

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 20, 1888.

A PLEASING TRIBUTE.

What the St. John "Globe" Says of Our Christmas Number.

We are indebted to the St. John, N.B., *Globe* of the 9th instant for the following generous sentiments with respect to our Christmas Number:—The St. John's, Newfoundland, EVENING TELEGRAM's Christmas Number reflects much credit on the publishers of that journal. The workmanship and general appearance is really fine. There are eighteen pages, size 12 x 18, of reading matter, besides a full page of illustrations of several scenes at the mouth of the Hamber river, views at Little River (West Coast), Bonne Bay, Twillingate, Trinity, Falls at Bonne Bay, etc. The illustration that would, perhaps, most interest people that resided in the ancient colony some thirty years ago, is the "Mumming Scene" and "Haul of Wood," on Water Street, on Christmas Day. Here a large number of young men are represented in all conceivable costumes, mounted and on foot, singing Christmas songs and chasing, with "swabs," the crowd, who are scattered in all directions and shouting, no doubt, "the fools are all out." The "haul of wood" was a large pile of wood probably thirty or forty feet high, placed on a large "dray," and trimmed with flags and bannerets, and generally surmounted by a miniature full-rigged ship. This wood was for the use of religious institutions. The abuse of the license granted to the "mummers" caused the authorities to stop their appearance on the streets. Of course, there is a large amount of Christmas reading matter, both in song and prose, in the number, but there are also several fine articles on other subjects. The Rev. M. A. Fitzgerald contributes an article on the "Old Forts and Fortifications of Newfoundland," commencing at the time when Sir George Calvert, afterwards Lord Baltimore, obtained a grant and settled on the Peninsula of Avalon in 1628. Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald tells of the year of 1696, when all English settlements along the southern and eastern coasts having been taken by the French, the forts at Bonavista and Carbonear defied the combined fleets of Brouillon and D'Iberville; also of several other engagements between the French and English, and of the capture of St. John's by D'Iberville in 1669. The batteries at the mouth of the harbor are described, as well as the building of Fort William in the reign of William III. In 1796 four thousand men were encamped on Signal Hill at their guns watching the movements of the French fleet in the Bay, but to-day there is not a single British soldier in the forts at the mouth of the harbor. After one's mind is full of the "glories of the battle field," it is pleasing to know that "in the first ages of the world when simplicity and innocence were the prevailing characteristics of mankind, and before city life and luxurious living had introduced in their train effeminacy and corruption, human life presented a picture possessing little variety, but delightful for its rural ease, peace and contentment." To carry one back in imagination to those happy Arcadian days is probably the intention of the Hon. T. Talbot in his paper on "Some observations on pastoral poetry." The pastoral song was sung by the shepherds and shepherdesses before the baronial castle and warlike fortress cast their shadows over hill and dale. The article is cleverly written, and shows that Mr. Talbot is conversant with the pastoral poems of Theocritus, Bion, Moschus and Virgil, as well as with the modern writers of pastoral ballads and songs. Among the latter he quotes Nicholas Rowe's "Colin's Lament." Mr. Talbot is of the opinion that any attempt to create pleasing and interesting characters of the shepherd class in the present time, would be forced and unnatural. Such persons are now of the humblest and meanest condition, and entirely unsuited to the spirit and character of the pastoral poem. Among the other articles of interest are "Tidbits from Tulloughgum," by Rev. L. G. Macneil, M.A., (St. John); "Agriculture in Newfoundland," by Hon. Mr. Justice Pinsent, D.C.L.; "Our Country," by Rev. J. Parkins; "What Shall we Read," by Rev. T. Hodgkinson; "Christmas in the Far North," by L. A. W.; "The Inspiration of Christmas," by James Murray. There are articles also from Newfoundlanders residing in Dakota, Chicago, and Massachusetts on various subjects. The "bards of Terra Nova" contribute a number of Christmas and other poems. One sings about the glories of Avalon as a home, while another laments the departure of its young men to other countries. There are a couple of original stories, and of course, as among all maritime peoples, the scenes are laid on the ocean. The editor's Christmas greeting is well written.

THE EARTHQUAKE MAKER.

He Forges Vindictive Thunderbolts.

TRIES TO PLAY THE PART OF ANOTHER JOVE.

Behold his ponderous efforts and their worth. The mountain labors, and the mouse comes forth. DRYDEN.

OUR contemporary of Prescott Street tells us that he has a great ambition to be known as a manufacturer of earthquakes, and in this respect reminds us of some other people who were quite ready to imitate greater men, but who, while they had the inclination to be eminently bad, entirely lacked the necessary ability. The immortal Esop tells us in his famous fables of a Foolish Countryman who once took it into his head to play the part of a Jove, and who for this purpose gathered all the old tin pans and pots he could lay his hands on, and brought the same within his domicile. With the assistance of his family and a number of sticks, the peasant then commenced pounding away at his tinware and succeeded in making a prodigious clatter, whereupon a certain neighbor put in his head at the door to enquire "what was the matter." "Matter, indeed," replied the peasant, "matter enough. This is the dwelling of Jove, the god of heaven, and the sound you hear is the sound of his thunder." "Ah, my friend," replied his waggish neighbor, "I fear you are much mistaken. With your pots and pans you make a tremendous noise indeed, but it is not of the right sort!"

There are several occasions on which the *Mercury* man claims to have raised an earthquake, although, coward-like, he delayed to admit his identity therewith until all risk, as he thought, had passed away. One of these occasions was when his weak arguments and imperilled family interests, as he alleged, were reinforced by the cowardly stick of an adventurer named Blackman, whom the said editor did not scruple to claim as his own special champion when he found that no fatal consequences would ensue from the act. We all remember the columns of criminal justifications for this act which our contemporary, for purely mercenary motives, wrote at that time, and how he did not scruple to place himself on a moral level with the imported blackguard of the Bowery, for the sake of the political remuneration and advantage he obtained, or sought to obtain, by the dirty act. The occasion of this "earthquake" has long ago passed away, with two out of the actors in the miserable plot; but the stain still remains on the character of the "eminent divine" of the *Mercury* that he alone, of all the clergy in this place at the time, employed his subject, *venal pen* to whitewash a blackguard, for hire.

The next occasion of an "earthquake" of *Mercury* manufacture is also well within the reader's recollection, and not one whit more to the credit of the clerical coward who masqueraded in connection therewith. This earthquake occurred on the termination of the Harbor Grace trials and consisted of a wholesale attack on the Catholic clergy and laity, which had the effect of bowing out of the *Mercury* office a section of its readers, who have never found their way back again since, and never shall. Then, top, the reverend editor thought it prudent to play a "hidden part" and seek the seclusion which a course of consistent "double-dealing" grants. Privately he gave it out that he was not the then editor of the *Mercury*, that he had nothing to do with the "plan of campaign," and that, because of it, he was the sworn foe of the *Mercury* and its office for the balance of his natural life! Others swallowed down that "inspired falsehood," but we smiled. We knew then who was the real author of that "demonstration"—that scally—that earthquake of domestic manufacture, just as well as we know who has sold his brethren, and betrayed his trust, to get the future Government printing.

Yes, Mr. *Mercury*! "You'm a smart man," you are,—nearly as smart as that other old man down in the Bahamas on whom you have long modelled yourself. "You'm a smart man, but you'm as slippery as an eel." If you could imitate the example of your humble neighbor, honest Andy Carroll, at his "forge," you might do better; yes, and be better, too. He never strikes the iron until it is hot; and, above all, he never tries to "forge" thunderbolts for hire at the expense of his innocent neighbors.

Perhaps the "meek-eyed quaker" has had enough of "quakes." However, we have done with this discussion for the present.

THE BANKER "NIMBUS."

The banker *Nimbus*, belonging to Messrs. Bradshaw, of Placentia, is on the floating dock, South Side, and is being put in a thoroughly seaworthy condition. Messrs. B. are taking time by the forelock, and are determined not to be caught unprepared when the 1st of April shall have arrived. Their fleet, which now numbers four fine schooners, will be well to the front for the first Spring trip.

THE INCORPORATION BUSINESS.

Last Night's Meeting of Citizens.

A MEETING of citizens on the business of incorporating the town was held last night in the Home Industries Hall. Mr. John Haddon was appointed chairman and Mr. F. St. John Secretary. There was considerable discussion, and progress made; the object in view taking form and shape by a motion of Mr. Thomas Mitchell's, which was carried, requesting the committee appointed at a former meeting to report, by a series of resolutions, to a public meeting of the electors. A member of the Assembly present gave some statistics of income from the General Water Company, and expenditure of the same. Some of those details were interesting in showing how the money goes without returning a satisfactory equivalent, the cost of the Sanitary Department, Salaries, &c., looming large in the exhibit. A public meeting on the matter is in view.

HOME INDUSTRIES SOCIETY.

Movement in the Direction of Disintegration.

THE FARMERS TAKE A NEW DEPARTURE.

DEAR SIR,—It is said that an Agricultural Society is to be formed to-morrow at a meeting of farmers to be held for that purpose. It is reported that His Excellency the Governor has consented to become Patron and Mr. Justice Pinsent Vice-Patron.

It is very pleasing to notice that gentlemen on such high positions are taking an active interest in promoting agriculture. But it does seem strange to find the farmers called together to form an Agricultural Society, when it is a well-known fact that a Farmers' Section exists in the Home Industries Society, and that, during the year just closed, this section had done good work, such as securing suitable legislation on many subjects of interest to the farmers all over the Island; and, besides that, a very creditable and most deservedly well spoken of Farmers' Exhibition was held in October last.

"In unity there exists strength," as was well proven at the carrying out of this exhibition. The farmers all admit that its great success resulted from the assistance given by other sections of the H.I.E. Society—such assistance being guaranteed by the society's constitution—in article 2nd and 3rd, as given here,—

ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

RULE 1. The objects of this Society shall be:—(1) The fostering of Home Industries; (2) The improvement of the condition of the people; (3) The development of the natural resources of Newfoundland.

ARTICLE III.—METHODS.

RULE 1. The means by which the Society shall seek to attain its ends shall be:—(a) By spreading information, through the press, by exhibitions, by discussions and lectures; (b) By promoting education; (c) By forwarding legislation; (d) By uniting and organizing the members of the several trades, handicrafts, occupations, and professions; (e) Generally by such means as may be deemed advisable from time to time.

The H. I. E. Society being in existence, and the fact admitted that agriculture got a boom through its exertions, where the necessity of forming a new Farmers' Society exists is difficult to see. It is just one year since the Home Industries Society was formed, being scarcely sufficient time to get it in good running order; and now that it is established and a revision of its rules made to suit all parties, would it not be more advisable for the farmers—who are starting the new society—to hold on to the old one, as they may rest assured that the same patronage they say they have secured could be obtained, and the different trades and occupations be benefited by it as well as themselves; for all have a similar claim on such, and every member of the H.I.E.S. feels that his Excellency and Mr. Justice Pinsent have quite as deep an interest in the welfare of the various other industries as they have in the farmers; and, therefore, let there be a "common platform," where the fisherman, the farmer, and the mechanic can meet and, by their united strength and counsel, help to elevate the dear old country and all its inhabitants, for such was the intention of the founders of the Home Industries Encouragement Society, as has been well proven by the aid rendered the farmers from time to time last year. I remain, yours respectfully,  
A MEMBER OF THE H.I.E.S.  
St. John's, Jan. 20, 1888.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"Independent"—Your communication is before us, and we are pleased with some of the statements and suggestions contained therein. In the main, however, you are too personal, and on that account we must consider your letter inadmissible. The advice to Sir William "not to have anything more to do, politically, with the traitors of 1865" is certainly worthy of consideration.

FROM ENGLISH HARBOR, WEST.

Misstatements by the Mercury.

PROBABLE EFFECTS OF THE BAIT BILL.

A Job for "Some People's" Old Steamers.

LETTER FROM MR. J. B. STRATTEN.

DEAR SIR,—Will you please allow me space in your valuable paper to make a few more remarks in reply to the *Mercury* of November 15th, 1887?

In my last letter to you, I spoke of two statements which the editor of the *Mercury* made in his paper of November 15th. Now I will speak of one or two more.

He (the editor of the *Mercury*) says: "The few bankers sailing from Fortune Bay have to be manned by men from Trinity and Conception Bays, the bait cankers having no liking for the Banks." The banking vessels here are not forced to be manned by men from Trinity and Conception Bays. They are able to get crews in their own Bays to go in them. It is only the Grand Bank vessels that have to be manned by men from Trinity and Conception Bays. It is not inside of that place that the vessels want men.

The *Mercury* also says: "Are we to sacrifice the interests of the whole community to enable these men to continue their gains?"

Let me and others beside me ask the editor of the *Mercury*, What interests do they sacrifice for us in this and other bays, who carry on the bait traffic? I answer, None! But by the bait traffic here with the French, it brings money to them too. Let the editor of the *Mercury* look at what thousands of dollars the Government will lose from the Frenchmen in Light Dues, beside the money they would leave in the Bay if they were obliged to come in and get their bait. And, in addition to losing the money that way, let the editor of the *Mercury*, and others beside him, reckon what thousands of dollars it will cost the Government to carry this law out next spring. He and the Government must think and remember that the people are not going to be frightened by proclamations, nor by two or three of Premier Thorburn's old steamers prowling about on "protection service." If, on the 18th of April next, the people do what they are combining together to do, the Government will want to send more policemen and Custom Officers than it has around here now to stop them.

Since I last wrote, the Bait Act has been enforced as a law of the country; but it has not been carried out so as to affect the Americans. It does not stop them from getting their herring. Why not? Because—Well, let Mr. Attorney General Winter answer that question, on his return home, next month.

The *Mercury* also says, he has made his statements, "not by mere rumor, but from a most intelligent gentleman who has no connection with politics or business, and who spent a considerable portion of the summer and fall in Fortune Bay and visited every part of it."

That gentleman has visited all parts of Fortune Bay and has been speaking to the people about the Bait Act, I think he can tell a different story from what the *Mercury* has published on Nov. 15th. If not; if the people he has been talking to have told him otherwise, let him, for a few minutes, take his pen and contradict in one of the papers what I have written, and put his name to the letter.

If, as the *Mercury* says, he is not a politician or business man, he need not be afraid of me or any other person in Fortune Bay seeing his name. And, then, we, the people of Fortune Bay, will see who the gentleman is that knows so much about "Fortune Bay and the Bait Act."

The Government of this colony is only taking the money from the Fortune Bay people and putting it into the hands of Americans, for when this Government of ours stops us from selling bait to the French, it cannot stop them (the Americans) from taking their purse seines and hauling herrings within the three-mile limit and selling them to the French.

For instance, next spring the French vessels will be able to go on the Banks earlier than ever, because they have all their bait bought already.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for space in your valuable paper,  
I remain, yours, etc.,  
J. B. STRATTEN.  
English Hr., West, Fortune Bay, Jan. 4, 1888.

AGRICULTURAL MATTERS.

OUR item yesterday in reference to the new "agricultural movement" was perhaps a little hazy and lacked what the "First Commoner" would call "the elements of exactitude." The fact is, we were "rushed" all the afternoon; hence the inaccuracy referred to. We should have said that a meeting of farmers and other parties interested in the formation of an Agricultural Society will be held on Saturday (to-morrow), when it is the intention of those who have the matter in hand to "constitute" such an institution and start it upon—what they hope will prove—a career of usefulness. His Excellency Governor Blake, who appears to take a deep interest in this matter, has graciously consented to identify himself with the Society as Patron; His Lordship Mr. Justice Pinsent, D.C.L., having expressed his willingness to become Vice-Patron. Both these gentlemen will, we understand, be present at the "inaugural meeting" to-morrow.

The adjourned annual meeting of the West Circuit Sabbath School Committee will be held in the basement of George Street Church this (Friday) evening, at the close of the service. It is requested that all officers, teachers and representatives be present, as business of importance is to be transacted.

The Escape of Whelan.

SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM "JUSTICE."

Editor Evening Telegram.

SIR,—Two letters containing most slanderous and abusive references to J. R. McCowen, Esq., Governor of the Penitentiary, have recently appeared in the *Colonist*, upon the escape of Whelan. I have reason for believing, too, that these letters have emanated from a parasitical member of the Government party in the Assembly, and a relative who is a pensioner upon the Government's bounty. Is it not an outrage, sir, upon public decency that while the escape of Whelan is under investigation by the Government, and while Governor McCowen and his officers are, therefore, really upon trial before a judicial tribunal, they should be vilely assailed in a Government organ by Government supporters and hangers-on? To what a depth of indecency the *Colonist* has fallen; the paper which began with so many professions, and which has degenerated into a mere instrument for the low personal ends of one of its directors. To what a depth of indecency the Government has fallen; when, instead of protecting its officials, it permits them to be openly and vilely attacked in its own subsidized organ by its own creatures.

I have no hesitation in saying, sir, that Governor McCowen's real fault in the eyes of the *Colonist's* contributor is the fact that the latter has always regarded him as a stumbling block to his own evil designs; and that Governor McCowen's prominence as a member of the Church of England has marked him out as an official whose place must be filled by a member of another denomination. This whole matter should be made the subject of parliamentary enquiry, and the *Colonist* summarily taught that it is not subsidized to be the instrument of political persecution and personal envy. Yours truly,  
JUSTICE.  
St. John's Jan. 20, 1888.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

THE steamer *Nova Scotian* did not sail till after daylight this morning.

ATTENTION is drawn to an advertisement for general servants in another column.

THERE will be no rehearsal for the Roman Catholic Cathedral Choir this evening.

"ROBERT BURNS," by Mr. E. Devereaux, is the subject of a lecture to be delivered before the Academia this evening.

THE annual meeting of subscribers to the St. John's Athenaeum will be held on Monday evening next at 8 o'clock. A large attendance is very desirable.

A TELEGRAM from Greenspond—received by M. Tobin, Esq.,—states that the S.S. *Hercules* arrived there at 11 a.m. to-day, all well. She met the ice off Catalina.

CONSIDERABLE anxiety, occasioned by the non-arrival of the *Robert*, owned by Messrs. Hayward, and for some time past overdue from Cadiz, was happily dispelled this morning by the safe arrival of that vessel in port.

COUNSEL interested in the appeal of the Botanic Beer case from the Magistrates' to the Supreme Court have been notified that their Lordships have reversed the decision of the puisne judges, Messrs. Prowse and Conroy of the Magistrates' Court. It is stated that the decision leaves no room for further vexatious proceedings by the magistrates or police against the vendors of the beverage, and that till the Legislature vests them with power to do so, they possess no authority to arbitrarily interfere with such dealers under the License Act. Messrs. Carty, Fraser and I. R. McNelly for appellants; Mr. Emerson for the Crown.

**MARRIED.**  
Last Sunday, by the Rev. L. K. Vereker, P.P., Cornelius O'Neil, Esq., of Fermanagh, to Mary A., eldest daughter of Mr. Michael Lahey, Cape Broyle.

**BIRTH.**  
Yesterday, the wife of T. S. Poole, of a son. At Londonderry, N.S., on November 22nd, the wife of Mr. A. Locke, of a daughter.

**DIED.**  
This morning, after a tedious illness, Bridget Gardner, a native of New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland, aged 50 years. Funeral on Sunday at 2.30 o'clock, from her late residence, Barnes Lane. She leaves a sorrowing husband and ten children to mourn their sad loss.  
Last night, after a short illness, Mary, the beloved wife of William O'Keefe, aged 30 years. Funeral at 2.30 o'clock on Sunday, from her late residence, No. 47 Harvey Road. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully requested to attend without further notice.  
At South Boston, on the 3rd January, Ann Power, the beloved wife of Mr. James Abbott and niece of the late Matthew Murphy, a native of St. John's, Nfld.—R.I.P.  
At Hillville, Mass., January 4th, Margaret Mary, beloved child of John and Margaret Green, aged 12 years, a native of Cape Broyle, Nfld.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED.  
19—Nova Scotian, Hughes, Halifax, 2 days, Shea & Co.—2789 brls flour, 295 bags cornmeal, 106 hds tobacco, inward cargo.  
20—Robert, Blackler, Cadiz, 46 days, Hayward & Co.—100 tons salt.  
CLEARED.  
19—Consuelo, Dornom, Barcelona, P & L Tessier—2450 qtls fish. Curlew, Delaney, St Pierre, Bowring Bros—ballast.  
20—Nova Scotian, Hughes, Liverpool, Shea & Co.—703 qtls fish, 45 bxs lobsters, 283 bxs, 145 casks copper, 5 casks copper and brass, 2 hds, 4 bxs furs, 3 tons cod liver oil, 8 tons cod oil, 800 bags guano, 1 qt-cask wine, inward cargo.