

being forced to meddle with trade; of the detention it was to him, Robert Danesbury, ex-lieutenant, an officer, and a gentleman!

Canadian Flax.

The soil of America has long been celebrated for the growth of flax. Thousands of acres of the United States are annually set apart for that purpose, but the farmers rarely think of using the straw. The great object is to take off the seed, as for the fibre, few of the growers take the least trouble so far as regards the textile material of the plant.

In Canada a considerable breadth of land is every season occupied by flax. The soil of this colony, as well as the temperature of the air, in many instances closely resemble those of the North or Ireland. A gentleman who resides within a few miles of Belfast, and who recently returned from a tour through the northern lands of Canada informs us that he has passed several farms, the appearance of which was very much like those in some parts of Down and Antrim. On inquiry, he found that the great proportion of the landholders were either direct Irish or the descendants of Irish immigrants. Flax culture, as we have said, is carried on there by several of the farmers, but the deficiency of means to prepare the straw for market, and the still greater drawback arising from a want of local consumption, have hitherto kept the growth down to the requirements of the local trade.

In yesterday's Whig we noticed the arrival in town of some specimens of Canadian grown flax, brought over by Mr. Blaikie. These samples were yesterday exhibited to several of our local merchants and spinners, and a favorable opinion has been pronounced on their quality. On making particular inquiry into the matter, we have learned that Messrs. Blaikie & Alexander of Toronto had grown this season about two hundred acres of flax, on a farm at Norval, about thirty miles from Toronto. In the same district, those gentlemen have erected a scutch mill, on the best principle, for the purpose of giving future growers all possible facilities as to the preparation of flax for market. The samples exhibited in Belfast yesterday by which the upper portion of Western Canada were visited in the early part of the season, the fibre of the flax is shorter and less silky than it would have been under more favorable circumstances; but, on the whole, the samples shown have been valued at 8s. to 10s. the 14lb stone. The yield of the Canadian soil is fully equal to that of the average of the North of Ireland, and some of the finer lands producing six ewes, or about forty, to the statute acre.

Hitherto the growth of flax in Canada has been the growth of a few individuals, and that species of production he clings with some thing like superstitious feeling. And the result is that when a backward season comes on them, he seems prostrated, as was the case of former days when the potato crop proved defective. It has, therefore, been considered by thinking men that the introduction of flax culture on a scale in some degree equal to the resources of the colony would be most advantageous, and which would increase the enterprise of the colonial farmer, and would add to the productive power of the Province.

The organization of the Indian Flax Society leads to the hope of vast good being accomplished for the linen trade. This however will chiefly arise from the increased supply of coarse flax, an article now so much required in the production of the heavy or despoiled goods. Canadian lands differing materially from those of the Punjab, promise to do something towards supplying the deficiencies felt in supplies of flax, and flax fibres are annually raised in fifty thousand acres in the British North American Colonies, and the great proportion of this country, it would seem, is growing wheat, without the slightest degree interfering with the Asiatic product.

The requirement of the linen trade are, in fact, at present so large, and the prospective demands so extended, that to meet the demands of 500,000 spindles and power-looms, twice the existing average would not be sufficient. There are now great facilities for the transport of flax produce from Canada to Liverpool. Flax, purchased at the markets of Toronto or Montreal, would be shipped and conveyed from the St. Lawrence to the Mersey in the space of twelve days.

As the matter stands it is one of mere individual enterprise. If the farmers of Canada prepare a portion of their lands for flax-growing, and be able to produce a good article of fibre, there will be no lack of customers for it. Continental spinners will now be competing with those of Leeds, Belfast, and Dundee, for the purchase of certain qualities of flax, and the more extended the growth of all varieties of raw material, the more successful will be the enterprise of manufacturers.

Disunion—A Warning from the States.

From the London Free Press.

The lamentable effects which have followed the policy of Disunion in the United States, should not be lost upon that party in Canada who have advocated a resort to a similar species of political self-destruction. It may be urged that the cases are not identical, and that we cannot deduce results from the one which will apply to the other. To this it may be answered, that if the details are not similar, there is, at least, sufficient parallel to enable us to draw a moral and extract a warning for our own future guidance.

In each case one section of the country has, under the inspiration of party sets, and for the benefit of party objects, been set in array against the other. In the United States, the North and the South, after many years of more or less active antagonism, have at length assumed such an attitude to each other as to call for the arbitrament of arms. In Canada, the politicians at least equally censurable, have endeavored to place the East and the West in a open hostility such as that which has been there than once broadly indicated. There can be no doubt but that for the machinations of professional agitators, the American Union might have long continued to pursue that singular course of prosperity which during its short career, made it the wonder of all nations and the envy of many.

But it may be said of the professional agitators on the one side of the frontier, as well as of those who blindly followed them, that they at least had the inestimable advantage of appearing as the champions of great principles. The North, faithful to the ideas which first led it into the battle field at Lexington, has for many years endeavored to circumscribe the area of slavery; the South, refusing to discuss the merits or demerits of involuntary servitude, insists on the recognition of its co-equal rights in territories, the ownership to which is undoubtedly common to both. In this case, it cannot be denied, each side has a principle to maintain, and even an impartial observer would be at a loss to decide on which side the scale of justice, apart from sentiment, should lean.

But what great principles are at stake in Canada, that the people of the West should be called upon to dissolve the connection between the two sections? Is it pretended that there is between us any great difference of principle like that of slavery, or any other such as that which has just rent the Republic in twain? Can it be asserted that on the one side, for instance, the West has any such cause of complaint against the East in Canada, as the South justly had against the North in the States? Or are there any peculiar institutions, or of any kind recognized in Lower Canada alone, that afflict the consciences or clash with the principles of the majority in Upper Canada? If there are none of these—if the commercial relations are not of itself so prejudicial as to warrant a Dissolution of the Union; if the same Constitutional ideas are held in common with both sections; if no great political principles are at stake in the matter, on what ground and on what principle, originally conceived, and on what principle, it is maintained? There can be no answer to the question, unless it be that of an extreme section of the whole community. Nor were the means taken to inflame the prejudices of the West against the East such as command respect, or calculated to have more than a temporary effect upon the prejudices of the people. It was alleged that there exist grave differences of religious order that was sufficient to form a proper basis for disunion. Yet such differences exist in far greater force in Ireland. But the most fanatical of politicians has never yet dared to cite that as a reason, before a British audience, why the United Kingdom should be dismembered. And, again, if we exercised all Lower Canada in consequence of the religious faith of the majority, in what state should we not leave the half million and upwards of Protestant British who inhabit the eastern side of the Division line?

Another objection is taken at the language spoken by the majority of the people of Lower Canada. A singular cause, certain it is, but one which would dissolve partnership. Can it be the highlands and many of the islands of Scotland might as well be lopped off for the same reason, from what now constitutes the Kingdom of Great Britain, not to speak of sacred treaty obligations, under the terms of which the language and institutions of Lower Canada are guaranteed to its people in all their original integrity.

The reflecting portion of the community must see that there exists no legitimate ground on which to base a policy of disunion. The cry for it was raised in desperation, rather than elicited by necessity, or dictated by prudence or patriotism. We have little fear, therefore, that it will ever have any deep hold of the public mind, even in a small section of the Province. With the discomfort, alarm, and bloodshed, which has followed the cry for disunion in the U. S., people will naturally pause and ask themselves, what it is that we wish to attain, that so great a risk is to be incurred? The absence of grievances of such a nature as to give even a color to the cry of disunion, is a fact that must force itself upon the mind of every inquirer.

Progress of Secession. The following is a list of the Forts and Arsenals in the United States which have been taken possession of by the rebels:— December 27.—Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney, at Charleston, seized. December 30.—United States Arsenal at Charleston, seized. January 2.—Fort Pulaski and Jackson and the U. S. Arsenal, at Savannah, seized by Georgia troops. January 3.—Fort Macon and the U. S. Arsenal, at Fayetteville seized by North Carolina. January 4.—Fort Morgan and the U. S. Arsenal, at Mobile, seized by Alabama. January 8.—Fort Johnson and Caswell, at Smithville, seized by North Carolina. January 10.—Fort Mearns, at Pensacola, seized by Florida. January 11.—The U. S. Arsenal at Baton Rouge, and Forts Pike, St. Philip and Jackson, seized by Louisiana. January 12.—Fort Barrancas and the Navy Yard at Pensacola, seized by Florida. According to the United States census of 1850, the population of the States which have seceded is as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: State, Whites, Blacks. Rows include South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama.

Anecdote of General Jackson.

When General Jackson was President of the United States, says an aged laborer in the Presidential garden, a few years since, he could tell an honest man from a rogue when he first saw him. I remember that a clergyman with a stiff white collar, and an unvarnished suit of black, called on him one morning when he was overlooking some work that I was performing in the garden, and requested an appointment to some office, saying: 'General, I worked harder for your election than many of those upon whom you have bestowed office.' 'You are a minister of the gospel?' said old Hickory, inquiringly. 'Yes,' said the clergyman, 'I was a minister, but I thought I could do better by becoming a politician; so I stretched the district week-days for you, and I preached for the Lord on Sundays.' 'By the Eternal! if you would cheat the Lord, you would cheat your own people, and I will have nothing to do with you, or any like you. Good morning!' and he walked rapidly away. I never shall forget the look of that hypocritical clergyman. Had the last judgement been set and he before the great white throne, I doubt whether he would have looked more black or chaffed.

Annexation. In consequence of the secession movement in the American Union, the Northerners are casting anxious eyes towards Canada, as a substitute for the Southern States. Several prominent journals and statesmen have the audacity to propose the annexation of Canada to the States. The day has long since passed when Canada thought of annexation; and even then by a very small portion of the community. Canada has nothing to gain by such a step; as she now possesses within herself all the elements necessary to become a great nation; and as to territory, we have more than we can people for centuries, far more fertile than the barren mountains of Maine or Vermont, and untainted by the political doctrines of an evil government. We now have our own Ocean Mail Service; besides the best line of railway communication in the world; and which will in a few years make the North-Western States more dependent on Canada, than ever was the latter to the States. But if any portion of the States desire annexation to Canada, we are quite willing to shelter them under our government; and recommend them to the fatherly care of Great Britain. Indeed the frequent expressions of the Northern States about annexing Canada, was only a delicate manner they had of expressing their desire to return to their former allegiance to Great Britain; for, notwithstanding their boasts to the contrary, republicanism falls far short of governing a miscellaneous people in a wholesome way. Witness the late frauds in the War Department; and the numberless instances in which both judge and jury have been bribed; and the usual tendency of judges to be swayed by the political party which placed them in power, and a faint idea may be formed of the rottenness of this monster that is now going through the ordeal of dissolution. The State of Maine openly asks for annexation to us; and if they or any other portion of the States will voluntarily take on themselves our laws and customs; abolish all American emblems and predilections; and we will extend to them the right hand of fellowship.

VALENTINES. A CHOICE SELECTION OF VALENTINES For Sale at this Office. Apply early.



THE STANDARD. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1861.

A WRIT was issued for a new Election in this County. The duty now devolving on the electors is to make such a choice as will reflect credit on their good sense, by the statesman-like abilities and gentlemanly qualities of their representative. We hold both qualities essential; and the selection low about to be made will, no doubt, in future years redound with credit to our disunion.

There are at present only three candidates actively in the field—Hon. J. C. Morrison, Messrs. N. C. Gowen, and ———. Manning—Mr. Gowen recommends himself to a portion of the community because he is an Orangeman; and to another portion because he is a New Connexion Methodist Preacher; promising great things in both cases. We sincerely wish he were such an Orangeman and such a New Connexion Preacher; but we are personally known to a circumstance wherein Mr. Gowen gives encouragement to both sides of a contending faction. This stamps indelibly his character as a political trickster. His maneuvers are so numerous and varied, that to give them exposure is too great a task at present.

Mr. Manning recommends himself to the electors, as being a clever financier, having jansailed this County out of about \$30,000 in a business kind of way. We doubt whether there is an honest, public man in the County who would so far hazard his reputation as to endorse Mr. Manning. One public gentleman forfeited his claim to the highest office in the power of the County Council to give, by being merely seen in friendship with intimates of Mr. Manning. Indeed Mr. Manning is already aware that his chances of election are nowhere, the late Convention at Owen Sound gave him proof of that.

But it may be asked, What is his object in contesting the County? His object is, to divide the supporters of Mr. Morrison; knowing that Mr. Gowen would be a more potent tool in his hands than would Mr. Morrison, whose sterling integrity has hitherto been proof against giving Government jobs to gentlemen of Mr. Manning's clique. That political harlequin, William McDougall, who misrepresents North Oxford, passed through here last Wednesday, in order to promote this deluding object to foist N. C. Gowen on the County of Grey. Mr. McDougall has a two-fold purpose to attain in this respect,—the gratification of a malicious spirit, and an indirect support to the principles of Dissolution of the Union. His opposition to Mr. Morrison arises from the fact that the latter prevented him robbing the government.—At the time McDougall was publishing an agricultural paper in Toronto, he had several thousand unsold copies of the paper on hand, which were useless except for wrapping paper; he conceived the brilliant idea of selling this trash to Government for \$2,000, to be by them distributed free throughout the country. Mr. Morrison opposed the scheme, and thus incurred the scurrilous, villainous enmity of this canting demagogue.

We again admonish the public of this diabolical plot; for every vote given to Manning, is the same as one given to Gowen. THE LEADER.—Elsewhere will be found the advertisement of the 'Leader,' which we recommend to the attention of our readers. It stands among the foremost champions of good government, constitutional usages, and British connection. Its marked editorial ability is fast earning for it a proud position among Canadian Journals.

Lola Montez is dead.

The Oil Region of Emiskillen.

[From the Sarnia Tribune.]

There is so little said anywhere in Canada but in Lambton about the Emiskillen oil mines that their importance has by no means been fully understood and appreciated by the general public as a thing of the kind should be a new product such as this, one of the greatest possible importance to civilization, the one which apparently exists in such vast quantities, should not be allowed to exist and be discovered without attracting the attention of more than those merely who are endeavoring to make a fortune out of it.

If it really should be a lasting product, as is hoped by those engaged in mining for it, each oil well will take rank with coal, and the task of lifting it from the bowels of the earth will give employment to hundreds. What the facts that are at present impossible to say, but that the supply will not be exhausted for many years. The question of whether the mines will be fully tested till more is known of the mode of its production. If it is a distillation going on further down, and the oil is condensed from a gas which passes through the shale in its passage to the earth, then the probabilities in favor of its continuation are large; but if, on the contrary, it has been a deposit from above and the shale is only saturated with it, and it is flying off in gas evolved from itself, there is little hope of its being a permanent marketable commodity. In Emiskillen there is a fine superincumbent layer of earth—about one foot in thickness; then there is a layer of limestone rock, which appears to be about fifty feet thick; and under this mass is the shale which contains the oil, the structure of which can easily be seen at Kettle Point, the only place in Lambton where it crops out at the surface. There it appears laid down in lakes about six inches thick, and so far separated from the other strata that it could be riven from the other with the greatest ease. These layers are again easily split into thin or laminar, and between them there are evidently crevices or cracks running all the length of the mass, which are most probably where the shale lies at a body depth, filled with oil squeezed out of the body of the stone by the pressure. At Kettle Point the oil of course cannot be seen, as there is not the pressure to bring it forth; but in the shale itself there are large quantities; a thin plate of the shale burning like a bit when exposed to the heat of a fire.

The attention of those engaged in the oil raising business was first called to the fact of its existence by what are called surface shows—little oozing of oil from the ground, either with or without a spring of water. These shows have been found chiefly on the banks of streams, but there are instances where they have been found on the high ground. The most remarkable show of oil, and the one which first drew attention to Emiskillen as an oil bed, is that owned by Mr. Williams, and which is on the top of the bank overlooking Black Creek. It is the rivet, therefore, the oil does not follow the run of the creeks, as some people fondly imagine, but that it is caused by a stream of oil flowing through a crack in the limestone, whose pressure to the surface happens to be facilitated by its occurrence under a water course.

It is evident from this, that all the shale beds which underlies the townships of Plympton and Emiskillen is a reservoir of oil, and that it is only required to dig deeper in some spots than others to obtain oil in any part.—It is probable, that the collection of oil may be far greater in certain spots than at others, because a thin like oil will follow the same line as water, and will collect wherever there is a basin to receive it. If therefore, there should be in any part of the bed a depression there certainly would be the largest collection of oil, and a well which should be put down in this depression would be the most lasting and the most abundant, from the same cause as that which makes the deepest wells the most permanent supply of water. Williams' wells appears to answer the indications of a better oil than any of the others. It is true that they have not been sunk through the rock, but there is evidently a very large crack or seam through the limestone which allows a free passage of oil to the wells, and their long continuance without any diminution would seem to show that the seam through which the oil makes its way up must reach nearly to the bottom of the basin. There are at present nearly fifty wells going down in Emiskillen, and there are seven which are yielding oil at an average of perhaps ten barrels a day, and there are three rock drillings which will be worked as soon as engines can be procured to pump them. Of these wells the most valuable are undoubtedly those owned by Mr. Williams, and next to them the wells owned by a company who have dug on lot No. 14, in the 10th concession of Emiskillen, and who have now two wells down yielding oil, and one well on lot No. 14 in the 11th concession, immediately opposite across the line. The other wells, though there is a pretty good show in them, have not been worked sufficiently to test their relative values.

The first rock-drillings were put down by Dixon and Vaughan. These parties have each put down a well to the rock some 60 feet, and have then drilled some 55 feet more, and the result has been sufficiently satisfactory in both cases. Mr. Vaughan, especially has, according to the old oil borers from Pennsylvania, a better show of oil than any well now down. Mr. Pike has a well nearly if not quite down 60 feet in the rock. These three wells will test the advantages of rock-drilling. The furthest wells apart now digging in the oil region are Williams' well and some wells near the mill, about ten miles, and a circle of this diameter will include all the digging hither done in this immediate vicinity.

There is one well being put down for oil purposes in the township of Plympton, near the lake shore; by three parties who have each intended to do so by the fact of large quantities of gas having escaped from various wells which have been dug for the purpose of procuring water in this region, and from the known escape of gas in Huron and Plympton Bay. This well has been put down 50 feet, and its owners are now engaged in boring for the purpose of reaching the rock and drilling. The presence of gas evolved from the earth is one of the most trustworthy circumstances connected with this strange product of nature, and if it is invariably connected with oil, it would seem to show that the region under which oil can be found is very extensive. It is found to come up over

W. K. Flesher, Esq., has been elected Warden of this County.

The Candidates for Grey.

The Candidates for Grey—where are they!

We have had rumors of Candidates, but none have yet declared themselves. None have put in black and white the principles on which they stand, or an effort to show us how they will stand in the struggle. It is true, one who claims to be the distinguished lawyer of the County, and who is a member of the County Council, is offering this County in Parliament has been putting a series of political meetings; but, as yet, he has not himself thought that the constituency can claim at his hands, should he be elected. A short handbill purporting to be in the interest of an opponent, and having a thrust at all ex-Ministers, Editors, Printers, Lawyers, &c., has been very unadvisedly scattered throughout the County, with a view of respecting the gentleman concerned, we exceedingly regret. The individuals of Mount Fort, also, in public meeting the proceedings of which we last week published in this paper, repudiated this sort of hand-bill, and at the same time declared themselves, to be unopposed to any candidate until his platform would be brought before the people. We again repeat, where are the candidates, and where their platforms? We think it not at all reasonable that we have an election this winter, or previous to a general; but we do believe, that though unreasonably we may expect one ere long; or the leader which of course speaks advisedly on the subject, says we should not be too anxious unrepresented. If none may be sure, that having been one session without a meeting, as soon as Parliament meets (probably early next month), a writ will issue for an election. An election also hangs in another contingency. The House may be dissolved immediately after meeting, and a general election follow forthwith, and then we will have a chance of electing a member for Grey—and many there are who incline to this belief.—O. S. County, 24th Inst.

Canonizing Murder. The meeting being held in some parts of the country to sympathize with the fugitive Anderson, give expression to singular doctrines on the subject of murder. They unanimously laud Anderson for killing his fellow-man, although the latter was only obeying the laws of his country for offence. The illustration cited by R. A. Harrison, Q. C., to the jury on Anderson's trial, is the best we have seen. Suppose a man incarcerated in prison for debt, which could be done on every trifling occasion until last year—and the debtor should kill his jailer, would not the law, and the public have considered him a murderer? Would not those sympathizing citizens, who disgrace religion by their acts and expressions, have considered him to the hottest corner of pandemonium for such an act,—unless he had the benefit of his spiritual ministrations before being launched into eternity. The parallel in the two cases is complete.

Normanby Council. Minutes of the First Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Normanby. The Council met pursuant to the Statute, on Monday the 21st day of January 1861, at the tavern of Mr. David Kenny, Emiskillen, at noon, for the purpose of electing a Reeve and Deputy Reeve for the current year. Members present—Messrs McMahon, Winkler, Ryan, Robertson and Marshall, who duly took and subscribed the declarations of qualification and office as Councilors. The Clerk in the Chair. Moved by Mr. Winkler, seconded by Mr. Marshall; That Mr. McMahon be Reeve for the current year.—Carried. Henry A. McMahon, Esq., took and subscribed the declaration of office as Reeve. The Reeve took the chair. Moved by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. McMahon; That Mr. Winkler be Deputy Reeve for the current year.—Carried. David Winkler, Esq., took and subscribed the declaration of office as Deputy Reeve. Moved by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Ryan; That Mr. John Souster act as Auditor for the current year.—Carried. The Reeve appointed Mr. George Hoop as second Auditor. Moved by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Winkler; That the Reeve, Messrs. Ryan and Robertson be a Committee to draw up a set of standing rules for this Council.—Carried. Moved by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Ryan; That this Council do now adjourn in order to meet again on Thursday the 21st day of February, at the Hotel of Mr. James Gardiner, in the Village of Mount Forest.—Carried.

Atlantic Monthly. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. The February number of this periodical is at hand, and is the best we have seen for a length of time. It opens with a paper entitled 'Our Artists in Italy,' which is a highly instructive sketch of Mr. Page, an American Artist. 'Knitting Sale'—'Socks' is an amusing story. 'Scuppang' is a literary production, giving an interesting sketch of New York life. 'Cublier Necaara's Vision' is an amusing poetical sketch. 'The first Atlantic Telegraph,' describes the attempt to form a Telegraph between Europe and America. 'Lady Byron' is the title of a spirited defence (of the memorable wife of the Great Post. 'Getting Home Again' and 'A Dry Goods Jobber in 1861' are interesting sketches. 'The Professor's Story' continues unabated in interest. 'The Great Lakes' is an ability written paper on the history and resources of the North West.

Lost Crown Land Sales. The official Gazette announces that public lands in the following villages will be offered for sale on the days undermentioned. At Sandwich on Friday the 22nd February. At Chatham, on Tuesday the 28th Feb. At Lennox, on Friday the 1st March. At Toronto, on Tuesday the 5th March. At Barrie, on Friday the 8th March. At Sarnia, on Wednesday the 13th March.

Elopement—Modern Style. On the first Saturday of this winter year, an elopement was brought under the cognizance of the inhabitants of Towbridge. An original villain character named Hays, an itinerant violinist, who practices with equal dexterity upon the great 'corpora' fiddle, as the demand for a labor upon eat at every possible opportunity, between Berlin and Goderich, has been very successful in stimulating the 'light fantastic toe' of the pursuit of his profession he became enamored of a damsel, the pet and only lamb of an ancient couple residing in the vicinity of Goderich. The course of true love in this case was no exception to its customary turbulence. But the whims of the parents and the rigid denial of his suit accompanied with orders to absent himself from the neighborhood, seemed only to increase the flame that was consuming them. 'Satanstoe' is fair in love as in war, and our violent sought its advantages. Something occurred which necessitated the immediate appearance of the damsel at home, and as no one else was available for the purpose, the fiddler was entrusted to harness the horse to the sleigh, and bear the maiden off to his young lady; but—

The young maid had left her home, To sit with her fiddler kinsman. In the night it was discovered the animal's will was a little unsteady, which greatly incapacitated it for performing its allotted task. 'Clang, clang, the lady cries, 'Old horse be in a hurry.' On the following (Sunday) morning at the bright light of two miles an hour, this 'rig' was sent to meet its fate. Following it about five miles behind, on foot, came the old couple faithfully on the quest. We do not know the result of the chase, but hope to announce the arrangements as soon as they are made. The source of the financial embarrassment and the joy of conquest, which may be 'speed' attend their lives than did their night.—Stafford Beacon.