

**FROM THE CAPITAL.**  
The Law of Libel—Cabinet Resignation—A Little Better.  
OTTAWA, May 8.—The close of the session and the departure of the Governor General are synonymous. At least that is the understanding between both sides of the House and if nothing intervenes, the prorogation will take place on the 27th. Why the prorogation should be delayed is a matter which is being discussed in the House and it will be able to discover through any courtesy within reason to the departing viceroy will be ungrudgingly extended by all.

**THE ACTON FIRE PRESS.**  
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1888.  
NOTES AND COMMENTS.  
Mr. John McDonald is credited with the statement that the resolution of the House of Commons will take place on May 21.

The prorogation is rapidly coming to the front, and nothing can for any great length of time, hinder its onward movement. The attention of the subject is receiving from the press and the public makes it plain that decisive action cannot be long delayed.—Toronto News.

The amendments to the law of libel introduced in the House of Commons are in the right direction, and go some distance towards placing publishers on a fair footing. They are in an apparently effective shape, the principal reforms asked for by the Canadian Press Association.

There are not infrequently troublesome times in store for the politician who trim on moral issues. The question of libelation is rapidly looming up and in this issue neutrality is impossible, and feeble fencelessness is imperative if our coming estate is to be maintained.

His Excellency the Governor General and Lady Lansdowne arrived in Toronto on Monday morning. In the afternoon they were tendered a public reception in the Pavilion near the hall, at which addresses were presented to the Governor General by the City Council and prominent and other societies.

The list of early closing towns and villages embraces—Georgetown, Clinton, Paisley, Tara, Chesley, Brantford, Danville, Millbrook, Ashburnham, Winton, and Sheburne. There will probably be daily additions to the list for some weeks to come. Ontario will not be content in the early closing movement.

That there cannot be too many applications for the act of fire, is everywhere recognized, and the more the better. The proof of this is manifested in the fact that recently in New York where a fire had made an end for people to jump into from the upper windows, six women made the distance from a considerable height and were saved.

The railway parsons are doomed in Massachusetts; the railroad commissioners of that State have ordered the railway companies to have a better system of heating for the winter of next winter. They have not decided in favor of any particular system, but recommended steam heating as both economical and practicable. The terrible loss of life which has been occasioned in recent railway accidents by trains being set on fire by overworked car stoves fully justify the decision of the Board and the effect of their example will no doubt extend to other parts of the country.

An early meeting by law regarding the closing of all retail dry goods stores, general furnishing, millinery, clothing, horse furnishing, boot and shoe and furniture shops, from the hour of seven o'clock p.m. of each lawful day, to the hour of five o'clock a.m. of the next lawful day, except upon Saturdays and the days immediately preceding public holidays, as defined by the Interpretation Act of Ontario, on which days all shops may remain open until such closing at eleven o'clock p.m. and shall remain closed until five o'clock a.m. of the next lawful day was passed on Monday evening by Toronto City Council. A penalty not exceeding \$50 will be imposed for the infraction of the by-law.

The Methodist and Presbyterian churches are taking practical steps for a sectional division between them of those sections of country which are so sparsely settled as not to be able to sustain churches of both denominations. A better concept of real Christianity could not be set up than in Methodist churches with Presbyterian members, or in Presbyterian churches with Methodist members. In some kind of a union church could be built, and the members of both denominations would not think they were in a Methodist church, and a Methodist membership would not feel that they were in a Presbyterian church.

**THE SNOW BLOW DISTRESS.**  
The Erie and Ontario Railroad and Eastern Railway Distress.  
BUREAU, May 8.—The principal case of the winter of '87, was that of Wm. Glassford for master pilot. The case arose from the recent railway accident at Severn bridge, at which five employees of the company were killed. The defendant was the conductor of the ill-fated scowling, hence the prosecution. The crown failed to establish a case, and his Lordship directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty. In addressing the jury his Lordship stated that the case of the company in having stationed a watchman and a signalman, two miles apart, with only one station house, was a disgraceful case of affairs and the which ought not to exist. The defendant was also acquitted of a charge of willful negligence in connection with the same accident. The case of George Foster was similar to the previous one, his defendant having been the engineer-driver. He was acquitted.

**A VARIABLE PATENT.**  
The patents for the new invention in roller mills owned by W. F. Cochran, of Dundas, and V. E. Fuller, of Hamilton, have been capitalized in Montreal, March, for \$400,000, out of which \$25,000 was paid to Mr. Cochran and Fuller. At the meeting of the company held at Montreal last week Messrs. Cochran and Fuller were both elected to the board of directors, and subsequently Mr. Fuller was elected president, and Mr. Cochran vice-president of the company. The largest stockholder is Hon. J. H. McDonald, a millionaire of the state of Michigan.

**CANADA REPRESENTATIVE.**  
London, May 8.—The Glasgow Exhibition was opened today by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The weather was lovely. The Canadian exhibit, in charge of Captain Clark and Thomas Graham, includes a number of fine paintings, historical, scientific and ethnographic. The exhibition promises to be the most successful ever held in Scotland.

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**THE NEWFOUNDLAND QUESTION.**  
A despatch just received by Sir Charles Tupper states that the Legislature of Newfoundland has passed unanimously the bill annulling the Fishery Treaty. Among the bills introduced on Friday by the Deputy Governor at Ottawa was the Fishery Treaty so that as far as British America is concerned the Treaty is now the law of the land though it has little chance of passing the American Senate this session.

Advices received by the government from Newfoundland state that no time has been fixed for the departure of the delegation for Ottawa to discuss forms of union. The feeling of the union is said to be growing and from the attitude of the government that colour its outsummarizing is yet in the distant future. A local paper in Newfoundland has counted votes and found 13 of the assembly for and 21 against including Sir R. Thorburn, Premier.

**MR. HAWKE'S CASE.**  
The imprisonment in Fredericton, N.B. of John T. Hawke, editor of the "Morning Freeman" for contempt of court is so being brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice by the Press Association and also in the House. As it bids fair to become a celebrated case in the history of the Canadian press I will give the facts as they occurred. The election of Mr. Wood of Westmoreland, to the House of Commons was protested and the hearing of the petition was fixed by Judge Fraser, of the Supreme Court, at a date past the six months' limit and counsel for the petitioner urged that this would throw the petition out of court. Judge Fraser said no it would not but when Mr. Wood's counsel before the full court pressed the six months' limit the court threw out the petition. The Reformers were not capitulating inasmuch as Mr. Hawke expected for Judge Fraser in his paper holding him up as a Pooh Bah because in chambers he had allowed the petition and in the full court consented to its dismissal. He also charged that Judge Fraser was "intoxicated on the bench." At Hawke's trial the Supreme Court refused to go into the question of intoxication but held that as Pooh Bah is one who gives decisions for bribes it was applied to Judge Fraser, that Hawke's design was to bring the court into contempt and he sentenced him to three months in prison and to pay \$100 fine.

A meeting of Ottawa journalists took the ground that it is not contempt to criticize a court or judge after the court has adjourned, and that if Hawke made libellous statements Judge Fraser should have indicted him for libel and he would then have had a trial by jury and it might have been properly punished. We expressed no opinion on the merits of the case but on the method of conviction, the accusers and the judges being one and the same persons. The sense of the meeting was against the idea that an editor in Canada could be thrown into prison for expression of opinion on public matters on the mere motion of a judge and without a trial by his peers.

**THE LAW OF LIBEL.**  
The Minister of Justice has already paid attention to the representations of the Canadian Press Association and his bill to amend the law of libel stands for the second reading. It provides that a publisher cannot be taken out of his own Province and tried and punished for libel in another.

**CLIENTS RECOVERED.**  
It is of course unquestioned that the Cabinet must be reconstructed before next session but the question is who is going to get there. The men in the House whose names are mentioned as possible Cabinet candidates are Brown, Whyte, Kirkpatrick, Patterson of Essex and outside, Lieut. Governor Dewdney of the Northwest who might be made Minister of the Interior.

**A LITTLE SCENE.**  
Mr. Davin urged in the House that the rebellion medal should be given to the Mounted Police. This led on to Mr. McNeill reminding Mr. Edgar that he had opposed the striking of these medals. Mr. Edgar said he was still opposed to them and Mr. McNeill retorted with some words for an unworthy action. This created an uproar and Mr. Lister sprang to his feet and said Mr. McNeill considered no one loyal but himself and his conduct was so gross he should be expelled from the House. This increased the uproar and finally Mr. McNeill got a chance to say if Mr. Edgar came up to Bruce with such sentiments in his mouth about the medals he would get dicked in a horse pond. Mr. Lister denied the right of Mr. McNeill to lecture him on loyalty and then the hon. gentleman cooled off and the committee of supply continued to vote supplies to Her Majesty.

**HEAD OF THE PARTY.**  
Mr. Kinkaid, of Carleton, N.B. was elected by the Reformers of that riding but a change has gradually come over him in the House and finally the other night he voted with the government on a motion of want of confidence. The Opposition will in future treat him as an opponent.

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**THE REBELS WILL COME.**  
This interesting bill and the progress in the House of Commons is being followed with interest. The case of Mr. v. Barber, in which a contest over the will of the late Joseph Barber, of Georgetown, has been going on for the last eight days before Mr. Justice Ferguson at Orpington Hall, was decided yesterday afternoon in favor of the testator's two sons, Frederick and Walter, the executor named in the will. The case was a very curious one and full of interest. The will was drawn by George Gibbs, a Georgetown hotelkeeper, and the last clause of it, as it stood originally, was (in substance) "my estate" to be equally divided the two above-named executors." The word "between" was written above the space between "divided" and "the" and on the margin were the initials G. G., supposed to be there as authenticating the interpolation of the word "between." Some of the other children of the testator brought this action to have it declared that the will should not be admitted to probate in this shape with the word "between" there, and hence across the contest. George Gibbs, although he drew the will and was present at its execution, was not a subscribing witness, and even if the initials had been undeniably his, the interpolation would not have been properly authenticated, as neither the testator nor the subscribing witnesses initialled it, and it was not noticed in the testimony taken. In addition to the contention, that Gibbs signed the alteration, Gibbs himself testified that he had not written the word "between," though it looked like his handwriting, and that the initials "G. G." were not written by him. Curiously enough the word in question was spelled "between," which was shown to be a peculiarly observed in Gibbs' ordinary spelling, and there was no care below the omission of which was also shown to be an eccentricity of his style. The learned judge in pronouncing judgment, especially discredited Gibbs as a witness, saying that from his demeanor in giving evidence, his contradictions, and so forth, he was not to be believed, and his Lordship was able to come to this conclusion on the evidence of Gibbs alone, without considering the evidence of others. He, however, believed the evidence of McKinnon, one of the subscribing witnesses, who related a conversation which took place just before the will was executed, from which it appeared that the word "between" had been supplied after the will had been read over by the testator. His Lordship, without throwing any discredit on the expert evidence as to the handwriting of the word and initials in question, came to his conclusion without hesitating. He also said that although it might be supposed by many persons that the testator should have divided his property more equally among the members of his family, there was yet evidence to show that his intention had been to benefit his sons Frederick and Walter. He complimented the members of the family on the way in which they had given their evidence, and he regarded it as entirely trustworthy. His judgment accordingly was that the word "between" was in the will at the time of the execution, and he pronounced that the will with that word in it was the will of Joseph Barber, and should be admitted to probate. A discussion then arose on the question of costs, the plaintiffs contending that all the costs should be paid out of the estate, and the executor that the plaintiffs should pay the costs. The result of costs being paid out of the estate would be in fact that the executors would have to pay them, as the residuary estate is left to them. On this question judgment was reserved.

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Absolutely Pure.

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McClelland & Son, of Toronto, are beyond question the easy leaders in the Ornamental Glass trade in Canada. Their vast business extends from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, and thousands of public and private buildings bear testimony to this firm's ability to execute beautiful and durable windows of every description.

It is worse than madness to neglect a cough or cold which is easily subdued if taken in time; but when left to itself, the fore-runner of consumption and pneumonia death. Inflammation, when it attacks the delicate tissues of the lung and bronchial tubes, travels with perilous rapidity; it does not delay, get a bottle of Bickel's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, the medicine that grasps this formidable foe of the human body, and drives it from the system. This medicine promotes a free and easy expectoration, subdues the cough, breaks the diseased parts, and secures a prompt and full recovery in every case. If you are afflicted with any of the above symptoms, or if you are anxious to preserve the lives of your children, and themselves, from such anxiety, trouble and expense, let them procure a bottle of Bickel's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, and whenever a child has taken cold, has a cough or hoarseness, give the Syrup according to directions.

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These Oysters are a fine and healthy food. When the young child is suffering from indigestion, or when the mother is unable to procure fresh oysters, the Plough's Oysters are the best.

**QUICKLY MARKET.**

Wheat	1.00
Barley	0.90
Oats	0.80
Rye	0.70
Flour	1.20
Beans	1.10
Peas	1.00
Lard	0.90
Sugar	0.80
Coffee	0.70
Tea	0.60
Spices	0.50
Butter	0.40
Eggs	0.30
Chicken	0.20
Duck	0.10
Geese	0.05
Pork	0.15
Ham	0.25
Beef	0.35
Mutton	0.45
Swine	0.55
Wool	0.65

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Shirts, Ties, Collars, Gaiters, Suspenders.  
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**BOOTS & SHOES**  
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**GROCERIES**  
VERY CHEAP.  
Another 10 cents off in that department, we will be glad to see you. We are determined to give you the best of the material and the most of the skill of the milliner.

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