

THE ACTON FREE PRESS. Published Every Thursday Morning. 51 Per Annum in Advance.

Acton Free Press. JOS. F. MACDONALD, EDITOR. THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 23, 1875.

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CHRISTMAS.

The setting and rising of two more suns will usher in that halcyon day which receives, throughout the civilized world, the enthusiastic cognomen of "Merry Christmas." With each recurrence of this period, do cheerful recollections of bygone days well up in our memory. Associations and incidents, extending over all the years, since in our childish simplicity, we waited and longed for the approach of old Santa Claus, with his glad, some burdens, are brought back to our mental visions, giving rise to reflections as varied perhaps as the circumstances connected with each intervening anniversary. Of the friends who on former occasions had joined in our mirth, and added to our happiness, some are gone we know not whether; some lie but a little distance off, covered with the Christmas snows. Many of us are perhaps far away from the home and friends we now so vividly remember, and we can recall with mingled emotions, the happy Christmas days, when surrounded with parents, brothers, sisters and youthful companions, no touch of sadness cast a shadow over our joy. But, while our hearts are softened, and our eyes are dimmed, as the memories of the past crowd up before us, a holier feeling of gratitude pervades our bosom when we reflect that all those we so kindly remember—the absent and the dead—are in the hands of Him, whose advent on the first Christmas Eve, was proclaimed by Angels to the Shepherds of Judea, as good tidings of great joy. With chastened feelings we turn to those around—join in the harmless revel, and resolve that no bitter word or unkindly feeling shall mingle, in after years with the memories of the day. All hail, then, to merry Christmas! hail him with the twined arms of friendship, with words of mutual good wishes, with boisterous cheer and grateful hearts. One word more: Let us, by our helpful sympathy with the poor, substitute for the withering sarcasm—"As cold as charity"—the more genial word and Christian expression—"As warm as love." We wish to all, rich and poor, a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

THE DUTY OF ELECTORS.

In view of the very defective state of the travelled roads in this county, we think it is the duty of the electors, to see to it that the various municipalities are represented the ensuing year by men who will earnestly endeavor as far as possible to have the evil remedied. There is nothing so detrimental to the interests of any community as bad roads to travel on. That the old settled county of Halton is so far behind in this matter there can be no reasonable excuse. It is disgraceful, in the extreme. Electors of Essex and Niagara, we would ask you, would you not much rather pay an additional tax on your property for a few years, and receive the benefit of good leading roads? Would not the mares, in wear and tear of horses, harness and vehicles more than cover the extra tax? Figure the matter out, and see if you would not begrudge. This matter of having good roads lies to a great extent with the municipal councils, and if the members are of an energetic, progressive character, they will devise some means of organizing a radical improvement. Councilors in these old settled townships have fallen too much in the habit of doing nothing, but sitting back, and seldom devote their attention to any comprehensive systems of laying out money in constructing good leading roads. The electors should make it a test question with the candidates at the approaching election, whether they are prepared to initiate a system of improvement in this respect. The electors of Acton should also see that their future representatives are men, who will exert themselves

to have the approaches to our village put in a decent state of repair, and who will use their influence with the neighboring municipalities to organize a better system of roads. This is a matter of very great importance to the future welfare of our village, and it should receive the active attention of every one who has any interest in its prosperity.

Haltou County Council.

Mitros, Dec. 16, 1875. Council met pursuant to adjournment. The Warden in the chair. Members present, Barber, Buck, Clay, Clements, Foster, McCraney, McEnery, Menzies, Ramsay, Robinson, Storey, Watson and Warden. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Mr. Barber, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, presented their report, which was read and adopted. Mr. Storey, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education, presented the County Superintendent of Public Schools and also the report of the Standing Committee on Education, both of which were read and adopted.

VOICE BY BALLOT.

We presume it is pretty generally known that the voting at the approaching municipal elections will be done by ballot. The Act as passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature was somewhat defective, but we notice that a Bill has just come before the House introducing certain clauses to remedy the defects. It provides that there shall be two ballot papers, one for Mayors and Reeves and the other for Councilors, thus obviating the possibility of disinterested voters voting for Mayor or Reeve in more than one ward. The bill is to be pushed through so that it will come into immediate force. We fancy the ballot system will be found to work admirably at municipal elections, and that it will prove a valuable means of securing the services of a better class of men in our town and township councils. Under the old system, many an elector cast his vote for an inferior man rather than give offence to his friend and neighbor, but with the ballot he may vote for whom he sees fit, without fear or favor. This is a desirable object in a local community.

We notice that the Georgetown Herald mentions the name of Mr. Thomas Hume as likely to oppose Mr. Warren for the Deputy Reeveship of Essex. Surely the intelligent electors of this township will not allow Mr. Warren to be defeated by such a man. We learn that Mr. Dessey is likely to be brought forward as a candidate for Councilor.

If the ratepayers want to have the surplus funds of these townships laid out to good advantage, they should elect Councilors who will act wisely and judiciously in placing the leading roads in a respectable state of repair.

Let there be a "big push" to elect the right men for Councilors, so that we may have some hope of seeing a better system of roads organized in this County, next year.

The decisions in the South Ontario and Halton contested election cases were reviewed in the Court of Error and Appeal in Toronto, on Tuesday. Judgments are not yet rendered.

The Monthly Times in its review of the financial position says: "A singular condition of ease and plenty of money has succeeded to the financial pressure with which we have been familiar for some time back. The reserves of the banks have been very largely augmented, and there is undoubtedly a diminished demand for accommodation. Whether we shall have money easy all winter is the practical question just now. It is almost to forecast the future, and it would be very unwise for engagements to be made on the strength of the present ease continuing. Money was almost as easy a year ago as it is now; yet before the winter was half over we experienced the most severe pressure we have known for fifty years. It is not safe therefore to presume."

Beecher and His Troubles.

It would seem as if the great Brooklyn scandal will not stay quiet. Tilton has passed into the back ground, but other temptations have come to his place. The business committee have it seems, struck the names of Deacon West and Mrs. Moulton from the roll of membership for not attending Christian ordinances in Plymouth Church. These parties, however, object to being dealt with in such a summary manner and give as their reason for not attending services that taking the communion with their pastor has been charged with a "black business offence and does not appear disposed to withdraw steps toward vindicating his character. Mrs. Moulton affirms in the most positive manner, that both Beecher and Mrs. Tilton acknowledged their guilt to her. West and Mrs. Moulton demand an immediate investigation by the church authorities. Possibly one may be held, as some of the leading Congregational ministers of Brooklyn and vicinity are known to be very much dissatisfied with present state of affairs.

On Monday night, in Montreal, a man found a newly born mule in a water-closet and rescued it. It is rumored that the Dominion Parliament will be summoned for the despatch of business on February 8th or 10th.

The body of an unknown man was found in the Credit River, at Strathville, on Wednesday, of last week. Three workmen were seriously injured while plastering the Odd Fellows' Hall in Strathville, last week.

Within about two months, more than 2,000 cords of wood have been cut and used at the G.T.R. Station, Georgetown.

The large sewing machine factory of Wheeler & Wilson, Bridgeport, Conn., was burned last week. Estimated loss \$500,000.

Oxford County Council has petitioned the Government to give further aid to the Port Dover and Lake Huron and Credit Valley railways.

Mr. H. T. Butler, late of the Stratford Herald, intends to start a paper in that town about the new year, to be called the Times.

There are now two hundred and thirteen pupils in the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Bellevue. This is the largest number ever before in attendance.

Five of the Guelph burglars were found guilty at Hamilton General Sessions on Saturday, for stealing from the Co-operative store.

The latest addition to the language is from that "well of pure English undefiled," the New York Herald, which says "dusted" for "chase" or "took the option."

Henry C. Bowen's suit for damages for defamation of character against the Brooklyn Eagle was opened on Tuesday. This action had its origin in the Beecher scandal.

A banquet was given to Dr. Clark of Princeton, in that place, previous to his removal to take charge of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto. It was attended by politicians of all shades.

The House of Representatives, by a vote of 252 to 18 has declared that a third term for President is "unwise, unpatriotic and fraught with danger to the free institutions of the United States."

The Port Hope Woman's Temperance Association has passed a resolution to the effect that each member shall, as far as possible, avoid dealing with any merchant who sells intoxicating liquors.

Commercial journals write in favouring the blame of white lines on laying out in the City Hall, Rockwood, for the purpose of organizing a Brass Band for the village and township. The meeting was well attended. Mr. M. Cummins, Deputy Reeve, occupied the chair. After the subject had been fully discussed, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Cummins, Sulistis and Knowles, was appointed to receive the names of ladies wishing to join the band, take up subscriptions to defray the cost of organizing, &c., and to report at a future meeting.

REX OVER.—On Saturday last a little boy of Mr. Ryndall's station master, was knocked over by his back, on the street, by a horse, and the runner of the sleigh to which the horse was attached ran over his body just below the ribs. There were two men and a woman in the sleigh, the latter driving as her husband was the worse of drink. The boy has got over it.—Drumkin Banner.

EXTRAORDINARY PIGS.—Mr. J. S. Armstrong, of Bramos, sold 40 dressed hogs, five months old, of the aggregate weight of 8000 lbs, being an average of 200 lbs per hog, at \$7.45, to Mr. George Lees of Guelph. Such a lot of pigs has not been seen in Guelph for a long time.

THE OTTAWA LUMBER TRADE.—An Ottawa despatch says, there is nothing doing in the lumber trade at present as far as sales are concerned. A rough estimate made by some of the manufacturers gives the amount of sawed lumber being wintered over in Ottawa, and vicinity at one hundred million feet, or about the same as last year.

An embarrassing incident happened to a Whitehall, New York, clergyman recently. He married a couple, and when he examined the fee found it was a \$100 bill. The next day the bridegroom telegraphed that it was a mistake; he meant to have handed him a \$10 bill. The clergyman replied that it was too late to rectify the mistake, as he had joyfully used the money to liquidate a long standing debt.

A motion has been introduced in the House of Representatives to authorize the appointment of a Commission to ascertain on what terms a mutually beneficial treaty of commerce between the United States and Canada can be negotiated.

GENERAL NEWS. The Dominion of Canada Plumbago Company, whose mine is near Ottawa, is now turning out twenty-five tons of ore per diem, ready to be milled. As the mountain is penetrated the quality of the ore exceeds everything contemplated, being nearly pure and free from dolomite.

Hogg & Ford's oatmeal mill and Young & Galt's collar and glove factory, at Snel, were totally destroyed by fire Saturday morning. Warnock's shoe factory was slightly damaged. Total loss \$12,000.

The Dominion Telegraph Co. a special meeting held on the 15th decided to increase the capital stock to \$500,000, which will be spent in extending the line through the Lower Provinces, forming a more immediate connection with the Direct Cable Company, and in effecting direct communication between Montreal, Boston, and New York.

Men and maidens who begin to fear they are growing too old to obtain wife or husband, may be encouraged by the following incident.—On Monday, 13th inst., in the little village of Harrow, township of Colchester, Essex Co., the marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. W. C. Watson, and was made doubly interesting by the fact that the bridegroom, Mr. John Ferris, is 82 years of age, and the bride, Mrs. Ann Thresher, only 79.

It is reported that the new Military College at Kingston will be open for admission of cadets about April next. At the beginning there will be two admitted from each of the eleven constituted military districts for the first year. At the opening of the second year there will be three cadets from each of the three military districts comprising the Dominion, making thirty-six in addition to the first twenty-two.

A woman of lady-like appearance, who gave her name as Mrs. Walker, and represented herself as a lawyer's wife, went to a private house in Toronto, on Tuesday, and asked for board for herself and husband. She was told that no boarders were wanted, but she persuaded the people of the house to let her stay the night.

Next morning after breakfast her husband having appeared, although on the previous night she sent a letter to some one who she said was her husband, she went out to search for him. The lady of the house thinking the woman was very strange in her conduct, went upstairs and found that her trunk and her bureau had been thoroughly ransacked, and a large quantity of underclothing, a pair of silk drawers, a pair of very valuable bracelets, a pearl and a hat with ostrich feathers carried off. Mrs. Walker has not been heard of since.

PROPOSED BAND AT ROCKWOOD.—On Friday evening a meeting was held in the City Hall, Rockwood, for the purpose of organizing a Brass Band for the village and township. The meeting was well attended. Mr. M. Cummins, Deputy Reeve, occupied the chair. After the subject had been fully discussed, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Cummins, Sulistis and Knowles, was appointed to receive the names of ladies wishing to join the band, take up subscriptions to defray the cost of organizing, &c., and to report at a future meeting.

IN ACTON, on the 22nd inst., Mr. Robert Flanagan, of Detroit, Mich., to Harriet, daughter of the late Joseph Lashby, of Acton.

IN GUELPH, on the 21st inst., Mr. W. J. Callahan, of the Guelph Star, formerly of Milton.

IN ACTON, on the 14th inst., the wife of Mr. A. Stephenson, of a daughter.

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Waterloo Poor House. From the report of the Inspector of the Waterloo County Poor House for the year ending Dec. 1st, we glean the following. At the date of the last report there remained in the house 69 inmates, and during the year 76 were admitted. Eight were removed by death, 7 absconded, 51 were discharged, 6 children were sent out on trial, and 73 remained in the institution at date of report—showing a slight increase over the previous year. Of the 76 admitted during the year, 33 who had not resided in the County two years, received an aggregate of 178 weeks of board and lodging. The various causes of pauperism of the 76 admitted were:—Intemperance, 22; sickness and destitution, 15; parents in the House, 11; crippled, 10; vagrancy, 6; old age, 6; deserted by husband, 2; idiotic, 2; blind, 1; orphans, 1; parents in goal, 1. The average number of inmates for the year was 78, and the total number of weeks board for inmates was 4100, at an average expense of 89 9-10th cents per week for each inmate. Strict economy is exercised in every department, for we find that the total expenditure for the year (including provisions, cash etc.) on hand at date of previous report, was \$7,781.23, but from this must be deducted for permanent improvements, farm produce, fat cattle, hogs, provisions, fuel, cash etc., on hand, and income derived from Farm and House, \$3679—leaving the amount actually expended for support of the inmates of House only \$4108.23.

Another Lot of PLATED WARE. BEAUTIFUL LAMPS AT PRICES UNPARALLELED IN GUELPH. A. McBEAN & CO.'S. MILLINERY & FANCY GOODS.

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NEW TRAINS. Morning Day Express. Mixed. Night Express. Day Express. Mail. Mixed.

Mail (by) Daily. Registered. Daily. Mail. Mixed.

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