

EARLY CLOSING.—The "Standard's" letter writers seem to be labouring under a delirium of the mental system. We are at a loss to conceive what they want; some are foolish enough to think that keeping open day and night would be best suited to the trade, others think that shutting up altogether would be more consistent with the appearance of the town at present. Either of these courses, however, are absurd and extreme in appearance, and we would be rather inclined to decide that early closing is not exactly what is wanted in this important town at the present time. If we could be placed in a position to chronicle the arrival of our large sealing steamers with large trips of seals and bringing with them accounts of all the remaining sailing vessels with good trips also, early closing might then be a matter upon which the minds of our mercantile princes could be gently drawn towards, and their wide spread charity extended for a time in this direction. These scribes, however, think differently and it is generally owing to such differences that our local newspapers are filled up at this season of the year. We would reply to "Shopman" and "Progress" that they might expect early closing at some future time, and that when they get it they will no doubt have it.

The Assembly seems to be a very critical position. It would appear that the members are all striking out on their own account. We clip the following from the "Chronicle":

"We understand that on Thursday evening, in the House of Assembly Mr. McNeilly brought down on himself a severe castigation for his low insolence and cowardly malignity towards an individual who, not being a member of the house, could not defend himself. The castigation was administered by several members, but especially with an unsparing hand by the hon. member for Harbor Grace Mr. Shea, who promptly repelled the malicious attack of McNeilly, and convicted him of spiteful and unscrupulous lying. The member for Harbor Grace deserves much credit for this, and has thereby given general and decided satisfaction. The matter arose in connection with a petition from Brigus against the Telegraph Monopoly, which Mr. Rabbits presented declared at the same time that the signatures had been obtained by false representations. In consequence of this declaration by Mr. Rabbits the petition was not received. We are making enquiries into the whole matter and shall be prepared to show that the 'false representations' have been made by Mr. Rabbits. The poor man has allowed himself to be made a tool of by McNeilly, but he will have to account to his constituents for betraying his trust, and by untrue statements causing the rejection of a petition which was signed by the leading people of the district. It has been stated about the Colonial Building that the signatures were attached in St. John's, and without the knowledge and consent of the persons whose names are affixed. If Mr. Rabbits has been a party to spreading so foul a falsehood the sooner he contradicts it the better. More anon upon this subject."

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Chief Justice, Sir Theodore Hook presiding.

WEATHERCOCK

vs. OBSERVER No. 2.

This was an action brought forward at the instance of Joseph Weathercock, Observer of the Sarrgan observatory, by Heautious Avalonius Cloudhunter, B.A. solicitor, against Mr. Observer No. 2, Farmer, to recover possession of a certain amount of the Leonine species more commonly known by the Weather Cat. The defence was conducted by Georgius Hildebrand son of the Right Hon. Mr. Emers. The juror being sworn and seated the case was opened by the Plaintiff's counsel. He commenced by saying his client Mr. Weathercock was possessed of an animal gifted of a wonderful susceptibility, an unerring and almost supernatural monomania in prognosticating the weather tendencies with a certainty and correctness which completely outstripped any of Professor Maury's theoretical speculations, or indeed any other Meteorological authority of the nineteenth century. That this animal was quietly feeding in the plaintiff's back kitchen; when without giving any indications of discontentment he sprang from the place where he stood clean out of a window in the rear of plaintiff's dwelling, alighting on the head of Mr. Babe Barnes, and from thence in a north-westerly direction he wandered his weary way. That he could prove beyond doubt that this same animal which appeared in court under charge of Mr. Boreas was the same animal (minus a small part of the tail) and that this action was brought at the instance of his client to recover the animal. The first witness called was the Weathercock.

Examined by H. A. Cloudhunter— Q. Do you know the animal? A. Yes, and no mistake. Q. Where did you get the animal? A. I got him from his Pa. Q. Did you keep him bound? A. No.

Q. Had you any suspicion that the animal would leave your service? A. No, I did not think that the animal would leave his guardian in such an unkind way.

At this stage of the examination an immense yell was heard which rung through the corridor like the dull rumbling reverberation which usually accompanies a violent shock of an earthquake. His Lordship, Theodore Hook, demanded of Mr. Boreas what was the matter. Mr. Boreas replied "I do not know, your Lordship, unless it be that my pupi is not pleased with what was said about him leaving his guardian." His Lordship requested the plaintiff's counsel to proceed with the examination, and remarked that should Mr. Boreas perceive any symptoms shown by the animal to again disturb the proceedings to apply the cane to his back.

Examination continued—

Q. When the animal escaped did you follow in pursuit? A. Yes, I rushed forward in pursuit until I saw the last of the animal about fifty feet high disappearing in the western horizon.

Q. Where did you think he went afterwards? A. This question was objected to by the defendant's counsel, who made reference to the case of Mouser vs Ratter, page 61. This objection was, however, overruled by the court.

A. I could form no idea where he went his flight and sudden disappearance so completely paralyzed my whole frame, and thinking of my prospects in life being blighted, I took to bed and lay mourning for the space of fifteen days.

Q. Who told you of Mr. Observer No. 2 being in possession of the animal? A. I saw a notice in the Star saying that the animal had been caught on the premises of a certain ratter in the town, and that the finder intended keeping him for his own use.

Q. Did you ask permission to see the animal? A. I did.

Q. Did the animal know you? A. Yes, he sprang on my back and kissed me, until I thought he would devour me altogether.

Q. Cross examined by Georgius Hildebrand, Q. C., defendant's counsel.

Q. Are you in the habit of breeding cats? A. No.

Q. What prompted you at first to get possession of the feline? A. I knew his father, and when his father departed this life (the Lord have mercy on him)—His Lordship desired to remind the witness that this court had not been opened for prayer, and request witness to guard against any further breaches of good behaviour—the witness proceeded, and when his father died he was possessed of an only son which I took and reared. I have to be sorry a thousand times that I took him at all.

Q. What reasons urged you to recover the animal, if as you say, you would rather a thousand times you had not taken him at all? A. You see he had become so useful after many years of training that I used him to tell the weather; and sir, he could tell the exact state of the weather to a nicety and I got a large sum from some of the big folks for the reports of the weather which I published in the Standard.

Q. What value do you set upon the animal as he stands there before the court? A. If I was to sell him I believe I could get a winter's diet for him.

Q. When you were in pursuit of the animal was he leaping, running, standing or flying? A. I was running at full speed, my strides average twelve feet, the animal was so far in advance that I could barely make out in the distance his bushy tail ascending and descending at regular intervals, gradually becoming fainter and fainter until it was completely lost to my view in the western horizon.

Q. What next occurred? A. I returned home with a broken heart, and mourned for my departed friend.

His Lordship remarked that this case was one of a peculiarly affecting and solemn character and he would request that the conduct and behaviour of this court during the hearing of this case should be in keeping with the occasion. Some disturbance ensued which was caused by Mr. Boreas, the animal's attendant remonstrating with Mr. Babe Barnes, one of the witnesses against his teasing the animal, which was soon settled by His Lordship ordering the witness out of court. Mr. Boreas appeared to his Lordship for permission to retire for a short interval for the purpose of procuring some refreshments for the animal. His Lordship desired Mr. Boreas to take the animal with him and to return as quickly as possible. Mr. Boreas therefore left the court with his pupi amid shouts and hissings which were at once repressed by his Lordship.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

NOTICE!

THE Public are respectfully informed that the object for which their assistance is solicited in an advertisement in the Standard of the 10th inst., in no way deserves their countenance or support. The proposed erection of an Episcopal Free Church in this town is intended by its projectors to be in opposition to their own Parish Church and Minister. The Church-of-England members of this community are a ready provided with sufficient accommodation in their own place of worship.

BERTRAM JONES, Rector of St. Paul's Church.

Harbor Grace, April 17th, 1875.

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