NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Her Majesty's Theatre—Wm. J. Marshal
Union Ferry Sailing Railway Company—R. S. Cassels.
Cooking Stoves, &c.—H. Meadows.
Lambs Lost—Wm. Slattery.
Rink Music Hall—Concert in aid of the Sufferers by the Late Fires.

The Ottawa Times.

Office: 39, Sparks Street.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1870.

Mr. Reynolds, of the Ottawa & Prescott Railway, returned home yesterday.

Sir G. E. Cartier and Mr. C. J. Brydges arrived in town last evening.

We regret that the Mayor should not have thought it worth his while to return from the salt water and be present in the city at a time of emergency like this. His absence naturally gives rise to much remark.

We much regret to hear that Mr. Chandler, Intercolonial Railway Commissioner, has met with a severe accident, his hand having been caught in the door of a railway car in which he was travelling, and three or four of his fingers very much injured.

A blue book has been published containing a return of all licenses issued to American fishermen to fish in Canadian waters, together with all the correspondence relating thereto.

The following statistics possess interest at the present moment. They show the number of men engaged in some of the principal battles of modern times, the number of the killed and wounded, and the percentage of losses to the numbers engaged:

Battle.	Troops Engaged.	Losses.	Per Cent.
Sadowa	400,000	33,000	8
Wagram	280,000	24,800	9
Leipzig	430,000	50,000	12
Austerlitz	170,000	23,000	13
Jena	200,000	34,000	18
Marengo	58,000	13,000	25
Borodino	250,000	80,000	32

It is expected that the battles of the present war will be far more sanguinary than any of the above, owing to the needle-gun, chassepot, and mitrailleuses.

An article from the Montreal *Gazette* which appears in another column expresses deep sympathy for the sufferers by the late fires. This feeling we are happy to say appears to be general throughout the country. The Belleville *Intelligencer* says: "The Times very properly calls upon the authorities to take immediate measures to provide for the relief of the sufferers. In the case of such an awful calamity as this, it becomes a question that affects not alone the city of Ottawa, but in which the whole Province is interested. Thousands of families have lost their all, thousands are completely destitute, and have not wherewithal to pay for food or shelter, and at such a time, it becomes the duty of us all to give our mite to assist our suffering fellow countrymen.

Cortland village, N. Y., must be a delightful spot to live in! Some time since a Mrs. Moore of that place committed suicide, and some people thought that she did so because she was jealous of the attentions paid by her husband to a rather fascinating widow named Blye who lived near them. So about fifty convalrous *men* went to the residence of Mrs. Blye, tore all her clothes from off her, covered her with tar and feathers, placed her astride a rail, and in this condition carried her through the streets for some hours. There was no evidence that the unfortunate victim of this brutality had really been guilty of any impropriety, but even if there were, could anything justify such abominable treatment? We do not believe that in any other country in the world claiming to be civilized, such an outrage upon a defenceless woman would be perpetrated. It is not that the Americans are less humane than other people, but simply because the certain consequence of unbridled Democracy is to induce men to take the law into their own hands, to pay no regard to constituted authorities, and to set themselves up as judges of right and wrong. Every day the spirit of lawlessness grows stronger and more defiant. Even in New York a judge who lately did his duty without fear or favor, is dogged by assassins and compelled to have a body-guard to protect him; the body of a criminal lay in state and was followed to the grave by five thousand "free and enlightened citizens;" men are set upon and murdered in the public streets in broad daylight, and no effort is made to punish the murderers. Such are the fruits of political institutions which place authority and power in the hands of the most ignorant and depraved classes.

THE MEETING YESTERDAY.

The calamity which has just fallen upon this community cannot, after the meeting which took place yesterday, be regarded as an unmixed evil. To see so many of our leading men assembled together at the call of charity, and contributing so largely of their means to the relief of the distressed, was indeed a gratifying sight, and does honor to our city and neighborhood. We were glad to see members of the Government there, showing by their presence the interest they feel in the welfare of the country, and their sympathy for those who have lately been visited by such heavy afflictions. The work so well commenced will now, we have no doubt, go bravely on, until the wants of the sufferers by the late fire will be adequately relieved. The view taken by the Government of the subject appears to us to be a very just one. This is a matter which fairly comes within the province of the Local Governments, and we are sure that they will respond to the application made to them with promptness and liberality. We must not omit to say a word in praise of the course pursued by Lady Hincks and other ladies of the city with a view to the relief of the sufferers. There is no work which becomes a woman so well as ministering to the wants of the afflicted, and we cannot but regret that Lady Young is not here to participate in the work. We have no doubt, however, that both she and His Excellency the Governor General will out of their abundant means contribute to the relief fund. The calamity which has fallen upon our neighbors is no ordinary one, and it is the duty as well as to the interest of the Queen's Representative, to show his sympathy with Her Majesty's suffering subjects.

THE WAR NEWS.

When almost every hour brings some fresh rumour concerning the progress of events in Europe, and when one half of the telegrams we receive are manifestly incorrect and unreliable, to write intelligently in relation to the war is anything but an easy task. From out of the mass of contradictions and wild improbabilities which come to us, however, in the guise of news, we think that we may without any hesitation accept as true one or two leading facts, viz.:

1st. That France has sustained some severe reverses.

2nd. That although these reverses have been important they have not been so utterly overwhelming as we have been led to imagine.

3rd. That whatever may be the views of the French people with regard to Napoleon, they may be regarded as an unit in their determination not to surrender, and that all classes of the community are resolved to fight to the death in defence of the honor of France.

That the French army has been severely handled it is impossible for the warmest friends of France to deny. Three weeks ago the soldiers of the Empire mustered on the frontier eager to commence the task assigned to them, viz., not the defence of France, but the conquest of Germany. The genius of Van Moltke, however, proved too much for them. By a series of rapid and well planned movements he succeeded in driving the French centre back upon its supports, at the same time breaking the French line, and interposing a large portion of his army between the French centre at Metz and the right wing under McMahon. Since then the news which has reached us has been so conflicting and so obviously one-sided in favor of Prussia, that it is difficult to understand what really has occurred. But those who suppose that the French army has been reduced to a disorderly rabble and driven back like a flock of sheep before the victorious Prussian advance, are in our opinion laboring under a great mistake. The French in falling back have evidently tried to avoid risking a decisive battle until they could effect a concentration of their scattered *corps d'armee*, and receive some assistance from the reinforcements which are daily and hourly being pushed forward to the front. At Chalons itself, it does not seem likely that they would accept battle because there is no position in the immediate neighborhood of that town which would afford them an opportunity of fighting on advantageous terms But to the north-east of Chalons, and between the vallies of the rivers Marne and Aisne, is a broad plateau, clothed in some places with dense forests, and which covers Rheims, an important railway centre, and at this point it seems likely that Marshal Bazaine may effect to make a stand. This plateau of the Argonnas is historic ground and the memories which it awakens would be likely to nerve the courage and cheer the drooping spirits of the French soldiery, for here it was that the Prussian army, having captured Verdun and overpowed the armies of France, met with an overwhelming defeat in the year 1792. It is impossible to overestimate the gravity of the situation; it seems almost certain that within a few days a decisive battle must be fought, which will either result in the French being driven back upon Paris, or in the onward progress of the Prussian army receiving a decided check. In either case we may hope that the other great powers will have an opportunity of intervening in the interests of peace, and that the further effusion of blood will be stayed upon us, nor allow the large and fruitful territory which we have acquired on such reasonable terms to remain unproductive for any length of time. We must make up our minds to the necessity of an Interoceanic railroad, even if we have to incur a heavy debt in constructing it. The security we have to offer is excellent, and there is a certain prospect of a remunerative return for our investment.

AMERICAN PROGRESS.

Some people are very fond of talking about the "progress" of the United States. A remarkable evidence of this "progress" is given in their merchant marine, which ten years ago was as large as that of England or nearly so. At present the figures stand thus:

SAILING VESSELS.

	Number.	Tons.
England	23,165	6,893,153
United States	7,025	2,400,607

STEAMERS.

	Number.	Tons.
England	1,426	1,651,767
United States	597	513,792

In other words, England owns 24,591 ships with a tonnage of 8,544,920 tons, while the United States have only 7,622 vessels with a tonnage of 2,914,399 tons. Some American journals try to make their readers believe that this great change was caused by the ravages of the *Alabama*, but any man of ordinary intelligence must know better.

THE INTEROCEANIC RAILWAY.

There is no doubt that in order to work out our "manifest destiny" upon this continent, to develop the resources of the great North West and to provide for its settlement, the construction of a railway from Montreal to the Pacific coast is an absolute necessity. The work is one of great magnitude, and no doubt the faint hearted and timorous among us will have grave doubts as to the advisibility of our undertaking it. But it is one of the necessities of our position, and never yet was there an enterprise undertaken which seemed likely to yield a more profitable return than this. Certainly no people ever commenced a national existence under such favorable circumstances as ours. Our position as a portion of the British Empire not only enables us to obtain money on far more easy terms than we otherwise could do, but saves us from many expenses which we should be compelled to incur were we independent. Three or four large iron clads and a fleet of swift cruisers would be required at once to protect our commerce; then we should have to maintain diplomatic intercourse with foreign courts, and this cannot be done without a large expenditure. We would like to ask Messrs. Young, Stephens & Co., to furnish us with an estimate as to the probable cost of all this. Meanwhile let us not be afraid of the responsibilities which have devolved upon us, nor allow the large and fruitful territory which we have acquired on such reasonable terms to remain unproductive for any length of time. We must make up our minds to the necessity of an Interoceanic railroad, even if we have to incur a heavy debt in constructing it. The security we have to offer is excellent, and there is a certain prospect of a remunerative return for our investment.

Latest by Telegraph

BY PEOPLE'S LINE.

OFFICE:—G. P. Drummond's Exchange Office 19 Sparks Street.

CABLE NEWS.

Latest from the Seat of War.

Midnight Despatches.

PARIS, August 22.—Above one hundred and sixty thousand men have passed through Paris to the front since Friday morning.

It is generally thought here that the march of the Prussians cannot be arrested before their reaching Paris.

It is also stated that there are now nearly 200,000 good French troops at and near Paris.

It is believed that one more decisive battle will give Paris to the Prussians.

FLORENCE, Aug. 22.—Prince Napoleon is here. His mission is to demand the mediation of Italy.

LONDON, Aug. 22.—The Marquis de La Valette, French Minister to England, has been instructed to make demands here similar to those of the Prince at Florence.

It is certain that M. Ollivier is still in Paris.

Madame Canrobert and family arrived in London yesterday.

PLYMOUTH, 22.—The French side wheel Corvette has just captured a Prussian bark off this port. Many spectators who were gathered on the beach witnessed the operations.

PARIS, 22.—The *Journal Officiel* says the Minister of the Interior made public a note from the Minister of War, that the Government having received no despatches from the army of the Rhine for two days, on account of the interruption of communication, thinks the plans of Bazaine have not succeeded. The brave conduct of our soldiers in forcing an enemy of superior numbers permits us to hope for the success of other operations.

The enemy's picket appeared at St. Dezier.

Two sons of Count Bismarck have been wounded in recent battles.

A large number of heavy siege guns arrived at the Prussian front.

The destruction of the Bois de Boulogne commenced to-day. A portion of it is not to be touched, only parts near the wall of the city to be cleared away. The ram parts are strongly fortified with large cannons. The forts are fully prepared, and the entrance to the city may be closed at any moment by drawn bridges. It is reported that in case of a siege all strangers will be compelled to leave.

BERLIN, August 22.—The Prussians have occupied Meuse.

LONDON, August 22.—The Germans are seeking to surround Bazaine and prevent reinforcements from Paris joining him.

A despatch to-day says the loss of the Prussians in the last battle was fearful. More that 40,000 wounded remained on the field of battle without assistance.

The Prussians have asked permission to send their wounded home through Belgium.

A rumour which came from Luxemburg that the French had occupied Verdun is contradicted.

LONDON, August 22.—The French Government has forbidden the exportation of food.

The Prussians are surrounding Verdun, which is imperfectly defended.

It is said that Marshal McMahon is performing some strategetical movements preliminary to a battle, while Marshal Bazaine is prepared to support him. Bazaine has at last been supplied with food and ammunition.

The *Siecle* says: Paris is dispelling illusions. It is certain we must accept a siege.

Edmund About writes to *Le Soir*, praising the great self devotion of all classes. Paris is preparing for a desperate defence.

FLORENCE, August 22.—A war appropriation of 40,000,000 livres has passed both Chambers.

A decree is published in the *Journal Officiel* to day, for the creation of a new cavalry regiment for the Imperial guard. In some of the French provinces the people have recently attacked innocent persons who were supposed to be Prussian spies.

The Government will take measures immediately to prevent these outrages hereafter.

BERLIN, August 22.—The journals here print the letter of the King to the men, dated Resonville, August 10th, of which the following is an extract:—

"About 8:20 a.m. the fighting ceased gradually. Without this I should have acted as at Poniggratz, but Van Bon saved me this alternative. The troops have performed miracles of valor against an enemy equally brave, who withdrew by inches resisting the offensive to be again repulsed. I cannot fortell the enemy's fate. I shrink from learning war losses. I had designed bivouacking here, but I find after some hours that I am without my baggage. In fact, I have not changed my clothing for the last thirty hours.

LONDON, August 22.—The North German *Gazette* categorically denies the rumor now circulating through Italy, that Prussia had offered to send German troops to Rome to replace the French troops lately withdrawn.

PARIS, August 22.—In the Senate to-day one of the ministers said that after a suspension of 48 hours, the Government had received a despatch from Marshal Bazaine confirming his former despatch in regard to the affair of the 18th.

Le Moniteur praises Marshal Bazaine for his bravery and energy, and Count Palikao for his able administration of affairs, and calls them the preservers of France. A fine body of men taken from the customs service just passed the streets on their way to the front.

LONDON, Aug. 22.—The *Daily News* copies with approval the *Economist's* article concerning the Queen's continual absence from the seat of Government, even in a crisis like the present. The *News* goes still further, and urges that Mr. Gladstone instead of losing his valuable time vibrating at the Queen's pleasure, between the extremities of Ireland, that he be made Vice Regent, with power to perform the duties which she so persistently deserts, though so enormously paid to perform.

Bitter complaints are frequent that it takes more than twelve hours for telegrams from the front to reach London.

NEW YORK, August 22.—The cables special to the *Herald*, dated London 22nd, says that a despatch from Paris states that an alarming demonstration by the people took place on Saturday.

It was occasioned by the report of the defeat of Gen. Bazaine. The disturbance was only quelled by the bold declaration of Palikao that Gen. Bazaine was not defeated, which statement was posted on the walls throughout the city, and had the effect of quieting the people.

PARIS, August 22.—The *Journal Officiel* of this morning, explaining the lack of advices from Metz, says the military situation is such that this circumstance need not alarm, still has discouraged, if the enemy has happened for a moment to hold Bazaine's army near Metz, he has done so at the cost of the greatest sacrifices, and he is at the same time compelled to keep there the greater part of his own army—the corps of Prince Frederick Charles and General Steinmetz. What in the meanwhile will the corps of the Prince Royal do? March directly on to Paris or join the other lines corps in the effort to crush the army of Gen. Bazaine. The latter supposition is the most probable, but they must take into consideration that an army round about Chalons or some other point under orders of Marshal McMahon, an army which may place the Prussians in the same situation as they boast they have put the army of Marshal Bazaine in, that is to say, cut them off and block them up. Let us with confidence await events.

NEW YORK, August 22.—The race of the New York yachts on Saturday, from New Bedford to Halmshole, 25 miles, was won by the *Sappho*, beating the *Dauntless*, *Cambria* and *Maggie* in the order named.

YESTERDAY'S DESPATCHES.

Pfalsburg Capitulated—Napoleon at Chalons—A flag of Truce fired at by French Soldiers—Prussian loss Heavy—Steinmetz's Corps Cut to Pieces—McMahon at Chalons—Troops offered France by Italy—Guerilla Warfare—Strasburg in Flames—Complete Defeat of the French.

PONT A MOUSSON, Aug. 21.—The loss of the French cannot be less than 50,000 killed, wounded and missing.

At Courselles Thionville and Gravelotte they are known to have lost 15,000 in the last battle, including at the latter place 4,000 prisoners.

PARIS, Aug. 21.—*La Constitutionel* publishes a note designed to reassure the public:

News from the front may be seldom given, but it is not on that account unfavorable. The Commander-in-Chief must speak of nothing but accomplished facts.

Le Figaro asserts that the camp at Chalons has been broken up, and that the troops lately there are now close to the corps of the Prince Royal. If so, the Prussians now have around them Marshal Bazaine, with his forces massed in and about Metz, on the one hand, and Marshal McMahon, with his own corps, and the large force which was at Chalons, on the other.

Le Public says the statement of *Le Figaro* is correct, and that decisive battles are imminent.

LONDON, Aug. 21.—Telegrams on Saturday morning have only been just received in Paris from the scene of war around Metz.

The conduct of Marshal Bazaine causes the gravest apprehension.

It was previously understood that he was so situated as to be able to march without opposition on Metz or Verdun, as he preferred, and now he seems to be inactive. It is impossible to pass between him and McMahon, and communication is interrupted altogether.

The French troops in the battle of the 18th again found themselves without ammunition.

PARIS, August 20.—It is now known that the Prussian Crown Prince is at Vitry Le Francais, and a battle, decisive of the war, is hourly expected between him and McMahon.

The Prussians have made heavy requisitions at Luneville.

The fortified town of Pfalsburg in the Vosges capitulated on Saturday to the Wurtemburg army.

The capture of this fortress opens the communication of the Crown Prince with his base of supplies.

LONDON, Aug. 21, 6.30 p.m.—The Emperor and Prince Imperial were certainly at Chalons on Saturday. A circumstantial report of his movement states that he was in the saddle that day, and visited the different corps. Soldiers crowded round him, clamouring to be led into action.

Rumours assert that the French on Saturday fired on a flag of truce for the burial of the dead, and killed a trumpeter.

PARIS, August 21.—The correspondent of the *Gaulois* declares from actual observation that the road from Metz to Verdun is now occupied by the Prussians, who also hold possession of Verdun.

It is positive that no news has been heard of Bazine since the 19th.

The headquarters of Prince Frederick Charles is near St. Michael, eight leagues from Verdun.

The *Constitutional* says England, Russia and Italy have agreed to act together to ensure peace.

The success of such an effort is certain eventually, but it is quite improbable now. It is understood between them that none of the powers shall act single.

NEW YORK, August 21.—The *World's* special from London, 21st, says the battle of Rionville was without decisive result. It is claimed by the Prussians that the French fell back in good order without pursuit to Metz, ammunition having given out.

The losses of the Prussians greatly exceed the French, the former losing 40,000 on Thursday alone.

Steinmetz's whole corps is literally cut to pieces, and his magnificent cavalry no longer exists.

Some say the Crown Prince is marching on Chalons, others he was killed at Bas Le Duc.

McMahon is at Chalons.

Paris is defiant; and the people are enlisting by thousands

It is reported the Italian Government has offered France troops to serve in Algeria.

It is said Austrian peasantry have commenced guerilla warfare in the Prussian rear.

England and Russia watch the opportunity to interfere. Russia will not permit territorial aggrandisement of either party.

A special to the *Herald*, dated Carlesruhe August 21, says Strasbourg is in flames. The French have fired the surrounding villages.

They make frequent sorties, which are constantly repulsed.

Eight thousand Prussians have arrived with a train of heavy steel artillery.

The city is surrounded by 30,000 man under Gen. Worder.

The French troops are demorlized, and disorder everywhere prevails.

A surrender is hourly expected.

The Crown Prince has won another victory before Chalons.

The Prussians are victorious everywhere, and the French defeat is complete.

MADRID, 21st.—The Countess De Montige has received a telegram from the Empress Eugene, in which she professes to be resigned to any fate which may befall her.

The Regent Serrano has telegraphed to Paris offering her shelter.

Seventy heavy cases arrived here last week from Paris, addressed to the Countess De Montigo.

PARIS, midnight.—At the Minister of the Interiors they laugh at the pretended victory of the Prussians on the 18th.

The statement of the Minister of War in the Chamber to-day declaring that the French won a victory at the Quarries of Joumont, is affirmed to be true.

BERLIN, August 21, noon.—It is officially stated that the only important news received since the action at Rijonville is that the French have withdrawn into the fortifications of Mets.

NEW YORK, 22.—The London special to the *Tribune* says that a despatch from King William dated at 9 o'clock Thursday Evening, completly confirms the Prussian accounts of the previous battle on Tuesday.

Bazaines affirmation that he remained master of the ground may have been partly true without diminishing the extent of the Treves disaster.

NEW YORK, August 22.—The correspondent of the *Tribune* at Chalons writes on Thursday, the Emperor has arrived. Mr. Mahon and Cagnobert are also here.

In the affair at Longueville on Sunday, the Emperor narrowly escaped being killed or captured.

It was merely a reconnoisance on the Prussian side, but was conducted with incredible daring. The Prussians pushed straight up to the Imperial headquarters, and their presence was first announced by cannot shots. The Prussian bullets were whistling past the Emperor's escort before they could get on horseback, and nothing but most precipitate flight saved him.

Yesterday there was almost a panic in the camp. Distant cannonading was heard in the forenoon. The Garde Mobile, who are imperfectly organized, and not half armed, began demanding to be led back to Paris. Finally the officers joined in the request, and presently a staff officer announced that their demand had been granted.

The inhabitants of Metz are on short rations of bread; meat is, however, plentiful.

A correspondent of the *Tribune* at Thier, writes, Sunday night, the Emperor when at Chalons, was hissed and hooted at by the soldiers.

Numerous letters from Gardes Mobile mention this:—We are on the eve of abdication in favor of Louis, with the Empress as regent.

Nobody believes the dynasty can last.

A riot at La Valette occasioned the arrest of 86 persons, 19 of whom were liberated.

The police have discovered numerous depositories of arms.

The city swarms with Prussian spies.

Measures against German residents impose onerous duties on the American legation, the doors of which are constantly besieged by German applicants and the street is blocked up.

Paris is vitualled for five months' siege, but a siege cannot last a fortnight.

There is no exaggeration in saying that we run the risk of being starved already.

The *Siecle* recommends private families to lay up a stock of salt meat, fish, flour, preserved vegetables, &c.

NEW YORK, August 20.—Murat Halstead telegraphed to the Cincinnati *Commercial*, from Luxemburg, under date of 21st instant:

I was present at the battle of Gravelotte on Thursday.

The King of Prussia, Count Bismarck, and General Sheridan were on the held. It was the third and great battle for the road from Metz to Paris.

The French were outnumbered and beaten back on the walls of Metz.

The slaughter on both sides was horrible.

I walked several miles over fields strewn thick with dead men and horses.

Lines of battalions were marked with the dead.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—A cable despatch says: Louis Blanc, replying to the appeals of many friends, publishes a letter reviewing the situation of France, declaring it is time for the nation to choose between the Emperor and the nation, that nevertheless civil pretensions would deliver France to her enemies, that for himself he delayed returning to Paris for fear that his presence might be the signal for revolution and that the republic might not be declared at a moment when it must assume responsibilities created by the incapacity of the Emperor. He advises that France, resuming control of her designs, should say to Germany and to the world, "This is a war between two men and not between two nations."

QUEBEC.

Landing of the Tyne Crew from England—Arrivals from Sea—Drowned—Sunday Liquor Law.

QUEBEC, August 22.

Sir Hugh Hoyles, Governor Hill, and Hon. E. D. Shea, are at the St. Louis Hotel.

At the landing of the Tyne crew from England they were received by the Montreal deputation. They proceed to Lachine trainiug quarters with their four boats to-night.

From sea last night, steamer *Hibernian*, and this morning the *Moravian*, and brig *Kathleen*, from Pictou, for Montreal.

An inquest was held this morning on the body of John Scully, drowned on Saturday by falling off a vessel discharging coal. Verdict, accidental death.

The Sunday liquor law was enforced yesterday to a certain extent by the Police, and shewed beneficial results on both sides of the river in an improved, quieter and more general Sabbath.

TORONTO.

TORONTO, August 22.

On Saturday, John Sheddon, President, James E. M. Smith, Vice-President, and J. Chisholm, Director, accompanied by Degrassi and Bayley, all of the Toronto & Nipissing Railway, drove out together to Markham village, where they were joined by Mr. George Laidlaw, for the purpose of inspecting the line. They were well satisfied with the progress of the work. A large portion of the line is graded, and rails are delivered ready for laying. The Directors hope to have trains running over a portion of the line by the 1st of October.

The Illinois Press Association arrive today. The Corporation have made extensive preparation for showing the lions of the city. They expect to leave again this evening.

It is rumoured that a match is to be made between the yachts *Idaya* and *Gorrilla* by the Toronto Rowing Club, as they are not satisfied with the result of the last race.

To the Editor of THE TIMES.

SIR,—Referring to your sympathetic and apposite remarks, as to affording immediate relief to those now suffering from the extensive fires still raging in the neighborhood of the city, may I suggest that while so many of our families are in want of servant girls, might not some of the younger portion of the families in the country now rendered homeless, accept of household situations, by which they would be relieved, and gain an honorable livelihood. Any desirous of so placing themselves, could easily make their wish known, and I have no doubt of their obtaining employment.

Respectfully Yours,
HUMANITAS.

A family in Stamford Conn., was terribly distressed from Saturday evening until Monday morning by the receipt of a telegram saying "Virginia is dead." Their daughter Viginja was absent in Philadelphia, and expected home. It was ascertained that the despatch should have read, "Virginia is *delayed*."

THE FIRES.

The Serenity of the City Restored.

The Precautionary Measures Successful. The Danger Over.

The danger of being burnt out is over, and the serenity of the city is once more restored. The precautionary measures taken were energetically carried out by the men of the Chaudiere, the military, and the citizens, and to their exertions is the safety of the city due. There is not the slightest doubt that on Thursday and Thursday night, Friday and Friday night, the city was entirely at the mercy of the winds. The fires were roaring through the woods in every quarter during the darkness of night describing a crimson circle around the city; in some cases so near that the flames could be seen dancing high in the air as they seized upon a house or barn or greedily licked up a dry wood.

At Rochesterville the fire approached nearest to the city, at one time threatening instant destruction to the houses in this quarter, and which would have been a sure connecting link with the city limits. Another great danger was from Hull, where no less than four square miles of lumber is piled, and down the mountains in the rear, of which to use the forcible description of an eye witness, "the flames came down like Hell let loose." This lumber once on fire, there could be no doubt as to the fate of the city.

A high wind, such as on Wednesday night, from the south, would have fanned the fires into vast proportions, and brought the flames down in resistless force upon the city; from the west it would have swept into Hull. At other quarters there were large fires, but at the distance of three, four and five miles from the city. But what was this distance, when it is remembered that during the gale of Wednesday night the fires rushed through the county at the rate of five miles an hour. It was no wonder that the authorities were alarmed, and that the citizens should be called upon on Thursday to defend the city.

MONTREAL,

during the period of danger, was appealed to, and generously responded, by sending a powerful pump engine, hose, and four firemen, from her excellent Brigade.

FROM

TORONTO AND BELLEVILLE

also came offers of aid in case of need, and the use of a steam fire engine. Fortunately the wind has been very calm, and the fires exhausted themselves to such an extent as to permit of their being checked after very hard work, and we did not avail ourselves of the kind offers of Toronto and Belleville. In Gloucester and other Townships, however, the fire still rage on, carrying terror and destruction with them. The work of devastation still going on, is something awful.

Public Meeting on Behalf of the Sufferers.

A public meeting was held at the City Hall this afternoon to express sympathy for the sufferers by the recent disastrous fires and adopt means for their immediate relief. The meeting was largely attended. Among the gentlemen present were the Hon Sir F. Hincks; Hon. Mr. Morris; Hon. Mr. Tilley; Hon. Mr. Aikens; Mr. Currier, M. P.; Dr. Grant, M. P.; Robt. Lyon, M.P.P.; Sheriff Powell; Judge Armstrong; the Warden of the County; Rev. Dr. Jones; Rev. Father Malloy; Mr. E. McGillivrary; Dr. Sweetland; Rev. Mr. McLaren; Aldermen: Robinson, Fetherstone, Cunningham, Heney, Mosgrove, Bate, Mr. Mutchmor; Mr. N. H. Bate; Mr. Wilson; Mr. James Fraser and a number of others.

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously, that Mr. Currier, M.P. take the chair.

The Chairman said it was thought proper yesterday that it should be published in the several churches in the city, and also that notice should be given in the papers of this morning calling the present meeting. They all well knew the great calamity that had befallen the country, and it would consequently be needless for him to say much upon the subject.

Sheriff Powell then came forward and said he regretted no preparations had been made for the meeting, which was owing to the fact that the time from the notice and the taking place of the meeting was so short. It was not speaking that was wanted, it was action and immediate action. It was sympathy, for the sufferers by the awful conflagration—the homeless and houseless. On Wednesday morning there were many who were comfortable and considered wealthy that by the next morning were made penniless. But not only was there great loss of property but he shuddered to say great loss of life. In the face of such a terrible calamity it was needless to appeal by long speeches to the sympathy of the citizens, who he was sure would voluntary come forward to the relief of the sufferers without any urging. He had heard the remark made that it was needless to move in the matter since the city had escaped. This was an expression he was sure that would be echoed by few. A different course would be pursued, and he felt convinced that every one who could afford to assist in relieving the want of the sufferers would not fail to do so. It was not for him to say what shape the relief would take. He thought the first step should be to call upon the coffers of the Local Government of Ontario. This year the Exchequer of Ontario was overflowing, and a great amount of the money came from the section of country which has been burned, and which is still burning He would next appeal to the Government of Quebec. There was no dividing line between the two Provinces when such a calamity was before them. The terrible conflagration has done its work of devastation in the Province of Quebec as well as in that of Ontario, and no doubt the two Governments would liberally contribute to the relief of the sufferers by the coming calamity. The city council would do its duty, and their Committee should be appointed to canvass the different words for subscriptions.

Judge Armstrong had heard an account of the sad calamity from the lips of some of the sufferers, and indeed, it was the greatest calamity that had ever visited this section of country. He was very familiar himself with almost the whole extent of the county over which the fire had gone, he had a personal acquaintance with the majority of its inhabitants, and he was greatly affected when he heard on the morning after the storm of the misery into which they were so suddenly thrown. It was the most terrible calamity that had ever befallen Ontario. It was a great public calamity, and he felt confident the public would come forward, and with a liberal hand, relieve the wants of the sufferers by the deplorable visitation which it had pleased God they should escape. It was the duty of the Government and Municipal Councils to take immediate steps to relieve the suffering and want of hundreds of starving people.

Mr. Robert Lyon, M. P. P., thought it was necessary as seconder of the resolution to say something in reference to its import. He regretted the remarks that had fallen from a former speaker in regard to the conduct of the Warden. It was comparatively speaking easy work to get the City Council together, but it was a far different matter with the County Council, many of whom had been burnt out and were common sufferers with the others; some were supporting the sufferers; others were doing all in their power to alleviate them, while many were in danger of losing their property. So it would be seen that the County Council were scattered wilely over the different Townships which had suffered from fires. In fact in a conversation with the Warden he had urged upon him not to call a meeting of the Council, but told him that whatever he did in the way of affording aid would be endorsed by the voice of the people (cheers). Already a great quantity of food had been distributed by himself and others, and to the best of their abilities they had made out a list so to get, as soon as possible at the real number requiring assistance. In the township of Tarbolton owing to the number of bridges destroyed it was impossible to get to all parts of the township, and consequently their list from this quarter was imperfect. They had entered the different lists in a book, and thought they had a pretty correct list so far. He would impress upon the meeting the fact, that it would not be for one day or one month that they would have to render assistance to these people, but one year for their farms would be valueless to them until next season. It would require much time and care to find out the most deserving poor and make a distinction between them and the class better off. That is their object in getting a complete list. (Applause.) No one had any idea of the suffering he had witnessed. In one case a whole family had been forced to lie in a creek until the fire passed over. Altogether there were 203 heads of families he knew who were burnt out. Some of these were well off, that is to say they had some means of realising money. Others hadn't enough garments to cover their nakedness. He had telegraphed that morning to Attorney General Sandfield McDonald to see what the Local Government would be likely to do (cheers), but he had received no answer yet. He thought no distinction should be made in giving assistance. The country received benefit from both sides of the river, and to both sides of the river should charity be extended. The best way he thought to manage the distribution of aid would be to make this place a depot at which should be a central committee; then there could be appointed in each township local committees who could get an order from the chairman for supplies or money as they wanted it. This would do away with the possibility of people applying who did not want aid. Even in their short experienced in dealing out assistance they had found some farmers with two and three sons who had sent them separately and thus obtained a double and treble allowance. Even in his own county, he was sorry to say, people had applied for assistance who did not require it. Again advocating the appointment of a "depot" and local committees, the speaker sat down amid loud applause.

Hon. Sir Francis Hincks, who on coming forward was loudly cheered, said he had come to the meeting with the intention of showing his sympathy as a citizen for the distressed, and contributing as such to their relief. (Loud cheers.) He had one word to say in reference to a remark made by the Sheriff when he spoke of the Dominion Government in connection with the object of the meeting. He could tell them as far as the meeting was concerned that it had the hearty sympathy of the Dominion Government, but they had at the occurence of the Saguenay fire and the Nova Scotia distress fully considered the matter of giving assistance, and they had come to the conclusion that such relief should be given by the Local Governments. It amounted to the same thing. The Province of Ontario had ample funds at their disposal, and no doubt they would give liberally as it was from this section they derived so much of the revenue from duties on timber. (Cheers). He agreed with Mr. Lyon when he said that persons representing Corporations, and who took upon themselves the responsibility of giving assistance—that such proceeding on their part would be endorsed by the people. He had learnt that action was being taken in another quarter, the ladies (loud cheers) were going to work with a will, and would do all in their power to grant assistance. (Cheers). It would be well, therefore, for the Central Committee and representatives of corporations to co operate with the ladies, and so do away with the possibility of the same persons being assisted by both committees (Applause). He had came with other members of the Dominion Government to show the deep sympathy the Dominion Government had with the meeting. (Cheers).

Hon. Mr. Morris had not come there with the intention of making a speech. This was a time for action, not for words, and on looking round that room he could not but feel that the inhabitants were in earnest, and that they did heartily sympathise with the sufferers, and would be found giving of their means to relieve the wants of the distressed. He thought the plan proposed of appointing a central committee was a most excellent one, and he felt sure that if this was done, other cities in Canada would be found helping in the work, and their sympathy would come gushing in, for the people of Canada never yet were appealed to in behalf of a good cause without heartily responding to the call. He would add no more save to express the hope that Providence would intervene in their behalf, that rain would soon come, and that thus all danger would be removed. He had received telegram on Saturday night a telegram from Lanark stating that the fire was doing much damage there, and, in fact, all over the portion of the country where the weather has been so dry these fires prevailed. He urged prompt and energetic action on the part of the Committee.

Moved by Mr. Workman and Resolved, that the Mayor and Corporation be requested to call a special meeting for the purpose of voting a sum of money not less than $5,000, in aid of the sufferers. Mr. Workman accompanied his motion by a few remarks, in which he showed the propriety of the whole community sharing in the duty of relief.

Mr. McGillivray remarked that they might stand for months and express their sympathy, but to form an adequate idea of the amount of suffering it was necessary that people should visit the scene of the conflagration. It was action that was needed, and that of the most prompt and energetic character. He hoped the Council would take the suggestion embodied in the resolution, and make the desired grant. Then the burden would fall upon all alike; upon those who never responded to the calls of charity, as well as upon others who were always ready to subscribe.

Mr. Marshal, a literary gentleman from London, England, did not know whether the people of Canada would consider the calamity to be of sufficient magnitude to justify them in appealing to the Mother Country, but if they did he, as an Englishman could assure them they would find that in times of trouble and adversity, from whatever cause arrising, England and Canada were one. (Cheers.) He had that morning sent an account of what he had seen in the burnt districts to a leading English daily journal, and he was sure that when the English people read that account they would feel a deep sympathy with the sufferers.

Mr. ——— suggested that the committee and representatives of corporations should be to that the sufferers would be to that the sufferers suffered loss by the fire.

Moved by Alonzo Wright, seconded by the Mayor and Corporation be requested by this meeting to call a meeting of the citizens and ratepayers, to consider the meeting, and to appropriate a sum of money, not less than $5,000, for the relief of the sufferers wherever they may be. Mr. Wright spoke from experience as to the extent of the fire, and it was impossible to place upon the people like an estimate the fire was still raging, and it was the bounden duty of every man in the country to assist in alleviating the distress. Carried.

Dr. Grant had great pleasure in moving this resolution.

It was proposed by Mr. ——— Resolved,—That a committee be at once be opened in order that all may present an opportunity of subscribing.

Mr. Hunton said that he would step because he could not be present the sooner we commenced the better.

Sheriff Powell said that he had granted that the appointment should be made to the Local Government Municipal Councils would be individuals from contributing to immediate action in the respect to what the Warden had said in reference to the Council together, he (Sheriff) was quite satisfied that the Warden with much vigor and energy.

The Warden of Carleton said, that although he had come of the County Council, resolutions had been adopted by the County for the sufferers. As soon as he had taken place in the upper part of the county, he had visited a number of the names of the sufferers. Nothing might rest assured that every could be done with a view of relieving sufferings of the people he had visited. He had stored up a quantity of pork, bread, &c., which he had in his of, and distributed to the needy, and a number of persons had been relieved. Yesterday morning he with the township of which he was reeve had been called out to stay the progress of fires, and were still engaged. He again assured the meeting that everything should be done to relieve the public for aid for the generous public for aid for the many of whom have been in affluence, but have been reduced from comparative affluence to the late want. Carried.

Moved by Judge Armstrong, seconded by J. Hay, that the Chairman be requested to communicate by telegraph with the Local Governments of Ontario and Quebec, asking assistance at their hands in this unhappy calamity. Carried.

Moved by A. Wright, R. P., seconded by Dr. Grant, that the meeting suggest the immediate organization of County Councils of Ottawa and Prescott and Renfrew, upon a liberal vote by those bodies in aid of the sufferers.

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