

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

always under command—in India he modestly took the second place under Lord Gough—in the recent conflict with Russia his office was rather one of selection than of direct participation, and in his selections he was not very fortunate. The qualities which seem to have recommended Lord Hardinge to honour and fame were, in the first place, unflinching courage in the most terrible trials or in the most unexpected turns of war. He was distinguished, moreover, by a buoyancy of spirit, by a cheerfulness, by a geniality which made him ever acceptable to those around him. Almost to the last, when the weight of years and of lengthened service was beginning to tell upon him, he was a ready and efficient man of business. A character and habits such as these, joined to unwearied zeal and to a never-failing sense of duty, will be sufficient to account for the honours which he attained without insulting the memory of so gallant and deserving a man with fulsome and superfluous flattery.

A PROJECTED RIVAL TO THE "TIMES."—A meeting for the purpose of carrying out the above singular project was held at Swansea last week. The Rev. David Thomas, of Stockwell, in the course of explanations, said:—"People did not read volumes, but pamphlets, and especially newspapers; so much so that the daily "Times" has been called the Bible of England—hence its influence was immense. They all knew with what ease the "Times" ignored great questions—how it blew hot or cold on several fundamental points—how it could turn round—it was not in fact, guided by the pole-star of honesty, rectitude, and human justice. Any scheme, therefore, which would improve this state of things was deserving the attention and respect of every man who loved his country. Mr. Thomas then proceeded to explain the nature of the proposed scheme. It was the establishment of a first class newspaper, to be called "The Dial," which would be formed under the liability act. The speaker then read copious extracts from the prospectus, after which he remarked that failure was almost impossible. The paid-up capital would amount to no less than £500,000, and this large amount would buy not only the best type, the best paper, the best ink, but it would buy the best talent, the best brains, and the best experience. But not only had they the advantage of this large sum of money, but this would be subscribed by about 100,000, all of whom would naturally be acquiring for the "Dial." The principles were enrolled in the deed of settlement, and, therefore, nothing could be put in the paper incompatible with the prospectus. The scheme also secured another thing—that the paper should always be of a high moral tone. They did want a paper which should be primarily swayed on public questions, not by a sordid calculation of profit and loss, but by consideration of right and wrong. The scheme would also be a national one; it would take in men of all classes. On the board were as many churchmen as dissenters. Although the paper had once been advertised they had already got £10,000, and he believed that in three months the whole of the shares would be taken. The scheme was secured from all monopoly by no one person being allowed to take more than ten shares. A resolution was carried expressing concurrence in the proposed National Newspaper League. [Carmarthen Journal.]

BERLIN, SUNDAY, Sept. 21st.—Yesterday evening, the nuptials of the Princess Louisa of Prussia with the Grand Duke of Baden were solemnised in the Royal Schloss with all the prescriptive solemnities.

THE IRISH POTATO CROP.—As to the state of the potato crop, the *Freeman* says:—"The fever of last month has subsided, and the farmer may now compute his losses and gains. He has prematurely lost the leaves and stalks, but he has gained the root. The crop is everywhere good, and the yield unusually abundant. There are some samples of rotteness, but they are an unappreciable percentage on the whole crop. Some varieties have escaped altogether, while others have been touched which grew in the same field, treated with precisely the same culture, thus teaching the farmer, by experience, from which he is sure to profit, the value of frequent changes of seed. But, taken altogether, he had not such a crop since the old days of abundance, and now feels comparatively easy. Last year's crop on the average lasted until April, or about seven months' consumption, the remaining five months have been supplemented with the various forms of coin at no trifling expense. If this year's crop should stand the pit—of which there is little doubt—he will have enough for the whole year, or some for the market in exchange for bread."

The Milan journals state that Marshal Radetzky recently told the officers of his staff that a campaign in Piedmont was not improbable.

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HARBOUR GRACE, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29.

Of the various important subjects upon which a difference of opinion is known to exist, none deserve greater prominence than the causes of the decline of our inshore fishery; after many years close observation and some practical experience, we are led to believe that this decline may be justly attributed to two principal causes; first—a considerable diminution in the quantity of fish frequenting our shores; and, secondly—the absence of seasonable supplies in many of the outports. With regard to the first cause we only repeat the frequently expressed opinion of parties most competent to form a correct judgment, when we state, that it is attributable to the number of French vessels annually employed in the Bank fishery—there can be no doubt that a very material diminution in our catch is thus occasioned; but, a minute investigation would warrant the assertion that, taking one year with another, the quantity of fish upon our ground has not so considerably diminished as to justify certain injurious conclusions rather hastily arrived at; we must, therefore, glance at another cause, and one less hopeless, inasmuch as it is in the power of liberal Capitalists, aided by a fostering and energetic government to remedy the evil.

Some thirty years since, there was scarcely an Out-harbour of any consideration in which a branch of mercantile business was not profitably carried on—where the planter would find little difficulty in obtaining supplies wherewith to prosecute the voyage—even the poorest fisherman would receive Salt, Pitch, Canvas, Cordage, Hooks, Lines, &c.; Coarse Clothing, Bread, Molasses and Tea were also afforded; and as soon as the prospects of the voyage would warrant the advance, Flour, Pork, and Butter would be added; and although the charges were exorbitant, it rarely happened that supplies thus carefully issued were not paid for—more frequently something would be due the poor man at the close of the season—which with what was advanced upon winter work would generally be sufficient to sustain even the poorest families; the produce of such winter work consisted of Hoops, Staves, Heading, Clapboard, Ships Timber, Store Frames, Firewood, &c., which, with Shipbuilding in some places, and Boatbuilding in many more,

would make up the source of employment; and private charity would contribute to the support of the aged, the helpless, the sick, and the infirm. When we contrast such a state of things with the present, one of boasted enlightenment and progress, we are tempted almost to deplore the introduction of those institutions which, by a strange perversion instead of assisting and elevating the population, have rather tended to disunite, to demoralise, and to pauperise them.

But to pursue the enquiry—if the primary causes of the sad change were traced to their proper source, it would be found that many of our Outport establishments were knocked up—not because of losses necessarily sustained in the Newfoundland trade—but rather from the wild speculations or dissipated extravagance of some of the principals resident elsewhere, to which, if we add the mismanagement of business by certain unsuitable agents in this Country may be mainly attributed the decline of our Outport business, and consequent failure of the shore fishery. Far be it from us to assert that fish might have been taken in such abundance as formerly; but with the exception of a few intervening years, sufficient might have been taken for the peoples' support, if supplies could have been obtained for the early and constant prosecution of the voyage; taking a period of eighteen years of our own experience, but five were so unfortunate that the prudent supplier was not paid.

Unfortunately for this Country, old and experienced merchants were within a short period of time succeeded by less experienced men who hastily assumed that the evils which they had to combat arose from the general system of supply; and as a remedy, an extensive barter system was to be substituted by which Saint John's would become the market town and the Outports merely fishing stations, still those who were possessed of means and who could be supplied with safety were to be kept on, but the poor fisherman with aged parents, or a large family to support, was to be taught the great advantage of a liberal market if he could only manage to live on the air for a season, catch and cure the voyage, and borrow a boat sufficiently large to convey his fish and oil a distance of one or two hundred miles to the Capital.

Such was the mistaken course adopted for some years—its baneful effects were soon experienced throughout the Island—a large proportion of our best fishermen became impoverished and were robbed by what were termed bumers or free traders. Thousands of quintals of fish was spoiled in one season for the want of salt, and tens of thousands more which might have been taken, lost to the country for the want of the means of catching, and this in one Bay and under our own observation. The people sank under the change. Young men finding their efforts thus paralysed at home, left their aged parents and went to sea, and in a short period want and gaunt famine prevailed where for ages the necessities of life were wont to abound; and when to these evils was added that of the Potato failure, hundreds—nay, thousands sank into their graves without appeal to the government, and leaving no other memorial than may be presented by the mute mounds under which they had found a refuge.

Of the flagitious and shameful waste of the public money since constitutional rights were bestowed upon this country, we will not now venture to speak, but shall content ourselves with observing that, if one-half the amount had been appropriated to purposes of remedial relief, or if the government had adopted similar principles to those by which the Dutch and other fisheries were enabled

to prosper for ages, then might Newfoundland, instead of being a byword to others, have become a prosperous Colony, the contented home of thousands of hardy able and industrious fishermen, who have left her shores for ever.

(To the Editor of the Conception-Bay Man)

Sir,—The subject of the letter of a "North Shore Wesleyan," which appeared in last Wednesday's *Express*, is so closely interwoven with the welfare of the general body of the Wesleyans of the whole Island, and the benefit that would result to them if it were carried into execution, induces me to submit a few remarks which his observations have suggested.

As this is a matter of no trifling or ordinary moment, but one which essentially affects so numerous and influential a body, I heartily coincide with him in his declaration that it becomes incumbent upon the Wesleyans of the districts of BURN and HARBOUR GRACE, to exert every effort to stem the exuberant torrent of Sectarian injustice that a lying, deceitful, mercenary Ministry have so basely practiced upon their brethren of the district of Bay-de Verds.

It is true that the effect produced by the occasional warpings of a private individual, is in general unimportant and imperceptible; but he who endeavours to rouse the inactive energies of those upon whom it is incumbent to guard with the most jealous solicitude against every encroachment upon their interests, not only discharges his duty to that community of which he is a member, but, in the estimation of one whose favour is more to be valued than wealth, he does the only act in his power to curbe the generation of abuse. Let not then any man, who is sincerely anxious for the welfare of his country, lament his limited ability; but remember that the strenuous exertion of one man was the primary foundation of Magna Charta, and that in the language of Blackstone, the oppression of an obscure individual gave birth to the famous *Habeas Corpus Act*.

Arouse then, Wesleyans of this district, from your apathetic indifference; stand forward, and with enthusiastic determination form a bold front and protect your just rights; listen to the voice from the North Shore, and give utterance to your feelings which have been wounded and insulted by the contemptuous treatment your brethren of Bay-de-Verds received from an unprincipled and hypocritical cabal.

If this district, which is a Protestant district, were honestly represented, Bay-de-Verds would have been spared the degradation and insult that has been so arrogantly, and with such unparralled effrontery cast upon it by men who are now openly and unequivocally accused through the public press of embezzlement of the public funds; and notwithstanding those charges of embezzlement and misappropriation of the money voted by the Country, and with which they were entrusted for the relief of God's suffering poor, have been repeatedly made against them; yet, they stand undefended and uncontradicted, their press is quite silent, and they remain silent themselves, because they dare not furnish a detailed abstract of the expenditure, therefore they cannot refute one single iota of them.

And it is lamentable, too, that the men who represent us should basely betray their trust, destroy our independence, and barter this wealthy and intelligent district for paltry, selfish, ambitious, and perfidious bribery, for which they are compelled by those miscreants to aid and assist them in those and other execrable transactions. But it is not the first time the Wesleyans of Conception-Bay have been called on to acknowledge the *honest firmness* and *inflexible integrity*!! of Mr. Prendergast. They do not mean to insinuate that he has ever sold or deceived them; but they promise him that, he shall be remembered at the proper season, as he heretofore has been, when called on to render an account of his stewardship. Mr. Hayward, who has not as yet been entirely "damned to universal fame," like his honourable Colleague, has publicly pledged himself to support no government that would use its power to the detriment of any party or sect; but has he supported that pledge? echo answers—has he

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