to use would be a dagger-thrust in her own breast.

"Raymond," she said, "there is no need to speak as you have spoken; I know your nature to its core. There is no man whom I esteem so much, or ever will be, or for whom I would do more than I would for you; but the one thing I will not do, so help me Heaven! is to consent to your own ruin. Listen to me, for what I say will never be recalled or altered. If you find it impossible to keep the word you passed to me six weeks ago, and behave to me as a dear friend and brother, I will not see you again. I have suffered—well, no matter what—from your absence from us during our late calamity. When the heart is sorrowful and very heavy, it yearns for friendship, and the more when it has but one or two friends. But I can bear your absence for ever, better than a repetition of such scenes as these. If you speak to me of love again, Raymond—it wounds me to the quick to say so, but I mean it—then speech between us two will be over: you will have spoken to me for the last time."

"The last time!" echoed the young man, like one who cannot believe his ears. "She will have spoken to me for the last time!"

"Such is my fixed and positive resolve—a harsh one, you will say, but even harshness is sometimes necessary to secure obedience. Upon one side stand you and your love; upon the other—forgive me for speaking of them as antagonistic, for it needs must be so—stand myself and my future. My mother, and I are absolutely, as I understand, without resources, and from henceforward we shall both be dependent, for means of existence, upon my personal exertions. I shall need all my wits, all my courage, all my strength, for this battle of life, for which I shall be armed with but a poor pencil and paint-brush. Do you not see, dear Raymond, how necessary it will be for me to be at least in freedom? If, in addition to what is required of me, I am tied and bound to you, by an engagement however contingent upon circumstances, how is it possible that I can be my own mistress? All my thoughts and all my time will be bespoken by the work before me; I could not afford—to put the matter on its lowest ground, but still upon a high one, since another will be dependent on me—to have my mind disturbed by hopes so tender."

"But other girls, dear Nelly," pleaded Raymond, "find strength and motive in such hopes."

"Then I am not as other girls, or at least," she added hastily, "the circumstances in which I am placed compel me to be different. I know what is good for you, Raymond, and what is possible for me. You understand that I am resolute about this matter. You must promise me to be henceforth as my brother only, or we must be strangers altogether."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Turkish Disregard of the Laws of Health

[From the London Times.]

It is certainly a mystery that the inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire did not all perish years ago from pulmonary diseases. Their feet are first swathed in a coarse rag, which is then wound round the lower part of the leg and bound tightly with twine; on the rag is tied a piece of sole leather hammered into a rudely shaped sandal, with sides rising one inch up the sides of the foot; holes are cut in the upper edges of the sandal and strings tied in them, and then fastened over the top of the foot. It is evident that their feet are wet the moment they step into mud or water over an inch in depth. This they are doing constantly in bad weather; consequently, their feet are soaking wet for a week at a stretch, and yet they live and multiply.

They violate every known law of hygiene in the ventilation and often the cleanliness of their dwellings, and yet their children are generally sturdy looking, and the adults show fair average physique. They sleep in rows on a mat laid upon the floor of their underground huts. Sometimes the floor is covered with them, and yet they do not appear to suffer for want of oxygen.

France Armed for the Fight.

A Portentous Fact—A Trained Force of Nearly Two Millions and a Half.

From the London Telegraph.]

An exhaustive compilation of statistics relating to "The Armed Strength of France" has recently emanated from the Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster-General's Department of the Horse Guards, and it is impossible to scan the results of Major East's laborious investigations on the subject without being struck at the prodigious strides made by the French military authorities in the work of reorganization since the passage of the new law, "sur le recrutement," by the National Assembly five years ago. Never since the disastrous campaign of the First Napoleon, which closed at Waterloo, has the normal rate of expenditure upon the army of France approached the amount it has now reached. The numerical strength of the troops at present established on a peace footing exceeds by 23,000 men what was deemed sufficient on the same basis immediately before the outbreak of the war with Germany. The French War Office has spared no pains to become acquainted with the working of every military system in Europe. It is a portentous fact that, according to the estimate of Major East, notwithstanding her immense loss of territory, money and population, France at this moment possesses a total available land force, consisting exclusively of trained men, numbering 2,473,666. This vast aggregate includes the "active" and "territorial" armies, with the reserves belonging to them respectively.

Consequently a mighty force, drawn from this armed host, under the new regime, would be put in the field in a comparatively short space of time. Of course, it is only the modified plan of recruiting introduced subsequent to the Franco-German war that could render possible the mobilization of a force so enormous. By the act of 1872 every Frenchman between twenty and forty years became liable to personal military service, without the chance of receiving any kind of bounty by way of compensation for enlistment. So stringent are the regulations enforced in respect to this matter that no substitution is allowed, and even dispensations from service, obtainable under certain conditions, do not necessarily secure exemption. A table showing the number of young men domiciled in each canton having completed their twentieth year is drawn up by the Mayor of the canton, and when once these are drawn no causes of exemption are admisible, except in cases of bodily infirmity, deficient height, urgent domestic claims, and some other specified contingencies.

Every German capable of bearing arms is compelled to serve in the standing army of his country for seven years from the end of his twentieth year, and five years more in the Landwehr. So every Frenchman not declared unfit for military service is bound to serve in the regular army for five years, in the reserve of the regular army for an additional four years, and in the reserve of the territorial army for six years more. Serving a military apprenticeship so protracted and varied, French soldiers can hardly fail in a few years to attain the highest proficiency in their profession. From 1873 to 1876 the average yearly number of young men who drew lots, out of a population of 36,000,000, was 292,000. Of that number 145,500 were exempted on various grounds; so that 146,500 were left available every year for actual service with the colors. The grand total of the active army, including those in *disponibilite*, is 719,366 sub-officers and men. The reserve of the active army, comprising four classes between the sixth and ninth year of service, numbers 520,982; the territorial army, which embraces men between the tenth and fourteenth years of service, amounts to 594,736; and the reserve of the latter army, which represents those between the fifteenth and twentieth year of service, reaches a total of 638,782. If this united force be compared with the German Army of the Line, the Reserve, the Landwehr, and the Landsturm, it will be found to be very much stronger numerically. The French army is distributed throughout the eighteen "regions" into which the country is divided, and a corps is stationed in each of them, besides one located in Algeria. Each region possesses general supply magazines, containing stores of ammunition, clothing, harness, and equipments; and each army corps is made up of "two divisions of infantry, a brigade of cavalry, a brigade of artillery, a battalion of engineers, a squadron of military train, together with the necessary staff and departments." When it is determined by the Government to place the forces of a region on a war footing, the Minister sends the order to the General commanding the army corps. Men who are called out to serve proceed to the depot of their corps, and it is considered that a body of troops should be ready to start from its quarters in a canton for the point of concentration on the sixth day of mobilization. If the minute rules now imperatively binding upon the directors of different departments of commissariat be observed, such mistakes as were committed when M. Ollivier on the last occasion undertook the war against Prussia "with a light heart" cannot occur again. The artillery establishment appears to be under perfect administration, and, besides numerous training schools, arsenals, powder factories, manufactories of arms, iron works, and foundries in the same department, the central artillery depot contains ample accommodation for archives, maps, plans, models of modern artillery, libraries, workshops and laboratories. A corresponding amount of care is bestowed on the officiency of the medical staff, hospital arrangements, provision for religious ministrations, and military, railway, postal and telegraphic service. The importance of the sound elementary as well as professional instruction of soldiers as well as officers is also recognized under the new system to an extent previously unknown in France.

France appears to adhere to the principle of the Chassepot rifle, subject to slight modification. The "Gras" rifle, which supersedes the Chassepot pattern of 1866, differs so little from the latter that the Chassepot can be turned into the Gras gun by simply retubing a small part of the barrel, and adapting the breech-block to a new arrangement, to allow the employment of a metallic cartridge. With this fresh type of a rifle the soldier carries on service 74 rounds. The estimated cost for 1878 which this extensive process of military re-organization involves is £21,675,000; and, to realize properly the rate at which expenditure in the War Department has been augmented, it should be remembered that it now exceeds the amount devoted to the army in 1848, when Louis Philippe fell, more than five millions, and that it reaches within a million of what was absorbed in the first year of the Crimean war. The budget for 1878 also represents a total of 35,108 officers and crews in the French Navy, to be provided for at a collective cost of £5,091,803. There are 120 ships in commission, comprehending iron-clad and unarmored steamers, paddle-wheel and sailing vessels, relief and navigating school ships. Only those who have not studied the immense resources of France will be surprised by the large development of physical force which has now been accomplished. Despite the astounding events of 1870-71, and the vast increase of expenditure to which they led, France remained the most compact, rich, and homogeneous power on the Continent. Thus nearly seven years after the close of a disastrous war, she stands erect, and far more redoubtable than she has ever been since her great strife with Germany was brought to an end.

BOSTON is now rejoicing in a lady who possesses a phenomenal voice—Miss Lottie Sargent, who is able to sing each of the four parts of a quartette with equal ease. Her voice is considered one of the most remarkable ever known. When she sings bass, her hearers who do not see her can not believe it is not a man who is singing. Her high notes are also strong and sweet.

THE word "state" spelled backwards is "etats" in French. It is not safe, however, to learn French simply by going back on your English.

Verdict against a Dead Man for Breach

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.
(SOUTHERN EXTENSION OF W. G. & B. RY.)

Trains leave Listowel Station daily as under:

For Kincardine and intermediate points—Mixed, at 8.55 a.m.; Mail at 2.51 p.m.; Accom. at 8.20 p.m.

For Palmerston—Mail at 7.04 a. m.; Accom. at 1.58 p.m.; Mixed, 9.30 p.m.

STRATFORD & HURON RAILWAY.

Trains depart from Listowel Station for Stratford and the South daily as follows:

No. 1 Express, 5.50 a.m.; No. 5 Accom. 1.17 p.m.

Trains arrive from Stratford as follows:

No.4 Accom., 11.37 a.m.; No.8 Express, 9.20 p.m.

Listowel Standard.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1878.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE has tendered his resignation of the Presidency of the Council, and at a late meeting of the Privy Council it was accepted. For some time past this has been expected, notwithstanding the chief Govt. organ's attempt to keep the matter in obscurity until after the Halifax elections. It is generally known that Mr. Blake's health has not been good lately, and that he had previously announced his intention of lightening his labors in connection with the Ministry. That such a course was deemed necessary for this reason we very much regret, for Mr. Blake's talents, apart from party bias—are conceded to have been very serviceable to the country. During his career he has frequently manifested the qualification of a Statesman and spoken out with a freedom independent of the prejudices so easily discernible in the Reform ranks generally. That his convictions have always been much more liberal than his late position in the Cabinet allowed him the free exercise of, is a conclusion very apparent; but that he should have placed himself in such a position, where compulsion required that he should humbly bend the knee to inferior intellects and assume a share of responsibility for the actions of Government tricksters and corruptionists is far from being in harmony with pre-conceived notions of him as a Statesman. That such a course has aggravated mental as well as bodily infirmity, his late Teeswater "apology" is sad proof, and that he should have countenanced the election of a disloyal Minister, by withholding his resignation until after the event, is evidence both of weakness in himself and on the part of the Government who have to resort to such "artful dodges" in order to postpone an inevitable collapse. It is said that Mr. Blake contemplates retiring from parliamentary life altogether at no distant day. The names of James Young, M.P., Hon. Geo. Brown and two or three others are associated with the appointment to the vacancy.

"SOME men are born for great things, and some are born for small," says the philosophic author of "Farm Ballads." Dr. Strousberg, late of Russia, surely has strong claims to be considered a great man. It is but a short time since he was officially invited by the Czar to quit the territory of the Bear for being connected with the greatest railway collapse of the age. His name is again figuring in Europe as the projector of a great undertaking. His new proposition is to make Berlin a seaport, by the building of two deep sea canals, one connecting with the mouth of the Elbe, and the other with the mouth of the Oder. Eight million sterling is the estimated cost, and profits enough to pay 10 per cent. on this are promised. If the plan could be realised, Berlin would be raised, so says the Prussian correspondent of the *Times*, to the position of a dominant commercial, manufacturing, and military centre on the continent. Whether Bismarck lends his countenance or refuses it to the enterprise, the indications that some important movement towards making Germany a great maritime power is in contemplation, are many and significant. It may be by the seizure of Holland; but in some way or other the attempt will be made.

THE STANDARD returns thanks for the multitude of warm greetings which its advent met with. Such a free expression of commendatory remarks was altogether unlooked for, and its gratitude has to be acknowledged between its blushes. The edition printed—which was a large one—proved entirely inadequate to the demand, and it was most reluctantly compelled to allow many eager enquirers to be deprived of a copy. However, unless the demand becomes unprecedentedly great, in future it trusts to be able to satisfy all who are desirous of obtaining it. The host of voluntary subscribers that has been added to the STANDARD list during the first week of its existence is the happiest evidence desirable that its career has been most auspiciously commenced, and we have every reason to believe that its continued success is already beyond a peradventure. To those who have not as yet sent in their names we would say, "Come on, Macduff!" and don't wait for further solicitation.

"THE LANCE" is the title of a new addition to the cartoon periodicals of the day. It is published in Toronto, has a slight resemblance to "Grip," but it by no means purposes holding to the faith of that journal. On the contrary, it indicates its intention of "looking at public questions in an independent light of conservatism and progress;" it is therefore likely to break many a *lance* with the "pairty" and its upholders. "Mackenzie's Dream" furnishes a fit subject for cartoon No. 1, and it requires no great amount of imaginative capacity to understand why the "gouls" hovering around him should cause many an hour of troubled sleep.

THE revision of the Bible now being carried on in England, recalls the fact that Alcuin, an early British monk, occupied himself twenty-two years in translating the Scriptures for the Emperor Charlemagne. A copy of this interesting relic is now in the British museum, and is valued at $750. It was probably the Latin Bible of Jerome which Alcuin thus rendered into the vernacular tongue; but it is certain that the first Christians in Britain had the scriptures in their mother tongue.

SENATOR MACPHERSON has issued a second pamphlet, in which he refutes in terse style the calumnious statements made at the summer pic-nics held over the country by Ministerial guns. This new pamphlet is likely to become as justly celebrated as its predecessor. Arguments, strong and conclusive, are produced inculpating the present administration.

A portion of the Eastern States was visited on the last day of January by a storm, said in some parts to have been the most severe for ten years. Great damage was done to shipping and other property. Snow fell at Boston and elsewhere in immense quantities. A train at Revere was thrown off the track while endeavoring to plow through the drifts. Railway traffic was suspended for a time on several lines.

OUR idea of a crow has always been associated with a large bird clothed in the garb of mourning; but a new species of the *Corvidæ* has been discovered in Asia at the head of the Persian Gulf, whose plumage is white. It is called the Chaplain Crow because the feathers on the neck and breast resemble a surplice. This fact will be interesting to Ornathologists.

AT a meeting of the Privy Council at Ottawa the other day, it was decided to again nominate Mr. Timothy Warren Anglin—famous for his all-to-intimate acquaintance with the Printing department of the House of Commons—as speaker during the session approaching.

THE first day's voting on the by-law to repeal the Dunkin Act in Lennox and Addington give a majority for the repeal of four hundred and sixteen votes.

CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Conservative Association of North Perth was held at Milverton on the 2nd inst. John Reed, Esq., of Stratford, President, occupied the chair. H. J. Butler Esq., of the *Times*, discharged his duties as secretary of the association. The various municipalites of the Riding were well represented. The secretary having read the minutes of the last meeting, some discussion followed as to rumors of irregularities at the late Convention. It was shewn, however, to the general satisfaction of the meeting, that the procedure of the convention was in strict accordance with the By-laws of the Association, and that the selection of the candidates was fair and honorable. The feeling of the meeting was in favor of abiding by the decision. Some amendments were made in the rules governing the Association. It was decided that the word "ballot" be dropped from clause 7, and the word "vote" substituted in its stead. A strong disposition was manifested to have all elections conducted by open vote instead of by secret ballot, which was pronounced an innovation of retrograde reform. It was decided that the next annual meeting of the Association should be held at Listowel. It was also proposed that Sir John A. Macdonald should be invited to visit the county and deliver an address on the present political situation, as soon as he could conveniently do so. The general business of the meeting being concluded, the president thanked the members for the honor which they had conferred on him in electing him president of the Association, and stated his desire to withdraw from the presidency. The delegates, however, unanimously re-elected him president of the Association for the current year. Geo. Draper, Esq., of Listowel, was elected vice-president; and H. T. Butler, Esq., was re-elected secretary. The gentlemen composing the executive committee of the past year were also re-elected.

MOLESWORTH.

For the STANDARD.

The want of a Liberal Conservative journal in the Conservative town of Listowel and surrounding country has long been felt by the great party of union and progress, and by all who desire to see this young and progressive Dominion placed under good, efficient, capable and economical government. This great desideratum is now supplied by the advent of the Listowel STANDARD. And we, the Conservative party in this suburban retreat, hail with pleasure the inception of the STANDARD, this youngest aspirant for public favor; and while we expect and hope that the STANDARD will be a true exponent of Liberal Conservative views and sentiments, it is not desirable that it should be ultra on the one hand, or unstable and compromising on the other. There is also a stern necessity for the publishers of a respectable journal to be particularly guarded against the admission of correspondence of a scurrilous, slanderous or personal nature into its columns. Nothing so much injures the standing, influence or usefulness of a newspaper as this, more especially a young periodical; and it is to be hoped that the STANDARD will avoid the quagmire that your local contemporary has so often fallen into. I make these observations and give these cautions from knowing the fact that some of our own party not many miles from 'our ain clachan' are expecting to have full swing in the STANDARD to bespatter and aspersе the characters of their political opponents and personal enemies.

It is presumable that the publishers of the STANDARD are aware of the fact that Molesworth is a somewhat ancient burgh, and although a somewhat diminutive member of the great sisterhood of Canadian towns and villages, it is by several years the senior of your ambitious, progressive forest town of Listowel, and it has a history peculiarly its own, and which I may on a future occasion refer to more at length; but before closing I may be permitted to mention something anent the great matter of interest here at present—the rapid and efficient progress of the gravel road, under the able and efficient management of our friend Geordie Brown. I beg his pardon for using such a familiar and undignified cognomen, and my only excuse for so doing is, that he is better known by that appellation than by either George Brown or Mr. Brown. But to return to the gravel road: the work was commenced on the 18th of Dec. last, with a gang of seven navvies, and although there has only been twenty-seven days work performed, there is more than one and a quarter miles of road completed and finished in such a manner that the most captious or fault-finding can with truthfulness urge no objections to it; and even his bitterest enemies are forced to admit that Geordie is making a grand road, and the municipal Council of Listowel are to be congratulated for putting the right man in the right place. The whole Molesworth section of road, being about two and a half or three miles, will probably be finished about the end of February. The farmers who subscribed to do the gravel hauling are energetically doing their part of the contract in a praiseworthy manner, and to all appearance, the Molesworth and Listowel gravel road will soon be an accomplished fact. Wishing the STANDARD as much success as its most sanguine promoters anticipate, and hoping that the Editor "may aye ha'e hale breeks an' a bannock." I remain, &c.,

MOLESWORTH.

[The above was unavoidably laid over from last issue.

SECOND LETTER.

Last Friday evening your broad sheet made its debut in our clachan. Every body is pleased with the first number. Even the "blawsted" grits have nothing to say against it, but much to approbate. In short, it is a large paper, well got up; the typographical work is excellent; the selections are unexceptionable; the news and local departments are varied and readable. "Our position" is well written, moderate—very moderate indeed; perhaps too much so to suit the taste of many thorough-paced tories, who have heretofore regaled their literary palates with more highly seasoned pabulum; but tonics are not necessary to a person in perfect health, and if error it is, it is better to err on the safe side; and it is presumable that before the next election campaign is over the STANDARD may in the heat of party warfare occasionally assume a more bellicose attitude. Be this as it may, time will tell. It is to be hoped that such an excellent newspaper may receive a very wide circulation in the North Riding. To many homes where a vitiated literature, and objectionable political prints are greedily devoured, the weekly visits of the STANDARD should prove an antidote and a blessing.

Gravel roads are the all-absorbing topic of interest and discussion here at present. The farmers are making gravel roads, talking gravel roads, and dreaming gravel roads, and the gravel road question is in order, morning, noon, and night, and at every odd moment when a word can be edged in sideways. All this denotes a people of enterprise and wide awake to their own interests. Before your next issue, there will be—unless some unforeseen casualty occurs—a continuous gravel road from the town line of Howick eastward through Molesworth of two and a half miles length. A few days ago two of your Listowel magnates put in an appearance at the gravel pit, just about sundown, and after duly examining the road, pronounced it a first-rate job.

The young people here, like young people everywhere in this civilized country, are fond of amusement, and amusement they must have and do have. As there are neither theatres, skating rinks, shows, lectures, or other sources of amusement that obtain in towns and cities, something else must be improvised in order to satisfy this univeral craving in the youthful constitution. Surprise parties, concerts, singing schools, and dances, are of frequent occurrence, at all of which the stalwart youths and bonnie lassies of Molesworth and vicinity seem to enjoy themselves hugely, and it is pleasant to observe their innocent enjoyments.

The population is not homogeneous here, for there is a mixture of various nationalities. There is the burly and obstinate John Bull; the impulsive and generous Paddy; the cautious, shrewd, and money-saving Saunders, and the proud hospitable "her nainsell" Donald; the chattering and frog-eating Frenchman; the stolid and sour-kraut loving Teuton, and the pious Welshman. The religions professed are as varied and opposite as the nationalities. There are Romanists, Episcopalians, Methodists of three kinds, Presbyterians, Universalists, Wise Virgins, and some that are neither of these. There was once a Congregational church here, but we believe that that body is now without a representative.

GRAVEL PIT.

MITCHELL.

The *Advocate* says the interest taken in the Halifax election by local politicians of the town was as great as if the contest had been within the county. The political atmosphere of that quarter is never allowed to become very cool at any rate.

A deficit of over $200 occurs on the balance sheet of the Grangers' books whose headquarters are at Mitchell, and the mystery is no one appears to know where the money has gone to.

Mr. Thos. Elliott, sr., met with a painful accident while in Mitchell the other day. He had placed a barrel of salt in his wagon, and seated himself upon it, when the horses moved, causing the barrel to roll, and precipitating him over the back of the wagon upon the road. A fracture of the collar bone was the result.

Mitchell youths indulge their penchant for Sunday sport by smashing the windows of unoccupied buildings. Some sixteen lights were recently demolished at one factory alone. An arrest and a reprimand were tried as a check to this species of vandalism.

According to the *Advocate*, the temperance cause must be a step in advance. One prominent citizen is said to have admitted "sucking through a straw many a good draught from a 'vinegar barrel.'"

A handsome donation, in the shape of a plot of ground, fitted up for a town park, is shortly to be made the corporation by a philanthropic townsman.

Mitchell boasts of having three residents whose combined weight touch the beam at 880 pounds.

Rev. Mr. Faynter of Chicago, formerly associate of Moody and Sankey, has been holding stirring revival meetings during the past week. Prayer meetings have been held three times a day, and the gatherings are said to be excessively large. The local clergy have participated in this evangelistic movement.

MILVERTON.

For the STANDARD.

This little place is as lively as ever. The Stratford & Huron Railway do as large a freight business at this point as at any other on this side of Stratford. Mr. Kertcher, who is the Reeve of the Township of Mornington, resides here, and is acknowledged to be the father of the village. He is engaged in the flouring as well as the grocery business.

This point appears to have become the head centre of the Conservative Association of North Perth; no less than four meetings of the Association having been held here within the last year.

In Orange matters it is not behind. The County Orange Lodge of North Perth held its annual meeting here on Tuesday. A large number were present to take part in the proceedings. Every lodge from Palmerston to Poole was well represented by the officers and members. After the usual business had been disposed of the following officers for the ensuing year were appointed: Worshipful County Master, Bro. R. L. Alexander, Newry; Deputy County Master, William Thompson, Palmerston; Secretary, Bro. James Magwood; Treasurer, Bro. R. Woods; Chaplain, Rev. Bro. H. Cooper; director of ceremonies, Bro. Thos Magwood. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Palmerston at 12 o'clock, noon.

GOWANSTOWN.

For the STANDARD.

This village, on the 4th con., Wallace, in the hotel line has undergone considerable change lately. Mr. Henry, of Elma Centre Hotel, is now landlord of the Queen's here; Mr. Hunt is occupant of the Dominion hotel, lately occupied by W. McMillan, who has retired to Listowel, expecting of course to do better. The post office is still under the control of Mrs. Blackstock. The Wesleyan church in this place for the last year has been closed. This should be accounted for, and will be the cause of a further communication to your paper.

The pupils of school section No. 7, Wallace, presented their teacher, Mr. R. G. Roberts, on his retiring from this section, with a very beautiful album and volume of literature. The presentation was made by his pupils, Thomas Greer and William Hemsworth, on behalf of the pupils assembled, numbering over 70. Mr. Roberts has taught this school for the past eight or nine years, and leaves to take charge of the Shipley school. Respecting the above named section, so far only four teachers have taught here nearly twenty years. Can any section in the county say as much?

FATAL ACCIDENT IN STRATFORD.

SCALDED TO DEATH IN A TANNER'S TUB.

On Monday evening last, at about a quarter to six o'clock, a young lad named George Cluthie, about nine years of age, son of Mr. Hercules Cluthie, carpenter, met with his death under most painful circumstances at Collin's tannery, St. Mary's road—better known as the old pork-packing establishment. It appears that the leech-tubs were in full blast, containing the hot liquid extract of bark, with which tanners carry on their operations. The unfortunate lad, accompanied by another boy named McMullen, entered the building through a door which opens upon the floor containing the leeches, and without seeing where he was going in the dim and steam-laden atmosphere, walked plump into one of the leeches. His screams attracted the attention of the men engaged in the basement, and they rushed to his rescue. They found young McMullen terror-stricken in the door-way, and lifting little George from the scalding liquid with all possible expedition bore him to his home, where his mother—his father being from home—was informed of the terrible mishap which had befallen her boy. The poor little fellow was scalded in a manner which we forbear to detail, and although Dr. Roe did everything in his power to relieve him, there was no hope of his recovery, and in the course of half an hour death put an end to his sufferings, which may be more easily imagined than described. The tragic event has caused a profound sensation in the neighborhood, and much sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents.—*Herald.*

PEACE OR WAR.

AN ARMISTICE SIGNED.

The Conditions of Peace—A Conference of the Powers to be held—Surrender of Erzeroum—Russia viewed with distrust—The Situation still Critical—England's attitude—Is it Peace?

London, Feb. 3.—A despatch says the Czar telegraphed to the Sultan promising to grant an armistice. Server Pasha one of the plenipotentiaries, telegraphed yesterday that the Grand Duke Nicholas was ready to sign a protocol of peace preliminaries under reserve of ulterior negotiations. The Grand Vizier has authorized the plenipotentaries to sign an armistice and peace preliminaries. All military movements and emigration of Mussulmans have stopped.

A St. Petersburg telegram says Russia has accepted Austria's proposal of a conference for the settlement of European questions. It will probably be held in one of the smaller States. [illegible] of the Russian peace conditions [illegible] signed.

A Constantinople dispatch says the following is the text of the Czar's telegram to the Sultan:—"I desire peace as much as you, but it is necessary for me, necessary for us, that it should be a solid and durable peace."

THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE.

The following are the conditions of the protocol:—

"First—Erection of Bulgaria into a principality.

"Second—A war indemnity, or territory in compensation.

"Third—The independence of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro, with an increase of territory for each.

"Fourth—Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Fifth—An ulterior understanding between the Sultan and the Czar regarding the Dardanelles.

"Sixth—Evacuation of the Danubian fortresses and Erzeroum."

A Bucharest correspondent telegraphs that in consequence of the armistice the garrison at Widdin will be ordered from Constantinople to surrender their arms, after which they will be quartered in the neighboring villages.

THANKSGIVING AT ST. PETERSBURG.

A St. Petersburg despatch says thanksgiving services are being held in churches; salvoes of artillery fired in consequence of the signing of an armistice. Flags are all over the city, and preparations are being made for a brilliant illumination to-night.

TUESDAY'S DESPATCHES—NOT ALL SETTLED YET.

A despatch from the Austrian capital states formal invitations have been sent to the signatory Powers to send representatives to a Conference there, while a telegram from Berlin intimates that Brussels will probably be the place for meeting. At all the European capitals the situation is still considered critical and, while St. Petersburg is eyed with a good deal of distrust, the Czar appears to regard Austria as even a more serious obstacle to the accomplishment of his designs than England. Faith in the Triple Alliance at St. Petersburg is greatly shaken, serious doubts being entertained, not only as regards Austria, but as regards Germany. The concentration of Russian troops in Roumania, a speech by the Czar to his soldiers, in which he declared although satisfactory conditions had been secured as the basis of an armistice, yet the end was far from near, and they must continue to hold themselves in readiness, and the calling out of forty new battalions have given cause for alarm and seriously checked public confidence in hope of an early re-establishment of peace. The armistice is believed to be for an indefinite time, until peace can be concluded. Erzeroum has surrendered, it is thought in accordance with one of the conditions. The Servian commanders, in accordance with request from the Grand Duke Nicholas have suspended hostilities, but the Montenegrins are not so anxious to cease operations, as at the time the armistice was concluded they were just meditating an attack upon Scutari. Roumania is expected to categorically refuse Russia's proposal for the cession of Bessarabia.

WHAT ENGLAND THINKS ABOUT IT.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Gladstone resumed the debate on the supplementary vote, making an apparently moderate speech. He conceded the necessity of the House expressing confidence in the Government in some shape in order to strengthen their hands at the coming Conference, and suggested instead of the vote an address to the Crown from both branches of Parliament assuring Her Majesty of support. He was opposed to the retrocession of Bessarabia to Russia, and would support the Government in obtaining reasonably liberal terms for Turkey and in securing the free navigation of the Danube. Mr. Gathorene Hardy, secretary of war, who followed Mr. Gladstone, pointed out that if the negotiations failed, the Russian armies had reached a point which would endanger the peace of Europe. He declared the bases of peace were vague, and although the Government had been told the condition relative to the Straits had been withdrawn, it still remained. Refusing the sum asked for now, might, the hon gentleman declared, result in expenditure of a hundred times that amount, and the Government, after the manner in which they had been misrepresented, were not going to accept an empty vote of confidence.

The Very Latest.

RUSSIANS EXPECTED TO ENTER CONSTANTINOPLE.

English Cabinet Hastily Summoned.

THE POPE DEAD.

(Special to the STANDARD per Montreal Line.)

The following despatches have been received by us just previous to going to press:

LONDON, Feb. 7.—The English Government is without official information of the actual entery of Russians into Constantinople; but the impression is general that the Czar's troops will continue advancing, notwithstanding the armistice which has been signed.

The Cabinet Council has been hastily summoned at an early hour to-day.

ROME, Feb. 7.—Pope Pious IX. died at 3 o'clock to-day.

GREECE AT WAR WITH TURKEY.

Athens, Feb. 4.—10,000 Greek regulars, and many thousand volunteers, are crossing the frontier from Lamia in three divisions. The commanders have orders not to attack the Turkish troops, the object of entering Turkey being to prevent massacres of christians consequent on insurrection.

A later telegram says: The Greeks who entered Thessaly on the 3d advanced to Domoco, upon which pace the few Turks in their path retreated and which the invaders subsequently carried at the point of the bayonet. Five Turkish men-of-war passed the Dardanelles on Sunday on their way to the Greek coast, and Baker Pasha is expected to leave Constantinople for Thessaly immediately. All the Beys of Epirus have submitted to the Greeks.

TERRIBLE MARINE DISASTER.

The Steamer Metropolis Wrecked on the North Carolina Coast—One hundred Lives Lost—Two miles of Beach strewn with Dead Bodies—Overloaded and Unseaworthy—No assistance rendered—Sickening details.

The following despatches furnish a graphic description of the wreck of the steamship Metropolis on the North Carolina coast a few days since, and the appalling loss of life thereby.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 31.—At 6.30 this afternoon the steamship Metropolis from Philadelphia for Bara, Brazil, went ashore on Currituck beach, three miles south of the lighthouse, during a furious southeast gale. She had on board over 200 laborers and 500 tons of railroad iron for the Madeira and Mamore railroad in Brazil. The bulk of the railroad laborers on board the Metropolis are said to be residents of New York or of Philadelphia. They are mostly Americans, of German and Irish descent.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 1.—The signal service station, at the wreck of the Metropolis, reports that the total number of passengers was 260, and about 160 were drowned, 100 being saved. The steamer is a total wreck. Nothing is left above water. No bodies are aboard. The wreck was caused by the vessel being unseaworthy. She sprang a leak about midnight and stranded at 7 a.m. on Jan. 31st. The only way of saving life was by running ashore when the vessel was sinking. A later report says the state of affairs this morning was terrible, dead bodies were lying along the beach for two miles. They are all being placed in proper places, back from the beach, and the living are being cared for. About one-third of those found are dead. The two saloon women are known to be dead with their husbands. Eight out of fourteen foremen are known to be dead.

Reports from the Signal Service station at the wreck of the Metropolis show 158 names of those saved have already been received; possibly the number may be increased by others not yet reported. The wreck station reports at 6 p.m. no one remains at the wreck. The nearest survivors are at a house three miles distant from the scene.

Philadelphia, Feb. 1.—The news of the wreck of the Metropolis created the most intense excitement here. The office of the contractors, Collins Bros., has been besieged by the relatives of those on board since early morning. The scenes are agonizing in extreme. Special policemen are on duty to keep the crowd under control. It is now believed that the Metropolis was unseaworthy and overloaded.

Norfolk, Va. Feb. 3.—There was a large South American mail on the Metropolis, and registered letters containing a hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It is asserted that the mail bags were cut open and rifled of their contents, and the letters strewed along the beach. A party of negroes went to the beach during the night and carried off everything of value. The dead were robbed, their pockets rifled and cut out, and the men even stripped of their clothing.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The keepers of Life-saving Stations 4 and 5, coast of North Carolina, report they did all they possibly could under the circumstances to aid the Metropolis. The vessel was four and a half miles from the station. The General Superintendent of the saving sevice in his annual report said the stations on the North Carolina coast were too far apart, and recommended them to be doubled. The recommendation was embodied in a bill by Representative Cox, of New York. The Metropolis disaster will be investigated.

GENERAL NEWS.

A bill was introduced into the Quebec Legislature recently to render one-half of laborers' wages exempt from seizure.

The County Council of Grey have refused the petition praying for the submission of a by-law repealing the Dunkin Act.

The County Council of Middlesex have resolved to petition the Dominion Parliament for a tariff placing Canadian and American farmers on an equal footing.

A Canadian missionary was recently attacked by a mob in Tam sui, Formosa, and threatened with death if he remained. He refused to leave, and the result is not known. The officials declared they could not protect him.

Mr. Richard McMillan, of Galt, sent 58 coops of fowl, 126 birds altogether, to the Chicago poultry exhibition recently, and took the prize of $100 for the best collection of pure-breds, and several other prizes besides.

The weight of four of the solid men of Lambton county is given as follows:—James Anderson, Moore, 24[illegible] lbs; F. W. Wood, Sarnia township, 270 lbs; A. Alexander, Sarnia, 240 lbs.; T. Bury, Sombra, 280.; total, 1,057 lbs.

A number of resolutions, having for their object a petition to the Dominion Government, requesting it to cancel the indebtedness of farmers for relief granted in consequence of the grasshopper plague in 1873, have been submitted to the Manitoba Legislature.

Last year's rebellion in Japan cost forty-two million dollars to suppress. The liabilities of the empire are three hundred and fifty-one million dollars, and the revenue and expenditure about fifty-one million. The postal system now extends throughout both China and Japan, and the money order and saving bank systems are in general use.

Mr. Jones has issued an address to the electors of Halifax, thanking them for their patriotism in returning him, and commenting on the significance of their verdict from a Free Trade point of view, which, considering his avowed annexationist opinions, and that the mercantile community in Halifax and Dartmouth gave a majority against him, is a good joke.

The Colonists of Australia have been much annoyed of late by the depredations caused by large flocks of kangaroos, which have been starved out of the interior by severe drouth and are destroying the crops and vegetables in large numbers. Large expeditions have been organized to destroy and drive off these undesirable visitors, and as many as 1000 kangaroos have been killed in a single day. The skins are sold and made into an excellent quality of leather.

A bill has lately passed the Legislature of New Zealand having for its object the protection of the indigenous birds of the country of which any specimens still remain. Among the rarer native varieties included in the schedule are the ibis, lyre bird, satin bird, and bower bird; but robins, wrens, finches, larks, water rails, and cuckoos are also placed under the protective clauses of the act.

HOW TO KILL THE HESSIAN FLY.—A practical farmer writes that, being much afflicted by the Hessian fly in New York State years ago, he "sowed one barrel of salt per acre, immediately after sowing the seed. That made it come in ear five or six days earlier, and that saved it from the midge. In 1853, when all crops around me, far and near, were almost ruined, mine gave twenty-nine bushels per acre; salt saved it. I never sowed less than one barrel per acre." He has never been bothered with the midge since. He says salt also prevents rust.

SMALL POX.—A half-witted fellow named Wm. Johnson, formerly living at Scotland, who left for Michigan two years ago, came back about two weeks since and went to Perry Powell's, below Kelvin, where his mother lived, bringing the clothes of his wife and child, who he said were dead, and got his mother to wash them. Since which a letter was received from Michigan by Mrs. Alfred Powell saying that his wife and child died of the most malignant form of small pox. Johnson and mother have left and it is supposed they have gone to reside near Stratford.

T. G. FENNELL, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Solicitor in Chancery and Insolvency, Notary Public, Commissioner, Conveyancer, Real Estate Agent, etc. Money to loan at reasonable interest. Office—over Scott's Bank, Wallace street, Listowel. 1

GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, Main street, Listowel. W. C. SMITH, Proprietor. This Hotel is one of the finest public buildings in Ontario, and is fitted throughout in first-class style. Commodious Sample Rooms, and every requisite convenience for catering to the comfort of the public. 1

DOMINION HOTEL, Wallace Street, Listowel. R. HENDERSON, Proprietor. Excellent accommodation for guests at moderate charges. The bar always supplied with the best liquors and cigars. Livery in connection. 1

COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Listowel, Ont. This old established house has long enjoyed the reputation of being a first-class Hotel in every respect. Commodious sample rooms; bar supplied with best brands liquors and cigars; good stabling, etc. WM. GIBSON, Prop. Main St., Listowel. 1

BILLIARD HALL, Main St., Listowel. Three first-class Tables. 2y P. GOODMAN, Prop.

ALLAN BRILEY, Licensed Auctioneer for the County of Perth. Residence, Donegal. Sales arranged for and punctually attended. Arrangements can be made at the STANDARD office, Listowel. 1

THE SCOTCH GRAYS FERRIER Ointment, for scalded shoulders, sore backs, ringbone, and all cuts or wounds in horseflesh. It is just as good for the human horseflesh. Scalds, burns, cuts or bruises. This medicine has never been in use only in the British Army. 25 cts. and 50 cts. per box. J. A. CAMPBELL, Sole Agent, Fordwich. 1

HARDWARE! HARDWARE!!

TATHAM & CO.,

Are selling goods at the

LOWEST FIGURES,

and will give

SPECIAL PRICES

to those about to build. Their Stock is large and well assorted.

TATHAM & CO.
Hardware Importers.

Listowel, Ont. 1

MEAT MART.

MESSRS. CONE & FULLER,

having leased the shop, next door east of McLean's Hotel, Main street, lately occupied by A. R. Merner, are prepared to supply the

FRESH MEATS of all KINDS, Sausages, etc.,

on hand at all times, CHOICE AND CHEAP. Orders delivered to any part of the town.

GIVE THEM A CALL.

CONE & FULLER.

Main street, Listowel. 1

Advertise in the LISTOWEL STANDARD!

THE PAPER THAT IS READ BY EVERYBODY.

HAVE YOUR JOB PRINTING executed at the STANDARD OFFICE, WHERE EVERYTHING IS NEW! AND PRICES ARE LOW!

STAR HOUSE.

The GREAT QUESTION now agitating the minds of the people of Canada is not

HOW WILL THE WAR END?

BUT

WHERE CAN WE GET THE CHEAPEST GOODS?

It is evident to everybody that the man who BUYS and SELLS FOR CASH, has the advantage of, and can sell CHEAPER than the man who does business on the old-fashioned credit system. This being the case,

S. McClung & Son

Invite the inhabitants of Listowel and surrounding Townships to INSPECT THEIR STOCK, and judge for themselves as to the QUALITY and CHEAPNESS of the GOODS.

We are now offering

Very Cheap Lines in Dress Goods,

IN ALL THE NEWEST SHADES:

Seal Brown, Myrtle Green,
Prune, Navy Blue,
and French Gray.

IN BLACK LUSTRE

We control the sale, in Listowel, of one of the Finest Brands ever offered to the public, and which for Richness of Finish and Cheapness CANNOT BE BEATEN IN CANADA.

Low-Priced Winceys in

Brown, Grey, Checks,
Black, Drab, Stripes.

FULL LINES IN

Merino, Paramatta, Thibet Cloth,
Cobourg, Crape Cloth, &c., &c., &c.

TWEEDS & CLOTHING.

We are now offering our entire stock of

OVERCOATS AND CLOTHING AT COST!

in order to make room for our SPRING GOODS.

SPECIAL VALUES

IN

ENGLISH, SCOTCH AND CANADIAN TWEEDS.

BOOTS AND SHOES!

Largest and Best Stock in Town. Selling off BELOW COST, as we are giving up this part of the business.

GROCERIES.

All the leading Family Groceries kept constantly on hand.

DON'T FORGET THAT—

TEA! 50 ct. TEA!

S. McCLUNG & SON.

LISTOWEL, Feb. 1, 1878. 1

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND—Main St. Rev. H. Cooper, Incumbent. Morning Service at 11; Evening Service at 6.30 o'clock. Sunday School at 9.30 a.m.; Rev. H. Cooper, Superintendent. Messrs. T. G. Fennell and R. Martin, Wardens.

KNOX CHURCH—Inkerman St. Rev. J. W. Bell, M. A., Pastor. Services at 11 a. m., and 6.30 p.m. Sabbath School at 2.30 p.m.; Mr. Jas. Crozier, B.A., Superintendent. Congregational Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening at 7.30. Bible Class, conducted by the Pastor, Thursday evening, at 7.30. Sec'y Board of Wardens, Mr. J. J. Hamilton, to whom application may be made for sittings in the Church.

M. E. CHURCH—Inkerman St. Rev. R. M. Pope, Pastor. Services at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Sunday School at 2.00 p.m.

BAPTIST SERVICES are held each Sabbath at 3.00 p.m. in old M. E. Church, Davidson St.

[Balance Directory not sent in.]

Listowel Standard.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1878.

TOWN AND COUNTRY.

A SPECIAL meeting of the town Council takes place Monday evening next, 11th inst.

WALLACE Township Council meets at Gowanstown to-morrow (Saturday), 9th inst.

REV. MR. POPE has been conducting revival services in the M. E. Church during the past week or two.

Mr. D. D. HAY, M. P. P., is entitled to our thanks for supplying the STANDARD office with a batch of Parliamentary documents.

THE Warden of the County, W. Davidson, Esq., of Fullarton, is to receive $200 for his services—an advance of $50 on his predecessor's salary.

WE understand the building in the Osborne block recently vacated by Messrs. Mack & Co., druggists, is being fitted up for the double purpose of bakery and tonsorial rooms.

THE February cattle fair held here on Friday last was not largely attended. There was very little stock brought forward, and few buyers on hand. Transactions were consequently meagre.

Ho! for Valentines!

You can be supplied at Robinson's bookstore with Valentines of all descriptions and prices—from a single cent upwards to the extreme height of your fancy.

"Wonders of the Yosemite."

Rev. Manly Benson is to deliver his lecture on the Yosemite in the C. M. Church on Wednesday evening next, 13th inst. Something worth hearing may be expected.

Christ Church.

Rev. H. Cooper purposes continuing his exposition on the Book of Revelation, taking for his subject on Sunday evening next, "The seven golden candlesticks, or Heavenly ideal of the Church."

Listowel Public School.

The following figures show the average attendance at the Listowel Public School for the month of January: First department, average, 49; 2nd, 52; 3rd, 56; 4th, 55; 5th, 65; 6th, 47; 7th, 66; total average, 390. B. ROTHWELL, Principal.

In Season and yet out of Season.

To be confronted with the greeting by every second individual you meet: "What delightful weather we are having!" Surely Vennor's predictions don't obtain to any extent in these parts.

Assault.

On Thursday, 31st ult., one Donald McDonald was brought before G. S. Climie, Esq., charged with assault and battery on the person of Joseph Zubar, and upon conviction, was fined $2.00 and costs, or to serve a term of twenty days in the county jail at hard labor.

Change of Base.

The proprietors of two of the town meat marts have recently traded stands. Mr. A. R. Merner is now to be found in Martin's block, opposite the Grand Central, and Messrs. Cone & Fuller have taken possession of the premises adjoining the Victoria Hotel, vacated by Mr. Merner.

Skating Carnival.

The skating portion of our citizens expect to regale themselves in the pleasures of a masquerade carnival on the Maitland Rink this (Friday) evening. As the services of the town band have been secured, and other arrangements of an entertaining nature made, no doubt there will be a large attendance of spectators and participants.

To Subscribers in Town.

If any of our already numerous subscribers in town fail to receive the STANDARD in due time each Friday morning, they will confer a favor by immediately notifying us at the office. Until the routes of delivery become familiarized, it is possible that a few subscribers may be overlooked. Our instant attention will be given upon being notified to that effect.

License Commissioners and Inspectors.

The following are the names of the Commissioners and Inspectors of Licenses for the County of Perth for the current year, as appeared in a late number of the *Ontario Gazette*:—North Perth—Commissioners, William Mowat, Jacob Kollman, William Smith Bolger; Inspector, George S. Climie. South Riding—Commissioners, Patrick Whelihan (Registrar of the County,) Hugh Campbell, Wm. N. Ford; Inspector, John Coppin.

High School.

Since the re-opening of Listowel High School in January there has been a large increase of pupils over any preceding term. The average attendance during the month of January was 57, which certainly speaks well for the management of its principal, Mr. Jas. Crozier, B. A. Our High School is rapidly acquiring the distinction of being an educational institution of high standing. The need for better school accommodation is becoming very urgent, and we trust the day is not distant when the board of management will feel at liberty to take action in the matter.

Wood Thieving.

For some little time it has been noticed that the wood piles at the new school house have been growing "smaller and beautifully less" at a rate altogether out of proportion to the amount required for heating the school. An investigation of the mystery has been instituted, and although no arrests have as yet been made, it might be judicious for the parties who lay in their supply of wood between two days to desist, unless they are anxious to be relegated for a season to a quarter where fuel is supplied *gratis*—Stratford gaol.

OUR thanks are tendered the manager of the Maitland Skating Rink for complimentary cards for the season.

Heavy Snow Storm.

A very heavy snow storm, accompanied by wind approaching a hurricane, passed over Hamilton and the southern counties bordering Lake Erie on Thursday night, 31st ult. In and about Hamilton the roads were completely blocked up, and one lady came nearly being buried in a drift in the east end of the city. At Simcoe, Port Dover and other points, the storm was equally severe, and railway trains were considerably delayed in consequence. How it is that while we in the north have been basking in the almost balmy sunshine, our southern neighbors have had rigorous wintry blasts to buffet, is a puzzler which we should like Mr. Vennor to rise and explain.

The Tandy Bros.

By the Stratford papers we notice that the Tandy Brothers intend giving one of their sacred concerts in that town next week. The performance of this company of celebrated singers draw crowded houses wherever they make an appearance. Their entertainments are of a high order, and are spoken of as the most fascinating ever listened to. We are sure that there are many warm appreciators in Listowel of the class of music such as is furnished by this company, and we should like to see a step taken towards inducing them to favor the town with one of their musical treats. Churches are generally made use of for their concerts, so the want of a suitable hall need not necessarily be an impediment.

High School Board.

A meeting of the board of High School Trustees was held in the High School building on Wednesday, 6th inst., at 3 p. m. Present—Rev. J. W. Bell, A. D. Freeman, D. D. Campbell, Robt. Cleland, and John Watson. Rev. Mr. Bell was re-appointed chairman of the board, and Mr. D. D. Campbell Sec.-Treasurer. The executive committee for the current year is composed of the town members and Mr. Robert Cleland. Mr. James Crozier's salary for the year was fixed at $1,000. Accounts from Jno. Thompson for seats, $6; B. Rothwell, for examinations, $9.50; and J. Brisbin for stationery, $8.15, were ordered to be paid. The caretaker's salary was advanced to $50 per annum. A resolution was passed allowing the trustees representing the rural district, $2 each per diem; the services of town trustees are rendered gratuitously.

Board of Public School Trustees.

The regular monthly meeting of the Public School board took place at the Sec.-Treas.'s office on Tuesday evening. The following members were present: Geo. Draper, A. McIlwraith, R. Martin and Wm. Bradley. After the usual routine, a number of accounts were submitted and ordered to be paid. They are as follows: Green & Co., $14.60; Wm. Schneider, 70c.; Wm. Bradley, $1; Hess Bros., $17; Wm. Climie, $10; J. W. Brisbin, $9.80; Bowman & Freir, for new seats, desks, etc., $384. On motion it was resolved to pay Mr. John Hall, architect, the sum of $85, being balance due him to date. The treasurer was authorized to pay Wm. Alexander the sum of $50 for his services as School Inspector during the past year. Mr. Alexander was again appointed Public School Inspector for 1878, at the same salary. No other business of any moment transpired.

Premature Congratulations.

A paragraph, credited originally to a Galt paper, is 'going the rounds' of the press, to the effect that Listowel hotel keepers have taken the initiative in the matter of charging a fee for accommodating the public in any way, either for the the privilege of a *bodily* warming or for watering or sheltering horses. That such a practice would be out of place we do not presume to say, for we think hotel keepers are entitled to and should receive remuneration in accordance with the service rendered; but our allusion to the subject is simply to remark that the newspapers for once have been "barking up the wrong tree," as we have yet to learn of an instance where "mine host" of any of the hotels in town has adopted this method of procedure. However, misplaced congratulations sometimes effect the object of their intention. Who knows what may be the result in the present instance?

The Late Treasurer.

Upon retiring from the position of Town Treasurer, Mr. Benjamin Rothwell took occasion to address a few words to the Council at their meeting upon Monday evening last. They contained a few items which will be of much interest to our town readers, inasmuch as they place the rapid development of Listowel in a nut-shell, we therefore take the liberty of publishing them. At the time that Mr. R. assumed the offices of Treasurer and Clerk of the corporation—about eleven years since—there were but *thirty* votes within the municipality, and upon the total amount of assessable property there were but $1,100 raised for taxes. During his tenure Listowel had increased from this insignificant position, until to-day its voters' list contains over *six hundred* ratepayers, with a tax-roll exceeding $7,000. These figures are "mute but eloquent." Is there another town in Canada, dependent upon no extraneous influences other than those afforded by agricultural surroundings, that can show as marked advancement within the time specified. We have yet to learn the whereabouts of its location if there is. A word or two of personal reference may not be out of place. The retirement of Mr. Rothwell from the custodianship of the town funds has been necessitated by an accumulation of duties too arduous for one who also holds the chief position in our public school. By his withdrawal the town is deprived of an officer who has discharged his duties to a degree of exactness seldom equalled. That these remarks are no more than just, a resolution passed at the late Council board bears ample testimony. Although the loss of so efficient an officer is matter of regret, we have not the least doubt but that the town will be in a large measure compensated by Mr. R's employment of the greater time which will be at his disposal in maintaining and extending the educational interests of the community. Mr. Geo. Sutherland, a well-known resident, and a person well informed on financial matters, was appointed as his successor to the Treasurership.

IF you think of going to any point in the Western States, call and get an official guide and time table of any principal road running west or south; and remember rates are lower by the Canada Southern Railway than any other. Tickets and all information at Post Office.

C. HACKING, Agent.

"Paving the Way."

Listowel is determined not to be behind the times, no matter what may be in the wind. While Premier Mowat's ex-mural bill—for the employment of prison labor outside of the walls—is yet only in its embryo stage, our town has already taken a step towards putting it into practice. One day last week two comely looking chaps of about twenty years, being in want of the ready, made application to the Mayor for the wherewithal to obtain food and shelter. They represented themselves as strangers, without money and unable to find employment. His worship, with a ready eye to mitigate the "tramp nuisance" as much as possible, must have borrowed an idea from a Scriptural text, for when they "asked for bread," he "gave them a stone," and sensiby too. He directed them to a heap of stones on Main street, and gave them permission to employ themselves at 75c. a day, reducing the boulders into gravel for the road. This, we opine, was a little more than they had bargained for. However, they went to work with a hearty good-will for a few hours, but so soon as they had earned sufficient for immediate requirements, they laid down the hammer, and it is more than likely started in search of other fields where the laborer is not so literally remunerated according to his hire. As the quantity of stone awaiting to be crushed is considerable, tramps and vagrants generally had better give Listowel a wide berth or come prepared to manipulate a stone hammer. No others need apply.

The Grain Market.

Notwithstanding the want of sleighing, a large amount of grain has been brought forward during the past week. The quantity of wheat alone purchased on the street by our local buyers would surprise many who profess some knowledge of the business. Good wheeling is being taken advantage of by the farming community in marketing their grain. Prices have continued steady, $1.12 being the ruling figure for fall, and 90 to 95c. for spring. Considering the downward tendency of the foreign markets, consequent upon the probabilities of peace and the announcement just telegraphed from St. Petersburg that Southern Russia has ready for exportation five million quarters of wheat, farmers may be wise in accepting the present prices offered. English quotations on Tuesday showed a fall of 1d. per quarter on red and white wheat; of 3d. on club wheat; of 9d. on corn, and 6d. on peas. For further market quotations, we refer our agricultural readers to the market report in another column, through which we shall endeavor to keep them as well informed about commercial fluctuations at the principal centres ruling the price of produce in this section, as strict attention will enable us to do. To that end we have made arrangements with the Dominion Telegraph Co. whereby we are furnished with the very latest quotations up to hour of going to press. This fact will make the commercial department of the STANDARD of much importance and thoroughly reliable.

Firing the High School Building.

Incendiarism in Listowel is too rapidly in the ascendant to encourage anything like a feeling of security against fire. It is but a few weeks since three places of business succumbed to flames traceable to no other cause than the wilful application of a torch. On Thursday night week, between eleven and twelve o'clock, the alarm of fire was again sounded, and numerous citizens hastened to discover the whereabouts of the fire. Upon arrival at the proper spot it was found that the High School buildings had been set on fire and were in imminent danger of being demolished. However, it took but the work of a few moments to check the little headway the flames had made and extinguish the fire completely. The building—a wooden structure—has an excavation beneath, which is used for storing wood in. As it is more or less open on all sides there was no trouble in gaining admission thereto. In this receptacle the would-be incendiary had collected a quantity of conbustible material and fired it; but the match could not have been applied scarcely any length of time before it was discovered by a daughter of John Climie, Esq., who instantly gave the alarm. Had it not been for this timely notice and its extinguishment while yet in an incipient state, a disastrous conflagration might have resulted, as a high wind prevailed and the school is in close proximity to a host of other inflamable structures. We understand it is contemplated at no distant day to erect a new High School building, as the old one has been pronounced unsuitable for healthy and plasant school accommodation. Whether the motive of the incendiary was to hasten its consummation, or for some more fiendish purpose, we are at a loss to conjecture; but certainly it is playing a very serious game, and in the event of the culprit being found out vigorous punishment will be his sure recompense.

Still Another Fire.

On Wednesday morning last about four o'clock, a fire broke out in the livery stables in rear of the large block of business establishments fronting Main street on the north side. The stables were owned by John Osborne, Esq., and occupied by Mr. Wm. Kidd as a livery stable and veterinary dispensary. Night constable Hemphill was first upon the scene and sounded the alarm. The fire brigade was organized in "double-quick" time and the new steamer was soon ready for action; but as the fire had originated in the interior of the building, the rapid spread of the flames had placed it beyond control before water could be applied. The buildings contained some seven or eight horses, several vehicles, numerous sets of harness, a quantity of grain, hay and straw, besides veterinary accoutrements of considerable value. Two lads slept in an apartment off the stables; but their first intimation of anything unusual was being aroused by the night-watch. Instant measures were taken by those who had gathered to save the animals and moveable property, and this was accomplished in an incredibly short space of time; but none too soon, as the blankets upon the horses' backs were singed ere they could be let loose from their stalls. Fortunately, however, they were all saved without sustaining any serious injury. The vehicles and a portion of the contents were also got out before the devouring element had enveloped the building. Although the stables were too far gone to be saved, had it not been for the services rendered by the fire brigade the town would in every probability have been scourged by a conflagration as disastrous as could well befall it. Wooden buildings connected the livery with a number of the best blocks in town, and had it not been for the strenuous exertions of the firemen to prevent its further spread, doubtless they also would have succumbed. A barn adjoining, belonging to Mr. Zilliax, ignited several times, and the roof was partially burned off. Mr. Osborne's buildings were completely demolished before the fire could be got under control. As he had no insurance on the property, his loss will be heavy. Mr. Kidd's loss will also be considerable. Nothing definite is known concerning the origin of the fire. Everything appeared secure when the lads retired for the night. Were action taken by the town authorities to institute a thorough investigation of every fire happening in our midst, their frequency might to some extent at least be dimished.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions given expression to by our Correspondents. Our columns shall be open for the admission of communications upon subjects affecting the weal of our constituency, providing always that moderation is exercised and valuable space not infringed upon.*

CLERK AND TREASURER.

To the Editor of the STANDARD.

SIR—It appears that the Council have again appointed Mr. Devlin Clerk of the town. There is no particular objection to Mr. Devlin as a citizen, but then it is well known that he is clerk for D.D. Hay, the Deputy-Reeve, in Division Court matters, and his partner in insurance and other matters, and it would be more than the people could expect that Mr. Hay would allow his clerk or partner to do the work of clerk of the town in the Division Court office without some remuneration or allowance from Mr. Devlin. The statute says that "no person having by himself or his partner an interest in any contract with or on behalf of the corporation shall hereafter be qualified to be a member of the council of any corporation." Hay & Devlin's position in respect to each other and in relation to the corporation are such that if the statute was put in force either one might be obliged to resign his position. It is strange that in all Listowel no clerk for the town can be got but a partner of one of the Council. Mr. Terhune made a noise about Mr. Devlin's appointment last year to the office of clerk, and said he wouldn't allow it to be done again. Why doesn't he move in the matter now? As to the Treasurer, there is nothing to be said against his character in any respect, but he is, however, also treasurer of the School Board. Now it is a well known fact that the treasurer of the School Board gets all the funds for school purposes, which last year amounted to about $15,000, from the treasurer of the town. Is there not a possibility of the two treasurers meeting each other too often and becoming too intimate with each other and thereby get their respective accounts mixed. Of course the treasurer can keep an eye on each account, but how can the treasurer of the School Board give the treasurer of the town a receipt or voucher for moneys received. In both of these offices the Council ought to make a change.

JANUS.

TOWN COUNCIL.

Council met on Monday evening, February 4th; the Mayor in the chair. Members present, the Reeve, and Councillors Hacking, Binning, Dillabough, Towner, Austin, Heppler, Nichol and Deavitt. The Treasurer's report for the month of February, showing a balance on hand at date of $4,105.88, was read and adopted. Moved by J. A. Hacking, seconded by A. Austin, that the Auditors report be read and adopted, and that Mr. Rothwell be instructed to hand over to his successor, Mr. Sutherland, all deeds, papers, books and cash, the property of the town.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Hacking, that the thanks of this Council be and are now tendered to B. Rothwell, Esq., for his courtesy and ability as town treasurer.—Carried unanimously. The bond of the new Treasurer, holding himself in the sum of $8,000, and two sureties (Messrs. Jno. Osborne and David Roy) in the sum of $4,000 each, was read and accepted. Report of select committee to draft standing committees for the year was read and adopted as follows: *Cemetery Committee*—Messrs. Binning, Freeman, D. D. Hay, Towner and Heppler. *East and West gravel roads*—Messrs. D.D. Hay, Binning, Deavitt, T. E. Hay, and Dillabough. *Printing*—Messrs. Hacking, Austin and Binning. *Fire and Water*—Messrs. Austin, T. E. Hay, Hacking, Scott and Binning. *Finance*—Messrs. D. D. Hay, Freeman, Towner, Nichol and Hacking. *Roads and Bridges*—Messrs. T. E. Hay, Binning, Hacking, Nichol and Heppler. *Sanitary*—Messrs. D.D. Hay, Dillabough, Austin, Nichol and Freeman. *Relief*—East Ward—Messrs. T. E. Hay and McBeth Green; Centre Ward—Messrs. Heppler and A. Noxon; West Ward—Messrs. Binning and W. G. Hay. Several accounts having passed the Finance Committee were ordered to be paid. They were as follows: Tatham & Co., for axes, $11.55; A. W. Brisbin, $3.50; R. Rothwell, services as Treasurer, $57.50; John McConnell, $5.75; Tatham & Co., for shovels, $10.20; J. W. Devlin, for services as Clerk, $75; Large & Freir, for lumber, $12; Hart & Rawlinson, for printing, $4.81; R. Woods, for extra services as tax collector, $5; T. G. Fennell, $7.50; J. W. Scott, for indigent purposes, $2; Jno. Binning for do., $2.50; Little Bros & Co., for fire hook chain, &c., $9.00; R. Woods, for services as collector, $80; do. as constable, $75; do for extra services, $1.50; Fire Company, $34.24; McBeth Green, auditor, $7; R. McMillan, do., $7. Moved by Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. T. E. Hay, that the gravelling of Wellington street to the Stratford & Huron Railway station be left in the hands of the road and bridge committee to do as they think best.—Carried. A committee was appointed to report concerning the advisability of establishing gradients in the town. Mr. Lillico was heard before the Council in reference to assessment schedule of his property. Council adjourned without taking any action in the matter.

Auction Sales by Allan Briley.

FEB. 11—Sale for Mr. Robert Gray, lot 32, 8th con. Elma; farm stock and implements.

FEB. 20—Sale for Mr. Andrew Buchanan, lot 31, 9th con. Elma; farm stock, implements, etc.

Auction Sales by George Mellis.

FEB. 14—Sale for Mr. Jno M. Heller, lot 8, con. 1, Maryborough; farm stock, implements, household furniture, etc.

BIRTHS.

Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths, duly authenticated, inserted free of charge.

CAMPBELL—In Listowel, on the 1st inst., the wife of D. D. Campbell, Esq., of a daughter.

KIDD—In Listowel, on the 5th inst., the wife of Mr. Wm. Kidd, of a daughter.

McCAUGHLIN—At Trecastle, on the 24th ult., the wife of Mr. D. McCaughlin, of a son.

THE

Listowel Standard

is published every Friday morning by

HAWKINS & KELLS.

Office, Campbell's Block; entrance next door to Scott's Bank, Wallace St., Listowel.

Subscription $1.50 per annum in advance; $2.00 if not so paid.

ADVERTISING.

Advertisements inserted at the rate of 8 cts. per line first insertion, 2 cts. each subsequent insertion. A liberal discount will be allowed on contract advertisements for an extended period. Business notices inserted as reading matter at the rate of 10 cts. per line first insertion, 5 cts. each subsequent insertion. All advertisements and notices measured by a scale of solid Nonpareil—12 lines to the inch, and charged accordingly. Casual advertisements and notices, cash; contract accounts rendered quarterly.

JOB PRINTING.

Having purchased one of the latest Improved NEW YORK GORDONS—*the best Jobbing Press manufactured*—and an entirely new outfit of Printing material, we are in a position to execute all descriptions of Job Work, from the finest Visiting Card to the largest Poster, in a manner unsurpassed in Western Canada, and at very moderate prices.

Address all communications to the STANDARD Office, Listowel, Ont.

Remittances by mail should be forwarded by registered letter or Post Office Order.

DEATHS.

DIXON—On the 29th ult., at the residence of Mrs. Andrew Caswell, Palmerston, Esther, wife of Mr. Dixon, aged 86 years.

STEENSON—On the 6th inst., on the 8th con. Wallace, George Steenson, aged about 18 years.

LISTOWEL MARKETS.
February 7, 1878.

Wheat, fall, per bush.,	$1 12 to 1 14
Wheat, spring, "	0 88 0 98
Barley, "	0 45 0 48
Peas, "	0 50 0 55
Oats, "	0 28 0 30
Flour, per cwt.,	3 00 0 00
Oatmeal, "	2 75 3 00
Cornmeal, "	2 00 2 25
Butter, per lb.,	0 14 0 15
Eggs, per dozen,	0 15 0 00
Potatoes, per bag,	0 75 0 80
Beef, per cwt.,	4 00 5 00
Pork, per cwt.,	4 25 4 35
Turkeys, each,	0 50 1 00
Geese,	0 30 0 40
Ducks, per pair,	0 40 0 50
Chickens, "	0 20 0 25
Wood, per cord, long,	2 00 0 00
Wood, " short,	1 00 0 00
Apples, per bag,	1 50 1 80
Hay, per ton,	10 00 12 00
Hides, per cwt.,	6 00 0 00
Sheepskins, each,	1 00 1 25

STRATFORD MARKETS.
PER DOMINION LINE.
February 7, 1878.

Wheat, fall, per bush.,	$1 11 to 1 12
Wheat, spring, "	0 90 0 96
Barley, "	0 45 0 48
Peas, "	0 56 0 60
Oats, "	0 30 0 32
Flour, per brl.,	5 25 5 50
Potatoes, per bag,	0 55 0 60
Butter, per lb.,	0 15 0 16
Eggs, per dozen,	0 15 0 16
Hides, per cwt.,	7 00 8 50
Hogs,	5 25 5 50

TORONTO MARKETS.
PRICES AT FARMERS' WAGONS.
February 7, 1878.

Wheat, fall, per bush.,	$1 18 to 1 20
Wheat, spring, "	0 98 1 02
Barley, "	0 52 0 64
Oats, "	0 33 0 35
Peas, "	0 64 0 65
Rye, "	0 60 0 60
Dressed hogs, per 100 lbs.,	4 50 5 00
Beef, hind qrs, "	4 50 5 50
Mutton, by carcase "	6 00 6 50
Turkeys, each,	0 75 1 25
Geese,	0 55 0 70
Butter, lb. rolls,	0 20 0 22
Butter, large rolls,	0 18 0 20
Butter, tub, dairy,	0 16 0 18
Eggs, fresh, per dozen,	0 20 0 23
Eggs, packed, "	0 00 0 00
Apples, per brl.,	2 00 3 25
Potatoes, per bag,	0 60 0 65
Hay, per ton,	11 00 18 00

PALMERSTON MARKETS.
February 7, 1878.

Wheat, fall, per bush.,	$1 05 to 1 10
Wheat, spring, "	0 90 0 95
Barley, "	0 00 0 00
Peas, "	0 55 0 60
Oats, "	0 30 0 32
Flour, per cwt.,	2 50 2 75
Butter, per lb.,	0 12 0 14
Eggs, per dozen,	0 00 0 13
Potatoes, per bag,	0 00 0 90
Pork, per cwt.,	4 00 4 30

NOTICE.

All parties indebted to the undersigned by note or other accounts are requested to settle the same immediately or they shall be placed in Mr. T. G. Fennell's hands for collection. Any one having claims upon the undersigned are requested to present them at once.

ROBT. CATHERS.

Molesworth P. O. 2A

BRICK FOR SALE.

The subscriber has on hand and will at all times be able to supply any amount of

FIRST-CLASS WHITE BRICK

which he will dispose of at a reasonable price. Persons contemplating building will find it to their advantage to call upon him or forward their orders.

Kilns one mile West of Listowel.

2p D. HAMILTON, Prop.

JOSEPH CONGDON,

Builder and Contractor,

LISTOWEL, ONT.,

is prepared to contract for the erection of every description of building.

Stone work, Brick work, and Plastering

receive special attention.

THE CELEBRATED GUELPH LIME

constantly on hand and for sale.
Sole Agent for the STRATHROY COMPOSITION STONE WORKS. 1

R. MARTIN,

AGENT FOR

Selling Lands, Lending Money,

doing a general Fire Insurance business, writing Deeds, Mortgages, Leases, Agreements, Registering documents, and obtaining Abstracts of Titles; buying Mortgages and Debentures.

MONEY LOANED

at 8 per cent on Town and Farm property, with a privilege to the borrower to repay at any time without cost. Borrowers who have already mortgaged their property, can get a second loan without disturbing the first mortgage. Apply to

R. MARTIN.

THE LANCASHIRE

INSURANCE COMPANY

Paid in the St. John's fire $300,000 in one month after adjustment of claims. Capital $10,000,000.

R. MARTIN, Agent.

THE WESTERN

INSURANCE COMPANY

Paid $94,000 in the St. John's fire. Assets over $1,500,000. Income over $600,000 per annum. Established 1851. This old established and reliable Company is prepared to accept all classes of property on most favorable terms. Policids issued on farm and private dwellings and contents for three years at very low rates.

R. MARTIN, Agent.

$5,500 WILL PURCHASE A FARM near Trowbridge; 75 acres cleared; first-class buildings. One-half cash, balance in five years at seven per cent. Apply to

R. MARTIN.

$1,000 WILL PURCHASE 100 acres, north half of lot 23, in the 4th concession Morris, lying along the railroad track; all bush. Apply to

R. MARTIN.

$3,700 WILL PURCHASE LOT NO. 5, in the 11th concession Elma; 75 acres cleared. Good frame barn and stable. $1,500 cash; balance from five to ten years at 7 per cent. Apply to

R. MARTIN

Office on Main St.,

Opposite the Grand Central Hotel. 1

HEAD QUARTERS

FOR

BUSINESS IN LISTOWEL.

GEO. SUTHERLAND

Still continues to write Deeds, Mortgages, Leases, Wills, Agreements, and every kind of Documents with accuracy and dispatch; attends to Registration of same, obtaining abstracts, etc., from Registry office; collection of notes, accounts, rents, etc., at reasonable prices.

MONEY TO LOAN

On improved Real Estate in sums to suit borrowers, at such rates and on such terms as to defy competition. Property owners wanting money should not fail to call at office and get circulars for full particulars before dealing elsewhere, and they will be satisfied with the result.

INSURANCE.

Every person who owns property of any kind should not fail to have it insured, and that in the following reliable Companies, viz:

BRITISH AMERICA, of Toronto,

CANADA FIRE & MARINE, Hamilton.

NATIONAL, of Montreal.

ROYAL, of England.

SCOTTISH COMMERCIAL, of Glasgow.

OTTAWA AGRICULTURAL, of Ottawa.

GORE DISTRICT MUTUAL, of Galt, and

ECONOMICAL, of Berlin.

AGENCY

ALLAN LINE,

CUNARD LINE, and

ANCHOR LINE

STEAMSHIPS.

TICKETS

Issued to any part of Europe and return at

CHEAPEST RATES.

A general financial business transacted. For further particulars apply to

GEO. SUTHERLAND.

Listowel, Ont. 1

CHEAP BOOTS AND SHOES

AT

J. P. NEWMAN'S.

Fine Work, Sewed or Pegged, a specialty.

All kinds of

Boots & Shoes made to Order,

by competent workmen.

READY-MADE WORK, RUBBERS & OVERSHOES, VERY CHEAP.

Repairing promptly attended to.

LIBERAL INDUCEMENTS OFFERED FOR CASH.

Remember the old stand,

MAIN ST. BRIDGE, LISTOWEL. 1

TO THE PUBLIC.

DONALD BROWN,

Having decided to sell for CASH ONLY, in future, is decided to sell cheaper than ever.

He has on hand a large stock of

FAMILY GROCERIES,

consisting of

Teas, Sugars, Raisins, Currants, Nuts, Confectionary, &c.,

Which he will sell at the lowest possible prices

FLOUR AND FEED ALWAYS ON HAND.

Teas a Speciality.

Call and examine goods and prices.

D. BROWN.

Listowel, Feb. 1st, 1878. 1

NEW BUTCHER SHOP.

A. R. MERNER,

Having removed to the shop in MARTIN'S BLOCK, opposite the Grand Central Hotel, wishes to inform the public that he will keep constantly on hand

Fresh Meats of all kinds, Sausages, &c.

Orders solicited, and satisfaction guaranteed.

☞ Meat delivered promptly any place in town.

R. MERNER.

Listowel, Ont. 1

LISTOWEL TANNERY.

TOWNER & CAMPBELL,

Manufacturers of

SOLE LEATHER.

A full supply of

Spanish Sole Leather

constantly on hand,

Wholesale and Retail.

Listowel, Ont. 1y

FOR SALE.

BRICK HOUSE—Half an acre of land, full of excellent fruit trees; hard and soft water; good cellar. Best finished house in Listowel. Price low and terms easy. Apply to ALBERT ROBINSON, Listowel.

FRAME HOUSE—Nearly opposite the above property; nearly new; good home, etc. Apply to ALBERT ROBINSON, Listowel, or to the proprietor, WM. S. LAW, Tilsonburg. 1

L. O. L. No. 617. The members of this Lodge meet in their Lodge Room on Raglan Street on the 1st Thursday of every month, at 7.30 p.m.—Brethren from other Lodges are cordially invited to visit us whenever convenient.

WM. LITTLE, Master.

DAVID FRITCHLY, Secretary. 1y

NEW GROCERY STORE.

WM. FISHER,

Wishes to announce to the inhabitants of Listowel and surrounding country, that he has opened out a

First-class Grocery Store

In the stand formerly occupied by Mr. Vanstone,

ON MAIN STREET, LISTOWEL.

He will also keep on hand a choice selection of

Flour, Feed, Pork, and Provisions generally.

The stock is of the best quality and will be sold cheap. Call and see his stock of groceries.

CASH FOR BUTTER AND EGGS. PRODUCE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.

Coal Oil kept on hand and for sale in any quantity.

WM. FISHER.

Listowel, Ont. 1

GREAT REDUCTION.

The greatest possible reduction in the prices of

SEWING MACHINES

has been made by

ALEX. MORROW,

Who is agent for several of the best machines in Canada.

LADIES, LOOK HERE!

A. MORROW will sell you a

$40 Sewing Machine for $20,

and guarantee you a

Good Machine for $20.

Clothes Wringers from $4.50 to $6.50.

Formerly sold from $6.50 to $8.00.

Farmers, Take Notice,

That A. MORROW has on hand a quantity of

SALT—always kept under cover.

And tell your wives that his groceries, of all kinds, are as good, if not better, and cheaper than any other in town.

CALL AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES.

ALEX. MORROW.

West End, Main street, Listowel. 1

D. D. CAMPBELL

Would respectfully call the attention of the public to his very complete stock of

DRY GOODS,
GROCERIES,
READY-MADE CLOTHING,
BOOTS & SHOES.

I KEEP THE BEST OF

Sugars, the choicest Teas, Green, Japan & Black.

The finest Brands of Tobacco, Smoking and Chewing.

The very Best Boots and Shoes.

Ready-made Clothing unsurpassed in style and texture, and the most desirable DRESS GOODS, PRINTS and other fabrics, suitable for the season.

I am also importing direct from the manufacturers the Newest and Best Styles of FOREIGN GOODS.

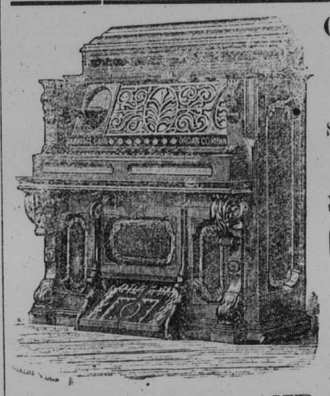
CALL AND EXAMINE THEM.

No trouble to show Goods or to sell them either.

☞ COME EARLY IN THE DAY SO THAT WE CAN HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY OF WAITING ON YOU.

MAIN STREET.

LISTOWEL, Ont., Jan. 30th, 1878. 1



ORGANS! ORGANS!

SEWING MACHINES!

SEWING MACHINES!

The Subscriber, thankful for past favors, wishes to intimate to the public that he is prepared to sell

Organs & Sewing Machines

of the

VERY BEST MANUFACTURE,

at

Prices that all can afford.

CALL AND SEE.

Remember the stand—Main Street, West of the Bridge,

NATHANIEL TILT.

☞ REPAIRING PROMPTLY DONE. 1

ONTARIO HOUSE.

GREAT CASH SALE!

I BEG TO INFORM MY CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC THAT I will commence on

Monday next, 4th Feb'y,

and continue for SIX WEEKS, to

SELL OFF!

at a small advance on

COST PRICE, EOR CASH ONLY,

the following WINTER GOODS:

Ladies' Wool Shawls, long and square;
Flannels, Winceys, Blankets, Tweeds,
Carpets, Druggets, Gents' Shirts and Drawers,
Men and Boys' Ready-made Clothing,
Lady and Gents' Fur Goods,
Men and Boys Cloth Caps,
A very large stock of Boots & Shoes,
Horse Blankets, Buffalo Robes,

AND OTHER HEAVY WINTER GOODS.

GEO. DRAPER.

LISTOWEL, Jan. 29, 1878. 1

SONG.

BY HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest ;
Home-keeping hearts are happiest,
For those that wander they know not where
Are full of trouble and full of care ;
To stay at home is best.

Weary and homesick and distressed
They wander East, they wander West,
And are baffled and beaten and blown about
By the winds of the wilderness of doubt ;
To stay at home is best.

Then stay at home, my heart, and rest ;
The bird is safest in its nest ;
O'er all that flutter their wings and fly
A hawk is hovering in the sky ;
To stay at home is best

IN DOUBT.

Through dream and dusk a frightened whisper said:
"Lay down the world: the one you love is dead."
In the near waters, without any cry,
I sank, therefore, glad—oh, so glad to die!

Far on the shore, with sun and dove, and dew
And apple-flowers, I suddenly saw you;
Then—was it kind or cruel that the sea
Held back my hands, and kissed and clung to me?

OUR PARIS LETTER.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

The most important New Year's gifts bestowed on France consisted of new functionaries honestly and honorably devoted to the Republic. The country rejoices at the benefit; it is so easy to govern when the declared wishes of a nation are obeyed, and the laws respected. Indeed the Reactionists are so defeated, are so helpless to make further mischief, that Ministers are positively free to attend to the amelioration of laws and to prosecute public works. The superseded officials entered on their duties begrimed with war-paint; their successors arrive as messengers of peace and good-will.

Rome was not built in a day; the new Ministers cannot be expected to effect the much required cleansing of the administration in a few weeks; every evil will be attacked in its turn, and the most pressing first. Some of these evils are serious; that, for example, known as the Limoges affair, where a general and a captain have been punished for a breach of discipline. The affair but brought to the light of day what was only Polichinelle's secret, that a coup d'etat was planned, by "some person or persons unkown,"—for the moment, between the 14th of last November and the 13th of December; it failed, owing to the loyalty of the army, and the impossibility of deciding in the interest of what party the crime was to be committed. In a few days the Chamber of Deputies will demand an inquiry, and so reveal the guilty and vindicate the honor of the army at the same time. The public is justly indignant and shocked, that, at a period when the country was a model of tranquility, influences were employed to select picked soldiers and "sure" officers to march upon Paris and occupy the chief cities, that the "instructions" be act, to mobilize the troops, were of such a nature that they had to be given verbally to selected officers, who departed secretly and disguised as civilians to the headquarters of the army corps. The Republic must be resolute enough to expose conspiracies, and sufficiently courageous to make examples of all offenders. Happily in M. Dufaure, the Republic has a Minister that will not, as he never has, pardon illegalities.

The Republic has anything but warm friends in the superior military officers and the higher occupants of the Bench. But time will cure these drawbacks, and the will of the nation nullify hostility and reprimand ill-will in the interim. The Municipal elections being free, the Republic will thus secure the necessary delegates to vote for true constitutional Senators in February next, and thus secure in the Senate what the Chamber enjoys—a Republican and patriotic majority. Every possible liberty the law allows has been freely conceded by the Cabinet to the people, and the result is perfect calm everywhere, and in the electoral reunions the moderation of language is only surpassed by its sagacity. In reference to the function of municipal councillor, no state official, no personal servant, no contractor of public works, no immediate relatives are eligible.

As many vain efforts have been attempted to escape that comedy of exchange of visiting cards on New Year's Day, as to be emancipated from the extortion of making gifts. Personal visits on the first day of the New Year, or pending the first month following the degree of intimacy, is worse than a bore in France; it is a nuisance. It is all very well for employees, who, on calling to present their compliments to their employers, count upon receiving an extra month's salary as a "gratification;" but for other hewers of wood and drawers of water, the exaction practiced on limited time is enough to make even a "Friend" forget the command, "Swear not at all." In the eighteenth century at Metz, a citizen was ranked as a lunatic because he employed the town drummer to beat all "the compliments of the season" into the ears of his friends; under the reign of Louis XVIII., the Viscount Domon narrowly escaped being confined in the Bicetre asylum, because he wished a "happy new year" to all who knew him through the "agony column" of a Paris journal. The official receptions resembled all such ever held since France was France. "By Him who sleeps in Philo," as an old Egyptian would swear, the time is the same; the key alone changes.

The year closed well for science, as France succeeded in liquifying oxygen, hydrogen, etc., gasses; hence, the future has perhaps in store for us a trade in fresh air from the country, to be sold by the quart like milk fresh from the cow, or by the pound, for being liquified gases, can be solidified. Likely next New Year's Day, lozenges of "laughing gas" may be on sale, if not in the sugar baker's, at least in the chemists shop. They would be a relief, and one taken before paying those annual extortions called tips, or *cadeaux*, might subdue our rage, and diminish the extra work thrown upon the Recording Angel at the commencement of the year. To give a toy to a child, is to bestow happiness, and the donor even shares the pleasure, assisting as the youngster opening the hump of a Polichinelle to see what it contains, or taking a jack in the box to pieces, to discover the sources of his agility; but to give hard cash to a concierge that despises you, or to a professional unknown that grins at you—oh, there's the rub. The toy-fair along the Boulevards, an institution half a century old, has terminated on the whole fairly; for the 1300 proprietors of the *baraques*, or cabins, run up in a few hours from rough deal planks, and ornamented, according as the family board and lodge therein, or merely occupy it during business hours. The papering of this ephemeral habitation is performed gratuitously, but on the exterior—by the bill stickers.

There was almost a complete absence of new toys; the duc de Broglie's government killed all such attempts in the bud, his censors—the same who control plays and newspapers—were known to be severe, and anticipating civil war, purchasers were discounted in advance. The camelon and rainbow tops, are novelties; they exhibit a variety of changing colors when spinning; scholars displayed a weakness for the latter; the rainbow is the emblem of hope and confidence, so they felt a robust faith in additional parental gifts. The pistol top is an old offender for nervous mammas; the metallic butterfly is an insect, flapping steel wings and moving on wheels; it is dear to all children commencing the rudiments of entomology; the intelligent mouse, beats the pursuing cat in jumping, and the "bat" flew from the street to the sixth story, as well by day as by night. There were various polichinelles that danced jigs unaided; sheep that bleated; dogs that barked at nothing and everything; regiments of soldiers of all nations, and in very appropriate metal—lead; there were guns, pistols, and cannons, on every system; dolls that called "Mamma!" and others "Noo! Noo!" there were railways for the broad and narrow guage, and many for no guage at all. The stock of "Questions," was as numerous and as varied as Magnel's; there was the "Cat," "Bulgaria," the "Convict," and even the "Death of the Pope." The first is a resurrectionist, and originally appeared in 1830; it represents a sportsman removing with all his penates—farm-yard friends included; suddenly he discovers the "cat" to be missing, but the ungrateful animal is found tiger-like in a tree, formed by an ingenious arrangement of the black figures, from the blank, or white portion of the card. Not a bust in any material was to be found of the "Marshal," nor even in those piles called "cemeteries," of photos of all celebrities, any one of which you can "resurrect" for a sous. On the other hand, Thiers was to be had in bronze, marble, plaster, terra cotta, glass, papier mache and cork. The dust of Alexander could be formed to bung a hole, according to Shakespeare; the likeness of Thiers was very generally employed as a bottle stopper; his portrait ornamented watches, boxes of gingerbread, and *sac* of bon-bons; sometimes he was represented reading, his sparkling eyes, full of fun, malice, or roguishness, appearing to great advantage. There were many tamed birds offered for sale; they would promenade on your shoulder along the Boulevard, and appeared ready to build their nests in old men's beards; these were canaries that climbed a kind of may-pole, and chucked a tiny tricolor off the summit, and finches, that turned the ace of hearts etc. with their beaks, and invited any "member of society present," to puzzle it at piquet, poker, or spoiled fire.

The opinion of the French press on the eastern question is this: as no power intends by upholding by arms the integrity or independence of Turkey, and since Russia asserts she will not touch English interests, the sooner the diplomatists apply the winding up act to the war the better. France will observe under all circumstances, an "independent neutrality."

Here is a "romance in real life." Mme. de Valdrome was a pretty and accomplished actress, who won the heart of a rich and highly connected husband. They had one child, a son, now in his first teens. Not agreeing, they separated privately, each being free to live as they pleased, and the liberty was fully availed of by both parties. M. de Valdrome recently died, and his brother, a former cabinet minister, demanded to be appointed guardian of the lad—as he was executor—the mother's life not being irreproachable. The Court acceded to his request, ordering however, the boy to be brought up by the Dominican fathers, and that he was to visit his mother twice a week, accompanied by a monk. On the last visit, the monk on arriving at the mothers residence, was shown into one room, while the boy went to remain with his mother; he complained that it was intended to prevent his seeing his mother altogether, and he implored her to run away with him; she said it would be their ruin, and that their lives must be passed among strangers. The mother consented, and begged the monk to return to the school, crave a few hours longer absence for her son, in honor of the season; he did so, but returned with a flat refusal. Many dodges were resorted to for lulling the *peres* suspicions, but when he insisted on receiving back the ward, the bird had flown. The mother disguised him as a girl, and packing up all her diamonds, gave them to a lady friend to fly with her son. The guardian at once set the police to work, and the chief of the detectives and some of his men, dogged the mother. She went to church, and was observed to pray with marked devotion—the police keeping her in view; she next passed into the sacristry, and to ensure her not escaping, the inspector remained outside the door, sprinkling the retiring faithful with the holy water *goupil on*. An old lady, leaning on a stick, doubled in two, and tottering, quitted the sacristry, like the rest; she gained her cab with difficulty, and a detective closed the door. Weary with waiting, the inspector looked inside the vestry, and found it empty; Mme. de Valdrome, had passed out as the old woman—hence the advantage of being an actress. She never forgot her politeness, however, as she has telegraphed to the inspector, that she had rejoined her son, and that both were happy and well.

There is another kind of romance connected with a popular attache, who is also a leading member in one of the first financial houses in Paris. He was married a few months ago, and his wife being witty as well as beautiful, had many admirers; the husband was jealous of one of them; he feigned to have to leave Paris suddenly, and in the middle of the night returned; the valet surprised, offered to inform Madame of his arrival, but Othello brutally pushed him aside, knocked at the wife's bed-room door, and after a little time was admitted; the wife asked the meaning of his threatening looks and guarded silence; but hearing a noise in a closet, he entered, and discovered an enormous black pet cat. He confessed his folly, his wife joined in the laugh, and granted him forgiveness, on condition that he made her a gift of a diamond necklace, that he had already purchased for her.

Goods are arriving rapidly in the bonded stores, for the Exhibition, and the work of installation is actively pursued. A gushing writer draws attention to the fact, that on New Year's Eve, Venus never shone so brilliantly, the "reading" of the star meaning, great success for our World's Fair.

When a philanthropist in Paris warmly remonstrates with a brutal driver, the police arrest him for provoking a disturbance, but the Society for the Protection of Animals present him with a medal.

The doctors of Havre have struck for higher fees, and have refused to attend patients. It is remarked, since this event, the death rate of the city never was so low.

Not a bad suggestion has been made, that the government should accord a medal to persons distinguished for notorious acts of probity.

Roch, the executioner, has sent in his resignation on account of failing health. The office, like that of a scavenger, is open to persons of any nationality.

PARIS, France, Jan. 5th., 1878.

Gaols in Ontario.

Nothing is said to be drier or less attractive than statistics. Yet statistics are frequently of great use, and not seldom when well-studied become positively interesting. The statistics of crime in one's own country at any rate have always a painful interest, and may at the same time suggest lessons and inferences which all may be the better of considering.

The Gaols in Ontario number about 40, and are only too well filled. There is little use in our thanking Heaven that we are not as other nations are, for our criminal population grows apace.

Last year the commitments to our common Gaols amounted to 13,481 as compared with 11,236 in the preceding year. This gives an increase in a single year of 2245. This is an increase out of all proportion to the natural increase of population as well as to the increase in former years. For the year ending 30th September, 1869, the number of commitments was only 2555. The year after it was 5739. When we come to 1875 we find it was 10,073. The increase since 1869 is 138 per cent., and on the year 20 per cent.

Crimes against the person rose from 685 in 1869 to 990 in 1877; Crimes against property from 1407 to 2773; against public morals from 122 to 415; against public orders from 2886 to 8544; and those detained a prisoners from 555 to 749. The commitments for drunkenness and disorderly conduct have risen in 8 years from 1703 to 4032, and for vagrancy from 783 to 3888. In short the growth of the drunken, disorderly, idle, vagabond class, is such as may well make every lover of his country both anxious and ashamed.

Of the 13,481 committed, there were 5413 natives of Canada and 3738 of Ireland; 2317 were born in England and 781 in Scotland. According to religion we find that 5142 were Roman Catholics; 449, Church of England; 1637 Presbyterians and 1602 Methodists.

The prisoners in our gaols seem to live lives of all but absolute kindness, while they have comfortable accommodation, and are fed in a way which many an honest-working man could never think of. Except in the matter of restraint, in fact there seems to be no punishment at all. The total cost of those gaols for the year was $129,441. We are not in favor of harsh treatment, but surely gaols ought not to be made too comfortable. For juvenile criminals it would be far better to give a good flogging and let them go. To them gaols are simply schools of vice.

FORTY-THREE direct descendants, but not a single surviving member of his immediate family, sat down to a banquet a few evenings since in New York, to celebrate the one-hundredth birthday of Senor Correlio Arciniega, a compatriot of Simon Bolivar, the Liberator. Senor Arciniega is still a strong healthy man, very tall and thin, but erect, and walks and talks with equal briskness. He was educated in Paris, joined the Venezuelan rebels in 1810, and was confined in 1812 in the Spanish castle at Maracaibo, from which he escaped with the aid of the governor's daughter, whom, at the age of nineteen, he married. In 1814 he was again captured, condemned to be shot, but escaped on the morning of the day set for his execution. Two years later he was captured for the third time, and condemned to death, but the sentence being commuted to banishment, he spent a year in exile at Trinidad. A colonel in 1818, major-general in 1819 until the close of the war, then a Congressman until 1837, when politics drove him to banishment in New York, penniless and with a large family. He displays as a memento an autograph order of Bolivar's, dated San Juan, April 8, 1815, in which he is specially mentioned as "the most intrepid Arcinitiga." He has also the "grand cross of the Order of the Sword," from Oscar the First of Sweden, a sword from the King of Holland, and oil portraits from Generals Paez and Bolivar.

A PET monkey in Atlanta was carefully trained to watch a baby, and rock its cradle when it cried. He was considered a very trustworthy and useful brute, but one day, being left alone with the infant, and finding himself unable to stop its crying, he jumped into the cradle, scratched the child's face, bit its ears and nose, tore off its clothes, and, when discovered, was stuffing the bits of cloth into its mouth.

New York Fashions.

SKATING SUITS.

The short costumes now fashionably worn are so appropriate for skating suits that few ladies prepare extra costumes for that purpose. Dark woolen dresses, especially bourettes, are preferred for these suits, though many use the gay scarlet satin quilted skirts with any dark polonaise they happen to have. The kilt suits laid in pleats from the hip to the ankle and tied around with a scarf are so graceful and clinging that they are the favorite design for regular skating suits. The waist with this is a cut-away coat, shaped very much like a gentleman's Prince Albert coat, and sloped away from the bust to disclose a vest. One very pretty suit is of navy blue cloth and cardinal red cashmere. The skirt and kilt-pleating are red, also the vests, but the coat and over-skirt are dark blue. This over-skirt has a short apron front, shaped longer on the left side, and trimmed with a bias band stitched on above the edge, and ornamented with large smoked-pearl buttons and mock button-holes; the back of the over-skirt is two pleated scarfs that hang straight from the belt to the edge of the lower skirt. A flatly folded scarf of blue, red, or black, shaped like the English scarfs used by gentlemen, is worn to fill in the space left by the rolling collar. The hat is a jockey cap of black velvet and a scarlet feather. Blue-gray twilled cloth suits are similarly made, and trimmed with gray fox furs. The Derby hat is of gray felt. A skating costume made in Paris for the royal Spanish bride has a kilt-pleated skirt of silver gray India cashmere, with a short tunic bordered with seal-skin. The hat of gray felt has a feather band around the crown, with a small humming-bird nestling in it. When polonaises are preferred as over-dresses, they have three Carrick capes. Fur trimmings and feather bands are the choice for handsome suits. A variety of caps are made of fur and of feathers to wear with suits trimmed to match them. These are in Russia and Hungarian shapes, some of which come low on the forehead. Similar shapes are made up in caps of plush or velvet, trimmed with a wing or an aigrette. High Polish boots of pebbled goat are worn with scarlet or blue stockings. Turkish drawers of flannel the color of the stockings are worn, and the flannel skirt is usually colored also, or else it is one of the crocheted petticoats now so much used.

CARRIAGE ROBES.

The fur robes used over the lap when driving in midwinter have become most luxurious articles. The latest novelty in robes for a lady's coupe is not fur at all, but feathers, as it is made entirely of ostrich feathers stripped from their quills, and in their natural gray and creamy white shades. The price is $75. Light-colored robes are now most used inside carriages, while darker ones are selected for the driver, though there is nothing handsomer for a lady's carriage than the colored beaver robes that so closely resemble seal-skin. Among the fashionable light robes are natural beaver, the long fleece of the white fox, and red fox, and the wolverines; the last are especially popular this season, and in their nicest shades look like the stone-marten fur formerly so much worn; they cost from $75 to $100. Cheaper light robes are made of skins of prairie wolf, the china goat, and the wild-cat. There are also South American llama robes prettily shaded from brown to white, nice enough for a lady's carriage and costing from $25 to $35. For gentlemen's wagons are white polar bear robes in square shapes, while for sleighs these bear-skins are made up in long robes and ornamented with the natural skull of the bear to hang over the back of the sleigh. For coachmen are rugs of black Angora wool or of buffalo-skins. Mats to spread on the hard-wood floors of halls are made of the entire skin of a leopard, a white fox, or black Russian wolf, with the natural head, and the limbs and tail spread on gay-colored cloths that are finished with pinked edges.

FUR TRIMMINGS AND FEATHERS.

Fur trimmirgs on the midwinter costumes are wider than they have been used lately, measuring from four to eight inches. Chincilla is the favourite trimming fur, especially for black and dark-colored velvet over-dresses. The chinchilla band edges black velvet sacques or polonaises, the pocket flaps are made of it, also the cuffs, and the fur collar is as deep as a Carrick cape. The only fur then necessary for a lady to add is the small chinchilla muff, which is now considered the most fashionable of all. Next in favor are borders of black or brown beaver four inches wide. Seal fur trimmings are much used in Paris and in England, but are not in favor here. Feather trimmings also vie with fur borders in imported garments. There are bands of flat feathers, such as peacocks' and lophophore, in shaded green and blue, for trimming black India cashmeres, and mixed with those are a few split—or *dechare*—feathers that are very effective. Cream-colored, almond, and gray mantles for dress occasions are trimmed with fawn-colored feathers, and small muffs to wear with them are made of the material of the wrap, with a broad feather band in the middle instead of a narrow band at each end; some muffs are entirely of feathers, and are stuffed with eider down. Round hats and evening bonnets are entirely of feathers; for the latter white marabout is most used. There are also beautiful ornaments for the hair, consisting of white marabout feathers held by gold-headed Spanish pins, or by a golden butterfly or crescent.

BLACK SATIN DRESSES.

The satin dresses that have been gradually coming into fashion for several winters are now considered very elegant for full-dress toilettes, and, indeed, rival velvet. Black dresses are made of satin, and trimmed with panels and vests of white lace, and there are transparent lace sleeves. Other black satin dresses are embroidered with cut jet or with the blue-gray *clair de lune* beads.

BLACK WOOLEN DRESSES.

The black cashmere or camel's-hair dresses worn in the daytime by young ladies are brightened by vests of cardinal red silk. The waist is a habit basque, with square pleated postillion behind, while the black fronts are sloped away gradually from the throat to the sides, disclosing the red silk vest below. This vest may be sewed in with the basque, or it may be a separate waistcoat with a cambric back and armholes, or else it is shaped like a chemisette, covering the shoulders and extending in a point behind to the belt. The neck is finished with a very high collar of the cashmere lined with red silk, and it may be there are one or two knife-pleated frills of red silk doubled and placed erect inside the collar. A sailor knot of the cashmere faced with silk is at the throat. The skirt has lengthwise pleatings covering the front gore; these are made of cashmere, but the inside of each pleat is also silk. On the side gores are scarf draperies, which give the effect of an overskirt in the back. Black camel's-hair polonaises are made with velvet sleeves, velvet belt and plastron, and are worn over a silk skirt that has a velvet flounce covering all that part which is visible. Other mid-winter suites have polonaises of bourette, with velvet skirts and velvet bonnets; the polonaise and the bonnet are then widely trimmed with a band of fur. Black marten fur bands, with white silvery points sewed in, are used on such garments.

HINTS OF SPRING STYLES.

Though we are still in midwinter, correspondents who prepare their wardrobes themselves are already asking for hints of the styles that will be worn in the spring. The indications are that the short costume with a cut-away coat and vest will be very popularly worn in woolen materials for early spring. An over-skirt will be worn with this basque, and the lower skirt will be without flounces, or else laid in kilt pleats. Various shapes will be used for the front of the coats, some of which will dispense with vests, but there will be many vests worn. The basques will be in habit shapes, square cornered or sloping, but with few curves, and very masculine in appearance, therefore very simple in design, and almost wholly without trimming except ornamental stitching and buttons.

For spring wraps light gray, brown, or dark blue twilled and basket cloths will be made up in jackets very similar to those just described, though without vests. They will have rolling collars, and will button thence to the waist; there will be a seam at the waist line on the sides and back, and the pocket flaps will be sewed in this seam, which extends horizontally. A silk braid binding or else stitched edges will give the simple finish.

The polonaises with broad belts in front will become more generally worn. At present they are most used in very rich materials, but will soon be adopted for plain woolens. The back will remain in princesse shape, but for their materials the front will be slightly gathered, giving the full blouse effect that is so becoming to the figure. The fancy for using fringes headed with galloons for trimming these polonaises will continue; the fringe, however, will be confined to the front and sides, while the back will have only the galloon.

For wash dresses the pretty yoke waists and pleated blouses introduced, or rather revived, last fall will be the appropriate designs. Deep sailor collars and belts with buckles will be worn with such waists. During the month of February merchants make a point of displaying wash goods, such as Scotch ginghams, soft-finished percales, linen lawns, and prints, and ladies do well to make their selectigns then for summer dresses, and make them up in the leisure and quiet of Lenten days. There is nothing yet known about the shapes of skirts and over-skirts, but it is generally safe to make the long oves-skirts that are simply hemmed and easily laundried. It is rumored again, however, that these are to give place to shorter over-skirts, and that many house-dresses will have but one skirt; still the long over-skirt is too popular to be suddenly banished. Flowing back breadths have been stylish all winter for trained dresses, and it is probable there will be more fullness than formerly in skirts of thin dresses, especially when worn without an over-skirt.

De Omnibus Rebus et Quibusdem Aliis.

(From the Toronto New Dominion.)

I ought to have a daily communication from my watch tower instead of a weekly. There is plenty of material and it would be far easier. So many things want attending to; so many people have to be noticed; so many odd things are occurring; and so many foolish as well as wise words are being uttered that it would puzzle a conjurer to get all into a column or two of THE NEW DOMINION. It is of no use to speak of dull times. There are no dull times up in these lofty regions. I see so many people. I hear so much talk. I am so continually tickled by the telegraph and a hundred other agencies, that time never hangs heavy on my hands. I tick continually away and mark and register the passing words and deeds all the same. I laughed when I saw *Grip* on the exemption question. Nay, but you cartoon of all the well-to-do exempted folk on the back of the toil-worn laborer was pretty good, and the sting of it was in its truth. Do our preachers think they commend the Gospel any better by saddling their just dues on those who are often but ill able to meet their own? Is not the Editor of the *Guardian*, with his $2000 of salary and more, will any better commend his Total Abstinence to the poor drunkards whom he forces to pay part of his taxes. Will the "miserable sinners" in broadcloth convince the struggling artizan that theirs is the scriptural way of bearing one anothers burden, when he has to bear his own and part of theirs as well? Will the Judges that go fussing about charity meetings and talk sympathizingly of the poor, get credit for sincerity when they decline to pay their share of what they daily make use of, and thus escape an outlay which in a good many cases far more than makes up for all they ever give in charity? And why should James E. Smith with his three thousand dollars and his whole brood of custom house officials, or Joseph Leslie with *his* following also, go free of all expense for gas, police, fire, &c., when pinched laborers find their little fragments of house furniture sold to satisfy the collector? The whole thing is a disgusting iniquity, and though I am connected with the church, I have no hesitation in saying so. Faugh! And then people will parade their charities, and move and second resolutions at benevolent meetings and make speeches about the amelioration of the lower classes, and all the while under a legal quibble retain in their own pockets money which they know ought to be paid into the city funds, in order so far to lighten the burdens of those who have enough to do to meet their own obligations without having to shoulder theirs as well. Is this such a fast or such a service as the Lord has chosen? I think not. At least if I thought it was, I should try to get out of the steeple and away from the church as fast as I could. And what can be said about the exemption of lawns and acres held for speculative purposes and church lots and lands? Nothing in the way of defense, for the whole thing is indefensible, in the light both of reason and religion. The whole system of exemption will have to be swept away. Yes, and it will be, though the Hon. Christopher Fraser should say so, and though any number of Turvey drops, and Pecksniffs should cry sacrilege. Yes, and they may laugh and sneer at little Hallam, but Hallam will get the victory yet, and in spite of all their jeers will, if he lives, be Mayor of Toronto. Why should he not? He would do as well as Angus Morrison or old Squarctoes, or that heavy dull Irishman with the thick neck. Perhaps a great deal better. He has more brains than any of them, and as to gentlemanliness—why bless their little hearts, there's no appreciable difference that any one can see, or if there is the turn of the scale is rather in favor of the leather merchant.

So poor Robert Burns has again been wounded in the house of his friends. A worse used man than that poor fellow has long been I have never known or heard of. Various are trimmed with fawn-colored feathers, and small muffs to wear with them are made of the material of the wrap, with a broad feather band in the middle instead of a narrow band at each end; some muffs are entirely of feathers, and are stuffed with eider down. Round hats and evening bonnets are entirely of feathers; for the latter white marabout is most used. There are also beautiful ornaments for the hair, consisting of white marabout feathers held by gold-headed Spanish pins, or by a golden butterfly or crescent.

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Though we are still in midwinter, correspondents who prepare their wardrobes themselves are already asking for hints of the styles that will be worn in the spring. The indications are that the short costume with a cut-away coat and vest will be very popularly worn in woolen materials for early spring. An over-skirt will be worn with this basque, and the lower skirt will be without flounces, or else laid in kilt pleats. Various shapes will be used for the front of the coats, some of which will dispense with vests, but there will be many vests worn. The basques will be in habit shapes, square cornered or sloping, but with few curves, and very masculine in appearance, therefore very simple in design, and almost wholly without trimming except ornamental stitching and buttons.

For spring wraps light gray, brown, or dark blue twilled and basket cloths will be made up in jackets very similar to those just described, though without vests. They will have rolling collars, and will button thence to the waist; there will be a seam at the waist line on the sides and back, and the pocket flaps will be sewed in this seam, which extends horizontally. A silk braid binding or else stitched edges will give the simple finish.

The polonaises with broad belts in front will become more generally worn. At present they are most used in very rich materials, but will soon be adopted for plain woolens. The back will remain in princesse shape, but for their materials the front will be slightly gathered, giving the full blouse effect that is so becoming to the figure. The fancy for using fringes headed with galloons for trimming these polonaises will continue; the fringe, however, will be confined to the front and sides, while the back will have only the galloon.

Our Hamilton Letter.

(From the Toronto Dominion.)

Three young girls hailing from Dundas, were detected in the act of shoplifting last week, their detection led to the discovery that they had within a few days plundered in a variety of shops a choice selection of divers kinds of goods—in fact many persons commenced business with less stock than they had so stolen. Their ages ranged from fourteen to nineteen years; they were sisters, and had left work in the Dundas Cotton Factory to lead a life of thieving. Upon conviction on several of the charges, the two eldest were sentenced to six, and the youngest to one month's imprisonment. It was pitiful to hear their sobs when brought up for sentence; it must however, be said that they got off lightly, as had it been males who committed so many depredations, no doubt, penitentiary would have been their doom. No doubt, at the same time, that in the case of these young girls either poverty, vanity, or childish innocence led to the first theft, and success therein led to the others, and in this view of their case they are to undergo punishment, perhaps too much. It would be well for our humane ladies to have an eye upon them as they come out of prison as well as while therein, lest the disgrace of their detection and punishment may as such almost always does, lead them into a worse, sinful and more deadly life, particularly so should these young girls be seen by the wicked ones, they not having led what may be termed a loose or unvirtuous life before this misfortune befel them.

The Licence Inspector last week brought the keepers of six bawdy houses before the Police Magistrate for having sold intoxicating liquor without licence, the informer being a barber named Lorenzo McBride, this man upon being examined swore pointedly and straight enough as to the charge in the case of one of the accused, but upon cross examination therein he so belied himself that the Magistrate at once dismissed the case, whereupon the Crown Attorney prosecuting on behalf of the inspector, withdrew all of the other charges. So here may be witnessed the impossibility of getting even intelligent, let alone honest or half-decent men as informers; the very name seems odious to the many; how then would it be were the law made yet more stringent! It is true as the sun shines that penal laws, especially if very stringent or severe, can never be efficiently enforced, and that frequent attempts to do so will only bring them into more general contempt; then is it not just as clear that moral suasion and reform in social and individual life are the only sure and perfect remedies? Experience has shown so; and such will be found by a look at the many penal laws yet in force, but standing utterly obselete, in the Statute books of England, to say nothing of those in our own country. Take those against blasphemy for instance, then with your cars open walk along any of our public thoroughfares or markets, and I am convinced you will have much blasphemy, and afterwards but few, if any, prosecutions for any of such. Now on the whole don't you think that few like to prosecute his fellman openly for any of his sins either of omission or commission, inasmuch as few of us are without sin, and who may come short, etc; and that such is one of the causes of none but the reckless and infamous engaging in prosecutions while another is the dislike of many to take oath and swear against their neighbors who have done them no personal injury or hurt, *i.e.*, no one desires to throw a stone at another, lest it should return upon himself nor without cause, did necessity require, or even should I be permitted to take up too much space in your valuable columns I could give reasons without end why worthy men do not and would not join in the enforcement of penal laws, and therefore any of such pointed at any particular class are but absurd. At the same time I am ready to admit that it is well to have laws of a general nature upon our Statute Books, which in case of necessity the most worthy might for personal safety or redress feel called upon to enforce. I my ask you to give me space for this subject at another time in the form of a special article, and thence pass it for the present.

Will you please write and tell following statistics culled from personal reading: The insolvent liabilities of our noble country have amounted to $25,000,000 per year, for the last three years; the cost of our government Federal and Municipal have cost for the like period over $10,000,000 per annum, in excess of all of the earnings of the people, after feeding and clothing them; further, that the interest of our over-importations or imported labor that could be produced at home, is annually $15,000,000, thus showing that we are and have during the past three years been going behind at the rate of $25,000,000 annually, and then would ask you or some of your many intelligent readers if this excessive cost of government and interest on over-importation with the cost of the goods themselves, and throwing working classes into enforced idleness is not the cause of so many failures and consequent suffering among our mechanics and laborers? If this is not the cause I wish some political economist, or those who profess to know, tell me what it is? There is here also suggested a parallel between this country and Ireland in regard to importations, and being forced to send to other countries for the most of their manufactures. There is, however, one very important feature in our favor for remedying the evil, to wit; our people can at the polls appoint a government to rectify the matter, that is should the present one not do so; while the Irish people cannot apply any remedy. I say, sir, that this all important matter ought to be attended to at once by the powers that be.

As the new council has not met yet I will leave my promised epistle on its *personel*, and composition in comparison with the expiring one until another time.

The boys of our gallant 13th ever foremost in catering to the pleasure of our citizens as they are always ready for war should it arise, prepared themselves for "Watt Phillips Military Drama," "Not Guilty," having for their star the celebrated actress Miss Lillie Lonsdale, and they performed it in complete military style, tactics and bayonet exercise, to crowded houses in the Mechanic's Hall, on the evening of Monday and Tuesday last, and let me assure you you would have to gather professionals from afar to equal, I will not say to excel such performing as was displayed upon both evenings. I am convinced that before the winter is over they will be asked to repeat "Not Guilty."

In the same Hall the distinguished tragedienne, Miss Sophie Miles, supported by Spackman's Royal Star Dramatic Co., will perform on to-morrow evening "The Paris and London Sensation" "Rose Michel," and again the same lady and company are to perform "Guy Mannering" on Friday evening, under the auspices and for the benefit of the benevolent fund of St. Andrew's Benevolent Society, hence I need hardly only anticipate that both plays will be greeted with full houses.

Skating and curling both on rink and bay are now the rage, the ice is good and the amusements thereon seem highly amusing and pleasurable to those who are daily enjoying themselves thereon, and they are numerous.

The church amusements are on the wane, there was but one last week being the anniversary of the induction of Dr. James to Knox Church, which was well attended and highly entertaining.

For myself I will simply say with Ralph Erskine,

"To good and evil equal bent,
For both a devil and a saint."

Can you descend or condescend to say likewise?

GNOSTICUS.

Hamilton, Jan. 23rd, 1878.

EATING sausages and buying eggs are described as "confidence operations?"

A NEWSPAPER advertisement calls for a plain cook, able to dress a little boy five years old.

THINGS that will never hurt by falling—Prices; they fall so slow that they never get smashed.

A YORK county farmer has named his pet ram Eugene. He calls him the modern Eugene, A ram.

THE difference betwen a sick girl and a brickbat is the difference between a missile and a miss ill.

"IF I am stuck up, I'm not proud," as the butterfly said when pinned to the side of the show-case.

"BEN, how is your sweetheart getting along?" "Pretty well, I guess—she says I needn't call any more."

THERE is a boy in Hamilton who is so bright that his mother has to look at him through a piece of smoked glass.

MRS. JONES' colored coachman being told that his cockade is a badge of servitude, replies that, on the contrary, "it am a sign of de livery."

A LITTLE boy, after watching the burning of the school-house, until the novelty of the thing had ceased, started down the street, saying: "I'm glad the old thing's burned down; I didn't have my jogfry lesson no how."

GENERAL.

THE Mormons are building a magnificent temple on the summit of a high mountain in Manti, Utah. Five hundred men are at work on it, and it will not be completed for four years.

A YOUNG man, just engaged on a farm in Wentworth Co., was set to driving a yoke of cattle, and at noon, when he wanted to feed them, was observed trying to unscrew their horns in order to get the yokes off the animals.

THE last ill-natured story told about Chicago is that twenty-five cents is exacted for the privilege of viewing what is reckoned the choicest curiosity which the great Lake City can show, viz., the only unmortgaged piece of ground.

THE pointed helmet of the German army has been decided upon for that of Great Britain, and will be distributed to thirty regiments of infantry and several brigades of cavalry on the 1st of April next. The new helmet is somewhat lighter than that of the Germans.

STANLEY was entertained at a banquet in Paris on Saturday night by the French Geographical Society. The discoverer was presented by the Minister of Public Instruction with a decoration of palm, and it was announced that the Society had awarded him a gold medal.

IT is related that when Beecher was in the country last summer, he lost his hat, and found it in about a week in a barn where he had left it, but with four eggs in it. This is as it should be. Beecher had just written a eulogy on the hen; why shouldn't the Hen-re-ward Beecher.

A LAD arrested for theft, when taken before the magistrate and asked what his occupation was, frankly answered, "Stealing." "Your candor astonishes me!" said the judge. "I thought it would," replied the lad, "seeing how many big 'uns there are in the same business and is ashamed to own it!"

Why is it that, in this advanced age, gunpowder is still used to settle difficulties, when there are so many more effective means to be obtained? What, for instance, could be more destructive to hurl into an enemy's ranks than one of our savings banks? They burst so easily, and there are always so many people injured by their bursting.—*Yonkers Gazette.*

THE destitution in South Wales is so great that relief committees have been formed. Of the three vast iron works near Merthyr, but one is in operation, and at the score of neighboring collieries there is work but two or three days a week. The worst of the matter is that there is not even a remote prospect of improvement, and the resource formerly offered of emigration to this country is at an end.

PROFESSOR KNAPP, of Brunswick, Germany, has lately called attention to the very great value of a new process for tanning leather by means of the salts of iron, the principal material being prepared by adding enough nitric acid to a boiling solution of iron vitriol to produce a complete oxidation of the salt. After the development of the gas is complete an additional quantity of iron vitriol is added to the solution now holding the iron in the form of an oxide.

A GIFT upon a curious condition has been at last applied to its purpose by the Archbishopof Dublin. "An English Curate" had deposited with Dr. Trench a sum of £1,000 to be paid over to the Irish Church Sustentation Fund whenever certain dangers, which he thought threatening, were fairly surmounted. This is understood to have referred to the question of revision, and the Archbishop considers this so far at