

LOCAL MATTERS.

Good Friday.—There will be preaching at the Methodist Church, next Friday Morning at 11 o'clock.

The First Goose.—Mr. Jacob Ward, of Wood Point, has the honor of shooting the first wild goose of the season.

CATTLE.—One car load on 29th; one car on the 1st, and two on 5th of fat cattle comprise Sackville's shipments the past week—all to St. John.

EASTER SERVICES.—Service and Holy Communion at St. Ann's, Westport, at 11 a. m., and usual evening service at St. Paul's, at 7 p. m.

STRIKE AT DIGBY.—The hands in three shipyards in Digby County are on a strike. They refuse to work more than 10 hours a day. Over 100 men have struck, and will go to the States before they will give in.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING.—Dr. Stewart preached the annual sermon last Sunday morning. The platform was to be taken by several speakers in the evening, but owing to the storm the meeting was postponed, and will take place next Sunday evening.

FUBLED.—Vennor's himself again. He said it would storm in Westmorland on the last of March or the first of April, and it did. Great is Vennor. Henceforth he shall be promoted from the circle of the Minor Prophets and shall be remembered with the Greater Prophets.

AN UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCE AT ELGIN.—Albert Hart, an employee in the Elgin Spool Factory, while adjusting a belt, on the 30th March, was caught and thrown on a large circular saw, where he was mangled so badly that the doctors consider the case beyond all human aid and that the unfortunate man can live but a few days at most.

INQUEST.—At the inquest over the body of Conductor Geldert, it was brought out that he had been putting in extra time on the road. He had lost a good deal of sleep. The verdict was that he came to his death owing to danger signals not being placed on his train. The jury condemned the system of allowing men to work more than one day and night without rest. The funeral was the largest ever seen in Truro, Geldert was a great favorite among all who knew him.

The death of R. B. Cutler, Esq., took place at Cape Bald on Tuesday, at the advanced age of 82 years. Mr. Cutler has been a journalist and politician and in both has occupied prominent positions. He represented Kent County in the Local Legislature previous to Confederation, and in Parliament in 1873. He was a man of genial disposition, possessed much ability, and preserved his faculties, and kept up an active interest in public affairs to the last.

FIRE.—On the 31st ult., at Davis Road, Botsford, the carpenter shop belonging to David Scrimgeour took fire, from the stove it is supposed, while he and his apprentice were in the house to dinner. A high wind was blowing at the time. The barn and dwelling house adjacent were for some time in great danger, but by the persevering exertions of the family and neighbors the fire was confined to the carpenter shop which, with most of its contents, was entirely destroyed. The loss of building, lumber, tools, &c., is estimated at \$200.

AUTOMATIC CAR COUPLER.—Mr. Wm. Hallett, of the I. C. R. Dining Saloon, Truro, has invented an automatic car coupler of a very simple design, and that appears to be as effective as simple. The link is held in place by a pawl, which swings on a pin at the upper end, the lower end resting against a perpendicular face. The pawl is raised and lowered by a tumbler, to which it is attached by a chain. When it is proposed to couple the car, the tumbler is turned forward, which lowers the pawl. It is then in a position to catch the link, when it slips in. The mouth of the aperture is made large to catch the link. When it is necessary to uncouple, it is turned back and the pawl is raised. The tumbler can be operated by a rod from the top of the car. Patents have been applied for. The many accidents that result from the present clumsy and dangerous system of hand-coupling—a safe and cheap device, such as Mr. Hallett's seems to be, would be of great benefit to the railway service.

Prominent Actor's Belief.—Mr. Tony Pastor, of New York City, the great humorist and actor, was singularly benighted by the Great German Kennedy, and felt constrained to testify to the efficacy for the benefit of others suffering in the same way.

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(From our own correspondents.)

SOUTHAMPTON ITEMS.

—The sugar-makers are just going in the woods. They are looking for a good season, and the old men say they will have it.

—The Baptists invited their friends to meet with them at John T. Blenkhorn's, on the 23rd ult., and make their pastor, Rev. W. J. Stewart, a donation. They spent a very pleasant evening and realized fifty dollars, cash.

—W. H. Rogers lectured in the Hall, 27th ult., on "Temperance," and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the hall was crowded, and we listened to one of the best efforts of that very popular speaker. Mr. Rogers stands to-day as one of our strongest temperance advocates, and he never fails to give the rum-seller a dig where an opportunity offers.

DORCHESTER ITEMS.

—Mr. Howe, of the copper mine is expected here to-day. The mine is to be reopened.

—It is reported here that Hon. D. L. Hamilton is to be the next Attorney General and Mr. Elder Provincial Secretary.

—Judge Palmer has granted an order for a hearing on Habeas Corpus for the release of young Gillis who was sent up for trial by B. A. Road, Esq.

—Mr. Thomas Henry Gilbert it is said will be brought out at the coming election for the Local Assembly. Charles B. Knapp, Esq., has aspirations in the same direction.

—The Rev. J. Roy Campbell took up his residence here on Saturday last, for good, and is holding service every day and twice Sundays. Rev. R. Simonds has removed to Sussex.

—Druggist McKay has an organette, and music strains may be heard at all hours. A man who has no music in his soul altogether there is too much strain for the amount of music.

—Local sportsmen are anxiously awaiting the opening of the spring shooting. Messrs. Hickman and McKay have fitted out a monitor calculator to work great havoc among the feathered tribes.

FROM BAIE VERTE.

—The outcome of the Donation at the Methodist Parsonage was Mr. Wilson finding himself better off at its close by some \$56 than at its commencement.

—We have considerable sickness at present in Rheumatism, Typhoid fever, and Congestion of the lungs. Dr. Black is quite ill with the former, we hope not alarmingly so, for the loss of such a man would be severely felt.

—Mrs. John Ward, of Port Egin, was buried on Sunday, the 26th inst. Her illness was long and severe but she bore it with great patience and her many friends rejoice to believe that their loss is her gain.

—The Sons of Temperance have had unusually interesting sessions during the winter, and with debates, readings and variety entertainments, have made the Wednesday evenings times of real enjoyment. The Chief officers for the coming term are E. E. Wilson, W. P., and Bliss Goodwin, W. A.

—Your attitude on the Second Member question has commanded widespread attention, and your arguments must commend themselves to every lover of fair play. What any inhabitant of this country should oppose it is to us as perfect puzzle, for increased representation in Parliament is usually looked upon as something desirable.

—Local politics are not much talked of now, but no doubt will be soon. What combinations may be formed we cannot say, but would it not be well to remember that the eastern parishes have clever men on both sides, and it will not be prudent to ignore the fact. If we have no lawyers to bring to the front, we have the doctors, either of whom would make a creditable show in the Assembly room.

—Dr. McCully's Lecture on "Heroes" closed the course, and was worthy of the speaker and the subject. It was well handled, and was well received. The preceding one on "Habit" by Mr. Robert Goodwin was really a good one, and his effort took so well that by request he repeated it at Port Egin the following week. Mr. Fletcher Ward's on "Maboued," revived the history of the celebrated Arab, noted the effect of his creed upon the destinies of the Eastern World, and was listened to with very great attention by one of the best audiences of the season.

The agitation for a new Methodist Church is bearing fruit, and ere many months elapse, a beautiful and commodious edifice will replace the one that has certainly outlived its usefulness. The plans prepared by George Beckwith, Esq., are all that could be desired, and prove him to be a workman that needs not to be ashamed. The building is to be 70x42, with tower, steeple, inclined floor, curved pews, windows in one end, pulpit between the doors, some twelve feet taken off the rear end for schoolroom but opening into church by folding doors, and all finished in ash and walnut. Mr. Somers is the contractor. The work is to be pushed through this summer, and the total cost will be about \$4,000.

SALISBURY MATTERS.

—The steam saw mill of Messrs. Gray & Wheaton commenced work a short time ago. Mr. John Harris has charge of the spring and has already cut about 100,000 feet of lumber.

—The ministers of this place have been exerting themselves vigorously during the winter months, both in this village and in the country round about. Rev. Mr. Barnes has been holding special services at "Five Points" lately.

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April Fools Day.

No man would dare so audacious a thing as to commence a system of April Fooling. It never was begun. It is one of the customs which always existed. Who could commence it and live? True, some self-sacrificing mortals may have seen the green end of such a day, and have given his life to establish it, and to day fills some nameless grave, nor is it unwet and unknown. If so, and if the spirits of the famous dead can see the result of their works, with how great pride does he look upon the great institution to which he gave birth. Ages have rolled on, centuries have passed, and April Fool's Day holds its position as the greatest democratic power of the age. It is the great leveller. The Premier of the realm looks over his shoulder at nothing, promptly at the advice of the raggedest gamins on the street. An ignorant and vicious parsonage fancies that he will like to see his steady and pious pastor carry a St. Jacob's ointment on his back, and straightway the pastor carries it. The school boys fear the teacher 364 days (less several Sundays) in the year, but one day annually the teacher fears the boys. This bond of union is the complete subject. It is not I am a man and do appreciate all human affairs. It is I am a fool, and so is everybody else, and we will have a reunion to-day. Why is the first day of April selected. Much study has been given to the subject, but no historian seems to be satisfied, so far. The theory which is the most favorably received is this. A careful computation made in early ages, by the leading mathematicians of the time, showed that, spring Sundays and holy days aside, the first day after lent was the more likely to be the first day of April than any other day in the year. Also, it gradually became a practice to have a re-union immediately after lent, and the ecclesiastics refused to add to the number of movable feasts for this purpose, they holding that all movable feasts were holy days. Wherefore an assembly in Lent, when the first day of April chosen. Of course the custom now known as April fooling did not originate then. Readers of Tertullian need not be told that it was one of the social questions which perplexed the early christian church. It can be easily seen how easily, fitting it was that a day immediately after lent should be chosen. People living on weak provision, with nothing to stimulate the intellect, and invigorate the body, would naturally be unable to resist the freedom by any intellectual performances, nor take part in any athletic sports. They felt like doing something extraordinary, and lacked the power to do anything else but be extravagant in their festivities. The law is very simple. The people, to be somewhat impractical about that time. For six weeks they would have been removed in part from worldly influences. They, being decently clothed, and well fed, and able to compete with their less pious neighbors in worldly wisdom, could easily match them in foolishness. It would be interesting to pursue this subject further, but space does not permit. The advantages of April Fool's Day are many. It shows to the cynic how much fifth there is in humanity after all. When a man receives a dozen bouquets in a day, he begins to find out that for the most part there is no poetry in letters. When he finds himself obeying the invitation to look behind him, and finds nothing there, or goes to the door and finds nobody rang the bell, he learns upon him how much he is trusting his fellowman every day, and how silly he can be. On the first day of April Fool's Day, he may point out to the proud man how much he owes to his fellows. The boys about the street might pin cards on his back every day in the year, with April Fool's Day, they may not, or they might summon him to see all sorts of imaginary people, or keep telling him that he is too late for the train. They might make his life a burden to him and yet they would not do it. Let us hope that the same day may be made use of by the gathered from this admirable festival, by the readers of the Post.

THE "GLOBE" AND THE POOR MAN.

There are men working in this city to-day for a dollar—for even ninety cents—for the day. They are men who are not getting a dollar for a day's work, and it is no wonder the working man finds it hard to live.

In the language of the gifted A. Ward, "this is a darn site too much." New Brunswick pays an average duty to Government of 20 cents on the dollar on goods imported from foreign countries. But the "Globe" and the rich man too, spend a great deal more on goods that are not imported than on those that are. The total value of goods imported into this Province is six million dollars, or about \$19 a head.

The man who earns ninety cents or a dollar a day will not spend anything like the average amount. If he did his family of five would spend \$95 out of this \$90 a year, and would pay less than \$30 duty, or about 33 cents on every dollar consumed. The poor New Brunswicker does not pay any Government tax on his fuel, nor on his meat or fish. He rent, if the "Globe" does not tell him about despised houses, to no tax. He pays no duty on his tea; nothing to Government for the most of his clothing. Nearly all the dollar a day is spent in the purchase of articles which pay no Government tax. The "Globe's" statement is true in one case, however. Let justice be done. The man who spends his money in drink pays more than 60 cents on the dollar to Government.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

N. P. Letters.

To the Editor of the Post: Sir.—Previously to the N. P. our can't fruit, vegetables, &c., came from the United States. When the tariff was raised, factories were started at home. What has been the result? Higher prices to the consumer, I can imagine our Free Trade friends say. Not at all. Tomatoes and cukes are sold at 10 p. c. cheaper than in '78. Another item. Ball knitting cotton, an article used in nearly every household—used to be sold throughout Canada by Morse, Kely & Co., of Boston. Under the N. P. Parks, of St. John, commenced manufacturing it and sells a profitable article at 10 p. c. less.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POST: Sir.—The prosperity of Nova Scotia is exemplified by the great sales last year made by one firm of agricultural implements. The sales of the "Till" mowers, 450 horse-rakes and 150 reapers in this Province, and the prospects are bright for the coming year. At the risk of this being considered a puff, I will mention their names, viz: Cassin Bros., Brookville, Ont. Yours truly, T. N. S., April 3.

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