TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications can receive no attention. Everything intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of authenticity. It is also required that correspondents will confine themselves to one side of the sheet of paper. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Daily News.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 12.

The amalgamation of the G. T. R. and G. W. R. which took place to-day gives Western Ontario absolutely into the hands of the Grand Trunk, and the beaution of a carrying monopoly will no doubt become apparent to people whose business to-day lies in their children from the religious exercises, if they desired.

SHORTAGE

The Rev Hashemus Rowel Interviewed by the News Reporter. The Matter is to be Remedied

This morning the Hon Mackenzie Rowel arrived in the steamer Alexander, en route to Belleville. A representative of the News boarded the steamer at Cobourg wharf and sought an interview with the hon gentleman concerning the much vexed question of Shortage. He was received kindly by Mr Rowel, and the immediately on his return to Ottawa next week, he would lay the matter before the Government, when, no doubt, a remedy would be provided that would not interfere with trade and be say anything to Cobourg, but at the same time would save the nations in the country.

Reporter—Have you any idea what time the remedy will take. Would it be about of the duty

No, I don't think it will. I have been informed that duty on shortage has no place in the tariff when matters are settled and it would be great that the amount of grain mentioned in the bill of lading was not shipped. I have received many letters from Toronto and Montreal, and I am sorry to say I was stated that it was an outrage to collect duty upon shortage of grain that never arrived. Shortage at sea, in foreign ports, and the commercial world would then be interested in preventing the Great Bear from grabbing up Corners.

The Ottawa Free Press advocates the disfranchisement of the civil servants, on the ground, apparently, that they made themselves offensive in the last election. We cannot see any reason why such a step should be taken as to deprive the largest body of public servants of a valued civil right. The community cannot afford to have withdrawn from the electorate a number of intelligent and educated men who are quite capable of forming a judgment upon the public questions presented for their decision. In theory, at any rate, the civil service is perfectly independent and the instances in which officials have been interfered with on political grounds are fortunately few. It, however, it be said that men holding positions under the government are subject to undue influence, since they would hesitate to vote against the set who had it in their power to dismiss them. This might have been true when open voting was the legal method of obtaining a expression of public opinion, but under the ballot system the chance is disappears, for a man can vote just as he pleases. It is true that an official holder cannot actively engage in politics with impunity, but it is only decent and proper that one whose duty is to the public should retire from the bitter strife of party and give his attention to business

The Toronto Telegram professes to know all about the intentions of the Mowat government with regard to the next session that contemporary announces that the event will take place next month, and proceeds to give reasons for the selection of that time. According to this contented editor, Mr Mowat desires to bring forward a number of legislation, including Mr Christie her Holmes, Q.C., to contest the eight seats now vacant in the province, and by strongly urging the opposition to do the same, enable it to meet the Government at the next election with better hopes of success. But Mr Mowat is too shrewd for that, and he is too like the wind out of Noah's ark to be leaving the vacancies unfilled until the general election. It is of course, an impudent thing to the eyes of our contemporary to bring on the elections before the usual term expires, but Mr John has done it, and that fully justifies Mr Mowat. The Telegram's theory is a pleasant and plausible fiction viewed as a day-dream, but it is a sure thing as sure as Sir John Macdonald confided his secrets to the editor of that interesting publication, whatever Mr Mowat's practice may be. Whether the elections come off in September or later, the Conservative party is quite prepared and needs no strengthening whatever. Messrs Meredith, Lauder, Bell, Creighton and their colleagues are at least equal in capacity to the prodigals of the treasury benches. If not, the province is in a bad way for administration

Prof. Goldwin Smith seldom speaks without saying something, and his recent address to the Teachers Association proved no exception to this rule, although it was prefaced with an apology concerning the absence of important topics. My humble begin by contrasting the school books of to-day with those of fifty years ago, showing that the present classes now have to be furnished with engravings in beauty and completeness those enjoyed by the well-to-do of former days. The cheap printing of the present time, he went on to say, has introduced a new element into the consideration of the public library question. Not only novels but all kinds of standard scientific and literary works can now be purchased for a trifle by mechanics and artisans. Passing on the Professor associated the Education of rural colleges throughout the province with the Provincial University, giving it as his opinion that Ontario can only support one great University, and that none can afford a proper staff of first rate teachers to the standard to degrees and to the advancement of science and learning. The true solution of the religious difficulty, he believes, would be a secular University with religious colleges. As to common schools, he thinks separate schools a anachronism, since they tend to estrange Catholic and Protestant, and perpetuate division. He would allow the local boards to decide whether the bible should be read in the schools, with a conscience clause enabling parents to withdraw their children from the religious exercises, if they desired.

RAILWAY FUSION

The Grand Trunk and Great Western Amalgamation

London, Aug 11. The railway fusion craze (rather) of conversation in this city just now, and speculation is rife as to what change, if any, will be made in the staff. It is understood the state has been made up, and that some two gentlemen have entered on the work, and that they are to be the new staff will be composed of the Grand Trunk men. It is also stated that the Great Western officials are to be dismissed, or if they do not quit they will be made so uncomfortable that they will be compelled to resign. It is also stated that the present Great Western officials are to be given the first chance of the Grand Western offices, but expect that the present officers will go on with the work of the railway as heretofore, if the Grand Trunk

The Transit of Venus.

New York, Aug 12. The Herald's Washington special says: A preliminary meeting of a number of astronomers was held here to-day, Professor Newcomb in the chair, to consider the best means for the proper observation of the transit of Venus. It was decided that the United States should send out two expeditions, one for the Pacific Ocean, and the other for the Atlantic. Washington is a far the station, but the science demands that the observations should be made at both points, which is the good the United States Government will have charge of the Pacific expedition, and have charge of the Atlantic expedition. The Pacific station will be in charge of Professor Davidson, chief of the Coast Survey, and the Atlantic station will be in charge of Professor Smith, of the United States Coast Survey. The party for the Pacific station will leave about the 20th of August, the New Zealand party left about the 1st of August and the others will leave about the first of October. Parties for stations in the United States will not leave before the middle of October.

Henry George's Arrest

New York, Aug 11. Special cables from London state that Henry George, the American, author of "Progress and Poverty," was arrested, on behalf of the Irish Government, on the 2nd inst. He protest against his arrest on the imprisonment was made to the Government through the American consulate. The report states that when Mr Gladstone heard of the arrest of Mr George he was quite indignant at what he said must be a mistake, blunder, and ordered his instant release, and that he sent officers to his assistance, instructed to take measures for taking the author into custody. The spokesman for the Home remarked, "The prisoner is a comely enough looking man, sir." The bearer of the Government orders assured the officers that Ministers anxiety to have the prisoner at once set free indicated that the Government had been a victim of a mere mistake.

Which Government has be talked, but useful one that it is not clear, Irish government, was the reply of the deputy bearer. Neither messenger nor officers had any idea of Mr George's identity, and he was liberated with much ceremony, and was not long in the city. The result of the arrest was made to read, "Arrested, Henry George, accused by the police of association with suspects

A Cruel Trick

Halifax, Aug 11. A few days ago a little son of Charles Bagnear, of this city, while attending a temperance meeting at McNabs Island, was asked by an unknown man if he would like a piece of cake, at the same time producing some. The boy took several bites, and soon became sick, vomiting violently. Since then he has been confined to bed, and to-day is reported to be in a bad state, suffering terrible pains, and his face being very much swollen. Yesterday several of his teeth came out. Another boy who was with Bagnear says the man was a stranger, and that he took one of the cakes from a basin to return to Bagnear, offering apparently moved by mercenary promptings.

Mexico and Guatemala

New York, Aug 12—Senor President of Guatemala, arrived today by Panama, whether he goes on matters connected with the New welfare of his country or the Mexican Minister and representatives of Guatemala yesterday signed a convention which is to be ratified, to settle the boundary dispute between Mexico and Guatemala. The convention provides for submitting the difference to the arbitration of the President of the United States. Guatemala abandons all claims to Soconusco, and Mexico at its belonging to Mexico. The Guatemalan Government will be approached by contracting powers to run a dividing line between them

Bradstreet's Weekly Report

New York, Aug. 11. There were 20 failures reported to Bradstreet's journal during the past week. Less than in the preceding week and 21 more than in the corresponding week of last year. Canada reports 10, an increase of one. Special telegrams from trade centres and agricultural regions indicate that nothing has happened to mar the favorable prospect for good fall trade and abundant crops referred to last week. Rains in the south have menaced the cotton but serious damage has not yet been done. The iron strikers are showing signs of defeat.

He Died Game.

Palestine, Texas, Aug. 12. Chas Thomas was hanged yesterday for murdering Hudson in McMasters. Thomas joined the clergyman in the hymn which he heard the notorious Brown sing at the execution of Fanton four years ago. Thomas prayed for his enemies and all mankind and died with the least evidence of fear he stepped upon the trap and announced that he was ready to die. He expressed satisfaction at having killed McMasters. His neck was broken.

A Fearful Fall

Toronto, Aug 12.—While Henry Lampe, John Wilson, Jacob Voight and Edward Murray were running the ceiling of Rolph Smith's block yesterday the scaffolding gave way. The first two fell into the second floor, the second two fell to the ground floor, by far, and were frightfully mutilated. They will probably die.

POOR QUEBEC

Great Fire Raging in the St Sauveur Suburb

Quebec, Aug 12, 2.40 a.m. A number of fires this morning, a few miles in the environs, compounded, and it seems there is no throwing up yet the end. So far as can be learned, the fire of the suburb of St Sauveur, Lower Quebec, is the worst. It seems that the fire started in a factory, where Messrs Gilmour & Co. manufacture sewing machines. At the moment the alarm of fire was given, the factory was in the possession of the Sheriff, who had taken it for a debt, which, as a result, most of the machinery belonging to the firm, which, in Quebec, is almost as good as a total loss. The factory was a large wooden building. Adjacent to it, and in the same ward, are the Gilmour machine shops, a building two stories in height, and a large number of other buildings, including two churches, and a convent, belonging to the Sisters of Charity, and occupying the Sisters of Charity, and occupying the whole of the Grand Trunk Railway property, in a manner, which, if not stopped by the lively works of Mayor Langelier, and the Sisters of Charity, will result in a considerable million dollars worth of property being destroyed. The fire is already running through the Grand Trunk Railway property, and it has burned out the roundhouse, and is now in the Grand Trunk Railway station, and it is to be regretted that the Grand Trunk Railway station, which is a wooden building, and which is the finest station on the line, and which is the finest station on the line, and which is the finest station on the line