

The Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 2, 1888.

WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA?

(Third Article.)

In the next expedition to the New World one of the most daring of the adventurous Norseman named Thorhall was despatched with the smallest ship to look for the settlement of Leif, in Vinland; but a most untoward fate was in store for him. Westerly gales drove him right across the Atlantic to the coast of Ireland, where he and his crew are said to have been all made slaves. Consequently, if this story be accepted as authentic, Thorhall had the honor—though against his will—of being the first to sail right across the Atlantic Ocean from shore to shore. And still more remarkable is the fact, that this first voyage from the one continent to the other in a temperate latitude should have been from west to east, or, in other words, from the New World to the Old?

Meanwhile, Thorfinn, with the rest of the expedition, prosecuted his explorations by sailing farther to the southward. In due time they came to a land with great tracts of wheat growing wild, and also many wild vines. Here Thorfinn erected huts and passed the winter season. To the Norsemen, however, it would hardly appear winter, for no snow fell, and their domestic animals were able to procure their sustenance in the fields without any difficulty. Numerous parties of the natives were seen, and, in the beginning of the next spring (1008), they opened communications with the strangers. Their furs and skins, of which they had many, they eagerly bartered for cloth or any trifling articles new to them. At this time there happened a most interesting event in the history of America—Gudrida, the wife of Thorfinn, was safely confined of a son, who had thus the proud distinction of being the first native-born American of European parents. He received the name of Snorre, and among his lineal descendants are included Thorwaldsen the famous sculptor, and Magnussen the well-known Danish savant. After some further exploring expeditions, in which he experienced various adventures, including several fights with the natives, Thorfinn and his party sailed back to Greenland. Neither he nor his American-born son seems ever to have returned to the New World. They both settled in Iceland; and the grandson of Snorre, who adopted a clerical profession and was made a bishop, was a man of great learning. He it is who is supposed to have been the writer of the Sagas, or accounts of the voyages and adventures from which we derive our information of the Norse discoveries in America.

The next account we have is of a voyage in the year 1011; and after that there is a great gap of about a hundred years before we find any other expedition mentioned. Although there are no written accounts of any visits to the American coast during this period, we must not hastily conclude that no communication was kept up. There is an account of another voyage to Vinland in 1121, and doubtless many other visits were paid in the intervening years, although no written particulars are now extant. After this period, the intercourse with the New World would seem to have been suspended, and its existence even forgotten, as we are told a new land to the west of Greenland was discovered in 1285 by some Icelandic missionaries. Probably, this was Newfoundland; and the last voyage we have any account of is one from Greenland to Woodland in the year 1347.

FATE OF THE "GREAT EASTERN."

The Mighty Ship to be Broken up For Old Metal.

ABOUT thirty-four years ago, observes a contemporary on the other side, the whole civilized world was directed to the great leviathan which was about to be built, and which it was predicted would completely revolutionize shipbuilding and ocean traffic. Of the scientific principles involved, however, the general public took little note; to them the striking characteristic was that this great steamship, and all those to be built, would be so large that waves mountains high would have no appreciable effect upon them—that there would be absolute safety for those on board—and that, above all, there would be no rocking or heaving, and no sea-sickness; all was thereafter to be smooth sailing. It took about six years to build the world's wonder, but at last it was completed, and was christened the *Great Eastern*, and now the name which should be engraved on her burial plate or tombstone, if she had either, is *Great Disappointment*, for throughout her comparatively short life she has proved nothing but a disappointment to all concerned. She cost an enormous amount of money to build, and vast

sums to maintain, while it may be said she has earned little or nothing. Doubtless those interested in her have at last come to the conclusion that "better a finger off than an eye wagging;" so they have put an end to the *Great Eastern* by selling her to be broken up for old metal, the price paid for her being only £16,000, or about 27s. 6d. per ton.

Yet it is maintained that the *Great Eastern* though a failure has served a good purpose, and that she actually paved the way for those successful ocean greyhounds, the *Umbria*, the *Etruria*, and others. What she was to accomplish by her great coal and cargo capacity they effect by speed. When Brunel designed the *Great Eastern* the science of reducing resistance by modifying the lines of vessels was in its infancy, while the development of energy from fuel through the compound engine had not been thought of, nor many other modern improvements.

THE "FALCON" AND HER REPAIRS.

THE steamer *Falcon's* boiler and engine received an overhauling and repairs from workmen of the Gemmel Foundry before she started, and she is now well equipped to contend with the foe and sheet-ice off the Funks and Grey Islands. Extensive jobs of this kind, the construction of new steamship boilers, which for several seasons past kept the machinists busy, are not called for this winter; but work is found for all the hands at this establishment—thirty-eight in number—in the manufacture of new steam engines. Two handsome horizontal machines of this description, about forty horse power nominal, each, all the forgings and castings of which have been done at this establishment, every part fitting and working to the closest nicety, are now on view there. We regret to hear that the proprietor of this establishment, Mr. Hugh Gemmel, has been confined to his house for some time past from the effects of a severe injury of the ankle, which at last has seriously affected his general health. A few years ago he wrenched the joint, but was recovering from the ill effects of the hurt when he again, some time subsequently, met a similar accident in the same place, which greatly aggravated the injury. It is expected that he will take the steamer shortly for the Old Country and get the best medical skill to deal with the difficulty. We trust he will return perfectly restored.

AFFAIRS AT VILLA NOVA.

FATHER MORRIS was in town yesterday, and speaks cheerfully of the condition of things at Villa Nova. His boys are all in good health, and, between the studies of school and the bracing outdoor sports, are laying the mental foundation of a sturdy manhood that may accomplish wonders by and by. Who knows but that some of them may become millionaires yet, and astonish their worthy benefactor with tangible proofs of their gratitude. That is how Young America, who amasses a fortune, surprises the beneficent institutions which "made a man of him."

[FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAM.]

HOME INDUSTRIES SOCIETY.

Last Night's Interesting Proceedings.

LAST evening's meeting of the Home Industries Encouragement Society was very well attended. After the regular business had been transacted, the members enjoyed a literary treat. Mr. M. W. Furlong read a paper on "Co-operation," dealing with the subject in a masterly manner, giving particulars of its workings in England and Scotland, showing the importance of its operations, the large savings made by the members of co-operative societies, and its adaptability to our own circumstances. The matter of the article and the manner of its delivery were excellent. Mr. W. H. Whitely, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Furlong, paid him a well-deserved tribute. Mr. John Scott seconded the proposition, and Mr. L. H. Miller spoke in support of it, assuring the H. I. E. Society's members that, from personal knowledge of the "co-operation system," he was in a position to say that Mr. Furlong had given a complete account of its workings and advantages in the paper read to them. The President then put the motion, which was carried by acclamation. The meetings of the H. I. E. Society during the winter months promise to be very interesting, as a paper on some important subject will be read at each meeting. Mr. J. P. Howley, Geological Surveyor, has promised to read a paper at a future meeting.

THE old lady who was the victim of an accidental revolver shot, a few weeks ago, in Barnes' Lane, is in a much-improved condition. She has been in the hospital since. The doctors were unable to extract the ball, but mortification, which usually ensues from the presence of a foreign body in the flesh, has not set in in this instance, and the case will probably be one of complete recovery.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

Squandering Money and the People Starving.

SOME SENSIBLE REMARKS FROM "ANTI-VOLUNTEER."

DEAR SIR,—What is the meaning of all this fuss Mr. Joseph Outerbridge and a select few are making about a "Volunteer Force?" Is there any money in it? It certainly looks as if there was, for Mr. Outerbridge at any rate, as lately he can give his attention to nothing else. It seems to me, Mr. Editor, that these men who have within the past few days set this idiotic thing "booming," imagine that, if there is a Volunteer force, and if they induce the Government to float the thing, they will, as a matter of fact, appoint themselves officers. Now, Mr. Editor, can you point out one man out of the whole lot whose names have been published in conjunction with this "Volunteer Movement" who is capable of acting as an officer? I am sure you cannot. Certainly Mr. Outerbridge himself cannot be so blind as to dream of appointing himself. I doubt, even as a "full blown private," he would give his time away from his extensive business to attend drill, &c. Mr. W. B. Grieve would make a good alderman when the town is incorporated, but as a volunteer officer, or a private, he has put on too much flesh to "act" as either. I own he could look after the "Commissariat Department." His experience as "Railway Commissioner" and, as such, his various picnic excursions, along with the Hon. Receiver General, to Harbor Grace Junction, would no doubt make him highly eligible for "Commissary General." Mr. George Adolphus Hutchings would, I am sure, jump at a Captaincy, (the Government might make a "minute of Council" to give him pay by-and-bye, and constitute this the "Government berth" promised him); but this would not do just yet, his acceptance of such might try the patience of Job. How is it, Mr. Editor, that old volunteers like Major Stabb, Captains Henry B. Dryer, Robert J. Parsons, Privates A. O. Hayward, Robert Laurie, Michael Thorburn, and others have been insulted and passed over, and received no printed invitation to attend the select meeting held in the Commercial Rooms? It strikes me, Mr. Editor, that the whole thing will end in smoke, and let us hope it will. But I cannot conceive why the Government is so inflated with the idea. Can they afford to squander more money, when men, women and children in our different outports and bays are starving? Will the members for Green Bay, Bonavista, Placentia and St. Marys, Harbor Grace and other parts of this "Newfoundland of ours" allow such a thing as public money belonging to the whole Island to be spent to gratify a few men who are bent on "apeing" soldiers? We think not? However, the public of St. John's have a good deal to say in the matter later on, and I am sure that they are not going to allow such a thing to be; nor will our young men, tradesmen, &c., &c., agree to act as privates for the pleasure of self-elected officers who pass them daily in the street as if they were dogs.

Yours truly,  
ANTI-VOLUNTEER.

St. John's, Feb. 5, 1888.

OLDER THAN MOSES.

THE chair of Queen Hatasu is probably the most venerable piece of furniture in the world—viz.: a "Royal Egyptian throne, of the said Queen, a lady who lived and reigned in the Nile Valley some 1,600 years before Christ and twenty-nine years before Moses." The throne, or rather remains of it—as what is left is in a dilapidated condition, and has to be secured with brass bands—is made of what appears to be *tignum vite*, is of a dark colour, like the cocus-wood, and is inlaid over all the carved portions with gold plates. The two sacred serpents on the two uprights at the back, however, are not treated so, but with little silver rings sunk all over them, probably a conventional rendering of snake-skin. This interesting throne-chair is in the upper gallery of the Egyptian Court, and has just been presented to the British Museum by a gentleman in Cheshire.

THE INMAN COMPANY.

STIMULATED by the enterprise of the Cunard Company and the White Star Company, two magnificent steamers are now being constructed by Messrs. Thompson, of Clyde Bank, for the Inman and International Company. At present the *Etruria* and the *Umbria* are the fastest steamers in the Atlantic trade. As a steady thing they make the voyage between port and port in a week, going at a mean speed of 18½ knots per hour. Messrs. Thompson will realize this speed at least in the colossal vessels they have now on hand. The tonnage is 10,000 each, and the dimensions are—560 feet long over all; 525 feet on the water line; 63½ feet beam, and 42 feet moulded depth. There will be accommodation for 2,000 persons, including the crew.—*Court Journal*.

A GLANCE AT THE SITUATION.

The Cobbler Reigns Supreme.

PROBABLE EFFECT OF THE BALLOT ACT

Dwarfed Condition of the Merchant.

OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

(Concluded.)

We are surrounded by institutions and trammelled by laws which are the creation of a dead past, the product of a period when political power was virtually in the hands of a single class and was used by it for the promotion of its own interests. These are so many obstacles in the path of progress; and they are formidable obstacles, inasmuch as they are propped up by strong stays of custom, association, and wealth. Democracy is as yet a nascent power in Newfoundland, and many of those who have contrived to arrogate to themselves the function of leaders are animated by a profound distrust and dread of the force they would fain control. Under such guidance, the great work of social, political, economic and administrative reform, which is so urgently needed, must be hindered and arrested rather than advanced. The battle, which all thinking men must feel to be at hand, can only be successfully waged for the people by leaders who have a heartfelt faith in the never political ideals, and who are prepared fearlessly to apply the fundamental principles they profess. Such leaders, happily, the present opposition party possesses; and to them we must give constant support. Warning them at the same time that against the recognition, patronage, or support by the Government of any particular spiritual organisation; against the hypocrisy which concedes to the inhabitants of each section of Newfoundland the pretence of full political rights and freedom, and at the same time withholds from them all the realities of self-government; against any institution, in fact that can only be defended by an appeal to the spirit of class, to the fears of the timorous and selfish, to the barren creed of decaying politics rather than to the living faith and aspirations of to-day—we shall wage a persistent war.

The device of keeping in favor and power by carrying measures in the wisdom of which they profoundly disbelieve, is not unfamiliar to some of the present holders of office. Perhaps this is why a resignation is so mysteriously hinted at. As a political nondescript, he is not out of place in a Cabinet which represents no known policy or principle save one of mere negation.

A Winter-Thorburn Government, without James S. Winter, will, no doubt, be a poor thing in James's judgment; but at any rate it will serve to "open the House." How long it will subsist after that, is a point on which it would be hazardous to speculate. Nor, indeed, is there any reason why the opposition should be very anxious on that head. They have unity and a policy, while the present occupants of office have neither the one nor the other; and armed with these advantages, they can await the campaign, neither dismayed by the numerical odds against them, nor eager for early victory. Facts and time are both on their side.

VENDETTA.

BURIN, January 28th, 1888.

THE SAVINGS' BANK.

Letter From Mr. Wm. Byrne.

SIR,—I presented to the Savings' Bank of Newfoundland on the first day of January last my bank-book for adjustment. I desired to have the interest on five months' deposits added to my principal, which request was refused. I again presented my book in a month after, making it, on the whole, six months. I was refused both principal and interest. I think it very hard on a depositor, who can invest his money to better advantage, to have his deposits withheld by a Savings' Bank which only pays three per cent. per annum. More than that, I think it would be well for the interests of the Bank if Mr. Knight would be a little more temperate in his language to depositors. Yours sincerely,  
WM. BYRNE.  
Prescott Street, Feb. 2, 1888.

THE DEATH OF THE REV. A. H. MACKONCHIE.—Vespers for the dead were sung in St. Alban's church at eight o'clock, when the church was crowded in every part. The coffin, covered with lilies and immortelles, was in the chancel in front of the altar. The Rev. E. F. Russell, gave the address, and with great pathos sketched the life and death of the deceased, who had been the first and for twenty years vicar of St. Alban's Martyr, Holborn. In alluding to his tragic end, he said, it seemed, when he was found with the snow upon him, as though the kiss of purity was upon his lips. They put his body in a black coffin, but the snow came down on the road and covered it with a pall of "virgin white." The body was watched all night by clergy and members of the various religious confraternities.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

No vessels have arrived from abroad since yesterday.

TO-MORROW we shall have a few more observations on the political outlook.

SEVERAL tea-meetings and other entertainments are advertised for next week.

THE severity of to-day's storm stopped all street traffic—an uncommon occurrence.

IN consequence of the stormy weather the practice for the L. M. B. S. Concert will be postponed until further notice.

THOSE attending the temperance meeting in the Temperance Hall this evening are requested to bring Sankey hymn-books.

THE S.S. *Newfoundland*, from Halifax, will be due here to-morrow night. But if this weather continues she'll hardly arrive before Sunday.

THE death of our esteemed compatriot, Sir Hugh W. Hoyles, which sad event took place at Halifax yesterday, demands more than a passing notice, and this we intend to bestow upon it in our next issue.

WE are requested to state that, owing to the unfavorable state of the weather, the Congregational Church "Sociable" is postponed until to-morrow night. This will render it necessary to drop the Band of Hope meeting announced for the last mentioned evening.

THE Consolidated Foundry Company have declared a dividend of five per cent. In the face of the bad times which have caused three such establishments to close their doors and amalgamate with the oldest enterprise of the same kind, this percentage is very satisfactory.

THE present fierce north-east storm, being in the teeth of the Halifax mail-boat, will delay her at least ten or twelve hours, and she may hardly be looked for before to-morrow evening. The western mail-boat *Carleton* will hardly start on her route before Saturday morning.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"No Alliance with Traitors"—The contents of your communication are under consideration. "Justice and Truth"—Be good enough to let us have your real name. "Index"—Your letter about the present boom in the "liquidation business" is unavoidably held over till to-morrow.

DESPITE the stormy character of to-day's weather a great number of people, with catamarans and horses, came to town this morning over the Topsoil Road, bringing with them for sale potatoes and rabbits. The former rate at \$1.70 a barrel, and the latter at 25 cts. a pair. Only the direst necessity could have driven those poor people to town on such a day, and they must have suffered severely with the keen, cutting particles of hail and snow driving in their faces, as they came along the road.

[FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAM.]

SADLY SARCASTIC, BUT TERRIBLY TRUTHFUL.

Song of The Bunkum Bird.

After Poe, with slight variations.  
Then I spoke of our commission, off in Washington in session,  
And the noble work that Winter had in store;  
But the Bunkum shook with laughter, when he saw what I was after,  
And the very roof and rafter rang in rapturous *ecstasy*  
This the cruel croaking chorus which the flying cockabore:  
"Boodle, boodle, boodle, boodle, more!"  
Maddened at this pretension, on the part of bird whose gumption  
In such lofty flights of fancy never had been known  
"Cease," I cried, "thy rude reflections, cease thy cruel interjections,  
But thy inmost predilections give, I pray thee, thy score;  
Tell me what of "missing carpets" and the "Bait Bill" war.  
Struck the Bunkum, simply "Boodle, boodle, boodle, more!"  
Burin, Jan. 26th, 1888. ALPHEA.

DIED.

Last evening, of heart disease, Dorcas Mary, only surviving daughter of Thomas and Mary Cahill, aged 56 years. Funeral to-morrow, Friday, at 2.30 p.m., from her late residence, King's bridge; friends and relatives of the family are respectfully requested to attend without further notice.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED.  
Feb. 1—Corisande, McGavin, Cadiz, 20 dys, Balne, Johnston & Co.—187 tons salt, 2 hds, 6 qtr-casks wine.

CLEARED.  
Feb. 1—Energy, Strong, Barbados, A Goodridge & Sons—2298 qtls fish, 122 bris herring, 5 trcs, 3 bris salmon, 6 tubs sounds, 30 bds hoops. Lillian, May, Telgumouth, Job, Bros & Co.—3800 qtls fish. Pedestrian, Purches, Barcelona, Balne, Johnston & Co.—3760 qtls fish.  
2—May Cory, Goss, Pernambuco, Bowring Bros—2291 qtls fish. Carlew, Delaney, St Pierre, Bowring Bros—ballast.

LOADING.  
July 26—Robert, West Indies, J Murray.  
Feb 1—Minnie, Europe, A Goodridge & Sons.

For Sale By  
**DRYER & GREENE,**  
Four Sets—  
Russian Chime Sleigh Bells,  
2 sets Plumes, 6 superior Horse Rugs, 1 Buffalo Robe.  
Jan 27

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