NOTICE.

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Proprietor and Editor.

Office—Canterbury Street, next door North of the Post Office.

The Watchman.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1875.

OUR GRIT MASTERS.

When Postmaster General, then simply D. A., Macdonald declared that he would not give a township of Ontario for the whole of the Maritime Provinces, he gave utterance to a sentiment which may be said to embody an important feature of the Clear Grits' political creed. Prior to Confederation the Grit lights had said much the same thing, and after Confederation they did what they could to injure the Provinces by the sea. They opposed the settlement of the Nova Scotia difficulty, directing all their heavy artillery at the John A. Macdonald Government which undertook to make peace with that distracted Province. They followed Howe, McLellan, E. M. Macdonald and other leaders who aided to arrange the difficulty, with abuse and never-ending misrepresentation of their motives. They repeatedly questioned and opposed the appropriations for Maritime interests, and left nothing undone in their election campaigns to create the belief that Ontario's interests were being sacrificed to those of the Maritime Provinces. Since their advent into power they have made extraordinary efforts, as a Party, to create the impression that all the thieving, all the loafing, all the swindling done under the Government departments for the last seven years, have been done in the Maritime Provinces; and to help their Party elections here or there they have issued or withheld reports to departments as best suited their Party interests at the moment. Determined to affix a stain of some kind upon these Provinces, they sent Mr. Brydges hither, apparently to "scandalize" them, regardless of consequences. What their unrecorded instructions to Mr. Brydges were we may never know, but that the zealous efforts made by him to show that the people of the Maritime Provinces were "loafing" on the Government works,—were having their freight carried too cheaply, and riding at shamefully low rates, and at the expense of the other Provinces,—were duly appreciated in the Grit camp, there is the most abundant evidence. All this time Ontario has been "the white-haired boy." Ontario has had only to open her lips to be obeyed. She has had only to ask to receive. Great lines of railway, involving many millions of dollars,—called parts of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but really local lines for Ontario,—have been projected and sanctioned by the Grit Government, and the public resources pledged to their construction. The Canals are being deepened at an expense that will ultimately rival the cost of the Pacific Railway, because Ontario's interests call for it; and under the Treaty drawn up by the Grit Brown, the Dominion was to have been pledged to build a new Canal for the benefit of the United States and *Ontario*. In the Grit Government Ontario influence is at present all-powerful. The Premier, from Ontario, with his large Grit following in Parliament, does whatever it pleases him to do. He is a chief whose will is law, whose fiat no man disputes. Both in the Cabinet and the Commons he may be as tyrannical and as insolent as he pleases, and no Grit dare call him to account. He both proposes and disposes; and moved by the same strong will and the same domineering spirit which has made Ontario under Grit guidance all-powerful in Parliament, he acts according to his "inward consciousness," disdaining the advice of the less resolute and the uninfluential of his colleagues, and arranging all public matters according to his own estimate of Ontario's interests.

To prove that the Maritime Provinces are utterly without influence in the Cabinet we need but refer to the incidents of the last session. It was notorious that in these three Provinces the overwhelming majority of the people were resolutely opposed to any interference by Parliament with their local legislation; yet the strong will of Mr. Mackenzie forced Messrs. Smith, Burpee, Coffin and Vail to *vote for* a petition to the Queen asking her *to interfere* with the operation of a local Act. It was well known that the same Provinces were utterly opposed to the principle of Separate Schools; yet the influence of the Premier, deferring to a sectional sentiment, was such that the same Maritime members of the Government allowed themselves to endorse and carry a special enactment whereby the new Provinces to spring up in the North West will be burthened with such schools for ever. No public men were ever so completely bound in honor to see a public work carried out as Messrs. Smith and Burpee were to secure the building of the Bay Verte Canal, but, notwithstanding the extreme delicacy of the position, it was treated as not entitled to the slightest consideration; the work was indefinitely postponed; the estimate withdrawn in the face of the world; the Premier injured the cause of the Canal by a most damaging speech, and the New Brunswick members of the Government sat meekly through the humiliating debate, offered no resistance, and still retain their seats in the Government! A score of cases, of greater or less importance, might be cited to establish the fact that the influence of the Maritime Provinces has so weakened since the advent of the Grit Government as to represent positive humiliation; and this statement will be borne out by hundreds of Government supporters in these Provinces.

In one sense the result is not surprising. We are represented by weak men. Mr. Coffin, of Nova Scotia, really represents nobody beyond the limits of the fishing districts of Shelburne. Mr. Vail is more widely known, but is at the best a man of slight ability and his County is by no means influential even in the local politics of Nova Scotia. It would be difficult to find in Canada two constituencies less influential in the political world. But the melancholy truth is that on the Grit side in Nova Scotia there is no talent. There is no politician of the slightest weight in that Province to identify himself with the Grit cause, so merciless and cruel has been its treatment of Maritime interests. Mr. Annand has marched off the political stage, and with him has departed the last influential support of the Grit policy in Nova Scotia. The leading talent of the Province is entirely with the Opposition. What remains to the Grits at the bar and in unofficial life will be safely "shelved" under the County Courts Act when it finally passes Parliament, as, doubtless, it will next Session; so that there will really be no talent to offer resistance to such Opposition leaders as Doctor Tupper, James McDonald, and others. New Brunswick is somewhat better represented in the Grit Cabinet, especially as regards Mr. Smith, who, however, has allowed himself to be humbugged, deceived, betrayed, and who appears to have been, for the time, mesmerized by the superior will and mind of his Leader. As for Mr. Burpee, his want of Parliamentary experience and political and general information quite unfitted him to cope with such men as Mr. Mackenzie on the broad field of Dominion politics, and, unfortunately, the Province has accordingly suffered in the estimation of Parliament and suffered as well in its great and permanent interests. For this weakened condition of the Maritime representation in the Cabinet, the people, of course, have themselves largely to blame. Having sinned, they have suffered, and the lesson, we trust, will not be lost upon them when another General Election comes round. Meantime, the Maritime Provinces and Maritime interests lie at the mercy of the Grits, from whose dominancy only the very worst results are to be expected.

THE COMING SENATOR.

It was in the mind of the Minister of Customs some three months ago, that his uncle, Mr. Charles Burpee, M. P. for Sunbury, should be appointed a Senator. How a vacancy was to be created did not then appear to the public, but it was in connexion with the probable early retirement of some Senator that the Minister was understood to entertain the idea of Mr. Burpee being a fit and proper person for Parliamentary promotion. Doubtless, methods might be devised for securing a vacancy in the Senate for Mr. Burpee, as, for instance, the resignation of Senator Wark, a brother-in-law of the Minister; or the enforced retirement of Senator Glasier might again be attempted, as was once explained and denounced in the *Evening Globe*; or the vacating of Senator Odell's seat, through that gentleman's non-residence in the Province. That the papers friendly to the Government are helping Mr. Charles Burpee to the seat, as far as their ability extends, is unquestionable, as witness their certificates to his entire fitness for the position. The *News* tells us:—

Mr. Charles Burpee would certainly do no discredit to the Senate were he raised to it, nor would the name he bears bar his entrance into it should he aspire to belong to it.

The *Globe* says:—

If the appointment were made it would really be an excellent one, for Mr. Burpee is a man of much natural ability, and he has considerable political experience, and the Senate would be a gainer by his appointment to it.

Although the *Globe* adds that no such appointment will be made, the *News* is careful not to go to this length, thus leaving the door open for endorsing the appointment when made, having previously shown that the appointee was well qualified for the place.

The *Globe* says:—

The only vacancy likely to occur in the Senate at the present time would be through the resignation of Hon. John Robertson, and in case of such a vacancy, a gentleman representing St. John would, without doubt, be appointed to the position.

The name of Mr. Ellis, of the *Globe*, has been mentioned by public rumor in connexion with the appointment that will follow Mr. Robertson's resignation, and if fitness for the position is to be measured by party fidelity, it is difficult to see how Mr. Ellis' claims can be overlooked. He is, moreover, in every respect the superior of Mr. Charles Burpee,—is a better speaker, a better writer, is more fully informed on all public questions, and rendered the late Opposition, now the Government, of Canada, more valuable service than it was possible for Mr. Charles Burpee or any of that ilk to have rendered. Mr. Ellis' appointment to the Senate would be more fitting than his appointment as Postmaster of St. John, which has also been canvassed on the streets, as it would leave him free to follow his profession, and, at the same time, to assume an independent political position. It is not probable, however, that Mr. Ellis will see the Senate as long as any member or relative of the "Burpee Interest" desires a seat in that body. There are now six members of our small New Brunswick contingent in Parliament, members of this Family Compact, and the translation of one of them from the Commons to the Senate may seem to them not a difficult operation. That this translation will be attempted before the next General Election, we have not the slightest doubt,—the project, we repeat, having taken form in the mind of the Minister of Customs some months ago, and being entirely in keeping with the selfish, grasping policy of the "Burpee Interest." We shall be only too well pleased to find that any remarks of this journal have had the effect of causing a hesitation on the part of those who have the control of the public patronage, or of arraying public sentiment against further attempts at family aggrandizement. There is probably another reason for hesitation, if the report is correct that during the recent Parliamentary Session it was hinted to the Hon. Isaac Burpee that the resignation of his seat in the Privy Council would be acceptable to his colleagues. When the Minister finds that he has all that he can accomplish to maintain his own footing in the Government, it would be quite characteristic of the "Burpee Interest" for him to demand for himself exclusively to the interests of number One, for the time being; but it does not follow that the other members of this combination, who gave proof of their influence last Session by shifting from side to side when delicate questions were up for settlement, will give the Government any peace until the whole batch are amply provided for according to their wishes.

THE NEWS' "BURPEEPHOBIA."

The *News* with refreshing simplicity remarks:—

"We tell the *Mail* that there is nothing anomalous in the position of the Minister of Customs, nor have any falsehoods been authorized by him first or last in respect to that position. He is not engaged in any business incompatible with his position in the Government."

The *Mail* will probably reply that it was in the columns of the *News* that the most was said about the "anomalous position" of the Minister of Customs. Does the *News* propose to take back everything it has said on that subject? If so, it ought to do so in explicit terms and exhibit a properly penitential spirit. Again the *News* says:—

"We tell the *Mail*, secondly, that no member of the Burpee family has any connection with the Elgin Branch Railway, though were it otherwise that would not justify the making of base insinuations against the Minister of Customs. It is true, indeed, that he used his best efforts to promote an arrangement by which old rails in the possession of the Dominion Government might be obtained for use on liberal terms on the proposed Elgin Branch Railroad. He did the same in behalf of the projected St. Martin's Branch Railway."

The promoters of the Elgin Branch Railway stated that they expected Messrs. "Burpee & Co." to build the road. There was no such firm known until this Elgin Railway scheme came on the carpet, so that it would seem that a new firm was specially formed to take the contract. Immediately after the Parish vote was taken which decided that the railway should go on, it was announced that several young men who had been working under Burpee & Schreiber on the Prince Edward Island railway, would at once commence operations an the Elgin Branch, while the same parties stand ready to build the Hampton and Upham Branch. Now, if these young men, the Hallets, do not represent "Burpee & Co," then the Elgin Branch promoters are grossly disappointed,—that is, supposing their statement, published in advance of the taking of the vote on the Parish subsidy, to have been made in good faith. It would seem as if the *News*, which has been specially retained in this case, ought to give some further and fuller information. It ought to tell us who "Burpee & Co." are, and whether the Hallets are of the firm.

Assuming, as most people do, that the "Burpee Interest" is represented in the Elgin contract and will be represented in the Hampton and Upham contract, if it be made, we find an interesting feature of the case in the following facts:—

The Elgin Branch Company received from the Dominion Government, through Mr. Isaac Burpee's help, the necessary rails for their line.

The Hampton and Upham Branch received a similar favor, through the same agency.

The Richibucto Branch Railway, with which "Burpee & Co." have nothing to do,—which has very strong claims on the Government, the Inter-Colonial having been carried away from all its settlements—could not secure any favors, the Government having flatly refused Mr. McLeod, M. P., when he applied for assistance!

The *News* might also clear up this little matter and reconcile the Government's inconsistency, if possible; and Mr. McLeod, now that public attention has been called in a marked manner to those enterprises in which Mr. Burpee has interested himself, ought to press vigorously for a similar favor to Kent County.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE FOR JUNE is a number of rare interest. It contains eighty-one illustrations, and the reading is first quality. *Harper's Illustrated Weekly* and *Harper's Bazar* still hold their pre-eminence among journals of their class. For sale at all the bookstores.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS RAILWAY CONTRACTORS.

The position of Mr. Schreiber, as a Government Contractor and a partner of a brother of the Minister of Customs, is very peculiar. Leading organs of the Dominion Government have complained most bitterly of the condition of the new P. E. Island Railway—of the variations from the contract in the interests of the contractors. They say it has been "slighted" most outrageously, and they use the very strongest language known to the English tongue to give expression to their opinions of the influences which operated to throw such a line on the hands of the Dominion Government for maintenance. The beauty of the whole difficulty is that they base their criticisms and censures on the official report of the gentleman, a distinguished railway engineer, who was called upon by the Government of which Mr. Isaac Burpee is a member, to examine and investigate. But by whom have the Government been "sold"—if there is a "sell" in the case, as is alleged? Why, by one of their own officials,—by Mr. Schreiber, one of their Inter-Colonial Railway Engineers, whom they retain in a position which places in his hands the fortunes of many contractors on a great Government work,—an official who received a handsome salary and ample travelling expenses, for devoting his talents and his time to the Inter-Colonial Railway and its vast expenditures. While a Government officer, the Government claiming his whole time, he is also a contractor in Prince Edward Island and a promoter of the New Glasgow and Canso Railway. While a Government official, the Government are justly indignant with the work of his hands in P. E. Island, and yet legislation is had which renders it possible for himself and his partner to receive several millions of Government railway property in aid of another contract! A contractor both in P. E. Island and Nova Scotia, he remains in a position on the Inter-Colonial which prevents any contractor connected with that work from competing with him, censuring his operations or interfering in any way with his schemes! Having with him as partner the brother of the Minister of Customs, he has the support, whenever that may be needed, of the whole "Burpee Interest," in Parliament as elsewhere.

It seems to be about time that a member of the Government's railway staff ceased to occupy so anomalous a position. Mr. Schreiber should be persuaded to choose either the position of a Government officer, uninterested in railways, or that of a contractor, wielding his personal, but not official influence. The remuneration for Government service is, we believe, not by any means stinted, and if it is not sufficient for the talent which Mr. Schreiber undoubtedly brings to his work, it ought to be increased. It may, however, be a question for consideration whether one or either of the gentlemen who, as contractors, were instrumental in handing over to the Dominion a railway in regard to which the Government has been so sorrowfully disappointed, are men who ought to have the official ear of the Government in regard to important decisions on the contracts and claims of other railway contractors.

KILLING THE SALMON FISHERY.

The Newcastle *Advocate*,—commenting upon the new tax imposed by the Marine and Fisheries Department, "without the authority of Parliament," on the fishing interests of the Miramichi and other fishing districts, viz: a half cent per pound on all salmon caught in nets, and a quarter cent per pound on all bass,—remarks:—

It may be argued, that by the 2nd section of the Act authority is given to issue leases and licences, *but only in such cases where the exclusive right of fishing does not already exist by law.* We contend, that if the Government claim to go on to the lands of the Gordons, the Inner, the Willistons, the Loggies, the Whitneys, the Nobles, and hosts of others whose grandfathers have, with their descendants, occupied certain exclusive fisheries off their shores—in many cases for nearly a century—and under color of such pretension attempt to levy an impost tax of $1 for every two hundred pounds of salmon caught, and fifty cents for every two hundred pounds of bass taken, that it is a construction of the Law which cannot be justified, will not be sustained in a Court of Law, and cannot therefore be enforced.

Whether this tax is lawful or otherwise, it certainly seems inexpedient at this time, when the Washington Legislature has imposed on canned salmon an import duty equal to a cent and a half per pound. At this rate the salmon fishers may as well abandon their chilling and seek a living in *some line of business* which Washington and Ottawa can not combine to crush.

The *Freeman*, Government paper, of to-day takes strong ground against the new tax, saying among other things:—

"The tax will prove very onerous. The official returns show that we exported last year—

Salmon smoked,	110,420 lbs.
Salmon in ice,	1,454,722 lbs.
Do. preserved,	1,402,440 cans.
	2,937,582

Besides this, we caught 1,367 barrels, which were pickled. The duty on the fresh, smoked and pickled salmon, at the rate now fixed, would amount to $16,070. This is a very heavy burden to impose upon the small and by no means wealthy portion of the population engaged in the salmon fisheries."

The *Telegraph* argues that because New Brunswick's and Nova Scotia's fisheries have been extensive and prosperous, this special tax is no burthen. But it should remember that it does not take many turns of the taxation screw to squeeze the life out of the most prosperous industries.

THE SEASON FOR CANNING SALMON, LOBSTERS, ETC., is approaching, and United States agents are in our City making sales of United States goods of this description to our merchants. Having succeeded in imposing a duty of one and a half cents on each 1lb can of Canadian Lobsters and Salmon imported into the States, our American cousins are nom prepared to sell to Canada the Salmon of California and Oregon which we allow to come in free! The claim that the duty on Canadian tin cans was adopted in order to place the United States preserver on a par with the Canadian, who imports his block tin at a lower rate of duty, will not stand investigation, as there is no such difference as will warrant the extraordinary duty virtually imposed on the Canadian manufactured article, it being something more than fifty per cent. of the cost of the can. But whether this were so or not, the despicable fact remains that the spirit of the Washington Treaty has been shamefully ignored in the interests of a few citizens of the United States who found their calling interfered with by the provisions of the Treaty. It would, to-day, be as just for our Parliament to impose a duty on the cans in which American Salmon are brought into our markets; but it will be infinitely better for us that our preservers suffer from the injustice of Washington legislation than for us to condescend to fight knavery with its own weapons. If the United States nation can stand up under the weight of violated public faith, Canada can afford to leave her to shoulder alone such a load of odium. But if the United States persists in retaining on its Statute Book a law so clearly in violation of a solemn Treaty, then we would suggest to the managers of her Centennial Exposition that among the departments space be left for one that shall fitly represent all her disingenuous negotiations, her violated treaties and her national repudiations. Without such department the representation of *all* her resources will be sadly incomplete.

THE NEW POSTAL LAW of Canada imposes an annual tax on publishers of newspapers equal to five cents a copy on every weekly sent through the mails, prepayment being compulsory. In most cases it will amount to an individual tax of from $50 to $150 a year, and in a number of instances will reach as high as $400 to $500. The postage is made so light that publishers can not add it to the subscription price, and must, therefore, pocket the loss. Rather than submit to so one-sided an arrangement publishers should unite to demand the entire abolition of newspaper postage, a position in which they would have the hearty support of the public.

IF THE LETTER OF MR. CHARLES BURPEE, in to-day's *Telegraph*, had appeared in any other day's issue of that paper, it would have been replied to in this number of THE WATCHMAN. It was probably delayed until Saturday so that its statements might not be immediately criticized. The public will think it somewhat remarkable that the member of the "Burpee Interest," the least known to the world of any in the combination, should be the one chosen to put forth denial of statements injurious to the political standing of himself and his associates. But it was the same in Ottawa when this gentleman rose in the Commons and spoke his piece, which had been prepared in very guarded terms, as if by a lawyer, and was then handed to the telegraph office to be telegraphed *verbatim* to those quarters for which it was specially intended. The heavy asseverating has been left to an inferior member of the "Interest," whose name has not been mentioned in the controversy, except in connection with a Senatorship, for which the Minister of Customs deemed him admirably qualified. We shall next week show exactly what Mr. Charles Burpee has omitted to deny, and what value is to be placed on such denials as he has made,—regard being had in all cases to matters of public interest. In the meantime, the public will probably feel grateful to him for his estimate of "the principles on which a paper ought to be conducted," his eminent qualifications for the office of censor being invaluable. Indeed, no one might be led to suspect that it had fallen to this Mr. Burpee's duty as a member of the Ring to take charge of the press and see that its management squared with the exigencies of the situation. How is it?

THE FREDERICTON ORDNANCE LANDS.—Premier MacKenzie, in the Commons, denied that the Ordnance Lands had been sold to Burpee and Temple and the Fredericton Railway "Company." Mr. Pickard, a member of the "Burpee Interest," immediately informed the House to the contrary, and announced that he had the Government's receipt for the purchase money in his pocket. The Government, about the same time, intimated that the secret sale had been cancelled, and the lands would be put up to public competition. Now Judge Fisher comes in and informs all parties that having had occasion twenty-five years ago to investigate the title to these lands, "he had not the slightest "doubt but that two-fifths of the so-called ordnance "lands, on their ceasing to be used for military "purposes, would revert to the representatives of "the original grantee, Cornelius Ackerman and "others. Any transfer made by the Dominion "Government would not be worth the paper it was "written on." And so all the scheming will have to be done over again, if Judge Fisher's opinion is correct.

THE DEATH OF F. A. MORRISON.—It would be impossible to exaggerate in describing the deep feeling of regret manifested in circles where Mr. Morrison was known, when the commencement of his death on Tuesday night was made in the Press of the following morning. So rapid was the spread of the disease which cut him off that very few, even of his intimate friends, knew that he lay ill. Possessing a powerful frame and great muscular vigor, and abounding in vitality,—with a mind well stored, and inspiring affection and friendships of the strongest and highest character, it had seemed as if before Mr. Morrison there lay a long life of usefulness, with which his great legal and public talents could not fail to connect the very highest achievements at the Bar or in the Legislature. At the early age of 33 he had won for himself a legal reputation such as accompanies only the rarest gifts, and, dying, carries with him the regrets of thousands that a life which opened so auspiciously terminated before such gifts had opportunity for their full development. Mr. Morrison, from his very nature, as well as from his professional and political associations, was necessarily an earnest combatant in Party ranks; and having respect to this fact, the tributes paid to his memory by journals of all shades of political opinion seem all the more creditable to the hearts of their conductors.

SOMETHING NEW.—We are always glad of anything that tends to improve the public mind and stimulate it to efforts in the direction of correct thinking and speaking. There is certainly room enough for improvement. We look, therefore, with satisfaction on the recent movement in the matter of orthography, which has spread like wild fire over the North American continent. Spelling aright is very important, and any means that is calculated to lead to correctness in this respect deserves encouragement. Orthoepy, or right pronunciation, is at least as important as orthography or right spelling, and the general public is, perhaps, as defective in the one as the other. We had thought of saying something suggesting the propriety of a movement in regard to pronunciation, and are now glad to learn that some others have had similar ideas on the subject. Calvin Church Sociable Committee proposes on the evening of Thursday of next week, the 20th inst., to give an entertainment including both orthography and orthoepy. Six pupils from the Grammar School and an equal number from Advanced School No. 1, King street, have agreed to appear as competitors, and the public is also invited to enter the lists. Mr. Dole and Mr. Manning have agreed to act as referees, and it is understood that the prizes will be more attractive than those offered heretofore in the spelling contests. As this will be the first enteriainment in our city into which pronunciation will be introduced, we have no doubt that the novelty of the affair will draw a crowded house,—a circumstance that will tend to the advantage of the Building Fund of Calvin Church. Next to the value to the public of attaining to correct spelling and pronunciation, will rank the fact that a good object has been the gainer, and as the young men of the Calvin Church Sociable are the first to introduce the innovation, their object will, of course, reap corresponding financial benefits.

PERSONAL.—The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has returned to Dorchester.—Mr. Brydges has "gone west."—Mr. Martin (of Lansdowne and Martin), a passenger in the *Polynesian*, is home again.—The members of the Fredericton Board of Health are Geo. E. Fenety, Esq., S. D. McPherson, Esq., Hon. James Steadman, Thomas Harrison, L.L.D., and Alfred B. Atherton, M. D.—B. Lester Peters, Esq., did not read an at the Valley Church Entertainment on Thursday evening. The *Globe* is bound that the public shall hear this gentleman and urges another entertainment, when it is expected Mr. Peters will be able to be present. There is probably no amateur reader whom our citizens would crowd as eagerly to hear as Mr. Peters, unless it be to hear Mr. Brigstocke read "John Gilpin."—Sergt. James Hunter, of the Engineers, (St. John) Lt-Col. Beer, of Sussex, and Private Logie, of the Chatham Battery of Artillery, armed with Martini-Henry Rifles, will represent New Brunswick's marksmen at Wimbledon this year.—Carson Flood, Esq., has returned from a business trip to the United States.—Mr. Flint's St. John letters in the Montreal *Witness* are lacking in judgment.—John Boyd, Esq., and Henry O'Leary, Esq., M. P. P., have been corresponding on the School question.—E. J. Smith, Esq., M. P. P., was in town this week.—Councillor Flaglor is greatly dissatisfied with the arrangements for building the Market House.—Annie McGinnis is in P. E. Island, perfectly safe, as the Grand Jury would not find a bill.

CHANGE OF ISSUE.—The *News* said yesterday:—

"This Megantic road, which has our best wishes for its success, and in the building of which Messrs. Burpee & Schrieber are concerned, is surely as important a work as the Elgin Branch of which B. & S. were improperly declared by their traducers to be the contractors."

The *News* has not seen it anywhere stated that "Burpee and Schrieber" were to build the Elgin Branch. The promoters of the road named "Burpee & Co." as the parties who were to build it.

A TRAGEDY.—This morning, a shoemaker named Rowles, living on Brussells street, shot a woman named Gallant, with whom he has been living, and then shot himself. As we go to press, the woman is expected to live; the man will probably die.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

"Old Times" redeems his promise and Opens in a brief Letter—An "Old Times" Reminiscence—Opening of a Million Dollar Church.

NEW YORK, May 10th.

DEAR WATCHMAN:—I do not know why I take it for granted that my last letter will appear in your columns, and that my promise to let you hear from me again will require fulfilment. Perhaps it arises from the reverse of modesty, which is sometimes vulgarly called "cheek;" perhaps it is because—well, I don't know that it makes any special difference. Any further explanation might bring me into difficulty, and you know it is easier to get into difficulty than to get out. I remember once when I was a "reporter," "promiscuously,"—as an old friend of mine in St. John used to say—dropping into a meeting in Ritchie's Building, when certain philanthropists and patriots were discussing problems bearing upon the social and humanitarian interests of society in general and those of St. John in particular. I can not recall precisely the topic, which was being ventilated in a very alert manner, but took the liberty of suggesting that something of a more *poetical* nature might arouse an enthusiasm, which, strangely enough, was not a marked feature of the meeting. I took the liberty of naming the question, "Who struck Billy Patterson?" My intentions were honorable and well meant; but as luck would have it, the society numbered among its lights a gentleman who bore the name embodied in the question. I need only say that my well known peaceful disposition, coupled with the equally well known dignity of the bearer of the name a foresaid, prevented the ordering of "Pistols and coffee for four!"

What is the use of experience if it teaches no lesson? From whom do I quote when I say, "This is written more as an exclamation than as a question requiring a response?" I don't know, after all, but my greatest "difficulty" arises from the fact of my having promised to give you "news." What news is it possible to give to a people connected with the whole world by electric wires, which are incessantly thrilling with *all* the news of *all* the world, and making the transactions of to-day the old stories of to-morrow? And as a consequence, natural and inevitable, "news letters" are but elaborations of old stories; even telegrams now-a-days are so full of *detail* that the average reader is quite content to accept them as full enough to satisfy his requirements. Indeed, I know many men who as a rule never get beyond the "head lines" of some of our great journals, a feature of their "make up" which has risen to the highest importance. This is not a matter, I judge, of very great moment to editors. Their business is to make an attractive journal, not to judge of the amount of solid information which each one of their readers absorbs; and so it comes to pass that there are head lines" for the superficial, telegrams for the more studious, and "solid" matter for those who crave something over which to ponder and satisfy their intellectual longings.

You know what a short step there is from the sublime to the ridiculous, and I presume the step from the ridiculous to the sublime is, to say the least, no longer. So I proceed to give you some "religious intelligence."

Yesterday was a great day among the Presbyterians. Dr. Hall's new Church was dedicated. You have heard of it, no doubt; as it has furnished many a newspaper paragraph, and to-day the *Herald* and other leading New York journals use up many columns in describing the ceremonies, which were, after all, marked with the traditional simplicity of Presbyterianism. To attempt any description of the magnificent proportions and appointments of the building would be too great a task for me. You may form some idea, however, when I tell you that the cost is over one million dollars!—a large sum of money but there are at least a score of men in the Church who could, without denying themselves any luxury, pay the whole cost individually. Robert Bonner, of the N. Y. *Ledger*, has donated one hundred thousand dollars, and it is said that R. L. & A. Stuart, the princely sugar refiners, have given fifty thousand. Why not then have the finest ecclesiastical edifice in New York? Dr. Hall's Church thus ranks at present. The new Roman Catholic Cathedral, which has been in progress many years and will not be completed for many years more, will when finished be the finest, but so far the Church referred to ranks first. It will seat 2000, but yesterday I think there were not less than 2,500 to 3,000 in the building. It was a grand event, peculiarly interesting to the members of the Church, but in a great measure an event of high importance to the whole Presbyterian body. In fact, the *Herald* of to-day says editorially that to the whole Protestant community it was of equal significance with the conferring of the Beretta on Cardinal McCloskey. This is a *Heraldism*, but it will serve to show you what importance is attached to the fact.

OLD TIMES.

THE "JANE DAVIDSON CASE."

To the Editor of the Watchman.

The remarks of the *Telegraph* and *Globe* favoring clemency in the case of this girl are well enough in their way, but they are equally applicable to any other case of aggravated thieving by servants, and the public should so understand them. The girl was a servant in Miss Chapman's boarding house on Rocky Hill. When she went there to service she left her trunk elsewhere, this being a common practice with girls who are not strictly honest, as they are thus less exposed to having their trunks searched when articles are missing. While the girl was in the house Miss Chapman lost a $20 note, to which no clue could be obtained. Then she lost a silk dress valued at $27 to $30. Next, groceries were missing, and a search of the girl's room discovered a quantity of tea stored away, ready for removal from the premises. On the strength of this discovery a search warrant was applied for, and her trunk, which was lying in a friend's house, being opened, the missing silk dress was found. The girl, taxed with the theft, admitted her guilt and left her case in the hands of the Police Magistrate to be summarily disposed of, instead of having it go before a higher Court and subjecting herself to the additional pain and humiliation which such a course involved. As regards the penalty for a servant stealing from a master or mistress, Parliament has given the higher Courts power to sentence to the Penitentiary for *fourteen years*; the Police Magistrate under the Summary Act gave this girl "twelve months with hard labor." The *Globe* leaves the impression that the crime of stealing from an employer is less than ordinary stealing, but the sentences which the higher Courts are authorized to impose do not countenance that idea; and I am sure that most employers—and all of us are employers—will not so regard it. Is it not a greater crime for a hired person,—well taken care of by her employer—well housed, well fed, well dressed—to betray his or her trust, and plunder where she is paid to protect,—than for the hungry and unfortunate to steal or rob? And is it not particularly bad policy to show sympathy for that class of criminals, where not only the property of their employers but the property of a score or two of boarders, is at their mercy? I would not say one word in censure of called for sympathy with the erring and unfortunate, whether strangers or home-bred, and I am glad to know that our journalists, as well as our Magistrates, when they err in judging offenders do so on the merciful side. It is better thus than to steel our hearts against those whose lack of moral training brings them into difficulties. While I would urge upon all to do their utmost to spread morality and education among the poor and vicious, and ever to keep a warm side even for those who fall into offences against the laws, I think it equally important to ask those who, perhaps, have not fully understood the merits of the case of the girl referred to, not to interfere with what after all must be regarded as a not unnecessarily severe sentence of a law framed for the best interests of all classes of society.

Yours, &c., CANDOR.

[Our correspondent will see that, on our first page, we have alluded, very briefly, to the case.]

OUR POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

ST. JOHN, May 13th.

To the Editor of the Watchman:

Your excellent article of last Saturday on the inefficiency of the Police force of this city, backed, as it has been, by the very pertinent remarks on the same subject by His Honor the Chief Justice, has given, not only to myself, but to the community generally, a large amount of satisfaction. I have, since its appearance, frequently heard the remark, "Thank fortune, we have now got at least one watchman in our midst worthy of the name." A few years ago the American Consul, General Warner, proved almost to a demonstration that our good city of St. John was almost, if not altogether, the *healthiest* city in the world. Judging from the Police Records of this same city, people at a distance would be inclined to accredit it also with being not only almost but altogether the most *moral* of all cities. In that same Record we find, day after day, a list ranging in extent from *nil* to six or seven inches of a column, all charged with the grave offence of what an intoxicated policeman pleases to call "drunk." These unfortunates are brought up in the morning before his Honor, and he, as in duty bound, sends consolation to the hearts of their families by fining them each in sums ranging from four to eight dollars, or sending them for stated periods either to the Jail or Penitentiary. This is the method practiced in St. John for the amendment of public morality. Let the same outside reader turn to the "local" column of the same paper and he will read "Daring Burglary!" "Deadly Assault!" "Infanticide!—the perpetrator making her escape over the head and shoulders of the officer stationed at the door of her room to keep watch." "A man shot in one of our public streets in broad daylight—the culprit, after committing the deed, coolly walked up the street, told a woman that as 'he had just shot a man, she must excuse his haste,'" and immediately disappeared! The circumstance was, as a matter of course, immediately made known to the energetic chief of this exemplary force. An exhaustive search was instituted in the locality where the murderer resided, closets, beds and under beds were examined, finding in the latter cases "what they did not want." The searchers retired non-plussed, and in a short half hour afterwards the object of their search was seen quietly clambering down over the bank at the east end of Duke street on to the Flats, and, for a time, that was the last of him. A few days elapsed, the "eagle eye" of the chief all the while scanning the universe from the sun to the sod, but all to no purpose, till a telegram arrived from Musquash informing this guardian of life and property where Mr. Rogers was to be found. The war trump immediately sounded a charge; chariots of fire were set in motion; the chief and his retainers buckled on their fire-arms to charge this solitary individual. The leader, being best known to the fugitive, wisely brought up the rear lest he should be recognized. Lead pills are dangerous opiates. The prisoner was arrested, brought to the city, lodged in jail, and next morning one of our leading dailies with a flourish of trumpets announced the glorious fact to the public, at the same time extolling the generalship, the courage, and the everything else of the rear-guard of the party who assailed the "lion in his den."

Captain Marshall may be, and I doubt not is, a very worthy man in some respects, but there is a great difference in the definitions of worth, vigilance and detective acumen. There is such a thing as Jack getting into a wrong box, and there is also such a thing as Chief Officers getting into positions for which they are not by nature qualified. I have no personal cause of complaint against Mr. Marshall, as I have never yet partaken of the hospitalities of the hotel, which he superintends, and my sons are now all rather too far advanced in life to quietly submit to have their sleds broken for coasting in King, or any other street in the City. My experience for many years has given ample opportunity for weighing the merits and qualifications of this noted public officer, but ever since the time when he kicked the beam in the *Mitts* case, down to the present time, I do not recollect of one instance where he was found to be of full weight. This is a matter in which we are all less or more interested. We have all to pay our share for the support of the Police establishment, from which we expect to receive protection for life, property and public morality. The old saying; "like master, like man," may be very applicable. If all the members of Mr. Marshall's staff of officers were, like himself, sterling, pious, temperate and moral men, what a revolution would be worked in our social system!

Yours, &c.,
CYPHER.

A MILLION DOLLAR CHURCH.

Dedication of Fifth Avenue, New York, Presbyterian Church.

The Dedication Ceremonies.—Description of the Costly Temple of Worship.—Sketch of Dr. John Hall.

[From Monday's New York Herald.]

A notable day was yesterday in the calendar of the Fifth avenue Presbyterian church. Two years ago the site of its new church edifice was a plot of ground bare and unsightly, and now one of the largest and finest of our city churches has been erected here—a temple of worship, in its stately dimensions and in the grace and beauty of its architectural proportions challenging universal admiration. Though not wholly completed externally its interior was finished and in readiness for church worship. Its formal dedication took place yesterday, and yet the very essence of the formality was the absence of form. A dedicatory prayer, brief and simple, made up the formula—this and nothing more. There was in it that suggestive of the austere simplicity of the early Calvinists; but there were other attendant exercises, giving to the occasion an interesting as well as an historic character.

Although eleven o'clock was the hour announced for the services to begin, the crowd began to come much earlier. The immense concourse thronging to the church soon filled every pew below and the long galleries and the aisles and standing places by the walls, and even the steps leading to the pulpit. A few minutes before eleven o'clock the organ began to playing a low subdued air at first, and then the volume of sound increased until it swelled into a grand diapason of jubilant and triumphant expression. Meantime, Rev. Dr. Hall, the pastor, made his appearance from a rear door and ascended the pulpit. He was accompanied by Rev. Dr. S. J. Wilson, of Alleghany Seminary, and moderator of the General Assembly. Dr. Hall wore a plain black gown, but the other clergyman was devoid of any sacerdotal vestment. As soon as the organ ceased the reverend pastor made a brief prayer and then read some selections from the Old and New Testaments, including the description of the dedication of Solomon's Temple. A hymn was next sung, in which the congregation joined—that grandly solemn hymn, beginning,

Before Jehovah's awful throne.

The unison of the 2,000 and more voices gave wonderful character and impressiveness to the singing. And now ensued the prayer of dedication by Rev. Dr. Wilson. All heads were bowed. It seemed an extemporaneous prayer; but whether it was or not it was couched in the most apposite language, was marked by choice graces of expression, and in its dedicatory phrases, clear and simple, a solemn and earnest dedication of the newly erected sanctuary to the worship of God. This was the dedication. In these few utterances, put in the form of prayer, the completed temple had been consecrated to Christian worship.

The sermon of Dr. Hall is its own best eulogy. A tall and commanding figure, a high and intellectual forehead, a square chin and mouth