THE WATCHMAN.

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The Watchman.

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CIVIC TAXATION: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSESSORS.

There is little doubt of the correctness of the assertion we are about to make, namely, that the system, or rather want of system, on which our Civic taxation is levied is one of the worst in the world. All classes of tax-payers agree in condemning it; the representatives of every form of property are dissatisfied; and the sums realized—should we not say extorted?—in many individual cases, seem to be simply monstrous. In our present remarks we shall not go into figures or offer statistics to prove the correctness of our general propositions: these, we engage to supply in future articles. We desire to place on record our belief that so great are the wrongs and unfairness to which large bodies of citizens have sullenly submitted that they cannot be expected much longer to bear the strain that has been put upon them. We desire also to show at least one of the causes of the present system being lax, wrongful and in every sense improper.

A fair valuation of property and income necessarily forms the basis of the whole scheme of taxation. If the valuation is wrong, the mischief is carried through all the departments of taxation,—the City Taxes, the County Taxes, School Taxes, Hospital Taxes, and all the other services. If the valuation is correct, it is difficult, in adhering to a special system, to go wrong elsewhere. If the valuation is wrong everything must be wrong.

Now, it is very evident that the machinery for ascertaining values is meagre, and as imperfect as meagre. The Assessors, who are supposed to know all about such matters, know very little about them. Years of constant, close, unremitting investigation would be needed—in a large city to reach a proper estimate of values, but so far from there being any provision for a tolerably permanent Board of Assessors, these are liable to be changed from year to year at the whim of the Common Council. They should be men who are selected because of their extensive local knowledge and their aptitude in such matters, but they are really fixed upon because they canvass Councilmen for the office, and by hard work and log-rolling get a majority of the Council in their favor. Having obtained the office, they are largely dependent on others for the information on which they base their apportionment, they, personally, giving but a small portion of their time to duties fitted to tax to the utmost the time and energies of the hardest workers. To a very large extent, they depend upon the statements submitted of house to house visitation by the Street Commissioners; and the amount of really valuable information that any Street Commissioner will supply to the city on this intricate subject for the pittance of from $60 to $80, each of our readers can judge of for himself. Doubtless, our Assessors imagine they are overworked—perhaps they are, for the remuneration they receive; but that they either undertake or perform the whole duty of Assessors, that they devote to this service the time, the energy, the research, which ought to be given, that justice may be done between man and man, not fifty citizens of St. John are simple enough to believe. The list of tax-payers, if published, with each man's property or income stated as valued by the Assessors, would probably be found one of the most unequal and incorrect records ever prepared or treated as genuine. Whenever glimpses of it have been obtained, this has been found true of it. As to its results, as made apparent from day to day, they are unjust and unfair in every sense in which the terms can be employed. We have known instances in which they were scandalously so, and if rectification were sought by a fair statement of property or income, the complainant would probably find himself still more heavily mulcted. When we find real estate exclaiming against the system, and income declaring at the same time that it is taxed beyond all endurance, and, when we know the aggregate of the taxes is not a serious matter and that the aggregate of property and income is very large indeed, we may fairly come to the conclusion that there is unequal distribution, even if the proof of this fact was not as abundant as it seems. Were the moderate total of taxation distributed fairly, on a proper valuation, over the taxable property and incomes of the City, there would be much less of just complaint than there is. For this form of injustice, the Assessors, and those who give them a petty remuneration for important service are to blame. But there remains much injustice which can not be remedied by any Board of Assessors as long as the existing proportions of the division of taxation between real and personal estate and income are maintained, as this division is responsible for much that is harsh and oppressive in our Civic taxation. On this branch of the subject we shall not enter at present, preferring that our readers should not have their attention diverted from the share of the responsibility which fairly belongs to the Assessors. We are aware that our City Assessors have been accustomed to regard themselves as much abused men, as most deserving persons filling a thankless office. It is not a little singular that they do not succeed in convincing even men of sound judgment and the most reasonable dispositions, that the results of their distribution of the taxation are "just and true"—for if these officials could so persuade those who complain, or even a moderate proportion of them, they would not regard themselves as martyrs to civic ingratitude. Without desiring to say anything unduly harsh, or to reflect on any one Board, we, nevertheless, feel constrained to hold that it is no great grievance that the three Assessors should suffer when many hundreds, if not some thousands, are constantly living under the belief that they are contributing an undue proportion of the civic revenues, and knowing from actual experience that their tax afflictions are really heavier than they can bear. In fine, we do not believe the Assessors are one whit less blameable than the majority of ratepayers think them.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE CRAFT.

The season in which a new craft is launched on the waves of journalism is generally fruitful of compliments to the new comer. As a rule, it is told that it is quite good looking, and gives promise of future usefulness, and is sure to be well supported, especially if handled with the vigor that characterized its dash into its native element,—all of which might be said about most new enterprises of the kind without over-stepping the bounds of truth to any great extent. The welcome extended to THE WATCHMAN, however, appears not to be wholly of this stamp. Though, of course, not *minus* the garnish of lavish compliments we note as a feature of these notices, worthy of mention, that the extracts quoted elsewhere are, with two or three exceptions, from journals which publish the Government advertising and rank with many as "Government papers." That is to say, THE WATCHMAN, whose opening number indicated a line of stiff opposition to our Dominion rulers, is warmly welcomed to the field by a host of journals which have passed, most unjustly, for Government spokesmen or organs,—special mention being made in most instances of the politics of THE WATCHMAN, and never with disapproval. This fact alone will help our readers to form an idea of the strong undercurrent of opposition to the so called Reform Government which has set in, and it ought to do away with the very erroneous impression that prevails in some quarters, namely, that because a newspaper accepts the Government advertising it must wear the Government collar and publish only such matter as pleases the Government. It is greatly to the credit of the Press of the Maritime Provinces that it is to a very large extent independent, and that where the public interests clash with the Goverment's interests, the former claim and receive its allegiance. As a rule Governments are not opposed by the Maritime Press simply for the sake of opposition; so, also, they are not supported merely because some politician or ring desires to have a Government strengthened. We notice, in this connexion, that the Moncton *Times* would have been better pleased if THE WATCHMAN had announced itself simply as an independent journal, not specially committed to fighting the battles of either the Government or Opposition. To which we reply that the fact of a newspaper holding, strongly, to Opposition principles need not prevent it from doing justice to the measures and acts of a Government. In fact, it can best serve its Party by giving its opponents due credit for measures really deserving of public approval. Moreover, the journal which proclaims independence of all parties may frequently be found either an unfair critic of a Government or a dangerous ally of an Opposition, according to the ability and honesty of the Editor commanding. After a calm survey of the political field in this part of the Dominion it seems to us that the public good would be promoted by a somewhat more definite understanding between the Press and the People in regard to the merits of the present Dominion Government, the character of many of its measures and the truckling to sectional interests recently witnessed in that quarter. Whether this can be brought about more effectually by an "Independent" press than by a "Party" press, is an open question. We trust that both classes of journals can be utilized to that end, and we have the more confidence that such a result will follow from the fact that the Independent journals are extending to a pronounced Opposition paper such a greeting as seems to warrant the opinion that we are really all laborers in the same good cause.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

YOUTHFUL ROWDIES AND THE CRACKER NUISANCE.—Several correspondents write us, saying they can testify "feelingly" to the truthfulness of our editorial remarks of last week in reference to the inefficiency of the Police Department, especially regarding the petty annoyances to which youthful rowdies subject quiet, well disposed citizens. Others complain of the cracker nuisance, a practice against which a stringent civic ordinance has been directed, but the latter, it seems, is inoperative. The Police ought to be able to abate the nuisance, and we hope they will give the matter some attention. It is not to be expected that the Police unaided can suppress the evil. A good deal can be done by fathers and mothers, who too frequently wink at the shortcomings, or, rather, excesses of their juveniles, where crackers and similar amusements are in question. It might be asked, for instance, where the money comes from that buys the crackers, if not from the pocket of *your familiar!* The Police can do a good deal—with the assistance of the heads of families; but their labor will be up-hill work if they have to contend against the moral support which too many parents give their children in this particular. The fact, however, that parents neglect their children furnishes no excuse for the Police overlooking a distinct violation of a civic ordinance.

THE EIGHT DOLLAR MONDAY MORNING FINE for Sunday drinking which our worthy Police Magistrate imposes, is one the justice of which may well be questioned. Mr. Gilbert has some old-fashioned notions of English fair play which come in very well at times to temper the rigid administration of the laws as laid down in the Statute books, but this eight dollar fine is not their offspring. If the fine fell in all cases on the man who is fined, he being able to pay, there could be no reasonable complaint made against marking in some striking manner the Sabbath violation of our laws. But the truth is that in very many cases it falls on some poor, hard-working mother, or some father already pecuniarily pinched, or some sister who teaches or lives by her needle, or other relatives or friends who can ill spare the money. Supposing that the "criminal" really pays it, it is clear that it would be much better to expend the extra sum in his family than pay it into the Police Fund, especially as the extra fine does not appear to have any deterrent effect. On the whole, we regard the eight dollar fine as a failure, both as to its effect on Sunday drunkenness and the party who suffers from it, and we would hope that the Police Magistrate, animated, as he always seems to be, by a desire to do justice even to the meanest arraigned before him, will reconsider his decision to impose this fine.

SERVANTS' THIEVING.—The *Telegraph* of Tuesday, referring to "The Case of Jane Davidson," says:—"The modest appearance of this young "woman in the Police Court yesterday; the nature "of the single offence committed by her and apparently acknowledged with deep penitence, and "the manner in which she cast herself on the Court, "all combined to create a warm feeling in her "favor. The sentence of *twelve months' imprisonment and hard labor*, under the circumstances, was "a great surprise to the spectators. The Police "Magistrate is noted for his humanity and uprightness, and he may have reasons unknown to outsiders for pronouncing so severe a sentence. The "case is one, however, which in the case of this "friendless and apparently comparatively respectable girl, would seem to demand some consideration and inquiry." It is not surprising that under the circumstances attending this girl's confession of theft from her employers, there should be some sympathy shown by "the spectators," but it too frequently happens that spectators, carried away by their sympathies, are the very worst judges of the proper punishment to be awarded in cases of this description. The girl's offence appears to have been a most aggravated one, and it was continuous and inexcusable. It belonged, also, to a class which is very common in households, an evil that appears to be steadily increasing, and that must, sooner or later, destroy all confidence between mistress and servant, if it can not be checked. The petty stealings which have been going on in families in our city would present a remarkable aggregate if they could be collected.

THE CHARGE OF CHIEF JUSTICE RITCHIE at the opening of the Circuit Court on Tuesday last, was a magnificent effort, deriving more than ordinary interest for another reason, namely, that it was in all probability the last charge which the Chief Justice will deliver to a St. John Grand Jury. Unless the signs all fail, Judge Ritchie will be called to take a seat in the Court of Appeal, and bidding good-bye to New Brunswick, will make Ottawa his home for the future. His Honor's "last charge" will therefore be remembered for this, if for no other reason, but all who heard it will recall it as one of the most timely, most fearless and most powerful addresses ever delivered to the Grand Inquest of any County. The Chief described in fitting terms the series of outrages against law to which allusion was made in THE WATCHMAN's review of the management of the Police Establishment, last week, and characterized them as they deserved. He then reviewed the evidences of Police inefficiency as they appeared on the surface, and urged the Grand Jury to enquire into the McGinnis and Rogers affairs with a view of ascertaining whether and to what extent the Police had failed in their duty. His Honor next adverted to the importance of accessories, either before or after the fact, understanding their exact position under the laws and the severe penalties they incurred in aiding grave offenders; and concluded by dealing with the labor question, so far as related to the right claimed by some to prevent others from engaging in any occupation they saw fit to enter upon. His Honor's clear exposition of the laws; the fearless manner in which he asserted the determination of the judicial authorities to interpret and vindicate the laws, without fear, favor or affection; the complete and earnest support which he extended to Mayor Smith for the measures taken by him to guard against any possible emergency that might might arise out of the Labor difficulties of the port, gave universal satisfaction. As a rule, charges to Grand Juries are tame affairs, there being about them a certain resemblance and repetition that divest them of anything approaching novelty or originality. But this charge of our retiring Chief Justice was at once original and comprehensive. It contained much that the condition of society in our City called for, and it was delivered in a manner that deeply impressed all who heard it. It was at once a credit to the head and heart of the Chief Justice and a fitting memento of His Honor's last St. John Circuit.

MONCTON LETTER.

Obadiah Tells of the on goings in the Railway Centre, and Promises something Political at another Time.

(SPECIAL TO THE WATCHMAN.)

MONCTON, April 12.

FRIEND WATCHMAN:—We are truly glad to welcome thee to our unincorporated town and to promise thee moderately good support, both because of thy typographical look, for which thy printers are entitled to extreme credit, thy sound political sentiments, which be those of a good many excellent people in these parts, thy general readableness, which doth put me much in mind of some excellent periodicals in more populous cities where the inhabitants be numbered by the hundred thousand. So long as thee looks and acts so well as thee has indicated in thy numbers one and two, thee will not fail of excellent good patronage.

As it may please thee to hear from our much unincorporated town, I take my pen in hand to tell thee of a few things, a very few happenings, in order to establish a point of departure for the correspondence to which thee has invited thy unworthy servant. Mayhap it may please thy readers to hear that in matters of the education of the youth of this sprightly place, there be now visible signs of improvement. Formerly we had but two trustees of schools; now, thee will be glad to hear, we have three, there having recently been added to the ancient two a third member who is not apt to be led by the nasal organ by his pious associates—to wit, one Harris, Christian-named Christopher. One Jenkins hath been brought in as head master of our most expensive school building, and hath proceeded with the grading of the students, and the teachers have arranged and located the teachers. No public works, as thee knows, are proceeding in this place, all expenditures having been stopped since the advent of thy economical Reform Government, save only and except the small amount of labor in the work-shops connected with the change of gauge. As for the Wet Dock, we hear nothing of it now, and will thee believe it?—'tis reported among the ungodly and the Philistines that the Government Engineering Staff in New Brunswick is most unfriendly to this useful work.

Thee has probably heard of the rival schemes for the good government of this Town, such as the design of Thaddeus and Charles A. to incorporate us and compel us to rule ourselves; likewise, the scheme to place us under a Stipendiary Magistrate? Now, take the word of thy friend, the subscriber, that neither of these schemes will carry,—these good people will not incorporate themselves, nor will they submit themselves to any Stipendiary, but will just stay as they at present are and have none of thy new fangled notions fixed to their necks. But if thee thinks we do not progress satisfactorily in government matters, let me assure thee that at least religiously we are well situated. Our good friends of the Baptist persuasion have just engaged a worthy preacher, one Thomas Todd, and the Presbyterian body are delighted with their new pastor, one Reverend Hogg, and their improved Church. The Reformed Episcopals have a worthy pastor, just now absent in Chicago; and the other Episcopal minister, having announced from his pulpit, three months now gone, his betrothal to a member of his congregation, is expected shortly to pass into the ranks of the Benedicts.

Thee will be surprised to hear that there are several good houses in Moncton untenanted, but not to hear that thy friend Barrett Lutz has just completed a fine residence, and thy other friend Thaddeus is about to build a handsome edifice on the "lot of Tilley," so called, the plans whereof have been under preparation by one John McKean, of thy city. That friend Amassa is comfortably installed in the Chandler property "over the creek," and that Mr. E. B. Chandler and family are removed to the Mansard House, Petitcodiac, the junction for the Elgin Branch Railway, which good Mr. Burpee is not to build. That Stephen has been giving publicity to interesting calculations as to the probable comparative attendance at his good father's funeral and A. J. Smith's funeral, and that, balancing all the influences and motives that would lead the people of the county to attend either or both,—as regards personal esteem, "policy," "policy," mortgages, mortgages, etc., etc.,—the wicked Stephen hath come to the conclusion that it is very doubtful which will have the largest attendance on that cheerful day, but candidly admits that there is more room on Mr. Smith's grounds "for the procession to form." It may interest thee to know that on the 24th May, the Birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty, there will be very exciting events in this town, to wit: in the day time there will happen a grand foot race between one Henderson a printer,—a lean lad but verily an active one, who has worked some time in the office of Thaddeus,—and one Harmon, from the border line of Yankee-land,—a means, believe me, of causing much sinful betting and much patronizing of drug shops and other bar-rooms. At night there will be what the profane do term a "Fancy Dress Ball," whatever that may mean, an expedient for wicked caricaturing of good people, such as this religious town never saw the like of before. Doubtless these matters will interest thy readers who, I do notice, expect to have the Hero of Niagara observing the holiday by walking a tight-rope in the Square of thy King. I do recollect at one time of seeing thy Hero in thy Academy of Music led out to be executed, as was believed, unlawfully, and did, for my own part, regret at that time that the mistake was discovered, so deserving of death did thy Hero then appear in mine eyes, which, however, were not used to looking much upon the profane on-goings of the Drama as manipulated in these latter days.

To send to thee anything political on this occasion I venture not, beyond the mild acknowledgment of thy sound political principles, which I essayed at the outset; but on future occasions thee may expect to hear from me, if Brother Luttrell, who has undertaken to govern this town in case we fail to corporate, will permit.

Thine till next,

OBADIAH.

P. S.—Thy esteemed friend, good Bro. Outhouse, is about to pass the Rubicon. O.

LETTER FROM FREDERICTON.

"The Watchman" the Paper for the Country—Axe-Grinding Representatives in Parliament—Why the Bay Verte Canal is delayed—Possible Reconstruction of the Local Government—The Postmastership and the Ordnance Lands.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

FREDERICTON, May 10.

DEAR WATCHMAN: Your appearance has been greeted in no quarter with greater pleasure than in the capital of the Province, notwithstanding the rubs you gave us in the opening number. The Queen's Printers say the WATCHMAN is the most handsomely printed paper in the Dominion, as far as known, and we all concur in this judgment. Indeed, the statement can not be controverted,—and I profess to know something on such subjects. There has been a general call for a paper that will speak right out on political questions, as, from the glimpse we occasionally obtain of the rule of the Reform Party, a good many are anxious to learn exactly how completely the "Organized Hypocrisy" is fulfilling its mission of proving itself one of the most inefficient and unpatriotic Parties that ever undertook to govern a great country. As the WATCHMAN can help us to an understanding of this business, we all the more gladly hail its presence in the political field.

The growing discontent in the River Counties shows that the time is not far distant when the Press will be obliged to take up a different position in regard to our rulers from what it has recently assumed. There is a feeling that there is a little too much of "the Ring" in our Dominion politics, so far as River interests are concerned, and there is also the belief that in the Cabinet at Ottawa the "one man power" is all influential, the Cabinet being completely cowed by the iron will and force of character of Premier Mackenzie. There can be little doubt, I think, that as long as men remain in the Government to serve their own or their friends' worldly aims, such men can be of no service to the Provinces they represent. Thus, if A or B in the Cabinet are busy grinding axes for themselves or their Ring friends, they can not be expected to stand up against Mackenzie and Ontario influences on questions where their personal interests may be endangered by acting against the Premier's schemes. There is a strong feeling that there are too many axes being ground, and too little of independent judgment exercised on matters in which the whole Dominion, and especially the Maritime Provinces, have a deep interest. Take your Bay Verte Canal project as a case in point. The impression comes to me from a well informed quarter that certain parties in N. B. are well content not to let it stand over for a few years, or until their friends, who are contractors, get through with jobs now on hand, when there will be "a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together" that will probably carry the scheme and its six or eight million contract through Parliament. The M. P. for the next County, Sunbury, who was the first to broach the question years ago in Parliament, is not now as warm for the scheme as he was then, and the reason is said to be found in the explanation just suggested.

The knowing ones, who discuss local politics quietly but with "assured confidence," some months ago seemed to say that they felt in their bones that a change was coming in the composition of our Local Government. Now they say, in their quiet, firm way, that re-construction is certain before next session; and they reason very plausibly. They state, for instance, that it is a most unusual thing for the country to go through a General Election without the Government recognizing the voice of the people by taking into its ranks some of those men in whom the country has signified its confidence,—that is, men at the time outside of the Government ranks. And that it would be a wholly unprecedented course for a Government to hesitate to make a change in its personnel under the circumstances of the last General Election, the result of which was quite remarkable. The most marked feature of the Election of last year was the extraordinary manner in which the *policy*, not the *personel*, of the Government was sustained. The next most marked result was the large number of new members returned, a list of whom I here give you.

In Restigouche, Mr. McKenzie.

In Gloucester, Mr. Burns.

In Northumberland, Messrs. Davidson, Swim and Tweedie.

In Kent, Mr. Johnson.

In Westmoreland, Messrs. Smith and Pickard.

In Albert, Mr. Rogers.

In Kings, Messrs. McLeod and Flewelling.

In St. John, Messrs. Austin, Keans and Elder.

In Charlotte, Messrs. Murchie, McKay and Cotterell.

In Queens, Mr. Woods.

In Sunbury, Mr. Perley.

In York, Messrs. Barker and Dow.

In Carleton, Messrs. Jones and Leighton.

In Victoria, Mr. Beveridge.

You will observe that of the forty-one members of the present Assembly, *twenty-four* (including Mr. Elder, elected in March) are new men—leaving only seventeen of the old members remaining. Of the new hands, only Mr. Perley has been taken into the Government, a recognition of the "new blood" far below its deserving. It is clear, saw the knowing ones, that there must be further changes or the constituencies will not be satisfied. It is equally clear that unless some of the new men, sent to the Assembly by important constituencies and large popular votes,—men of talent and good executive abilities—are permitted to share in the honor and responsibility of conducting the public affairs of the Province, they will not rest content. Their ambition which is laudable and natural, is a fair subject for consideration, for if men were not ambitious to lead and govern, the country would be in a bad way. The claims of these constituencies and of these men will require to be met, to some extent, and the inference is that the Government, in which there are several gentlemen of more than ordinary ability, is giving its attention to this important subject. My own impression, gathered from quarters which had previously "foreshadowed" coming events, is that the next Session of the Assembly will open with a re-constructed Government.

Our Postmastership, as you know, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Thorne, a step which gives general satisfaction, although a few who believed they were very good friends of the Reform Government, are disappointed. There is a rumor that Mr. Thorne will be superannuated before a great while, and the allowance for his many years of service will be quite handsome. Mr. Thorne, being superannuated, report has it that Mr. John Pickard, M.P., will seek the appointment, and if he gets this along with some other equally good office he will do pretty well. There is no denying that Mr. Pickard is losing his popularity, certainly in Fredericton, and, I believe, in the County generally. The pretence of wishing to secure the Ordnance Lands for York County was a petty piece of bluff, set forth in murdered English, and altogether too weak to deceive anybody. It is clear that the lands were to be bagged for a song, though what share Mr. Pickard was to have had in the profits of the transaction has not been explained.

Yours,

NASHWAAK.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

ANOTHER PURIST GONE.

[From the London Free Press.]

One of the most remarkable electoral contests that has taken place under the new law has just been decided in favor of Mr. Hector Cameron (Liberal-Conservative), displacing Mr. McClennan, who has wrongfully held the seat. Both gentlemen hail from Toronto, and both belong to the legal profession. The first contest took place during the general election, in January, 1874, when Mr. McClennan was returned by a majority of four votes. Being of the "party of purity," it was but natural that he should be unseated for bribery, which event having duly transpired a new election was ordered. This took place in February last, when, after several contradictory reports, it was at last decided by the returning officers that Mr. McClennan was elected by a majority of seven votes. Mr. Hector Cameron, feeling that he had the majority of legal ballots with him, instituted proceedings in the Election Court, asking for a scrutiny, which having taken place he was declared to have been elected. It was now the turn of the Grits to allege bribery, seeing that their man had been turned out on the question of the legal majority, and the inquiry proceeded. Mr. Justice Wilson, in giving his decision on Tuesday, declared that Mr. Hector Cameron had been duly elected, and that he had not been guilty of corrupt practices. So Mr. Cameron now represents North Victoria, and another good man and true is added to the gradually increasing number of sound Liberal-Conservative members. It may be noted also that this is the third case within a few days in which the purists have turned out to be impure, and the so-called "corruptionists" have been held by the Courts to have been free from any blame. If things go on in this way much longer party nomenclature will have to undergo a change, for it will soon become absurd to speak of the Party of Purity, when it is being so palpably shown that its proceedings are a continued round of unsavory and sinful doing. No wonder that public confidence in its integrity has been thoroughly shaken, and that the country is now amazed at its credulity in having accepted the Grit estimate of their own worth at its nominal value.

SPELLING MATCHES.

[From the Toronto Mail.]

The Prince of Denmark, if we may credit Shakespeare, did not think the accomplishment of writing a good clerkly hand redounded much to the reputation of a person of distinction, though he admitted that a neatly executed piece of caligraphy once did him "yeoman's" service. Not a few people outside the select circle of "Princelings"—to adopt a word from a modern Poet Laureate—seem to hold fair handwriting in as much contempt as the histrionic Dane, as any number of editors and printers can testify; and this with less to plead in excuse than had the doughty old dons and squires of former days. Demand is the parent of supply, and *entre* a good biceps, a firm seat in a saddle, a frame inured to hard blows and a hard life generally, were more in request in the times of Cœur de Lion than skill in perpetrating or deciphering pot-hooks and hangers. * * * * But those days are past. The age of chivalry—chivalry of the old sort—has gone. The world has its knights still, but they present themselves in the guise of millionaires, cotton-spinners, coal-owners, and iron-makers, who have ceased to bestride Bucephalus, and ride quietly every morning to their counting house per 9 a. m. express, instead of following to the field warlike lords who, like Pat at Donnybrook, had a notion that the whole end of man was universal and perpetual scrimmage. The world now goes for *les belles lettres*, considers a good hand-writing rather a desirable accomplishment, looks for its laurels of victory and glory on spelling-match platforms, and pays out no end of money to teachers, pastors, and masters, to cram ingenious youth with scholastic stuff, "classical" and "commercial." Does the world get value for cash outlay? That's a question on which the present spelling match epidemic throws some light. Persons of a cynical turn, one fears, will say there must be a vast deal of unproductive expenditure somewhere. It would seem invidious to point to particular contests chronicled of late in our columns, in proof of this. So we will only say that such of our readers as may run their eye over the by no means formidable trisyllables and even disyllables which have proved themselves "beyond the guess" of adult members of our supposed educated classes, will have to admit that the Deloraines and Fronts de Bœuf were greater adepts in the only branch of knowledge to which they made profession, than their polyglot successors are in wrestling with vowels and consonants on the field of modern fight.

CONCERNING "THE WATCHMAN."

[From the Fredericton Head Quarters.]

We are in receipt of the first number of Mr. John Livingston's latest venture, the WATCHMAN, a new weekly paper to be issued in St. John. It is the handsomest paper in the Province, reflecting credit on its publishers, Messrs. McKillop & Johnston, and Mr. Livingston's experience in journalism will enable him to make it a very attractive paper. We notice that it criticizes some of the laws enforced in this city very sharply, but when the WATCHMAN finds time to investigate the statement which will be found in another column, it may possibly modify its views.

[From the St. Andrews Standard.]

The WATCHMAN, the latest production of newspaperdom, made its *debut* in St. John, on Saturday last. It is a large, well-filled and interesting sheet, neatly printed, and edited with that vigor and independence for which its editor and proprietor, Mr. Livingston, is favorably known. From the tone of its leader, it is apparent its editor is not satisfied with the present state of Dominion politics, and leans towards the Opposition, for which it gives reasons. The first issue is well worthy of preservation, as a matter of record. The paper is issued from the press of Messrs. McKillop & Johnston. Mr. Livingston retires from the *Telegraph*, and will devote his talents and experience in journalism to the WATCHMAN, to which we extend the hand of welcome, and wish it success.

[From the Moncton Times.]

MR. LIVINGSTON'S NEW PAPER.—We are in receipt of the first number of the WATCHMAN, a Saturday Evening Weekly, edited and published by John Livingston, Esq., the well-known newspaper man. The WATCHMAN is exceedingly well printed by Messrs. McKillop & Johnston, and the name of the Editor is sufficient to guarantee that it will be ably managed and interesting. The subscription price is $2,00 a year, prepaid, and as it is a large sheet and will discuss living issues in a fresh, lively and instructive manner, it ought to and undoubtedly will command a large sale. The first number commits the WATCHMAN irrevocably to opposition to the Dominion Government, in which respect it does not accord with our idea of the position a newspaper ought to occupy, as we have always held that the Press should be above Party and strictly independent. As, however, there are so many partizan papers on the Government side, it may not be detrimental to the public interests to have the opposition side strengthened somewhat, as a vigorous opposition is always recognized as necessary in this country to good government. Altogether we welcome the WATCHMAN to a place amongst the news distributors of the Province, and we heartly hope that our friend, the Editor and Proprietor, will meet with all the success he anticipates, and soon have the satisfaction of seeing the WATCHMAN firmly established in the confidence of the people whose interest it aims to serve.

[From the St. Croix Courier.]

THE WATCHMAN.—The first number of this new weekly paper was issued in St. John last Saturday. John Livingston, Esq., is Editor and Proprietor and its printers are Messrs. McKillop & Johnston. It is a large sized paper and presents a neat typographical appearance. It is well filled with interesting reading matter and we are glad to say will pursue an independent course politically, something very unusual at the present time, when so many papers in the Province seem to be afraid to speak out in the interests of truth and patriotism. It is well known that public sentiment in the Lower Provinces is opposed to the Dominion Government, and it is a sorry commentary on the independence of the press that so few of the papers are found representing the popular feeling. When a few Government advertisements succeed in securing the support of the press or in silencing its voice, then it ceases to be the guardian of popular rights and the palladium of public liberty. We are glad to see that the WATCHMAN starts on an independent basis and will hold itself ready to criticise the actions of public men in a fair and candid spirit. The initial number, in a well written and forcible article on the Political Situation, dwells at length upon the blundering and time-serving policy of the Government. The paper is well supplied with literary and news matter; it promises to mark out a course of its own and it is no respect to "follow the beaten track of provincial journalism." We cordially welcome the WATCHMAN as a new candidate for popular favor and wish it every success. It will be furnished to subscribers at $2 per annum post paid. Single numbers can be procured at Mr. Wall's Bookstore.

[From the Chignecto Post.]

THE WATCHMAN, Mr. John Livingston's new weekly paper, is a large and handsome paper. In politics it takes a decided and vigorous stand against the present Dominion Administration. It contains sketches of our leading politicians, "St. John in 1604," a review of Nordhoff's "Communistic Societies of the United States," and other editorial and literary matter. This number promises well, and we have no doubt Mr. Livingston will succeed in making his paper not only interesting and readable, but a powerful element in moulding and directing public opinion in the Maritime Provinces.

[From the Truro Sun.]

The first issue of the WATCHMAN, a handsome weekly from St. John, at $2 per annum, has reached our sanctum. In typographical appearance this new waif upon the troubled seas of public opinion is almost faultless, yet the publishers promise something better next issue. Mr. John Livingston's name, as Proprietor and Editor, is sufficient guarantee that his paper will be a real live newspaper and will meet the demand in our sister Province for a weekly of good healthy, moral tone. In politics the prospectus says; "Journals which do not hesitate to challenge the administration of public affairs by the present Dominion Government are few and far between in our Province," &c.—Good! The WATCHMAN is evidently sound on the goose, and we hope, fearlessly (without the cringing attitudinising of partizan journals or the straddling the rail propensities of the so called independant press) it may unearth the hidden inconsistency and monstrosities of our great party of Purity and Progress (?). We wish our contempory all success.

[From the Chatham Herald.]

Mr. John Livingston's new weekly paper, THE WATCHMAN, has made its first appearance. It is a 28 column sheet and very creditable to its printers, Messrs. McKillop & Johnston, of St. John. It is well filled with original and select articles and is intended to support the Opposition to the Dominion Government.

[From the Carleton Sentinel.]

THE WATCHMAN is the title of a large sized weekly paper, the initial number of which we have just received. It is published and edited by Mr. John Livingston, whose long experience in connection with the press of the Province is a guarantee that this new venture will not fail for lack of seasonable and interesting matter, while being a secular weekly it supplies a want possibly felt in St. John, where it is published. This first number is well printed and filled with readable matter. Price, $2 per annum post paid.

[From the Farmer.]

NEW PAPER.—THE WATCHMAN is the title of a new weekly paper that made its first appearance in St. John on Saturday the 1st inst. John Livingston, Esq., is Editor and Proprietor and Messrs. McKillop & Johnston, printers. It is well filled with interesting reading matter, and presents a very neat typographical appearance. The subscription price is $2.00 a year post paid. We wish the new venture every success.

[From the St. Lawrence Advance.]

THE WATCHMAN is the name of a new weekly paper published in St. John by John Livingston, Esq., the first number of which has reached us. It is a large sheet of four pages, well filled with editorial matter, correspondence, contributed articles and general news and is a decidedly interesting production. Its political bias is on the Opposition side in Dominion matters and it questions the policy of the Government from the time it succeeded that of Sir John Macdonald, in Mr. Livingston's usual vigorous and incisive style. Those who pay $2 a year (the subscription price for the WATCHMAN) will, no doubt, get the worth of their money.

[From the Religious Intelligencer.]

THE WATCHMAN is the name of a new weekly, which made its bow to the public last Saturday. To know that Mr. John Livingston is the proprietor and editor is to know that the paper will be fresh, lively and readable. McKillop & Johnston are the publishers, and they have done their work well. An article on "The Political Situation" is, to our mind, about right, containing statements and facts which the people will do well to ponder. Mr. Livingston intimates that he looks chiefly to St. John for support. Price $2 a year, four cents per single copy. We wish the new venture success.

[From Le Moniteur Acadien, Shediac.]

THE WATCHMAN.—Tel est le titre d'un nouveau Journal hebdomadaire publié à St. Jean par M. John Livington et dont le premier numéro a paru samedi dernier. Ce numéro prospectus est rempli de matières intéressantes et contient un *fac simile* de la charte du Hâvre de St. Jean, dessinée par Champlain en 1640, lors de la decouverte de la Rivière St. Jean. Le nouveau journal se déclare l'adversaire du gouvernement federal.

—A really great man is known by three signs—generosity in the design, humanity in the execution, moderation in success.—*Bismarck.*

THE GHOUL OF MONTPARNASSE.

Some years ago, there was a terrible uproar in the cemeteries of Paris. Armed guards patrolled them every night, endeavoring, in vain, to discover a mysterious being, always unseen, but whose passage left marks as fearful as they were extraordinary. The sanctity of the grave had been violated, and the bodies of the dead, strangely torn and disfigured, had been dragged some distance and left lying in the walks. Facts still more hideous, and which will not bear recital, filled with horror the keepers of the Cimetiere du Sud, on the mornings of the 15th November and 12th December. The most incredible rumors were circulated in Paris. The legend went on magnifying as it was repeated, until it was shudderingly whispered by knowing ones that the cemeteries were haunted by a vampire, who dug up the dead at night, and feasted upon their decaying flesh.

Everything that could be suggested to increase vigilance and render it effective was tried. Policemen were added to the guards, and savage dogs let loose in the cemeteries every night. The men saw nothing; the dogs did not bark. Yet, one morning, eleven bodies were found to have been exumed, cut to pieces, and scattered over a large area of ground, —pieces of flesh being even found hanging—hideous trophies—on the limbs of the trees. These monstrous doings now seemed confined to the Cimetiere Montparnasse. An infernal machine was then placed there,—a small mortar loaded with all sorts of projectiles, and to whose trigger numerous wires were connected, diverging in all directions. In the night of the 15th of March the machine was heard to explode; and, next day, it was ascertained that a Sergeant-Mayor of Infantry, named Francis Bertrand, had sought admittance into the Hospital of Val de Grace, having received some strange-looking wounds in the back. The vampire was caught.

Bertrand was tried by a military court. He bore a good name in his regiment, and was accounted a man of gentle disposition and an excellent soldier. He was not ignorant, having followed a course of studies in a seminary. Far from attempting to deny the charge brought against him, he confessed everything, with sincere candor and humility. When seized with his "frenzy," he said, he would escape from the barracks, and run to the cemetery, whose wall he would clear with one bound. He knew they had set up an infernal machine; he would run to it and kick it over without provoking an explosion. The dogs ran at him; but he marched upon them, and drove them away, cowed and silent. He had reached that inexplicable superhuman power, not uncommon in certain nervoso-mental affections. His strength passed all that can be imagined. With nothing but his hands he would dig the grave open, break the coffin, and tear to pieces the corpse, which he sometimes also hacked with his sword. Was this all? No, but there are acts so atrocious that the pen refuses to portray them.

This demoniac,—for he seemed more like a man possessed of an evil spirit, at certain hours, than a man having rational spells,—after committing these unaccountable atrocities, would hasten away from the place he had desecrated, and, seeking shelter anywhere, in a ditch, on the margin of a river, exposed to the rain or the snow, fall into a cataleptic sleep, during which he retained the consciousness of what was going on around him. After these fits he felt "worn and bruised for several days." He was a monomaniac, obeying an irresistible impulse, and suffering, very likely, from farval epilepsy.

The court sentenced him to one year's imprisonment,—the maximum of the penalty provided by the penal code.

Bertrand, the Ghoul, is still alive; he is now perfectly cured of his hideous disease, and is cited as a model of gentleness, propriety, and behavior.—

—Gen. John F. Miller, of San Francisco, recently has been relieved of an ounce ball which had entered his eye—at Liberty Gap, Tenn., July 24, 1863. It was taken from behind the eye-ball.

—A country newspaper out West thus heads its report of a fire: "Feast of the Fire Fiend—The Fork Tongued Demon Licks with its Lurid Breath a Lumber Pile!—Are the Scenes of Boston and Chicago to be Repeated? Loss $150."

—It is suggested that for purposes of identification (of criminals), it is only necessary to get a distinct photograph of the palm of one hand, taken in a strong oblique light, so as to bring out the markings strongly. This will be found a map, it is said, never alike in two persons; no disguise short of actual disfigurement will do away with the difference.

—"You just ought to have been over to our house last night!" shouted one small boy to another on the Campus Martius lately. "Why, making pictures?" inquired the other. "Naut much! Humph! No, sir; our folks went away, and we had pop corn, two kinds of sweetened water, milk and camphor, drew the dog