

# THE ACTON FREE PRESS, NOVEMBER 5, 1875.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Removal—Geo. E. Morrow.  
Moore—Keeseed Bros.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

Published Every Friday Morning.  
51 Per Annum in Advance.

## Action Free Press

JOHN H. MACKENZIE EDITOR

FRIDAY MORNING NOV. 5, 1875.

It would seem that we have committed a most grievous offence and unwittingly brought upon ourselves the ill-will of a few friends of the *Free Press*. We last week mildly expressed our views concerning the personal fitness of the two candidates then seeking election, and we are now seriously charged with having therein departed from the strict line of neutrality. In the excitement of the moment, three or four of our Conservative readers have even gone so far as to return their copies of the paper with scurrilous remarks written on the margin, clearly exhibiting the narrow-minded bigotry by which they are controlled. It would be a waste of words to try to convince men of this stamp that we have not published a syllable in connection with this election which could by the greatest strain of imagination be construed into anything but strict political neutrality. While professing political independence, it is clearly not the duty of a newspaper editor to creep quietly through an election campaign, and like a needle, say not a word concerning the personal fitness of either of the candidates. Ordinary intelligence rebels against such strictures. Candidates for parliamentary honours are public property, and as such, it is the privilege and duty of the newspaper man to point out their failings and personal merits. We have endeavoured as far as possible to keep within the line of personal as well as political neutrality. If we have failed in either respect, it was not knowingly, or with the most remote feelings of disrespect to either party. If Col. Clay, or his friends, feel at all aggrieved at our remarks concerning his advanced years, we are very sorry that it should be so, although we do not see that we have any reason to retract one word that was said, except probably that we were misinformed in regard to his age. We have since been told that he has not yet seen seven years, and if this be the case, we trust he will pardon us for having set him down as being apparently beyond that number.

Now, perhaps it would be as well to say a word or two in this connection in respect to our position. It was clearly stated in the prospectus that the *Free Press* should not be devoted to the interest of any Political Party or faction; that it should at all times be free to discuss matters of public policy on "their merits." This is what we proposed, and this is what we have carried out to the letter. During an election campaign it is a difficult matter to keep strictly on the line, without seeming to favor one side or the other, and while carefully avoiding the discussion of political issues, it is a duty we owe to our readers to give them the fullest information in our power respecting the candidates and their views. Being a comparative stranger here, and not knowing, except by report, anything of the past history of the two candidates, we avoided saying a word concerning them until we had seen and heard them address their meetings. We then found a very easy master to draw comparisons and form an opinion as to their respective abilities. Had we otherwise than express our convictions in the manner we did last week, we should have felt convicted of moral cowardice and of being unworthy of public respect. And we may say here, to those few persons who think it a grand thing to show their petty spite by returning their papers and reviling us by their loud-mouthed blather, that they exhibit their wrath to no purpose. Such actions have no influence on us whatever. While pitying their ignorance, we are only sorry that their chances for learning wisdom are so very slim. It is well for the country that this class of men is not very numerous.

In North Grey, the Conservatives have replaced Mr. Scott, who is uneducated and disengaged, by Mr. Knight, who is chosen over Dr. J. D. W. Wetherell, elected Dr. J. D. W. Wetherell on Friday, by a majority of 12%.

## HALTON ELECTION.

RETURN OF W. D. LYON.

MILTON, Nov. 3.

The following are the majorities in the different sections in the election to-day of a member to the Ontario Assembly:

Lyon (M.) Clay (O.)	34
Oakville	1
Aston	12
Georgetown	16
Nanawawa	122
Burlington	9
Equesing	58
Trafalgar	13
Nelson	18
	185
Majority for Mr. Lyon	87

Another loan has just been placed on the London money market by our Finance Minister. The amount is £2,500,000, nearly ten millions of dollars. Three-fifths of it is guaranteed by the Imperial Government, and the other two-fifths is on Canadian credit alone.

The bonds are to run for thirty, and part for thirty-five years, and bear interest at four per cent per annum, payable half yearly.

A telegram to the *Globe* states that the Walkem government has been defeated in British Columbia and that the Opposition have retained fourteen members, the Independents six, and the Government five. Nine seats filled by Mineralists in the late House have been won by the Opposition, and only one seat held by the Opposition has been lost by them.

S. G. Moylan, of Ottawa, is appointed Inspector of Penitentiaries. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie is visiting the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. Creighton (Opposition) is elected for North Grey. He has a majority of ninety-seven.

In East Nottumberland Edward Cochran, Conservative, and J. M. Ferris, Grit, were nominated as candidates for the Ontario Legislature. Polling on Tuesday.

A despatch from Washington reviews the Cuban question, and says that the United States is determined to set up Cuba as an independent State, and abolish slavery from that Island.

## Erin Township Council.

This Council met pursuant to adjournment, the Reeve in the chair. Members all present. Moved by Mr. Burt, seconded by Mr. Reid, that the Reeve order the payment of \$5 to John Urdell, for making a culvert on the 5th line, No. 13. Carried. Moved by Mr. Barbour, seconded by Mr. Reid, that \$10 be allowed for putting in a culvert and otherwise repairing the road on the 5th line, opposite lot 22 and cross road.—Carried. Mr. Reid moved, Mr. Teeter seconded that Mr. Burt be instructed to go and inspect a culvert built by James Paisley, opposite lot No. 10, 5th line, and for the same, if the work has been done in a satisfactory manner, and worth the amount claimed for doing so, being \$10.—Carried. Having examined the bill of Messrs. Innes & Davidson for printing, being \$25.10, Mr. Barbour moved, seconded by Mr. Burt, that the Reeve order the payment of the same.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Burt, that the Reeve give an order for the payment of \$15, which was granted last session of the Council, for a job of work on the 1st col. on the town line between Erin and Garfraxa.—Carried.

Two o'clock p.m.—Moved by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Teeter, that the tenders called for, for the building of a new bridge at How's mill, between lots 22 and 23, on the 7th col., be now opened. The tenders were found as follows:—Angus McLeish, \$555; C. J. McMillan, \$530; John Campbell, \$190; Enoch Price, \$370. Moved by Mr. Buff, seconded by Mr. Barbour, that the tender of Enoch Price for building the bridge above-mentioned be accepted, provided he will build the said bridge according to the plan and specification.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Teeter, that the Council go into Committee of the whole on Law No. 9 of the present year, for levying the County and Township rate, which By-law was read a first and second time last meeting of Council—Council it Committee. Mr. Reid was in the chair. The By-law was filed up as follows:—For County purposes, 4 mills on the dollar; for Township purposes, 14 mills on the dollar. Committee rose.

Council resumed business. On motion by Mr. Teeter, seconded by Mr. Burt, By-law No. 9 was read a third time and passed. Moved by Mr. Barbour, seconded by Mr. Reid, that Mr. Burt be instructed to examine Grand River Hill on the 2nd line and the hill on the 5th line, opposite lot 11, and have them reported if dangerous. Mr. Barbour moved, seconded by Mr. Teeter, that the Council do now adjourn, to meet again on Tuesday, the 30th November next ensuing.

W. T. TYLER, Tp Clerk.

## JOTTINGS FROM TORONTO.

Special Correspondence of the *Free Press*.

PUBLIC EXCITEMENT ENDED—TRIAL BY JURY—THE MARRIAGE QUESTION—YORK STREET—WEST TORONTO ELECTORATE, ETC., ETC.

The intense excitement, caused by the murder of the unfortunate Jenison, and which sentence was pronounced, has at length died away. Every one felt satisfied, at least shortly after their arrest, that the trial would be a fair trial, and regretted the severe sentence passed upon them. There is some danger that our virtue has gone quite away with the recent trials.

The trial of John Milner and wife for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Nash is now going on. Little or no interest is manifested in the case by the public in general. Why is this? Was the trial of the Davises not a good trial? Has the reaction come? Was the jury influenced by the strong indifference of the public as to which way the case may go?

## TRIAL BY JURY.

Such thoughts are apt to make us wonder if the time has not arrived, or if it is near at hand, when it will be well to have a particular trial by a jury, and not by the system entirely. Juries are for the most part men of limited education, men who have spent most of their days in labor, and are not accustomed to problems of life to solve. The result is, that when placed as judges over their fellow-men, and although perfectly honest, and desirous of weighing well the evidence for and against the accused, are apt to be swayed by marks of the counsel for the prosecution or defense. This is not saying anything about the character of the jury. It is only to point out that we would wish to say that literary education will ensure the necessary qualification for a good jury. Far from it. We have met men of our time who, though literary learning has not been their chief pursuit, have given us every reason to believe that they could make a good jury. The deficiency in the education of the people is not so great that we would be loath to risk our neck. Much rather would we be at the mercy of a man whose highest recommendation is that he is a good man, but little given to deep thought. But to such men in any way influenced by the often fallacious arguments of the learned counsel, the best lawyers are of little avail.

The report of the Great Western Railway of Canada for the half year announces that there will be no dividends.

A young girl of unsound mind named Mary Heimbach, left home in Berlin on the 22nd Oct., and has not been heard of.

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## GENERAL NEWS.

Burglars have been operating in Brampton.

Mr. Workman's majority in West Montreal is fifty-nine.

The United States currency at present outstanding amounts to \$444,455,968.39.

Lord and Lady Dundurn, it is said, intend visiting Toronto early in December.

The London, Huron and Bruce extension is open to Clinton, a distance of about thirty miles.

The Credit Valley army has entered Abyssinia.

The Abyssinians are retreating and offering no resistance.

The London *Times* estimates that two hundred men and others were drowned in the North Sea during the gales of the past three days.

John W. Gordon's house, at Port Colborne, was burglarized on Sunday evening and \$900 worth of jewellery, &c., were taken.

At the Woodstock Assizes, Geo. Thompson was found guilty of slandering R. McKinley, ex-M.P.P. for Wellington. The jury laid damages at \$50.

At the Kent Assizes, Jos. Rice was charged with shooting with intent to kill, at one Wm. West of Raleigh, early in May last. Verdict—Not Guilty.

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The Brampton Banner describes a fight between a terrier and a raccoon, the latter, we are told, weighing eleven pounds more than its assailant.

The battle lasted about twenty minutes, the dog being the victor.

Then such nonsense on the part of the *Advertiser* as "When they come to understand it, they will be shocked."

A by-law of the town of Collingwood is published to raise by debenture the sum of \$10,000, to assist in establishing the manufacture of agricultural implements in the town. It will be voted on by the raters on the 9th of November.

A woman has been arrested crossing the American frontier near Montreal, with four hundred yards of silk rolled round her person.

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