

THE CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(Correspondence of the New York Herald.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1860.

This has been a day of gloom and despondency at the seat of government, and the elements themselves contributed to the general solemnity. A violent snow storm commenced early this morning, and has raged all day with uninterrupted violence. At the White House the consultations were of the most impressive character. The venerable President seems grave almost to sadness, and the withdrawal of his long-tried and cherished friend, General Cass, from his bosom councils, makes his sorrow more poignant and more difficult to overcome. His touching recommendation for a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer breathes sentiments which spring from the bottom of his heart; and while a pall seems to hang over the Presidential Mansion, the various Departments seem almost muffled in gloom. In the Post Office Department, the absence of Postmaster General Holt, who is obliged to relinquish official duties temporarily on account of the serious illness of a beloved daughter, the absence from sickness of the First and Second Assistants, and the sad and uncertain condition of our national affairs, cause a despondent air to be everywhere visible. In the State Department the aspect is alike funeral, for it seems as if one of the fathers of the Republic departed when General Cass surrendered his portfolio. In the midst of the prevailing gloom, a report, fortunately unfounded, was currently circulated that one of the Cabinet officers had suddenly died, from the effects of agitation produced by discussing the momentous questions of the day, and the breaking of the Cabinet. Alas! he has been the gloomiest day of the national capital has beheld for very many years; and while one looked upon the unfinished dome of the Capitol, and the unfinished wings of the magnificent edifice, the ruins of the Coliseum at Rome were brought vividly to his mind's eye. In many quarters it is suggested that the President surrender his office for the remainder of his term into the hands of the young and energetic Vice President; and the suggestion is not at all unfavorable entertained. But President Buchanan will no doubt stand to the helm of the ship of State, and, if possible, guide her safely through the storms and disaster which threaten her on every side.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—11 30 p.m. General Scott, accompanied by the Secretary of War, had an interview with the President yesterday. There is no doubt but that it was violent, and that Gen. Scott declared his intention to resign his office as Commander-in-Chief, and there are numerous reports to that effect. There is no time to investigate the truth of the report owing to the lateness of the hour.

The Rev. Mr. Sunderland, a Presbyterian clergyman of this city, offered a prayer in his church this evening, imploring the Almighty, if it was his will, not to avert the calamity likely to befall the nation by the act of a sovereign State; that he would bring darkness upon it; that he would confuse and confound the tongue that would give utterance to a disunion sentiment, and that he would pay the arm that would be raised against a sovereign State. The prayer, of which this is only a slight idea, produced the most profound sensation.

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN'S PROCLAMATION OF A FAST. A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. Numerous appeals have been made to me by pious and patriotic associations and citizens, in view of the present distracted and dangerous condition of our country, to recommend that a day be set apart for humiliation, fasting and prayer, throughout the Union. In compliance with their request, and my own sense of duty, I designate

FRIDAY, THE 17TH DAY OF JAN., 1861, for this purpose, and recommend that the people assemble on that day, according to their several forms of worship, to keep it as a solemn fast.

The Union of the States is at the present moment threatened with alarming and immediate danger—panic and distress of a fearful character prevail throughout the land—our laboring population are without employment, and consequently deprived of the means of earning their bread—indeed, hope seems to have deserted the minds of men. All classes are in a state of confusion and dismay; and the wisest counsels of our best and purest men are wholly disregarded.

In this hour of our calamity and peril, to whom shall we resort for relief but to the God of our Fathers? His omnipotent arm only can save us from the awful effects of our own crimes and follies—our own ingratitude and guilt towards our Heavenly Father.

Let us, then, with deep contrition and penitent sorrow, unite in humbling ourselves before the Most High, in confessing our individual and national sins, and in acknowledging the justice of our punishment. Let us implore Him to remove from our hearts that false pride of opinion which would impel us to persevere in wrong for the sake of consistency, rather than yield a just submission to the unforeseen exigencies by which we are now surrounded. Let us, with deep reverence, beseech Him to restore the friendship and good will which prevailed in former days among the people of the several States, and, above all, to save us from the horrors of civil war and "blood guiltiness." Let our fervent prayers ascend to His throne, that He would not desert us in this hour of extreme peril, but remember us as He did our fathers in the darkest days of Revolution, and preserve our constitution and our Union—the work of their hands—for ages yet to come. An Omnipotent Providence may over-rule existing evils for per-

manent good. He can make the wrath of man to praise Him, and the remainder of wrath He can restrain. Let me invoke every individual, in whatever sphere of life he may be placed, to feel a personal responsibility to God and his country for keeping this day holy, and for contributing all in his power to remove our actual and impending difficulties.

JAMES BUCHANAN. Washington, Dec. 14, 1860.

Nw Advertisements. Money Found—J. K. Falconbridge, Strayed—W. S. Warren. Card—Ed. W. Hurd. Lectures Postponed.

BUSINESS NOTICE.—This week we have commenced to mail our papers with the address printed on them. Also the amount of indebtedness of each for subscription. The figures before signify the last number paid for, and those after the name signify the amount due. We hope our friends will attend to this and remit forthwith.—When the figures are changed, and none appear at the end, it will be an acknowledgment of settlement.—A very desirable result.

The York Herald.

RICHMOND HILL, DEC. 21, 1860.

Municipal Elections.

On Monday, the 17th inst., a public meeting of the electors of Ward No. 2, Markham, was held at Durose's Hotel, Victoria Square, for the purpose of electing a fit and proper person to serve them in the Township Council for the ensuing year. The meeting was largely attended. Hillary Clarkson, Esq., J.P., was appointed chairman, and Mr. H. Edwards, of the York Herald, Secretary.

Mr. W. Monkman, seconded by Mr. Thomas Frisby, nominated Robert Marsh, Esq., J.P., as a fit and proper person to represent them for the ensuing year.

Mr. W. Wouch, seconded by Mr. George Savage, nominated Mr. James Stoutenburgh as a fit and proper person to represent them.

Mr. Marsh, the present Councilman, was then called upon to make a statement of what had been done by the Council during the present year.

On coming forward, Mr. Marsh said, that he had in every instance striven to do his duty to his constituents and the township. He had paid, during the past year, particular attention to the roads and bridges in his ward; he had endeavored to get the work done as well and as cheaply as possible; and still further, when he, two years since, went into office, he found that Ward No. 2 did not receive its fair proportion of the monies expended in the Township in 1858. It received only \$180, but now he was happy to state that this year it had received a just proportion, namely, \$306. He then went on to notice some of the charges that had been brought against him, such as that he and Mr. Barr had excluded together to prevent any one else from running, and that he had filed the various offices of Collectors, Assessors, Pathmasters &c. with his own friends. These charges he thoroughly disproved, evidently to the satisfaction of all present. He called attention to the financial affairs of the Township in the past three years. He found that the following sums had been levied for taxes: For C. mty purposes in the year 1858, the sum of \$2565.29; for 1859, \$2448.69; for 1860, \$2805.74; and for Township purposes in the year 1858, there had been levied the sum of \$2100; for 1859, \$1800; for 1860, \$2000. The Township has also been taxed during the same period the sum of \$1281.33 yearly, for the payment of Teachers and Local Superintendents, and also to pay off certain County Debentures, with the interest thereon; thus showing a decrease of taxes in 1859; and the cause of the Township Rates being higher this year than last can be accounted for by the fact that several vexatious law suits commencing in 1858 resulted unfavorably to the Township in 1859, the expenses of which were not provided for in that year, thus leaving the Township the sum of \$500 in debt at the commencement of 1860, which had to be provided for in this year's estimate. But why there should have been such a great increase in our County rates he (Mr. Marsh) was at a loss to conceive, as there have been no public improvements going on in the county this year. Mr. Marsh also referred to several other topics, which he have not space to notice. Mr. Marsh on resuming his seat was loudly cheered.

Mr. H. Harrison moved, seconded by Mr. H. Lever, that a vote of thanks be given to Mr. Marsh for the way in which he had discharged his duties during the present year as Councilman for Ward No. 2.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. James Stoutenburgh said that he did not desire the office of Councilman, neither had he any fault to find with Mr. Marsh, but still, if his

friends wished him to run, he should do so, and in the event of his being elected, he should serve the ward and the Township to the best of his ability. (Loud cheers.) On motion of Mr. Lever, seconded by Mr. W.S. Warren, that a similar meeting as this be held one year from the last Monday in this month.—Carried.

Amos Wright, Esq., M.P.P., was then loudly called for, and on coming forward said that he felt much pleased at seeing such a large meeting. It showed that the people were becoming alive to the importance of their municipal institutions. He was glad to see it; they should watch their Councilmen, and their members of Parliament closely, and when they found they did not do their duty, they should turn them out; but if they did do it, then they should show their confidence in them. He was also glad to see everything go off so peaceably and good naturedly. This was just as it should be, and he hoped ever would be.

A vote of thanks was then given to the chairman, and the meeting broke up.

Markham Council.

The above Council met at Size's Hotel, Unionville, on Saturday the 15th inst. Members all present. The Reeve in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Marsh introduced a By-law to fix places in the several wards in Markham, for holding the Municipal elections, and to appoint Returning Officers for the same:—

Ward No. 1 to be held on the first day at the Orange Hall, Brown's Corners. Second day, at the Band Room, Thornhill.—G. Feely, Esq., Returning Officer.

Ward No. 2—First day at the Court House, Richmond Hill.—Second day, at Victoria Square.—J. Gormley, Esq., Returning Officer.

Ward No. 3—First day at the Fireman's Hall, Markham Village. Second day at the Town Hall, Unionville.—Geo Eakin, Esq., Returning Officer.

Ward No. 4, at the Masonic Hall, Cashel.—H. R. Corson, Esq., Returning Officer.

Ward No. 5—First day at Belford. Second day at Yake's Corner's, Stouffville.—James Boyd, Esq., Returning Officer.

The said By-law was read a first, second and third time and passed. The Reeve read a resolution signed by 11 persons against the Council taking a portion of School Section No. 13 to form a part of School Section No. 24.

Moved by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Bowman, that the sum of \$30 be paid to Mr. John Langstaff, junr., for the support of Jane Hesby, a deaf mute.—Mr. Langstaff having complied with a resolution proposed by the Council on the 16th of January last.—Carried.

Mr. Marsh moved that the order of the day for the second reading of the By-law for establishing School Section No. 24, be proceeded with.

Moved in amendment by Mr. Burton, seconded by Mr. Bowman, that the said By-law be not now read a second time, but laid on the table.

YEAS—Messrs. Burton, Bowman and Pingle. NAYS—Mr. Marsh. The amendment was carried.

Moved by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Bowman, that the account of Henry Marr, amounting to \$5, be paid.

YEAS—Messrs. Bowman, Marsh and Pingle. NAYS—Mr. Burton.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Bowman, that Mr. George Eakin be paid the sum of \$170 for his services as Clerk and Treasurer for the Township of Markham, acting as such for eleven months during this year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Bowman, that the account of Mr. G. P. Eakin, for acting as Sub-treasurer for the present year, amounting to \$20, be paid.

YEAS—Messrs. Bowman, Marsh and Pingle. NAYS—Mr. Burton.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. Bowman, that the Reeve and the two Assessors of Markham be paid the sum of \$2 each as selectors of Jurors for the present year.—Carried.

The Council then adjourned sine die.

Catching at Straws.

It is said that drowning men will eagerly clutch at straws. Acting, we suppose, on this principle Mr. Dickson and his friends are fiercely denouncing us as atrocious scoundrels for having unintentionally made a slight mistake in our last issue, relative to a petition for granting a license to the Elgin House. We stated that Mr. Dickson had signed that petition.—Such, we candidly admit, was not quite correct, as Mr. Dickson did not sign the petition. What, however, he did do was this, he rented this house which belongs to him, as an hotel, and drew up the petition for this house to get its license; for the petition now lying at the Clerk's office is in Mr. Dickson's own handwriting, in which petition we find these words:—

"And also believing that the increased travel on Yonge Street requires that such tavern should be licensed for the necessary communication." And this in face of the fact, that within one mile and a quarter of the same street we have five other taverns. Now we did not last week censure Mr. Dickson for renting his house as a tavern, nor for signing the petition; we simply used it to show that the statement made at Maple, that Mr. Dickson was friendly to the Temperance cause, and had promised to reduce the number of taverns, &c. was untrue. And we still assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that neither in theory or in practice is this gentleman friendly to the cause of Temperance; and therefore to get votes for him on this silly pretence is a sham of the first water; and as this is the

only point that Mr. Dickson and his friends have taken exception to, we suppose that the rest of our charges are allowed to go by default.

We have, however, received a plentiful share of abuse from Candidate No. 4 and his friends, but we would just remind these over-zealous friends, that when salt is thrown none receive harm but those who have sore places; so that their very abuse of us shows that we happened to have hit some very sore spots, as we uttered no private scandal, but simply criticized Mr. Dickson's public career during the past eighteen months. But it seems that Mr. Dickson and his friends expect to be able to abuse us like pickpockets, (which is done on every available occasion) not openly and in print, but coward-like in private conversation, and at street corners, without our daring to say one word in return. We, however, beg to assure these gentlemen that we despise their hostility, and that no amount of threats will ever deter us from doing a public duty; for when we feel, as journalists, that Mr. Dickson or his friends deserve the lash, they will get it with no sparing hand, come what may; and although threats of personal violence be held out to us by black-legs and pugilists, it will only spur us on to unmask such characters; for we know that such threats prove that those who use them are far beneath the standing of Statesmen, Gentlemen or Christians; and we should seriously advise each to give up all pretensions to respectability, and betake themselves to the turf, the sparring-booth, and the prize ring, as we can assure them that the Proprietor and Editor of this journal profess to be far too respectable to send pugilistic challenges, or to receive them when sent with an other feeling than contempt.

Scientific Lectures, with Illustrations. Doctor Richmond and Mr. A. B. Kent announced a series of Lectures with experiments on Magnetism, Electricity, Pneumatics, Optics and Chemistry, to commence on Wednesday evening last in the Mechanics Hall in this place. In consequence of the inclemency of the weather, and the annual meeting of the Bible Society, the attendance at the lecture was not what otherwise might have been expected. Notwithstanding the discouraging prospect, Mr. Kent and Dr. Richmond entertained their small audience with a short lecture, and several illustrations in science. In Pneumatics, Mr. Kent introduced the "Madgeburgh Cups," and after extracting the air, he handed them to two persons to end avor to separate them by main force. We need hardly say that it was utterly useless for them to try.—this one experiment we consider worth a visit to witness. He also gave several illustrations in electricity—all of which were highly interesting,—and, to the uninitiated, appeared almost wonderful. The course of lectures is postponed until Wednesday evening, the 26th instant, when we hope to see a large gathering to witness these great wonders in science, as also much that is interesting in art. We hope the school children will all be allowed to attend, as to them it will be most useful, as well as entertaining.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.—It is with great pleasure we present the compliments of the season to our readers. Christmas is emphatically a merry holiday, and we sincerely hope that the faces of all our readers will, for this one day at least, wear a smile. Let all who can banish dull care from their memories, and with their families and friends, thoroughly enjoy themselves. There are in Canada too few holidays.—The mind is too much on the stretch; but in the midst of all that is joyous, we hope that none will forget the poor, but that those who have an abundance will contribute of their wealth or money to make the destitute happy, so that all, both rich and poor, old and young, may spend a merry, merry Christmas!

MECHANICS INSTITUTE.—The next debate in connection with the above institute, will come off at the Mechanics Hall, Richmond Hill, on Friday evening the 21st inst., at half-past 7. Subject—"Do labor-saving inventions improve the condition of the working classes." G. McPhillips, Esq., chairman, and the Rev. R. Rodgers and Mr. Henry Hall, captains.

CHRISTMAS BEEF.—To those who really require good English Roast Beef for Christmas, we are happy to inform them that Mr. Holladay, of Aurora, Messrs. Hopper and Smith, Richmond Hill, and Mr. Sumnerfeldt, of Cashel; and Mr. Cartier, of Unionville, have purchased some splendid beefs for the occasion,

Richmond Hill Branch Bible Society.

The ninth anniversary meeting of the Richmond Hill Branch Bible Society was held on the evening of the 19th inst. in the Wesleyan Church here. In consequence of the wet evening, and the sloppy state of the roads, there were but few present. Robert Marsh, Esq., President of the Society, was in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the Rev Messrs. Rodgers, Dick, and by Mr. Johnson, agent of the Upper Canada Bible Society. The funds of the society are in a prosperous state. Assets and subscriptions, £38 12s. 4d.

KING TOWNSHIP COUNCIL.

From the Era Era. The above Corporation held another session on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at Dale's Aotel, King Station. All present but Mr. Moore, who was detained at Toronto.

Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed; after which, the Reeve stated, that in carrying out the resolution of Council adopted at last meeting, he proceeded to Collingwood, with the view of settling the difficulty between Mr. Prosser, Surveyor, and tendering the money considered by this Council to be ample remuneration. But he was sorry to say no arrangement could be effected. On Friday last he received a letter from the law office of Mr. Hopkins, stating that unless the account was immediately paid, he was instructed by Mr. Prosser to proceed at once and collect the same. The Reeve said he had consulted Hon. J. H. Cameron upon the subject and would lay before them the written opinion of that gentleman.

The Clerk then read Mr. Cameron's letter. Also, a bill from Mr. William Wells, for acting as an arbitrator on a matter in dispute upon the road allowance between Lots 9 and 10, in the 11th Con.

Mr. Davis presented a petition from Mr. Thos. Lawson, complaining of being assessed in the wrong School Section, and praying for redress.

Mr. Webb presented a petition from Mr. James Crescor and Richard Field, praying to be detached from School Section No. 11 and attached to No. 10.

On motion of Mr. Davis seconded by Capt. Armstrong, the Council resolved into Committee of the whole upon petitions.—Mr. Davis in the chair.

After spending some time, the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.—Leave granted.

The Council then adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION. Council resumed at two p.m., and at once resolved into Committee of the whole. The petitions above referred to were then taken into consideration, and the prayers thereat granted.

The Committee rose, and the Council adopted the report.

On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Capt. Armstrong, the bill presented by Mr. Wells was ordered to be paid.

Mr. Webb introduced a By-law to give effect to the petition Jas Crescor and R. Field, by altering the School Section, which passed through its various stages and became law.

A petition was then presented from several inhabitants praying for aid to assist a destitute widow named Carr, whose husband had unfortunately destroyed himself.

This petition received a good deal of attention,—and finally, on motion of Captain Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Webb, the Treasurer was instructed to pay her \$20.

COUNTY COURT AND COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Dec. 17. The court opened this day at the usual hour; Hon. S. B. Harrison presiding. Rice Lewis, Esq., P., and T. P. Preston, Esq., P., associates.

THEFT OF LUMBER. Richard Hanan was accused of stealing some planks from the Kingston road. After a lengthened investigation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Mr. Dempsey, County attorney, prosecuted on behalf of the Crown; Mr. Boulton defended the prisoner.

This closed the criminal business before this court.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18. The court opened this afternoon at four o'clock; Hon. S. B. Harrison presiding.

The following prisoners, tried and found guilty at the present sittings, were brought up and received the following sentences:

Thomas Miller, larceny (two indictments). On the first, three days imprisonment in gaol. On the second two years at hard labour in the Provincial Penitentiary.

D. Whelan, a boy, larceny, three years in reformatory prison.

F. Moore, a boy, thirteen years of age, theft of a watch, three years in the reformatory prison.

James Kavanagh, larceny, six months imprisonment, county gaol.

W. Hyndman and R. Hanan, theft of planks, three days each in gaol.

The court then adjourned.

HORRIBLE DEATH.—Mary Madenine, wife of Thomas Roy, died at Point Levi last week of whiskey and starvation. The Quebec Mercury says:—One cold evening lately, as a villager was passing, he observed no smoke coming out of the chimney, and at once took in an armful of fuel to lesson so the distress of aged couple; and as usual he found them helpless from intoxication. The woman, however, moaned sadly and begged her husband to send for a doctor, to which he replied that he would not listen to her now, for she had never pined or helped him when he was sick. Their visitor having done all that he could for them, went on his way, thinking their condition at the time nothing very unusual. Next morning Roy snuffled out to an adjacent house, and in reply to an inquiry if his wife was not dead yet, said in a careless way, "Well, I believe she is, this time the old wretch." The news was soon after confirmed by some person philanthropically disposed entering the house and discovering the poor creature lying cold and stiff, rolled up in a thread-bare blanket. This had presented the most comfortless picture imaginable, being destitute of everything in the shape of food and furniture. Even their stove was not an apology for one—it had no door to it. The coroner was called in, and the verdict of the jury was the usual one under such circumstances. We scarcely know what the Mercury means by "the usual one under such circumstances," but should think if the husband were severely punished for his neglect he would get no more than his due.

THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ITALY.—Prince Humbert, a youth now in his 17th year—a bold and elegant rider, a first rate marksman with the rifle, exhibiting skill and endurance in all manly exercises, endowed with a fair open countenance, in which the soldier-like honest mien of the father is blended with the delicate features and sweet expressions of the mother, distinguished by affable manners, and a graceful address—wins golden opinions with the multitudes as he goes along the streets, bowing when bowed to, mounted on his light Arab. The seed which his father and grandfather sowed in sorrow and in blood, will have grown up into a glorious harvest by the time this fortunate youth succeeds to the throne. That throne to which so many of his race aspired in the secret of their hearts, almost ever since the days of the First Lombard, will fall to the lot of this Fourth Humbert by a series of prosperous vicissitudes, than which nothing more marvelous was ever woven in the mysterious web of Providence. The fullness of the times is almost at hand, yet the final issue still resembles in the scale of fate.—Letter from Turin.

AN ENTERPRISING BUSINESS MAN.—While secession is rampant, and the business world is inclined to a stand still paralyzed by doubts of the future, it is cheering to be able to chronicle individual instances of unflinching business energy and enterprise on the part of any of our fellow-citizens. While some are failing, and many are contracting their business, and withdrawing their stocks from public attention by not advertising, thus doing something in the way of contributing to the general feeling of insecurity and distrust, Mr. H. C. Spaulding, of Prepared Globe fame, seems to be convinced that advertising liberally now is a wiser business policy, and the only one likely to secure success and give confidence with employment to all classes. With these conclusions, Mr. Spaulding has given the Tribune an order to insert an advertisement of one column in length to appear in each of the City, semi-weekly, and weekly editions of the year commencing Nov. 1, 1860, at a charge of over thirty-one thousand dollars. This is the largest sum ever paid to a newspaper in a year by any single advertiser, and justly entitles Mr. Spaulding to the reputation long held by Bonner of being "the Napoleon of advertisers."—N. Y. Tribune.

French spies swarm at Nice, and force themselves everywhere.

3,000 Hungarian uniforms have been ordered in Paris to be ready in February. Accounts agree in representing Hungary in an excited state.

The Liberals in Hungary have given their vote to the cautious representation of Baron Vay, the new Chancellor of the kingdom. The princely mansion on his estate has been burnt down, his farms destroyed, and his fields devastated in an irreparable manner. This outrage, I think, was committed at night, and the Government are busily engaged in looking after the perpetrators.

Growth of the West.—The census of Indiana, just completed, shows a good increase of population since 1850. The present population is 1,317,000. In 1850 it was 990,258. Increase, 326,742, or about 36 per cent.

A new gun-boats, in the shape of a torpedo with two screws, and said to be invented by the Emperor, is about to be tried.