

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 28, 1888.

WINTER ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Athenæum's Literary Course

As our readers are aware, the Athenæum course of entertainments will open on Monday next, the inaugural effort being a lecture by His Excellency Governor Blake on the "Land-fall of Columbus." Of course the attendance on this occasion will be large, not only out of respect to the high position of the lecturer, but also because of the merit of the lecture itself. Governor Blake is, from force of habit, a keen observer of men and things, and a fine speaker as well. Therefore, our lecture-loving citizens are warranted in expecting from His Excellency a literary treat of the very first order.

But we must take care, this season, and not allow our interest in the Athenæum to "rise and fall" with the first lecture. The financial condition of the institution is such as to demand special effort in its behalf on the part of the public. Last year the Athenæum's receipts, from its usual sources, were small—so small, according to the Secretary's report, as to place the Committee in the unenviable position of being obliged to face considerable liabilities with a completely depleted exchequer.

Now, this should not be. The Athenæum is the only public institution of the kind in the city, and it ought to be liberally sustained by the people. It is well equipped in every department, affording, as it does, splendid advantages to all who wish to avail of the same. The library is large and carefully assorted, while the reading room contains pretty well all the leading British and American newspapers, periodicals and magazines of the day, access to all of which may be had by anybody on payment of an annual subscription of only \$5.

We should like to see larger numbers of our intelligent shopkeepers and mechanics connected with the Athenæum. These two classes already direct, to a large extent, the mental power and physical force of the community, and it is needless to say that, by keeping themselves well acquainted with current events at home and abroad, their influence and usefulness would be greatly augmented.

Many of these tell us that they have no time to spend at reading rooms and in patronizing amusements. This is a mistake. They ought to make time, for mental exercise and physical relaxation are absolutely necessary to a healthy condition of mind and body. As Phœdrus observes, "The mind ought sometimes to be amused, that it may the better return to thought, and to itself."

Others, again, take no interest in such things. They seem to think that when a man is not in as good a position in life as he could wish, it is impossible for him to be content. Therefore, he cannot enjoy himself at such places and under such circumstances. This is also a mistake. Just listen to what Sterne says on the subject:—"There are thousands so extravagant in their ideas of contentment, as to imagine that it must consist in having everything in this world turn out the way they wish—that they are to sit down in happiness, and feel themselves so at ease on all points, as to desire nothing better and nothing more. I own there are instances of some who seem to pass through the world as if all their paths had been strewn with rosebuds of delight;—but a little experience will convince us, 'tis a fatal expectation to go upon. We are born to trouble: and we may depend upon it whilst we live in this world we shall have it, though with intermissions;—that is, in whatever state we are, we shall find a mixture of good and evil; and therefore the true way to contentment is to know how to receive these vicissitudes of life,—the returns of good and evil, so as neither to be exalted by the one, nor overthrown by the other, but to bear ourselves towards everything which happens with such ease and indifference of mind, as to hazard as little as may be. This is the true temperate climate fitted for us by nature, and in which every wise man would wish to live."

In other words, we should make the most of the privileges and opportunities placed within our reach, strive to increase our mental as well as material possessions, and thereby benefit ourselves and others at one and the same time. If the class of people to whom we more particularly refer could only be got to look at the matter in this light, we think their views with respect to what really constitutes contentment, would soon be somewhat modified, if not changed altogether. Then the Athenæum would cease to languish for want of "contented" and enthusiastic supporters.

From an advertisement signed by the secretary of the institution, which appears on our first page to-day, it will be observed that the committee have decided to issue a limited number of tickets for reserved seats. The object of this decision is not, as some may suppose, to make any class distinction, but

solely with a view to increase the receipts at the different entertainments. It is necessary to the very existence of the Athenæum, that its receipts this year should be large enough to cover its liabilities. Such being the case, then, no one, we think, will find fault with the new arrangement mentioned.

"MARSHAL," WE REPEAT!

No Mistake at All About It.

A CRITICAL correspondent of a kindly disposition drops us a line or two, just to call our attention to what he regards as a typographical error in last evening's TELEGRAM. The dear, good soul thinks, in the simplicity of his ingenuous nature, that the word "marshal," in the first index-line to our remarks on the volunteer movement, should have been spelled *martial*. It always grieves us exceedingly to be obliged to disregard the suggestions of our friends outside. This, we suppose, is because of our naturally docile and confiding disposition. In the present instance, however, we must take exception to our correspondent's opinion, and frankly tell him that there's no mistake at all about the matter.

When we penned our remarks of yesterday, we wished to convey the impression that the "immortal few" who are at this moment beckoning the "volunteer movement" on to deeds of imperishable renown, are not only imbued with a martial spirit, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, but with the genius to marshal and to lead as well. In short, we desired, and still desire, to have it understood that they are all marshals—all "born leaders;" and that with so many fierce-looking politico-mercantile heroes at the head of a battalion of native troops, we should be in a position to enter upon a career of conquest compared with which the achievements of Alexander the Great would sink into the smallest insignificance.

We admit that the word "marshal" is not often used as an adjective. But what of that? Are there not supreme movements in the journalist's life when our mother tongue, as ordinarily spoken and written, fails to express the stupendous thoughts that surge and swell within the editorial breast? Of course there are; and it was one of these heaven-sent "paroxysms of inspiration" that prompted us to take the "poetic-license" in question, and to coin an adjective for the occasion, as aforesaid.

We hope this explanation will entirely satisfy our esteemed correspondent. Otherwise, we shall be pleased to hear from him again and to return to the subject next week.

THE CITY CLUB.

The first meeting of the Lecturing and Debating Society of the City Club took place last evening. After an encouraging report from the Secretary for the past year was read and adopted, the election of officers for the present session took place. A very interesting essay was then delivered by the President (A. Milroy), shewing the origin and advantages of Debating Societies, which was much appreciated by members present. The meeting then adjourned until Friday, the 3rd February, at 8 p.m. A suitable subject for debate has been set down for the latter evening.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It is believed to be probable that the British Government will agree to advance the sum of £150,000 to the Government of British Columbia for the purpose of assisting the emigration of crofters and fishermen from the North of Scotland.

The Queen has just received a magnificent Jubilee present from the diamond fields of South Africa, in the shape of an ivory casket lined with curled ostrich feathers. The lid is mounted with gold filigree work, and profusely studded with diamonds.

DR. ADAMSON, of Edinburgh, has been giving what seems to have been an admirably judicious lecture on Burns at Dalkeith. He clasped the poet along with Knox and Sir Walter Scott as one of the three greatest men Scotland has produced in its later history.

A HEAVY STORM swept over the West Indies early this month. Many vessels were lost and a great many people drowned. The town of Baracoa Cuba was destroyed by a huge wave which carried away 500 huts and houses, and caused the inhabitants to fly to the hills. The British man-of-war *Wrangler* had a narrow escape.

EVILS OF OVER-EATING.—Sir Henry Thompson thinks that more than half the diseases which embitter life are due to errors in diet, and that the mischief done in the form of shortened life is greater from indiscriminate eating than from the use of alcoholic drink. An over-supply of nutrition, which must go somewhere; produces liver disease, gout, rheumatism, and various other disorders. To eat too much is a blunder, and to wash down nutritious food with nutritious drink is one of the greatest dietary indiscretions that can be indulged in, especially for persons of sedentary habits.

LOYAL MILITARY MATTERS.

The Truth About the Volunteer Movement

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR,—Several communications have already appeared in your columns throwing the cold water of ridicule on the Volunteer movement in our midst, and the strictures thereon seem to be rather hard and horrid. The idea of Mr. Joseph Outerbridge leading a forlorn hope against anybody or anything appeared too much for the risibles of the great unwashed, for very few people know what a warlike man Mr. O. is when properly roused. But the truth about the volunteer movement is briefly this:

His Excellency Governor Blake on his arrival here felt a laudable anxiety to see some steps taken for the defence of this Her Majesty's oldest possession on this side of the Atlantic, now alone of all her British North American possessions left undefended. Mentioning the matter to one or two gentlemen who happened to have the run of Government House, among whom was our genial friend Mr. O., the latter gentleman good-naturedly undertook to call a meeting on the subject and organise some kind of a movement to carry out the object in view.

So far so good. Now, had Mr. O. acted like a prudent and sensible man, as he usually is, he would have "hired a hall" somewhere or other, and called a public meeting by general advertisement and posters in all our papers for such a convenient day and date as would have enabled all to attend who wished. Then, laying the matter before such meeting, in his usual happy and felicitous style, he would say, "Now, gentlemen, I have done all I promised to do, according to His Excellency's wish, and I leave the matter entirely in your hands," &c.

The matter was not so managed, but was mismanaged, in so far as certain kid-gloved gentlemen who constitute themselves the public invited a select deputation of themselves and one another to meet in the Commercial Rooms, by special invitation, there and then to "take the initiative" and assume the direction of the movement.

Now, had these gentlemen been content with organizing themselves into a Volunteer corps at their own expense, I for one would have had no objection. But when they assume the right, by pre-arrangement with the Executive, to call upon the public funds of the colony to pay for their passing whims and pranks, then they obviously overstep the bounds of their rights as private citizens and lay themselves open to public criticism.

With regard to the main question, as to the necessity or otherwise of military defence, the present writer is of the opinion that "the less powder the less smoke." Our great dramatist pertinently reminds us, "How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds makes ill deeds done." Soldiers breed war, and the means to take human life in a peaceful country can never awaken aught but repugnance in every Christian heart. Is it possible that we have come to this, in poor old wretched Terra Nova, that we must calmly contemplate the possibility of butchering each other in cold blood?

If not, of what use to us is a military force? We built a drill shed some years ago at a cost of \$2,500 to the colony, and it was no sooner shingled than we very sensibly turned it into a Poor Asylum, at one end, and a Fire Extinguisher, at the other. Our beef-eating friend, the Hon. John Casey, now dispenses his benevolent crumbs where once the cannon's dreadful roar and the death-dealing rattle of canister and grape were about to be heard. Our Flower-hill philanthropist is the very last man one would expect to find shedding the blood of his fellow-man, or "wading through slaughter to a throne," being bovine and bucolic in his tendencies, rather than bellicose.

At all events, the battle's rude alarms are no longer heard at the head of King's road, nor aught more martial than the Fireman's bugle—  
"They hang the trumpet in the hall,  
And study war no more."

With regard to a foreign invader, if such were to come, what harm could he do us, or what would he find here worth taking away? He might capture a few of our ruddy damsel or rifle that stock of gold and depreciated silver we keep here as a bank reserve. He might remove our available stock of codfish and reduce the contents of our heavily-laden dry goods and provision stores, but what else could he take? Our principal wealth are our perennial fisheries, and he could not take them—our daily labor, which, thank Heaven, no foe can deprive us of, and that incomparable climate of ours which ripens men and women into the flower of their species. An invader could not remove the soil of our island, nor the houses built upon that soil, for they would be of no use to him. How, then, could he harm us? Suppose he "took" the whole island, of what use would it be to him, and then he would have to reckon with our parents and not we.

On the whole, therefore, I think we may safely ally the war-fever again and save the dollars it would cost to more profitable uses.

Have we no wounds to bind up? no ills to heal? no hardships in others to alleviate, no good to do? Let us leave the sanguinary game to bloody-minded men and those of such dispositions. The intention is good, but the necessity does not exist.

Hoping, Mr. Editor, I have not transgressed the bounds of fair criticism in the above, which I have no wish to do.

I am, yours, &c., MOLLY MAGUIRE.  
St. John's, Jan. 28, 1888.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

THERE will be no choir practice to-night in George Street Church.

The mail-steamer *Newfoundland* will leave Halifax for this port on Tuesday next.

A MAIL will be made up for Greenspond per S. S. "Falcon," closing at 4 p.m. on Monday next.

THE present is one of those free thaws and rain-storms which usually sweep along in these latitudes in midwinter. The glass marks five degrees above the freezing point.

AS THE opening lecture of the Athenæum takes place on Monday evening, the meeting of the Committee on Municipal Bill Resolutions, proposed for that evening in H. I. Hall, is postponed till the following (Tuesday) evening, when a full attendance is requested.

ALL intending competitors for the scholarships offered by the Art Society are requested to remember that all competition drawings must be sent to Mr. Nichols, at the School of Art, by next Saturday (Feb. 4th), at the latest. The time will not be further extended.

THE weather continues mild with occasional showers of rain and occasional glimpses of sunshine, the glass marking six degrees above freezing point. Large numbers of people crowded the auction marts, and bidding for beef, poultry and vegetable produce brought fair prices. The soft slush rendered walking indescribably miserable; and the features of pedestrians said so quite plainly; but the occupants of sleighs wore an opposite expression, one of satisfaction, that they were not mixed in the hurly-burly of their less fortunate mortals. "A was happy, B was not."

THE annual soiree of the Total Abstinence Society is always a reunion that brings out an immense attendance and affords an occasion of whole-souled enjoyment. This year's will come off on Wednesday evening next and the popular interest in it, as manifested by the sale of tickets, shows that it will be as great a success as any of its predecessors. The amplest preparations have been made for entertaining the large company, and the ornamentation of the ball room will be handsome and artistic. Supper will be served to the whole company about twelve o'clock, in Mr. Wilson's best style. Prof. Bennett furnishes the music.

THE gay social event in which the world of skaters are most interested—the masked carnival in fancy costumes—will take place on Thursday next in the Parade Rink under the auspices of Professor Bennett's musicians. Elaborate preparations are being made by numbers of young ladies and gentlemen for a brilliant celebration of this notable fête, which will probably be on the grandest scale of magnificence yet witnessed here. Many new designs of dresses will be displayed, rich and original; scarcely a country of the world but will contribute something representative to the show and the tableau when the bright processional array emerges from the waiting rooms and makes the first circuit of the Rink will be dazzling in its many richness of coloring and animation of movement. The whole scene will be brilliant beyond description. The band will furnish its choicest feast of music, several original and sweet compositions having been arranged and practised for the occasion; so that spectators, no less than skaters, will enjoy the chief elements in this carnival of pleasure.

DURING the coming summer an exhibition of appliances for saving life and property at sea will be held in Washington, U.S., and President Cleveland has addressed invitations to the nations to send representatives with specimens of the various kinds of mechanical contrivances used for the purposes mentioned. There is a general desire that the one invention of this sort originating in this country—Earle's boat-lowering apparatus—should be seen at the exhibition in question. That it is a design of considerable merit is evidenced by the fact of its having been awarded a certificate at the Crystal Palace Exhibition, four years ago. The only objection urged against its acceptance is its weight and large proportions where iron is used in its manufacture; but this could be modified materially by constructing it of steel. A machine which can swing a life-boat, filled with passengers, from its stocks on the deck of an ocean steamer and lower it without mishap to the surface of the sea, in one half a minute, is undoubtedly an invention which deserves a place in any international exhibition of appliances for saving life and property at sea.

FROM SCILLY COVE.

Great Attraction! Immense Success!

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR,—On Friday, 20th inst., the Fishermen's Hall in this place was the centre of attraction. At 7 o'clock crowds could be seen wending their way towards the hall, and one could hear from the passers-by, the words: "I wonder is it worth looking at?" "Do you think it will be worth 20 cents?" These questions were very satisfactorily answered a short time after the hall had been gained and the entrance fee paid. Here the spectator was invited to feast his eyes upon one of the grandest and most magnificent sights.

Before his wonder-stricken gaze was exhibited Goddard's Great American Cosmorama, consisting of 12 panoramas of the United States, which, when seen through the lens, will appear highly magnified, and their details clearly defined.

The city of New Orleans (seaport), city of New York, port of New York, New York and Brooklyn, Great East River Bridge, Great Bartholdi Statue—"Liberty enlightening the world;" city of Boston, city of Philadelphia, city of St. Louis, city of Washington, city of Chicago, city of San Francisco,—all these views are most clearly portrayed, so much so in fact that one would imagine himself just there.

The view of the Great East River Bridge deserves special mention. It is a grand view of the magnificent structure taken from the New York side, showing both towers and the whole space of the bridge, with the river beneath filled with vessels—and Brooklyn in the distance.

The Great Bartholdi Statue is an elegant and correct picture of the Grand Colossal Statue designed by the eminent French artist, Bartholdi—the gift of France to the American people. The picture shows the statue erected on Bedloe's Island, New York harbor, with a view of the cities of New York, Brooklyn, and Jersey City in the background.

The views of the cities are equally truly magnificent, interesting and elegant, and they give a life-like idea of the trade, industry and teeming vitality of the western world. The views are all superbly painted in colors. In connection with the above exhibition there is the illustrator's microscope, which embraces a variety of interesting specimens of natural history. There is also revolving stereoscopes with 50 views of renowned scenery in our own and foreign lands.

Doctor Goddard intended exhibiting here for two nights, but a circumstance occurred which demanded his immediate return to Old Perlican, where his services were required medically. We hope to see him and his exhibition again by end of present week.

The doctor intends exhibiting at Heart's Content. There his exhibition will receive that patronage and appreciation which folks of culture and refined tastes never fail to bestow upon works of art, beauty and science. The foregoing, Mr. Editor, is but a poor and feeble description of Goddard's Great American Cosmorama and fine art exhibitions. They must be seen to be duly appreciated.

Thanking you for space, I am, very truly yours,  
Scilly Cove,  
Trinity Bay, Jan. 23, 1888.

OPEN THE WINDOWS.—The great anatomist, Langenbeck, says:—"I am sure now of what I suspected long ago, viz.:—That pulmonary diseases are nearly exclusively (if we except tuberculous tendencies inherited from parents I say exclusively) produced by the breathing of foul air. The lungs of all persons, minors included, who had worked for some years in close workshops and dusty factories, showed the germs of the fatal disease; while even confirmed inebriates, who had passed their days in open air, had preserved their respiratory organs intact, whatever inroads their excesses had made on the rest of their system. If I should go into practice, and undertake the cure of a consumptive, I should begin by driving him out, and prevent him from entering a house for a year or two."

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

SUNDAY, Jan. 29.  
GOWER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. Perkins; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. Boyd.  
COCHRANE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. G. Boyd; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. Perkins.  
GEORGE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. E. Manning; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A.  
ALEXANDER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A.; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. E. Manning.  
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. Wm. Graham.  
QUEEN'S ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. Wm. Graham; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson.  
REFORMED CHURCH OF ENGLAND—TRINITY CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and at 6.30 P.M., Rev. A. N. Suckling.  
GOSPEL TEMPERANCE SERVICE in Buchanan Street Schoolroom every Sunday at 3 P.M. All are cordially invited.  
Service in Temperance Hall on Sunday evening at 8.15 o'clock, under the auspices of "Young Men's Christian Association." All are invited.

DIED.

This morning, after a painful illness, borne with Christian resignation to the Divine will, Jessie Elizabeth, beloved daughter of Thomas and Mary Cahill, aged 18 years and 10 months. Funeral on Monday next at 2.30 p.m., from her late residence, King's Bridge. Friends and relatives of the family are respectfully requested to attend without further notice.