THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., JAN. 8, 1897.

Murders and the Newspaper Fraternity.

We have been sorry to note of late a growing tendency on the part of some of our provincial weeklies to imitate the trashy and sensational papers of the Western States, in devoting their columns to extended reports of every murder case which comes before the courts. There is a great danger that the elevated standard of Nova Scotia journalism may be thus greatly lowered.

Some brutalized wretch raises a murderous hand against his fellow. He is arrested and tried for his life, but the moment he enters the criminal's cell he becomes an object of demanding interest. This poor brute, who had he performed a worthy deed instead of his horrible crime would never have been heard of, can now jostle aside the eulogies or kakologies of politicians and capitalists, and becomes the lion of the day. The sickening details of his crime, his every word and gesture, the very clothes he wears and the food he eats become subjects of the momentest discussion, while matters of real moment are laid aside to make room for this loathsome discussion. When such matter was confined to the dailies it might be endured but when it is taken up by the local papers, and from week to week thrust into the home as family reading it becomes a glaring evil.

That there is some temptation for the pursuance of such a course cannot be denied. To make use of column upon column of such matter culled word for word from the dailies, is manifestly a very easy way of editing a newspaper. When too it is remembered that this reading is exceedingly popular with a certain class of bloodthirsty individuals who might by this means, if by no other, be induced to subscribe, the tendency can be accounted for. It cannot, however, be excused, and how a particularly extended and wholly borrowed murder report can render a copy of a paper particularly creditable; or how such a report can be regarded, as it was recently regarded by a Kings County paper, a provocation for heaping panegyrics upon itself; transcends our comprehension.

There is little doubt but that the increase in the prevalency of crime which is becoming so appalling is traceable very largely to the incressed publicity which each offence now receives. Man by his nature is very greatly affected by what he sees and hears. In a moral community it is quite easy for one to be moral, while in an immoral community the reverse is true. In like manner if a man is constantly reading in an atmosphere of crime his moral nature, to a greater or less degree, will be shaped accordingly. The newspaper man, therefore, who devotes the columns of his paper to the records of crime is a public enemy and is perverting into a curse that liberty of the press which was so hardly procured and which has been in the past so conducive of good.

The ACADIAN has ever avoided any more detailed account of murders or other crimes than they actually demanded as matters of news. While we must concede that there has been little temptation for us so to do, as we fully realize that the tastes of our subscribers do not lie in that line, yet we flatter ourselves that even were we situated differently we would not be tempted to aid in bringing our profession into disrepute.

Town Council Meeting.

The regular meeting of the town council was held on Tuesday evening. The mayor and all the councillors, with the exception of Coun. Caldwell, with the recorder were present.

The regular standing committees presented reports which were on motion adopted. It was ordered that the report of the Street Committee be printed in the annual report of the town.

The following bills were read and ordered paid:

Township of Horton,	$28.53
E. P. Rowles, M. D.,	8.85
A. J. Woodman,	11.02
C. E. Starr & Son,	2.11
Acadia Edison Electric Co.,	41.48
Town Clerk (postage)	2.48
Andrew Delahant	1.00
J. W. Selfridge	1.80
C. A. Patriquin	22.60

A communication was read from the Provincial Secretary relative to the proposed pedlar's bill, which was introduced in the Provincial Legislature last winter, and was defeated and ordered to be printed for the information of municipal and town councils.

On motion it was resolved that the council approve of the bill with the exception of a clause referring to the peddling of products of the garden, farm or sea.

On motion F. W. Woodman was appointed harbor-master in place of J. F. Armstrong, deceased.

Resolved that J. W. Wallace be presiding officer, and F. L. Dixon clerk at the ensuing town election.

Gaspereau.

The Baptist church is flourishing under the ministry of Rev. John Williams, who is on the fourth year of his second pastorate. He is highly esteemed as an able and faithful preacher. The congregations are large. Last Lord's Day was one of special interest as the Communion was administered. The sermon was on the Communion,—its nature, meaning and usefulness to Christians. It was by Dr. Keirstead, who also assisted in the services.

Mr Williams is conducting meetings this week at Wallbrook.

Our System of Road Making.

DISCUSSED BY ONE WHO KNOWS.

To the Editor of the ACADIAN.

The matter of roadmaking has been agitating the minds of many of the thinking portion of the community for a number of years, and as the Provincial Legislature is soon to meet for the despatch of business, and as that body is the only source that we can look to for amendments, I thought it would be pardonable, at least, to lay a few facts before the public through the medium of the press.

It seems that by the present system of highway labor, and the limited amount of government money at command, the amount available is altogether inadequate to keep the roads in a satisfactory condition. Our government has already resorted to borrowing to a considerable extent, both for roads and bridges, and yet the demand exceeds the supply. Therefore it behoves every patriotic citizen to set his wits to work to devise some means to remedy this growing evil.

In the first place I shall attack the present system of highway labor. According to the law now in vogue each male subject, between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years, is called upon to do so many day's work, according to his assessment—which is put down at about half what the property is really worth, thus causing a loss of one-half the work. Then the commutation is fifty cents per day, and as that is only half what we have to pay for a day's work, they pay the fifty cents, or agree to, and work for a dollar a day, which cuts down half of what is left. Then in Kings county there are three hundred and sixty-five highway labor districts with a surveyor for each. Now allow each surveyor to be liable for ten days work, we have 3650 days spent in overseeing the labor. But as everybody is in a hurry to get through with the work as soon as possible, I think I would be safe in saying that three days, as a rule, would complete the work in each district, and when the work is done the surveyor goes home and says nothing about the seven days that he has got clear of, which in the whole county amounts to 2555 days. I am not going to say that the law will bear the overseers out in doing this, but I have not been able to find any law to oblige a surveyor to pay the balance of his work after the rest had got through with theirs, or to require him to remain on the road after the others were done. Then there are a number of surveyors who fail to send in their returns, and some with the work partly done. The council generally pass some stringent resolutions and threaten to fine the delinquents but that is the last we ever hear of it.

The expenditure of the government money as the present law stands is but very little if any better. The members of the local government since county incorporation have slid out of appropriating the government money and imposed that duty upon the County Council; and as there is no provision made to pay that body for such service it it useless to expect them to discharge that duty in a very efficient manner. There are two objects which stimulate the applicant for money to expend. One is ostensibly to repair a certain piece of road; but the principal incentive in a large number of cases is to get an appointment to gobble as much of the public money as possible. With that object in view they will harass the councillor until he grants their request. The commisions issued by the council range from five dollars to twenty-five dollars, so the commissioner, if he be so minded, can manage to monopolize the most if not all the money. I don't wish to say that this is always the case as there are men who will do the fair thing and give their neighbors as good a chance as they take themselves, but cases of that kind are exceptions rather than the rule. Very many expend the money in such a clandestine manner that their next neighbors will not know that they had money to expend for months after the work was done. The plan generally adopted is: as soon as the rush of spring work is over or there is a dull day and the land not fit to work to shy off to the road with oxen and plow and cart, and if he has a boy large enough to up-end a shovel he is employed. The oxen and plow will work about an hour or two each day and draw full pay. I think a perusal of the road returns in the clerk's office will verify this statement.

I suppose you will conclude that this article is a regular series of fault-findings, but it is doubtful if the truth has "half been told." In asking for a change in the law it is necessary to point out the defects in the present law, and as our local members are largely gentlemen from the various towns and villages of the province they are not in a position to know the wants and necessities of the rural parts of the country.

We see in the last decade that this county has lost quite a number of its inhabitants, and that the towns and villages have increased; so that the loss to the rural districts must be something immense. I know of no other cause more likely to drive the inhabitants out of the country than bad roads. It seems as though the government is afraid to tackle this question for fear that the opposition will take advantage of the act and raise a storm. But if a government as strong as ours is afraid to pass a law that all parties admit is for the public interest, it is about time that another Oliver Cromwell appeared on the scene.

BACKWOODS.

WHISTON & FRAZER'S College—the largest, oldest, and best Commercial College in Nova Scotia—has a staff of seven skilled instructors. A Diploma from this college gives the best chance for a good situation. More applications are received by the college for first-class positions than can be filled. The College re-opens on Monday, Jan. 4, 1897. Students can join the College at any time.

Send for catalogue to S. E. Whiston, principal, 95 Barrington St., Halifax.

Reminiscences of the Old Pleasant Valley Meeting House.

IN FOUR PARTS—PART I.

The scenes of my boyhood are treasured with care,
Respecting the ways in the old house of prayer;
That house in the Valley, where the elms yet grow,—
That hallowed old spot in the green long ago.

A passion for worship the people possessed;
The young and the aged were anxious for rest;
The men and the matrons, the girls and the boys,
Came longing to drink of its pleasures and joys.

They came to that house in the Valley of old;
The home of the saints, and the Shepherd's safe fold;—
They came from the east, and they came from the west,
And down from the mountains they came to be blest.

The preacher was perched in a box in the air,
Like a bird in a cage when shown at a fair,
And over his head hung a board from the sky,
To keep all his words from soaring too high.

And under the pulpit and filling their place,
The deacons sat gravely with smooth shaven face,
Unseen by the preacher, yet known to be there,
The sermon to follow with well worded prayer.

The sermon is done, and aloft from his cage,
The preacher looks downward his help to engage;
The silence is broken, a voice in the air
Is heard:—"Brother Skinner, please lead us in prayer."

That deacon responding, stands up in his place;
His soul overflowing with glory and grace,
And prays that the gospel, "Right onward may go,
As oil from the vessel to vessel does flow."

Meanwhile, all the people stand up in their place,
According to custom, and right about face;
Their backs to the preacher, their eyes to the door,
Inspecting the girls, and the bonnets they wore.

The preacher now leads for the choir to sing,
A hymn to the praise of his Saviour and King;
Not from the New Hymnal, but Winchell and Watts;—
Most precious in lyrics and beautiful thoughts.

The man in the choir who leads in the song;
The master of music *who never goes wrong*;
A pipe from his pocket he takes,—gives a toot;
And people enraptured in silence are mute.—

The songs of that choir tho' ancient and rude,
If now, in the light of the present were viewed,
Tho' wanting in culture, and musical art,
Had much of the music that comes from the heart.

D. O. PARKER.

NOTES.—The old Pleasant Valley Meeting House was built about 1828 and for many years was the headquarters of the Baptists for all western Cornwallis. It was there I heard the late Dr. Wm. McKenzie, then a student, preach his first sermon in a pulpit, from the text "God is love;" most fifty years ago, and when the convention was in Berwick in 1865, I heard him in the same place, but he stood under the pulpit and did not venture so high. It was taken down some years since, and portions of it were used in building the Grafton meeting house. The ground on which it stood was the gift of Rev. Wm. Chipman, and is still encircled by a grove of large and beautiful elms, planted by his son, Prof. Isaac Chipman. The floor of the gallery covered nearly the whole second story. The pulpit was as high, or higher, than the gallery, and was little more than a neatly made box with a side door at the top of a high flight of stairs, and over it was a sounding board, hung by a chain, and under it, in front, was a hinged shelf, used for a communion table. And here, too, were the orthodox seats of the deacons, who always sat there, away from their families, entirely out of sight of the preacher, and facing the congregation. At the close of the sermon it was quite common for the preacher, leaning over, and looking downward, to ask one of the deacons to speak, or lead in prayer. The congregation sat during the singing, and stood at prayer, and as they stood up, turned their backs to the preacher. At the time of my earliest recollections Allan Sharp was the leader of the choir and always set the tune with a toot on his pitch-pipe. There were no chairs, not even in the pulpit. The pews were little more than small closets, with perpendicular backs with a thin rail on top projecting inward, and all most perfectly constructed for weariness, wakefulness, and doing penance. It had a large porch on the front and characteristic of the puritanical style of church architecture peculiar to that period, which Professor Chipman called the "nasal appendage."

D. O. P.

Blanchards

GREAT SPECIALTY!

Good Dress Goods and Right Prices.

Importing all our Dress Goods from England we find that we can sell at a much lower price than firms buying from Canadian wholesale houses.

Write for Samples to

BLANCHARD & CO.,

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GELDERT'S

DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT

Now replete with the newest and most fashionadle goods, from the cheapest to the finest grades, at prices to suit everybody. Note a few of his leading lines:—

A fine Tweed Effect, double width, very stylish looking material, @ 25c. per yard.

A pretty Fancy Mixture, different shades, @ 30c. a yard.

Extra Black and Navy Serges @ 45c. yard.

A very pretty line in Black, Navy, Bluet and Brown @ 65c. a yard.

ELEGANT DRESS LENGTHS.

Very latest designs at all prices.

Inspection invited. Samples on application.

☞ Filling letter orders a specialty.

GELDERT'S,

THE DRY GOODS HOUSE OF WINDSOR.

Personal Mention.

[Contributions to this department will be gladly received.]

Mrs J. F. Armstrong returned Tuesday from a short visit in Truro.

W. L. Bars, Esq., of Halifax, was in town for a day or two this week, the guest of his father, Mr J. W. Barss.

John Blanchard, of the firm of Blanchard & Co., Windsor, leaves on the 23d instant to purchase this firm's spring stock.

Mr F. M. Logan, who has been spending a few weeks at his home in Cumberland Co., returned to Wolfville on Tuesday last.

Prof. A. E. Coldwell who has been pursuing a course of study at Harvard University, arrived home on Saturday evening last.

Mr Aubrey Johnson, of Cleveland Ohio, is visiting at the home of his father, F. C. Johnson, Esq., after an absence of fourteen years.

Rev. Howard Whidden, of Antigonish, a '91 graduate of Acadia, was in town last week. Mr Whidden has of late been pursuing theological studies at Newton.

Rev. D. L. Parker, after spending one term at the Rochester Theological Seminary, has returned to South Dakota, and is serving one of the largest and wealthiest churches in the state, at Dell Rapids.

Rev. Owen Chipman, pastor of the Baptist church at Great Village, and wife spent their holidays with their respective parents at Berwick and Lawrencetown, and on their return home were the guests of their uncle, Rev. D. O. Parker.

Rev. Wm. Lucas, who some time ago purchased the valuable fruit farm from John Schaffner, Esq., in Williamston, Annapolis county, is soon to come east in search of another farm, having sold his late purchase to Messrs. Edgar and Elvin Schaffner. It will be occupied by Mr Edgar Schaffner, cousin of the other partner.

Rev. Wm. Wallace, youngest son of Rev. Isaiah Wallace, of this town, and pastor of a large and wealthy church in the city of Utica, N. Y., was placed on the sunny side on Christmas. One of his congregation gave him one hundred dollars, and from others he received an envelope with sixty dollars. These presents were supplemented with several other valuable holiday gifts.

Mr R. C. Calhoun, B. A., of Acadia, class '82, was in town last week. Mr Calhoun has since completing his studies, until about two years ago, been engaged in newspaper work, first upon the Boston *Traveller*, with which paper he remained for a number of years, making a trip to Europe as its special correspondent, and latterly with different papers on the Pacific coast. He has abandoned newspaper work, however, and is now engaged in the wholesale corn milling business, at St. John, N. B.

To Whom it May Concern.

Regarding certain statements which have lately been current, that we have detected irregularities in account sales of apples made by Messrs. Nothard & Lowe, of London, not rendering a true statement of same, and have received quite a sum of money in settlement of such charges, we have simply to say, the whole matter is a pure fabrication and in our opinion has been started for some malicious purpose.

We have done business with Messrs. Nothard & Lowe for many years and continue making them regular shipments. We have always found them thoroughly straightforward and believe they return to all shippers a true and correct account for every barrel of apples sold by them.

Yours respectfully,

W. H. CHASE & Co.

Wolfville, Jan. 1st, '97.

NOTICE.

Beginning Jan. 5th, '97, we will send a man through the town to gather Laundry. Customers will kindly have their bundles ready and oblige

ROCKWELL & CO.

Agents Steam Laundry.

Houses to Let!

To let,—furnished or unfurnished

"Rose Cottage,"

lately occupied by Mr F. P. Rockwell—8 rooms, town water, etc., etc.

—ALSO—

The Cottage adjoining the Episcopal church. Immediate possession.

Apply to

DR. BARSS.

Wolfville, Oct. 1st, '96.

DAVID THOMPSON,

PAINTER & PAPER HANGER,

WOLFVILLE, . N. S.

☞ Orders may be left at Rockwell & Co's or at L. W. Sleep's. [36

WILSON'S

Bargains in Dress Goods During This Month.

The Newest Colors and Materials worth $1.00 ..... for 75c.
52 in. Dress Tweeds and Suitings worth $1.00 ..... for 75c.
Fashionable Dress Materials worth 75c ..... for 55c.
The Newest Plaids worth 60c ..... for 45c.
Good quality Fancy Dress Goods worth 50c ..... for 38c.
Costume Tweeds worth 40c ..... for 30c.
Mixtures and Plain Colors worth 25c ..... for 18c.

☞ All single-width goods we have left in stock **will be sold at Half Price.** Bargains, real genuine bargains, in every department during this month. Everything marked down to the lowest notch.

C. & G. WILSON & Co.,

WINDSOR, N. S.

A POINTER

for you in selecting Xmas Gifts.

Nothing could be more appropriate than one of those

Rattan or Cobbler Seat Rockers, Music Cabinets, Secretary or Work Basket, Easels, Etc.

Don't forget a Small Chair for the Children.

A. J. WOODMAN.

Wolfville, December 4th, 1896. 36

Vaughn's Bakery

Having secured the services of a first-class baker I feel more than ever confident in soliciting the patronage of the people of Wolfville and vicinity. Would be glad to have you call and inspect our stock.

Special attention given to Wedding Cake and Fancy Baking of all kinds.

J. W. VAUGHN.

☞ Full stock of Fresh Groceries always on hand.

Miss Seabourne,

Teacher on Piano & Organ.

WOLFVILLE, . N. S.

DENTISTRY.

The subscriber will be at his office in Wolfville every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

J. E. Mulloney.

NEXT WEEK . . . . .

A Special Sale in Trimmed Hats and Bonnets!

FROM $1.50 UP!

GREAT BARGAINS!

S. E. WELTON.

Opposite the American House.

CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES!

We are shewing a nice range of above at prices which cannot fail to meet the approval of all.

OUR PRICES ON

Ladies' Initial Silk Hdkfs. 27c.; Gentlemen's Initial do, 49c.; Boxes Soap, 3 pieces 16c.; Children's 3-piece Silver Sett, Cup, Napkin Ring and Spoon, 75c.; Napkin Ring, silver-plated, 15c. each; also, Dolls, Books, fancy Cups and Saucers, Bisque Figures, etc.

☞ Dress Goods marked down to meet the Xmas trade. Headquarters for Ulsters and Overcoats.

4 PORT WILLIAMS HOUSE,

Chase, Campbell & Co.

SILVER

Tea Sets, Cake Baskets, Bake Dishes, Syrup Pitchers, Crumb Trays, Fern Pots, Bon Bon Shell, and many other articles.

Sterling Silver Knives, Spoons, and Novelties.

J. F. Herbin, . . Wolfville.

Optician and Jeweler.

DOMINION ATLANTIC RAILWAY.

"LAND OF EVANGELINE" ROUTE

On and after Monday, 4th Jan., 1897, the trains of this Railway will run daily (Sunday excepted).

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE WOLFVILLE.

Express from Kentville	5 25	a m
Express " Halifax	9 10	a m
Express " Yarmouth	3 09	p m
Express " Halifax	5 55	p m
Accom. " Richmond	11 30	a m
Accom. " Annapolis	11 25	a m

TRAINS WILL LEAVE WOLFVILLE.

Express for Halifax	5 35	a m
Express " Yarmouth	9 10	a m
Express " Halifax	3 00	p m
Express " Kentville	5 55	p m
Accom. " Annapolis	11 40	a m
Accom. " Halifax	11 35	a m

Royal Mail steamship Prince Rupert Monday, Wednesday, Saturday.

St. John and Digby.

Leaves St. John, 8.00 a. m.; arrive in Digby, 11.00 a. m.; leave Digby 1.00 p. m.; arrive St. John 4.00 p. m.

Trains are run on Eastern Standard Time.

W. R. CAMPBELL, General Manager.

K. SUTHERLAND, Superintendent.

DR. BARSS,

Residence at Mr Everett W. Sawyer's; Office adjoining Acadian office.

OFFICE HOURS: 10—11, a. m.; 2—3, p. m.

Telephone at residence, No. 38

Cash Store!

I take this opportunity of thanking the inhabitants of Wolfville and vicinity for their patronage during the past two years, at the same time saying that from this date on, my business will be run on strictly cash principles, thus enabling my customers to obtain their Groceries 10 to 15 per cent. cheaper than they can be bought anywhere else in the County. Goods delivered free of charge.

C. W. STRONG.

Wolfville, Dec. 3d, 1896. 3mos.

Only $1.00.

Since the drop in price of Steel, we are able to buy Steel Shoes almost as cheap as Iron formerly cost us. Therefore we will be pleased to shoe your Horses with Steel Shoes for $1.00 per set.

Thanking the public for past favors, and soliciting a continuance of same. Wishing you the compliments of the season, and hoping that 1897 will be a happy and prosperous year for you.

I am sincerely yours,

George Wood.

Wolfville, Dec. 29, '96.

NOTICE.

ALL PERSONS having legal demands against the estate of James F. Armstrong, late of Wolfville, in the county of Kings, deceased, are requested to render the same duly attested, within one year from the date hereof, and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to

M. A. ARMSTRONG, ADMINISTRATRIX.

FENTON B. HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR.

Wolfville, Nov. 6th, 1896.

Farm for Sale.

The very desirable property in Lower Wolfville on which I now reside, consisting of good dwelling and out-buildings and about nine acres of land, all thoroughly cultivated, and produced this season 235 barrels of apples, besides plums, pears, cherries, grapes, etc. Cut a bay for horse and cow and furnishes pasture for same. Situated on the main road just outside the town limits, and within easy distance of post-office and churches. Part of the purchase money may remain on mortgage if desired. Cause of selling, other business.

John E. Palmeter.

Wolfville, Nov. 20, 1896.

Dr. H. Lawrence,

DENTIST,

Wolfville, . . . N. S.

☞ Office opposite American House. In Wolfville every week day except Saturday.