

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 26, 1888.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The case which elicited most interest was an action for libel against the Evening Telegram newspaper. The plaintiff in this case was Mr. Smith McKay, chairman of the Board of Works, who had been charged by the Telegram with general carelessness in the work of his department, of making use of his position for his personal aggrandizement, and of general misappropriation of the money of the colony. The offence was aggravated by coarse and abusive personal allusions. The libellous character of the article which involved a gross charge of dishonesty, was proved, and no attempt was made to justify it, or to produce the slightest evidence in support of the charge. The jury brought in a verdict for the plaintiff for one hundred dollars, which involves payment of costs. The verdict is regarded here as a very important one, as it will tend to check the libellous and scurrilous character of the writing for which the Evening Telegram has long been notorious, and to deter from low, reckless and abusive journalism. This paper has been repeatedly before the court for libel, but hitherto escaped, through the mistaken leniency of juries. Hitherto the idea has been prevalent that unless a plaintiff could prove that he had sustained some pecuniary loss by a defamatory publication, he could not claim damages. Hence the vilest attacks on character were left unpunished. In the present instance, however, under the directions of Mr. Justice Pinnet, the jury returned a verdict against this newspaper for defamation of character, pure and simple, as no pecuniary loss was alleged. The public has thus learned that the law of England protects a man's character, no less than his person or his property, and that scurrilous writers in newspapers can be called to account when they assail men's characters. In the present instance, a universally respected gentleman of spotless character was charged with dishonest practices, and not a tithe of evidence could be produced in support of the charge.—Montreal Gazette, Jan. 15.

The above is the extract from the letter of the Newfoundland correspondent of the Montreal Gazette to which we referred on Tuesday last, and we should be quite content to let it go before the judgment of our readers without note or comment from us. That it was not written in the capacity of a newspaper correspondent, but in the capacity of the proprietor and editor of a rival newspaper, will be quite evident to everyone who lives in St. John's.

animate such a man as that. By this act he simply declares himself to be a cowardly poltroon, for no man worthy of the name would take advantage of his adversary's absence to befool and disparage him, no matter who or what that adversary might be.

The public of this community now know pretty well the exact nature and dimensions of the late McKay libel suit against ourselves, and that it was simply a political raid, more or less shared in by all the enemies of this paper, to have a slap at the EVENING TELEGRAM. The Rev. Moses Harvey's connection with the affair shows that gentlemen's naturally spiteful and malicious disposition in a far greater degree than that of any of the other actors in the farce, inasmuch as while they are quite content to relinquish the attack after the battle, he follows it up behind his opponent's back, and with vindictive and cowardly venom. Let the general public now judge between him and us, and a "true verdict give according to the evidence."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"ANOTHER SHAREHOLDER."—We have received your lengthy communication, but fail to see the advisability of publishing it. Better talk to the directors about the grievances complained of and request them to get the shareholders together as soon as possible. Then you will, no doubt, be able to obtain the desired information. For our own part, we would much rather extend a helping hand to a contemporary than be the means of injuring him in any way. Try to be patient with the poor journalist: his lot, under the best of circumstances, is not a very enviable one.

"Captain Jinks"—Your remarks on the disciples of Mars who met in the Commercial Rooms yesterday, are, perhaps, a little premature. No doubt they are actuated by the most heroic motives—burning to distinguish themselves in the tented field, and to pluck the "bubble reputation," even from the cannon's mouth. Don't, we pray you, speak too lightly of the little band of valiant men who have had the hardihood to thus assemble in obedience to the call of duty. Perhaps among these noble volunteers, there may exist "some soul stamped with the patent of the Diety, and wrought for immortality; some Cincinnatus in whose breast the destinies of a nation may lie dormant; some Milton pregnant with celestial fire; some Curran who, when thrones are crumbled and dynasties forgotten, might stand the landmark of his country's genius, rearing himself amid regal ruins and national dissolution—a mental pyramid in the solitude of time, beneath whose shade things might moulder and round whose summit eternity must play." Take our advice, then, friend "Jinks," and wait till they get in marching order.

The following cablegram has just been received by James Baird, Esq., from Queens-town:—"The S.S. Nova Scotian arrived here this morning, all well. She experienced heavy westerly winds, but had a fine passage."

MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

Now that an agricultural society has been formed here, it is very desirable that its officers should make up their minds to do some practical work, and not rest satisfied with the mere appearance of their names in print as "promoters of the movement." In almost every community one is sure to meet with people who are fond of "prominence." They like to be connected with every respectable enterprise, not that they have any special inclination to work for the benefit of their fellow-men, but mainly because they want to "see and be seen." Hence we find them flitting about, like mid-summer butterflies, all the time looking for fresh flowers on which to alight and from which to extract something to gratify their inordinate vanity.

Mind you, reader, we are not dealing with this subject in a captious spirit, nor do we wish to offend any one in particular, or any one at all, for that matter. We simply desire to state a few facts in this connection which must be apparent to all of us. The truth is, this small class of popularity-seekers, who, as we have already said, are to be found everywhere, do more to retard the march of progress in communities than all the other adverse agencies combined. This assertion may seem strange at first, but a little explanation will, we think, render it sufficiently obvious.

To make a business or a society a success, it is essentially necessary that practical, competent men be put in office. Otherwise, interest in the concern soon languishes and after a little while the spirit of enthusiasm which manifests itself at the inception dies out and disappears altogether. Vain and ambitious men who have plenty of time on their hands, do not, as a rule, identify themselves with such movements as we allude to for the purpose of promoting their success. They graciously consent to be present, and usually, during the proceedings, condescend to deliver a "highfaluting" speech, specially prepared for the occasion. In this way they accomplish a certain object—they get their names blazoned abroad through a servile and sycophantic section of the local press, believing all the time that this places them on the up grade in the estimation of their compatriots.

Of course, there are exceptional cases. It doesn't necessarily follow that, because a person occupies a high official position, or because his social attitude is above his fellow-men, he cannot take a real interest in the general welfare. Not at all! Some of the greatest men in England to-day—as far as "long descent" and official positions constitute greatness—stand in the front ranks of those who are laboring with irresistible earnestness for the amelioration of the masses. Such benefactors are "nature's noblemen," as well as noblemen in the general acceptance of the term.

Perhaps it is hardly necessary to add that our really useful and prosperous societies are entirely free from the "ornamental appendages" mentioned above. Our benevolent institutions, without exception, are worked by intelligent, practical men, who are content to act their parts in an unostentatious manner, and to receive, as their only rewards, the respect and esteem of their fellow-men, believing, with Sir Philip Sidney, that "doing good is the only certainly happy action of a man's life."

THE PLACENTIA RAILWAY.

The Placentia branch of the railway is now within six miles of the "Ancient Capital," yet the mails thence are still carried by horse and sleigh by the usual route to Holyrood, a distance of eighty miles. This looks absurd. This day week the mail-carrier with his vehicle left Salmonier for Placentia, but a blizzard coming on he was engulfed in banks of snow and with difficulty and after much suffering reached his destination. The poor beast was so exhausted that it perished on the Saturday. The P. G. says that if the carrier left Salmonier at the usual time, he would have escaped the snow-storm, which is tantamount to asserting that the carrier's delay was due to his own fault. At this time of the year unavoidable delays will happen travellers in spite of the best intentions, and unless the P. G. is in possession of evidence which would confirm his suspicions that the carrier's delay was a result of negligence, he has no right to make invidious remarks which may prove to be an undeserved reproach upon a faithful servant. Does the P. G. mean to hint that the delay was due to an unfinished little game of "draw?"

THERE was but one arrival from abroad since yesterday: a cargo of salt from Trapani. This vessel was forty days out and experienced a very stormy passage. Stormy and long passages will be the rule across the Atlantic for the next three months, and the non-arrival of vessels should excite no surprise. In the event of receiving severe damages they would run to the most accessible ports in the Azores for repairs, ports whence intelligence travels slowly.

THE CITY CLUB.

The annual meeting of the City Club was held at the Club Rooms, Water Street, last evening under the presidency of Mr. Horwood, the senior Vice-President. After the minutes had been confirmed, a vote of condolence to President, Mr. A. M. Mackay, was passed by the meeting. The annual report presented by the Committee makes an exceedingly creditable showing. It shows the club to be in a healthy financial position, notwithstanding the very large outlay incidental to the fitting up and furnishing of the present large and commodious Club House, into which, it will be remembered, the City Club removed during last September. The membership, already sufficiently large to meet the requirements of the Club, has been augmented by a number of candidates elected during the past year. An increase of \$200, as compared with the previous year, is reported in the revenue of the Billiard Room, and this is no doubt mainly due to the fact that a second billiard table was imported during the last few months. The literary department of the club has also received its due share of attention, the institution being possessed of a Reading Room containing all the principal English and American papers and magazines, and early in the past year a debating society was formed which conducted during last winter a series of interesting debates interspersed with some excellent lectures, and which now intends inaugurating a similar literary course on to-morrow (Friday) evening. On the whole the club may well feel proud of the record of the past year and the flourishing condition in which it now finds itself, and we observe with pleasure that the members showed their appreciation of the services of the retiring committee by tendering these gentlemen a unanimous vote of thanks. After the report had been adopted, and the financial statement submitted and referred to a committee of audit, the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, with the following result:

Mr. A. M. Mackay, President; Mr. W. H. Horwood, Mr. J. A. Clift, Vice-Presidents; Mr. E. D. Shea, Secretary; Mr. D. M. Browning, Treasurer. Committee—Messrs. F. W. Lilly, W. Rennie, A. Milroy, W. H. Crowley, E. A. Mutch and A. R. Barnes.

The meeting, after some further business had been transacted, adjourned sine die.

CARIBOO SHOOTING IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

LONDON Field—the country gentleman's newspaper—of the 31st ult., has an article on "Cariboo shooting in Newfoundland" from one signed L. B. who spent forty-two days in the woods at the northward last Fall (from Sept. 30 to Nov. 15). He gives a fair description of the physical features of the country and undecives his English readers respecting the character of our climate. This is how he tells of his meeting with the game:—"However, I had not been looking through the glass more than ten minutes before I discovered a stag and two hinds about a mile to windward, feeding down wind; but, luckily for my chance of success, there were some large rocks and a few juniper trees in the middle of the barrens, and we were enabled, by crawling along the ground for two hundred yards, to get right up to these rocks without being seen. But on looking over from this point of vantage, I discovered that the hinds showed some signs of alarm and were running around the stag, who appeared quite unconcerned, and was standing with his head towards me, about one hundred and forty yards off. The hinds were not at all satisfied and at last succeeded in alarming the monarch of the forest. As I raised the rifle he made a spring round, giving me for a few seconds a splendid chance for a broadside shot, and I managed to lay him low with a bullet just behind the heart. He proved to have a very fine set of horns, thirty points, and perfect brow antlers. So we were not in want of food. I allowed the hinds to get away unmolested, and returned to camp as happy as a king—probably considerably happier than most kings."

A HARD TIME ON THE TRAIN.

THE train, it seems, had a pretty hard fight with the snow-drifts during its trip from Harbor Grace yesterday. In several instances the track was so blocked as to occasion much delay. As a result, the train did not reach Harbor Grace Junction until about five o'clock. But even there the obstacles did not cease. Great care had to be taken all the way to the depot here, which was not reached till ten p.m. However, we have no great reason to complain on this account. Our trains around the Bay have been running regularly for the past three years, while in the neighboring provinces it has been no unusual thing for a train to be snowed up for two or three days in succession during the winter season.

THERE will be no replies from postal settlements in Notre Dame Bay to correspondence by the first overland mail despatch on Tuesday last, the 24th, till the last week in February.

FROM TRINITY BAY.

Holiday Festivities at New Perlican.

GRAND PROCESSION AND MUSIC.

Church of England Christmas Tree.

DEAR SIR,—On the 6th inst., Old Xmas Day, New Perlican presented quite a holiday appearance. On entering the village a scene really grand and picturesque met one's gaze. The most casual observer could not fail to notice the taste and art exhibited in the erection of arches and other works of beauty and skill, which contributed to form the decorative element of which New Perlican can boast.

The grand display of bunting from the shipping, also from the stores of Captains Pittman, Martin and others, coupled with that floating from private residences, far surpassed anything of the kind ever before witnessed in this locality.

One is led to enquire: Why all this display? Why has this usually quiet place its solitude and equanimity disturbed? Why that sound, as of the discharge of some piece of artillery in the distance?

Ah! stranger, this is a high day in our midst. Know you not that the only society of which we boast, numbering more than 200 members, have selected this day upon which to celebrate their annual procession!

Another reason for these signs of gaiety and why you observe strangers moving to and fro attired in holiday garb, is that the Xmas Tree in connection with the Church of England is to come off this evening, and folks say it is to be a success, or Miss Pittman will know the reason why.

Well, Mr. Editor, to sum up the whole matter in as few words as possible, the day was fine and enjoyable and everything which transpired through it was a success. The society turned out in splendid style; there was not a hitch in the processional programme; the members looked well; their regalia was faultless, and the line of march extended along the routes which gave pleasure and satisfaction to all concerned. The music was furnished by the Scilly Cove Band, under the efficient leadership of Mr. Augustus Kelland, and was all that could be desired.

The procession being over, next in order came the soiree. Well, sir, had you seen the bountiful and choice spread it would have surprised you. It would have required the genius of your special reporter to furnish you with anything like an accurate description of the delicacies, &c., of the table. Suffice it to say that the viands pleased even the most fastidious, and that is saying a good deal. The dancing was kept up with zest till five o'clock, and the boys "went home with the girls in the morning."

Now, Mr. Editor, a few words about the Xmas Tree. The Tree looked well, so did all the surroundings. The refreshment table was well supplied and presenting quite an inviting appearance. Here the edge was taken off many a keen appetite. The stall in which useful and fancy goods were offered for sale was very tastefully decorated, some handsome and excellent mottoes, being interwoven with the evergreen and dog-berries, gave the stall a most enlivening appearance.

The fairy-pond and the enchanting little fairy who so dexterously handled her rod that she fished up the prizes, attracted both a number of people and many 10 cent pieces. In an adjoining class-room a Highland dancing-master was exhibited by Mr. Pittman (school-master). To see this Highland laddie and hear the music from his bagpipes, the sum of one cent was required. Many a youngster found a cent for this and enjoyed the sport immensely.

The wheel of fortune was also in vogue and added considerably to the "chest." The Tree was fairly over at 9.30. Refreshments were supplied till 12 o'clock.

The gross proceeds amounted to \$56. Very great credit is due to Miss Pittman who, being the prime mover in the affair, deserves to be congratulated on the splendid success achieved through her exertions.

Yours truly, SPECTATOR. Scilly Cove, Jan. 19th, 1888.

PEOPLE here are just now wondering what to make of the Rev. J. McNeill, a young Free Kirk minister to whom Professor Blackie has addressed a sonnet, and who by his preaching has been causing quite a sensation in Modern Athens. The latest "doing" of Mr. McNeill—who, by the way, was originally a railway porter, or something of that sort—is to advocate the excommunication from the Church of such as are in any way connected with the liquor trade, whether as producer, seller, or drinker. This rather startling idea, if carried out, as I believe Mr. McNeill is gradually doing in his own congregation, will soon revolutionize religion—in a way that the advocates of it may not like.—New York Paper.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The banking schooner Delight, Captain Boland, which left Placentia for Gloucester, Mass., with a cargo of codfish and thence to Boston for a freight of American produce, sailed from Boston on the 15th inst. for this port.

DR. O'DWYER, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick, has made an important statement regarding the methods adopted by Nationalist agitators. After declaring his firm adherence to Home Rule, he condemns boycotting as involving crime, and denounces the plan of campaign as unlawful, and inevitably resulting in resistance to the law.

THE business men of New York are asking the United States Senate to assent to an extradition treaty with Great Britain. They point out that since the treaty was proposed a year ago embezzlers to the amount of \$3,840,570 have skipped to Canada. Instead of Britain that country ought to be urging for the adoption of that treaty; though certainly a free exchange of prisoners would redound greatly to the benefit of both countries.

THE respect generally entertained in London for the late Rev. Dr. Mackonochie, the notorious ritualistic clergyman, was well manifested as the funeral cortege passed from Holborn to Waterloo Station. All the thoroughfares on the route of the procession were packed with people in bared heads. The shops of one of the busiest commercial parishes in London were closed. The pall-bearers were ten London clergymen, and it is said over 200 more were inside the church, almost every diocese in England being represented.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

DEAR SIR,—A select meeting of our best citizens was held in the Commercial Rooms yesterday for the purpose of organising themselves into a military force for the defence of this island, under the presidency of J. Outerbridge, Esq., who kindly prepared a series of "resolutions" for the interesting occasion. The meeting was largely composed of the warlike element in our midst, and the speeches were all well calculated to kindle the spark of patriotic fire in every breast.

The principle resolution was a motion proposed in forma pauperis to appeal to our empty treasury for funds to buy our uniforms, &c., which, of course, it is quite proper the fishermen and taxpayers should be called upon to provide. Several of our members of a modest turn of mind wanted to retire on hearing that the collection box might be passed round in lieu of this proposal. Mr. Y. said he would never make a soldier, as he was too stout for the part, unless he could present his broadside to the foe. Mr. Z. thought he was sometimes deficient of wind, especially on long marches and up hill. But the Chairman said that was all gammon. He himself was only a slight man, but he could look very fierce when he was angry, and it was everybody's duty to fight for his country, or pay somebody else to do it for him. The meeting then adjourned sine die.

Yours truly, ON WHO WAS PRESENT. St. John's, Jan. 26, 1888.

THE ATTEMPTED SUPPRESSION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

BY A HARBOR GRACIAN. Dead! Did you say? Not a bit of it: the Press will fight again. And strike for the cause of Freedom—the rights of tolling men; Like Phoenix from the ashes, it soars beyond tyrant's grasp; And the fire meant to consume it, serves but to light its page. "Slander?" the traitor hisses when you taught us to understand That the offenders of the Pipe-track were the highest in the land; That guns were loaded in St. John's and fired at Harbor Grace— Shot-riddled by the traitors, to drive Whiteway from his place. This Attorney General Mac, would "hound" you right down to death; But now our Isle begins to breathe the Nineteenth Century breath; And the spirit of Freedom sleeps till roused by instinctive men. Either by weight of human voice or touch of human pen. "Dead!" cried Iscarot Winter, when he struck at Sir William's throat— A base, low act of treachery to a mate in the self-same boat. "Dead!" politically dead! the words went the length of the land; And thousands of men, dumb and silent, saw the army of progress disband; Saw the leaders who stood by the people in their hour of trial and pain; The man who had stood by the poor man with strength of heart and brain. Hounded out from the place where he sat to reform all existing abuses, He had fronted the mercantile depots, and bigotry was their excuse. The manifesto of envy and vengeance first sent throughout the land, Then came the broken pledges that looked so noble and grand; And all was the work of a fawning crew who one time licked his hand! And it is but the old, old story, that serpents will ever turn On those whose bounty fed them, and their deeds of kindness spurn. Knight, Penny, Dawe and Winter, McKay, Scott, Carty, Veitch, They took the Judas silver and leaped the Boyne's ditch; And brave Cochias Emerson, a half million was his price; Think of this, ye starving fishermen, who make five pounds to the ice. Ned Morris trembled on the brink, but he would not go o'er. O'Mara was too lazy to walk "across the floor." The workmen throughout our Isle are eager for the fray, And when election-day comes round, the traitors will repay. The progress banner to the breeze once more we shall set free, And under Whiteway's administration bring bread and liberty. Harbor Grace, Jan. 24, 1888.

BIRTH. On the 25th inst., the wife of W. N. Bendoll, engineer, of a son.

Auction— Auction— Auction— Auction— Business— Shingles, Bells, rug Delicous C.E.T.S. Queen's r Athenaeu Not accou Wanted— TAK can be sup Househol at the rat per ton, s jan24, GOLL Spoons, Weddng Eyesigh Spectacl ing, Wa To-Mo AT T 205 P 25 I dnt, 12 d powder, 1 step lad jan27 To-Mo By [At his B 15 200 grapes, 10 flour, 10 1 side sle 10 BRLS To-Mo By FORTY- 21 C butter, 3 1 set car To-Mo J 100 qu L L L L 50 tu To-Mo CL 50 qu 150 G jan27 PO On M SE 28 B 4 bxs 2 bxs 1 case 1 case fee jan27 TO (if not BY at o'clock m estate of The presu the wate wharf, w at the bes together immedi ably adap ness. Fe jan23,4 M Tw jan25, WI OFFIC jan28