

Holiday Gifts. Ladies' Gentlemen's and Children's FURS. We have just finished for Christmas trade a fine lot of SEAL GOODS—Caps, with and without fur, Scarves, Gloves, Mittens, together with Ladies' and Children's Small Furs in every design. THOMAS BROTHERS, 111 and 113 King Street.

Weekly Herald. SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 22.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

To all our friends and patrons we wish A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

The 17th was the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Quebec Poet, Whitier.

The effects of the late war are telling with even greater effect on Germany than France. The taxes in many parts of the former country are from seventeen to twenty per cent of ascertained income.

It has been suggested to the British Government that Constantinople should be a free city. A cause of much discussion and much bloodshed might thus be removed from the world.

It is again rumored that His Grace, Archbishop Lynch has placed his resignation in the hands of the Apostolic Delegate. The distinguished prelate is said to be in very poor health.

"Liquor cured it, liquor kept it up, and liquor ends it," said Sharp, who was hanged at Auburn, N. Y., lately. Here is a whole temperance lecture in eleven words.

We hope the movement on foot to establish the Fifth Ward in Portland will be as successful as such a worthy reformer. The promoters of the scheme have the best wishes of the HERALD for its success.

Since our note, with reference to our "Christmas Box" from Chatham, was put in type, we have received still another seventeen new subscribers from Carleton. Who will bear this last testimony of good-will towards the HERALD?

Even according to the voracious telegraphers the Pope's health is much improved. When they send such good news the condition of the Holy Father must be much better than they are willing to acknowledge.

We learn from our Newfoundland exchanges that great distress prevails there, particularly along the western shore, the herring and cod fisheries having failed. This is alarming intelligence, but we still hope that affairs in the ancient Island are not quite as bad as this represented.

Mr. George Stewart, jr., of this city, has another new book in press and nearly ready. Mr. Stewart's ardent literary work is something of which all St. John people have reason to be proud. We hope the new work will be entirely successful.

Hon. Mr. Laurier has, it is said, filed a protest against the return of Mr. Bourbeau for Arthabaska. Why does not some public spirited Conservative do the same in the Quebec East matter? The chances of success are, we should judge, equally favorable.

Can any member of the Common Council tell us why there is so little difference in the prices paid Mr. Levi Young and Mr. M. F. Ritchie for single and double sleds for the Corporation? Considering the amount of work on each kind of sled we think Mr. Ritchie should receive more for Mr. Young less for the contract.

What has become of the society for the protection of game? We have heard nothing of it for a long time. A similar society in Kingston, Ontario, is about to petition the Local Legislature for a repeal of the present game laws. Could not our society find some work to do in the same line before the Legislature meets?

We hear that many applications will be made by the young men of Portland for a position of firemen, as it is understood, in consequence of the purchase of new steam fire engine, a larger force will be necessary. All the older and younger men of Portland, without exception, should take a lively interest in this matter.

A lady friend at Chatham sends us a new subscriber, being, she writes, "a Christmas box" to the HERALD. Most anxious should we be to be independent for the great industry manifests in the success of the paper, and we shall always endeavor to contribute of her kindness in the next "Christmas" name nature!

We offer our congratulations to the Montreal Mercantile change that has been used since recently. We have a Mercantile with much pleasure will now be increased by dress in which it appears. The Mercantile is, perhaps the French-Canadian

Liberals are confident of changing all that. We are not, of course, aware of the grounds there may be for such hope, but we may, perhaps, suggest that it would have been well to have commenced the work at once. Delays are dangerous.

A strange feature of the local election in Quebec West was the position taken by the Journal de Quebec, formerly the property of Governor Cauchon. Although Liberal in principle it declared in favor of Mr. Alleyne, the successful Conservative candidate, who was also assisted in his election by Mr. Bourbeau, the newly elected member for Drummond and Arthabaska. It would appear that the contest was almost a personal one into which Dominion politics did not enter to any great extent.

Miss Nannary's Life of the late Father Dunphy is, we are glad to hear, being readily taken by all upon whom the canvassers in the City, Portland and Carleton have called. The book should for many reasons find a cheerful welcome in every home where the name of the Rev. E. J. Dunphy is known. The success of the work so far must be very gratifying to the author, to whom it was evidently a labor of love.

As is usual during Christmas time, the streets present a lively and animated appearance just now. Large numbers of country people are to be seen daily bringing produce to the city for sale and carrying away with them their homes articles of luxury and necessity. The stores are thronged with eager crowds of buyers intent on procuring the very best Christmas presents. Our readers will not forget to pay a visit to the stores of our friends whose advertisements appear in the HERALD.

The Citizens' Committee appointed to meet the Ferry Committee of the Common Council, have had an interview with that body. One of the members of the Ferry Committee is understood to have said that he favored free ferries. The Citizens' Committee will now lay the matter before the Local and Dominion Governments. We wish the members of the Citizens' Committee every success in their laudable endeavor to do away with that relic of barbarism—toll on a great thoroughfare within the limits of a free city.

A public meeting will be held to-morrow evening, under the auspices of the New Brunswick Total Abstinence Union, in St. Peter's Hall, Portland. An account of the hall being occupied until quite recently this meeting, which was intended to have been held shortly after the late Convention, could not be conveniently called. The honest, ardent Temperance men of the city and Portland will doubtless assemble in large numbers to hear the addresses of the officers of the Union and other gentlemen who are expected to be present on the occasion.

The *Phanlophat* *Albion Standard* contains an account of the application of the Hong-Nan, a new Chinese remedy for the cure of leprosy. In two cases of this disease at Cumana, Venezuela, it has been successful, procuring a partial, if not an entire cure. Any remedy that would even partially cure the loathsome sore of the poor lepers at Tracadie in this Province, or elsewhere, should be procured if possible. We hope this may induce the authorities at the Lazaretto to write to the *Standard* for further information.

Our new story, "The Mystery of Fulton Valence," will be found on the fourth page. We direct the particular attention of our readers to this very interesting tale, and assure them that it will, like all the literary efforts of the accomplished author, repay a careful perusal. We feel convinced that the succeeding numbers of the HERALD, containing the dramatic and interesting chapters of "Fulton Valence" yet to come, will be anxiously looked for, by all who begin reading it to-day. "The Mystery of Fulton Valence," the announcement of which, through the city, in such a mysterious manner, caused not little enquiry during the week, will soon be solved.

We do not think that it was necessary for Ald. Donville to make such a long speech at the recent meeting of the Common Council to inform the Council and the public that he had no contracts of any kind with the Corporation. That is so well known that to one questions it. Why did Mr. Donville look so straight at Mr. Cassidy when talking of lumber contracts, professional services in connection with Civic business? We are afraid the energetic Alderman for King's was somewhat perturbed in his remarks. He might, we think, have "looked straight" at a good many other members of the Board who have from time to time received odd jobs and fat contracts at the expense of the city.

The delegates from the Nova Scotia Government and Opposition on the question of Maritime Union arrived in St. John this week and proceeded to Fredericton, where our Local Government assembled to receive the delegates and, as is to be presumed, discuss the subject in its public hearings. We anticipate a highly interesting and satisfactory conclusion. It is to be regretted that the Prince Edward Island Government is not represented at this meeting. This is owing to the fact that so far no action has yet been taken in that Province in relation to the proposed union. The advantages of the union of these provinces are, we think, so obvious, and the usual course of a decision in this matter referring to a ransom revenue we have, we trust our friends

will see the necessity of being prompt with their remittances. We understand it has been asserted that this journal is controlled by some prominent and wealthy gentlemen in this city, and we take this opportunity to emphatically contradict this statement. At its birth the founders of the HERALD resolved that so long as it continued under its present management it would never be truthfully said of it that any man or any party were in a position to compromise its independence. The dependent position occupied by some of our predecessors in the journalistic field is not so encouraging as to induce us to follow in their footsteps. The last two sentences we have written suggest a train of thought which, if indulged in, would extend this article beyond its original intention, and, perhaps, lead us to say something to certain parties, but the softening influence of the tender memories that cluster round the Christian heart at this particular season of the year; the remembrance of what He, whose advent into this world proved the redemption of mankind, came to teach, cause us to close our remarks without giving expression to a more uncharitable sentiment than we wish that our readers, one and all, may enjoy a really Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS, 1877.

Before the present number of the HERALD reaches its more distant readers, the glad Christmas Festival will have come and will be numbered among the many joyous anniversaries of the same feast that have brought peace and goodwill to man, since first the Angels of the most high sang the grand psalm, when Bethlehem was glorified by that birth, which has changed the face of the world.

The story so old, yet ever so new, the history of the world that has been so often and so religiously kept for eighteen hundred years and more, will be told in places separated by immense distances, to persons of every clime and tongue, to the aged and the young, to the rich and the poor, the sick and the strong, to freeman and bondman, to every condition and place of human life, and to all will bring feelings that will prompt kind words, pleasant greetings, tokens of love and affection. By many a pleasant fireside,—ah, would there were all so at this glad Christmas time!—the moving story of the humble birth of the Virgin's Child in the Manger of Bethlehem, will be dwelt upon with love, gratitude, devotion. The young, listening in awe and wonder to the mysterious tale, will lovingly listen to the voice that tells of the scenes the quiet stars looked down upon that far-off midnight, when the exulting song of the heavenly messengers announced the birth of the King of the universe, child-like faith and confidence they will listen for the murmur of those voices whose accents were so tender to the ears of the faithful 'shepherds' around about the city where the great mystery was accomplished, and they will ask how they in their own humble way may imitate the love, the charity, the mercy of the Infant whose birth they welcome so gladly. As He was poor, their first thoughts will be of the poor and in their infantile goodness of their nature they will feel their hearts filled with compassion for the poor, the lonely, the wretched. In the churches the same grand story will be told, it may be with words of varying eloquence, of more or less burning love, of greater or less ardent charity, but the effect will be soothing and peaceful and practical. The man of care and toil will forget for the time the difficulties of life, as he will enter the world of ours as vividly and lovingly had before him, and he will leave the Temple of Him whose birth was so humble. His life so sublime, His charity so immense will be compassed in his heart for the miseries of his fellowman, with a desire of making those around him happier, better, holier. While he rationally enjoys the things of this world which may be his right, he will think tenderly, pityingly, practically of those who are not so fortunate, of those whose hearts are filled with the burden of the great and heavy cross that should reign at Christmas time.

Thus and in many ways will Christmas be indeed the grand festival of the Christian man; thus will its influence of good be made clearly manifest. Our charitable works will give way to letter and nobler thoughts regarding all to whom this glad time brings peace; thinking of Him whose Birth we adore, men will forget their enmities, and peace and goodwill will reign supreme, at least at this time, which recall the example of the most sublime devotion, the world has ever beheld on the part of Him whose divine love, overlooked all offenses against His Majesty and Omnipotence, that He might receive His creatures. The grand lesson taught from the Manger will have a humanizing and ennobling influence on the lives of all men; it will raise them to higher views of their duties and responsibilities as subjects of the King of Kings. The grand song of the angels will be heard in the hearts of all, and the words which Christians first taught the world will be heard throughout the universe.

PEACE AND GOOD-WILL TO MEN: TO OUR FRIENDS.

With this number the HERALD enters on the second year of its existence. Our appearance to-day is a sufficient indication that our aim is to please the public here, and to be altogether frankness. The increased pressure on our advertising columns, and our own desire to meet the wishes of our many friends throughout the Province, induces this change. We have a proper appreciation of our obligations to our friends by exerting themselves to increase the circulation of the HERALD. Although, as we stated in last week's issue, the success of the HERALD has exceeded our most extravagant hopes, a little aid, in the form of more subscribers, would enable us to greatly increase the usefulness of the paper. As the amount we receive from our subscribers, and those who favor us with their advertisements, is the only source of our revenue, we have, we trust our friends

will see the necessity of being prompt with their remittances. We understand it has been asserted that this journal is controlled by some prominent and wealthy gentlemen in this city, and we take this opportunity to emphatically contradict this statement. At its birth the founders of the HERALD resolved that so long as it continued under its present management it would never be truthfully said of it that any man or any party were in a position to compromise its independence. The dependent position occupied by some of our predecessors in the journalistic field is not so encouraging as to induce us to follow in their footsteps. The last two sentences we have written suggest a train of thought which, if indulged in, would extend this article beyond its original intention, and, perhaps, lead us to say something to certain parties, but the softening influence of the tender memories that cluster round the Christian heart at this particular season of the year; the remembrance of what He, whose advent into this world proved the redemption of mankind, came to teach, cause us to close our remarks without giving expression to a more uncharitable sentiment than we wish that our readers, one and all, may enjoy a really Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WARD MEETINGS.

Much dissatisfaction is felt in the different wards of the city and Portland, with regard to the manner in which civic affairs have been managed in the past, and, if the people are in earnest in their endeavors to procure much-needed reforms, they should look to the next civic election to prepare for the next civic election. A good example has been given in the Brook's Ward meeting. The electors there appear to be in earnest. It is useless to go on from year to year grumbling at a state of affairs, which only become worse as time passes away. What is wanted in this matter is real, honest, earnest work. We should look to the next civic election to prepare for the next civic election. A good example has been given in the Brook's Ward meeting. The electors there appear to be in earnest. It is useless to go on from year to year grumbling at a state of affairs, which only become worse as time passes away. What is wanted in this matter is real, honest, earnest work. 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