

THE ANNALS  
OF  
**THE TOWN OF GUELPH**

---

1827 TO 1877.

COMPILED  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
**C. ACTON BURROWS,**  
Editor of the Guelph Herald.

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**PRICE, 75 CENTS.**

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GUELPH, CANADA,  
HERALD STEAM PRINTING HOUSE,

1877.

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Day's Block.

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2 Day's Block, Guelph.

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"Upright and tall the trees of age grow,  
While all is loneliness and waste below;  
There, as the massy foliage, far aloof  
Displayed a dark, impenetrable roof  
So, gnarled and rigid, clapt and interwound,  
An uncouth maze of roots embossed the ground."  
—MONTGOMERY.

"And when these toils rewarding,  
Broad lands at length they'll claim,  
They'll call the new possession  
By some familiar name."  
—AGNES STRICKLAND.

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GUELPH, CANADA:  
HERALD STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.  
1877.

## DEDICATION.

— 1877 —

TO HIS WORSHIP

**FREDERICK JASPER CHADWICK,**

**MAYOR OF GUELPH :**

DEAR MR. CHADWICK :—In issuing this little work, which I hope will prove of interest, not only to my fellow townsmen, but to all who are glad to see such material prosperity as is evident in the growth of Guelph, allow me to dedicate it to you, from whom I have received many personal kindnesses.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

C. ACTON BURROWS.

GUELPH, April, 1877.



## PREFACE.

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In the preparation of this little work, the object has been to give, as succinctly as possible, a general outline of the history of the Town of Guelph, with some reference to the principal events which have, during the fifty years of its existence, absorbed the public attention. That many matters, which might be of interest to some of the older residents, have been omitted, will be seen at a glance; but this has been done for what were considered, after careful reflection, to be good and sufficient reasons. In the earlier years of the settlement, as is the case in all newly settled districts, many things occurred which, under more favorable circumstances, could not have happened, and which, while they formed fertile themes of gossip at the time, it would serve no good purpose to reproduce now, even if all that is said to have taken place could be substantiated, which is far from being the case. In fact, so contradictory are the recollections of some of the early settlers with regard to many alleged events, more especially in reference to matters of a private and personal nature, that it was felt to be the wiser plan to reject the great bulk of these traditions, and to adhere to what could be reasonably relied upon as being the truth. Had even this been all made use of, the work would have grown to at least ten times its present size, and would, probably, not have given so much satisfaction as it is hoped will be afforded now. On the other hand, there may be, and doubtless, are some things omitted more worthy of notice than many of the events referred to, and for this defect it is hoped the reader will show some indulgence, in consideration of the great difficulty which attends the glean- ing of information relating to times so long past, when few or no records were kept of even public proceedings. All that persevering effort and discriminating research could do to make the work reliable, has been done, and though some may feel disposed harshly to criticise it, the general public, it is hoped, will extend to it a generous reception.

To those of the early settlers, especially to Mr. Robert Thompson, Mrs. Keough, Lieut.-Col. James Armstrong and Mr. James Lynch, who is the oldest resident of Guelph, the warmest thanks and acknowledgements are due, and are hereby tendered. Also, to His Honor Judge Macdonald, Mrs. Galt, Major Macdonald, His Worship Mayor Chadwick, Messrs. J. H. Hacking, John Smith and A. H. Mowat, of Guelph; Messrs. E. M. Chadwick and W. R. Strickland, of Toronto, and others, for the loan of valuable books and documents, and to Mr. H. W. Peterson, County Crown Attorney of Wellington; Mr. John Beattie, County Clerk of Wellington and Mr. John Harvey, Clerk of the Town of Guelph, for their courtesy in giving access to the records in their offices.

## ERRATA

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Owing to the short time available for the preparation of this work, in order to secure its publication by April 23rd, 1877, the Fiftieth Anniversary of Guelph's foundation, it was found impossible to thoroughly revise the proofs, so that some errors in spelling, &c. have occurred. The following are the principal :

- Page 29—Dr. Herod is mentioned as purchasing Dr. Alling's house. He did not purchase it, it being still owned by Mrs. Marcon.  
Page 29—For "Dr. Allen" read Dr. Alling.  
Page 117—For "Dr. Hood," Councillor in North Ward, read Dr. Herod.  
Page 126—For "H. W. Paterson," read H. W. Peterson.  
Page 144—For "Dr. Hewitt," read Dr. Howit, and for "J. Holliday," read T. Holliday.  
Page 145—For "Scheweigener," read Schweiger.  
Page 149—For "May 23rd," read April 23rd.

# THE ANNALS

—OF—

## THE TOWN OF GUELPH.

ONE of the many beneficial results which accrued from the war of 1812, was the increased attention which the people of England were induced to give to the claims and advantages presented by Upper Canada. Previous to this the knowledge of this colony possessed by the public, and to a large extent also by the Government, at home, was conveyed principally through the medium of the limited commercial relations which then existed between the two countries, the information relating to the physical advantages of this country and its adaptability for purposes of emigration, meagre though it was, being confined almost exclusively to official dispatches, and limited altogether to the Lower Province. Nor can this be greatly wondered at, when it is remembered that even to the oldest and best informed colonists in Quebec, the Upper Province had for many years been a literal *terra incognita*. During the agitation which preceded the division of the Province of Quebec, which then comprised the whole of the country, into Upper and Lower Canada, delegates were sent to England to represent to the Government the merits of the case, *pro* and *con*. The opponents of the proposed change deputed a Mr. Adam Lymburger, a prominent Quebec merchant, to represent them, and at the bar of the House of Commons he said that the new Province would be entirely cut off from all communication with Great Britain, and the inhabitants would have few opportunities of mixing in the society of Britons. He also said that "Niagara, which must be considered as the utmost limit westward of the cultivable part of the Province, was 500 miles distant, and the falls of Niagara must be considered an inseparable bar to the transport of such rude commodities as the land might produce;" and, though there were a few settlers in the neighborhood of De-

troit, "such a confined market must greatly impede the progress of settlement and cultivation *for ages to come*." That this was an honest expression of belief there can be no doubt, when it is borne in mind that for some years afterwards the mail communications between the two sections of country were both infrequent and irregular, sometimes not oftener than once a year; and, though, in response to an invitation published by Governor Simcoe in 1791, a considerable number of settlers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania had come to the Upper Province, they were widely scattered, and consequently unable to take any concerted measures to make their influence felt, all the newspapers being published in Montreal and Quebec. Whatever accessions of emigrants were gained, therefore, must be attributed to private influences, rather than to any action taken by the public authorities, and it is not surprising that the prevailing opinion at home was, that Canada was simply a vast field of snow and ice, convenient as a fur producing country, and, as yielding some very good pine for masts and building purposes, to some extent valuable, but certainly not the place to which a man should emigrate to better his fortunes. This was undoubtedly the popular feeling at home with regard to the entire country, and more especially with reference to what, in official documents were vaguely referred to as "the upper countries." The war of 1812, however, changed all that, and it was found that during the interval between the division of the country into two provinces, Upper Canada had become a power in the land. Prosperous towns had sprung up, and large tracts of country had been put under cultivation, disclosing the fact that so far from being "a vast solitude," and "a hopeless wilderness," it was in reality far superior, in all its physical aspects, to the older and better known districts. This knowledge, however, had not, to any large extent, reached the people of England, and it came as a sort of revelation to them when the true state of the case was announced, which was not till the war developed the resources and the loyal spirit of the settlers, as shown in the results of their struggles at Detroit, Mackinac, Ogdensburg, Queenston, Stoney Creek, Chateauguay, Lundy's Lane, Oswego, and other places, where the Canadian militia won laurels which many an old regiment in the regular army might have envied. At the close of the war in 1815, when many of the British officers returned home, still further information was published, and the serious attention, not only of a much larger class of the general public, but of capitalists seeking profitable and secure fields for investment, was turned to the advantages which presented themselves in this new country. A still further impetus was given to the tide of emigration by the developments relating to the rapid progress of the newly settled portions of western Canada, in the debates which took place in England in 1822-3, on the proposed scheme for reuniting the two provinces, and upon the measure, finally assented to by the Imperial Government, for raising, by loan, the sum of £100,000, to indemnify the people of Upper Canada for losses sustained by them during the late war.

It was during this period that the idea of forming the Canada Company, to which so much of the prosperity of Upper Canada is to be attributed, was conceived. Mr. John Galt, to whom the entire credit of the inception and successful launching of the company is undoubtedly due, had for some time been considering the question of emigration to Canada as a means of providing an outlet for those persons in England and Scotland who, formed a not inconsiderable portion of the population,

reduced in circumstances, but too proud, or by reason of their education unfitted to take their place in the ranks of the commercial and laboring classes; and also those of the lower orders who, though able and willing to work, could not obtain employment adequate to the rearing of their families in such comfort and independence as was desirable. Mr. Galt was a man of unusually keen perception and remarkable constructive as well as administrative ability, which, combined with a liberal education, eminently fitted him to devise and carry out a scheme of this nature. He had spent considerable time in travelling and had become well and favorably known as an author and writer on topics of public interest in the periodicals of his day. When, therefore, he first announced the outlines of his plan, he was able to command the respectful attention, not only of his friends, but of the Government. He does not appear to have been anxious to take an active part in the business himself, for in 1823, tired of a life of adventure, he had established what he intended to be a permanent home at Eskgrove, near Musselburgh, with the object of devoting his time to literature and the education of his three sons. He had not long been there, however, when his plans having received the consideration of the members of the Government, he was sent for by Mr. Robinson, afterwards Lord Goderich, at that time Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the purpose of holding a consultation on Canadian affairs. The Province of Upper Canada was then seeking assistance from the home government in liquidating certain liabilities incurred principally in carrying on internal improvements, and Mr. Robinson was led to offer, that if the Province would guarantee the payment of half its civil expenses, the Imperial Government would satisfy the then existing claims against it. Mr. Galt at once directed his attention to the consideration of this offer, and held frequent consultations with friends well informed on the existing state of affairs, more especially with Bishop Macdonnell, who supplied him with most valuable data. The result of these conference was to somewhat modify Mr. Galt's original ideas respecting emigration to Canada, and to impel him to take proceedings which eventually issued in the formation of the Canada Company, of which he was appointed secretary.

Shortly afterwards he was appointed, together with Sir John Harvey, Col. Cockburn, Mr. McGillivray and Mr. Davidson, a government commissioner to visit Canada to make a valuation of the upper province, a work which was completed and reported upon the same year. A dispute ensued on the question of the Clergy Reserves, it being strongly urged that they should be excluded from the valuation, but on the matter being left to arbitration between Archdeacon Strachan and Mr. Galt, an agreement was arrived at even more advantageous to the Company than the previous arrangement, the great Huron tract being assigned to them as an equivalent for the reserves. All disputes being amicably settled, the Company was duly chartered, with a capital of £1,000,000, and preparations for active operations were immediately commenced, and in October 1826, Mr. Galt again embarked for Canada, arriving at Little York (now Toronto) in January 1827. It was not long before business came pressing upon him, in the course of a few weeks nearly three hundred offers to purchase land having been lodged at his office. During his first visit to the western country he had been favorably impressed with the fertility and general character of the country lying west of Lake Ontario, and had received some glowing reports of a tract situated a few miles north of Galt, which was then a flourishing village. This land having been

acquired by the Canada Company, he ordered an inspection to be made of it, and the result proving in every way satisfactory, he determined upon making this the seat of the first settlement under the auspices of the Company. The tract comprised about 40,000 acres, over large portions of which the foot of civilized man had never trod, except in the inspection ordered by Mr. Galt, and that was necessarily of a cursory nature. It was one dense forest, through which not even a blazed Indian path was visible, and the only trace of a human habitation of which there is any record, was an Indian hut, long deserted, which the first exploring party discovered near to the spot where the first tree was destined to be cut on the site of the present town. This spot had been represented to Mr. Galt as in many respects the most advantageous for his purpose in the entire tract, and the result of subsequent surveys fully justified the wisdom of the selection, situated as it is on the banks of a fast flowing stream, with sufficient fall to furnish admirable water power, and being also in the centre of a section of country which for fertility and beauty, as well as for natural advantages, cannot be surpassed in the whole Province.

All the necessary preparations having been made, Mr. Galt set out to inaugurate the new town, or as he always persisted in calling it the western city. He had been to New York on business for the Company, and arrived at Dundas on his return on April 21st. At Dundas his purpose had been made known, and a number of the residents of that town, together with others from Ancaster, accompanied him on his mission, the party arriving on the 22nd at Galt, where they were hospitably entertained by the inhabitants, Mr. Galt being welcomed by his old friend the Hon. Wm. Dickson, who owned all the land in that neighborhood and who had named the town in honor of Mr. Galt, and in recognition of the pleasure the acquaintance in previous years had afforded him.

St. George's day, April 23rd, had been fixed upon by Mr. Galt as the day for the commencement of operations, on which subject he says:—"This was not without design, I was well aware of the boding effect of a little solemnity on the minds of most men, and especially of the unlettered, such as the first class of settlers were likely to be, at eras which betokened destiny, like the launching of a vessel, or the birth of an enterprise, of which a horoscope might be cast. The founding of a town was certainly one of these, and accordingly I appointed a national holiday for the ceremony, which secretly I was determined should be celebrated so as to be held in remembrance, and yet so conducted as to be only apparently accidentally impressive." Early on the morning of the 23rd, therefore, the whole party started on their journey, the main body of the adventurers going forward, Mr. Galt and Dr. Dunlop, who held a sort of roving commission in the Canada Company's service, and rejoiced in the high sounding title, more honorable than profitable, of "Warden of the Canada Company's Woods and Forests," following at a short distance. Mr. Galt placed himself entirely under the guidance of the Doctor, who, having traversed the ground before, was supposed to know the way, and doubtless he thought he did. But the most experienced of backwoodsmen occasionally lose themselves in the bush, and so it happened in this instance. Scarcely had they entered the thick part of the forest, a few miles from their destination, when the Doctor found he had missed his road. "I was exceedingly angry," says Mr. Galt, "for such an incident is no trifle in the woods; but after wandering up and down like the two babes, with not even the comfort of a

blackberry, the heavens frowning and the surrounding forest sullenly still, we discovered a hut and 'tirling at the pin,' entered and found it inhabited by a Dutch shoemaker. We made him understand our lost condition, and induced him to set us on the right path. He had been in the French army, and had, after the peace, emigrated to the United States; thence he had come to Upper Canada, where he bought a lot of land, which, after he had made some betterments, he exchanged for the location in the woods, or, as he said 'himself, 'Je swape' the first land for the lot on which he was now settled. With his assistance we reached the skirts of the wild to which we were going, and were informed in the cabin of a squatter that all our men had gone forward. By this time it began to rain, but undeterred by that circumstance we resumed our journey in the pathless woods. About sunset dripping wet, we arrived near the spot we were in quest of, a shanty, which an Indian, who had committed murder, had raised as a refuge for himself. We found the men under the orders of Mr. Pryor, whom I had employed for the Company, kindling a roaring fire, and after endeavoring to dry ourselves, and having recourse to the store basket, I proposed to go to the spot chosen for the town. By this time the sun was set, and Dr. Dunlop, with his characteristic drollery, having doffed his wet garb, and dressed himself Indian fashion, in blankets, we proceeded with Mr. Pryor, attended by two woodmen with axes. It was consistent with my plan to invest our ceremony with a little mystery, the better to make it remembered. So, intimating that the main body of the men were not to come, walked to the brow of the neighboring rising ground, and Mr. Pryor having shown the site selected for the town, a large maple tree was chosen; on which taking an axe from one of the woodmen, I struck the first stroke. To me at least the moment was impressive, and the silence of the woods that echoed to the sound was as the sigh of the solemn genius of the wilderness departing for ever. The Doctor followed me, then, if I remember rightly, Mr. Pryor, and the woodmen finished the work. The tree fell with a crash of accumulated thunder, as if ancient nature were alarmed at the entrance of social man into her innocent solitudes with his sorrows, his follies and his crimes. I do not suppose that the sublimity of the occasion was unfelt by the others, for I noticed that after the tree fell, there was a funereal pause as when the coffin is lowered in the grave; it was, however, of short duration for Dr. Dunlop pulled a flask of whiskey from his bosom and we drank prosperity to the city of Guelph. The name was chose in compliment to the Royal Family, both because I thought it auspicious in itself and because I could not recollect that it had ever before been used in all the king's dominions."

Among those who formed the party on that day, so memorable a one for Canada, besides Mr. Galt and Dr. Dunlop, were Mr. Charles Pryor, who was Mr. Galt's confidential friend and secretary. Mr. John McDonald, a practical surveyor, who was afterwards for many years sheriff of Huron; Wm. Gooden, Curtis and Harry Lamberton, Christopher Keogh, Stacy and Ira Holden, besides a number of other axe men and chain bearers. There were also, as previously mentioned, several gentlemen from Dundas, Ancaster, Galt and other places, who had come to witness the natal rites of the new town, among whom were Mr. George Corbet, now a resident of Owen Sound, and Mr. James Mackenzie, who now resides in Guelph, who are believed to be the only survivors of those

who wielded the axe against the giant tree which first fell by the hand of man in the district now so fair and prosperous.

On the arrival of the advanced portion of the party on the ground, it was found that the Indian's hut would not nearly accommodate them all, and as the rain had been falling steadily, they erected a sort of tabernacle, of branches of trees, and after the ceremony they returned to this, and notwithstanding the storm, spent a pleasant evening in lively conversation, and listening to the almost inexhaustible sallies of wit and humor from Dr. Dunlop. This gentleman was well fitted for his position as a pioneer leader, hardy and active as an Indian, brave even to rashness, and by his irrepressible flow of spirits and love of joking, always the life and soul of the party in which he found himself. In early life he had served as an ensign in the 89th Regiment, and for several years had led a somewhat wandering life, apparently not possessing any taste for the quiet enjoyments of the domestic circle. He was never married, though, as we learn from Strickland's "Twenty Seven Years in Upper Canada," he on one occasion went so far as to throw up a copper with his brother to decide which of them should marry their housekeeper, in order that the proprieties might be duly observed. It was arranged that the Doctor himself should toss the copper three times, and that he was to cry "heads" and his brother "tails," the one to whom the most heads should fall to be clear of the responsibility, and he who should have the most tails was to accept the blessedness of the matrimonial state. Heads turned up each time, and the Doctor's brother accordingly married the lady, though it is, perhaps, doubtful if he would have done so had he known that in his anxiety for his brother's happiness the Doctor had used a coin, which he had picked up somewhere in his wanderings, having a head stamped on both sides. Such was the case, and the Doctor was perfectly sure, therefore, that he could not be the happy bridegroom, or, as he would probably have termed it, the victim. It is said the proposition to adopt this species of the lottery of marriage was at first made in fun, and that the Doctor, finding that his simple and kind-hearted brother took it in sober earnest, considered the joke too good to be allowed to drop, and therefore allowed it to proceed to its denouement, though, in justice to the Doctor, it must be said he knew the lady would make a good wife in every respect, as the result proved, for the pair so strangely united enjoyed a long and happy life. It was just one instance of the Doctor's love of a joke, which he was ever ready to practice when it could be done without inflicting positive injury on the subject.

The spot where the memorable tree stood is now covered by the embankment at the south-west end of the Grand Trunk Railway bridge over the Speed. Portions of the tree were preserved by the early settlers, and Mr. A. A. Baker has a table, the top of which is made of a piece of it, and Mr. David Allan has a drawing square made from another piece. It has been stated that after the tree was felled Mr. Pryor laid his hand upon the stump, and stretching his fingers as far apart as possible, indicated the direction in which the streets of the new town were to be laid out. Of this, however, there does not appear to be any reliable corroboration, some of the oldest settlers, who knew Mr. Pryor, asserting that it was a compass which he laid upon it; and though the direction of the principal streets in that part of the town, radiating as they do from that spot, almost in the form of a fan, might be considered as lending some degree of probability to the first statement, it is scarcely reasonable to suppose, either that a man of Mr. Pryor's well-known intelligence and



scientific attainments would adopt so rude a method of laying out what was intended to be a large and important city, or that Mr. Galt would have countenanced such a proceeding. It is far more probable, as is stated by some old settlers who knew Mr. Pryor and Mr. Galt, that Mr. McDougall placed his compass on the stump, and that the streets were planned with a view to general convenience, and to secure river frontages for residences and mills, as in the case of Woolwich Street, and that other streets were laid out so as to converge at one point, where it was intended to build the Company's offices, bank, &c.; and also to leave an open space to be reserved forever as a market place. The stump was, by order of Mr. Galt, neatly fenced round by Major Strickland in 1828, and the top being levelled and planed, the cardinal points of the compass were chiselled thereon, and a sun dial was placed upon it, serving, for many years, as a town clock. It stood as a memorial of the foundation of the town, and was held in the highest veneration by the early settlers, until about 1845, when it gradually disappeared from decay.

On the morning of the 24th, those gentlemen who had come from a distance to be present at the foundation of the new town, took their departure, and Mr. Galt and his men at once set to work to build shanties for themselves, and for the temporary accommodation of those settlers who might soon be expected to arrive, upwards of 160 building lots having already been engaged, and during the whole of that summer houses were built as fast as materials could be provided. One of the first necessities was the building of a house for Mr. Galt, where the business of the Company might be transacted, and a shed or storehouse for provisions, and for other purposes incident to the settlement of a new town.

The first few weeks were spent almost exclusively in chopping and logging, the clearances being principally on the Market Square and eastward to Waterloo Street as far as Gordon Street, where, for several years, the business portion of the town was situated, only a few straggling houses being built on the west side for a considerable time afterwards. As the trees were cut, shanties and log houses were built, the first commenced being the Priory, which, though not altogether finished until the spring of 1828, was occupied by Mr. Galt from the first. The house, which is beautifully situated on the south bank of the river Speed, was built of squared logs, was large and commodious, and with the rustic porch, presents a very fair appearance, though somewhat rough, imitation of Ionic architecture, and stands to this day as a witness of the practical skill and artistic taste of Mr. Galt, who drew the plans and superintended the work.

During the visit of Mr. Galt to New York in the spring, before coming to Guelph, he had through Mr. Buchanan, the British Consul, engaged a blacksmith, named John Owen Lynch, who, with his family, arrived here in May. At that time a number of shanties had been built, but none of them were large enough to accommodate this family, so that a house of elm logs, was soon built for them, on the lot now occupied by Mr. F. W. Stone's store on Gordon Street, the blacksmith's shop being built in the rear, a low log structure, used now by Mr. Stone as a stable. This house was of considerable dimensions, and was shared by Jas. McCartney, brother-in-law of J. O. Lynch. The next house, other than the shanties, was built on the site now occupied by Mr. G. Lees' packing house, and was used as a tavern kept by Philip Jones, who remained here about two years, when he removed into Woolwich. Then a large log house was built on the site of the present Fountain Hotel, by a man

named Lamport, after which several other houses were built by the Canada Company for mechanics who had been sent from New York. These men were Thos. Stewart, shoemaker, Wm. Gibbs, baker,—who started the first bakery in the town,—Wm. Holmes, wagon maker, Wm. Collins, carpenter, and Jas. Anderson, also a carpenter, brother-in-law of Collins, with whom he lived. All these houses were in the immediate neighborhood of Gordon and Surrey Streets, one on each corner, Holmes' being on the lot where Sole & Johnston's bakery now is. Another blacksmith, named McGarr, soon afterwards arrived as assistant to Lynch, his house being built on Gordon Street between Holmes' and the corner of Waterloo Street. On the site of the stone building lately used as a Central School, a carpenter named John Williams built a house, which he afterwards sold to a tailor named Joseph Croft, who lived there about five years. About this time a tavern was opened in one wing of the Priory, by a man named Reid, who removed, with Major Strickland, to Goderich, in 1828. At this time settlers began to arrive in large numbers, and houses were rapidly put up in all directions. Among those who purchased lots from the Company, and arrived here during the summer, as appears from the books of the Canada Company, were the following:—

Lot	1.	Jas. D. Oliver.	August 11.
"	2.	Allan McDonnell.	August 12.
"	3.	Alex. S. Elder.	May 20.
"	4.	Thos. Leigh.	
"	5.	Thos. Kelly.	" 31.
"	6.	Aaron Anderson.	" 15.
"	8.	Edward Worswick.	" 27.
"	9.	Nancy Riffe.	" 27.
"	10.	Bernard McTague.	" 31.
"	11.	do do	" "
"	12.	Jas. Thompson.	" "
"	13.	Jas. McLevy.	" "
"	14.	Robt. McLevy.	" 27.
"	15.	David Gilkison.	" "
"	16.	Chas. Boynton.	" 17.
"	17.	Philip Jones.	" "
"	19.	Andrew McVean.	" 19.
"	20.	Wm. Elliott.	" 16.
"	21.	Wm. Lenden.	" "
"	22.	do	" 16.
"	23.	Wm. Reid.	" "
"	24.	James Smith, jr.	" 28.
"	25.	Geo. Abbott.	June 1.
"	27.	Geo. Dobbies.	May 19.
"	29.	Wm. Reid.	" 16.
"	35.	Thos. Butler.	June 2.
"	42.	Jas. Corbet.	July 10.
"	47.	Geo. Whiteside.	June 9.
"	53.	Wm. Goodwin.	" 2.
"	71.	Chas. Armstrong.	Aug. 12.

Of these, it may be mentioned that J. D. Oliver built the first stone house in the town, in consideration of which the Company gave him a free deed of his lot; David Gilkison built the first frame house and store; Chas.

Boynton built a large frame house, which he soon afterwards turned into an hotel, and Philip Jones, as before stated, built a tavern of round logs.

Another party of emigrants arrived later in the summer, and being mostly farmers, they settled on what has since been known as the Scotch Block, on the Elora Road. Among them were, Alex. McTavish, Donald Gillies, Alex. Reid, McFie, Peter Butchart, Angus Campbell, Holli-day, Joseph McDonald, Capt. McDonald, (who was an uncle of the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and who died a few years ago upwards of ninety years of age,) Jas. Stirton, Jas. McQuillan, Wm. Patterson, Rose, McCrae, John Dean, Jas. Mays, Thos. Knowles, Thos. Daly, the Kennedys, (three families), M. Sweetnam, and others, most of whom, however, afterwards sold out, when they had made some improvements, and removed elsewhere, a practice which was far too prevalent at that time, and, though it often placed a little ready money in the hands of those who sold their farms, rarely resulted in the improvement of their condition; while, on the other hand, all of those who retained the farms they themselves had cleared, afterwards became more or less wealthy, and many of them were in after years able to purchase eligible land in other places. A third party arrived at about the same time, and settled in the Paisley Block, among whom were—Jno. Inglis, Jno. Laidlaw, J. McCorkindale, Drew, Campbell, Alexander, Gideon Hood, Wm. Hood, Thos. Hood, Boyd, McKersie, John Speirs, Thos. Jackson, John Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Wm. Jackson, and Geo. Jackson, most of whom became wealthy and influential citizens. Most of these early settlers had families, and the sons of some of them have since held prominent positions in the various councils and in the legislative halls of the country.

Recognizing the importance of educational facilities in a newly constituted community, Mr. Galt had stipulated that half the price of the building lots should be appropriated for the endowment and maintenance of a school, undertaking that the Company should advance the necessary funds to build the school house, to be repaid gradually from the proceeds of the sales of lots. But during the first year the people were so fully occupied in clearing their land and raising their own houses, that nothing could be done in building a school house, especially as it was Mr. Galt's intention that it should be a substantial stone structure, which could not be built in a few days. In June, therefore, he erected a shed, adjoining the Priory, since removed, and a school was opened, under the charge of an American named Davis, who appears to have been a fair type of the dominie of the period, whose intellectual acquirements did not go much beyond the "Three Rs," and who had a deeply rooted conviction that there was no better mode of instilling knowledge into the minds of the rising generation than by the medium of a good sound birch rod; or at least, that when all other means of enlightening the youthful mind had failed, that was certain to accomplish the desired result; and so zealous does he appear to have been in the application of this elevating theory, that he was on several occasions in danger of having it practically tested on his own person, at the hands of some of the English and Scotch settlers, who entertained the absurd notion that the best way of reaching the brain was not by corporeal punishment, and that blistering both hands was not the surest method of drawing out the intellectual faculties of a child. Mr. Galt, strangely enough, being of the same way of thinking, and not holding a very high opinion of the mental capacity of Mr. Davis, was not long in dispensing with his valuable services, and pending the opening of the new school house, several of the more intelligent

of the settlers' wives were induced to open private schools, and it is said some of them were fairly successful.

In May Mr. J. O. Lynch imported into the settlement a mare, which being the only horse owned within a radius of fourteen miles, had work enough to do. He also brought a cow, the first seen in the town. Mr. J. D. Oliver, later in the year, brought a team of horses, which relieved the poor mare very considerably, otherwise she would soon have fallen a martyr to the cause of civilization, for, though she was in admirable condition when she arrived, overwork in a few months had reduced her to a mere frame, useful only as an anatomical study.

Having finished houses and shanties sufficient to temporarily accommodate the immigrants, Mr. Galt next turned his attention to building additional storehouses and sheds for the Company, and then commenced the erection of the Market House. This was situated about midway between what are now known as Huskisson and Neeve streets, on a spot now traversed by the Grand Trunk Railway. The building consisted of twelve sets of double posts of squared timber, supporting a cottage roof, and was in size about 40 x 50 feet. It was open on all sides, and the floor was raised about 18 inches, with steps all round, formed of squared logs. The whole was surmounted by a flagstaff, from which the British ensign floated on gala days. This building, though called a market house, and used as such, so far as there was any business to be transacted, was erected more for the purpose of holding public meetings and as a rendezvous for the people, where they might meet and discuss all they knew—for newspapers were scarce and mails infrequent—of the politics and public affairs of England and Canada.

About this time, finding that the distance between York and Guelph, by the circuitous route by way of Dundas and Galt, the only road at that time opened, was productive of serious inconvenience in purchasing and forwarding supplies, Mr. Galt determined upon establishing a depot at the head of Lake Ontario, so that supplies could be brought so far by water, and accordingly applied to the Government for a grant of land in that locality for that purpose. In reply he was requested to select what he considered a suitable spot, and he accordingly chose a plot of about three acres on the banks of the canal which was then being constructed to connect Burlington Bay with the lake, a piece of land which Mr. Galt says was, in his opinion, among the most valuable in the whole Province. It fronted on the canal, and on the right was Burlington Bay and on the left Lake Ontario, a situation, than which, for the purpose contemplated, none could have been more eligible. One of the principal reasons in view in taking this step was, that in order to encourage the immigration of farmers, arrangements were made by which the land taken up, and the necessary supplies of provisions and farming implements, could be paid for in produce, which, together with consignments taken for sale on commission, would have to be transported to York or some of the lake ports on the American side, for which a shipping depot would prove of great advantage. The calculation was that the profits derivable from such a trade would not only defray all expenses, but leave a handsome profit to compensate for the money taken out of the country by the operations of the Canada Company. While engaged in making these preparations, Mr. Galt was surprised by the arrival of a large party of immigrants, forwarded from New York by Mr. Buchanan, the British Consul. These people, fifty-seven in number, had been sent to La Guayra, or Caracas, in South America, by the Colombian Company, and had found

that the glowing pictures of prosperity drawn by the agents in England, by which they had been lured away from their homes, and the almost immediate achievement of wealth and position which had been promised them, were all a delusion, and when, by the influence of the English officials, they were enabled to reach New York, they were in the most destitute condition. Mr. Buchanan, knowing that the Canada Company had established a settlement in Canada, and misconceiving the nature of the enterprise, forwarded them to Mr. Galt, and they were on their way to Guelph when he met them at his new depot. This put him in a position of great difficulty, his authority not extending to the reception of any immigrants who were not in a position to take up land, and still less to relieving a party of people who were practically paupers, though, but for their poverty, they might be more desirable immigrants than many who were fortunate enough to possess large means. That they should have been sent to the care of the Government there can be no doubt, but here they were, on his hands, and they had to be provided for in some way. Many of them were women and children, who, as a result of their short residence in the unhealthy climate of South America, and the privations they had endured while there and on board ship, were in a very weak and sickly condition, and prompt action for their relief had to be taken, and after doing what the limited means at his disposal would permit for alleviating their distress, he forwarded them to Mr. Pryor at Guelph. Upon their arrival the men were set to work, but their strength had become so reduced by want and suffering that they could not earn sufficient to maintain their families, so that it was absolutely necessary to supplement their earnings with advances from the Company's funds. Though these people had been sent to him, and from motives of humanity, he had received them and supplied their wants, he considered they were legitimately a charge on the Government, and so retained in his hands a portion of the sum then due by the Company to the Government until the matter could be adjusted. The receiver-general at York, however, informed him that his retention of this money would seriously embarrass him in his financial affairs, and it was therefore agreed that the whole of the Company's liabilities should be paid up, with the understanding that the matter should receive a fair investigation and settlement. From the first inception of the Company, there had been many interested persons, both in England and in this country, who had been opposed to it, and some also to whom Mr. Galt had, for some unexplained reason, become personally obnoxious, and these persons lost no opportunity in fomenting discord between the Company and the Government, and between Mr. Galt and the Company, and in a very short time he learned that this circumstance had been so misrepresented in London, that the Directors were almost inclined to censure him for what had been construed by his enemies into a slight on the local government, and soon afterwards he received from the Directors a communication which almost amounted to a reprimand. In the interim, the new arrivals had regained their health and strength, and by their thrift and industry had shown that they were likely to become most desirable settlers. Mr. Galt had therefore allotted to each of them fifty acres of land, at the usual price, and in consideration of their previous sufferings and present poverty had waived the first payment, with the understanding that they were to pay the full amount due at some future time, with six per cent. interest on the amount due, and on whatever was advanced to meet their necessities; a contract which was rigidly adhered to by them, all of them ultimately paying the full

amount of their liabilities, and many of them becoming wealthy and prosperous farmers and tradesmen, alike an honor and a source of strength to the community. Mr. Galt at once wrote to England, defending the course he had taken, and explaining the real facts of the case, when the matter dropped.

Still the malcontents were on the alert to find some means by which they might injure him in the estimation of the Company, and the next thing was to inflame the minds of the stockholders on account of the large amounts he was expending in carrying on the operations of the Company in the new settlement, and the heavy expenses incurred in the working of its affairs, which was represented as being the reason why the profits of the Company were not larger, which it was asserted they ought to have been. Now, that the operations of the Company during the few months the settlement had been established were on a somewhat extensive scale, and, viewed by the light of subsequent events, perhaps a little extravagant, there can be no doubt; but considering the magnitude of the scheme in contemplation, and the amount invested, it was necessary that the work should, to some extent at least, be in proportion, so that the returns should soon correspond with the investments. That there were some items of expense for work which might have been deferred he did not deny, but he was working more for the future than for the present, and in his opinion nothing could be more satisfactory than the state of affairs as they then existed, everything presenting a degree of prosperity which even he had been hardly prepared to anticipate. This matter was also clearly explained, and everything seemed likely to run smoothly on, when in a very short time another storm arose, which gave him some trouble. The name of the town had been selected, as has before been stated, as an expression of loyalty to the royal family, and because there was no other place of the same name in the Empire. That trouble could arise out of so comparatively insignificant a thing as the mere name of a place never for a moment occurred to him, but it was made the means of giving him not a little annoyance, for his enemies in England, ready to snatch at any trifle by which they might do him an injury, magnified this into an intentional slight to one of his warmest friends, Lord Goderich, who while Mr. Robinson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had taken a deep interest in Canadian affairs, and had been partially instrumental, through Mr. Galt, in forming the Canada Company. It was therefore contended that as a matter of courtesy, and as an expression of the obligations the Company had been under to Lord Goderich, the town should have been called after him. So far, the complaint seemed reasonable, and had the matter presented itself to Mr. Galt at the time in this light, probably he would have called the town Goderich, but as it was, it did not appear to him to be a very serious matter what the town was called, for as he himself said. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." So strongly was the matter pressed at home, however, that the Directors sent him a letter, condemning his choice of a name, and ordering him to change it from Guelph to Goderich. This he would not, under any other circumstances, have been unwilling to do, but he felt that he had been harshly and unjustly treated in the matter, and that a degree of importance had been attached to the mere naming of the place which appeared to him unwarrantable, and feeling also that the question had been raised merely as a pretext for injuring him, he was naturally disinclined to concede the point, and so replied, defending his choice of a name, and representing also that, as

commercial transactions had taken place, and deeds had been given of land situated in the Town of Guelph, an Act of the Legislature would have to be procured to make the proposed change, but, unwilling as he was to alter the name, if the Company insisted upon it, and would send him the necessary instructions, he would at once take the requisite steps to obtain the passage of an Act in accordance with their views. This, as he expected, put a quietus on this bugbear, and he heard no more of the matter, but to show that it was not from any disrespect to Lord Goderich that he had chosen the name of Guelph, he called the name of another town which he founded about two years afterwards, after his lordship.

This was not by any means the last attempt made to injure him and make his position uncomfortable, for another instance of still more gross misrepresentation soon occurred. It was now the month of August, and the 12th being the king's birthday, and also the anniversary of the formation of the Canada Company, he determined to celebrate it by a general holiday and public dinner. The market house was in course of construction, and the boards were placed on the roof, but up to the 11th, which was Saturday, it was not wholly shingled, and many of the people were anxious that it should be completed for the grand celebration to take place on the Monday, and, whether with Mr. Galt's knowledge or not does not appear, for no mention is made of the fact in any of the books relating to the time, the work was completed on the Sunday, the sanctity of that day, according to the evidence of those who were here at the time, not being very generally observed, as is frequently the case now in new settlements. On the Monday morning the town was in a state of the greatest excitement, it being determined to roast an ox whole on the market place, and have a right jovial time generally, in which they appear to have succeeded. Early in the morning four huge posts, which remained as a memento for many years, were let into the ground, from which, by means of logging chains, the carcass was suspended, an immense log fire being kindled on each side. While the ox was roasting a large number of guests, who had been specially invited by Mr. Galt to take part in the festivities, arrived from Galt, where they had passed the night. Some of these gentlemen lived in Montreal, some in Kingston, Dundas, Ancaster, Galt, York and other places, among whom was Mr. Gurnett, of Ancaster, proprietor of the *Gore Gazette*, in which he published a graphic description of the proceedings. So far as is known, however, there is not a copy of the paper containing the report now in existence. Among the residents of the town and neighborhood present were Mr. Robt. Thompson, Mr. Jas. McCrae, Mr. Jas. Thompson—who, two or three years afterwards took up the farm now owned by Mr. Sheriff Gow—Mr. J. Hodgert, Mr. D. Gilkison, Mr. Wm. Thompson, Mr. Allan McDonnell, Mr. Aaron Anderson—who built a house where the Bank of Commerce now stands, but who afterwards took up land on the Waterloo Road, by Silver Creek,—Mr. B. McTague, Mr. D. Gilkison, Mr. Wm. Leaden, Mr. Andrew McVean, Mr. J. D. Oliver, Mr. Jas. Parkinson, Mr. John Linderman—who had settled in Eramosa—Mr. John McCall, of Beverley, Mr. Nicklin, of Woolwich, Mr. John Mitchell—who afterwards opened a lime kiln and was the Company's valuator—Mr. C. Donohue, Mr. James Butler, Mr. Stewart Coghlin and Robt. Orr, of Guelph Township, and several of the settlers in the Scotch and Paisley Blocks, whose names have been given, Mr. J. Rife, who had squatted near the westerly limits of the township, near what is still known as Rife's Creek, most of whom are now dead. When dinner time had arrived the roasted ox was

carried into the market house, and placed upon a strong table, where it was carved, and the guests, to the number of about two hundred, enjoyed a right royal feast, the many other good things provided for the occasion making the *menu* such as by no means to be despised. That the mode of serving the dinner was not the most elegant may easily be conceived, and that all the amenities of a modern banquet were not observed may be as readily believed. In fact the first thing to be done to lend an air of refinement to the meal, was to provide forks, which each man did for himself, by going to the lumber pile and selecting or cutting a suitable stick, whittling a fork out of it with his jack knife, which indispensable article every man of course had with him, and with which he afterwards cut up his beef. Plates being somewhat scarce, and the few possessed in the town being far too valuable to risk at such a gathering, each selected as clean a shingle as possible, from the pile, which remained after the market house roof had been finished, and with keen appetites all sat down and enjoyed a hearty meal. "After the cloth was removed," toasts were drunk to everybody and every conceivable thing, the liquors, of all imaginable descriptions, being passed round in buckets, from which each man helped himself by means of tin cups, about two hundred of which had been supplied for the occasion by Mr. Linderman. Speeches were made by Mr. Galt, Mr. Pryor, Dr. Dunlop and many others, and when these gentlemen left, those who remained continued to celebrate the day in an exceedingly hilarious manner, most of them, who had not succumbed to an overpowering somnolency, celebrating the night too, many of them being found next morning reposing on the ground in the market place, in loving proximity to the liquor pails, in which conveniently floated the tin cups. This celebration was taken hold of by the fault-finders, not on account of the quantity of liquor consumed, for that was a mere trifle in those days, and an indispensable adjunct to such an occasion, but because they asserted that the health of Sir Peregrine Maitland, the Lieutenant Governor, had been omitted from the list of toasts. Sir Peregrine, though he had always been ready to do all in his power to further the objects of the Company, had for some time shown a coolness towards Mr. Galt personally, on account of some misrepresentations made by envious and interested parties before the active operations of the Company were commenced, from which Sir Peregrine had formed the opinion that Mr. Galt entertained feelings of hostility to himself, and that his political opinions were inimical to the policy of the government, especially on the subject of the clergy reserves. That this was a false impression there can be no doubt, for on every available opportunity he spoke in the highest terms of the Lieutenant Governor, both with respect to his personal character and as a valuable officer of the Crown; and so far as his political opinions were concerned, there is nothing on record to show that he ever gave expression to them in this country, and that he never allowed them to influence him in the least, in his position as agent for the Company, is tolerably certain. On this occasion, as has been testified to by scores of reliable persons, who were present on the occasion, the usual toasts, "the King" and "the royal family," having been duly honored, the health of the Earl of Dalhousie, the Governor General, was proposed, with an acknowledgment of the many services that nobleman had rendered to Mr. Galt; after which the health of Sir Peregrine Maitland was proposed, Mr. Galt most heartily expressing his gratitude for the earnestness and promptness with which his excellency had responded to every application for assistance in the interest of the Company. When the



news of these slanders and secret machinations reached Guelph, Mr. Galt was naturally chagrined, and for a time was secretly revolving in his mind the advisability of resigning his position. While he was in doubt as to the wisdom of this course, however, he was visited by Col. Coffin, who had command of the militia, who intimated that the Lieutenant Governor thought of appointing him to the command of a regiment, and requested him to consider which of the gentlemen in the Company's service, or settled in the town, he would recommend as officers. This, with hints which he had previously received from various quarters, led him to believe that Sir P. Maitland had seen reasons to change his opinion respecting him, and he was beginning to think the storms had blown over, when to his amazement he received an intimation that he was to be reprimanded by the Board of Directors for insulting the Lieutenant Governor, and in the course of a few days this proved to be the fact, for he received a letter from the Company, informing him that Sir Peregrine had made a complaint to Mr. Huskisson, Secretary of State, who had communicated it to the Directors, and that they, assuming him to be guilty of the charge, wished him to understand that they altogether disapproved of his course in this matter. Mortified beyond measure at the gross injustice of thus condemning him without giving him an opportunity of repelling the charge, he, after due consideration, sent his long contemplated resignation to Mr. Bonanquet, the chairman of the Board, enclosing a private note, leaving it with that gentleman to lay it before the Directors or not, and in his discretion, Mr. Bonanquet withheld it, and wrote a kind letter to Mr. Galt, begging him to continue in his position, which, as his family were soon expected from England, he was not sorry to do; and so, for the present, peace was restored.

Up to this time no regular religious service had been held in the new town, and the only place of worship within many miles was at Galt, and that was only a small, barn-like structure, used as a general religious meeting house for all denominations. After the visit of Bishop Macdonnell, arrangements were made for a periodical visit by a priest, but no provision could then be made for holding Protestant services. At that time the Roman Catholic see of Kingston included the whole of Upper Canada, and the pastoral districts were very large and widely scattered, the most westerly being that of Niagara, which included the whole of the country west as far as Lake Huron. This was the missionary district, over which three missionary priests of the Jesuit order had the pastoral oversight, and tours were made by them to every portion of it at stated times. One of these priests, Father Campion, a most devoted man, a personal friend of the famous Father De Smet, who, in his pioneer missionary labors among the Indians, walked literally from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was assigned to the duty of visiting and caring for the Catholic people of Guelph. His district extended as far west as Chatham and Windsor, and it usually occupied him about three months to make all his pastoral visits, which he did alone, braving all dangers, which at that time were neither few nor small, not the least of them arising from the wolves and bears with which the forests then abounded. Travelling by day, and sleeping in trees or caves by night, this devoted man pursued his labors, his reward being always fatigue and not unfrequently hunger, which were borne with the cheerfulness and resignation of a martyr to the high and noble duty to which he was called. In most of the places he visited, as at Guelph, there was no chapel, and service was held in some humble dwelling, whose narrow walls and low, rough roof, were for

the time made sacred by the prayers and sighs of the sorrowful and devout—as sacred as any cathedral consecrated by episcopal forms and pompous ceremonies: or else, when the weather would permit, in those temples, not made with hands, whose roof was the azure of the limitless sky; whose floor was nature's grand mosaic of the emerald verdure, almost hidden by the crimson, the gold, the purple and the thousand other hues of the flowers and leaves; whose aisles and naves were formed of the overarching boughs of the mighty forests, and whose altar candles were the watching stars of God. His first visit to Guelph was in August, and during his stay religious services were held by him, sometimes in the leafy groves adjoining the clearing, and sometimes in some lowly shanty, but generally, and for nearly four years afterwards, the services were held in the house of Mr. John O. Lynch. Just as he was about to leave his little flock the first time—it is said after he had mounted his horse,—he was called back to perform a pleasant duty, the celebration of the first marriage in the new settlement. Christopher Keogh, an employe of the Canada Company, and a fair maid named Kitty Kelly, had been plighted lovers in Dundas, and arrangements had been made for their union at some future time, when they could be married by a priest, but neither of them thought the auspicious time would arrive so soon; so that when the priest arrived the young man was all anxiety to have the knot tied at once, but the lady, with maiden coyness, demurred, and it was not until the priest was just about leaving that her friends prevailed upon her to give her consent, and the expectant bridegroom was just in time to stay the departure of the priest to effect the union of two loving hearts. That was another gala day, all the settlers, from Mr. Galt down to the resident of the humblest shanty, turning out to do honor to the occasion, and that day, the 26th of August, 1827, was remembered for many years as one of the pleasantest spent in the early days of Guelph. Christopher Keogh has been dead some years, but Mrs. Keogh, Guelph's first blushing bride, still lives near the town where fifty years of her life have been spent, surrounded by her surviving children and grandchildren.

In September Mr. Samuel Wright arrived here and opened a bakery on the Dundas Road, near the river. The bakery was in the open air, built of limestone, and not being accustomed to such ovens, and, indeed, being a miller by trade, not having a very large experience in baking at all, he one day heated the oven so hot that he transformed it into a miniature lime-kiln, and it crumbled into dust before his eyes. This was a lesson which he did not forget, and in future the heat of his fires was not so intense. He carried on his business here with success and profit for about two years, when he bought out William Gibbs, the Yankee baker, and for many years retained the principal part of the patronage of the town. The next bakery opened was that built by R. Parker, on the present site of Armstrong's carriage factory on Woolwich street. This was a small stone building, detached from the house, and was used as a bakery for many years.

In these early times there was not much need of magisterial supervision, but, as much probably as a matter of compliment as anything else, in the fall of 1827 Dr. Dunlop, Messrs. Pryor, Brewster, Hodgert and Col. Lamprey received the Commission of the Peace, to which Mr. Strange was afterwards added. Previous to this, disputes were adjusted and petty crimes punished by the magistrates elsewhere, 'Squires Lepard and Smith being the magistrates in Woolwich, and 'Squire Ellis, of

Fisher's Mills, and 'Squire Scollick, of Preston, in Waterloo. From what is stated by those settlers who were here at the time, these magistrates' courts were conducted more on the principles of equity than on the basis of law, the legal knowledge of their worships on the bench being of the most crude and limited nature, and their decisions being given as the result of their innate feelings of justice and their hard common-sense views of right and wrong; and who shall say that there was not as much even-handed justice meted out then as now, when, through the multiplicity of apparently conflicting statutes, law and justice do not always seem to go hand in hand? When the Guelph magistrates were appointed, however, a quantity of law books were procured, and being men of considerable education and ability, they at once assumed a high place in the estimation of the other justices of the peace, who were accustomed to refer unusually knotty points to them for decision.

For several miles out of Guelph there was at this time no road, excepting a beaten path through the dense primeval forest which lay between the new town and Galt, and Mr. Galt determined upon opening up a road in that direction, and the work was undertaken by Mr. Absalom Shade, of Galt, a gentleman who afterwards took a prominent part in the public affairs of that town. The road consisted of a cutting upwards of one hundred and thirty feet wide, and was about seven miles long, the whole of the chopping and logging being completed in the summer of 1829. On each side of this magnificent glade the trees rose to the height of about 150 feet, along the centre of which the high road ran, forming an approach which, for beauty and grandeur, was probably never equalled, and fully justified the expression of admiration used by Mr. Galt, who called it "the glory of Guelph." Indeed it might have constituted the glory of any city, and in an older country and under other circumstances would have been preserved as a boulevard, than which no finer could be conceived. In speaking of this splendid avenue, in a letter to one of his friends, Mr. Galt says: "The imagination forbears when it would attempt to depict the magnificent effect of the golden sun shining through the colossal vista of smoke and flames;—the woodmen dimly seen moving in 'the palpable obscure,' with their axes glancing along in the distance. A Yankee post-boy, who once drove me to Guelph, on emerging from the dark and savage wood, looked behind in astonishment as we entered the opening, and, clapping his hands with delight, exclaimed, 'What an Almighty place!'" In again referring to this work, he says: "By doing speedily and collectively, works which, in detail, would not have been remarkable, these superb effects were obtained. They brought 'to home' the wandering emigrants, gave them employment, and by the wonder at their greatness, magnified the importance of the improvements. This gigantic vision did not cost much more than the publication of a novel." This magnificent approach to the embryonic town, from the first called the Waterloo Road, was, however, fated to be soon marred, the clearings of the settlers very soon making gaps, which, however desirable as adding prosperity to the town and township, robbed this grand avenue of its beauty and glory forever.

In the fall of 1827, Mr. Galt received a visit from the Provincial Inspector-General, and his old friend Bishop Macdonnell, whom he had not seen since he had held those important conferences with him in England, which contributed so much to the formation of the Canada Company. It was at this time that the site for the Catholic church was chosen, and as a compliment to the Bishop, Mr. Galt at once set men to

work to clear Macdonnell street as far as the summit of the hill, where it was at once decided the church of the future should be built. Here the clearing ceased, except that on the crest of the hill a large elm tree was left standing, forming a very prominent feature in the beautiful landscape which the place then presented. This tree was about nine feet in circumference at the height of a man's head, and was allowed to remain, partly on account of its beauty, but more, perhaps, on account of the labor necessary to fell it. Not that it was in any way remarkable for size, for there were in the neighborhood some butterwood and cherry trees, which, according to actual measurements taken by Major Strickland, were, some seven, and some eight and nine feet in circumference. Mr. Galt speaks of an oak, on the Waterloo Road, which, at the first glance, reminded him of the London Monument, an effect of the amazement which the greatness of the dimensions produced. He measured the girth, at the height of a man's head, and found it to be thirty-three feet, above which the trunk rose without a branch to the height of at least eighty feet, crowned with vast branches. "This was an oak," he says, "probably the greatest known, and it lifted its head far above the rest of the forest. The trees around, myrmidons of inferior growth, were large, massy and vigorous, but possessed none of the patriarchal antiquity with which that magnificent 'monarch of the woods' was invested. I think, therefore, that I was not wrong in imagining it the scion of a forest that had passed away. Had I been convinced it was perfectly sound, I would have taken measures for cutting it down and sending home planks of it to Windsor Castle. The fate that awaited it would have justified the profanation. The doubt of its soundness, however, and the difficulty of finding tools large enough to do it justice, procrastinated the period of its doom." It was a few years afterwards cut down for fence rails by the owner of the place, who remarked to Major Strickland on one occasion, when called a Goth for wishing to cut it down: "I don't know what you mean by a Goth; but I do know, that if I could get a cross-cut saw long enough to cut that tree, I would not let it stand there long; for you see it is mighty straight in the grain, and would split like a ribbon."

In the fall of 1827 Mr. D. Gilkison, who was doing a very fair business at his store, and who was one of the fortunate ones who came here with a little capital, applied to Mr. Galt to be allowed to build a saw-mill on the site where Allan's mill now stands, but this had from the first been reserved for a grist mill to be built for the Company. The next eligible place was on a spot within a few feet of the present mills owned by Mr. Geldie, and this was at once purchased by Mr. Gilkison at a moderate figure. Some difficulty, however, was experienced in constructing a dam, chiefly from the want of proper machinery and tools, but after repeated trials all obstacles were overcome, and a dam, though not such a one as under more favorable circumstances it would have been, yet sufficiently strong to answer the purpose, was built, and work was at once commenced. The want of sawn lumber had been a serious drawback in the building operations up to that time, and now the demand was greater than could be met, though the mill was run every hour it was possible to work. From this time several frame houses were put up, and the internal arrangements and fittings of the log houses were greatly improved, the doors and partitions hitherto having been constructed of such rough boards as could be hewed out with axes. One of the first houses built after this, was raised by Mr. Leaden, on the corner of Waterloo and Huskisson streets, Mr. Leaden, or Captain Leaden, as he was

usually called, had served many years in the army, in which he held a lieutenant's commission, and had recently retired with a pension; and having a little property, but not sufficient to enable him to maintain his position in the society in which he had been accustomed to move, wisely resolved on coming to the new settlement. The building he raised was of squared logs, and was used partly as a dwelling house and partly as a store, in which he did a very good business until his death. The interior of the house and store was comfortably fitted, far more so, in fact, than it is now—for the house still remains—and was a favorite place for the more intelligent and better class of settlers to meet to spend the winter evenings in discussing topics of interest, and such news as was occasionally brought in.

Winter being now close at hand, all operations were suspended, except chopping, to prepare for which a considerable space had been underbrushed in the fall. Most of the men, nearly all, indeed, who were not engaged in chopping for themselves, were employed by Mr. Shade in completing the Waterloo Road, and in opening the first portion of the Dundas Road, in continuation of Gordon street, by which means all were kept busy the entire winter. Mr. Galt, having nothing of special importance to detain him at Guelph, and expecting his family from England early in the spring, departed for New York, where he was received with every mark of consideration, and where he spent his time principally in making himself thoroughly acquainted with the details of the machinery of the colonization schemes and land offices, which he considered would be of essential benefit to him in conducting the affairs of the Company in Canada. He also made trips into New Jersey and Pennsylvania, for the purpose of seeing the practical working of the new colonies which had been settled in those parts, principally by the English and Germans. Shortly after this his family arrived, together with despatches from Mr. Bosanquet, informing him that his resignation having been withheld, his duties would continue as before. He therefore at once removed to the house at Burlington Bay, where they resided till the summer, when they came to Guelph, so that he could give more time and personal supervision to the operations being rapidly pushed forward there.

Among the free grants announced to be made at the commencement of the settlement, of some of which notice will be taken hereafter, the Company promised fifty acres of land, to be vested in trustees, for the benefit of the first child born in Guelph, if a male, and if a female, a house and lot, to be vested in a similar manner. It is scarcely necessary to dwell on the excitement and anxiety in matronly circles for several months, not for the sake of obtaining the fifty acres of land, for that was not a very valuable consideration, when land was offered in Quarter Sessions at one shilling and three pence per acre, but for the honorable distinction which it was supposed would attach, in after years, to the man who could proudly place his hand on his breast, and say, with head erect, "Behold in me the first child born in this great city!" Three or four ladies were secretly cherishing the hope that the honor of being the happy mother of this future great man would fall to them; and who shall say what expectations and bright prospects were formed in their fond visions of the future, when, perhaps, the town having grown with his growth, the child then expected would take his place in the foremost ranks of the men of his day, and perchance preside over the interests of his fellow-citizens as the occupant of the civic chair, or even be honored

still more by being selected to represent them in the legislative halls of his country. But how often the fondest hopes are shattered and the brightest dreams dispelled by unforeseen events; and how frequently the happiness we aspire to is rudely snatched from us, when almost within our grasp, by the hand of a stranger. Even so was it in this case. At the end of January a newly-married couple, named Thomas and Margaret Brown, immigrants from England, arrived in town, and the coming struck consternation to the hearts of the ladies so anxious for the arrival of the expected little stranger, in whom the hope of Guelph was to be centred. Nor were the fears thus excited, as the event proved, without reason, for the newly arrived lady had not been here many days, when an interesting event was announced, and had there been a newspaper published in the town at the time, in that column so anxiously perused by ladies, a notice of the birth of Letitia, heiress to the estate of the noble house of Brown, would doubtless have been chronicled. About four days after this, Mrs. Lynch, wife of Mr. John O. Lynch, presented her liege lord with a son—not the first, and consequently not the heir apparent to the Lynch property—but, had it not been for the interloping Miss Brown, the rightful claimant of the honor of being Guelph's first-born child, of which fifty acres of land was to have been but a slight and temporary recognition. And this was not the worst; for the parents of the young supplanter showed such a thorough lack of appreciation of the exalted position to which their heiress had been born, that in a few months they abandoned the property so generously deeded to her (valued at about thirty shillings), that they, one night, "folded their tent like the Arab, and as silently stole away," leaving the birthright acquired by the young lady to take care of itself, thus treating with contempt the honor which others would have so highly prized. And such is life! The property remained unoccupied for some time, when James Carr settled on it, and subsequently, by virtue of having paid the taxes on it for a certain time, it was claimed and awarded to Mr. Robert Thompson, who owned it for some years. Had an application been made to the Canada Company for fifty acres of land for Thomas H. Lynch, the first-born male child, there is every reason to believe it would have been granted, but no such application was ever made by his parents, and consequently nothing further was done in the matter.

In March Mr. Galt received news that one of the agents in Scotland had made some mistake in the arrangements for forwarding a party of emigrants, which necessitated his going to Montreal, when he heard that trouble was again brewing, reports inimical to himself and throwing discredit on the management of the affairs of the Company having had a damaging effect on the stock, which was rapidly falling in the market, the general opinion, in consequence, being that the Company could not go on. Knowing, from past experience, how insidious were the workings of the parties who were interested in bringing about this result, and how easily a slight rumor at that time affected the standing and value of stock on the London exchange, in consequence of the many bubble companies which had burst, and brought ruin and disaster into thousands of happy homes and prosperous communities, it is no wonder that the shock was to him, as he says himself, electrical. So far as his own operations were concerned, nothing to him could be more promising and prosperous, and he was not long in coming to the conclusion, from what he heard from other quarters, that the cry of impending failure had been raised, not for the purpose of actually causing the breaking up of the Company, but for

the purpose of affording an opportunity to English speculators, some of whom had already acquired a large interest in and control over the Board, to effect his recall, and the transfer of the management of the Company to the hands of themselves or creatures whom they would appoint. Nor was he altogether wrong in his surmises, for on his return from Montreal, he found that a Mr. Smith, the accountant of the Company had arrived, with instructions to take the oversight of the books and accounts, and also take charge of the financial affairs of the Company here, thus virtually placing Mr. Galt in the position of a subordinate, in fact a mere overseer. On this subject Mr. Galt says :—"His emoluments seemed to give a perplexing corroboration to the report I had heard in the lower province. They were, in my opinion, greatly beyond an adequate payment for the duties to be performed, and, as the directors complained of my apparent expenditure, I could not but conclude that it was resolved to break up the Company; and that the excessive emoluments of the accountant were bait to lure him out of the way, and enable him to meet the exigencies to which he might be exposed when the machination should take effect. I call it machination, because I think it was a transaction of that nature; but I confess it did not seem to me to be very heinous to buy the stock cheaper, if no sinister means were employed to lower the price; especially as the effects of the Company in promoting the prosperity of the province, were, in my opinion, of primary importance. Provided they were to be continued, I did not care who were the stockholders; but I could not think, without wincing at the idea, of being father to a wild and ruinous scheme, for such I saw would be the conclusion, if the subscribers were induced to refuse to pay up their shares. They were by this time at a discount, but are now (he wrote this in 1833) the highest priced vendible stock in the market; only seventeen pounds are paid, and the price with the premium is fifty-five per cent., and there has been no change in the system established by me."

Distasteful as were the proceedings of the Directors towards him, and more especially with regard to the sending of the accountant, who tacitly at all times, and more positively on certain occasions, appeared to assume a superiority in position over him, Mr. Galt determined to carry on his work with as much vigor as if nothing had occurred, and not to allow anything to interfere with the progress and prosperity of the town. Previous to leaving for Montreal, he had given orders for the quarrying of a lot of stone, and on his return he at once commenced to build a school house. This was a stone building, about 50 x 40 feet, and stood on Waterloo Street, a few yards east of the present Grand Trunk Railway passenger station. At the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of this building, and also of the bank, which was performed on the same day, though the building was not at once proceeded with, eloquent speeches were made by Mr. Galt and Mr. Pryor, and a very humorous one by Dr. Dunlop, after which various amusements were indulged in, the most notable being the firing of cannons, made from beech and maple logs, about four feet in length and one in diameter, with a two inch bore, and bound with strong iron bands. These primitive cannon usually burst at the second or third discharge, not without some danger to the bystanders. A few fights brought the public proceedings to a close, when the *elite* adjourned to the Priory, where a dinner on a somewhat grand scale had been prepared. Mr. Galt presided, the vice chair being filled by Dr. Dunlop, and about eighty guests being present. What fol-



lowed the removal of the cloth it is not necessary particularly to describe, but

"The nicht grew on wi' sangs an' clatter,  
"An' aye the ale was growing better,"

As the "wee sma' hours" approached some of the guests grew a little pugnacious, and Thomas Brown, the father of Miss Letitia, acting as constable *pro tem*, was called on to quell the disturbance, and in his attempts to restore peace had his hand badly cut by a carving knife in the hands of one of the rioters. He was consequently disabled from working for some time, and was therefore appointed to the honorable position of "grog boss" among the Company's workmen, the duties of which he filled to the entire satisfaction of the men. A portion of the walls of the school-house still remains, the other parts having been pulled down or fallen away when the gravel pits were dug close by. The school was taught by a Mr. John Matthews, who appears to have been a man of far different character and qualifications from Mr. Davis, to whom reference has already been made, his experience having been acquired in England, and his general temperament being such as to fit him for a teacher. When the school was opened there were about forty children in attendance, a number which steadily increased, until, in 1832, the number was upwards of seventy in moderately regular attendance.

During the summer of this year Mr. Pryor was sent, with a number of men, to survey certain portions of the Huron tract, and to clear and lay off a plot for the contemplated town of Goderich. To supply the place of Mr. Pryor, in the superintendence of the out-door work being carried on in Guelph, Mr. Galt had, in the Spring, engaged Mr. Strickland, who had had several years' experience in bush life, and had acquired a practical knowledge of house and bridge building, as well as the usual knowledge of woodcraft generally, which made him a valuable acquisition to the Company's staff. One of the errors which Mr. Galt had committed, was in the selection of inexperienced persons to fill positions in the Company's service; men who not only lacked the knowledge requisite in leaders of a pioneer enterprise, but who do not seem, with one or two exceptions, to have possessed the physical strength and endurance so indispensable for such arduous and wearying duties. In Mr. Strickland, however, he had found a man in every way fitted for the life of a leader of woodsmen, and for directing any operations which it might be found necessary to undertake, from the felling of a tree to the building of a house or bridge. Having spent several years in farming, both under his uncle, in Durham, and on his own account, near Darlington, his agricultural experience was also valuable to the immigrants, who were necessarily ignorant of the differences between farming in England and in this country. Being also a man of liberal education and refined manners, he was a welcome addition to the social circle in the town, and soon became a prime favorite. On his arrival he found the town consisted of some thirty log houses, and about as many shanties, a large frame tavern building, not yet opened, a store, (Mr. Gilkison's), and the walls of two stone buildings, one of which was the school house, and the other was intended for the Company's offices. On driving into the town, he went at once to the tavern kept by Philip Jones, or rather, as he says, by Mrs. Jones, who appears, from all accounts, to have been the "boss of the shanty," and to have governed Mr. Jones tolerably well, though to strangers she was as pleasant and accommodating as could possibly be. On this occasion the house was full, some emigrants having arrived



that day, and so, with characteristic nonchalance, Mr. Strickland betook himself to a hay-loft, where he slept soundly till morning, after which he established himself in Mr. Galt's coach house. For the remainder of the summer he was employed in superintending the erection of several houses, and in building two bridges, one over the Speed, and the other over the Eramosa branch. That over the Speed, where Allan's bridge now is, appears from a painting executed in the fall of 1828, to have been a very substantial and not inelegant structure, built on piles, the superstructure being partly of squared timbers. This was a great convenience to the settlers, as a good number of farms had been cleared on the other side of the river, and the farmers had hitherto been compelled to cross on a rude ferry, consisting of a raft of logs lashed together; and as the stream, especially in the Spring, was very swift, this was frequently attended with considerable labor and frequently also with some danger.

Among the other works carried on this year, a number of other streets were laid out and cleared, including Wyndham street, as far as the junction with Woolwich street. A plot on the left of Wyndham street, behind the American hotel, was from the first designated by Mr. Galt as a burial ground, and on the opposite side, where the Alma block now stands, was a triangular piece of land, purchased by Mr. Pryor, and for many years afterwards known as Pryor's field. It was bounded by Wyndham and Woolwich streets and a line running from about where the Court House is to about half way down Quebec street. Douglas street was not in the original survey, it not being at that time intended to run a street through there, and it was not until the site of the Court House was fixed upon that it was decided to open a street to afford a nearer approach to it than by way of Wyndham and Woolwich streets. A house was commenced for Dr. Dunlop, on the present site of St. George's church, and in the following year it was finished. A house of much larger proportions and with more pretensions to elegance than, perhaps, any house within a radius of fifty miles, was then commenced on Quebec street for Mr. Pryor. It was of squared logs, and the internal arrangements were most commodious, while the finish was positively elaborate, and evinced very great taste on the part of Mr. Pryor and Mr. Strickland, who together drew the plans, and under whose personal supervision much of the work was executed, until both men were called away to other posts of duty, which was long before it was finished, so that Mr. Pryor never lived in it, and the work was not finally completed till about four years afterwards. The whole of the work was executed by John and Robert Levy. After Mr. Pryor's departure the house fell into the hands of the Canada Company, from whom it was purchased by Dr. Allen, who added the finishing touches to it, but not in any way altering the original design. It was, some years afterwards, purchased by Dr. G. S. Herod, who still occupies it.

Reference has already been made to a stone building to be called the bank. According to Mr. Galt's plans, the office at York was to be closed, and all the books and papers removed to Guelph, where all the business of the Company was to be transacted. To make this practicable, a strong and commodious building would be needed, with fire-proof vaults for the safe keeping of records, books and deeds, and for this purpose the bank was built. It was furnished with very strong and solidly-built vaults, with iron doors, and altogether it might have served for a bank of much greater pretensions and doing a far larger amount of business than it was probable would be transacted by the Company for many years.

It was situated on the site of the station-master's office at the Grand Trunk passenger station, and had the plans of Mr. Galt been carried out, though it was undoubtedly to some extent a needless expense at the time, would have proved of advantage to the town, by bringing many people here who would not otherwise come, and by rendering it necessary for all the officials and clerks to live here, and of course spend a certain portion of their salaries in the place, instead of in a distant town. Before the place was quite finished, however, circumstances occurred which, as will be seen hereafter, entirely changed the plan of operations, and the head office was fixed in Toronto, and the building was never used except for storing a few articles and occasionally as an emigrant depot. When Hon. Adam Ferguson visited the town in 1831, this building was pointed out to him by Mr. J. D. Oliver, who grimly remarked, "There stands the bank that never stopped—since it never commenced."

The produce, especially barley, from the farms in the surrounding country, now beginning to be brought in plentifully, and the cost of transporting it to a suitable market being very heavy, leaving absolutely no profit for the farmers, Mr. Andrew McVean determined to build a distillery, so that much of the barley could be used on the spot, and the cost of bringing liquor—of which, it must be said, no small quantity was then used—might be saved. He accordingly commenced the erection of the distillery in August, 1828, on the site of the present oatmeal mill on Mr. Sheriff Gow's property, and for about three years did a very profitable business, large quantities of his liquors being shipped to Galt, Dundas and other places, more especially west and north of Guelph, where there was no distillery. In 1832 he retired from the business, which, with the mill, was purchased by Mr. G. J. Grange, who, with two partners, under the firm name of Grange, Courtney & Bartley, made some additions to the buildings and greatly increased the business operations.

The increasing business of the town, and the constant arrival of immigrants, who, until they could have time to select land, required accommodation in the town, now rendered it necessary to provide more hotel room, and by the advice of Mr. Galt, Mr. Robert Elders built a very commodious tavern, on the lot now occupied by Jackson's organ factory. This was soon afterwards purchased by Mr. John Linderman, of Eramosa, who considerably enlarged it, and conducted it for many years. A few months after Elders had opened his tavern, this being found insufficient for the growing wants of the town, Mr. Thomas Keating, together with his brother Patrick, built another, adjoining, on the present site of the Royal Hotel, so well known in after years as the British Coffee House, where meetings of all descriptions were held, and where many a political battle has been fought out. Adjoining this hotel, Mr. Keating opened a general store, which was also the post-office, Mr. Keating being the first regularly-appointed postmaster. Previous to this the tavern kept by W. Reid, adjoining the Priory, had been used, semi-officially, as a post office, but now the mails were regularly received and made up here, until, Mr. Keating's business increasing, and frequently calling him away from home, he resigned the position, which was assumed by Thomas Husband and afterwards by — Hume, who held it until his death, when the late Mr. R. Corbet received the appointment.

In the summer of 1828 Sir John Colborne had arrived to succeed Sir Peregrine Maitland as Lieutenant-Governor, and Mr. Galt hoped that, now that an unprejudiced and impartial man had assumed the direction of public affairs, his course would be free from many of the

annoyances and troubles which had been so harrassing for some time past. This feeling was much strengthened by the receipt of a kind and pressing invitation from Sir P. Maidland to go to York on a visit to His Excellency, a favor of which Mr. Galt lost no time in availing himself. But even from this circumstance, which he thought was to add so much to his comfort and prosperity, one of the most serious embarrassments he had yet experienced was to arise. After Mr. Galt had been introduced to Sir John, he offered to introduce Mr. Smith, the accountant, who, instead of receiving the proposal in the spirit in which it was intended, scornfully rejected the offer, and even went so far as to use grossly insulting words towards Mr. Galt, the consequence being that a violent altercation ensued, during which the accountant threatened to report Mr. Galt's action to the Company, and made use of some expressions which left no doubt that his mission to Canada had been partly that of surveillance. Mr. Galt, therefore, determined to at once resign his position, and accordingly wrote to the Company informing them that it was his intention to leave for England, by the first ship, to demand a full investigation of all his affairs before the Board. The accountant, however, forestalled him in this matter, for on the return of the messenger who had conveyed his letter to the post-office, he learned that that gentleman had that morning crossed Lake Ontario, and was then on his way to New York to take ship for England. It was, consequently, necessary for Mr. Galt to remain for a time to watch over the interests of the Company, which he would never leave in the hands of unauthorized persons, and, if necessary, to wind up the business. But he still persisted in his intention of going home, and at once commenced preparations for that purpose, more especially as rumors of the impending breaking up of the Company had revived since the departure of the accountant. Soon after this, further apparent confirmation of these damaging rumors was given, by the Directors, without notifying Mr. Galt, ordering the bank at York not to honor any more of his drafts. Notwithstanding this harsh and unaccountable treatment on the part of the Directors, Mr. Galt stood manfully to his post, and determined, if possible, to save the Directors, in spite of themselves, from the effects of the suicidal policy they were pursuing. He accordingly sent Dr. Dunlop to Montreal, to endeavor to procure money from the agents of the Company, or from some of the correspondents of the leading shareholders, a payment of £8,000, being soon due to the Colonial Government. No success whatever attended this mission, and matters were in a desperate condition, as, if the payments to the Government were not made when due, the public credit of the Company, against which not a word could be said hitherto, would be irretrievably injured, and the consummation so much desired by those who had circulated the injurious reports, the breaking up of the Company, would in all probability be accomplished. To avert this, as well in the interest of the Company as in that of the town which he had called into being, and which was now so prosperous, he took a step which under other circumstances he would not have presumed upon. He had in the bank £10,000 worth of government debentures, which seemed to have been forgotten by everybody but himself. He accordingly waited on the receiver-general, whom he had himself obliged on more than one occasion, and after stating the circumstances, offered, if he would endorse his bills on the Company for the payment to government, to hand over the debentures as security. The proposition was a startling one, and required time for consideration; but, the matter being submitted to Sir John

Colborne, his assent was secured, and the transaction effected in a very few days, thus tiding over what was, perhaps, the most momentous crisis in the history of the Company, and a blow was averted, which must undoubtedly have been felt for many years by the entire country. "The bill was accordingly drawn," says Mr. Galt, "the honor of the Company saved, and the public officers sheltered from the inconveniences that might have attended the sudden suspension of their salaries—the means of liquidating which were provided for in the payment." In this way the affairs of the Company continued to be conducted in a satisfactory manner, only a few persons in this country being aware how near had been a disaster which must have entailed the most calamitous results, and brought ruin on a large number of families.

At this time the only medical man nearer than Galt was Dr. Dunlop, and as he was frequently away for weeks at a time, the duty of attending to the ills and ailments of the settlers fell on Mr. Strickland, who, though possessing some smatterings of medical knowledge, could not be expected to exhibit the skill of a regularly qualified practitioner, which, however, it must be admitted, was, on their part, frequently of the most elementary character, and their treatment sometimes of the most incomprehensible nature. On one occasion, in the summer of 1828, a party of immigrants had arrived from Scotland, and Dr. Dunlop, being called away suddenly on business, went to Mr. Strickland's house, and left a message, requesting him to take the calomel and jalap, and go down to his house and treat those Paisley bodies with a dose apiece. "What! all of them, sir?" said the servant. "Yes, to be sure," replied the Doctor; "they have but just arrived, and have got as fat as pigs on the voyage. Some of their bacon must be taken off, or with this heat we shall have them all sick on our hands. And tell him not to spare the jalap." Mr. Strickland literally obeyed the order "by administering forty-two doses of various strengths to the men, women and children, designated by the Doctor as 'the Paisley bodies.'" Whether as a result, or in spite of, this somewhat rude application of medical science, is matter for conjecture, but the fact is on record that there did not occur one case of sickness among these people during the remainder of the summer.

"Shortly after this," says Strickland, "a medical man, a Mr. Welsh, applied for a town lot and commenced practice. This gentleman was certainly a great oddity. He never had but two patients that I ever heard of, and they both died. The settlers used to call him the 'mad doctor,' and I believe not without reason. He built a log house without any door, his mode of entrance being through a square hole he had cut out of the end of the house about six feet from the ground. I walked over to his place one day to speak to him on some business, and found him very busy in his garden, driving into the ground a great quantity of short sticks. I asked him 'what all those sticks were for.' 'Why, you see, sir, I have planted part of my garden with Indian corn, and I am putting sticks down to mark the places where I have planted them.' A day or two afterwards I met him wearing his coat turned inside out, the rough seams and red edging of which had a curious effect. I inquired 'what might be his reason for going about in such a costume?' 'Well, you see, I call this my morning attire; in the evening I have nothing to do but turn my coat, and, lo! I am dressed; a very capital arrangement, and quite good enough for the Bush. Do you not think so?' 'As far as regards economy,' I replied, 'it may do well enough, and as you do not appear to care about being laughed at, your plan will answer: and who

knows but that you may have the pleasure of introducing a new fashion into the colonies?"

Another of the odd characters who had settled here at that time, was a portrait and miniature painter, who had travelled a good deal in Russia, and could speak the language of that country fluently. He purchased a lot of land on the Waterloo Road about a mile out. On the land chosen by him to build upon, he discovered a good limestone bed, and he accordingly determined to build a stone house, though, unfortunately for his plan, he had not a shilling to commence with, and it was not likely that he would establish a very lucrative business in portrait and miniature painting for some years, at least. But to work he went, excavating stone, his only assistant being a young and delicate lady, whom he had married in the United States. The fine arts do not appear to have had a very softening or elevating influence on his mind or feelings, for it is said his treatment of his youthful bride was harsh and cruel in the extreme, imposing upon her the most arduous labor, such as carrying mortar and stone while he was employed in building, and in every way using her as if she had been a slave rather than his wife. For about three months the work proceeded, when his creditors began to press him, and his land being still unpaid for, he found himself in an extremely embarrassed position, and there being no hope of his being able to meet his liabilities, he determined upon leaving. How to effect this, and take what goods he had with him, appears to have troubled him considerably, but at last he hit upon a plan which he thought would succeed. "He knew that the river Speed, which ran at the rear of his lot, after a course of fourteen or fifteen miles debouched into the Grand River, and was, from thence, navigable for boats to Lake Erie, a distance of some seventy or eighty miles further. He therefore conceived the plan of building a small scow, large enough to hold himself, his wife, and his effects; and silently dropping down with the current, bade adieu to their sylvan retreat, and the great city of Guelph, which, however, he was destined to see again much sooner than he expected. \* \* For the first mile they got on pretty well, till they came to a jam of driftwood; over this, with great difficulty, they hauled their scow; every few yards fresh obstructions occurred in the shape of snags, fallen trees and driftwood, which caused them to upset twice before they had accomplished the second mile, till at last an extensive jam across the river many yards in length put a complete barrier to their further advance. Wet and weary, half the day gone, and no chance of proceeding down the stream, they determined to retrace their course. This was not easy to accomplish, for the current was too swift to paddle against; so tying a short piece of rope to the stem of the scow, he ordered his unfortunate wife to take the water and tow the boat, whilst he sat in state assisting her with his paddle". The next day the brutal artist left the place, and his wife followed him a week after, and so ended a circumstance which furnished a subject of gossip and small-talk for many a day.

Though there was plenty of hard work, and, among the officers of the Company, no little anxiety, on account of the relations existing between Mr. Galt and the Directors, the time was not allowed to pass without amusement, and dull care was not allowed to corrode their buoyant and cheerful spirits too much. Many a pleasant hour was passed in fishing in the Speed, which Mr. Strickland says was the best stream he ever fished in, and for years afterwards it was noted all over the country, as we have ample proof in "Ferguson's Tour in Canada" and "Mactag-

gart's Three Years in Upper Canada," as one of the finest streams for trout in the whole province. Many excursions also were made in the woods, and considerable fun was often extracted from them. On one of these hunting expeditions Mr. Strickland captured a porcupine, in connection with which he says: "I took my prize home, and put it into a barrel in a dark corner of the store, which was half full of nails. A few minutes afterwards, Dr. Dunlop, as he often did, came in to see me, and drink a glass of cider, of which I had at that time some of excellent quality in bottle. The Doctor, as he said, used to 'improve' it, making what he called 'a stone fence,' by inserting a small *soupeçon* of brandy from a pocket pistol, which he was too much in the habit of carrying about with him in hot weather. 'Now,' said I, 'Doctor, I know you like a bit of fun. When Fielding, the porter, comes in, ask him to go to that barrel in the corner and fetch you a nail; for I have got a live porcupine in it that I have just brought home from the woods.' The Doctor was mightily tickled with the notion, so, as soon as poor Fielding made his appearance, he sent him off to the barrel. Quite unsuspectingly the man put his hand in for the nail, and as quickly drew it out again, with the addition of half a score quills sticking to his fingers, to the no small delight of the Doctor, who greatly enjoyed Fielding's consternation, for the porter thought the devil himself was in the tub. Every one who came into the store during the afternoon was served the same trick by the Doctor, and it was certainly amusing to watch their countenances and hear their remarks, those who showed the most anger being, of course, the most laughed at for their pains."

Up to this time no Protestant service had been held in the town, no minister having visited the place. The first Protestant sermon was preached one Sunday towards the end of the summer, by a tailor, who had made a professional visit to the town, and who had the reputation of being an eloquent man. It having become known that he was to hold service, a large number of persons came in from the outlying districts, and the sermon is said to have consisted principally of a relation of the preacher's experience, interspersed with some egotism and not a little of the "terrors of the law," with which the discourses of the itinerant preachers of that day were accustomed to be enforced. The service was held in the new school-house, just then completed, and if some of those who were disposed to be critical were not greatly edified by it, there were doubtless many who considered it a privilege, as being the first regular religious assembly in which they had an opportunity of meeting since leaving the land of their birth; and in a new settlement, if no more lasting and substantial benefits result, it is a good thing when even the outward forms of religion are observed, as a means of keeping alive a respect for religious institutions, and as likely to lead to more worthy feelings, or at least, by the recollection of scenes and associations thus recalled to memory, to prevent that lapse into semi-heathenish indifference invariably found in settlements where the forms of religion are ignored. In this instance the benefits were soon apparent, for though there is no reason to believe that the tailor—a worthy and good man, doubtless—ever preached here again, the people were not long in making arrangements for frequent visits from preachers, principally laymen, it is true, and in a short time services were held nearly every Sabbath in the school-house. The people were very catholic at that time, and minor differences of creed were not allowed to cause strife and contention among them, the privilege of being able to assemble together for worship being too highly

prized to permit of their dividing on points of doctrine, such as Apostolic succession, election, immersion or the final perseverance of the saints. So long as the Gospel was preached, however much they might in their own hearts cherish the tenets of their different forms of faith and church constitution, they were, for the time, satisfied, and consequently, whether the preacher happened to be an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian, a Methodist or a Baptist, so far as availing themselves of the privilege of worshipping together was concerned, it was all one. This harmonious and, under the circumstances, most commendable state of things, continued until 1832, when, as will appear hereafter, they were justified in asserting each his own views, and forming themselves into different religious communities, for the practice and perpetuation of the doctrines and forms of worship in which they had respectively been taught to believe as most in accordance with Scriptural direction.

In September of this year Mr. Galt received a visit from Mr. Buchanan, British Consul at New York, accompanied by John Brandt, the son of the celebrated Mohawk chief, so unjustly stigmatized by Campbell in his "Gertrude of Wyoming." Mr. Buchanan had come to personally inspect the improvements at the new settlement, and in his subsequent correspondence with the English Government, he gave a very complimentary report of Mr. Galt's management, and of the general progress of the new town. During their stay, which lasted about a week, the superintendent gave a public dinner in their honor, at which upwards of two hundred guests sat down, and Mr. Buchanan, in a speech of about an hour's duration, spoke in the highest terms of the energy displayed by the settlers, and prophesied that Guelph would become one of the principal cities in the Province. John Brandt also, in a short but eloquent speech, expressed his pleasure at witnessing the prosperity displayed on all sides, and hoped he would have an opportunity of visiting the place again, when it had grown to much larger proportions than it had then attained; a wish however, he was not destined to gratify, for he died of cholera about three years afterwards.

It being, by this time, perfectly evident that the culmination of the schemes of those in England, who had so long been plotting for Mr. Galt's recall was approaching, he was busy for several months in preparations for leaving. Before taking his departure, he wished to see that everything should be left in such a state that his successor would find no difficulty in assuming his duties, or understanding everything in connection with the works which had been commenced and carried on by him. He was perfectly conscious that everything would be made the subject of the strictest scrutiny, and that, wherever possible, a distorted interpretation would be placed upon his motives and actions, and unless he were in a position to explain and defend his course, a still stormier lot might be in store for him on his return to London. He therefore, among other precautions against such annoyance invited Mr. Fellowes, of the Pulteney Office at Geneva, N.Y., one of the most competent and in every respect reliable men on the continent, to visit the settlement and make such a report thereon as he might consider to be his duty, well knowing that Mr. Fellowes' reputation was of far too high a nature to permit of the possibility of a suspicion that he would be in any way partial or unjust in what he said. "After having made an actual survey of the lands allotted to the Canada Company, he states to the governor and directors that he had 'the pleasure of expressing his decided opinion, that all the proceedings of Mr. Galt, and his superintendent, Mr. Pryor,



had been exceedingly judicious, and that the improvements had been indispensable, as viewed in reference to the sale and settlement of the Company's lands.' He then goes on to express his belief 'that the sales already made had been at good prices and the cash payments larger than are usually received from first settlers,' and concludes with these words:—'Upon the whole, I beg leave most respectfully to state to the Company my decided opinion, that Mr. Galt's agency has been conducted with sound judgment, and a proper regard to economy and the advantage of the Company; that his proceedings have promoted their best interests; and I believe that the Company cannot more effectually promote their own views than by delegating to him the most ample discretionary powers.'

To the powerful and efficient testimony of Mr. Fellowes, was added that of Col. Troup, in a letter to the late Lord Alloway, which deserves quotation here:—

New York, April 20th, 1829.

MY LORD,—As my friend, Mr. Galt, is on his way to England, relative to the business of his land agency in Upper Canada, and expects to visit Edinburgh before his return to America, I have requested him to do me the favor of calling on you with my respectful regards, and informing you that the trust estates under my management are in prosperous train, and promise the means of respectable remittances to the trustees.

From all I have learned of the operations of Mr. Galt's agency, I have reason to believe that he is eminently worthy of the confidence of his friends, and that he has laid a solid foundation for future profits. To realize these profits, however, will necessarily be a work of time, from the extraordinary difficulties ever attending the settlement of wild lands, and from the scanty resources with which the settlers generally commence the cultivation of their farms.

With the most perfect esteem, I have the honor to be, your lordship's obedient servant,

ROBERT TROUP.

Lord Alloway.

With such disinterested testimony as this, even if ample proof did not exist in other correspondence from equally unbiassed persons, there can be no doubt that, even if there were some extravagance, it had been for the purpose of securing larger and more immediate profits, and of laying the foundation of the new settlement on a sound and solid basis, which, while paying handsome dividends to the stockholders, would also secure the happiness and prosperity of the settlers. Had Mr. Galt been a man of a less sensitive and refined nature, perhaps some of the expenses would not have been incurred, but in his position he had it in his power, with very little trouble or outlay, to cheer and assist many a family, struggling with poverty and borne down by misfortune, and of alleviating many of the sufferings and sorrows which are, unfortunately, more or less the experience of settlers in new districts, even at this day. Who could blame him, therefore, if, with the immense resources of the Company at his command, and with the full consciousness that whatever he might expend at the time, would be returned a hundred fold in the future, by the increased prosperity and loyalty to the Company's interests which would be the inevitable result of his action, he was a little more liberal in his dealings with the settlers than some other men might have been? And when he saw, by this benevolent course, scores of persons who, but a short time before had been poor, and discouraged by the hard battle they had been compelled to wage for bare existence, fast becoming happy



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and comparatively well off, he would have been a strange man if he could have looked back upon his course with anything but complacency and inward satisfaction, even though he might be called upon, in the future, to suffer for it to some extent himself.

Before leaving Canada, which he felt within himself would be the termination of his connection with the Company's concerns, though he did not then allow anybody else to think so, he determined to pay one more visit to the sister settlement at Goderich. During his management of the affairs of the settlement he had commenced and nearly completed the cutting of a road to the shores of Lake Huron, upwards of seventy miles in length. "He took his departure in a sleigh, and travelling alone in the endless woods, the chill of whose uniformity was only taken off by an occasional log house for refreshment, he freely indulged himself in chewing the cud of bitter thoughts. 'I felt myself unworthily treated,' he says; 'for everything I touched was prosperous; and my endeavors to foster the objects of my care were all flourishing, and, without the blight of one single blossom, gave cheering promises of ample fruit.'

"Profit to the Company, which I saw would soon come of course, was less my object than to build in the wilderness an asylum for the exiles of society—a refuge for the fleers from the calamities of the old world and its systems foredoomed.

"In the course of this journey, that was rendered more desolate by a heavy fall of snow, which often wreathed itself into impassable heights in the forest glade of the new road, and rendered it necessary for the sleigh to deviate into the woods, Mr. Galt was once nearly lost in the wilderness. It was almost midnight, and he was sixty miles within the depths of the primeval forest; while the moonlight only served to show the flakes of the falling snow. 'All around was silence,' he says, 'and the winds slept even in the branches. I halted, where, by a strange glare reflected from the ground, I seemed in a spacious court of a college, solemn with overshadowing trees.'

"Having reached Goderich—the township allotted for which was almost cleared of the trees, and several log houses built—Mr. Galt took up his lodgings in the same log house where he had formerly stayed with Dr. Dunlop, when formerly there, in course of his exploratory expedition to Lake Huron. The lake itself was now covered with ice, and the landscape with snow, as far as the eye could reach; but the cheering changes in the aspect of the locality itself, soothed and delighted him. A strong and growing attachment to the Province had taken root in his heart; and it is quite evident, that the necessity for his leaving it caused him many bitter regrets. The day after his arrival was so boisterous and stormy, that the drifting of the dry snow made out-of-door exercise impossible, but the following morning, bright and calm, was, he tells us, 'spent in viewing the localities, and the progress made in the settlement; but although not aware that anything was left unexamined, my eyes were cursory and myself listless; for it was not likely I should ever be there again—and let a man nerve himself ever so resolutely, there is sadness in a final thought, especially if, as in my case, it be attended with regrets and darkening prospects. Indignant reflections may appease farewell, nor was I without that acrid palliative. The Canada Company had originated in my suggestions; it was established by my endeavors; organized in due disregard of many obstacles by my perseverance, and though extensive and complicated in its scheme, a system was formed by me, upon which it could be with ease conducted. Yet without the commission of a fault

—for I dare every charge of that kind—I was destined to reap from it only troubles and mortifications, and something which I felt as an attempt to disgrace me’.”

Soon after his return to Guelph, Mr. Galt openly announced his intention of leaving for England, although he deemed it impolitic to give the same publicity to his fears of a scheme, hatching somewhere, for the purpose of breaking up the Company. Weary and sick at heart, discouraged and almost broken down himself, he preferred to bear the burden alone than to excite fears in the minds of those around him, which, after all, might prove, so far as they were concerned, baseless, and which, even supposing the worst he anticipated should come, it would do no good to raise at present. He therefore allowed them to think he was going to England only on a business trip, and it was with this feeling that they assembled in front of his house, on the morning fixed for his departure, and presented him with the following address:

SIR,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the town and township of Guelph, learning that you are about to leave us, beg to express our sincere regret that we should be deprived of your presence, and the satisfaction and pleasure it has ever afforded us. We trust and hope that your absence from amongst us will not be of long duration, and that you will accomplish the objects of your journey, whatever these may be. We would wish to express to you the obligations which you have conferred upon us, in the prosperity which has flowed upon us ever since we became united with you and the Canada Company—many of us having come here in dependent circumstances, who are now in a fair way to become independent, and all having improved their condition under your fostering care. By the measures you have adopted, our lands in many instances have, in the space of eighteen months, doubled or tripled their value; and we do not look upon our obligations the less, that the Canada Company have shared in the advantage. You have set an example to the Province in the formation of proper roads and bridges, and showed by what means the progress of the settlement of the colony can be accelerated an hundred-fold by your measures, which have created this town and township. Finally we beg you to accept of our best wishes for your happiness and prosperity, wherever you may be; and we request you to thank the Canada Company for all the benefits they have conferred upon us, and the greatest of these we consider their having sent you amongst us.

*(Signed by 144 heads of families.)*

That this address was not written in a spirit of flattery, but was the genuine expression of the feelings and sentiments of the settlers, there can be no doubt, for it was but a statement of what was the simple and unexaggerated truth. Where, two years before, stood a wild and tangled forest, now had risen a thriving and enterprising town; where, on his arrival, the wolf and the bear had roamed at will, holding undisputed possession, making the woods echo with their savage growls and shrill, unearthly howlings, were now heard the songs of joy and praise, the expressions of gay, contented, and thankful hearts; and where the untutored savage had occasionally wandered, perchance losing his way, in the pursuits of the chase, were now seen all the evidences of civilization and comparative refinement. It is not strange, therefore, that Mr. Galt, in whose busy brain all this had been planned, and by whose untiring energy, indomitable perseverance and practical skill this fair scene of order and prosperity had been called into being, out of the wild confusion and inhospitable desolation which had reigned but two years before,

should have experienced mingled feelings of pleasure and sadness, hope and regret; pleasure that he was privileged to have been the means of bringing happiness and peace to so many who needed comfort and help, and that he should have been able to reclaim from the native forests so rich a possession and plant the germ of future greatness and prosperity in this city in embryo; sadness that in his efforts to serve his fellow men his motives should have been so terribly misconstrued and his actions so cruelly misrepresented; hope—a feeble hope, it is true—but still a hope, that he would yet be enabled to carry out the plans he had so fondly cherished, and still further serve the people to whom he had been as a father; and regret that he should, under such gloom and uncertainty, be leaving the little community which he had grown to love almost as his own kin.

Whatever were the faults of Mr. Galt's management—and that it was always wise and judicious, nobody conversant with the facts will for a moment assert—there can be no doubt that his general policy, and his mode of working, were, in their entirety, most admirable, and had he been permitted to carry out his plans as conceived by him, the result would have been of the most gratifying nature. As has before been stated, however, there was a clique in England, composed of some who were disappointed at not having the management of the Company entrusted to them, envious of the honorable position in which Mr. Galt had been placed, and anxious, if possible, to bring about either his recall or the complete ruin of the Company. There were others, also, who were ever active in fomenting dissatisfaction and circulating damaging rumors for sinister purposes, and to enable them to operate in the Company's stock on the exchange, and finally, perhaps, to obtain a controlling influence in its affairs, even if they did not succeed in getting the Company entirely into their own hands. That the treatment which Mr. Galt received at the hands of these people, and from the Directors through their influence was unjust, is clear from the commencement, and it is fortunate that the magnificent success which the Company has since proved, has furnished such an ample vindication of the course he adopted, and the wisdom and forethought with which he formed the scheme, which, in no essential particular was altered after he retired from the service. In support of this, it may, perhaps, be as well, to quote the opinion of Mr. Mactaggart, the engineer under whom that gigantic piece of work, the Rideau canal was carried out—a gentleman whose practical knowledge and extensive experience, entitle him to a respectful hearing. In his "Three Years in Upper Canada," he says: "Mr. Galt deserves great credit for the invention and management of the Company. In this he has shown a genius rarely excelled. He organized the whole management of business, and displayed all that tact and diplomacy which his superior talents qualify him for in such an eminent degree. He appointed surveyors and other people to look after the Crown Reserves in the various townships, that they might be disposed of to the Company's advantage. But these reserves were not found to be of utility, as nothing like a system of settlement could be employed in relation to them, lying as they do scattered up and down the townships. However, their sale will be much in the favor of Canada, and tend much towards its improvement; for as they lay like uncleared specks amid a cleared country, they injured the progress of the settlements. On many of these reserves, *squatters* had taken up their abode—a class of people, who, having wandered from home without the means of becoming regular landholders, are glad to find patches anywhere in the woods whereon

they may subsist. To these unfortunate human beings, and, in truth, to all, he showed much tenderness, which has assisted to raise the just popularity he at present enjoys. He did not drive the squatters off the Company's lands, as many would have instantly done; but sold them to the advantage of the Company and squatters, considering the little *clearings* they had made as *uncleared* forest. By doing this he has established a class of people in the townships devoted to the interest of the Company, who will neither despoil, nor allow to be despoiled, those valuable woods which may yet come to good account, on the reserves. Nevertheless, there were some in Upper Canada who continued to view the exertions of the Company with jealous eyes. These were they who found themselves unable to *pluck* the poor settlers before they got upon their lands, in the shape of fees or what not. They found the Company established the settler in a twinkling, without putting him to the galling trouble and expense of hanging about office doors, receiving rebuffs from conceited clerks, and getting their purses lightened into the bargain. Were it for nothing else but this circumstance alone, the Canada Company will be respected; when we find the distress of mankind alleviated in any degree, petty tyranny and pride laid prostrate before justice and humanity, it is enough for our affections to become attached; we want no more."

In referring to this subject in his work, "Twenty-seven Years in Upper Canada," Major Strickland says: "Of Mr. Galt's fitness for the office of superintendent of the Canada Company, it would, perhaps, be considered presumptuous in me to give an opinion. His position was an unfortunate one, and from his first residence in the country to his resignation, there appears to have been a serious misunderstanding between him, the Governor, and the Executive Council, in consequence of which Galt's character was misrepresented at home as that of a meddling politician and troublesome person. Other charges regarding the wasteful expenditure of money in forming the new settlements were made before the Directors, and these repeated complaints against him left him no other alternative than to resign his situation. My own opinion is, that Galt was ill-used by the Canadian Government. He says, in his autobiography, that his whole and sole offence consisted in having accepted a file of the *Colonial Advocate*, and shaken hands with the editor, the notorious William Lyon Mackenzie. In those days of ultra-toryism, such an instance of liberality and freedom from party prejudice was sufficient to excite the displeasure of the Governor and his council, though, as he says in a letter written in 1830, he had from his youth upward ever been a Tory. There is no doubt that Galt acted imprudently in this matter, though I fully believe without any intention of opposing the Government. In regard to the Company's affairs, more might be said to his prejudice—not in respect of his integrity, for I believe him to have been a most honorable man, and incapable of any meanness—but in regard to his management. Although, as the original projector of the Canada Company, he evinced much cleverness, and afterwards displayed considerable judgment in the choice of the best situations for building towns and villages, yet he committed some grievous mistakes. His ideas were generally good; but often not well carried out in detail.  
\* \* \* \* \* I was very sorry to hear of Mr. Galt's retirement. He had always acted in a kind and liberal manner towards me; and, indeed, when he left the Company, I considered that I had lost a true and affectionate friend. I could not help, therefore, noticing with regret that, although most of the clerks belonging to the office were at that time

in Toronto (then Little York), only Dr. Dunlop, Mr. Reid and myself accompanied Mr. Galt to the landing-place to see him depart and cry 'God speed!' But this is the way of the world. Those who should be most grateful when the hour of adversity dawns on their benefactor are often the first to desert him."

That a man, who had by his own genius and courage, accomplished work such as to call forth eulogiums, such as these, and many more which might be cited, should be permitted to become the butt and victim of designing and unscrupulous speculators, is a sad commentary on the theory of "the eternal fitness of things," which some persons are so ready to preach; and a striking illustration of the injustice and cruelty by which so many in this cold and selfish world are made to suffer. It is painful to reflect that the Company, upon mere rumors and statements afterwards proved to be false, and made by persons altogether incompetent to judge, should have condemned a faithful servant, without even giving him an opportunity to explain or demonstrate the utility and probably ultimately successful results of the course he had adopted. Yet so it was! And when too late, their folly in expecting to "reap where they had not strewn," or without waiting for the time of harvest, was fully shown to them; and there can be no doubt that had they persisted in following the advice so recklessly given by men who, while possessing no ability or knowledge in matters such as this, were anxious, like wreckers on the wild sea coast, to profit by the loss and desolation of others, and reversed the policy laid down by Mr. Galt, ruin and misery must have been the inevitable result.

Leaving Guelph early in the spring of 1829, Mr. Galt proceeded to York, to settle some remnants of business there, and in taking leave of Sir John Colborne, that gentleman assured him of his undiminished confidence in his integrity and ability, and afterwards wrote in the most cordial terms respecting him to the Secretary of State. After a stay of a few days in York, Mr. Galt left Canada for ever, and proceeding to New York, set sail for England, and on his arrival was informed that the Company was to be broken up, and its inability to go on announced. Anxious, if possible, at any cost, to prevent this pending calamity, he proceeded at once to London, and mainly by his influence, and his enthusiastic advocacy of the claims and prospects of the infant settlement, the disaster which seemed so near was finally averted, for which, if for nothing else, Upper Canada owes him a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid. At first he could not ascertain who, among the Directors and influential stock-holders, were friendly, and who opposed to him, and so he determined to be present at the next meeting of the Board; "but, instead of any opportunity of vindication or explanation being afforded, the whole character, effect and importance of Mr. Galt's Canadian operations were skilfully kept out of view, and simply the general balance of his accounts stated. The impression meant to be produced from this mode of procedure evidently was, that the expenditure had been lavish and inconsiderate. Yet, after all, what did this amount to? Four thousand pounds had been allowed for the township of Guelph, and this had been found inadequate for necessary purposes, by something under seven hundred more. 'The head and front of offence had been this, no more;' and let it be added, that the settlement at the time, instead of being an unfortunate one, was progressing beyond even the most sanguine expectations. The *fama* occasioned by this general meeting was next to conclusive; and from private sources it was ascer-

tained that some negotiation was going on between the Company and the Government for the latter taking back the lands. There was some idea that particular parties might step in and purchase them; but this Mr. Galt resolved to prevent, if possible; and he did his utmost to remove the sinister misrepresentations which had been made, by exhorting his particular friends on no account to dispose of their shares."

Being desirous, above all things, to save the Company from falling into the hands of the parties now seeking to get control of the lands, which he knew would be a serious blow to the prosperity of the settlers, Mr. Galt made a flank movement, which had the effect of entirely routing the enemy. Having ascertained the effect of Sir John Colborne's letter at the Colonial Office, he next day solicited an audience of Sir George Murray, Secretary of State, and laid before him a full and explicit statement of the affairs of the Company, and his views of the prospects of success which then existed. Upon this Sir George intimated to the Directors the perfect willingness of the Government to relieve the Company of the lands, on an equitable basis; paying for such improvements as had been effected at a fair valuation. The readiness with which the Government made this offer had the effect, which often occurs on the minds of selfish men, that as soon as they found others considered worth having, what they were about to discard, they began to think that they might be too hasty, and might, perhaps, be making a sacrifice by which others might benefit, and so they at once resolved to hold on, thinking, probably, that what was worth having, to the Government, might be worth retaining to themselves.

The connection between Mr. Galt and the Canada Company being now practically severed, it may be interesting to the reader to learn something of his life after this period. One of the many proofs of the disinterested manner in which he conducted the Company's affairs was, that though in a position in which he might, had he been so inclined, have placed himself in a condition of comparative ease, he now found himself, if not in poverty, at least in somewhat straitened circumstances. Having the command of very large sums of money, and being sole director of all the operations in Canada, he could, doubtless, have managed, without any breach of the trust reposed in him, to have operated to some extent on his own account; but in not the smallest transaction was this ever done, and in no single instance did he attempt to turn anything to his personal advantage. The consequence was, that being thrown once more on his own unaided resources, he was compelled again to turn his attention to literature. In a letter to a friend, written in July, 1829, he writes: "The truth has come out. It was not alleged headstrongness on my part has been the cause of what has taken place, but the want of funds to carry into effect the operations in the manner proposed originally by me, and to which the Government was so reluctantly brought to accede. It was a weak policy to seek for fault in my proceedings, when the reduction of my emoluments was found to be indispensable; but the same policy has been acted upon, I understand, towards Dr. Dunlop. He was recalled on the pretext of some political indiscretion; but the sentence was revised, and he has since been placed on the better footing of being served with a notice to quit, on account of the necessity to economize. I have brought here with me a great mass of book materials, the fruits of my solitary *noctes* in the Canadian wayside taverns. Part of the 'Landlady' I have sent to Blackwood, leaving it to himself to publish in the magazine or otherwise. I have heard no literary news since my

return, being engaged in wading through the Company's accounts. The labor of this is, however, now nearly over, and then I shall betake me to my papers. My arrangements on leaving Canada were for my being back early in October; but that is now out of the question: nor indeed would I go again into the Company's service, without more discretionary powers being allowed me. The attempt to manage so complicated a concern by instructions from London was too absurd; and nothing but the enjoyment I had in the work of improvement could in any degree compensate for the vexations of the last eighteen months."

Though Mr. Galt was fully prepared to take up his pen again, and resume his place in the ranks of literature, the fact of his being recalled by the Company had the effect of bringing upon him serious embarrassments, application for immediate payment being made of nearly all his outstanding debts, among which was a claim by Dr. Valpy of Reading, in whose charge Mr. Galt's three sons had been for some time. This was the last claim Mr. Galt expected would be pressed, the Doctor being an old personal friend, and being himself in easy circumstances, could not have been in very urgent need of the money, but a formal demand for payment by the Doctor's solicitors soon convinced him that he had no reason to presume on private friendship for leniency or consideration at this time, and none was granted. Not being then in a position to meet this demand an arrest soon followed, and in referring to the matter he says:—"As I had by this time ascertained that, independent of a security given for my chief debt, and several farms in Canada sufficient for the others, I was only embarrassed about the arrears of an annuity of three hundred pounds, that though irregularly paid, I had long counted on. I saw what was in my power; and pride was appeased by the consideration that I had always made more than I expended, and that it was entirely owing to others not fulfilling their engagements to me, I had ever suffered any perplexity in money matters." Though he wrote thus boldly, and to all appearances maintained his pride unabated, it must have been very humiliating and saddening to his mind to reflect, that after he had done so much for others, expending for their benefit the strength which other men would have been using in the interests of their families, they should now, when their purposes had been served, cast him off like a worn-out garment; and while profiting by the expenditure of his mental and physical abilities, they should forsake him in the hour of his temporary necessity. Still, with that courage which never under any circumstances forsook him, he determined to battle manfully on, and not to surrender while a hope remained. "I felt my independence augmented," he says, "by looking on poverty, undismayed at her emaciation. I had, however, given hostages to society, and was no longer at liberty to consult my own wishes, and therefore immediately began to build a new scheme of life, in which the secondary condition of authorship was thus made primary. This winding up of my philanthropic dream is stated with as little emotion as possible, but it was not so felt."

However much he might seek to disguise his sorrow and mortification at the turn affairs had taken, there can be no doubt he still felt the sting in his heart, and though he applied himself, with characteristic energy to the pursuits of literature, he steadily refused to renew the acquaintances of former years, unless some marked advances were made towards him for that purpose. For some three or four years he continued to work hard at literature, at one time editing the *Courier*, at another preparing a life of Lord Byron, and then again in writing works of fiction,



such as Lawrie Todd; until at last his health broke down, and he became a confirmed invalid. Shortly before leaving Guelph, he one day stumbled, and received a severe shock in the spine from the root of a tree, from which he never fully recovered. At the time, and for some time afterwards, he experienced very little inconvenience, but eventually various nervous diseases manifested themselves, and soon afterwards he had a touch of paralysis. At this time he wrote—"I could, indeed, no longer equivocate to myself, that the afternoon of life had come, and the hour striking. The consciousness of having overpast the summit of my strength, was not, however, so obvious to others as to myself; and thus, though I suffered what the school-boy called an 'a'll-overishness', I had no particular symptom that could be described; some relaxation was, however, recommended, of which I would gladly have availed myself; but it is not in my nature to be long at rest, for I have found my truest repose in a change of employment."

In the year 1831, he became absorbed in the interests of the British American Land Company, but though through this and the following year he gave much time and thought to the matter he was not destined to take any active part in the business, and at the close of 1832, he had several paralytic seizures, and his general health became permanently affected. The following letter, written in April 1833, will give some idea of his physical and mental condition at that time :—

MY DEAR SIR.—Not being to-day in the best of spirits, I feel, like others, disposed to wreak my chagrin on my friends, and on you among others. John and Thomas have sailed for Canada, and you cannot imagine how much this event disconcerts me. Perhaps it is owing to my disease that it affects me so much: but I could not have conceived, *a priori* that it would have depressed me to any degree like what it has done. John, poor fellow, goes with my full concurrence, though I cannot say the same of Thomas, but I submit. He is himself in the meantime pleased, but the Canada Company have not acted towards his father so as to give me the slightest confidence.

I am willing to think that I feel morbid on this point; but I cannot help it, especially as every day confirms the soundness of my undertakings in the Upper Province, and the Company having pocketed above £300,000 through my instrumentality—putting out of the question the good done to Canada, and the relief there granted to the poor of this country. When I went out as Commissioner, the circulating medium did not amount to £72,000; and last year upwards of 300,000 sovereigns were lodged in the Bank of Upper Canada. Although I myself say it, it has fallen to the lot of few to have done so much for any country, and to be so used, for the Government openly say they were over-reached;—just as if the present distress in this country could have been foreseen in the spring of 1824.

My health is upon the whole mending, but I cannot move without aid; so my active life is over and the hopes which led me towards the British American Land Company must be given up. We only wait for letters from Canada to make me retire, for I am no longer fit for public business. This is a great calamity; for it will oblige me to depend entirely on literature, a poor trade, and even for it I am sorely disabled.

Since the "Stolen Child," I have dictated another work in two volumes. It is finished, and I think one of the best I ever wrote. It is a tale of the Reformation, and in the incidents and development as original as I could make it. \* \* \* \* \* My lameness gives me



much leisure, and that apportioning of my time I have been long accustomed to, enables me to do a great deal, even to the surprise of myself; for I have in the meantime been obliged to suspend reading, as it invariably makes me fall asleep. What I feel most is an occasional brightness of intellect, which on reflection is often attended with alarm, as my sleep declines. Can you advise me anything as to this? Dr. A. T. Thomson is for a voyage, or a residence at the sea side. But I am so helpless, and so many troubles perplex me that require a stouter health to withstand. Ever yours truly,

JOHN GALT.

In 1834 Mr. Galt removed to Scotland, and continued his literary work, sending forth a considerable number of volumes, essays, sketches, &c., one of which "Literary Life and Miscellanies," was by special permission of His Majesty, dedicated to William IV. Gradually, however, but steadily, his strength declined, and on the morning of April 11th, 1839, he breathed his last; and his remains lie buried in the family grave at Greenock.

After Mr. Galt's retirement, the management of the affairs of the Company was entrusted to the care of two commissioners, Hon. Wm. Allen and Mr. Thomas Mercer Jones, and on their arrival most of the servants of the Company who had been appointed by Mr. Galt, and were associated with him in the laying out and building of Guelph, were removed to Goderich, which was then beginning to assume very respectable proportions, though a long distance from any other settlement, not a house being then built within ten or twelve miles of it. The work of clearing farms in the forest, however, soon began, and in a very short time homesteads and smiling fields were to be seen in many parts of the Huron tract. The work at this settlement was principally conducted under the supervision of Hon. W. Allen, while the management of affairs at Guelph was left in the hands of Mr. T. Mercer Jones, who soon won the respect of the entire community, by his upright and gentlemanly demeanor towards the settlers.

In May 1839, a serious disaster befell the town of Guelph, the results of which were felt for some time. Those who are old enough to remember when the Upper Province was one wild, almost impenetrable forest, or those who have travelled through regions of the country where the hand of man, even yet, has made but slight inroads on nature's vast domain, will have frequently noticed, in the woods, large gaps or lanes, the ground covered with trunks and branches of trees, twisted and tangled in all manner of inconceivable shapes, through or across which by no possibility could a man proceed. It will also have been noticed that in these gaps, the trees appear to have been twisted off at the stumps, or torn up at the roots, as if some monster of infinite strength had passed that way and torn them up like rushes in his mighty grasp, and thrown them down in anger and scorn. These wild scenes of desolation are caused by hurricanes, which occasionally visit thickly wooded districts, but which rarely occur after the land becomes cleared, it is supposed on account of some mysterious climatic change which takes place with the disappearance of the forests, somewhat in the same way as the changes in temperature and the quantity of rainfall which follow the clearing of the land. A hurricane such as this, and which, for violence has never been equalled in this part of the country since, visited the town and township at this time. The weather, for that season of the year, had been unusually sultry, and the air was hushed to an unnatural stillness, only broken by the occasional sound of thunder booming faintly in the dis-

tance, which, being nothing unusual, attracted but little attention. That morning all nature seemed in a preternatural repose, until towards ten o'clock, when the sky began to assume a most unusual appearance, a dense cloud overshadowing all, casting on the earth a most sickly pallor. Towards noon the sky assumed a still more awful appearance, presenting to the view a vast arch of rolling blackness, and a nameless dread seized on the hearts of all, as the clouds gathered thicker and thicker and more threatening in their lowerings. Suddenly they seemed to gather closer, as if concentrating their force to overwhelm one devoted spot, when, almost immediately, they separated into attached masses, chasing each other through the sky, and then whirling and eddying like the foam in the vortex of a whirlpool. The thunder now broke forth in roars and peals, while the forked lightnings darted hither and thither, now and again striking some tall tree or other prominent object. In speaking of this storm, Strickland says:—"In a short space the clouds seemed to converge to a point, which approached very near the earth, still whirling with great rapidity directly under this point; and apparently from the midst of the woods arose a black column in the shape of a cone, which instantly joined itself to the depending cloud. The sight was now grand and awful in the extreme. Let any one picture to the imagination a vast column of smoke, of inky blackness, reaching from earth to heaven, gyrating with fearful velocity; bright lightnings issuing from the vortex—the roar of the thunder—the rushing of the blast—the crashing of timber—the limbs of trees, leaves and rubbish, mingled with clouds of dust, whirling through the air—a faint idea is the given of the scene.

"Through all the sky arise outrageous storms,  
And death stands threatening in a thousand forms;  
Clouds charged with loud destruction drown the day,  
And airy demons in wild whirlwind play;  
Thick thunderclaps, and lightning's vivid glare  
Disturb the sky, and trouble all the air."

"I had ample time for observation as the hurricane commenced its desolating course about two miles from the town, through the centre of which it took its way, passing within fifty yards of the spot where a number of persons and myself were standing watching its fearful progress. As the tornado approached, the trees seemed to fall like a pack of cards before its irresistible current. After passing through the clearing made round the town, the force of the wind gradually abated, and in a few minutes died away entirely. As soon as the storm was over, I went to see what damage it had done. From the point where I first observed the black column to rise from the woods and join the cloud, the trees were twisted in every direction. A belt of timber had been levelled to the ground about two miles in length, and about one hundred yards in breadth: at the entrance to the town it crossed the River Speed, and uprooted about six acres of wood which had been thinned out and left by Mr. Galt as an ornament to his house. The Eramosa Road was completely blocked up for nearly half a mile, in the wildest confusion possible. In its progress through the town it unroofed several houses, levelled the fences to the ground, and entirely demolished a frame barn: windows were dashed in, and in one instance the floor of a log house was carried up through the roof. Some hair-breadth escapes occurred, but, luckily, no lives were lost."

From this time, for about three years, very little progress was made in the town, but few houses being built, and business generally being in an almost stagnant state. The Commissioners who succeeded Mr. Galt

in the management appeared to be bent on a policy of "masterly inactivity," doing nothing which could by any means be postponed till the future, the consequence being that money was scarce and a general depression brooded over the entire settlement. Among the works which was forced upon them, in self-defence, was the completion of the grist mill, which Mr. Galt had commenced; for, without it, they held the Company had on the farmers, as their bankers and general agents for the sale of their produce, and for almost every other communication with the outside world, would pass into other hands. Accordingly they set to work, in a dilatory, half-earnest sort of a way, to get the mill into running order. Mr. Strickland, who was then at Goderich, was instructed to engage a miller who had come there—an American, and said to be characteristically shrewd and cunning—with whom he started for Guelph in the Spring, but there is no record of his having arrived, or if he did, of his having worked at the mill, for the builder and practical miller was Horace Perry, of Port Hope. The building was a substantial frame structure, containing every appliance for gristing, with three run of stones and ample store-rooms. In a short time the premises passed into the hands of Mr. James Allan, father of Mr. David Allan, the late owner, who from time to time made additions, until, in course of time, the frame was taken down to make room for the present stone buildings, and removed to a farm on the York Road, where it still stands, being used as a barn. When Mr. Allan purchased the mill, he put in another run of stones, making four runs in all, three of which were used for gristing and one for chopping. In 1835 he built a distillery in connection with the mill, and about six years afterwards added a carding mill. When this mill was finished, Perry built another, on the Waterloo Road, known to this day as the Red Mill. This mill, with fifty acres of land, was afterwards bought by Mr. G. J. Grange, and was worked by him, after he relinquished the distillery, for some years.

Towards the close of 1828 or in the early spring of 1829, a number of new immigrants arrived, some of whom made very good settlers, though most of them afterwards left the place. Among those who remained were Martin Dooley, who took up a farm about three miles out on the Waterloo Road, and did very well. Another who came at the same time was Michael Lennan, who soon afterwards died, and his widow subsequently married Andrew Farrell, father of Patrick Farrell, who still lives here. The farm now owned by Mr. Walter Sorby was first purchased from the Canada Company by Thos. Baker, and those opposite by James Baker and Patrick McGowan. James Beirnes generally known as Tinker Beirnes, about this time bought some land on the Waterloo Road, and laid it out in town lots, he being the first to do this except the Canada Company. A considerable number of persons built houses on this land, which was for many years familiarly known as "Tinkertown." Beirnes afterwards moved to Puslinch, and if he did not succeed well in anything else, he certainly fulfilled the Divine command to "increase and multiply," for he was blessed with twenty children, in this particular therefore proving a very good colonist.

For about two years, nothing of any interest occurred in the town, the arrivals of immigrants being comparatively few, and the improvements effected, in consequence of the financial stringency, which affected the whole of Canada, being consequently very limited. In the summer of 1832, however, a fresh impetus was given by the arrival of a large party of immigrants from England, who had chartered the ship "Caroline" to

bring them out. Among them were, Messrs. John and James Wilson, Edward Murton, Wm. Neeve, Edmund and Osmond Huntley, Josiah McKelkan and others, the entire party consisting of nearly a hundred persons. All of them were in comparatively affluent circumstances, some of them keeping servants in livery, and their arrival was the signal for a general revival of business, guineas being very plentiful with them, and they were not in any way niggardly in spending them. Houses sprang up on all sides, and a period of general prosperity commenced, the influence of which was never entirely lost in the town. One of the houses built at this time was that which stood for many years on the site of the present Grand Trunk passenger station, and the coachman's house, belonging to which, still stands, on the east side of the track. The house was a large two story brick building, very commodious, and for some years was undoubtedly the best house in town. Mr. John Combe Wilson, who built it, resided in it for some time, after which it was rented to Rev. Arthur Palmer.

Besides this party of wealthy immigrants, there were a few others, who came from Ireland. A number of gentlemen had decided on coming to Canada, and formed a party by themselves, chartering a vessel. Among them were the late Chancellor Blake, the late Archdeacon Brough, Dr. Robinson, afterwards well known as an eminent physician, the late Justice Connors, Rev. Edward Blake, Rev. Arthur Palmer, Mr. Samuel Crawford and Mr. R. M. Richardson. All of these were in good circumstances, and all men of education and position, every one of them holding a B. A. degree. The three last-named came to Guelph, and Rev. A. Palmer at once organized a church, meeting for the time being in the school-house. The congregations were from the first as large as the building would conveniently accommodate, many dissenters of the various denominations attending the services regularly, the utmost harmony prevailing throughout, until the Presbyterian church was built, when, of course, many of them left, though some of the Methodists never severed their connection with the Episcopal Church. Of the party who came out together, the only survivors are Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, now in England, and Mr. Richardson, who still resides in Guelph.

In the fall of the same year, several other well-to-do immigrants arrived, including Captain Poore and Mr. Rowland Wingfield. Mr. Wingfield did not remain long, but returned to England, and in 1834 he again came out, bringing with him several head of Durham cattle, Leicester and Southdown sheep, Berkshire pigs, and ducks, geese, fowls and pigeons in large numbers. He purchased the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. John Howitt, and for some time was very successful in breeding, and to him is due the honor of bringing into this part of the country, the first specimens of these very fine breeds of cattle and sheep, for which—the cattle especially—this part of the country has since been so famous. In 1834 Mr. Wingfield, Captain Poore, Mr. Durand of Dundas and three or four others, contested the election for member of Parliament to represent the District, when Mr. Durand was elected. After this Mr. Wingfield sustained some severe losses, and sold his farm to Mr. John Howitt. He then removed to Chatham, and thence to Windsor, and a few years afterwards returned to Guelph, intending to open a billiard hall, but an American billiard marker, whom he brought with him, being entrusted with £300, all Mr. Wingfield's store, to go to the States to purchase tables, etc., decamped with the money, leaving Wingfield penniless. He soon afterwards received a remittance from

his friends in Wales, when he returned home, and is now in the enjoyment of a large estate, which has been in his family for several generations.

During this year the work of church building commenced in earnest, the first to be erected being St. Andrew's church. In laying out the plan of the town, certain portions of land had been set aside by Mr. Galt for the uses of the various religious denominations. The portion allotted to the Roman Catholics was the hill at the head of Macdonnell street; for the Episcopalians the piece of land now known as St. George's Square, and to the Presbyterians a portion of the market place where the Town Hall now stands. Besides these sites, other lands were also allotted to them as glebes. The Presbyterian church was built on a hill, which was levelled when the church was pulled down, and was a very handsome and commodious frame building, with seating accommodation for about two hundred persons. The first pastor was Rev. William Smith.

After the Rev. Father Campion had been removed to another district, the Rev. Father Cullen had the oversight of the congregations in this part of Upper Canada, and by his earnestness and zeal he induced the members of the Roman Catholic Church in Guelph to erect a sanctuary for themselves. When once commenced it was not long before the building was ready for use, the members of the church providing the materials and giving their own labor in placing them on the ground ready for the builders' use. Rev. Father Cassidy was then appointed to the charge of the parish. The church, which was a frame structure, was not really finished for some time, either internally or externally, the painting not being done until 1835, when Mr. Harris, father of Mr. John Harris, who then lived at Niagara, sent a quantity of white lead to Guelph for the purpose. The work was done by James Beirnes. This was the first time, so far as is known, that paint had been used in Guelph, externally at least. This church stood until 1846, when on the night when the news was received of the liberation of Daniel O'Connell, the Irish residents became so enthusiastic, that they lighted large bonfires on the hill, and some of the sparks falling on the roof, the church was burned down.

St. George's church was commenced in the fall of the same year, and by the energy of Rev. Arthur Palmer, was fully paid for before it was finished, which was in the Spring of 1833. It was a very substantially built frame structure, said to have been the most solidly and strongly put together building of its kind ever erected in Guelph, and stood as one of the most conspicuous objects in the town until about three years ago, when it was finally removed, it having by that time become not only too small, but for other reasons unsuitable, as well as, to some extent, a detriment from the beauty of the town.

In the following year the Methodists built a neat frame church, on the site of the present Norfolk street church.

Besides the parties of wealthy immigrants who came to the settlement during this year, there were a great many of the poorer classes, many of whom were in a sick and destitute condition. One party, debilitated by sickness and an extraordinarily long voyage, had to remain for a time in Montreal, and while there some of them died from cholera, which was making fearful ravages in the Lower Provinces that summer. On the arrival of the others in Guelph, the disease again broke out among them, and the authorities, to prevent the spread of the disease, kept them

all in the Market House, which was boarded in for the purpose. A few of them died, but by careful treatment and the self-sacrificing attentions of the towns-people, most of them soon recovered, and they scattered to different parts of the township.

In 1833, the Court of Requests, for the recovery of debts under £10 was established, the Court consisting of eight commissioners, who met at the British Coffee House, kept by Thos. and Patrick Keating. The first entry in the records of this court reads as follows :—

GORE DISTRICT, ) Court of Request, opened at the British Coffee  
To Wit:— ) House Inn of Thomas and Patrick Keating, in the  
said District, at the hour of 10 in the forenoon of  
Saturday, the 15th day of June, 1833. Present—  
Wm. Heath, J. P., Henry Strange, J. P., Osmond  
Chas. Huntley, J. P., Samuel Crawford, J. P.

There was only one suit at the first court but at the next there were twenty-two. The other commissioners were, Edward Huntley, Geoffrey Lynch, Dr. Clarke, Robt. Ambrose, and afterwards John Inglis. The Court was held every two weeks, until Nov. 21, 1841, when it was abolished, under the Act making provision for Division Courts. The clerks of the Court of Request were successively—W. Heath, Edmund Huntley—both of whom afterwards returned to England; Jas. Hodgert, now dead; Wm. Lowry, who now lives on the Waterloo Road; and A. A. Baker, who held the office when the Court was abolished.

In referring to Guelph at this time, Dr. Thomas Rolfe, in his "Statistical Account of Upper Canada," says :—"It is extremely healthy, and possesses saw-mills, grist-mills, tanneries, distilleries, and other manufactories; a large and increasing population; new and superior houses in course of erection; an excellent market house; three well conducted taverns; three large and handsome churches and a school. However, it may suit the purpose of grumbling malcontents and brawling grievance-mongers to abuse, vilify and misrepresent the labors and exertions of the Canada Company, it was mainly owing to their zeal, enterprise and assiduity that the Province became so much settled. They were the means of diffusing a more accurate account of Canada amongst the British people, and giving a tone to emigration, of which it formerly stood so much in need. Some persons inimical to Guelph had described it as a failure. How far it is to be considered so, let the following statement, from a resident, decide:—

"In the first place the emigrant is told that Guelph is a failure. How far this is consistent with truth will be seen by the improvements now making, both in town and neighborhood. During the past year no less than sixteen frame and two brick houses made their appearance in our streets, and there are at present two large taverns in progress, a chapel and seven or eight frame houses building or contracted for in the town; and building of all sorts and descriptions daily rising out of the woods, if I may use the expression, in the country. Almost the whole of the land that is available is disposed of, and is under cultivation and settled on, with the exception, I believe, of from 2000 to 3000 acres out of 48000, which compose the township, with a large and daily increasing proportion of town lots, also disposed of, and built upon. We have breweries and distilleries, which give us the highest market price for our grain in cash. So much for Guelph being a failure.' The short road from Dundas to Guelph, by the mills of Mr. Crooks, of West Flamborough, is through a dense pine wood, extensive cedar swamps, with very few clear-

ings until within seven or eight miles of Guelph. It is but 24 miles, admirable travelling when frozen up in winter, but almost impassable in the spring and autumn months, and but little improved in the midst of summer. The horrible causewayed roads, most clumsily put together, and occasionally broken, renders the most circuitous route by Galt far preferable."

Captain Poore had for two or three years been endeavoring to form a volunteer rifle company in the town, but the men had little time to spare for such purposes, and, at that time, perhaps, but little inclination for playing at soldiering. In 1835, however, considerable anxiety began to be felt as to the probable result of the political agitations which were then beginning to be heard, more especially with regard to the faction headed by William Lyon Mackenzie. This was an opportunity eagerly seized upon by Captain Poore, and during the summer he formed a company some sixty strong, which met for drill every Saturday, on a portion of Capt. Poore's farm, where the race-course is now situated.

The year 1837 opened threateningly for Canada. For some years serious differences had been growing up between the Colony and the Imperial Government, and the breach was gradually but surely widening. In 1832, in consequence of some scandals, having more or less reasonable foundations, which had occurred in the conduct of the Judiciary, and the House of Assembly having decided that, as far as that measure would have the effect of removing the causes for the unpleasant popular feeling then existing, the judges should be made independent of the Crown, and should have permanent salaries assigned to them, and that only the Chief Justice should hold a seat in the Executive Council. The bill was passed by a fair majority, but when sent to England for the Royal assent, Lord Goderich thought fit to reject it. The Assembly thereupon retaliated by adopting the course pursued under similar circumstances in the Lower Province, by refusing to pass more than annual bills of supply, attaching the names of the individuals to each of the sums voted for salaries, and positively refusing to permit any person to hold more than one office at the same time. This latter measure was also rejected by Lord Goderich, and the Assembly then demanded the abolition of the Legislative Council, and the substitution of one, the members of which should be elected by the people. This was not only refused by the Imperial Government, but Lord Stanley (the late Earl Derby) treated the colonists to a long and somewhat severe homily on their impertinence for daring to wish to legislate as they imagined would be best for the country, in opposition to the superior wisdom at home, and for their temerity in offering any opposition to the Imperial will.

There was also existing a feeling of bitterness between the inhabitants of the Upper and Lower Provinces, and between the French and English portions of the inhabitants, each nationality being jealous, lest the other should enjoy any advantage which the other did not. All these minor points of difference, however, were sunk in the more important question of opposition to the home government, in what was universally looked upon as the tyranny of the course of action pursued by them, and the consequent burden of taxation under which the country was suffering. The people did not dare to hope for any practical measures of improvement, their hopes having been so often blighted in the past. To speak of education, or the progress of public works, or the enactment of wiser and better laws, was equivalent to announcing oneself as a half-demented enthusiast; and to express a hope of the speedy establishment of a



sounder form of government, was looked upon by the people as the wild imaginations of a heated fancy, and by the Government partizans as little less than treason. There was practically no constitutional government, the sole power, and the administration of affairs, being really in the hands of the Governor.

In 1834, Mr. Viger having been sent to England to lay the grievances of the colony before the Government, a commission was appointed the following year to inquire into the causes of the dissatisfaction and the remedies which might be taken to alleviate them. The Colonial Secretary was willing to surrender the disposal of the entire revenue to the Assembly, on condition of their making separate provision for the judges, and fixing the salaries of the civil officers for two years; he also agreed to place the whole of the proceeds of the sales of unclaimed lands in the hands of the Assembly, but made such restrictions as to their management as virtually to nullify the effect of this provision.

These so-called concessions were not by any means satisfactory, and in the early part of 1837 the popular discontent began to take definite shape, the murmurings of an insurrectionary movement being heard, more or less distinctly, in all parts of the country. In the Lower Province some active demonstrations of hostility had already been made, and in the Upper Province there were symptoms that the example might soon be followed. In the House of Assembly Mr. Wm. Lyon Mackenzie was particularly active, and on several occasions defeated the Government; but Sir Francis Bond Head, at that time Lieutenant Governor, steadily refused to concede any of the points demanded. Outside the House, public meetings were being held, violent speeches made—some of them most unjustifiably so—and in consequence, eighteen magistrates and thirty-five militia officers were deprived of their commissions. During the summer the agitation increased in intensity, the training of bands of Mackenzie's sympathizers was secretly carried on, and in some places the people went so far as to elect their own magistrates and militia officers. Some of the newspapers were also active in keeping the rebellious spirit alive, and soon armed bodies of men in the Lower Province openly set the Government at defiance, and some sanguinary encounters had taken place between them and the regular troops. At the outbreak of these active measures of hostility in Lower Canada, Sir F. B. Head sent nearly all the British troops to the assistance of the Government there, relying on the loyalty of the people of the Upper Province to restrain or suppress any hostile demonstration which might be made here. The wisdom of this action is open to serious question, and the results proved that the Lt. Governor was not adequately informed, or, what is equally probable, greatly underestimated the strength, or affected to despise the influence and determination of the insurgents. The event proved that, though he was sustained by the loyalty of the people generally, Mackenzie and his sympathizers were strong enough to cause great trouble and loss to the country. On the 4th of December, 1837, the rebels assembled at Montgomery's farm-house and tavern, a few miles up Yonge street, with the intention of marching on and "taking" Toronto; but a party of militia, with the assistance of a number of citizens, soon routed them, and Mackenzie fled. This was, however, but the beginning of the troubles, and the Government at once called for the active assistance of the militia companies organized in various parts of the Province. Captain Poore had lost no time in placing his corps in a state ready for service, and on the day of the engagement at Montgomery's they left Guelph, 62 strong,

under the command of Capt. Poore, Lieutenant Thompson, and Ensign Grange, a brother of Mr. G. J. Grange; with John Thorp, James Armstrong and James Marshall as sergeants, leaving Col. Lamprey and Col. Young in charge of a portion of the company to protect Guelph. It was known that there were a considerable number of Mackenzie's sympathisers in Eramosa and other districts in the neighborhood, and that if an opportunity were offered they might make some active demonstration, and possibly take possession of the town, so that there was a very natural feeling of alarm here, and it was positively necessary to leave some experienced and determined officers in the town, to prevent the rebelliously inclined in the country districts from taking such steps as, but for the very pronounced feeling of loyalty on the part of the towns-people, they would undoubtedly have proceeded to, they being in want of ammunition, some quantities of which were in the stores in Guelph, several men having been employed for some days in running bullets, and a number of kegs of powder being also in store in the armory, known as Hodgerts' octagon house, where the HERALD block now stands.

On arriving at Dundas the company put up for the night at Bamberger's hotel, and the town being somewhat of a rebel hot-bed, a warm reception was given to the Guelph volunteers, stones being thrown at them, and a sort of intermittent fire of such missiles being kept up throughout the night, at the hotel, in which the company were soundly sleeping, mostly on the floor and tables. None of the men were hurt, however, beyond a few slight bruises, and the next morning they marched to Hamilton, where they were heartily welcomed by the majority of the citizens, though there were quite a number who looked upon them with anything but friendly eyes. The company remained in Hamilton three days, being quartered in the Court House, when, being relieved by some other volunteers from Guelph, they marched to Ingersoll, Woodstock, Brantford, and other places. While at Brantford a report was brought in that the rebels were making pikes and moulding bullets at Scotland, and the Company at once started for that place, but on their arrival found nothing more conspicuous or treasonable than a cider mill in full operation. After a time the company returned to Hamilton, and on Christmas day went to the front, being stationed between Drummondville and Niagara Falls. The corps which left Hamilton was 1,300 strong, besides about 500 Indians, and upwards of 450 sleighs were employed in conveying them. In consequence of the energetic action taken by the authorities against the steamer "Caroline," and the insurgents stationed on Navy Island, the corps of which the Guelph men formed a part were not called into action, their duty consisting of the more arduous, if less glorious task of preserving peace in the outlying country, and defending the approaches to the scene of action. They were away about six weeks, and when they returned they separated, but were not disbanded, each man going to his own home. In the fall of 1838 another Company was raised by Captain Poore's orders, the men enlisting for a specified time, from November 1st, 1838, to May 1st, 1840. This Company was drafted to Hamilton in the first week in November, and remained there the whole of the period of their enlistment.

In common with other parts of the country, Guelph suffered considerably by this rebellion, not only on account of the general stagnation in business which followed, but also because of the absence of so many of the men from their farms and stores; and it was some years before the confidence and prosperity which had previously existed, fully returned.

It had for some time become a matter of serious inconvenience, that the people of Guelph, and the country lying north and west of it, should be compelled to go so long a distance to Dundas, the District town, to transact legal business, and a movement had for some time been on foot for the division of the Gore District, which then included the whole of what are now the counties of Wellington, Waterloo, Grey, Bruce, and the district as far as the shores of Lake Huron. As the result of the agitation which was vigorously carried on, an act was passed in 1837, 7 William IV., chap. 18, providing for the division of the Gore District, and for the erection of the District of Wellington, as soon as a jail and court-house could be erected, and other necessary preliminary arrangements made. Among the provisions of the act were, that the jail and court-house should be situated in the Town of Guelph; that a District school should also be erected, the teacher's salary to be £100, to be paid out of the Provincial funds, as also the sum of £250 for the support of common schools, in addition to a share in such sums as were granted under the Provincial statute of 4th William IV. The justices were empowered to borrow £6,000 for building the jail and court-house, to be repaid in annual instalments of £250, with interest, for which they were empowered to levy an additional rate of 1d. in the £ for four years.

During 1838 a movement was commenced for improving the road between Guelph and Dundas, much inconvenience being felt in consequence of the difficulties in travelling between these two points, letters, as appears by documents now in the office of the Clerk of the Peace, sometimes being five and even seven days in transit. Several meetings were held to consider the matter but nothing definite was done until 1839, when a public meeting was called, Mr. Henry Strange being in the chair, and Mr. Thos. Saunders acting as secretary. It was then proposed that a survey should be made, for a road direct to Dundas, instead of going round by way of Waterloo. Subscription lists were opened to defray the expense of the survey, which was entrusted to Mr. R. W. Kerr, of Flamborough West. The estimated cost was £31,159.17.7, or £1285.16.8 per mile. A strong opposition was offered to the scheme on the part of some residents in Puslinch, who wished the road to be run from Guelph to the Waterloo macadamized road, cutting it at about Lamb's tavern. Petitions were prepared in favor of the original scheme, with the intention of forwarding them to Col. Chisholm and Hon. James Crooks, for presentation to the two branches of the Legislature, but upon its being found that Hon. Mr. Crooks, being personally interested in the success of the rival scheme, would be likely to "throw cold water" on the Guelph enterprise, the petition was sent to Hon. Adam Fergusson, instead of to him. Soon after this had been done, Mr. Henry Strange, who had been the prime mover in the matter, suddenly died, and no further action was taken for some time, as will appear hereafter.

In 1840 the Act for the separation of the District of Wellington from the District of Gore came into operation, and on the 28th July the first meeting of the Court of Quarter Sessions was held, the Justices present being Messrs. Alexander Dingwall Fordyce, John Inglis, Geoffrey Lynch, Wm. Reynolds, Jas. Webster, Wm. Ellis, Wm. Hewat, Edward Murton, Edward F. Henning, Robt. Alling and Henry W. Peterson. The following officers were then appointed for the District:—Sheriff—Mr. Geo. J. Grange; District Treasurer—Mr. Wm. Hewat; Surgeon to the Gaol—Dr. Wm. Clarke; Inspector of Weights and Measures—Mr. A. A. Baker; Gaoler—Mr. Robt. Dunbar; Chief Constable—Mr. John Jones. The

Sheriff was required to give security, himself in £1,000, and two sureties in £500 each. These sureties were Messrs. Marcus Blair of Hamilton and Mr. Thos. Saunders, of Puslinch. On October 3rd, Sheriff Grange took the oath of office, before Messrs. A. J. Fergusson and Thomas Saunders, commissioners.

At the same sittings of the Court, the Courts of Request, with the districts assigned to each were numbered as follows:—1. Guelph and Eramosa; 2. Waterloo; 3. Wilnot; 4. Woolwich, Nichol and Queen's Bush; 5. Erin, Garafraxa, and the townships added from the home district, viz:—Proton, Luther, Amaranth and Melancthon; the divisions to take effect September 1st. At the second meeting of this Court, held October 27th, thirty-one tavern and beer licenses were granted for the District. The fees charged were—for beer license, from £1. to £3., and for tavern licenses, from £5 to £7.

At the meeting of the Court in August 1841, a proposition was made to lease from Wm. Dyson, a room in a new brick building he had just erected on Gordon street for many years known as the Red Lion tavern, and now called the Fountain Hotel. For many years the magistrates' courts had been held at the British Coffee House, but now that the District had been set apart, and the legal business would be large, and constantly increasing, it was decided to lease this place, at a rental of £50 per annum, until the Court House, soon to be commenced, should be ready for occupancy. By the terms of the lease, Mr. Dyson was required to fit up the room in a suitable manner, with the usual judges' bench, dock, witness box, accommodation for counsel, witnesses, &c., and to provide a separate staircase for the judges, all of which was done.

The attention of the Imperial Government having been called to the way in which unscrupulous persons in England were in the habit of misrepresenting to intending emigrants, the resources and general condition of the country, and the rate of wages, cost of living, &c., a list of questions was sent to prominent and reliable persons in all parts of the Province, with the request that they should be answered as accurately as possible, for the information of the home government, to allow them to issue reliable circulars for the general guidance of emigrants. From one of these lists, filled in by Mr. S. B. Harrison, and now in the office of the Clerk of the Peace, the following facts are gleaned. The price of land in the township of Guelph ranged from 12s. 6d. to 15s. per acre. The cost of clearing was \$14 to \$16 per acre. Wheat was worth 3s. 9d. per bushel, oats 11d. per bushel, and barley 1s. 10d. per bushel.

In this year the Wellington District Agricultural Society was formed, the committee reporting at the first meeting that ninety four members had been enrolled. The net income of the District in 1841, was £726 11s. 6d., of which Guelph paid £132. The expenditure for the year was £650.

At the January sessions in 1842, Mr. Adam Johnston Fergusson's commission as Justice of the Peace, and his appointment as Judge of the District were presented, when he took the oaths of office. At this time a scene took place in the Court worthy of notice, as showing that the country was not altogether free from religious intolerance. A case in which a note for a small sum of money formed the basis of action was being tried, when a jury was demanded. Upon the jury rising to be sworn, counsel for the plaintiff objected to one of them, on the ground that he was a Mennonist, and consequently ineligible as a jurymen. The Mennonists were a sect holding somewhat the same religious tenets as Quakers,

claiming among other things, exemption from service in time of war, a privilege for which they were made to pay dearly enough, a tax of as much as £5 per year being imposed upon them, in peace or war, as an equivalent for the exemption, the other taxes, to which all citizens were liable in common, being collected in addition. It was not till 1848 that this special tax could be even reduced, a majority in Parliament always voting down any measure brought in for their benefit. At the sitting of the Court over which Judge Fergusson first presided, the objection was raised, and the Judge had no alternative but to allow it, and the juryman was ordered to leave the box, and another man called to fill his place. Whether it may be regarded with satisfaction or not is a question, but the fact remains, that the objecting plaintiff lost his case.

During this year the act for the election of school commissioners came into operation, and the first meeting of the Board took place May 11th. The Board consisted of Rev. Arthur Palmer, chairman, Rev. P. Wastel, Rev. Thomas Gibney, Roman Catholic priest, Rev. J. Smith, Dr. Henry Orton, Mr. Thomas Sandilands, Mr. Charles Julius Mickle and Mr. Wm. Neeve. Mr. A. A. Baker was the first clerk to the Board. The first action of the Board, after organizing, was to take under their control all the schools in the District, and order an inspection of all the school-houses, many of which were in need of repair, and in some districts new school-houses were required, and in course of time these were built. Several changes were also found to be necessary in the staff of teachers, some of whom were found to be very incompetent. Some of these were therefore discharged.

In 1843 the new jail was finished, the distinction of being the first man to be confined therein being due to James Lindsay, for stealing cattle. It being proved that he had been carrying on this business for a long time, he was sentenced to be imprisoned for five years. This does not appear to have cured him of his propensity for driving other people's cattle, for he had not been released from his long confinement more than six weeks, when he was arrested on a similar charge near Toronto, and sent to the Provincial penitentiary for seven years.

The criminal business during the year 1844 was very light, it being on record that at the January sessions there was not a single prisoner for trial; at the July sessions only one, and at the November sessions only four, of whom two only were found guilty, and these for minor offences. This, however, as will be seen, was but the lull before the storm, for the courts were kept busy enough during the succeeding three or four years.

This year witnessed the revival of the St. Andrew's Society. In the year 1828 Mr. Galt had established a *pseudo* society, without any regularly elected officers or times for meeting, but now a properly organized society was formed, but who were the officers there is no record to show. A St. George's Society on a similarly loose plan had also been in existence, and this year it also was revived, Mr. John Howitt being the first president, no record having been kept of the names of the other officers. This was nothing remarkable, for, until 1840, the records even of the courts, and of the meetings for the transaction of public business, were very meagre, and in many instances no records at all were made, the business being transacted in public meeting, and it apparently being thought that those interested could remember what had been done, at least until the next meeting. At the close of this year the Wellington District Benevolent Association was formed, with Rev. Arthur Palmer as president. This association was formed of all creeds and nationalities,

for the relief of all in distress, with the same catholic disregard to religious or national distinctions, and for many years it continued its benevolent operations, being the means of doing an incalculable amount of good.

In 1845 a new era may be said to have commenced in Guelph. As the town had progressed in population and prosperity, two distinct attempts had been made to publish a local newspaper, but, partly owing to the limited constituency in the surrounding country and the financial depression which had existed all over the Province for several years, and partly also in consequence of the lack of practical ability on the part of those who made the ventures, both attempts proved signal failures. In the case of the *Advertiser*, which was now commenced, the result proved far different. The country was more prosperous, farmers were obtaining higher prices for their produce, more settlers were coming in, and, what was of far more consequence, Mr. John Smith, the proprietor, was a man of experience, and seemed to adapt his paper to the wants of the people upon whom he depended for support.

In 1846 an act was passed providing for a reorganization of the District Councils, granting to each of the Districts enlarged powers and an additional number of councillors, the Wellington District being included. Under this new arrangement, which came into operation in January, 1847, many improvements were made, under the direction of Mr. A. D. Fordyce, the Warden, by which increased facilities were afforded for travel, by the repairing of many neglected county roads and the erection of new bridges at several important points. During this year a new mill was built by Drs. Clarke and Orton—the latter being the father of Dr. Orton, M. P.—on the site of the present People's Mills, now owned by Mr. James Goldie. It was a frame structure, of considerable dimensions, with six run of stones. A large business was done in gristing, and the enterprise promised to be exceedingly profitable for the proprietors, as it was undoubtedly a great convenience to the small farmers. Early in the next year, however, these hopes seemed for a time to be shattered, and a heavy blow was struck at the industry of the place. About two miles out of the town, on the Eramosa road, lived two families named Oliver and Coghlin, between which a long-standing religious feud had existed, the Olivers being Orangemen and the Coghlin's Roman Catholics. Whenever any members of these families met, high words, and frequently hard blows, were exchanged, the young men especially evincing great bitterness towards each other, and none of them bearing a very high character for sobriety, the disputes generally resulted from excitement through drink. On the afternoon of March 23rd three of the Olivers were driving home in a sleigh, and when a short distance beyond the Eramosa hill, they met some of the Coghlin's, and a fight ensued, in which Charles Coghlin stabbed Richard Oliver with a bayonet, killing him almost instantly. For this Coghlin was tried before Mr. Justice McLean, and being found guilty of murder, was hanged in front of the Court House on July 1st. There had been some difficulty in getting the scaffold erected, threats of a serious nature having been made by the friends of the convicted man that whoever undertook the job should suffer for it afterwards, and the lawless character of some of them was sufficient to deter many from doing the work who otherwise would have willingly undertaken it. Of the extensive sympathy for the family of the doomed man which existed in the minds of the lower classes, ample evidence was afforded on the morning of the execution, when a most

unseemly riot took place under the scaffold, which, but for the presence of a large posse of special constables, would probably have had serious results. When the prisoner was first arrested he was brought before Dr. Clarke, as Justice of the Peace, and the Coghlin's declared that the prisoner was not fairly dealt with by him, a statement for which there does not appear to have been the slightest foundation, judging from the numerous letters on the subject which were published in the *Advertiser* at the time. This impression took a deep hold on the minds of the Coghlin family, however, and it was feared for some time that some injury, either of a personal nature or in his property, would be inflicted on the Doctor. When, therefore, in March, 1846, the mill was burned, the general impression was that it was the work of an incendiary, and it was so stated in a proclamation issued by the Government, offering a reward of £250, in addition to £400 offered by Drs. Clarke and Orton and the District Council, for such evidence as would lead to the conviction of the culprit. Nothing ever came to light upon which to base a charge, though several persons were suspected, and the matter gradually lost its interest. The loss by the fire was £5,500, which was covered by insurance to the amount of about £3,000.

Hitherto the Conservatives in the District had possessed no permanent organ for the enunciation of their political principles. Two separate attempts had been made to establish a Conservative paper here, one in 1842, when Mr. Chas. Macdonald commenced the publication of the *Herald*. Mr. Peterson, Registrar of the District, who was the first to establish a newspaper west of Ancaster, had published a German paper, the *Canada Museum*, in Berlin, in 1832, and having the press, one of the Ramage make, and a quantity of type still on hand, Mr. Macdonnell made an arrangement with Mr. Peterson, by which that gentleman was to be the actual proprietor, though Mr. Macdonnell was to be nominal owner, and the practical manager and editor. This paper only lived about nine months, when a Mr. Matthew S. Willet came to the town and made a similar arrangement, by which he commenced the *Wellingtonian*, a paper very similar in all respects to the *Herald*, but from a variety of causes the venture did not prove a success, and in a few weeks it was dropped. In the Spring of 1847, Mr. F. D. Austin effected an arrangement with Mr. Peterson of somewhat the same nature as the others, and brought out the *HERALD*. He soon after took a partner, and the paper was published by Austin & Pearson. In the course of the following year, it being desirable to improve the character of the paper and to put in new type, a joint stock company was formed, by Mr. Webster, Mr. Peterson, and several other gentlemen in the town, and Mr. Geo. Pirie, a man of liberal education and considerable ability, was invited to take the editorial control, which he did, and the paper at once took a foremost place among Canadian newspapers, its fearless advocacy of the principles of the Conservative party, and the unflinching opposition it offered to everything savoring of meanness or trickery in local or general politics, as well as the ability displayed in its editorial columns, and the enterprise shown in the news department, stamping it from the commencement as a high class newspaper, destined to exert a powerful influence on the future of the District, a mission which it most emphatically accomplished. It was soon found, as has generally been the case, that a joint stock company, in a small town like Guelph, was not the best machinery for carrying on a newspaper business, and it was finally arranged that Mr. Geo. Pirie should become sole proprietor and editor, a



position for which his remarkable abilities eminently fitted him. With what success he conducted the paper those who had the honor of his acquaintance can fully testify, and it is not too much to say that the Conservative party in this town and surrounding districts, owes much of its prosperity and power to his untiring exertions and self denying labors, in which he never flagged up to the time of his death, which took place in 1870. Of the course pursued and the success of the paper since, the public are left to judge for themselves.

Early in 1848 an appeal was made by Rev. Arthur Palmer and a number of the most prominent men in the town, for funds to assist in the relief of the people of Ireland, who were then in the greatest distress consequent on the recent potato famine, and to the credit of the people of Guelph, small in number though they were, it is recorded that upwards of £400 was subscribed.

The farmers of the Wellington District had always taken a deep interest in the proceedings of agricultural societies, more especially that of the Gore District, and several local clubs had been formed in the townships in the neighborhood of Guelph, excepting Puslinch. This year the Puslinch farmers determined to have a club, and accordingly in February a meeting was held, and the Puslinch branch of the Wellington District Agricultural Society was organized, a club which has, perhaps, been more generally successful, and exerted a more beneficial influence, both on account of the hearty interest taken in it, and the more than ordinary intelligence and energy of its members, than almost any other in the Province, and there is probably not one local organization of the kind in this country which to-day commands so much respect among the agricultural community.

In April a deputation arrived here from Toronto, to consult some of the leading men of the town as to what steps should be taken by Guelph in support of the proposed Toronto and Goderich Railway, which the company contemplated bringing through the town, if sufficient encouragement were offered. A public meeting was at once called, Sheriff Grange in the chair, when the intentions of the company were fully explained by Mr. Thos. (now Judge) Galt, who said he had visited the town in 1827, and had on foot traversed the distance from Guelph to Goderich, before there was even so much as a pathway cut through the woods, and he felt peculiar pleasure in being the first to lay before the people of this town a proposal to build a railway across the same country. It was resolved that a committee should be appointed to collect subscriptions to defray the expenses of a survey and push the matter forward; but, though a number of meetings were held, and considerable stir was made in the country, the project, so far as this company was concerned, died a natural death.

Mr. James Webster had sat for the District in the Local Assembly for several years, and the Reformers thought that a gentleman of their own side in politics should be chosen at the next election, which was expected to take place at no distant day. They accordingly organized, and Mr. A. J. Fergusson, District Judge, was induced to resign his position for the purpose of becoming a candidate, which he did in April, and Mr. Wm. Dummer Powell was appointed his successor in May. At the retirement of Judge Fergusson addresses were presented to him by members of the bar and others, on both sides in politics, expressive of the high esteem in which he had been held as a judge, and the warm feelings of respect entertained for him personally. Canvassing went

vigorously on during the remainder of the year, the result of which will be referred to hereafter.

In the November session of parliament an act was passed incorporating the Guelph and Dundas Road Company, for the purpose of building a macadamized and gravelled road from the town to a point to join the Dundas and Waterloo macadamized road, with a capital of £10,000, with power to increase it to £20,000. The sum of £9,000 was at once borrowed on debentures, and this very important work was proceeded with vigorously. An act was also passed incorporating the Guelph and Arthur Road Company, for the purpose of building a macadamized and gravel road to Card's Corner, near the present junction of the Elora and Fergus roads, and that work was also soon afterwards commenced. In June of this year Rev. J. G. Macgregor was ordained pastor of Knox's Church, and in November a church was finished on the present site of Raymond's sewing-machine factory. The Primitive Methodist chapel, on Surrey street, was also built and dedicated in the fall of this year. Among the other buildings worthy of note erected this year were the large stone house and store of Mr. F. W. Stone, on Gordon street; a stone building by Mr. Thomas Heffernan on Wyndham street, and a commodious hotel, of stone, by Mr. Thomas Hood, known as the Wellington Hotel.

At the close of the year Parliament was dissolved, and in January, 1848, a general election took place, the candidates in the Wellington District being Mr. A. J. Fergusson, Reformer, and Mr. James Webster, Conservative. The election was hotly contested by both sides. The result of the general election was that the Baldwin, or Reform party, succeeded to power, but Mr. Fergusson was defeated in this district by 300 votes. He thereupon entered a protest, on the plea of corruption on the part of the Conservatives, especially in the neighborhood of Owen Sound where some votes appear to have been polled by some persons not duly qualified. Mr. Webster, however, took his seat, and the contested election suit dragged its weary way along until February, 1849, when judgment was given in Mr. Fergusson's favor, and he took his seat.

At the June assizes Joseph and Thomas Ferris were tried for the murder of Henry Wilson, in Wellesley, in March. A dispute had arisen respecting the ownership of a strip of land, and Wilson had obtained a writ of ejectment, and upon going to serve it, Joseph Ferris knocked him down and strangled him with his scarf, the other prisoner looking on while it was done. They were both sentenced to be hanged, when they made a full confession, and their sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. At the Quarter Sessions in July, Judge Powell had the gratifying duty to inform the Grand Jury that, for the third time, there were no prisoners for trial, and only one case was brought before the magistrates in Guelph during the whole year.

During the summer contracts were let for macadamizing seven miles of the Dundas Road at £1,230 per mile, and gravelling the remainder at £420 per mile. On July 21st a large number of the inhabitants of Guelph proceeded in procession to Hamilton's tavern, where the first shovel full of earth was turned, and the work, the total cost of which was to be £20,000, to be finished in September, 1849, was fairly commenced. To carry on the work, debentures for various amounts were issued, including some for five shillings each, to be used in paying wages to the men, and as a regular circulating medium. One of these is now in the possession of Mr. George Sleeman, and shows that it was not deemed necessary to go to the expense of having them prepared in the highest style of

the engraver's art, the work being of the roughest description, such as some down-easters might have been expected to whittle out with a jack-knife or hew out with a "little hatchet." They were adorned with a cut of the Duke of Wellington mounted on a rampant steed of the orthodox rocking horse pattern, and informed all whom it might concern, that "The District of Wellington Promise to pay William Cook, or bearer, Five years after date, at the office of the Treasurer in Guelph, and not *elsewhere*, the sum of Five Shillings in currency, with — years' interest, for value received." They were signed by James Wright, Warden, and William Hewat, Treasurer.

Among the incidents worthy of notice during this year may be mentioned the death of Dr. Alling, who had been in the town for seventeen years, during which time he had been successively a physician in good practice, agent for the Canada Company, merchant, bank agent, and District officer, and who by his application to business and his unimpeachable integrity, had become one of the most wealthy and respected inhabitants of the town. During the summer several stone stores were erected on Wyndham street by Mr. Wm. Day and Mr. T. Heffernan; a foundry had been built by Dr. Clarke, and was soon in active operation under the management of Robertson & Co., and the Wellington Mills were rebuilt of stone by Dr. Clarke. In May the brewery and distillery owned by Mr. Oliver, and occupied by Mr. Williams and Mr. Fox, were burned, and one of the oldest and most prominent buildings in the town thus disappeared.

In December, considerable excitement was caused by an agitation which originated in Galt, for a division of the District, and several public meetings were held at the Court House, when it was decided to send Mr. John Smith to Montreal to represent the people of this portion of the District, and to oppose the proposed division before the Legislature. Subsequently Mr. Jas. Wright and Dr. Clarke were also sent on the same errand, but without avail, for in March 1849, a bill was passed for the division of the District into the counties of Waterloo and Wellington, and the united counties of Grey and Peel, the Act to take effect January 1st, 1850. The Act provided that the County of Waterloo should consist of the townships of Waterloo, Wilmot, Wellesley, Woolwich, (except the Pilkington tract) and the north half of Dumfries. Wellington to consist of the townships of Guelph, Puslinch, Eramosa, Erin, Nichol, Garafraxa, Peel, Maryboro, and the Pilkington tract, which was to be attached to Nichol. Grey and Peel to consist of all the northern townships, with five others from the Simcoe District. Though the Districts were thus abolished under this Act, District Courts and other District Institutions and all laws applicable to them, were to be continued as applying to the counties, which would, however, at once become separate for registration and electoral purposes, and so soon as all necessary arrangements had been made, such as the building of gaols and court houses, for municipal and judicial purposes also.

In June, Mr. Fergusson having returned from his first session in parliament, a grand banquet was given to him at Pipe's hotel. In the afternoon a procession of his friends from all parts of the District, two miles in length, paraded the streets, and at the dinner in the evening about 500 persons were present, and great enthusiasm prevailed, Mr. Fergusson on this occasion making one of the best speeches he ever delivered.

In the summer of this year the cholera made fearful ravages in various parts of the country, as many as 26 cases, 7 of which were fatal, having

been reported in one day in Toronto. Though the disease did not assume an epidemic form in Guelph, there were some cases and a few deaths, which led to the appointment of a Board of Health for the Town and Township, consisting of Sheriff Grange, Mr. A. J. Fergusson, M.P.P., Mr. Jas. Wright, Judge Powell, Rev. A. Palmer, Rev. S. Sandrel, Mr. Jas. Hough, Mr. Jno. Harrison and Dr. Clarke, to whose untiring exertions in securing the cleansing of the streets and outhouses, as well as the bed of the river, for which purpose the water was drawn off between the dams, very much of the comparative immunity from the disease which Guelph enjoyed is to be attributed.

In common with most other towns in Canada at that time, in consequence of the cheapness of spirits, the curse of drunkenness was very prevalent, and in 1845 a Temperance Society was formed, numbering among its members nearly all the prominent men of the town, and in September of this year a monster temperance demonstration was held, when speakers were present from all parts of the country, and quite a temperance revival took place, the beneficial effects of which never passed away, while the immediate results were of the most gratifying nature.

In the same month Lord Elgin, then Governor-General, in the course of a tour he was making through the Upper Province, arrived at Galt, when Sheriff Grange at once called a meeting to ascertain the wishes of the people with reference to inviting his lordship here. The feeling was far from being unanimous on the subject, there being many in Guelph, as elsewhere, who considered Lord Elgin had gone beyond his constitutional rights in his action towards the government of the day, and in his reports on certain measures made to the home government, and some went so far as to advocate a petition to the Queen to have him recalled. The majority being in favor of inviting him to visit Guelph, a deputation, consisting of Mr. Fergusson, Sheriff Grange, Judge Powell, Mr. T. Sandilands and Mr. John Smith, was appointed to wait upon him at Galt, and tender to him the hospitality of the town, which he accepted, arriving here September 29th. A procession numbering about 2,000 persons met him about two miles out of the town, and escorted him here with bands playing and colors flying. On arriving at Thorp's hotel, where the vice-regal party dined, a loyal address was presented by the town officials, another by the Total Abstinence Society, and one by the people of Elora, to which His Excellency replied in a long speech from the balcony of the hotel, the malcontents showing their good sense by maintaining a respectful silence. The next day being Sunday, his lordship remained over that day, and attended the English church, in company with Mr. Fergusson, Sheriff Grange and others. On his leaving the town on Monday morning a royal salute of 21 guns was fired on the Market Square, and the visit concluded most creditably for Guelph.

In the Municipal Act, passed in 1849, Guelph was included in the list of towns to be accorded municipal rights, and great was the mortification felt when, at the close of the session, it was found that schedule D. had, by a mistake on the part of one of the engrossing clerks, been omitted from the bill as sent to the Upper House, so that when it passed there, this schedule was not considered, and consequently formed no part of the bill to which the assent of the Governor-General was given. The consequence was that Guelph, with about half a dozen other town similarly omitted, could not be incorporated until another Act was passed the following year, and the incorporation was necessarily deferred till 1851.

It had long been felt that to counteract some of the evil influences and attractions of bar rooms and other similar places, some provision should be made for affording to the young men of the town facilities for self-improvement after the hours of labor had passed, and it was therefore proposed that a Mechanics' Institute, similar to those which had proved so successful in the Lower Province, should be established, and accordingly, in January, 1850, a public meeting was held to lay the matter before the people, and so highly was the scheme approved of, that upwards of one hundred members were enrolled that night. In order to make it popular with the rural as well as the urban population, the name of "The Farmers and Mechanics' Institute" was adopted, and an organization was at once effected by the election of the following officers: President—C. J. Mickle, 1st Vice-Pres.—Dr. Liddell, 2nd Vice-Pres.—J. Harrison, Treasurer—T. Sandilands, Secretary—A. McDonald, Committee—Sheriff Grange, Col. Hewat, Rev. R. Torrance, Messrs. R. Scott, P. Gow, J. Ferguson, J. Watt, D. Savage, J. Armstrong, W. Crowe, R. Thompson and J. Jackson.

The first meeting of the new County Council, under the Act of 1849 was held in the Court House on Monday, January 28th, the late Warden, Mr. J. Wright in the chair. The members present were:—Messrs. Bowman and Snider, Waterloo; Meyer and Passmore, Woolwich; Thurtell and Sunley, Guelph; Cockburn and Ellis, Puslinch; Henshaw and Clarke, Erin; Armstrong, Eramosa; Donaldson, Garafraxa; Carney, Derby; Watt, Nichol; Cameron, Arthur; Bettschin, Wilmot; C. O'Callahan, Peel; George Jackson, Bentinck; A. B. McNab, Glenelg; Robt. Houth, Sydenham; Charles Thorpe, Holland; William Halliday, Sullivan; Hawk and Cunningham, Wellesley; W. Fox, Normanby; D. Cochrane, Egremont. At the commencement of the proceedings, it was discovered that some of the councillors had not deposited their certificates of qualification, nor taken the oaths of office, and an adjournment of the Council, for one hour was agreed to, in order to afford time for such certificates to be presented. The Council re-assembled about 5 o'clock, when the chair was again taken by Mr. Wright, who said that the County was entitled to return 27 members to this Council; but that only 25 had, at present, given in their certificates, and taken the oaths of office. Of this number, there were some who were not qualified according to Mr. Baldwin's opinion, but he believed the majority were so qualified, and, therefore, the Council would be competent to act. He would read the list of those who were entitled to sit in the Council, having qualified according to Mr. Baldwin's opinion: (£300 freeholders): Messrs. Bowman, Armstrong, Donaldson, Passmore, Cockburn, Carney, Watt, Sunley, Thurtell, Henshaw, Cameron, Ellis, Bettschin and Clarke. There being 27 Councillors necessary to form the total number of the Waterloo County Council, and 14 of this number being present, and duly qualified to sit, the Council proceeded to business, and Mr. B. Thurtell was elected Warden, Mr. A. D. Ferrier, Clerk, Mr. W. Hewat, Treasurer, and Messrs. T. R. Brock and Thos. Heffernan, Auditors. Mr. A. A. Baker, who had been clerk of the District Council for nine years, had resigned, not wishing to hold the office of clerk any longer. At the first meeting of the Township Council under the new law Mr. James Hough was appointed clerk.

At the June session of the House of Assembly a new Representation Bill was introduced into the Assembly by Mr. LaFontaine, for the further division of a number of counties, and redistribution of seats, among the provisions of which were, that "the County of Halton shall consist of the

townships of Erin, Esquesing, Trafalgar, Nassagaweya and Nelson; the County of Waterloo shall consist of the townships of North Dumfries, including the town of Galt; Waterloo, Wilmot, Woolwich, Wellesley, Peel and Maryborough; the County of Wellington shall consist of the townships of Puslinch, Guelph, Nichol, Garafraxa and Eramosa; the County of Peel shall consist of the townships of Normanby, Egremont, Proton, Melancthon, Minto, Arthur, Luther and Amaranth." The excitement and indignation in the public mind at this new attempt to curtail the boundaries of the county were intense, and several most enthusiastic public meetings were held to protest against the proposed measure. By this arrangement Wellington would have been left with a population of but 13,000, while Waterloo would have had 26,000, which was rightly looked upon as a great piece of injustice, especially as the County of Wellington had assumed liabilities, in connection with the building of the Brock Road and other improvements, amounting to upwards of £14,000; and, as was agreed at the first meeting, if the contemplated division were effected the county would find it extremely hard to raise sufficient money even to pay the officers necessary to carry on its business. At this meeting an able speech was delivered by Mr. A. J. Fergusson, M. P. P., who advocated that instead of cutting off any portion of the county, it should be divided into three electoral districts, but that for other purposes it should remain intact. The three electoral divisions he would propose, to consist of the Western, containing 279,000 acres, with a population of 17,000; the Eastern, containing 274,000 acres, with a population of 16,000; and the Northern, containing 365,000 acres, with a population of not more than 7,000. These divisions he considered sufficiently near, both in area and population, to balance each other, and would answer the purposes of extended representation perfectly well, without bringing upon the county the evils which would arise from a division into separate counties. That this county, with a population of upwards of 40,000, should have but one parliamentary representative, while some places had sent a member to parliament upon a population of not more than 5,000 or 6,000, was manifestly unfair. It was finally decided that a deputation, consisting of the Warden and Messrs. Webster, Wright, Smith and Sandilands should proceed to Toronto to lay the case before the Government, which they did, the result being that it was arranged between Messrs. Hincks and Price, on the part of the Government, and the deputations from Galt and Guelph, that the townships of Waterloo, Wilmot, Wellesley and Lower Woolwich should be set apart from the county, bearing an equal proportion of any taxation, on the basis of the assessment of 1848, for paying off the debentures issued for the construction of the Brock Road; leaving to Wellington the townships of Guelph, Puslinch, Eramosa, Erin, Nichol, the Pilkington Tract, Peel, Maryboro, Minto, Luther, Arthur and Amaranth. The County of Wellington, as thus constituted, was to have two representatives assigned to it in the Bill, while the former townships, with the north halves of Dumfries and Blenheim, were to be formed into the County of Waterloo, with one member. By the emphasis of public opinion, and the persistent opposition offered by the members from the constituencies more immediately interested, the bill was defeated at that time, though, as will be seen hereafter, a measure, so far as it affected this county, very similar in its tenor, was passed at a subsequent session.

During the sitting of the Legislature in August, a serious misunderstanding occurred between the House and the Press. While an import-

ant debate was in progress, Mr. (now Hon.) David Christie, left the floor of the House and stood near the desks assigned to the reporters, and carried on a conversation with some friends in so loud a tone that the speakers could not be distinctly heard, thus interfering very materially with the reporters in the discharge of their very onerous duties. Mr. George Ure, a reporter on the *Globe* staff, therefore politely requested Mr. Christie to speak in a little lower tone, or to move a little farther away from the reporters' desks. This Mr. Christie chose to construe into an insult, and brought the matter before the House as a question of privilege, and though Mr. Ure had sent him an apology, disclaiming any intention of insulting him or infringing upon the privileges of members, he insisted on the floor of the House that the offending reporter should be called to the bar and censured by Mr. Speaker, on the ground that the members of the Press were only admitted on sufferance, and had no rights which members were bound to respect. The House divided on the subject, the majority voting in favor of Mr. Christie's motion, and Mr. Ure was accordingly brought to the bar and mildly—very mildly—censured by Mr. Speaker, upon which the reporters withdrew from the House in a body, and being sustained in their action by the proprietors of the several papers, positively refused to return until some action had been taken by the House in reversal of the former proceedings, so that, with the exception of such fragmentary scraps of information as were volunteered by members, or gathered by private individuals, no reports of the proceedings of the remainder of that session were published. At the conclusion of the session, when hon. members went home, they were exceedingly surprised at the storm of public feeling which burst about their heads, those who had sustained Mr. Christie being condemned in the most unqualified manner, whilst the glorious minority, of whom Mr. Fergusson was one, were dined and feted all over the country. As Mr. Fergusson had taken so firm a stand in favor of the liberty of the Press, his constituents tendered him a banquet at Thorp's hotel, to express their disapproval of Mr. Christie's action, and their high appreciation of Mr. Fergusson's energetic opposition. About five hundred persons were present at the dinner, and a most emphatic vote of condemnation of the majority of the House was passed. Several other demonstrations of a similar character were got up in different parts of the country, at which Mr. Fergusson was tendered votes of thanks. The result was that at the commencement of the next session, it was found that, though the House did not feel disposed to reverse its action, a gallery had been built behind the Speaker, which not only offered better facilities for reporting, but prevented any interruption from members or any other persons. Thus, though not formally, yet practically, Mr. Christie was condemned by the Government and the country, and found that it is a hard thing to kick against the Press. Here, therefore, the matter was allowed to drop, and the first and last battle for the rights of the Press in Canadian parliaments was fought and won.

During the Spring of this year, Mr. Wm. Lyon Mackenzie visited Guelph, and it may be interesting to reproduce his evidence as to the prosperity of the town. The cry most industriously raised by interested parties several years before, and once before alluded to in these pages, that Guelph was a failure, had never been allowed entirely to drop, and considering that Mr. Mackenzie could not, remembering the unflinching opposition which Guelph offered to his faction in 1837, have any very deep love for the town, his evidence is valuable. In writing to the New York



*Tribune* he said:—"I went up the country last week as far as Guelph, and saw one 300 acre farm close to Dundas, which I was offered at \$1,200 thirty years since, but could not now obtain it for \$60,000. Guelph is 26 miles north of Dundas, by a new road, graveled and macadamized, and I had the pleasure to go up in the 'Guelph' coach (her first trip) and to return in the 'Prosperity,' new and comfortable stages. When at Guelph 16 years since, it consisted of a few houses—now it is a handsome well-laid out village, with many elegant residences and substantial stone and frame houses, and the capital of the rich county of Waterloo, so named after a prosperous Pennsylvania Dutch settlement of 35 years duration. In 1831, there was scarcely a passable road in the county; now two lines of stages leave Guelph thrice a day for Dundas and Hamilton by various routes, and one weekly line goes back to the Owen Sound settlement on Lake Huron, 85 miles distant."

The Act to amend the Municipal Act of 1849 was passed this year, by which those towns mentioned in Schedule D. omitted by an error, were incorporated, among them being Guelph. In this Act the limits and boundaries of the town are thus described:—"The Town of Guelph is to consist of all that part of this Province situate in the County of Waterloo, and lying within the following limits, that is to say:—Commencing at a point where the south-westerly side of the Edinburgh Road in the said County intersects the north-westerly side of the London Road produced in the said County; thence, north-east, in a course along the north-westerly side of the London Road, and crossing the river Speed, to the easterly bank thereof; thence, along the said easterly bank, down the stream, and following the course thereof to its junction with the Eramosa branch of the said river; thence, crossing the said Eramosa branch in a direct line, to the south-easterly bank thereof; thence down the united stream along the south-easterly bank thereof, and following the course thereof, to a point where the said south-easterly bank intersects the south-westerly side of the said Edinburgh Road produced; thence, north-west, following the course of the said road, to the place of beginning." It was provided that the election of the first Council should be held on the first Monday in January 1851, the Council to consist of five members, to be constituted precisely similar to the then existing Township Councils, a Reeve to be chosen from the number elected, he to be a member of the County Council. The qualification of Councillors was fixed at £100 real, or £200 personal property. It was further provided that when the population amounted to 3,000 persons, it should be lawful for the Governor-General, on petition of the existing Council, to issue a proclamation dividing the town into three wards, no ward to be less than 500 inhabitants. Three Councillors should then be chosen by each ward, and a Mayor chosen, in precisely the same manner as the Reeve.

During this year Mr. J. Thorp commenced running a line of stages to Hamilton, three times a week, the time occupied in the journey being about six and a half hours. The line was subsequently run daily and the time reduced to five hours.—The temperance movement having taken a strong hold in the town, a Division of the Sons of Temperance was formed by Rev. Mr. Dick, of Toronto, and a large membership was secured.—Martha Bourdon was tried on a charge of poisoning her husband with arsenic in Berlin, but upon the evidence of Drs. Orton and Clarke, to the effect that though death might have been produced by means of poison, it was possible that such was not the case, she was acquitted.—Mr. T. R. Brock, an old and very highly esteemed resident of the town,

who had for many years taken a prominent part in all the public matters, met with a fatal accident in September. He was going, with some of his children into the woods to shoot squirrels, and in crossing a log he struck his gun on the ground, and the charge exploded, discharging the contents of the gun in his breast, from the effects of which he died in a few hours. The Wellington Mills, now the People's Mills, were enlarged, and a joint stock company formed to work it, with Mr. Smith as the acting partner. This Company was shortly afterwards dissolved, and the mill was carried on by Smith, Lynch & Co., who added a bakery, and supplied bread at one penny per pound, about one fourth less than was being charged in Galt and other places. The partnership was subsequently dissolved and the mill was carried on by Fred. George & Co., for a considerable time.

In January 1851, the election of members of the Town Council under the new law took place, resulting in the election of Messrs. E. Carroll, S. Smith, J. Thorp, W. Stevenson and E. Hubbard. The first meeting of the Council took place January 20th, when Mr. Samuel Smith was chosen Reeve, and Mr. James Hough, who had resigned his position as Township Clerk, was appointed Clerk and Treasurer of the Town of Guelph. Thus was the town erected into an independent corporation, and completely severed from the township, of which it had hitherto formed a part, and in connection with which its business had been conducted. Previous to this all nominations and appointment of officers, as well as the transaction of a variety of other public business, had usually taken place in the Market House, which building, as already described, consisted simply of a roof supported by posts. The annual elections were always held days for wiping off old scores of dissatisfaction contracted during the year, and for the perpetration of all manner of jokes by the waggishly inclined among the free and independent electors, who would sometimes make the most incongruous and ridiculous nominations, as, for instance, nominating an unpopular reeve for the position of poundmaster. The mode of taking the vote was also of the most simple kind, not trammelled with any of the protracted forms of modern conventions or voting by ballot, but literally a counting of polls, the electors passing through a narrow gate, and the Returning Officer touching each on the head as he passed, first those in favor of a motion or nomination, and then those against. As may be imagined, the rules of order were not very rigidly observed, and much fun and merriment were invariably extracted from the proceedings, the day usually winding up by all parties interested drowning their differences in a flowing bowl at Thorp's or some other hostelry.

The first meeting of the Township Council was held January 20th, the members being Messrs. B. Thurtell, R. Boyd, William Logan, J. Tolton and T. Hood. Mr. B. Thurtell was elected Reeve, and at a subsequent meeting Mr. R. F. Budd was appointed clerk. The first meeting of the new County Council was held on Monday, January 27th, the following being the members present: Arthur, J. McA. Cameron; Bentineck, Alexander Smith; Derby, R. Carney; Erin, W. Clarke and Donald McBain; Eramosa, T. Armstrong; Egremont, J. Brown; Guelph, B. Thurtell; Guelph Town, Samuel Smith; Garafraxa, J. Donaldson; Glenelg, Peter Watson; Holland, Thomas Willoughby; Maryborough, Hugh Hollinshead; Nichol, John Valentine; Normanby, John Robertson; Peel, C. O'Callaghan and J. Wilson; Puslinch, J. Cockburn and T. Ellis; Sydenham, Thomas Lunn; Sullivan, W. Halliday; Waterloo, Elias Snyder and H. Snyder; Wellesley, John Hawke and G. Hawke; Wilmot, J. Ernst and A. Kaiser; Woolwich, John Meyers and E. Passmore. Mr.

Thurtell was unanimously elected Warden, and Mr. A. Stephens and Mr. T. Heffernan were appointed auditors.

The church of St. George, to the building of which reference has already been made, was now found to be quite inadequate to the accommodation of the rapidly increasing congregation, and it was therefore determined to build a larger edifice, of stone, the corner stone of which was laid July 17th, 1851, by Rev. Arthur Palmer, assisted by Rev. E. M. Stewart, Assistant Minister; Rev. J. G. Geddes, Hamilton; Rev. M. Boomer, Galt; Mr. Sheriff Grange, Mr. R. Jackson, Col. W. Hewat, churchwardens, and others. In the afternoon a sermon was preached by Rev. M. Boomer, from 1st Peter, i. 1-5; after which the ceremony of laying the stone was performed. The Building Committee consisted of Messrs. F. W. Stone, James Wilson, G. J. Grange, A. A. Baker, W. H. Parker and Frederick Marcon, together with the Rector. The architect was Mr. William Thomas, and Messrs. John Worthington, John Harrison and James Thompson were the contractors. In the bottle placed in the stone were deposited: a parchment roll, inscribed with the names given above, Report of the Church Society for 1850, Charge of the Bishop of Toronto, delivered May 1851, Visitation sermon preached by Rev. A. Palmer, Scobie's Almanac for 1851, Circular from the Rector to the parishioners, Appeal to the members of the Church in the Mother Country, Programme of Ceremonies used on this occasion, The *Church* of July 10th, *Guelph Advertiser* of the 3rd July, and the *Guelph HERALD* of the 15th July. The estimated cost of the new building was £2,500, and the work was at once commenced, but the original design was never fully carried out, only a part of the contemplated stone building being erected, as an addition to the original wooden structure. The work was completed in the course of a few months.

For some time a scheme had been under consideration to erect a new Market House, and in February of this year it took definite shape by the circulation of a subscription list, the heading of which was as follows:—"PROSPERITY TO GUELPH!—Proposal to raise ONE THOUSAND POUNDS, to build a NEW MARKET HOUSE!!—The Agriculturists of Guelph and adjoining Townships have long felt the want of some Public Mart, to which they might resort for the purpose of turning their Produce into CASH; and the Inhabitants of this Town having also long felt the want of such a place of general accommodation, the Undersigned hereby agree to take the numbers of Shares opposite their respective names, in the above important undertaking; such shares to be 5/ each, and to be called up in installments of 20s each, at intervals of three months. A Committee of Management to be appointed when half the amount shall have been subscribed." The estimated cost of the new building was £1500, debentures for which sum were to be issued, redeemable at 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 years, the expectation being that the profits derived from the fees would be sufficient to meet the payments which would then become due. A public meeting was called to consider the matter, when it was announced that 121 shares at £5 each had already been subscribed, which amount was ready for investment in debentures, but great opposition was offered to the scheme by Dr. Clarke and many others, and a very warm discussion ensued, during which interested motives were imputed to the promoters, various recriminatory charges were made, the meeting finally separating without any definite action being taken. Another meeting was held shortly afterwards, but in the interim Dr. Clarke and his friends had organized a powerful opposition, and upon the question being put to

the meeting whether the work should be undertaken or not, it was decided by a large majority that they did not want a Market House, and would not have it at any price, at least for the present.

The railway mania had by this time fairly taken possession of the country, and Guelph had become infected with the contagion. In this case, unlike many others at that time, the desire for railway communication was a most laudable one, and the building of a line to bring the town into direct communication with some large business centre and shipping port was absolutely necessary to the prosperity of the town, and as the Great Western, with its contemplated branch to Galt, which was already being spoken of, would cut off a large portion of the trade from the town, it was of the most vital importance that a like advantage should be secured for Guelph. The question was therefore brought formally before the County Council in July, and a proposition was made that £25,000 stock should be taken in the proposed Toronto and Guelph railway, a scheme which would secure to this town much greater advantages than Galt would derive from the contemplated branch of the Great Western to that town. A public meeting was accordingly called to consider the proposition of the County Council, and the enthusiasm in favor of the plan was of the most intense description, and a deputation was at once appointed to proceed to Toronto to confer with the Directors of the Company on the subject, when it was arranged that if the amount named were voted for the railway, Guelph should be made the terminus of the road for the present, and should always be a first-class station. Subsequently a fusion of the rival companies, the Toronto and Goderich and Toronto and Lake Huron railways, and, a bill incorporating the Toronto and Guelph Railway Co. having passed the Legislature in August, the scheme was fairly floated, and on the news being brought to Guelph the excitement was most intense, cannon roaring and bonfires blazing in every direction. Shortly afterwards a by-law to grant the sum of £25,000 was submitted to the ratepayers, and carried by 112 to 6. In the Township a similar by-law was carried by 130 to 4, for granting £10,000, and by-laws were carried in other townships making grants of various amounts.

Attracted doubtless by the splendid success which had attended the efforts of the promoters of the Toronto and Guelph Railway, a deputation, consisting of Mr. (now Hon.) Isaac Buchanan, Mr. A. Kerr and Mr. R. Juson, soon afterwards arrived from Hamilton, asking for a grant of £3,000 per mile, to enable the Great Western Railway to continue their branch line from Galt to Guelph. The deputation was very cordially received, and the proposal very favorably considered, at a public meeting called by Sheriff Grange at the Court House, but, though, as will be seen hereafter, the work was subsequently completed, no action was taken in the matter at that time.

In September of this year the agency of the Canada Company, which had up to that time been held by Mr. F. Marcon, was discontinued, and all books and documents were removed to the head office in Toronto.—In December the Guelph Horticultural Society was formed, with Mr. A. A. Baker as President, Messrs. W. S. G. Knowles, J. T. Tracy and W. Benham Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Robert Sunley, Secretary-Treasurer.

In the last session of the Legislature an Act had been passed, temporarily uniting the counties of Waterloo, Wellington and Grey for municipal and judicial purposes, and also for parliamentary representation, the entire district covering 150 square miles, and consisting of 33 townships,

each of which sent a reeve, and some of them deputy reeves also, to the Council, so that, with the reeves of Guelph, Galt and Preston, the Council consisted of 45 members. The first meeting was held January 26th, 1852, Dr. Clarke being the member from Guelph, and Mr. Thurtell from Guelph Township. The members of the Town Council for 1852 were Dr. Clarke, Reeve; Messrs. J. Smith, G. Sunley, W. S. G. Knowles and Dr. Orton.

In January the Puslinch Agricultural Club was formed into a separate organization, so as to be entitled to their share of the Government grant made at the last session of Parliament. The President was Mr. John Cockburn, Vice-President Mr. John Hammersley, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. David Stirton. The Guelph Township Agricultural Society was formed at about the same time, in a few days 112 persons having subscribed not less than five shillings each to the funds. At the first meeting there were present, among others:—Messrs. James Wright, Richard Jackson, James Loghrin, A. A. Baker, J. McCrea, J. Harland and D. Allan, Col. Hewat, Drs. Clarke and Liddell, Messrs. William Day, John Mitchell, James Davie, Thomas Card, A. Quarry, Joseph Jackson, John Card, Robert Scott, George Pearson, W. Nicholson, F. Marcon, A. Fisk, J. T. Tracy, W. Jackson, John Day, George Harvey, E. A. Harland, W. H. Parker, Arthur Hogge, Henry Watson, George Murton, Henry Lynch, C. Davis, J. C. Wilson, John Sauvey, G. Pirie, John Thorp, James Grahame and others. After the objects and nature of the society had been explained, and some able speeches had been delivered, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. R. Jackson; Vice-President, Mr. John McCrea; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. J. Harland; Directors, Messrs. James Wright, A. Hogge, W. Whitelaw, E. Hubbard, A. Ritchie, J. Card, R. Campbell, A. Quarrie and J. Davie.

About this time an advertisement was published by the Canada Company, offering for sale the lower portion of the Market Square. This, as may be imagined, created no small consternation in the town, especially among those who owned property in that neighborhood, and a public meeting was called, at which a resolution was unanimously passed calling upon the Council to take such steps as might be necessary to prevent such an encroachment on the rights of property owners, and such a high-handed confiscation of what had always been looked upon as Town property. The Council consequently obtained the advice of Mr. Fergusson, and the opinion of eminent counsel in Toronto, the result being that the case was thrown into Chancery, where it continued pending for a long time. At length the trial took place, when some score or more of witnesses were subpoenaed from Guelph, and in course of evidence it was clearly shown that on all the maps published by the Company the land in question was distinctly marked "Market Square," and, also, that in all sales of land in that vicinity, it had been clearly stated by the agents of the Company that it had been reserved as an open space for market purposes in perpetuity, upon which representations the adjacent lots had been considered far more valuable than those more remote. In reply to this the Company asserted that their agents had never been authorized to make such statements, but the Court held that the fact that all the agents had made the same representations, together with the evidence afforded by the maps, if not conclusive proof that it had been the intention of the Company so to reserve the land for a market as contended by the Town, was sufficient to entitle the Town to retain the land, and judgment was given accordingly, thus securing the land in question as a market place

or for such municipal purposes as might be lawful, for ever. The Town Council this year was composed of—Dr. Clarke, Reeve; Messrs. W. S. G. Knowles, Dr. Orton, G. Sunley and J. Pipe.

Early in this year another important step was taken in constituting Guelph a first-class town, and in affording to the inhabitants the facilities for rapid communication enjoyed by other places. In the course of the previous year the Montreal, or Grand Trunk Telegraph Company, had been vigorously engaged in extending their lines to various important points in Upper Canada, and in January of this year a deputation arrived in Guelph to ascertain how far the town would be likely to support an office here, and to what extent financial assistance would be granted in bringing the lines to this point. The Company asked a bonus of £375 for that purpose. A meeting was called to lay the matter before the people, and in a very short time the requisite amount was fully subscribed, and the work at once commenced, so that in June an office was opened, adjoining Thorp's Hotel, and from the commencement to the present time has proved one of the most remunerative offices, for a town of this size, in Canada.

In the Upper Canada *Gazette* of January 22nd a proclamation was issued, erecting Waterloo into a separate county for all purposes, with Berlin as the County Town, much to the chagrin of the people of Galt, who had for some years been agitating the movement, with the expectation that that would be the county seat. The new county was adjudged to assume £3,809 as its proportion of the debt which had been incurred in building the Guelph and Dundas Road and for other purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the Act 12 Vic. cap. 78, sec. 15. At the meeting of the County Council in Guelph on January 24th, therefore, only the members of the counties of Wellington and Grey were present, those two counties still remaining united. In this council Messrs. B. Thurtell and Thomas Hood were the members for Guelph Township, and Dr. Clarke for the Town. Dr. Clarke was elected Warden by a vote of 15 to 13.

In March a bill was passed giving to the County of Wellington two representatives in Parliament, the county being divided into the North and South Ridings. The following were the townships, with the population of each, in the respective ridings:

NORTH RIDING.		SOUTH RIDING.	
Nichol.....	2,459	Guelph Township.....	2,870
Garafraxa.....	2,083	Guelph Town.....	1,860
Pilkington.....	1,990	Puslinch.....	3,862
Peel.....	2,455	Eramosa.....	2,350
Maryborough.....	994	Erin.....	3,590
Amaranth.....	335		
Arthur, Luther and Minto....	1,803		
Total.....	12,119	Total.....	14,541

For a considerable time the bridge across the *Sjæd* at the Eramosa Road, known at that time as the Breakneck Bridge, had been in a very dilapidated condition, and it was now determined to replace it with an iron structure, at a cost of about £700. During the succeeding summer the present bridge was erected by Mr. John Watt, the approaches on either side being graded at the same time.

The old cemetery, situated in the angle between Wyndham and Woolwich streets, having been condemned, a plot of land, consisting of

forty acres, situated in the Scotch Block, on the Elora Road, was purchased for the sum of £600, and during the summer was partially laid out and fenced. By a special arrangement, ten acres of this was set apart as an Episcopal cemetery, in connection with St. George's Church.

The Guelph and Galt Railway was now in a fair way of becoming an accomplished fact. In September, 1853, a rivalry sprung up between Galt and Preston as to which town should be the terminus of the road, and some sharp practice was resorted to by the Galtonians to secure the largest representation on the Board of Directors. Many straw men were induced to take shares for which they never expected to pay, and for which they never would be in a position to pay, in order to secure an additional number of votes in the election of Directors. Galt thought it was all secure, when, to their surprise and mortification, it was found that the day before the stock books closed, previous to the election, a bar-tender in Preston, named McCracken, had signed his name for shares to the amount of £25,000, thus securing 1,000 votes, a *coup* which fairly staggered the Galt people, and completely swamped them in the election. Of course McCracken never paid a shilling for the shares, notwithstanding that a suit was commenced—though not proceeded with—to compel him to do so. Previous to this Guelph had subscribed for £10,000 of stock. Mr. Sheriff Grange was elected President of the Company, and he turned the first sod, near Galt, May 12, 1854. In September, 1853, ground was broken at Berlin for the Guelph and Sarnia Railway, a work which was vigorously proceeded with.

In December, 1853, Mr. George Brown came to Guelph by invitation of the Reformers to deliver an address on the political questions of the day, and a large number of persons assembled to hear him. Unfortunately for the harmony of the meeting, however, some of the Conservatives, with a section of the Reformers, had sent an invitation to Mr. Wm. Lyon Mackenzie to be present, probably as much for a joke as anything else, and he arrived soon after Mr. Brown had commenced speaking. This was the signal for a general disturbance, the Reformers having announced that Mr. Mackenzie should not be allowed to speak, a privilege which the Conservatives were equally determined should be accorded him. So great and uncontrollable did the interruption eventually become, that the Reformers adjourned to the Temperance Hall, and Mr. Mackenzie addressed those who remained.

The members of the Town Council this year were: Mr. W. S. G. Knowles, Reeve; Messrs. John Pipe, John Harris, W. Stevenson and Dr. Clarke.

By virtue of a proclamation published in the *Gazette* in September, 1853, the County of Grey was set apart for municipal, judicial and electoral purposes. The first meeting of the Wellington County Council was held January 23rd, 1854, the following being the names of the members:—Amaranth, John Currie; Arthur, Robert Morrison; Eramosa, D. Black; Erin, William Clarke, Robert L. Campbell; Guelph Town, W. S. G. Knowles; Guelph Township, James Wright, George Shortreed; Garafraxa, J. Donaldson, John Dobbin; Maryboro', Samuel Robertson; Nichol, James Ross; Peel (a double return), William Stutridge and P. O'Reilly; J. Wilton and G. Molloy; Pilkington, Hugh Roberts; Puslinch, J. Cockburn, D. Stirton. Mr. James Wright was elected Warden. Some alterations having become necessary in the arrangements for holding Division Courts, the following Divisions were adopted: No. 1, Guelph Town and Township; No. 2, Puslinch; No. 3, Eramosa; No. 4, Nichol



concessions 1 to 10 in Garafraxa, and Peel from the 4th concession eastward; No. 5, Erin, Amaranth, East Luther, and Garafraxa; No. 6, Pilkington, concessions 11 to 14, inclusive of Peel; No. 7, Peel, concessions 1 to 10 inclusive, and West Maryborough; No. 8, Arthur, East Maryborough, Minto and West Luther.

At about this time the *Guelph Mercury* was first published, under the management of Mr. G. M. Keeling, who had for a time, in 1848, had the management of the *Advertiser*, which paper, now, under the management of Mr. John Smith, who had resumed control some years previously, was published tri-weekly.

The Baldwin administration, having been defeated on a question relating to the Clergy Reserves, a dissolution of Parliament took place, and on July 17th the nomination for South Wellington took place, when Mr. A. J. Fergusson was returned without opposition. The nomination in the North Riding took place the following day, the candidates being Dr. Clarke, of Guelph, Conservative, and Mr. George Barron, of Elora, Reformer. The canvass had been vigorously prosecuted by the Reformers for several months, but notwithstanding that, and the fact that Mr. Barron was far better known in that part of the county, Dr. Clarke was elected by an overwhelming majority.

In August the county sustained a severe loss by the death of two of the most prominent citizens. The first was that of Mr. Wm. D. Powell, Judge of the County and Surrogate Courts, a position which he had held since the retirement of Judge Fergusson in 1847, and the duties of which he had discharged with the greatest satisfaction to the entire community, and in which, though still a comparatively young man, he had acquitted himself in such a manner as to command the respect of the entire legal profession, and the warmest esteem of all with whom he came into contact, not only for his conduct on the bench, but also for his self-sacrificing labors in promoting all movements for the interests of the town. He died suddenly August 20th from epilepsy, superinduced by fatigue and exposure in driving from place to place in the discharge of his duties, in the various parts of the large counties of Wellington and Grey, over which his jurisdiction extended. A few days afterwards another useful citizen was removed, in the person of Mr. B. Thurtell, who, with the exception of two or three years, had represented Guelph Township in the District and County Councils from 1841, and had several times held the honorable position of Warden.

In October a serious fire occurred on Wyndham and Macdonnell streets, in which about a dozen of the best stores in the town were burned, the loss amounting to several thousand pounds. In December another fire occurred in the new buildings recently erected by Dr. Clarke on Wyndham and Quebec streets, the Doctor's loss being about £1,000, and others losing property to the value of £500 more.

Guelph had latterly been attracting considerable attention, not only throughout Canada, but also in the United States, on account of the important position it was assuming in manufactories and general commerce, and also from the large quantities of grain and fine cattle sent from its market. As an indication of the interest felt in the town, it may be mentioned that the *International Journal*, in September 1854, published a description of the town, which, though in some particular not quite correct, and in some respects partial in its notices of manufactories and buildings, may be worth reproducing here. It says:—"Guelph (commonly pronounced Gwelf,) lies 14 miles north from Galt, and nearly 100 miles

from Goderich on Lake Huron, to which there are daily stages over fine roads. Guelph was founded by Mr. Galt, the Canada Land Company's Agent or general Superintendent, about 20 years ago, and in 1850 the population was 4,399. The houses are scattered over a large and rolling surface, and contrary to the usual order in Canadian cities and towns, many of the streets radiate from a central, open space, as the streets in Washington, D. C., radiate in all directions from the Capitol. The river Speed flows past the town, affording by a gradual fall of about 30 feet, a valuable water privilege for mills or other machinery. One gentleman, Frederick George, Esq., who came to the country a few years ago, as a farmer, has now upon the Speed, a flour mill with four run of stones, to which workmen are preparing to put in an addition of four pairs more. On the opposite side of the Speed, and connected with this mill by platform and railway, there is a distillery, capable of using nearly 200 bushels of grain per day, and adjoining this there is a piggery containing 200 sleek-looking "porkers." The same proprietor has on his premises a saw-mill, a tannery, and a building used for a foundry, which are leased to tenants. Besides these he has about 1200 feet of land fronting on either side of the Speed, with sufficient water power to drive the machinery in any buildings that may be erected on the premises for manufacturing purposes. The dam across the river is built of stone, and is amply secured from accident. There are two other Grist Mills in the town, owned by Mr. Wm. Allan, and Mr. Jas. Present; a distillery by Mr. Allan; a Brewery by Mr. Williams, and another by Mr. Hodgert; and five malt kilns, owned by different individuals. There are three foundries in Guelph. The establishment of Mr. John Watt gives employment to over 60 men. The machine shop is in a large three-story stone building, the first and second stories of which are used for manufacturing and general machine work, the third for preparing patterns, &c., and the attic or half-story, is used as a pattern loft. In an L, or wing of the main building, is the moulding and casting room; the blacksmith work being done in an adjoining building. Steam engines and boilers, mill work, stoves and agricultural implements, are manufactured at this establishment. The Foundry and Tin-ware Manufactory of Smith, Mathewson & Co., is devoted to stoves, agricultural implements, &c., and is a neat and well arranged establishment. The other foundry is that of Mr. A. Robertson, devoted to general castings and machinery. The tannery of Mr. John Harvey is very extensive, and turns out annually about 5000 sides of sole leather, besides upper leather and kipskins. Mr. Gow has a large tannery in operation, and there are three others in the suburbs of the town, owned by Mr. Jackson, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Horning. A fanning-mill manufactory is carried on by Mr. James Mays, where fanners capable of cleaning a bushel of wheat per minute, are made and sold for \$25 each. There is a chair factory in the town, carried on by Mr. Allen, and a number of furniture manufactories, some of which are aided by steam or water power, and use the most approved machinery for expeditious work. Over the door of the ware-room of one of these establishments, we noticed, on a sign in large letters: "Boston Rocking Chairs," but whether that offered for sale was the genuine article or only an imitation, we did not inquire. In the suburbs of the town, there is a woollen factory in operation, by Messrs. Campbell & Co. Thorp's Hotel is a good house and well conducted. The proprietor has realized a fortune from its fruits, and is erecting his "Castle" on a beautiful hill-side in the suburbs, to which he will retire. The Hotel will be let, and is now in

the market. The Grand Trunk Railway will pass near it, and will be opened to Toronto within a year, and the Galt branch of the Great Western will be extended in a few months to the town. The "Wellington," by William Hood, is a commodious house; and we notice the "Farmer's Arms" by Wm. Underhill, the "Railroad Inn" by Wm. Temple, and "Mechanic's Arms" by Thomas Ingraham, &c. A new hotel, of large size, has been erected, and is ready for a tenant; it is built of stone, with narrow doors, narrow windows, &c., and has altogether too much of the stiff, strait-jacket appearance for the modern taste and fancy of travellers. Were a stranger in search of a nunnery he would as likely direct his steps to the new hotel as to the convent on the hill, for they are as near alike, externally, as can well be conceived. However, travellers will not quarrel about the exterior of a hotel if the *table d'hôte*, and other essentials, come up to their reasonable ideas of comfort. Guelph has a tri-weekly, and three weekly papers, and an intelligent, social, hospitable, and enterprising community."

The limits of the town having been considerably enlarged, and it being expected that this would be the last council under the existing arrangements, before the regular incorporation, the election for councillors in January 1855 was very hotly contested, as it was thought very probable that the members of the council this year would have a very fair chance of election under the new law, when the head of the Corporation would be the Mayor, instead of the Reeve. On the day of nomination, therefore, a large crowd assembled, and great excitement prevailed, each of the candidates being very popular, and the difficulty with most of the electors appearing to be, whom they should select. The nomination took place at the Court House, on January 1st. Mr. S. H. Garrard nominated Messrs. J. Harris, J. Watt, J. Pipe, J. Smith and P. Gow, who were seconded by Mr. Geo. Pirie. Mr. J. W. B. Kelly nominated Messrs. J. Harris, J. Watt, Wm. Stevenson, Robt. Scott and W. S. G. Knowles. All these gentlemen went to the poll, but after about an hour Mr. Scott retired. At about three o'clock on the second day Mr. Stevenson also retired, having polled in the two days 56 votes. At the close of the poll the votes stood as follows:—Harris—182, Gow—178, Watt—170, Pipe—169, Smith—148, Knowles—140, showing a remarkably close run. Messrs. Harris, Gow, Watt, Pipe and Smith were therefore declared elected, and at the first meeting of the Council, on January 16th. Mr. John Smith was chosen Reeve.

The members of the Township Council for this year were, Mr. T. Hood (reeve), Mr. W. Whitelaw (deputy reeve), Mr. G. Shortreed, Mr. M. Sweetnam and Mr. R. Cooper. The meetings of the Council were held at Blyth's hotel, the sum of £15 being paid for the accommodation.

One of the first subjects which claimed the attention of the ratepayers this year was a proposed Bill to amend the Galt and Guelph Railway Act, among the proposed provisions of which were, the giving to each municipality subscribing for stock in the Company, certain representation on the Board of Directors; the extension of the railway from Guelph to Owen Sound; the building of a branch to some suitable point on the northerly part of the eastern shore of Lake Huron; and also an extension from Preston to Berlin, and thence to some suitable point on Lake Huron; and also an extension from Preston to Paris; to increase the amount of stock from £140,000 to £1,500,000, and to increase the amount the Company was authorized to borrow by their Act of Incorporation from £50,000 to £1,000,000. To this Bill there was great opposition,

when the full meaning of its provisions were explained to the people, which, however, was not until it had nearly slipped through a second reading. Subsequently an amended Bill was brought in, giving to each municipality subscribing £5000 a seat at the Board; allowing the construction of the extension from Guelph to Sydenham, or some suitable place near that village, and also the extension from Preston to Berlin, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. It also provided for the increase of the capital from £140,000 to £550,000. A further proviso was that the Owen Sound, or Sydenham line should not be commenced until £350,000 of the stock was taken, and 10 per cent. paid thereon; nor the one to Berlin until £50,000 stock should be taken, with the like proportion paid. Sections 5 and 6 provided that as the Great Western Railway and the Galt & Guelph Railway Companies were desirous of entering into an arrangement for the working and leasing of the road, power should be given to the said Companies to make arrangements for that purpose, the Great Western to grant assistance, by providing iron, &c., for the railway, or to build and finish the works of the Galt and Guelph Company, the amount of such advance or assistance to be a first charge on the works. The extension to Owen Sound was to be commenced within three years and finished within seven years. By a final arrangement, made in October, Guelph subscribed an additional amount, making the total stock held by the Town £20,000, this action being endorsed by a public meeting held October 4th, and effected by the Council a few days later.

Throughout the whole of the British Empire a movement, which originated in London, England, and the ramifications of which extended wherever the English tongue was spoken, had for some time been in operation, for the raising of a fund, known as the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of the widows and orphans, and others who suffered by the consequences of the Crimean war, which at this time did not appear likely to cease for some time. Appeals were published, and sent to every city, town and village throughout the British possessions, for contributions towards this noble object, and everywhere were they right nobly responded to. In Canada, the modes of raising contributions were various, in many places the favorite mode being by a regular assessment, and among other places Toronto and Hamilton adopted this plan, but Guelph, true to the benevolent instincts which had always characterized it, as in the case of the appeal for help for the poor suffering Irish people when the potato famine brought such misery and suffering on that fair land, resolved to adopt the voluntary principle, the people preferring to give what they had to give freely, rather than have their benevolent offerings put upon the basis of an ordinary tax. In other places the amount of the assessment was in the proportion of £100 for every 1,000 inhabitants, which would have made the sum to be raised in Guelph about £300, had this method of raising the money been adopted. Toronto and Hamilton did, with some difficulty, and also with some expense, raise the sums expected from them, but Guelph did more. Here, hundreds of willing and energetic workers were found, among all classes, young and old, and instead of the £300 which was expected from Guelph, upwards of £450 was soon raised and forwarded to headquarters, being more than half as much again in proportion to the number of inhabitants as was raised in the cities where the assessment was made, and where, in some instances, there was no little dissatisfaction expressed at being compelled to *pay*, whether the people would or not. That the benevolence of Guelph was

duly appreciated, even in the cities where the tax was adopted, may be readily inferred from the following, clipped from the *Toronto Old Countryman*, which was only one newspaper in a hundred which made the graceful acknowledgement of Guelph's superior benevolence:

"The only *community* in Canada in which there appears to be any enthusiasm about the Patriotic Fund is the little town of Guelph. There they seem to be proudly conscious that there is 'no disgrace in poverty honestly come by.' The rich have given of their abundance, and the poor of their penury, and the scores who have placed their published names opposite sums of sevenpence halfpenny and threepence, are worthy of all praise, and will in no wise lose their reward. This noble feeling will reflect eternal honor upon the whole district. Perchance the very name of their town, being that of the royal lady who occupies the proudest throne in Christendom, may have its influence, as well as the fact that many of its inhabitants are countrymen of him who is the father of the future kings of England, and the husband of their gracious Queen. Nobly, right loyally done, men of Guelph! We devoutly wish that there was something of the same good spirit in other places we wot of. Your donations have been heartily given, and may He who seeth in secret one day reward you openly, for this your free-will offering to 'the fatherless and the widows' in their bereavement."

Among the leading members of the County Agricultural Society, none had for many years been more active and zealous in promoting the interests of the farmers, both by his efficient and untiring exertions, as secretary and treasurer, and by his practical suggestions whenever an opportunity offered, than Mr. John Harland. It was therefore determined to make some acknowledgment of his services, and a subscription was taken up among the members of the association for this purpose, and on the evening of March 24th a dinner was given in his honor at the British Hotel, a very large number of gentlemen from all parts of the county being present. After dinner Mr. John McCrae, in the name of the Society, presented him with an address, which, besides alluding to his general usefulness, contained the following passages: "Your general knowledge of agriculture, the first and most noble employment given to man, pointed you out as the most fit and proper person to organize the Agricultural Society for this fine county, of which you have been and are so distinguished a member, and in the success of which you have been so devoted an advocate. To you the continued progress of the Society, and the advantages thereof brought before the public, must in the main be attributed, for although you may have been directed and encouraged by the body of the Directors, yet without your constant aid and advice, the various presidents and directors never would have brought the Society into successful working order. Again, as a member of the Board of Agriculture, and your essay on the capabilities of our county, brought your name before the public, and made known to the Province the fitness of the soil of our county to bring all the cereal productions of the earth to perfection, as well as the capabilities to raise the finest stock in Canada, encouraging the industrious immigrant to make a settlement among us." The address was accompanied by a presentation of a handsome cup, salver and snuff-box, all in silver, manufactured in Toronto.

For two or three years past, it had been evident that some action would have to be taken by the School Trustees to provide a Central School building, those buildings then in use being altogether inadequate to the accommodation of the large and ever increasing number of chil-

dren in attendance. In 1854, therefore, a committee of the Board was appointed to obtain information respecting sites which might be available for the erection of a suitable building, and reported :—1st. That there are within the Corporation upwards of eight hundred children between the ages of five and sixteen years. 2nd. That the two School Houses belonging to the town will not accommodate more than one-fourth of that number; also, that one building is in a bad state of repair, and situate so near the Railway that it would be advisable to remove from it altogether. 3rd. That the Trustees have been under the necessity of hiring school accommodation at the cost of about thirty-five pounds per annum;—they have also received notice from the landlord of the Female School Room that he will require it for other purposes at midsummer, and that the school house at present in charge of Mr. Hough, may be required in like manner, as the term for which it was rented expires at that time. 4th. That under the present management the Trustees employ four Teachers, at an aggregate salary of three hundred and twenty pounds a year. The Committee would therefore recommend the selection of a suitable site of not less than one acre in a central part of the town, and the building of a School House of sufficient dimensions to accommodate the present and fast increasing school population, and place the same under the management of one efficient Head Teacher, where all the advantages of centralization will be acquired without a large additional outlay to the ratepayers. No definite action was taken on this matter until April 1855, when a largely attended meeting was held at the Court House to consider the question. It was then announced that offers had been made for the sale to the Board of lots 1046, 1047, 1051 and 1052, comprising about an acre of ground, on the crown of the hill, adjoining the Catholic church property, which might be had for £445. After some discussion it was decided to purchase these lots, but, as will appear later on, no steps were taken for some time towards the erection of the proposed building, temporary accommodation being found in other places.

Up to this time the Methodist body had been worshipping in a small building, which had long since become too small for them, and during the winter of 1854-5, an energetic effort had been made to raise subscriptions for the erection of a commodious stone church, on the corner of Norfolk and Cork Streets. These efforts had been so far successful, that in April of this year a sufficient sum had been raised to warrant the commencement of the building, and on the 23rd of April the foundation stone was laid. A short service was held in the church then in use, immediately adjoining the site of the new building, after which the congregation adjourned to where the corner stone was to be laid, which, after the usual preliminary services, was performed by Mr. John McLean. In the cavity of the stone Mr. Wm. Day placed a bottle, containing the following :—The name of His Excellency the Governor-General of this Province. The date when this bottle was deposited, and this foundation stone laid; and the name of the gentleman who laid it. The names of the ministers present on this occasion. The names of the President of the Canada Conference of the Wesleyan Church, and of the Chairman of the District and Superintendent of the Circuit. The names of the Trustees of the Guelph Wesleyan Church. The names of the Ladies of the Guelph Wesleyan Bazaar. The names of the Choir. The number of members belonging to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Town of Guelph. The names of the gentlemen composing the Town Council, and Municipal Officers; population of the Town of Guelph for 1853;

annual assessment of real and personal property in the Town of Guelph for the year 1854—duly authenticated by the seal of the municipality. Names of County Officers and other gentlemen. Names of the Members of Parliament. Names of the Contractors and Architect. Copies of the Guelph *HERALD*, *Advertiser*, *Mercury*, and the *Christian Guardian* and some small coins. Addresses were then delivered by Mr. John McLean, Mr. Wm. Day, Rev. Lewis Warner, pastor, and Rev. G. Goodson, of St. Catharines former pastor, after which a soiree was held in the old chapel, when several addresses were delivered, and a number of anthems sung by the choir. The estimated cost of the building was £2,400, the contractors being, for the stone work, Mr. Freeman, and for the wood work, Messrs. Hatt & Robinson.

In May, Mr. John Pipe, in consequence of the pressure of business, which required his presence in England for a few months, resigned his seat at the Council Board, he at the same time stating that he considered the business to come before the Council during the year of so much importance, that he could not consent to have his place at the Board vacant so long. The resignation was, of course, accepted, and in the following week Mr. Fred. George and Mr. George Elliott were brought forward as candidates for the vacant seat. The election was very close, but resulted in the election of Mr. George, by a majority of nine votes only.

In the early part of this year the Baptists in the town had taken steps to erect a place of worship, they previously having been compelled to meet in a school-house. Funds were soon raised, and a neat frame chapel erected on Norfolk Street, and on Sunday, July 8th, it was opened for Divine worship. The Rev. Mr. Booker, of Hamilton, preached in the forenoon, selecting for his text Nehemiah, 2nd chap., and 20th verse: "The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build." The Rev. Mr. Clarke, of Nassagaweya, preached in the afternoon and evening, on both occasions from Genesis, 29th chap., 17th verse, last clause: "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." The different discourses were alike earnest, evangelical, and appropriate, and the chapel was well filled at each service. On Monday evening, a soiree was held in the chapel, which was well attended. The provisions made for the sustentation of the outward man was profuse, and highly creditable to the ladies of the congregation. On removal of the tables, Mr. E. Hubbard was called to the chair, and after the assembly had joined in singing and in prayer, addresses appropriate to the occasion, and marked by much brotherly feeling and catholicity of spirit, were delivered by the Revs. McDougall and Booker, and other gentlemen present. The sum realized at the different services amounted to about £20.

Towards the close of the year the interest in the contemplated incorporation of Guelph as a town gradually increased, and some warm discussions were held on the subject. Up to this time Guelph had ranked in schedule D. in the Municipal Act, and was called a town only by virtue of its being the seat of the county buildings and offices. Now it was proposed to place it in schedule B., and to divide it into wards, with an increased number of councillors and with a Mayor as the presiding officer. The *HERALD* and *Advertiser* both advocated this measure, but the *Mercury* opposed it, Mr. G. Keeling, the editor of that paper making some most absurd and extravagant statements with respect to the proposed change, with a view to influence persons to sign a petition against the proposed incorporation. Among the other bugbears conjured up by this



gentleman to frighten the people, was the statement that the incorporation would entail upon the town an additional expenditure of about £1200, £400 as salary for the Mayor, £250 or £300 for a Chamberlain, besides payment of Councillors and an endless array of officers of various grades. This was represented as necessary under the Act, although in fact the Act provided that the payment of the Mayor and Councillors should be altogether optional. The other two papers in harmony with the great body of the ratepayers, urged that the town having reached the requisite status as to population—3000,—was in duty to itself, and in defence of the business interests of the inhabitants, bound to take the necessary steps for incorporation, and so maintain its position among the neighboring municipalities, some of which were petitioning for such incorporation even before they had acquired the population specified in the Act. It was rightly urged, also, that it was a duty which a community owed to the country at large, as soon as it had reached that stage of development and prosperity contemplated by the Act, to take advantage of the privileges and rights to which it was entitled, and thus add not only to its own importance, but to the general well-being of the country. The majority of the Council took the same view, and accordingly ordered a census to be taken, with a view to the division of the town into wards, some of them favoring three wards, and others four. It was decided, however, at a meeting of the Council held November 15th, that the Town of Guelph be divided into three wards as follows:—All below the Grand Trunk Railroad and Market street one Ward. Commencing at the Railroad, running along Quebec and Paisley streets to the Town Line, thence to and along Market street, to the place of beginning: The remainder another Ward; And that the Reeve and Mr. Gow be a Committee to prepare the necessary papers and proceed to Toronto for the purpose of arranging the matter with the Governor General. On the following day the Reeve, Mr. John Smith and Mr. Gow proceeded to Toronto with the petition of the Council, and on the same day Messrs. George, Keeling, Watt, Scott, S. Smith and Kelly proceeded there also, with a counter petition signatures for which had been actively sought during the day. When this became known, a number of ratepayers met and drew up a petition supporting the action of the Council, and on the following Monday 260 signatures had been procured. Messrs. Sandilands, Harris, Day, Sunley, and Fisher then went to Toronto to support the Reeve and Mr. Gow in their audience with the Attorney General, the Postmaster General and the Inspector General, and impress upon them the desirability of a division into four wards.

Some misrepresentations having been made by the counter memorialists to the Governor-General, at the next meeting of the Council Mr. Gow introduced a memorial, as under, which was adopted, and duly forwarded:—

*To His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Bart., Governor-General of British North America, &c., &c., &c.*

The Memorial of the Town Council of the Town of Guelph humbly sheweth:—

That the rapid advance of the Town of Guelph in wealth and population, the large boundaries of the municipality, and important financial and other interests, loudly call for more extended corporate powers, and an addition to the number of councillors it at present possesses.

That the subject of an advance of this municipality from Schedule

D. of the Municipal Act to Schedule B., has long been under consideration, and was at one time contemplated by the Council of 1854 when an extension of the boundaries of the corporation was sought for at the hands of the Government; but that it was finally postponed to give an opportunity of taking the census showing the population of the present year.

That in carrying out such intention, and from a full conviction of the advantages likely to ensue therefrom, the initiative steps were taken by the unanimous concurrence of the Council in April last, in instructing the assessors to take the census with the assessment, for which purpose additional columns were inserted in the assessment schedule, as may be seen by the one annexed, marked A.

That on the 28th of June last, the Clerk of this Council was instructed by resolution hereunto annexed, marked B., to prepare a full statement of the population of certain divisions of the town therein mentioned; but that although frequently requested to carry out such resolution, the same was delayed until the beginning of October last, when it was agreed by resolution annexed, marked C., that three persons should be appointed to take a fresh and more perfect census of the municipality, which was returned by the Clerk two weeks thereafter.

That on such census being received by the Council, a petition to Your Excellency in Council was unanimously adopted by your memorialists, praying that Your Excellency in Council would be pleased to issue a proclamation declaring Guelph a town in Schedule B., with three wards, as therein described; setting forth that your petitioners believed such division the most desirable and equitable that could be made; which after due consideration your memorialists are desirous of repeating.

That on the occasion referred to, your memorialists had presented to them a petition against any division of the town into wards, of which a copy marked D. is hereunto annexed, in which the objection urged was, that "it would necessarily lead to the creation of a number of new municipal offices, largely increased expenditure, and increased taxation," the incorrectness of which your memorialists were so fully aware of, and the same must be so well known to your Excellency and your constitutional advisers, that they do not deem it necessary to offer one single reason for rejecting it. Further:—That although such petition had attached thereto 231 names, this Council is assured by their Clerk that upwards of 90 thereof are not those of municipal electors.

That on the transmission of the aforementioned petition of the Council to Toronto, your memorialists are informed that a counter petition was addressed to your Excellency, setting forth that the municipal petition was only adopted on the casting vote of the Reeve, and praying the disallowance of the same on the plea that the divisions asked for were unjust. That such petition was signed by about 120 persons, of whom a number were not municipal electors, nor will have any voice in the next election, and that such petition was carried to Toronto by several parties opposed to the action of the Council.

That upon such proceedings becoming known, 261 "householders and freholders" of the municipality signed a petition in a few hours, praying your Excellency in Council to grant the request of the corporation, and declaring the division therein asked for to be fair and equitable. And one of the largest and most respectable deputations that ever left Guelph waited upon certain members of your Excellency's administration, and urged the granting of the request of the Council.

That at a subsequent meeting of the Town Council corrected minutes of previous proceedings of that body were forwarded to the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, for the information of your Excellency.

That the time is rapidly approaching for another election, and it will be necessary for your memorialists to pass a By-law for appointing Returning Officers, should Your Excellency see fit to grant their request. Your memorialists therefore humbly pray that your Excellency in Council assembled will cause the immediate issue of a proclamation declaring Guelph a Town in schedule B, as prayed for in a former petition, with the ward divisions therein described.

And your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray, &c., &c.

Dated at Guelph this 7th day of December, 1855.

(Signed,) JNO. SMITH, Reeve.  
JAS. HOUGH, Town Clerk.

At a meeting of the Council in the following week it was unanimously resolved to send a petition to the Governor-General, praying for the division of the town into *four* wards, the line of the Grand Trunk Railway to form the division line in one direction, the Duncas Road, Gordon Street, Wyncham Street, and the Woolwich Road being the intersecting lines, the four wards centreing in the Market Square, thus securing the erection of the future Market House in that locality, the object for which the majority had all along contended, though some persons, having property in other places, had been opposed to this location.

At a meeting of the Council in December it was proposed to open negotiations with the trustees of St. Andrew's church, for the purchase of that building, with the site, for the purpose of building a Market House and Town Hall, the want of a suitable council chamber being very much felt, and as the town was now on the eve of taking a higher rank in the municipalities, it was thought right that it should possess correspondingly adequate buildings. It was also felt that the town had now reached such proportions, and had attained that position in wealth and importance, as to render it necessary that a public hall should be provided, for the holding of meetings and for the transaction of public business, instead of using the Court House, rooms in taverns, or such other rooms as might happen to be available. This was the opinion also of the Council, but as the Reeve pointed out, the suit between the Town and the Canada Company regarding the Market Square, in which the church would be involved, was still pending, it having been taken to the Court of Appeal, and it was not certain that the trustees of the church would be able to give a title to the land. The question was therefore laid over for the time, until a final decision was given.

The annual dinner of the St. Andrew's Society this year was the most interesting and largely attended since the formation of the society. One reason for this was the presence in town of a large number of gentlemen, many of them Scotch, to attend the sale that day, of a portion of the land belonging to the Macdonald estate. Hon. (now Sir) John A. Macdonald, owner of the property, was present, and was warmly greeted by gentlemen on both sides of politics. At noon a sumptuous lunch was partaken of at the British Hotel, after which the party adjourned to the Macdonald property, when the sale commenced, some of the property sold that day bringing as much as £10,000 per acre, corner lots on the Market Square reaching £2,000 cash, and square lots fetching £20 per foot frontage, exclusive of the buildings.

In the evening a grand dinner was given at the Wellington Hotel, Mr. Fergusson, M. P. P., in the chair, supported on his right and left by Hon. John A. Macdonald, Mr. John McLean, Mr. James Webster. Mr. W. Hewat, Mr. Peter Gow, Mr. Whitelaw and others. After the usual loyal toasts, Mr. Gow gave "The Attorney-General West, and the Bar of Upper Canada," and in reply Hon. John A. Macdonald is said to have made one of the best after dinner speeches he ever delivered. In the course of his remarks, he said that when he came to Guelph he little anticipated the pleasure of the evening's entertainment, for, visiting the town on business, he thought of himself and his pocket rather than of St. Andrew, which was quite excusable seeing he was a Scotchman. He certainly anticipated meeting a large company of respectable gentlemen at the afternoon sale, but he was surprised and delighted to see so numerous, so large an assemblage from the town and neighborhood in remembrance of the country that gave them birth. But that delight was much increased when he heard himself and the Bar of Upper Canada thus toasted and so heartily responded to by men so intelligent, so respectable and so influential. The speaker having jocosely and with hearty good will, disposed of his profession, next referred to the day, and the objects of the association they were then celebrating, which he considered of vital service to the community at large, for whether the Society had reference to Englishmen, Irishmen, or Scotchmen, it gave them a unity of purpose and enabled them to give a proper reception to those who from time to time come amongst them; whilst the circumstance made them none the less loving neighbors and good citizens. In conclusion he congratulated the inhabitants of Guelph upon the present and future prospects of the place, reminded them that although that was his first visit, he was a land holder here, and his interest was wrapped up in its prosperity, he therefore asked permission to give "the Town and Trade of Guelph." Some other toasts followed, with songs, &c., after which the company separated, much gratified at having had the pleasure of hearing so eloquent a speech as that given by the Attorney-General.

The year 1856 was a notable one in the history of Guelph, as marking the commencement of a new era in its progress and importance. The first election under the new organization took place on Monday and Tuesday January 14th and 15th. In the South Ward there was no contest, Messrs. W. Day, W. Atkins and Peter Gow being nominated by Mr. Fisher, and seconded by Mr. John Clarke, were returned by acclamation. Mr. Henry Hughes was at the same time elected Tavern Inspector for the Ward. In the East Ward the contest was exciting, Messrs. J. C. Present, Evan Macdonald and R. Thompson being nominated by Mr. W. Dyson, and seconded by Mr. Penfold, with Mr. James O'Reilly as Tavern Inspector—and Messrs. J. C. Present, Thomas Williams and William Crowe, with Mr. James Harris as Tavern Inspector, nominated by Mr. Thomas Husbands, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Hower. As Mr. Crowe and Mr. McDonald declined running against each other, it was determined that a show of hands should decide which of the two was to retire, and the majority being favorable to Mr. McD. the latter retired. Great efforts were made to enlist the sympathies of the electors in favor of Mr. Williams, and sleighs with flaming handbills ran rapidly through the ward, but few were tempted to take a seat, and on Monday night the poll stood, Present 23, Thompson 19, McDonald 18, Williams 14; with O'Reilly one ahead of Harris for the Inspectorship.—On Tuesday two more votes were given for the first three names, and the poll closed at noon. Just as

the poll closed, Mr. Thos. Husbands handed to the Returning Officer a protest against the election, on the plea of their not being 500 inhabitants in the ward, as required by the Act, but this was not pressed. In the North Ward the election was held at the Court House, and the returning officer appointed by the Council refusing to act, the ratepayers chose Mr. John Harvey, whereupon Mr. E. Hubbard proposed, and Mr. John Harrison seconded, the nomination of Messrs. John Thorp, F. George, and A. Robertson, with Mr. James Mays as Tavern Inspector. Mr. Thomas Anderson moved, seconded by Mr. John McQuillan, a ticket in which the only difference was, Mr. David Allan for Mr. F. George; and in commencing polling considerable activity was displayed. About one o'clock on the second day the poll closed for want of voters, when the votes stood thus:—Thorp 61, George 55, Robertson 49, Allan 24. For Inspector there was no contest. The West Ward appeared from the first to attract most attention, from the strenuous efforts made to prevent the return of Mr. John Smith, his nomination being very unpalatable to a certain portion of the ratepayers. After some delay, arising out of the difficulty in settling the tickets to suit some malcontents on both sides, Mr. Fraser moved, and Mr. Barber seconded the nomination of Messrs. Samuel Smith, G. Elliott and Robert Scott as Councillors, and Mr. Joseph Higginson as Inspector. Mr. J. T. Tracey moved, and Mr. Ainsley seconded, that Messrs. G. Elliott, George Sunley and John Smith be Councillors, and Mr. William Wilson be Inspector. The show of hands was in favor of the second ticket, and after a slight delay the polling commenced with vigor, the votes at the end standing thus:—Elliott 69, John Smith 57, Sunley 55, Samuel Smith 26, Scott 24. For Inspectors, Wilson 49, Higginson, 21. During the second day there was little interest felt or exertion made as the above figures had decided the contest, and on two or three occasions nearly an hour elapsed without a vote, but as the Candidates lowest on the poll would not retire whilst there was hope of a vote, it was not until 3 p.m. that the poll closed, when the numbers stood,—Elliott 89, John Smith 65, Sunley 60, Samuel Smith, 47, Scott 43—Wilson 53, Higginson 29.

The choice of Councillors for the Township was less interesting than for many years past, no contest taking place in either of the wards, Mr. W. Whitelaw, Mr. G. Shortreed and Mr. M. Sweetnam being returned without opposition for the wards they respectively represented the previous year, and Mr. John Rannie and Mr. A. Quarrie being elected in the places of Mr. R. Cooper and Mr. Thos. Hood, who were not candidates on this occasion.

In consequence of the division of the town into wards, the old Board of School Trustees became dissolved, and an election of two trustees was required for each ward. In conformity with the law, Mr. Newton, the Returning Officer, called a meeting of the electors on the 15th January, at Underhill's tavern, when, on the motion of Mr. G. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Rebt. Scott, Mr. Samuel Smith was elected; and on motion of Mr. Sunley, seconded by Mr. Horning, Mr. Geo. Pirie was elected, both unanimously. In the East Ward Mr. Presant moved, seconded by Mr. Orme, that Messrs. W. Crowe and Alex. Emslie be elected, which was carried by acclamation. In the South Ward Messrs. John Clarke and W. Stevenson were returned, and in the North Ward, two of the former trustees, Messrs. John Harrison and W. Heather were elected.

On Monday, 21st, the newly elected Town Councillors met at the Court House, and organized by presenting to the Clerk their oaths of

office. The Clerk then announced the election returns as follows:—  
 West Ward—Messrs. Geo. Elliott, John Smith and George Sunley.  
 South Ward—Messrs. Wm. Day, Peter Gow and Wm. Atkins. East  
 Ward—Messrs. Jas. C. Presant, Evan McDonald and Robert Thompson.  
 North Ward—Messrs. John Thorp, Fred. George and Adam Robertson.  
 The chairman stated that a proclamation having been issued by the  
 Government declaring Guelph a *Town*, with four wards, the election had  
 been held in accordance, and that the first duty which devolved upon  
 them was the election of a Mayor, whereupon, Mr. Day moved and Mr.  
 Thompson seconded, that Mr. John Smith be Mayor for the current  
 year, which was unanimously carried. The Council then adjourned  
 for half an hour, to accompany the Mayor elect to the residence of Judge  
 Macdonald, to be sworn into office. On resuming, the Mayor briefly  
 returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him, stated his conviction  
 that the duties and responsibilities accompanying the office were not  
 light, and trusted that he should acquit himself to the satisfaction of the  
 Council and the Town generally. He then reminded the Council that  
 their next duty was, the election of a Reeve and Deputy Reeve, with the  
 taking of such steps for the appointment of the Committees as might be  
 deemed advisable. It was then moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by  
 Mr. McDonald, and unanimously resolved, that George Sunley, Esq., be  
 Reeve. Moved by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Presant, and unanim-  
 mously resolved, that Peter Gow, Esq., be Deputy Reeve.

The County Council met on Monday, January 28, the members  
 present being:—Amaranth, David Spence; Eramosa, L. Parkinson; Erin,  
 Peter McGill, William Everdale; Guelph, William Whitelaw; Guelph  
 Town, George Sunley, P. Gow; Garafraxa, J. Donaldson, John Dobbin;  
 Maryborough, John McKie; Nichol, James Ross; Peel, John Wil-  
 ton, William Stutridge; Pilkington, Charles Allan; Puslinch, D. Stirton,  
 John Black.

The Council being organized, it was moved by Mr. McGill, and sec-  
 onded by Mr. Everdale, that Mr. Charles Allan be Warden for the pres-  
 ent year. It was moved by Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Mr. Parkinson,  
 that Mr. D. Stirton be Warden for the present year. On a vote being  
 taken it stood thus: For Mr. Allan—Messrs. Everdale, McGill, McKie-  
 man, Ross, Stutridge, Whitelaw, Wilson, 7. For Mr. Stirton—Messrs.  
 Black, Dobbin, Donaldson, Gow, Parkinson, Spence, Sunley, 7. The  
 numbers being equal, and there being no evidence to guide the Council  
 as to which Township had the largest number of names on the assess-  
 ment roll, considerable discussion ensued, and strong opinions were  
 expressed as to the course to be pursued. The representatives of Arthur  
 were not present, and Mr. Allan's friends were desirous of postponement  
 until their arrival, whilst the supporters of Mr. Stirton insisted upon the  
 question being disposed of by those present, and that parties could not  
 vote when they were not present on the motion being put. Eventually,  
 an adjournment was carried, to enable the representatives of Puslinch  
 and Erin to procure the collectors' rolls of their respective townships, and  
 thereby decide who had the casting vote, it being well understood that  
 the question lay between them. On Tuesday morning the representa-  
 tives of Arthur—Messrs. R. Morrison and P. Kelly—took their seats, and  
 after some delay the roll for Erin was produced, but as there were five  
 collectors in Puslinch it was found impossible to obtain the whole of  
 them within a reasonable time. In organizing, therefore, Mr. Stirton  
 rose, and proposed, seconded by Mr. McGill, that Mr. Allan be Warden;

and Mr. Donaldson withdrawing his motion of the previous day, the same was carried unanimously.

On Wednesday, 30th January, the first train which ever passed over the railroad between Toronto and Guelph made its appearance at the York Road bridge about half-past two p.m. and great enthusiasm was manifested by the inhabitants generally. A large concourse of people assembled at the station, and on the train coming up, the event was signalized by loud cheering, the firing of cannon, and other demonstrations of joy. This was not an official opening of the line, but simply a trip of a private nature, for the inspection of the road and to give the visitors a view of the country and an opportunity to see the town of Guelph. The party consisted of twenty-three gentlemen, the most distinguished of whom were, His Excellency the Governor-General, the Attorney-General, the Postmaster-General, Chief Justice Robinson, Justice Richards, Justice Burns, Chancellor Blake, the members of Parliament for Toronto, the Mayor of Toronto, the ex-Mayor of Toronto and the President of the Northern Railway, &c. The party were met at the station by Mr. Sheriff Grange, Mr. Jas. Webster, Mr. Kingsmill and others. His Excellency was escorted to the Court House, where addresses were presented by the Warden and County Council, the Mayor and Town Council, the President and Committee of the Mechanics' Institute. The company then proceeded to the British Hotel when a splendid lunch was partaken of, and in a brief period the whole party was again on its way to Toronto.

The Methodist church having been now nearly finished, it was formally opened on Sunday, March 2nd, when sermons were preached, in the morning by Rev. Enoch Wood, President of the Canada Conference, in the afternoon by Rev. Richard Jones, and in the evening by Rev. G. Gemley, nearly one thousand persons being present at each service. On the following evening a public meeting was held, when it was announced that the cost of the building would be £2785, only £475 of which had been paid. A loan of £1880 had been obtained, leaving still a considerable sum to be raised. The collections amounted to £114, and at the meeting on Monday £112 more was promised.

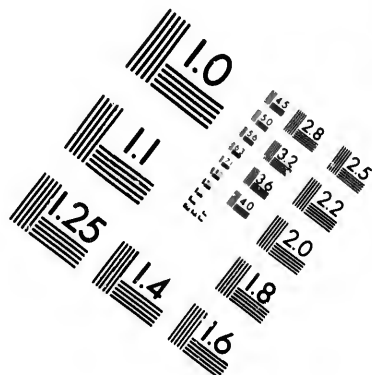
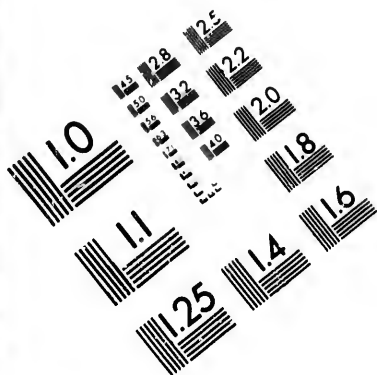
At about this time a movement was commenced to erect a monument in the town to Mr. John Galt, in announcing which the *HERALD* of March 5th, said:—"We have much pleasure in announcing that a movement has been made to procure the erection of a monument to the memory of the founder of our 'good town,' the celebrated John Galt, the author of *Lawrie Todd*, *The Annals of the Parish*, *The Provost*, *The Steamboat*, *The Lairds of Grippy*, *Ringan Gilhaize*, and half a dozen other piquant and racy Scotch novels, which have given to their author a world-wide and undying fame. Mr. Galt's discrimination in selecting the peninsula of the Speed as the most favorable site for the granary, the laboratory, and commercial mart of the rich agricultural country which lies between Huron and Ontario, has of late years become sufficiently conspicuous, and the hamlet to which its illustrious founder, in anticipation of its destiny, assigned the patronomic of the reigning family having risen, steadily, if slowly, to its present status and importance, appears likely to mark its onward course by accelerated rapidity, and increased stability. The opening of the Toronto and Guelph section of the Grand Trunk Railway, has been deemed a favorable opportunity for bringing the present movement before the public, on the supposition that it may probably be desirable to combine the monument to Mr. Galt with that proposed to be erected to commemorate that event. We learn that



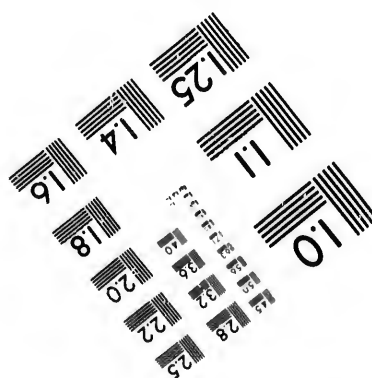
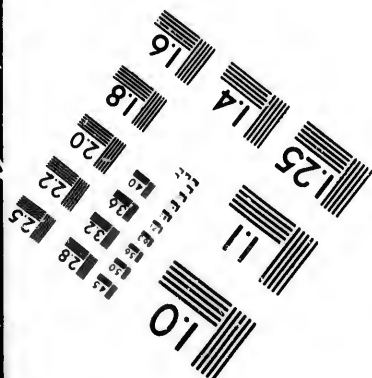
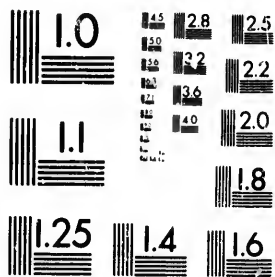
three of "the oldest inhabitants"—Messrs. Baker, Corbet and Thorp have agreed to act as a provisional committee in making the preliminary arrangements; and we are persuaded that under such supervision the affair will soon be brought to a successful issue. We have seen a very excellent design for the proposed monument, others will, doubtless, be offered and the selection will of course be left to the subscribers." At first the proposition was very warmly received, and in the following week a largely attended public meeting was held, when a committee consisting of the following gentlemen was appointed to collect subscriptions and obtain designs:—Messrs. John Smith, Mayor of Guelph; A. J. Ferguson, M.P.P. Wm. Clarke, M.P.P., Chas. Allan, Warden of Wellington, John Scott, Warden of Waterloo, Col. Hewat, R. Corbet, John Thorp, A. A. Baker, D. Allan, Thos. Sandilands, John McLean, Geo. Sunley, Wm. Day, J. J. Kingsmill, Andrew Lemon, Geo. Pirie, Fred. George, Peter Gow, Robt. Thompson, John Harris, sr., Edward Carroll, Rev. R. Torrance, Wm. Whitlaw, Reeve of Guelph Township, David Stirton, Reeve of Puslinch, John McCrean and Robt. Patterson, Guelph Township, Wm. Patterson, Puslinch, Geo. Armstrong and Rev. Wm. Barrie, Eramosa, A. D. Ferrier and Samuel Broadfoot, Nichol, James Mathieson, Hamilton, John Quarry, Mayor of Dundas; Dr. Hamilton, 'Flamboro', John McDonald, Goderich, and Dr. Daly, Stratford. At this meeting \$400 was subscribed, and further promises were afterwards made, but for some unexplained reason the monument was never procured, and thus an opportunity passed, such as may, probably, never occur again, for publicly recognizing the benefits conferred on the Town by its noble founder.

During the Spring of this year a large number of the political friends of Mr. William Lyon Mackenzie throughout the Province had been agitating the question of raising a fund for the purpose of presenting to that gentleman a homestead, and in June a public meeting of those favorable to the project was held in Guelph, when the following resolutions, which will explain the sentiments of his admirers, were passed:—Moved by Mr. C. Horning, seconded by Mr. R. Stewart, That one of the brightest jewels and rarest traits of man's character is, political consistency and unwavering attachment to the people's cause; that no man has exhibited such a long and earnest devotion to the public service of the Province of Canada as Mr. William Lyon Mackenzie; and that some public testimonial is due for his long and faithful services. Moved by Mr. Gow, seconded by Mr. Melvin, That this meeting, fully approving of the scheme of the Central Committee in Toronto, of presenting Mr. Mackenzie with a suitable homestead by the freemen of the Province, feel called upon to use their best endeavors to promote the project. Moved by Mr. John Stewart, seconded by Mr. John Smith, That the following gentlemen do constitute a committee for the purpose of collecting subscriptions for the Mackenzie Homestead:—Messrs James Bates, Charles Horning, Robert Stewart, Peter Gow, George Sunley, John Smith, Robert Sunley, James Armstrong, Alexander Henderson, John Bookless, James Howard and John Orme. Subscription lists were thereupon prepared, and several sums subscribed.

On the 14th of this month, the formal opening of the Guelph division of the Grand Trunk Railway took place. About two hundred gentlemen left Toronto in the morning, and after stopping at various places along the road, reached Guelph at about three o'clock. The company of visitors comprised a large number of the members of the Legislative Assembly, some members of the Legislative Council, and several



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prominent citizens of Toronto. On their arrival they were conducted to Horwood's hotel, (now the Royal,) then nearly finished, and a most unseemly farce was there enacted. In that part of its report of the day's proceedings relating to Guelph, the *Toronto Leader* said:—"An invitation having been given by the Directors of the Grand Trunk Railway Company to the members of the Legislature, the City Council, and the Board of Trade, to take a trip to Guelph on Saturday, along the Toronto and Guelph section of their line, which is to be opened this morning for passenger traffic, a large number of the members of Parliament, as well as of the Corporation and Board of Trade, took advantage of the invitation. About ten minutes past one o'clock, five cars pretty well filled with ladies and gentlemen, started from the depot at the Queen's Wharf. On reaching the magnificent bridge which spans the Credit, the train stopped, and nearly the whole party walked down a very long flight of stairs to the bank of the river, to make a closer inspection of this piece of workmanship, over 800 feet in length and 115 feet from the level of the river, supported on five massive stone piers with heavy abutments. We glided along to the centre of the bridge and stood between the centre piers to show that there was not the slightest visible deflection caused by its immense weight. We then passed along the bridge entirely to give the passengers below a better idea of its height. As there had been a heavy shower very shortly before, the ground was rather wet, and the company remained only a few minutes outside. During this little divertissement, the attendants for the occasion had been busy, for on reaching the cars, there was a very expensive display of sandwiches and champagne made which, it is unnecessary to say very speedily disappeared. Some 12 dozen or so were thus quickly disposed of. There was also an abundant supply of very excellent water for those who don't drink champagne till after dinner. The train halted a few minutes at the Georgetown Bridge, and a number of persons went out to take a peep at it. It is of a different construction, but equally substantial looking with the Credit one. Matters went all well until we reached Guelph, when a scene occurred, which we must say was grossly indecent. Some of the worthy M.P.P.'s it is said, concocted a scheme to introduce Mr. Shaw, the M.P.P. for Lanark, to the inhabitants of Guelph as the Governor-General. Accordingly when the hon. gentleman stepped out of the cars, they took off their hats and gave him a hearty cheer as the Governor-General. Mr. Rankin, the hon. member for Essex, then took Mr. Shaw's arm and they walked along to the new hotel, followed by nearly all the excursionists, with a large turn out of townspeople. Upstairs the gentlemen marched and made their appearance on the balcony in front of the hotel, which was speedily surrounded by a large crowd of persons eager to get a glimpse of His Excellency. The hon. member for Essex, without pausing for a moment to define his new position, introduced Mr. Shaw to the audience as Sir Edmund Head, the Governor-General of Canada. His Excellency then came forward, and stated that he had come up to Guelph along with a number of their representatives, both from Upper Canada and Lower Canada, and he was happy to say that upon a closer acquaintance the Lower Canadians did not appear to be that inferior race which he at first believed them to be. He was happy to see so large and thriving a town as Guelph, and he was sure that the representatives of the people now that they had witnessed the beautiful country through which they had just passed—and the magnificent road over which they had travelled, would go back to

their places in the legislature, determined to meet in a more liberal spirit the demands which the Grand Trunk Company had made upon them.

"Mr. Turcotte then came forward and stated that he was a representative of that inferior race which had been alluded to. The hon. gentleman spoke at some length, referring to the necessity of maintaining the Union intact, and the fact that if they did so, the two provinces, each representing the most civilized nations on the earth, would, by the combination of French vivacity with English reserve, make the most noble people in the world.

"Mr. Foley, the hon. member for Waterloo, came forward—seemingly in a state of great excitement. He said that a fraud had been practised upon them, and that this was the very same kind of fraud which had been practised upon Upper Canada in Parliament. They had been grossly deceived by false representations (cheers and hisses and noise and turmoil). Several parties pulled Mr. Foley back, but he was determined to speak. He said, Gentlemen, that is French Canadian justice—(hisses and cheers.) This is French Canadian justice—(hisses and cheers.) That is the kind of justice which a portion of the Upper Canada representatives, with their French majority, are giving to us—(cheers and uproar.) Gentlemen, you have been imposed upon—most foully imposed upon. You have been led to believe that the Governor-General is here to-day, while he is not here. (Here the hon. gentleman was forcibly dragged from the front of the balcony, perhaps in mercy to himself, for he was speaking above his strength.)

"Mr. Powell came forward and briefly denied having had anything to do with the deception. Several gentlemen then attempted to speak, but the noise and confusion was too great. Mr. Alderman Duggan, finding that he could not get an audience from the balcony, came down and mounted a one-horse wagon, and commenced to address the people, telling them amongst other things that he had got up the first meeting which was held in Guelph in connection with this railway enterprise. During the time the worthy Alderman was speaking, there were several parties trying to get the horse to run off, but it was somewhat baulky and resisted all their coaxing. While this was going on below, Mr. Mayor Smith, of Guelph, was attempting to get a hearing from the balcony; but at this stage fortunately the steam whistle sounded and the crowd moved off towards the depot. Nothing particular occurred on the homeward trip. In some of the cars singing was kept up all the way. The cars arrived at the terminus at half-past six. The excursion was a very pleasant one, although the day was somewhat chilly and wet, and but for the unhappy incident at Guelph, it might have formed a pleasing retrospect. But whether it will be taken seriously or not, it was rather a serious jest, and one which had it been aimed at any one other than the representative of royalty might have passed off with a guffaw. But it will now be apparent to the meanest capacity that "when drink's in, wit's out."

The press throughout the country was very severe in the denunciations published of this sorry jest, and when Mr. Shaw returned to his constituency he was met with universal condemnation. On his arrival at his home in Smith's Falls, some of the indignant electors of Lanark sent him the following address:—

*To His Excellency James Shaw, Esquire, M.P.P., Governor-General,  
&c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the inhabitants of the

village of Smith's Falls, beg leave most humbly and most respectfully to approach your Excellency, at this our *earliest notice* of your arrival amongst us, to bid you welcome to this our humble village, and to express our deep sense of the honor conferred on us by the visit of so *august* a personage as the representative (*albeit self-constituted*) of Her Most Gracious Majesty. It could not fail to afford us the most *intense satisfaction*, when the news reached us from Guelph, of the *elevation* to so *distinguished a position* of one who sojourned so long amongst us, and whose *social habits and familiar intercourse with all*, and more particularly of late years, have been the theme, and excited the admiration of all.

There are those, we are well aware, who will not fail to grumble at your Excellency's *assumption* of the office of Governor-General; but, if your Excellency will be advised by us, you will treat all such invidious remarks, *as is your wonted custom in the House, with dignified silence!*

We would beg leave to refer to history for a precedent for an appointment similar to your own; it is to be found in *Don Quixote*, where Sancho Panza was made "Governor of the Island of Barataria," and a model Governor he was; and why not you?

Only a little longer bear with us, your Excellency, and we will have done. We are not altogether pleased with all of your Excellency's advisers, and would recommend the dismissal of some of them, and the appointment in their stead (excuse us for troubling you so much) of Mr. Foley, M. P. P. for the North Riding of Waterloo; as the advice, which we hear, he tendered you, on the *auspicious* event of your elevation to the *distinguished position you now occupy*, was such as to meet *our entire approval*; and which if followed out, would no doubt be attended with the most beneficial results to us all, and to your Excellency in particular. Your Excellency, we have done.

(Signed.)

ALL OF US.

Whether these very intelligent and dignified legislators looked upon this freak as a joke or not, the affair developed a laxity of political morality and a disrespect to the Queen, through her representative, unjustifiable in any subjects of Great Britain, but peculiarly reprehensible when found among the Legislature. At best it was a miserably foolish diversion to play on ignorance, and a poor, selfish mode of creating amusement, and as such should never have been perpetrated by men with any claim to education or gentlemanly consideration; but when it is borne in mind that the insult was not really to the people of Guelph, but to Her Majesty the Queen, the conduct of these legislative clowns cannot be too strongly condemned. The probability is that the transaction was concocted and carried out under the influence of champagne, which flowed abundantly that day, but that was no excuse. In the position in which they were, as members of the Legislature, come to inaugurate a great public work, they should have remembered what is due to Her Majesty, as the representative of our glorious Constitution, and that no frivolous freedom can be permitted with her deputy in Canada. The Legislative excursionists might, as some of them did, and some do even now, on such occasions, allow their excitement to find vent in frothy speeches, but nothing could palliate the gross conduct of Mr. Shaw and his associates, and it certainly was in miserable taste that the men who had been selected to represent the people in the Legislature should be so politically immoral as to impose a broad lie on the people, or a portion of the people, and laugh at the vulgar and criminal deception played on the credulity of an audience which had no means of detecting the imposture.

On the Monday following the opening, the trains commenced to run regularly between Toronto and Guelph, and on the first train upwards of 150 passengers left Guelph. The Oddfellows also celebrated their anniversary by a trip to Toronto, between four and five hundred persons joining the excursion, Mr. Hutchinson, the station-master here, making every arrangement for their comfort. The first train to Berlin was run July 1st, and during the month of November the Grand Trunk was opened to Montreal, thus affording a direct railway communication between Guelph and the Atlantic, an advantage which soon made itself felt in the prosperity of the town and neighborhood, by ensuring for the farmers a larger return for their products. The celebration at Montreal was extremely grand, consisting of monster processions during the day, and torchlight processions and illuminations at night. There was also a public dinner, at which gentlemen from all parts of the country were present. Among the residents of Guelph who received invitations to be present were, Messrs. D. Allan, W. Allan, W. J. Brown, E. Brown, Dr. Clarke, Chas. Davidson, John Smith, A. J. Fergusson, W. Hewat, N. Higinbotham, G. S. Herod, A. Macdonald, J. Peters, H. W. Peterson, W. K. Smith, J. Webster and Capt. Vale.

Guelph had long suffered from the want of additional hotel accommodation, and this fact, together with the opening of the Grand Trunk Railway, had induced Mr. Harwood to give up an hotel in Toronto and open the hotel in Guelph, which for some years bore his name. To celebrate the opening a number of prominent gentlemen in the town formed themselves into a committee, and a grand dinner was provided. The committee consisted of Mr. C. Allan, Warden of the County; Col. Hewat, County Treasurer; Mr. T. Saunders, Clerk of the Peace; Mr. John Smith, Mayor; Messrs. Jas. Webster, John Harland, A. A. Baker, W. D. P. Jarvis, D. Allan, G. A. Drew, G. Elliott, W. Day, G. Sunley, J. Harris and P. Gow. Mr. A. J. Fergusson, M. P. P., took the chair, and Dr. Clark, M. P. P., the vice chair.

The 12th of July, kept with much parade in many parts of the Province, had always passed off very quietly in Guelph, sometimes no notice whatever being taken of it. This year, however, formed an exception to the rule, for a party of about two dozen Orangemen having been to a picnic at Rockwood, were, on their return by the train, attacked with stones and clubs, and a serious disturbance was the result. The Orangemen took refuge in a saloon and defended themselves as best they could by blocking up the doors and firing occasional shots from pistols. The Mayor and other magistrates were quickly on the spot, and succeeded for the time in quelling the disturbance, but it being feared that the fight would be renewed, and with more vigor, after dark, the Mayor and Reeve swore in a number of special constables and read the Riot Act in various places. It was well they did, for in a short time the battle was renewed. A man named Kelly raised a loud shout and in other ways incited the mob to disturbance, when he was ordered to be arrested, which was at once accomplished. A dozen constables soon overpowered him, and succeeded in conveying him to the gateway leading to the gaol, when they were assailed with stones and sticks, and the crowd numbering many times their own number, they were soon overpowered, and the prisoner was rescued, but not before the Mayor and several constables had been struck with stones. The Mayor forthwith sent for Capt. Kingsmill of the Rifle corps and presented him with a requisition for his services, and in half an hour a body of from forty to fifty armed men took



up a position on the ground previously occupied by the mob, which had, in the interval, perceptibly diminished. Sufficient time having elapsed, the streets were cleared as far as possible, and a keen look out kept for the rioters. At ten o'clock the Reeve and Deputy-Reeve, accompanied by a section of the Rifles, visited the various taverns, clearing them of all strangers, and ordering that no more drink should be served that night. About midnight a disturbance took place in the rear of Moran's saloon, and some half dozen constables proceeding thither, found Kelly, the rescued man, with others, and again effected his arrest. Again he was rescued, and but for the timely arrival of a portion of the Rifles he would probably have escaped. He and four others, who had assisted in the rescue, were taken to the gaol. The next night (Sunday), a keen look out was kept, and also on Monday night when a large number of men were collected on the Catholic Church premises, and about forty Orangemen from Rockwood were lying in readiness in various parts of the town, but in consequence of the vigilance and energy of the constables and the military, no further disturbance took place. The rioters were brought before the magistrates, and most of them fined, but Kelly was sent for trial at the Assizes.

After the election of the Council under the new organization, one of the first questions claiming attention was the erection of a suitable market house, and after considerable discussion, and correspondence with the trustees of the Scotch Kirk, the site of that building was purchased for £1750. Then a long delay occurred in deciding upon plans, and in letting tenders, but all these preliminaries were at last arranged, and on Thursday, September 18th the ceremony of laying the corner stone was performed. The Town Council, contractors, &c., assembled at the Court House, and preceded by the band of the Rifle Corps, marched to the site of the new building, where a large number of the inhabitants had assembled. A platform had been erected, and from this the Mayor addressed the people, explaining the object for which the meeting had been called. The Town Clerk then read the following list of manuscripts, &c., deposited in the cavity under the stone :—

*County of Wellington, Town of Guelph, History and Statistics.*

The first tree of the forest cut down within the limits of our present Town, of which we have any record, was felled on the 23rd day of April, in the year 1827.

*The Population of the Town of Guelph.*

In the Year 1843 was.....	700
In the Year 1846.....	1357
In the Year 1847.....	1480

The Town of Guelph was incorporated with the Township under the Municipal Act in the year 1850. In the year 1851 it was set apart with the powers common to incorporated villages. At the commencement of the present year it was constituted a Town proper.

The Annual Assessment of real and personal property for this year is £33,372 7s od., and the population about 5000.

There are also deposited a Lithographed Map of the Town, published in the year 1855; a copy of each of the Town Newspapers; one Victoria Sovereign; one Victoria Florin; one Victoria Shilling; one Victoria Sixpence; one Canada Penny.

*Memoranda.*

Governor-General of this Province :—His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Bart.

Members of the Legislative Assembly :—North Riding—Dr. Wm. Clarke. South Riding—Adam Johnston Fergusson, Esquire, formerly Judge of the County Court.

*Town Corporation.*

John Smith, Esquire, Mayor.

Councillors—Messrs. Frederick George, John Thorp, Adam Robertson, James Present, Robert Thompson, Evan McDonald, William Atkins Peter Gow, George Elliott, George Sunley, and William Day.

Treasurer—James Hough.

*Building Committee.*

Messrs. Day, Robertson, Thompson, and G. Elliot, Chairman.

Architect—William Thomas, Esq., Toronto.

Inspector—Mr. John Wright.

*Contractors.*

Masons—Messrs. Morrison & Emslie, Guelph.

Carpenter—Mr. George Netting, Toronto.

Plasterers—Messrs. Stephen & Pringle, Guelph.

Slaters—Messrs. Mitchell, Rannie, and Duthier, Toronto.

Painter and Glazier—Mr. Chas. Marsh, Toronto.

*Cost of Building.*

About £6,500, and £1,750 for the ground, formerly the site of St. Andrew's Church.

This bottle and its contents were deposited by the Chairman of the Building Committee, and this corner stone laid by John Smith, Esq., first Mayor of Guelph, on the 18th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1856, and in the Twentieth year of the reign of our most gracious and beloved Sovereign Queen Victoria.

All of which is duly authenticated by the seal of the Corporation, and signed,

JOHN SMITH, Mayor.

JAMES HOUGH, Town Clerk.

The stone being suspended by a windlass, Mr. Elliott proceeded to deposit the bottle in the cavity prepared, and the Mayor performed the usual ceremony of laying the corner stone, the Rifles firing a *feu de joie*, and the band playing appropriate music. The Mayor then addressed the audience from the stand, in doing which he briefly referred to the history of the town from the cutting of the first tree in 1827, spoke of the struggles in the past for the erection of a Market House, and regretted that one of its most zealous advocates, Mr. Thorp was too ill to be present on that occasion, concluding by expressing the hope that the steady progress the town had hitherto made would be continued, and that the building then erected would tend much to develop the business of the place, and prove a source of profit both to those who brought produce to it for sale and those who bought there. Mr. Fergusson then delivered a brief address, and in pointing to the past looked upon it as an index of the future, and fully anticipated that in a few years the population of the town would be tenfold what it was then. The band then played "God Save the Queen," and the company dispersed.

In the evening a dinner was given at Horwood's hotel, about sixty gentlemen being present. The Mayor occupied the chair, having on his right Mr. Fergusson, M.P.P., and Mr. D. Stirton, Reeve of Puslinch; and on his left, Mr. Wm. Thomas and Mr. W. Whitelaw, Reeve of Guelph Township. Mr. Elliott, chairman of the Market House Committee, occupied the vice chair. A number of toasts were drunk and responded to, among the speakers being Mr. Stirton, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Fergusson, Mr. Whitelaw, Mr. Pirie and others.

The building of the railway had by this time begun to have a very sensible effect on the value of property in the town, and on the progress of business generally. As a proof of this it may be mentioned that a park lot which four years previously had been bought for \$300, was this year sold for \$1800; and in another case, six acres of land, which five years before had been sold for £300, was now sold for £2,700. A lot on the Market Place was bought in 1854 for £625, and this year fetched £2,500. Building operations were being pushed with great vigor, and the improvements all through the town were very marked, more especially in the business portions, Wyndham street particularly presenting a very busy aspect, among the other fine stores erected during this year being those built by Mr. R. Corbet. The *Toronto Colonist*, referring to Guelph at this time, says:—"Guelph is particularly fortunate in possessing a building stone easily worked, and very pleasing in appearance, closely resembling in color the white brick so much used in Toronto. This is well displayed in a street newly built, called Wyndham street, leading north from the Market Square, and branching off to the right and left on either side of the Wellington Hotel. This is now the chief business street, many shopkeepers and others recently moved into it from the Market Square. St. George's Church, which, when finished, will be a handsome building, is in this street. The new market, the walls of which are just finished, is a fine substantial edifice. It is built of Guelph stone, from a design by Mr. Thomas. The trade and manufactures of Guelph are rapidly increasing. Ten years ago the quantity of flour sent to market by the principal miller was considered to be too highly estimated at eight hundred barrels. This season the exports of wheat and flour are set down at fifty thousand bushels of the former, and fifty thousand barrels of flour. One mill alone is said to manufacture twenty-five thousand barrels. The manufacture of whiskey is also large, the quantity sold amounting this year to about twelve thousand five hundred barrels. The opening of the Grand Trunk has given the means of turning the stone quarries of Guelph to valuable account. There are now four in full operation, and arrangements are being made for the delivery and sale of the stone all along the railway. There are also several foundries and breweries, some of them doing a large business. The water power afforded by the River Speed is quite sufficient to supply much more than what is required by the factories now on its banks; but now one mill owner has let power for ten additional factories to be erected next year. The local trade of Guelph is very considerable, the country about it in all directions being of the most fertile description and well settled. The Guelph storekeepers have hitherto done a large business with Hamilton, but the completion of the Grand Trunk renders their communication with Toronto and Montreal so much more direct, that their trade will be chiefly with those places, especially with Toronto."

And again in reference to Guelph as a stock depot, it says:—"No one interested in stock-breeding, or in agricultural pursuits generally,

who has occasion to visit this place, should lose the opportunity of seeing Mr. Stone's herd of short-horn cattle, probably the finest and most valuable in the Province. Mr. Stone, who is one of the leading merchants, has gone to an expense in importing cattle from England, which would hardly be credited by any one not aware of the immense capital which is requisite at the present time to enable a breeder to lay the foundation of a first-rate stock of short-horn cattle, or the more expensive kinds of sheep. Year after year Mr. Stone and many other enterprising agriculturists have gone to the most eminent English breeders to enter into competition for the purchase of stock with men who, as regards genuine mercantile enterprise, extensive means and social position, comprising as they do many noble Lords and royal Dukes, may fairly rank with the princes and cotton lords of England. With a noble spirit of enterprise, these men have invested in this way the accumulated savings of a life of toil, and at great risk to themselves, and endless care—and, in spite of great discouragement and even opposition, have doubled the agricultural wealth and resources of the country. Mr. Stone has now fifty-four head of thoro'-bred Durham cattle, chiefly direct importations, and from the choicest strains and best blood—the very aristocracy of the breed. The prices of some of these cattle would astonish many an unsophisticated backwoodsman, who would stare at being asked £150 for a calf 6 months old, or the price of a small farm for a two year old heifer. Mr. Stone has also some very fine Cotswold sheep and a lot of nice Southdown ewes just imported."

There was very little excitement over the town elections in 1857, there being no question of very great importance likely to come up to absorb public interest. The nominations were held on Monday, January 5th, the candidates being:—West Ward—Messrs. Sunley, Elliott, Samuel Smith, Brown, Ainlay and Wilson. Mr. John Smith was not a candidate on this occasion. In the South Ward—Messrs. Day, Gow, Clarke, Knowles, Condry and Carrol. East Ward—Messrs. Presant, Tatham, Thompson, Macdonald, O'Reilly and Adsett. North Ward—Messrs. George, Harvey, Robertson, Armstrong, Mackenzie and Anderson. The polling was not by any means as spirited as in previous years, the vote being comparatively small. The result was that Messrs. G. Sunley, G. Elliott, S. Smith, F. George, J. Harvey, J. Armstrong, E. Macdonald, R. Thompson, G. P. Tatham, W. Day and W. S. G. Knowles were elected.

On the Council being organised, Mr. George proposed the election of Mr. George Sunley as Mayor, on the ground of his long standing in the town, his property and business qualifications, and the position he had long occupied in the Council. He had been informed, and perhaps they might be told, that Mr. Sunley declined the nomination; but he hardly thought that with the knowledge that the whole Council would support him, he would resist their wishes. Mr. Harvey seconded the nomination. Mr. Elliott said he should be happy to support Mr. Sunley if he thought he would accept the appointment. After some hesitation Mr. Sunley accepted the appointment and took the oath of office. The Mayor having taken the chair, Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Day seconded, that Mr. P. Gow be Reeve. Mr. Tatham moved, and Mr. George seconded, that Mr. W. S. G. Knowles be Reeve. On a division Mr. Gow was declared elected. Mr. James Armstrong was unanimously elected Deputy Reeve."

The official *Gazette* of December 21st, 1856, contained the following announcement:—"His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased

to appoint Port Guelph, in the County of Wellington, to be a warehousing port from and after January 1st." Under this order a regular staff of Government officers were appointed, and much greater facilities were afforded for the warehousing and entry of goods. Mr. John Harland was appointed Collector, and Mr. E. Carthew landing waiter at this port.

Towards the close of the previous year a proposition was made to make a grant to Mr. John Smith, as compensation for loss of time and the work which had devolved upon him as mayor. This raised a storm of opposition in certain quarters, more especially among those who had contended against the incorporation of the town, and who had been so extravagant in their statements of the probable expense which would be entailed by the change, in the payment of the various municipal officers. It was urged that Mr. Smith had promised that, if elected, he would serve without demanding or expecting any remuneration, and those who had been disappointed in delaying the incorporation were very zealous in their efforts to defeat the proposed grant. His friends, however, claimed for him that, even if he had made such a promise, he had not contemplated that he would be expected to perform the duties of Police Magistrate, in addition to those of the Mayoralty, and as, if a Police Magistrate had been appointed, he would have received a salary of £150 per annum, it was not unreasonable that Mr. Smith should receive a grant of £100. Finding that the opposition was likely to be much more bitter than they had at first anticipated some of the friends of Mr. Smith suggested that a subscription should be taken up for the purpose of indemnifying him, but Mr. Smith and some of his supporters objected to this, and finally the grant was carried in the Council.

In the Spring of this year considerable changes were made in the Militia Department throughout the Province, and a general re-organization of the corps was a necessary consequence. Among the other changes was that the 1st Waterloo Battalion became extinct, and the 1st Wellington Battalion was created. In the *Gazette* of February 14th, the following appointments were announced:—To be Majors: Captain G. Harvey, from late 1st Waterloo; Capt. John C. Wilson, do. To be Captains: Lieutenant Edward Thompson, from late 1st Waterloo; Lieut. William Henry Parker, do.; Lieut. Walter King, do.; Lieut. Robert Richardson, do.; Lieut. Alfred A. Baker, do.; Lieut. Richard Greet, do. Ensign James G. Husband, do.; Ensign Arthur Hogg, do.; Ensign John Thomas Tracy, do. To be Lieutenants: Ensign W. Porter, from late 1st Waterloo; Ensign and Adjutant James Cain, do. Charles Davidson, Henry Watson, Robert White, Thomas Watson, George Murton, Henry W. Peterson, John C. Allan, Nicol Kingsmill. To be Ensigns: George Tolton, Edmund Harland, James Webster, jr., Colin Blyth, John C. Chadwick, jr., Frederick J. Chadwick, Walter Murton, Thomas Hefferman, Leonard Harland. To be Adjutant: Lieutenant James Cain. To be Surgeon: Surgeon William Clarke, from late First Waterloo. To be Assistant Surgeon: William S. Hewat. The following Officers from the late First Battalion, Waterloo, are permitted to retire, viz.:—Major Wm. Thompson, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Ensign James Davie, retaining rank. Ensign David Allan, do.

In the *Gazette* of May 16th, the following notice appeared:—*Volunteer Militia Rifle Company of Guelph*—To be Acting Adjutant with the rank of Lieutenant: Ensign James Armstrong; to be Ensign: Sergeant George Bruce, jr., vice Armstrong, promoted; to be Surgeon: George S. Herod, Esquire.

In May, Mr. John Smith retired from the management of the *Advertiser*, his interest in that paper having been purchased by Mr. P. Clerihew, late of the *Berlin Telegraph*. In addition to a long and somewhat windy article, in faint and ineffectual imitation of the style which marked the productions in Addison's *Spectator* an explanation of the principles, political, moral, religious, social, domestic, and, in fact, in relation to almost every other conceivable subject on which men's opinions could possibly differ, the new proprietor printed the entire platform of the Reform Alliance, as the *summum bonum* of human desires, and of all that related to the advancement of mankind, and as the infallible guide to universal prosperity, contentment and peace. Unfortunately for the stability of the utopian vision which Mr. Clerihew's fertile imagination conjured up, the millenium which he apparently anticipated as the certain consequence of the enunciation of these principles, not only to the world at large, but to our good town in particular, faded like thousands of other visions have faded before and since, and in a short time the sanguine dreamer awoke to the stern reality of the fact, that the degeneracy of the people in this part of the world was such, that they could not appreciate either his dreams or his talents, and evinced their callousness to his frequent and impassioned appeals to come forward in support of his universal peace and prosperity theories, by the cold and unpatriotic command—"stop my paper."

At the Assizes in March a case of a most painful nature was tried. James McGarrie, a boy fourteen years of age, was placed in the dock charged with the murder of a boy named William Cull, eleven years of age, in Garafraxa, on the 11th of October, 1856. It appeared that the two boys were in the woods together gathering berries, when a dispute arose between them, and finally McGarrie struck Cull on the head with a stick, knocking him senseless. He then took a piece of a glass bottle, which had been broken in the struggle, and deliberately cut the child's throat from ear to ear. The youthful murderer then ran away, and it was not for several days that the body was discovered. McGarrie was arrested near Goderich, and fully confessed the murder, giving the fullest account of all the revolting details. At the trial a defence was set up that he was of unsound mind, and that he must have committed the dreadful crime while in a fit of insanity, but this availed nothing, the jury finding him guilty of wilful murder. The Judge then sentenced him to be hanged on the 11th of April, but before that time the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life.

At the close of this month the town was called upon to mourn the death of one of the most prominent and highly respected inhabitants, in the person of Mayor Sunley, which took place, somewhat suddenly, on the 30th March. Mr. Sunley had been extremely unwilling to accept the position of Mayor, probably because he felt that his health would not permit of his discharging the duties of the position satisfactorily to himself, but it was little thought that his tenure of office would be so brief, and terminated by so sad an event. He presided at a meeting of the Council only a few days before, and within a day or two of his death no serious apprehensions were entertained that the result of his illness would be fatal. On the day of the funeral upwards of a thousand of his fellow townsmen assembled in front of his residence, to follow his remains to the grave, and thus testify to the love they bore him personally, and the high estimation in which they had held him as a friend, a citizen, and as Mayor of the Town. The funeral procession was formed



in the following order :—Guelph Rifle Company, the Fire Company, the members of the Town Council in carriages, the ministers and physicians of the Town, the pall-bearers, the hearse, the executors and children of the deceased, Mr. Melvin and Mr. Mills, his partners in business, the band, playing the dead march, in "Saul," the Associated Mechanics of Guelph, and some hundreds of inhabitants, in carriages, on horseback and on foot. The stores throughout the town were closed during the afternoon, and for several days a deep gloom was cast over all.

On the 13th of April the nomination of candidates for the seat in the Council rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Sunley took place, when Mr. John Kirkland and Mr. W. J. Brown were the candidates. Mr. Brown was elected by a very small majority. At the next meeting of Council Mr. Samuel Smith was elected mayor for the unexpired term. At this meeting the Market House Committee reported that they had expended £6400 17s. 9½d. on the building, and that £2743 3s 5½d. more would be needed to complete the work, including the stone cornice which it had been decided should be put up, instead of the wooden one, as at first contemplated.

At about this time a number of new stores were opened, including the hardware establishment of Horsman Bros., the business of which very speedily developed into large proportions, the enterprise and thorough business knowledge of the proprietors soon placing them in the front rank in their trade, a position which they maintained with marked success for several years, and which the present proprietor, Mr. John Horsman, still continues to hold.

On Sunday, May 10th, a chapel, intended for the Evangelical Union congregation, was opened, sermons being preached by Rev. R. Peden of Hamilton, who was assisted in the devotional exercises by Rev. E. Barker of Eramosa, and Rev. John McDougall, pastor of the church. The chapel, capable of holding between two and three hundred persons, was well filled at all the services. On Monday evening a tea meeting was held, followed by a public meeting, Rev. J. McDougall in the chair. Addresses were delivered by Rev. R. Paul (Primitive Methodist), Rev. Dr. Cooney (Wesleyan), Rev. E. Barker (Congregationalist), Rev. J. Clarke (Baptist), and Rev. R. Peden (Evangelical Union).

In the fall of this year a general election took place, and in the North Riding Mr. Charles Allan of Elora (Reformer) was elected over Dr. Clarke by a small majority, principally on account of some of the electors disapproving of the course taken by Dr. Clarke on the question of removing the capital to Quebec.

In October, the new building on St. George's Square, for the Bank of Montreal, was finished, and a motion was passed in the Council for laying a sidewalk in front of it. In November a Gas Company was formed, and a petition was presented from Sheriff Grange and others, asking the Council to take such measures as might be deemed advisable for the encouragement of the enterprise, by adopting gas for the lighting of the streets and other purposes.

The year 1858 did not present any circumstance of any great public interest. The election for Councillors resulted as follows:—East Ward, Messrs. John Harris, Charles Davidson and James Murphy; South Ward, Messrs. J. Kirkland, P. Gow and W. Day; West Ward, Messrs. George Elliott, George Keeling and George Bruce; North Ward, Messrs. J. Harvey, F. George and James Armstrong. At the first meeting of the new Council on Jan. 13th, Mr. George Elliott was elected



Mayor, Mr. James Armstrong, Reeve, and Mr. John Harvey Deputy-Reeve. At the next regular meeting of the Council, Mr. F. George resigned his seat, in consequence, partly of some disputes in the Council and probably because he was not elected Mayor, and partly on account of business engagements. On the 15th February Dr. Herod was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. George.

It having been represented to the Council that it would be a great convenience to farmers and others living to the East and North of the Town if a foot-bridge were placed on the Grand Trunk railway bridge, the contractors, Messrs. Gzowski & Co., were written to on the subject, requesting them to erect such bridge, according to their contract, and the required accommodation was shortly afterwards provided. In April a little tea-cup storm was raised in the Council over a somewhat small matter. The ladies of the town had subscribed to present a flag for the Town Hall, and instead of formally making the presentation through the Mayor, it was sent to the Council through one of the members. No doubt the ladies were guilty of a breach of etiquette, and their conduct in casting such an unwarrantable slight upon His Worship the Mayor was most reprehensible, and of course the Council protested against such an insult to his dignity, but it is not recorded that they refused to accept the gift. In December the by-law for establishing a monthly cattle fair, instead of the quarterly fair, as heretofore held, was introduced, though the by-law was not carried until January 10th, 1859.

A vacancy having occurred at this time in the representation in Parliament for South Wellington, Mr. David Stirton was elected, but there was little excitement over the matter.

In the fall of 1858 an act was passed in the Legislature for the election of mayors of municipalities by direct vote of the people, instead of by the Councils as heretofore. The passing of this act was the cause of considerable excitement in this, as in other towns, many being anxious to be the first to receive the honor of election to that honorable position by the suffrages of the people. At the nomination in Guelph, in December, therefore, a larger number of electors were present than at any previous nomination for many years. The candidates were—Mr. James Webster and Mr. Peter Gow, and at the election, Mr. Webster was the choice of the people, defeating Mr. Gow by 226 to 203. The Councillors for 1859 were—Messrs. J. Harris, C. Adsett and J. Murphy. South Ward—Messrs. J. Kirkland, J. Stevens and Robt. Thompson. West Ward—Messrs. C. J. Buckland, R. Melvin and G. M. Keeling. North Ward—Messrs. J. Harvey, Jas. Armstrong and F. George. After the declaration had been made, a large body of the electors proceeded to the residence of Mr. Webster and took possession of the house. The health of the newly-elected Mayor was drunk, and a number of very complimentary speeches were delivered, congratulating Mr. Webster on the honor which had been conferred upon him. After this the party drove to the residence of Sheriff Grange, where the jovial part of the programme was repeated.

On the 10th of this month a large fire occurred at the granary recently erected by Mr. John McCrae at the junction of the Grand Trunk and Galt and Guelph Railways. The building was a large and substantial structure, and had only been in use a few months. At the time of the fire there were stored in it about 15,000 bushels of barley, peas, oats, &c.; which, with the building, were to a large extent destroyed. The loss was about \$4000, which was only partially covered by insurance.

On January 14th, the County was called upon to mourn the loss of one of its oldest and most valued citizens Mr. Charles Allan, M.P.P., who had been elected for the North Riding only about a year and a half previously. Mr. Allan had been in Guelph the day before and had reached Hamilton, from whence he intended going to Toronto. On his way to the railway station he was taken suddenly ill, and before he could be conveyed to the residence of his friend, Mr. J. Matheson, he expired, the cause of death being disease of the heart. At the funeral, which took place at Elora on the 17th, gentlemen from all parts of the County, as well as from the County of Waterloo, were present, the funeral being the largest ever seen in that part of the country. Mr. Allan had served in almost every capacity it was possible for a man to fill, from that of village Councillor to Warden of the County, and at last, as a member of the Legislature, and few men ever lived in the County who were more highly respected than he, for his business integrity, his devotion to the interests of his fellow citizens, and the general kindness of his disposition.

In the Council on the 17th, the election of Reeve and Deputy Reeve took place, the nominees being, for Reeve, Mr. John Harvey, proposed by Mr. Keeling, and seconded by Mr. Armstrong; and Mr. John Harris, moved by Mr. Kirkland, and seconded by Mr. Murphy. On the question being put the vote showed a tie, and the Mayor thereupon gave the casting vote in favor of Mr. Harvey, who was consequently declared elected. For Deputy Reeve, Mr. Murphy nominated Mr. John Kirkland who was seconded by Mr. Melvin. Mr. Robert Thompson was nominated by Mr. Keeling and seconded by Mr. Armstrong. On a vote being taken Mr. Kirkland was elected by a vote of seven to five.

The Township Council for this year consisted of Messrs. Whitelaw, Laidlaw, Rannie, Shortreed and Sweetnam. Mr. Whitelaw was elected Reeve and Mr. Rannie, Deputy Reeve. The County Council was composed of the following members:—Amaranth, C. Gillespie, Reeve; Arthur and Luther, R. Morrison, Reeve, John Sinclair, Deputy; Elora, Charles Clarke; Eramosa, Donald Black, Laz. Parkinson; Erin, Wm. Everdell, Wm. Cornock; Fergus, Alex. Wilkie; Garafraxa, John Dobbin, Thomas Duffy; Guelph, Wm. Whitelaw, John Rennie; Guelph, John Harvey, John Kirkland; Maryboro', Wm. Hambly; Minto, J. Harrison; Nichol James Ross; Peel, Thomas Gabutt, Wm. Sturtridge; Pilkington, John Smith; Puslinch, Wm. Leslie, Samuel Taylor. On motion of Mr. Whitelaw, seconded by Mr. Dobbin, Mr. James Ross was unanimously elected Warden.

On the 4th February, the nomination of candidates for the representation of the North Riding took place at Fergus. For about three weeks political excitement had run high all over the north part of the County, it being evident from the first that the contest would be very close. The candidates were Mr. James Webster, Conservative, and Mr. James Ross Reformer. At the nomination there was a very large attendance, and the show of hands was in favor of Mr. Ross by a small majority. A poll was, of course, demanded by Mr. Webster, and the election took place on the 11th, resulting in the election of Mr. Ross by a narrow majority. This result was due to the fact of Mr. Ross, as Warden of the County, being intimately acquainted with most of the electors personally and also to the fact that many Conservatives, more especially those in the neighborhood of Elora, at the last moment, were induced out of friendship for Mr. Ross, to succumb to the strong pressure brought to bear upon

them by his friends. A few days afterwards a grand dinner was given to Mr. Webster at Fergus, the chair being taken by Lieut-Col. Valentine, of Nichol, and the vice chair by Mr. Thos. Whitley, Mr. Webster's mover and seconder at the nomination. The attendance was very large, and the enthusiasm exhibited was such as to render it certain that at a future election, should Mr. Webster run again, the result would be far different from what it was then.

In April some consternation was caused in the Town by an assertion made in the *Mercury*, that the assessment this year, on account of the Galt and Guelph Railway debt, would be 1s. 11d. in the £. In order to grant the bonus to this railway, £20,000 had been borrowed from the Municipal Loan Fund, and it was true that on January 1st, the arrears due, in consequence of the inadequate assessment made under Mr. F. George's financial policy in the previous year, amounted to \$12,678, but by the judicious management of the Council of 1859, that indebtedness had been reduced by the payment of \$3,200, so that it was found necessary to levy a rate of only 1s. in the £.

In April a shocking murder was perpetrated a short distance from the Town on the Brock Road. John McGaffney was in the woods with his wife and son, aged about 12 years, when, after taking their dinner, McGaffney accused his wife of infidelity, and while the son was absent, struck his wife on the head with a large piece of wood and then battered the body almost out of recognition. The murderer did not attempt to escape, and when arrested fully admitted the crime. At his trial it was proved beyond a doubt that he was subject to fits of temporary insanity, he having for several months been an inmate of the Toronto Asylum. It was also proved that the suspicion of his wife's infidelity was a delusion. He was acquitted of the charge of murder, and ordered to be confined in a lunatic asylum during Her Majesty's pleasure.

The new church of St. Andrew being now finished, the formal induction of Rev. John Hogg as pastor of the congregation was held July 1st, the service being conducted by Rev. Mr. Gibson of Galt and Rev. Mr. McDonnell of Fergus.

The death of Mr. H. W. Peterson, for many years Registrar of the County, which occurred June 13th, having caused a vacancy in that office, Mr. James Webster was appointed to succeed him July 16th. It was at first thought that the appointment would necessitate Mr. Webster's resignation of the office of Mayor, but the opinion of the Attorney-General having been obtained, to the effect that such resignation need not necessarily follow such appointment, Mr. Webster retained the position.

In August another important enterprise connected with the trade of the town was commenced. Mr. C. E. Romaine, acting for Messrs. Gooderham & Worts, distillers and grain dealers, of Toronto, purchased a quarter of an acre of land near the apex of the Market Square, and at once commenced building a large granary, capable of holding 50,000 bushels. He immediately commenced buying large quantities of grain from farmers in all parts of the county, the consequence being that better prices were realized than had been the case for a considerable time.

The Rev. J. G. Macgregor having retired from the pastorate of Knox's Church, a unanimous call was extended to Rev. D. H. McVicar, which, having been accepted, the ordination service was held October 11th, Rev. William Millican of Garafraxa, Rev. George Smellie of Fergus, Rev. James Middlemiss of Elora, Rev. Thomas Cuthbertson of Winterbourne, Rev. Alexander McLean of Aberfoyle, and Rev. Andrew

McLean of Puslinch, officiating. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. Mr. Millican, who chose as his text, Psalm lxxxvii, 3. On the following Sabbath Mr. McVicar preached his first sermon in the church, from 2 Corinthians, iv. 5.

The month of October brought some severe losses to many of the merchants in the town, consequent on the stoppage of the International and Colonial banks. Although the notes of these institutions were not convertible at the local bank agencies, and were looked upon with suspicion by most of the sagacious moneyed men, still a considerable amount of these promises to pay had got into circulation here; for in those hard times persons were apt to think "a brown loaf better than no bread," and when a decent-looking ticket, unadorned with "wild cats," and claiming no paternity from the land of bogus banks across the lines was offered in payment, they were not generally disposed to be very critical. And so, for a while, there was quite an interesting spice of excitement, desks and tills were examined, spleuchans were ransacked, and not a few good folks who had put off dunning creditors on the previous day, with the time-honored response of "no funds," found to their astonishment that they had nice little rolls of bank bills securely stowed away in snug receptacles, which, on examination, gave out a moderate percentage of the now proscribed commodity. But while nearly all the merchants lost more or less heavily, a few of the *canny* monied men were smitten much more heavily, by venturing to accumulate large stocks of the suspected scrip. In fact, there was a general loss on all the trading community. In the case of the International Bank, the affair was undoubtedly got up with the intention of swindling the Canadians, who lost, in the aggregate, nearly \$250,000 by the failure.

In November a proposition was made to the Vestry of St. George's Church by Dr. Clarke and Mr. W. J. Brown to purchase the site on St. George's Square, for the sum of £2150, the purchasers to hold the property in trust for the Town for two years, at the expiration of that time, if the Town did not buy it, it was to be the sole property of Dr. Clarke and Mr. Brown, to be used as they thought fit. The matter was fully discussed in the Vestry, but the proposal was not accepted, Rev. Arthur Palmer agreeing, if the congregation would contribute £1500, to provide the balance of what would be required to finish the church where it then stood, from other sources.

The Rev. H. W. Stewart, B. A., assistant minister of St. George's Church, being about to remove to another sphere of labor, a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Leslie, Battersby, Thos. W. Saunders, F. J. Chadwick, H. W. Peterson and Capt. Vale, waited upon him and presented him with the following address:—

TO THE REV. HENRY WM. STEWART, B. A.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned, members of the Church of England, and others, inhabitants of the Town of Guelph and vicinity, hearing of your proposed change to some other parish, cannot allow you to leave this sphere of your useful ministry without expressing our heartfelt regret at parting with you; and renewing our assurance of every kind wish for your health and happiness.

We would avail ourselves of this occasion to bear willing testimony to the constant faithfulness with which you, in co-operation with your esteemed father, have discharged the laborious duties devolving upon you, during the absence from the parish, for a period of nearly two years, of the Rector, the Rev. Arthur Palmer.

And we earnestly trust that the blessings of a kind Providence may attend you, wherever your lot may hereafter be cast, and that there your future ministry may be marked with the same measure of success which it has been here.

This address, which was signed by about four hundred persons, members of St. George's and other churches, was replied to in suitable terms by Rev. Mr. Stewart, who expressed the hope that all those who had signed it might receive the same blessings they had wished should be given to him.

At the nomination for Mayor, in December, there was very little excitement. It had been the very generally expressed wish that Mr. John Harvey should be the next Mayor, and steps had been taken to carry his election by acclamation, but a few persons, inimical to him, were determined that this should not be, if they could prevent it, and accordingly a requisition was prepared to Mr. James Webster, to allow himself to be nominated, which however, he refused. On the day of nomination, therefore, against his expressed wish, Dr. Parker was nominated, and he only escaped being obliged to go to the poll, by claiming his right to exemption from service, as a medical man, under the statute which makes special provision for such a purpose. Mr. Harvey was thereupon elected by acclamation.

The close of the year was very near being marked by the destruction of the new market house, by fire. In order to prevent the meat from freezing, Mr. Wald, who occupied the first stall on the left, had filled a stove with firewood, and there being no guard plate beneath, the stove became hot enough to ignite the floor, which soon burned through, and the stove fell into the stall beneath, where there was a quantity of butter stored, which, of course, burned very fiercely, and had the fire not been discovered when it was, the probability is that the entire building would soon have become a heap of ruins. As it was, however, a liberal supply of water being procured, the flames were extinguished before very much damage was done.

The members of the Town Council for 1860 were:—East Ward—Messrs. C. Davidson, D. Allan and N. Higinbotham. South Ward—Messrs. J. Kirkland, T. Holliday and Dr. Parker. West Ward—Messrs. George Elliott, C. J. Buckland and G. M. Keeling. North Ward—Messrs. James Armstrong, Fred. George and Dr. Herod. At the first meeting of the Council, Mr. George Elliott was chosen Reeve, and Mr. Chas. Davidson Deputy Reeve.

The County Council for the year was composed as follows:—Amaranth, Chas. Gillespie, Reeve; Arthur, John Martin, Reeve, Robt. Morrison, Deputy Reeve; Elora, (village) Charles Clarke, Reeve; Eramosa, D. Black, Reeve, L. Parkinson, Deputy Reeve; Erin, P. McGill, Reeve, W. Cornock, Deputy Reeve; Fergus (village), James Grindley, Reeve; Garafraxa, John Dobbin, Reeve, Thos. Duffy, Deputy Reeve; Guelph, Wm. Whitelaw, Reeve, John Rannie, Deputy Reeve; Guelph (town), G. Elliott, Reeve, Charles Davidson, Deputy Reeve; Luther, George Todd, Reeve; Maryboro', W. S. Hambly, Reeve, Joseph Medill, Deputy Reeve; Minto, Joseph Harrison, Reeve, Noah Bullock, Deputy Reeve; Nichol, John Beattie, Reeve; Peel, Wm. Sturtridge, Reeve, John Gibson, Deputy Reeve; Pilkington, John Smith, Reeve; Puslinch, Wm. Leslie, Reeve, John Cockburn, Deputy Reeve. On motion of Mr. Leslie, seconded by Mr. Beattie, Mr. Whitelaw was elected Warden.

A fire of a serious nature occurred on the morning of January 31st,

on the Market Square, on the premises occupied by H. Jacobs & Co., cigar manufacturers and the Castle Garden Saloon, on the site now occupied by the HERALD Block. The buildings being principally of wood, were soon enveloped in flames, and though the fire engines were quickly on the ground, the hose was rendered useless by the severe frost, only one engine being able to be of any service whatever. Jacobs & Co.'s loss was about \$500, while Mr. Moran's on the saloon with the stock was about \$4000.

The period of service of the Governor General having expired, by official rule, during the past autumn, and he having been re-appointed by Her Majesty recently, Mr. Allen moved, in the meeting of Council of February 6th, the following address, to be presented on behalf of the Corporation:—

*To His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, K. C. B., Governor General of British North America &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

The Municipal Council of the Town of Guelph having learned that Her Most Gracious Majesty has vouchsafed to testify her cordial approval of the manner in which you have discharged the onerous duties of the high position you occupy as Her Majesty's representative in this Colony, by prolonging your term of office, respectfully beg leave to tender their sincere congratulations on so desirable and auspicious an event.

Under the judicious, the firm and constitutional rule of your Excellency, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, education—all the staple interests of the country have been fostered and have flourished; greatly increased facilities have been given to internal traffic, the credit of the province has been maintained and improved, and the country has attained a position and enjoys a prosperity unsurpassed by any portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

Should the expectation of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in this Province be realised by a visit from the Prince of Wales or other member of the Royal Family in the ensuing summer, we entreat your Excellency's good offices to procure us the honor and the happiness of welcoming a scion of Her Majesty's illustrious house to her loyal town of Guelph.

Guelph, February 6th, 1860.

Dr. Parker opposed the presentation of this address, on the ground that the Council should not interfere in any way in politics, while the majority of the members contended that there was nothing political in it. Dr. Parker, however, insisted that there was, and that by introducing such an address, some of the members had disregarded their oath of office, and threatened that if the address should pass he would resign his seat. Dr. Parker then moved for an adjournment, which was lost by a vote of 7 to 4. Dr. Parker then moved, seconded by Mr. Kirkland, "That the address now proposed to the Administrator of the Government is an improper interference with public affairs, and calculated to disturb the efficient working of the Council." The amendment was then put and lost, after which the address was carried. At the next meeting of the Council, the Clerk read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary, acknowledging the receipt of the address and enclosing the following reply of His Excellency to the same:—

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Municipal Council of Guelph.*

Although I am not aware that my term of office has been specially prolonged, I thank you very sincerely for your congratulations on my

having continued up to the present time to administer the government of this Province.

I rejoice to think that the last harvest, with which Providence has blessed us, will have done much to restore Canada to its former prosperity; and if His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visits the Province, I shall hope to see him welcomed by a thriving and a loyal people.

I acknowledge the expression of your attachment to our most gracious Sovereign.

EDMUND HEAD.

Government House, Quebec, February 13th, 1860.

Dr. Parker then moved, seconded by Mr. Elliott, that the answer of His Excellency to the Address of the Council, be received and entered on the minutes of the Council. In moving this the Doctor said the Governor's reply was an admirable one, and had completely changed his opinion of His Excellency, who, he now believed, was not such a bad fellow after all, and he hoped the address would be entered on the minutes with the reply.

In February the Town Clerk received a new Commission of the Peace for the Town, containing the following names:—William Clarke, David Ailan, George Elliott, Charles Davidson, John McCrea, W. S. G. Knowles, John Harris, John Horsman, C. P. P. Hutchinson and James Hough. At the same time the Clerk of the Peace received a new Commission for the County, as follows:—

TOWNSHIP OF GUELPH.—John C. Chadwick, George Elliott, William Whitelaw, James Laidlaw, George Pirie, William Day.

TOWNSHIP OF ERIN.—Henry Read, John McEwan, John Rott, Adam Conboy, James Kerr.

TOWNSHIP OF ERAMOSA.—John Blanchfield.

TOWNSHIP OF NICHOL.—Charles Michie, George C. Hamilton, Brebner Cadenhead, James Ross, Nicholas Murphy, James Reynolds, William Tindal, George Wilson, Alexander Muir, Eugene Scanlan, James Wilson (Fergus), James Grindlay.

TOWNSHIP OF GARAFRAXA.—John Campbell Ross, Joseph W. Ferrman.

TOWNSHIP OF LUTHER.—George Todd, James Newson, Duncan Saunders, Hugh McDougall, James Isles.

TOWNSHIP OF ARTHUR.—T. H. Philips, Richard Chalmer, John Morrison (the Eider, Lot 23, Con. 10th.)

TOWNSHIP OF PILKINGTON.—Hugh Roberts, Arthur Ross, John Finlayson, David Henderson, James M. Frazer, John Potter, Walter P. Newman, William Gibbon, Charles Clarke.

TOWNSHIP OF PEEL.—Robert Nay, A. Bannerman, George Stewart, Thomas Holt, James Gibson, Thomas Heritage, William Blackwell, George Halley, Thomas Burns, Alexander Weir, John Malloy, Senior, Samuel Thompson, David Blair.

TOWNSHIP OF MARYBOROUGH.—Samuel Kilgour, John Watson, William Clarke, William Ayerst, John Robinson, William Robinson, John Walker, William Johnson, John Kilpatrick, Samuel Benson, Thomas Henderson, John Johnston, Henry Maudsley.

TOWNSHIP OF MINTO.—Noah Bullock, Robert Caldwell, John Smithurst, Henry Stovel, Senior, Leonidas Chalmer, Archibald Harrison, Alexander Dow, William Webber, William Keith, Mathew G. Miller, Joseph Harrison.



At the meeting of Council on May 7th Mr. F. George tendered his resignation, on account of pressing business engagements, and the resignation was accepted. At the same meeting a committee, consisting of the Mayor, Messrs. Allan, Kirkland, Keeling, Dr. Parker and Dr. Herod, was appointed to make arrangements for the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. On May 21st Dr. Clarke was elected to fill the vacancy in the representation of the North Ward caused by the resignation of Mr. George.

In May an Act received the Royal sanction for the consolidation of the debt of the Town of Guelph, the provisions of which were as follows: The Town being indebted to the Municipal Loan Fund in the sum of \$80,000, and on ordinary debentures \$48,132, the arrears on which were \$3,667; and on other accounts the Town being indebted \$4,475, the same should be consolidated by the issue of debentures for such sums unconnected with the Municipal Loan Fund, to the amount of \$28,000, for the purpose of redeeming or discharging certain debentures, due and in a short time to be due, provided that the by-law for issuing such debentures should receive the assent of a majority of the electors, and that the Town should not deviate from, change or repeal the terms of the issue of such debentures, except that the Town might abstain from issuing all the debentures. The whole to be redeemable not later than the year 1880.

In the Council on June 4th, the Mayor, Messrs. Allan, Buckland and Dr. Parker were appointed a committee to correspond with Rev. Arthur Palmer with reference to the purchase by the Town of the site of St. George's church, the result being that Rev. A. Palmer declined to name a sum, and for a time the matter dropped.

In June of this year the HERALD commenced the publication of a semi-weekly edition, in reference to which some very flattering notices appeared in the newspapers in various parts of the country. Among others, the *Colonist* said:—"Our contemporary the Guelph HERALD now publishes a semi-weekly edition, besides his usual weekly issue. We are glad thus to notice the enterprise and energy displayed, for the HERALD is one of the best Conservative papers we receive. It has long and manfully fought our battles, and stood true to the interests and fortunes of our party. We are glad to notice this sign of increased prosperity, and hope its spirited proprietor will meet with the success he deserves under this additional responsibility." The *London Free Press* said:—"The Guelph papers have made a sudden start, and there are now two semi-weekly journals issued in that comfortable well-to-do place. The semi-weekly edition of the Guelph HERALD is now before us, presenting itself as a well-filled, attractive sheet, containing a capitally selected and well digested budget of the news of the day, such as may be taken up and read with pleasure and profit by any one, be his bias what it may. Mr. Pirie, its conductor and proprietor, is among the oldest members of the Provincial press, and that he knows well how to cater to his readers is fully shown in his new and creditable enterprise." The *Canadian Freeman* said:—"It is this week our pleasing duty to chronicle a change in the Guelph HERALD. Though differing essentially with our contemporary in general politics, we the more cheerfully accord him the credit of being among the fairest and most liberal of the Conservative journalists in the Province. The columns of the HERALD have always been open to just remonstrance against grievance or wrong, to truthful refutation of misrepresentation or falsehood, and to temperate discussion. Further, we have never known the editor of the HERALD to descend to

the mean and insulting slang with which some other journals befool their columns. We wish our contemporary triumphant success."

At the meeting of the Town Council in August 8th, Dr. Parker made a statement to the effect that the joint committees of the Town and County Councils had transmitted a memorial to the Governor-General, soliciting a visit from the Prince of Wales, to which no answer had been returned. The memorial read thus :—

*To His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Governor General of British North America, etc., etc.*

The memorial of the Joint Committee of the Municipal Councils of the Town of Guelph and the County of Wellington, to solicit a passing visit from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Town of Guelph, during his tour through Western Canada, and to make such arrangements as will insure to His Royal Highness fit and proper reception within the reach of your memorialists, should the prayer of your petitioners be granted—Humbly sheweth:

That your memorialists desire to approach your Excellency at this auspicious moment for Canada with renewed assurances of devoted attachment and loyalty to the person and government of our gracious, beneficent and beloved Queen, and, in common with the whole Province, hail with pride and gratification the approaching visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to this country.

That the obvious and direct route for His Royal Highness from Toronto to Sarnia would appear to your memorialists to be by the Grand Trunk Railway, passing through the centre of the Western Peninsula, one of the finest and most populous agricultural districts in Canada, thus affording to a large portion of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects, otherwise debarred by their remoteness from the frontier towns, an opportunity of exhibiting their devotion and loyalty to the Crown by welcoming the Heir apparent to the British Throne to this most important part of Her Majesty's Dominions.

Therefore your memorialists, on behalf of the people of this town and county, pray your Excellency to use your kind offices to secure the Town of Guelph, a town which bears the illustrious family name of the House of Brunswick, and is situated on the route, a visit of an hour or two from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

Signed by the members of the Joint Committee of the County and Town Councils.

No reply having been received to this memorial up to August 18th, the Mayor of Guelph and Warden of Wellington proceeded to Quebec to present another and similar memorial. They were introduced to the Governor General by Col. Irvine, and presented the memorial, and in reply his Excellency said the Prince would pass through Guelph and would probably be induced to stop long enough to receive an address. The deputation were directed to transmit a copy of the address proposed to be presented, to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, who would intimate to them when and where the Prince would receive it. At a meeting of the Joint Committee, held a few days afterwards, it was decided to erect a covered stand in which to receive the Prince, each person occupying a seat therein to be charged a small sum for the privilege. An address was also drafted, and Mr. Hough was despatched to Montreal to submit it, through the Governor General, to the Duke of Newcastle.

In a few days a telegram was received intimating that the Prince would leave the cars and remain in Guelph for a short time, and preparations were at once commenced for his reception. On September 12th the Prince paid his much wished for visit to Guelph, and a most loyal reception was accorded him. The following description, published in the HERALD, will give a better idea of the proceedings than anything written now could possibly do.

Wednesday last will be written in large letters in the annals of Guelph, and will be remembered for many years to come, as the period of an event that must needs be of a rare occurrence in the interior of a Province so far removed from the central seat of Government of this mighty empire. How little could the founder of our good town have anticipated, how remote from even his fertile imagination, the idea, that in little more than thirty years after he felled the first tree in the unbroken forest which then stood where Guelph now stands, ten thousand persons would be assembled within a few hundred yards of the site of that goodly maple, to welcome the heir of the British Crown, the eldest son of the reigning sovereign, after whose illustrious house he named the embryo town, for which he chose so fair a site.

As only some ten days intervened between the period at which it was conceded that the Prince should make a short stop at Guelph on his way to Sarnia, and the date of his arrival, the preparations for the royal visit had to be made somewhat hastily, but despite such disadvantage the arrangements were tastefully designed and well and elegantly completed. The amphitheatre connecting on the one side with the railway track, through a beautifully ornamented arch, surmounted with a crown of flowers, and having on the opposite side a dais surmounted with a gaily-colored cupola and a flag staff, from which floated the royal standard, was capable of accommodating some 6000 persons in the seats and on the floor. The entrance arch and dais were connected by an elevated gangway about 150 feet in length, which had a rope rail on either side, and surmounted by numbers of miniature union jacks, was neatly carpeted. This gangway led up to the platform forming the pedestal of the dais, which was elevated a few steps above it, was elegantly carpeted, and furnished with three handsome arm chairs. On the floor of the amphitheatre to the right of the dais, seats were prepared for the school children, and on the left some of the brass bands were subsequently placed. Lofty flagstaffs, bearing a variety of colors and flags, rose from different parts of the building, which did much credit to Messrs. Bruce and Armstrong the artificers.

The sidewalks on Wyndham street and the Market Square were tastefully dressed with evergreens, and flags fluttered gaily from the house tops and from elevated flagstaffs. The Dundas Artillery Company under Lieut. Smith, which had arrived on the previous evening, drove up and unlimbered their guns on the upper section of the Market Square early in the forenoon, Major Notman, who commands the Company, was prevented from attending by sickness in his family. Lieut. McKenzie acted as signal man, to announce the arrival and departure of the Royal party, which regulated the firing. The Company wear a very handsome uniform and have quite a soldierly appearance, and their Brass Band, although numbering few instruments, were fully as efficient as any on the ground. The other brass bands present, were those of Fergus, Elora, Berlin and Guelph, who all merit much praise for their services on this occasion. Soon after noon, the school children, who had assembled in the Town

Hall to the number of 500, were ushered into the amphitheatre by their teachers and took their seats, and soon after the gentlemen invited by the Mayor and Warden to take places on the platform with the members of the Town and County Councils arranged themselves around the dais. Colonel Webster, commanding the 6th Military District, Lieut.-Colonel Saunders, Lieut.-Colonel Fergusson, Lieut.-Colonel Drysdale, Lieut.-Col. Munro, Major Greet, A. Q. M. G., Major Wilson, Captain Date, Captain Hamilton and other officers, the Rev. A. Palmer, Rural Dean, Rev. E. M. Stewart, of St. George's church, and Rev. John Hogg, of St. Andrew's church, these gentlemen appeared in their clerical gowns—the Rev. Messrs. McVicar and Torrance, of the Presbyterian church, the Rev. Messrs. Holzer and McQuag, Roman Catholic, Rev. Messrs. Douse and Adams, Methodist, Rev. Mr. Clarke, Baptist, Rev. Mr. Clarke, Congregationalist, all of Guelph, F. Kerr, Esq., County Surveyor, J. Hough, Esq., Deputy Clerk of the Crown and A. D. Ferrier, Esq., Clerk of the County Council, John Miller, Esq., R. F. Nellis, Esq., and Wm. Cooke, Esq., from Galt, and several other gentlemen were present. The stoppage of the trains on the line prevented the appearance of several gentlemen from Toronto.

About 12.30 the rifle company, led by Capt. Higinbotham and preceded by the Artillery Company's brass band, entered the enclosed space and took post in front of the arch. They were followed by a detachment of the Guelph Cavalry (dismounted) who were posted by Colonel Webster in front and rear of the dais.

The Royal party having left Toronto at 11 a.m., were announced in the instructions transmitted to the employees of the Grand Trunk along this section of the line, to arrive in Guelph at 1 p.m. and that hour was now at hand. The school children, aided by Messrs. Sunley, Wheatley, &c., with instrumental music, and led by Mr. James Fergusson, sang some stanzas in very excellent style, but were not heard, we believe, by many present, so fully occupied were they in expectation of the arrival of the Prince.

Precisely at 12.50 the pilot engine, announced to run 10 minutes ahead of the royal train, passed through the town, setting expectation on tip-toe. One o'clock passed, however, and the minute hand of the town clock that looked down on the amphitheatre had passed a third of the points on its next hour's journey, but still there was no sign of the Prince's approach, and many grave conjectures were made as to the cause of detention. The royal party had been detained a few minutes at different stations on the route, and more especially by descending to view the stupendous viaduct over the Credit, so that it was 1.22 ere the train ran up to the landing place.

The Prince immediately left the royal car, and was received on the platform outside the arch by the Mayor and Warden, who, leading the way into the interior of the amphitheatre, were followed by the Prince's equeiries; the Prince,—hat in hand, and gracefully bowing—the Governor General, Duke of Newcastle, General Williams, the hero of Kars, Col. Bruce, and other members of the Royal suite. The artillery now commenced firing the salute, the rifle company presented arms, the school children rose and waved their handkerchiefs, and the assembled thousands cheered with a vehemence that quite drowned the martial sound of trumpet and drum, which vainly endeavored to make audible the strains of the National Anthem.

The Royal cortege passed along the platform amid this outburst of

pleasurable excitement, the fluttering of flags and strange commingling of sounds, to the dais, in the centre of which the Prince turned and stood until his suite arranged themselves, and a half circle was formed by the gentleman occupying the platform. The rifle company marching along the gangway until the leading file reached the platform around the dais, opened and fell back on each side, forming a double line from the platform to the arch. The Mayor now advanced and read the following address :—

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES:

May it please your Royal Highness—

The Mayor and Council on behalf of themselves and the inhabitants of Guelph, proudly welcome your Royal Highness to this Town, which bears the family name of the illustrious House of Brunswick, a town which has risen in thirty years from an unbroken forest.

We thank your Royal Highness for the honor of this visit, and the opportunity thus afforded of expressing our loyalty and devotion to the person of our Queen; and attachment and fealty to the free institutions of the great Empire of which we are proud to form an integral part.

We entertain a profound sense of Her Majesty's kind and gracious consideration for her Canadian subjects, in delegating your Royal Highness to visit Canada, and are deeply sensible of our obligations to your Royal Highness, in encountering the fatigues and perils of an Atlantic voyage, to come amongst us.

Our warm affections will follow your Royal Highness, and our earnest prayers to Almighty God for your safe return to that empire whose future hopes and expectations, in common with our own, are bound up in your Royal Highness.

JOHN HARYEY, MAYOR.

The address, which was beautifully engrossed on parchment, was received by the Prince, who handed it to the Duke of Newcastle. The Warden then came forward and read the following address from the County Council :—

*To His Royal Highness, Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Cobourg and Gotha, Grand Steward of Scotland, Duke of Cornwall and Rothesay, Earl of Chester, Carrick and Dublin, Baron of Renfrew, and Lord of the Isles.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

We, the municipal representatives of the County of Wellington, in County Council assembled, gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity presented by this visit of your Royal Highness to our County Town, to testify in word as we are ever ready to do in our daily lives, our devotion to the crown and person of our illustrious and beloved sovereign, while with others we cannot avoid the expression of our regret that the duties appertaining to the high position held by her gracious Majesty have prevented her acceptance of the invitation proffered by our Legislature, and from becoming personally acquainted with the present feeling of loyalty pervading this portion of her dominions. We gratefully acknowledge the readiness with which she has met the prayer of her Canadian subjects, by deputing, as her representative, one who at some distant day will wield the sceptre now held by her. In doing this, we beg to congratulate your Royal Highness upon the enthusiastic and hearty reception which has greeted you during your tour through the province, and can assure you that in the backwoods of this peninsula, thousands of miles from the parent state, where the hardy pioneer is busily engaged in

battling with the difficulties of a fresh settlement in a forest land, there burns as strong a feeling of attachment to the throne as in those "happy homes of England," in the midst of which you dwell.

And our pleasure in welcoming you to this section of Canada, is only marred by the reflection that the limited time at your disposal does not permit you to travel through the interior of the noble country spreading from this town northward to the shores of Lake Huron and to witness how the labors of less than a score of years have converted the wilderness into a land teeming with plenty, and filled with a prosperous and contented people.

In conclusion we pray your Royal Highness to convey to our beloved Sovereign this expression of the feelings of devotion and esteem which animate the people of this country; and an assurance, that should occasion ever call for more active proofs of loyalty, the men of Wellington will be found worthy of the illustrious name which they proudly bear.

WILLIAM WHITELAW, WARDEN.

The Prince having handed the County address—which was equally handsomely got up as the other—to the Duke of Newcastle, received from him and read, with a singularly distinct and musical intonation, the following reply; delivering, at the conclusion, the document to the Mayor:—

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you sincerely for the Address which you have presented to me.

In the Queen's name I thank you sincerely for the expressions of your loyalty to her crown and person, and for myself I am grateful to you for this welcome to this the chief town of so fertile and beautiful a district, bearing, as it does, the name of my own family.

The Mayor was now directed to present the gentlemen of the Town Council, and then the members of the County Council were presented by the Warden. Colonel Webster and the Rev. A. Palmer, who had been presented at Toronto, again paid their respects to the Prince, and the school children sung the following stanzas in admirable style:—

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long may Victoria reign,  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen!

Crowned with each kingly grace,  
Wisdom and righteousness,  
Our youthful Prince;  
Strong in the nation's might,  
May he defend the right,  
Turn all his foes to flight,  
God save the Prince!

The Prince now descended from the dais, and preceded by his equerries and followed by the rest of his suite, passed slowly round the platform, giving to the multitude outside the enclosures a perfect view of his person and countenance. This condescension on the part of his Royal Highness was met with another hurricane of hurrahs. Lingering a minute in front of the dais, the procession then passed between the lines of the Rifles towards the railway, followed by the gentlemen on the platform. The artillery now began firing the parting salute, the bands commenced "God Save the Queen!" which soon passed into "Rule, Britannia!" and the crowd in the amphitheatre, from the basement away

up to the highest range of seats in the lofty semi-circle, arose simultaneously and cheered loudly and long. And so, amid the clamor of voices and instruments, the steam whistle uttered its shrill scream, and the Royal party in a few seconds were out of sight; the people came down from house tops and verandahs, and the amphitheatre was emptied of its occupants in a twinkling. The Prince's visit occupied scarcely twenty minutes. He was, indeed, only 14 minutes within the arch.

In the afternoon the officers of the Dundas artillery company, the Guelph cavalry, including the gentlemen about to receive commissions in the corps—Capt. Hutchinson, 1st Lieut. Hemmings, and 2nd Lieut. Hood, with several officers of the sedentary militia, dined at Thorp's hotel. The cavalry paraded the streets mounted, in the evening, and the different bands discoursed music in all directions.

In the evening nearly all the houses on Wyndham Street, were illuminated. Among the more conspicuous, were Higinbotham's block at one end, and the Alma block at the other, the Great Western hotel and Mr. Harte's store on the opposite side of the street, in front of which were suspended some pretty colored Chinese lanterns, were well lighted up.

The store of Horsman Brothers, ironmongers, was very tastefully illuminated, showing four beautiful transparencies, in the top window, surround by "the mammoth horse shoe," was a large crown with the letters V. R. Underneath this window were three other transparencies in a line, the one in the centre being the Prince of Wales' feathers, with the motto "Ich Dien," the one on the left represented the arms of Canada, with the legend "hon mutal genus solon" and on the right was the rose, thistle, shamrock and maple leaf entwined, surrounded by the inscription "we are all one." The *tout ensemble* had a very pleasing effect, and reflects great credit on our enterprising townsmen Horsman Brothers.

The British hotel was also well lighted and had colored lights hanging from the evergreens in front, and the seminary of the Ladies of Loretto was a blaze of light, its spacious front and elevated position, giving it a singularly brilliant appearance. In the evening the Town Council gave a ball in the Town Hall which was attended by Col. and Mrs. Webster, the Mayor and the Misses Harvey, Major and Mrs. Wilson, the members of the Town Council, officers of the active and sedentary militia, and a host of civilians. Dancing was kept up with much spirit till midnight, and a day of much enjoyment was concluded without accident or disappointment.

One of the members of the Prince's suite, in an account of the tour, published in the *St. James' Chronicle*, one of the oldest and best papers then published in Great Britain, in referring to the visit to Guelph said:—"But at the beautiful town of Guelph the first really fine and imposing spectacle was presented after leaving Toronto. The town is charmingly situated in the hollow of a basin, the sides being gently swelling hills, all of them, or most of them, exceedingly well cultivated, and dotted with snug and handsome villa residences with gardens and orchards. The station is apparently in the middle of the town, and here, close to a splendid and highly ornamented stone structure (which I learned was the town hall) a tasteful pavilion was erected, facing the railway, and on one side was an amphitheatre, something like that at Toronto, only not on so large a scale. A throne was placed under the pavilion, and at the foot of the dais the Guelph corporation were waiting with their address. The amphitheatre was filled with well-dressed people—some 4,000 or upwards—while outside a large open space contained a crowd twice as



large in number, and the houses abutting on the square had their windows filled with spectators. There was a fine triumphal arch, and of course the town was gaudily decorated. A number of children sang the National Anthem as the Prince walked to the pavilion, and the greatest enthusiasm as usual prevailed. The Prince was evidently much struck with the fertility of the country about Guelph, and indeed said so in reply to the address which was presented to him. He also said that he was peculiarly gratified at receiving an address from a town which bore his family name. The people of this beautiful and flourishing town, now containing about 5,000 inhabitants, will never forget the gracious condescension of his Royal Highness, and in this section of Upper Canada loyal sentiment is likely to burn brighter than ever.

"There is an appearance of prosperity about Guelph which is most pleasing to behold. It is the most attractive-looking town and neighborhood I have yet beheld in Upper Canada. There are several really splendid buildings, evincing good taste in their architecture, among which I must name the Town Hall, the English Church, the Court House, and more than one elegant row of houses and shops, which I was enabled to obtain a glimpse of during a hurried scamper through a portion of the town. There are several really imposing hotels, one of which I entered, and found the interior fitted up in quite a luxurious manner. The town is a stone one; most of the public, and many of the private buildings are constructed of this material, which is peculiar, differing from any other stone which I have seen in Canada. It is a kind of limestone, but to my observation seemed to partake of the saponaceous. Viewing the surrounding splendid agriculturing country, which extends to nearly fifty miles in length on the Grand Trunk Railway, I should say that Guelph is destined to become the centre of one of the finest and richest districts in Canada West, and certainly here no English capitalist can do wrong in investing his surplus funds. I shall not soon forget Guelph—the fine aspect of the town, although the streets are by no means regular, and the English church occupying the centre of the principal thoroughfare—the beautiful rolling country, admirably farmed all around, and the pretty little river speed."

From Guelph the Prince proceeded to London, where a grand ovation was prepared for him, and in the evening a ball was given at the Tecumseh House. From London the royal party went to Sarnia, and from thence to Detroit, Chicago, &c.

During the visit of the Prince to Kingston, some unfortunate misunderstandings arose on account of the position which the Orange body felt it their duty to assume in reference to the reception of his Royal Highness, and some persons had charged the Orangemen with disloyalty, the charge being reiterated by the *London Times*. At a soiree given by the Orange Lodge in this town subsequently, Hon. John Hillyard Cameron, Grand Master and Sovereign of the Loyal Orange Institution of British North America, in referring to the matter, said, "there had been an attempt to insult and coerce Orangemen, and in the irritation consequent on such provocation, some of them may have been betrayed into proceedings that were to be regretted, but they were not the 'ruffians' the *London Times* had termed them; there were none more loyal to their Queen, nor more ready to shed their blood for the maintenance of British connection." The Orangemen in the town also, while they regretted the occurrences which took place at Kingston, took every means to disavow any disloyalty either in word or thought, and repelled the insinuations

which had been made in various quarters, inimical to their avowed love for the Queen and British institutions.

At the November Assizes the trial of George Harris, for murder, took place. The evidence adduced showed the crime to have been one of the most atrocious and unprovoked ever perpetrated in this part of the country. Harris was a colored man, a laborer, living near the town, and for about eighteen months he had been living with a colored girl named Sophia Waldren, about sixteen years of age, but they were not married, though deceased went by the name of Rachel Harris. Harris had been in the habit of beating her, and on Sunday, August 26th, while under the influence of liquor, he had knocked her down and beaten her with a small rod to such an extent that the body presented one mass of inflammation and wounds from head to foot, from the results of which cruelty she soon died, when Harris carried the body into the woods and went and told some neighbors that she had fallen from a tree into a pile of elm tops and been killed. The jury returned a verdict of guilty and the prisoner was sentenced to be hanged December 21st. Shortly before his execution Harris dictated a statement in which he said he was 45 years of age, and that he had been married, his wife and one child having died under what were considered suspicious circumstances, some years previously. He denied that he had murdered the girl Waldren, asserting that she had bruised herself while wandering about in a drunken state, though, as the medical testimony had proved that blows had been inflicted by some person, he must have done it. At the execution, which took place outside one of the windows in the Court House, there were present about 1600 persons, but all passed off quietly.

For some time the Reform party had been giving dinners to their leaders in various parts of the country, at which statements had been made respecting the members of the government which it was found advisable to contradict, and for this purpose the Conservatives of Guelph, with some other towns, invited Hon. John A. Macdonald to a dinner, to give him an opportunity of making a statement in reply. The dinner was given in the Town Hall, which was tapestried with flags and scrolls, suitable mottoes being placed over the windows and doors. A table for the invited guests was set out on the platform, at the west end, and three long tables were run from the platform to the foot of the hall. Covers were laid for 250 guests, but these were occupied at the first rush, the steps and breast of the platform, the window seats and every available nook and corner of the hall were converted into dining tables for the nonce. The stewards and some thirty other gentlemen had to stand until others, having dined, relinquished to them their places at table, the number present being little short of four hundred. But besides those who obtained sitting or standing room not a few persons retired, on seeing the crowded state of the hall, without attempting to enter. The company having taken their seats, the invited guests, preceded by the Mayor, entered and passed up to the platform, while the "Hail to the Chief!" of the brass band was speedily drowned by the cheering of the crowd.

Mr. John Harvey, Mayor of Guelph, occupied the chair, and the vice-chairs were filled by Dr. Finlayson, of Elora; Mr. John Watt, of Fergus, and Mr. J. Davis, of Erin.

On the chairman's right were placed the Hon. John A. Macdonald, Hon. Solicitor-General Morrison, Rev. A. Palmer, Col. Kingsmill, Mr. J. Hespeler, Mr. Andrew Geddes, and Dr. Clarke. On the left of the chair

were the Hon. John Ross, the Hon. S. Smith, Dr. Herrick, Mr. J. J. Kingsmill, Col. Rich, Captain Date and Mr. William Alexander. The press was represented by Mr. Greig, of the *Toronto Leader*, Mr. Harvey, of the *Hamilton Spectator*, Mr. Jaffray, of the *Galt Reporter*, Mr. Greenham, of the *Fergus Constitution*, and the editors of the local journals.

The following gentlemen acted as stewards:—Dr. Herod, Dr. Harvey, Messrs. Charles Davidson, J. Horsman, W. S. G. Knowles, F. Kerr, F. J. Chadwick, Capt. Hutchinson, J. Davis, G. Murton, W. Allan, J. Webster, Jr., W. Wilson, J. Allan, J. Douglas, J. C. Wilson and J. Harrison.

Among the guests around the long tables, were Mr. N. Kingsmill, Capt. Vale, Messrs. J. Davie, A. Hogge, H. W. Parker, R. Johnstone (Fergus), A. Quarry, Col. Saunders, Col. Hewat, R. Corbet, A. A. Baker, D. Allan, R. Brodie, J. Beattie (Reeve of Nichol), Col. Wilton (Peel), John Iles, John Caulfield, James Webster, Ed. Carthew, W. P. Wilson, J. C. Chadwick, R. Shortreed, D. Murray, Col. Valentine, S. L. Shotter, (Erin), J. Thorp, J. L. Smith, M. Anderson and A. Cadenhead (Fergus), G. McKenzie Stewart, T. W. Saunders, A. Lemon, S. Broadfoot and A. Sherratt (Nichol), J. Finlayson (St. Jacobs), James Reynolds, W. Reynolds; J. Morrison, C. O'Callaghan and M. Cox, Arthur; William Gibson, Elora; H. Tolton, D. Day and J. McKerlie, Eramosa; Major Wilson, Dr. Munro and R. Brown, Fergus; R. Thompson, J. Presant, James Thorp, William Lindsay, J. Coulson, G. Draper, C. McElderry, J. Kellar, A. B. Stewart, John Millar, B. J. Harte, J. Murphy, J. Hazelton, M. Ryan, T. K. Beatty, G. Fox, John Hogg, F. Fetherstonhaugh, E. Harland, J. Bain (Elora), E. V. Smith, A. W. Blyth, George Richardson, A. Blyth, Jr., T. Card, A. Kennedy, J. Mitchell, A. Allan, A. McKenzie, E. Hubbard, J. Watson, D. Henderson, P. Moran, J. O'Neill, G. Robins, J. McCrae, T. W. Cooper, J. M. Fraser (Elora), R. Lingwood (Nichol), J. Leslie, B. Ternant and J. A. Thompson, Arthur; J. McLaren, Ernotville; John Green, Elora, &c.

Grace was said by Rev. Arthur Palmer, who, after dinner, also returned thanks. The usual loyal toasts were then drunk, and Col. Kingsmill delivered a most patriotic address, which was greeted with loud cheers.

The chairman then said, the gentleman who would next speak had had his share, at least, of abuse, while making efforts which he considered eminently successful in the interests of the country. He then gave "The Hon. Attorney-General Macdonald," which was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

Hon. J. A. Macdonald then rose and said:—

"Mr. Mayor, Vice-Chairmen, and Gentlemen:—I should indeed be devoid of those sentiments which must actuate every man of proper feeling, if I did not experience the greatest pleasure and thankfulness for this reception—this kindly greeting from the people of Guelph and the County of Wellington. For it is a greeting like this—a kindly welcome of this kind—that compensates a public man for much of the trial and obloquy that he must go through during his career. (Applause.) As you have said, sir, a public man gets plenty of abuse, and I get more than my share of it; but as I have acted according to the best of my ability and judgment—although, of course, I have committed many errors—as I feel my meaning to have been honest, and that I designed in my best way to do the best for my country, I have been able to bear up against all the attacks to which I have been subjected, and I have confided in the good

hearts and the fair play of the people, of Upper Canada especially, feeling that they would not allow me to be condemned unheard. (Cheers.) And I find, from meetings like this, that although I have been traduced, I can yet face the people of Upper Canada at a public board, and that they are willing not only to allow me an opportunity of giving explanatory statements, but are ready to ride many a mile to meet me, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather and the breaking up of our summer roads. (Cheers.) Hereafter, then, though I may be subjected, as I certainly shall be, to many attacks, calumnies, and sinister representations, I will look back and remember with confidence which will cheer me, the greeting which has been given me by the men of Wellington and Waterloo, who have come to bid me Godspeed. (Applause.) I must say that, even though I knew I had many personal and more political friends in this part of the country, I did not expect this magnificent demonstration in Guelph. Some Opposition papers have said that nobody would be here to meet John A. but a parcel of parasites and toadies—that a set of mere sycophants, officials, and seekers for office, would come (laughter), but I find that there is a fair representation of the whole bone and sinew of the country. I ascertain from those who know you, that here I can find the honest farmer who has driven thirty or forty miles to meet me; while the merchant and the hard-working artisan are here, too, to meet their fellow-countrymen.” He then at great length reviewed the action of the Government on all the questions of public interest at that time, contending that what had been done had been for the immediate and ultimate good of the country, and would be looked upon in after years as the best policy which could have been adopted. Other toasts followed, and one of the most successful and best conducted political demonstrations ever held in Guelph was then brought to a close.

On Saturday evening a fire occurred in the Victoria Mill, owned by Mr. J. Presant, and it being a frame building, it became an easy prey to the flames. The wind at the time was blowing a hurricane, and several other buildings in the neighborhood were for a time in great danger of being sacrificed, but by the efforts of the firemen and the inhabitants, these were saved. The fire engines were early on the spot but the only result, so far as the mill was concerned, was the destruction of the hose carriage, which, having been run close to the mill, could not be withdrawn and was burned. It was soon evident that the mill could not be saved by human efforts, and attention was directed to the getting out of flour and grain, and to the safety of a cottage a short distance off, occupied by Mr. Bradley and the miller, and that of the residence of Mr. Presant, still further distant. The former building soon caught fire, but it was, by considerable exertion, extinguished, and Mr. Presant's house was only kept from igniting by the use of wet blankets and water thrown by hand; the heat was so intense, the sweep of the flames so overpowering, and the wind so high that the fire engines were useless. In less than two hours from the breaking out of the fire the mill was reduced to a heap of smouldering brands. The loss on the building, machinery and produce was estimated, by Mr. Presant, at \$12,000, on which there was no insurance, a policy from the Wellington Mutual having expired only a short time before. Mr. Presant called a few days before the fire at the Company's office, with the intention of renewing the policy, but, unfortunately, did not find the Secretary.

The elections did not excite very great interest in 1861. For the mayoralty, it was the wish of a considerable body of the electors that Mr.

John Harvey should serve another year, but at a public meeting he said, that though he would leave the matter in the hands of the ratepayers, he was not anxious to be a candidate. The election was consequently contested by Mr. George Palmer and Dr. Parker, the result being that Dr. Parker was elected. The Councillors for the year were :—East Ward—Messrs. C. Davidson, N. Higinbotham and Geo. Hood. South Ward—Messrs. H. W. Paterson, J. Kirkland and T. Holliday. West Ward—Messrs. G. M. Keeling, C. Buckland and T. Gowdy: North Ward—Mr. John Harvey, Dr. Hood and Dr. Clarke. Mr. John Harvey was chosen Reeve, and Mr. Kirkland Deputy Reeve.

The County Council of the year was composed of the following gentlemen :—

MUNICIPALITY.	REEVE.	DEPUTY REEVE.
Amaranth .....	C. Gillespie .....	
Arthur .....	F. Thompson .....	C. Dowd
Elora village ....	C. Clarke .....	
Eramosa .....	D. Black .....	L. Parkinson
Erin .....	P. McGill .....	W. Everdell
Fergus village ....	W. Robertson .....	
Garafrax .....	J. Dobbin .....	W. Armstrong
Guelph .....	W. Whitelaw .....	J. Laidlaw
Guelph town .....	J. Harvey .....	J. Kirkland
Luther .....	D. Saunders .....	
Maryborough ....	W. S. Hambly .....	W. Ayerst
Minto .....	A. Harrison .....	N. Bullock
Nichol .....	S. Wissler .....	
Peel .....	T. Garbutt .....	W. Sturtridge
Pilkington .....	J. Smith .....	
Puslinch .....	Wm. Leslie .....	S. Taylor

Mr. Wm. Whitelaw was re-elected Warden.

The committee of the Farmer's and Mechanic's Institute, feeling that some more tangible proof of their appreciation of the services of Mr. Edwin Newton, the Secretary, was due to him than the mere routine vote of thanks, decided to present him with a piece of plate, which was done on the evening of February 20th. The presentation was accompanied by the following address :—

*To Edwin Newton, Esq., Secretary of the Guelph Farmers and Mechanics' Institute.*

We, the undersigned President and Members of Committee of the Institute, at the commencement of the fourth year of the discharge of your duties as Secretary, beg your acceptance of the accompanying piece of plate, as a small testimonial of the appreciation and respect of the Institute toward you. We bear willing testimony to the untiring devotion and cheerful support you have rendered to the Institute, not merely as an office-bearer, but as a private member, and that the prosperous and successful condition of the same is attributable in no small measure to yourself.

Although your onerous and important duties have always been gratuitously rendered, we are fully persuaded that no pecuniary recompense would have been as acceptable as the pleasant reflection that you have contributed your utmost endeavors in promoting the elevating and praiseworthy objects of the Institute, and achieving for it no trifling share of its present useful and flourishing position.

The value and importance of this reflection, we trust, sir, will not be impaired by our tribute of sincere respect and estimation for you, both in your official and private character, accompanied, as it is, by the kindest wishes of every member of the Guelph Farmers and Mechanic's Institute.

(Signed) A. M. JACKSON, President.

David Savage, V. P.; James Gow, V. P.; T. Sandilands, Treasurer; N. Higinbotham, David Allan, R. M. Moore, John Horsman, T. S. Parker, H. W. Peterson, Robt. Melvin, John C. Allan, A. Mackenzie, James Cormack, A. B. Stewart, Alexander Thomson, D. Guthrie, T. Anderson.

Mr. Newton responded in a brief but feeling manner, expressing his high appreciation of the kindness of his friends, and the interest which he would always take in the Institute.

In the Council in April a petition, signed by Mr. Sheriff Grange and 150 other taxpayers was presented, as follows:—

*To His Worship the Mayor, and Council of the Town of Guelph:*

The petition of the undersigned ratepayers humbly sheweth: That a petition was presented to your predecessors in office last year, signed by a large and influential portion of the taxpayers of this Municipality, praying that steps should be taken to lease or sell a portion of the Market Square; that the Council of last year did take action and made some progress in the matter: that the Mayor and Council for the current year have applied to Parliament for power to carry out the request of said petitioners; that your petitioners some of whom signed the petition of last year, believe that the circumstances which existed last year, and which induced many to sign that petition have changed, inasmuch as the business of the Market has greatly increased; but there is every prospect that it will continue to increase, and, therefore, a more apparent necessity to reserve the whole of the Market Square for market purposes: and further, that the unanimity which then existed upon its subject among the property-holders upon the Market Square does not now exist, and the strong probability is that ill feeling and litigation will result, if the measure originally asked for be not abandoned, are additional reasons which induce your petitioners respectfully to request your worshipful body to take immediate steps to withdraw the application recently made to Parliament for power to lease or sell some portion of the Market Square.

And your petitioners, &c.,

Guelph, April 8th, 1861.

The census of the entire county having been taken during the previous year by Mr. W. S. G. Knowles, he reported to the Town Council in February, that at the time of taking the census the population of Guelph Town was 5140. The following is a copy of the statistics:—

POPULATION.		RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.	
Males .....	2547	Episcopalians .....	1282
Females .....	2583	Roman Catholics .....	1176
Total .....	5130	Church of Scotland .....	402
PLACES OF BIRTH.		Free Church ditto .....	519
England .....	968	United Presbyterians .....	173
Ireland .....	910	Wesleyans .....	857
Scotland .....	580	Baptists .....	98
Upper Canada .....	2339	Protestants .....	133
Lower Canada .....	96	Primitive Methodists .....	106
United States .....	141	New Connection .....	6
France, Germany, &c. ....	96	Evangelical Union .....	54
		Quakers .....	7

Congregationalists.....	263	LIVE STOCK.	
Christians.....	37	Horses.....	384
Lutherans.....	5	Cows and horned cattle.....	559
Universalists.....	1	Sheep.....	27
Second Adventists.....	6	Pigs.....	443
Episcopal Methodists.....	5	Total value.....	\$38,151 00
EDUCATION.		DWELLING HOUSES.	
Boys attending school.....	457	Stone.....	238
Girls " ".....	393	Brick.....	58
Total.....	850	Frame.....	568
Males over 20 who cannot read or write.....	40	Log.....	69
Females over 20 who cannot read or write.....	39	Total.....	933
Total.....	79	FACTORIES, ETC.	
Widowers.....	53	Grist mills.....	2
Widows.....	100	Tanneries.....	3
Colored persons.....	10	Breweries.....	3
Lunatics.....	2	Distillery.....	1
Births in 1860.....	188	Cloth factory.....	1
Deaths in 1860.....	55	Planing factories.....	2
		Iron foundries.....	3
		Printing offices.....	3

The following were the statistical returns for the County as shown by the census taken at the same time:—

Townships.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Wid- owers.	Wid- ows.	S. Children.		Births 1860.	Died, 1860
						Males.	Females		
Puslinch....	2439	2283	4722	31	46	486	424	95	38
Guelph T'p..	1637	1456	3093	33	39	356	290	106	20
Nichol.....	1242	1143	2385	25	39	228	181	49	4
Pilkington....	1269	1132	2401	13	38	347	317	66	18
Elora.....	529	522	1051	11	23	99	126	51	2
Fergus.....	599	534	1133	7	19	112	78	36	6
Minto.....	1258	1116	2374	13	28	136	132	139	34
Peel.....	2702	2315	5017	25	51	512	477	163	21
Maryborough	1699	1452	3151	17	27	347	306	135	16
Garafraxa....	2620	2280	4900	43	61	513	454	216	26
Amaranth....	676	570	1246	9	12	141	126	52	11
Luther.....	371	318	689	0	5	14	0	34	7
Eramosa.....	1796	1589	3385	26	49	404	327	104	43
Erin.....	2641	2384	5025	29	67	540	411	145	28
Total.....	21478	19094	40572	282	504	4235	3649	1391	274

For several years there had been a feeling that the assessment rolls of the County did not give so full and accurate a statement of the actual value of land and property as was desirable, and in taking the census on this occasion great care was taken to obtain such information as would make the statement as nearly as possible correct, and the agricultural census of the County showed the following figures :



Townships.	Acres occupied.	Under Cultivation.	Cash value of Farms, \$.	Value of Farm Implements	Total value in dols. of all Live Stock.
1. Puslinch.....	55.679	32.884	1.636.625	76.468	232.742
2. Guelph.....	34.207	22.953½	1.583.340	56.865	179.888
3. Eramosa.....	33.174½	19.653½	967.425	46.984	130.165
4. Nichol.....	24.942	15.233	1.226.516	49.706	120.120
5. Pilkington....	27.508	16.127	939.150	31.789	110.644
6. Amaranth....	18.744	6.625	333.400	12.780	37.680
7. Luther.....	16.514	2.046	105.820	2.049	12.596
8. Garafraxa....	54.429	24.520½	1.250.110	55.301	167.857
9. Peel.....	60.913	25.032	1.318.570	56.530	161.669
10. Minto.....	52.439	7.440½	416.650	11.504	59.755
11. Arthur.....	49.617	13.034	599.720	25.443	81.956
12. Maryborough.	43.572	14.056½	838.500	30.171	91.421
13. Erin.....	60.753	32.743	1.248.974	49.441	229.755
Total.....	532.491½	232.348½	12.464.800	505.031	1.616.248

In June the office of postmaster of Guelph became vacant by the death of Mr. Robert Corbet, which occurred on Sunday, June 23rd. His death was alike sudden and unexpected. Having been for a short walk, he reached home about half-past nine, and shortly afterwards went to bed. He had retired but a short time, when he began to cough and spit blood. The nearest medical man was sent for in all haste, and Dr. Herod was in attendance almost immediately, only to find his patient beyond the reach of medical aid, and when Dr. Clarke arrived a few minutes later, Mr. Corbet had expired. Death was the result of the rupture of a blood vessel in the region of the lungs. Mr. Corbet was in his 59th year, healthy and robust, and with every appearance of enjoying for many years a green old age. He had been postmaster of Guelph for the long period of twenty-four years, his being one of the oldest appointments in the service, and he had seen the business of the office increase under his management many hundred-fold. He was diligent, industrious and provident in business, and had, in the course of his long residence in town, amassed considerable property, having erected one of the finest and most valuable blocks of buildings in the business portion of the town. He was a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and son of Mr. James Corbet, an old and respected employee of the Canada Company, who was present when the first tree was felled in Guelph. At the funeral, nearly all the business men in town were present, most of the stores being closed on that afternoon.

In the general election, which occurred in June, consequent on the dissolution of Parliament, Mr. Stirton, who had been elected in 1858, was returned without opposition in the South Riding. In the North Riding the contest was between Dr. Clarke and Mr. James Ross, who had defeated Mr. Webster at the previous election. The result was a victory for Dr. Clarke by 71 votes.

Finding that it would be impossible for him to attend to the interests of his constituents in the North Riding of Wellington, and discharge the duties of Councillor at the same time, Dr. Clarke, at the meeting of the Town Council on August 5th, resigned his seat at the Board, and at the

election which followed Mr. George Palmer was elected in his place without opposition.

The Government having recently made some important changes in the location of the military stations, and some further alterations being in contemplation, it was thought advisable to ask the Government to station some of the troops in Guelph, and a memorial to that effect was adopted in the Council, as follows:—

*To His Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Bart., Commander-in-Chief:—*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Corporation of the Town of Guelph, having learned from the public prints that a large addition is immediately to be made to the military force now in Canada, beg leave respectfully to submit to your Excellency's favorable consideration the following among the claims of Guelph as a military station, or as quarters for troops.

That in 1854 the Commissioners selected Guelph as a place for the erection of an arsenal.

That Guelph is situated in the centre of one of the finest agricultural districts in Western Canada, with excellent gravel roads diverging into all parts of the interior, and is connected by the Grand Trunk Railroad and Great Western, with all the principal places, cities and towns in Upper Canada.

That Guelph is, in population, the fourth town in the Upper Province, and is, commercially, entitled to a much higher rank.

That all articles of food, forage and fuel, of the best quality and in unlimited quantities, may be procured in Guelph, at rates as cheap, or cheaper, than in any other place in Canada.

That Guelph is noted for its salubrity, and has never suffered from any endemic disease, while the beauty and picturesqueness of its scenery makes it a most desirable place of residence.

That Guelph can offer barrack accommodation, second to none in the Province, not specially erected for such purpose, composed of a large four-story stone hotel, with a range of five three-story stone buildings attached, which would furnish the necessary accommodation for officers and men—connected with which is a large stone stable. These buildings have an abundant supply of excellent water; opposite these buildings is an extensive public square which could be used as a parade ground. There is another large stone building in the town which could also be obtained if required. The whole can be had at a merely nominal rent.

Should your Excellency grant the prayer of this Corporation, it will cordially give your Excellency every assistance and co-operation in locating a military quota in this town, and will also do everything in its power to make the residence of Her Majesty's troops in the town satisfactory and pleasing.

We therefore sincerely pray your Excellency to quarter in this town four or five companies of troops, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

A public meeting was soon afterwards held, when the action of the Council was endorsed, and Col. Webster was sent with the memorial to Toronto, to lay the matter before the military authorities there, and to Quebec, to present the memorial to the Governor-General. In reply, His Excellency said he would bear in mind the liberal offer made by the town, but at present the strength of the forces would not permit of any of the troops being quartered in Guelph.

In October another vacancy occurred in the Council by the death of Mr. G. M. Keeling, one of the members for the West Ward. The cause of death was paralysis, and apoplexy of the brain. Mr. Keeling had resided for some years in Guelph, having been at one time proprietor of the *Advertiser*, after relinquishing which he commenced the publication of the *Mercury*, which he continued to edit until his death. In the election which followed Mr. John Keller and Mr. Henry Hatch were the candidates, the former being elected by a narrow majority.

As a consequence of the outrage committed by American cruisers on the British steamer *Trent*, and the arrest on the high seas of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, serious fears were entertained in England and in this country that a war between England and the United States was imminent, and as Canada would, from its proximity to the States, be the first to suffer, some little anxiety was felt to make such preparations, in case hostilities should commence, as would place the country in a comparative state of defence and security. With this view meetings were held all over the country, among the first towns to take this step being Guelph. Not that there existed here any alarmist feeling, or that the people were unduly excited, but that the men of Guelph were anxious to evince their loyalty by being prepared in case of an emergency, and, as had been the case on previous occasions, be the first to place themselves in readiness for any contingency, and take the van in any movement for the defence of the country and the British Government. A numerous signed requisition having been presented to the Mayor, a public meeting was called on December 17th, when the Town Hall was, within a few minutes of the doors being opened, filled to repletion, and the meeting was accordingly adjourned to the Market Square, the Mayor and the speakers addressing the crowd, the largest ever seen at any meeting in the town before, from the balcony in front of the hall. The Mayor, in opening the proceedings said the situation in which the two countries were placed was a very grave one, and the result of the dispute might prove very serious, but he was sure the men of Guelph would be ready to do their duty. If war did come, it was the duty of Canadian citizens to show that they were in a position to meet their foes with resolution and decision. He hoped their proceedings would be conducted with prudence and propriety, and if the worst occurred he had no doubt the men of Guelph would, as heretofore, prove themselves a credit to the great empire of which they formed a part. Addresses of a loyal and energetic character were delivered by Col. Webster, Hon. A. J. Fergusson, Lt.-Col. Grange, Mr. C. E. Romaine, Lt.-Col. Saunders, Mr. George Elliott, Mr. John Harris, and others. It was finally determined to appoint a committee to conduct the drilling of the militia in the County, and to take such other measures as might be deemed necessary for the organisation of the people for defense, such committee to be composed of Col. Webster, Lt.-Cols. Hewat, Saunders, Grange, and the Hon. A. J. Fergusson, Majors Greet and Wilson, Captains Schweizer, Kingsmill, Higinbotham, Hutchinson and Cain, and Lieut. Armstrong. It was also decided to petition the Council for the use of the Town buildings for drilling purposes, a request which the Council promptly granted. A meeting was held a few days afterwards to organize a Highland Rifle Company, when addresses were delivered by Messrs. Adam Robertson, G. Pirie, D. Murray, J. Massie and D. Guthrie. The result was that about thirty names were enrolled the first evening, and a number of others a few days afterwards. Drilling went vigorously on, and munitions of war were being extensively prepared, until, a few

days before the close of the year, Messrs. Mason and Slidell were surrendered to the British Government, and thus the war cloud which had loomed so portentously over the country for some weeks was dissipated, and, to some extent, the usual feeling of tranquillity was restored, though the men of Guelph did not wholly abandon the organizations which had been effected.

The municipal elections for the year 1862 passed off very quietly. The candidates for the Mayoralty were Mr. James Webster and Mr. Geo. Palmer, the latter being elected by a small majority. The members of the Council were:—East Ward—Messrs. Chas. Davidson, Geo. Hood, and R. Melvin. West Ward—Messrs. Chas. Backland, Henry Hatch and F. W. Galbraith. North Ward—Messrs. John Harvey, Adam Robertson, and Francis Evatt. South Ward—Messrs. H. W. Peterson, Thos. Holliday, and Dr. Parker. At the meeting of the new Council, Dr. Parkers was chosen Reeve, and Mr. Chas. Davidson, Deputy Reeve.

The County Council was composed as follows:—Amaranth, Chas. Gillespie; Arthur, Sidney Smith, Garatt Cavanagh; Elora (village) Chas. Clarke; Eramosa, Robert Royce, James Lohrin; Erin, P. McGill, Alex. Binnie; Fergus (village), James Grindley; Garafraxa, John Dobbin, Wm. Armstrong; Guelph, Wm. Whitelaw, James Laidlaw; Guelph (town), Thomas S. Parker, Charles Davidson; Luther, Duncan Saunders; Maryboro', Wm. S. Hambly, Wm. Ayerst; Minto, Noah Bullock, Malcolm Wright; Nichol, Sem. Wissler; Peel, Wm. Sturtridge, John Madden; Pilkington, John Smith; Puslinch, Wm. Leslie, Samuel Taylor. Mr. Whitelaw was re-elected Warden, without opposition.

The pulpit of Knox's Church having become vacant by the translation of Rev. McVicar, to Montreal, a call was extended, early in January, to Rev. W. S. Ball, of Woodstock, which being accepted he was duly inducted on Wednesday, February 5th. The Rev. Mr. McMicken, of Berlin preached an appropriate sermon from Acts xvi. 15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." After the induction service, Rev. Mr. Duff, of Elora, addressed the minister, and Rev. Mr. Smellie, of Fergus, the congregation on their respective duties as pastor and people. In the evening a complimentary soiree was given to the newly inducted pastor, at which about 600 were present. Rev. Mr. McLean took the chair, and addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Barrie, Rev. J. Hogg, Guelph, Rev. D. Inglis, Hamilton, Rev. R. Torrance, Mr. D. Stirton, M. P.P., and others. Mr. Ball expressed his regret at the absence of his brother-in-law, Hon. George Brown, whom he had expected together with Dr. Ormiston and Dr. Thompson. The evening was, on the whole, one of the most enjoyable ever remembered in Knox's Church. On the following Sunday morning, Rev. Dr. Thompson, of Galt, preached from St. John v. 35, and in the evening Rev. W. S. Ball preached from Colossians i, 28, the church being crowded at both services.

The vacancy in the postmastership of Guelph, which had existed since the death of Mr. Robert Corbet, was in April filled by the appointment of Col. Kingsmill, father of Mr. J. J. Kingsmill, of the law firm of Fergusson & Kingsmill. Col. Kingsmill, a veteran officer of the Peninsular war, had been for many years sheriff of Welland and Lincoln, the duties of which, as years increased, were found to be beyond his strength and he accordingly resigned his shrievalty to accept this appointment, which was a less onerous, but also a less remunerative office. There had been several applications for the position, and some of the candidates were considerably annoyed that their claims were overlooked, but

the general opinion was that the appointment was a good one, and would give general satisfaction.

In July the congregation of Knox's Church met for the purpose of presenting to their pastor, Rev. W. S. Ball, a carriage as a token of the esteem they entertained for him personally, and the gratitude they felt to him for the unwearied exertions he had made in clearing off the debt on the church. The presentation, which consisted of a handsome Rock-away carriage, built by Messrs. J. B. Armstrong & Bros., was made by Mr. David Stirton, M.P.P., in an appropriate address, which was feelingly responded to by Mr. Ball. A few days later the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, through Mr. James Massie, made a similar presentation to Rev. John Hogg.

In August a fire occurred in the planing mill of Messrs. Stewart & Co. on the Paisley Block Road, by which a considerable number of persons were temporarily thrown out of employment, portions of the building being used by Messrs. Stewart, Cossitt & Goodfellow as drying premises and steaming rooms for material for fanning mills, &c. Besides other valuable property, 30,000 feet of lumber were destroyed, the loss altogether being about \$3,000.

The news of the distress among the cotton operatives in Lancashire, England, consequent on the comparative stoppage of the supply of cotton from the United States, having excited much sympathy in the town, a public meeting was held to consider what steps should be taken to contribute to the alleviation of the unfortunate condition of the operatives, and after some stirring speeches had been delivered by Rev. Arthur Palmer, Mr. Charles Davidson, Dr. Parker, Mr. G. Elliott, Mr. Hatch, Rev. W. S. Ball, Mr. C. E. Romaine and others, a committee, consisting of Revs. A. Palmer, W. S. Ball, W. F. Clarke, James Brock, John Hogg, John Clarke, R. Torrance, Messrs. J. Webster, G. J. Grange, C. Davidson, T. Sandilands, W. S. G. Knowles, George Elliott, J. McCrea, N. Higinbotham, H. W. Peterson, G. Murton and Dr. Howitt, was appointed to collect subscriptions. Meetings were held in various parts of the county, the result being that in a short time upwards of £164 were collected in Guelph alone, which was duly forwarded to London.

In September a telegram was received announcing that Lord Monck, the Governor-General, would pay a visit to Guelph, on his way to Goderich. Preparations were accordingly made to give him a proper reception, and on the day of the visit, September 25th, the town presented quite a gala appearance, flags floating over the public buildings, the hotels and many private houses, and as the time announced for the Governor-General's arrival—twelve o'clock—drew near, preparations for firing a salute were observable, while the children attending several of the public schools were marched into the Market Square, and placed in positions favorable for viewing the proceedings. A small platform had been erected at the east end of the market house, on the line of Huskisson street, at the point where the reception of the Prince of Wales took place, and the best possible point for obtaining a view of the business part of the town, and here the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. William Whitelaw, County Warden, Col. Kingsmill, the Rev. Messrs. Palmer, Torrance, Smithurst and Clarke, Dr. Herod, Messrs. T. Sandilands, D. Allan, G. Elliott, A. B. Stewart, Major Greet, and a few other gentlemen, were assembled to meet His Excellency. About noon the special train, conveying the Governor and suite, running past the Grand Trunk station and along the Market Square, brought : p at the platform,

when amid the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells His Excellency, accompanied by Lord Mulgrave, the Hon. Messrs. J. S. Macdonald, Foley and McDougall, Mr. C. J. Brydges, Managing Director of the Grand Trunk Railway, and Mr. C. R. Christie, Superintendent, Mr. Sheriff McDonald, of Goderich, and other gentlemen, alighted.

The Mayor having been presented to His Excellency by the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, immediately read the following address:—

*To His Excellency the Right Honorable the Lord Viscount Monck, Governor-General of British North America, &c., &c.:—*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Mayor and Corporation of the Town of Guelph, on behalf of ourselves and fellow townsmen, most cordially welcome your Excellency to Guelph.

We regret that the briefness of your Excellency's visit, and the absence of very many of our fellow townsmen at the Provincial Exhibition, precludes us from offering to your Excellency that reception which we would heartily desire to give the honored representative of our most gracious Queen, but we trust your Excellency will ere long again visit our town, when circumstances may permit us to acknowledge the honor in a manner more becoming its importance and our own wishes.

We gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our loyalty to the Queen, our respect for your Excellency, and our devotion to the constitution of our country.

We most earnestly hope that your Excellency, Lady Monck and family, may enjoy all health and happiness while resident in this Province, and that your Excellency's administration of public affairs may tend to the peace and prosperity of the Province, and to draw closer these reciprocal relations of allegiance and protection which have hitherto united us to the mother country.

Dated at Guelph, this Twenty-fifth day of September, A. D., 1862.

JAMES HOUGH,

TOWN CLERK.

G. PALMER,

MAYOR.

His Excellency read the following Reply:—

*To the Mayor and Town Council of Guelph.*

GENTLEMEN:—

I thank you sincerely for the Address that you have presented to me, and I wish at the same time to express to the inhabitants of the Town and neighborhood, my warm acknowledgements for the kind reception they have given me.

It was stated that no copy of the Council's address having been forwarded, the response was necessarily brief. The members of the Town Council, the Warden, the Clergymen present, and several other gentlemen were then presented to His Excellency by the Mayor. The Governor General accompanied by Lord Mulgrave, on suggestion, then went to the extreme end of the platform, where all around had a good opportunity of seeing him, and on the call of the Mayor three cheers were given for the Queen, and a like compliment was paid to the Governor General and Lord Mulgrave. Lord Monck intimated his intention of paying another visit to Guelph, at no distant period, with more time at his disposal, and having made remarks to different gentlemen on the platform, including Mr. D. Allan, whom he recognized as his fellow passenger from Liverpool, he ascended the platform of the car, and soon

after the train moved on slowly amid the booming of cannon and the cheers of the crowd.

The contest for the Mayoralty for 1863 commenced early, and was somewhat exciting. When Mr. Palmer had been elected, he had distinctly pledged himself that he would offer no opposition to the election of Mr. H. W. Paterson the next year, and upon that understanding Mr. Peterson had refrained from becoming a candidate. This pledge, however, Mr. Palmer now denied having made, and thus forced Mr. Peterson to take more energetic measures than would otherwise have been necessary, and also to come into the field earlier than he would have done had Mr. Palmer not announced himself as a candidate, a course which was most inconsistent with his conduct all through the last contest, in which he strongly objected to Mr. Webster on the ground that he had served one term and should therefore retire. Meetings were held by both candidates almost every evening for some time, and the fight continued up to within a day or two of the nomination when Mr. Palmer, acting on the advice of some of his more judicious supporters, retired, and Mr. Peterson was consequently elected by acclamation.

The election of Councillors for the year 1863 resulted as follows :—East Ward—Messrs. Geo. Hood, George Palmer and R. Wilson. South Ward—Messrs. P. Gow, E. Carroll and Dr. Parker. West Ward—Messrs. Henry Hatch, George Elliott and W. F. Galbraith. North Ward—Messrs. John Harvey, A. Robertson and R. Mitchell. Mr. Geo. Palmer was elected Reeve and Mr. George Elliott Deputy Reeve.

The members of the County Council for the year were as follows :—

Amaranth—Charles Gillespie; Arthur—Robert Morrison, Sidney Smith; Elora—Charles Clarke; Eramosa—Robert Royce, Jas. Loghrin; Erin—P. McGill, Alex. Binnie; Fergus—James Cattanaich; Garafraxa—A. Drysdale, A. Dyce; Guelph Town—George Palmer, Geo. Elliott; Guelph Township—John Rennie, G. Shortreed; Luther—Mr. Saunders; Maryborough—Wm. Ayerst, W. S. Hambly; Minto—A. Harrison, M. Wright; Nichol—George Barron, John Beattie; Peel—Thomas Garbutt, W. Sturtridge; Pilkington—John Smith; Puslinch—W. Leslie, W. Clark; Mr. George Elliott was elected Warden.

For some time there had been a desire on the part of the townspeople that some place should be provided for holding concerts, balls, &c., independent of the Town Hall, which was not always available, and not in all cases suitable. To supply this want Mr. John Thorp, with his usual enterprise, erected a very commodious hall adjoining his hotel on Macdonnell Street, and on New Years' eve it was opened by a grand ball and supper, under the patronage of Mrs. Sheriff Grange. The ball was opened by Col. Webster and Mrs. Grange, and dancing was continued with great vivacity until after the new year had come in, when the company sat down to an elegant supper, presided over by Col. Webster, after which dancing was resumed and kept up till about four o'clock.

In the *Gazette* of January 16th the following appointments on the Commission of the Peace were announced :—Guelph Town—Judge A. Macdonald, Messrs. Geo. Elliott, Fred. W. Stone, A. A. Baker. John Neeve, David Allan, George Pirie, William Hewat, William Clarke, James Armstrong, John McCrea, W. S. G. Knowles. William Day, John Horsman, John Harris, Jr., James Webster, Sr., Charles Davidson, T. S. Parker, P. Gow, A. Robertson, R. Melvin, William Stewart, W. F. Galbraith, N. Higinbotham, Edwin Newton, James Hough; and for the Township—Messrs. William Whitelaw, James Laidlaw, Thomas Hood,



John Rannie, R. Campbell, A. McCorkindale, William Logan, William Benham, Jr., John Hobson, Jr., John Kirkland, S. Hodgskin, William Alexander, Andrew Quarry, J. C. Chadwick, John Card, Arthur Hogge, William T. Vale, Henry Watson, W. H. Parker, Charles Mickle, Richard Jackson, George Shortreed and James Wright, Sr.

Hon. A. J. Fergusson-Blair having returned from a visit to Scotland, a number of his friends, without regard to political differences, tendered him a dinner, which was given in Thorp's new hall on January 29th, a large number of ladies and gentlemen from all parts of the country being present. Col. Webster, in the absence of Mr. Sheriff Grange through indisposition, occupied the chair, and on his right sat the guest of the evening; Mr. J. Cowan, M.P.P.; Mr. G. Davidson, Sheriff of Waterloo; Mr. George Elliott, Warden of Wellington; Dr. Clarke, M.P.P.; Mr. C. E. Romaine, Mr. McK. Stewart and Col. Hewat; while on his left sat Hon. W. Dickson, Col. Kingsmill, Dr. Parker, Mr. P. Gow, Mr. D. Stirton, M.P.P., Mr. H. W. Peterson, Mayor of Guelph, Mr. William Whitelaw, and others. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Fergusson-Blair, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Stirton, Hon. Mr. Dickson, Mr. Webster, Col. Kingsmill and Mr. Romaine, the company separating just before midnight.

The Hon. A. J. Fergusson-Blair having accepted the portfolio of Receiver-General, a new election became necessary in the Brock Electoral Division, and the nomination took place March 28th. Mr. Fergusson was nominated by Mr. James Ross, and seconded by Mr. Elias Eby; Dr. Parker, of Guelph, being nominated by Mr. John Rennie, and seconded by Mr. James Mitchell, of Eramosa. Dr. Parker, after addressing the electors, and consulting some friends, withdrew his name, and nominated Mr. George Pirie, editor of the HERALD, but that gentleman positively declined the honor, and Mr. Fergusson-Blair was consequently returned without a contest.

At the Assizes in April, John Bain, a tavern-keeper in Elora, and John Bain, his son, were tried for the alleged murder of Thomas Lysight, on February 28th. The deceased went into the tavern on the day named, and with some others made a disturbance, and young Bain put him out, when a general fight ensued, in which the two Bains struck deceased several times, and finally he was knocked down, his head striking a stone, death resulting shortly afterwards from concussion of the brain. The defence was that Lysight was a very violent man, and that he had caused the dispute, the injuries he received being inflicted in the course of a fight in which he was the aggressor, and that the prisoners had acted only in self-defence. After a few minutes' absence the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."

The Macdonald-Sicotte ministry having been condemned by Parliament on a vote of want of confidence moved by Hon. John A. Macdonald, on April 28th, Parliament was dissolved and a general election took place early in June. In the South Riding Mr. David Stirton was nominated by Mr. George Elliott, Warden, and seconded by Mr. P. McGill, Reeve of Erin. No other nominations being made, Mr. Stirton was declared elected. In the North Riding Dr. Parker, of Guelph, was nominated by Mr. Robert Hay, of Maryborough, and seconded by Mr. E. Passmore, of Pilkington. Dr. Clarke, of Guelph, was nominated by Col. Drysdale, of Garafraxa, and seconded by Dr. Maudslay, of Maryboro. Mr. John Beattie, of Nichol, then nominated Mr. George Palmer, who was seconded by Mr. George Spafford, of Drayton. Mr. Palmer, however, did not go to the poll. The result of the election was in favor of

Dr. Parker, which was undoubtedly due to the fact of Dr. Clarke's over-confidence, causing him to delay the commencement of his canvass until within a few days of the nomination, and his indecision in giving a definite answer as to whether he would be a candidate or not.

A few days after the election the friends of Mr. Stirton entertained him at dinner at the Wellington Hotel, among those present being Hon. M. H. Foley, M.P.P.; Hon. J. C. Aikens, M.L.C., Mr. J. Cowan, M.P.P., Mr. J. Rymal, M.P.P., Dr. Parker, M.P.P., Messrs. James Ross, George Elliott, H. W. Peterson, C. E. Komaine, H. H. Swinford, N. Higinbotham and W. Whitelaw. A number of speeches were made, congratulating Mr. Stirton on his success.

In April Dr. Clarke made an offer to the vestry of St. George's Church to purchase the site on St. George's Square for the sum of \$10,000, which was accepted, the congregation being anxious to build a more suitable edifice on Woolwich street. In July Dr. Clarke offered to transfer the site to the Town, at the same price, an offer which was not then accepted.

In August the town sustained a severe loss in the death of Mr. James Wright, one of the oldest settlers. Mr. Wright, from the time he arrived here, took a deep interest in all public matters, and served in various offices, in the old District Councils, as Commissioner of County Roads, as Reeve and as Warden. He took an especial interest in the development of the resources of the district, and in the opening up of means of communication with the adjacent country, more particularly in the building of the Brock Road, the completion of which was largely due to his energy and perseverance. In 1851 Mr. Wright ran in the Conservative interest against Mr. A. J. Fergusson for the representation of the County in Parliament, and was only defeated by a small majority. Since that time he had taken an active interest in the Agricultural Societies of the County and Township, and for some years had acted as Secretary-Treasurer to the South Riding Agricultural Society, which, with the other societies with which he was identified, severely felt his loss.

The town having now assumed such proportions as to warrant the step, a movement was set on foot, on the suggestion of the Mayor, to induce the managers of the Provincial Exhibition to hold the show of 1864 in Guelph, and a public meeting was called, at which it was resolved to ask the Council to make a grant of \$2,000 towards the necessary funds, and also to ask the County Council to vote a similar amount, which, with \$1,000 which it was expected to raise by private subscription, and \$500 it was hoped would be granted by the Township, it was thought would be sufficient to defray the expenses. The proposal was rejected by the Directors of the Provincial Exhibition, and a movement was subsequently set on foot for a County show, the result of which will appear hereafter.

On Sunday, October 4th, the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Bartholomew was performed. The work had been in progress for some time, and the stone work had been raised to a considerable height, and the south side of the partially-built walls was tastefully decorated with evergreens and streamers. The procession, headed by the Bishop, passed from the old church to the west end of the new buildings, where the sanctuary was to be, at which place the Bishop blessed a large wooden cross, placed on the site to be occupied by the altar. The procession then passed to the front of the church, where the corner stone was placed, and there the Bishop uncovered, and

assisted by the attendant clergymen, recited certain liturgies and prayers, in latin, the choir afterwards singing the 137th Psalm, "Except the Lord build the house," &c., and while the corner stone was being adjusted in its place, the Bishop, wearing his mitre, recited a prayer in Latin, and having blessed the corner stone, assisted by the clergy, he repeated the 51st Psalm, also in Latin. A vessel containing a roll of parchment, bearing the following inscription in Latin and English, was deposited under the corner stone; the Latin inscription was also engraved on a sheet of zinc:

"His Lordship Right Rev. John Farrell, D. D., First Bishop of Hamilton, blessed and laid the first stone of this Church, to be built to the honor of God, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, and of St. Bartholomew, Apostle and Patron of the Parish, the 4th day of October, the Feast of the Holy Rosary of the B. V. M., A. D. 1863.

"PIUS IX., Pope; Flavian Turgeon, Archbishop; Very Revs. Ed. Gordon, V. G., John Walsh, V. G.; Revs. M. M. O'Shea, S. Maheut, Ed. Glowalski, J. Holzer, S. J., Sup.; Dh. Petit, S. J., J. Archibald, S. J., N. Sorg, S. J., assisting.

"Victoria, Queen; Lord Monck, Governor-General of Canada; H. W. Peterson, Mayor of Guelph."

Subsequently the Bishop, clergy, etc., passed in procession around the site of the church, reciting prayers in Latin, and sprinkling the foundations of the building with holy water. Having made the circuit of the church, the clergy on returning to the corner stone sung the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus," and the ceremony was concluded with prayer by the Bishop. After this, the Rev. J. Walsh, V. G., of Toronto, ascending a temporary pulpit, wreathed with evergreens, delivered a long and eloquent discourse, having reference to the erection of the new church, lauding the zeal of those by whom the work had been projected and undertaken, and pointing out the benefits that must accrue from the erection to the present and future generations.

There was very little excitement over the municipal elections for 1864, only one candidate coming forward for the mayoralty, Dr. William Clarke, who was elected by acclamation. The members of the Council were: East Ward, Messrs. George Hood, G. Palmer and R. Melvin. South Ward, Messrs. H. W. Peterson, P. Gow and J. Lamprey. West Ward, Messrs. G. Elliott, H. Hatch and R. Hampson. North Ward, Messrs. J. Harvey, A. Robertson and Richard Mitchell. Mr. George Palmer was elected Reeve, and Mr. Adam Robertson, Deputy-Reeve.

The County Council was composed of the following gentlemen:—Guelph Town—George Palmer, Adam Robertson; Guelph Township—George Murton, Robert Campbell; Nichol—Samuel Wissler, Wm Taylor; Pilkington—John Smith; Elora—Chas. Clarke; Fergus—James Cattanaach; Garafraxa—Alex. Dyce, George Monger; Orangeville—F. C. Stewart; Amaranth—Charles Gillespie; Luther—Duncan Saunders; Maryborough—Wm. Ayerst, Joseph Madill; Minto—Archibald Harrison, Noah Bullock; Peel—Geo. Allan, Robert McKim; Puslinch—Wm. Leslie, John Clark; Eramosa—James Loghrin, Robert Royce; Erin—George Martin, J. Bennie; Arthur—Robert Stevenson, S. Smith. Mr. Wm. Leslie was elected Warden.

The Primitive Methodists in the town had long been in need of a more suitable place of worship, but how to obtain one with their limited means was for some time a difficulty. To commence a building fund

the ladies held a bazaar in 1862, subscription lists were opened in March 1863, and when they commenced the building, at about that time, they were not sure of being able to push on the work very rapidly. By subscriptions from members and the general public, assisted by the Ladies' Aid Society, they succeeded in raising nearly \$1000, before the building was completed, and on February 12th the dedication services took place, the sermons on that and the following Sunday, being preached by Revs. R. Boyle, R. Cade, W. F. Clarke, J. Pringle, and J. A. Millar. At the soiree on the following Tuesday evening, addresses were delivered by Revs. W. S. Ball, John Hogg and others.

On the night of Wednesday, June 8th a most disastrous fire occurred at the Peoples' Mills, owned by Mr. W. P. McLaren of Hamilton, and leased at the time by Mr. Charles Whitelaw, of Paris. The fire, which had commenced in a shed, containing about 1000 empty barrels, was soon communicated to the main building, and although the firemen were speedily on the ground, and hundreds of the inhabitants were prompt to aid the firemen in their endeavors to subdue the raging element, it was soon evident that all efforts to save the mill would be ineffectual, and means were consequently used to get out the produce, utensils, and furniture in the building. Under the direction of Mr. Gay, the mill manager and Mr. Arkell, the foreman, a considerable quantity of flour in barrels, together with the office safe, books &c. were removed. Meantime the fire continued to increase rapidly, and breaking through the roof, an immense column of flames rose to a great height, lighting up the town and country for miles around. At one time it was feared that a shed in front of the building, containing some 2,000 barrels of flour, and also Mr. Hockin's stave factory, would be destroyed, but, though several times ignited, the efforts of the people of the town were successful in saving them. In less than two hours from the time of the alarm the ruin was complete, nothing but the blackened walls remaining. The total loss was nearly \$30,000 on which there was but a comparatively small insurance. An inquest was held by Dr. Howitt, when evidence was adduced which left no doubt that the fire was the work of an incendiary, but nothing definite was proved to show who the guilty party or parties were, though several persons had been heard to make threats, which left a strong suspicion on the minds of the jury as to who had accomplished the work of destruction.

Early in August the town was shocked by the occurrence of a frightful case of assault, which terminated fatally shortly afterwards. On the night of Saturday, August 6th, Mr. John Platt, a tavern keeper, who was highly respected in the town, retired as usual. The night being exceedingly warm he could not sleep, and went out on the sidewalk, where he fell asleep in a chair. At about four o'clock in the morning Mr. William Mitchell, tailor, while returning to his residence from the railway station, discovered Mr. Platt lying on the sidewalk, and assisted him into the house, when medical aid was at once procured, and it was found that he had been most brutally beaten, several of his ribs having been broken, and other injuries inflicted. Mr. Platt said he had been set upon by two men, whom he did not recognize, who, without any provocation assaulted him so suddenly that he had not an opportunity to defend himself. He rallied for a time, but died on Friday, an inquest being held the same day, but adjourned till the following Wednesday, when the jury brought in a verdict that in their opinion deceased had come to his death by violence, but at whose hands there was no evidence to show.

Scarcely had the funeral of Mr. Platt taken place when another

tavern keeper, named Henry Hughes, died under what were considered suspicious circumstances, and an inquest was held in this case by Dr. Herod. The evidence went to show that deceased had been somewhat addicted to drink, but not to such an extent as to cause the symptoms displayed. Being troubled with diarrhœa, he sent to the drug store kept by Mr. Robert Farley for some medicine, and was supplied with what was said to be a cholera preventive. Soon after taking the medicine he was seized with violent pains, which increased in intensity, so that the doctors who were summoned could not afford him any relief, and he soon afterwards died. The evidence was very voluminous, especially that given by medical experts, and the jury brought in a verdict that death had been caused by sub-acute inflammation of the stomach, super-induced by intemperate habits, but accelerated by an over-dose of Liquor Ammonia Fort, combined with other drugs, taken in excess by deceased, and improperly administered by Robert Farley, chemist and druggist. The jury censured Mr. Farley for the carelessness displayed in compounding and prescribing the medicine. Mr. Farley was subsequently arrested on a charge of manslaughter, but at the Assizes the Grand Jury threw out the bill, much to the satisfaction of the public, who sympathized with him in his unfortunate mistake.

At a meeting of the Town Council in October the seat of Mr. J. Lamprey, one of the members for the South Ward, was declared vacant, by reason of his absence from the locality longer than the time prescribed by law. An election was therefore ordered, the candidates being Mr. C. E. Romaine and Mr. J. T. Cunningham, the result being the election of Mr. Romaine by 42 to 7.

At the nomination for the Mayoralty in December Dr. Clarke was again the only candidate and was consequently declared elected. The election for Councillors for 1865 was conducted with more energy and spirit than for many years past, and resulted as follows :—South Ward—Messrs. P. Gow, C. E. Romaine and H. W. Peterson. West Ward—Messrs. H. Hatch, G. Elliott and Jas. Massie. East Ward—Messrs. Geo. Hood, N. Higinbotham and J. Harris. North Ward—Messrs. J. Harvey, R. Mitchell and A. Robertson. Mr. H. W. Peterson was chosen Reeve, and Mr. Geo. Elliott, Deputy Reeve. Mr. George Hood then entered a protest against the election of Mr. Elliott as Deputy Reeve, on the ground that he had, by himself or partner, an interest in a contract with the town. The protest, however, was not pressed.

The County Council consisted of the following members :—Guelph Town—H. W. Peterson, Geo. Elliott ; Eramosa—Jas. Loghrin, Robert Royce ; Guelph Township—George Murton, R. Campbell ; Puslinch—Wm. Leslie, J. Clark ; Fergus—M. Anderson ; Erin—Geo. Martin ; A. Binnie ; Minto—N. Bullock, M. Wright ; Nichol—J. Beattie, S. Wissler ; Elora—J. M. Fraser ; Amaranth—C. Gillespie. Maryboro',—J. Madill, W. S. Hamby ; Garafraxa—Geo. Monger, W. H. Hunter ; Orangeville—Thos. Jull ; Peel—Wm. Sturtridge, John Madden ; Pilkington—John Smith ; Arthur—D. Saunders, J. Small ; Luther—Robert Stevenson. Mr. Leslie was re-elected Warden.

The financial position of the Town at this time may be briefly summarized as follows :—The debt of the Town, (without the Railroad debt), was :—Debentures falling due during the next 12 years—\$43,826 ; Railroad debt, (originally \$80,000, 7.20ths paid,) say \$52,000. Total debt, \$95,826. The assets were :—Market Square and Public Buildings thereon, paying at the time nearly 6 per cent, were worth \$80,000. School

houses in the different wards, and school property, say \$10,000. Galt and Guelph Railway stock \$70,000. This paid no direct revenue, but an indirect benefit was derived from it. Debentures of Village of Preston, \$9000, and Guelph Township \$10,000. These paid 6 per cent. Cemetery property worth \$1,900. Total assets—say, \$181,500.

During the month of January the town lost two of its oldest, most prominent and useful citizens by death. The first was that of Mr. Wm. Day, which occurred on the 7th. He was one of the most spirited and enterprising of the early settlers, and to his active exertions much of the material progress of the town was due, by his indefatigable efforts and untiring industry, he having contributed an unusually large share to the building up of the place, many of the public buildings here, as also in other towns, having been erected by him. On the 27th inst., another most useful and enterprising citizen was removed by the death of Mr. John Thorp, also a builder, who had erected, perhaps, a greater portion of the buildings in the town than any other man. Mr. Thorp came to Guelph in 1828, and at once engaged actively in building houses for the new settlers. St. Andrew's church, demolished to give a site for the market buildings, the original St. George's church, the first Roman Catholic church and several hotels, were all of his workmanship, and exhibited the good taste and practical skill which he possessed to a large degree. He afterwards went into the hotel business, occupying at various times different hotels, including the North American, and, after his return from the campaign in the Mackenzie rebellion, the British hotel. From the first introduction of railroads in the Province, he had been exceedingly desirous of getting a line to run from Toronto to Guelph, and this object and the erection of a market house on the Market Square, were zealously advocated by him, and he had the gratification of seeing the Toronto railway scheme inaugurated while he was a member of the first Municipal Council. Being of a speculative turn, he purchased among other property, a tract of land, and laid out a village between Guelph and Elora, which he called Thorpville, where he procured the establishment of a post office. In 1855, he retired from business and occupied, for some time, the handsome residence, erected by him, now occupied by Mr. John Horsman. He soon returned to business, however, occupying the International hotel, now known as the City hotel, which he enlarged to four times its original capacity.

It having been customary, during the Spring, for Rev. W. S. Ball, of Knox's church, and Mrs. Ball, to have a re-union of the members of the Bible classes under their instruction, the members of Mrs. Ball's class resolved to mark the one this year by a presentation, with an address, expressive of their grateful appreciation of her unwearied labors for their good. The presentation consisted of a handsome tea set, the tea pot bearing an appropriation inscription.

When the news of the brutal assassination of President Lincoln was received here, the people deeply sympathized with the American nation in the serious loss they had sustained, and promptly and readily gave expression to their feelings by such outward observances as the melancholy occasion demanded. On the day appointed for the funeral obsequies of the late President, therefore, the stores, offices, workshops, &c., throughout the town were closed, and business generally suspended for two hours. The national colors were hoisted at half-mast from the Town Hall, the Court House and several other buildings, while the town bell was tolled at funeral time. Religious services were held in the Town



Hall at one o'clock, by Rev. R. Torrance, assisted by Revs. Messrs. Ball, Hogg, Carroll, Pedley and Graffley. Appropriate passages of scripture were read, the audience engaged in singing psalms and hymns suitable to the occasion, and the clergymen offered solemn and impressive prayers for the afflicted nation, the bereaved widow and family of the deceased, and for the survivors whose lives had been attempted, and who were still in danger from wounds inflicted by the assassins. After this the Hon. Mr. Foley delivered an eloquent and impressive address, dwelling on the admirable life and character of the late President, concluding with the hope that the cordial spirit of amity which then existed between the two nations, evinced on the part of Canadians by the services which were then being held all over the country, would remain forever unbroken.

In May the business community sustained a severe loss by the death of Mr. Thos. Sandilands, one of the oldest and most justly esteemed residents of the town. He became a resident of Guelph in 1832, when the town was recovering from a state of depression, consequent on a commercial crisis. He commenced business as a store keeper, and successfully carried it on for over twenty years. A few years after his settlement here he was appointed local agent for the Gore Bank, the first bank agency established in Guelph. When he relinquished mercantile pursuits he retained the bank agency, and was afterwards appointed manager of the bank, an appointment he held at the time of his death. In the management of the bank he might have been considered by some as a little too cautious, but his probity and sincerity in all his dealings were unquestionable. More lucrative employment was more than once offered him by other banking companies, which he declined, he preferring to remain in Guelph, where he had made so many friends and where his influence and benevolence rendered him so useful a citizen. He died on May 22nd, the immediate cause of his death being heart disease.

The school accommodation having for some time been very inadequate for the accommodation of the large number of children in attendance, it was resolved, at a meeting of the School Trustees held in May, to call upon the Council to assess the Town for the purpose of building a new girls' school, the attendance of the female pupils having largely fallen off recently on account of the health of many of the children having been affected by the insufficient accommodation. A public meeting was called a few days afterwards, when resolutions were passed to the effect that it was inexpedient to build another school house as it was not then required by the inhabitants, especially while business was in such a depressed state as at that time. The School Trustees were therefore asked to rescind their resolution. At the next meeting of the Trustees a committee was appointed to confer with a committee of the Town Council as to the best means of raising the required money for building the school house, but the Council declined the conference, and the Trustees therefore proceeded to award the tenders for the building which was commenced with at once.

In September the committee on Finance and Assessment presented to the Town Council a report in which the following recommendations were made:—"That a petition be drawn up and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, setting forth the most prominent subjects in the bills before the Legislature which they considered objectionable, and the amendments they considered would be beneficial, as set forth in the following



clauses of the report:—Personal property should be assessed upon a sliding scale, but that incomes under \$400 should be exempt in towns and cities, and that the sliding scale should advance at the rate of \$200, from \$400 to \$1000; at the rate of \$500 from \$1000 to \$5000; at the of \$1000 from \$4000 to \$10,000 and at the rate of \$2,500 from \$40,000 and for higher sums increasing by \$5,000. That the heads of all corporations should be elected by the members of each corporation as there could be no valid reason why towns, as in the proposed Bill, should be an exception to all other municipal organizations. That all persons voting on by-laws for creating debt should be freeholders or tenants under lease for the same period of years as the debt is incurred; also, that provision might be made compelling municipal councils to annually assess for their indebtedness and limit their power of creating debt. That Boards of School Trustees in towns should be compelled to levy and collect the amount required for their use, that the anomaly of a corporation within a corporation should not exist, and that as Boards of School Trustees were elected by the ratepayers, as well as municipal corporations, the intervention of the Town Council should not be required to furnish the Board of School Trustees with funds for its purposes. These recommendations were adopted, with the exception of that referring to the election of the Head of the Corporation which was negatived by a vote of 8 to 4, the vote standing,—Yeas: The Mayor, Messrs. Gow, Peterson and Romaine. Nays: Messrs. Massie, Elliott, Higinbotham, Harris, Hood, Robertson, Harvey and Mitchell.

The candidates for the mayoralty for 1866 were Mr. Peter Gow and Mr. John Harris, Jun. The contest was conducted with some little bitterness, in consequence of some persons having circulated the unfounded report that Mr. Harris entertained some sympathy with Fenianism, an imputation which his principal opponents afterwards disavowed in the most honorable manner. The election was close, resulting in the return of Mr. Peter Gow. The members of the Council were:—East Ward, Messrs. R. Melvin, N. Higinbotham and T. Sayers; South Ward, Messrs. H. W. Peterson, T. Holliday and J. Day; West Ward, Messrs. George Elliott, H. Hatch and James Massie; North Ward, Messrs. John Harvey, R. Mitchell and Dr. Herod. Mr. H. W. Peterson was elected Reeve, and Mr. James Massie, Deputy Reeve.

The members of the County Council for this year were:—Messrs. D. Allan, John Beattie, Noah Bullock, John Burkholder, A. Binnie, John Clark, Robert Campbell, John Dobbin, J. M. Fraser, C. Gillespie, W. H. Hunter, W. S. Hambly, John Jebb, William Leslie, James Loghrin, Geo. Martin, James Massie, George Murton, Robert McKim, H. W. Peterson, Robert Royce, Joseph Small, D. Saunders, John Smith, F. C. Stewart, Robert Stevenson, J. B. Wyllie, J. Wynn, Malcolm Wright. Mr. John Smith, Reeve of Pilkington, was elected Warden.

At a meeting of the Town Council in January, the question of the erection of a drill shed was brought up for settlement. During the previous year the County Council had made an appropriation, as also did the Township Council, towards the building of such a shed, it being hoped these amounts would be supplemented by the Militia Department, and the matter being left to the management of the Town Council, tenders were advertised for, and a plan prepared by Mr. Murray, architect, was provisionally accepted. This plan was for a building 80 by 300 feet, more of the Crystal Palace type than the ordinary drill shed, it being proposed to use iron and glass to a large extent in its erection. It was

to be octagonal in shape, the main building to be 39 feet in height to the eaves, the lantern in the centre to rise to the height of 80 feet. After further consideration, and correspondence with the Militia Department, however, this plan was rejected, and the matter was relegated to the Drill Shed Committee, with instructions to obtain a plan of a building to cost not more than \$2,000. This was done, and in the course of the summer the present building was erected.

At about the same time a resolution was passed in the Council for the erection of twenty-five street lamps, these being the first street lamps used in the town.

The oil fever, which had at this time taken possession of almost the whole country, had for some little time shown symptoms of breaking out in Guelph, and though the people here were not so violently affected as in many places, several capitalists were unable to resist the temptation of joining in the speculations then being brought before them. Some of them were moderately fortunate, though others sustained some losses, in a few cases to a considerable amount, but not enough to deter others from embarking in similar enterprises. From taking stock in wells owned by companies in London, Sarnia, and other places, some of our merchants soon began to agitate for the formation of companies of their own, among which was the Wellington Rock Oil Company, of which Mr. James Hough was president and treasurer, and Messrs. James Hough, Archibald Spiers, George Hough and M. Ryan, of Guelph, James Neelands, of Brampton, George Randall, of Waterloo, and W. A. Shearson, of Galt, were directors. The company purchased land in Enniskillen, where they erected works and set up a 16 horse-power engine. For a time the speculation paid very well, but afterwards, though there was little if any loss ultimately, the company stopped, the wells not paying sufficiently well to warrant the continuance of operations. Other companies were also started, but did not turn out so profitable as this one.

The Fenian organization in New York having resolved on making raids into Canada at various points on the frontier, the Government, as soon as definite information reached them, took prompt measures for the defence of the country, and the ministers were summoned to the capital, when orders were issued for calling out the volunteers. On Thursday, March 15th, the following telegram was received in Guelph:—"Immediately on the arrival of the Hon. Mr. McGee from Montreal, a Cabinet Council held an important sitting. Present: Messrs. John A. Macdonald, Galt, Campbell, McGee, Chapais, Cockburn and Fergusson-Blair. In view of present circumstances, the vast amount of property at stake, and the more important consideration of the protection of our fellow-subjects along the frontier, exposed to the marauding operations of Fenians, it was resolved to call out, at once, ten thousand volunteers for the protection and defence of the Canadian frontier. This step is adopted merely as a precautionary measure; but if wanted for more active service, the volunteers will be on hand. It is hoped active exertions will not be necessary; but if they are, the Government relies with confidence on the courage of the Canadian volunteers." The Guelph Rifles were quickly in readiness to leave for any point where they might be required, and in the course of two or three days were ordered, with the Goderich Rifles, to Sarnia, under the command of Lt.-Col. Higinbotham. They were afterwards removed to St. Marys and Windsor, but were not called upon to suppress any hostile demonstrations, their service being rather that of preventing than resisting attack, a duty

which, if not so glorious for them, was far more satisfactory to the country, though there can be no doubt there were many who would have preferred that our citizen soldiery should have an opportunity to teach the miscreants a lesson. The men finally returned to Guelph on July 11th, when they were received by the people in a most enthusiastic manner, a large procession being formed, escorted by the firemen with torches; and on reaching the Town Hall the Mayor delivered an address on behalf of the inhabitants, thanking them for the manner in which they had done their duty, and on the following morning they were temporarily mustered out.

At the meeting of the Town Council July 2nd, Mr. Hatch resigned his seat as member for the West Ward, and in the following week Mr. Alexander Thomson was elected in his place.

In August the town was shocked by the perpetration of a horrible murder. An aged couple named Andrew and Margaret May had for some years occupied a shanty on the farm of Mr. John Rennie, near the Catholic cemetery. For several months Mrs. May had been confined to her bed by sickness, and had been for some time an inmate of the Catholic hospital. Soon after her return, her husband commenced a course of brutal treatment towards her, and on the night of August 11th she was discovered lying outside the shanty, moaning piteously, and was removed to her bed. On Sunday May sent to the cemetery for Mrs. Margaret Hurley, wife of the sexton, who on her arrival found Mrs. May dead in bed, and from the appearance of the body there was no doubt a brutal murder had been committed. An inquest was accordingly held, when the evidence clearly showed that death had resulted from a violent shock to the system, caused by the numerous injuries which had evidently been inflicted by some blunt instrument. A verdict was rendered accordingly, and May was committed to the Assizes. At the trial in October the prisoner was convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to two years imprisonment in the common gaol.

During the month of August the government received news which induced them again to call upon the volunteers, and the Guelph Rifles were ready at once, and on the morning of the 23rd they left for Thorold, being accompanied to the station by a large number of citizens. They were away only a short time, however, the necessity for their services having been obviated by the prompt action of the government. At this time the feeling had been rapidly gaining strength that some more effective measures should be taken for arming the men of this town and county, and a public meeting was called, at which Dr. Howitt read a paper upon a scheme which he had thought would be worthy of consideration by the government. He stated that the object was to arm for defensive purposes a great portion of the inhabitants of the County with the breech-loading rifle, and accustom them to its use without materially interfering with their industrial pursuits, and without incurring any serious outlay on the part of the Government and municipalities. It was on the assumption that this co-operation could be secured that the plan was based. The different municipalities or townships must appropriate a certain sum annually to give prizes, the prizes to be awarded to the best rifle shots in those municipalities. The Government would have to furnish the rifles at something below cost price, and ammunition at cost price, and moreover appropriate a certain annual sum for prizes to be competed for by the best rifle shooters in the Province. He also explained a system of matches, for which he proposed that the Government

and private individuals should offer prizes. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Stirton, M.P.P., Judge Macdonald, the Mayor, and others, all of whom were favorable to the scheme. A committee was appointed to communicate with the Militia Department, and if the reply were satisfactory, to take such steps as might be necessary to complete the various organizations contemplated. The scheme was favorably received by newspapers in all parts of the country, and to some extent it was adopted by the Government.

At the meeting of the Town Council on December 3rd the Clerk read a report from Mr. James Armstrong, to the effect that he had taken the census of the Town, in accordance with a resolution of the Council, and that he found the number of the inhabitants of the North and East Wards to be 2577: in the South Ward 1630, and in the West Ward 1807, making a total of inhabitants in the town of 6014 persons.

It having become desirable, in consideration of the large amount of business coming before the Police Court, to which the Mayor could not be expected to give his attention, that a Police Magistrate should be appointed, several gentlemen's names were mentioned for the office, including Mr. T. W. Saunders, barrister, son of the Clerk of the Peace, Mr. W. S. G. Knowles, Mr. Geo. Elliott, Mr. E. Newton, and Mr. John Smith. The Council at a meeting in December, resolved to recommend Mr. Saunders for the position, and that gentleman soon afterwards received his appointment from the Government.

Under the new municipal law, passed in 1866, Guelph became entitled to elect a Mayor, Reeve, and two Deputy Reeves, by a direct vote of the people. Previous to this there had been a Reeve and only one Deputy Reeve, who had been appointed by the Council, but now all were to be elected by the people. By this Act it was also provided that towns having less than five wards should elect three Councillors for each ward, and that one should retire each year in rotation. The anxiety on the part of some of the members of the Council, to secure nominations, was very great, and but for the influence of some of their better advised friends, several gentlemen would have been in the field, who, as it was, were induced to refrain from becoming candidates. For Mayor, Mr. Peter Gow was re-elected, and Mr. R. Melvin was elected Reeve, the Deputy Reeves being—Mr. H. W. Peterson and Mr. R. Mitchell. The Council was composed of the following members:—East Ward—F. J. Chadwick, P. McCurry and Thos. Sayers. West Ward—F. Galbraith, Alex. Thomson and Jas. Massie. North Ward—John Harvey, Jas. Mays and Dr. Herod. South Ward—Wm. Day, Wm. Hockin and Thos. Holliday. Mr. Hockin at once resigned, and Mr. T. A. Heffernan was elected in his place.

The County Council met January 22nd, the following members being present:—Messrs. Beattie, Campbell, C. Clarke, J. Clarke, Connell, Cornock, Cross, Dobbin, Duffield, Garbutt, Gillespie, Hunter, Jull, Landerkin, Leslie, Lingwood, Mair, Martin, Maudsley, Melvin, Mitchell, Murton, Peterson, Rae, Saunders, Small, Stevenson, Swan, and Wright.

St. George's day of this year being the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of Guelph, the St. George's Society celebrated the occasion by a grand dinner, given in the Town Hall. Upwards of a hundred persons sat down, the dinner being provided by Mr. Thomas Ellis, of the American Hotel. Mr. W. S. G. Knowles, President of the Society, occupied the Chair, the vice-chairs being occupied by Dr. Herod and Mr. Holliday. On the right of the President were Mr. J. Hazelton, Presi-

dent of the St. Patrick's Society, Messrs. Stirton, P. Gow and D. Allan, and on his left were Mr. James Gow, President of St. Andrew's Society, Dr. Parker and Mr. James Massie. After the usual loyal toasts, the President gave "The army and navy," which was responded to by Lt.-Col. Higinbotham, and Captain Swinford; "The day we celebrate," was responded to in an eloquent speech by Mr. Holden. The Vice President then gave "The Dominion of Canada," to which Dr. Howitt responded; "The Sister Societies," which was spoken to by Mr. James Gow; "The Legislative Assembly," to which Mr. Stirton, M.P.P., and Dr. Parker, M.P.P., responded. Other toasts followed and speeches were delivered by Mr. H. W. Peterson, Mr. J. Harris, Dr. Howitt, and others, the proceedings being interspersed with songs by Mr. T. H. Taylor, Mr. P. Gow and Mr. Breadon. The celebration was in all respects an unqualified success and reflected great credit on the officers of St. George's Society.

The members of the Congregational Church having for some time been making efforts to raise sufficient money to commence the building of a new church, in the spring of this year they found themselves in a position to proceed with the work, and on the 16th May, the corner stone of the new structure was laid by Rev. Adam Lillie, D. D., Professor of Theology in the Congregational College of British North America, among the ministers present, being Revs. R. Torrance, W. S. Ball, John Hogg, J. Carroll, Geo. Graftey and G. Wood, of Guelph, W. Barrie, of Eramosa, T. Pullard, of Hamilton, W. H. Allworth, of Paris and J. Wood, of Brantford. The Rev. W. F. Clarke, pastor of the church, in the course of an address in which he explained the progress of the work and the design of the new building, said the estimated cost was \$7000, towards which upwards of \$3000 had been subscribed, in addition to which they expected to realize about \$2000 from the sale of the old church property, so that, the lot on which the building was to be placed being unencumbered, they would not be more than \$2000 in debt. He acknowledged the obligations the committee were under to Mr. S. Boulton and Mr. John Davidson, for generous contributions and practical suggestions, and to Mr. James Goldie, who in addition to large subscriptions, had presented the stone, from his quarry near the Peoples' Mills, thus cheapening the cost of the masonry to the extent of at least \$500; and to Mr. Chas. Raymond, for liberal contributions towards the purchase of the site. In the bottle was placed a manuscript, containing a brief history of the church as follows:—

"On this 10th day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1867, being the 30th year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Lord Monck being Governor of British North America, the provinces whereof only await the Royal Proclamation to be confederated under the name and style of the Dominion of Canada, this corner-stone of an edifice to be used for the worship of Almighty God by a body of Christians known as the "Guelph Congregational Church," was laid in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, by the Rev. Adam Lillie, D.D., Professor of Theology in the Congregational College of British North America. The Church was formed in the month of June, 1825, and consisted at first of eight persons, one of whom survives and is still a member of the church. During the pastorate of the Rev. W. P. Wastell, the first church building was erected, being opened for divine worship, Feb. 5th, 1840. In this place of worship the church has continued to meet until now. The present pastor entered upon his duties the first Sabbath in July, 1860. At this date the membership of

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the church numbers 86. Its officers are : William Fletcher Clarke, Pastor ; Richard Baker, Robt. Thompson, Edwin Newton, Samuel Hodgskin, Robert J. Jeanneret, and Chas. Raymond, Deacons. The Trustees of the church property are : Thomas Hodgskin, Richard Baker, Samuel Hodgskin, Robt. Thompson and Edwin Newton. The building committee are : William Fletcher Clarke, Chairman ; Edwin Newton, Secretary Treasurer ; Richard Baker, R. Thompson, S. Hodgskin, C Raymond, R. J. Jeanneret, James Goldie, Thomas Lawrence, Alexander Thompson, Wm. McLaren, and John Davidson. The architect and superintendent is Stephen Boulton. The contractors are : James Davidson, mason ; Stephen Boulton, carpenter and builder ; Wm. Day, plasterer, and W. H. Jacomb, painter and glazier." The bottle also contained a copy of the HERALD, and other Guelph papers, the Toronto *Globe*, *Leader*, &c.

The assessment rolls of the Town for 1867 showed the population to be : East Ward 1037, South Ward 1443, West Ward 1581, North Ward 1296—total 5357. The value of real and personal property and amount of income was returned as follows : East Ward real property \$279,830, personal do. \$37,200, amount of taxable income \$31,200, non-resident lands \$4,114; total \$352,345. South Ward real property \$215,052, personal property \$4,000, income \$27,600, non-resident lands \$104.60; total \$257,112. West Ward real property \$369,853, personal do. \$34,100, income \$51,800, non-resident lands \$28,061; total \$483,814. North Ward real property \$352,017, personal do. \$5,610, income \$26,200, non-resident lands \$4,620; total \$439,727. Total real property in all the wards \$1,216,752, total personal do. do. \$132,200, total income do, \$136,800, total non-resident land, \$47,246; grand total \$1,532,998, which showed the aggregate wealth of the town as shown by the Assessors. The total number of first class militia men was 344; 2nd class do. 542; 3rd class do. or reserve 226. The number of men liable for statute labor was 235. The whole number of cattle in the town was returned as 447, sheep 372, hogs 512, horses 329.

On June 28th a disastrous fire occurred in the Liverpool Produce Store, Dundas street. The building, being entirely of wood, was totally destroyed, considerable delay having occurred in the arrival of the fire engines, and in the ringing of the alarm bell, so that when the men did arrive, the fire had nearly done its work. Both building and stock belonged to Messrs. Naughton & Gauhan, who estimated the aggregate value to be \$14,000 on which there was an insurance for \$12,500. In the following week a fire occurred at Newton's Hotel, near the Grand Trunk Freight Station, by which the hotel and several small houses adjoining were destroyed, the loss being about \$3,000.

The Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway Company having completed the arrangements for the building of the road, from Guelph northwards, the first sod of the new railway was turned at Fergus, June 28th, by Mr. Adam Brown, of Hamilton, President of the company, in the presence of a large number of spectators from all parts of the country. Speeches were delivered by the President, and by Messrs. McGiverin and White, of Hamilton, and Dr. Parker, of Guelph, Directors of the road.

The scheme of Canadian Confederation having been brought to a successful issue, and the plan of government consequently greatly changed, the elections which ensued excited far more interest in all parts of the country than had been the case for many years. In the County of Wellington additional interest was given to the elections on account of a change in the representation which had taken place in accordance with



a bill introduced by the Government, and passed in July, 1866, for the re-distribution of seats, one of the provisions of which was that the County of Wellington should be divided into three ridings, instead of two, as heretofore. The following were the divisions, with the population of each township: North Riding—Amaranth, 1,196; Arthur, 3,597; Luther, 689; Minto, 2,341; Maryborough, 3,134; Peel, 5,008; total, 15,965, South Riding—Guelph, township, 3,088; Guelph, town, 5,076; Puslinch, 4,701; total, 12,865. Centre Riding—Elora Village, 1,043; Eramosa, 3,604; Erin, 4,948; Fergus village, 1,117; Garafraxa, 4,866; Nichol, 2,395; Pilkington, 2,397; total, 20,370.

In the South Riding the candidates were: For the House of Commons, Mr. David Stinton and Mr. F. W. Stone; and for the Legislature of Ontario, Messrs. Peter Gow and Wm. Leslie. Mr. Stone being then in England, his friends labored at considerable disadvantage in consequence of his absence, and there can be no doubt that had he been here to address the electors, if he had not been elected, the majority of Mr. Stinton would have been much smaller than it was. Under the circumstances, however, a good run was made, proving that Mr. Stone was not only popular in the riding, but that a large number of the electors were prepared to make considerable sacrifices, as many of them did, to ensure his election. The contest for the Legislature was more closely contested, and the defeat of Mr. Leslie was not only a disappointment, but somewhat of a surprise to his friends. Mr. Leslie had 225 names of Puslinch electors on his requisition, and as a number of others subsequently pledged themselves to vote for him, he was of opinion that he would poll as many votes in Puslinch as Mr. Gow, but the returns showed that he only polled 171 votes in that Township. He was selected one of the Union candidates on account of his supposed strength in Puslinch, but the returns showed that he polled nearly double the number of votes in the Town of Guelph that he polled in Puslinch, and that Guelph Township also gave him a larger majority than Puslinch did.

The nomination of candidates for the North Riding took place at Arthur, September 6th. Quite a number of prominent politicians were present from the adjacent townships, and especially from the villages of Mount Forest, Fergus, Elora and Salem. A substantial platform had been erected on the grounds opposite O'Callaghan's Hotel, in front of which the electors assembled to the number of 500. The Brownites of Mount Forest mustered in strong force, together with a select assortment from distant portions of the North and upper sections of the Centre Riding. With the exception of a few personal friends of Messrs. Drew and Beattie, the Unionists were nearly all from Arthur township and village, and the adjoining parts of Minto, Amaranth, Luther, Peel and Maryboro'. The assembly had a most respectable appearance throughout, and the best of order was observed during the entire proceedings. Mr. Geo. A. Drew, Elora, was nominated as a candidate for the Commons, by Dr. Tuck of Drayton, and seconded by Mr. Peter Kean, of Minto. Hon. M. H. Foley was nominated by Mr. Samuel Robertson, and seconded by Mr. D. Yeomans, of Mount Forest. In the Legislature, Mr. Joan Beattie was nominated by Dr. Maudslay, of Hollin, and seconded by Mr. C. O'Callaghan. Mr. Robert McKim, of Peel, was nominated by Mr. R. Stevenson, and seconded by Mr. Wm. Sturtridge. The result was that Mr. Drew was elected for the Commons by a vote of 1486 to 1269, showing a majority of 217. For the Legislature Mr. McKim was elected by a majority of 71.



In the Centre Riding the nomination took place at Fergus. Two candidates were nominated, Dr. Parker, of Guelph, and Mr. John Dobbin, but the latter gentleman declining to go to the poll, Dr. Parker was declared duly elected. For the Legislative Assembly, Mr. A. D. Ferrier was proposed by Mr. Jas. Reynolds, of Pilkington, seconded by Mr. Geo. A. Lacey, of Hillsburg. Mr. James Loughrin was proposed by Mr. A. Hood, and duly seconded. Mr. T. S. Armstrong was nominated by Mr. R. Taylor, of Elora, and seconded by Mr. Robert Black, of Garafraxa. At the close of the poll to vote stood Ferrier, 1083; Armstrong, 1025, and Loughrin, 338. Mr. Ferrier was therefore declared elected.

A fire, which at one time threatened to be of a most serious nature, occurred on September 18th, in the hosiery works of McCrae, Armstrong & Co. It originated in the second story of the building in the packing room, and soon spread to the other apartments, running through the carding and other rooms with great rapidity, but by the exertions of the workmen, assisted by a large number of the neighbors, the fire was extinguished in about half an hour, but the damage was very heavy, probably reaching to \$3,000, which, however, was fully covered by insurance. The next morning a fire occurred in the carriage works of Mr. Wm. Dyson, but fortunately the building was isolated and the weather calm, or the damage might have been much greater than it was. The loss was heavy, as besides the building, a large number of finished buggies, and vehicles of various kinds in course of construction, were destroyed, the loss amounting to about \$4,000. There was no insurance.

During November a young man named Foster, living near Sleeman's brewery, was married, and on the night of the 25th, a large party of youths living in the South Ward assembled for the third time, to treat him to charivari. The night being very dark, favored their designs, and for nearly an hour they alarmed the neighborhood with their unearthly noises—ringing bells, beating drums, tin cans, boilers and kettles, discharging guns and pistols, shrieking, singing, cursing, whistling, groaning, throwing dirt, stones and sticks, blowing horns and trumpets, and performing all other insane tricks usually accompanying a charivari. Suddenly a head was protruded through a window, and a gun discharged into the crowd. With a loud cry, a lad about 15 years of age named Thos. Chamberlain, fell down, and as the noise instantly ceased, a number of the party bore him away to a dwelling house near by, where Dr. Orton, jr., attended him, but notwithstanding that all was done which medical skill could devise, he died in a few days. At the inquest, which was held by Dr. Howitt, evidence was given that the gun was fired by Joseph Foster, father of the newly married man, under circumstances of great provocation, his wife being dangerously ill, at the time, and suffering from the effects of the excitement caused by the pandemonium outside. There was no reason to believe that he intended to seriously hurt anybody, and after carefully considering all the circumstances the jury brought in a verdict tantamount to one of justifiable homicide, at the same time properly recommending that the parties engaged in creating the disturbance on the night of the shooting should be rigorously prosecuted.

The candidates for the Mayoralty in 1868, were Mr. N. Higinbotham and Mr. John Harris, the former being elected by a small majority. In accordance with the Municipal Act of 1866 the following members of the Council retired:—East Ward—Mr. Thomas Sayers. West Ward—Mr. F. W. Galbraith. North Ward—Mr. John Harvey. South Ward—Mr.

T. Heffernan. The Council consisted of the following members:—Mayor—Mr. Higinbotham. Reeve—Mr. R. Melvin. Deputy Reeves—Mr. H. W. Peterson and R. Mitchell. Councillors:—East Ward—Messrs. F. J. Chadwick, Thos. Sayers, and P. McCurry. West Ward—Messrs. James Massie, Alex. Thomson and Geo. Howard. South Ward—Messrs. Wm. Day, Thos. Holliday and T. Heffernan. North Ward—Messrs. John Harvey, James Mays, and Dr. Herod. In March, Mr. Peterson resigned his position as Deputy Reeve, and Mr. James Massie was elected, Mr. C. Buckland being elected for the vacancy in the representation for the North Ward caused by Mr. Massie's election as Deputy Reeve.

The County Council consisted of the following members:—Messrs. Boyd, Broadfoot, Campbell, Cassin, Cornell, Cornock, Dobbin, Duffield, Gillespie, Gordon, Hunter, Johnston, Jull, Mair, Melvin, Mitchell, McInnes, McMillan, Passmore, Peterson, Rea, Robertson, Saunders, Small, Stirton, Swan, Whitelaw, McMarus, Cross, Sutherland. By the retirement of Mr. Peterson in March, a vacancy was created, which was filled by the election of Mr. Massie. Mr. S. Robertson, Deputy Reeve of Maryboro', also retired, and Mr. A. Maxwell was elected in his place. Mr. Small, of Arthur, died in April, and Mr. R. Stevenson was elected to fill the vacancy.

In April the country was called upon to mourn the death of Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, and in common with other towns and cities, Guelph gave expression to the feelings of sorrow at the loss the country had sustained, and sympathy with the bereaved relatives of the hon. gentleman. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, where appropriate resolutions were passed, and eloquent addresses delivered by several prominent citizens, among whom were Rev. Arthur Palmer, Dr. Clarke, Mr. W. S. G. Knowles, Rev. W. F. Clarke, Mr. J. Harris, Mr. A. A. Baker, Mr. Melvin and Mr. G. Palmer, some of whom had known Mr. McGee, and all of whom expressed the abhorrence which was universally felt of the foul crime of murder, by which Mr. McGee had fallen. The resolutions were ordered to be engrossed and forwarded to Mr. McGee's widow.

The assassination of Mr. McGee, with the news of hostile preparations going forward on the other side of the lines, created a state of intense anxiety and alarm throughout the Dominion, and there can be no doubt that in many cases measures were resorted to for the detection and punishment of supposed Fenians, which at a more peaceful time would have been looked upon with disfavor, and met with a firm condemnation on the part of the people generally. So was it in Guelph. For a long time the existence of a small band of Fenians had been suspected, and some persons contended that there was a regularly organized circle in this vicinity, and that Fenian leaders were in the habit of coming to the neighborhood in disguise, and to some extent making Guelph a centre of operations. Some weeks previously a number of cases of second hand guns, rifles, &c., had been sold in Guelph, and it was suspected that the Fenian sympathizers had purchased them. Thinking there was sufficient evidence in their hands on which to act, warrants were placed in the hands of Chief Constable Kelly for the arrest of certain individuals in Guelph, and in one day three arrests were made, a Puslinch farmer, and two men in Guelph, all of whom were lodged in jail. It was said that documents were found upon these men clearly proving their connection with the Brotherhood, but though the prisoners were detained in close

confinement for a considerable time, nothing definite could be laid to their charge, and they were consequently released. The excitement, however, was not by any means abated, for the Fenians were known to be making preparations for an invasion, and towards the end of May, Lieut.-Col. Higinbotham received a letter requesting him to have his battalion ready to take the field at any instant, as it was not known when they might be required to meet the foe. The Guelph companies received the news on the Queen's birthday with loud cheers, and instructions were sent by telegraph to Elora, Fergus, and Mount Forest for the men to settle up their business and make ready for an immediate march on the frontier, and arrangements were made by which 500 men could be marshalled in Guelph at 48 hours notice. A few days afterwards orders were received that the 30th Battalion should be attached to the Flying Squadron, and the men were kept under arms for some weeks, but were not required for active service.

In May a new fire engine, which had been ordered by the Town Council from the Silsby factory, was received in town, at the trial at Presant's mill and Allan's distillery, gave unqualified satisfaction. The total cost, including hose, reels, &c., was \$5,638.68.

On one or two occasions the merchants of Guelph had endeavored to make an arrangement by which to rid themselves of the American silver nuisance, but without avail. In July of this year another attempt was made, in conjunction with the merchants of Toronto, Hamilton and other places, by forming a league, the members of which should be liable to a fine of \$50 if they received American silver except at a discount of 4 per cent. on silver coins above the denomination of 25 cents, and 10 per cent. on coins under that denomination. A meeting of the merchants was held, and a compact to the above effect was signed by most of the merchants in town, and for a time it was rigidly adhered to, but gradually the arrangement became a dead letter.

For some months past an unhappy division had existed among the members and congregation of Knox's Church, and the Presbytery had to be called upon to adjudicate on the matter, but as some of the adherents were still disaffected, it finally became evident that the breach was such as to be almost beyond the hope of healing, and a Committee of the Presbytery was therefore appointed to organize those who wished to secede into a separate congregation. On July 27th, therefore, the committee met at the Court House, Rev. Mr. Middlemiss, of Elora, convener, and a large deputation of church members being present. Certificates from Rev. W. S. Ball in favor of 114 members in good standing withdrawing from Knox Church were presented, and being found sufficient, a communion roll was made up, and the congregation of Chalmers Church was declared to be constituted. A Board of Managers to act *pro tem.* was then appointed, consisting of ten gentlemen lately managers of Knox's Church, and Mr. D. Stirton, M. P., and Mr. Jas. Gow, after which arrangements were made for a regular supply for the pulpit.

On Monday, Oct. 19th, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Knox's Church, on Quebec street, was performed by Rev. Dr. Ormiston; the pastor, Rev. W. S. Ball, Revs. Messrs. Griffin, Wood, Clarke and Torrance, of Guelph, and a number of the Presbytery from Galt and other places taking part in the service.

On Sunday, Oct. 18th, Dr. Parker, M. P. for Centre Wellington having received a professional call to visit a sick child at Rockwood, proceeded there, intending to remain all night, but finding that his services

could be of no avail, at about 10 o'clock he started to walk to Guelph, taking the road, in order, as he said, to avoid the danger of falling through a bridge on the track near Rockwood, where two men had already been killed. Finding the road very muddy, he altered his determination, and took the railway, walking cautiously, as the night was very dark. Before he was aware of it, however, he had arrived at the fatal bridge, which was spanned only by beams to support the rails, and plunged through to the road beneath, where he lay, unable to move till the next morning. When he was discovered medical aid was at once procured, and Dr. Hewitt and Lieut.-Col. Higinbotham brought him to Guelph, when it was found that he had sustained a fracture of the thigh and serious internal injuries. He lingered, mostly in an unconscious state, until the following Saturday, when he died. Among those present at the funeral were Archdeacon Brough, the deceased's father-in-law, Mayor Clarke, of Hamilton, Mr. C. Magill, M. P., Mr. J. Young, M. P., Mr. Macfarlane, M. P., a number of Ministers, and several of the prominent electors of the Centre Riding. The pall-bearers were Lieut.-Col. Higinbotham, Judge Macdonald, Dr. Herod, Mr. Geo. Elliott, Mr. E. McGiverin, and Mr. Adam Brown, of Hamilton. Rev. Mr. Geddes, of Hamilton, assisted by Rev. Dr. Alexander, officiated.

The candidates for the Mayoralty in 1869 were Dr. Herod and Mr. Melvin, the former gentleman being elected by a good majority. For Reeve, Mr. Richard Mitchell was elected, and for Deputy Reeves, Messrs. P. McCurrie and J. Goldie. The members of the Council were : East Ward—Messrs. F. J. Chadwick, T. Sayers and W. Allan. West Ward—Messrs. G. Bruce, G. Howard and A. Thomson. North Ward—Messrs. John Harvey, J. A. Wood and A. Robertson. South Ward—Messrs. W. Day, J. Holliday and T. Heffernan.

The members of the County Council were : Guelph Town, Richard Mitchell, James Goldie and P. McCurry. Guelph Township, W. Whitelaw, George Darby. Puslinch, Wm. Leslie, M. Spreuhan. Eramosa, John Duffield, John Rae. Erin, D. McMillan, Ed. Johnson. Garafraxa West, John Dobbin. Garafraxa East, W. H. Hunter. Fergus George McInnes. Elora, J. M. Frazer. Pilkington, W. Clarke, Hugh Roberts. Nichol, John Mair, John Broadfoot. Peel, J. Cross, W. S. Sutherland and J. McManus. Maryboro, S. Robertson, J. Landerkin. Minto, Jas. Connell, John Prain; Arthur, R. Stevenson, R. Gordon. Mount Forest, Thomas Swann, Luther; D. Saunders. Amaranth, C. Gillespie. Orangeville, T. Jull. Mr. John Mair was elected Warden.

The election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Parker, M. P., for Centre Wellington, was held Jan. 18th. Several candidates had been named, among whom were Hon. George Brown, Hon. H. M. Foley, Mr. A. McKellar, Mr. T. White, of the Hamilton *Spectator*, Mr. James Ross, Mr. John Smith, Warden, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. James Loghrin, Dr. Howitt, Mr. H. H. Swinford, Lieut.-Col. Higinbotham and Mr. Geo. Elliott. Mr. Ross, of Cumnock, was the only one who accepted a nomination, and was elected by acclamation, thus leaving vacant the office of Crown Lands Agent, which was worth from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per annum.

On February 6th, the Town sustained another severe loss by the death of Mr. James Webster, Registrar of the County, at the age of 61. Emigrating to Canada in 1833, he settled in the township of Nichol, where, in partnership with Hon. Adam Fergusson, he purchased a tract of land, founded the village of Fergus, and remained there until 1852,

when he removed to Guelph. In all the political movements of his day he took an active part and sat in Parliament as representative of the then District of Waterloo in 1844. In 1859 he was appointed Registrar of the County of Wellington, which office he retained till his death. In the same year he also held the position of Mayor of Guelph. For two or three years his health had been so impaired that he was unable to take any active part in public matters, but he never ceased to evince a deep interest in all questions having for their object the improvement of the Town and County. On the day of the funeral the stores were closed for an hour, and a large number of citizens joined the mournful cortege. The pall bearers were—Col. Hewat, Col. Saunders, Mr. Geo. Davidson, Sheriff of Waterloo, Mr. J. L. Smith, Toronto, Mr. G. D. Fergusson, Fergus, Mr. Chas. Davidson, Guelph, Judge Macdonald, Guelph, Mr. D. Chalmers, Woolwich, Mr. David Allan, Mr. Wm. Alexander, Guelph, and Mr. A. W. Schweigener, Berlin. Mr. James Webster, son of the deceased, was soon afterwards appointed to the vacant office.

In April Mr. John Harvey resigned his seat in the Council for the North Ward, and Mr. Robert Mitchell was elected in his place.

Except the unusual activity in the building trade, nothing of any moment occurred in the Town for some months, so that the recurrence of the time for the municipal elections was a relief to the "flat, stale and unprofitable" state of things which had rendered the people listless with regard to everything except business. Up to within a short time of the nomination, it had been thought that Dr. Herod would be elected to the Mayoralty for 1870 without opposition, but at the last moment Mr. James Barclay was brought out and a very close contest was the result, Dr. Herod being elected by a majority of only twelve. For the Reeveship, the contest was more exciting, two candidates being brought out in good time and the canvassing prosecuted vigorously on both sides, the vote at the close giving Mr. Richard Mitchell a majority of eight over Mr. James Goldie. The candidates for the Deputy Reeveships were—Messrs. F. J. Chadwick, Henry Hatch, James Goldie, and C. Buckland, the votes being—Hatch 424, Chadwick 415, Goldie 344, and Buckland 118, the two former being elected. There was a contest for a Councillorship in two wards. In the East Ward, Mr. David McCrae polled 94 votes, against 68 for Mr. John Stewart, and in the West Ward, Mr. J. McNeil polled 147 vote against Mr. Buckland's 74. The members of the Council were, therefore:—East Ward—Messrs. T. Sayers, W. Allan and D. McCrae. West Ward—Messrs. G. Howard, G. Bruce and J. McNeil. North Ward—Messrs. J. A. Wood, A. Robertson and Robt. Mitchell. South Ward—Messrs. T. Heffernan, W. Day and J. Holliday.

The members of the County Council for 1870, were:—Messrs. Chas. Gillespie, Robert Gordon, Anthony Buschlen, J. M. Frazer, John Rea, Alex. McQueen, D. McMillan, E. Johnson, G. T. Orton, John Dobbin, Wm. Gibson, Wm. H. Hunter, Thos. Hamilton, James Laidlaw, G. A. Darby, Rich. Mitchell, F. J. Chadwick, H. Hatch, Peter Hanson, Robt. Hay, Wm. H. Lowes, James Connell, John Prain, John Robinson, John Mair, John H. Broadfoot, M. McCarthy, James Cross, W. S. Sutherland, T. McManus, Wm. Clark, Hugh Roberts, Wm. Leslie, Wm. Nicol. Mr. John Mair was elected Warden.

For some time there had been much opposition shown by interested parties to the building of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway, this being one of the causes which had led to the delay which had occurred in prosecuting the work. To overcome the evil effects of this opposition

a delegation from Hamilton, comprising the Mayor, the President of the Company, and others, with Messrs. C. Davidson, J. Massie, H. Hatch and Lt.-Col. Higinbotham, as delegates from Guelph, in March proceeded to Harriston, where they were met by the following representatives of the townships which had granted bonuses to the road:—Mr. Cornell, Reeve, and Mr. Prain, Deputy Reeve, with Messrs. Dalmage and Hughes, Councillors of Minto; Mr. Perkins, Reeve and Mr. Weir, Deputy Reeve of Howick; Mr. Hay, Reeve, Mr. Lowes, Deputy Reeve, and Mr. Paterson, Councillor of Maryboro; Mr. Cross, Reeve and Mr. Brown, Councillor of Peel, with several other gentlemen interested, besides about three hundred ratepayers from the various township. Mr. Adam Brown gave a brief outline of the history of the Company, and a statement of the unforeseen difficulties which had arisen in prosecuting the work, in consequence of which they were unable to complete the road at the time stated when the bonuses were granted, and he therefore asked an extension of time of one year from Maryboro', Minto and Howick. Mr. Brown was very clear and candid in his remarks, and was listened to with much attention. He was followed by Ald. Edgar, Messrs A. Sproat, M. P., N. Bullock, D. D. Hay, and others, who spoke in favor of the extension, and it was finally moved by Mr. J. Laing, and seconded by Mr. Wm. Creator, that the meeting had the fullest confidence in the Railway Company, and that it would be for the interests of the townships that the extension of time be granted. At a subsequent meeting of the Reeves and Councillors of the townships, it was resolved to endeavor to carry by-laws for the object sought, which was afterwards successfully carried out, and the withdrawing of the bonuses, which the opponents, of the road were anxious to bring about, was prevented.

From the assessment roll for the year it appears that the population of the town was 6424. Total value of real property, \$1,214,200. Total value of personal property and taxable income, \$240,460. Aggregate total value of all property, \$1,403,665.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company having decided to remove their workshops from Toronto, a proposal was made to ask Mr. Brydges to locate the workshops in Guelph, and a public meeting to consider the matter was called by the Board of Trade. Mr. George Murton, President of the Board, took the chair, and addresses were delivered by Messrs. John Hogg, F. J. Chadwick, W. Wilkie, W. S. G. Knowles, H. W. Peterson, and others, when it was resolved:—"That the Mayor be requested to call a special meeting of the Council, to take into consideration the propriety of offering suitable ground for the workshops of the Grand Trunk Railway, as a gift, and to exempt them from taxation for a term of years, and, in addition, to offer a bonus of at least \$10,000." The special meeting of the Council was accordingly held, and a communication sent to Mr. Brydges, to which a reply was received that he could not entertain the offer, as the situation of the town was not suitable for the object sought.

On the 23rd July, the hand of death deprived the town of one of its brightest ornaments, in the person of Mr. George Pirie, editor and proprietor of the HERALD. For twenty-two years he had labored, through the columns of his paper, and in numberless ways as a private citizen, to promote the best interests of the town and neighborhood, and up to within three weeks of his death he continued to give to his readers the results of his ripe experience and brilliant intellect. He had been, for many years, a sufferer from asthma, and was periodically subject to



distressing attacks of this complaint, and it was long a matter of wonder how he bore up so well under his affliction. In the previous November, he was laid aside by a severe illness, and then old age and the breaking down of a naturally good constitution, began plainly to tell upon him, and though still able to discharge his duties, up to within a short time of his death, it was evident that the strong man was gradually but surely sinking. Mr. Pirie, at the time of his death, was upwards of 71 years of age, having been born in the city of Aberdeen, Scotland, on February 28th, 1798. He received a very liberal education in his native city, and also in London, where he was afterwards apprenticed to a relative, Sir John Pirie, an eminent merchant, and at one time Lord Mayor of London. In 1818 he came to Montreal, where he lived some time, acting as agent for his father, who was a leading merchant and shop owner of Aberdeen. Not long after he visited Scotland, but returned in 1819. On the voyage out, he, in company with some other passengers, visited the island of Anticosti, where he was for some time exposed to a thick, damp fog, by which he contracted a severe cold, which resulted in chronic asthma, from which he continued to suffer, more or less, during the remainder of his life. After remaining two years in Montreal, he again returned to Scotland, and in company with a Mr. Saunders, commenced business in Aberdeen as a wholesale dry goods merchant. He was obliged, however, from infirm health, to give it up in 1834, and in 1838, came out again to Canada and settled in the township of Nichol, where he bought a farm in the Bon Accord settlement. He continued farming until 1848, when finding he was unable to perform the arduous duties of a farmer, he was induced by Mr. James Webster to purchase the Guelph HERALD, then only in the second year of its publication. From the first day of his management, the HERALD was a staunch Conservative paper, maintaining the position of the leading organ of that party in this part of the country. Mr. Pirie was an able, accurate and spirited writer. Thoroughly acquainted with the political history of the country, and of the characters of its public men, he brought his knowledge and experience to bear with singular effect on every subject under discussion. Endowed with an acute intellect, and being a thorough master of a clear, incisive style, aided by a keen and often sarcastic wit, he was a formidable opponent in a discussion, and not seldom came out of these encounters victorious. Having once expounded a cause, he held to it with great tenacity, but when a fight was over and a truce proclaimed he retained no resentment, nor were his private friendships or relations broken up in consequence. When he expounded a cause, he did it on conscientious grounds, because he believed he was right, and frequently was he known to sacrifice his own interests in advocating what he considered was for the public good. But not only as a public writer and journalist was his loss greatly felt. Prominent and honorable as was his position in his profession, he was equally useful as a public spirited citizen, whose time, talents and means were always at the disposal of his fellow townsmen. He was for twenty years a member of the Guelph School Board, acting either as a Grammar or Common School Trustee, and if there was one thing more than another which lay near his heart, it was the educational interests of the town. As a magistrate he was one of the brightest ornaments of the bench, and so enthusiastic was his patriotism, that at the time of the "Trent" affair, though then a feeble old man, he gallantly joined the Scottish company formed in the town at that time, and drilled night after night, to be able to take his place among



his country's defenders. For twenty-one years he was the indefatigable secretary of the St. Andrew's Society, and to many other charitable organizations his energies were freely given. The funeral was one of the most mournful sights ever seen in Guelph, nearly all the inhabitants wearing crape, and a very large number joining in the procession to pay the last tribute of respect to one whom all honored, whatever their differences of opinion may have been. The pall-bearers were : Messrs. David Stirton, M.P., P. Gow, M.P.P., James Gow, James Fergusson, John A. Davidson, G. B. Fraser and James Innes.

At a meeting of influential merchants and others held on July 27th, a company was organized under the title of the Guelph Gas Company, and Messrs. F. J. Chadwick, Richard Mitchell and N. Higinbotham were appointed a committee to canvass the town in order to obtain subscriptions of citizens and capitalists to the company's stock list. The sum of \$4,000 was subscribed at the meeting, which, with the sum taken by Mr. Perry, the projector of the company, made \$10,000 taken up. For \$16,000 Mr. Perry offered to purchase a site and erect a stone building 80 feet by 40 and 16 feet high, and to provide all that was necessary to make 20,000 feet of gas in 24 hours; also to buy the necessary pipes, metres, &c., for 100 consumers, and main pipes running from the gas works up Wyndham street, as far as Suffolk street, thence across to St. Andrew's Church, up Quebec and Paisley street, to Dublin street along Macdonnell street to Allan's bridge, up Woolwich street to the Court House, around the Market Square from Wyndham street, up Church street to Norfolk street. Shortly afterwards the company was fully organized, with a capital of \$30,000, in 1,500 shares, at \$20 each, the term of the company's existence to be fifty years. The Directors chosen for the first year were Messrs. F. J. Chadwick, N. Higinbotham, James Massie, Richard Mitchell, Donald Guthrie, J. C. McLagan and John Hogg. Mr. Perry, the proprietor of the undertaking, was chosen manager, and it was expected to have gas burning by the 1st of November. Gas was not used, however, till January 18th, 1871.

On September 13th the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway was opened as far as Fergus, when addresses were presented on the occasion to Mr. Adam Brown and the other Directors, by Mr. J. M. Fraser, Reeve of Elora, and Dr. Orton, Reeve of Fergus, on behalf of those municipalities.

The great want of house accommodation, especially of such descriptions as would be suitable for mechanics, having long been felt, a public meeting was called to consider the question, the result being that a statement was drawn up as follows : "We, the undersigned, are willing to erect, during the fall, dwelling houses containing four rooms each, provided the mechanics will undertake the work at reasonable terms." Donald Guthrie, Chas. Davidson, F. J. Chadwick, N. Higinbotham, J. C. McLagan. In pursuance of this agreement a considerable number of houses of the description named, were erected during the fall and winter.

The municipal elections for 1871 were attended with an unusual degree of excitement and interest. Mr. Richard Mitchell was elected Mayor without opposition. For Reeve the candidates were Messrs. Jas. Massie and F. J. Chadwick, the former gentleman being successful. The Deputy Reeves were Mr. George Howard and Mr. N. Higinbotham. The members of the Council were : East Ward—Messrs. D. McCrae, W. Allan and J. Stewart. West Ward—Messrs. J. McNeil, G. A. Bruce and H. Hatch. South Ward—Messrs. D. Kennedy, T. Holliday and T.

Heffernan. North Ward—Messrs. A. Robertson, R. Mitchell and Chas. Walker.

The members of the County Council for this year were:—Amaranth, C. Gillespie; Arthur, Robt. Gordon, Anthony Bushlen; Elora, J. M. Fraser; Eramosa, John Rea, Alex. McQueen; Erin, D. McMillan, Chas. McMillan; Fergus, G. T. Orton, M.D.; Garafraxa East, W. H. Hunter, Thos. Hamilton; Garafraxa West, John Dobbin, Stephen Piper; Guelph T'p, Jas. Laidlaw, Geo. Darby; Guelph Town, Jas. Massie, N. Higinbotham, Geo. Howard; Luther, P. Hanson; Maryboro, J. D. Johnson, W. H. Lowes; Minto, John Connell, John Prain; Mount Forest, John Robinson; Nichol, John Mair, John Broadfoot; Orangeville, M. McCarthy; Peel, W. S. Sutherland, Thos. McManus, Thos. Rose; Pilkington, Hugh Roberts, Donald Wallace; Puslinch, Wm. Leslie, Wm. Nichol. Mr. Mair was elected Warden. Mr. A. D. Ferrier, M.P.P., Clerk of the Council, who had filled the office for twenty-two years, now resigned that position, when an address accompanied with a handsome piece of plate, was presented to him by the Council. Mr. John Beattie, of Fergus, was then appointed clerk.

For some years attempts had been made to induce the Directors of the Provincial Exhibition to hold it in Guelph, but without success, and now it was proposed to establish a Central Exhibition, for which it would be necessary to purchase a piece of land, and a committee of the County Council was appointed to consider the matter. They now recommended the purchase of a portion of the Catholic glebe, containing 35 acres, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, on easy terms, which they specified. The report was adopted and the Warden and County Solicitor instructed to carry out the provisions named.

The Ontario Legislature, having existed four years, was dissolved in February, and in March the general election took place. In the South Riding of Wellington Mr. P. Gow was returned without opposition. In the North Riding Mr. McKim was re-elected, defeating Mr. John Cross. In the Centre Riding Mr. A. D. Ferrier, the late member, did not run, and the contest was between Mr. Alexander McLaren and Mr. Charles Clarke, the latter being elected. The general result of the election was that the Conservative party had a majority in the House of 44 to 37.

On Tuesday, May 23rd, the event so long hoped for by the congregation of St. George's Church, the laying of the corner stone of the new church, took place. A special and largely attended service was held in the old church, after which the children of the Sunday-School, followed by the members of the congregation, the building committee and the clergy present, including Revs. Messrs. Geddes, Hamilton; Boomer, Galt; Cooper, Fergus, and others, formed a procession and proceeded to the site of the new building. After the stone had been prepared, Mr. George Elliott deposited in the cavity a sealed canister, containing a statement of the history of the church, the names of the building committee—Archdeacon Palmer, Messrs. Wm. Reynolds, T. W. Saunders, George Elliott and Judge Macdonald. The cost of this building, as stated, was to be \$29,998.60. The following papers were also deposited in the canister: Guelph HERALD, *Advertiser*, *Mercury*, *Toronto Globe*, *Leader*, *Church Herald* and *Canadian Almanac*. The stone was then laid with the usual ceremonies by Rev. Archdeacon Palmer.

The efforts of a number of the leading agriculturists of the county together with several of the prominent citizens of Guelph, to establish a

Central Exhibition, having been successful, and liberal grants having been made by the Town and County, the necessary preparations were completed, and the show fixed to be held on October 10th, 11th and 12th. The amount offered in prizes was \$8000, a larger amount, by several thousand dollars, than was ever offered at any similar exhibition in Canada. As the preparations advanced, it was found that the buildings provided would be insufficient to accommodate all the cattle and goods entered for competition, and a number of additional buildings were erected. There were nearly 7000 entries from all parts of the Province, and in all respects the show was beyond the most sanguine expectations. On the first day the attendance was good, and on the second day the number of persons on the ground was about 15,000, the number being still larger on the third day. During the third day, Mr. James Anderson, of Puslinch, President of the Central Exhibition, delivered a practical and eloquent address, on the advantages to be derived from such exhibitions, and the mutual benefits to be realized by farmers and manufacturers in thus meeting in friendly competition. Speeches were also delivered by Mr. D. Stirton, M.P., Mr. John Mair, Warden of the County and Mr. R. Mitchell, Mayor of Guelph. During the Exhibition week the Guelph HERALD was issued daily.

In December the HERALD, which had been conducted since the death of Mr. Pirie, under the management of his widow, passed into the hands of Chadwick & Co., who, in their salutatory, announced their intention of issuing the paper daily, and of making such improvements as would render it in every respect equal to any daily paper published west of Toronto, a promise which they persistently endeavored to fulfill, with great success. The only feature in the paper, indeed, which did not undergo a change, was in its unswerving support of the principles of the Conservative party, and in the consistent advocacy which it had always given of measures having for their aim the advancement of the people's rights and general good, and at the same time condemning with all the energy of integrity and patriotism, everything inimical to the popular weal.

On Sunday, December 17th, the new edifice known as Chalmers' church was opened for public worship, the sermons being preached by Rev. John Thompson, of Sarnia, and Rev. Dr. Waters, of St. Marys.

On the defeat of the Sandfield Macdonald ministry in December, and the advent to power of the Reform party under the leadership of Mr. Edward Blake, Mr. P. Gow, member for South Wellington, was appointed Provincial Secretary. At the election on January 4th, 1872, Mr. Gow was re-elected without opposition.

There was no contest for the Mayoralty in 1872, Mr. Richard Mitchell being re-elected by acclamation. Mr. James Massie was elected Reeve, and Messrs. G. Howard and G. A. Bruce, Deputy Reeves. The members of the Council were :—East Ward—Messrs. Wm. Allan, J. P. MacMillan and J. Stewart. West Ward—Messrs. R. W. Bell, J. McNeil and J. Crowe. South Ward—Messrs. D. Kennedy, M. Snider and W. Stevenson. North Ward—Messrs. Robert Mitchell, A. Robertson and John Hogg.

The members of the County Council for the year were :—Amaranth, Mr. W. B. Jelly. Arthur Village, Mr. A. Buschlen. Arthur Township, Mr. R. Stevenson, Mr. T. Flahiff. Elora, Mr. H. Hamilton. Erin, Mr. D. McMillan, Mr. E. Johnson. Eramosa, Mr. J. Rea, Mr. J. McKerlie. Fergus, Dr. G. T. Orton. Garafraxa East, Mr. R. Henderson, Mr. T.

Hamilton. Garafraxa West, Mr. W. Gibson, Mr. S. Piper. Guelph Town, Mr. J. Massie, Mr. G. Howard, Mr. G. A. Bruce. Guelph Township, Mr. J. Laidlaw, Mr. E. Darby. Luther, Mr. W. Dawson, Mr. P. Hanson. Maryborough, Mr. H. Maudsley, Mr. J. Ogden. Minto, Mr. J. O'Connell, Mr. J. Prain. Mount Forest, Mr. J. Robinson. Nichol, Mr. J. Mair, Mr. J. Broadfoot. Orangeville, Mr. M. McCarthy. Peel, Mr. W. S. Sutherland, Mr. J. McManus, Mr. J. McGowan. Pilkington, Mr. H. Roberts, Mr. J. L. Brohmann. Puslinch, Mr. W. Leslie, Mr. W. Nicol.

During the year two vacancies occurred in the Town Council, one by the death of Mr. Stewart, in whose place Mr. D. Coffee was elected, and the other by the retirement of Mr. McNeil, who was succeeded by Mr. George Elliott.

In April a fire occurred in Messrs. Arms & Worswick's tool works on Suffolk street, by which the premises were entirely destroyed, and about forty men thrown out of employment. Mr. George A. Bruce's carriage factory, adjoining, was saved by the untiring energy of the firemen.

At the Spring Assizes, Levi Gillies, convicted of an attempt to commit rape, was sentenced to two years imprisonment, and receive thirty lashes on entering prison, thirty more at the expiration of a year, and thirty more a fortnight before the expiration of his term. Theophilus Coates, convicted of a similar offence, was sentenced to six months imprisonment and forty lashes. This was the first time the punishment of the lash was inflicted in this county. John Wilson, convicted of rape was sentenced to be hanged on the 20th of June. The sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

The corner stone of the new Baptist Church on Woolwich street, was laid on Monday, May 7th, by Rev. Dr. Davidson. Among the ministers present were Rev. Mr. Mackie, pastor of the church; Rev. Dr. Fyfe, Rev. Messrs. Montgomery, Beamsville; Gerrie, Elora; Griffith, St. George; Grant, Hillsburg, and Dr. Hurd, Brantford.

For some months an effort had been made to introduce the system of nine hours labor, and in May a mass meeting was held, about 2,000 persons being present, to consider the question, when a resolution was passed in favor of the movement, and in many instances it was afterwards adopted.

An application having been made to the Town Council to grant the use of the main portion of the Exhibition building to the Sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital for a picnic on June 24th, a majority of the Council decided to refuse it, and in a few days a monster mass meeting was held, at which the action of the Council was strongly condemned, and a resolution passed asking them to rescind their resolution, which was done at a special meeting called to consider the matter.

At the general election for the House of Commons, in August, 1872, Lt.-Col. Higinbotham was elected for the North Riding of Wellington, by a majority of 60 over Mr. G. A. Drew. In the Centre Riding Mr. James Ross was elected by a majority of 46 over Dr. Orton, and in the South Riding Mr. Stirton was re-elected by acclamation.

The Central Exhibition, held October 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, was a magnificent success, the entries being much more numerous, and the attendance much larger than in the previous year. It had been expected that Lord Dufferin would pay the town a visit during the week, but in that the people were disappointed. On the 3rd, however, Lt.-Governor Howland arrived in town, and was received in a most enthusiastic manner,

addresses being presented by the Mayor and Corporation, by the Warden of Wellington, and by the Directors of the Central Exhibition. In the afternoon a lunch was given in the Town Hall, when addresses were delivered by the Lieut.-Governor, the Mayor and others.

It being considered by many that the hospital accommodation in the town was insufficient, a number of prominent gentlemen took the matter in hand and a public meeting was called in November to consider the question. The chair was taken by Mr. James Massie, and addresses were delivered by Mr. Stirton, M. P., Revs. Messrs. Ball and Hogg, Drs. Herod, Keating, Clarke, Brock and McGuire, and Messrs. John Horsman, John Harris, J. M. Bond, C. Raymond, F. W. Stone, John Hogg, A. Lemon, and others, after which preliminary arrangements were made for collecting subscriptions, and for making enquiries as to suitable sites, cost of buildings, &c. The movement was vigorously pushed forward, the result being that the present handsome and commodious building was erected, and a General Hospital established, second to none in any town of the size of Guelph in the Province.

The municipal elections in January 1873, were unusually animated, so far as the wards were concerned. For the Mayoralty, Mr. Adam Robertson was returned with scarcely any opposition. For Reeve there were three candidates, Messrs. Massie, Goldie and Hatch, the first named being elected. For Deputy Reeves the candidates were Messrs. George Howard, F. J. Chadwick, D. Kennedy and J. P. Macmillan. Messrs. Howard and Chadwick were elected. For Councillors, in the North Ward there were six candidates, Messrs. John Hogg, Richard Mitchell and Robert Mitchell being elected. In the South Ward there were seven candidates, the successful ones being Messrs. T. A. Heffernan, D. Kennedy and T. Holliday. In the East Ward there were six candidates, and Messrs. J. Horsman, D. Coffee and Robt. Bell were elected. In the West Ward there were six candidates, those elected being Messrs. Geo. Elliott, J. C. McLagan and John Crowe. During the year Mr. Bell resigned his seat in the East Ward and Mr. C. Davidson defeated Mr. D. McCrae for the vacant position.

The legal business of the County having become too large for the County Judge to attend to, Mr. Austin Cooper Chadwick, barrister, was appointed to the position of Junior Judge, the appointment being announced in the *Gazette* of January 18th.

The members of the County Council for the year were:—W. B. Jelly, Robert Stevenson, Alexander Fraser, Hugh Hamilton, John Rea, Duncan McMillan, Henry Michie, William Gibson, Robert Henderson, James Laidlaw, James Massie, William Dawson, John Prain, Robert Kilgour, John Mair, Maitland McCarthy, Hugh Roberts, Wm. Leslie, James Golden, Thomas Flahiff, William Duffield, John Berry, John Mitchell, Thomas Hamilton, Geo. Darby, F. J. Chadwick, G. Howard, Peter Hanson, T. B. Patterson, John H. Broadfoot, Jacob L. Brohman, William Nicol. Mr. John Mair was elected Warden.

The new St. George's Church was opened for Divine worship on April 20th, by the Bishop of Toronto. Among the clergymen who took part in the service were, Revs. J. G. Geddes, Hamilton, F. A. Bethune, Trinity College, Port Hope, and F. Alexander, Curate of the parish.

A by-law for raising \$30,000 for the use of the Board of School Trustees, principally for the building of the new Central School, was submitted in September, and carried by a fair majority.

The Central Exhibition in 1873 was even more successful than that

in the previous year. The number of entries was 5550, and the amount of prize money was about \$8500. The attendance was very large and the exhibit, especially in the stock departments, exceedingly fine.

A sad accident occurred to Col. Saunders on the morning of October 6th, resulting in his death a few days afterwards. He was driving into town in his own conveyance and while coming down Paisley street a runaway team, attached to a heavy vehicle, dashed into his buggy, smashing it to pieces, and throwing Col. Saunders violently to the ground, by which he sustained a severe shaking, and while in an unconscious state he was kicked on the head by one of the horses. Col. Saunders was 78 years of age, and had been Clerk of the Peace of the County since its foundation. He was also for some years Inspector of Inland Revenue, and occupied several other places of trust in the County under the Government.

The dispute which had been pending between the Government and Mr. F. W. Stone, relating to the purchase of Moreton Lodge, and the farm on which it stood, having been at last satisfactorily settled, Mr. Stone offered most of his fine cattle for sale in October. There is no doubt that this was the largest sale of stock ever held in this country, and for quality, perhaps no finer collection was ever offered on this continent. The Government shortly afterwards took possession of the property, and converted it into a Model Farm and School of Agriculture, selling the land at Mimico, which had been intended for a similar purpose.

The municipal officers for 1874 were:—Mayor—Mr. J. Harris. Reeve—Mr. Geo. Howard. Deputy Reeves—Messrs. C. Raymond and Geo. Hood. Councillors—East Ward, Messrs. C. Davidson, D. Coffee and D. McCrae. West Ward—Messrs. Geo. Elliott, Jno. Crowe and Geo. Bruce. North Ward—Messrs. A. Robertson, E. Harvey and W. H. Mills. South Ward—Messrs. A. B. Petrie, T. Heffernan and J. W. Hall.

The members of the County Council for this year were: Amaranth—Wm. B. Jelly, Jas. Golden. Arthur Township—R. Stevenson, M. C. O'Donnell. Arthur Village—J. F. Hollinger. Elora—R. Dalby. Erin—J. Rea, W. Duffield. Erin—D. McMillan, W. Teeter. Fergus—M. Anderson. Garafraxa W.—W. Gibson, John Mitchell. Garafraxa E.—R. Henderson, Thos. Hamilton. Guelph Township—J. Laidlaw, G. A. Darby. Guelph Town—G. Howard, C. Raymond, G. Hood. Harrison—J. Meiklejohn. Luther—W. Dawson, P. Hanson. Maryborough—Jas. Robb. Minto—John Prain, M. G. Miller. Mount Forest—J. Robinson. Nichol—John Mair, J. H. Broadfoot. Orangeville—F. C. Stewart. Peel—Jas. Cross, J. McManus, J. McGowan. Pilkington—H. Roberts, Geo. Swain. Puslinch—W. Leslie, W. Nichol. Mr. James Laidlaw was elected Warden.

In the general election for the House of Commons, in January 1874, Mr. Stirton was re-elected for South Wellington, defeating Mr. Henry Hatch. In the Centre Riding Dr. Orton defeated Mr. R. McKim by 49 votes, and in the North Riding Lt.-Col. Higinbotham was elected over Mr. Geo. A. Drew by 6 votes.

When it became apparent that a contest was pending, Mr. McKim resigned his seat for North Wellington in the Ontario Legislature, to become a candidate for the Commons in Centre Wellington, and in the election which ensued for the Local House, Mr. John McGowan defeated Mr. E. J. O'Callaghan, the Reform candidate, by a majority of 82.

In April considerable excitement was caused in the town by the



escape from the gaol of Samuel McLean, a mail clerk on the G. W. R., committed for trial for stealing money letters. The circumstances were of so suspicious a nature that an investigation was held by the Government Inspector, which clearly showed that some friends had for some time been hoping for his escape, but nothing definite could be proved with regard to any outside complicity. At the ensuing Assizes, however, Hillen, the turnkey, was tried for aiding in the escape, but was found "not guilty."

At the same Assizes, John Dunn, *alias* Sullivan, was charged with having committed a most heinous crime, by assaulting a little girl, about six years of age, and the case being fully proved, he was sentenced to be hanged, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. During the month of April the town was shocked by the intelligence of two cases of suicide, one being that of Richard Howitt, who shot himself with his own gun, near his father's house, and the other that of Maurice Armour, who shot himself near the Exhibition grounds.

In July the foundation stone of the new Methodist Church on Dublin street was laid by Mr. James Hough. Among the ministers present were Revs. J. B. Howard and J. E. Lanceley, pastors of the church; W. H. Poole, Toronto, and T. Wardrope, Guelph. The trustees were Messrs. Jno. B. Kelly, W. T. Chipchase, W. B. Clarke, J. H. Osborne, M. A. Keables, J. A. Davidson, R. S. King, John Jackson, jr., Hugh Hurley, G. O. Maddock, John McConnell, Alfred Smith, Wm. Wheatley, J. H. Bishop and W. H. Husband.

In August the town was shocked by a lamentable tragedy. For some time a girl named Eliza Hazel had been leading a life of crime, and to retain her she had been placed in the gaol, but on her release she returned to her former companions. Her father happening to meet a young man and woman named Daniel Hurley and Mary Carver, and thinking them to be his daughter and a young man with whom she was intimate, fired at them, wounding Hurley in the head and Miss Carver in the cheek and neck. Hazel was tried at the Assizes, found guilty of shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm, and sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.

In the course of his tour of the Province, His Excellency, the Governor General, visited Guelph in August, when loyal addresses were presented by Mayor Harris and by Mr. J. B. Armstrong, on behalf of the Directors of the Central Exhibition.

In November the petition against the return of Dr. Orton for Centre Wellington was tried in Guelph, and resulted in the seat being declared vacant in consequence of corrupt practices by supporters, but the petitioners failed to prove that Dr. Orton had any personal knowledge of such practices, and they therefore failed in their attempt to disqualify him. At the election which took place in January, 1875, Dr. Orton was again returned, defeating Mr. James Ross by 126 votes. The election of a member of the Local House for West Wellington also took place in January, Mr. J. McGowan being returned by a majority of 98 over Mr. McKim.

The members of the Town Council for 1875 were: Mayor, Mr. R. Melvin; Reeve, Mr. Geo. Howard; Deputy Reeves, Messrs. Chas. Raymond and D. McCrae. Councillors, East Ward, Messrs. Thos. Sayers, C. Davidson and D. Coffee. North Ward, Messrs W. H. Mills, C. Chase and A. Robertson. South Ward, Messrs. A. B. Petrie, T. A. Heffernan



and J. P. MacMillan. West Ward, Messrs. John Crowe, George Bruce and George Murton, Sr.

The County Council consisted of the following members: Amaranth, W. B. Jelly, James Golden. Arthur Township, Arthur Stevenson, M. C. O'Donnell. Arthur Village, J. F. Hollinger. Clifford, A. S. Allan. Drayton, W. E. Wortley. Elora, R. Dalby. Eramosa, John Rea, M. Cumminings. Erin, D. McMillan, W. Teeter. Fergus, M. Anderson. Garafraxa West, W. Gibson, John Mitchell. Garafraxa East, R. Henderson, Thos. Hamilton. Guelph Township, Jas. Laidlaw, Geo. Darby. Guelph Town, Geo. Howard, C. Raymond, D. McCrae. Harriston, A. Meiklejohn. Luther, W. Dawson. Maryboro', Jas. Robb, John Ogden. Minto, John Prain, M. G. Millar. Mount Forest, J. Robinson. Nicol, John Mair, J. H. Broadfoot. Orangeville, F. C. Stewart. Peel, James Cross, W. Harcourt. Pilkington, Hugh Roberts, Geo. Swan. Puslish, W. Leslie, W. Nicol. Palmerston, W. Thomson. Mr. Jas. Laidlaw was re-elected Warden.

Lieut.-Col. Higinbotham having been unseated on account of bribery by agents, another election took place in March, when he was re-elected, defeating Mr. G. A. Drew by three votes only.

On the night of Saturday, April 10th, a large fire occurred at the sewing machine factory of Mr. C. Raymond, the loss being about \$20,000, and the insurance \$16,000. Mr. Raymond at once commenced to rebuild, and in a few months the present factory, one of the finest in the Dominion, was erected.

The assessment returns for the town, completed in April, showed the following figures: Population, 8,578; real property, \$1,920,360; personal property and taxable income, \$384,400. Total, \$2,304,760.

In June the trial of the petition for the unseating of Mr. John McGowan, M. P. P. for West Wellington took place, and resulted in Mr. McGowan being unseated, on account of a case of treating by an agent, but Mr. McGowan was altogether exonerated from the personal charges of corrupt practices preferred.

In August a charge of attempted murder was preferred against a young man named Wm. Marks. The accused, with Richard Yates and some others, had been out shooting, and on their way home had indulged rather freely in drink, and a dispute arose, some time after which, quite unexpectedly by any of the others, Marks fired his gun, shooting Yates. From the evidence given at the trial there was some doubt as to the shooting being intentional, and the sentence therefore was light—nine months imprisonment. During the same month Henry White, a colored man murdered his wife in Peel, by striking her on the head with a large piece of wood, and then throwing her into a well. He was sentenced to be hanged, and the execution took place Dec. 23rd.

The election to fill the vacancy caused by the unseating of Mr. McGowan, for West Wellington took place in September. The candidates were Mr. John McGowan, nominated by Mr. Thos. Swan, of Mount Forest, and seconded by Mr. Thos. McManus, of Peel; and Mr. Thos. Garbutt, proposed by Mr. R. Stevenson, of Arthur, and seconded by Mr. T. Harcourt, of Peel. The result was that Mr. McGowan was re-elected by a vote of 1,238, against 1,210 for Mr. Garbutt.

In October, His Honor Lt.-Governor Macdonald visited Guelph, when addresses were presented to him by the Mayor, the Warden and Mr. J. P. MacMillan, on behalf of Sister Alphonsus, of St. Joseph's Hospital. During the day His Honor visited the Model Farm, St. Joseph's

Hospital, the factory of Messrs. W. & R. Bell, the Osborn Sewing Machine factory, and several other places of interest, after which a lunch was given at the Royal Hotel, at which most of the principal residents of Guelph were present.

During the same month the new Baptist church, of which Rev. Dr. Davidson is pastor, was opened, the sermons being preached by Rev. Dr. Fyfe and Rev. Wm. Stewart, of Hamilton. The Baptist missionary convention was held in the church at the same time.

On Wednesday, November 17th, Rev. Alexander Dixon, B.A., Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Diocese of Niagara, was inducted into the Rectory of St. George's Church, by Venerable Archdeacon McMurray, assisted by Rev. Rural Dean Thompson, of Elora.

The new Town Hall was formally opened December 10th, by a concert, ball and supper, given by the St. Andrew's Society. The concert was, perhaps, the most largely attended ever given in Guelph, the well known Kennedy family supplying the entertainment. The ball and supper were equally successful, and reflected great credit on the society.

The material progress of Guelph during the year was greater than in any previous year, the total value of the buildings erected, according to the list published in the HERALD, being little short of a quarter of a million dollars. This list included the new Town Hall and the new Central School, each of which stands unrivalled, for their respective uses, in the Province.

The members of the Town Council for 1876 were :—Mayor—Mr. R. Melvin. Reeve—Mr. Geo. Howard. 1st Deputy—Mr. D. McCrae. 2nd Deputy—Mr. D. Kennedy. 3rd Deputy—Mr. Geo. Hood. Councillors :—East Ward—Messrs. T. Sayers, J. B. Armstrong and D. Kribs. North Ward—Messrs. W. H. Mills, C. Chase and Dr. Herod. South Ward—Messrs. A. B. Petrie, Geo. Sleeman and J. P. MacMillan. West Ward—Messrs. W. Hart, Geo. Bruce and J. C. McLagan.

The County Council was composed of the following members :—Amaranth—John Gillespie, Joseph Banks. Arthur T'p.—R. Stevenson, M. C. O'Donnell. Arthur Vil.—Alex. Fraser. Clifford—Jas. Brown. Drayton—Henry Deebel. Elora—Robt. Dalby. Eramosa—Jno. Rea, M. Cummins. Erin—D. McMillan, J. W. Burt. Fergus—M. Anderson. Garafraxa W.—W. Gibson, J. J. Dobbin. Garafraxa E.—W. H. Hunter, T. Hamilton. Guelph T'p.—Geo. Darby, M. Sweetnam. Guelph Town—Geo. Howard, D. Kennedy, Geo. Hood. Harriston—J. Meiklejohn. Luther—Wm. Dawson, Jas. McLuhan. Maryboro—Jas. Robb, Jno. Ogden. Minto—John Prain, M. G. Millar. Mount Forest—R. Kilgour. Nicol—Jno. Mair, J. H. Broadfoot. Orangeville—F. C. Stewart, Jas. Allen. Peel—Jas. Cross, F. McManus, Thos. Whale. Palmerston—Jas. McEwing. Pilkington—Hugh Roberts. Puslinch—Wm. Leslie, Wm. Nicol. Mr. John Rea was elected Warden.

The Government having decided to erect new buildings in Guelph for the Post Office, Inland Revenue Department, &c., considerable discussion ensued in the town in the month of March as to the best site to be selected, some recommending that the buildings should be placed on a portion of the Market Square, others that they should be erected at the corner of Woolwich and Wyndham Streets, while the majority favored the site of the old Wellington Hotel, on St. George's Square. This was finally recommended to the Government, and to cover the additional cost, a subscription having been taken up, it was ultimately decided upon, and the work was soon afterwards commenced. The amount voted by

the Government for the entire cost of the buildings, including the purchase of the site, was \$25,000, but the total cost will probably exceed \$30,000.

During the summer the erection of the new Masonic block, and the new Wellington Hotel was commenced, the result being that Guelph now possesses one of the finest blocks of stone buildings in the Dominion. The Masonic Hall is a magnificent structure, of which the Order generally may be justly proud, while the hotel is superior in all its arrangements to most of the hotels in the large cities in Ontario.

The assessment rolls for this year showed the following figures:—Population—9017. Real property—\$2,103,160. Personal property and taxable income \$355,448. Non-resident land \$39,890. Total—\$2,498,498.

In view of the fact that the next year would be fiftieth anniversary of the Town of Guelph and that St. George's Day was the day on which the first tree was cut here, a movement was set on foot for the reorganization of the Guelph St. George's Society, which had some few years since been allowed to drop out of existence. A meeting was accordingly held on Monday, April 24th, for this purpose, among those present being, Messrs. John Harvey, W. S. G. Knowles, Geo. Murton, T. Ellis, H. H. Swinford, Geo. Hirst, R. Parker, C. Chase, Geo. Robins, J. W. Smart, and C. Acton Burrows. After some discussion it was decided that the Society should be revived, and at a meeting held May 2nd, the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. W. S. G. Knowles; 1st Vice-President, Mr. Geo. Murton; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. John Harvey; Treasurer, Mr. Wm. Sunley; Secretary, Mr. Wm. P. Rogers; Chaplain, Rev. Canon Dixon; Physician, Dr. G. S. Herod; Committee, Messrs. H. J. Saunders, C. Chase, Geo. Robins, S. Myers, J. W. Smart, R. Parker, Thos. Ellis, E. Harrison, Geo. Tolton and W. Newport.

By the death of Col. Wm. Kingsmill, which occurred May 6th, the postmastership of Guelph became vacant, and in a few days Mr. David Stirton, who resigned his seat in the House of Commons for the purpose, was appointed to the position. The contest for the vacant seat was a very spirited one, the candidates being Mr. D. Guthrie, Reformer, and Mr. James Goldie, Protectionist. Mr. Duncan McMillan, of Erin, was first chosen as the Protectionist candidate, but he soon afterwards withdrew, and at the last moment Mr. Jas. Goldie was induced to run. The result was that Mr. Guthrie was elected by a vote of 1366 to 1228, though there can be no doubt that had Mr. Goldie been in the field sooner he would have been elected by a handsome majority.

The ceremony of planting the cross and turning the first sod of the foundation of the new Roman Catholic Church, took place July 10th, His Lordship Bishop Crinnon, of Hamilton, officiating, accompanied by about twenty-five priests of the diocese. Rev. Father Dowling delivered an eloquent and impressive address, exhorting those present to do all in their power for the completion of the work commenced under such favorable circumstances.

The Mayor having declared August 9th, a civic holiday, and this being the day appointed for a monster Conservative picnic, at Kinnettles, a great many of the citizens availed themselves of the opportunity to go to Fergus to hear an address from Sir John A. Macdonald. On his way to Fergus the Right Hon. gentleman visited Guelph, when an address was presented to him by the Liberal Conservative Association of the town, to which he made a suitable reply in the Town Hall.

On August 19th another of the few remaining early settlers was removed by the death of Sheriff Grange. Mr. Grange came to Guelph in the year 1834, and after having been in active business for some years, was, in 1840, appointed sheriff, which office he filled till the time of his death. In 1852 he became heir to a large fortune, bequeathed to him by a relative in Ireland, and he afterwards entered largely into real estate transactions, in Guelph, Toronto, Berlin and Stratford. Since his arrival in the town he had always taken a deep interest in all public matters, and no man, perhaps, did more to advance the interests of the town and county than he did. The funeral was one of the most numerously attended ever witnessed in Guelph, gentlemen from all parts of the Province being present on the occasion.

In September, Mr. Peter Gow, M.P.P., resigned his seat for South Wellington, in the Ontario Legislature, and accepted the Shrievalty of Wellington, vacant by the death of Sheriff Grange. At the election which followed, Mr. James Massie was elected by acclamation.

By the list published in the HERALD in November, it appears that the total value of the buildings erected in the Town in 1876, was \$288,000, a rate of progress not equalled by any town in the Dominion, in proportion to its size.

The contest for the Mayoralty in 1877 was very keen. The candidates were Mr. F. J. Chadwick and Mr. Geo. Howard, and from the fact that the friends of Mr. Howard had been able to place him in the position of Reeve at the previous election, and that they were thoroughly organized and determined to carry their man, they felt sure of victory. The event, however, was a complete disappointment for them, Mr. Chadwick being returned by a majority of 219, the largest ever given to a Mayor in this town. Mr. Geo. Hood was elected Reeve, and Messrs. W. Hart, Geo. Sleeman and J. P. MacMillan, Deputy Reeves. The members of the Council are:—East Ward—Messrs. D. Coffee, Joseph Hefferman and A. Dunbar. South Ward—Messrs. F. Gauhan, J. Lamprey and J. T. Cunningham. West Ward—Messrs. George Elliott, J. C. McLagan and T. Gowdy. North Ward—Messrs. F. Biscoe, W. Hearn and W. H. Mills.

The County Council consist of the following gentlemen: Guelph Town, George Hood, Wm. Hart, George Sleeman, J. P. MacMillan. Guelph Township, G. A. Darby, M. Sweetnam. Elora, H. Hamilton. Orangeville, John Foley, James Allan, Mount Forest, J. McMullen. Fergus, M. Anderson. Arthur Village, Alexander Frazer. Clifford, G. Macdonald. Harrison, A. Meiklejohn. Palmerston, W. Thomson. Erin, J. W. Burt, Chas. McMillan. Eramosa, John Rea, Geo. Duffield. Minto, J. T. Prain, M. Bateman. Peel, J. Molloy, J. Harcourt, T. Whale. West Garafraxa, W. Gibson, J. J. Dobbin. East Garafraxa, W. H. Hunter, A. Baker. Puslinch, W. Leslie, Wm. Nicol. Arthur Township, R. Stevenson. Drayton, J. Landerkin. Luther, James McLuthan, W. Luxton. Maryboro', H. Maudsley, Wm. Long. Amaranth, J. Gillespie, J. Banks. Pilkington, Hugh Roberts. Nicol, John Mair. J. Broadfoot. Mr. John Rea was re-elected Warden.

On January 26th, most of the members of the Legislature of Ontario visited Guelph, for the purpose of seeing the town and inspecting the Model Farm. On their arrival Mt. Speaker Wells was presented with addresses by His Worship Mayor Chadwick, Mr. John Rea, Warden of the County, the Board of School Trustees, &c., after which the visitors drove to the Model Farm and round the town. A fitting enter-

tainment was provided for them in the Town Hall, where speeches were delivered by the Speaker, some of the leading members of the House, the Mayor, the Warden and some of the prominent citizens of the town and county.

The members of the Presbyterian Churches, and the citizens generally, were, on March 3rd, called upon to mourn the removal, by death, of Rev. Dr. Hogg, pastor of St. Andrew's Church. For eighteen years the rev. gentleman had been identified with the religious and educational interests of the town, and had, by his undeviating devotion to the welfare of the church and the town generally, won for himself the warmest regards of every person with whom he had been brought in contact. His funeral was largely attended, many persons being present from Hamilton, Galt and other places where he had been well known and highly esteemed.

The 23rd of April of this year being the 50th anniversary of the cutting of the first tree on the site of the town, steps were taken by the St. George's Society to secure a fitting celebration of the day. At a meeting of the Society on January 25th, a committee was appointed, with Mr. C. Acton Burrows as chairman, to make the necessary arrangements. The society will hold a dinner in the Town Hall on the evening of the day, which will no doubt be largely attended. In the inaugural address delivered by His Worship Mayor Chadwick, on taking his seat in the civic chair, he recommended that the anniversary be celebrated in a manner befitting its importance, and that a special committee be appointed to carry out the arrangements. This proposition being favorably entertained by the Council, a special committee was appointed, with Mr. George Elliott as chairman. At a special meeting of the Council on April 12th, a grant was made towards the expenses of the celebration and as the St. George's, St. Patrick's, St. Andrew's and the Caledonian Society have promised to co-operate with the Council, there is no doubt such arrangements will be made for the due celebration of the day, that it will be long remembered, and when, perchance, some person may write "The Annals of the Town of Guelph," not in the year of jubilee, but in the centennial year, the occasion may be referred to as one of the most pleasing in the entire history.



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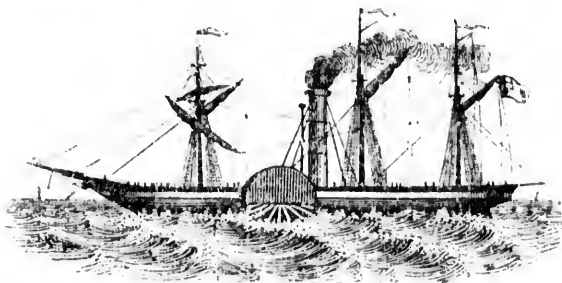
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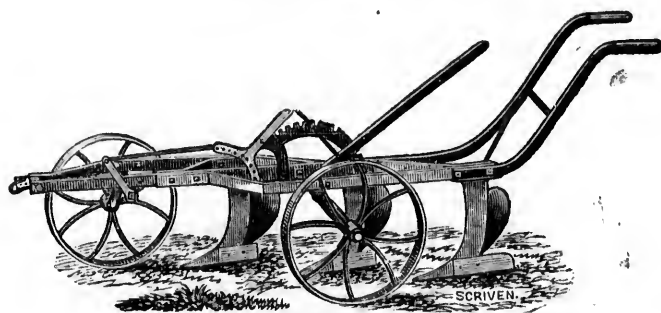
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Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.

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## COSSITT'S AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKS

GUELPH, ONT.

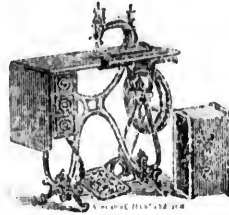


Buy only the genuine FARMER'S FRIEND GANG PLOW, patented  
March 1875. Send for circular and terms.

**L. COSSITT,**

Manufacturer of Gang Plows, Fanning Mills, Horse Turnip Seed Drills,  
Horse and Hand Power Feed Cutters, Lawn Mowers, Horse Pokes, &c.

# GUELPH SEWING MACHINE CO.



THE

“OSBORN”

## SEWING MACHINES

Having been awarded **CENTENNIAL MEDALS** and  
**DIPLOMA** and **MEDAL** in Canadian Award  
 at the **PHILADELPHIA CENTENNIAL**  
**INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION**  
 in 1876 and Certificate of the  
**Centennial Judges for**  
**“Simplicity and**  
**Adaptability”**

May be taken as a guarantee that they are deserving of the public confidence, which is now universally accorded them.

We Claim that our Hand Shuttle Machine  
 has no equal.

WE ASK INSPECTION.

Every Machine warranted to give satisfaction on every description of work. GIVE US A TRIAL, PLEASE.

**WILKIE & OSBORN,**

Manufacturers, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

## **GOLDSMITH HALL, GUELPH.**

THE OLD



POST OFFICE.

### **SIGN OF THE LARGE CLOCK**

Is the spot to get supplied with WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, SILVER PLATE, &c., at bottom price.

If you want correct time get one of

### **CRAWFORD'S TRUSTWORTHY WATCHES**

In silver cases, from \$10 to \$40. In gold cases, from \$30 to \$150. Warranted for two years.

Jobbing, Engraving, Gold and Silver Plating done as before.

CHARGES MODERATE.

## **HOOD & McHARDY, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL BUTCHERS**

STALL NO. 1, GUELPH MARKET.

Have always on hand a large and good supply of

**Fresh and Salt Meats, Poultry, &c.,**

All orders promptly attended to, and meat delivered to any part of the town.

## **MITCHELL'S HOTEL, Market Square, Guelph.**

This Hotel has now been thoroughly refitted and repaired, and every accommodation can now be afforded for Travellers and permanent Boarders.

The Bar is supplied with all kinds of Wines, Liquors and Cigars of the choicest descriptions, selected with great care. Convenient and roomy stables, and an attentive hostler.

**ARCHIBALD MITCHELL.**

Guelph, April, 1877.



**CHAS. RAYMOND,**

MANUFACTURER OF

**LOCK-STITCH & CHAIN STITCH  
SEWING MACHINES**

TO WORK BY HAND OR FOOT POWER.

**GUELPH, - - - ONTARIO,  
CANADA.**

**M. J. DORAN,**

IMPORTER OF

**Teas, Sugars, Family Groceries, Best Wines & Liquors,  
&c., &c.**

**Best Garden and Field Seeds always on hand in Season.**

Agent for patent Burners and extra refined Oil.

**CASH PAID FOR FARM PRODUCE.**

Goods sold Cheap for Cash and delivered to all parts of the Town and Stations free of charge.

**WEST MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.**

**W. M. FOSTER, L.D.S.,**

**DENTIST.**

Office over W. G. Smith & Co's, Drug Store,

**CORNER MACDONNELL & WYNDHAM STS.,**

**GUELPH, ONT.**

## THE FASHIONABLE WEST END Dress-Making and Millinery Establishment

87 Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.

### SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS:

SILKS AND DRESS GOODS,      MANTLES AND MILLINERY,  
GLOVES AND HOSIERY,      FANCY GOODS,  
STAPLES, ETC.

The Fashionable West End is the leading house in the trade, patronized by every lady in the town of Guelph and surrounding country.

**A. O. BUCHAM,**  
Fashionable West End Dress, Mantle and Millinery Establishment.

## CITY HOTEL,

(LATE THORP'S)

Opposite the Grand Trunk Passenger Station,  
GUELPH,      -      -      ONTARIO.

### JOHN HAUCH, Proprietor,

Excellent Single Room for Commercial Men. Free Omnibus to and from all trains for Guests.

**Good Stabling and Livery in connection.**

## GUELPH IRON FOUNDRY,

**All Kinds of CASTINGS made to order.**

STOVES OF THE LATEST PATTERNS always in Stock, also Cistern and Force Pumps. Tin, Copper and Sheet Ironwares at lowest prices.

W. H. MILLS.

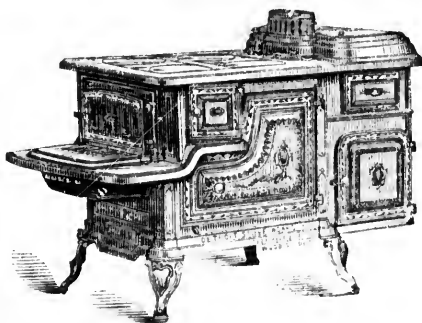
## ROBERT MITCHELL,

**Attorney at Law, Solicitor in Chancery & Insolvency,**

Notary Public, Commissioner, &c.

Day's Block, opposite Horsman's Store, Guelph.

*£* Money to lend in sums to suit borrowers.



**W. SUNLEY,**

dealer in all kinds of

**Coal or Wood Cook**

**STOVES**

AND

**RANGES.**

**PARLOR, HALL AND BOX STOVES**

OF THE BEST MAKES AND LATEST DESIGNS.

MANUFACTURER OF

**TIN, COPPER, and SHEET IRON WORK**

IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Galvanized Iron Roofing and Cornice Work a Speciality.

WEST MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

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**GEORGE HOOD,**

BREEDER OF

**HEREFORD CATTLE**

AND

**BERKSHIRE PIGS,**

ROSETTA FARM, - - - GUELPH.

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MY STOCK HAS RECEIVED

**9 Centennial Medals and Diploma.**