

The storage establishment of K. H. Wyatt, No. 2 Pearl street, was burnt last night. Loss \$300,000; fully insured. The Fulton Bank, corner of Fulton and Pearl streets, and several other buildings, were burnt this morning. Loss probably half a million; doubtless insured. The fire in Fulton street was very serious. No. 43, a four story building, David Wood's wire factory, was totally destroyed; loss \$16,000. No. 45, four stories, occupied by L. J. Steuers, brush store, Haines & Peel's agricultural warehouse, totally destroyed; loss \$19,000. No. 43, four stories, partially destroyed; loss \$2,500. No. 41, partially; loss light. Also, No. 267 Pearl street, corner of Fulton, five stories, occupied by H. Howard, wire cloth maker; A. S. Fossier's exchange office, and Black & Nstrand, totally destroyed; loss \$17,000. No. 269 Pearl street, five stories, S. & S. E. Wadlow's steel store, and John Rowe's cabinet hardware store, totally destroyed; loss about \$30,000. No. 269 1/2, five stories, D. Bidwell, paint and oils; loss \$16,000. No. 271, five stories, John Rowe, cabinet hardware, and Phillips & Manning, totally destroyed; loss \$15,000. No. 273, four stories, J. Molini's brush factory and crockery warehouse, totally destroyed; loss \$15,000. Nos. 276 and 272, occupied by J. H. Atwater & Co., house furnishers, both totally destroyed; loss \$35,000. Nos. 275 and 274 were damaged about \$10,000. The Fulton Bank building destroyed was occupied by the Bank, several offices, and Wilber & Hastings, Stationers; loss about \$30,000. No. 35 Fulton street, damage \$3,000. Other neighbouring buildings were damaged considerably by water. The United States Hotel narrowly escaped destruction by the shifting of the wind. The origin of the fire is unknown.

The fire in the bridge near the Battery, at 6 o'clock Saturday evening, destroyed a four story storage building, running through to Pearl street, with all its contents, including 2,900 barrels of whiskey in its cellar. About 8 o'clock the whiskey exploded, shattering buildings contiguous, knocking down some twenty persons, injuring several—breaking the leg of one and injuring four others so that they were conveyed home in carriages. Engineer Jacket also was injured. At one on Sunday morning, adjoining five story storage building caught fire, and was totally consumed, with contents. Loss \$200,000. Total loss by fires in Bridge street estimated at half a million, and on Fulton street over \$200,000.

Colonel Atten of the 9th New Jersey regiment, and his surgeon Zoeller, with a boat's crew and the second mate of the *Annie Thompson*, when they found that the troops needed water, manned a life-boat in order to reach the General and obtain it. Unfortunately the boat swamped, and the colonel, surgeon, and mate were drowned. The crew and boat were saved. Despite all these adverse circumstances, General Burnside has succeeded in getting over the bar one half of his vessels, including the gunboats and 7,000 troops. Everything appeared to be in satisfactory condition when the *Eastern Star* left. The large transports with troops remained outside the bar until the arrival of the *S. E. Spaulding* from Port Royal on the 23rd, when Capt. Holmes volunteered to bring them inside. A portion of the tug boat chartered by Gen. Burnside for the Expedition refused to proceed any further than Fortress Monroe.

Gen. Burnside left Fortress Monroe on the *Pickett*, but subsequently took possession of the *Spaulding*, which he will occupy as his flag ship. She will also be used for taking the remaining troops over the bar. The only troops that have been landed, are the 24th Massachusetts regiment, and the Rhode Island battery.

Northern Railway of Canada. Time Table takes effect Monday, Dec. 16, '91. MOVING NORTH

New Advertisements. For Sale. Farm to Rent—G. F. Pearce. Farm to Rent—Geo. Devoe.

The York Herald. RICHMOND HILL, JAN. 31, 1862. MUNICIPAL REFORM. (Continued from our last.) We, last week, endeavored to point out the necessity that exists for the introduction, with as little delay as possible, of some important amendments in our municipal law. The subject is one in which our readers are deeply interested, and therefore no apology will be necessary for referring to it again. We have already adverted to the proposition made in Parliament by the Hon J. H. Cameron, while representing the City of Toronto, for the purpose of fixing the minimum amount of taxable income at \$1000. Although there may be some difference of opinion as to the precise amount, yet it will be generally admitted that the movement was in the right direction. There is another clause, however, in reference to the plan of levying this tax, which calls loudly for reform.— We refer to the absence of anything like uniformity in the scale, by which the assessment is at present distributed. Not only are the earnings of the laboring man taxed, but he is really obliged to pay a larger amount, in proportion to his income, than the wealthy. The man who receives the miserable pittance of \$200 a year, must pay precisely the same sum as another who receives within a cent of double that amount. All incomes between \$400 and \$1000 are assessed alike; and larger sums in a similar proportion. Such an arrangement is not only at variance with those principles of equity and justice on which all laws should be founded, but it is likewise opposed to the plainest dictates of common sense. It has all the appearance of having been enacted in the interest of the rich, and it is extraordinary that a liberal and enlightened legislature should have sanctioned its adoption. We can see no valid reason why incomes should not be taxed in proportion to their amount, as well as real estate or personal property. It would be deemed a great injustice to require one man whose property is worth only \$400, to pay as much in the shape of taxes as another whose property is valued at \$900. The rule now applied to incomes would be scouted as the greatest absurdity, if applied to anything else. There can be no possible reason why such a distinction should be made between incomes and real estate; each represents the wealth of the person taxed, and should be dealt with in a similar manner. A plan might be adopted exempting all incomes not exceeding a certain sum, say \$600, from taxation; and imposing a rate on the excess of this amount only. By this means the original object of an income tax would be carried out without imposing unnecessary burdens on the poor, and without mar-

terially diminishing the available revenues of municipalities. Mr. Cameron now declares his intention to move in Parliament for the adoption of a still more sweeping reform in the municipal law, than that which he formerly proposed in the income tax. It is no less than to deprive all yearly and monthly tenants of the right of voting. At the present time the voter who rents a house at \$30 a year, exercises the same power in choosing a representative, as the owner of a freehold worth £100,000. Mr. Cameron considers that those only who pay the taxes should have a voice in deciding how they shall be expended. The same principle is adopted by banking corporations, railroad companies, and joint stock companies generally. Municipal bodies partake, to a certain extent, of the functions of a general government; and the same course of reasoning may be applied to both. Now the chief object of a government is to afford protection to the lives and property of its subjects. It is the interest of every member of a community, that life should be made as secure as possible, but the rights of property are not of equal importance to all. Some do not possess property at all. Every citizen desires to be made as secure as possible against the attack of the assassin; but the property-owner, in addition, must be protected against the robber and the incendiary. It is plainly the interest of the wealthy man, to select those only to enact laws for the protection of his life and property, who will discharge their duty efficiently; while others whose interests extend no farther than the protection of life, will not be so particular in their choice. While we would wish to see the wealthy pay the taxes, we would likewise give them the chief power in determining how these taxes shall be expended, not, however, entirely depriving the poor man of the right of voting, but giving him power in proportion to the degree of interest he feels in securing the enactment of good laws.

Wesleyan Methodist Sabbath School Anniversary. On Wednesday afternoon the Wesleyan Methodist Sabbath School in this place held their Anniversary Tea Party. The day was all that the most fastidious could wish for, being mild, and the sleighing first-rate. An excellent tea was provided by the committee of the ladies connected with the congregation, and was served in admirable style by the obliging and attentive waiters. After all had done ample justice to the eatables, Amos Wright, Esq., M.P.P., was called to preside over the meeting. The children acquitted themselves very creditably in their Dialogues, Recitations and Singing. The attendance was large, and it must have been gratifying to the friends of Sabbath Schools to witness such a demonstration in our neighborhood. We believe the receipts will be something handsome, about \$50 we should think, which will go far towards the purchase of a Library, &c. for the school. Such meetings, we think, have a beneficial influence in the neighborhood where they are held, and the oftener they occur the better.

Curling Match. A MATCH between the Toronto and Vaughan Curling Clubs, came off at 'Gresham's Pond,' in Vaughan, on Saturday, the 25th inst., three rinks, twelve players a side, commencing at noon, and ending at 4 p.m., resulting as follows, viz:—

Table with columns: Toronto, Vaughan, Rink No., Score. Includes names like Vaughan, Rink No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and scores.

Toronto Club winning by two shots. The Vaughan Club having only been in existence about two years, this close contest with the veterans of Toronto must be very gratifying to its members, and convinces them that they are equal to a friendly match with any Curling Club in America.

Blackwood's Magazine. BLACKWOOD for January is to hand. It contains as usual much interesting reading. The contents embrace 'Wassail'; a Christmas Story; part 2: 'J. M. W. Turner, R.A.'; 'Capt. Clinterbuck's Campaign'; 'The Poor & their Public Schools'; 'Canada: our Frozen Frontier'; an interesting article on 'The Conventions in America'; 'The Prince Consort, &c.' It is one of the advantages which we enjoy by living in America, that we can secure 'Blackwood's Magazine' at a third of the cost charged in Britain. Messrs. L. Scott, & Co., 79 Fulton Street, New York, republishes it at the low price of \$3.00 a year.

"SMALL THINGS."—Mr. J. Ingram will lecture on the above subject in the hall of the Good Temp. Maples, to-night (Friday evening). The public may expect a treat, as Mr. Ingram has a provincial reputation for wit and humor. We refer our readers to an extract of the notice of the lecture: "The subject being small, and the funds of the Lodge in a similar condition, the small fee of 10 cents will be charged for admission—the proceeds to be applied to furnishing the Lodge room."

POSTPONED SALE OF LAND FOR TAXES. THE Lots sold at former Sales but not paid for, in the townships of King, Georgina, East Gwillimbury, North Wilmetville, Caledon East, &c., a few lots in Malton village will be offered for sale on

Saturday, February 8th, 1862. at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Court House, Toronto. The purchase money must be paid at the time of sale. List of Lots can be seen at this office.

Correspondence. We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents. (To the Editor of the York Herald.) SIR,—I want to know how in the name of common sense the Headfoot Poet (allowing him all the licence that poets are wont to take) can make it possible that 'the brilliant orb,' the 'noble youth,' 'of science bright,' referred to, can "Teach the young and simple mind, To do their maker's will," when he signs himself a nothingarian. Richmond Hill, Jan. 28, 1862.

To the 'Bard' of Headfoot (Vide the concluding stanza of his last week's inspiration.) I've read with infinite disgust Your rhymes, from sense exempt Go on; you soon will reach the goal Of merited contempt. QUILZ.

COUNTIES' COUNCIL. (From the Globe of Wednesday.) The first meeting of the Council for the United Counties of York and Peel took place yesterday in the Council Chamber, Court House, Adelaide street. The Clerk, (J. Elliott, Esq.) took the chair and called the Council to order. He then called over the roll, when the following Reeves and Deputy Reeves answered to their names:— Albion—William Hanna, R.; John Vance, D.R. Chinguacousy—M. Perdue, R.; R. A. Hartley, D.R. Caledon—W. H. Walker, R.; Richmond Allen, D.R. Etobicoke—E. Musson, R.; W. A. Walker, D.R. Georgina—Angus Ego, R. North Gwillimbury—John Morton, R. East Gwillimbury—Jas. Parolan, R. G. Holburn, D.R. Gore of Toronto—Thos. Graham, R. King—Jas. P. Wells, R.; Albert Webb, D.R. Markham—W. M. Button, R.; Arch. Barker, D.R. Scarborough—J. P. Wheeler, R.; John Crawford, D.R. Toronto Tp.—Melville Parker, R.; Geo. Blain, D.R. Vaughan—R. J. Arnold, R.; Alfred Jeffrey, D.R. Whitechurch—James Ironside, R.; E. Wheeler, D.R. York—William Tyrrell, R.; B. Bull, D.R. Newmarket—Dr. Thos. Pyne, R. Yorkville—Wm. Rowell, R. Holland Landing—R. T. Wilson, R. Streetsville—S. J. Barnhart, R. Brampton—W. Hughes, R. There were no absentees.

ELECTION OF WARDEN. The Clerk then said that the next business before the Council was the election of a Warden for the current year. He would put the names to the Council in the order they were presented to him, and he would now call on any member of the Council to nominate a gentleman for Warden. Mr. Tyrrell proposed T. P. Wheeler, Esq., of Scarborough, (the late Warden) as Warden for the United Counties for the current year. Mr. Wells seconded the nomination. Mr. Graham moved, and Mr. Hartley seconded that Angus Ego, Esq., of Georgina, be Warden for the current year. The Clerk, after waiting a reasonable time and no other name being proposed, took the vote on Mr. Tyrrell's motion with the following result:— YEAS.—Messrs. Tyrrell, Bull, Musson, Wallace, Barnham, Holburn, Crawford, Blain, Morton, Dr. Pyne, Rowell, Webb, Wells, Barnhart, Wheeler, (Whitechurch), Ironside, Barker, Walker, Jeffrey and Arnold—20. NAYS.—Messrs. Hanna, Vance, Parker, Ego, Hughes, Wilson, Graham, Hartley, Perdue, Button and Allen—11. The Clerk then declared Mr. J. P. Wheeler duly elected Warden of the United Counties for the current year; and that gentleman was led to the chair by his mover and seconder. The Warden rose and said he desired to return his sincere thanks to the Council for again electing him to the office of Warden of these United Counties. It assured him that he had not lost confidence in him during the year he had occupied the chair. He trusted that he would be enabled to discharge the duties of Warden during the present year, that they would find their confidence had not been misplaced. He was happy to inform the Council that finances of the counties were in a very prosperous condition. In fact, he might say, they had never been in a more prosperous condition. Relative to the amount of the award of the arbitrators against the city of Toronto, amounting to \$17,381, he was happy to inform the Council that the whole amount, with the exception of \$881, had been paid into the hands of the Treasurer of these Counties, and he expected that the remainder would be paid on this very day. It was expected some time ago that the city prisoners would be removed from the County gaol early in spring, but the late calamitous fire at the New Gaol has prevented this, and the removal would not take place till sometime in spring or summer. When this did take place they would require to make considerable alterations in the present building for the proper classification of prisoners. A short time ago he (the Warden) had had an interview with the Chairman of the Commissioners of Prisons, and he had been informed that it would be necessary to make the alteration at once. He (the Warden) represented to him that the alterations could be better made after the city prisoners had been removed, and the Chairman upon this representation, allowed the matter to stand over. These alterations would be necessary, and would require to be done, but he trusted that they would be made without any extra taxation to the counties. By the good judgment of the Council, the taxation of the counties had been kept down, and the expenditure had been kept with the revenue or income of the counties. He was very sorry, however, to say that there were other municipalities who had run recklessly into debt, and an attempt was now being made to saddle their indebtedness on the whole Province; but he trusted that this Council, and every other honest Council before they adjourned, would take such steps as would prevent the passage through the Legislature of such a monstrous measure. Before proceeding to business it would be necessary for him to subscribe the declaration of office. He trusted that the utmost harmony would prevail among them, and he would look to them for assistance to enable him to discharge the duties of his office during the present year. He would again thank them for electing him to fill the office of Warden of these United Counties. (Applause.) The Warden having subscribed the necessary declaration.

SEPARATION OF YORK AND PEEL. Mr. BRAN moved that Messrs. Parker, Haines, Walker, Barnhart, and the Mayor, be appointed a committee to draft resolutions for the three branches of the Legislature, praying for the repeal of the special Acts of Parliament relating to the separation of the County of Peel from the County of York.—Carried.

THE CENSUS—MALES AND FEMALES. (From the Quebec Chronicle.) In most European countries, the females are more numerous than the males; but in Canada this is not the case. The males here number 7,279,261, the females only 1,227,494; so that the excess in favor of the stronger sex is no less than 5,751,767. Unhappy! Fifty thousand men who can find no helpmates among their country-women, and must live in single blessedness whether they will or not! It is true that as regards Lower Canada the males do not exceed the females; but in this portion of the Province, 555,129 belong to the fairer portion of creation, showing that the excess of males is only 106.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Excess of Males. Includes locations like Quebec, Montreal, Three Rivers, etc.

WILD LANDS. The quantity of wild lands in Canada is thus stated:—

Table with columns: Unsurveyed lands in Lower Canada, Surveyed but unsold in Lower Canada, Unsurveyed Upper Canada, Surveyed and unsold Upper Canada, Total Crown Lands.

The Provincial Council of the County of Peel met last evening in the Council Chamber, Adelaide Street. Present—Messrs. W. Hanna, John Vance, M. Perdue, R. A. Hartley, W. W. Walker, Richard Allen, Thomas Graham, M. Parker, G. Blain, W. Hughes, and Sir J. Barnhart.

THE LAST SPERM BEFORE THE COURT AT BALMOREAL.—An incident which, now that the Prince Consort has been taken from us, possesses special interest, occurred some six or seven weeks ago. The Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Edinburgh—young and popular preacher, had engaged to officiate in the parish church at Balmoreal, and where the Court invariably attend Divine Service when at Balmoreal. On this occasion, the Reverend Gentleman discovered, to his great discomfort, just as he entered the pulpit, that he had left at home the manuscript of the sermon which he was to preach before the Queen and the Prince Consort. It happily occurred to him, in the embarrassing situation in which he found himself placed, that he had recently written a sermon on the text, "Prepare to meet thy God," which he had closely committed to memory.— He accordingly preached the sermon in question with great fluency and power. Her Majesty and the late Prince Consort were so much struck by the sermon, that they sent a message to the preacher, expressing the pleasure with which they had listened to it, and requesting to be favored with a sight of the manuscript. The manuscript was of course at once forwarded to the Court, and immediately afterwards a second message was sent to the preacher by the Queen and Prince Consort, that the sermon should be published. It has been so, and is in extensive circulation in Scotland. What an awful appropriation there was in the text, "Prepare to meet thy God," in regard to the late lamented Prince.

ARRIVAL OF THE 'EUROPA.' The Europa from Liverpool, the 11th, 3 p.m., and Queenstown, the 12th, arrived at 4 o'clock last night. The Europa has 16 passengers for Boston, and £6,500 for Boston, £6,400 for Halifax. The wind was then and is still blowing a hurricane, with a heavy sea. The Europa has been ordered to stop, as the Government having discontinued shipments by the Canadas.

THE 'TRENT' AFFAIR. It was reported, that notwithstanding the pacific solution of the American question, warlike preparations at Lowell had not been relaxed. The *Spenser* and *Ajuz* continued to take in heavy stores for Halifax. No official notice had yet been given at Portsmouth respecting any discharge of hired mechanics or laborers, but it was understood that the reduction takes place in April.

The *Morning Post* announces that a thorough understanding had been arrived at with the American Government; not only had they given the required reparation, but in doing so, the *Times* will give credit for the same on the English Government the notion that they have not only present indemnity, but also, no small pledge of future security.

WILD LANDS. The quantity of wild lands in Canada is thus stated:—

Table with columns: Unsurveyed lands in Lower Canada, Surveyed but unsold in Lower Canada, Unsurveyed Upper Canada, Surveyed and unsold Upper Canada, Total Crown Lands.

During the week ending January 8th the receipt of hogs, alive and dressed, at Chicago, amounted at \$2,236, against 45,578 during the corresponding week in 1861, and 12,006 in 1860, being the largest ever known. The total receipt since the commencement of the season foot up 380,757—of which 230,000 have been packed, against 120,000 packed up to this date last season. The number of hogs received at Cincinnati this season amounted to 315,841. At Louisville 8000 have been packed.