FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

J. D., Hamilton, with rem.; R. W. K., Brockville.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Two recent judgments have been given in the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas at Toronto. Some allusions have been made in our columns to these cases, under the head of 'Transfer Policies,' but somewhat ambiguously. The simple facts are these. About a year ago, Mr. Charles McMillan, the Auctioneer, had the misfortune to lose by fire a large stock of Dry Goods which he had bought on speculation. These Goods were insured fully in three Fire Companies, the 'Royal,' the 'Home,' and the 'North British'; but though Mr. C. McMillan insured these Goods and paid the premiums himself, yet the policies were transferred to others to secure the purchase money. The fire took place after a large portion of the Goods had been sold off, and Mr. C. McMillan looked to the Insurance Companies to reimburse his loss. It should be observed, that after the fire, the agents of the Fire Companies took the damaged goods, sold them at auction, took and still retain the money. Well, the 'Royal,' honest and straightforward in its dealings, paid the claim at once. But the 'Home' and 'North British' did not, but allowed Mr. C. McMillan to bring his actions, which the Companies' lawyers did not permit to go to Juries, but contested and defeated the claims on a point of law, viz., that an insurer has no insurable interest in a transferred policy. Thus, unless a Court of Chancery afford redress, Mr. C. McMillan will lose the value of his Goods, after having insured them in highly respectable Companies. And this, after these Companies had sold his damaged goods and pocketed the money!

We have taken up this subject for the purpose of bringing it before the notice of the Head Managers of the two Companies. One (the Home) is a Yankee institution, but tho' Yankee, has always borne a high character in Canada. The other (North British) also stands well, both here and at Home. It is highly improbable that the Head Managers or Directors know the merits of these claims; but have suffered their lawyers to manage the matter, who, glad of a long and lucrative job, have advised non-payment on this point of law, though evidently their advice, should they ultimately win, must result disadvantageously to the Companies; for persons will not like to insure with them, if they contest and defeat equitable claims on points of law. We hope, however, that as the lawyers on both sides have had their pen'north out of this Insurance matter, they will now allow the principals to settle equitably.

ONTARIO SYNOD.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BRITISH WHIG.

The Fourth Annual Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario opened on Tuesday last in Picton. Divine Service was held in the morning in the church, the Lord Bishop, and the Dean assisting in the Services. The Synod met the same afternoon. There was a very good attendance of the Clergy and Lay Delegates. The Rev. T. A. Parnell, of Kingston, was re-elected Clerical Secretary, and Mr. H. Shaw, of Smith's Falls, Lay Secretary. The Hon. James Patton and Mr. Samuel Muckleston were appointed Auditors. Mr. P. P. Harris, of Kingston, was re-appointed Treasurer.

The Lord Bishop then named the Standing Committees for the year, which are the Executive, Finance, Clergy Trust, Episcopal Trust Fund, Widows and Orphans, and Book and Tract.

The following is a correct list of the committees for 1865-6:—

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The Dean, the Archdeacon, Dr Boswell, Revds F R Tane, J A Mulock, J G Armstrong, J A Preston, J S Lauder, C Emery, J Carroll.

Dr Henderson, W Ellis, W B Simpson, D F Jones, M P P, F McAnnany, T Kirkpatrick, Hon James Patton, Jas Cartwright, Hon J Hamilton, J B Lewis.

CLERGY TRUST COMMITTEE.—The Archdeacon, Dr Boswell, Revds R L Stephenson, G A Anderson, W Bleasdell, J G Armstrong.

Dr Henderson, Messrs W B Simpson, T Kirkpatrick, F McAnnany, P P Harris, C S Ross.

EPISCOPAL AND GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE.—The Archdeacon, Revds F R Tane, J G Armstrong, G A Anderson, R L Stephenson.

Dr Henderson, Messrs James Rosamond, W B Simpson, P P Harris.

WIDOW AND ORPHAN'S FUND COMMITTEE—Revds R V Rogers, J J Bogart, C Forest, G White, R Lewis.

Dr Carey, Messrs T D Taylor, A L Roberts, Wm Shannon, Samuel Muckleston.

DIVINITY STUDENTS FUND COMMITTEE—Revd's E Bower, H Costelle, J J Bogart, E W Beaven, C Grant, F R Tane, J Stannage, Dr Jones.

BOOK AND TRACT COMMITTEE—Revd's Dr Jones, J Bousfield, H Costelle, H Plees, C P Emery, J May, W Lewin, F Kirkpatrick.

LAND COMMITTEE—The Archdeacon, Revds F Dobbs, Dr Boswell, B Lewis, Dr Jones.

Dr Henderson, Messrs T D Taylor, Chas Güldersleeve, R Leslie, J Shannon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—F Kirkpatrick, P P Harris, E J Sisson, C S Ross.

The Reports of the Committees on Clergy Trust Fund, and Episcopal Trust Fund were read. Notice of motion for their adoption on the following day was given.

The Reports of the Clerical Secretary and the Treasurer and the Mission Board were also read, and notice of motion for their adoption on Wednesday was given.

The Lord Bishop then delivered his charge, not so long as usual, after which the Synod adjourned until Wednesday morning.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.—The New York World, speaking of the Detroit Convention, says:—"Among the questions to be discussed will be a new Reciprocity Treaty with the Canadians. The Canadians are naturally anxious for a continuance of the old commercial relations, while the West is unanimously opposed to a policy which would forbid them the use of the Canadian canals and railroads in marketing their grain. A Reciprocity Treaty of some kind we must have, and the coming Congress should authorize the executive to take the matter in hands at the earliest opportunity." Even the New York Herald, rabid as it usually is, in speaking of questions affecting the relations of the United States with Canada or Great Britain, has the sense to fall in with the current, and gives its voice for a new Reciprocity Treaty. It confesses that the notice for the termination of the present treaty was given more in consequence of 'prejudice against Great Britain.' This 'prejudice' has so far passed away that the chief author of it advocates the making of a new treaty, as, he says, whatever conduces to activity of trade between the two countries is beneficial to the Americans. When we find reciprocity so strongly supported in New York, we may feel certain that the chances of a new arrangement are exceedingly good. The West will be nearly unanimous, and that influence, with the support of New York, Boston and other places, ought to settle the question.

THE Prince Edward Island Examiner states that the Lieutenant Governor of that Province, has received a circular despatch understood to have been addressed to the Governors of all the Provinces, stating that unless the Provinces unite to facilitate their protection, they will be required to take that duty entirely upon themselves. We give the story as we find it but without pretending to put any faith in it; and we shall be surprised if the future do not show that it is not true.—Leader.

THE ROYAL BABY.

The accouchement of Her Royal Highness was expected to have taken place early in July. The birth of the Prince on Saturday, although somewhat earlier than was anticipated, was certainly not so premature as that of Prince Victor. The royal infant, it is said is remarkably strong and healthy, and shows no sign or indication whatever of premature birth. Our readers will learn also with unalloyed satisfaction that the health of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales is as satisfactory as could be expected under the circumstances. Her Royal Highness was present at Mr. Halle's concert, at St. James's Hall on Friday afternoon, and had returned to Marlborough House in all her usual health, with the intention of joining the dinner party which was to assemble there (and did assemble) at eight o'clock. A slight feeling of indisposition, however, deterred her Royal Highness from entering the dining-room, and as the evening drew on indications presented themselves which speedily brought the medical attendants to her assistance, when, after a brief suffering bravely borne, the Princess became the happy mother of a second prince in the line of British kings. The event so happily brought about has occasioned an universal feeling of delight throughout the metropolis, and the lodge at Marlborough house was thronged from an early hour late on Saturday with visitors who came to read the medical bulletin, and to assure themselves that all was really as well as their fervent hope would suggest. Before the evening closed the visitors' book at the gate recorded upwards of 1,200 names.—London Observer.

THE IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGE SMART.—Touching this affair, the Hastings Chronicle thus remarks:—

"It is of the utmost importance that public confidence should not be weakened or destroyed in ministers of justice, while continuing to exercise their judicial functions. Knowing that publications like the above will have that tendency, we would ask the public to withhold their judgment until the case is decided, as it is their duty to believe a man, and especially a Judge, innocent until he is proved guilty. The defendant in this case asserts his innocence, notwithstanding these accusations, and time will soon tell who is correct."

Hamilton, June 21.

THE INVESTIGATION.

The sole topic of conversation in the streets is the recent investigation. Everybody asks—"What is to be done now?" The opinion has been expressed that so far Carruthers has not been deeply implicated but as to Patterson, the evidence given yesterday was most damaging. The Spectator calls upon the County Attorney, in plain terms, to take proceedings at once against him. I fancy nothing more will be done now till Mr. Start sends in his report to the Council, which will be in a very few days. One or two incidents in the proceedings of yesterday may be noticed more fully.

Frederick Williams, a well-known greengrocer, was called up, and told a rather interesting tale. About three years ago, he got on 'a spree,' and coming out of Bauer's saloon, met Mr. Patterson, Robert Bostwick, John Gillesby and Charles Boyle. He accompanied the party to a tavern in the Florence Block, and called for drinks. On feeling his pockets for the money wherewith to pay for the drinks, to his amazement he found his pocket book gone. He turned to his friend Patterson and informed him of his loss, when Patterson pointed to the missing pocket book lying under the table. In the meantime the money it contained $27 in bills, had disappeared. Poor Williams has been puzzling his brains ever since trying to solve the mystery. Had Mr. Bostwick been produced in court, it might have been made clearer to his mind. It is within my knowledge that a witness was subpœned and was present in court yesterday, who was prepared to swear that Bostwick said repeatedly that he saw Williams' pocket picked. But this witness was not produced, and Bostwick is out of town. Another incident is worthy of remark. In Barnes' case the evidence of the cabman Arthur was required, and a subpœna was issued for him. The court took a recess between 12 and 2 o'clock, and Mr. Patterson met the witness Arthur in the street. What passed between them no one knows; but when placed on the stand Arthur swore point blank that he had not been with Patterson during the recess of the court, nor had any conversation with him touching his evidence. Two witnesses at once swore that they had seen Patterson and Arthur walking down James street together. Arthur is a tenant of Patterson's and keeps a tavern in the old City Hotel Block.

Capt. David Knox objected to the closing of the investigation yesterday, as there were other charges to be brought against Alderman Patterson, but the Recorder said that as due notice was given a fortnight ago, there had been plenty of time for parties to be prepared with evidence. Capt. Knox said one of his witnesses was at St. Catharines. The charge referred to by Captain Knox, I am informed, related to the letting of the contract for the market fees, in which it is hinted a "gouge" was perpetrated. Ald. Patterson is chairman of the market committee.

BOARD OF TRADE CONVENTION.

MEETING HELD WITH CLOSED DOORS.

A large number of the Canada delegates to the Detroit Board of Trade Convention arrived in this city yesterday for the purpose of holding a preliminary meeting. They put up at the Queen's Hotel, and those who arrived in the forenoon availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting several public buildings and other places of interest in the city.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the meeting was organized in the Music Hall, by appointing Mr. J. G. Worts, President of the Toronto Board of Trade, chairman, and Mr. Chas. Robertson, of this city, and Mr. W. J. Patterson, of Montreal, as Secretaries of the delegation.

The following is the list of the delegates present:—

Montreal—The Hon. Thomas Ryan, Messrs. Hugh Allan, Peter Redpath, E. Aitwater, Thomas Cramp, S. G. Smith, Alfred Brown, Henry Lyman, J. L. Beaudry, D. Mason, J. McLennon, W. J. Patterson.

Quebec—Messrs. A. Joseph, H. S. Scott, W. Withall.

Ottawa—Hon. James S. Read, George S. Perry.

Kingston—Messrs. J. Shaw, R. M. Rose.

Coburg—Mr. A Fraser, others expected to-day.

Hamilton—Messrs. John Young, Donald McInnes, William Irvine, Adam Brown, John Proctor, William Osborne, Henry Parker.

London—Messrs. C. P. Smith, C. Hunt, F. Smith, H. Strathey, Thomas Churcher.

Stratford—Messrs. W. J. McCulloch, John A. Scott, James Kyle, S. L. Roberts, J. S. Rutherford.

Toronto—The Hon. Wm. McMaster, Messrs. J. G. Worts, Robert Spratt, Charles Roberson, A. M. Smith, M. P. P., William Elliott.

It was decided to hold the meeting with closed doors. No reporters were therefore admitted. We understand that the only business transacted yesterday was the appointment of a committee to prepare a programme of business for to-day. The delegation will resume at ten o'clock this forenoon.

An additional number of delegates from other towns came in by the train last evening and will report themselves at the meeting to day.

The determination of the convention to make its meetings private is judicious, and we trust will not be broken through, desirous as some people are to make the meetings public.—Leader.

GRAND ORANGE LODGE OF BRITISH AMERICA.

This most worshipful Grand Lodge, assembled in annual session at Goderich, on Tuesday, the 20th inst. The election of Grand Officers for the ensuing year took place on Thursday afternoon, as we are informed by telegram, with the following result:—Grand Master and Sovereign, Hon. J. H. Cameron, Toronto; Deputy Grand Master, D'Arcy Boulton, Esq., Barrie; Grand Chaplain, Rev. Stephen Lett, LL.D., Ayr; Grand Treasurer, William Anderson, Esq., Mount View; Deputy Grand Treasurer, James Bennett, Esq., Toronto; Grand Secretary, Andrew Fleming, Esq., Toronto; Deputy Grand Secretaries, William M. Button, Esq, Markham; J. G. Moore, Esq., Belleville, Henry Lemmon, Esq., Belleville; Grand Lecturer, Charles F. Hill, Esq., Montreal; Sir Herald Knight at Arms, Alexander Barr, Esq., Cobourg; Grand Director of Ceremonies, William White, Esq., Tweed.

Thus, in spite of the accusations of Mr. Wm. Boulton, Mr. John H. Cameron, and the whole of the Grand Officers have been re-elected. At the meeting, the Grand Master was asked whether he had contributed to the funds of a Romish Institution. He said he had, to the House of Providence. One of the principles of the Orange Body was charity, and he knew no more deserving charity than the one he gave as far as his means permitted. Happy should he feel, if that were his only or greatest fault.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Three Rivers, June 21.

The attendance on this, the second day of the races here, was better than on yesterday, but still slim.

For the Shawenagan plate, $120, mile heats, 3 in 5, the entries were—Mr. Talbot's "Harper," Mr. Deniverville's "Seven Oaks," and Mr. Dennis Reddy's "George." "Harper" took the three heats easily under a strong pull and won. Time—first heat 1 m. 53½ s.; second heat 1 m. 55½ s.; third heat 1m. 55 s.

For the Champagne stakes of $50, half mile dash. The entries were Mr. George Rankin's "Flash," and Mr. Deslerville's "Little Shannon." The race was won easily by "Flash." Time—54½ s.

Mr. Deniverville's horses have fallen off sadly. Last year, "Reporter" and "Seven Oaks" made far better time; they ran in 8 or 10 seconds less.

BURGLARY AT LINDSAY.

Lindsay, June 21.

The grocery store of Messrs. Cullis & Wallis, in Lindsay, was entered last night through the cellar. The safe was forced open, and over eight hundred dollars stolen from it. No clue as yet to the robbers.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 24, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

T. B. H., Hamilton; E. C., New York.

Although we have no precise information of the actual results of the Ministerial Delegation to London, yet we have every reason to believe that those results are highly favorable to Canada. All the tales bruited about by the Leader and other Opposition journals, as to the failure of the Delegation, must on their faces be spurious, for who is there to tell of a failure? The Committee of the Imperial Cabinet and the members of the Delegation are both gentlemen and statesmen, and it is wholly improbable that either of them would supply information to outsiders; more particularly, as Mr. Cardwell said in the House of Commons, that so soon as the negociations were concluded, he would inform the House of the result. If any person, or any journal would know aught of the matter, it would be the editor or a contributor to the Canadian News, and all that paper says is very promising and favorable. Therefore say we, there is not the slightest reason to imagine evil, but on the contrary, great cause for hope. As to the alleged quarrel between Messrs. John A. Macdonald and G. Brown, that was arrant rot on the face of it.

There is no news of the return of the Delegates, or of the day of their sailing for home. The 17th of June has been mentioned, but even this is not authentic; and then it is coupled with the report that only two of the Delegates are coming out in the steamer of that day, and the others are to remain behind for a short time longer. The fact is, nobody knows anything at all when the Delegates will return, and in all likelihood, they will be here with the news of their having sailed.

ANGLICAN SYNOD—DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

SECOND DAY.

Picton, June 21.

The Rev. T. Beaven read the Report of the Book and Tract Committee, and gave notice that he would move its adoption.

Several notices of motion were handed in, after which the Synod proceeded to the election of Lay Delegates to the Provincial Synod. The following are the names of the gentlemen elected:—

CLERICAL.—Revds Dr. Boswell, J. A. Preston, J. G. Armstrong, The Venerable Archdeacon, Wm. Bleasdell, F. R. Tane, R. L. Stephenson, Venerable the Dean of Ontario, J. S. Lander, Mr. Anderson, T. A. Parnell, H. Mulkins.

LAY.—Hon. Jas. Patton, Thos. Kirkpatrick, P. P. Harris, Hon. Jas. Shaw, W. B. Simpson, The Chancellor, H. D. Shaw, Hon. George Crawford, Hon. Lewis Wallbridge, Hon. Jno. Hamilton, T. McAnanny, J. B. Lewis.

The election of the members of the Mission Board was then proceeded with. The following gentlemen were elected:—

Revds. J. A. Preston, Dr. Boswell, R. L. Stephenson, William Bleasdell, G. A. Anderson, F. R. Tane, J. G. Armstrong, Thomas Stanton.

Messrs. T. Kirkpatrick, F. McAnanny, W. B. Simpson, Samuel Muckleston, Hon. James Patton, A. Code, P. P. Harris, Jas. Shannon.

In addition to the above the Bishop will appoint four clergymen and four laymen. The Mission Board consisting of twelve clergymen and twelve laymen.

BOARD OF TRADE OF TORONTO.

DINNER TO THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATES.

The Delegates appointed to attend the Detroit Convention by the various Boards of Trade in Canada East and West, who are now assembled in Toronto, were entertained by the Toronto Board of Trade at a sumptuous dinner at the Queen's Hotel on Thursday night.

Mr. J. G. Worts, president of the Board of Trade of Toronto, presided. The first vice-chair was occupied by Mr. C. Robertson, Secretary, and the second vice chair by Mr. Robert Spratt, Vice-President of the Board of Toronto.

The Band of the Queen's Own was in attendance and supplied music for the occasion.

After the dinner, which was admirably served, had been despatched—

The Chairman called order, and proposed the first toast of the evening, 'The Queen.' He hoped this would be the first toast that would be proposed in the British American Colonies for a long time to come, and that we should always have one flag and that flag the Union Jack.

The toast was received with loyal enthusiasm, the band playing 'God save the Queen.'

The Chairman next gave 'The Governor General,' the toast being received with hearty cheers.

The Chairman then proposed 'Our Guests,' and said that some of them had travelled no less than five hundred miles to be present with us. He did not wonder that they took a deep interest in the subjects that had passed under their consideration, when it was remembered that the Reciprocity Treaty which was enjoyed for ten years was now threatened to terminate. Under these circumstances he thought it high time we met together to consult. They were not to blame for what had been done, it was the gentlemen on the other side of the line. But they had called a meeting at Detroit, and had invited delegates from all the British American provinces to come up there and discuss the question with them, and he hoped that in doing so all local prejudices and interests would be set aside, and those measures pursued unitedly which were to be for the good of all.

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

The following delegates then made set speeches in reply:—Mr. Beaudry and Mr. Ryan for Montreal, Mr. Joseph for Quebec, Mr. A. Brown for Hamilton, Mr. J. Shaw for Kingston, Mr. McEwen for St. Catharines, Mr. Fraser for Coburg, Mr. Skead for Ottawa, and some Toronto gentlemen.

THE FIRE INSURANCES.—A couple of slight errors need correction in yesterday's article on Fire Insurances. The 'North British' and 'The Home' Companies did not and do not object to pay Mr. C. McMillan's loss, but object only to the amount.—They were and are still willing to pay what the goods cost. Mr. McMillan bought them at 13s. 6d. in the Pound, and he sued to be paid their value, which he asserted to be the original invoice price.—Hence all the trouble, delay and law expense. Another error is, the 'North British' and the 'Home' did not touch the damaged goods, sell them and retain the money.—That was done by the 'Royal,' who paid the claim against it. We have reason to believe that this affair will be amicably arranged without further appeal to law.

GREAT FIRE IN QUEBEC.

IMMENSE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

CHAMPLAIN STREET A MASS OF RUINS.

UPWARDS OF A HUNDRED HOUSES DESTROYED.

SHIPS AND RAFTS IN GREAT DANGER.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE RENDERED HOMELESS.

FORTUNATELY NO LOSS OF LIFE.

VALUABLE SERVICES OF THE MILITARY.

Quebec, June 22, 1865.

A fire which threatens to become fearfully destructive broke out in Champlain street this afternoon. It is raging with great fierceness, and already seventy houses or more have been destroyed, and thirty or forty must go.

Champlain street, as many of your readers no doubt know, fronts the river, being the only street between the water and the rock of Cape Diamond west of St. Peter street, the chief business part of the city. It is occupied principally by tavern and boarding-house keepers, and is the chief resort of sailors and lumbermen who come to this port. Although the inhabitants are mainly of the poorer class, many of the houses are substantial and valuable, and on the piers and in the river along the front of the street much valuable property is stored, not to speak of the ships that line the wharves. When the fire broke out therefore and threatened to spread extensively, much excitement was caused and not a little apprehension felt in the city.

The police, who here constitute the fire brigade, were early on duty, and worked faithfully, but with little success, to extinguish the fire. There was a plentiful supply of water, but the flames soon gained such headway that water was of little service to quench them.

Large detachments of the military stationed here, consisting of infantry, artillery and engineers, were ordered to the fire, and went to work pulling down houses in its neighborhood, and making preparations for tearing down others, should it become necessary.

Two ships are reported to be on fire, and all the vessels are hauling into the middle of the stream. The river is crowded with small boats full of furniture, &c.

The fire broke out near the Mariners' Chapel, and at this hour has destroyed every house on both sides as far as the steps leading to the Plains of Abraham on the west, and on the east to within a hundred yards of the wharf of the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company.

Many poor families have already been ruined and made homeless.

Half past Seven O'clock.

The fire is still raging, and half a mile of houses on both sides of Champlain Street have been destroyed. It is estimated that a thousand families are homeless.

Two artillery powder waggons have just gone down to the fire loaded, to be ready to blow up houses should it be necessary to do so in order to arrest the flames.

Thousands of people are congregated on the heights above the fire eagerly watching its ravages.

Quebec has suffered severely from such calamities before, and this is as great as any that have preceded it.

Eight O'Clock.

The fire has been arrested, but the glare from the burning ruins is brilliant and appalling. The wind, which during the afternoon and evening blew very strongly from the west, has gone down, and the police, military and volunteer firemen have now a better chance of stopping the further ravages of the flames. It was not necessary to blow up any houses.

Ten O'Clock.

Fully one hundred and fifty houses have been utterly destroyed, Champlain street on both sides being burnt for a distance of three-quarters of a mile. Fortunately the flames could spread only in two directions or the loss would have been infinitely greater. As it is, everything has been swept away from the edge of the river to the rock behind, a space varying in width from two to four hundred feet. This area was closely packed with houses of every description, many of them tenement-houses containing several families.

Several extensive coal yards are still burning and many wharves have been injured or totally destroyed.

The artillery and royal engineers were prepared to blow up houses to stop the progress of the flames, but on the representation of the civic authorities that an explosion would endanger the rock above, portions of which have already this and previous years spontaneously fallen with great loss of life and property, the project was suspended unless it should become imperatively necessary. The gale from the west abating the necessity did not arise, although at one time the whole of lower town was in imminent danger. One ship yard at least is said to have been destroyed.

I endeavored to-night to pass through the burning street, but was prevented by the dense smoke that covered everything.

I can obtain no proximate idea of the total loss. Many valuable stone and brick houses have been entirely consumed, as well as many others of inferior construction.

The real cause of the great spread of the conflagration was a shingle roof, which caught fire at a considerable distance from the spot where the flames originated, through burning flakes of wood, transported by the gale.

I think that no lives, or at most but one, have been lost. I have learned but little as yet of the value of property destroyed, or the amount of insurance upon it.

The yards of all the ships in the harbor were manned to quench the burning embers which were constantly falling. All the towboats, ferry-boats and row-boats were fully employed in carrying furniture and other property saved from the flames. The Peruvian did not leave the wharf, but had everything in readiness to move.

The fire is still burning as I write, but as the wind has dropped it is apparently quite under control.

Thanks are due to the military, who worked with great ardor to stay the progress of the flames and to save and protect property.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH BURNT AT TORONTO.

Yesterday morning at half-past six o'clock the alarm bells rang, and the fire engines were quickly in motion. The scene of the conflagration was St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church, situated at the head of Dummer street, adjoining the residence of the priest, the Rev. Mr. Wey, both of which, we regret to say, were completely destroyed, together with nearly all their contents. The church caught fire first directly under the altar, as a reverend gentleman informed our reporter, and there was nobody in the church at the time; but it is said the bell-ringer was there every half-hour, to ring the bell, and consequently must have been in the church half an hour previous to the breaking out of the fire. None of the fires had been lit in the church for a length of time previously, (nor since the warm weather commenced) if we except the tapers on the altar, which are lighted during divine service. The Rev. Mr. Wey, pastor of the church, is not in town.—At four o'clock this morning two suspicious looking men were seen, it is said, passing the church, and all sorts of rumors may be looked for. Information has been given the police authorities and no stone will be left unturned to discover the guilty parties, if any there be. If the fire was the work of an incendiary it is probable that some of the gang of burglars, robbers, &c., which invest this city from the large cities of the United States may know something of its origin. We regret to state that an accident occurred to Mr. Chief Engineer Ashfield, by which the right side of his neck was badly injured, a piece of burning timber having fallen on him and struck him a heavy blow on the neck. Considerable excitement prevailed among the crowd on Dummer street, caused by the want of water, and some parties were foolish enough to blame the fire department for it although they were promptly on the spot.—The facts of the matter however are that neither the water works company nor the fire department are to blame, as the nearest hydrant was at the foot of Dummer street, on Queen street west, and there was not a sufficient length of hose to reach from Queen street to the fire—about a quarter of a mile. After a short search a pond of water was luckily discovered on Dummer street, and its contents speedily made use of—the fence having been torn down by the firemen so as to get at it. Although there was a large body of water in the pond, it was quickly reduced by the action of Court street fire steamer, which kept a continual stream playing on the burning mass. The Chief Engineer of the fire department will call for an investigation into the cause of the difficulty in obtaining a supply of water as soon as he is sufficiently recovered to be enabled to attend to business. The buildings, which were wooden ones, were insured for $3,800. Con. Fraser and other policemen were promptly at the scene of the disaster, to preserve order, and to guard any property that might be saved from the burning ruins.—Leader.

Quebec, June 23.

No lives were lost or ships burned by the destructive fire of yesterday.

The loss is roughly estimated at one million of dollars. The burnt district extends from Bishop's school house to within about six houses of the vacant space under the citadel.

A public meeting to raise funds in aid of the sufferers is to be held to morrow. Appeals will probably be made to other cities for assistance, as Quebec has suffered enormously from similar calamities.

The Insurance companies withhold returns of their losses, except the 'Quebec Fire' office, which loses $800 on one policy, the 'Imperial' $800, and the 'Queen' $10,000.

The distance devastated by the fire is about one third of a mile.

Champlain street is now in a dangerous condition. The walls of the burnt buildings are falling, and the police have not interfered to check travel.

Montreal, June 22.

The investigation against the police force is going on. Reporters are now forbidden, but the evidence taken shows that the officers of the force have been bribed right and those living an unholy life. A woman gave a silver tea set to Bissonette, the Chief Constable—others received as costly presents, all to keep silent.

CATARAQUI LODGE.

The Installation of the Officers of Cataraqui Lodge of F. & A. Masons took place on Saturday, at High Noon:—

Master	R. Hendry.
S. Warden	J. N. Glidden.
J. Warden	R. C. Benedict.
S. Deacon	C. H. Hatch.
J. Deacon	G. W. Andrews.
Chaplain	Rev. H. Mulkins.
Treasurer	J. V. Noel.
Secretary	R. Finnemore.
Inner Guard	— McCadden.
Tyler	— Graham.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

Messrs. Hendry, Finnemore, Noel, H. Dumble, Frolland, Black and Steacy.

ALL NATURE SMILES WITH JOY.

(For the British Whig.)

Oh what a glorious carpet God unfolds,
And bids his creatures reap the golden grain;
His right it is to give and to withhold:
The frost, the sunshine, pearly dew, and rain,
Pourtray the living outlines of this scene,
And deck the canvass with the brilliant hue.
Keep back oh frost winds! do not intervene
To strip thy fairer sister of their due.
The fields around, clad with a freshened green,
The forest trees majestically wave;
In every blade of grass the great unseen
Says, 'I am He, who come to guide and save.'
He opens heaven's windows, and distils
The rain drops plenteously, in sun-girt showers.
Around the cottage doors and window sills
Is wreathed the graceful vine, in shelter bowers.
The fields, the sky, and forests with their smile,
Do not with mockery imbue the day;
Their grandeur and reality gild toil,
Rewarding labor, in sweet nature's way.
Should not those notes the birds above us sing—
Should not the ripple of each crystal rill
Fresh tokens of our gratitude now bring
To him who sends them? with a gracious will.
Look up oh husbandman to that blue sky
Which smiles upon thy furrowed toil-sweat brow.
It is for merit gifts are brought so nigh?
Art thou now dumb? alas! how then, oh how?
To give due praise for blessings that we share,
May sordid hearts well out with grateful glow!
To consecrated altar, why repair?
As if there only healing virtues flow!
From field and cottage, and expansive sea,
God's listening ear, bends to the suppliant's joy.
Then may our faith, like God's pure air be 'free,'
All nature smiles, untainted with alloy.

CANADIA.

Durham, Co. Grey, June 19th, 1865.

GRAND LODGE.—The Annual Session of the Grand Orange Lodge of British North America, which opened on Tuesday at Goderich, finished its business late on Wednesday night. The Grand Master of Central Canada, Mr. John Flanigan, together with those who went from Kingston, returned on Thursday night. The business done on the last day was not very important. The next Annual Session of the Grand Lodge is to be held in Brockville.

THE RIFLE MATCH AT STORRINGTON.

The Rifle Match in the Village of Inverary commenced on Thursday morning last. The day was warm and pleasant, and a fine muster of the Storrington Companies took place. The number of spectators on the ground was large, and a lively interest was taken in the match. Among those from Kingston were Messrs. Wm. Ferguson, M.P.P., Judge Draper, Brigade Major Shaw, Major Paton, Major Boyd (late of Confederate States Artillery), Capt. Kerr and Lieut. Cunningham, 14th Volunteer Rifles. Representatives from the Kingston Press and Napanee Ledger were also present. These from the city were hospitably entertained by Captains Hamilton and Spring and the Officers of their Companies.

The first match was for the Gold Medal, a very beautiful one, made by Mr. Frolland, presented by the Storrington Township Council, for which twelve men from each township competed. The Medal was won by Capt. Spring's Company. This match occupied the better part of the day. The match for the Prize Plough presented by Messrs. Fraser and George was being competed for when our reporter left for home.

Two of the rifles of the winning twelve were ruled out as being under the standard pull of 6 lbs., and there being some doubt as to the correctness of the steel yard, Col. Shaw was requested to have them attested in town yesterday, which proved them to be under the required weight by 1 lb. It may be stated that the match was hotly contested throughout, and the men on both sides proved themselves to be good marksmen.

THE BISHOP'S HOUSE.

ONTARIO SYNOD.

The only thing worth notice in the proceedings of the third and last day, is the following on the See House:—

The Chancellor moved the adoption of the report of the Committee on the rent of the Bishop's House. The report stated that a sum of $230 had been collected in the Cathedral Congregation, and that a balance of $680 50 still remained, which the Committee considered should be assessed on the parishes. The report gave rise to a great deal of discussion. It appeared to be the opinion of many that the City of Kingston had not done its duty in failing to pay the balance of the two years' rent ($680) which still remains unpaid. And a strong feeling was manifested by the delegates of the country parishes to resist any assessment for the above purpose. J. B. Lewis, Esq., delegate from Ottawa, strongly opposed the assessment of the parishes, stating that Ottawa alone was prepared to furnish the Bishop with a house rent free had he taken up his residence there. Ultimately the report was referred back to the Committee to report after the dinner recess.

The Archdeacon read the Report of the Treasurer, showing the state of the accounts on 17th June, 1865, and moved its adoption, which was carried. The Report of the Mission Board was also adopted.

Mr. Kirkpatrick moved that the Bishop be requested to appoint a legal gentleman to examine the securities.—Carried.

The Chancellor moved the Report of the Committee on Rent of the See House, amended by reporting that a special collection, under the direction of the Synod, be taken up in each Church in the Diocese. The Report as amended was carried.

RUSSELL AN IRISHMAN.

(To the Editor of the British Whig.)

Sir,—Yesterday's Globe, in its lengthy notice of Dr. Russell's work on "Canada, its Defences, Condition and Resources," claims the author as an Englishman. Dr. Russell is no Englishman. He was born and bred in Ireland, and is proud of his country. It was only a few years ago that the Irish of New York entertained him at dinner and welcomed him to America as their distinguished countryman. Dr. Russell has written the best book ever published on Canada, and the Globe at once claims him as an Englishman! But it is always so with the Globe, ever the enemy of Irishmen and everything Irish. When Irishmen distinguish themselves in the Field, in the Senate, or at the Bar, Ireland is sure to be robbed of the honor of being the country of their birth. Let, however, an Irishman be dragged before the Police Court for some crime, committed perhaps while intoxicated, and at once he is gazetted as "Irish." No mistake is ever made in such case. If a criminal, the Irish name is stained with the offence; but if honor and glory are his, alas! no ray of them illumines the brow of poor widowed Erin.

The habit of the press of this country generally is to ignore the Irish if possible. I will be bound to say that few in Canada are aware that the two Generals who have lead the Northern Soldiers to victory are Irishmen or the sons of Irishmen. Sherman and Sheridan are the foremost soldiers of the United States. In fact, it is owing to their genius and valor that the gallant Lee was defeated and the war brought to a close; but how silent the press has been as to their Irish descent!

After all, the Irish deserve to be ignored; for so long as they continue to fight and squabble amongst themselves, their enemies can afford to slight them with impunity.

SARSFIELD.

Kingston, June 24th, 1865.

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 26, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

L. D., Montreal, with rem.

STORRINGTON RIFLE MATCHES.

The Rifle Matches at Inverary concluded on Friday evening, after lasting two full days. The Second Match, for twenty-four prizes, was commenced on Thursday evening, and lasted until next evening. Friday was warm and pleasant, and there was very little diminution of the numbers present, as compared with Thursday evening. Considerable interest was taken in the last Match, as it would show the comparitive firing of the companies. The ranges were 200, 300 and 400 yards; 3 rounds at each range; Enfield Rifle; Government issue. There were twenty-eight entries. The prizes were awarded as follows:—

1st Prize	—	$15, Private Niram Spooner.
2nd "	—	A choice of two iron ploughs, Private R. C. Wartman.
3rd "	—	The remaining plough, Private H. Johnston.
4th "	—	A revolver, Private Edward Hughes.
5th "	—	$7, Private James Connell.
6th "	—	$5, Private Henry Thomas.
7th "	—	$4, Private George Daly.
8th "	—	A grain cradle, Private Thos. Shannon.
9th "	—	$3, Private George Sands.
10th "	—	$2, Private James Shepherd.
11th "	—	$2, Private William Connell.
12th "	—	$2, Private David Gilmore.
13th "	—	$2, Corporal J. Spring.
14th "	—	$1, Sergeant Stenson.
15th "	—	$1, Private Thomas Barnes.
16th "	—	$1, " John Jamieson.
17th "	—	$1, " David Abernethy.
18th "	—	$1, " Alex. Frazer.
19th "	—	50c " Robert Hudon.
20th "	—	50c " George Cooper.
21st "	—	50c " Francis Crow.
22nd "	—	50c " John Daly.
23rd "	—	50c " Adam Barr.
24th "	—	50c " Thomas Robinson.

In this match 29 men were entered from Captain Spring's Company and 39 from Captain Hamilton's. The men of the former Company carried off the first three prizes, the $15 and the two ploughs, and took $13 besides. Captain Hamilton's men carried off the revolver, grain cradle and $24.

The score in the match for the Gold Medal stood, for Captain Spring's, 296; for Captain Hamilton's, 216. Ten dollars was presented on Thursday morning by the Reeve of Storrington, to be given to the highest scorer of the winning twelve. A protest having been entered against Mr. Daly, who made the highest score, the matter is not decided yet.

On Friday evening, after the conclusion of the last match, the prizes were distributed and the men dispersed to their homes. The match throughout was very quiet and orderly, and speaks well for the Storrington Rifles.—Since we have written the above we have heard that the First Match of Thursday hits to be fired over again on Wednesday week.

The Editor's Table---No. 400.

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