

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 14, 1888.

LICENTIOUS JOURNALISM.

Vile Attack on a Prominent Citizen.

ALL CLASSES EXPRESS THEIR INDIGNATION.

LAST evening's issue of the Mercury contains an attack on one of our most prominent and talented citizens—James Murray, Esq.—an attack which, for personal abuse and general malignity, fortunately has no parallel in the history of Newfoundland journalism.

As an excuse for outraging the moral sensibilities of the community with such a vile and slanderous effusion, the precious pair tell us, in effect, that they are "writing in defence of a principle." Exactly what that principle is we leave our readers to determine.

But, without further remarks as to the motive by which the Mercury is actuated in making the attack in question, let us briefly glance at the three persons mainly interested.

Now, what are the positions, in other respects, occupied by these parties in this community? The two first named—Messrs. Harvey and McNeily, it is true, claim a certain social standing, because, forsooth, they are "professional" men, and not on account of any other claims they may possess—so far as the public are aware—to favorable consideration.

One receives a pension of £300 a year from the good people of the Presbyterian Church, because he was once their "active pastor," and for the additional reason that they do not wish that he should ever be compelled to engage in secular employment to earn a living.

The other is in receipt of an enormous income from the treasury of the Commonwealth. What with his salary as Speaker, and his "sops" as Acting Attorney General, Solicitor General, Crown Prosecutor, and so forth, and so forth, we suppose that his pickings, by hook and by crook, for the past year, will not fall far short of FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

So much, then, for the "associate editors" of the Government organ and their abusive joint production of yesterday. Now, let us turn our attention, for a moment or two, to the object of their malevolence—Mr. Murray.

There are three very apparent reasons why he has been so vilely attacked by the above mentioned brace of subsidized sinners. 1st—Because he is a native of the colony, and a superior business man. 2ndly—On account of his success in commercial life. 3rdly—For the very evident reason that he is politically opposed to the present profligate Administration.

Mr. Murray, however, can well afford to treat with the "respectable contempt of silence" all such vilifiers as those who now write for the licentious Mercury. He is a prosperous and enterprising merchant, as we have already said; he imports largely and, therefore, interferes considerably with the interests of a clique of monopolists whose object it is to charge fancy prices and make

fancy profits on everything they bring into the country. He employs a large number of people at certain seasons of the year and pays them for their labor, thereby scattering a portion of the money made by him in trade among the people generally.

The fishermen of Newfoundland, too, will know how to appreciate the Mercury's malicious attack on Mr. Murray, especially when we remind them of the fact that he was mainly instrumental in pushing up the price of fish in our local market the past season until it reached a fairly-remunerative figure.

THE CURLING MATCH LAST EVENING.

A Decided Victory for the All-Comers

THE curling match between the Scotch and the All-Comers' teams in the Parade Rink did not bring out that degree of interest and enthusiasm or attendance which so notable a game should naturally arouse.

Table with 2 columns: ALL-COMERS and SCOTCHMEN. Lists names and scores for various players.

A JUBILEE OFFERING TO LEO XIII.

WE are pleased to learn that S. H. Parsons, Esq., the Newfoundland artist, has received orders some time ago to prepare a considerable number of views of Roman Catholic Churches, and also some favorite spots of scenery throughout the Island.

THE coastal boats are both bound this way; the Falcon passed Fogo this morning. Both will, of course, lie in harbor till the present storm has passed.

THE lowest temperature last night was 3° below zero, the severest cold, so far, this winter. The barometer fell rapidly in the course of the day from 44° at 8 a.m. to 30.06 at 2 p.m., presaging the present snow storm and high wind, which is from the S.W.

THE change of the music stand to the centre of the northern gallery in the Parade Rink, is a decided improvement and ensures a more even distribution of sound.

THAT WAYWARD OLD GENTLEMAN.

He Still Pursues His Fatal Course.

DEAR SIR,—Having read over the various articles and letters that have already appeared in your valuable paper bearing upon the relation of the Christian minister to politics and the press, especially as far as these articles affect the Rev. Moses Harvey, of the Presbyterian Kirk, in his capacity of editor of the Mercury, I must say that I cannot agree with all that has been advanced therein or concede that they cover the case at issue.

That case, as it seems to me, is simply this—Did Mr. Harvey, when he retired from the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church, implicitly agree to abstain from politics or from any position of a political character that would compromise the interests of his congregation? If he did, then he is obviously in a wrong position to be acting as editor of the Mercury.

In order to consider this question fully and fairly it is necessary that we should first ask, Is it right that an ordinary minister of the gospel should act as editor of an ordinary political newspaper—a paper that is avowedly engaged in ordinary political warfare and political work? If not, why is it not right?

Few persons will feel much difficulty in answering this question or in assigning a sufficient reason for their answer. They will no doubt say—No, a minister should not act as editor of an ordinary newspaper.

1st—Because to do his duty as such to those who employ him in a political capacity, such an editor must often act in a way that would be inconsistent with his sacred profession.

2nd—The profession of a clergyman is far removed from political warfare, from strife of all kind, from purely secular pursuits, such as political journalism necessarily is, and therefore, without any disparagement to the latter, an ordinary clergyman may not engage in it.

3rd—Politics always involve more sides than one. As the members of a clergyman's flock are not likely to be all of one political opinion in a country of free institutions, or as, even if they are so at one time, they are not likely to continue so always, and as it is not desirable that the differences engendered by politics should be introduced among them, therefore their minister should not be the editor of a political paper.

But, sir, apart from all these general reasons, there is the private and particular reason in this case that the Rev. Moses Harvey, now acting as editor of the Mercury, the political and acknowledged organ of the present government, has entered into a special contract with his late congregation, by virtue of the terms of which he has in honor BOUND himself to abstain from political journalism.

What is this special contract? It is the contract by which, in consideration of the payment of £300 for the balance of his life, Mr. Harvey professedly retired from the active service of his late congregation?

Now, sir, I would ask any reasonable man would his congregation have bound such a log around their necks as the perpetual payment of this large pension if we had considered that Mr. Harvey was immediately going to plunge into all the hot warfare and muddy slime of political journalism?

This question answers itself. Mr. Harvey's own erratic conduct proves that the answer is No. His repeated (but, alas! misleading) disclosures that he occupies such a position, in the shape of his successive "personal statements" or denials, all show that he himself feels and knows he is doing wrong.

To sum up, then, the gravamen of the whole matter is simply this:—If Mr. Harvey, as an ordinary clergyman, would be occupying a false position in acting as the ordinary editor of a political organ, and if Mr. Harvey, as a pensioned clergyman, is under peculiar ties and obligations to abstain from this false position, why does he not either give up the position or give up the pension?

As an independent man, which Mr. Harvey undoubtedly is—in circumstances—he has a perfect right to edit a political newspaper if he pleases. As a retired clergyman he has a perfect right to claim and obtain the pension we have pledged to give him. But he has no right to take the consideration while violating the terms of the agreement, and to wreck his church in order to do so.

The Present State of Newfoundland

CONFEDERATION.

THE miserable condition of this country, produced by a bad system of trade, of politics, or of both combined, demands a speedy remedy ere total ruin sets in. I have not seen in any of the arguments used against Confederation, or in any of the apologies made in favor of our present system, the shadow of a denial of this fact.

It is an axiom, applicable to every order of things, that the same causes, acting under the same circumstances, will always produce the same effects. The axiom is singularly realized in our present condition, and prophetic of our future prospects, if a radical change be not admitted.

The question of Confederation will again be proposed to the people, but let it be proposed fairly and dispassionately. Whoever would influence them against a change, is bound in honour and truth to point out to them a pathway from the labyrinth of miseries that encircles and deludes them.

But, unfortunately, such has been the degrading influence of a system of things that some would fain preserve and perpetuate, that to a moiety of the people it were vain to appeal on any subject involving intellectual effort.

The divine spark of reason is almost extinguished in others. The strain upon the purely animal instincts, the protracted struggle for mere existence, have dulled the higher faculties of the soul, and left many of them barely in appearance.

There is a German legend that tell how Frankenstein, a philosopher, having worked himself into the belief that man was gifted with the creative power, addressed himself to the task of producing a human being.

He had arrived at the object of his ambition. He had become a creator, but, lo! the thing he had called into life was a hideous monster. Day and night it haunted him. Endowed with the power of motion, it was destitute of voice and language.

Stolid and staring it followed him from scene to scene; in vain he sought the haunts of pleasure and dissipation—in the moments of his wildest forgetfulness the loathed creature appeared before him, and the light of its cold clammy eyes struck terror into his soul; go where he would, the thing was his companion, his monitor, his spirit's master, though its most abject slave; it acknowledged his dominion, but instead of that unspcakable love and worship which do homage to a creator, its every gesture and attitude bespoke hatred and rage against the author of its existence.

The creature became destroyer, and the philosopher perished miserably from terror inspired by the work of his own hands.

"ME AND MY BROTHER," AGAIN.

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR,—Some years ago, you will recollect, my brother attacked the learned and truly pious editor of the Mercury, as now is, in the then Telegraph newspaper, accusing him, amongst other things, of plagiarism, and other crimes and misdemeanors too numerous to mention.

—whose connection with the paper has had rather a depressing influence on the same—that we might get up a little sympathy and stimulate the popularity of the organ somewhat before the session opened. Besides, whether or no, if we could provoke you into taking an action for libel against either it or the government, we (that is, me and my brother) would be sure to pocket a few dollars for defending the same as the defendant's attorney.

I am, your old but sincere friend, INDIA RUBBER McNEILLY. P.S.—Please don't mention this till after the session is open and the thing fixed, as business is rather slack just now.

P.P.S.—"Me and my brother," all our friends, and the present sacred editor of the Mercury are all now rowing in the same heavenly political boat.

CENTRAL DISTRICT COURT

LAST year William Smithwick and Philip Grouchy cut ice on contract for a St. John's speculator, the former being the contracting party. Grouchy supposed that Smithwick received £20 for the job, but the latter said no, the amount was £16. This Grouchy took it upon himself to disbelieve and by way of forcing Smithwick's hand kept the ice-saw in his (G.'s) possession.

Before taking suit, counsel wrote defendant telling him in plain terms what his conduct amounted to. When defendant's lawyer (Mr. R. J. Parsons) replied before the court, he stormed, in Turkish fashion, that his client should be so stigmatized, holding that he had not received his fair wage and that his only method of recovering was to hold the beast for the damage.

THERE were no foreign arrivals since yesterday. Several sail are ready for market but are detained by the storm.

THE mail-boat Assyrian need hardly be looked for till the present storm blows over; she will most likely lie till the sight of the coast becomes clear. She will be hurriedly despatched after she does arrive, for she is now several days overtime.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

SUNDAY, Jan. 15. GOVERNMENT 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. Boyd; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. Parkins. GEORGE STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. E. Manning; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A. ALEXANDER STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A.; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. E. Manning. ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and 6.30 P.M., Rev. W. Graham. QUEEN'S ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and 6.30 P.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson. 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. Services in Temperance Hall on Sunday evening at 8.15 o'clock, under the auspices of "Young Men's Christian Association." All are invited.

DIED.

Last evening, after a short illness, George, third son of Thomas and the late Sarah Williams, of Bay Bulls, aged 38 years; leaving a wife and six children to mourn their sad loss.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

CLEARED 13—Dora, May, Pernambuco, Job, Bros. & Co.—3942 qts fish. Vidonia, Wilson, Pernambuco, Bowring Bros.—3928 qts fish. Fruit Girl, Fozwell, Demerara, Harvey & Co.—1702 qts fish, 150 lbs herring, 115 lbs hoops. 14—Parejoro, Thoms, Pernambuco, Baine, Johnston & Co.—6177 qts fish. Dunure, Cave, Pernambuco, P & L Tessier—3291 qts fish. Crystal Stream, Ray, Barcelona, Baine, Johnston & Co.—3500 qts fish. LOADING. 6—Royal Home, West Indies, Job, Bros & Co 10—Gratia, Europe, A Goodridge & Sons. 11—Lavinia, Brazil, J & W Stewart. 13—Carpasian, Brazil, W Grieve & Jo. 14—Sea Lark, Europe, Baine, Johnston