The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 31, 1888.

"THE LANDFALL OF COLUMBUS." Brilliant Lecture by Governor Blake. EVERY INCH OF SPACE OCCUPIED An Audience Bubbling Over with Enthusiasm JUDGE PINSENT MOVES A VOTE OF THANKS Archdeacon Forristal Seconds the Motion NEAT LITTLE SPEECHES BY BOTH

Last evening the spacious and beautiful hall of the Athenæum was filled to its utmos capacity by perhaps the most intelligent and appreciative audience ever assembled there And it was meet that it should be so, the occasion being an unusually interesting onethe opening of that institution's proceedings for the season by Her Majesty's representative here. Governor Blake, as our readers are aware, had been asked by the Committee to lecture in behalf of the Athenæum, and, solely with view to promote the literary welfare of the community, he readily gave his consent. Hence the literary treat to which our attention

At eight o'clock His Excellency, accompani ed by several clerical and other friends of the institution, came in upon the platform from one of the ante-rooms, and was forthwith introduced to the audience, in a few well-chosen words, by Hon. Charles Bowring, President of the Athenæum. Governor Blake then arose and advanced to the small table in front of the dais, at each side of which stood a map of the Bahamas on a large scale—the work, we believe, of His Excellency's amiable lady, who with her attendants, occupied the first row of seats in the centre of the room. At this juncture the Governor-who is a tall, goodlooking man, and whose movements and manner are characterized by much ease and dignity-received a most enthusiastic reception. When the applause had somewhat subsided he began his lecture in a clear, pleasing tone of voice, distinctly audible all over the hall. With the keen eve of his mind fixed on the early Scandinavian and Spanish adventurers, he followed them over the trackless waters, west and south, describing their career of discovery and conquest, and fairly fascinating his hearers, who listened to the many " moving incidents by flood and field" narrated by His Excellency, with the most intense interest.

The story of Peru's conquest, and the subjugation and enslavement of her aboriginal inhabitants had more the appearance of thrilling romance than sober, practical history. And as we noted the vivid descriptions and soul-absorbing illustrations employed by His Excellency, we could not help feeling a deep sense of admiration for the man and the mind that could do all this from memory, without any prompting at all save a few very meagre notes on a small slip of paper.

Returning from South America, Governor Blake took passage on board the Pinta, one of the small ships employed by Columbus on his immortal voyage of discovery, and accompanied that intrepid navigator to his "Landfall" in the New World. All the principal events of the "passage out," as far as could be ascertained, were briefly narrated, until the logbook's records showed that the Pinta, together with the flagship, had cast anchor in "the Bahama roads." Here the discoverers were delighted to find a vast ocean planted with innumerable islands, all covered with fruits and flowers, and interwoven with a thousand little shining seas that ran among them. Like Mirza in his vision, "they could see persons dressed in glorious habits with garlands upon their heads, passing among the trees, lying down by the sides of fountains, or resting on beds of flowers; and could hear a confused harmony of singing birds, falling waters, human voices and musical instruments."

Leaving Columbus and his shipmates gazing with inexpressible pleasure on those happy islands, particularly on the one now called San Salvador-their "Landfall"-Governor Blake made his way back to England and secured a commission as Her Majesty's representative at the Bahamas, and set sail once more for the westward, this time under much more favorable auspices, and by way of New York. Nothing worthy of note occurred during the trip across the Atlantic, which was made in a splendid steamship, not in a little "deckless" craft like the Pinta. No unnecessary delay was incurred in New York, and in a few days His Excellency found himself "on board the trim

Blake's private log, perhaps, ran something like the following :-

" FIRST NIGHT AT SEA .- My stateroom is on deck. I am told it will be cooler in the tropics than one of the main decks. It has a broad bed hung with a lambrequin and lace curtains; a rich carpet, a chair, small sofa, seat, washstand, mirror, drinking and toilet water, a rack, hooks for clothes, and an electric bell. Everything clean and substantial. The sea looks rough, but the ship has only a gentle motion, and only a few feel it disagreeably.

" FIRST DAY AT SEA .- Out of sight of land and everything but sea and sky. The ocean is really blue. I never realised that it could be so blue. It is a little flecked with white caps, and everybody is talking about Hatteras. The men, and some of the ladies are out in their wraps. We have all had coffee and are eager for breakfast. What little things interest us! A fishing-eagle has perched on the foremast, and we have talked about it an hour. Later, several porpoises are in sight. The meals are excellent; the air is bracing. I find that half the number bound for Nassau are invalids, having throat or lung troubles, gout rheumatism or a dread of the winter. The other half are pleasure-seekers. Many were there last winter, and liked the place immensely. They say the hotel there is the best in the West Indies. We see something like a ses serpent, and it proves to be a floating spar. It is getting warmer. In the evening we approach Hatteras, and at night are in the warm Gulf Stream, which we are going to cross at right angles. No need for blankets to-night.

"SECOND DAY AT SEA .- To-day, like yesterday, the sea was calm. No overcoats even at 7 o'clock p.m. Everybody is well and spent the day on deck. Who could believe such a change could come on so quickly? It is like the middle of May. The dolphins are racing at the ship's bow, Mother Carey's chickens are chasing us astern, and firing-fish are plenty on either side. We have ended the day with a concert and dancing on deck. "THIRD DAY AT SEA .- Too pleasant even for winter flannels. I am in summer rig,

and find it pleasant to keep under the awnings. The ship seems to get cleaner and cleaner. We were going to have an impromptu minstrel show, when somebody said it was Sunday. We see the light-house and trees on Abaco Island. What a sensation they produce! To-morrow we shall be in

"Fourth Day.-The pilot came aboard soon after daybreak. We are anchored at the mouth of the harbor. Our sister ship, the 'Cienfuegos," is beside us on her way to New York. A score of letters for home from our passengers will go by her."

Space will not permit us to follow Governor Blake all through his interesting experience of three years and six months in the Bahamas. His description of what he saw during his visits to the different islands, twenty-nine in number, will not soon be forgotten by his delighted listeners, especially the flowery, panoramic picture he drew of the natural scenery of San Salvador, the supposed " Landfall" of the great discoverer. We can imagine what His Excellency's feelings must have been during his first night in that charming spot. Sleep was out of the question. To his active and susceptible mind, the surroundings, above and below, were indescribably beautiful. No wonder if he sat up and allowed his soul to become intoxicated with the scene. The night was balmy and the air loaded with perfume. Towards morning "the moon went down in chastened loveliness; she departed like some sweet bride into her chamber, and long, veil-like shadows crept up the sky through which the stars peeped shyly out. Soon, however, they too began to pale before a splendor in the east, and then the quivering footsteps of the dawn came rushing across the new-born blue, and shook the planets from their places. Quieter and yet more quiet grew the sea, quiet as the soft mist that brooded on her bosom, and covered up her troubling, as the illusive wreaths of sleep brooded upon a pain-racked mind, causing it to forget its sorrow. From the east to the west sped the angels of the dawn, from sea to sea, from island to island, scattering light with both their hands. On they sped out of the darkness, perfect, glorious, like spirits of the just breaking from the tomb; on, over the quiet sea, over the low coast-line; over those who slept in peace, and those who woke in sorrow; over the evil and the good; over the living and dead; over the wide world, and all that breathes or has breathed thereon." But as regards Nassau, the seat of Govern-

ment, and the point on which His Excellency stood while he thus "viewed the landscape o'er." It is quite a big island, comprising eighty-five square miles of land, and it is bordered by little reef-like keys, which provide it with sheltered harbors. The first view of Nassau from the roadstead is indeed a treat for eyes that are weary of watching the sea. The voyage was a pleasant one, and Governor here and there a piece of white, where the

water is very shoal and overlies a bed of carol or white sand. Within a stone's throw is Hog Island, between the sea and the bay, and back of all, on a gentle slope, looking white and fresh, is the little capital of the little kingdom of Perpetual June. The waving palms, the bananas, the low smooth houses, the white streets-these are novelties that may well be

All these things, and many others, were described by Governor Blake in a phraseology peculiarly adapted to the subject and the occasion. And before we were aware of the flight of so much time, an hour and a half had sped away, and His Excellency found that he had exhausted the time at his disposal.

A vote of thanks to Governor Blake was moved by Mr. Justice Pinsent and seconded by Archdeacon Forristal, neat and appropriate little speeches being made by both these gentlemen. Then the President " put the motion,' which was carried by acclamation. His Excellency briefly responded, and one of the most enjoyable evenings we have ever spent in the Athenæum was brought to a close.

THE steamer Curlew arrived at 11 o'clock this morning from the Westward, but her budget is of a meagre description. She had extremely bad weather all the way up, strong head winds and snow squalls; but Captain Delaney made up for it by a swift run down the shore. She brought very little freight, a few consignments of frozen fish, and some venison; her passengers were also few in number for this port-only eight or ten altogether. But what the accounts by the boat speak glowingly of is the profitable frozen herring trade with the American schoon-Our informant states that number of these crafts, which have been laden with cargoes in the two bays of Fortune and Placentia, is as high as fifty, including a few sail that have not yet arrived. They take. on an average, a thousand barrels each, making the total deliveries about fifty thousand barrels. When they are furnished by our fishermen in a frozen state they receive one dollar and thirty cents a barrel for them when unfrozen one dollar a barrel.

A stranger would suppose that, with the abundance of frost and snow for which this country is noted abroad, there would be no such thing as a premium in the frosted article of winter production; but the practice in question shows how badly maligned we are in this respect. The figures quoted show that the value of the winter herring trade amounts to about fifty thousand dollars, annually; but no doubt Receiver General Donnelly, whose official exposition of the trade of the country is as brief as he can make it, notorious for its omission of interesting details, obscurely explained and unsatisfactory, can furnish us with

"Pokeahuntus" Replies to "Chessepo

Editor Evening Telegram. DEAR SIR.-I notice that a contributor to the Colonist ("Chessepot") who may be regarded as one of its regular hands, a gentleman who "has passed the Bar" and who does frequent odd jobs of service for the paper in the expectation of getting equally good service out of it when election-time comes round, charges me very unjustly with being the author of a communication in your valued columns signed "A Mechanic"; and also with adopting that mode of getting square with a "brother journalist" who had got ahead of me in a report of that now famous meeting in the Commercial Rooms touching the formation of a volunteer company. I disclaim being under the influence of any such unworthy animus for many reasons, the chief one being that it is entirely unnecessary to adopt any such ruse in order to get ahead of the "brother journalist" referred to. The truth is that, with the innumerable topics at one's command every day, all that's to be done is to select the most interesting, and the field is wide enough without trespassing upon the domain of the brother journalist or stooping to aught to injure him. Such a purpose, indeed, is far from my thoughts. These young gentlemen are sore because this favorite movement of theirs has been made a subject of endless ridicule; and now, finding that they have misinterpreted public sentiment, are chagrined and vexed on discovering their mistake and realizing that they are butts for everyone's joke. The first intimation that the public had of this volunteer movement was conveyed in a local item in the Colonist about three weeks ago; and it was followed, a few days afterwards, by commendatory article on the same subject in the Mercury, so that our brother journalists of the former sheet can hardly shake themselves | trip. clear of being in some degree sponsors for the "new craze." Their kind instruction for our benefit is, no doubt, well meant, but if there ship Santiago," commanded by Captain Colton, The vessel is in dark, deep-blue water, but the be any profit in it, why, in fortune's name, do Band this (Tuesday) evening. Don't fail to bound for Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas. harbor is a sheet of sparkling green, with they not act upon it to their own advantage? be there, or you will lose a most enjoyable Yours truly, POKEAHUNTUS. time.

The Missionary Meeting at Topsail. MR. McNEILY AND THE VOLUNTEERS

THE Annual Missionary Meeting at Topsail, in connection with the Methodist Church, was held on Thursday night. The deputation from St. John's and their friends had cause to be disheartened when it became known that the train had broke down that morning; and as all the other available engines were engaged elsewhere, the company could not keep their engagement to run a special train at 4 o'clock. However, running the risk of the roads being blocked with snow, sleighs were engaged and soon, amidst merry tinkling bells, the pleasantly chatting parties were en route for Topsail.

Arriving at Irving's, any progress further seemed impracticable. No sign of a road to be seen, and the urging of the care-taker of Mr. Boyd's farm to return, it being folly to plunge into banks of snow without bottom, made the first trio "right about face"; but a fine team, with Mr. George S. Milligan, just then dashed along and, leading the van, both sleighs broke the path-at times lurching and diving, but eventually having passed Woodford's through a shovelled tunnel, came out on the Topsail Hill, all in hearty glee.

On reaching the new parsonage a splendid spread loaded the tea table, and grace having been sung, the keen appetites of the visiting and resident friends lessened the contents considerably. Adjourning to the church, the missionary meeting was opened by singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers," and, after prayer, Rev. Geo. Boyd asked Robert K. Bishop, Esq., to preside by request of the resident minister. On taking the chair Mr. Bishop made some pleasant reference to the drive out, expressing the gratification of lovers of missions in hearing of the extension of the cause of Christ on the Southern Shore, and urged all to be home missionaries in every sense in which the term admitted of being applied. He regretted the indisposition of Rev. M. Fenwick, who had taken a severe cold, and although present was unable to read the report. This was done by Rev. Geo. Boyd, who followed with an earnest appeal on subjects coming up in the report-aid for Japan, help for the Indian missions, the need of additional men for the Northwest, the claims of the work among the French in Quebec, and cause for increased liberality, that the ministers on domestic missions in our own Conference may be elieved of anxiety, in view of the many calls of distressed people upon their limited incomes. Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A., was the next speaker. In an able and polished speech he referred to our stewardship for God, giving for His cause a privilege more than a compulsory requirement. In return for the blessings of spiritual and social life, even if thousands of dollars were given, it was not as much as the widow's mite. Who in the spirit of "she who gave all she had," made such sacrifice? Speaking of the impossibility of all being preachers, he rejoiced that if willing, all could help to send the preacher, by supplying means. The stirring motto of the Conference of Canada for this year gave him inspiration, "A quarter of a million dollars for missions, and a revival in every congregation;" and he was glad to congratulate Topsail on its success. Addresses were also delivered by Rev. John E. Manning, and Messrs. John Angel, W. W. Watson and Jas. Walker. But your reporter had no more paper to make notes upon. Receipts of the evening for missions, \$29.70. Donations for completion of

PAUPERIZING THE PEOPLE.

the Parsonage over \$80.

Editor Evening Telegram. SIR,—Is it true that this amalgamated Government are endeavoring to pauperize the men in the districts of St. John's East and West and Ferryland, who want work? I understand that the commissioner of poor, J. Casey, Esq., has the matter in hand now, and gives directions for able-bodied relief, the orders for provisions being sent to the store of one of the members for St. John's West. If this be true, what should be done in the matter?

Yours, &c.,

At the regular monthly meeting of the H. I. E. Society, to-morrow evening, M. W. Furlong, Esq., will read a paper on "Co-Operation," a most interesting subject.

A DEBATE takes place in the Academia this evening, commencing at 8 o'clock, subject, 'Should Newfoundlanders sympathise with Ireland in her efforts to obtain Home Rule."

THE Adamantine, with forty-two hundred (4,200) quintals of fish, left yesterday morning for Brazil. Mr. George Hayward, cashier of Messrs. Bowring Bros., has gone in her for a

THE ice at the Parade Rink is in splendid condition and another grand programme of music will be rendered by Prof. Bennett's

THE volunteer deputation waited upon the

Executive on Saturday night at the Colonial

Building, with a view of ascertaining the opin.

ion of the Government respecting the forms. tion of a force in this colony. Just as the gentlemen forming the deputation had got fairly settled to work and were putting their case in the most forcible manner before the Government, the proceedings were suddenly interrupted by the presence of the Acting Attorney General, who appeared upon the scene and insisted upon taking a part in the ondoings, either as one of the delegation or as an ex-officio Government member, he didn't seem to care which. He informed all hands that he had been hard at work all the afternoon, and had only just then got wind of what was going on; and instead of going to the bosom of his family, like a sensible man, he considered that he had been insulted, either by the Government or the deputation, at not being invited to attend this meeting. As that courtesy had not been extended to him as the Acting Attorney General, the Speaker of the Assembly, and as the member of Bay-de-Verde, he did the next best thing, and he invited himself. He then took the chair, as he said he wished to speak "ex cathedra," but it was quite evident to those present that he had also taken something which had closer connection with the table. He informed the meeting that he knew more about volunteers, drilling, armaments, rifles and all the necessary equipments, than the whole of them put together. He said he had served as a corporal in a corps about twenty years ago, and that he was well up in the "goose step." He told the meeting generally that they had not the faintest idea of the matter under discussion, and he concluded by saving that he looked upon the whole affair as a farce, and that he didn't care for anyone. and that he wouldn't allow the meeting to proceed. The plea of ignorance could not be urged, Mr. McNeily said, for everyone knew that he was the Acting Attorney General, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the member for Bay-de-Verde, for on New Year's Day did he not distribute his various titles right and left in big letters upon his visiting cards. Why, Pooh Bah was a fool to him! We do not know which were more disgusted, the Government or the deputation, but the Acting Attorney General had his way, for he broke up the meeting without anything having been done. Who asked Mr. McNeily to attend the meeting, and if he went there without invitation, Why was he not put out? These are two questions that naturally suggest themselves to us in this connection.—Com.

WE regret to hear that Mr. Henry Duder became suddenly very ill last night; paralysis was the immediate cause, though it is hoped to be of not a serious nature.

THE brigantine Zanoni, of this port, was towed in here this morning at seven o'clock from Trepassey. The tug-boat D. P. Ingraham had been despatched to her assistance at six o'clock vesterday morning and found the vessel in such a tight place that the latter had to slip both anchors to get clear. The Z. was on a voyage to Sydney for coal and had reached as far as Scattarie, but was forced back on her track by baffling and stormy winds.

BIRTH. On the 16th inst., the wife of George W. Udle, of a

MARRIED.

On Saturday, 28th inst., at the R. C. Cathedral, by the Venerable Archdeacon Forristal, W. J. Kent, only son of Captain Peter Kent, to Bridgie O'Keefe, both of this

city.
On the 28th inst., by Rev. T. W. Atkinson, assisted by Rev. J. J. Wheatley, Capt. Eli Brushett, of schr. "City Point," to Mary Beck, eldest daughter of Edward Hollett, Esq., both of Burin. On the 26th inst., at St. Thomas' Church, by the Rev W. Pilot, Mr. Thomas P. Withycombe, to Sophia, eldest daughter of the late John D. Garland and grand-daughter of Henry Garland, formerly Sheriff of Harbor Grace.

DIED.

On the 30th inst., at Chamberlain, Elizabeth Dowden, At the City Hospital, New York, John Duffy, late seaman of the brigantine St. Joseph, and son of the late Margaret and Andrew Duffy, a native of St. John's, N.F.—[Harbor Grace "Standard" please copy.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

27-May, Collins, Barbados, 26 days, W H Mare Son & Co-ballast. Silver Spring, Carew, Alberton, P.E.I., 32 days, J & W Pitts-2425 bush oats 85 bush barley, 3 cases poultry. 30—May Cory, Goss, New York, 11 days, Bowring

Bros-1667 brls flour, 2 m staves 33, bales leather. St Joseph, Langlier, New York, 10 days, A Harvey & Co-2184 brls, 550 sacks flour, 500 bags

31-Ceylon, Cutlen, Halifax, 7 days, Jas. Murray-4600 bush oats, 261 bags bran. Delight, Boland, Boston, 16 days, J Fox & Sons-165 bris oil, 59 pkgs rope, 34 bales duck, 79 bales lines, general cargo. Curlew, (ss) Delaney, St Pierre, 2 days, Bowring Bros-ballast.

CLEARED. 8-Adamantine, Clark, Pernambuco, Bowring Bros-4200 qtls fish

0-Carpasian, Laurie, Pernambuco, w Gileve & Co-5165 qtls fish. Fanny, Kidd, Pernambuco, Job, Bros & Co-3549 qtls fish. Prince LeBoo, Thorne, Liverpool, J Murray—1832 qtls fish, 55 trcs, 28 brls salmon, 81 tuus cod oil, 6 tuus cod liver oil, 55 bxs lobsters, 50 brls herring. Goonlaze, Coon, Figueira, A Goodridge & Sons-2100

qtls fish. 81-Lottie, Davies, Barbados, Baine, Johnston & Co-1560 qtls fish, 232 brls herring, 300 bd/s

Jany 19-Lilian, Europe, Job, Bros & Co. 26 – Robert, West Indies, J Murray. 30 – Pedestrian, Europe, Baine, Johnston & Co. Energy, West Indies, A Goodridge & Sons. May Cory, Brazil, Bowring Bros.

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