

The Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 3, 1888.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"INDEX"—Your interesting letter on "Government Pap" will appear to-morrow. Why not give the name of the professional gentleman who accosted you on this subject? It would provoke many a smile, especially among the *habitués* of the Court House.

"Flagellate the Tricksters"—We have received your lengthy and incisive communication, and shall give its contents due consideration. Let us see your real name, and we shall have much pleasure in publishing the letter *verbatim et literatim*. It contains nothing that any one need be ashamed of. Indeed, we regard it as one of the ablest and most striking indictments against the present Government that has yet been penned, and it seems a pity to withhold it from the public.

"Inquirer"—We are not aware that Mr. M. T. Knight has "actually made up his mind to resign the office of Financial Secretary and take a seat on the Opposition benches;" but it is true that a report to that effect has been current here for some time past. However, it appears to us about the best thing Mr. Knight could do under existing circumstances. The people of Twillingate district are certainly opposed to the present Government's corrupt policy, and will never again elect Mr. K. or any one else as a supporter of the same. Therefore, if it be his intention to offer himself as a candidate for that important district at the approaching general elections, he had better at once renounce all connection with the "profligate, speculating and played-out Thorburn Administration," as Sir Ambrose Shea's successor in the representation of St. John's East appropriately terms the present Executive. What the "free and independent electors" of Twillingate district want is a team of able and fearless men—men who will take the trouble to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the people and insist upon the same being promptly and carefully attended to. With three good, honest, stalwart representatives on the floors of the Assembly, we'd like to see the Government that would dare to ignore the just claims of Twillingate or any other district. Such a team, we believe, our friends up north are determined to select and elect when next called upon to exercise the rights of the franchise.

The New Year's Holiday.

THE New Year's holiday passed off in almost unprecedented quietude. There can hardly be said to have been any celebration of a social kind of the event, and were it not for processions of the British Society and the Total Abstinence Society, and a couple of arches of evergreens erected in their honor, there was nothing to distinguish the season of jollification from a holiday in any other part of the year. But the home enjoyments of the festival no doubt compensated for the lack of outward display.

Judging by the satisfactory reports of the Water Street dealers who retail the good cheer for Christmas and New Year, the people were in abundant supply of everything to enable them to feast and be merry. Perhaps, after all, this is the main element in the enjoyment of any holiday, but is the *sine qua non* for the due celebration of Christmas and New Year, which is a period of united family gatherings around the festive board and the old hearthstone, the cultivation and renewal of ties of kindred—ties which the selfishness and avariciousness of modern manners, with their morbid appetite for wealth and social position, tend to weaken and sunder forever. It is this spirit of reunion that was doubtless the basis of the custom of making New Year's calls. It was noticeable, however, that this observance is losing its hold, and in a few years will be, so far as our little world is concerned, a thing of the past. What the cause of it is 'twere difficult to say—it may be that the custom of visiting is becoming too ceremonious, surrounded by too much formality; or it may be that in this small town we all see and know each other too well to be under the obligation of making special visits.

The turn-outs of the two societies referred to were occasions of genuine popular demonstrations. The British Society had attended Divine worship in St. Andrew's Church, where they listened to an eloquent sermon by the Rev. W. Graham, and, at the conclusion of the services, formed into line and walked through the principal streets. They called *en route* on His Excellency the Governor, who reviewed their ranks and addressed them in words of warm congratulation. The President of the Society proposed three hearty cheers for the Governor and Mrs. Blake, which were given with a will. In the afternoon the Total Abstinence Society, with the Juvenile Branch, enjoyed their annual parade—the weather being delightful. They called upon His Lordship Dr. Power and the clergy, and were received in the cathedral—the Bishop delivering a short address full of congratulation and good augury. On their way through the town they halted before Government House and greeted His Excellency and Mrs. Blake with repeated cheers, which the Governor acknowledged in a happy reply. In the evening there were several private dancing parties, and a public assembly in one of our halls was patronized by a large number.

FAREWELL TO 1887.

Some Prominent Features of the Closing Year.

ARTICLE V.

THE remedy proposed by the President of the United States for his depleted treasury is a reduction in the duties on imported goods; the excise, or internal revenue duties being not, in his opinion, excessive. It will thus be seen that the President is opposed to free whiskey, although a friend to free trade. The change of public opinion on this point in the two countries, Britain and the United States, is remarkable, the tendency in Britain being now towards protection, while Uncle Sam, on the other hand, is making tracks in the direction of unrestricted commerce. The growth of trade in the latter country during the present century is one of the marvels of the world, being only paralleled by that of our Australian colonies. One of the least important states, for instance, the southern state of Florida, has increased its assessable wealth in seven years at the rate of 163 per cent., from 29 millions of dollars in 1879, to 76 millions in 1886. Other states, the very names of which are almost unknown in England, such as Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, show a similar marvellous increase, while the great grain states bordering on the lakes, of older settlement, are accumulating wealth and population in a like ratio. What the country will become when fully occupied we may form some idea of from the consideration of the fact that one state alone—Texas—contains a number of square miles sufficient to form a country as large as the United Kingdom nearly twice over, or nearly one-third larger than the whole German Empire. Considering that the population of the United States has increased in fifty years from 13 to 50 millions; and that the population of the whole of Germany does not exceed the latter sum, we may form some idea of what the population of that country will be which contains one state out of 46 that is able to accommodate a population larger than that of the German Empire. We may add that the United States have gained an increase of population of ten millions during the last half century from immigration only.

While it is pleasing to notice this vast growth of dear old Britain's elder offspring in the North Atlantic, it is equally gratifying to observe the progress made by its younger child on the opposite side of the globe, in the South Pacific. Part of that great island-continent, Australia, which has hitherto been governed as a crown settlement, is about to be erected into an independent colony, having made the latest application to the imperial mother for the rights of self-government. West Australia is a country of enormous dimensions, 1,500 miles long and 850 miles broad, with an area of one million square miles, an area which makes it four times the size of Texas and eight times as large as the United Kingdom. This great tract of country is almost unpopulated, and contains at present but 30,000 inhabitants, so that, assuming it to be able to support a population equal to that of the British Isles, in proportion to its area, it may yet entertain a population of 200,000,000. A glance at the map will show that this portion of Australia is but one-third of the great island, whose western coast is laved by the waters of the Indian Ocean. As Britain's colonial and foreign possessions now embrace about one-third of the surface of the entire globe, and nearly a fourth of its population, there is not likely to be much lack of either land or people beneath the protecting folds of the Union Jack for some time to come.

Another of the Saxon mother's progeny has lately taken a distinct start in the race of competitive progress; we mean our left-handed neighbor, Canada. The Pacific Railway, now completed, has given her a thoroughfare to that ocean, and made the "great lone land" a highway for oriental travellers and commerce. Concurrently with that territorial development, Britain's northern daughter has inaugurated a vigorous stimulation of her own natural domestic commerce, and, under the masterly leadership of Sir John McDonald, a bold son of Caledonia, has "protracted" a vast wealth of domestic manufactures into active existence, supplementing both these "steps in the right direction" by an "encouraged" stream of emigration thitherward, which is now going on. Of the growth of this great empire in the future there can be little doubt, under these favorable conditions, a fact which should give encouragement to us, who have to contend with the same difficulties of climate, and the refrigerating influence of a six months' winter. This new Scotland will be, and is, largely colonized with a class of inhabitants translated from the Northern latitudes of Europe, and therefore accustomed to similar climatic conditions, and qualified to "flourish amid the snows." The hard hand of industry and the indomitable energy of the Anglo-Saxon arm will evolve flowers from the wilderness and wheat from the arid breast of winter, as they

have already done under equally difficult conditions elsewhere, thus proving that it is the hardy race, and not the easy circumstances, that makes the successful colony.

The rate of "progress" thus begun in Canada cannot now be allowed to abate without the imminent risk of panic and collapse, the great problem of our neighbors being, can they promote the occupation of their waste lands and provide a productive population fast enough to back up this policy of progress and honor its drafts on maturity? Sir John knows that "the policy" will last out his day, at all events, and it will be for his successors in office to meet the obligations his ambitious enterprise involves. Meanwhile we cannot but admire the bold dash for success exhibited in this latest, and, to us, nearest, scheme of colonization, and, while we watch with interest its gradual development, give a whole-souled British cheer for the brave pioneers who are carrying forward the standard of our beloved country.

At various times we have been urged to unite our fortunes with this New Dominion, and to merge our autonomy in its westward-setting star of empire. Like most great questions, much may be said on both sides of it, there being considerations for and against Confederation that weigh with different classes of people as various as are the conclusions they arrive at. Certain it is that the steps of Canada have been our footsteps for the last twenty years, although we follow at a distance, like a poor relation. Considering that this "poor relation" would have to contribute, under Confederation, an equal per capita to the common sum of taxation, without having an equal share in the benefits of the whole, the experiment appears to lack that element of equitability which forms the substance of most partnerships. The argument advanced by some that adversity should drive us into the sheltering arms of the larger country, seems to want logical force, in view of the same fact, for a dowryless bride before marriage is apt, in political alliances, to become a neglected spouse after it. If we could demonstrate our own capacity as a colony to support our population, and to show a surplus revenue without unduly taxing them, we might open negotiations with the wealthier state on an equal footing and obtain that measure of justice we can now neither demand nor hope for. It is to be feared the policy of statesmen ruling here since representative government was introduced has been in direct opposition to this goal, and has aimed at such a local prostration of this colony as would make Confederation the sole solution of its career. At all events the agony of taxation has been piled on with merciless and ceaseless iteration, and its products have been scattered with the recklessness of a gambler playing his last card before surrendering the game. Thus our population have fled to countries as highly taxed as Newfoundland would be under Confederation, and is now, but possessing more natural and industrial advantages, leaving us a colony without Confederation, and themselves a people without a home.

THE BAIT QUESTION AGAIN.

Letter from Harbor Mille on the Subject.

Editor Evening Telegram.

SIR,—In perusing your journal of the 11th inst., I notice a letter from Mr. A. B. Morine, M.H.A. We think also with him that the learned Judge has too high a sense to express his own opinion on the "Bait Bill." What are we then to understand if no licences are to be issued for nothing more than to provide our own Bank fishermen with sufficient bait to enable them to prosecute their laborious avocations? Goodness knows they eke out a scanty livelihood enough now by their exertions; and again to be denied the bait that swarm in their own waters is something monstrous. Why, such legislation was never before heard of. If licences be issued, it will be a monopoly business in this district. Few, if any, but merchants and traders have the means to pay for a licence.

Let, sir, some of the promoters of this consort bill pay their fare per *Curlew* to this Bay (if they have the good of the country at heart), and judge for themselves as to my assertions. I have not resided in the district a number of years without knowing its financial condition. We are now on the eve of the frozen herring business. What is the will and pleasure of the promoters of said Bill with regard to us? It is time now we should know. Again, they say benefits will be derived from their labors in compiling such a Bill. Prove it to us in a clear, business-like way. Then and not till then will we give them a helping hand for the common good. Thanking you for space, I am, sir,

Yours very truly,

EXCELSIOR.

Harbor Mille, Nov. 30, 1887.

The members of George Street Methodist choir are requested to attend the service to-night in George Street Church,

LETTER FROM FATHER MORRIS.

ST. THOMAS'S HOME, VILLA NOVA, New Year's Eve.

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR,—Will you please allow me the use of the columns of your paper to say a few words of thanks to the many good friends who thought so kindly of the little orphan boys at Villa Nova and sent us such nice rich Christmas gifts?

I am glad to be able to say that we were all in much better spirits at Villa Nova and much better able to appreciate the gifts sent this year than last. Last Christmas we had ever so many little fellows laid low with measles; Christmas Eve, 1887, when we sang the *Adeste Fideles*, we mustered nearly 100, and not so much as one on the sick list. Therefore, when we saw the piled up quarters of beef sent us by Judge Little, Captain and Mrs. Cleary, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgibbon, John Henderson, Esq., Mr. and Mrs. Cantwell, Mr. and Mrs. Fenelon, John Casey, Esq., and Mr. and Mrs. O'Mara, we felt like singing, as we hauled it home: "O, the Roast Beef of Old England, and O, the Old England Roast Beef." Barrels of flour and boxes of raisins from W. R. Firth, Esq., Mrs. Stafford and Mr. Doyle, gave us visions of unlimited quantities of "sweet bread" and figgy pudding; the turkeys from J. D. Ryan, Esq., and Mr. Morris, and the apples and dough-nuts from W. P. Walsh, Esq., gave us the extras for our Christmas dinner. The sweet loaves sent us by Mr. and Mrs. Fitzpatrick were as good in quality as they were many in number, and almost our only regret was that there was not enough of ice and snow to use the beautiful toboggans and slides and skates sent us by Miss Gleeson. Notwithstanding the rise in market prices, there was no decrease in the annual gift from Messrs. James and John Fox. The envelopes that brought us a Christmas greeting from Mrs. A. Jack, Richard Fennell, Esq., Miss Carroll, J. J. O'Reilly, Miss Keefe, and Miss Collins, contained something more substantial than Xmas cards; and when I add that the mail from St. Pierre brought us \$20 from Joseph Benning, Esq., "a little offering towards the good work of sheltering and educating orphan boys," and a like one from Mrs. Gorman,—why, I almost wished that there was no Bait Bill to vex and annoy.

I hope I am not breaking confidence if I say that nothing touched me more than a pretty note from a little friend who, enclosing £5, wrote, "this is from mamma, and you are to do whatever you like with it." As my little friend wrote "strictly private" across her note, I am not able to mention her name, or that of her good mother, but all the same, the Blessed Babe of Bethlehem will reward them and all who help the orphan children.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the reason I have not acknowledged in the daily papers during the year the many gifts I have received for the orphanage is that, as we have decided to publish a financial report every year in our little annual, the "Orphan's Friend," and as our little paper is gradually gaining an increased circulation both here and in Canada and the United States, and as the little annual is more enduring than a daily paper, I have thought the most fitting place to acknowledge the donations and gifts to Villa Nova will be in that little paper, and side by side with the account of the progress of the work these good people are helping on. And if I break through the rule just now it will be only to mention a few special gifts and to say that I felt ever so grateful to the good members of the Star of the Sea Association for their kindness in placing at our disposal their splendid hall for our lecture and concerts, and the members of the Total Abstinence Society were equally kind. During the year I received through my friend, Miss Gleeson, £30, proceeds of coffee party in T. A. Hall, and from Mrs. Hutton £40, proceeds of concert in Star of the Sea Hall. R. Holden, Esq., gave us a jubilee gift of £10, with a promise of repeating it in the years to come, and if we do not make good biscuit in our bakery at Villa Nova, it will not be Mr. Frank St. John's fault, who supplied us with some necessary machinery. It would seem out of place, I dare say, even at the end of a year, if I thank our good Bishop for his unvarying kindness to Villa Nova, seeing that he is the beginning and end of the young institution; but I would like to say that many of the priests have imitated his noble example. To the many gentlemen in business establishments who, during the year, have shown us kindness and given us their valuable patronage, we send a glad New Year's greeting, for to all our dear friends at home and abroad we will pray earnestly that 1888 may come to them freighted with the *spolia opima*, and that they may be blessed by the good God to their hearts' desire.

Faithfully yours,

MICHAEL P. MORRIS.

Two foreign arrivals, one with P.E.I. produce and one with coal, were the only entries since Saturday night. Two brigantines were signalled this afternoon.

By Telegraph

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan. 2.

Italian Liberals have made a demonstration at Florence in favor of Gladstone.

Germany and Austria have asked Belgium to join the triple alliance. England asks guarantees for the execution of the treaties, guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium.

Snow storms throughout Europe continue, impeding travel.

All European Governments and learned societies agree to unite in the celebration of Columbus' discovery of America.

Five Allan steamers were at Halifax on Saturday.

Dr. McKenzie reports that the malignant symptoms in the Crown Prince's throat have disappeared. The case is hopeful but protracted.

Rome, yesterday, in honor of the Pope's jubilee, presented a magnificent appearance. St. Peter's Cathedral was packed. Forty-eight cardinals and two hundred and eighty-eight bishops attended mass. The Pope fainted twice, remaining unconscious a few minutes.

FROM CAPE RACE.

(Special to the Evening Telegram.)

CAPE RACE, This Evening.

A gale of wind is blowing from the north-west and the weather is cloudy. The brigantine "Miriam" was off the Cape last evening, bound inward. Nothing has been sighted to-day.

ANOTHER LETTER OF THANKS.

Editor Evening Telegram.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following letter of thanks? Will all the friends, merchants, public, and shipmasters who so very kindly subscribed to the brief of the late Captain Paul, of the *Emulator*, to enable the widow and orphans to return to their native home, Penzance, Cornwall, England, please accept their very best thanks and well wishes; and I may here say that in all cases every one that I asked came forward nobly, except in two instances. Also the widow very kindly thanks Captain Skardon, of the *Spark*, for his kindness in collecting amongst the shipmasters. Our efforts have been rewarded with the handsome sum of £29 11s. 6d., cy.; and should any person feel desirous to see the lists, they can do so by calling on board my vessel, the *Minnie*, of St. Ives. By inserting this letter you will oblige

HENRY ROW,

In behalf of Mrs. Paul.

St. John's, 2nd Jan'y, 1888.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

THE Rev. H. J. Wood of Montreal, who is on a short visit to St. John's, preached on Sunday last in the Congregational Church in the morning and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in the evening.

WATCH services of more than usual interest were held in the Methodist Churches here on Saturday night. Appropriate addresses, specially prepared for the occasion, were delivered at Cochrane Street by Rev. J. Parkins, at Gower Street by Rev. George Boyd, and at George Street by Rev. G. Bond, B.A. All the services were well attended.

THE teachers of St. Patrick's gave a felicitous little entertainment to the public in the school-house last night. It was musical, elocutionary and dramatic, the "Irish Tutor," and Mr. Doyle, who has a rich vein of humor in his composition that kept the audience in roars, being the farce and the leading player. Mr. Jackman contributed a great deal to the success of the performance, and the other members displayed marked talent for the stage. Misses Mahoney, Rafus and Jackman gave some charming vocal selections. Mr. Doyle's song and hornpipe were the last things of their kind on the amateur stage; both were done to perfection.

BIRTH.

This morning, the wife of M. F. Smyth, machinist, of a son. January 1st, the wife of R. H. Rice, of a son.

MARRIED.

On the 27th ultimo, at Briggs, by Rev. James Dove, Mr. James E. Ellis, of St. John's, son of the late Wm. H. Ellis, Esq., M.H.A., to Jessy E., third daughter of the late George Gushue, Esq., of H. M. Customs, Briggs. On the 30th ultimo, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, by the Rev. Wm. Forristall, Mr. William Cullen, of Bay Roberts, to Mary Ann, relict of the late Augustine Villeneuve, of St. John's. On the 30th ultimo, at the residence of Mr. Garland, Lazy Bank, by the Rev. Geo. J. Bond, Mr. Silas E. Soper, of Carbonar, to Miss Sophia Catherine O. Carter, of Greenspond. On the 31st ultimo, at the Methodist Parsonage, Hamilton street, by the same, Mr. Frederick McNeven, of Halifax, N.S., to Miss Rosanna Bryan, St. John's.

DIED.

Yesterday, 2nd inst., Edward Power, Esq., a native of the city of Waterford, Ireland, aged 94 years; funeral to-morrow, Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m., from his late residence, No. 220 Water Street. This morning, Mrs. Frances McNamara, aged 79 years; funeral on Thursday, at 2.30 p.m., from her late residence, Theatre Hill. On the 1st inst., after a long and painful illness, Jas. Kirby, aged 85 years; funeral on Wednesday next, from his late residence Old Cove Road; friends and acquaintances will please attend without further notice.