WANTED

A girl to do general housework in a small family. Good references required. Apply at this office.

Chatham, Feb. 28, '81. tf

LOCAL MATTERS.

Silver Thaw

There was a silver thaw yesterday, the rain, and it rained all day, turning into imitation silver as fast as it fell.

The tide setting back.

About 30 young men from the Miramichi who went to Pennsylvania within the past two years, have returned home this spring.

Erratum.

Our notice of the "happy event" in the Kirk read "Mr. A. D. Shirreff uncle of the bride," and it should have been, "brother in law of the bride."

Bass Season

The bass season on the Northwest closed yesterday. There is still 24 hours left the fishermen to clear their gear off the ice. The seasons fishing has been a great success.

A Sweetened Monkey

A cook in a lumber camp in Kings County, could not draw the molasses out of the puncheon. *He* knocked in the head, and lo! there was a monkey, "well preserved" in the barrel.

Lobster Business.

Mr John Young of Caraquet, will put up 70,000 cans of lobsters this season. He has arranged with workmen and for machinery to commence the cans at once. A thousand cans a day is good work for one shop.

Concert.

Mr. J. W. Youmans, with his large class of nearly 100 Juveniles, is to give an entertainment in the Masonic Hall, on Friday next. Mr. Y's little niece, Miss May Fitz-Gerald, who is said to be a charming little actress and singer, is to intersperse choice comic selections. Mr. Y. has been having great success in St. John for several months past and elsewhere. See bills and circulars.

Sudden Illness.

We regret to learn of the sudden and serious illness of David Sadler, Esq., of Restigouche, father of Mr John Sadler of Chatham. He came to Newcastle a couple of days ago, but slept in a bed the linen of which was damp and cold. He took a severe shivering, came to Chatham, and day before yesterday, fell very ill here.

A Building Club

Captain A Brown and some others are organizing a club to raise funds for building a number of fishing schooners. A similar club, we learn, was organized in Publique, Nova Scotia, some years ago, principally composed of fishermen, and the fleet built under the organization now numbers fifty two sail. Some of these come to fish every season at the mouth of our river.

Personal

Mr. John Young of Caraquet, was in town Monday preparing for his spring's operations. He went home on Tuesday.

Mr Henry Muirhead, and Mr J Snowball who was elected two and a half years ago to represent the people of this county in the Commons at Ottawa, arrived home here, Sunday evening. They came out to Halifax by the *Sarmatian*.

Portage Island Light.

Chatham people know where this lighthouse is, and they also know that Mr. Hutchinson gave the keepership to a person, who now must have seen about four-score years. The Government built a comfortable dwelling on the island, but the keeper smoked herring through it, and made it too foul to enter. The inspector has seen these things, but so long as the old man could struggle along he made no complaint. It is time *now* an efficient man were put there: and we think the Government can find in an efficient ex-officer, who has been treated with a great deal of injustice, a very proper person.

The Streets.

The old story is the streets. Driving through the town now, or at least for two weeks past, has been at the risk of one's neck. A lady and her daughter were thrown out of their sleigh, near Dr. Benson's, last Sunday morning, though the horse was going at an easy pace; and if two teams meet on the road near the Alms House, they have to do as the two goats did that met on a narrow plank spanning a torrent and chasm. The conduct of the road commissioner is shameful and some one ought to lodge a complaint against him, and have him fined. If he did not intend to do his duty, he should not have accepted the appointment.

Shrove Tuesday.

Yesterday was Shrove Tuesday, or the day before the three days preparatory to the Lenten fast. As restrictions are placed by the church on the use of meats, and as each of the days following Shrove Tuesday, is a fast day of obligation, Sunday excepted, it has been the custom in Catholic countries from time immemorial, to consider Shrove Tuesday as a kind of feast day: consequently perhaps the best dinner for the year was prepared for Shrove Tuesday, and in the afternoon and evening the young folks engaged in harmless festivities. The crowning part of the evenings entertainment was the making of cakes, in which a ring was put, no one knowing in which or what portion it was. Whoever got the ring, was put down as destined to marriage before the next Shrove Tuesday. In the Catholic countries these observances are perpetuated yet, but in places where they haul fence poles on Christmas day, they are not so generally in practice.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Mr John Black is still very ill. Mr H G Botsford, Student-at-Law is at present doing his work in the House of Assembly.

Messrs Fisher & Fisher have taken Wm. Russell who has just been admitted Attorney-at-Law, into the partnership, as a reward for his valuable services in the Diffin and Dow case. The style of the firm now is "Fisher & Fisher & Russell."

Mr Robert Davis who was admitted Attorney at Law last week, is teaching in the Model School, in the place of Mr. Vroom, resigned. Mr. Vroom has been appointed teacher of botany, in the Provincial Normal School.

Our Presbyterian friends had some trouble with the choir of the Kirk, and on Thursday they resigned in a body. Mr E. A. Smith immediately formed a new choir, and on Sunday they sang for the first time. Report says that the singing is far superior to anything heard in the church for a long time.

We have had one more lecture in the Methodist course. Last evening W G Gaunce, Esq., M A. Inspector of schools for Carleton and Victoria Counties, lectured. His subject was "A Popular Fallacy." Mr Gaunce showed to his own satisfaction that it is false to suppose the world owes every man a living. On the whole the lecture was rather dry and Mr Gaunce put on too much style.

Next Tuesday evening Rev. W. W. Brewer will lecture.

The lectures at the College have been very irregular of late on account of Mr. Fred Harley's illness. Yesterday there were no lectures at all, and he was very low, which is much regretted. Mr. F. Harley is from Newcastle.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory returned home from Ottawa on Monday evening, coming via Danville Junction. Mr. E. L Wetmore returned on Tuesday noon by the Intercolonial Railway.

The Divorce Court opened yesterday at noon, Judge Wetmore presiding. There were two cases on the docket, the first one is David Pugh vs. Charlotte Pugh. This is a case of marrying a deceased wifes sister. Pugh married a woman by the name of Hartt, who died in 1861, and shortly afterward went to Houlton with his wife's sister where he was married to the second Miss Hartt. Pugh lived with his second wife until 1874, when her conscience began troubling her and she finally decided to leave Pugh. So she went to training school and got a first class license, then immediately went to Rochester, New York, where she has been living ever since, supporting herself. Pugh has often asked her to return to her home; but she will not, and now he asks for a divorce.

The case has been postponed until the June Sittings for want of witness. Gregory & Blair are proctors for Proponent, and E L Wetmore for the respondent.

CELESTUS.

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

On Thursday the 17th ult., the Assembly opened with the usual eclat. His Excellency, Sir John Hawley Glover and Suite, were escorted by a guard of honor to the Colonial Buildings, "forming" and "presenting arms" as His Excellency passed in. As is usual on such occasions the beauty and the *creme notre creme* were present on the occasion, and crowds thronged in the Square that could not get in. Expectation ran high to hear what the speech would say about the railroad. It said just this: —

In accordance with the Railway Act passed last session, a Commission was appointed and a survey has been completed from St. John's to the neighborhood of Broad Eagle Peak, with a branch line to Harbor Grace, and an alternative line to Brigus or Clarke's Beach. I hope to be enabled speedily to place the report of this survey in your hands. Propositions very lately made to the Government by representatives of capitalists for the construction of the Railway are now under consideration, the result of which will be duly communicated to you.

This paragraph many receive with cheers, and a good many with censure. Hon. J. J. Little, leader of the Opposition, attacked the paragraph, and attacked the chief surveying engineer too. That gentleman had asked $45,000 and *took* $16,000.

Sir V. Whiteway, the premier, rebuked Hon. Mr. Little. Better wait, he said, till the papers come down, and deal with the facts rather than with the silly rumors.

I may say that it is believed here the Government will not build the road, but will grant subsidies and hand it over to a company. The through line, across the Island, is an abeyance and lines constructed will be mere local lines, which will never pay unless the Coastal Steam Service between the railway ports be abolished.

[The Government do wisely in giving the road to a company to build, because companies can build 30 per cent cheaper than Governments can. But the Government ought not to close with any contractor without first inviting general competition. We do not, for ourselves, approve of old country engineers, for they are old fashioned and pokey, and *cannot* build as cheaply as American Contractors. The chief reason for this fact is found in the little railroad building in Great Britain compared with the monster lines in the United States.—ED STAR.]

The sealing fleet is getting ready for the ice.

Rev Ronald McDonald, for many years parish priest of Pictou, Nova Scotia, is to be created Bishop of Harbor Grace.

Six Dundee, Scotland, steamers will engage in the N. F. seal fishing this season, namely—the Arctic, Aurora, Thetis, Resolute, Narwhal and Esquimaux.

A woollen factory is about to be established in St John's with 400 shares of $50 each. I Fancy for $20 000 they cannot establish a very monster factory.

The *Patriot* has a faith in the N. F. Railway which is almost religious.

St. John's N. F., 25th Feb. '81.

[redacted]

—Nearly two hundred young people assembled in the Masonic Hall Monday night, to assist at the last "social" dance till Lent is over.

TRADE.

From the table of trade and navigation of the Dominion for the last fiscal year we glean the following figures showing the trade of Miramichi:—

	Exports.	Imports
Chatham	$883,249	$75,293
Newcastle	335 009	20,061
Total,	$1,213,263	$95,354
	Consumption	Duty
Chatham	$80,695	$22,437 77
Newcastle	21,535	7,025 60
Total,	$102,230	$29,463 37

SHIPPING STATISTICS

	Arrived		Departed	
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
Chatham				
From sea	234	110,499	235	108,678
Coastwise	223	9,190	200	9,884
Total,	457	116,689	435	118,562
Newcastle				
From sea	68	34,947	62	36,401
Coastwise	36	1,930	31	1,140
Total	104	36,777	92	31,541
Grand total	561	156,476	528	150 103

We find that Chatham ranks fifth amongst the ports in the Dominion for the amount of tonnage of vessels arriving from sea. The figures being as follows:—

	No.	Tons
Quebec	657	675 634
Halifax	1 070	529 663
St John	579	462 880
Montreal	374	427 057
Chatham	234	110 499

A BRITISH DEFEAT BY THE BOERS.

Gladstone's lame duck has been hatched. His shaky, peace at any price policy, has borne its fruit, and disgrace and defeat, and slaughter, have been brought upon the British arms in the Transvaal. A late despatch says the War Office has the following telegram from Col Bond, commanding at Mount Prospect: "Gen Colley, with 22 officers and 627 men, consisting of infantry and the naval brigade, proceeded on Saturday night to occupy Magela Mountain. The Boers attacked him at seven o'clock on Sunday morning. At one o'clock p.m. firing increased. At 2.20 it became evident from the camp that we had lost the hill and that our men were retiring under heavy fire. There is no doubt that Gen. Colley is killed."

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

A severe engagement took place to day between the Boers and Gen. Colley's force, and the latter was driven from its position at Spitskop, with great loss on both sides. Many British officers were killed or wounded.

LATER.

A telegram from General Colley's camp says all the wounded coming in agree in reporting that General Colley has been killed, and that only 100 British escaped. The Boers charged up the hill four times, and were about to retreat when the British were forced to retire because the reserve ammunition had been taken to the extreme summit."

But this is not all. King Coffee has heard that Gladstone is at the head of affairs, and he is also preparing to pounce upon the British. And if we are not mistaken, the time is not far when the Afghans will begin to show their teeth. And the Irish troubles, England has always with her.—ED.

ALNWICK JUSTICE.

MR EDITOR,—Ratepayer's scribbling again and puts me in mind of a man who poked his finger in the water to make a hole and when he drew it out there was no hole and then he threw himself in and was drowned. Now for the sake of truth, let us see. First—Seven hotels in the parish of Alnwick and complaint being made under oath against one, and the Justice would not act. Now that one *did* belong to Newcastle parish and if he would enquire of a certain constable when the warrant in his hands was dated he would learn truth, so that one has nothing to do with his eleven. He doesn't know his own parish. Complaint was made against another rumseller in the parish and he was fined. Where are his other ten? was he with Justice buying liquor at these places for justices to drink, or did he make complaint that he saw those other ten selling on such and such a day in the parish and county? If not I hold he has stated what is false against the justices of the peace.

For you are aware the law requires proof. Hearsay will not do. There must be good and sufficient proof on complaint made. Should we believe all the reports circulated, we would believe ratepayer was an unqualified constable last year, whose duty it would be in that respect to search out and prosecute all offenders of the liquor law in the place without distinction, as he would have nothing to do with those able or not able to pay a fine or get county costs before a justice of the peace.

And the same authority will have it that some of those rumsellers are going to complain against Ratepayer and have him fined for neglect of duty.

Now, sir, let me ask what about constables. The same authority says that some of them make diligent search and find it too. Now, sir, for his own sake he will not contradict this, but place himself in such a position as to appear a good law abiding citizen, bringing offenders of the law to justice, and blame his superior officers for not doing what is his duty to do.

As regards drinking at his or any other mans expense, either in or out of unlicensed taverns, I deny the charge and know of no other Justice being guilty. I am able to pay for what I drink without Ratepayer or any other paying for me. I buy it lawfully and I defy him or any other man to say otherwise.

A JUSTICE.

OUR LOCAL LEGISLATURE IN SESSION.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 26.

The House went into committee on the whole on a bill to incorporate the Saint George Cotton Mill Company. Mr Gillespie in the chair.

Mr Lynott said the bill was almost precisely the same as the one passed last winter.

Hon Mr Hanington thought the words in section 8 were too general. Some slight changes were made in sections 8 and 10 and the bill was agreed to.

Mr Butler gave notice of the following resolution:

Whereas, It seems desirable that a continuation of the New Brunswick Railway should be made from the terminus of St Mary's to some point on the Intercolonial Railway, not only to promote the interests of the country through which the New Brunswick Railway now passes, but also the country through which the continuation would pass, and the Province generally;

And Whereas The Company who now control the said Railway have under consideration the building of such extension, provided certain facilities are extended to them:

And Whereas Justice seems to require that the portion of the Province through which such extension would pass, and which is now entirely without railway communication, should have at length some attention paid to its claims.

Therefore Resolved, That an address be presented to the Lieutenant Governor, that he will be pleased to take the foregoing preamble into consideration.

Mr. Davidson gave notice of motion, for the suspension of the rules to introduce a bill regarding the Northern Railway Company.

The House went into committee on a bill to legalize the assessment in the Town of Portland for 1880, Mr. Ryan in the chair.

Mr Turner asked how many actions were pending in connection with the assessment.

Mr Ritchie said there was a general standstill and taxes could not be collected. He didn't know of any actions. The Town can't issue executions for taxes.

The bill was agreed to.

The House went into committee of the whole on a bill to authorize the town of Portland to issue guarantee bonds, Mr. Sayre in the chair.

Mr Elder said the Portland Council propose to issue $8,000 guarantee bonds by a two thirds vote of the Council. No interests are affected by the bill and it is a matter of convenience.

The bill was agreed to.

Mr Black was granted leave of absence until Wednesday. He said he was compelled to go home on urgent business, and that he had arranged to pair off on the vote on the resolution and amendment with Mr. Turner. He wanted it to be understood how he voted.

Mr Hatchison, Mr Beveridge and Dr Vail were granted leave of absence until Tuesday.

The house adjourned until Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

The Richibucto Masonic Hall bill was agreed to yesterday.

FEB. 23.

AFTERNOON.

Mr Gillespie inquired why the Government grant was witheld from the Alnwick Agricultural Society in 1880 and asked if the allowance would be given this year.

Hon Mr Wedderburn said when the returns for 1879 came to the Government, it was found that the money was represented by notes of hand. So far as the grant this year was concerned it had passed out beyond the immediate control of the Government.

Johnson made a silly and rambling speech about the census commissioners for the Province, the injustice to the Acadians, Mr John Costigan, the inadvisability of Land Leagues, etc., etc. Mr Johnson ought not to be encouraged in these silly outbursts. What right had he to disapprove of Mr Costigans connection with the Land League—how dare he accuse Mr Costigan of remissness in assisting proper applications from the Maritime Provinces? If Urbain Johnson knew anything of what he was talking about, he would know, that Mr Costigans whole exertions have been a struggle for the rights of others both French and English.

Willis followed in an empty vapouring speech: occupying the House for hours.

Mr Frazer followed. After referring to various matters, he touched upon the

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The leader of the opposition said there could not be an independent vote on the question, because there were members in the House with commissions and promises of seats in the Legislative Council. The Provincial Secretary had said there was not a member in the House who had a commission or a seat pledged to him and he absolved any who had from secrecy in the matter. The member from Gloucester said he had been offered a seat by three members of the Government. If what the Secretary had said would absolve him or not, he would not question. The member from Gloucester said the offer had been made him and the only condition was that he was to support the Government. He believed that the three members to whom he referred were himself, the President of the Council and the Surveyor General. He was the first one who had a personal interview with the member for Gloucester, who the next day saw the President of the Council and afterwards the Surveyor General. He (Fraser) did not make any offer to the member for Gloucester of a seat in the Legislative Council. The Government never approached him but he approached the Government and asked for a seat.

Mr Ryan—Never.

Hon Mr Fraser—He did approach the Government through a friend. The first intimation of this he (Fraser) had was a short time ago. Before that the idea of offering a seat to the member for Gloucester was never thought of by him. A few days before the House met a telegram was sent to the member for Gloucester, to his care. He found it at his residence, and naturally supposing it was for himself, opened it and could not understand the contents. He then saw it was not for himself but for the member for Gloucester, to his care, and the next day he took it to the telegraph office and explained the matter to Mr Byrne. He met the honorable gentleman the day the House opened and gave him the telegram. He mentioned who it was from. He (Fraser) said he knew the contents, and if he desired to discuss the matter he could meet him in Mr Young's room at the Barker House that evening, which the member for Gloucester said he would do. He went there that evening and did not see Ryan. The next day Mr Young said he had seen him, and there was no need of the meeting. Mr Young informed him (Ryan) that the government had been misinformed. Mr Ryan said they had not been misinformed, and they had better keep the matter open two or three days, and this Mr Young refused to do. There was a great difference between the Government offering a seat and the gentleman himself coming forward and asking for one. A few days after the House opened, the member from Gloucester told him (Fraser) in the House that he had misunderstood him and thought the next evening was the one appointed for the meeting at the Barker. He (Fraser) said it made no difference now. The President of the Council says he made him no offer of a seat. The member from Gloucester since the opening of the House had some conversation with the Surveyor General, which was of a private character and which the Surveyor General says he would not repeat on the floors of the House, unless the member from Gloucester desired him to. He (Fraser) told the Surveyor General that he ought in justice to his colleagues to say whether in that conversation he made any offer of a seat in the Legislative Council to Mr Ryan. The Surveyor General said he did not. The Government were approached on behalf of the member from Gloucester. When the President of the Council said they must have been misinformed in the matter, the member from Gloucester said they were not, the gentleman who approached the Government was a bosom friend, he believed of the member from Gloucester. He (Fraser) had made the hon gentleman no offer.

Mr Blair: Did you say that as far as you were concerned, it was all right?

Hon Mr Fraser: I never uttered such a word. Whenever I give assurance that a thing will be done I endeavor to carry it out, though I am careful before making any promise.

Mr Ryan said he did not wish to allude to the offers that came to him through his friend and which he had always resisted. He met the Attorney General the first day of the session, who then handed him the telegram, saying, we have considered the matter and as far as I am concerned it is all right. He thought the meeting at the Attorney General's was postponed one night. The President of the Council told him the seat was at his disposal.

Hon Mr Fraser said the hon. gentleman stated what was incorrect. He never said as far as he was concerned it was all right. It was a complete fabrication on the part of the hon. gentleman. The statement must rest between his veracity and that of the member from Gloucester and in regard to other matters between the President of the Council and the member for Gloucester it must rest between their veracity. He felt that it was necessary to offer the explanation he had to the House.

He then went into a very full explanation of the Finances of the country giving facts and figures to back up his statements and after meeting every specific charge, took in the country. In 1878 the government had imported sheep and this move had been heartily approved of by the country and acknowledged a great benefit. Then they had pressed claims against the Dominion Dock, with prospect of success, had succeeded in saving the province $3,000 a year for all time in the matter of the Tracadie Lazaretto, now a Dominion charge and are still pressing claims for Eastern Extension.

After summing up all these things he closed a brilliant and able speech by showing that the Province is in good condition and able to provide for the increasing wants spoken of in the resolution, and when occasion requires it can also exercise a measure of benevolence.

Messrs Barbarie and McLellan followed Mr Fraser after which Mr Elder moved the adjournment of the debate and will have the floor tomorrow afternoon. McLellan will then close the debate and the country will be glad.

Lenten Regulations, &c.

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first of the three days preparatory to the Lenten season of 40 days. There was Mass this morning in the presbyteral at which according to the time honored usage of the church, ashes was put upon the foreheads of the congregation. This ceremony was introduced into the church by Pope Gregory the Great,—the same who by the means of St Augustin converted England from heathenism in the Sixth Century,—and has been observed ever since. The ashes used are obtained from burning blessed palm, the ashes are consecrated at the altar then sprinkled with holy water, and afterwards put upon the foreheads of the faithful, the words accompanying the act rendered into English being, "Remember man thou art dust, and to dust thou must return." On Sunday last at 9 o'clock Mass, His Lordship the Bishop proclaimed the regulations for Lent, for the diocese of Chatham. They are substantially the same, he said, as last year. Every day in Lent is a fast day of obligation that is, only one meal and a collation is allowed any day, except Sundays, unless to those under 21 years, those pursuing laborious employments, those in an enfeebled sickly or delicate condition — and aged persons: such have a dispensation. The use of flesh meat is prohibited on all days in Lent, except on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; but on Saturday first, on ember Saturday, and on the last Saturday in Lent meat is also forbidden. Fish and flesh meat at the same meal are forbidden.

His Lordship pointed out that the regulations were the same as those for the neighbouring dioceses of St. John and Halifax.

At 11 o'clock mass Rev. Father Barnon also announced the regulations for Lent, and exhorted the congregation to spend the holy season in the manner intended by the church, and in keeping with their obligations as Christians. He pointed out the difference between that which was obligatory, and that which was optional in the way of mortifications during Lent: between that which the church commanded and which she recommends. The obligatory was that laid down in regulations by the church, and was binding under pain of mortal sin; the optional was not binding, but was wholesome and proper, and included refraining from festivities such as parties, dancing, etc., reading trashy books, harmful at any time, but doubly reprehensible then, during the holy season of Lent, etc., etc.

STAR BRIEFS.

—Men come out of the woods almost daily.

—The whooping cough is prevalent in Douglastown.

—Mr Duncan Davidson, of this town, intends putting up a new tannery on the site of the old one shortly.

—The members of the C.T.A. Society are to give an entertainment in their Hall on the evening of St. Patrick's day.

Fox Skins.

Foxes are said to be pretty plenty this winter and a number of skins have been brought into town. These are bought up generally by Mr Clowery, or Mr R Flanagan, and are either trapped or shot, sometimes by sportsmen and sometimes by Indians. Mr Flanagan has purchased upwards of 40 skins this season, in town. Red fox skins are not very valuable, not bringing much over a dollar and a half. Down river, they are chiefly caught.

Lumber News.

Mr. Poor, who lumbers for Mr. Alex. Morrison on Tabusintac, has discharged some of his men. Mr. Poor had 25 men and about six or seven teams. He has already got out over 2,000,000.

Mr. Charles Ramsburrow, of Black River, has also discharged a team and two or three of his men.

The Flag.

Mr Snowball's employees put up their flag on Monday to do honor to our Deserters Return. Those who looked sharply at that flag might have seen one word in flaming letters across it, and that word ICHABOD.