

" Pro Bono Publico."

WOODVILLE, FEBRURY 17, 1880.

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Our cotem. of the Whitby Saturday Night has taken the Port Hope Times severely to task for daring to pass some reflections upon the training of our Educational system, and asks if it is to blame for scholars, indulging in the habits of swearing, chewing tobacco and loitering about saloons. No, we do not consider it to blame as it does not profess to teach the moral laws; but a system that does not elevate by its teachings above the low desires expressed above is certainly defective, and is badly in need of a revisal. The course of study pursued in our public schools we are inclined to thirk too high and in no way fitted for the education of the masses. Of what practical use can the study of "languages, or high art," be to the majority of those who attend our schools. It certainly does not add one iota to their capacity as citizens, or to their knowledge as mechanics, and were the time employed in the study of these subjects devoted to the instilation of sound moral principles it would be of far greater value to both the community and the individual. It is the proud boast of Canada that she possesses the most perfect school system in existonce, but it is somewhat startling to find that after all our educational facilities and intellectual attainments, the pergentage of crime in Canada is considerably in excess of nations who are not so highly favoured in this particular respect. No human institution is so perfect but it is susceptible of improvement, and our educational system is no exception. We give it due credit for what it has done, but it is capable o much more, efficiently attaining the ends of its being.

THE IRISH AGITATION.

be the most formidable disturbance Ireland has ever been subjected to is to all "individual hairs to stand on end sink into miserable insignificance, the like quills." Why ? the alarmed reader civil power having completely shattered may ask. It is with a degree of trepidthe organization of the Land League. The sudden and unexpected action of the Government took its members completely by surprise, and now its leaders, instead of being to hand in its extremity are quietly idling, their time in foreign countries. The probable suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, the country overran with soldiers, is all the ill-timed disturbance has done for Ireland. We do not doubt but wise and judicious land measures were preparing for Ireland and would have been considered, had the present disturbances not taken place at all, as it is the Irish have to an extent tied Mr. Gladstone's hands by their unwarranted bluster and noise. That things had arrived at a desperate condition, there is no question, but how much have the operations of the Land League improved the situation. It has made it, immensely worse than ever, and now the misgnided people find the leaders in whom they trusted have deserted them. Ear better would it have been to patiently have waited for the promised reforms and have given every assistance to the intentions of the man who has already done so much for Ireland. What the end will be it is hard to say, but when the proposed Land Bill is introduced there is every reason to believe that it will be of so liberal a character as to render the chances of another agitation very slight for generations to com".

es Pork Sausages, Bologna Sausages, Finnan Haddie, White Fish, Cod Fish and Labrador Herrings, Oysters Cannel and in Salk at Meintyre & Prior's.

Editorial Notes.

MICHAEL DAVITT, the leader of the Irish Land League movement is no ordinary person, to judge by the opinions and descriptions which appear of him in the English press. Truth says he is a determined-looking man, with dark, clear-cut features. His righ sleeve is attached to his coat, for he lost an arm when working in a factory On this he was determined to educate himself thoroughly, and he now speaks fluently three or four languages, and unquestionably is one of the mos powerful speakers that has for many a year appeared on a public platform.

THE German press is much engaged in reviewing the progress made by the Fatherland since the establishment of the Empire ten years ago, on the 18th Grand Trunk railway and branches 645 January, 1871, in the Hall of Louis XIV. at Versailles. A great deal naturally made of the freedom from disaffection-with the insignificant exception of a few followers of the de throned Hanoverian dynasty--which Germany has enjoyed during the decennial period in spite of the policy of annexation which she was compelled to adopt. A most signigeant criticism is made by the Cologne Gazzette, which takes altogether a new departure, and bemoans in bitter terms the pressure of taxation, which is directly traced to the vast expenditure on the army While allowing that a kingdom which was "founded by the sword must be protected by the sword," expression is given to the hope that before long Ger many will be able to reduce her armaments. It is ponted out that the new Russian Finance Minister has announced the necessity of diminishing expenditure on the army. "If France," adds the writer, " would adopt a similar view, and would give up thoughts of a war of retaliation which can only lead to endless contests, we should have brighter prospects." This is satisfactory language from an organ which is usually supposed to be in sympathy with Prince Bismarck. The pressure of taxation is becoming rapidly unendurable, and is also the long period of service exacted from the whole male population.

THINGS are beginning to look serious as regards Ireland. Armageddon is in view. A terrible retribution is about to fall upon the hated and tyrannic Saxon. The plagues of Egypt have all been rammed into a bombshell and arrangements for firing it off, to the destruction of everything that is British in the Green Isle, are complete. With-It would seem that what promised to in a week or two we may expect to hear of a catastrophe which will cause ation we pen the reply: " A preminent military officer in New York, engaged in the grocery business has sold out and taken steamer for Ireiand, to be ready for military service." There, now! Is there anything in Mother Shipton's forecastings, is there anything in Zadkiel's predictings, is there anything even in Vennor, more dreadful than this paragraph presages? Pausing for a moment to recover ourselves-we return to the subject, "Ready for military service," prominent military officer," and a 'grocer.' It is indeed a black looks out for British supremacy in Ireland. The War Office cannot do better than instantly recall the troops which have been crossing the channel daily for weeks past; the Lord Lientenant and his staff, if their safety is regarded as a matter worth considering, should likewise be smuggled out of the country as speedily and quietly as is possible; the Irish constabulary should be disbanded. A distinguished military New York grocer is even now on the way, and Erin can no longer lie writhing under the heel of British oppression. Something terrible is coming, and its agent is a played-out Yankee groser .-- Port Hope Times.

ONTARIO AND HER RAILWAYS.

Thirty years ago Ontario had not a mile of railway-to-day she has no less than 3,478 miles and when those lines now under construction are completed she will have at the lowest calculation 4,000 miles. These facts point in no uncertain language to the great strides our Province has made during the life | Merthyr district were stopped for sevtime of many of the statesmen who now | eval days, the Dowlais colliers' train watch the destinies, not of a single | being unable to take the men home, 600 Province, but of a broad and fertile of them went down into the pit for the Dominion, greater in extent than the night to keep themselves warm. Cot-

wealthy Republic to the south of the line. Yet, extensive as railway building has been in Ontario during the past two or three decades the future promises to us many more miles of railway. The mining and lumber regions of the north have yet to be tapped and cap tured, figuratively speaking, by the iron horse. The stretch of country in the vicinity of lake Superior which bes longs to Ontario will in a very few years see second editions of the Grand funnel of the engine could be seen. The Trunk and Great Western. It needs Grand Junction Canal was frozen over, but the opening of the Canada Pacific and the snow piled up so that but for to pave the way for the enterprising railway man ever on the alert to tie cities, town and villages together with a band such as has changed the face of the whole world and made the nineteenth century one of the grandest in history. Ontario has 3,478 miles of railway. Particularized that number is made up as follows:

Great Western " Welland Railway......25 Brockville and Ottawa railway 57 Canada Central railway.....240 Toronto and Nipissing 88 Northern railway......168 Midland railway.....141 Whitby and Lindsay46 Cobourg and Marmora.....22 T ronto, Grey and Bruce:......195 Hamilton and North Western 177 Canada Southern......311 Credit Valley 156 country was a great white plain. The North Simcoe32 suffering of the poverty-stricken dwel-Georgian Bay and Wellington 59 of as indescribable. Ontario and Pacific Function 107 Now, after all this, we shall be sur-

BRITAIN'S "BLIZZARD,"

thing so unfeeling they have a rare in roughest Canadian weather. opportunity of retaliating on dwellers in the old country and recent arrivals from it whose habit it is to say all manner of evil against our climate. The contrast between the winter we are passing through and the weather which our friends across the sea have had for the past few weeks, leaves the latter very little reason for felicitations at our expense. The telegraph gave us only a hint of the tempestuous time the British Isles experienced from the mid dle to the close of last month. Papers just received give us some of the details, and leave much more to be imagined. Glancing down one column after another of closely printed reports from various parts of the country, we feel less disposed than ever to be discontented with our lot as far as climate is concerned. We are liable, of course, to heavy snow-falls, but such storms as swept over Great Britain in January are very infrequent; it is not an nousual thing for our means of internal communication to be temporarily blocked during the season, but we look forward to such occurrences and with our snow-ploughs and other contrivances are very soon able to dig our way out.

To give anything like a fair idea of the "bad spell" we should have to transfer some columns from our English files, which is impossible. One or two specimens of the reports must suffice. Throughout nearly one hundred miles of the south-west of England-with Bath as its centre, out-door industry of every kind was suspended. On Dartmoor the snow was in some places over twelve feet deep; seven men were lost in Saurton Down, Dartmoor, and after a lapse of four days, nothing had been heard of them. At Dover the whole of the flagstones of the Admiralty pier, weighing a ton and a half each, were displaced and tossed about like so many chips of wood; lamp-posts were snapped off; telegraph wires unearthed, and most of the buildings near the north pier were so much damaged as to necessitate their reconstruction. In the eastern part of Hereford, there was five miles of snow eight feet thick to be out through before trains could run. At Penzance, in the extreme south, a flock of three hundred sheep were buried, but were dug out alive. Chester, North Wales, and Ireland were practically cut off from the metro polis, the traffic on the Great Western and London and North-western systems being thoroughly disorganized The Mid-Kent line at Croydon was snow blocked for thirty hours. At Ladymoor, two men were blown into the canal, and several houses were wrecked at Cesley. An Exeter correspondent says the Chagford mail-driver had to abandon his cart on the road. All iron works and collieries in the

tagers about Cardiff had to be dug out, their houses being buried in snow. Several collisions occurred between blockaded and moving trains. The Southend pier was carried away, and the piermasters' family got off in a boat; a second boat manned by twelve men was swamped and eight of the crew were drowned. A train on the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway was snowed up till not even the tall the locks the line of the canal could not be traced. A large gasometer at the Bicester gasworks was torn from its supports. At Water Stratford a chimney stack fell through the roof on to the bed of the rector; the bed was not occupied. Eight engines had to be employed to extricate the night mail between Norwich and Yarmouth. At Syston seven trains were standing at one time, being unable to advance. At Leigh (Essex) the sea washed into the streets, and the inhabitants had to rush to the upper storeys to escape being drowned. One paper alone mentions scores of fatel accidents in different parts of the country. London suffered as much as any part of the Kingdom. Residents at the West-End had to employ gangs of men or remain snowed up in their houses. The tidal over-flow left in the roadway between Hammer smith and Chiswick a foot of half frozen

brised if we are not less frequently refinded of the rigor af our climate and the meteorological mischances to which we are exposed. There has seldom if If Canadians were disposed to do any- er been anything like this. even in

EUROPE.

THE IRISH TROUBLES.

The Aurora, of Rome, contradicts the statement that the Pope intended to address another letter to the Irish bishops, enjoining on them not to oppose the exceptional mea sures taken by the Government for Irclaud. Mr. Parnell believes his letters have been

opened for the last six months. McNally, one of the traverses, will go to the Capa where he intends to spend the re-

mainder of his life. Letters to Irish members on business con-

cerning the Land League will be sent for the future under covers to other addresses. Several English Radicals have undertaken to receive the correspondence of the leading Irish members.

The conference between Parnell and Rochefort has excited much indignation among the Catholic members of the Parnell

It is reported that an attempt to ignite a large dynamite mine under the wall of Beggar's Bush Barracks, Dublin, on Tuesday night, was frustrated, the perpetrator being disturbed by a chance passengers The authorities regard the discovery as a harm-

General Skobeloff telegraphs from Geok Tepe under date of the 12th instant as for lows : "The pacification of the country is progressing very favorably. Sixteen thonsand families have now returned. Amnesty has been proclaimed and the chiefs have promised fidelity."

The Tekke Turcomans after their long and vigorous resistance to the Russian troops have, according to the Russian commander, General Skabeloff, given up the struggle and are now inclined to settle down perceably under any terms which the conquerors are disposed to dictate. This does not appear likely if it is meant to convey the idea that the whole people are inclined to submit. It is probable that the people who reside in the district of which Geok Teppe was the centre, are not inclined to keep up a hopeless struggle, but between Geok Toppe and Mery there are two fortresses, which, though not so strong as that which has been captured, are capable of a protracted defence, and as the Morv Turcomans are by far the most numerous and most powerful it is not probable that they are inclined to accept any very onerous terms at present. Russia has declared that it is not her purpose to proceed beyond Geck Teppe, and that she does not intend holding that strong. hold permanently, but her announced intentions have never been borne out by her subsequent actions.

Paris. Feb. 20.-M. Hartmann sends to the Intransigeant a deplorable account of the famine in Russia. In the villages, as he relates, people die of hunger every day, and men rob and pillage for the sole object of being immured in prison, where at least they are fed at the expense of the State. In the extreme east, bands of Kirghiz and Kalmucks attact towns and villages with impunity and massacre the inhabitants in order to obtain the provisions. Bashkers sell their children for small quantities of flour, and the Kalmucks dig up the bones of horses that died last year of plague and grind them into cakes. The villages are entirely desort. ed, and the men and women have fled to the cities in Sibera, abandoning to their frightful fate old men and nursling.

Don't he forever telling what you are going to do-but do it.

Granine Gold Wedding Rings at Guan

AFRICA.

It is understood in London that it is proposed that the part of the Transvaal towhich the Boers have a fair claim will be declared independent, and the remaining and larger part continue to be governed by the British, a British Resident to be appointed at the capital of the Boers.

A despatch from the Durban says Upper Natal is in the hands of the l'oers.

It is curious to observe that while British soldiers are seeking by fire and sword to subjugate the Boers, scarcely an English journal can be found to excuse so wanton and unjust a war. Those whose hearts have swelled with sympathy, when reading the history of the Netherlands, under William the silent, against Philip II., feel that, by undertaking the work of suppressing liberty in the Transvaal. England assumes a place in history analagous to that of Spain, with a Colley to play the role of Alva. No wonder the British people feel towards the Dutchmen of the Cape the reverse of uhfriendly, and condemn the policy which has put their country in so inviduous a position in the eyes of the world. There are few oundid Englishmen but will echo the words of Mr. Labouchere: "No one can blame them, they are strictly within their rights, and, instead of killing them, we ought to recognize that we have been in the wrong."

CANADA.

The names of fully one-fourth of the elecors of Kent have been secured for the Stott Act petition, and there are more to

Body-snatching has become so prevalent around Prescott, that a number of peoples who have been called on to bury deceased relatives, have had them interred on thier own premises rather than run the risk of having them get into the hands of resurreci mists.

Two London servant girls who took a pan of live coals into their bedroom a few nights since, when retiring, nearly lost their lives. During the night the fumes arose from the charcoal, filling the tightly closed and comparatively close room. One of the girls became insensible, and as the other was about going into a similar crndition she fortunately relied out of bed and into the pan of coals. In this condition one of her hands became so severely burned as to rouse her sufficiently to enable her to stagger to the door, when relief was obtained. Had there been a few minutes' longe delay both girls would have been beyond succor. The girl who had her hand burned will not be able to work for several weeks.

THE muncipalities having failed to vote the money asked of them toward changing; the gauge of the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway, the Company found themselves unable to carry out the arrangements they had made with the Grand Trunk Railway. The Directors, however, do not despair of being able to make a new arrengement with the Grand Trunk Railway. In anticipation of doing so they have decided to take out during the present winter a large number of ties, posts and heavy stone for bridging. Should they fail to make any arrangement the material they are getting out would be marketable. Their financial arrangements have not yet been completed.

Timber For Sale.

quantity of ELM AND ASH SQUARE A TIMBER for sale. Apply to R. ADAM,

Lot 4, Con. 14, Mariposa. Mariposa, Jan 26th, 1881.

IMPROVED FOR SALE.

WHE South half of Lot No. 14, 2nd Con. of Eldon, 100 acres with 70 acres clear. Log house and barn, only one mile from Argyle, known as the Gillespie Property. North half No. 15, 1st Con. Eldon, 100 acres, 25 acres clear, South West quarter No. 13 7th Con Eldon, 50 acres, 25 acres cleared. Lot No. 32. 8th Con Eldon, 116 acres. Also Store, Dwelling and Barn in the village of Lorneville, known as the Car. michael property.

The above properties will be sold cheap for Cash or on Credit to suit purchasers. MONFY TO LOAN

from 2 to 20 years on terms to suit the apply to borrower. J. C. GILCHRIST,

Post-master, Woodville.

February 21st; 1881. PAY UP!

LL parties indebted to the late firm of A JAS. A. MITCHELL & CO are requested to call and settle at once, and save uncecessary costs, as we shall positively place all unsettled claims in suit for collecvion, and "Don't you forget it."

ALSO TAKE NOTICE, that we have bought all Mr. L. Maybee's Books and Notes for which Settlement must

be had immediately. KENNETH CAMPBELL

ANGUS CAMPBELL. Woodville, Feb. 9th, 1831.

FARM LANDS For Sale.

LOT 2', CONCESSION 1, ELDON, EAST HALF LOT 18, CON. 1, ELDON.

TERMS EASY,

apply to D.B. McNABB, Woodville.

Toronto. .

or to BEATTY, HAMILTON & CASSELLS,