TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Anonymous communications can receive no attention. Everything forwarded for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of authenticity. To this rule no exception is made. Correspondents will kindly write on one side of the sheet of paper.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Daily News.

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 27.

WHAT WE ESCAPED.

The history of the applied at Albany, N.Y., shows us what would probably have befallen us had Mr Mowat not been prevented, by public opinion, from entering upon his pro ject on scheme of erecting new legislative buildings at Toronto. The estimated cost of this architectural monstrosity, when the Legislature was asked to vote upon it, was only $4,000,000, but jobbery upon it has already swallowed up $14,000,000 ; this year's vote is $1,800,000, and there is no apparent likelihood of the demands for it being filled. A writer in a Philadelphia paper has been examining into the "great public calamity," and finds that every Senator and Assemblyman in the State has friends at work upon that building, and, as the qualifications of the workmen, in many cases, have references rather to their services as "heelers" or "primaries" than at the bench as skilled mechanics and artizans, it is no wonder that thus far the edifice is simply a monument of colossal extravagance. Whether it will ever be finished or not is a matter of conjecture. Some of the engineers that have recently examined it think that it will tumble down of its own accord from their workmanship. Perhaps that is the best thing that could happen to it, as far as the taxpayers and the public treasury are concerned. It may be the best thing also as a memorable warning to the people of Canadian provinces when their rulers contemplate some new device of jobbery and extravagance. The Globe is, at present, frantically appealing to the electors of Ontario to resent the repudiation of the boundary award on the ground that it may lead to direct taxation in the near future. What can be thought of the administration which, on the verge of financial distress, can calmly propose to throw away millions on a useless toy ?

THE LOCAL SITUATION.

Our esteemed Reform friends in the city show none of that overweening arrogance and confident spirit which were wont to distinguish them during former election contests, but instead of these qualities doubt and despondency darken their counsels. "Coming events cast their shadows before," and the approaching defeat of their candidate is taking a more distinct shape every day as one of the probable events of the next month. We heartily sympathise with our Grit friends because they are hampered by many real difficulties in their struggle. They dare not face the music on the National Policy ; they haven't the courage, or rather the recklessness, to come forward and proclaim their desire to abolish every protective feature of the present Customs duties ; they cannot declare with Sir Richard that protection is "legalized robbery," or with Mr Mackenzie that "the National Policy is a national folly and a national crime." Not only has there been a great and marked improvement in every branch of trade, but the manufacturing interests of the city have taken a marvellous stride forward since March, 1879, their value having almost doubled. Had a revenue tariff remained in vogue in this day we would have been without the cotton mill, woollen mill, rolling works, while the stove factory and locomotive works would have been much less active. A return to a revenue tariff would mean death to some of these factories and a serious injury to others. The industrial population are therefore pledged to the continuance of the tariff to which they owe so much, and to say this is to say that they are bound to support the present Administration. The Whig in a recent issue observed with reference to a gentleman, who fills the anomalous and incongruous character of a Grit protectionist, that he was too wary to give admission to a tariff which taxed some of the raw materials of manufactures and unfairly discriminated between different articles, or to support a party that wished to rob Ontario of her rights. There are very few Protectionists in this city or elsewhere who will be guilty of such folly, inconsistency, or absurdity. Surely there is no consistency even in opposing a tariff because every detail is not agreeable, for the purpose of having it abolished altogether. Equally insane is the argument that the Ontario boundary question is of any consequence as compared with the National Policy. The latter is vital in its importance ; the former astonishingly trivial. Sir John Macdonald's reasonable offer been accepted, the dispute would have been settled ten years ago by the Privy Council of England. Even after the long delay caused by Mr Mowat's perversity, in what manner is Ontario to suffer by having the difficulty left to the decision of the highest tribunal in the world ? Ontario is entitled to the hundred thousand square miles involved, she will get it. The hypocritical cry is about "delay" is disgusting.

So much for the National Policy and the Ontario boundary ; but there are other local matters, affecting the probable result of the election, worthy of examination. The victory gained by the Grits in 1878 was due to the unstinted use of money during a number of contests. The heavy expenditures of Messrs Carruthers and Gunn were backed up by an organized and well directed scheme of Government bribery by the distribution of patronage among the faithful. The Kingston Penitentiary was pulled down, the battery at Fort Henry repaired, and fifty one thousand dollars spent upon the R.M.C without contract. Besides these extraordinary influences, personal cries against the Premier, such as "non-residence," &c., were effective. These goods are sold now, and the Grits are compelled to fight a fair battle on the general issues. There is little fear that the result will be the redemption of Kingston.

CHINESE CHEAP LABOUR.

Our able contemporary is pretty certain to capture the workingmen of this city by dilating upon the dreadful fact that Mr Onderdonk is permitted to import Chinese cheap labour into British Columbia. What difference is it whether mills are busy and employment plenty in Kingston, if men with hair more than three inches long are permitted to use the spade and pick-axe three thousand miles away ? Of what consequence is it that there is a dearth of labour in British Columbia, and that the Pacific railroad must be pushed through, if men with almond eyes are to perform the roughest and hardest work ? The truth is, that Chinese are only employed on grading, and that all skilled labour is given to white men. Mr Onderdonk can't get enough white labour, and has been compelled to import them. Chinamen, whom he will ship home again when their work is done. The carpenters who went out with Mr Farmer may be there ten contract guaranteeing them $3 per day, if competent ; any one whose wages have been cut dpwn owes it to his own lack of skill. As to the record of the two parties on this question, Premier Mackenzie, in March, 1878, sneered as absurd and preposterous Mr Bunster's proposal to limit Chinese immigration, and Sir John Macdonald, in the House of Commons a few weeks ago, stated that, should it become necessary, he would be quite willing to join to any reasonable extent in a scheme for restricting Mongolian immigration into Canada, as he thought that the permanent settlement of the gentlemen from Kathay, the celestial, would not be beneficial. That is the amount of significance there is in the talk about injuring Canadian workingmen by the importation of heathens.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

A Lively Meeting—Sheriff Ferguson Resigns—A Tilt Between Him and the Mayor

A meeting of the Board of the Agricultural Society was held this afternoon in Mr Jane Simpson's office—Sheriff Ferguson, President, in the chair.

After the meeting had been opened the Sheriff stated that he had had an altercation with the Mayor, and that he had called the meeting in order to defend him self. He said that he and the Mayor had agreed about having six work done by completion. They had spoken about getting a map of the show grounds drawn up, and one day when they were in a buggy together they met Mr W. Newlands, when the Mayor asked him how much he would charge to draw up such a plan. No decision was come to. Mr Newlands afterwards wrote a letter to the Mayor stating that he had taken upon himself, in behalf of the Agricultural Society, and in consequence of delay, to order Mr W. Newlands to draw out a map, which was done. (The map was produced) The Sheriff told Mr Newlands that if he charged more than $10 for the job he would get only that small amount out of his own pocket. The Mayor sent him an answer stating "It was understood that all work should be done by competition, and that any expense incurred by the Sheriff, the city would not be responsible. He (the Mayor) warned any persons whom the Sheriff engaged to do work, that they must not look to city for payment; also that if the Sheriff persisted in his actions the city might feel compelled to withdraw its grant." He (the Sheriff) considered this latter a personal insult. The Mayor—I think you must be made to the printer some people old.

The Warden moved, seconded by Mr Duff, that the Sheriff's resignation be not received, which was carried unanimously, the Sheriff left the chair and returned from the room

The Secretary read a document stating that the Council had taken no action in connection with the show, composed of the Mayor and Aldermen Allen, Irving, McIntyre, McCammon and R. J. Carson. At a meeting of the Council last night the Mayor was empowered to act in behalf of the city.

ANOTHER RESIGNATION.

The Warden was moved into the chair, and a long discussion took place about the city having a majority on the Committee.

Mr Wilmot moved that the city be allowed to run the show itself.

It was finally decided to forward a resolution containing the proceedings of the meeting to the City Clerk, to be laid before the City Council.

Later.—A Committee will wait on the Council on Monday night and explain the difficulty.

The meeting then adjourned.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION

Burning Coal Oil Thrown over a Crowd at a Fire

Philadelphia, May 26.—A fire broke out to-night in the grocery store of Robert Mc-Elroy at 1,844 Kensington avenue, a manufacturing suburb in the city limits about eight miles from the centre. While the firemen were endeavoring to extinguish the flames a large barrel of coal oil took fire and exploded with terrific effect, the burning fluid being thrown over the firemen and the crowd of spectators who were watching their operations. A dozen or more persons were severely burned. A dozen or more persons were severely burned. A dozen or more persons were severely burned