

hundreds of people had to be conveyed home from the northward when there was no other opportunity open to them. With the employment of larger steamers this evil may be remedied, but whether they will be able to do the work as well otherwise remains to be seen. He was glad to find that the Placentia railroad is so near completion. He thought the opening up of this line to trade with the westward will be productive of much good. In these days of progress we might as well be out of the world as without railroads, and even though not remunerative in a financial point of view, they confer facilities and accommodation that, having once enjoyed, we should not like to be deprived of. Were the railroad to Harbor Grace closed for a week, he thought we should all feel that we had received a serious set back; the business community especially, as it is of immense benefit to them. In connection with railroads, the suggestion to place steamers upon the Bays that may be connected with them is a wise one. Trinity and Placentia Bays may easily be brought into this connection, and as large coastal steamers will hereafter be employed which will only be able to call at the principal harbors, smaller steamers to establish communication with the lesser ports will be necessary. If Bonavista Bay, as well as Placentia and Trinity Bays, could be thus connected with the railroad, a great advance will have been made. With the question of the Washington commission we have little to do at present. When the report of the commission comes before us we shall have an opportunity to consider it. Neither does the Barcelona Exhibition call for much comment just now, but it is satisfactory to learn that the Government have taken steps for the representation of this colony, such as, he hoped, will result advantageously for it. The litigation between the Government and the Railway Company, as regards the subsidy, is now at an end. Whatever the result may be, there is no doubt the Government has a claim against the company for damages for non-fulfilment of contract, and he trusted a satisfactory adjudication between them will be arrived at. There is another question, one of serious importance, alluded to in the speech; that of municipal arrangements for the town of St. John's. It is a subject we have hitherto rather shirked dealing with, nevertheless; we must make up our minds to face it sooner or later. It has to be done, and the only way to arrange it is, while acting beneficially towards the interests and requirements of the town, not to act unfairly towards the owners of property. It is a question beset with difficulties; but when the Government bring forward a measure upon the subject its details can be scrutinized and discussed. There is one or two points of minor importance in the speech, such as telegraph extension north, which do not demand comment, but the closing paragraphs call for some notice. The immunity of the colony from epidemic disease and other public calamities is one of those blessings which we should feel devoutly thankful for, but which we passingly refer to and are too prone to forget. We cannot fail to remember the harrowing intelligence conveyed to us by the public telegrams, week by week and day by day, of devastation and death by fires, floods, earthquakes, epidemic diseases, loss of life, volcanic eruptions, and other calamities. While we cannot expect to be exempt from disease or accident by sea or land, yet he trusted that during the present and succeeding years, the record of absence of serious crime will not be broken, and that this colony may continue to present the fair fame in the future which it enjoys at present. With these remarks he begged to move that a select committee be appointed to prepare an address in reply to His Excellency's speech.

(To be continued.)

**A CURIOUS PHENOMENON.**

A CURIOUS phenomenon occurred on Thursday on a piece of agricultural land between the Torbay and Portugal Cove Roads, a little way inside the King's Bridge. This was the appearance of myriads of grubs on the surface of the snow covering a field. In size they are something over an inch long and resemble in appearance the large butterfly caterpillar. They were not numbed by the frosty element, but moved along the snow full of vitality. How they came there, whether they crawled up through the earth and snow to satisfy a craving to breathe, or whether they "fell from the sky in a shower," as the country people say, remains a mystery. Mr. Jas. L. Noonan collected quite a lot of them on the snow in a field near his house and subsequently brought them out to his office as curiosities of the season, as they certainly are. Some fourteen years ago the same occurrence took place in the same locality, which is regarded as being infested by the insect pests of the farmer to a greater extent than any other equal portion of the district. Whether the present batch are merely the advance-guard of a big army to come when the spring opens remains to be seen; but it looks as if agriculturists in that neighborhood will have to resort to every possible device to save their crops after the young shoots shall have appeared over ground. Young turnip greens have been repeatedly destroyed, even to the third sowing, by a noxious spider which preys upon the leaves, but the present grub is of a different habit and bodes more widespread devastation than the tapping-fly. A plague of caterpillars appeared in the same neighborhood about fourteen years ago, but in mid-summer, and gave the farmers there the greatest trouble for some years afterwards.

**The Evening Telegram.**

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 18, 1888.

**CRAMPED AND CRIPPLED.**

**Beneficial Results of Political Extravagance and Incompetency.**

**NOT A SOLITARY NEW MEASURE FORESHADOWED.**

**Unanimous Sentiment in Favor of Sir William Whiteway.**

THE present session of the Legislature, which opened on Thursday afternoon, promises to be one of the most barren and unfruitful ever held by a constitutional Assembly. This assertion is not based on mere conjecture, nor is it the outcome of political prejudice. It is fully warranted by the language of the opening Speech itself, which contains nothing whatever of a hopeful or interesting nature. Nay, more: it does not express a single original thought or progressive idea. Like the book of Jeremiah, it only speaks of departed glory and contrasts the past history of a once prosperous and happy country, with the present sufferings of a people plundered and pauperized by dishonest, extravagant and incompetent rulers.

We say, no ray of hope lights up the gloomy horizon—no words of encouragement are contained in that precious document, for the suffering, STARVING fishermen of our Northern districts; not a solitary new measure of any kind is foreshadowed, or even hinted at in the entire rignarole of nearly two columns of thinly-leaded matter.

Now, what is the inference to be drawn therefrom? Why, simply that the taxpaying capacity of the country has been exhausted by the crushing, ruinous demands of our present rulers, and that even absolutely necessary measures must be indefinitely postponed, or not considered at all, until some, at least, of those extravagant and unnecessary obligations have been discharged. Clearly, then, the people have nothing whatever to expect in the way of progress or improvement from the men who now usurp the offices of State.

It is fortunate for the colony, and especially so for her hardy and industrious fishing population, that Sir William Whiteway has re-entered the political arena and offered to unfold the banner of progress, prosperity and plenty once more. Without such a leader—such an experienced and prudent statesman to take the lead at this unhappy period in our colonial history, we should be of all people the most miserable. His presence, however, at the head of the patriotic party now getting ready to "rally round" the standard of reform and retrenchment, which will shortly be "nailed to the political mast," allays public anxiety and assures us of brighter prospects and happier days in the not very distant future.

It should be clearly understood at once that the present movement in the direction of clean Government is intended to be "a popular movement" in every sense of the term. The leaders thereof, almost without exception, are men of means and intelligence. Indeed, with respect to some of them, we are in a position to know that they are mainly actuated by one desire, namely: to do the greatest amount of good possible to the largest number of their fellow-countrymen. In view of this very important circumstance—this assurance of unselfishness on the part of Sir William Whiteway and his friends—is it not, we ask, the duty of THE PEOPLE to sympathize with, and give a hearty support to, the Opposition in their efforts to cleanse and purify our political institutions? Certainly it is, and we believe all classes of the population will warmly respond to the call of Sir William Whiteway, and follow him, enthusiastically, until victory has been achieved and the affairs of poor old Newfoundland are restored to a normal condition of prosperity. Now, then, let us shake off the fetters of denominational and party restraint and rise to the dignity of perfect manhood in this respect—let us be free in thought and free in action.

Who are the foes?  
They who have scorn'd the tyrant and his rod,  
And bow'd in worship unto none but God;  
They who have made the conqueror's glory dim—  
Unchain'd in soul, though manacled in limb—  
Unward'd by prejudice—sunaw'd by wrong;  
Friends to the weak, and fearless of the strong.  
They who could change not with the changing hour,  
The self-same men in peril and in power;  
True to the law of right, as warmly prone  
To grant another's as maintain their own;  
Foes of oppression whosoever he be—  
These are the proudly free.

It is not true, as stated by the *Mercury* on Wednesday, that "the Government is strong in the House, as well as in the confidence of the country." We admit that they are more numerous than the Opposition. But that doesn't count for much in the opinion of intelligent people, particularly when it is generally understood that more than two-thirds of those who occupy the Government benches are empty-headed office-seekers, who know no more about the science of politics or political economy than

the lighthouse keeper at Cape Ray does about the pandects of Justinian. Then, as regards "the confidence reposed in them by the country." Surely that assertion must be intended only as a joke. At all events, the opinion prevails everywhere that no district in the country would, if appealed to by the Government to-morrow, return a candidate pledged to support the policy of the Thorburn Administration.

On the other hand, the Opposition in the Assembly, though numerically weak, are rendered invincible through the powerful public sentiment by which they are sustained outside. It is obvious, then, that the next general election—no matter what time it occurs—will scourge the present unfaithful and dishonest public stewards from office and put in their places men worthy of the people's respect and confidence.

**OUR SENATORS IN SESSION.**

**Dull and Lifeless Proceedings**

NOTHING could be imagined more dull and lifeless than the proceedings in the Assembly on Thursday during the discussion on the motion for an address in reply to the Governor's speech. It is safe to say that not in the wide world, since representative government has been enjoyed by man, has any popular body of the kind, in commencing its deliberations, exhibited so tame and sorry a spectacle, one so utterly devoid of interest or feeling. In one of Anderson's fairy tales there is a story of an adventurous youth entering the richly cultivated grounds and gardens of a palace, led by curiosity to examine the beautiful place; but, as he went, no living being interrupted him. He passed through shady avenues, and by parterres of flowers, but not a soul challenged his progress. Astonished, he made his way to the grand entrance of the mansion; guards stood there, but they were asleep at their posts; up the magnificent staircase he continued his way till he entered the great banquetting chamber; it was filled with guests, but all were wrapped in deep repose. This appeared to be the state of the House of Assembly on Thursday, so quiescent was everything; its tenants were not asleep, but they acted like men in sleep—they were dumb, and some of them yawned outright. Mr. LeMessurier and Mr. Kane, the mover and seconder of the address in reply, had it in their power to throw some life into the proceedings, but the prevailing stagnation was too much for them—everyone was jaded. The atmosphere oppressed the spirits of even the doorkeepers; and Mr. Sheppard and Captain John Hally, usually so jolly in welcoming old-time friends, positively took the tickets held out to them by the invited ones, with sighs and groans and lamentations over the departed "good old times." Yet the Government leaders need not have lost heart so completely. They might have seen Mr. P. J. Scott, the leader of the renegade Liberals, and Mr. Receiver General Donnelly in confidential confab, and inferred that their weakening cohorts could receive accessions when "wanted" from the opposite side. Mr. Scott made a speech afterwards against the Government. How absurd! It was the result of a private understanding between him and the Receiver General. No wonder that the Attorney General Winter's face wore a Mephistophelean smile, a sneering expression toward the faithful four—the real Opposition—as Mr. Scott proceeded. "He knew his men," and their price.

As on the first occasion, the singing of the national anthem brought a most pleasant evening to a loyal conclusion, and the audience dispersed to their homes, thoroughly satisfied, to look forward with longing to the Easter holidays, when it is hoped another pleasant evening is in store for them.

The proceeds of these entertainments go towards the Church Building Fund. Thanking you for your space, I am, yours, &c.

ONE WHO WAS PRESENT.  
Bay-de-Verde, Feb. 13, 1888.

**FROM HARBOR GRACE.**

**Sad Failure of the Permissive Bill.**

DEAR SIR,—It was with great interest I perused the several communications that have lately appeared in your columns relative to prohibition. I do not think that "high license" will have any better effect in eradicating the evil of intemperance, than has the Permissive Bill. I look upon total prohibition as the only means by which the subject can be successfully handled. Just as long as liquor is imported, as long will it be sold in the same quantity as at present. What has been the effect of the Permissive Bill where adopted? Take, for instance, this town of Harbor Grace and what will you find? Why, that there are at least double the number of liquor retailers to what there were before the adoption of the act, and these pursue their traffic under the very eyes of the law; the police seem powerless or disinclined (the more likely of the two) to act in the matter. Drunkenness now has increased in a like proportion.

Young men are permitted to continue their orgies through the night in these shebeens, and furnished with beds during the day in which to sleep off their debaucheries. In licensed houses this would not be permitted, as it was found better to obey the law in the matter. "High license" will have the same or perhaps a worse effect, because with it the drunkenness and debauchery of the shebeen will take advantage of privileges accorded the richer licensed retailer to throw off the little appearance of disguise and stealth they now assume and come forth under the very light of day. Let us have nothing short of prohibition, because less than it will not have the desired effect. The Rev. Mr. Boyd's letter in your columns of the 14th inst., ably proves that such is the case. Yours very truly,  
Harbor Grace, Feb. 16, '88. ALPHA.

**MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY SERVICE.**

THE annual sermons in connection with the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, west circuit, will be preached to-morrow at 11 o'clock in George Street Church by the Rev. John Pratt, of Cupids, and at 6.30 p.m. by Rev. T. Hodgkinson, of the Congregational Church. Anthems will be sung by the choir on both occasions.

At 11 a.m., Rev. George Boyd will preach at the Alexander Street Church, and Rev. John Pratt at half-past six o'clock.

On Tuesday evening, at 7.30, the annual meeting will be held at George Street Church, when addresses will be delivered by several ministers and lay men. Collections at all these services, in aid of the funds of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church.

Messrs. BOWINGS' sealing steamer *Kite* will again try what fortune there is in the Gulf fishery this spring, and will sail for Chancel, where she will clear out about the 5th prox. She will be commanded by Captain Ash. Their other two steamers, the *Eagle* and the *Falcon*, will conduct the voyage off the northern coast. The former will be under the command of Captain Arthur Jackman, and the latter under that of Captain William Kne. The *Eagle* will take about 350 of a crew; the *Falcon*, 330; and the *Kite* 100—a total of 780 men.

The Dundee sealing steamer *Polynia* is now due here.

**FROM BAY DE VERDE.**

**Rev. Wm. How and His Friends.**

**NOT QUITE OUT OF THE FASHION.**

DEAR SIR,—As I often see in your widely-read paper reports of various entertainments, I venture to ask for a little space, to let the world know that even here at Bay de Verde we are not quite out of the fashion.

Outdoors are generally very dull during the winter. And these hard times this dullness prevails even at the glad Christmas season. So this year the Rev. W. How resolved to attempt to get up at least one evening's amusement for the Christmas week. Nothing of the kind had before been attempted as far as I can ascertain. Consequently much curiosity was aroused and when (after two postponements, caused by deaths in the community) at last the day (Monday, Jan. 9th) arrived, and the Church of England School-room was crowded with an expectant audience. The programme consisted of recitations and simple dialogues, given by the school-children; songs by Mrs. How, Miss How, and the Rev. W. How; and, last but not least, the energetic school-master, Mr. W. House, gave a couple of humorous recitations in the Irish brogue. It was so evident that this first attempt had been successful that the reverend chairman announced that he hoped another entertainment would be given before Lent.

This hope was fulfilled on Thursday last, 9th inst., and again success rewarded our efforts. The room was filled again, and for exactly two hours the audience were kept thoroughly amused. Songs, glees and dialogues were all received with great applause, and the climax was reached when "Brudder Bones," Sambo, and Mr. Jonsing, appeared upon the stage in capital costumes and gave an account of their travels, courtships, &c., to the intense delight of their audience.

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**THE 'MERCURY' AND THE DEBATES.**

**Neglect or Incompetency Somewhere.**

DEAR SIR,—I was surprised and disgusted when I took up the *Mercury* of last evening and found that the proceedings of the House of Assembly on the opening day were not published. Now, who is to blame? Is it Mr. Walsh, the supervisor, or the owners of the *Mercury*? I find the page of the *Mercury* where one would naturally look for the debates of the House filled up with such extracts as "The Wheels Stopped by Fish," "How to Judge Canned Goods," "Admission by Ticket to the House of Assembly," "The Speech from the Throne," &c. Now, as this is the beginning of the session, I would wish to tell Mr. Thos. Walsh that it is my intention to watch him very closely this session, and also the *Mercury* man, to see who is to blame for having reports hashed up when they are a week old. The reason the *Mercury* people are paid the enormous sum they receive for publishing the debates is that they may be immediately before the public, so as the public may take action on the matter debated. Every citizen has not time to go and sit in the House. If it was not for this reason it would be just as well to give it to the *Advocate* and have the March debates published in July. It is simply ridiculous to say that the few words spoken by Mr. Henry LeMessurier and Mr. Abraham Kean on the opening of the House are not yet in print. If the *Mercury* can't do the work, there are other papers who will, and for less money. If Mr. Walsh is too busy to revise, let some person else be appointed.

Yours truly,  
A MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY.  
St. John's, Feb. 18th, 1888.

**LOCAL VARIETIES.**

MAILS per Newfoundland close at eleven o'clock on Monday night.

The coastal boat *Curlew*, Captain Delaney, went west this morning with passengers, mails and freight.

OUR third page to-day contains the Hon. George Rendell's speech in the Legislative Council on Thursday last.

THE concluding part of Rev. T. Hodgkinson's lecture on "Public Speaking" is unavoidably held over till Monday.

THE Parade Rink was thronged with skaters last evening, a specially fine programme of music being the drawing attraction. The ice was smooth as glass.

A MAN named Tilly fell from a stairway near the machinery in Mr. Harvey's bakery on Thursday, and striking against some gearing in motion, broke his collar-bone.

THE T. A. Dramatic Company desire to acknowledge the kindness of Prof. Bennett in allowing his String Band gratuitously at the entertainment for the night school.

THE T. A. & B. Society's Reading Room and Library Committee thankfully acknowledge the receipt of a donation of sixteen dollars from Messrs. Brien Brothers, Burin.

It will be observed from the names on the following list that the entertainment next Monday evening cannot fail of being a great success. All the favorites will be heard—a cluster of those who are sweetest and brightest in our firmament of melody. Here are the names of each bright particular star—Mrs. O'Dwyer, Mrs. Bradshaw, Misses Fisher, Jardine, Vigners, Murphy, Foran, Colonel Fawcett, Mr. W. Rennie, Dr. H. Rendell, Mr. Corner.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES.**

SUNDAY, Feb. 19.  
GOWER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. Parkins; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. Boyd.  
COCHRANE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A.; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. Parkins.  
GEORGE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. John Pratt; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson.  
ALEXANDER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. G. Boyd; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. John Pratt.  
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and at 6.30 P.M., Rev. W. Graham.  
QUEEN'S ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. Boyd.  
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.

**BIRTH.**

On the 14th instant, the wife of H. T. Tapper, of a daughter.

**DIED.**

Lost at sea, on George's Bank, in December, Captain James Rossiter, of the schooner "T. W. Parsons," a native of St. John's, Nfld.  
At Little Bay, on Monday, 13th instant, Robert F. Malcolm, of St. John's, aged 29 years; leaving a wife and four children to mourn their sad loss.

**SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.**

ENTERED.  
18—Seretha, Harvey, Paraisa, 25 days, P & L Essler—ballast. Ethel, Sopp, New York, 11 days, Job, Bros & Co.—1716 bris, 1575 sacks flour, 20 cases paint, 28 bris beer, 25 bris beef, 87 bris pork, 20 bris syrup, 50 bris sugar, 12 bales leather.  
Mayflower, Cross, Pernambuco, 34 days, E Duder—ballast. Mary E Bliss, Fanning, Halifax, 17 days, J & W Pitts—87 bales hay, 72 qtrs, 2 casks beef, 312 pces deal, 4 bris beef.

**LOADING.**

Feb. 14—Stonehouse, West Indies, Job, Bros & Co  
15—Rosa Meek, Britain, A Goodridge & Sons,  
16—Ariel, Brazil, Bowring Bros.  
18—St Joseph, Brazil, P & L Essler.

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