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THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Acton Free Press  
JOS H HACKING EDITOR

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 9, 1876.

**FREE—The balance of this year. The Free Press will be sent to all NEW Subscribers from now until the 1st of Jan., 1878, for One Dollar, if paid strictly in advance.**

Peace or War.

The friends of peace must feel greatly encouraged at the prospect ahead. The period is evidently not so far distant as some imagine, when the sword shall be beaten into the ploughshare and the spear into the pruning-hook, and men shall learn war no more," and when the wish expressed by *Jenotte* to *Jenotte* shall be carried out: "I'd have those who make the quirels be the only ones to fight." Never before was there so much smoke with so little fire, as in what is termed the Eastern equable. Undoubtedly, Russia has been the prop and mainstay of the Servian insurrection. But, when last comes to last, the Northern Bear dare not fight, because the Rothschilds, with their money-bags, have forbidden it; and all Europe cried "hands off" when Constantinople is threatened. This very fact of the nations being so averse to war is one of the most hopeful signs of the times in which we live. Very few nations can sustain the expense of war as it is conducted in this age; then again, weapons of destruction have been brought to such perfection in these days that armies can be decimated in an hour, and that, too, without seeing their opponents. When one hundred tons guns send shot and shell twelve and fourteenths miles distant, scattering death and ruin in all directions, it may well make the stoutest heart pause before engaging in a conflict. The Franco-German war taught the modern world a lesson by its fabulous expensiveness and awful destructiveness; and the "common herd" can no longer be readily lashed into ungovernable fury over imaginary or sentimental wrongs, for they suffer most in a fight, and most afterwards. The *clat* is taken from the war-god; and, being stripped of the false tinsel styled *glory*, he is discovered to be a cruel, libidinous and bloodthirsty demon. It is a subject for rejoicing that it is so, and that the rulers of the earth pause, as they never did before, e'er they let slip the leash which keeps in check the dogs of war; and it is owing to these all but irresolvable arguments, that a peaceful solution is likely to be found to the difficulties existing in the East.

Death of Cardinal Antonelli.

A telegraph despatch on Monday briefly announced the death in Rome of the distinguished prelate, Cardinal Antonelli. He had been in internment for many months past, though there was no immediate apprehension of death. He was transacting business with the Pope on Sunday, when he was seized with a severe attack of gout in the chest. He expired at 7:15 on Monday morning, shortly after sending a message to the Pope asking for his blessing, and imploring pardon for all the faults he might have committed during his administrations. The deceased had for many years occupied a prominent position in the administration of Papal affairs.

**THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.**—Though the Exhibition closes on Friday, the 10th inst., the Centennial Commission in Executive Session last Thursday, passed a resolution continuing the usual fee of 50c for admission until Saturday, the 18th inst. President Grant has consented to be present, and will discharge in his official capacity the duty of finally and formally closing the International Exhibition of 1876.

The annual drill of the several companies comprising the 30th Battalion of Wellington has been completed. The full strength of the Battalion is 420 rank and file, and of these 371 men put in their annual drill. The Irvin Company was very small, comprising only 21 men, but not counting this company, the average of drilled men was 39 per company, the full number being 42.

After many statements and counter statements it seems certain that the wretched Turco-Serbian slaugher has come to an end. The Serians come out of the affair with a very miserable record. Those who believe that no evil is done but that good arises will require keen eyes and a lively imagination to find the beneficial results of this war.

**QUEER.—A young man was arrested in Bronte some time ago and lodged in Milton jail for theft of a bag of clothes. After he had been in prison for twelve or fourteen days the clothes were found, and he was set out on his own recognizance, to appear at the spring assizes.**

Educational.  
RON A. CROOKS IN MILTON.

On Saturday last, according to announcement, the Hon. Adam Crooks addressed the teachers, trustees, &c., of the County of Halton, in the Town Hall, Milton, on several questions which have been agitated of late. Previous to the meeting in the hall, a meeting of teachers was held in the School House, where several important matters were discussed. The chair was occupied by Mr. Little, County Inspector. The Secretary, Mr. R. Coates of Lowell, read the proceedings of the last meeting, and mentioned that he had been promised papers for the afternoon meeting by Dr. Lusk, Mr. Switzer, and Mr. Cameron, and that if necessary he would furnish one himself on object teaching. Mr. Little then suggested that the business of the meeting be proceeded with.

The following resolutions were submitted to the meeting, and after some discussion passed, and will be placed in the possession of the Hon. Minister of Education.

(1) That the man in which every one expressed his opinions about the various subjects under discussion, and said it was the best meeting he had attended in Ontario.—*Champion.*

Mr. Crooks was greatly pleased with the manner in which every one expressed his opinions about the various subjects under discussion, and said it was the best meeting he had attended in Ontario.—*Champion.*

The fall shipments of apples from Oakville are nearly 5,000 barrels.

Tupper, the English poet and proverb man, is to lecture in Hamilton on the 10th.

A man named Robert Stewart was arrested in Guelph on Tuesday on a charge of cattle-stealing.

The anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot on Sunday, was observed by Orangemen throughout Ontario.

That the midsummer vacation should be extended and made similar to that enjoyed by the High Schools.

That the school year should end on the 1st July or at the close of the spring term.

That this meeting favors the formation of Township Boards of trustees.

That this meeting considers the quarterly payment of teacher's salaries desirable.

The afternoon meeting in the hall was attended by large numbers of those directly and indirectly interested in the matters to be discussed, which were as follows:—Programme of Studies, School Accommodation, Assistant Teachers, &c. John Walde Esq., was appointed chairman, and introduced Mr. Crooks, who was listened to with deep interest while giving an exhaustive account of the progress of educational matters in this country, from its first settlement to the present date. Mr. Crooks was enthusiastically applauded on the conclusion of his address, and the chairman then announced that it was in order to submit resolutions for discussion on which the following ensued:

W. D. Lyon, Esq. (M. P. E.), moved, seconded by John Warren, Esq., Dep. Reeve of Esquing, that in the opinion of this meeting the programme of studies for the public schools is not adapted for rural sections, inasmuch as the multiplicity of studies prevents pupils from making as much progress as they otherwise would in those branches of study which would prove more useful in after life; and that the present system of classifications of pupils is too rigid, as it frequently happens that owing to a pupil's incapacity in certain subjects, his progress is hindered or retarded in others for which he is more naturally adapted; and that the School Law and Regulations ought to be so amended that the master of a school, when requested by the parents or guardians, might, with the consent of his board of trustees, allow an opinion as to subjects of study to pupils of the age of twelve years and upwards, thus enabling them to take up such subjects as will be more useful to them in their intended sphere of life; and that the master of a school might, with the approval of the trustees, promote a pupil from a lower to a higher class, although as it frequently happens that owing to a pupil's incapacity in certain subjects, his progress is hindered or retarded in others for which he is more naturally adapted; 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