

THE STAR.

Harbor Grace, Feb. 11, 1874.

Opening of the Legislature.

The First Session of the Eleventh General Assembly was opened by His Excellency the Governor at two o'clock on Thursday last, with the usual formalities.

The House of Assembly, having chosen Prescott Emerson, Esq., their Speaker, and this choice having been approved by His Excellency, the Governor was then pleased to deliver the following

OPENING SPEECH:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:

I rejoice to meet the Legislature after the Elections, which were generally conducted with good order; though, in two districts, I regret to find that the proceedings were marked by breaches of the Law.

The marriage of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, with the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, will, doubtless, elicit from us such expressions of respectful congratulation, as the happiness of Her Majesty and the Royal Family always evokes throughout the British possessions. That auspicious event, which has bound, by ties of domestic affection, the second son of our Beloved Queen to a colossal power, now forms one of the many causes which tend to the peace and prosperity of our Empire.

A defect in the Act, passed last Session, to give effect to the Treaty of Washington having prevented its acceptance by the Government of the United States—this measure will necessarily be submitted to you for further consideration.

I regret the continued existence of impediments to the settlement of that part of the coast of this Island, where the French enjoy the rights of fishing; but I am not without hope, that means may be adopted by the Legislature to place our relations in this important matter on a satisfactory footing. With a view to this result, my Ministers will be prepared to submit, for your consideration, propositions which have been lately received from the Imperial Government.

The fisheries of the past year have been productive; and the profits of the agriculturists have been remunerative.

The very satisfactory manner in which the Ocean Steam Mail Service has been performed, has justly elicited from the public expressions of approval. The traffic facilities, afforded by the Allan Line, must stimulate intercourse, and thus promote trade and the general activity of the Country.

In the month of April next the time will have arrived when by the Terms of the Charter of New York and London Telegraph Company, this Government will acquire the right to purchase the property of the Company in our Island. It will be for your careful consideration, what course would be best calculated to conserve the interests of the Colony, in relation to this important subject.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:

I have much pleasure in congratulating you on the general prosperity of the Colony, and in informing you that the revenue for 1873, exclusive of Lighthouse receipts, reached the large sum of \$801,412 13; the estimates for the present year will be prepared with due regard to just economy, and at an early date, will be submitted for your approval. In accordance with an Address from the House of Assembly in last session, your attention will be invited to the propriety of revising the Civil List with relation to the present financial condition of the Colony.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:

Copies of despatches, received during the past year from Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, will be laid on the tables of your Honourable Houses.

I now commend the welfare of the people to your wisdom and solicitude, and pray, that in every matter of public interest, the Omnipotent may guide your deliberations and bring them to a happy issue.

STEPHEN J. HILL.

Government House, }
Newfoundland, }
5th February, 1874 }

In the Legislative Council, the Hon. P. G. Tessier moved, and the Hon. R. Kent seconded, the motion for a Committee to frame an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech.

After some debating by Messrs Pinsent Shea, White and Thorburn, the Council adjourned to meet on Monday next.

In the House of Assembly, Mr. Bowring rose to move for a Committee in reply, but after some incoherent observations, uttered in a manner which caused quite as much pain to the hearers as to the Speaker, Mr. Bowring broke down and resumed his seat. It is evident that Mr. Bowring will have to adopt Burton's old plan of writing out his speeches and keeping them in his hat.

Mr. Winter seconded the motion which Mr. Bowring rose to put, and Mr. Winter spoke well, advising to and making the best of the several matters contained in the opening address.

Mr. Parsons characterized the Speech as bald and naked, and not foreshadowing any policy of the Government. The present ministry had attained power by raising the religious cry throughout the

country, and by setting creed against creed. Acts of violence had been committed in other districts besides Ferryland and Burin, which had been referred to as exceptions. The Government could not reduce taxation, having too many hungry partisans to satisfy. Determined and persistent opposition would be given to the Government.

Mr. McNeilly said there had been no breaches of the peace in Bonavista, and the government candidates had raised no religious cry in that District. (This is perfectly true, but we wish we could say as much in behalf of Messrs. Bowring, Burton and McNeilly. Our belief is that in making the foregoing statement, Mr. McNeilly unintentionally let slip a truth.) The present government supporters were not corinthians, and would compare favorably with the opposition in numbers, intelligence and independence.

Mr. Little defended the late Government. After four years trial that Government had been sustained by the people and returned a majority of supporters, but had been betrayed by their own party. He denied that the present Government possessed the confidence of a majority of the people. The speech of the ministry was deficient in that it marked out no policy in the future. The question of the Telegraph monopoly was attempted to be covertly disposed of, by the use of certain words in the speech limiting the right of the Government to the purchase of the "land lines" only. He denied the insinuation that the late government party had instigated the acts of violence committed in Burin district. The members of the opposition would oppose the government foot by foot, till they were driven from the position they had so unfairly attained.

Mr. Carter denied that Mr. Charles Duder was a traitor. That gentleman had gone to the district of Twillingate and Fogo in opposition to Mr. Bennett's government and policy. Otherwise he would not have been returned.

Mr. McKay said that statement was untrue. Mr. Duder had canvassed the District with him as a supporter of the late government, and joined him in issuing an Address to the Electors of that District, which he (Duder) had signed—they fought the Election together on the same platform, and he (Mr. McKay) little imagined that Mr. Duder would on his return betray all his professions and pledges. He had proved false and recreant, and would yet meet the punishment he so well deserved.

Mr. Raftus on behalf of the people of Ferryland district said that the exception made in their case as regards unlawful acts at the late elections was invidious and unmerited. The violence complained of had been caused and provoked by the supporters of the present Government. The present Government had obtained power, but by treason in the ranks of the late Government party. Parties were now equal, and the result would be a deadlock, and the Government would be unable to carry on the business of the country, except it might be through the manoeuvre ring of an old and well known political schemer who was a prominent member of the Government party.

The Committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Bowring, Winter, Hon. A. Shea, Messrs Tessier and Nowlan.

After some notices of motion the House adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past three o'clock.—[Chronicle, Feb. 7.

LOCAL ITEMS.

BURGLARY.

A daring act of burglary was committed on Saturday morning last, the particulars of which are as follows: At about two a.m. policemen Bishop and Collins, on duty in Water Street, heard a noise in the neighbourhood of Beck's Cove, and on running up found that one of Mr. Bryden's shop shutters had been removed. Immediately a man, with two coats under his arm, both of which he had stolen from the shop, leaped out and ran up over the hill and so on towards the New Cut, closely followed by the two policemen. In his flight through James's street the burglar threw away the coats, but he was overtaken, made prisoner, and lodged in the station house.

The prisoner's name is Thomas Eagan, and his age at out nineteen, and he has been lodged in the Penitentiary to wait his trial before the Supreme Court. He effected an entrance into Mr. Bryden's premises by tuning round the pin of the bar so as to allow the dropping out of the key inside. He then had no difficulty in removing the shutter, which fortunately slipped from his hands and fell to the ground, thus being the noise which had attracted the attention of the police.

Shopkeepers should be careful to secure their shutter bars effectually on the inside.—[Chronicle.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR.]

SIR,—As no man more abhors the maxim which affirms the lawfulness of doing evil to produce good, than myself, I shall not spare falsehood, because it has been rendered subservient to political purposes, "nor concur in the deception of mankind, though for the service of the State." Notwithstanding the inconsistency of the maxim to which I allude, some of our local literati appear to have recently adopted it, and are now endeavoring to apply the *logica* it contains, with a view to sustain the Rev. Charles Ladner in his conduct regarding his "Bribery Scandal." This is not to be wondered at. Intriguers are not scrupulous as to the principles they work on in their efforts to accomplish the object of their ambition.

The Standard of Saturday last gives publicity to another article, anent the so called "bribe." While reading the said article, I could not help feeling jealous for "the moral welfare of the community; and I am sure you will participate with me in this feeling, while it is so apparent that we have men among us who would seem to make falsehood a profession—the theory practice and of which they industriously labour to propagate. They are a description of people whom I regard as no way superior to broken merchants, that will give you plenty of notes, while they are without a shilling in their coffers.

As the remarks of 'Adviser' and 'A Resident' have already been replied to, I shall for the present briefly review the last specimen of pseudology foisted on the public through the columns of the above named paper—over the *nom de plume* of 'Common Sense.'

After alluding to the interview with Mr. Parsons on the 10th Dec., 'Common Sense' observes, "Can he suppose that the offer to assist in building a church or parsonage is not a bribe?" Did Mr. Parsons offer Mr. Ladner a sum of money to assist in building a church or parsonage? No, decidedly, no! On Mr. L. remarking that the Wesleyans were "shamefully treated," and "unfairly represented on the Road and Educational Boards, and could not get a grant for any religious purpose," Mr. P. replied that he thought the appointments were fairly made, and the claims of the Wesleyans as favourably considered by the Government as the claims of any other denomination; and, again, on Mr. L. observing that he had it from good authority that "during the General Election in November, five pound notes were scattered throughout the district of Bonavista Bay in profusion, and a large sum of money would be expended in carrying on the election to fill the vacancy at Harbor Grace," Mr. P. answered that he did not think the Government candidates had been so profuse in their expenditure at Bonavista Bay, and repudiated the idea of the Government spending a large sum of money in the election at Harbor Grace. "This is what Mr. P. admitted in presence of the two accredited (?) witnesses. He did not offer Mr. L. a bribe, nor did he offer that gentleman money "to assist in building a church or parsonage;" therefore, Mr. P. was fully justified in contradicting a statement, THE FALSITY OF EVERY IOTA OF WHICH, save one—and that an admission of his having denied offering a bribe to Mr. L.—MUST BE ADMITTED BY EVERY UNPREJUDICED PERSON IN THE COUNTRY.

'Common Sense' further goes on to say, "Mr. Ladner was compelled to write in self-defence." Very well; but why was Mr. L. "compelled to write in self-defence?" Doubtless, because—having circulated an incorrect report—he found himself in a position which obliged him either to substantiate what he had advanced, or leave an opening through which his veracity might be questioned. Thus, in an effort to extricate himself from a difficulty in which his own heedlessness involved him, he implicates an innocent person, and shielding himself in the sacred panoply of religion, stands aloof and exults, while his votaries heap all manner of vituperation and calumny upon the "devoted head" of one who never did him an injury. Surely Christianity must be shorn of one of its brightest adornments—charity—or a professed Minister of the Gospel could never tolerate such injustice!

Mr. Parsons first heard the story of the "bribe" while at St. John's. It was communicated to him by a friend of Mr. W.—a gentleman with whom Mr. L. lodged at the time. Mr. P.—being on the eve of his return home—despatched a note to Mr. W.—requesting him to contradict the report, adding that "the Rev. Mr. Ladner must be labouring under a misapprehension." Mr. Parsons left for Harbor Grace the following morning, and thought no more of the matter until the 10th of December—the occasion of the "celebrated interview"—when he not only indignantly denied having anything to do with the "bribe," but promised to exonerate himself from the charge, by at once publicly denying any connection with the matter. He was, however, dissuaded from this course by Mr. Ladner, who stated that he did not wish to have the affair brought before the public. I suppose he wished to have the honor (?) of being first to appear in public in connection with the story, and then threaten Mr. Parsons with the "thunders" of the Church, if he (Mr. P.) attempted to contradict him.

'Common Sense' expresses surprise at the idea of Mr. Parsons calling at the residence of Mr. Ladner for the purpose of spending a few hours in social conversation. Now, I am sure, no one need feel surprised at this.—*Sed, mehercule, vult Pete, extra jocum, moneo te, quod pertinere ad deate vivendum arbitror; ut cum vixis bonis, jucundis, amantibus tui vivas. Nihil apertius vite, nihil ad deate vivendum ac-*

commodatus.—Cicero, Epist. L.9. Ep.24. Every resident of this town must be aware that Mr. Ladner and Mr. Parsons were on the most intimate terms. I have seen them for hours at a time in conversation on the public streets, and I am prepared to bring witnesses to prove that the latter has been an occasional visitor at the Wesleyan Parsonage ever since the former first took up his residence there. Indeed, Mr. Ladner has been heard to speak of Mr. Parsons in terms of the highest eulogy; and on the occasion of his visit to St. John's (before alluded to) Mr. L. requested Mr. P. to occupy a seat in the same sleigh with him during the drive from the Cove to the city.

Now, Mr. Editor, what is the inference to be drawn from the slanderous letter of the individual who has the audacity to sign himself 'Common Sense'? Simply, that he is a mendacious knave—without a particle of what his signature means—and the quicker he is silenced the better for the moral welfare of the community."

Mr. Parsons is—in the opinion of all right thinking men—fully justified in the course he has pursued. He is a native of this town, and bears an unimpaired reputation. His conduct, as editor of the Star, merits the approval of every lover of freedom and independence; but, alas! this is not the element in which a native aspirant can rise, unless he sells whatever talent he possesses to some political provision dealer, and atones by the apostasy of his conduct for the *crime* of his nativity!

"Where artifice, pretence, and mockery reign,
Sound sterling merit seeks for room in vain."

Mr. Ladner is a young man, I believe a native of P. E. Island. He has been a resident of this country but a few years. I know nothing of his antecedents; but this much I do know, that he is not infallible, and must, in consequence, be just as liable to err as any other person.

I do not think Mr. Parsons could be too severe in his animadversions on the conduct of "John Bemister" & Co, whose uncharitable remarks in the "Standard" of the 24th ult., deserve the strongest censure.

Yours, &c., TRUTH.

Harbor Grace, Feb. 9, 1874.

[FOR THE H. G. STAR.]

REMINISCENCES OF MY FIRST MISTRESS.

About six years ago, I shipped with Mrs. Angelina Scolding Tongue as a maid of all work. She was middle aged, full of bounce and swagger, and altogether the most unfeeling coochety depot that ever existed. She was all fidget and so close fisted was she that she would take the pelt off a mosquito did she think it of any value. I suffered martyrdom while with this supposed model of meekness and gentility. She could talk the leg out of an iron pot; her tongue wagged so much that its force knocked out all her natural grinders, and caused her to have recourse to Dr. Barns artificial spikes. When I enlisted in her service I was just twenty, and people considered me pretty. I had many hot bloods running after me, and none were allowed to come to the house to see me; I was always the subject of severe criticism whenever I attempted to do some trivial article of fashionable attire. She was ready to swallow me up for daring to make myself smart, *a la mode*. To erect a chignon or any such novelty to enhance my personal shape, or beauty was out of the question. Madam would rail at my supposed foolery, she being the very first to decorate herself with the latest fashions, and yet she beguiled me to sport the smallest article fresh from the world of change. "What!" she used to say "do servant girls want with new items of dress; what nonsense and pride they carry about with them; quite ridiculous indeed; sufficient to give me the cramps. I am disgusted with the way in which these girls try and imitate their mistresses, highly nonsensical, to be sure; I can't stand such empty assumption. If they go on at the same rate as they do now, there will be no putting up with the young things shortly. Servant girls, indeed! to attempt to cope with those above them, what is the world coming to?" Such my dear sisters was the language used by my first mistress. I shall never forget her jawings and snubbings. Poor hard worked servants what have we not to put up with at the hands of scolding housekeepers. I was shipped for a year to this hard cruel woman. Gladness filled my heart when the time was up; I jumped with joy at having out the chains of slavery. The master was nearly always away; he being a foreign captain, sailing out of this port. He was a nice gentleman, and very civil. My second mistress was a newly married lady who looked so mild that you would imagine that butter would not melt in her mouth. She was very kind to me. How different from my last place, where nothing was heard but growls. I was allowed by madam No. 2, to have my beau come and see me, and she rather liked to see us in the Elysium which true love only can create. I dearly loved my Henry, and he loved me, he was always such a funny little fellow, full of his tricks and games. I do shed tears as big as turnips every time I think of him and no wonder too, I hope he is among the blessed angels. It is no use dwelling upon his goodness. He was too good for this world: Such a real nice chap. Well, well! I must cry I can't help myself. Only for the good mistress I had I would have pined away to a rush. Her words were comforting to my troubled mind. I could not stay in the house if it so lonely, the thought of having lost my darling Henry used to cross my mind every minute. I left there and shipped with old Skipper Blowhard to fill the important

office of splitter at the 'Lab.' I found the old man a first rate fellow, and that season we did famously, having made a splendid trip. The 'Lab' is a curious place and a good deal of sparking goes on there among the young folk. I followed the profession of head splitter two or three years running, and strange to say skipper Blowhard would not let me go to any 'body else' for the world. During winter time I became the skipper's housekeeper, he being some years a widower. I liked him much and he seemed to value me with much regard. You see I was my own mistress while with Skipper Blowhard and I don't know anything in this world finer than have your own liberty. We pulled along pretty well together until the time arrived to fit out for our usual expedition to the 'Lab,' and what do you think, the skipper came to me one morning and said, "Jane you have suited me well, and you know I want a partner and I want you to become Mrs. Blowhard." I could hardly speak, my heart ran up to my mouth, my face got as red as a piece of beef, I was so confused I didn't know what to say, the thought of poor Henry rushed to my mind and nearly broke my heart. I remained in that stupid way for some minutes, and at last said 'Yes, very low, when he took me by both hands and nearly shook the life out of me. We were joined together three days before we sailed for the 'Lab,' where we lived as happy as two fighting cocks. The old man is very fond of me, and as I was walking down Water Street the other evening I met my first mistress, and would not speak to her for the world. I am just as good now as she is, nasty scolding thing—you can see it in her face. I feel sorry for the rest of my all used sisters, and hope the day is not far distant when mistresses will be taught to treat their slaves of girls with civility and kindness. Keep up your spirits, girls you must ere long get your rights. Oh, mistresses learn to be human with your servants, and not use them as you would a beast. I have now, thank goodness, a servant in my house, and I treat her with gentleness and kindness and I find she does don't let her work for me by giving her a soft, good word, and using her properly.

MRS. BLOWHARD.
Water Street, Harbor Grace.

[FOR THE H. G. STAR.]

PARODY ON "PARSON BIGLOW ON TRIMMERS."

He's been on all sides that give places or pelt;
But consistency still wuz a part of his plan,
He's been true to *one* party,—an' that his himself!—
So, you see,
Charles D. Sez he shall vote for Mr. C.

Then there's Mr. S., (a supporter of C.)
He don't vally prin'le more'n an old cud;
And if he can make us part of Canada,
Off to the Dominion fur office he'll scud.
So, you see,
Ambo he Sez he shall vote for Candry.

THE POLITICAL PREACHER.
Harbor Grace, Feb. 9th, 1874.

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR HILL.

(From the Newfoundland, Jan. 23.)

The recent successful operations of Sir Garnet Wolseley, and a handful of British soldiers, against the Ashantees bear ample testimony to the daring of our officers who, with the frail support of pusillanimous natives, have lately gained important advantages which are but the prologue to the victorious drama to be enacted on the arrival at the Gold Coast of the Rifles and other white troops.

Were we to review the events of the present outbreak, we should simply evince an excusable interest in the gallantry of her Majesty's troops; but as the names of the chief actors in the present hostilities, and as the hostilities themselves have been chronicled by able correspondents, we do not propose to refer to the present, but to a former Ashantee invasion, in recent histories of which, through some culpable negligence, the name of a very distinguished officer does not appear.

This officer is his Excellency Colonel Hill, our present Governor, whose promptitude and vigour some years ago checked the Ashantees and saved West Africa from a disastrous and expensive war. His Excellency's skilful tactics are described in an article entitled "West Africa and the Ashantee war," published in the "Monthly Maritime Magazine" for this month, and we cannot do better than quote the extract, viz:

"Various raids were subsequently made by the Ashantees upon the British possessions, one of which in 1853 was checked by the prompt action and vigour of Colonel Hill, then Governor, now Governor of Newfoundland. On that occasion, the Ashantee army, without any declaration of war, crossed the Prah, and invaded British territory with 20,000 men. Colonel Hill, on hearing this, immediately called all the troops at his disposal, and with a battery of small guns, dragged by Fantees, cut his way through the bush joined by several confederated chiefs and 20,000 Fantees. His Excellency rushed boldly forward, and, on hearing the camp of the enemy prepared to attack, giving

them, however, cross the Prah did, and retired or causing the expense. The Hill, besides consisted of fifty men and corps; but he and secured in 1863, when check the As with such succeeded Colonel Hill.

Thus it will did Colonel Hill with African war, but saved heavy outlay.

Colonel Hill ice in such ex when a capt West Indian of Keenuing, for which he Lords of the rank of Major.

In 1854, the march against cellyency was Chief of Sierra 1862 he was r Government of ward Islands, May 1869, wh land, Lord C mining not to cellant an Ad pointed His ment of this O no ordinary di hering to C given the utm ses of politic firmness whic His acts a peak not dwell uppo tive ability ha than one occa tact, judgment

We have t respecting the Murphy of K o'clock on the his dwelling to defective pipe deceased had t up stairs, and a second, but his wife went stained him. S full of smoke suffocate, and husband's fate ged down and it was some tim Her husband v No doubt he w body was burne of him for bui mander of the sun el.—[C re

The cattle pl Maderia, and c Gold Coast are

Edson Bradl chant, who, it with \$75,000 is on the other side

Three late at the Polaris Expe recently by Secr ing particular w

Commander C Royal Navy, wh nected with thr offers to lead a tion, if the Gove out one of its own take a vessel of of 20, but would steamer of 60 ho of 37, and provis he purposes to be time. He hopes Pole in his secon main a year long geological and sei He estimates the

An interesting, ject of testamenta children was deli cellor Malins, on testator married wife he had two died in his lifeti By his second wife both born before his will he gav to dispose of his children," and in ing no will the equally divided be by her." It was ing the illegitimate under the will the would be exclud ed, said, however rule to prevent leg mate children tak where it is intend