

HARBOR GRACE, FEBRUARY 18, 1872.

POLITICAL BICKERINGS.

THE abusive tirades launched forth from week to week through the columns of the "Telegraph" have pretty nearly disgusted all who admire and appreciate honest journalistic enterprise. We like to see public questions freely and candidly discussed; but when pseudo writers indulge in such contemptible personal scurrility as that alluded to, we are inclined to believe the sooner they lay aside the pen, and assume other employment more in keeping with their vitiated tastes, the better for society generally. It would seem that the editor of the paper in question is nothing better than an imbecile, in the power of a few unprincipled individuals, who "foed by lying and slandering, and slake their thirst by evil-speaking," and whose highest ambition is self-aggrandizement. Jealous of the influence of their superiors, and actuated by a desire to obtain positions for which they are altogether incapacitated, they pour out their foul calumny on the chosen representatives of the people—whose "shoes they are unworthy to loose." The last number of the celebrated sheet contains a quantity of puerile bunkum, purporting to be part of a correspondence between two members of the General Assembly, and, no doubt, intended to reflect on the reputation of these gentlemen. Such unfounded imputations are disgraceful in the extreme, and well merit the indignant repudiation of every rational person. Do the originators of this slimy trash and Billingsgate twaddle imagine that the people are so credulous as to be gulled into the belief that their representatives are guilty of the charges laid against them? If so, they are certainly laboring under a very foolish misapprehension. The people know the men in whom they repose confidence, and are, we think, inclined to place their accusers in the position occupied by the fox when that crafty little animal pronounced the grapes too sour. The fact is, those caballers want to get their pilfering fingers into the public chest. They know it to be well filled, and gloat over the prospect of a BIG GRAB. "Angels and ministers of grace defend us" from the filchings of such an avaricious pack!

had previously received notice of the claims of third parties from them, or some one on their behalf;—and provided, also, that such action shall have been commenced against him within six months of the taking of such Seals into the Vat.

3.—The term "Seals" for the purpose of this Act shall include the sculps and all parts of Seals.  
4.—This Act shall not come into operation until the year 1874.

THE "Newfoundlander" of Friday last publishes the subjoined petition from the inhabitants, ship owners and others of the town of Brigus:—

To the Honourable the House of Assembly of Newfoundland in Legislative Session, Convened.

The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants, Ship Owners and others of the town of Brigus,

HUMBLY SHOWETH,—

That your Memorialists beg respectfully to represent that no property or right of property should be acquired in Seals or Seals pelts, killed or found dead or piled on pans, or otherwise found dead at the Ice, by putting flags on or near the seals, bulked or found, unless some person or persons be, and continue in the actual possession and charge of such seals and seals pelts, watching or engaged in taking away the seals to their respective vessels.

That your Memorialists further beg to represent and earnestly urge the absolute necessity for such enactment, in as much as the heretofore prevalent practice has been to bulk seals on the ice with flags without any person in charge, the consequence of which was that untold numbers of seals have been totally lost to the country, and otherwise this valuable resource of its business has been most seriously prejudiced.

And your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

Captains John Bartlett, R. J. C. Leamon, Geo. Clarke, Thos. Wilcox, Geo. Smith, S. Wilcox, H. T. Bartlett, N. Norman, John Rabbitts, Samuel Wilcox, (shipowner) Stephen Whelan, Job Roberts, Isaac Bartlett, Caleb Clarke, Stephen Dooling, T. Spracklin, Nathaniel Roberts, Abraham Bartlett (s. s. Panther) John Bartlett, Geo. Gushue, Richard Walsh, E. Dooling, Jas. Spracklin, Stephen Clarke, Thos. Roberts, Wm. Cole, Messrs. Joseph Cozens, Jas. Farley, R. J. Leamon, Noah Roberts, J. & G. Smith, (3 schooners) Henry Critch, W. A. Green, Jas. Stowe, Wm. Critch.

BRIGUS, Feb. 8, 1873.

X T R A C T S.

KISS ME.—Composers should be more careful in selecting their musical gems; for very frequently the oddest mistake arises from this idiosyncrasy. The following amusing instance of occasional mishap is told by a correspondent.

A very pretty and exceedingly modest young lady, the other morning stepped into a well known music store to make some purchases, and was waited upon by an equally modest clerk.

Throwing back her veil, the lady said,—

"I want 'Rock Me to Sleep.'"

Procuring the music, the young gentleman laid it before her.

"Now," said the young lady, "I want the 'Wandering Refugee.'"

The clerk bowed and this was also produced.

"And now," exclaimed the purchaser with a bewitching smile, 'Kiss Me.'"

The unfortunate youth gazed in mute astonishment.

"Wh—what did you say, Miss?" he at length found words to ask.

"Kiss me!"

"I ca—can't do it," he gasped in agony; "I never kissed a young lady in my life."

The veil instantly dropped, and the would be purchaser, hurriedly laying the music on the counter, took a hasty departure. The clerk only recovered after a somewhat spirited explanation with the proprietor, but hereafter the new composition, "Kiss Me," will be conspicuously posted at the entrance of the establishment.

A GOOD HUNDRED YEARS TO COME.—

No man appears to think how soon he must sink into oblivion—that we are one generation of millions. Yet such is the fact. Time and progress have, through countless ages, come marching hand in hand—the one destroying, the other building up. They seem to create little or no commotion, and the work of destruction is as easily accomplished as a child will pull to pieces a rose. Yet such is the fact. A hundred years hence, and much that we now see around us will have passed away. It is but a repetition of life's story; we are born, we die; and hence, we will grieve over these venerable piles, finding the common level of their prototypes in nature—ultimate death.

"We all within our grave shall sleep,

A hundred years to come;

No living soul shall weep,

A hundred years to come!

"But other men our lands will fill,

And other men our streets will fill,

And other birds shall sing as gay,

As bright the sunshine as to-day,

A hundred years to come."

the selection of the old rat trap. Now as to the board of Works. Last year, it will be remembered, the House of Assembly passed a Bill containing the Act amalgamating the Offices of Chairman of Board Works and Surveyor General, and sent it up for approval of the Council, by whom, however, it was rejected, and justly so, for they considered, as he (Mr. C.) did, and the duties of both offices could not be performed by the one person. How did the Government act on the separation of the offices by the expiry of the Act? Why, they appointed a nominal Chairman of the Board. Did he get the salary attached to the office? Rumour says but a small portion of it; and as to the duties of the office, were they satisfactorily performed? There is a rumour current, which he believed was correct, that a large and influential petition is now in course of preparation, calling upon the Government to substitute a Road Board for the Board of Works, as is the case of the outports; a change which would, no doubt, be beneficial to the country, as there would be then some check kept on the expenditure of the public moneys, which, under the present system, are so recklessly and lavishly spent. A reform was much needed too, in the present system of Representation. We all are aware on what a false basis that is founded. A change is imperiously demanded to meet the inequalities that the past census had shown to exist. In opening the session for 1870 His Excellency referred to it, but nothing has as yet been done to remedy this unfairness. The Representation Act was passed 1854; Mr. Bennett was then in the Legislative Council, and advocated a third member for Twillingate and Fogo. Just look at the inequality in the following districts, and the propriety of a reform will be patent. Ferryland, with a population of 5990, has two members; Placentia, and St. Mary's, with a population of 8,794, three members; while Twillingate, and Fogo, containing 13,067, has only two members. The inequality is obvious, and he trusted, now that the matter has been brought under the notice of the Government, and the House, steps will be taken to secure a just representation of the several electoral districts of the country. Mention is also made of the Washington Treaty. Last year there was said to be a despatch from Washington to our Government in which it was stipulated that if American vessels were allowed to fish on our coasts, Congress would be recommended to pass a bill in which, besides articles named in the Treaty of Washington, they would include seal oil and seal skins to be admitted duty free. Under the Reciprocity Treaty, seal oil and skins were so admitted. We are to have our French Shore territorial rights adjusted. What is the difference with regard to this matter now and years ago? None whatsoever. Addresses and petitions have been laid before Her Majesty and the Imperial Parliament. Delegations had been sent, and what was the result? Her Majesty in the usual formal way, received them very graciously. Lord Kimberley received the hon. the Premier very graciously, and the French Minister, particularly remarkable for his politeness promised to give the matter his most serious attention. There is no hope that the British Government will take any action upon the matter. Our people are certainly bound to respect treaties; but how can it be expected that they, on their part will respect the terms of a treaty when the French themselves interfere with our fishermen in the prosecution of the salmon fishery, while they (the French) have no right under any existing treaty to do so; and the sooner that matter was arranged the better. Not only were the nets of our fishermen taken from them, but those who have conducted the salmon fishery on the so-called French Shore for years have been molested. He trusted that during the present session of the Legislature, a measure would be introduced with regard to the lumbering business of the country. There are many parts of the Island where it may be prosecuted without damage to the fishing interests. Would it be a wise policy, therefore, to continue a system which would prevent capitalists from bringing their capital into this country, and embarking it in such an enterprise? We would certainly think not. Go to the Northward and you will there find that five hundred persons are now employed in that business. To the Westward would be found five hundred persons also. Those persons all belong to the localities where the business is carried on. Why not then, if capitalists from abroad are willing to place their money in such a venture, give them the opportunity and means of doing so? There is no more certain way of settling those places than by encouraging such enterprises. Now, he (hon. Mr. C.) did not mean to say that the present Government had not done something for the benefit of the country. But when the hon. member for St. John's West says that they have done more than half a dozen preceding Governments; he certainly states what he knows to have no foundation in fact. Give every Government its due, and no more. Let the hon. members go through the country, and there note the great improvement in the roads which had been effected, not since the present Government came into power, but prior to that time. Why, one session, over a quarter of a century ago, £30,000 stg., were appropriated for roads. But prior to that time it has been shown that there have been public works carried out and public improvements effected commensurate with the means at the disposal of the present Government? Most certainly not. He did not intend to have spoken at such a length, as he had no doubt there were others who were anxious to say something upon the speech from the throne. He would, however, take advantage of another opportunity to enter more particularly into two or three other important matters in the speech.

hon. Chairman Board works—It is very well understood by all, that the hon. and learned leader of the Opposition, Mr. Carter, is as good a political actor as ever trod the stage here or elsewhere. He, actor like, works himself into a parliamentary sweat with rage and rant, and calls forth tears or laughter, suited to the part he plays, because he can play either high tragedy or low comedy to perfection. Notwithstanding all the puerile fault-finding with the gracious speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened the present session of the Legislature, on the part of the leader of the Opposition, he (hon. C. B. Works) felt assured that every sentiment contained in it would meet with a hearty response throughout the land, conveying as it does hope and confidence to the people, and not like those during Mr. Carter's four terms of misgovernment, which were merely "a beggerly account of empty boxes" suggestive of no measure for the amelioration of the people or the improvement of the country, solely requiring taxes for the purchase of meal and molasses, for the pecuniary benefit of some members of the government, and the demoralization of the working classes, that they might be the more easily entrapped into voting for Confederation. That was held with its abettors in abhorrence and suspicion by the country. Contrast the popular rule of the present government, since their advent to power, with the unpopular misrule of the preceding government? Contrast the great advantages and many improvements conferred upon the country within the last three years, with the stand-still policy of their predecessors whose only remedy to lift up the people to a healthy condition, was to sell them into Confederate bondage, that a few officials might be enriched by the transaction? It is the place of the opposition to find fault with the gracious speech which foreshadows the policy of the Government and the more liberal and enlightened that policy is, the more must it be abused, because it retards the chance to an indefinite period of their attaining power. Can it be possible that the peevishness of the hon. and learned leader of the opposition to day, on the speech, is owing to no paragraph in it being directed to proclaiming to the country, that—"since last we met," the title of honor has been conferred upon him and another leading politician, for services to their native country which the public fail to recognize. However, the great tribunal of public opinion will be the best judges of that speech and its progressive policy, and to it the Government may with all confidence intrust it for a favorable verdict. The hon. and learned leader of the opposition after all admits that some good has been effected by the present Government, but owes its origin to the opposition, having urged it upon them. It is not forgotten by the people the good the present opposition urged upon them in 1869, and more particularly at the time of the general election in the fall of that year, when every effort was made by them, aided from abroad, to sell the country for less than "a mess of pottage," without the slightest regard for the unfortunate people whose liberty and interests they were prepared to sacrifice, solely and entirely for their own aggrandisement. The hon. and learned member of the opposition becomes innocently facetious, in referring to some imaginary trimmings and cabtaging connected with the department of the Board of Works, no doubt remembering what did take place in that particular line during the years he had control over the department as the head of the Government, and believing that all Governments are as corrupt as the one he had. Reference has been made by the hon. and learned member to the fact of Mr. Barnes, member for Bonavista, now filling the office of Surveyor General, lately occupied by him (hon. Chairman Board Works). During the last session he (Chairman Board Works) was on every available occasion attacked by the opposition for holding a plurality of offices, and having no sympathy for poor Mr. Barnes who wanted an office. Well, having relinquished an office in favor of that gentleman fails still to give satisfaction to the opposition, and they fail to appreciate the patriotism and self-abnegation of the act, in giving up a higher and more lucrative appointment, for one of an inferior character, with less salary and greater labor. He (hon. Chairman Board Works) feared he would never be able to satisfy the leader of the opposition and his party.

From the opposition, "Give up the Government!" He hon. Chairman of Board of Works considered that request rather a little too unreasonable at this time, for they intended to hold the reins of power as long as the people of the country were with them, as they have been and are at the present moment—and no longer. In regard to the "People's Budget," the ghost of which it appears, has never ceased to haunt the hon. and learned leader of the opposition and his party, and referred to by him to-day, he (hon. Chairman of Board of Works) would again inform him that when the "Budget" came before the House in the session of 1869, it was for the purpose of meeting the then deplorable state of affairs, with a heavy floating debt daily increasing, to pay of which debt, with large interest, extra taxation had been levied by the present leader of the opposition when in power at that time. The "Budget" certainly went for a reduction of expenditure, also of the civil list, consistent with economy, to reduce the then enormous taxation which was paralyzing the trade and labor of the country. Similar measures have been introduced elsewhere under similar circumstances, and have succeeded, and the trade of the country having greatly improved immediately after the present Government taking office, enabled it to reduce the taxation, wipe out the floating debt, and appropriate large sums out of the revenue for public improvements all over the country; there was not the same necessity for putting the "Budget" in operation as existed at the time of its introduction, as an ameliorative expedient. The hon. and learned member deliberately asserts what he knows to be inconsistent with facts, and charges the present Government with imposing extra taxation on the people, whereas, on the contrary, they have reduced the taxes on flour, bread, and manufactured boots and shoes, about £20,000. But because the enlarged prosperity of the people the past three years, owing to fair fisheries and good crops, have enabled them to purchase a larger amount of dutiable articles than formerly, which has considerably increased the revenue beyond former years, and thus enabling the Government to enterprise public works and improvements, dreamt of only under Confederation; hence the prosperity of the country with lesser taxation, and larger revenues, is attributed to extra taxation by the Financial wisdom of the opposition. The duty on flour for instance, has been reduced to one shilling per barrel, and he (hon. C. B. Works) would ask the hon. member for Harbor Grace, Mr. Munn, so largely employed in the mercantile business of the country, if the whole duty were taken off flour and other articles used in the fisheries, whether it would go into the pocket of the merchant who imported or the fisherman who purchased for consumption. The answer is obvious, from the fact of the prices charged to our fishermen, in many places being like the laws of the Melos and Persians—fixed and unalterable, duty or no duty. Consult the people of the outports on this question of taxation, and they will inform you that the taxes never trouble them, so long as the Government give them liberal grants of money for roads and public improvements in their localities, and make provision to pay them in cash for their labor. He (hon. C. B. Works) regretted very much that the hon. and learned leader, Mr. Carter, should have imported into this debate a matter not under discussion, relating to the dismissal by the Board of Works of one of its road superintendents last summer for a murderous assault on the General Inspector of roads and bridges. The action of the Board, after careful and deliberate investigation, has received the approval of the Governor and Council, and the appointment of Mr. Brine to the vacancy was on the recommendation of a majority of the members of the district, and since his appointment has given satisfaction to the Board, and the people of the district, of which he is a native.

Hon. Mr. Carter—Mr. Neil is a native of the country also. Hon. Chairman of Board of Works considered it very ill judged on the part of the hon. and learned leader of the opposition to bring this matter before the house, from the fact of his being the retained lawyer of Mr. Neil, against whom a prosecution is pending in the Supreme Court by the officer assaulted so violently, and unaware, and who but for the interposition of Providence, would leave a widow and thirteen children totally unprovided for. How such brutal and unlawful conduct can receive even the shadow of justification it is difficult to understand, unless it be for the sake of opposition alone. The petition now getting up, which the hon. and learned members refers to, is one emanating from the enemies of the Board of Works and the Government in St. John's West. They are few in number indeed, and are so well known that the scheme will only recoil on the heads of the schemers. The feeling which the hon. and learned member says exists abroad, relative to the absence of control over the expenditure of the public moneys by the Board of Works, exists only in the frenzied imagination of that learned gentleman, who makes those idle charges for the sake of opposition, unbecoming the dignity of a leader of a constitutional opposition. Was the Board under his Government so pure as not to evoke public feeling against any of its transactions, without good cause? Let the public answer. The transactions of the Board are subject to examination on the part of any member of the opposition; the accounts and vouchers in the office will best answer the charges now made. That, however, is not exactly the objection of the hon. and learned leader and his friends. But it arises from different motives altogether. The Major being at the head of the department of the Board of Works does not exactly meet their wishes at this particular juncture. It indicates that "the Major" is prepared to fight the Confederate enemy on whatever disguised principal he may decide upon going to the country in the General Election next fall. This stimulated zeal of the opposition for the welfare of the public interests is more of a personal hostility directed against the Chairman than a political one against the Board, which will "Keep the even tenor of its way," retaining the confidence of the Public which it has so fully enjoyed the past three years. The charge of gross contempt and neglect of the Government for the interests of the people to the Westward, in regard to costal steam at the end of the past year is without foundation. The steamer Hawk, owing to the great severity of the weather on her return voyage, broke her shaft, and received other serious damage, which necessitated her going upon dock for repairs, whence she was detained the time complained of, although every effort was made by the owners to despatch her as soon as possible. The Government further despatched the steamer Greyhound with the mails to the Westward, so as to make up for the detention of the Hawk, and they have also completed an arrangement for the Ariel to perform the remainder of the winter service till May next. More the Government could not do, and the steamers on our coast were subject to the same casualties arising from unprecedented boisterous weather that others elsewhere had suffered under the same circumstances. Mr. Emerson—The Government had to be pressed.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Raising one devil to drive away another is like robbing Peter to pay Paul.