

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
Published Every Thursday Morning.
\$1 Per Annum in Advance.
Acton Free Press
JOS. H. HARRISON, EDITOR.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 3, 1876.

Teachers' Qualifications.

The result of the recent School Teachers' Examination throughout Ontario, has given rise to a good deal of newspaper comment. The fact that so unusually large a proportion of the candidates failed to reach the required standard, is regarded as presumptive evidence that the standard is too high, and the questions too difficult; that in the absence of any foreshadowing of unusual difficulty, an unfair advantage was taken of this year's candidates, and that the time allowed to solve many of the problems was too limited. Much sympathy is expressed for the unfortunate individuals who were "plucked," and the Educational Department is urged or less censured. We have been shown a copy of this year's papers, prepared by the Central Committee, and, although we do not profess to be posted on the technical school questions, we fail to discover anything so extraordinary difficult for one having any pretensions to a common school education, to answer. There are a few problems in arithmetic and algebra which require some experience at figures, but that is all. The other questions appear sufficiently simple. Especially so, is the paper for the class certificates. We can readily conceive that to some other cause than a lack of knowledge may be attributed a large proportion of the failures, in this instance. Many of the candidates are young men and women, who were probably before the Board for the first time. In their hurry and nervousness their wits no doubt went "wool-gathering," and the lassitude caused by the extraordinary hot weather, left them in a great measure unable to concentrate their minds on the subject before them.

There is one point, however, to be borne in mind. It is of much greater importance that our schools should be under the charge of well-informed and competent teachers, than that the youthful aspirants should be more generally successful in securing their certificates. In order to effect this end, it is prudent to set the standard of qualification sufficiently high so that none may be admitted into the ranks who are not really prepared to fill the position creditably. Many of our young men and women may be able, while yet in their teens, to obtain a third class certificate, but never manage to reach a higher grade, for the simple reason that they had never had any instruction in the rudiments of the higher branches. They may be studious and diligent, yet, not having acquired the principles, they rarely succeed in mastering the intricacies of the more difficult subjects. A little more drilling in the higher schools, before seeking to enter the profession, would place our young teachers in a fair way for advancement. The Education Department no doubt have this object in view, in thus gradually raising the standard of the third class qualification.

Local Names.

The last issue of the Milton Champion has a short chapter on local names, from which we extract the following: "The County of Halton seems to hold the memory of that hero of the deep, the late Admiral Nelson, in peculiar veneration, as is evident from the number of names of places in which his name, titles and exploits are embodied. There is Nelson township and Nelson village, and Fort Nelson. There is Trafalgar township, so named after Nelson's great victory. Then there is Bronte village, named after the second title of Lord Nelson and Bronte; and Palermo, the second great exploit of our naval hero. The memory of that other hero who on land defeated the great Napoleon is also embodied in Wellington Square. The back townships have the notorious Indian names, such as Esquimaux, the township of "Tall Pines," and Nussagaweya, appropriately translated "Rocks and Water." The name of the county seat, has been thought to have received its name from town built, as Jasper Martin's will was the origin of the town, but we have it on the authority of Mr. Martin's sons that the name was given in honor of the great Milton, for whom their father had a high admiration. The

two chief streams, the Sixteen and the Twelve, derive their names from their respective numbers from the Beach, at the entrance of Burlington Bay, in the same manner as the streams across the lake in the county of Lincoln, the Eight, the Ten, the Twelve, the Fifteen, the Twenty, the Thirty, the Forty, and the Fifty Mile Creeks, arise from their distances from the north of the Niagara river.

Scillian Brigandage.

For a long time past, the southern part of the mainland of Italy, and the Sicilies, have been suffering from the operations of brigands, who do not hesitate to steal in any practicable manner, and a great part of whose trade is in kidnaping away travellers who may come within their reach, and detaining them as prisoners, extorting heavy ransoms, in proportion to the importance or the wealth of those captured. In Sicily the brigands have been especially powerful—in fact they entirely overshadowed every other authority in the island. Occasional captures of noble persons, taken in actual brigandage operations, were made by the police; but the terror which they inspired was such that it was impossible to get other judges or juries to do their duty, and so these criminals escaped punishment. The Italian Government set itself determinedly to root out the evil, and one means was adopted about two years ago, to take the punishment of brigands out of the hands of the ordinary courts, and to entrust it to courts-martial. Since then there has been some success in obtaining punishment for these criminals, but the evil is deeply rooted and will take a long time to cure. The Mafia, the secret association which directs the operations of the brigands, is a very powerful society, and has been reported to be controlled by well-informed and skillful leaders. Who these leaders were, has been shrouded in mystery; but it has long been asserted that many of the gentry of the island, those moving in the best society, and mixing freely with Government officials, thus learning all their plans, were directly implicated. Such stories, however, have seemed to the world outside of Sicily, to be too much after the style of sensational French novels to be credited. A recent occurrence, however, furnishes indisputable proof that the highest classes in Sicily are concerned to some extent, though how widespread the ramifications of the Mafia are amongst them, there is no good means for judging at present. Recently the Italian authorities received information that three noted brigand leaders were to meet at a certain farm house near Gergenti, and they accordingly laid their plans to capture them. The house was surrounded, and the brigands surprised while feasting—a rich banquet, the choicest wines and cigars being on the table before them. Not only were the expected brigands there, but some entirely unexpected accomplices. Two of the gentlemen of the island, and one nobleman, a baron, were supposed to be thieves generally are. The affair has created a sensation, not only in Italy, but in other countries, and the general opinion of Europe that called to the matter, will also no doubt greatly strengthen the Italian Government in dealing with the whole system of brigandage, because it will make it especially clear to people here firmly determined that the evil must be rooted out however deep it may have struck into special localities.

Canadian Characteristics.

The Chicago Times indulges in the following criticism of the Canadian people: "If there is any trait in the thoroughbred Canadian more strongly marked than that of persistence, it has never been brought prominently into play. In this essential particular he exceeds all other animals whatsoever that walk on two legs, and almost that double-jawed beast, the brindle bull-terrier. Once let him take a grip upon a thing, and until that thing is completely done, or done for, he will never let go. Under the pressure of strong adverse circumstances, he may cease for a time to growl, but not for an instant will he lose his hold." There is some truth as well as force in the above remarks, and this is probably one amongst several reasons why Canadians who migrate to the other side of the line have no trouble in securing the best situations that are going. The fact that they are so much sought after is on the other hand, one amongst a number of causes which induce Canadians, and especially young Canadians, to go to the Western States in the hope of bettering their prospects.

Dairy Products at the Centennial.

Mr. Dandrecht, Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture, announces that a special display of dairy products will be held during the first week respectively of August and September. The August exhibition will comprise only cheese, the September exhibition butter as well as cheese, the cooler weather thus permitting a display. The exhibition of the present month having been such a full success, it is anticipated that equal success will be displayed to assure the exhibition of the next two months. Awards will be made at these times, in accordance with the rules of the Commission. It is said that efforts are being made to form another oil refinery combination at Petrolia.

An American Tragedy.

A MAN SHOTS HIS WIFE WHILE SHE IS TALKING WITH HER MOTHER.

The Lancaster (Pa.) Examiner publishes a three column account of the shooting of a young and beautiful woman on Friday, July 21, by her jealous husband. The facts say that he had no grounds for his inhuman and fatal assault. The story is that last winter James E. Pannell, the husband, came to Lancaster to find work. While waiting, Hammond, the revivalist, came, and Pannell was converted. At the time of the shooting Mrs. Joseph Hedrick and family, among whom was Ann Eliza, her eighteen year-old daughter. They all united themselves with the Baptist church. Through such instrumentalities acquaintance was made between Pannell and Annie, and the intimacy ripened to such an extent that on the 8th day of last June they were married. Pannell found work in Philadelphia, but he treated his wife unkindly and frequently struck her. Recently they were living in a house with a family named Rath, but they were very poor. If the wife was seen by her husband talking to a male relative he would abuse her and threaten vengeance. On the 4th of July he came home, and one day while she was conversing with her mother, he became exceedingly angry and called her infamous names. After this she refused to recognize him. A few days afterward he suddenly sprang to his feet and caught her by the neck, saying, "I would like to live with you. You are beautiful and I love you, but I will spoil that so that one else will love you," and struck her repeatedly in the face. On last Friday morning he stepped to where his wife was sitting talking to her mother, and stooping apparently to kiss her, he placed a pistol against her cheek and fired. The mother and the children jumped to their feet screaming. Pannell ran to a door and found an exit on to the balcony, but he was called out for the police, thinking that the murderer would try to escape; but when one of the family returned a few minutes later, it was found that the assassin had returned and fired the second shot under his wife's ear—the last shot proving fatal. Then he went again to the balcony and slid down the post to the second story balcony, taking down some of the flowers. It was evidently his intention to flee, but when he got to the second balcony the crowd had begun to gather and he found it impossible to make his escape, and he was captured.

Murder near Bradford.

A murder was committed about four miles south of Bradford on Saturday night or Sunday morning. An Indian woman supposed to be the wife of Squire Hill, an Upper Mohawk, was shot through the cheek the ball passing into the brain. Jealousy on the part of a woman named Tunkey, is supposed to be the cause of the murder. No arrests have been made yet.

ACTON MARKETS.

Table listing market prices for various goods including Flour, White Wheat, Red Wheat, Barley, Peas, Potatoes, Butter, Eggs, Hay, Bacon, Ham, Shoulders, Lambskins, Tallow, and other commodities with their respective prices.

A Queer Story.

A PIANO AFFECTED WITH THE ST. VITUS' DANCE—STRANGE DEMONSTRATION OF "THE OCCULT POWER."

A most marvellous demonstration of what is called the "occult force," says the Philadelphia Press, was given at the residence of Mr. S. P. Kase, No. 1601 North Fifteenth street, in the presence of a large number of invited guests from Philadelphia and other cities. A representative of this journal was requested to call at 8 o'clock in the evening, and publish to the world exactly what he saw, and so far as limited space will permit this shall be faithfully done. The reporter, upon presenting himself at the vestibule, was met by Mr. Kase, who conducted him to a large well lighted, handsomely furnished library, in the second story, where most of the company were already assembled, and after the usual interchange of courtesies requested him to examine a new piano standing in one end of the room. This proved to be a very large 7 octave instrument, weighing probably from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds. The back legs were bolted up against small cleats fastened to the floor, as Mr. Kase explained, to keep it from moving when lifted from the front. The piano was worked out and the cleats seem to be simple pieces of wood and nothing more. In a few moments a lady, who was introduced as Mrs. Bull Youngs (it was afterwards privately stated that she was a daughter of Mr. Cranston Lawrie, statistician of the Post Office Department at Washington), entered the room, and taking her seat at the piano, began a lively waltz. They followed a popular ballad, and finally, a spirited selection in polka time. During the performance of the last composition the piano seemed to become a little excited and to beat time with the front legs, this motion becoming rapidly more marked until it was raised again and again from four to four feet, and thumped and thumped back at every second note in the bar with such force as to jar the room. "Please don't make so much noise," pleaded Mrs. Youngs, and the piano immediately ascended and descended as though resting on springs. The lady then stood up, but the piano continued to beat time; next she placed her fingers on the music desk with the same result, and finally held both hands over her head, and it obeyed her voice, moving up and down lightly or heavily as obediently as a trained animal. Seven gentlemen and one lady, the aggregate weight of all being 1,245 pounds, then at Mrs. Youngs' request sat upon the piano, placed her hand upon it, and again it jumped from four to six inches from the floor when requested. Mrs. Youngs next placed one hand at the bottom of the same end with one hand lying flat on top, and the process was repeated. As only two gentlemen in the room could lift that (the harp end) of the instrument, and then only with an instant's fling of the face and swelling of the veins indicative of great muscular exertion, it did not seem within the bounds of possibility that the pale faced lady could move it with one hand, but still the reporter placed his hand between the bottom of the piano and the lady's palm, and though the piano still jumped as lively as ever, there was no perceptible pressure from the lady's hand under the piano, and it was further noticed that not even the lady's dress touched it; the other hand was lying flat on the top. A large, powerful gentleman, who had before lifted one end of the piano, then tried again with Mrs. Youngs' finger resting on top, but was unable to budge it. Two gentlemen tried the same experiment and were successful, although both admitted that the instrument had suddenly increased amazingly in weight. All these experiments and others of the same nature were repeated again and again during the evening, and always with the same result, the piano moving in any direction the word of command, whether its new-found mistress touched it or not. Mrs. Youngs stated that she was very anxious to have her strange power thoroughly investigated especially by scientists, and during her stay would willingly give tests at any private residence in the city.

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The Centennial Exhibition.

The correspondent of the Boston Globe says:

There is only one thing lacking, and that is visitors, though by not coming they themselves are the principal losers. There ought to be a crowd of from fifty to one hundred thousand persons pouring in daily through the gates to study their lessons at the school of schools during the summer vacation from their other pursuits. Perhaps they will come in greater number in the autumn, when the weather will be cooler and the exhibition be in more perfect order even than now, but it certainly is a pity that every one who can possibly manage to come and see it from any and every portion of the globe. And so the idea is beginning to take possession of the people here that it would be well not to have it closed on November 10th, but to allow it to remain open for a year, or at least, as late as the weather will permit, and I trust this idea will be carried out. Many persons might like to come here in winter instead of summer. Tastes differ, and everyone has his or her programme for arranging their seasons of travel. Some of the articles might be removed, it is true, but enough would remain to make it well worth the while to keep it open for many months to come. The committee in charge of the arrangements for Mr. Moody's revival meetings in Chicago this autumn, have decided to erect an immense wigwam capable of seating 5,000 people. The American Bible Society distributes to each visitor at the Centennial Exhibition who wants it, a little book containing one verse of the Bible in each one of the languages, in which the Scriptures are printed. The book is about three inches by five, in paper cover, and contains forty pages. In the great Yacht Race on our Canadian Yacht, the "Countess of Dufferin," came in fourth, being a long way behind the winning vessel. MASSACRE OF TURKS.—Special telegrams give details of the massacre by the Turks in Bosnia. Three hundred Christians were tortured and drowned in the villages of Pervana and Tamor. Twelve women were cut to pieces at Paves. Sixty children were stoned to death at Ratlora. One hundred and eighty girls were violated and murdered at Lokolovo; 3,000 Christians were massacred at Frydora. Discretion in speech is more than eloquence. We all do more harm than we intend, and less good. Friendship, like iron, is fragile if hammered too thin. Where hard work kills ten, silliness kills a hundred men. To clear a room of mosquitoes.—Burn in a plate, over a candle, a piece of gum-camphor, which catches the fire of an egg, being careful that it does not ignite. The smoke will fill the room and expel the mosquitoes. MARRIED.—At Georgetown, on the 25th ult., by the Rev. J. Unsworth, Mr. Jacob Swackhammer, to Miss Jeanette Beattie, both of Toronto township.

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Now is the Time to Purchase

CLOTHING.

TWEEDS being rushed off at reduced rates to make room for

FALL STOCK NOW ARRIVING

AT THE

EAST END.

DICKSON & McNAB.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

GREAT Clearing Sale FOR ONE MONTH

Miscellaneous Books, Stationery, Wall Paper, &c.

ANDERSON'S

CHEAP BOOKSTORE

On the East side of Wyndham Street, GUELPH.

GOODS

He will give such Bargains as will Attract the Public.

C. T. HILL

DEALER IN Groceries, Crockery, Boots & Shoes, Wall Paper, Window Blinds, Nails, Glass, Putty, Lined Oil, Paints, Turpentine, Coal Oil, Salt, &c.

Must be all cleared out

Within the

MOVE AWAY

Any of our

Present Stock.

Things must be sold at any price.

NOW FOR BARGAINS

Such as never before heard of.

FARM FOR SALE.

The undersigned offers to sell his farm consisting of about 50 acres, being the south-west half of Lot No. 21, in the 2nd con. of Esquimaux. Good house and barn, small orchard. The land is of excellent quality, well watered, 40 acres cleared, balance good maple wood. Apply to W. E. P. Eager, Milton, or to the owner on the premises, or by letter to Acton Post Office. DANIEL THOMPSON, Esquimaux, July 15, 1876. 3-3m.

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

Having purchased the threshing and sawing machines lately owned by Messrs. J. & A. Mann, with the understanding that they did not intend carrying on the business, and having got the machines put in good repair, I am prepared to receive orders from farmers for threshing and sawing. I have secured the services of a first-class threshing man of seventeen years' experience, and can guarantee satisfaction in all cases. The patronage of the farmers respectfully solicited. DONALD McDONALD, Lot No. 30, 4th con. Esquimaux, July 19, 1876. 3-4

TO BREEDERS.

The shorthorned Durham Bull, "ZEPHYRUS," bred imported "Sherridan" ("Sanyard" 10th), will serve cows this season, on lot No. 27, 3rd con. Esquimaux (made G. T. station) as follows:—Durations \$10.00; Grades \$3.00. SYDNEY SMITH, Acton, June 20, 1876. 52-2m

FARM FOR Sale in Brampton.

The undersigned offers to sell his farm, being the East half of Lot No. 3, in the 7th concession of the Township of Brampton, comprising about 63 acres, about 40 of which are under cultivation. Good log house and barn, orchard, &c. It is situated about midway between Acton and Rockwood. For particulars enquire of Mr. Wm. Hemmick, Rockwood, or the owner on the premises. JOHN MCINTOSH, Brampton, July 19, 1876. 3-2m