NOTICE.

THE WATCHMAN is issued from the Office, Canterbury Street every Saturday afternoon.

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JOHN LIVINGSTON,
Proprietor and Editor.

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

The Watchman.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1875.

THE BURPEE INTEREST AGAIN!

Turning a Denominational Journal to Political Account.

In a letter in the *Wesleyan* of last week, dated from St. John and signed "Occasional," there appeared the following:—

Of course, the great fires are the engrossing topics of conversation among the people. There have, however, been some newspaper changes which should not be overlooked. The *Tribune*, a daily evening paper, has ceased to exist. It made its departing bow last Saturday, so that the *Globe* has the evening all to itself. Mr. John Livingston, well known in connection with the *Telegraph*, and who is yet understood to be on the editorial staff of that paper, has recently started a new weekly paper—*The Watchman*. The paper is violently opposed to the present Dominion Administration, and appears to have been originated with the especial object of vilifying and abusing the Hon. Issac Burpee and his family. In its columns Mr. Burpee is represented as the head of a "Family Compact" whose sole aim is to filch money from the public chest for personal and private gain. The evidence adduced in support of this position, are that E. R. Burpee, C. E.—a brother of the Minister of Customs—is the contractor of the Prince Edward Island Government Railway, and probable contractor for the Elgin Branch so called. Mr. Isaac Burpee had not entered political life, and Prince Edward Island had not entered Confederation when Mr. E. R. Burpee became contractor on the railways of that Province. The same facilities of construction and other assistance promised to the Elgin Branch, have been offered to other branch railways in New Brunswick. If there have been any corrupt practices—which has yet to be shown—they cannot be laid to the charge of the Hon. Isaac Burpee. We do not wish to refer to this subject, so as to give any political coloring to our remarks. It is entirely in the interest of honest journalism. We should be sorry to see any restraint put upon the independence of the Press of this or any other country. It is one of our greatest safeguards. But we must also remember that a venal, unscrupulous and corrupt press is, if possible, a greater evil than tyrannical censorship. By all means let public men and their public actions be freely, fearlessly and frankly criticised; but in the name of honesty, morality, and respectable journalism, let us not tolerate the indecent spectacle of a party press attempting to gain a temporary advantage by attacking the private character of our public men. If there be vice, let it be held up to the glare of day; if there be dishonesty, let it be exposed. But we think there can be no palliation for a wanton attack upon the character of men whose very names have hitherto been a guarantee of honesty and fair dealing. In the May number of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* the biographer of the Rev. Dr. Pickard says: "Whoever heard of the Burpees and Pickards, listened to names with which the attributes of virtue and honor were always connected." Mr. Burpee and his family have always enjoyed the reputation of being upright honorable gentlemen, and no man has done more to develope the railway enterprise of these Provinces than Mr. E. R. Burpee. We feel assured the Editor of the *Watchman* knows well enough that such charges are entirely groundless; and, even if they had any foundation, in fact, which they have not, gratitude should prompt him to deal with them tenderly. The character of a man or a public journal built upon the slandered reputation of others, enjoys indeed a questionable fame. And the attempt to bring a newspaper or an individual into prominence by such means is simply atrocious. We speak in general terms, for the habit, vicious though it be, is unfortunately too common among secular journals. We look to the religious press to supply the corrective and to brand with scathing terms all such attempts.

The *Evening Globe* copies this letter and heads it "A Wesleyan View." It might as properly be headed a "Mormon View" or a "Stockton View," or any other sort of view that pleased the editor's fancy for the moment. It is clearly the "view" of a party who wishes to stand well with the Burpee Interest,—for what reasons we need not enquire. We have good reason for believing it is not "A Wesleyan View," and that many Wesleyans are greatly surprised to find such use made of their denominational organ, which is supposed to give a wide berth to partisan politics and which ought to be equally careful to prevent its columns from being used for the propagation of open falsehoods, such as disfigure the letter we have quoted and which the readers of THE WATCHMAN will be quick to detect. We copy the references to THE WATCHMAN in full, that those who have been in the habit of reading our columns may see for themselves how entirely untruthful and unfair the statements are. Every reader of THE WATCHMAN is aware that no attack has been made in these columns on "the Hon. Isaac Burpee and his family,"—in the sense in which this writer uses the term "family." Every reader knows we have made no reference whatever to the "private character" of Mr. Burpee or of any of the Burpee Interest. The *Telegraph* has, through pressure, corrected the statement that the editor of THE WATCHMAN is still on the *Telegraph* staff, a statement that could only have originated in the densest ignorance; and the assertion that THE WATCHMAN was started "with the especial object of villifying and abusing Hon. Isaac Burpee and his family," is as destitute of truth as the *Wesleyan's* correspondent, we fear, is destitute of saving grace. The writer's statement of THE WATCHMAN'S "evidences" of the misuse made by the Burpee Interest of their political position, is merely a burlesque of THE WATCHMAN'S argument and "evidences" only the writer's inability to grasp the points of our articles relative to the Family and Railroad Compact whose existence all disinterested legislators and electors deplore. But we need not take up *seriatim* the mistatements, unfounded insinuations and absurdities with which the letter is crammed and by means of which it is sought to make political capital for the Burpee Interest through the columns of the *Wesleyan*. We merely desire to call attention to the fact that the correspondence is "volunteer," that it is apparently written for a special purpose, and in no sense forms a part of the regular correspondence of the *Wesleyan*; and, we are glad to say, it in no manner reflects the views of the Wesleyan body, leading members of whom in this city are staunch friends of THE WATCHMAN.

A few reflections may not be out of place in this connexion. It is a safe assertion to make that, if THE WATCHMAN'S expositions of the workings of the Burpee Interest were not producing some effect throughout the country, such desperate efforts to divert attention from these facts would not be made. No man would risk his reputation for truth and candor on such statements as those we have quoted, were it not felt that "something must be done" to off-set the damaging summary of the operations of the Burpee Interest which we have been instrumental in presenting to the public. The fact is that the attempt to create sympathy by representing that "Hon. Isaac Burpee and his family" are being attacked in THE WATCHMAN, shows that the friends of the Burpee Interest find that public sentiment is not setting favorably to them; that very many persons are rather pleased than otherwise to find a public journal giving expression to opinions and convictions which they have long entertained; and that a determination is being formed in many breasts to rid the country of the Family Compact and all its ramifications. It is this state of things that creates alarm among members of the Interest and those who are profitting or expect to profit by the operations of the Interest, and which leads to such whining, sympathetic appeals as the one we have quoted. The friends of the Interest may rest assured that the electors of New Brunswick will pay but little attention to such appeals. The electors find as their rulers a set of men who have scarcely any qualifications for legislation and whose names appear in connexion with no measures before Parliament,—except some such scheme as that for building a railway bridge across St. John harbor at Navy Island, or some other railway scheme in which there is "money." They find that of twenty-seven New Brunswick members of both branches of Parliament, six, or nearly one fourth, are related members of one Family, the record of whose legislative performances shows absolutely nothing accomplished for the public good. They find, however, that while these gentlemen have done nothing for the public, by some extraordinary gifts or graces their friends outside of Parliament have managed to secure a number of contracts in which the public property and the public revenues are a good deal interested, while the members of Parliament connected with this compact are nearly all understood to be looking forward to the time when they will be safely bestowed in Government positions of one description or another. The electors, noting the shocking corruption which attended the Hon. Isaac Burpee's elections in Saint John, the easy style in which he became tranformed from a supporter of Sir John A. Macdonald's Government to a Minister in a "Reform" Cabinet, and those other "evidences" of the presence and qualifications of a supple politician, are freely discussing such subjects, with a result not particularly favorable to Mr. Burpee or the Burpee Interest, whose representative he is in the Government of Mr. Mackenzie. It is such topics as these THE WATCHMAN has been discussing and will continue to discuss, "without fear, favor, or affection." These are public and not "private" questions. They relate to the politics of the country and the public good. If they cannot be discussed in the public journals; if there are censors who would like to stamp out all criticism of the manner of conducting elections, or of politicians changing sides, or of our representatives denouncing in Ottawa the corruption they practice in New Brunswick, or of the manner in which public works are built or the public property parted with, why, then, let us understand fully what are public questions, if these are not. It may suit the Burpee Interest to silence discussion on such subjects, but it does not suit the public; and the probability is strong that as long as the Burpee Interest remains what it has been in the past, just so long will its public acts be subject to such criticism as their merits call for. As regards "private" matters, relating to the Interest, not the slightest allusion has yet been made to them, and we hope that nothing will occur to render necessary anything but legitimate discussion of legitimate subjects of public moment. When it becomes necessary to turn to "private" matters, the public may be amused, if not edified, by learning the opinions which members of the Burpee Interest have at different times expressed in reference to each other and their acts; and other reasons may then be added to those already adduced in favor of securing a more independent representation in Parliament.

THE "TELEGRAPH" AND ITS GOVERNMENT COTEMPORARIES.

Supporters of the Government, suspecting that the editor of THE WATCHMAN was writing editorials for the *Telegraph*, set themselves to work to discover beyond all doubt whether this were the fact or not, and whether it could be possible that a journal supporting the Government was guilty of employing any one not in full sympathy with the Government. The *Freeman* opened the ball by charging that the editor of THE WATCHMAN was still on the *Telegraph* staff, but Mr. Elder took no notice of the shocking accusation. Later, the statement was repeated in a letter in the *Wesleyan*, and still the *Telegraph* paid no attention to it. Still later, the *Evening Globe* copied the *Wesleyan's* letter, and then the editor of the *Telegraph*, who seems to stand in mortal terror of the *Globe*, could no longer resist the pressure, and forthwith "disclosed," rebutted the dread charge and cleared his skirts of all suspicion of harboring an enemy of the Government! The conspirators were in great glee, having brought the *Telegraph* to its knees and given the world another example of the immense value to the country of "independent journalism." More than this: the *Telegraph*, to prove its sincerity, has undertaken to attack THE WATCHMAN, thus giving pledges for its good behavior in future,—which is all right enough, though its mode of action is peculiar. Thus, instead of coming regularly up to its work and setting itself to a defence of the Burpee Interest, it rebukes other papers for undertaking such defence and in doing so mixes in the fray and really supplies a defence!—And, then, in the next column it calls the editor of the *Globe* "a Jesuit!"

But the trouble is not over yet. We have the best of reasons for believing that there are persons in the *Telegraph* service who have not the slightest sympathy with the Government or the Burpee Interest. If we are not grossly mistaken, not one man in five of the electors in the *Telegraph* employ would vote the Government ticket if an election were held to-morrow: in fact, the *Telegraph* establishment, as a whole, is generally believed to be a regular Opposition nest. Here is a fine opportunity for the *Globe* and the *Freeman* and the volunteer correspondents of the *Wesleyan* to "smoke out" traitors to the Government and turn the *Telegraph* into a meek and supple follower. Our Government cotemporaries have only to follow up their recent advantage to make the *Telegraph* their most obedient servant in all things, and we advise them not to throw away their opportunity. In their efforts they will have the sympathy of that large body of persons who have become wearied with the sight of "the leading journal" astride the fence, with its (literary) legs touching the ground, first on one side and then on the other. Harry Leslie on the tight rope on a public holiday is quite enjoyable, but with Leslie and his feats of balancing constantly being performed before our eyes, the sight would become monotonous. The only use to the public which the recent relations between the *Telegraph* and the other Government papers served was to show the entire absence of harmony, the persistent wranglings, jealousies and hatreds which exist in the bosom of the "Reform" Party, and which act as a warning to the country as to the calibre of the guides who would lead the public in matters political. But of these unseemly and disgraceful exhibitions the country has had enough, and if the *Telegraph* will only take its place in peace and quietude by the side of the *Globe* and *Freeman* there will not be many tears shed. It is really fighting the same battles as its cotemporaries and it ought not to be ashamed of the company.

STRICTLY "PRIVATE."—THE WATCHMAN is denounced because it connected the Burpee Interest with the Government's sale of the Fredericton Ordnance Lands. This matter was referred to in Parliament and in the Press; an Order in Council was made on the subject; the Mayor of Fredericton went to Ottawa to oppose it; the Railway Company paid the money in to the Receiver General; Mr. Pickard flourished the receipt for the same in the Commons; the Order, under popular pressure, was subsequently cancelled and the property taken back by the Government. And yet friends of the Burpee Interest have the assurance to speak of this as a "private" matter. If the discussion over the Island Railway; if the connecting of Mr. Schrieber, a Government official, with contracts involving gifts of Government property; if the filling up of Senatorships; if the representation of the Province in the two Houses of Parliament, are "private" matters, and their discussion in a public journal is to be construed into "wanton attacks" on the "Hon. Isaac Burpee and his family," will the friends of the Burpee Interest be good enough to tell us what are *public* matters? Is the vote of Mr. Burpee in favor of the petition to the Queen to interfere with this Province in relation to its School system, also a strictly "private" matter? Is his treatment of the Bay Verte Canal project, also a "private" matter? The public do not so regard them, and it is not probable that a new rule for the treatment of political questions will be adopted for the special convenience of the men now in power or the Burpee Interest.

THE PASTILLE LOTTERY: ANOTHER VIEW OF THE SCHEME.

In a former article dealing with this matter, we gave the General Manager the benefit of the assumption that he really meant what he said when in his advertisements he promised to return to each purchaser of a box of Pastilles, "*one half of his investment* without fail." The investment was one gold dollar, so that the amount to be returned was not less than fifty cents in gold. Assuming that the General Manager intended to carry out this pledge in good faith, we showed that after returning each of 49,600 purchasers one half of the amount collected from them, in addition to the individual gold and merchandize premiums indicated, there would remain of the $50,000 only $3,080, which would not be paid out for premiums, and that on a moderate calculation for expenses of management, printing, advertising, commissions, "a season of opera," etc., the loss to the General Manager and his associates would be in the vicinity of Twenty Thousand Dollars! This was putting the matter in the best possible light for the *integrity* of the Management. There are, however, other views that may be taken of the Scheme as developed in the advertisements and circulars issued.

While the General Manager has stated, in one part of his advertisement, that he will return to every purchaser "one half of his investment," in another place he states that "*positively one half our gross receipts will be given away.*"

Again, he says: "50,000 *presents to be given away. Every purchaser gets a premium.*"

In another place we find the assurance that "$20,000 *will be distributed in premiums,*" etc.

We will assume, for the sake of argument, that of the $50,000 to be obtained by the sale of the Pastilles, the General Manager and his associates will really distribute as premiums the sum last named, say $20,000 in the aggregate. They are bound to distribute this amount among 50,000 persons. The cash premiums alone foot up $16,575. The merchandize premiums, as far as detailed in the advertisement, would retail at about $5,195; but supposing they cost the Lottery men only one half this sum, say $2,597, the premiums alone would absorb $19,172 gold, which would be divided among 391 persons,—leaving only $828 remaining of the $20,000. Now, this $828 is all there is to be divided among 49,609 holders of the Lottery bonds; so that supposing these persons to get premiums equal in value, the cash value of such premiums WOULD NOT EQUAL TWO CENTS EACH, whereas the General Manager has requested all good people to "*observe that we guarantee each purchaser a premium not less than Fifty Cents and it may be Five Thousand Dollars.* * * * "You will therefore at once see that your Pastilles can cost you but fifty cents a box, while you are liable to draw on us for several thousands of dollars, in premiums. Should a man purchase five hundred boxes of us, the *very least we could return him would be two hundred and fifty dollars.* Again: "A poor man would perhaps invest his last five dollars, or whatever it may be, in a worthless bit of card-board, with one chance in five hundred of realizing an equivalent for his cash invested. *How different!* There are no blanks with us. *You can not realize less than fifty cents.*" We need scarcely comment on such a result,—less than two cents! after all these fine promises and warnings,—further than to say that the day of the drawing which would witness a large body of people put off with a two or three cent premium, in return for their gold dollar "investment," would probably not close without rioting and tar and feathers.

In one of the General Manager's advertisements, "the books, registers, etc., of the Company" are spoken of, and the Bank of New Brunswick is alluded to as "our financial agents." Nobody seems to know who compose "the Company," nor does there appear to be any Company in existence, while the Bank of New Brunswick distinctly repudiates any responsibility, and is in no sense the "Financial Agents" of the unknown "Company." The names of Messrs. T. B. Barker and Sons and Mr. H. L. Spencer have also been freely used. In a printed circular lying before us we find great prominence given to these firms, their names occupying the very heart of the advertisement being printed in type bolder than any other in use in the circular, and so used as to convey the impression that they have intimate connection with the concern. But Messrs. Barker have no special interest whatever in the affair, merely keeping the medicine for sale, by retail, the same as any other druggist, while Mr. Spencer, we understand, has been compelled to order his name withdrawn from a too intimate connexion in which he found it in certain advertisements. We understand that the advertisement is not as much in favor with the city newspapers as it was. The *Telegraph* had refused to insert it, and it has been withdrawn from all the other papers. The Lottery is clearly illegal, and the publication of the advertisement is equally so, but it is to be hoped the affair will come to an end without the intervention of the officers of the law.

CAVING IN.

After all the savage assaults of the *News* on all journals which presumed to differ from its view of the Government's Fishery Regulations; after all its "arguing," ranting and bullying; after lavishing on the ignorant fishermen, and not less ignorant editors, the vast and hitherto concealed stores of fishery information which it claims to possess, our bran new Government champion is forced to the following impotent conclusion:—

If it can be fairly shown that the tax is too heavy, and that any serious distress will be caused by its collection this season, we add our voice to that of the *Freeman*, (but not on his untenable grounds,) and hope the Minister will fairly consider the matter, and if necessary make such a reduction as will leave no just cause for complaint.

Ye gods, and fishes, big and little! Here is a falling off! And on the same morning the *Telegraph* gave expression to the same suggestion, in different form:—

It might not be amiss for the Department to let the duties, though sound in principle, stand over this season, especially as Nova Scotia is not included, and next year adjust the duties equally as regards all the provinces, and making the tax very moderate, and giving early notice of it.

And so, the bottom has really fallen out of the new Fishery Regulations, as far as they apply to taxing salmon and bass in the net! And this in spite of all the noisy demonstrations in the press which gave assurance that everything was right on the Miramichi and the North Shore generally, and that the battle of the Regulations would be fought out to the bitter end! The public will now begin to understand what reliance to place on the utterances of the Government papers; and they may also draw comfort from the fact that although all the Government journals combine to bolster up an obnoxious policy, the people, if true to themselves, can by agitation and persistent effort break down even the most carefully prepared plans for their oppression.

It will be remembered that, as regards the U. S. duty on tin cans enclosing Canadian preserved fish, the *Telegraph* took Mr. George Haddow to task for stating that this duty applied to Salmon cans, and held that it applied to Lobster cans only. The *News* backed the *Telegraph* up in pronouncing Mr. Haddow's statement untrue. Mr. Haddow, however, is not to be put down easily, as the following letter to the *Telegraph* shows:—

To the Editor of the Telegraph:—

SIR:—Your *intended* correction of my statement regarding duty on canned salmon in the United States surprised me very much, believing, as I do, that you would not resort to such a quibble, as to say it is only on the cans; and I wondered that you did not inform your readers of the removal of the duty at an earlier day, seeing that the subject is one which has commanded a good deal of public attention.

But, before making a shipment to the United States, I would like to ask you, if you can inform me, "when, and by what authority, that duty was removed from the little Tariff Bill passed by Congress?" so that I may feel assured that I will not require to pay duty on any one pound cans containing salmon which I may send there.

Your other remark that Pacific salmon have been in the United States for the past two years does not affect the point intended in my statement in that connection, as it still remains true that we, who had to face the markets, scarcely heard of Pacific salmon a year ago, and our prices were at that time quite unaffected by them.

I am, yours respectfully,
GEORGE HADDOW.

Dalhousie, June 2, 1875.

The *Telegraph's* reply is a surrender of its position, at the same time that it lets the public into the secret of the origin of the Fishery articles which have been appearing in some of the Government papers. It says:—

THE DUTY ON CANNED SALMON.—We publish another letter from Mr. Haddow. An officer of the Department of Marine and Fisheries requested us to state, as an undoubted fact, that no U. S. duty was collected on canned *salmon*, although such tax was levied on canned *lobsters*. *Our own reading of the Act was that it applied to all kinds of canned fish*, but we have again and again been assured and requested to state that such was not the case. We trust it may prove so.

The meaning of this explanation is that the editor published, not what he conscientiously believed to be the fact, but the view that a Government official wished to have sent forth to the public, this view being in opposition to the editor's own! It is scarcely worth our while to talk further of an independent press after such unpleasant revelations.

BURYING A MAN ALIVE.

The heading of an article in the New Orleans *Bulletin* of the 29th ult. is sufficiently startling: "A Pauper apparently dies in a New Orleans Hospital! The supposed Corpse comes to life on the way to the Grave: Nevertheless it is carried on and Buried!!" From statements made at an enquiry held by a newspaper reporter we select one or two:—

"H. Beggs was in one of the cemeteries (which, he did not say,) and his attention was attracted to a funeral cortege made up of a wagon followed by three or four women. The driver of the wagon lifted out a coffin, and was about depositing it in the hole prepared for it, when the occupant of the coffin kicked off the lid and cried: 'For God's sake do not bury me alive!'

"The driver picked up a brick, and, crying 'You ——, I have a doctor's certificate that you are dead, and I am going to bury you,' struck the corpse, either stunned or killed him, and the burial went on."

The reporter found a number of other persons, who testified to seeing the man moving in his coffin. We quote again:—

"Melinda Smith states: I was in a neighbor's house on Locust street, between First and Second. The charity wagon No. 1 stopped, and I thought it had broken down. A friend called me out in the street to see. Went up close to the wagon, and there I saw two coffins—one for a baby, the other for a grown person. The coffin for the grown person was open, the lid being partly off. I saw distinctly the man on the inside of the coffin, moving his hand, trying to push off the lid. The driver took the cushion off his seat and put it on the man's face, and sat on his head. In this position he still sat on him while he was going a square, and between Second and Third streets he stooped again and took a hammer and tried to nail down the lid. Here the driver took the baby's coffin and put it on top of the man's feet, and then sat on him again.

"The driver, when I first went up to the wagon, in an angry tone, said: 'What do you want?' and I said, 'I want to see.' He answered, 'Get away from here before I slap you in the mouth.' I said, 'You are carrying a live man to the graveyard.' He then drove on. I followed the wagon to the graveyard, but we were not allowed to go in. The driver is a tall, white man, and wore a white hat; had a red face, and I have seen him often passing the door. I would know him if I saw him."

The reporter succeeded in working up a very plausible case, which he placed in the hands of a detective, who succeeded in finding the driver, a man named Connors, and arresting him. Connors, before being placed under arrest, acknowledged that he had driven wagon No. 1 to the Locust Grove cemetery, with the last remains of George Banks and a colored child that he had taken from the small-pox hospital, but denied in toto that the man was alive or that he had stopped on the way. He stated further that he thought that the people in that neighborhood did not like him, and intended stating that he had buried the man alive, but, strange to say, he could not cite an instance where he had ever had any trouble or even a misunderstanding with any person that resides in that locality or that was present when this heinous crime was perpetrated. The particulars of the affair are detailed in a couple of columns of the *Bulletin*.

THE REASON WHY.

The *News*, moralizing on the condition of things in the vicinity of Sheffield St., says:—

"Can nothing be done to effect a needful revolution? Pressed, crowded and driven beyond the city boundaries to find building space, why should not the people of St. John be enabled to utilize fully the South Eastern portion of their city? *Why should not the Barrack ground question be pushed to a satisfactory settlement?* Why should not the fine building sites between Pitt street and the Bay south of Duke street, be turned to good account? And above all, why should not a determined and successful effort be made to sweep Sheffield and Eastern Duke streets and some adjacent localities clean of their dens? Were this done, the city would be greatly the gainer in various respects. It surely can be done, and it surely ought to be done; and the sooner the good work is begun in downright earnest the better."

Most admirable sentiments. Most suggestive questions. But *why* has nothing been done "to push the Barrack ground question to a satisfactory settlement?" Simply because we have as our immediate representative in the Government of Canada a gentleman who is not capable of mastering the argument in support of the City's right to have these grounds returned to her; who dare not say Yes when Mr. Mackenzie says No; who will make no fight where there is nothing for the Burpee Interest to gain. How different it was when the Burpee Interest wished to lay hold of the Ordnance Lands in Fredericton! There was no difficulty *then* in securing an Order in Council at short notice, and in passing the lands over to the Fredericton Branch Railway! There was "money" in that speculation. When the time comes for a land or railway speculation in the vicinity of the Barrack ground to riper, we shall probably hear of energetic action within the Government. Of course, Government action will have no connection with anything going on outside! O, no!

DOING IT UP BROWN.—The following, from the *Mail*, shows the meaning of "Reform" in Ontario:—"The latest rumor with regard to the shrievalty of Wentworth is, that Mr. McKellar [an unpopular member of the Ontario Government] is only debarred from the immediate fruition of $7,000 a year for life by the obstinate persistence of Mr. Gordon Brown, a younger brother of Senator George Brown, in urging his own claim to something good while the Grits are still in office. One more sign is this of that approaching dissolution of the Mowat Administration which everybody is predicting: and we are bound to admit that Mr. Brown's services to the Party deserve the recognition which we are given to understand he claims from the moribund local Administration. Those who think that the appointment of a brother-in-law's brother to an easy place at the Model Farm was enough for the family, are inclined, we think, to underrate the services of the younger Brown. The elder brother a Knight, and the younger a Sheriff, the Browns will have done well, and their advancement will be an honour to the printing business." There is a generous flavor to this *Mail* article which is highly creditable to Party journalism in Ontario. At the same time, our cotemporary's remarks help us to understand that Reform means the same in Ontario as in New Brunswick—it means position and offices and contracts for the Browns and the Burpees and their friends and hangers on; while, as regards Reform Government, in itself, it is about what Mr. Blake described it when, according to Mr. Brown's *Globe*, "he spoke as if there was some Reform Party which did not desire reform, and some Liberal Party which did not desire to liberalize." Mr. Blake would seem to have been entirely correct. We have a Reform Party which represents corruption and intrigue and every form of political turpitude, and a Government which cannot govern and which can find no rational excuse for its existence.

THE HEALTH LIFT is a form of stimulating exercise now very generally commended by the medical men of the United States. It is claimed that ten minutes daily use of the Lift, for three months, will about double a person's strength. By this method of lifting, every portion of the body is subjected to a uniform pressure, the value of which is explained by Dr. Wooster, of San Francisco, who says: "The beneficial effect of the Health Lift is appreciated when it is understood that it is only by muscular contraction that arterial capillaries are emptied, and that, immediately after such contraction, these same capillaries must be refilled with arterial blood fresh from the lungs, through the left side of the heart,—that is, newly oxygenated blood. Constipation is cured by this process,—that is, by completely emptying the small arteries of the alimentary canal during muscular contraction, which, by a well known physiological law, is followed by increased peristaltic action. This explains how the 'Lift' cures functional diseases of the liver, spleen, pancreas, stomach, etc. It cures by causing a more complete renewal of arterial blood in the finest capillaries than can be secured by any other known method." Eminent professional gentlemen have testified to the great benefits derived from the use of the Lift, such as Oliver Wendell Holmes, George Ticknor Curtis, George S. Hilliard, Professor Hitchcock, Prof. Welch, of Yale College, Dr. George B. Winship, "the strong man," and many others; and the Lift has been attached to many judgment, a very valuable aid to health, and will probably find much favor in our city, where it has just been introduced. Mr. Hayden, who has taken rooms in Stewart's brick building, corner of Duke and Charlotte streets, has one of these Lifts, which a number of persons use daily and from which some have already derived benefit.

THE POST OFFICE CLOCK.—We presume the Post Office clock will be forthcoming, but it does not appear that anybody in this part of the world knows of an order having been given for its purchase. Obstacles of various kinds appear to have been thrown in the way of securing the clock, although other cities have had no such difficulties to contend with. The clock for the Toronto Post Office is all right, at any rate, whatever happens to St. John. The Toronto *Globe's* local news column contains the following:—

THE POST OFFICE CLOCK.—The new clock for the Post Office was yesterday put in position. It is a fine piece of workmanship, and was manufactured by Messrs. E. Howard & Co., of Boston. The striking apparatus, which acts upon a bell weighing one thousand pounds, was used for the first time at six o'clock last evening. The dial, which is over five feet in diameter, and is of cast iron with gilt figures, will be put up to-day. Eight other dials will be distributed throughout the building, and will be worked by electricity in connection with the clock, so as to secure the indication of correct time in all the departments.

What is wanted for the St. John Post Office is a clock similar to this of Toronto in respect to its connection by electricity with all parts of the building. The striking is not so important; that might be discarded for the sake of the illuminated faces, which are all important. It appears that the Clock, the Three Lamps at Reed's Point, and the Bell Buoy are in a direct line, so that vessels entering the harbor at night will be perfectly safe in making straight for the Post Office clock. The objection raised to the use of gas for illuminating purposes as dangerous to the building, amounts to nothing, the experience of similar works elsewhere effectually disposing of it. Under these circumstances it is to be hoped that the efforts which appear to be made at Ottawa to prevent the wishes of our citizens from being realised, will prove abortive, and that the work will be carried out, in proper form, without unnecessary delay. To say the least, it is a little remarkable that we never hear of the people of the cities of the Upper Provinces being obliged almost to force from the Government the slightest favor of any description, but we suppose it is necessary that the people of New Brunswick, who are disposed not too follow too closely at the heels of the Government, should be made to feel that a change has taken place at Ottawa and that the friends of the Maritime Provinces are no longer in power.

NOT MUCH TO BOAST OF.—The holders of Post Office boxes have been a good deal annoyed this week by finding in their boxes the printed circulars of a Dr. E. H. Blackley, "the inventor and discoverer of Medico Magno-Electroid," whatever that may be, the said Dr. Blackley being an "Electropathist," and the circular professing to be a report of a case before the "City Civil Court" of Halifax, in the month of August of a year not named, the Medical Society of that city being plaintiff and the Doctor defendant. If the doctor's knowledge of electricity is not more profound than his estimate of the value of the decision given in his favor by the Courts, he will not astonish the world. It appears from the report of the case that the Doctor was arraigned for infringing the Medical Act by practicing medicine without a certificate, and the Doctor having been put on the witness stand swore that he "had never practiced as a physician in Halifax,"—"had not practiced as a physician for fourteen years, or since he had been in Canada." As the Doctor had not practiced medicine and "disapproved of medicine," it was clear he had not contravened the Act, and the case, of course, went in his favor when taken before a higher Court. This is about all there is in the circular, and it amounts to just nothing, unless to illustrate the shallowness of the attempt to make capital at the expense of the Medical Faculty of Halifax, or the absurdity of the statement that such a decision entitles him to say that the "Courts of Law have decided his legitimate standing." To the ordinary observer, such a circular is alone sufficient to fix the "standing" of this new claimant to the patronage of those among us who are suffering from disease; and as the Doctor is honoring St. John by the presence of himself and his "seven batteries," it is to be hoped that something more reliable than this circular will be offered in proof of the eminence of his qualifications. Dr. Blackley may be everything that an "electropathist" ought to be, but this his first appeal to the public does not impress one greatly in his favor.

THE LATEST FISHERY OFFICER.—Says a Nova Scotia exchange:—

"P. S. Hamilton, Esq., the new Commissioner of Inland Fisheries for Nova Scotia, has just returned from an extensive tour over this country. He reports that the laws and regulations are openly set at naught in many places; the streams are filled with sawdust, dams are built in many instances right across the rivers, and even where so-called fish-ladders are erected they are totally unsuited for the purpose. Mr. Hamilton will start on Monday next to make a circuit of the shores of the entire western portion of the Province. On returning from this trip he intends attending to the eastern section. All who are found violating the law will be notified, and if they do not comply with the regulation will be vigorously prosecuted."

If there is a gentleman in Nova Scotia capable of getting the Dominion Government into hot water, and keeping it there, it is probably Mr. Hamilton. Next to Mr. Brydges, we don't know of anybody better qualified to create enemies to the Government and retard improvements which, of themselves, may be desirable, but which can be brought about only by judicious management.

THE PRESS ON THE PASTILLES.—Says the *Religious Intelligencer*:—"A man calling himself 'Dr.' O. Preston Sweet has been advertising very extensively 'A Grand Presentation Sale of French Medicated Pastilles.' He offers his 'Pastilles' at $1.00 a box, and then he promises to distribute, in September next, among the purchasers fifty thousand presents. THE WATCHMAN has done good service by showing the absurdity of the 'Dr's.' promises, proving very clearly that the whole thing is a huge and very transparent swindle. Taking the man's own statements, our cotemporary shows that the promises could not be carried out without a loss of about $18,000 to Sweet himself. We do not know how far the sale of the 'pastilles' has gone; but it is presumable that no small amount of money has already been received. The names of reputable business men of the city have been used by Sweet in his advertisements as connected with the concern, and it is not improbable that many people have by this means been deceived."

REFORM RINGS.—"The Lachine Canal Job," which has created a large amount of discussion in the journals of the Upper Provinces, is the name, in brief, for a transaction by which a number of "Reformers" in Montreal expected to clear a mint of money. Having obtained through the assistance of their friends in the Government, certain information as to the lands likely to be taken for Canal works, they proceeded to buy them up, and in order to have claims for heavy land "damages" against the Government, they called a sale for the purpose of fixing a fancy price for the lots. The Government, however, did not take the lands whereupon the Ring undertook to make those who had bid in lots at their bogus sale pay up. The latter resisted and the matter went before the Courts. The London *Herald* says of the result:—

"Stopping long enough to enter libel suits against the journals that exposed the conspiracy, the ring reflected that if they could hold the bogus buyers to their bids, they would still make a pot of money by the transaction, and they accordingly commenced suits to compel their tools to stand by the bids which they had made. The defence was almost laughable in its simplicity. It was that the sale, with its attendant circumstances, was a swindle, pure and simple; and in proof of that they placed Mr. Mackenzie and several of his colleagues in the witness box. What evidence was given by these gentlemen can only be guessed at, as before Mr. Mackenzie was sworn the reporters were turned out of court. All that we know is, that admissions were rung from them in cross examination which justified the judge in cancelling the sale, and condemning the ring to pay all costs. The judgment in effect brands the action as a deliberate attempt at a swindle, and popular opinion connects the attempt with the name of more than one member of the Cabinet."

The whole transaction helps to an understanding of the real meaning of "Reform," and enables us to appreciate the merits of the gentlemen and their assistants who are engaged in "elevating the standard of public morality."

A FINE TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT.—Next to "food" comes "raiment" in the domestic economy, and the good offices of the man who supplies you with clothing are scarcely less important, as regards the body, than those of the grocer and the baker. Even though the latter may out-rank the clothier in actual importance, the gentleman who fashions your garments and makes you presentable to society has gradually come to be regarded as an indispensable aid to success and comfort in life. Many men are just what their tailors make them, owing to the latter their wives, their fortunes and all they are or hope to be. Under all the circumstances, the selection of one's tailor is a more serious matter than it appears on the surface and should not be underrated. A "good fit" is a most important consideration, and "perfect fits" are guaranteed at Mr. J. E. Whittaker's, corner of Germain and Princess streets,—the new brick building recently erected by Mr. D. J. McLaughlin. Mr. W. has on hand a full line of gentlemen's furnishing goods,—nothing wanting that is essential to a gentleman's ward-robe. Here are the finest and most fashionable cloths, fresh from the first houses of England and the United States, and suited to all ages. Here shirts are a specialty, the stock of ready-made including the latest and finest shapes, both American and English; while the number made to order is very large and constantly increasing. The Shirt Department, we should observe, is under the charge of Mr. Adair, a celebrated cutter who has been employed in first class New York establishments, and whose special duty is to cut and fit shirts, while keeping an oversight of the down stairs business of the establishment.—the general cutting being conducted under the superintendence of Mr. Gorey. The ground flat of the finely lighted store is filled with cloths and gents' furnishing goods; the second is devoted to a large show and fitting room, off which is partitioned a cutting room for Mr. Gory and his assistants; the third, which extends over Mr. Savage's store the full size of the building, is filled with workmen and workwomen, sewing machines, etc. About thirty persons are employed in making up. This does not include the workers on shirts, for whom there is not room in the building, although it was supposed to be ample for all purposes; but Mr. Whittaker's business having doubled within the last twelve months, other rooms in the vicinity will be needed to accommodate all his work-people. When you secure a good fit, good and fashionable material, at a moderate price for cash, you can ask nothing better of any tailor, or any other man.

HOW IT WORKS.—The Government papers announced, a few days ago, through their Ottawa telegrams, that "the estimated outlay upon the Canada Pacific Railway up to June, 1876, is placed at nearly $5,000,000, and that on Canals at $4,200,000." That is to say, nine millions will be expended by the end of the next twelve months in the West, for public works; while in the Maritime Provinces, the Bay Verte Canal, on which the Government last winter "estimated" an expenditure of a million, is put off with—a "commission!" So matters move, and so they will continue to move until the Maritime representation in the Government is strengthened, or our Maritime Ministers come to entertain clearer views of their duty to their constituents, or a general election destroys the overwhelming preponderance of Grit influence in Parliament.

OPIUM EATING IN CANADA AND THE STATES.—The increasing use of opium in the cities of Canada, including St. John, is calculated to excite alarm, and it may be well to call attention, before it is too late, to the opium habit which has fastened its fangs in too many of our young men. The medical faculty and the druggists of Canada know only too well how rapid has been the growth of this pernicious habit, and it is to be hoped that something may be done to arrest the progress of this new destroyer of mind, body and soul. We notice that in the United States the growth of the number of opium eaters has been quite remarkable. In five years there has been an increase of from fifty to seventy-five per cent., until the victims of the habit are now understood to number one hundred thousand, a large proportion being females; and it is charged that in numberless cases the dreadful habit was contracted in consequence of opium having been prescribed, in the first instance, by the physicians. We find, also, that to meet the home demand in the United States, the poppy is now cultivated in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, California and Arizona, and that there is imported annually into the United States two hundred tons of the prepared article! This is a very alarming state of affairs; and if we do not desire to see the rage for opium which prevails in many cities of the United States transferred to Canadian soil, we will do well to leave no means untried to crush out the already too prevalent use of the dangerous weed, which enslaves more thoroughly than alcohol and in the end brings death and ruin as certainly as the most fatal poison.

MODEL REFORMERS.—Mr. Paxton has been unseated for the corrupt acts of an agent. Mr. A. H. Dymond has been unseated for North York, a too-zealous supporter having remitted a debt of $3 in order to induce an elector to vote for Mr. Dymond. Hon. Mr. Currie, M.P.P. for Welland, has been unseated by the Election Court for improper practices by a tavern keeper, who kept open house, and who was considered an agent.—[Lindsay, Ont., Post, Reform paper.

[We wonder what would have happened if that exemplary "Reformer," the Hon. Isaac Burpee, had had either of his elections contested before Election Court?]

—During his visit to England in May last, H. I. M. the Emperor of Russia ordered a dinner service for eighteen persons. Part of it is now on view in London. It consists of ninety-six plates, with dishes and covered pieces in proportion. A broad band of rich turquoise—equal in purity to the famous Sevres colour, relieved with edges and borders of gold—covers the rim, the centres being ornamented with female heads representing different types of English beauty. Every type—Saxon, Norman, Irish, and Scotch, as well as the beauties of our Indian Empire—are represented.

HAMM'S LIVERY STABLES, north side of King's Square, are so favorably known as not to require newspaper notice, and anything we propose to say about them, therefore, must not be regarded in the light of "a puff." The principal "attraction" in connection with the stables, of late, is rather in the office than in the stables proper, as it is here that an amateur artist, a well known professional gentleman, has ornamented the walls with some wonderfully life-like illustrations of civic life and civic rule. "The Doctor" is evidently dissatisfied with the New Market House scheme, and here he gives expression to his economical convictions in sketches that would reflect credit on *Punch* or *Grip*. His handling of the scene where Councillor Hamm had to submit to hear the Common Council's action in regard to the Evangelical Alliance's Temperance Committee, excoriated, by his pastor is very striking; "the Car of Juggernaut," namely, the City's public debt, crushing the tax-payers under its monstrous wheels, is also very effective. There are a score or two of these sketches on the office walls that will repay critical examination. Should the student of art while visiting the office require a first-class turn-out, why, Councillor Hamm or Arthur can soon set his mind at rest. There are now in these stables over twenty excellent horses,—sound, well fed, carefully groomed animals. There are a score or two of carriages from the best makers, and all in capital order, including barouches, top buggies, single and double open carriages, in all the latest styles,—all clean and shining as if bran new, as many of them are. The harnesses whips, mats, cloths, and all other needful things are in good supply, and neat and trim. We are glad to know that business is good with Mr. Hamm this year, as good as last year in some departments, and in coaching much better than ever as he keeps four coaches moving all the time. Polite and obliging to all, and ably seconded by reliable lads like "Arthur" and "Harry" and others well known to patrons of the stables, Councillor Hamm commences the summer season with very flattering prospects.

GOING WESTWARD.—For some unexplained reason,—perhaps due partly to the extreme severity of our last winter,—more than the average number of New Brunswickers have been going westward, particularly to California, this spring. Our Province is not singular, however, in this movement of population. The Eastern States are sending large bodies of their young men westward, the mining regions of Nevada proving especially attractive. A letter from Virginia City, in that State, says there are 4,000 to 5,000 more laboring men in the streets than can find work, and who are begging a meal's victuals of the residents of the place. Their money is exhausted, and they must beg or starve. Still, the cars every morning carry in 50 or 60 more, notwithstanding the constant warnings of the newspapers to keep away.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The piece of the week has been "Saratoga, or Pistols for Seven," a comedy intended to illustrate life at this celebrated watering place. The play is full of scenes and incidents which seems like a burlesque on "society" anywhere, but those who have enjoyed the pleasure of a few weeks' dissipation at this popular resort give the assurance that it would be very difficult indeed to exaggerate the freedom and *abandon* of the mothers, husbands and daughters "of the period," who make Saratoga what it is in the fashionable season. Messrs. Lanergan and Nannary's Company showed to great advantage in this piece, though Mr. Warner, when taking the part of the good natured, frivolous, love-sick "Bob Sacket," must occasionally have called to mind his "Shakspeare" lecture in the Institute, and inwardly lamented the popularity of these substitutes for the creations of the great author. Miss Miles, as the gay, dashing, heart-smashing "Miss Remington," the belle of Saratoga, acted her part to perfection; and, indeed, the company as a whole filled their several *roles* most creditably. "Saratoga" ran to good houses for three nights, a pretty severe test of its popularity in a city like St. John, where the number of patrons of the drama is limited and tolerably exacting.—On Thursday evening there was a repetition of "Time and the Hour," followed by the farce of "Jenny Lind."—Last night Bulwer's great historical play, "Richelieu," was put on with a strong cast and in excellent style throughout, and produced a marked sensation. Mr. Warner filled the title *role* with great ability.

For the Matinee to-day, "Saratoga" is announced, and for this evening, "Jessie Brown, or the Relief of Lucknow."

For Monday evening a very interesting bill is promised, Mr. Charles H. Morton's New American Comedy, "Women of the Day," of which it is stated that it has achieved an immense success in New York and Philadelphia. The author had set himself to show up the fashionable follies and foibles of the day, and is understood to have succeeded beyond all doubt. The dialogue is said to be "witty and sparkling, the plot of absorbing interest and well sustained throughout, the scenes skilfully combined." There will be a general desire among theatre goers to witness a comedy on which so much praise has been lavished.

THE P. E. ISLAND RAILWAY.—Says an Ottawa telegram of June 10, to the Government papers:—

Mr. Swinyard having reported that the Prince Edward Island Railway was not in a proper condition to be taken over by the Dominion Government as an asset to the credit of the Province, Mr. Frank Shanly has been instructed to make a further report on the subject.

Mr. Swinyard is a special Railway Commissioner under the Dominion Government.

HOW TO COIN MONEY.—Druggists inform us that the French Medicated Pastilles,—which are manufactured wholesale in this city,—can be produced at a cost of about thirty cents per lb. Each box contains about one ounce, and for this ounce those who buy the pastilles pay one gold dollar,—with a prospect in 49 cases out of 50 of getting back as a "premium" the munificent sum of two cents! One dollar per ounce amounts to sixteen dollars per pound for what, the druggists say, can be bought wholesale for thirty cents! The Pastille business would seem to be a money making business, if enough of it could be done.

THE PORTLAND SUFFERERS.—The Portland Town Council is aiding the sufferers by the Portland fire, of whom it was recently stated that eighty families were obliged to ask relief. Howe & Cushing's Circus gave a performance for their benefit. Messrs. Lanergan & Nannary did the same, and the concert under the management of Messrs. E. Peiler & Bro., for their benefit, was a success as a musical entertainment, but owing to bad weather and rival attractions it did not realize much above expenses. The subscription list which the Mayor has in hand foots up about $1,000, and then there will be a concert in the Mechanics' Institute on next Thursday evening, for the same laudable object. This Concert is under the auspices of the Odd Fellows, an excellent institution always forward in good works. Mr. A. T. Bustin has the musical direction, and among the singers will be Mrs. Lawton, Alderman Lockhart and other fine voices, while among the readers promised are Mrs. Lanergan, Mr. John March and others. The City Band has volunteered its services, and other attractions are in store for those who patronize it. We understand that 600 tickets have already been disposed of, and there will, no doubt, be an overflowing house.

IMPORTANT DRY GOODS SALE.—Mr. James Manson, King Street, offers an immense stock of prints, homespuns, dress stuffs, camlets, skirts, stockings, black silks, lustres, shawls, etc., at sweeping reductions. His advertisement, in another column, ought to attract general attention, as the goods are marked down in many instances 50 to 80 per cent. The desire of buyers in these hard times to save money, will probably send their steps towards the Commercial Palace, where there is one of the largest stocks of dry goods to be found anywhere in the Maritime Provinces.