The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 13, 1888.

A VERY WEAK REPLY

The "Mercury" Fails in Its Defence of the Premier.

INDEFENSIBLE.

it appear that Premier Thorburn is innocent of the charge brought against him by the TELE-GRAM in our issue of Tuesday last. It is needless, however, to say that the effort only adds to the discomfiture of the indicted party, by still further exposing his mercenary conduct to public criticism and reprehension. Far better would it have been for the Premier and his advisers had the Mercury said nothing at all about the matter. The editor of that paper knew that he had no reasonable defence to offer and, therefore, "silence would have been wisdom" under the circumstances. But no; his reverence is never happy except when he has something to fight about and somebody to fight with. He likes to flourish his "black thorn," and to strut around challenging political and party opponents to tread on his clerical coat-tails. The sight of "wigs on the green" would seem to afford him far greater pleasure than the appearance of sinners at "the altar of mercy," and it is very evident that he feels more at home amid the strife and bitterness of party politics than in the holy occupation of pointing to brighter words and leading the

But to return from the Parson to the Premier. The Mercury admits that the latter "self-sacrificing servant of the Commonwealth" received last year, in the shape of Government sops, the pretty little sum of \$8.783.35, but gravely assures us that a certain percentage thereof had to be paid out in wages, &c., and therefore Mr. Thorburn didn't make the big profit on the transaction that some people may suppose. Poor, innocent Mr. Thorburn! Our contemporary would try to make us believe that he (Mr. T.) is not in the habit of "scooping in" large profits whenever there's a chance to do so. Ah, friend Mercury, your logic lacks its usual plausibility this time. Sir Robert is an old business man, and has long ago managed to get rid of all qualms of conscience with respect to the matter of "grinding exactions." At any rate, we have before us at this moment an account recently received by an industrious planter from Walter Grieve & Co. which amply proves that Premier Thorburn does not always issue supplies for the fishery without expecting to have some profit at the close of the voyage.

Why, it is a notorious fact that the present Premier of Newfoundland is one of the most selfish and mercenary men that has ever occupied such an important office. The way in which he toadied to Sir Ambrose Shea as soon as he found it necessary to do so to obtain s knighthood; the violation of his oft-repeated promise to conduct the public business of the country on "sound commercial principles;" the Placentia railway bribe offered by him to Messrs. Donnelly and Emerson, with a view to secure their support in the Lower Chamber,all point to the unmistakable fact that he has been actuated by personal and party considerations all through his brief and inglorious political career.

In the first place he made a great mistake by going into politics at all. Then he committed a still greater "error of judgment" by sacrifcing whatever little honor he had left for the sake of a title which no one but a " featherheaded noodle" would be bothered with any way. And now, to sustain a position which deserves to be congratulated on the success of he should never have presumed to occupy, he must adopt the advise of his present "guide, philosopher and friend"-in short, he must " scrape, pare and do everything short of

Obviously, then, it was an unfortunate day for Terra Nova when her people allowed the present party to assume power, and more unfortunate still when they consented to accept Mr. Robert Thorburn as the nominal head of that party. The Mercury may, for selfish reasons, try to think differently; but we happen to know that our sentiments in this connection are the intelligent sentiments of the whole Island.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"TAMMANY HALL"-Your letter anent "the incorporation movement" has been received, but we fail to see any ground for assuming that such a condition of things as you predict would be forced upon property-owners under that form of municipal government. However, 'tis well, as you say, to "act with great prudence in this matter, and to bear in mind the fact that we are a too-much-governed people already.

THE CURLING TOURNAMENT

Opening Contest Between Scotchmen and All-Comers.

This evening in the Parade Rink opens that hale and whole-souled winter sport which more than any other generates hardihood of body, strength of arm and nicety of eye; and, above between man and man. Newfoundlanders of every kind and degree have taken so kindly to MR. THORBURN'S CONDUCT REALLY the national pastime of Scotland, that it is probable a greater number of its devotees are taken from our countrymen than from the THE Government organ tries hard to make ranks of Scotchmen themselves. Instances are not wanting, either, in which the latter have surrendered the palm of victory to the former-vanquished with their own national arms from Ailsa Crag. What is there uncommon in this? Is it to be supposed that Newfoundlanders are to be beaten in any game in which ice and frost are indispensable elements? Not much. To-night these adversaries are to be pitted against each other. The Scots-so confident are they of handling the stones successfully-throw down the gauntlet to all-comers. The latter, though there may be a sprinkling of the sons of Scotia amongst them, will most likely contain a majority of Newfoundlanders; so that the contest will really be a tug for superiority between Caledonia and Terra Nova. To-night, then, will be a great night at the rink. It will be a great night for Scotland, but it will be a greater night for Newfoundland. The game will be watched with interest; every effort will be put forth to win the laurel; but we may be sure that, in the midst of all, right hearty good fellowship will prevail and that Newfoundlanders will be ready to cheer "Bonnie Scotland," as will Scotchmen to salute Terra Nova—as the issue may determine. We may be sure that Professor Bennett will pay due regard to the spirit of the occasion in the character of the selections. The "Banks of Newfoundland" and "Auld Lang Syne" will be kindred harmonies, and the immortal genius of Burns will shed his radiance on the scene. It will be an auspicious opening of the curling season, and that it will be a pleasant one throughout to all taking part is our sincere wish.

IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CASE.

A RATHER important case to the trade was decided to-day by Judge Prowse in the Magistrates' Court in the matter of a claim of ten to this port, the claim being made on behalf of the Boston forwarders in the shape of a lien upon the goods forwarded, namely, 250 brls. corn meal. The action was taken against Messrs. Harvey & Co. as agents for Messrs. Hathaway, of Boston, who had received instructions to collect the claim, the plaintiff being Mr. James Murray. The decision of the Magistrate, which will be given in writing, was for the plaintiff, with brief fee. Messrs. Winter & Morison for plaintiff; Messrs. Whiteway & Johnson for defendants.

LAST NIGHT'S CONCERT.

A FAIR and fashionable audience attended the concert at the Star of the Sea Hall last evening, and it must have appreciated it from the applause that met the efforts of many of the performers. The ladies of the Riverhead Choir sang remarkably well for their first appearance in a public hall. With regard to the other singers, we may state that they have been heard repeatedly with much advantage, and it would be unnecessary to say anything in their favor at present, particularly as our reportorial pen have frequently pointed out their many "excellencies" in the firmament of song. The Rev. Father Crook, whose genial and gentlemanly manners have endeared him to the people, his entertainment, and it is hoped that with the proceeds he will be enabled to carry out the benevolent object which he has in view.

The Sargeon and the Poor Commissioner.

In reference to the communication under the above heading, we are authorized by the acting District Surgeon to give a flat denial. Upon receipt of the Poor Commissioner's order the acting District Surgeon immediately visited the cases of contagious distemper referred to in Torbay. It is difficult to understand how these patients were left so long without medical attendance, their case being one of the exceptional outport calls where a physician was really required. As the acting Surgeon receives nothing for his services, it is difficult to see where the "soft Government job" comes in .- Com.

THE annual meeting of the St. John's West Circuit Sabbath School Committee will be held in the hasement of George Street Church tomeeting. Teachers, officers and representation and body than the listless liberalism of the the services of a steam-tug, by way of a con
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The Present State of Newfoundland -AND-CONFEDERATION.

Norhing can exceed the lofty ridicule wherewith anti-Unionists treat the argument that Confederation would unite us with a great country and make us sharers with its prosperall, cultivates the genial and fraternal spirit ity. They think it foolish, if not disloyal, because, say they, we are already united with the greatest Empire in the world, and what greater happiness could we wish or hope for on earth? Unfortunately for them, this argument of theirs has little weight with a people whose fathers or themselves have traversed the broad Atlantic to found for themselves new homes, new institutions, and, if necessary, new Governments too. We do not form a part of England; we are a part of America. and our natural connexion is with the great continent that gathers us as it were to her breast. England herself feels this. Gifted, as she always has been, with statesmen who look forward as well as back, she sees the day not far distant when these provinces would rush into Union with the neighboring continent as if drawn by the law of attraction. Her part is to systematize, to direct, to wield, if you will, to her own interests, an event which would otherwise take place without her intervention, and perhaps be consummated to her discredit; so that the folly and disloyalty of those who favor a Union of those Provinces is simply the folly and disloyalty of England herself and of her statesmen. England at present has her eyes, and her hand, unusually wide open. She perceives that we have not progressed under her rule as well as we ought. and the memory of some very few awkward obstacles that she herself opposed to our progress stirs up in her perhaps a sense of justice and clemency. Nations, however, like individuals, seldom forget what is profitable when doing what appears magnanimous. And there cannot be the slightest doubt that whatever generous policy England may pursue here or at home, she will not suffer herself to lose by it. But whether for justice or policy, or both combined, it is England's will that these provinces Confederate. So there is an end of objurgations about the folly and disloyalty cast in the teeth of Unionists.

I have neither time nor patience now. could I fairly demand space, to deal at length with all the trivialities that have been set up as arguments of Unionists to be summarily bowled down by their opponents. With regard dollars for wharfage at Boston on certain goods to the good prospects Confederation would shipped on through bill of lading from Chicago hold out to our youth, I imagine they have been alluded to as an advice more than as an argument-an advice for the youth of this country to take a part in life's struggle, such as they cannot have here—an advice such as the poet of the young Republic gives in his noble psalm,"-

In the world's wide field of battle, In the bivouac of life, Be not like dumb-driven cattle, Be a hero in the strife

And it is a well-known fact that such of our youth as have joined in that strife in Canada, in the States, and elsewhere, when thrown upon their metal, and removed from the "lotus eating" influences that characterize this unhappy country, have earned honor and independence. In Confederation they would have at least equal facilities for accomplishing the same end, with the further advantage of working at home, for any part of the Dominion would be their own country.

The Short-line Railroad project is not a Confederation scheme at all. If it be accomplished, it will be a benefit to the world at large, not to Canada alone.

In fine, without wasting more time upon the views anti-Unionists choose to take of the arguments for Confederation, or answering objections that have been refuted over and over again, I pause to admire, before I finish this letter, the cool assurance wherewith they set themselves up as arbiters of public opinion and protectors of popular rights. Let me ask on what plea do they assume this dignified position? Is it because wilfully ignoring the evils that beset us, blind to the spirit of indolence and the total absence of enterprise and industry begotten of our present system, they stimulate the people against a change by appeals made only to the passions and never to the judgment? Does this constitute their title to the position of leaders of the people? They tell the people that under Confederation they will be taxed, but they never point out the benefits that result to a people from fair and legitimate taxation. They never open their eyes to the more grievous burden that now oppresses them-a burden cast upon them not by a powerful Government whose interests are trade. They tell the people that under Confederation they will be banded as soldiers to protect the Dominion frontier, but they never tell them that the military profession is more honorable than the profession of idle beggary, night (Friday) at the close of the prayer and that military discipline is better for soul owners, one would suppose, to unitedly engage

flag, if such a fate were really in store for them. In fact so ruthlessly dishonest are those "Leaders" efforts after popular suffrage that the burden of their advice to the people is simply this,—that they must never suffer any change that involves discipline or labor,—that they must insist on living as a nation of children, to be fed with a spoon-and when grown up, to be exhibited as walking gentlemen or debased paupers. It were too bad, they say, that Newfoundlanders should be subjected to any yoke, even such as the freest people on earth endure and cherish. If the advice of those leaders of opinion avail, then parents who see their children go to ruin from idleness; Ministers of Justice who find crime multiplied and intensified through delicate consideration for the feelings of the guilty; Legislators who behold a statute book replete with edicts that have become impracticable; Economist who deplore extravagant waste of wholesome food that would support five times our population; -all these should band themselves together, and tell the people the lessons of truth! tell them to remain as they are, that the rigor of taxation, &c., will disturb that delightful abandon, and check that charming license that have hitherto raised them to so high a position in the eyes of the world, and been so productive of comfort, happiness, and morality at home!!

Tell the people this, and you will easily enlist popular prejudice in your favor; but will you, or those whom you sway, represent the true interests of the country? Yet those who speak and write in this style are forsooth the only advocates of right, and revel in that intolerance that truth alone can justify!

But the people will yet learn the truth—the froth engendered in the popular mind by the agitation of the passions is but an effervescence-immediately beneath lies the cool substantial element of reason and judgment. The froth will subside from its own weakness, and the current of common sense be seen pursuing its calm way all the time, urged by its own instincts to a true and proper outlet.

In a future letter I shall complete the general argument for a change of system, and in due time come to the discussion of particulars. AN OUTSIDER.

NO HARM IN STEALING A SERMON. The Law and the Profits on the Subject'

Editor Evening Telegram. DEAR SIR, -In looking over the correspondence in your columns on the subject and reading your able editorial remarks of yesterday, it occurs to me that after all there may be no great harm in stealing a sermon, if the object is to do good, and to save souls from going down to the bottomless pit. If the sermon has been already purloined, there may be justice, a sort of poetic justice, in stealing it again, and thus the scales of justice may be evenly balanced. Do we not read that the Israelites borrowed jewelry from the Egyptians on the eve of their flight, and do we ever read that they returned them again? The Jew always lend, money at a very high rate of interest, even our friend, the divine Moses, exacting as high as twenty per cent. on some occasions for the use of his spare cash. This matter may bear looking into at a later date, the only safe rule of Christian ethics at present being : get what you can steal whenever you think there is a safe chance to do so without detection, for this is the law and the profits, too.

Yours truly St. John's, Jan. 13, 1888.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE opening lecture of the Academia course will be delivered by Mr. Furlong this evening at 8 o'clock. Subject: "On a Free Pass."

THE total number of banking schooners insured in the St. John's Mutual Banking, and in the Mutual Banking—the two Marine Insurance companies of this city-during the past year, was a hundred and fifty vessels, aggregating twelve thousand eight hundred and forty eight (12,848) tons, insured for a hundred and thirteen thousand three handred and sixty-five (£113,365) pounds. The firstamed company has on its list 75 vessels of tonnage 4,134, with insurance on hulls for £33,425, and on outfits for £13,740. The second named has 175 vessels on its list, valued at £74,700, and insured for £66,200.

OUR Trinity correspondent announced that the schooner Marian and several others had reached that port a few days ago. Their insurance had expired with the close of the year, but their owners had taken the risk of making theirs, but by the self-constituted autocrats of | the passage safely-no small risk at this time of the year. It appears that the renewal of insurance for the run home would cost as much as the hire of a tug-boat. But where there are several schooners, all bound on a short trip to such a near place as Trinity, it would pay the

hundreds of young men parading our streets in idleness who had better be trained to the later of defending an honorable By Telegraph

THE CHOLERA PLAGUE IN CHILL Bodies Dug Out of the Snow. EARTHQUAKES IN THE STATES. Small-Pox in San Francisco. OFFICERS DISMISSED Thomas Esmonde on Home Rule. ANOTHER BLIZZARD IN NORTHWEST.

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan. 13.

Cholera continues in Chili. Six hundred and forty-four deaths occurred at Valparaiso in two weeks.

Fourteen bodies of women have been dug out of the snow near Fiume, Austria. Many are still missing.

Earthquakes are being experienced in the Southern States.

The small-pox epidemic in San Francisco is

All officers in the Russian army of Polish extraction have been dismissed, and Austrian families have been ordered to leave Poland.

Sir Thomas Esmonde, a member of the British Parliament, addressed a large audience at Halifax last night in favor of Home Rule

Another blizzard prevails in the Northwest. Thermometer 60 below zero, and railways are

FROM CAPE RACE.

(Special to the Evening Telegram.) CAPE RACE, This Evening. Wind north, blowing a brisk breeze and weather fine. A fore-and-aft schooner passed west at 9 o'clock this morning.

DINING WITH THE BISHOP.

HIS LORDSHIP DR. POWER entertained the following gentlemen at dinner last evening in the Episcopal Residence :- His Excellen the Governor, Lord George Fitzgerald, the Premier of the Government, Mr. Justice Pinsent and Mr. Justice Little, of the Supreme Court, Hon'bles A. F. Goodridge and W. J. S. Donnelly, Judge Conroy, of the Magistrates Court, Walter B. Grieve, Esq., M.H.A., and Robert Langrishe-Mare, Esq.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

A WEST END correspondent writes as follows :- "It is reported up our way that the Postmaster is endeavoring to get an individual in over all the carriers, instead of promoting right along and giving the preference to those, who, through attention, deserve it. This ought not to be, and the carriers would feel thankful if you would expose the contemplated injustice.

It is stated that Mr. T. R. Smith of the firm of C. F. Bennett & Co., who for several weeks past has been seriously indisposed, at one time so much so that his recovery was deemed doubtful, is much improved and will soon be in his accustomed place again. Mr. Smith is one of St. John's worthiest citizens: his career has been marked by those patient, painstaking, industrious qualities which mark the successful merchant, and in days when such men are rather scarce, he is one of those who can ill be spared from the commercial world of Newfoundland just yet.

DIED. Yesterday evening, after a lingering illness, Mary Amelia, aged 13 months, infant daughter of Drucella and the late Nathan Mills, of Petty Harbor.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED. -Parejero, Thoms, Pernambuco, 39 days, Baine Johnston & Co-ballast. Miranda, Leseman Halifax, 3 days, Harvey & Co -3562 brls flour. puns rum, 37 puns molasses, 196 brls apples, 150 brls meal, 75 brls oil, 75 bxs soap, 1067 brls pork, 40 bxs, 6 cases tobacco, 70 brls sugar, 25 tres tallow, 100 bxs raisins, 9 bxs hams, 300 cases canned meats, 150 brls beef, 105 brls pease, genl. cargo. Souris Light, Boland, Boston, 8 days Clift, Wood & Co-500 brls flour, part genera

1-Lilian, Mealey, Cadiz, 32 days, Job, Bros & Co -170 tons salt. Prince LeBoo, Thorne, Liverpool, 29 days, J Murray-231 tons coal. 2-Fanny, Kidd, Liverpool, 29 days, Job, Bros & Co-197 tons coal, 60 brls tar, 120 bdls oakum, 20 brls sugar, 35 brls soda, 103 pkgs powder, bags rice, 20 bales bagging.

0-Sunbeam, Woolgar, Pernambuco, P & L Tes sier-3658 qtls fish. Miriam, Manning, Barbados, A Goodridge & Sons-1815 qtls fish, 3 tres, 6 brls salmon, 100 brls herring, 3 half-brls, 6 tubs sounds. New Dominion, Lemieux, Barbados, Baine, Johnston & Co-1944 qtls fish, 174 bris herring, 1 tierce, 1 brl salmon, 340 bdls hoops 1-Stella, Nisbet, Barcelona, J & W Stewart-3800 qtls fish. Aureola, Brien, Rio de Janeiro, P & L Tessier-4560 qtls fish. Little Vixen, Dornom, Barcelona, P & L Tessier-2800 qtls fish. Spinaway, Richards, Oporto, J Murray—2420 qtls fish Miranda, Leseman, New York, Harvey & Co— 1410 qtls fish, 197 brls herring, 1 qtr-cask wine, 6

LOADING 0-Crystal Stream, Europe, Baine, Johnston & Co. Jany 6-Royal Home, West Indies, Job, Bros & Co -Dora, Brazil, Job, Bros. & Co. -Dunure, Brazil, P L Tessier. 10-Vidonia, Brazil, Bowring Bros. Gratia, Europe, A Goodridge & Sons

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