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THE CANADIAN MINISTERS IN ENGLAND

BANQUET AT FISHMONGER'S HALL.

(From the London Advertiser, April 27.)

The annual banquet of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers took place last evening at their Hall, Londonbridge, under the presidency of J. Spicer, Esq., the Prime Warden, who was supported on the occasion by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.; the Hon. G. E. Cartier and the Hon. A. T. Galt, members of the Canadian deputation; H. Bernard, Esq., Secretary to the Canadian deputation; the Hon. G. Waldegrave Leslie, M.P., Sir C. Wentworth, Dilke, Bart, Lieut. Colonel Addison, Mr. Thomas Hankey, M.P., Mr. John Abel Smith, M.P., Sir S. M. Peto, Bart, Rev. Dr. Davison, Rev. — Raleigh, Rev. J. Percival, Rev. C. Vince, Rev. J. Aldis, Dr. Reeves, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. Robert Pott, the Master of the Grocer's Company; Mr. Gadesden, Prime Warden of the Goldsmith's Company; Mr. Henry Fowler, Mr. J. D. Cook, Mr. Robin Allen, Mr. A. Haldane, Mr. Wm. Leaf, Jun., Mr. John Dasent, Mr. J. C. Templer, Mr. C. J. Brydges, Mr. John Fairfax, Mr. H. Bodkin Poland, Mr. W. Merry, Mr. Jas. Grant, &c., &c.

The dinner was of the most recherche character, and well sustained the high character of the Company for excellence in civic entertainments.

The cloth having been removed, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts proposed from the chair,

The Prime Warden gave "The British Colonies," and said:—The British Colonies suggest how wide-spread are Britain's arms, how many millions now own the sway of our Queen. On the whole how easily are they governed how well are they cared for. Mighty territories, fertile and salubrious, are being peopled by our country men. [Hear, hear.] English in their origin, with the English language, literature, and laws, they are growing up into nations, reproducing our English life with modifications, and our intense love of liberty, civil and religious.—The mighty influence which such communities must exercise upon the future civilization and religion of mankind are full of promise to the world. (Hear.) We are honoured this evening by the presence of well-known representatives from the two great divisions of our colonial empire in the northern and southern hemispheres. (Hear.) Important political changes are about to take in the British North American colonies.—They cover an immense extent of country, with a population approaching four millions. Having a very extensive frontier, varied resources, and much acquired wealth, the conviction seems to have settled upon them very generally that the age of isolation and separate interests, natural to settlements in an early stage of their history, must now come to a close, and a federation for the purpose of mutual defence and the development of internal resources should take place. (Hear, hear.) Under the guidance of politicians of judgment and moderation, and with the full consent of the Imperial Government, they are engaged in forming a confederation which will, we may trust, give the territorial security, the increased prosperity and wide field for the employment of individual talents, and at the same time develope their sense of national responsibility and the value of self help. The men under whose most judicious guidance this great progress is being matured have just arrived in this city, and are present with us to-night. I have much pleasure in proposing in connection with the toast of the British Colonies the 'Health of Mr. Cartier and Mr. Galt.'—[Hear, hear.]

Mr. G. E. Cartier said—Mr. Prime Warden, my Lords and Gentlemen, the honor you have done my country and myself by the kind invitation you have given us to attend this grand banquet, commands a feeling of gratitude on my part. You have been kind enough, and the distinguished members of both Houses of Parliament, have also been kind enough on this occasion, to allow the toast of the British Colonies to be drunk before the toast of the Lords and Commons. You alluded to the scheme now before the North American Colonies, as well as before the people of this country, of a Confederation of the North American provinces. Now, we felt in Canada, that notwithstanding the great benefit which the two Canadas had derived from the Constitution of 1840, and that constitution has been overgrown by the prosperity and growing wants of the two Canadas, and consequently we are seeking for a system that will allow us develope ourselves upon a greater scale. (Hear, hear.) We have approached what we call the lower or Maritime Provinces of North America. We told them frankly that in Canada we possessed two elements necessary for the constitution of a nation,—the personal element and the territorial element; but that there was one element which Canada does not possess, and that element which makes the greatness of England—the maritime element. (Cheers.) We told them that they wanted territory, and that we wanted seaports, and that with the two united we should become great and prosperous, and take with the mother country a sort of co-national existence. (Hear, hear.) Our Government determined to send a deputation to England, in order to impress upon the Imperial Government the absolute necessity of carrying out that scheme of federation, and we wish to obtain the benefit of the adoption of that scheme, not only that we may be stronger and more prosperous, but also that we may be in a better position to take our share in the defence of this country. (Cheers.) We understand very well that in the event of invasion we cannot meet the foe without the application of the whole force of England. (Hear, hear.) But, Mr. Prime Warden, we have secured such a union of all the provinces of North America, as will enable us to take our share in the defence of the country. (Cheers.) Singly the two Canadas cannot defend themselves, but if united with the Maritime Provinces, a perfect system of defence can be devised in connection with the mother country. (Hear, hear.) When we speak of a confederation of the North American colonies, we do not speak of a system which tends to loosen the ties that bind the North American colonies to the mother country, but, on the contrary, of a system which tends to develop the mercantile element in British North America, and to increase the whole British empire. Under our scheme there would be no feat of a struggle like that which we have seen in the United States of America. There can be no danger of a contention between State rights and Federal rights. We intend, in our representation to the British Cabinet, to say that we are ready, even Canada alone, to take our full share in the defence of the country. But we will put before the Imperial Parliament, that if the Confederate scheme is carried out, we shall be in a better position to aid Great Britain in the event, which I hope will never arise, of war between this country and the United States. (Hear, hear) I will, however, take this opportunity of remarking that if we in Canada take our share in the defence of the country, that will necessarily involve a great expenditure; but, I may add, you need not fear what you have been told would happen—that there would be an increase on the duties on goods imported from England to Canada. (Hear, hear.) Those assertions are not warranted, and as they are causing a good deal of mischief I am glad of this opportunity of making this statement. (Hear, hear.) Now, it has been stated in speeches in both Houses of Parliament, and certain papers in this country, that since Canada is so vulnerable, it would be better for the security of England that she should be left either to exist in a state of independence or to form part of the United States. (Cries of "No, no.") We understand in Canada that a cause of war can scarcely arise from ourselves. It must arise from an Imperial cause. We understand that we are vulnerable; but we are willing that our country should be the battle field, in order that the honour of England should be vindicated. (Hear, hear.) We have no desire to be independent, and still less have we a desire to be annexed to the United States. We have no desire to become a position of the American Republic—such an idea we view with horror. (Hear, hear.) We have the satisfaction of knowing from her Majesty's speech upon the opening of Parliament that our scheme of confederation is approved by her Majesty's Government and by the sense of the English people. (Hear, hear.) Subsequent proceedings have shown that it has the approval of both Houses of Parliament, and we feel that by such a system we can aid England in any struggle which she may have with the United States. (Cheers.) If the fallacious argument prevailed, that because the defence of a particular colony was likely to become an expense to the mother country, then all the colonial possessions of England must go. If that argument were carried out to its logical extent, the result must be that the British Empire would be reduced to England, Ireland, and Scotland. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Galt said that the toast of "The British Colonies" was one in which not merely the Colonies personally, but all England must be deeply interested. In the course of the struggle which had been going on for the last four years in America, the power and the prestige of England had been to a certain extent imperilled. We have all hoped, and we still hope; that our friends and neighbors in the United States will be enabled once more to come together. We desire, in the interests of humanity, that the struggle, between the North and the South should cease, and cease at an early period. We desire that irrespective of any personal interest which we may have in the matter, on account of the disastrous result of the war to this country and to the world at large—[Hear, hear.] I may take this, the first opportunity that has been afforded to me of alluding to the sad news which has reached London to-day—news which I believe will be a subject of regret to every Englishman and to every inhabitant of the North American colonies.—[Hear.] We have not got the particulars of the events in question, but whatever may be our feelings or our sympathies with regard to the struggle in America, we cannot but feel that the death of those two men, the first men in America, who have fallen victims to assassination, was an event which must shock the mind of this country and of the whole world. (Hear, hear.) Differing as I did from much of their policy, and of many of their acts, still I must say, that I regard Mr. Lincoln, who has now passed away, as a pure-minded and patriotic citizen of the United States; and I will say of Mr. Seward, that I deplore in the strongest manner his removal from a position in which I believe he was performing the highest duties in a manner which showed that he had not only the interests of his country at heart, but that he sincerely desired to maintain peace with this country. I am sure, therefore, that the news received this day will carry a shock of alarm to the mind of every one who is desirous that the peace of the world should be preserved. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the proposed Confederation of the North American colonies, after what has been said by my friend Mr. Cartier, I will only observe that our object is not to weaken our ties with the mother country, but to put ourselves in a position to perform those duties which we think may be demanded of a great and growing country. We are not going to ask of the mother country to undertake a greater responsibility than that which has hitherto devolved upon her. On the contrary, we are come to show that if this Confederation be carried out, we shall be able to assume a greater degree of responsibility than has hitherto fallen on Canada. (Hear, hear.) We feel that the North American colonies ought not merely to be a support of the mother country in a time of war, but should also aid in developing the sources of industry in the time of peace. (Hear, hear.) It is our desire that the thousands and tens of thousands who emigrate from this Kingdom to America should not flock to the United States, where the ties that bind them to this country might be broken, but that they should repair to Canada, where we can offer them the advantages of a system of government that would still keep them associated with the British Empire. (Hear, hear.)

The Prime Warden then proposed 'The House of Lords,' associating the name of the Earl of Shaftesbury with the toast of 'The House of Lords.' (Applause.)

The Earl of Shaftesbury briefly returned thanks for the honor and compliments paid to the House of Lords by his friend the Prime Warden, and said that that portion of the Constitution of this country must always possess marked influence with this people, seeing that it was frequently refreshed and invigorated from the ranks of the professional and commercial classes of the community. (Hear, hear.) He could not but express the gratification which he felt at seeing present on that occasion gentlemen from their Canadian colony who had come to the country as a deputation for the purpose of expressing the desire of Canada to remain firmly united to England. He trusted that their efforts to carry out the object they had in view would be successful, and that Canada would remain an integral portion of the great empire. (Hear, hear.)

A number of other toasts were then proposed, the proceedings closing shortly after eleven.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS—THE AMERICAN WATCH Co.

Our readers, we are sure, are not generally aware of the great impetus that has been given to manufactures since the beginning of the war. The high rates of exchange, and the necessities of the army, have made the Eastern hills and valleys resound with the hum of busy machinery, and nowhere has machinery done more or created a greater revolution in production and trade than in the manufacture of the watch. What was once the toilsome, slow and uncertain result of hand labor only, is now the swift demonstration of unvarying mechanical forces. The same class of genius that invented the telegraph and the sewing machine invented the delicate and wonderful mechanism that takes hold of the raw material—the brass and steel, and gold, and precious stones, and under competent direction turns out that daily wonder and necessity—a perfect time-keeper.—That genius is essentially American, and has been found, collected, assimilated and made productive by the American Watch Co. at Waltham, Mass. Taking the best fruits of several years experiments, they established their factory nearly ten years ago, which they have been compelled to enlarge from year to year, until they now employ seven hundred workmen, and turn out a product valued at a million and a half of dollars per annum—or equal to all other watches now sold in this country.—The secret of this Company's success is that they have done what they promised—that they have furnished a first-rate substantial watch at a moderate price—and this is the great difference between their watches and the ordinary importations from Europe. Except certain very high-priced varieties, the European watch is the result of cheap and unskilled hand labor, that never goes well, and in a short time 'costs more than it comes to" in repairs. The American Watch Co. give a guarantee for the quality of their products, that is good with any dealers who sells them—Exchange.

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Diocese of Ontario.—The Annual Session of the Synod of this Diocese, will be held in Picton, on Tuesday, June 20th. Arrangements have been made, whereby the Clergy and Delegates will be carried from Kingston to Belleville at a reduced fare. The Lord Bishop intends holding Confirmations in Kingston and that part of the Diocese west of Kingston, in the fall.

☞ The Law.—It will be seen by a Card in to-day's issue, that M.W. Strange, Esq., once a partner with the late Mr. Charles Stuart, has resumed the Practice of the Law. In conjunction with Mr. E. V. Rogers, son of the Rev. Mr. Rogers, of St. James' Church, a young gentleman who recently passed a most highly creditable examination before the Law Society at Toronto, they have opened an office in Clarence Street, opposite the Post Office.

The Board of Agriculture.—We have much pleasure in announcing that Wm. Ferguson, Esq., M.P.P. for Frontenac, has been unanimously elected Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture. This is an honor to which Mr. Ferguson is justly entitled, from his long and arduous exertions in the cause of Agriculture.

Barriefield Parade Ground.—This well known Parade Ground is now ready for sowing, the village hogs having been busily engaged all spring in rooting it up.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1865.

The apprehensions that the U. S. Government would seriously embarrass itself with France, and thereby provoke a general European War, have subsided; for the prudential counsels of Mr. Seward have so far moderated President Johnson's belligerent intentions, as to produce a semi-official declaration, that the United States will maintain a strict neutrality in the Mexican struggle. This, however, will not prevent or stop the Emigration of bodies of armed men to Mexico, to take part with President Juarez and the sol-disant Liberals. Mischief may arise out of this armed Emigration. Should these hordes bolster up the party of Juarez and give it a few more years' existence, that Government can, (and some say it has,) issue Letters of Marque to prey upon French commerce. These vessels, fitted out in United States waters, will be recognized as belligerents, and the successful game of the 'Alabama' and 'Florida' be played over again. Further, it is said, that the steam ram 'Stonewall' has been sold by the Confederates to the Mexican Liberals, and already has changed flags. In this contingency it is possible that Louis Napoleon may take sufficient umbrage with the United States, as to make this piratical warfare a source of quarrel with its Government.

Of the future of Canada little fear need be apprehended. The people of the Federal States are so busy in re-establishing the par value of the Greenback, that another war would be anything but palatable to them now. President Johnson may indict bullying proclamations and bluster a bit; but if restrained by the good sense of Mr. Seward and other intelligent men, he will do nothing else but bully and bluster. Nothing will be done by the Canadian Government to provoke any ill-feeling, and the same calm, dignified policy of the Home Government is sure to be continued; even should Lord Palmerston and the Whigs be ousted from place at the ensuing General Election. Peace is what Canada wants, and Peace will be preserved at whatever hazard less than dishonor.

We hope for the best and have reason to hope. The Canadian Deputation will succeed in their great mission, and if Canada is to be largely fortified, the better to preserve peace, the money will be raised at a guaranteed minimum rate of interest. The building of these Fortifications will bring back into the province the young men who left it for the war, making money once more plentiful. The promise of a good harvest, if realized as there is every present expectation, will restore prosperity to the farmer and give work to the mechanic. And then nothing will remain to be done, but to perfect the great Scheme of Confederation, sooner or later to be accomplished, which will place the whole of the British Possessions in North America upon a sound foundation; ready for Independence, whenever such a change may be deemed advisable by the joint wisdom of the Imperial and Colonial Authorities, a change which we Canadians neither wish to hasten nor retard. Happy is that form of government which seeks no change.

MASS MEETING IN LONDON.

London, April 30.

On Saturday evening, the 29th of April, an immense public meeting was convened under the auspices of the Emancipation Society, in St. James' Hall, to express feelings of grief and horror at the assassination of President Lincoln and sympathy with the Government and people of the United States and with Mrs. Lincoln, Mr. Seward, and family. The galleries of the Hall were draped in black, and over the end of one of the galleries hung the American flag. The Hall was crowded with an audience who manifested not merely their warm admiration of the character and capacity of the late President and sincere sympathy with the people of the United States in the loss sustained, but their hearty approval of the great cause Mr. Lincoln represented. The platform contained an array of Parliamentary gentlemen and many leading citizens of the metropolis. Many ladies were present, a majority of whom were in mourning. Various resolutions were carried, not merely with unanimity, but with an intense feeling rarely seen at public meetings.

The chair was occupied by William Evans, President of the Emancipation Society, Messrs. Foster, Stansfeld, Leathem, Taylor, Potter, Baxter, and Baines, members of Parliament, commenced the proceedings with expressions of deep sympathy with the American Government and people, and entire confidence in the administration of President Johnson. The chairman was supported by twenty influential members of Parliament, a large array of distinguished residents, representing every section of the community. Letters of sympathy were received from Sir Charles Lyell, Lord Hughton, and others. W. E. Foster, Esq., member of Parliament, moved the first resolution:—

That this meeting desires to give utterance to the feelings of grief and horror with which it has heard of the assassination of President Lincoln and the murderous attack on Mr. Seward, and to convey to Mrs. Lincoln and the United States Government and people the expression of its profound sympathy and heartfelt condolence.

Mr. Foster said this was the time when the tie of blood, binding Englishmen to Americans, was indeed truly felt. A thrill of grief, horror and indignation had passed through the length and breadth of Europe, and especially possessed the heart of every Englishman as though some palsied calamity had fallen on himself. (Cheers.) This meeting would send by the ship which left their shores that night, its sympathy with the widow and orphans and country who had not lost their faith for the future. He was confident in the belief that they had so learnt the lesson of common history, that they would prove what strength a free and Christian people have to bear up against every blow like this, though it be such a blow as had rarely fallen upon any Commonwealth. He expressed his conviction that President Johnson would continue President Lincoln's work of restoring peace to the country and restoring freedom to all who dwell in it. (Great cheering.)

P. A. Laylor, Esq., M.P., seconded the resolution. He expressed deep sympathy with the American nation, which had lost a worthy successor of Washington. Lincoln's great task had been fulfilled. He had crushed the rebellion of the slaveholder. Time, the destroyer, had not withered one leaf in the chapter of his glory. He had no fear that the Government of the United States would fall into the career of revengeful retribution. He asked the audience to remember that for years, portions of the press and people had heaped every epithet of abuse upon Lincoln, and were now trying to do the same thing with Johnson. (Shame.) He felt confident that the efforts of the new government would be continued in the same direction as Lincoln's, and that it would soon effect the complete restoration of the Union, with the complete emancipation of the negro. Lincoln died for that principle, but his death was not the symbol of its defeat, but of its glorious triumph.—(Cheers.)

Mr. Leathem, M.P., brother-in-law of Mr. Bright, concurred in the hearty tribute paid to the character and services of President Lincoln. They had seen America pass triumphantly through gigantic perils, and they confidently expected that she would come out with equal fortitude and equal dignity from what was perhaps the greatest of her triumphs.

Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., moved the next resolution, viz.:—

That this meeting desires to express its entire confidence in the determination and power of the people and Government of the United States to carry out to the fullest extent the policy of which Abraham Lincoln's Presidential career was the embodiment, and establish free institutions throughout the whole American Republic.

Mr. Stansfeld said they had met, not only to give an expression of their horror at a deed so foul that history could produce no parallel, but to show sympathy for a cause which begins, by being honorable and just and great, to be righteous, and which by the act and by the life and death of its martyr President, had now become sacred in their eyes. The South had been fighting for the avowed and deliberate purpose of promoting and perpetuating human slavery. It attempted to found its existence on a national crime, and had met the deserved fate of those who set themselves against the laws of God and man. The North had been fighting for a common country which they would share, but which they would not allow to be torn asunder. Step by step the North rise to the height of the great and holy argument on which their cause was founded.—Each delay, each defeat, seemed but to make their resolve firmer, and higher and purer their policy. When the South finally abolished slavery throughout their States, then victory would finally crown the cause.—Throughout all this period, Lincoln guided his country with honor. If anything could strengthen the States in their trial, it would be the deeply felt, spontaneous and universal sympathy which was now travelling to them from Europe. He was sure all prayed that the Government and people might be true to the example of him who was the guide of their cause.

Mr. J. B. Potter, M.P., seconded the motion. He said he now stood in Parliament as the successor of Richard Cobden, whose object was equally with that of Mr. Lincoln to dignify labour. Lincoln destroyed slavery in America. It should be their wish to destroy serfdom at home, and he trusted the result of the conflict in America would be to give an impetus to the cause of reform in Europe.

Mr. Baxter, M.P., supported the resolution. He expressed a hearty concurrence with the eloquent tributes paid to the memory of President Lincoln. All the events of the last four years dwindled into significance before the issues involved in the great contest in America. Not only was the great question of slavery involved in the contest, but the question of constitutional government all through the world. He did not believe a great cause depend on a single life, and felt confident that the American people would hurry to a triumphant issue the policy and principles of Abraham Lincoln.

Hon. L. Stanley, second son of Lord Stanley, of Alderley, a member of the Cabinet, expressed his admiration for the character of Mr. Lincoln.

Professor Fawcett also supported the resolution.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., said that the men who elected Lincoln could not be wrong in the choice of Johnson.

Mr. Caird, M.P., moved that copies of the foregoing resolutions be placed in the hands of Mr. Adams, for transmission to the President of the United States, Mr. Lincoln and Mr Seward. He paid a warm compliment to the American Minister, whose moderation and firmness and conciliation had been the best preservative of peace between the two countries.

The resolutions were supported by Greenfell, Curran and Ewing, members of Parliament, and Revs. Newman Hall and Mason Jones.

Mr. Cyrus W. Field, who was called for and received with great applause, thanked the chairman and the meeting, on behalf of the American people, for their deep sympathy with the thirty millions on the other side of the Atlantic, who were mourning for the death of Abraham Lincoln.

THE ROAD MURDER—CONFESSION OF GUILT.

The 'Road Murder,' which filled the country with painful curiosity five years ago, and the incidents of which are studied as a dreadfully fascinating problem in every household, seems now likely to receive a full explanation. Miss Constance Emily Kent, one of the unfortunate family, only 21 years of age, surrendered at Bow street and made a voluntary confession of the crime. She was the first object of suspicion on the discovery of the crime, and now declares that she alone was guilty, and that the murder of the child Francis Saville Kent, which brought suspicion on more than one head and wrought such misery to an entire household, was her own unaided work.

At Road House, in Wiltshire, lived Mr. Kent, an inspector of factories. His family by the first wife consisted of three daughters and a son, the two elder daughters grown up young women, the third—Constance—a girl of sixteen; the son William was about 15. By the second wife he had three children—a daughter five years old; a son—Francis Saville Kent—nearly four years old, and another daughter still younger. On the night of the 29th of June, 1860, the inmates of the house were Mr. and Mrs. Kent, the seven children we have mentioned, and 3 servants—a cook, a housemaid, and Elizabeth Gough, the nurse. During that night the child Francis was taken out of his cot, strangled, stabbed, his throat was cut, and his body wrapped in a blanket which had been drawn out from over him, and was thrown down a privy belonging to the house. From that time until yesterday it has been a profound mystery who committed the deed. All the skill and acuteness which justice could employ for the detection of the crime were baffled. So wholly did every clue fail, that the public were reduced to deal in vague suspicions, which, it now seems, were most unjust and cruel.

Early in the morning the nurse missed the child, but thought that his mother might have come in and taken him away to her own room, especially has he had been unwell and had taken some medicine the night before. The child was not to be found in the house or the shrubbery, and Mr. Kent drove over to Trowbridge to give notice to the police, ordering the servants to continue their search. While he was gone, some people from the village came in to help in the search, and the end of it was that the child's body, with its nightgown on, and wrapped in a blanket, was found in the soil of the privy. There were, according to the subsequent evidence, marks of strangulation, there was a stab in the side, a wound in the breast, and the throat was cut from ear to ear. A peice of paper, bloody, as if a knife had been wiped upon it, was found, but no knife or other weapon.

Suspicion at first fell on the young lady who has now confessed. The circumstances that the child had been taken up, wrapped in the blanket which was between the quilt and the sheet, and that the clothes were afterwards arranged, seemed to indicate that a woman's hand had been concerned in the work. The nurse gave her evidence with calmness and apparent truth, describing how she had placed the child's bed-clothes the night before, giving her reasons for not alarming the household when she first missed him, and declaring that she had heard and seen nothing from the time of going to bed till about five in the morning, when she awoke and found the cot empty. The laundress asserted that one of this young lady's night dresses was missing; that a day or two after the murder she had received it with the rest of the linen for the wash; that she had put it into the basket, that Constance had sent her out of the way for a moment, and that when she got home with the basket the night dress was missing, and on this statement Inspector Whicher applied for a warrant to apprehend Constance, and publicly charged her with the murder. But nothing was substantiated against her, and she was shortly released. Suspicion then fell on the nurse, as there were not wanting those who set up a theory which involved even the father of the child in the guilt of the murder. The coroner's inquest did not satisfy the public, and the coroner was loudly blamed. The charge against Constance fell to the ground, and the Detective was scarcely less censured for the recklessness of his proceedings. Slowly the public curiosity subsided, but not without the feeling of disappointment which follows the unsuccessful attempt to penetrate a mystery. The Kent family broke up their establishment and quitted the neighborhood. The road murder remained one of the strangest among the romances of crime. Miss Constance Kent some years ago joined a society of religious ladies at Brighton, and has made a voluntary statement to Mr. Arthur Wagner, the clergyman of that place. Mr. Wagner declares that he used no such influence as the receivers of auricular confessions are sometimes accused of exercising on their female devotees. In such a case, indeed, we may presume that the unburdening of her mind by this lady was a free and spontaneous act. At any rate her statements before Sir Thomas Henry were deliberate, and made after repeated cautions. The manner of the deed we have yet to learn, but it is not too soon to express thankfulness that the dreadful story is now likely to be truly told, and the weight of a horrible suspicion taken off the guiltless members of the Kent family.

The Deputy Reeve of the Township of Kingston.—The Grit organ complains that the British Whig showed up the illegality of Mr. Peter Day's continuing to sit as Deputy Reeve of the Township of Kingston, and also his acting as a Magistrate. The Grit organ forgets the necessity of this showing up. By a mere fluke, owing to a Military Funeral, the Teetotallers obtained an inglorious victory on the 1st day of the polling for or against the Dunkin Act. Licensed Taverns being suppressed, Mr. Peter Day is striving to force down the throats of the people a most obnoxious law, by sitting as a magistrate and fining offenders. This he should do legally; and as in the opinion of the most eminent lawyers, his insolvency involves the vacation of his seat in the Council, which he refuses to perfect, the power of the Press is brought to bear against him, and not for any other motive.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Board of Agriculture met yesterday in the Agricultural Hall, the Hon. David Christie, Vice President in the chair. A resolution expressive of sorrow at the decease of the late President of the Board, Colonel E. W. Thomson, and of condolence with the widow and bereaved family, was passed. The Hon. David Christie was elected President of the Board, Colonel Ferguson, of Kingston, Vice President, and it was unanimously resolved that J. Cowan, Esq., M. P. P., be recommended to the Government as a fit and proper person to fill the vacancy resulting from the demise of Colonel Thomson. The remaining business done was the revival of the prize list for the Provincial Exhibition of 1865. Important modifications were made in the list, of which due official intimation will be given.—Globe of Yesterday.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1865.

LETTERS & TELEGRAMS.

P. & Co., New York; G. L., Leslie P.O.; B. M., Quebec; E. C. & Co., New York.

THE FENIANS.

This Society is growing in the importance of its relations to powers in Europe and elsewhere. It is assuming the position of a well drilled revolutionary body of greater magnitude than any in the known world. Its hatred towards England exceeds that of the Italians towards Austria. Assassination may not belong to its code, but its organization is as close, and its branches more extended than those of the Carbonari.

No exaggeration is there in stating that the British Government is seriously disquieted on account of the Fenians. They have been the subject of a recent debate in the House of Commons, and we hear that spies have been sent across the water to find out what they can of Fenian objects, numbers and organization. There is a rumor, however, that very little success has so far been awarded by fortune to these emissaries. The arrangement and management of the Society are upon a purely military basis, the plan of campaign remaining exclusively in the hands of superior officers. Even the Head Centre employs no amanuensis, but from his former connection with the press, is enabled to do duty as his own Secretary.

The course of the American Government towards the Fenian Society is not so clear as at first sight might appear. Some curious rumors are afloat concerning it. Thus, there is one to the effect that all possible information in reference to its plans and objects were communicated by the late President to the English Cabinet. This story came from the New York News, which is said to be subsidized from Col. O'Mahony's publication fund, and in this connection we may allude to John A. Macdonald's broad assertion made last session at Quebec, viz that the American Government had communicated the intelligence of a contemplated raid on Canada, from the other side by the Fenian sympathizers, and that steps had been taken to prevent it. To this must be added the assertion of the New York Herald at the close of a fierce anti-English article of great length written on the 5th. There was a species of insinuation of covert hostility made in the expression, 'By all means, let President Johnson take steps to crush out the Fenians at once; and let all loyal, British loving Americans take part with him in a hurry.'

Other accounts lead us to believe, that in pretending secretly to watch the doings of the Fenians the United States Government are not dealing frankly with anybody. Else why the attendance of Federal officers at Fenian gatherings? why the constant intercourse between the leaders and the cabinet at Washington? why the honored position of the Association at Lincoln's funeral? why the industriously circulated rumour that the President was himself sworn in among the Fenians in Tennessee?—Mirror.

Montreal, May 12.

The raider Gregg was before Judge Smith to-day. Mr. Devlin stated that the Washington Government had no further demand for the extradition of the accused, and Gregg was discharged.

The old firm of H. Chapman & Co. has failed. The cause is said to be a heavy depreciation in merchandize held in New York, owing to the fall in gold.

A man stabbed a boy with a chisel, inflicting a large wound. He has been arrested. It is stated that the boy had been annoying him.

Nine vessels have arrived. There were six at the same time last year. There are nine more clearances than last year.

The dry goods trade is very dull.

Several persons have been fined $20 and sent for a month to gaol for building wooden houses not cased with brick.

Some young men are leaving for Mexico.

Sanders, in an address to the people of Europe, styles President Johnson's proclamation mendacious and ferocious, and says the conclusive evidence sent to Europe is founded on forged papers and suborned testimony.

THE LATE MR. COBDEN.

Letters, of which the following are translations, have been received by Mr. Charles Cobden and Mr. S. Cobden, from the Emperor of the French and from Prince Napoleon:—

"Tuileries, April 20, 1865.

"Mr. Charles Cobden,

"Sir,—I have greatly felt the misfortune which has visited your family, for Mr. R. Cobden always showed a great sympathy towards France, and his influence upon his countrymen could only contribute to draw closer ties which unite England and France. I pray you to convey to his widow my deep regret, and to receive the assurance of my high esteem.

"Napoleon."

"Paris, April 4th, 1865.

"Mrs. R. Cobden, Midhurst.

"Madam,—I have just heard of the death of Mr. Cobden. I participate sensitively in your great misfortune.

"The personal intercourse I have had with that good man, so illustrious and so modest, inspired me with great esteem and a sincere friendship for him. I was happy to see him, as a member of the Imperial commission over which I presided, taking part in our labors for the Universal Exposition of 1857. He has rendered as much service to France as to England, by the greatness of his ideas, and the part which he took in our commercial reform. His memory will live amongst us. Receive, Madam, the expression of my deepest regrets.

"Richard Cobden will be mourned by all true friends of liberty and progress. Men of his character are rare; they belong to humanity at large.

"Accept, Madam, the assurance of my most distinguished sentiments.

"Napoleon (Jerome)."

ACROSTICS.

These being quite the rage, engage attention,
Though not engaging; and here let me mention
One which I give you with my fondest hopes,
That (as the Clown says) you can "find the ropes."
My first is fair, my second expresses home,
For either quality name the whole, then roam.
The monster mass is a Teutonic gnome.

Sigma.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 16, 1865.

AN APOLOGY FOR A LEADER.

It is difficult to write when one has nothing to say. The news of the day is comprised in the telegrams, and of local affairs the occasion is rare of anything occurring worth more than a paragraph. An editor cannot everlastingly be writing nonsense, similar to that of our Grit contemporary, or indulging in florid and vapid bosh—linked sweetness long drawn out—like that of the News. And yet the generality of Canadian readers admire nonsense and bosh. Treat them to the dose of an essay, *a-la* Times, and they make wry faces. Their stomachs can't digest that—like the Yankees, with whose domestic habits they assimilate in the matter of pies and saleratus, they prefer any kind of hastily gut-up food to a solid, well prepared and well cooked dish. Just as the Congregation of a Conventicle is entranced with the extempore mouthings of an illiterate preacher, when the calm, logical deductions of a well written scholastic discourse would be utterly disregarded or contemned. And this is why the British Whig publishes so few of what are vulgarly called 'editorials.' Every subject that can possibly engage attention is engaged by abler pens, and comes to our hands ready handled and dissected. To take these writers' ideas and pass them off as our own is piracy. How much better to use them bodily. Thus, while there is little of originality occasionally in the British Whig, there is no want of the very best information. Consequently, as there is nothing particular to say this morning, we shall fill the space at disposal with the best things at hand, in preference to following the ordinary practice; even at the risk of offending those who occupy themselves so much with the shortcomings of newspaper men, and call that laziness which is modesty and common sense combined.

Movement of Artillery.—A general move of the Batteries of Artillery stationed in Canada will take place about the 20th of the present month. The two Batteries stationed in this Garrison will embark on board the steamer Grecian on Tuesday morning next, for Quebec. The two batteries to supply their place will arrive by the steamer Kingston the following Thursday. The Battery stationed at Toronto leaves there on Tuesday also.

THE ELECTORAL DIVISION SOCIETY.

Many of our city readers are probably not aware, that Electoral Division Societies are simply and purely Agricultural Societies. When Counties were divided into Ridings, and each Riding sent a member to Parliament, it was deemed advisable to encrease the number of Agricultural Societies, and hence the formation of these Electoral Division Societies. In the same Act, as cities also sent members to Parliament, each city had allotted to it a Society of its own, the only difference being, that to entitle a city to the parliamentary grant, the members should raise among themselves four hundred dollars, a larger sum than is required of County and Riding Agricultural Societies. The same Act also provided for Horticultural Societies, but gave no grant in aid.

It may be recollected that Kingston once possessed both these Societies, and both devoted to Agricultural purposes, the Electoral Division Society being in fact an adjunct of the County Society. And it had also a Horticultural Society, devoted simply to the culture of Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables. And all flourished for a while, until upon one unlucky Annual Election day, the Members of the Horticultural Society, who had made themselves members of the Electoral Division Society, swamped the latter by their numbers, elected their own Officers, and changing completely the character of the original Society, abandoned the legitimate patronage of Cereals and Stock, and devoted all its energies to the encouragement of Flowers, Fruits, Vegetables, Twopenny dabs, Singing Birds and Poll Parrots! In fact changed it into a Horticultural Society, and illegally appropriated the Government Grant, as well as its own funds, to purposes never contemplated by the Legislature. In which condition it has continued. Now, we hold that a Society has a perfect right to fritter away its money in any way it pleases, in Prizes for the prettiest Pansy, or the ugliest Poll Parrot; but when Four Hundred dollars of the Taxation of the Country is so expended, then it is time to cry out. And many times the British Whig has cried out, but with little avail; for the one-man power prevailed.

The subject is now again mentioned, because it is reported, that the one-man power no longer prevails; that better counsels govern the Society, and that the legitimate objects of the Society will in future be kept in view, all which we heartily hope may prove the case. Indeed it is further said, but that news is too good to be true, that a certain gentleman, living out of the city, and therefore not legally entitled to membership, has promised to abstain from exhibiting his trumpery Flowers any longer, a promise, if kept, that will be a serious relief to the Funds of the Society.

The Editor's Table---No. 394.

We have upon 'Our Table' a Canadian Production of sufficent merit to entitle it to a favorable notice:—

Portraits of British Americans, by W. Notman, with Biographical Sketches by Fennings Taylor. John Lovell, Montreal. Five Portraits. 8vo. pp. 48.

And first of the Book, the Portraits and the Letter Press. Nothing can be handsomer than the manner in which the Book has been got up. The Portraits (Photographs) are in Mr. Notman's best style, and the Letter Press is from Mr. Lovell's Establishment, being the most perfect specimen of printing ever done in Canada. The writer of the 'Biographical Sketches' labours under a great difficulty. Four out of the five Portraits are of living men, and if to the dead applies the old adage 'de mortuis nil nisi bunum,' how much more is it applicable to the living? Besides, Mr. Fennings Taylor enjoys a high post under the the Government, and cannot portray otherwise than couleur de rose. Not that he could say with truth, anything very bad of the gentlemen whose lives he sketches; but knowing that he must of necessity flatter, the public are apt to pay little attention to what he says in their favor. The manner in which he has executed his task is exceedingly creditable to his scholarship, though his style is too grand, too gilded to please our matter of fact taste. For instance, he commences one of his sketches thus, 'The common point, at which the varying lines of different lines meet and end, is significantly solemn to all.' Men may perhaps be forgiven, if they speak and feel uncertainly on the manner in which they would elect to approach that point.' This we would admire greatly if we could understand it, but that is certainly not the writer's fault. He is not obliged to find brains for his readers. However, take the five sketches as they are, they are very pretty pieces of composition, far beyond what one ordinarily meets with in Canadian Literature. The publisher holds out a promise that this book of Portraits will be followed by others. May it be so. By the way, Mr. H. Morgan, of Quebec, has sent a circular to the Canadian Press, asking for information connected with the newspapers and their publishers. Heaven help the latter if Mr. H. Morgan gets hold of them. His Biographical sketches won't be painted couleur de rose. Fortunately nobody cares what he writes; for with the best intentions to be impertinent and mischievous, he rarely succeeds in doing more than annoy for the moment.

Report on Cullers' Office. A Blue Book. 8vo. pp. 48.

This is not an ordinary Blue Book, intended to light the Kitchen fire. It contains some valuable information anent a horde of Harpies who prey upon the Lumber Trade to an extent not dreamt of except by those who suffer. It also contains the proposed amendments to the present law, in the shape we hope they will pass Parliament.

London Society for May. English Edition. One Shilling Sterling.

The Churchman's Magazine for May. English Edition. One Shilling Sterling.

Messrs. W. C. Ch