

A MILD RETORT.

In answer to the last screed of a collapsed controversialist.

Had Allan Embury held his peace last week, I would have left him severely alone. But against the advice of his friends he rushed into print again. The florid rhetoric and frothy rhapsomontade is absent, although, like the small pox, the "fine English" breaks out in spots. The letter carries with it its own condemnation. It is like the hissing of a serpent that has had its fangs drawn. Embury openly admits my leading charge, and tacitly admits all the others. Curiously enough, this extraordinary letter had no heading—some one has wittily remarked there was neither head nor tail to it. It was also addressed to the editor of the *Star*, an admission that the "open letter" industry is no longer a paying one with the scribbling Gossamer. Embury's letter should have been headed "Feebly," and signed "Feebly." The *Star* last week was more respectable by a column and a half than it was two weeks previously, but because the fallen teacher's second letter reads only one column, and half of that column was comprised of old testimonials of his teaching ability, which no more cover the case than his departmental certificate does.

Then there is a period in his career to which these certificates do not refer—the time when he was savagely assaulted that feeble man; the year in which his certificate was suspended for his rowdiness. Until our principal of the public school gets down from his chair of assumption and denounces these charges, there is no need of furnishing proof; because in Goderich my statements are accepted as true until disproved. Nobody will believe my assailant until he calls for witnesses. The half-column of certificates of character in Embury's letter, is simply a posing of "bluff." It would require some of those "bluffs" to give credit to any man in the same town. There are a few in town who love him, and champion him, and stuck by him with the same sort of affection that characterized Burns's convivial hero:—"They had been in for worse together."

Besides, it is generally a last resort, to open the sentence of a criminal whose guilt is apparent to all, when his "previous good character" is charged into evidence. There is no need of any such thing. Embury's character is not a school official, and was suspended in the county of Hastings, what do the testimonials amount to, in the way of clearing him from the charges made against him in my last? The best character any man can have is that which he shows in his daily walk—his speech, his associates, and his habits at evening.

I am trying to drop Embury as gently as public duty and a sense of justice to myself and the other gentlemen attacked by him will permit me. I am not vindictive. If I were, I could have had him suspended ten months ago. Instead, were I so inclined, I could do more. But even though my previous mercy has been trodden under foot by a swinish ingratitude, I will take no further action in the matter if the offender will but act with common decency.

He attempts to brazen out the matter of his apology to me for using what he himself admits in his letter to be "terrible profanity," but it can easily be perceived that the swaggar is assumed. In this connection he makes a false charge which utterly shows his lack of judgment, because it forces me to still further throw light upon his deeds of ruffianism and disgrace. He says, and his statement is a bald and wifful untruth:—"The charge was not laid until weeks after the offence, and information was partly obtained by Mr. Thos. McElliguddy, bringing a little boy who overheard the terrible profanity." The public can judge of Mr. McElliguddy's motives.

The oaths and obscenity were used against me on Christmas Eve last. Thinking it was but a bit of semi-drunk-braggadocio, and knowing that "barking dogs seldom bite," I paid little heed to the language used, a report which I obtained solely from the two gentlemen before whom Embury poured out his fifth, each of whom were friendly to him as well as to me, and one of whom was largely interested in the welfare and prosperity of the erratic educationist. About midnight of January the 5th, while returning from my duties at a late sitting of the school board, I was the witness of a most disgraceful scene which was cunningly planned by the writer of the letter in last week's *Star*. He was endeavoring to engineer affairs so as to "lick me from hell to breakfast," (to use his own words), by proxy. I thought it well to bring this matter of street violence to a head, and then laid a charge against Embury for his language and conduct of twelve days before. Then to save himself, and only then, he came to his senses, and sent me a written apology. No boy overheard the profanity. When the case was coming up, both the gentlemen who were to appear as witnesses desired me to see the other persons who were in the store at the time the foul language was used. I asked Mr. Deacon and his young nephew about Mr. Embury's conduct, but both of them said they were not listening at the time. There was no bribe given, there was no bribe offered, there was no bribe needed.

The case was so clear and strong, that a reference was impossible, and the boaster of the previous fortnight was brought to his knees. My kind one in the time when I could have crushed him, has been repaid by torrents of abuse in very filthy Latinized English, which he used, the charity, to cover his multitude of sins, and by a succession of dazedly written anonymous articles, which have appeared at intervals since last January by the man who never dared write but two public letters during that period.

Unlike my adversary, I take no pleasure in controversies. I do not say, either, that he is a bad man beyond all hope of redemption. He has ability of a certain sort, which could be utilized to make him a successful teacher and a useful man. I will reform him. Let him, as an anxious seeker after a better life, cut himself loose from the crowd of boasters who form the right wing of his admirers, and leave a new field, where, free to begin a new career, and taking lessons from his recent experiences, he obtains the full dignity of a lofty manhood, and fulfil the early promise of his career, now, alas,

embodied with shame and fouled by folly. I have written this letter in a mild style, because I do not care to fire too heavily when the enemy has grasped the rope to haul down his flag.
THOS. MCGILLOIDY.

COMMUNICATIONS.

About Moral Courage.
To the Editor of The Signal.

Sir,—Would you allow me space for a word or two regarding the address of Mr. James Mitchell at the temperance meeting on Friday night. I did not agree with THE SIGNAL some time since when it referred to Mr. Mitchell as being half-hearted in the temperance work. But out of his own lips on Friday he stands convicted. If he was paid for upholding the local inspector he could not have done the job better. He did not come out square, but put a lot of "ifs," "buts," and "as-it-mays," and "it-this-besos," and "neverthelesses." I was glad to see Rev. T. M. Campbell give him a rub for his apologetic style, for he really deserved it. He conveys the temperance object for having the moral courage to have the law enforced. What has he done towards enforcing the law? He is next door to a whisky shop, and sees people go in and out with or without certificates, as the case may be, and he hasn't opened his mouth. Yet he will get up on a platform and tell the temperance people that they are moral cowards, and by so doing he tries to shield the inspector who doesn't do his duty.

The Recent Fish-boat Accident.
To the Editor of The Signal.

Sir,—Permit me, through your valuable columns, to correct some statements which appeared in some of the local papers relating to the unfortunate accident to the Goderich fishing boats on Lake Huron on the 5th of Nov., and as I have had the misfortune to be one of the parties concerned, I am enabled to do so from bitter experience.

To begin at the beginning, I may state that eight boats of us left Mantoulin Island for Goderich, in tow of the tug "James Clark," on Thursday, the 5th inst., and all being in one line after the tug were as follows:—
1st, Donald McKay, Goderich.
2nd, Malcolm McDonald, " "
3rd, James Craig, " "
4th, Norman McDonald, " "
5th, John Bain, " "
6th, James Lakster, " "
7th, Wm. Saunders, " "
8th, John McLeod, Saugeen.
All went well until about nine o'clock p.m., when we were about 8 miles to the north of Southampton, when accidentally our bowsprit struck the anchor of the towing ship, causing our boat to stop in her course. Our captain, Norman McDonald, called out to John Bain to steer his boat up on our port quarter, so as to allow the two boats to come alongside another, but instead of that being done Bain's boat came up on our starboard side, causing the main towline to come across our mainmast, and also causing our boat to come broadside on, instead of swamping us, and at the same time carrying away our foremast. We managed some way to scramble up on the side of the boat in hopes of being saved by one of the passing boats. By this time James Inskel's boat came up and struck us, nearly throwing us in the water, our boat cutting her below the water's edge, causing her to fill at once; but Bain and his men managed to get the crew off her. By this time John Craig came up, and his fibboom carried away, and by the crash he thought his boat was filling, and before he could ascertain the true state of affairs he was so far away in the dark that it was useless for him to return to us. He also thought the last boat would pick us up easy enough, as the towlines were cut adrift before then and the boats stopped. About this time some one cried to the tug, "All right," and she made ready to start, thinking we were saved by one of the last two boats. But the saddest part of our experience was when Wm. Saunders and John McLeod came up and took no notice of us, and passed alongside of us without the least concern, and made sail for the harbor. These two last named boats passed alongside of the tug, and Captain Chambers, mistaking them in the dark for Saugeen boats coming home, offered to tow them into the harbor, and received in the meantime that they had no towline; and yet they made no mention of the two unfortunate boats left on the wreck. By their cowardly and inhuman conduct we were left to our fate, to be buffeted by wind and wave for 18 hours on the stormy waters of Lake Huron.

As soon as the tug arrived in the harbor and learned how matters stood, Captain Chambers immediately put to sea, and stayed out all night, but owing to the darkness of the night did not see or hear anything of us, although at one time we could hear them speaking as they were within a few hundred yards of us. To describe the horrors of that night and the anxiety of Mr. James Clark, Captain Chambers, and his crew, to us on board, where everything was done that human kindness could do for our recovery with perfect success. Hoping you will find space for the above I have the honour to be yours respectfully,
JOHN MORRISON,
Goderich, November 24th, 1885.

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FRIDAY, DE VERY COOL
Our town contain its readers believe that "Rollie" organ. O-hill its readers what we are concerned. articles of our contents little weight, parade ment may seem. I know our opinion on and as our mission ignorance and ments proceed to enlighten
1. We believe that the murderer of Scott ago.
2. We know that if was an accessory after payment of money he aided a criminal to go
3. We know that after riding Kiel to borough looking to outstretched, and "could catch him."
4. We know that an escaped felon he candidate for Prov of in behalf of Sir John's first lieutenants which showed that he ponding a felony.
5. We know that cists were fully parson with the bellion, on the basis posed by Sir John
6. We know that administration in t that the halfbreed grievance, for Sir has been made a successor—Hon. 1 publicly stated their tenor department "tended to."
7. We know that ing half-breed grie nationally pigeon-hol ion broke out in the
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9. We know that rebellion against th ty of our covering but that the half-b the head of the dep rior, and were seen ignominiously from
10. We know that insane if he ever t ful of half-breeds bands of Indians, war, without money credit, to establish Northwest. Again so-called "expert" medical men who sanity in of so avai
11. We know th treason-felony, but ed for murder—wit that crime—and th companied by a tion to mercy.
12. We know th ially chosen to te usual "twelve goo dispensed with, an the juror's box to (They wouldn't be dict of such a jury
13. We know th eminent constitu Hon. Wm. Macd league of Sir Jo Peter Mitchell, (o Sir John and at C. P. R.'s Monty Mr. Macmaster, porter of Sir J. Parliament,) and legality of the t