

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 25, 1888.

HOMILY ON STOCK-SERMONS.

Our Own "Eminent Preacher."

HIS "FAME" TRAVELS ALL THE WAY TO CHICAGO.

"There was once a preacher in the East who had a stock of sermons which he kept in two barrels. When Sunday came he would fish a homily out of one of the barrels, read it to his congregation, and then toss it into the second barrel. When the barrel from which the good pastor drew his homily was empty he would turn the second barrel bottom side up, break in the head and begin over again."—Chicago Herald, December 29.

Those of our readers who know how to appreciate "venerable stock sermons" and to admire the "eminent" preachers thereof, will be delighted to see the foregoing extract from the Chicago Herald of the date mentioned. Like a gleam of sunshine near the close of a wintry day, it travels "down East" to us from the far-away Western State of Illinois and cheers us in the midst of our depression and isolation. But why does it cheer us? That's the question. Well, it cheers us for various reasons; but chiefly because the "tribute" is paid to one who resides in this city and whose heart is so enfolded with our political and social institutions that he couldn't "tear himself away," even if he would. Then, again, all civilized people are proud of their great men, and haven't we a perfect right to be proud of ours? Why, of course we have, and we will be proud of him, too, in spite of "the fish-flake party's ambition and opposition."

Certainly opinions differ as to what really constitutes greatness. But we cannot help that, nor are we going to try to help it. Enough for us to know that we have an "eminent preacher of stock sermons" amongst us—just as "eminent" in his particular line as are the "eminent men" of other countries in theirs: such, for instance, as America's Sullivan, England's Bradlaugh, France's Wilson, Russia's "Stormy Petrel," and Turkey's Whack-one Pasha.

Moreover, we have greater reason to be proud of "our eminent man" than have all or any of the countries named to be proud of theirs. The greatness of their heroes—or rather those of them here mentioned—has been acquired in the prize-ring, on the bourse, at the bar, on the tented field and in the council chamber, respectively. The eminence of ours, on the contrary, has been achieved in the *sanctum sanctorum* and on the "consecrated platform." In other words, he owes his fame to "the peaceful, the pure, the victorious pen" and—to preaching stock sermons.

Furthermore, briefly consider the inimitable *modus operandi* employed by our local celebrity. "System, you know, is everything," especially in writing and speaking. Of this (system) he has long been a master, as will be observed from the excerpt quoted. For five-and-thirty years, more or less, he has "practiced that system" with the most marked success; and, no doubt, if any timid young preacher were to call upon him for advice after the service this evening, "our famous friend" would forthwith tell him to "go and do likewise."

Fourthly, look at the convenience of the system under consideration and the ease with which it can be operated. You have only, as the text points out, to "keep your stock sermons in two barrels," and, when Sunday comes, fish a homily out of one of the barrels, read it to your congregation, and then toss it into the second barrel. When the barrel from which the homily is drawn becomes empty, turn the second barrel bottom side up, break in the head and begin over again. What is simpler and easier than that? If the venerable St. John Chrysostom and the late less venerable but highly-respected Paxton Hood only knew, in the days of their greatness, just half the advantages of such a system, they would never have felt the necessity of burning so much midnight oil and exhausting such a fund of valuable brain-power as they possessed, in preparing, for the edification of their hearers, so many rich and precious homilies. But the blessing was denied them, and hence the unnecessary labor these great and good men were obliged to perform during their ministry.

Finally, brethren, let us take care to duly respect "our eminent man" while he continues to tabernacle in our midst. His "fame," as we have shown, has already reached Chicago, and is now a subject of newspaper comment in that great city. Perhaps, ere the 25th of January next year, it will have passed the Pacific Slope and gone on to the Celestial Empire. Who knows? Let us, then, woe repeat, honor him during the remainder of his sojourn here below, not only by listening, with "bowed heads and teachable hearts," to his addresses, when delivered by himself, but also try to treat with nice regard any and every student of his who may venture to imitate our "eminent divine's" style or undertake to reproduce any of his brilliant stock sermons. As Cowper says: "We do well to improve our opportunities."

THE STARVING POOR.

An article in a late number of the *Scottish American Journal* gives us a correct pretty idea of the great number of persons now out of employment in the city of New York. We place this matter prominently before the public, so that those of our people who are preparing to leave for the United States may not go away under the false impression that it is easy to find employment in the great marts of the neighboring Republic.

Few, says the *Journal*, who have observed the eager throngs in the streets and avenues, since 20th Dec., purchasing Christmas gifts would think of the other and dark side of the picture, the many thousands of idle and starving men and women at present in the city. The two sides of the picture are so incongruous that the mind can scarcely be forced to dwell upon both. One will run up against two or three hungry-looking men standing with wistful gaze at a corner, eagerly anxious to work at anything if it could be got; but would any one for a moment think that there are just now no less than one hundred thousand idle men and women in the city in a destitute and starving condition? Nevertheless it is true, and that notwithstanding the facts that this year has been unusually good for business—that factories have been running full time—that the building trades have been busy—that the clothing and shoe trades have rarely been brisker—and that the iron trade has been booming. But all have their slack or idle season, and unfortunately in the most of them it occurs just at this holiday time. Many thousands thus instead of rejoicing and welcoming the approach of the holidays dread their arrival. The great bulk of them while at work can only earn enough to make ends meet, and cannot possibly lay aside any portion of their earnings to keep them when laid off.

Of course it is only a percentage of that wage-earning class that is presently in a destitute condition, but if the vast number employed in the various industries be considered, it will not then surprise any one to be told that there are 100,000 idle men and women in New York at present. In the building trades the dull times commenced a week ago and will last till the beginning of April. There are 7,000 brick-layer, 2,500 brown-stone cutters and rubbers, 2,000 laborers, and 700 roofers. Then there are 8,000 painters, and of these alone over 1500 are presently going idle and looking for work. Of the 8000 Union-carpenters 350 are already idle, and the rest are mostly on short time. Altogether in connection with the building industry at least 15,000 are already idle, and 10,000 more will be added before the winter is far advanced. About 500 cabinetmakers are now idle, as well as 100 upholsters and 100 carvers. The clothing industry gives employment to about 60,000 men, and of these at least one half are idle owing to the slack season. It is estimated that there are always about 5,000 longshoremen and dock-laborers idle, and at best their wages only average \$9 a week. At least 3,000 cigarmakers are presently idle. Over 1,500 of the 15,000 employed at the affiliated trades are idle, and also 700 of the 7,000 shoemakers. About 500 machinists and 300 engineers are idle. The 6,000 men engaged in paving the streets will be nearly all idle now for three months, as few will get work at anything else. To these idle men must be added at least 500 bakers, 1,000 waiters, and over 2,000 others. And at least 20,000 women (seamstresses, &c.) are presently idle, and at the best of times they only manage to make enough to keep body and soul together.

The fact of the matter is, workmen in the country and in other cities think that they have only got to go to New York to be sure of work, and thus a constant flood of unemployed is constantly pouring into the city. Certainly the great question of the hour here, as well as in Great Britain, is—What is to be done with the unemployed?

AT ST. PATRICK'S HALL.

The Juvenile Fancy Dress Ball in St. Patrick's Hall last yesterday very successful, despite the stormy nature of the weather. Some one hundred couples of children, it is stated, attended, the bright colors and shimmer of their gay attire making a beautiful and interesting spectacle as they promenaded or danced around the hall. How they got home through the blinding drift it is impossible to say, but the tinkle of sleigh bells through the evening announced that the cabmen were doing their duty heroically, and we trust that that dangerous part of the programme was done without mishap or the necessity of calling in the "dear doctor" this morning. It is of such a scene that "Punch" had a society sketch some years ago. The fair hostess was introducing the family doctor; and, pointing admiringly to the groups of frolicsome children who were being entertained, the hour being late, asked did the entertainment please him. "Beyond measure, my dear madam; it is by such entertainments that I live."

PROHIBITION MEETING IN OLD TEMPERANCE HALL.

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 23rd.

At 8 p.m. quite a large number of persons had assembled and were anxiously turning their eyes towards the platform. After about five minutes of uncomfortable suspense, John McDougall, Esq., the appointed chairman, put in an appearance and opened the meeting by announcing the hymn—

"Stand up, stand up for Jesus."

After the singing Mr. McDougall gave some remarks on the object of the meeting and the wonderful advance of temperance sentiment in the minds of the people of this colony. Mr. McDougall said: "Quite a number now believed in a prohibition law; all have seen the evils of the drink traffic—its sad effects upon the homes, the families, the children of our people. This terrible business costs the colony a sum equal to \$600,000 annually. He was willing to be called a fanatic for the cause in which he was engaged. He did not believe in 'vested rights' of liquor dealers. No man had a right to engage in any business doing positive injury to his neighbor."

Rev. J. Manning said he was present to fill the place originally appointed to his superintendent, and he would do the best he could to aid the cause to which he devoted the warmest sympathies of his heart. He was glad to see such a large audience present. It showed that the sympathies of the people—of the whole community—were on the side of prohibitory legislation. Our legislators will have to bear this in mind when the question of a prohibitory law is brought before them, and it will be more than they can do to say no to the demand of the public will. The liquor traffic is curing and ruining and blasting our national life, and it is in the law we must seek protection for the weak, from vice, from imposition and from being trodden under foot by those who are stronger than themselves. The drink traffic justly merits the execration and condemnation of all right-thinking men. Its hands are steeped in the best blood of our race and those who deal in it will stand in judgment with the blood of souls on their skirts. The reverend speaker gave no shelter and offered no compromise to the iniquitous drink system. Like the late honorable and honored Finch, he drew the sword of prohibition and offered the traffic its naked point. "While I have power to speak," said he, "I will denounce the accursed traffic."

Mr. Levi March next gave his face to the audience and pronounced his sympathy with the object of the meeting. Mr. March alluded to the large advance of temperance principles, and to the decrease in the importation of liquors that have taken place during the past ten years. He also shewed the waste of the traffic in liquors to the laboring classes, and pointed out, very clearly, how that under a prohibitory, and other wise and economic laws, we might make our country and our people to enjoy peace, happiness and prosperity. D. Morison, Esq., showed up the liquor business in some of its most harrowing aspects, and claimed fair play in the matter of voting for the temperance people. He considered it as simply an outrage upon right and justice to count two votes of temperance people to be only equal in power and effect to one vote on the side of the liquor traffic. He was glad that the sympathies of the women were to be enlisted in the present agitation of prohibitory legislation, and related an amusing incident in connection with the political life of Chief Justice Carter, showing how, on one occasion, when opposing Mr. Smith McKay, in a northern district, he secured a unanimous vote through the influence and perseverance of one woman. "We are approaching the Trafalgar of the prohibition question," said he, "and we expect that every man will do his duty."

Mr. Walter Clouston gave a good, practical speech, interspersed with lively and humorous anecdotes. He was willing to make almost any sacrifice for a prohibitory law. He had seen the evils resulting from the traffic in liquors. He had felt the burden of expense resulting therefrom, personally, and he was intending to be a greater fanatic in the future than he had ever been in the past upon the vital question of prohibitory legislation. Mr. Clouston's speech was remarkable for its originality, and it merited prolonged applause.

Hon. Mr. Rogerson was not on the programme, but at the close of the meeting he found it impossible to restrain his enthusiasm upon a question affecting him so very seriously, and he stepped on the platform, and, in no "uncertain sound," denounced the traffic in rum as the greatest curse that man can possibly suffer in this life.

Mrs. Ohman rendered good service at the organ, and on the whole the meeting was earnest, pleasing and profitable. Jas. Angel, Esq., prepares the programme for, and presides over, next meeting. R. P.

The Present State of Newfoundland CONFEDERATION.

TAXATION.

The greatest cry raised against Confederation—the only one that really alarms the people—is the cry of taxation. It is assumed by anti-Unionists that by Confederation Canada is to capture us somewhere as a slave, bind us hand and foot, and finally turn us out to work and starve, for her benefit; we are not to have the rights and privileges of children of the household, but only the contempt and ill-treatment of the menial; in fact we are not to have even the advantages which the sleek mastiff promised to the meagre wolf in the fable; we are to be chained up and lose our liberty, but not to become any more comfortable than when scouring hungrily our native wastes. This proposition being fairly assumed, as a political postulate, it requires of course no proof, yet it admits of illustration, for the benefit of the simple, and the great illustration of the forthcoming tyranny of Canada is the certainty that she will tax us. The question to put before the people is not whether Canada will impose taxes on us, but whether she will over-tax us, or give us no equivalent for taxation. If anti-Unionists can prove this latter, their alarm is at once justified, but they do not attempt to do so. There can be no proper state of society, no equitable social contract, without taxation—if people wish to enter society, to be subject to its Government, protected by its laws in life, property, trade, and general rights, they are bound to pay taxes to the Government that rules them, just as much as they are bound to pay for the bread and clothing they purchase in the shops. If any man wishes to avoid the obligation of paying taxes, let him at once reduce himself to that state of solitude supposed to exist before society had been formed, that savage state described by the poet,

"Cum primis irrupserit animalia terris, mutum et turpe pecus," &c.

People must be taxed all the world over, and no rational man ever yet argued against taxation—it is only the abuse of taxation that can be condemned, and it is hard to understand from what occult source anti-Unionists have become informed that Canada intends to overburden these Provinces. We know for certain that Confederation will remove some of the most galling taxes we now labor under. Under Confederation none of our provisions can be taxed, and the now usual phenomenon of a 20s. barrel of flour becoming suddenly, as if by magic, worth 60s., will cease to amaze us for the future. The only taxation Canada could possibly impose on us, (supposing even she taxes our exports, which I do not believe,) will fall upon those who can most easily bear it, and the poor man need have no dread of this bugbear.

Your space and my own leisure will not permit me to enter more deeply upon this and many other interesting questions connected with the subject of this letter. I had intended a special article on Religion and Education under the Dominion Government, but relinquish the idea until time may be afforded me to meditate sufficiently on so serious a topic. I will only remark that both Education and Religion are free and flourishing in Canada. The large towns are supplied with colleges and schools that have produced eminent men in every branch of learning, and attracted youth even from countries where educational establishments are of the highest order. It is generally admitted that education is more solid, if less extended, in Canada than in the States of America; and a government that has encouraged so successfully at home this chief element of civilization, cannot fail to promote it hereafter in every portion of its Dominion. As to Religion, in Canada it is free, and Religion wants nothing more than that. The Canadian Catholic Church is a noble one, and 'twere a glory to be connected with it and share the honor of its name and virtues.

I have now finished all I have to say about Confederation. I have written on conviction, and if I have not communicated that conviction to others, I have at least pleaded imperfectly but honestly a cause full of import to this country, a country whose very miseries make it interesting even to the stranger, while it has stronger claims on the interest and affection of its children.

Viewing the great Union proposed to us in itself, independently of questions of tariff, taxation, &c., we are sensible of a sort of instinct that urges us to adopt it. Twenty thousand pounds more or less will not make Newfoundland more or less than she is till she drifts into the current of civilization and industry. Confederation is not a financial question; it is a social one;—ours is a disease that money, instead of curing, will only aggravate, as experience has proved; we want those things that gold can never buy, industry, self-dependence, assimilation with the active races that surround us; and these can only be conferred by union with them, union of rule, union of sympathies, and union of interests. AN OUTSIDER.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

No FOREIGN arrivals last night. The offing is clear of ice.

The coastal boat *Curlew* left St. Pierre at 9 a.m. yesterday, and probably harbored over the night at Placentia.

The Topsail Missionary Meeting is further postponed until to-morrow, when (D.V.) the train will leave the station here at 4 p.m., sharp.

The sheet of ice which covered the harbor was cut up by the tug-boats into pans which were driven out through the Narrows by the present strong northerly wind. A blockade of harbor ice places a serious embargo on business.

The snow storm of last night circled around the compass till coming on midnight. The wind was southerly and easterly, veering again at daybreak towards the north. The cold last night was not so severe as it was at noon today; at 3 p.m. the mercury stood at 14 above.

We hope our readers will not forget the vocal and instrumental concert to take place in the Synod Hall to-morrow (Thursday) evening. A most attractive programme, including the names of Rev. H. Dunfield, Mrs. C. Harvey and Miss Fisher—has been prepared, and a delightful time is certain.

"Let me have music dying, and I seek No more delight."—Keats.

It is to be hoped that in replacing the seating accommodation for the public in the auditorium of the House of Assembly, some little regard will be had for that of reporters of those newspapers which are not represented in the Government box. Hitherto their quarters have been literally "cribbed, cabined and confined," affording the occupants scarcely space to turn, and no facilities at all for pencilling notes.

MR. CARTER, of the Bay of Islands, is devoting his attention this winter to finishing two fine vessels which have been on the stocks since last spring. One of them will be a three-masted schooner of one hundred and ninety-six tons and will be a superior vessel, her planking, as well as frame, being of seasoned juniper—a timber which is superior to all others and inferior only to oak. The other, which will be a square-rigged vessel of one hundred and seventy-seven tons, has also a frame of the same durable material, with which likewise she is planked below the water-line. Strange to say, though the purchases of foreign vessels to replace those lost to our trade by being wrecked, are frequent of this same class of ships, yet Newfoundland presents no market for the sale of the products of the Bay of Islands; and it is stated that they will have to be sent to Nova Scotia to be disposed of. Perhaps this may be due, in a large measure, to the fact that Mr. Carter's yard is too distant to admit of handy inspection of his vessels by our merchants who need additions to their fleet. It is safe to say that there is no capitalist ready to plank down a big pile of money for a vessel that suits him than the Newfoundland merchant, nor does he care where it was built, either; though he is always prepared to give a preference to the products of his own island when it can be done satisfactorily.

MR. TILLEY'S BOETHIC REMAINS.

Editor Evening Telegram.

SIR,—I understand the Government have refused Mr. Tilley's offer of his Indian Boethic remains, and consequently in a few days they will be on the way to Boston. I am not in a position to say what price was asked for them; but I venture to affirm that it was not exorbitant when we consider the rare collection—a collection such as may never be found again.

I hope a money consideration will not keep the valuable collection out of the public museum, even if it amounted to two thousand dollars, although the price asked may not be one-quarter that sum.

It is nothing to spend several thousand dollars on a spree at the Colonial Building; but we shrink from the waste of a few dollars on a valuable addition to our meagre stock of exhibits in the museum—we strain at a gnat and swallow a CAMEL. St. John's, Jan. 25, 1888.

MARRIED.

On the 6th inst., at the R. C. Cathedral, by the Venerable Archdeacon Forristal, Mr. John Crow, to Miss Alice Richardson, both of this city.

On the 23rd inst., by the Rev. Father O'Brien, assisted by the Rev. Father G. J. Batcock, Thomas J. Batcock to Miss Ella Dwyer, St. John's.

At Cape Broyle, last evening, at the residence of Mr. Martin Cashin, uncle of the bride, by the Rev. L. Verker, P.P., Mr. Richard Gregory, to Ellen P., second daughter of Mr. John Batcock, all of Brigus (South).

DIED.

On Friday, 20th inst., at the Poor Asylum, Bridget, relict of the late Michael Dooley, in the 50th year of her age.—R.I.P.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED.

24—Adamantine, Clark, New York, 8 days, Bowring Bros—2477 brls flour, 3 m staves.

CLEARED.

24—Helen Isabel, Olsson, Pernambuco, Baine, Johnston & Co—4771 qts fish.

25—Hebe, Kennedy, Oporto, Baine, Johnston & Co—5000 qts fish.

LOADING.

Jan 18—Carpasian, Brazil, W Grieve & Co.

19—Lilian, Europe, Job, Bros & Co.

20—Fanny, Brazil, Job, Bros & Co.

21—Prince LeBoo, Liverpool, J Murray.

24—Adamantine, Brazil, Bowring Bros.