"Rainbow." We can see him now, overarching the world from Dan to Beersheba, an object of admiration to the children of all schools, who, as soon as he appears upon the horizon, rush to see him spread himself. He was all things to all men, and more especially to the women, who, as we have already said, are more sensitive to the operation of the Spirit than men; and he was just as good and as great a man as you could expect a Christian in his position to be,—a splendid character spoiled by one or two lasting lies, a koh-i-noor diamond with a flaw."

NOTICE.

THE WATCHMAN is issued from the Office, Canterbury Street, every Saturday afternoon.

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THE WATCHMAN is for sale at all the City Bookstores, in all the principal Towns in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and on all the leading Railways and Steamboats.

JOHN LIVINGSTON,
Proprietor and Editor.

Office:—Canterbury Street, next door North of the Post Office.

The Watchman.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1875.

"THE WATCHMAN."

With the modesty that is so becoming in youth, THE WATCHMAN proposes to say as little as possible about itself, its aims and hopes. It may, however, be proper to state that it would not be published unless its proprietor had entertained the belief that there was room for it in the newspaper field. Weeklies depending mainly for their support on St. John readers are comparatively scarce; hence a probability that the advent of this journal will not prove unwelcome. Journals which do not hesitate to challenge the administration of public affairs by the present Dominion Government are also few and far between in our Province, although public sentiment seems to run counter to the Government: another reason why THE WATCHMAN and its criticisms will not be rejected by the people at large. If to these features of the new journal we add that in no respect will it follow the beaten track of Provincial journalism; that, in future, its sketches of Provincial life will be graphic, novel and entertaining, its news fresh and reliable, its discussions of local affairs just and fearless, its literary department well sustained, its reviews of new books, theatrical criticisms, etc., exhaustive and impartial, the reading public will probably not question our right to live. Lenient readers will be pleased to excuse the imperfections of this initial number—produced during moments snatched from other and weightier labors,—and accept our promise of continuous improvement in succeeding issues. Our printers, Messrs. McKILLOP & JOHNSTON, have been obliged to produce this number at extremely short notice, and although they have imported a beautiful suit of type expressly for THE WATCHMAN, and the appearance of the paper reflects no discredit on their establishment, they are convinced that the issues to follow will redound still more to their typographical honor. With these few observations we take the seat to which a number of our contemporaries have, in advance, bid us welcome.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The political events of the last twelve months must be sadly disappointing to those well meaning and conscientious persons who honestly believed that the advent of the Ontario Party to power at Ottawa was to inaugurate an era of electoral purity, sound public morality, disinterested, patriotic public service. All who have closely and impartially watched the course of the "Reform" Government and the "Reform" Party, must have come to the conclusion that, while in opposition, they built up a reputation for integrity and ability which their administration of the Government has entirely destroyed. It is a remarkable fact that the only measures which they have carried through successfully were those which they appropriated from their predecessors, while their greatest failures have been connected with those measures which were of their own originating. Their Pacific Railway policy, their transactions with British Columbia, their handling of the New Brunswick School question, their Brydgian management of the Maritime Railways, their treatment of the Bay Verte Canal, their early tampering with the Tariff, their Supreme Court bill, their bill for the government of the North West, are all evidences of the grossest incompetency as a Government. In these instances of failure, alone,—to say nothing of the attempt to crush Canadian manufactures under a "Reciprocity Treaty" with the States, which, happily, was averted,—there are blunders enough to destroy any Government, blunders that have placed the present Government beyond hope of salvation. So far as the Maritime members of the Government are concerned, but more especially the New Brunswick members, whom the people were anxious to sustain if that were possible, their position is most deplorable. A few facts will help to illustrate.

One of the first acts of their Government was to attempt to fasten a special tax on a Maritime interest, the ship-owning and ship-building interest, and it was with the greatest difficulty this could be prevented. Failing in that quarter, the Government determined the Maritime Provinces should be freshly taxed through the Railway system. This succeeded. Mr. Brydges did not leave New Brunswick until, in the name of the Government, he had levied an additional tax on every manufacturer whose products were carried over the road, including manufacturers who have no other means of transport; on every mill-owner; on the farmers along the main railways and their branches; on all lumbermen and shipbuilders who use the road; and, in addition, on all the passenger travel, striking particularly at that class of persons who had been induced by moderate fares to invest in houses and lands in the vicinity of the railway. Mr. Brydges carried his point in spite of the New Brunswick members of the Government. The next humiliation these gentlemen were to suffer was connected with the Bay Verte Canal. Mr. Smith had taken great credit for preventing Dr. Tupper from having the Canal put under contract, and now the Nova Scotia supporters of Mr. Smith's Government have signed a document that will prevent the Canal from being built as long as they remain in Parliament; they have effectually killed the Canal,—with Mr. Smith's prior aid. Mr. Burpee has prided himself on being an out-and-out New Brunswick Free School man, a most valorous opponent of anything like "encroachment" on New Brunswick's rights, and yet both Mr. Smith and Mr. Burpee were parties to the concoction of a resolution asking the Queen to interfere with our legislation and to use her influence to change it; they both voted for it, and their Government compelled the House of Commons to pass it. They both represent the loyal sentiments of a thoroughly loyal Province, yet their Government and themselves abetted and adopted the proposition, which was incorporated in the Supreme Court Act, to abolish the Appeal to England! They were at one time great sticklers for Provincial rights, Mr. Smith especially professing a great dread of the overshadowing influence of the Upper Provinces; yet they offered not the slightest effective opposition to the scheme to give the Province of Quebec, one third of the Judges of the Court of Appeal, irrespective of her future population. As far as they could, they made special legislation for Quebec.

Pages of a newspaper might be exhausted in showing the humiliating position which the Maritime Provinces have recently occupied in the Dominion Parliament; notably also in the Dominion Government where Mr. McKenzie has been playing the autocrat. We have named but a few instances and only one or two names; but these are "specimen bricks." It is proper to add that the Government which a year ago was so insolent and aggressive, has since shown the strongest signs of demoralization and disintegration. Its members have been anxious to fly from its ranks. Mr. Blake remained in it but a few months. Mr. Dorion took the first judicial vacancy that offered. Mr. Ross, of Nova Scotia, gladly accepted, indeed, he fought for, the office of a Collector of Customs. Mr. Fournier, a fourth rate lawyer who was made Minister of Justice over the head of Hon. A. J. Smith, demands the position of Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec, and Mr. Senator Scott is spoken of for a seat in the Court of Appeals. Rumor is also busy with the name, as with the fame, of Mr. Huntingdon, President of the Privy Council. These, however, are not the worst features of the sickness in the Reform or Ontario Party. Of all the Party leaders, Messrs. Mackenzie, Blake and Brown are the most influential in Parliament and have the strongest hold upon the country. It was to have been supposed that if the Reform Party, as a Party, had a definite policy by which they purposed to govern Canada, these leaders would, be agreed upon it, and it would be presented through Parliament. This was especially desirable, in view of the fact that they had denounced their predecessors in office as mere "men of expediency," as divided in their counsels and governed by circumstances. But what have we found? Mr. Blake entered the Government,—and carried Mr. A. J. Smith in with him, Mr. Smith having publicly assured his constituents that he only entered on the condition that Mr. Blake joined. He remained there a few months, abandoned the ship without giving any satisfactory explanation, and in Parliament has opposed his former colleagues on the gravest public questions. His friends have established an "organ" to aid him in his attempted coercion of the Government. Mr. Brown, while at daggers drawn with Mr. Blake, is also obliged, in his place in the Senate, to condemn the Government's policy on so serious a Government measure as the fastening of the Separate School system on the great North-West Territories, and in other ways has shown his discontent with the ruling of the rulers. And yet these are the gentlemen who were to have been models of patriotism, unselfishness, co-operation and all the political and Christian graces. These are the leaders, and this the party, whose friends assured these miserable Maritime Provinces they were scarcely worthy to have such rulers over them.

OUR PUBLIC MEN.

The sketches of New Brunswick members of Parliament and the Local Legislature, which we reproduce to-day from the latest edition of "Morgan's Parliamentary Companion," just issued, supply a great want. It has generally been considered that the public lost a great deal through not having a succinct record of the *personel* of the public men who have lived, labored and passed away from our Province, and Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Hannay and other writers have, at great pains and expense, in deference to the demand for particulars, ransacked the archives of the past to fill the *hiatus*. A much readier means, however, of establishing the reputation of our public men on a lasting foundation has been found in the pages of the "Parliamentary Companion." Here we have a record of the acts and opinions of at least our own legislators, a record of the utmost correctness, since, in most instances, it is supplied by the gentlemen themselves. To the pages of "Morgan" the doubtful and skeptical may refer for confirmation, strong as holy writ, of any fact connected with the birth, age, marriage, military appointment, present political sentiments, etc., of any member of Parliament or of the Provincial Legislatures of the Dominion.

Summarizing a few of the facts as here presented, we find that one New Brunswick member of Parliament traces his descent to a period antecedent to the Norman Conquest, while another is of the lineage of the Princes of Tyrconnel. A third places himself on the record as having been married once, although the popular impression has been that he had been twice married,—so liable is the public to error. Some are descended from English Puritan stock, others pride themselves on their Loyalist parentage, while some, we regret to find, do not seem to have known that they had any forefathers. The number of legislators who have been "Lieutenant Colonels," or held other official rank in the army, is quite remarkable, though not more so than the fact that comparatively few have risen to the Legislature or to Parliament without being a Director of some benevolent or useful local institution. Of our members of Parliament, only one gentleman, Mr. Deveber, admits that he is "a Reformer," the others describing themselves as "Liberal" or "Conservative," nearly all of them claiming to be "Liberal," though Mr. Domville is classed as a "Liberal-Conservative." In the New Brunswick Assembly only three members are registered as "Conservative." The political platform of the Assembly shows, of course, a dead uniformity, nearly all the members putting themselves down squarely as "elected to support the Non-Sectarian, Free School system." Mr. E. J. Smith, of Westmoreland, adds to his politics that he favors "a reduction of taxes, a reduction of salaries, a reduction of lawyers' fees, and increasing the price of timber on Crown Lands;" and Mr. Mackenzie, of Restigouche, avows himself "a supporter of the National Party, believing that Canada should always be first in the aspirations and affections of every true Canadian." Altogether, these sketches of our legislators will repay careful perusal. The children in our Free Schools should treasure them and ever remember that there is no position either in the Legislature or Parliament which a well-behaved, ambitious youth may not hope to reach, and, having reached, secure a place in Morgan's "Companion."

BENEVOLENT FOREIGNERS.—Probably one of the most benevolent acts of the century is that which furnishes the "poor" of St. John with medicinal pills and powders at the expense of the German Government. At the same time, it is a melancholy reflection on this fair City that its poor should be compelled to accept the bounty of a foreign Government, even in the matters of calomel and rhubarb. The great fact, however, reveals the broad and philanthropic spirit which governs in German counsels, for it is only fair to assume that the poor of St. John are not the only poor whom the German Government includes among its patients. Doubtless, the expense is paid from the French Indemnity money; and then there is the saving which Germany is making under the Act for cutting off subsidies to those who give their allegiance to Rome rather than to the Fatherland. Altogether, we come to the conclusion that Germany can afford to send medical men, like missionaries, into heathen countries, that the lame, the halt and the blind may be cured, and that even infants may lisp their blessings on charitable German officials.

LABOR AND CAPITAL.—The members of the Board of Trade and members of the Lumber Exchange, yesterday, subscribed fifty-eight thousand dollars towards resisting the demands of the Laborers' Association. This amount,—and as much more as is needed,—will be used to bring to the port the necessary laborers for loading and discharging all the shipping that may require handling. There is, however, abundance of labor in or near St. John; all that is really needed is protection to those who do not choose to be coerced by the Laborers' Society. [Noon, Saturday: The sum has reached nearly $70,000.]

STOCK DELEGATE.—It is stated that the Hon. Angus McQueen will be a Government delegate to purchase stock in agricultural interests. The purchases will be made in the Dominion and the United States.

A—Three islands above the Falls.
B—Hills rising above the land on both sides of the river.
C—The fall of the river.
D—Sand-banks, with the tide out, and vessels grounded.
E—Cabins where the Indians were fortified.
F—Point of land where there is a cross.
G—An island at the mouth of the river.
H—A small brook running from a pond.
I—An arm of the sea, dry at low water.
L—Two small, rocky islands.
M—A small pond or lake.
N—Two rivulets.
O—Dangerous sand-banks along the coast, showing the tide out.
P—Road where the Indians carried their canoes when they wanted to pass the Falls.
Q—Place in the main channel of the river where vessels could anchor.

ST. JOHN IN 1604.

We present our readers to-day with a fac-simile of the chart of the harbor of St. John, drawn by Champlain in 1604, when he first discovered this river. Most of our readers will scarcely need to be told that our river was discovered by Champlain on the 24th June, 1604, the day of St. John the Baptist, and on that account received its present name. The expedition which discovered the St. John, and of which Champlain was pilot, was fitted out under the auspices of Henry IV. of France, and was commanded by the Sieur de Monts, a Huguenot gentleman, who was attached to the person of that monarch. De Monts received from the French King a very extensive grant of territory in North America, between the fortieth and forty-fifth degrees of latitude, and likewise a monopoly of the fur trade over half the Continent. He had formed the design of founding a Colony in Acadia, and had brought out many artisans and workmen of various kinds, as well as farmers and soldiers. Several gentlemen were with the expedition, amongst others Poutrincourt, from Picardie, who afterwards settled at Port Royal, now Annapolis, N. S. The main authority for the transactions of this voyage is the work of Champlain himself, who, in his own sailor-like way, tells the story of his discoveries. The following is a literal translation of that part of his book of voyages which relates to the River St. John:—

"The 20th May we left the Port for the mines to seek a proper place for building a house, resolved that no time should be lost. Then, after having reunited to ascertain if we could discover the mine of pure copper which Prevard's people had found by the aid of the savages, we made two leagues to the west to the Cape of Two Bays, thence north five or six leagues, and crossed the other bay, where we judged the copper mine to be of which we have already spoken, where there are two rivers, the one coming from towards Cape Breton, and the other from the coast of Gaspe or Tregatte (Tracadie), near to the great river St. Lawrence. Making to the west some 6 leagues we came to a small river, at the entrance of which there is a low cape which runs into the sea, and a little inland a mountain which has the form of a cardinal's hat. In this place there is an iron mine. There is an anchorage for shallops only. Four leagues west-south-west there is a point of rock which projects a little into the water, where there are high tides, which are very dangerous. Near the point there is a cove, which is about half a league in circumference, where there is another iron mine, which is very good. At the distance of four leagues in advance there is a beautiful bay which runs inland, at the head of which there are three islands and a rock, two of which are a league from the cape, bearing to the west, and the other is at the mouth of a river, the largest and deepest we have yet seen, which we named the River St. John, because it was on that day I arrived there. By the savages it is called Ouygoudy (Wigoudi). This river is dangerous if one is not acquainted with certain points or rocks on either shore. The entrance is narrow, but it soon enlarges, and having doubled the point it narrows again and makes, as it were, a fall between two great rocks, where the water runs with such great swiftness that a piece of wood, thrown in, sinks to the bottom and is seen no more, but during high water this strait can be easily passed and then it widens out to a league in certain places, where there are three islands. We did not follow it further. Nevertheless, Ralleau, secretary of the Sieur de Monts, had some time after met a savage named Secondon, chief of this river, who reported it was beautiful, grand and spacious, having a quantity of meadows and handsome woods, such as oaks, beeches, butternuts and vines of wild grapes. The inhabitants of this country go by this river to Tadousac, which is on the great river St. Lawrence, and pass over a little land to reach that place. At the entrance of which in the latitude 43½ there is an iron mine. Shallops can only ascend fifteen leagues up this river on account of the rapids, which can only be navigated by the canoes of the savages."

It will be noticed that Champlain's map or chart, considering the opportunities at his disposal, is extremely accurate. The high point of land on which a cross is erected, as shown in the plan, is Negro-town Point. The great stretch of flats which lie between it and Navy Island, as seen in the plan, has been so largely built over with the wharves that the features of that portion of the West side of our harbor are considerably changed. We see on them the place marked where Champlain's vessel lay aground. Navy Island then contained a village, which the savages had enclosed by a palisade. The channel between it and Carleton was much narrower then than now, and the inference is that Navy Island itself is now much smaller than in Champlain's day. The other features of the plan do not call for special remark, except that the falls are properly laid down in the map, as well as the islands above them and the carrying place of the Indians by which they passed the rapids. The Marsh Creek is rather imperfectly marked down, probably because Champlain did not explore Courtenay Bay; but the Mill Pond, which now no longer exists, is accurately placed. The hills shown on the East side are, doubtless, Fort Howe, Mount Pleasant, etc. The plan, to a large extent, speaks for itself, and its study is further assisted by the table of references given by Champlain himself, of which we have given a translation. The soundings, as well as the distances on the scale, are stated in toises, a French measure, the toise being slightly more than a fathom, say six feet four inches. The whole subject ought to interest all our readers.

CENSURING A SPEAKER!—Yesterday, the Assembly of Nova Scotia performed an Act unprecedented in the annals of our legislative history. It voted by a large majority that its Speaker, Mr. Dickie, of Colchester, was disqualified for his duties, on the ground of incompetency. Mr. Dickie was elected in opposition to the Annand-Hill Government, but deserted his political friends without a moment's warning, and accepted the Speakership from the Government. There can be no doubt that he possessed not the first qualification for the position. The vote of censure directed against the Speaker was really a censure, of the severest description, of the Government. It is only just to the political "resources" of the sister Province to say that there is probably no other country in the world where such a summary mode of dealing with a Speaker would have been put in operation.

NOTHING LIKE LEATHER.—St. John City and County, in 1871, produced boots and shoes to the value of $539,230, the yearly wages in the factories and shops footing up $128,850.

THE SAW MILLS OF ST. JOHN turned out, in 1871, property valued at $2,632,000.

(From a Special Contributor.)

THE ST. JOHN COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

ITS INMATES AND THEIR HISTORY.

In no way is the ennobling influences of Christianity more fully displayed than in the care and protection of the sick, infirm and aged of a community. States and cities, while boasting of the glory of their achievements, the greatness of their wealth, or the grandeur of their public edifices, speak with perhaps less exultation, but with a truer and nobler pride of those hospitals, refuges and almshouses which the march of civilization has caused to spring up all over the Christian world. The commercial centres of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Upper Provinces are happily conspicuous in this respect, and the City of St. John may justly feel proud of the many institutions for the relief of suffering humanity which have arisen around it, and stand silent but unimpeachable witnesses of the charity of its inhabitants. During a late visit to that city we felt desirous of being able to speak from personal observation of the internal economy of its numerous charitable establishments, and in fulfilling this desire were most kindly assisted by the different gentlemen connected with them. Enquiring the location of that refuge of the aged and poverty-stricken, the Almshouse, we found it to be situated a short distance from the City, and that half-an-hour's brisk walking would easily bring us to it. Proceeding as directed, we soon came in sight of the building, and a few minutes later found ourselves in its immediate vicinity. Pausing to examine its external appearance, we found it to be a large and handsome red-brick structure, situated close to the water, and surrounded by grounds sufficiently extensive for its requirements. The central portion of the building is five stories high, and the adjoining wings four; thus giving an amount of accommodation happily required only in times of much greater distress and poverty than exist at present. Our summons at the gate was answered with official briskness by one of the inmates, to whom we communicated the fact of our being a stranger desirous of visiting the establishment. Leaving us for a few moments he returned with the necessary permission, and a polite message from the gentleman in charge, regretting that his state of health would not permit of his accompanying us through the building.

On entering the enclosure our eyes were greeted by a sight strange within such precincts, and speaking volumes of kindliness and good care. Romping and laughing in the bright sunshine, was a troop of merry children, as happy as if no shadow of an Almshouse wall had ever been cast over their young lives. There were, we learned, about twenty of these little unfortunates in the house,—some with their mothers, some orphans, and some the waifs and strays of the community,—all happy and contented, and all showing unmistakable signs of good feeding and good treatment. As the duties of the aged janitor who admitted us did not allow of his acting as our guide, we placed ourselves under the care of a neat, pleasant-looking young woman, and proceeded to make a tour of the building. Although our conductress did not possess that volubility and extensive local knowledge displayed by the housekeeper at Castle Carabas, of whom Thackeray tells us, she was nevertheless able to supply all the information that we required. "Were there many inmates?" "About a hundred and twenty,—there had been more, but every one that could was going out, now that the winter was over." "We supposed that the majority of those remaining were very old people?" "Yes, the majority;—old, or broken down by sickness." "Were the sick sent there?" "None but incurables; others went to the hospital." "Had she been long in the House?" "Too long,—about fifteen months; husband away in the States; obliged to come in with her two little children." Poor thing! We did not see any wedding ring on her finger; but perhaps she had it hidden away in her breast with long cherished hopes of better days. "Would we now like to visit the wards?" "Yes, certainly." "Please come this way. This is one of the women's wards." A large, airy and well lighted room; floor as bright and clean as the quarter-deck of a man-of-war; containing about twenty beds, a few of which were occupied. "Are any of those confined to bed seriously ill?" "No, sir, nothing serious; weakness, or may be rheumatism; old people who have worked hard suffer a good deal from it." "What is the matter with that bright-eyed young woman in the corner?" "Oh, she is quite well now, sir. That is her child the nurse has at the window." To our repeated question if they were comfortable, they all made the same reply:—"Yes, thank you, comfortable enough; nothing to complain of." This may have been a stereotyped answer, ready for all visitors, but we must confess that during our visit we could see nothing to cause us to doubt its veracity.

Leaving this ward we proceeded to an adjoining one, also occupied by women, and here again found all cleanliness and order. A portion of it was used as a day-room, and in it were a number of aged women, chatting, knitting, and performing little kindly offices for one or two of their number who appeared in feeble health. They gladly entered into conversation, and told us their histories with that garrulity so much favoured by age and misfortune. A melancholy sameness pervaded all their stories, the death or absence of husbands, sons or brothers being in nearly every case the cause of their taking refuge in the Almshouse. Many were widows who from ill-health were unable to work for their livelihood. Some had sons away at sea and were waiting, with hope long deferred, to receive tidings of them. One respectable old woman told us she had a son in California, from whom she had regularly received remittances until within the last few months, and that she was in daily expectation of the means of leaving the House and again living in decent comfort. A few appeared resigned to their position, and seemed to think the quiet monotony of their lives, with its pauper surroundings, preferable to the hard, struggling existence they had previously led. One or two poor deformed creatures appeared to be quite happy in their misfortunes, and their laughter and careless gossip showed but little sign of care, sorrow, or regret.

Leaving this portion of the house, we next proceeded to the part occupied by the men, and found the same characteristics of good management we had before observed. Although there was a large number of occupants, the proportion of extremely aged men was not great; and we noticed that feebleness and broken health seemed to have brought the greater number within the walls. Our questions were readily answered by the majority; and we were glad to find that even the most aged and feeble were buoyed up with hopes of better days in store. "Soon going out?" we asked an old Irishman, who had been deep in a political argument when we entered. "Bedad, I hope so, Sir; I'm a' most clear of the pains, and in a week or two I'll be able to do a day's work with the best of thim." "Been long here?" "About three months,—bet up with the hard winter like a good many more. It's a poor place for a man to be; but what's the use of frettin'? If I have luck through the summer, I'll be able to knock out next winter like a retired gintilman." Leaving this cheery old fellow, we turned to address a comparatively young man whose worn and haggard appearance betrayed signs of long illness and a broken constitution. "Yes, he thanked us, he was getting round slowly, but never expected to be all right again.—Lungs badly affected—hard living and hard drinking. Had been to California for two years and made a big pile there; if he had stuck to it, would have kept him square all his life. Spent a pile in San Francisco and New York, and passed over his bottom dollar in Boston. Worked along somehow till the panic, and then came on here in search of a job. Knocked out pretty fair for a time, till laid up with inflammation of the lungs. Had to come into the House after being discharged from hospital, as he wasn't fit for anything. Expected to get away to the Old Country this summer, as he had a brother there doing well."

A decent looking old man, sitting by one of the windows, next attracted our attention. There was a neatness about his poor attire and an inexplicable something in his appearance which told plainly of a fall in life far greater than that of any of his companions. We felt somewhat diffident in intruding on him, but the satisfaction he evinced on our enquiring after his health induced us to enter more fully into conversation. "Would we be seated? Poor accommodation, but clean. Sorry he could not offer us chairs. Yes, he was glad to say his health had been latterly fair, but he suffered much from weakness. His sight, too, was failing, which was a great privation. Age, he supposed, and no cure for it. Had been in the House about fifteen months. Might be able to leave it some day, but had little hope. Friends all dead and gone who might have helped him. Had certainly some nephews in England, but didn't think they were aware of his existence." "His life had been a chequered one," we remarked, "would he object to give us a few of the particulars?" "Oh, no! his career had been one common enough, unfortunately; there was a moral to be extracted from it, if young men would only think so. His father had been a professional man in extensive practice in N——, England, and had given him a superior education. During his early life he had been studious and attentive, but the death of his mother, and the consequent loss of home influence, had left him open to the inducements of companions, who easily led him from the right path. Debts and difficulties gradually surrounded him on all sides, and after being several times relieved by his father, he had been obliged to fly from N—— to avoid arrest by his numerous creditors. Hurrying to London he remained there for a short time till he received the means of emigrating to Australia. 'Twas at the time that colony was in its infancy, and with care and steady labour he might have made a fortune in a hundred different ways; but his restless and unsettled spirit would never allow him to remain long at anything. He had been a clerk, a miner, a sailor on a coasting vessel, a shepherd and a dozen other things during the time he was there, but gained no advantage by any of his occupations, for the money acquired by them was soon spent rioting in Melbourne, or in the rough shanties at the diggings. Tired at length of this wild colonial life, he returned to England, working his passage home in one of the emigrant ships, but only to find his father dead, and an only sister married and settled in a distant part of the country. There was no home for him; so, after remaining in his native town for a week or so, and receiving a few pounds from some of his former acquaintances, he proceeded again on his wandering life to America. Here the old Australian scenes were acted anew, and one situation after another lost through dissipation or restless love of change. At length his health began to give way, and he was no longer able to rough it as of old. His education however, enabled him to obtain suitable employment, and but for the curse of drink he might have maintained himself respectably. It was his ruin. Obliged to leave town after town with a blighted name, his prospects of earning a livelihood became every day less, while poverty and old age were rapidly creeping on him. I need hardly add anything more, Sir," he said; "you can easily understand the rest. Crossing into Canada, I managed for a time to keep my head above water, but the old curse bore me down again; and in these Provinces my lot has been the same. Coming here in the depth of winter, fifteen months ago, I had hopes of obtaining employment, and, even at the eleventh hour, of leading a sober, respectable life; but 'twas too late,—my constitution was gone. Struck down by sickness, I was taken to the Hospital, and afterwards here as an incurable. However, I am resigned; my race, I think, is nearly run, and the quietness of this poor place is perhaps more fitting for me, after my long and ill-spent life, than the struggles and excitement of the outer world." Offering what little consolation we could to one placed in such a melancholy position, we took leave of him, with the promise of a future visit if circumstances would admit. A hurried look at the refectories and kitchens completed our tour of the establishment, and we left the Almshouse well pleased with the cleanliness and order displayed in its management, and much impressed by the various records of misfortune we had heard within its walls.

—"And because the world hates whoever is from Jesus Christ, therefore is the hate of the whole world turned towards the Irish,"—was a pleasant remark made by Father Murphy in an oration delivered by him in Quebec a week or two ago.

FREDERICTON HAPPY.

A good deal of valuable sympathy has been wasted on the cases of the "drummers," eight or ten of whom were persuaded to contribute a sum in the vicinity of one hundred dollars to the City Treasury of Fredericton, one day this week. How are Corporations to be run if "drummers" are to go free? What would become of Peter White, of Fredericton, or others like him in other cities, if "drummers" could not be arrested and compelled to stand and deliver? Let us be just. Men must live, and so must Corporations, especially the Corporation of Fredericton, which has obtained a new claim to the admiration of posterity through the enactment and enforcement of its recent "Law to regulate the issue of Miscellaneous Licences in the City of Fredericton." Under this law the non-resident who opens a place of business and carries on such business must pay to the City $50 a year. For practising medicine the civic fee is $10 "per month." Life or Fire Insurance canvassing agents, $10 per week. Saloon keepers, $10 per month. Vending or canvassing patent or other medicines, $5 per week; cigars, snuff, etc., $5 per week; pianos, organs, etc., $10 per week; clothes lines, $2 per week. The "images" man must pay $1 a week, and the old woman caught "vending or canvassing dulce" must contribute of her ill got gains, "$1 per week." If Mr. Flaherty wishes to solicit orders for his Safes in Fredericton he must pay "$10 per week" for the privilege, while the gay deceiver who vends or canvasses "Baby Holders or Automatic Jumpers" must come down with his "$2 per week," being on a par, as regards amount, with the man who would venture to sell Murphy, Simms & Co's. "Brushes." The transient barber must fork over his "$3 per month," while the "master builder or master workman in any trade" his $5 per month; "journeyman mechanics" being let off for "$2 per month." The dancing master must dance to the tune of "$100 per month;" the piano tuner being mercifully let off with "$5 per week," and the man who vends leather or monuments at $10 per week. And so on throughout a list that nearly fills a column of a Fredericton newspaper. It is an admirable classification and reflects great credit on the ingenuity and conscientiousness of the Mayor and Commonalty of the Provincial Capital, who, doubtless, recommended the scale for Legislative action. The point we make in favor of this measure of protection is this,—that whereas the City of Fredericton had as clear a right, under the Constitution of Canada, to hang these several criminals as to tax them out of existence, it has contented itself with the more merciful method of extermination. We sincerely trust that if any "furriner" be caught in the streets of Fredericton this year, after the official notice that has been issued, he will be shot on sight. And serve him right!

NO PASSES FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The Seventeenth Annual Report of the Deaf and Dumb Institution of Halifax contains the following paragraph:—

"The number in attendance on the last of the year was thirty-three, twenty-five males and eight females, being seven less than at the same date the previous year. This decrease is due partly to the breaking up of the School in the spring, owing to sickness already referred to, and the subsequent building operations, which prevented us from accommodating our usual number until too late in the season for the more distant pupils to return—and partly to the fact that several of the pupils have been unable to get back to school for want of clothing and the means of paying their travelling expenses from their homes to Halifax, now that they have been deprived of the privilege of free travel on the Government Railroads. While the "Pass System" was doubtless abused and some restriction on its operation may have been necessary, measures might surely have been adopted to protect the interests of the revenue without depriving the deaf-mutes of the Province of a privilege enjoyed for fourteen years, the loss of which results practically in shutting out not a few of them from the benefits of education. I would suggest the propriety of bringing this matter to the notice of the Nova Scotia members of the Dominion Parliament and the Government, with the view of obtaining some relaxation of the present regulation in behalf of our poorer pupils of the Institution."

The Pass system is still abused, and the "restrictions on its operation" are probably more imaginary than real. In the case of the Deaf and Dumb, however, the nominal abolition of free passes appears to have worked injuriously. It is abundantly clear that the Dominion can well afford to carry a few afflicted children over its railways without charge to themselves or the benevolent institutions in which they are receiving a gratuitous education; it certainly can do this much for "sweet charity's sake," even at a time when the management of the Government Railways in the Maritime Provinces is very generally condemned. If the members of Parliament for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have not already given the subject their attention, it is to be hoped they will not longer delay in casting their influence on the side of the Deaf and Dumb.

CHURCH STREET GRADING.—Perhaps one of the worst jobs ever executed in a small way,—we do not refer to "jobs" attended by corruption,—was the grading of Church Street, between Canterbury and Prince Wm. Streets. The grading, instead of proceeding on some proper principle, having regard to the level of Germain and Prince Wm. Streets, was purely a piece of patch-work, intended to overcome a local difficulty. It was at first proposed to start from Prince Wm. Street and fill in, in a proper manner, until the level of Canterbury was reached, but owners of property at Prince Wm. Street objected, and a scheme which was right in itself was abandoned. It was next proposed to make a starting point, for grading, a short distance from Prince Wm., say opposite the premises used for storage by the Western Union Telegraph Company, but this, too, was abandoned when opposition threatened. Finally, the street authorities made a commencement near Canterbury Street itself, and "poulticed" poor Church Street after such a fashion that it presents a singular deformity that would be laughable were it not for the injury caused to property on the South side of the street. In front of several of the South side buildings a huge embankment,—one so steep that loaded teams can not pass up or down,—was thrown up, leaving only two or three feet of a dark, damp passage way between the embankments and the buildings, and on top of this embankment a board fence was erected, the two combined most effectually depriving the occupants and owners of the premises of rights and privileges previously enjoyed. These people were supposed to be poor, and it was understood they would not be able to offer the same opposition to the arbitrary course of the street officials which had proved so effectual in the cases of the gentlemen who owned the properties lower down the street. Possibly they are poor, but it would seem they are not spiritless, for it is understood they propose to take their grievances into the Courts, when and where the merits of the Church street style of grading will probably be fully tested. It will be interesting to hear what professional gentlemen have to say in reference to this piece of street making, and to understand whether or not, in the event of City officials virtually destroying a citizen's property, the civic purse can not be called upon to make good the loss. It may cost citizens in their corporate capacity something to acquire this information, but the individual citizen had better pay his share of the law expenses than remain in doubt on a question so important.

BOYS WANTED.—A limited number of boys of good character and satisfactory address can find employment on Saturdays in selling and delivering THE WATCHMAN. Special districts will be assigned to them, in which they will have no interference. Active lads can readily make, in the course of the year, from $30 to $60 each, through their Saturday's sales.

THE IRON WORKERS.—The value of the articles produced in the foundries and machine shops of St. John, in 1871, was $323,670.

RETAINED LEGISLATORS.

(From the New York Tribune.)

It is an admitted canon of political morals, recognized in all the rules and usages of legislative bodies, that no member shall vote upon any question in the decision of which he has a direct personal interest. Of late years, and among our State Legislatures and in Congress, it has fallen into desuetude. It began with the evil of over-legislation. Holders of bank stocks and railroad stocks legislating in the most general way upon banks and railroads, or voting, without hesitation or question, upon laws, the passage of which affected their pecuniary interests in the most direct and positive manner, could not complain if the retained attorney of a corporation managed to be elected to the Legislature, in order to secure by direct influence and his own vote as a legislator, what he had failed to secure as attorney in the lobby. The process of demoralization was as simple as sin, and the steps as easy. If attorney one year, and legislator the next, why not attorney and legislator both at the same time? And if the vote and influence of an attorney in the Legislature may be paid for under a retainer—whether last year's retainer or this—why may not any layman in the Legislature do the same business in the same way! That is bribery, to be sure; but where is the line between retainer and bribe? And if men may go to the Legislature to make laws for their own pecuniary profit, why may not others who have no stocks nor bonds nor canal contracts, nor fees contingent upon contracts, use *their* votes for their pecuniary profit? That's bribery again, and there is where it ends. Who shall say just where it begins?

Here is Senator Conkling acting under retainers from great corporations when the very questions involved are liable at any moment to take such shape as to require his action in a judicial relation upon them. Here was Senator Carpenter retained by one of the parties to a political complication certain to come before him as a Senator. Here, in almost every Legislature in the country, we have had men legislating for the public under retainers as attorneys. And a little while ago we had a great scandal over the fact that Senators and Representatives in Congress had followed these practices to their logical conclusion, and engaged in speculations, the success of which depended upon their legislation. There is much confusion upon this matter in the public mind. Plainly enough the tendency of the practice to which we have referred is evil. It leads by a very short and direct process to political corruption of the very worst and most ruinous sort. Is there no remedy possible?

A NEW SPECIES OF "PERSECUTION."

(From the Ottawa Citizen.)

The Hamilton *Times*, in a fit of virtuous indignation relative to the unseating of the "modest scholar," Mr. Maclennan, M. P. for North Victoria, says:—"Since Reformers came into power more has been effected to purge the constituencies, to detect and punish bribery, and to elevate the standard of public morals than had been accomplished under Conservative rule during the preceding twenty years." Now we were of opinion that all the election trials, all the "purging," all the "standard elevating" had been produced by a certain act introduced by the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald. Under that act John Walker, of London, was personally disqualified; under that act Hiram H. Cook, M. P, for North Simcoe, was forced to acknowledge that he, in the course of two or three election contests, had expended between $20,000 and 30,000; under that act Malcolm Colin Cameron, ex-M. P. for South Huron, found it necessary to tell the court that he had at various times squandered what was equal to a fortune, in corrupting the electors of his constituency; under that act Mr. Lorne McDougall, of South Renfrew, informed the judge that he had expended $8,000 or $10,000 in election campaigns; under that act M. Jodoin was found to have countenanced the purchase of his seat for Chambly by an expenditure of $10,000; and under that act too, Messrs. John O'Donohoe and Wilkes, of Toronto, Stuart of South Norfolk, Higginbotham of North Wellington, McGregor of Essex, Norris of Lincoln, Kerr and Biggar of Northumberland, Maclennan of North Victoria, Mackenzie of Montreal, and many other good and true supporters of the present Radical Government were forced to vacate their seats.

—At Niigata, in Japan, the latest rage is one for breeding a kind of gold fish called koi, which has a white body and light red head. A fish a foot long sells for $37.50. The cause of the fancy is that a rumor prevails that gold can be extracted from the scales. Some people have turned their fields into fish ponds by way of speculation.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Mr. F. S. Sharpe, recently of Mr. Robert Marshall's establishment, has fitted up a very neat office in Merritt's building, Prince William St., where he will carry on the business of a Public Accountant and Average Adjuster. Mr. Sharpe opens in his new line on Monday, and brings to the performance of his duties the very highest qualifications.

In Photography Messrs. J. McClure & Co. have an excellent reputation, and they propose to give the public the benefit of everything in their line at very low rates, now that money is so valuable. Their prices are stated in their advertisement.

The St. John Building Society has removed from its offices on Canterbury street (at present occupied as the editorial and business offices of the WATCHMAN) to their new suite of offices in Merritt's Building, Prince Wm. St., a door or two south of the New Post Office and the Bank of New Brunswick. Here it has spacious, lofty rooms, in the very heart of the business portion of the City. The offices are finished in good style, neatly grained, well lighted, and otherwise admirably arranged for the convenience of all who have business to transact with this prosperous Society.

Mr. Charles Kirkpatrick, who has been in Britain buying for the house of Mr. James Manson, returned this week, having made extensive purchases of every variety of dry goods, produced by the leading English and Scotch manufactories. It is altogether probable that the Commercial Palace,—to say nothing of the magnificent plate glass windows and the thorough renovation and artistic adornment which the building has recently received,—will this year offer to buyers attractions hitherto unknown.

The Maritime Sewing Machine Company has recently purchased the Factory owned by the "Weed Sewing Machine Company," on Main St.,—with all that that implies,—to wit, nearly $100,000 worth of machinery for the manufacture of this description of article. The new company is said to have got a bargain. Operations will be commenced at once. The company is understood to be well officered, Mr. W. W. Turnbull being President, Mr. F. S. Sharpe, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. E. Harney (late of Miller and Harney), business manager; Mr. W. D. Aitken, foreman of the works. The company exhibits a good stock list.

The New Brunswick Paper Manufacturing Company is making extensive shipments of its goods from the mills at Penobsquis. Of Leather Board it is forwarding to Montreal about $2,000 worth weekly. For Printing Paper it is filling large orders, for both the Upper and Lower Provinces, those newspaper publishers who have used its news print being well satisfied with the article furnished.

Mr. Robert Marshall's Insurance Agency represents companies which, since their organization, have paid losses aggregating Ninety Millions of Dollars. Mr. Marshall is now insuring dwelling houses and merchandise in brick buildings on exceedingly favorable terms. His advertisement in another column supplies details that will interest every house proprietor and trader.

The spring styles of Hats and Caps are to be found at E. & C. D. Jordan's, Prince William St. Some are advertised in these columns, but all kinds and qualities are in stock.

Mr. Carson Flood's assortment of Musical Instruments is one of the largest and best in the Maritime Provinces, and—what is equally satisfactory,—it is adapted to the condition of every purse. The "hard times," as a matter of course, affect piano makers as they do all other manufacturers and dealers, and the purchasers get the benefit. We should say that the present period of depression is the very time in which to buy a piano, organ or melodeon to the best possible advantage.

The extraordinary demand in recent years for Hair Goods has led Mr. Conroy, of Canterbury St., to keep on hand the largest and most varied stock of this class of goods to be found in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. C. has also made a specialty of superior brushes, combs, razors, etc. His advertisement speaks for itself.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

PIANOFORTES, ORGANS, ETC. - - - - - - C. FLOOD
SPRING GOODS - - - - - - DANIEL & BOYD
FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE - - ROBERT MARSHALL
PIANOFORTES
WHOLESALE DRY GOODS - - - - - J. McCLURE & CO
OYSTERS, GRAPES, MEALS, ETC. - - - - T. R. JONES & CO.
REMOVAL NOTICE - - - ST. JOHN BUILDING SOCIETY
DRESS MATERIALS, ETC. - - - - BARNES, KERR & CO
DRY GOODS - - - - - - - JAMES MANSON
LONDON HATS - - - - - - E. & C. D. JORDAN
GLOVES - - - - - - - MACKENZIE BROS.
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, ETC. - - - - - F. S. SHARPE
PAPER HANGINGS, ETC. - - - - - JAMES H. PULLEN
HAIR GOODS, ETC. - - - - - - - H. CONROY