THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

VOL. XXVI. KINGSTON, CANADA, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5, 1857. NO. 20.

Assassination of the Archbishop of Paris.

The Archbishop of Paris, Monsignor Sibour, was assassinated on Saturday, the 31 inst., at five o'clock in the afternoon, in the church of St Etienne du Mont, at the close of the prones or which terminated the services of the octave of Saint Geneviève.

The assassin's name is, it appears, Verger. He is a man of average stature and rather thin. At the moment of the crime he wore a black coat and a black great-coat. His features are regular, he is closely shaved, and his forehead is high and free from hair. Just before the blow was struck, M. de Borres, Cure of St. Etienne du Mont, preceded the Archbishop, requesting the people to kneel down. He remarked on his right a man who remained standing, but who, on a sign from him, bent the knee; also the archbishop having turned towards the left to give his blessing to the children, this man suddenly rose, seized the prelate by the right hand so as to turn him partly round, and then plunged a poignard into his breast, near the heart. The prelate staggered back two or three steps, and cried, "Le malheureux m'a tue!" and he sank almost without sensation. The cure, thinking that the Archbishop had been taken suddenly ill, (for being in advance he had not seen the assassin give the stab,) endeavoured to calm the congregation, and then turned towards the prelate, whom he found lying on the pavement, unable to speak. The assassin attempted to strike a second blow with the knife, but was prevented by the Abbe Sorat. It was one of the sergents-de-ville on duty in the church who first seized the assassin.

It had been stated, and the statement was repeated in almost all the Paris journals, that Verger had made himself remarkable for his opposition to the dogma of the "Immaculate Conception," that the words he uttered when stabbing the Archbishop were "a bas la Dogme!" in allusion to that dogma and that he committed the crime and exposed himself to certain death out of zeal against the new dogma. I have made inquiries in various quarters on the subject, and I am assured that Verger uttered no such exclamation on committing the crime; that he was not suspended from his functions for preaching or writing against the dogma; and that the repeated interdicts imposed on him were occasioned by misconduct, gross in any one, but particularly so in an ecclesiastic. He was for six months the cross-bearer at the chapel of the Tuileries, which belongs to the parish of St. Germain l'Auxerrois, and for some time before his removal had exposed himself to censure. Various anonymous letters had, it seems, been received by the Archbishop, in which the most scandalous charges were made against his superiors. After much inquiry these denunciations were traced to Verger. In a case of poisoning, which was tried some time since, and in which the husband was the criminal and the wife the victim, Verger was examined as a witness. In the course of the trial he addressed the court in a violent manner in favor of the accused. He was censured by the judges, and subsequently by his ecclesiastical superiors. Shortly afterwards he published a pamphlet against the Procurer Imperial, in which he lavished on him the greatest vituperation. For these reasons, as well as for his repeated irregularity of morals, he was suspended by his diocesan the Bishop of Meaux. Verger appealed to the metropolitan, the Archbishop of Paris, who has the power of removing the punishment inflicted by the suffragan.

The Archbishop require that all the proofs and documents on which the Bishop of Meaux founded his censure should be laid before him. They were submitted and examined with the greatest care and deliberation. The result was that the Archbishop, in the mildest terms, informed Verger that, with such evidence, he could not revoke him from the censure of the Bishop of Meaux. He at the same time treated him with much kindness. He entreated him to be cautious of giving scandal, to avoid his life, to avoid in future the errors which had brought down priestly censure upon him; and he hinted that the restoration of his functions would depend on his own conduct in future. In the meantime the Archbishop gave him 300f to provide for his present necessities and informed him that he should do his power to save him from falling into destitution. The Archbishop on so slight evidence had no right to do this, but he stoutly declined from conscientious motives to receive its suspension. It is not that Verger very lately wrote a letter in which he acknowledges the kindness and charity of the Archbishop, while at the same time according to his own declaration he was preparing for the crime he had just committed. Whatever motives he may now allege for his conduct, I am assured that his suspension was simply owing to the irregularity of his life. The Univers would imply that Verger is insane. It is true that no man capable of such a deed, on such a spot, under such circumstances, can be pronounced in a perfectly healthy state of mind. But it may be doubted whether he is more or less madman than the generality of such criminals. The answers given by him in his preliminary examination do not indicate much derangement of intellect. He appeared cool, clear, and resolute. As I have already observed, his previous conduct gives evidence of a perverse, ill-conditioned mind. I have not as yet learned that proofs are alleged of his being a man who is irresponsible for his acts.

From the Paris Patrie.

The assassin Verger passed several hours in the church of St. Etienne du Mont the day he committed the murder, for, choosing a place where he might strike his victim more securely. His first intention was to stab the Archbishop when seated on his episcopal throne. For this purpose he offered the beadle money to allow him to take his seat during the sermon near the stalls occupied by the clergy, and which place he said he occupied every year during the ceremonies. The beadle refused. Verger then thought of a bench whence he might strike the Archbishop in a narrow passage. The prelate passed close to the assassin on his entrance. Verger waited for his going out, but the Archbishop went out by another door, and Verger was again disappointed. It was then he went to the nave where he accomplished his fearful project.

(From the Paris Constitutionnel, Jan. 5.)

The Archbishop had just taken part in the procession. Having reached the church he was on the point of going to the vestry, and he turned round to give his blessing to persons assembler in the lower part of the temple, when he received two blows form a dagger by a man of vigorous appearance, who was immediately arrested.

M. Sorat, the Grand Vicar, who accompanied Monseigneur Sibour, gave him absolution on the spot, and the prelate expired, exclaiming "Le Malheureux!"

The Archbishop was in his surplice, and was not doing duty when he received the mortal blow. His body was taken into the vestry, where it remained for some time.—It was then taken into the presbytery.

It was soon ascertained that the assassin, was priest of the diocese of Meaux, called Verger, and who, although only in his 32nd year, had been suspended more than once. Latterly his conduct has betrayed a complete aberration of intellect. He was seen at the doors of the church of the Madeleine, with a placard on his breast, bearing accusations against his superiors.

(From the Paris Droit.)

The Archbishop was just entering the vestry when a man rushed at him, and, drawing his robes aside, plunged a large Catalan knife into his breast, exclaiming, "Le malheureux m'a tue!" and he sank almost without sensation. The cure, thinking that the Archbishop had been taken suddenly ill, (for being in advance he had not seen the assassin give the stab,) endeavoured to calm the congregation, and then turned towards the prelate, whom he found lying on the pavement, unable to speak. The assassin attempted to strike a second blow with the knife, but was prevented by the Abbe Sorat. It was one of the sergents-de-ville on duty in the church who first seized the assassin.

No gaslights. The murderer watched his dying victim with a satanic smile.—When asked wish to recommend the criminal, "Because I was suspended, and I wanted I should not be pardoned?" "Why," they said, "did your action?" "No—I don't." He since I do not believe in the immaculate Conception, upon which I exclaimed myself in the pulpit. I wished to protest once more against such impious doctrine."

A LETTER FROM QUEBEC.

Quebec—Dayspel New Years, 1857.

Dear Whig, My perambulation having come to a dead stand for the season, (see dis—ful myself this blessed eighteen hundred and fifty-seventh year of grace, face to face with huge antipithes—the temperature for my special delectation has gone to some unmerciful degree below zero, shivelling up and reducing to small dimensions what little of soul or sympithy I have left.

My surviving aspirations are with that glorious western country of yours where, to show his sense, the sun goes every night of his life; just before he peps behind the hills the florid off gentlem a seems to give me a dont you wish you were here, so I sit wi k and I am booked for one hour's gambling cid two in the "blues."

But here's a time when the decent portion of humanity, in good humole with itself, expands and breaks out into open acts of kindness. I too, feel the genial influence and could eat plum pudding even with a "Turks and Harthens" were my sister only British Constitutional composed invented solely for such christmas orthodox stomachs. Here's a time which poetic people call a season of dear remembrance (so it is! and carries one back to clear, dumpling, days of boyhood, when hopes were high and digestion strong; a time of glad thoughts and sad thoughts; reasoning wakes her long forgotten train of the good old time, the good old time! What is the good old time? School days forsooth—that reign of terror, that time of tyrants, of thrashings and imprisonments,—good old time indeed! when a superfluous D or an unpressed T cost a whack over the knuckles—where a false note in the sacred lesson procured a tug at those tender locks, a lucrious admixture of salt. In, mi with outraged feelings—these were the charms of the good old times; or when high on mince pie I muffled the bracing air, full, fresh and free, and drew in breath and strength for many a year to come—when heath, and hollow, and brake and briar thro' for many a mile I hare and hound on foot, I are followed—even now I hear that joyous shout, the vibration, from hearts of oak and lungs of leather—these, too, were the charms of the good old time! But I grow poetic, despite the warning of old Weller, who, except the Cantlerwell man, "never knowed one of 'em 'ere poets as did any good." The muse seems sworn not to interfere with my prosperity, as I never could coax her to inspire anything better than

"Your humble,
"Pickwick."

and having great faith in Mr. Weller's experience, I feel bound to bate her for the remainder of my natural life—I envy the man that asked "who wrote Shakspeare?" and now a preference for one page of Blackwood on the corn laws to all the poets from Clerieton to Campbell. This may be "sour grapes"—and it very, in fact barbarous. Yet so it is.

Now, dear Whig, having said quite enough about the personal pronoun, "I" I must give you a little of your favourite we or they, as the case may be. So if you deem the accompanying bag of odds, ends, and gossip worth cramming into a corner of your "valuable print," pray accept with best wishes. Were I indeed a poet or a painter or a philosopher, or some such clever fellow, I could sing of the glories of the unrivalled scenery here—the gorgeous sunsets—those majestic mountains—much could I tell of the wonders of Montmorency the natural steps, St. Anne's St. Ferriole, the Chaudiere, Lorette, the Trois Saults, and an hundred other marvels told or an hundred times before; but as mine is the stump pencil of a penny-a-liner you will be content with the bare, nude the strings, and first you will find "summut" of, ye ancient city, in and round which there is so much that reminds one of home. I do not mean its narrow streets nor dingy houses, nor the filth and squalor of some of its suburbs, but I mean the good macadamized roads that lead to it, than which none better can be found, no, not in England—I mean their well kept lawns, the substantial country houses with their park-like grounds, the trim hedges, the green fields and blue mountains, albeit now covered with snow. I might add congenial mists and wind, and storm and rain in their season.

The climate, like the people, is of uncertain temperament, the thermometer occasionally takes a fit of galloping up and down between zero & fever heat, causing the inhabitant to bag the fire in August, and go half mad in September—then come such soft and smiling days, coaxing well into October, until Master Boreas chops round to the Northwest, and woe to the unwary—wide to the drapisers of fur and flanel. Next to hand is the great sanitary improvement now in process of completion in the introduction into the city of an unlimited supply of excellent water. The pure element is procured from Lake St. Charles, a distance of eight miles in a straight line. A dam is formed at Lorette, whence across the valley of the St. Charles it is conveyed in cast iron pipes to the city, which it enters at the foot of de Salaberry Street. The tube is supposed to be 140 feet higher than the highest point in Quebec! and 140 feet above the average level of the bottom of the valley. So you see there is no need of pumping, as at Kingston. The force is tremendous, and it is said that upon the occasion of rejoicing, for the fall of Sebastopol a column of water was thrown from the market place in the Upper Town to a height of 200 feet. The estimate was somewhere about $180 000, but in November, 1855, the expenditure amounted to £230.0 0, and there is every prospect of its reaching a decent half million. The excavations of this solid rock were of a most expensive and tedious kind, and the quantity of powder used in blasting is something enormous. The chief superintendence of the work was not recently entrusted to Mr. Baldwin, an American Civil Engineer of acknowledged ability. The manager, Mr. Shorediche, is an English Civil Engineer. The former gentleman received £1.000 per annum, and the latter is paid in proportion. This I mention by way of contrast to the miserable pittance which was deemed a sufficient reward to a Civil Engineer who projected and carried out a work of comparatively equal importance in Kingston. Other great improvements are spoken of, such as the docks, warehouses, &c, on the St. Charles and also on the Point Levi side of the St. Lawrence for the Ocean Steamship Companies. There are some also of a strictly local nature, in which I cannot suppose you to be greatly interested, else I might request you to suggest some plan of navigating the mud canal which Peter Sittert becomes in Spring, when the snow melts. But this perhaps had better be reserved for a native genius.

In an agricultural sense, this is a most wretched part of the province, in the immediate vicinity of Quebec. Various root crops, especially turnips and cabbages, are very generally and very successfully grown. There are also some of the finest specimens of cattle, sheep, pigs, &c for the most part owned by old country people and bred from recently imported stock; but such must not be supposed to indicate anything like a similar state of things ten miles farther out in the direction of Beauport. I have seen animals called sheep, but which bore no distant resemblance to goats, and I can aver from personal experience, that the whole village of Lorette, nine miles from town, was upon one occasion searched and searched in vain for milk sufficient for a cup of coffee—and further, that the man at whose house I stopped was the proprietor of three hundred acres. One never sees a decent fourwheeled waggon—the "jolly farmer," the bluff and hearty old farmer, is here a myth. The dried-in habitant jogs along to market in his antique and one horse cart, the happy owner of two pounds of butter, a few bunches of onions, and one pair of moccassins. Sorest of his sorrows are the tolls—gates stare him in the face at all directions—so up come the coppers from unfathomed depth of pocket, and on he jogs and talks and "jibbers" and takes his stand. Ask him what he has got to sell, and he bows like a courtier. You don't want his moccassins or butter, and gruffly turn away—still he bows and smiles, and if you have a soul above sixpence you will buy butter, moccassins and all. A good humored and happy hearted fellow is the habitant, and cold and wet and hungry, I've seen him laugh and dance and sing; when certies I would have growled and grumbled. His native suavity never leaves him—he'll bow and bend & listen, but talk not to him of Scotch ploughs and cultivators and rotation crops. As his father lived, so lives he; contented and happy, he asks no better. 'Tis said the young man now crosses the St. Lawrence, visit the Almighty Republic, come back and snap their fingers at the terrors of the church; the senior Baptiste shrugs his shoulders and says his prayers; junior recrosses the boundary, joins the first sect he meets, Methodist or Baptist, and sings praise and prospers.

No more dear Whig at present. I dare say you don't find the bag half so full as it looked. It's 29° below zero, and mysel'and pen and ink would well nigh freeze, but for Morton's potent liquor, which hot, smoking hot with sugar, is great at thawing.

Yours truly,

SPRING WHEAT.

THE MAYOR'S DINNER.

On Thursday Evening, George Davidson, Esq., the Mayor of Kingston, entertained a very large party of his Friends and supporters, including Heads of Departments, City Officials &c, to Dinner at the British American Hotel. As it is our intention to furnish our readers with a detailed account of this Dinner, we shall say no more about it now, than that it went off with the greatest eclat. But we have a remark or two to make about Public Dinners in general, and this one in particular.

Guests at Public Dinners are seldom or ever punctual. What is considered the height of ill-breeding in private, that of keeping a Dinner or its Company waiting, is looked upon on festive occasions as so trivial a matter, as scarcely to be apologized for. The Dinner of Thursday last was ordered for prompt seven. At seven to a second, it was ready for dishing. But the Guests were not prompt they straggled in by twos and threes, until past eight o'clock, when they were not all assembled. The consequence was, that the worthy host was hacked of that credit due to him for the getting up of a Dinner as was seldom or ever set upon a Kingston table, for it had to be served and eaten cold. And this is independent of the rudeness and cruelty of fifty men keeping another fifty, kicking their heels in an ante-room,—to say nothing of the want of courtesy to the Entertainer.

Another Kingston custom, more honored in the breach than in the observance, is that of putting on the Cards a large number of Public Toasts, all of which have to be pretaced and responded to, ere the real Toast of the Dinner can be given. On this late occasion, a great many gentlemen, elderly men who seldom or ever attend public dinners, made a point of being present at this one of Mayor Davidson's. And they waited patiently until past eleven o'clock, under the hope of being there when that gentleman's health would be proposed.—But they waited until hope became past hope; and they all departed gradually; for it was past midnight, ere the regular toasts were expended, and the Mayor's health could be given. And so, when at last the time came, though it was received most heartily, yet it was drunk at a half empty board. Dinner speeches are seldom or ever pleasant—it is scarcely possible that they can be so; and it does seem preposterous, that the only Toast that all persons would wish to drink, and the only Response, which all persons would wish to hear, should be so postponed, as to come when the time is past for enjoying them.

Both these evils are great and need amendment, but the latter would be much ameliorated, if the first were corrected.

The practice which Mayor Gildersleeve introduced, that of dining his public Guests in his own house, however worthy of imitation by other Mayors, could not in Mr. Davidson's case be carried out; for his dwelling is small, and the vast number of gentlemen whom he wished to compliment on the occasion of his inauguration, could not be entertained without great inconvenience. This only proves that no rule exists without exception.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this excellent Society took place on Wednesday, at which there was a full attendance. The President, Baron De Longueuil, the Vice President, Mr. Hopkirk, the Treasurer, Mr. Baxter, and the Secretaries, Messrs. Baxter and Cumming, were re-elected without opposition. Eight of the Old Dir ctors were re-elected, with the addition of Messrs. Gildersleeve and Ferguson. It is to be hoped that this Society will work harmoniously with the Agricultural Society.

THE INSOLVENTS' CREDITORS' LAW.—The columns of this newspaper, and the columns of most other Canadian newspapers are crowded with Insolvent Debtors' Notices. One would think that Half Upper Canada was Bankrupt, and wanted to wipe off its indebtedness. Surely the first time that Parliament sits this session it will be to repeal this law.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

A meeting of the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada, took place, pursuant to notice from the Secretary, at their office in this city, on Tuesday, the 20th instant, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Present, E. W. Thompson, President; Sheriff Ritton, George Alexander, President of the Agricultural Association, David Christie, A. Buchanan, Hon. Allan Ferguson, Professor Buckland, Secretary, R. L. Denison, Treasurer.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and approved, several reports and communications were presented.

The Treasurer read his report and financial statement, for the year ending 29th September, 1856, showing that including the balance of £418 0s. 2d. from the previous year, the whole amount received, including government grant, for distribution to Agricultural Societies, receipts from the Fair at Cobourg, amount collected by the Local Committee for purposes of the Fair, &c., was £11,866 4s. 3d.; and the whole amount paid, including distribution of Government grants to societies, premiums and expenses of exhibition, buildings and improvements on experimental farm, &c., £11,950 15s. 8d.; leaving a balance at that time due the Treasurer of £84 10s. 5d. These accounts had been duly audited and found correct. The report stated various causes which would account for the increase of expenditure over the receipts; such as the large increase of the prize list, the unfavorable weather at the fair, which had diminished the receipts, the publication of transactions, &c.

The Secretary read a report of the delegation, consisting of himself and the President, to the last Lower Canada Exhibition at Three Rivers, embodying some remarks upon the progress of agricultural improvements in that section of the Province.

The Treasurer read a report of the delegation consisting of himself and Mr. H. Thompson, to the New York State Fair, in which some of the particulars of that exhibition were considered worthy of adoption here.

These reports were severally read and adopted, and ordered, to be recorded in the transactions.

A communication was read from C. W. Cooper, Esq., of Kingston, with a copy of his Essay, lately published, on the United Counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, to which a prize was awarded by a Kingston Special Committee, requesting the favorable consideration of the Board.

On motion, it was resolved, that in consideration of the valuable information contained in Mr. Cooper's Essay, the Treasurer be authorized to purchase 100 copies for distribution.

A communication was read from the Bureau of Agriculture, stating that measures were in progress with a view of obtaining through the British Consuls in foreign countries, new varieties of grains and seeds for the purpose of experimenting upon in this country, and offering to place some of such seeds, when received, at the disposal of the Board.

The Secretary was authorized to convey the thanks of the Board for the communication, and to state that the Board would be glad to avail itself of the offer made.

A communication was received from the Township of Mariposa Society, in reference to some disagreement with the officials of the Victoria County Society. It was resolved that this matter did not come within the Province of the Board to adjudicate upon.

A communication was read from Brantford, giving a list of names of persons there to compose the Local Committee to make preparations for the Provincial Exhibition at that place next autumn, which list was formally confirmed.

A communication was read from Dr Litchfield, Secretary of the Local Committee at Kingston giving detailed statement of the expenditure on the buildings and grounds in connection with the late exhibition at that city; from which it appeared that the total amount yet received by the Local Committee from all sources, was £2783 3s 3d, besides £200 more, which had been promised but not yet paid over. The total cost of buildings, fences, and other work was £3948 3s 1d; leaving still to be provided for, the sum of £931 19s 10d. The Local Committee sought the aid of the Board in devising some means to relieve the buildings and grounds of this debt, which had been incurred in consequence of enclosing the ground in a substantial permanent fence, and erecting a permanent crystal palace of superior description, which would be available for future Provincial Exhibitions when held at Kingston, and for other public purposes in connection with the advancement of Agriculture. After a good deal of consideration it was resolved by the Board to lend its assistance in procuring the amount required by the Local Committee, by way of loan, till the receipts from the buildings and grounds shall be sufficient to liquidate the debt.

Mr. Alexander called attention to the importance of encouraging the importation of several agricultural stallions from Europe and with that object he proposed to offer the sum of £15 to be added to the prize awarded to the horse of that class, which should be entitled to received the twelve prize as being he best of the class, and imported from Europe since the last exhibition.

The Board concurred with Mr. Alexander's views, and a Committee was appointed to revise the Prize List throughout, to invite suggestions from agriculturists generally as to improvements, and was instructed to make the prize offered for the best imported agricultural stallion £35, to which Mr. Alexander's prize added would make the whole prize £50.

On motion, it was resolved, that the President of the Association, Mr. Alexander, should be authorised to wait upon the Local Committee at Brantford, and ascertain what progress was making in the preparations for the exhibition.

Mr. Alexander brought under notice, by resolution, the importance of proceeding with the publication of the transactions, which had been unavoidably suspended; and a Committee was appointed to ascertain the best means of carrying out the object.

Professor Buckland brought under notice the terms of affiliation offered by the Society of Arts of London, England, to Colonial Associations or Institutes having objects in common or of a similar general tendency, with the Society of Arts, and stated the advantages that would accrue therefrom. On motion the Secretary was authorised to take the necessary steps for admitting the Agricultural Association into union with the Society of Arts.

After attending to numerous other matters of detail, the Board adjourned.

*** It will be noticed by the reader that the accounts of the Association are only brought down to the 29th September last, prior to the holding of the Kingston Show. It would be a gratification to the public, if the Treasurer's Accounts could be annually balanced prior to the opening of Parliament.

MOST SHAMEFUL IMPOSITION.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Instead of the Freight Agent at the Kingston Depot notifying Merchants and others of the arrival of their Goods, they allow Carters to bring them to the City without any orders, and the consequence is, the Recipients have to submit to whatever charge the said Carters choose to make. The General Superintendent should put a stop to this most shameful imposition.

The Personalities of the Leader

"We have been merely on the defensive in regard to personalities; for it has never been the part of this journal to act kind in the way."—Leader of Friday.

*** Hear what this modest paper says—it has never offended in that way!—In the fall of 1855, Dr Barker chartered to be in Toronto, and in a letter sent home, he complained bitterly of the non-attendance at the several offices of the Government officials. For so doing, Dr. Barker was attacked by the Leader in a most coarse and brutal manner; so infamously that a Kingston legal gentleman, then in Toronto, took measures to get legal proof of the publication of the libel, with regard to after measures. And this the Leader did without the smallest provocation on the part of the British Whig, or Dr. Barker, save the publication of the offending letter. And yet the Leader never offends in that way.

The Coming of Mr. Nickinson.

When Mr. Nickinson visited Kingston last week, he made arrangements to bring down a portion of his excellent Company, including himself and Miss Nickinson, during the last week previous to Ash Wednesday, viz, from the 18th to the 25th of February. He will do the thing up in a handsome style, and we heartily hope he will be properly patronized.

To the Editor of the British Whig.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

To the Christian Community of Kingston:—

The Sabbath School Teachers' Convention will, D. V., assemble in this city upon Wednesday, the 11th day of February next, for the purpose of discussing and devising plans for increasing the number and improving the condition of Sabbath Schools throughout this vast Province. Every one who has given the slightest attention to the subject and is capable of estimating its importance, must admit that these objects deserve the most deliberate and prayerful consideration, for upon the results which may be arrived at, with God's blessing, the thorough preparation of the present and future youth of Canada, for discharging the duties of useful, patriotic and pious members of society, when they shall have attained to man's estate,—may in a great measure depend. Deeply impressed with the force of these truths, it will not, I trust, appear unreasonable, or ill-timed, if I appeal to the best feelings of my fellow citizens, on the duty and privilege of giving a hearty welcome to the delegates, who, may be expected here, in great numbers, both from Canada and the United States, and extending to them the rights of a generous hospitality, according to the noble precept of St. Paul, "Given to hospitality," and of St. Peter, "Use hospitality without grudging," and dreading the awful frown of a greater than either, who hath said, "I was a stranger and ye took me not in."

To those who have not as yet signified their intention of accommodating delegates at their houses, during the Convention, but who may now feel disposed to do so, an opportunity will still be afforded of making known their desire to any one of the Superintendents of Sabbath Schools within the city, or to Mr. G. Lacey, at the Bible and Tract Depository, to either of which parties they are required to give in their names and the number of delegates they will receive into their houses.

Others who may not have convenience to provide in this manner for delegates, will have the satisfaction of subscribing to the good cause by pecuniary donations, which will be received by Mr. Stacey at the Depository, or by the Superintendent of Sabbath Schools.

The sums thus subscribed will be laid out in providing accommodation at hotels for delegates not received into private houses.

JOHN MAIR, M. D.,
Sec'y Local Com.

Kingston, 30th January, 1856.

THE LATE FIRE IN ONTARIO STREET.

To the Editor of the British Whig.

SIR,—

It was only a few minutes ago my attention was called to your report of the fire which destroyed my house, published in yesterday's Whig. Now, sir, the Fire was not confined to that portion of the House, near which the fire originated, as you have stated; its ravages unfortunately spread to the interior of the whole building, which I occupied. Secondly, my property is not half covered by insurance; thirdly, when you mentioned the fire originated from an ash barrel in the rear, you ought to have stated that said barrel was the property of Mr. Blondheim, placed against my Frame back Kitchen, (I don't mean to say intentionally) instead of his own Stone Kitchen.

Yours respectfully,

H. CUMMINS.

Kingston, January, 30, 1857.

NEW BANKS.—We observe in the last number of the Canada Gazette notices of application to Parliament at its sitting, for Acts to incorporate four new Banks. "The Traders' Bank" of Quebec. "The Ontario Bank," Bowmanville. "The International Bank of Canada," and a joint stock Bank to be called "the Imperial Bank," and to absorb the chatters of two existing banks, "The Bank of Toronto" and the "Colonial Bank of Canada."

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 27th Jan., 1857.

His Excellency the Governor General, has been pleased to make the following appointments:—

The Honorable James Buchanan Macaulay, to be Senior Commissioner for the Revision and consolidation of the Statutes of Upper Canada, &c., in the room of the Honorable John H. Cameron, resigned.

Thomas Worthington, of Toronto, Esq., to be a Commissioner under the several Acts for the protection of Indian Lands in Upper Canada, from trespass and injury.

Henry H. Croft, Esq., D. C. L. Professor of Chemistry and Experimental Philosophy, University College, Toronto.

John H. Cherriman, Esq., Professor of Natural Philosophy, University College, Toronto.

Daniel Wilson, Esq., LL. D. Professor of History and English Literature, University College, Toronto.

The Rev. John Jennings, the Honorable James Patton, and Oliver Mowatt, Esq., Queen's Counsel to be additional Members of the Senate of the University of Toronto.

Henry Theodore Legler, Esquire, M. D., and David S. Bowlby, Esq., M. D., to be Associate Coroners for the County of Waterloo.

Arrival of the Arabia.

HALIFAX, January 29.

The Royal mail steamship Arabia, Capt. Stone, arrived at this port last night on her route from Boston where she will be due a week hence to morrow forenoon, with dates of Liverpool to the 17th inst. She news is therefore three days later than by the Arago at New York.

The steamship City of Baltimore, from Philadelphia, arrived at Liverpool on the 15th inst.

The political news presents no feature of special importance.

Intervention is talked of by the Swiss difficulty confirmed and the details of arrangement were in course of adjustment.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

Breadstuffs—the brokers' circular reports a limited demand and a declining market. To effect sales, holders had to submit to a slight reduction on prices from the rates current on the previous Friday.

Provisions generally were dull, but without special variation in prices.

In the London money market there was rather more activity, and possibly a slightly increased stringency, but without producing any material change in rates.

The bull on the Bank of England had decreased a little during the week.

Consols closed for Friday, 16th at 93¼ a 94 for money; 93½ a 94 for account.

New York, January 29.

The steamship Clyde from Glasgow, the 10th instant, arrived this morning.

The United States sloop of war Jamestown arrived at Monrovia, Nov 28th from Sierra Leone, and sailed for Cape Palmas, Dec 2d.

The steamer seen in the ice off Nantucket proves to have been the propeller New York from Glasgow on the 1 instant. She got into Nantucket on the 21st for coal, and stayed until the 27th, owing to the great difficulty in getting coal on board.

Albany, Jan. 29.

Long & Silsbee's extensive carriage factory on South Pearl Street, was nearly destroyed by fire at two o'clock this morning. A large quantity of stock was burned—Loss about $10,000, partially insured.

Patrick Vermore and Joseph Vermey, indicted for the murder of Patrick Carroll, in September last, by pelting him with stones, have been tried and acquitted by the directions of the Court for want of evidence to identify them.

St. Louis January 24th.

The Chambers of Commerce of this city have appointed a Committee to correspond with the Board of Trade of Boston and the Chamber of Commerce of New Orleans, relative to the establishment of a direct line of steamers between Boston and St. Louis, via New Orleans. The Chamber of Commerce of this city pledges the active cooperation of its members in the furtherance of the proposed enterprise.

Boston, January 29.

Captain Sparrow, of the barke Cambridge, arrived here from Pernambuco, and reports that the schooner Commerce, at Pernambuco, had spoken the bark Essex, Capt. Ritz, from Boston for Janeiro, twenty-five days out, in latitude 25 N., longitude 31 W. The captain of the Essex reported that on the three days out from Boston he took from a raft two seamen belonging to the French steamer Lyonnais. The seamen stated that the steamer was run into and sunk by a vessel when three days out from New York, and that of her passengers and crew sixty were drowned, and the balance took to the boats.

The County Council of Leeds and Grenville met at Brockville on Monday. Dr. Jessup was nominated for Warden, as was also Dr. Morton, of Farmersville, when Dr. Jessup was elected by a majority of one. Wm. Buell, Esq., has been elected Mayor for Brockville.

COUNTY OF ONTARIO.—John Hale Thompson, of Hannington, Warden.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.—M. Boucher, of Colborne, Warden.

COUNTY OF HASTINGS.—N. S. Appleby, of Shannonville, Warden.

To the Editor of the British Whig.

THE ELECTION OF MAYORS.

SIR,—

In looking over your paper a few days ago I read an article relative to the manner in which the Mayors of Upper Canada are now elected, and calling for a change. As the Mayors are now chosen, they cannot represent the Electors. About November when the Election fever commences, some folks think they would be the fit and proper persons for Mayor. Consequently they set to work to select candidates for the different wards of the city favorable to themselves, you scarcely ever hear of a candidate being chosen at a public meeting. When the elections take place, those who want to be Mayors strain every nerve and use all their influence directly and indirectly for the return of their friends. Well, according to the old doctrine, "scratch me and I will scratch you," if they are successful they must support the man who got them returned; and as a Mayor is flesh and blood in the Council, he must fain to the men who elected him, in case his nominees get defeated; then comes the tug of war. A fortnight is allowed between the election of Aldermen and the election of Mayor; this fortnight in my opinion never could be intended for any other purpose than pipe-laying, previous to the election of Candidates. An election is a season of excitement, and after their return, its "good" days are over. Then comes their harvest; and well they know it; hurrah for one fortnight's good living, any how! oysters, champagne and other fixings galore; they are the observed of all observers; would be matches will cross streets to their middle in snow to get a shake of their hand! The quicker this humbugging system ends the better. Let the election of Mayor come directly from the people, at the polls. We have the power of electing a member of Parliament; why should we be denied the right of electing our Mayor? That this pitiful system will be altered before next year, is the wished

A. VOTER.

Kingston, 27th January, 1857.

A Russian's Head.

To the Editor of the Morning Herald.

DEAR SIR,—

I dare say "you" were informed, and doubtless are this have ascertained the correctness of your information, and convinced your skeptical senses of the fact, by actual autopsy, but the majority of your numerous peruers are not authority circumstanced, and will be incessantly delighted to discover that Thomas A. Corbett, Esq., our worthy Sheriff has by the laudable enterprise of his son been made the recipient of a real Russian's head, which he (Tom, by the permission of the Sheriff, suffered to dishonor.

It will be recollected that some time since the Sheriff was favoured with the receipt of an interesting relic of the late campaign in the form of a Russian Gun Bayonet &c &c., which was procured by young Dr. Corbett, from amidst the carnage of the immortable Battle field of Inkermann, and from its novelty of construction, and the peculiar associations which its presence developed, elicited intense interest. Dr. Corbett, desirous of still further contributing to the information and entertainment of his fellow citizens, and at no inconsiderable expenditure of trouble time and money forwarded in a most natural and perfect state, the aforesaid head which is no less than that of a sergeant of the redoubtable Moscow Guards who was executed in the act of ruthlessly butchering some French soldiers, a practice for which this corpse had become notorious. The features and general appearance of the caput mortuus are exactly such as we attribute to the Russian. The short compressed olfactory organ, diminutive adipose optics of a very fiery accent for receding into imponent able depths of an exuberant cutaneous barrenness almost confounding the expression of the countenance which is that of mingled rage and scorn,—suggesting vividly to the imagination, the formidable appearance of the monstrous sword that dangled the heights of Inkermann, when on his particular occasion in a determined effort they sought to invade the sacred though inconspicuous ranks of the British in gloomy, destination—but, whose inherent gallantry to their immortal glory, he it recorded, rendered the fierce and offended onslaughts of the Russ nugatory and as relatively abortive.

A PATLANDER.

P. S. I omitted to state that the Russian's Head will, for the edification of the curious, be on exhibition at the Sheriff's Office until the end of the week, after which it will, at the express request of the Highland Company be sur endered up to them, to be by the Captain thereof erected on a pole and exultingly displayed as a glorious trophy and unequivocal evidence of the British powers.

P.

*** We are authorized to say that along with the Russian's head, the Sheriff received a cask of Raki, which, not being suitable to his own taste, he sent to the Editor of the "Herald," knowing him to be a first class judge of coarse grain liquor, with a request that he would take notice of the Raki as well as of the Head, and let such of the "Herald's" readers as might call to satisfy their curiosity, taste the "article." For reasons of his own, the worthy Editor omitted drawing public attention to the Raki, though there could be no doubt that he received it, for on about a quarter of an hour after its delivery at the "Herald" Office, he was seen to emerge therefrom and to enter the Council Chamber with a dignity of mien and an apparent determination of purpose, which it was afterwards conjectured arose no less from the flattering, tho' waggish hint, suggested by the Sheriff that the "Herald" had readers, than from the potency of the Raki. Immediately on joining the Council, our elated Typist, who is a dominant member of that august Body, delivered himself of the following short, but graphic Oration:—

"Mr Mayor and Gentlemen,

"Listen to my words, for I am not at this moment in humor to be either interrupted or trifled with. I wish the new Council to understand at this, their first Meeting, that I have made up my mind that I shall do their duty.

"Past experience will remind some of the old members how I taught them theirs! I am determined that from Frank Weymss Upwards, down to Capt Jackson, the Corporation of Kingston shall be put through, nor I can take the whole Council and lick them to a jelly in detail; and such of them as don't know, or may have forgot this fact, I am now ready to post up on the subject."

After this "caution" had been given, the Orator retired into privacy, under the guidance of Mr. Chamonhouse and at the suggestion of his Worship, the new Mayor.

Mr. Cunard on Subsidies and Canadian Trade.

(To the Editor of the London Times.)

SIR,—Several letters have recently appeared in your journal relative to the development of the Canadian trade, in which the mail contract with the Cunard Company has been so energetically urged upon it may be well, in reply to these remarks to give a short statement of the origin and working of this contract. I shall feel obliged by your inserting this communication in the Times.

Nearly 20 years ago the Government advertised for tenders for the conveyance of mails by steam to America; several proposals were sent in, the one from me being the lowest, and the plan thus agreed upon was accepted. The contract entered into has done no discredit to Her Majesty's Government, with whom it was made, and I think the country will not soon forget the good services rendered by me in originating it and carrying it out.

The duty has ever since been faithfully performed; the ships have departed at the appointed time without one single exception.

For many years the amount received by the Post Office for letters carried under this contract exceeded the sum paid by the Government. Recently the rate of postage has been reduced from ten to fourpence, and the amount of the postage may now be short of the contract money; this important service has been performed at a small cost to the country.

The mail service cannot be performed by transient ships; there are times in the year when freight and passengers are not to be had; under such circumstances ex-

BAD PRINT