NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

On no occasion will the names of Old Advertisements be inserted here.

James Hope—Ink Erasers, Indian Rubber, and Stationery.

Thomas Reynolds—Ottawa & Prescott Railway Saloon for sale.

Alex. Farlinger—Head Master for Grammar School wanted.

I. M. Taylor—Box Lost.

Robert Thompson—Farmer's Own Mill.

E. K. MacGillivray & Co.—Clocks.

A. R. MacDougal—Dog Lost.

TRAVELLERS' DIRECTORY.

DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL OF TRAINS.

Mail Train leaves Ottawa at	8.00, a. m.
Do. arrives	3.45, p. m.
Accommodation Train leaves at	1.30, p. m.
Do. do arrives at	11.45, a. m.

☞ These Trains connect at Prescott Junction with Trains on Grand Trunk Railway for the East and West, and at Prescott with Ferry for Ogdensburgh—again connecting with Railroads for all parts of the U. S.

THE POST OFFICE—OTTAWA.

DELIVERING AND CLOSING OF MAILS.

MAILS.	DELIV'RD.	CLOSED.
East and West, by Rail, Daily,	12.30 p. m. and 5.30 p. m.	7.30 p. m. and 1.00 p. m.
Pakenham and North Shore of the Ottawa, Daily,	8.00 a. m.	9.30 a. m.
Aylmer & N. Shore of Ottawa " Do do do "	8.00 a. m. 12.00 M.	12.00 M. 5.00 p. m.
Bell's Corners, Richmond, Perth, &c., "	5.30 p. m.	8.00 p. m.
Buckingham, Grenville and Lower Ottawa, *	8.00 a. m.	6.00 a. m.
Kemptville, Osgoode, &c., Daily	5.30 p. m.	7.30 a. m.
Chelsea and Wakefield,	5.30 p. m.	8.00 p. m.
Templeton & E. at Templeton, †	12.00 M.	12.00 M.

*Mails Daily, except on Saturdays and Sundays.
†Mails every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

To all parts of Canada, if pre-paid by Stamps, 5 cts. If unpaid, 7 cts. To British Columbia, 10 cts. Letters for British Columbia, Germany and Foreign Countries generally, MUST BE PRE-PAID.

To the United States, 10 cts—pre-payment optional. English Mails, per H. & A. Allan's Canadian Steamships, via Portland, close at Noon every Friday—postage 24 cts.; per Cunard Steamers, Noon, Mondays and Saturdays, (alternate weeks,) postage 17 cts.

REGISTERED LETTERS must be pre-paid, and posted forty minutes prior to the closing of mail.

☞ Office hours—8 a. m. to 7 p. m.

G. P. BAKER, Postmaster.

The Ottawa Times

OTTAWA, JANUARY 3, 1866.

☞ *FOR INTERESTING READING MATTER—SEE FIRST and FOURTH Pages.*

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A large amount of correspondence of a very varied character has come to hand; amongst in are several communications of which we should have gladly availed ourselves had the undeviating rule we have laid down for our guidance permitted.

It must be understood that no communication whatever will be published in the TIMES unless accompanied in its transmission by the name of the party sending it—such of course being confidential.

Communications must be written on only one side of the paper.

We cannot undertake to return those which are rejected.

The Commissioner of Customs, the Auditor General with the Clerk of the Executive Council were telegraphed for on Monday, and left for Montreal by the one o'clock train yesterday.

We have two or three communications laying before us on the much-vexed subject of the Burrage concert; about which it seems to us much more has been talked and written than the occasion demanded. We have already expressed our regret that our reporter, not being present at the concert—through no fault of his by the bye—allowed himself to be imposed upon by some cynical critic. We should willingly insert the letters on hand had the matter not already been discussed *ad nauseam*. Parties, we find, take such directly opposite views that we should only be creating ill-will by the publication of these epistles. The affair has not as yet broken any bones, and we must be pardoned in declining to lend our columns to a controversy which may result in the rupture of friendships.

Our contemporary of the Hamilton *Times* has kindly consented to exchange—as far as he is concerned—the "pickled rods" with which he and the *Globe* threatened the conservative press for the salmon and tripe that we suggested would be more acceptable. We had no idea that our clumsy joke would have so grateful a realization. We are, however, agreeably disappointed; for our evening namesake has already sent us an instalment of his courtesy, which we take the earliest opportunity to acknowledge. Our menacious friend joined his big brother of Toronto in warning all, who should audaciously condemn the hasty resignation of Mr. Brown, that there were "rods in pickle" which they would by such a course bring down upon their own backs. We had no love for the scourgistic process, and being one of the earliest offenders begged to offer it as our opinion that the "rods" might well be exchanged for something more in harmony with the festive season, and which would have some more tangible form than the frothy verbiage of the *Globe*, and the echoes of its dependent satellites. The Hamilton evening luminary has emitted a scintillation of that generosity we had despaired of finding in the effulgences of Clear Gritism. We are of a grateful nature, and thankful even for small favors; wherefore, we are overpowered by a sense of the obligation his assurance, that we shall not want "for tripe while he has the price of a pound to spare," has imposed. Of course, our friend speaks metaphorically, as prophets are wont, and in this sense is as good as his word; for he has sent us one of the most excruciating grills of Clear Gritism it has ever been our lot to see dished up. We propose taking a slice or two, and to digest it as we may.

Let us premise that our contemporary performed his cookery before Mr. Howland had secured a colleague, and at a time when the extremists of the party had hopes that the Postmaster General would follow in the wake of the ex-President of the Council. "In sustaining the present coalition," says the Hamilton *Evening Times*, "Reformers have made greater political sacrifices than at one time they thought themselves capable of making. The leaders of the party were permitted to take seats in the Cabinet with Messrs. John A. Macdonald, Cartier, and Galt, men whom Reformers had been taught to look upon with suspicion and distrust. Leading planks in the Reform platform had, for the time, to be thrown overboard, and measures were accepted, to which, before the formation of the Coalition, Reformers had steadily refused to yield their assent. The past record of the party was, to a certain extent, blotted out, and it entered upon an entirely new phase of existence. All this was done for the attainment of a certain object, and that object one of such vital importance as to render the sacrifice of lesser matters for its attainment a solemn duty." Most true. Mr. Brown led his friends into coalition, and became one of its prominent members himself, took an active part in the Quebec Convention, went to England, made speeches in favor of Confederation, practically recanted his past vituperations and in every way identified himself with the government, its personnel and its policy. He decried the continuance of partizanship and struggled to obliterate party lines. Antecedents were repudiated; and, to use the cant of the day, "the lion was to lie down with the lamb." But let us proceed with our friend's dish of broiled tripe.

Up to the time of Mr. Brown's resignation, the utmost unanimity was displayed, and it required but a little more exertion to enable the Coalition to hail the completion of its work, and receive the congratulations of the country on the patriotism that had laid aside party differences and personal animosities, for the purpose of carrying out to completion a grand national movement. When so much had been temporarily sacrificed for the attainment of this object, when the leaders of antagonistic parties had worked together harmoniously for so long a time, and when the project had been so far advanced as to be just on the point of consummation, it was justly expected that unless for the very gravest of reasons no man engaged in it would abandon the work.

The fire appears to be a little fierce at this point of the broiling; the gridiron upon which our cook has placed the "tripe" is getting red-hot. We are glad, however, to find the *cuisinac* is so thorough. The garnish and condiments are quite worthy of so accomplished an *artiste*. *Exempli gratia*—

For the Reform section of the Ministry to do so would subject them in the future to one of two fatal charges. If, after their withdrawal from the coalition, Confederation should be pressed to a triumphant issue, it would be justly said of the Reformers that in this success they had no share—that they had abandoned the active workers for Confederation before its triumph had been achieved, and that consequently all the honor of the achievement belonged to the Conservative party. Thus, after having made all the necessary sacrifices, we would, in the very hour of victory, be so supremely foolish as to abandon to our political opponents all the honors, to a large share of which we are justly entitled. If, on the other hand, the withdrawal of the Reform section should, as it undoubtedly would, so far weaken the Cabinet as to rob it of the strength requisite for carrying out Confederation, we would be justly chargeable with having frustrated a great national movement, after having supported it up to the very point of success. Either of these charges would be fatal to the Reformers as a party; in the one case we would have abandoned everything distinctive of our party for the sake of Confederation, and then by abandoning Confederation on the eve of its triumph would have deprived ourselves of all political prestige. With an allowable parody on Job's words we would be compelled to say, "naked we went into the Coalition, and naked we come out again." In the other case, we would have abandoned much for Confederation, and then by our withdrawal of support would have secured the defeat of Confederation also. It is quite evident then that nothing but a matter of the most vital importance should induce Reformers at the present juncture to abandon the work they have taken in hand—we may say that nothing inferior in importance to Confederation itself should so operate as to make us now abandon an object for the sake of attaining which we have abandoned so much that has been of value to us as a party.

Had we chosen the sauce ourselves we doubt if we could have selected anything more directly palatable to the Conservative taste—piquant, pungent and appetizing, a mixture of rare ingredients that make the renowned Worcestershire, Reading and Anchovey flat stale and tame. Talk of Epicurean tastes, why our skilled friend of the *Evening Times* is qualified to grill "deviled drumsticks" for the Carlton; let him be assured he is hiding his candle under a bushel by remaining in a far western city when all Pall Mall would vie in an ovation to one who could serve up *des reliefs* with such artistic excellence. Fortunately for provincialists, attainments like his are rare, or our weak stomachs would suffer from surfeit. But we are allowing our thoughts to be carried away by the titilation of our appetite, and we are neglecting the *entremets*. We hand them round:—

The great question to be decided some day or other is whether the point upon which Mr. Brown resigned, was one of such importance. If it was he will be sustained by his party and his country; if it was not he must expect to receive the justly merited reproach of both. The day is gone by, if it ever existed, when any one man can lead Reformers whithsoever he pleases regardless of any interests or feelings but his own. But in the time that must elapse before official revelations are made of the cause of dissension, how are we to judge of the merits of the case? We see but one way, but that way will be satisfactory to a vast majority of Reformers. In the absence of any direct information, we can only judge whether Mr. Brown is right or wrong by watching the course that Mr. Howland takes. The dispute in the Cabinet it is now well known arose on a matter of commercial policy. On such a matter there are few who know the men but will give Mr. Howland the credit of being as capable of forming a correct judgment as any man in Canada, not excepting either Mr. Brown or Mr. Galt. In practical knowledge of the actual working of commercial matters, and in intimate and personal acquaintance with the wants of the Province, he is in fact the superior of both. If, then, it be found that Mr. Howland, in combination with the remaining nine members of the Cabinet, has taken strong grounds against Mr. Brown, and if it be found that after consultation with his friends in Western Canada he retains the same view, we can see no way of resisting the conclusion that Mr. Brown is very much in the wrong, and Mr. Howland in the right. The fact that after having been for some days in Toronto he sought to obtain Mr. McKenzie's consent to enter the Administration, shows that his consultation with his friends has not materially altered Mr. Howland's views of the correctness of the position he has taken. That he met with a refusal may appear ominous, but the remembrance of the personal influence Mr. Brown has over Mr. McKenzie may perhaps account for it. There are others who may yet be approached, and if we find that Mr. Howland, in no way daunted by the desertion of Mr. Brown and the refusal of Mr. McKenzie, proceeds to fill the vacant seat, we may rest assured that he has a strong consciousness of being right, and from his well known ability in matters of trade and commerce, has caution and deliberativeness in acting, and the evident care and anxiety he is exhibiting in his movements to avoid taking a false step, we may accept it as a good guess at the truth that if Mr. Howland's conviction of being right is so strong we cannot go far astray if we follow his lead. We have for the present to act in the dark, and in so doing all we can detect is the figures of two men, Messrs. Brown and Howland, moving in opposite directions. Of the two, we think that, under present circumstances, and upon the question in dispute, Mr. Howland is the safer guide. Were it a purely political question that was at issue, Mr. Brown would be the mose likely to be right, but in one that, so far as can be judged, is purely commercial, common sense dictates that he who stands highest as a commercial man should be looked upon as the safest leader. Looking upon Mr. Howland then as the best judge of the policy that should be adopted with regard to Reciprocity, we will in the absense of more definite information, feel compelled to hold that if he looks upon the point of dispute that arose in the Cabinet as not being of sufficient importance to justify him in abandoning the Government, he should, in acting upon this conviction, be sustained by his party. The stake at issue is too serious a one to permit of any unnecessary eccentricities being indulged in, and, unless it be clearly shown that there exists sufficient reasons for a contrary course, the policy of the Coalition should receive continued and hearty support until it has culminated in complete success.

Your "tripe," friend, is excellent, but the grilling is superlative—lone Brown and no mistake. The condiments are indubitable, and the happy perceptions which have led you to exchange the threatened "rods" of the *Globe* for the delicious gridiron production wherewith you have furnished the Conservative party throughout the Province command our most grateful acknowledgements. Observe, however, that we are no longer "to act in the dark;" we can, through the light of the last day or two, perceive the figure of the three parties, one of whom recedes from the position you hold to to be necessary he should retain for the sake of his personal honor and the interests of the "Reform party;" the other two join hands and pledge themselves to the completion of the task they have undertaken. These you applaud, the other you condemn. What more could the staunchest conservative have done or honest patriotism have desired? The "safer guide" has triumphed, and Confederation is secure notwithstanding the secession of the honorable George Brown. So much for our friend's text of "Pickled Tripe and Politics."

LOCAL NEWS.

MILLING.—Mr. Robert Thompson, of North Gower, has an advertisement in another place. His oatmeal mill is quite an institution, and both its management and the quality and price of the article there produced, give widespread satisfaction.

THE REASON WHY.—We have been requested to state as one of the reasons why Alderman Prudhomme has not been returned that, though solicited by many influential friends of the Ottawa Ward to stand again, he did not like to canvass on Monday, it being a holiday. Obedience to this conscientious scruple would, of course, leave the gentleman behind his rival.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.—We learn that last year's members of the Kemptville Municipal Council have been re-elected for the current year, with the exception of Ambroise Clothier, who resigned, and has been succeeded by Mr. Geo. Sanderson. There is considerable excitement in Oxford Township, several candidates more than the number to be elected, pressing their claims. Mr. J. K. Read is also mentioned as a candidate. It was not expected there would be any change in Marlborough.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.—This latest offspring of old Father Time appeared with rosy, dimpled cheeks and sparkling eyes, dressed up in his best bib and tucker, on Monday; and was received on his first presentation with universal joy and gladness, his respectable and venerable parent receiving from all most hearty congratulations on his account. Our citizens were happy and good-humored over the new birth, and friendly greeting, good fellowship, and social pleasures were the order of the day. The weather was fine and all classes seemed to enjoy a Happy New Year.

BAILIX COURT.—The case of Dr. Riel against Isaac Berichon, sr., for false arrest, was laid over until this morning.—George Braconier, Alex. Vinos, and Robert Stannis, were brought up, charged with being drunk and disorderly on the streets. They were allowed to go on payment of costs.—Maurice Cousineau and Elie Brunette charged with assaulting Patrick Macnamara, on the 23rd of December last, were each fined $10 and costs or, two weeks in gaol.—Celestin Pinard was charged with the same offence, but was discharged.—John Miller was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and was fined $2 with costs, or two weeks in gaol.

THE OTTAWA MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.—There were contests only in the Ottawa and Wellington Wards this year. The voting began on Monday, and was concluded yesterday. The retiring members for the St. George's, Victoria, and By Wards were re-elected by acclamation. In the Wellington, the old member was also re-elected, Ald. McCormick defeating his opponent, Mr. Mathews, by 18 votes. Two new men have been returned for By-ward, Mr. Chas. Goodwin, in room of Coun. Dunn, who did not seek re-election; and Mr. Girouard in place of Mr. Isaac Berichon, who was elevated to an Alderman's chair. The exciting contest took place between Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Wadsworth; the latter made a stiff fight, being defeated by only ten votes.

RUNAWAY HORSES.—New Year's day seemed to be the occasion for a general stampede amongst the horses, as quite a number of runaways took place. Several of our fast young men turned out in tandem rigs, and what with the jovial spirits of the occasion, and, we presume, the high spirits within, imparted a little of the fastness to their nags. About six o'clock a tandem team came running down Court House Avenue, and on its turning down Rideau street the hindmost horse fell, the other dragging him a few rods on the ground. The poor brute recovered his feet, and went with his mate helter skelter away. The horses belonged to Mr. Buckley, livery stable keeper. We understand the horse was badly hurt, and the cutter smashed to pieces.

ROYAL CHESS.—On New Year's Day friend P. O'Meara celebrated the opening of his splendid new Restaurant by a sumptuous entertainment to a number of his friends. The hospitable and amiable wife of Mine Host graced the board by her presence, a very important addition to the attraction of the festive occasion. The bill of fare included the following delicacies: beaver, venison, roast turkey, smoked goose, hams, etc., deserts of various kinds, wines of excellent quality, and the happy face of the Host himself—though not, of course, on the bill of fare—was a luxury worth seeing and which all seemed to enjoy. The party were made as happy as princes, and before breaking up they drank the health of their kindly entertainers in right hearty style.

THE ALBION.—Among the most popular places of call on New Year's Day was the house of Mr. Graham, of "Albion" celebrity. Mine Host's table groaned under the weight of comforts and luxuries it displayed and which gladdened the faces of his many guests. All that heart could wish was served up in profusion, and wines of the choicest vintage brought happy inspiration to many breasts. Holiday cheer was also generously dispensed in the ladies' parlor by the amiable consort of our friend of the "Albion."

It is proposed to propel the street cars on the Albany and West Troy track by the use of compressed air, to be supplied to a reservoir in each car from a great reservoir at each terminus. It is said that a car can carry enough compressed air to move it ten miles at a proper rate of speed, and that it can be run at a cost of two dollars and a half per day.

MARKET REPORTS.—Mrs. Partington says she can't understand these ere market reports. She cant understand how cheese can be lively, and pork can be active, and feathers drooping—that is, if it's raining; but how whisky can be steady, or hops quiet, or spirits dull, she can't see; neither how lard can be firm in warm weather, nor iron unsettled, nor patatoes depressed, nor flour rising—unless there had been yeast put in it—and sometimes it would not rise then.

PRESENTATION.

On last Saturday evening, the members of the Ottawa Volunteer Engineers presented their captain, on his retiring from the command of the company, with a testimonial of their high esteem for his services, accompanied by the following address:

To Captain Duncan Sinclair, of the Ottawa Volunteer Engineers:

SIR,—We, the non-commissioned officers and men of the Ottawa Volunteer Engineer Company, learn with regret that you have retired from the command of the company to which we belong, organized by you about four years ago.

We cannot permit you to close your official connection with us without expressing our high appreciation of your great and manly conduct, warm interest, and the kindness you evinced towards the members of this corps on various occasions, and we desire to present you with a small memento as a token of our regard for you, as the first commanding officer of the company, and beg leave to express the hope that the blessings of a kind Providence may always attend you.

Signed on behalf of the company,

T. C. KEIR, Secretary.

REPLY.

Capt. Sinclair made the following reply:—

VOLUNTEERS.—The feeling of regret that you give utterance to in your address, at my retiring from the command of the Company are participated in by myself, but due attention to the decipline of the Company required more time than I can now spare from my personal affairs. However, I feel a satisfaction that the command of the Company is to devolve on Lieut. Perry, who is a first class certificate cadet from the rigid military school of Kingston.

The small memento you present me this night will be preserved as a *souvenir* of our parting, and I feel confident that should your services ever be required in suppressing domestic, or in repelling foreign foes, that you will be equal to any volunteers of this Province. In bidding you good-bye allow me to wish you all the enjoyment of a coming Happy New Year.

DUNCAN SINCLAIR.

Ottawa, Dec, 30th, 1865.

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS.

The various township elections for the County of Carleton took place on New Year's Day, and that following. In North Gower the polling closed on the first day. Mr. Beaman ably presided at the nomination and during the polling for the various candidates. The proceedings in this township were characterised by good feeling and admirable order from the opening to the close. The following candidates were proposed, the five gentlemen standing highest on the poll being the old Councilors re-elected for the current year:

Wm. Cowan	148
Adam Eastman	137
Robert Craig, jr	134
James Carson	111
Thos. Pettapice	110
Wm. Vaughan	47
Robert Craig, sr	37
G. E. Johnston	45
R. J. Eastman	11

After Mr. Cowan was proposed, in accordance with the request of some of the electors he gave a full statement of the financial affairs of both the County and Township, for which we have not space. The statement appeared to give general satisfaction, and Mr. Cowan on observing that other, in addition to the old cannidates had been proposed, demanded what the proposers of the new men had to complain of. He rested his claims for re-election upon the excellent financial condition of the township, the credit for which he took to himself and colleagues. He had endeavored to perform his duty faithfully and honestly, with what success was apparent. If any person had any charge against him, or any question to put, he was ready to answer them promptly. He understood, with surprise, that some of the malcontents were swayed by questions of religion. This was to be regretted; for his part he had never—and he defied proof of the contrary—made any distinction between persons of a faith different from his own, in any of his proceedings. (Applause.) The other retiring members made short speeches in a similar strain, and, like Mr. Cowan, stated they had endeavored faithfully to discharge their duty; that they were not very anxious to serve longer, but would do so if re-elected, and that if the electors were dissatisfied with their past conduct, and thought they could find better men now was the time to say so by their votes. The new candidates proposed also addressed the electors, stating, in substance, that they had no fault to find with the late members, but that having been nominated themselves without any solicitation on their part, they would, if elected, endeavor to serve the people in a satisfactory manner.

Some questions respecting delay in entering upon certain road repairs, etc., were put and answered in a manner satifying almost every one present. The polling was then quietly entered upon with the above result.

OIL IN THE OTTAWA DISTRICT.

For some time past considerable attention has been directed to this district, particularly the County of Carleton, on account of the belief, whether well founded or not, that petroleum exists in the section in larger or smaller quantities. It were folly to deny that upon this subject there has been considerable difference of opinion, some arguing that there is nothing to shew that oil may not be found in the Ottawa valley as well as in the London district, while others pooh-pooh the prospect of discovering the "attractive" fluid hereabout, regarding its existence in the geological system of the Ottawa as extremely problematical, if not impossible. Without entering into the scientific branch of the argument we may briefly state that Sir W. Logan, Dr. Van Courtland and other scientific gentlemen are said to have expressed their opinion that petroleum was to be found in the Ottawa region, adding at the same time, that they were unable to say whether it existed in paying quantities or not. Furthermore, knowing ones in North Gower, and other places in Carleton where wells have been, or are about to be sunk, have acquired a strong faith in the oil-bearing qualities of the district from such surface indication as an oily scum on creeks, streams, and drinking-wells, with occasional bubbles and "blotches" on the water, of a decidedly greasy nature, and of a color resembling that assumed by oil in contact with the aqueous fluid. These, with the indications afforded by disagreeable odours, in like circumstances, have carried conviction to the minds of many persons living in the County of Carleton, and have been instrumental in exciting an interest, on the part of strangers, on the subject of oil discoveries in this section. The first appearances which led to any definite action in the matter were certain remarked in the Township of North Gower, at a place about 25 miles from Ottawa City, in August last. Those indications were perceived in a well belonging to Mr. Barr, in the village of North Gower. The water was discovered to be oily, and though it was bailed out two or three times the succeeding flow presented the same unusual appearance. Shavings were now thrown into the water, and they absorbed such a quantity of the oily matter on the surface, as to burn when a light was applied. It now became evident, at least to those present, that they were in the immediate neighborhood of a petroleum spring, which induced them to send a quantity of the "oily water," etc., to Toronto and Ogdensburgh for analysis. The result was a favorable report in regard to the existence of Petroleum in North Gower. We are also informed that three geologists visited the place, and reported that the indications shown them were unmistakably those of rock oil. Mr. J. K. Read having heard of the matter, also visited the neighborhood, and, after an examination of the indications, and the spots where they were found, and so forth, proposed to the farmers to lease their land, in order to the formation of a company, to seek for oil. A meeting of the agriculturists of the neighborhood was held, at which it was agreed to lease their farms for the purpose, on condition of receiving one-sixteenth of all the oil found on their respective properties. Mr. Read, in conjunction with other gentlemen, then organized the Central Canada Oil Company, respecting whose *personnel*, proceedings and objects we have given, of late, all the information at our command. We may merely repeat that Mr. J. K. Read is the enterprising Superintendent of the Company, and that the boring at North Gower, and the other places is being done under the constant personal supervision of this gentleman and Mr. A. Woolley, another of the Trustees. Our Reporter paid a visit to the North Gower Well, in company with his *confrère*, of the City Press, on New Year's Day, and learned from actual observation and enquiry on the spot, the facts related below. This well is on the farm of Mr. Jas. Craig, No. 20, Fourth Concession, bounded on one side by the Marlborough Road, being, in fact in the centre of the village and within a stone's throw of the rear of Mr. Johnstone's excellent hotel. The work of sinking the first well commenced in October last. On descending thirty feet through clay, gravel, etc., the workmen struck the first stratum of rock, shortly after which the banks caved in, when it was found necessary to fill up the well and begin a new one. The men then proceeded to sink the present well, using from the first the auger as done in Pennsylvania and Canada West. After penetrating 39 feet the drill smote the rock, having passed, for the first 27 feet, through soft, oily clay, and for the remaining 12 through boulders, quicks sand and gravel mingled indiscriminately. The borer next came upon a rock about four feet thick of the nature of lime or shale, and dark bule. The next twelve feet of the descent was through a sandstone of dark grey color; then four feet of rock, somewhat of the same kind, and supposed to be slatey, was met. After that the drill penetrated two strata of sandstone, of different colors, one being a hard and the other a soft rock. About two weeks ago the borer struck a bed of blue sandstone, four feet thick, at a depth of 120 feet. Here the sand or sediment brought up was impregnated. The next stratum of rock was a whitish, hard sandstone twelve feet in thickness with petroleum or rock oil, which the borer pulverised to a remarkable fineness. A crevice in the rock, about six inches deep, was then reached; and after the sand-pump had been brought into requisition, an unmistakable odor of petroleum was manifested. The men were unable to draw up any of the sand owing to its being carried away by some undercurrent, probably a spring of water. The drill dropped down six inches at this point, showing that there must have been a fracture of the rock or crevice of some kind. The next obstacle met with was a black or dark blue sandstone or limestone of exceeding hardness. On Friday last, and when the borer had penetrated it to a depth of four feet, the rimmer, a drilling tool worked like an auger, and used in rounding the hole, to admit the tube in which the pump is to work became damaged, and, as it could neither be repaired, nor replaced by a new one immediately, operations were necessarily brought to an end for some days. A message was sent to Ogdensburgh to procure a new rimmer, and, as the holidays were drawing nigh, the workmen living at a distance were allowed to return to their families till matters were put to right. The work is to be resumed on Thursday next. The machinery is very simple, being that used everywhere at present in boring for oil. The engine, an eight-horse power, is fitted up with a massive wooden walking-beam, at the end of which, projecting right over the well is fastened the drill, or borer, an iron rod thirty-nine feet long, chisel-shaped at the penetrating end, and two a half inches in diameter, weighing nine cwt. There is a derrick erected over the well, forty-seven feet high, the machinery being sheltered by a wooden shed. The derrick, of course, is an indispensable portion of the working machinery, furnishing the means for lowering the borer to any required depth, hoisting it up again, and pumping up the sand and so forth. When the well exceeds in depth the length of the borer—which in this case is but forty-three feet—the upper end is fastened to a strong rope which passes over a pulley fixed in the derrick, and is coiled round a sort of windlass cylinder. When the engine works the drill is lifted about fifteen inches, and let drop in the same way as a "jumper" perforates a rock with his crow-bar. We should have explained that by the "borer" mentioned above, we mean both the iron rod or shaft, 39 feet long, and the drill a piece of metal, steel-pointed and chisel-shaped, about four feet in length, which is screwed on to the lower end. As the borer descends, it must have rope, and by means of a screw or swivel, worked by hand, and attached to the rope some feet above the ground, more "line" is paid out. The penetrating power of an instrument of the weight of more than nine cwt. falling continuously on a given spot, from a height of 15 inches, may be easily imagined; but with all the force of the shock, it often occurs, owing to the hardness of some rocks, that not twelve inches of progress can be made in as many hours. Still, however, the Company have determined to persevere, and a contract for sinking the well 750 feet has been given out by Mr. Read. The average distance sunk per day has been ten feet, and it is expected in twenty days from the recommencement next Thursday that oil will be struck, or, at least, the boring pushed forward to a point sufficient to settle the question of oil or no oil in North Gower. Mr. Woollsey has gone to Montreal to procure tubing for pumping purposes. The Company anticipate that, as soon as the sand and water which now partially choke up the well, are drawn up, oil in more or less quantity will be obtained. Mr. Woolley has offered Mr. Craig $10,000 for his farm of 220 acres—a splendid property in the immediate vicinity of the above well. The farm is all cleared, except 50 acres. The employees at the well are—Chas. Thom and Albert Beach, Engineers, and W. McNeish and Wm. Glazier, drill-men. We were told that all are stockholders of the concern. It may be observed in conclusion that, while it is not surprising the Company should have every confidence in the early discovery of oil at North Gower, and North Augusta, the inhabitants also participate in the feeling, being, if possible, more sanguine of the success of the present boring operations. The district between Ottawa and North Gower is a rolling country, very favorable for agricultural purposes. The ground, for a good distance from the well, on all sides, possesses a level character. The benefits which this section would experience, from the discovery of petroleum in its midst, are incalculable, and the parties engaged in the search for the odoriferous object of desire, and source of wealth, deserve every encouragement at the hands of the community. Let the question be fully tested, the Company taking for its motto, while prosecuting the subterranean labors—"Oil or China."

NORTH GOWER.

This is a thriving village of 500 inhabitants, and boasts of an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian, and Methodist church, and one school-house. There are two excellent hotels—one kept by the polite and kind-hearted Mr. Johnston, and the other by the amiable Mr. Elliott, where every attention is paid to the comfort of the guests. To show that merchandise and the arts are well represented in North Gower we may mention that there are six general stores, four blacksmiths' shops and one axe-maker's shop; three tanneries, and shops in the following number: two harness-makers', four shoemakers', two coopers', three carpenters', two cabinet-makers', three waggon-makers', three tailors', three millners', and two butchers' shops, and a post-office. The village is one of the most quiet and orderly in Canada, quarrels being rarely heard of there, even during the excitement attending township and county elections. The village is about seven miles from the railway, and about four from the canal, which passes by Wellington. The roads are in fair condition, and it is but justice to say that the Township Council of North Gower is one of the most honest, able, and popular in Upper Canada, and that the judiciousness of their administration of affairs is forcibly evidenced by the lightness of the taxation of the people, which amounts to but the trifling sum of four cents in the dollar.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE FENIAN CONGRESS IN SESSION!!

INSTALLATION OF THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK.

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.

LOSS ESTIMATED AT $100,000!

THE FIRE THE WORK OF INCENDIARIES AND THIEVES.

DREADFUL SUFFERING OF A SHIP'S CREW.

NEW YORK, January 2d.—The O'Mahony Fenian Congress commences its session at nine o'clock this a.m., at Clinton Hall.

Judge Dowling discharged 200 of the surgeons of Blackwell's Island on Sunday.

Hon. John T. Hoffman was yesterday formally installed Mayor of New York City. Mayor Gunther then took leave of the officers and clerks attached to the Executive Bureau and withdrew. Mayor Hoffman then delivered his inaugural address. He argues that city government should be free from control by legislature. The funded debt of the city is over $41,000,000 in account, of the commissioners of the sinking fund hold $5,900,000. The debt is amply secured by entire property of the city. He suggests the sale at auction of large portions of unimproved property of the city, which now bring large paeces. He believes the city should hold and control its markets, wharves and ferry franchises, and is against the sale of them. The tax levy of the year is over $18,000,000, of which $3,000,000, is for State purposes, $4,750,000 for police and other county purposes expended by commissioners appointed by legislature, and $1,500,000 for riot and family aid and war bonds.

The levy next year is expected to be at least $3,500,000 less.

The Mayor recommends that the chamber of commerce be invited to confer with commissioners of the sinking fund, on the subject of iron piers and warehouses. He hopes for the removal of the old markets which disgrace the city, and for the erection of new ones which will be an ornament. He calls for prompt cleaning of the streets, and punishment of all violations of city ordinances by throwing garbage into the streets. He also suggests sanitary regulations in view of the possible approaching cholera, and their vigorous enforcement. He finally recommends the reduction of expenses, and says he will do all in his power to prevent improvident waste and check extravagant expenditures.

CHICAGO, January 2d.—Yesterday the wife of ex-postmaster, S. Cripps of this city, while engaged in receiving visits from her friends at her residence, fell back in her chair and died instantly, without a struggle or a word.

NEW YORK, January 2d.—The steamer *Wilmington* brings Galveston papers to the 24th of December. The only news we see in them is the fact that Gen. Hamilton has issued a proclamation, vesting, so far as he has the power to, the full civil rights to all persons recommended for special pardon.

PHILADELPHIA, January 2d.—A very destructive fire broke out here at 1 o'clock this a. m., in Chestnut street. The buildings 607, occupied by Harnden's Express Company, Nos. 603 and 605 by Rockwell & Wilson, wholesale clothiers, and 609 by Berry & Co., clothiers, were almost entirely destroyed. The walls fell into the street and several firemen were injured. Loss estimated not less than $100,000. The buildings destroyed were of brown stone, five stories high, and were the most ornamental on the street. Last night was the 15th anniversary of the immense fire on the same spot and on which occasion two men were killed.

The building in which the fire originated had recently been purchased by the proprietors of the *Evening Bulletin*, and they were preparing to make it their publishing house.

Some 20 persons have been arrested for robbing stores in the vicinity of the fire. One store, in no danger from the fire, was completely gutted, and from the extensive robberies it is thought the place was set on fire for that purpose.

All the money packages from Harnden's Express safe, and the greater part of the freight in the building was safely removed. It is now supposed the loss will be a quarter of a million dollars, most of which is covered by insurance.

BOSTON 2d.—The R. M. S. S. *Cuba* sails from here to-morrow at 11 a.m. for Liverpool.

The brig Celia, *M.* Carver Capt. Trent from Georgetown S. C. of and for Scarsford, *Me.*, was abandoned at sea, having encountered were rescue they had been existing on the wreck fearful weather the crew were taken off and landed at Gloucester Mass. Before the crew for nine days without food or water, they also suffered from extreme cold weather. One man died and all the others were more or less frozen.

The deposits show an increase of $60,991, and the circulation an increase of $361,564. The loans have increased $23,496.

The legal tender loan experienced an altogether exceptional increase of $17,243,476, arising from the banks having adopted the uniform usage of including United States Clearing House certificates with their legal tender returns, in accordance with a resolution adopted at a meeting of the association held on the 27th December.

The New Year opens with a generally buoyant feeling in the stock market.

There appears to be a very general disposition to engage in operations for a rise. At present the speculation is confined chiefly to the Erie and Cleveland Railroads and much Southern, but will probably soon extend over the entire list.

Government stocks continue firm and active. Seven-thirties are especially strong.

In the railroad list Cleveland and Pittsburg was most active, closing at an advance of 1½, with sales of 126,000 shares.

Money is increasingly abundant.

Gold steady, at an average of 144¼, with a slight demand for custom.

Foreign exchange is depressed. The leading drawers are asking 109½ for sterling, but cannot sell at 109 net.

SALT WORKS.—We are glad to learn that the Company which has been revived to operate the salt works and bore for oil in Barton, and to which we made reference a short time ago, is meeting with great success. Already two-thirds of the stock has been subscribed, and the prospect of securing the balance is most excellent.—*Spectator.*

THE TOTTERING GOVERNMENT.

(From the Fredericton Reporter.)

We are safe then in saying that the outburst of public feeling—of the genuine British loyalty—of self-interest at home, with its ramifications extending to every section of the civilized world—cannot be much longer restrained in this Province. Before the late election had taken place in York, we were, by correspondence with almost every part of the Province, convinced that the people had after a few months' consideration changed their minds on the subject of colonial union—that the less than half measure of what was called a maritime union would find but few supporters, and that nothing less than a confederation with the great Province of Canada, with a railroad to consummate the union, would satisfy the inhabitants of New Brunswick. All this we declared at the time, and subsequent information continues every day to strengthen our impressions into an undeniable certainty. In York, at the present day, an anti-Confederate could not obtain his election. In Carleton the same issue would be equally impossible. In Sunbury the present members would be returned by an overwhelming majority. In Queen's and King's the anti cause is fast falling to pieces, and the same may be said of Charlotte, Albert, and Restigouche, like Sunbury and Carleton, will return their present representatives, and Northumberland is likely to return its three members in favor of Confederation. But what of St. John? A gentleman who is thoroughly conversant with the political state of that city and county gives us the pleasing intelligence that not one of the anti-Union representatives of the present day could to-morrow have his election. The circumstances which have led to this change of opinion among the people are not altogether confined to Confederation. The weakness of the Government preventing it in so many instances from doing anything to secure the public good—its selfishness in appropriating so much patronage to its own official circle—its injustice in making selections—its recklessness in the outlay of public money and the distribution of public lands—its late uncalled for and (we are happy to say) unsuccessful mission to England involving an enormous expenditure—its uncourteous conduct to its opponents—and its breach of promise to several of its warmest supporters—all have contributed to sink its character to the level of contempt in the estimation of the people. To these we also add the unpopularity of Mr. Anglin, who although he has left the Government, for some reason which we believe is yet unexplained, still continues to support it with all the ardor of his first love.

CANADIAN NEWS.

ROBBERY AND DESERTION.—Last evening about 9 o'clock, Mr. MacStravick, the owner of the rope-walk, was knocked down in the street and robbed of a valuable watch by a private of the 16th Regiment, named O'