

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 21, 1888.

A WELL-DESERVED HONOR

We observe with much pleasure the appointment to a seat in the Legislative Council of George T. Rendell, Esq., partner in the firm of Messrs. W. & G. Rendell, agents of the highly-popular Phoenix and Pelican Insurance Companies. Mr. Rendell has always borne the reputation of a just and honorable man, and in this instance it will be generally conceded that the "honorable" comes to whom the honor is due.

SUDDEN CONVERSION.

His reverence of the *Mercury*—the converted "lion"—tells us that he "takes no notice" of personal attacks on himself, and had ours been confined to such, he would not have undertaken to answer the unanswerable. Ha, ha, Brother M., you forget what class of men are said to stand in need of "long memories." You forget you told us in "yours" of Wednesday last that your late outburst of ill-temper was caused in consequence of "the consummation of a long series of similar offences (against yourself) which had been treated with forbearance, indeed with silent contempt." However, as you have got nothing but "sore paws" from your late "wrangle with the cage," we wish you a good-tempered Sabbath farewell.

THE QUEEN AND THE CROWN PRINCE.

FROM an inspired article in the *London World* we learn that the Queen is not only anxious but very much depressed over the condition of her son-in-law, the Crown Prince of Germany. This anxiety, we are assured, is felt both on public and on private grounds. The Prince and Princess were firmly resolved that their reign should be one of peace and constitutional reform, whereas Prince William is a sort of revival of Frederick the Great, and he is saturated with his grandfather's Holy Alliance notions as to the divine right of kings. There will be no place for the Crown Princess at her son's court, so that, while in the very prime of life, this woman of great talents, boundless ambition, and noble aspirations—should the Crown Prince's malady prove fatal—will be relegated to a by no means opulent obscurity, while her daughters must sink into comparative insignificance. To those who are familiar with Berlin court politics, observes the *World*, the situation is most tragical in its personal aspect, while from the political point of view the early death of the Crown Prince would be one of the most deplorable events in the history of Europe.

THE SITUATION IN BURGO.

A BURGO correspondent, writing under date of January 2, says:—"Please publish the following facts in your valuable paper: No fish, no work, no money in Burgo! Destitute people are coming twenty miles in an open boat to get food for their starving families. C. M. DeQuitville, the chairman of the Road Board, is doing all he can to relieve the distress. Great dissatisfaction prevails in consequence of the Bait Bill. Certain it is that an opposition member will be called out by this district at the next election. Times here were never more gloomy than they are at present. Our bankers were not as successful as usual last season; hence the general depression here. Court has opened at Ramea for the first time. It is presided over by G. Q. Hunt, Esq., J.P. Two offenders have been sent to prison for one week each—in Burgo jail—for plundering a skiff. The weather at present is very severe. Friends of temperance in St. John's may be interested to learn that the good cause is progressing here since Mr. Hutchings paid us a visit. Just before his departure the Division made him a little present of \$20."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"CLERICUS"—We have received your letter about the church-meeting last evening, but must decline giving it publicity—for the present, at all events. In criticising religious institutions we should not be actuated by personal feeling, or party prejudice either. The Church and her affairs are sacred, and when we speak of them we should do so with respect, at least, if not with reverence. While the columns of the *TELEGRAM* are always open to those who have real grievances to complain of and wrongs to redress, we wish it, at the same time, to be distinctly understood that the mission of the press is something higher and nobler than the mere gratification of personal spite. When the ex-pastor of a congregation persists in causing trouble, let him be summoned before the "elders," and punished accordingly; but, for mercy sake, don't make the private actions of every "crank" a subject for newspaper comment.

GREAT REDUCTION IN THE COST OF OCEAN FREIGHT.

The following paragraph from a late issue of the *Halifax Herald* will be read with special interest just now. It shows that the cost of carrying freight by steamer has decreased within the last few years to about ONE-FIFTH of what it formerly was, as far as the consumption of coal is concerned. We see they have lately been bringing coals from Newcastle, England, to Annapolis, Nova Scotia, the cost of freighting between these ports being less than from the neighboring Sydney coal mines. The fact is also educed that the great consuming centres in England are nearer to Halifax—and, of course, to Newfoundland—than are the main centres of population in the United States:—"The fact is not generally recognized that Liverpool, Eng., is almost as near the centres of production in Canada as are the centres of consumption in the United States. The last few years have also witnessed a complete revolution in the matter of ocean carriage. As Sir Lyon Playfair recently showed in an address to the electors of Leeds, whereas a ocean steamer of 3,000 formerly required 2,200 tons of coal to carry 800 tons of freight, now on the same ocean voyage with improved furnaces and engines only 800 tons of coal are consumed in the carriage of 2,200 tons of freight. Halifax is now as near to the centres of population in England as it is to the centres of population in the neighboring republic."

WILLIAM O'BRIEN'S TREATMENT.

A Letter From Mr. Balfour, Chief Secretary For Ireland.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, to Mr. Benjamin Armitage, of the Reform Club, Manchester:—"DEAR MR. ARMITAGE,—I am not surprised that you should express some curiosity on a subject respecting which much that is false and even more that is absurd has been largely stated in the press and on the platform. The question of the treatment of prisoners under the Crimes Act is, no doubt, a legitimate one for serious discussion, however difficult serious discussion may be in the face of such grotesque episodes as those to which we have been treated in connection with Mr. O'Brien's clothes. On this question I have before now explicitly stated the views of the Government, and to those views I shall adhere.

"I understand that an attempt is made by some to draw a distinction between 'political' and 'non-political' prisoners, and on this distinction to base an argument in favor of a difference of prison treatment in the two cases. If by a political prisoner is meant a person who is in prison for a political offence, there are none such in Ireland. An offence does not become political because it is committed by a politician; and neither in law nor in reason is there the slightest ground for punishing with greatest severity the man who resists the officers of the law and pours boiling water on the police than the yet more guilty individual who incites the people to commit those offences. Their treatment ought to be the same, and it is the same. There seems to be an impression in the public mind that while this may be true (as indeed it is) of all the other so-called political prisoners, it is not true with regard to Mr. O'Brien; some apparently being of opinion that he is treated with exceptional leniency, others that he is treated with undue severity. The fact is that he is dealt with exactly as any other criminal would be dealt with who, like him, could succeed in sheltering himself under a medical opinion. The facts about Mr. O'Brien's health, ascertained by competent medical examination, are these: His lungs are delicate though not diseased. His heart is weak. He is of a somewhat fragile constitution, and is highly excitable. There is no reason why he should not go through his term of imprisonment; but he cannot be safely subjected to the full severity of prison discipline, nor to such force as might be required to compel him against his will to put on his prison clothes. Under these circumstances his treatment is modified to suit the peculiarities of his case; but it differs from that of ordinary prisoners not on account of any difference in the character of his offence, but solely on account of differences in the character of his constitution.

"I am given to understand that in refusing to put on the prison garb, Mr. O'Brien conceives himself to be fighting 'for a principle.' The only principle involved would seem to be one on which there need be no difference of opinion between us, and it is this. When a convicted prisoner who is able to plead, a 'weak heart' and 'delicate lungs' refuses to attire himself in prescribed dress, force will not be applied to compel him.

"I remain yours very sincerely,
"ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR."

We have a few more remarks to make on the important subject of "Want of Originality in the Pulpit," but these can stand over till next week.

AFFAIRS IN BONAVISTA.

The Churches and their Work.

A MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

Lecture by Rev. George C. Fraser.

"JERUSALEM—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE."

Vice-President Forbes at the Wheel.

SIR,—It may not be amiss to give a few statements in the columns of your ably-conducted and popular paper—permission being granted—concerning the Churches of this town and their beneficent work. We believe that, as a people, we are now in a better position than hitherto to appreciate and hail with delight the inception of any movement which has for its object the betterment of society, and the amelioration of humanity. And we are not alone in this particular; other communities are advancing also. To use a well-known phraseology, "We are steadily marching on." Indeed, it seems, retrogression would be "out of order," as we have a good staff of pastors—five in all, two Episcopalians, two Methodists, and one Roman Catholic—and two Salvationist officers, all with their numerous satellites revolving gently in their respective orbits. And what marvel that Bonavista advances?

Well, on October 3rd, 1887, in the Central Schoolroom, was inaugurated "A Mutual Improvement Bible Class," under the Presidency of the Rev. Geo. C. Fraser, the other officers being, Vice-President, Dr. Forbes; Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Powell; Secretary, Miss Harris. The class is governed by certain rules, drawn up by the President, who submitted them to the members for sanction and approval. We incline to believe that the class will be an immense factor in the dissemination of Biblical knowledge, and the good accomplished be of untold benefit.

Its membership includes the majority of the Methodist erudition and literary talent of the place; while on its roll-book, beside the officers—who are persons of more than ordinary intelligence—are the names of the most eminent men of Bonavista. I append a few: Messrs. John Roper, Geo. Reader, James Brown, John Brown, A. Vincent, Thomas House, Gideon Powell, Philip Templeman, Joseph Straithie, Geo. Saint, and others. Great interest seems to be manifested in the concern. Is it not a pleasing thing to see both old and young gathered in the school-room on each Monday night with Bibles in hand, imparting and receiving instruction? The subject selected for the winter's study is "The Life of Our Lord." Who would not like to study such a life?

On the 2nd inst., under the auspices of the class, a lecture was given by the Rev. George C. Fraser, entitled, "Jerusalem, Past, Present and Future!" The meeting was held in the school-room, with Vice-President Forbes at the wheel, and surely he was "the right man in the right place," *pro tem*. After singing and prayer, the chairman said:—"It is customary on such occasions to introduce the lecturer, but as you are as well acquainted with him as I am, it is needless for me to adhere to the custom," and after a few other observations he called on the reverend gentleman to proceed.

By way of introduction, the lecturer asked for the most sincere and careful attention of his audience while he discoursed on the theme he had chosen for the evening's meditation. It is unnecessary to say that the request was granted. He very graphically and minutely described the condition and circumstances of the Holy City in all ages, from the Patriarchal dispensation down through the centuries to modern times, gave the derivation and purport of the word, and pointed out cities that were contemporary with Jerusalem—Nineveh, Babylon and Damascus. He carried us back to the days of the Kings—David, Solomon and others,—and spoke at length on the glory of the ancient metropolis under kingly rule, and gave some thrilling instances connected with certain sieges that the holy city sustained. He dwelt for a considerable time on the condition of the Jews, and gave some enormous figures descriptive of the ravages made by other nations on that people. He related some startling facts in connection with the "destruction of Jerusalem," A.D., 70, and also narrated some wonderful incidents associated with the crusades. In speaking on the future glory of Jerusalem he based his remarks on the prophecies of Isaiah, and very plainly and clearly elucidated a few texts of the prophecy alluded to, and rendered them quite understandable.

At the conclusion of his lecture he adduced a few lessons therefrom, one of which was: "Every Christian should pray for the Jews." He lectured for an hour and ten minutes, and his utterances were limpid and logical and most certainly did not fail to instruct and edify.

After the lecture, a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. A. Vincent and seconded by Mr. Gideon Powell, was tendered him, and the audience showed its approval by standing. All stood, and joined in singing the Doxology, followed by Benediction by Rev. R. W. Freeman, and the meeting closed. The next lecture is to be given by Rev. Mr. Freeman.

The Present State of Newfoundland

CONFEDERATION.

SIR,—The object of all Government is the common weal. The Government that produces it is a good one, no matter what its form; and the Government that fails to produce it is a Government only in name. Again, the object of trade is to distribute the material goods of life among peoples, and the trade that does not affect this is a monopoly, a usury; what you will, but not a trade. If, therefore, you find that in any country there is neither that law, order, nor civilization that constitute and confirm the common weal, nor that general participation of life's goods that produces comfort and independence, you may conclude at once that the system of Government and the trade system of that country are defective; and if after a long trial and much effort they fail still to bring forth good fruit, you may presume, without rashness, that they are rotten to the core and must be supplanted by other systems more productive of prosperity.

In a few letters you have been good enough to insert for me, I have applied these theories to the present state of the country, and have proved, I think, that our system will not stand the test by which alone the good qualities of things can be judged. It has not borne good fruit; it cannot bear good fruit; therefore, it is an evil system, and ought to be eradicated. The only way of avoiding this conclusion, is, by throwing the blame of our miseries, not on the Government, not on the trade system, but upon the people themselves. This plan has been tried. It has been asserted and insisted upon, that the negligence, improvidence, and laziness of the people are the sole and adequate causes of their own distress—that with a rich produce and a free and too liberal-handed Government, they ought to prosper, and if they do not, it is their own fault. I take exception to this line of reasoning on more points than one, and shall show that even on the supposition that national indolence were the direct cause of national decay, the people do not deserve the blame of it.

Firstly, then, supposing indolence to be quite a general defect, a national trait; is it a cause or an effect of our sad condition? It is a cause undoubtedly of preserving and intensifying our ills, but it is far more an effect of a system that has made the people what they are, that has schooled them into dependence, and trained them up to rely upon anything else rather than their own industry and manliness for support. It is but a near-sighted mind that, scanning our social state, cannot extend its view to the real horizon of our miseries. He is a too sanguine searcher who can cry "Eureka," when but one and the least difficult section of his problem has been solved. If the people's indolence is the cause of this decline, what is the cause of the indolence itself? Race? Certainly not. Climate? Much less. Pursuits, innate perversity, physical or mental degeneracy? None of these. It is the system that rules them—the necessity that enslaves them; that is the chief cause of this listlessness, and, therefore, the chief cause of all the evil effects that some would attribute to indolence alone.

Again, in point of fact, is it true that indolence is a general or natural failing of our people? I do not believe it; the nature of their occupations, and the absence of employment for manufacturers and tradesmen, render their toil, indeed, desultory; but in the only labor that the circumstances of this country at present admit, they are neither indolent nor ineffectual.

Let us return, then, to the true cause of our general decay, an incurably bad system of government and trade. This system must be changed. A truly radical change is now proposed—a Union with the other Provinces of B. N. America under one central and powerful government, which possesses both the will and the means of correcting all abuses throughout its dominion, of awaking activity and encouraging progress among its subject populations.

No one can pretend to state categorically, the whole nature and extent of benefits to be derived from any such great change, for these depend upon the action of causes new to experience, subject to accident, and controlled by influences hidden in the future. The greatest statesmen of England cannot tell, for instance, the exact and entire good results that will accrue to the Empire from Church disestablishment. In deciding in favor of one of these great changes it is sufficient to know that its natural tendency is good and progressive, and that some positive and immediate good results will follow from it. In small localities the argument for or against a change are usually reduced to a discussion of practical results, and the general principle is seldom agitated; so it has been here on the question of Confederation. I will leave to more tutored hands the array of figures, the exposition of minute details, that may be necessary to complete the argument in favor of Confederation, and with necessary brevity touch upon some of the leading points at issue.

OUR LAND.
Are the people aware, when they are told that "the Canadians" intend to take their land—that they have comparatively no land to give up to

them? For the most valuable part of the country, nearly all of it that gives indications of mineral wealth, is already taken, not by a government that would utilize it—but by a few individuals, who, with perhaps one exception, have neither capital nor intelligence enough to turn it to account for themselves or any one else. If we have Confederation, I hope one of the very first acts of the Dominion Government will be towards rescuing our thousands and hundreds of thousands of acres from the greedy grasp which retains them, and opening them up to real capitalists and real explorers.

As things are now, the people may obtain possession of the fens and marshes of the interior—but that is all; it is certain that the Dominion Government would not expose the valuable lands of this or any other province under its sway to be scrambled for promiscuously as they are now. If our lands are worth anything, Canada would soon discover it, and her own as well as our interests would teach her to distribute them judiciously. I cannot now complete the review of the general good results of Confederation, but will reserve for a future and final letter further remarks upon the land question, trade, taxation, &c., under the Canadian Government.

By Telegraph

THE "ZANONI" PUTS IN LEAKY.

Very Stormy Weather Experienced.

TWO OF THE CREW SICK.

The Steamer "Curlew" Detained.

(Special to the Evening Telegram.)
TREPASSEY, This Afternoon.
The brigantine "Zanoni," belonging to Messrs. John Woods & Son, St. John's, put in here last evening on her way to Sydney. The Captain reports very stormy weather, having reached twice to within sixty miles of Scatarie. The "Zanoni" is in a leaky condition and two of the crew are sick. The steamer "Curlew" arrived here last night at 11.30, and is detained today owing to a heavy gale of westerly wind and snow squalls. There is no truth in report circulated at St. John's concerning a wreck at St. Shotts or neighborhood. Two thousand seven hundred partridge have been killed here during the shooting season.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

The Parade Rink was thronged with skaters last night and the whole area was a flitting procession of swift-moving figures, all in the height of enjoyment. Several prominent citizens, many of them Benedictites, too, with their daughters leaning on their arms, took part in the exhilarating exercise. Amongst the musical selections were the "Claribel waltzes," sweet and spirited movements of sound that make the young rejoice and the old grow sad that they are no longer young.

The fever patients are treated in the old wooden hospital, River Head. Why not in the former place of treatment for this class of diseases, St. George's Hospital, Signal Hill, a stone erection in an admirable location where patients have some chance for their lives. The wooden building at River Head should have been consigned to the flames long ago. Its walls reek with contamination and confinement there is enough to make a well man pretty sick. The members for the western district have for years been pointing out the necessity of having that venerable "relic of the dead past" torn down, but so far without avail. The evil should be minimised by converting St. George's into a convalescent hospital.

A TRUSTWORTHY informant witnessed a distressing spectacle yesterday afternoon—that of an aged woman being hauled to the Poor Asylum on a dog-sled by two men. The poor old creature was too weak and infirm to walk. That being so, surely when her application for admission was accepted, some more suitable means of conveying her to that place of refuge could have been found. Is this a country where the Sermon on the Mount finds admission to the heart, or are the hearts of those officials concerned with this department of affairs grown callous from long contact with the privations of the destitute? "Where are we and whither tending?"

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

SUNDAY, Jan. 22.
GOWER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. G. Boyd; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. Parkins.
COCHRAN-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. Parkins; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. Boyd.
GEORGE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A.; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. E. Manning.
ALEXANDER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. E. Manning; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A.
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and 6.30 P.M., Rev. W. Graham.
QUEEN'S ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and 6.30 P.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson.
REFORMED CHURCH OF ENGLAND—TRINITY CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and at 6.30 P.M., Rev. A. N. Suckling.
GOSPEL TEMPERANCE SERVICE in Buchanan Street Schoolroom every Sunday at 3 P.M. All are cordially invited.
Service in Temperance Hall on Sunday evening at 8.15 o'clock, under the auspices of "Young Men's Christian Association." All are invited.

MARRIED.

At Catalina, on the 6th inst., by the Methodist minister, Mr. Robert Duffett, to Selma J., youngest daughter of the late Robert House.
At Placentia, on the 7th inst., by the Rev'd. Father Clancy, Mr. Peter Barron, to Miss Maggie Johnson, of Renwick.
At the same place, by the same—Thomas Power, to Maggie Harrington. Michael Patterson, to Ann Frances Power. John Power, to Mary Frances Barron. Mark Tobin, to Ellen Collins. Michael Dunn, to Alice Ferry. Michael Dooly, to Louisa Wise. Michael Kielly, to Mary Ann Parrett.

DIED.
This morning, after a short illness, Mary Elizabeth, beloved child of Thomas and Mahela Wounded, aged 8 years and six months.

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