

be to enact measures to establish a higher standard of character for our fish, and not to open the door to its depreciation. Such appeared to be the desire of this body in passing the measure of last session, hoping that even to some extent that laudable end might be secured. Now, Mr. Chairman, we have in this city a body which is termed a "chamber of commerce," and he did think that after the fish-culling bill of last year became the law of the land, it was the duty of that body, when they met in solemn conclave, to have given a public definition, based upon their knowledge of the condition and requirements of foreign markets, as to what should be regarded as "merchantable" fish, and what should be considered "madeira," and to have issued rules and regulations stating that in giving the price they might have agreed upon for "merchantable" fish, they would require and expect the fish to be cured according to such conditions as they pointed out. Did this august body do that which it is rational to expect they should have done? No; they did nothing, even worse than nothing, because the leading members of the Chamber of Commerce themselves led the way in the suicidal course of buying fish talqual, and he had no hesitation in declaring it to be a disgrace to that chamber to countenance a practice fraught with damaging tendencies to the general fishing interests of this colony. For what purpose does that body exist? What are its functions, if not to take cognizance of matters pertaining to the trade, and to promote, by all available means, its healthy advancement? Here we have a body of men possessed of the highest intelligence, viewed by the ordinarily-applied standard, and in the prosecution of all the ordinary concerns of life. Yet, when they assemble *in camera* they appear, so far as external evidence leads us to judge, to do absolutely nothing of a useful or practical character. True, they pass and publish a report once a year, but did they only take and publish a chapter from the lamentations of Jeremiah, it would serve all the ends attained by that produce of their incubation. Did they, even as other local associations do, gratify the public by walking once a year in procession through the town, attending service in one of our churches and afterwards calling upon His Excellency the Governor, we might be disposed to overlook their intility. He considered no more retrograde step was taken in twenty years of the history of the codfishery than that of the change from the old system of purchase to the present extensive and ruinous mode of purchase as *talqual*; and its ill consequences will be felt more intensely in ensuing seasons as the character of our fish will become still further depreciated as this practice is continued. It is a well-known fact that the proportion of "merchantable" fish to cullage is year by year decreasing. Twenty years ago the great bulk of our fish was merchantable, but in recent times it forms the lesser quantity, and this state of things will go on from bad to worse unless late methods become speedily reversed. It is hardly to be expected that the producers of fish will take care to cure it well when the exporters will give them as high a price for the inferior as for a first-class article; nor will they be induced to do so until they find it to be to their own interest, which depends almost entirely upon the action of those who purchase their fish. It is satisfactory to find in the address the pleasing allusion to the success of the Bank fishery; but the result might have been rendered much more successful had greater care been taken in the cure of the fish, and it would be well to impress this fact as strongly as possible upon those concerned in handling it. The fish caught on the banks is of similar kind to that caught on the inshore of the island, though it may be a year or two older; yet fishermen will be heard saying that they are dissimilar, a statement which arises from the general ignorance that prevails amongst us on matters pertaining to our fisheries. He could easily understand why Bank fish ranks second when he considered the way it is treated, being badly split, badly washed, and often salted and stowed away in the dark; hence when placed subsequently upon the culling-board a large proportion of it is found to be scarcely fit for human food. He contended, and wished it to be generally understood by all concerned, as erroneous ideas appear to exist with regard to fish caught on the Banks, that it may, by proper handling, be cured equal in quality to any Shore-caught fish. He had seen cargoes of Bank fish that had come to St. John's from the Westward of such good cure that no person ignorant of the fact that it was Bank fish could see any difference between it and Shore fish. He trusted that reports arriving here every Fall from foreign markets of the unsatisfactory character of our Bank fish, will induce exporters and producers, in ensuing seasons, to give more attention towards remedying a condition of things that depreciates the value of the voyage, and therefore militates against their interests, while seriously damaging the reputation of the produce of the colony. In relation to the prosecution of our cod-fishery, he considered

that very little doubt now exists regarding the injurious effect of the use of codtraps. An Act was passed last session regulating the mode of fishing by such machinery, and the opinion was then generally prevalent in the Chamber that the interests of the fishery would be served by their abolition; but a regard for vested interests influenced the Legislature in withholding radical action in respect to them. The Fishery Commission, of which he had the honor to be a member, had had, a few days ago, under their consideration a report on the fisheries of Canada, by which it was seen that in the whole Dominion only forty cod-traps are in operation, while in Newfoundland we have something like four thousand. This fact speaks for itself; for when we find that in a country which exercises such a watchful care over the interests of its fisheries as does Canada, so few traps being in use at the present day, the inference is plain that experience has demonstrated the injury of this mode of fishing. He believed that the placing of cod-traps keeps the bait, and also the fish, out in deep water, and the consequence is, as we have seen in the Northern settlements, it is impossible for the hook-and-line men to catch a voyage. As regards the salmon and herring fisheries of last season, they were short in quantity and bad in quality. Probably in no previous season was so inferior a quality of salmon seen in St. John's, the proportion of No. 2 and No. 3 to No. 1 being simply disgraceful. If more care were taken with the salmon when caught, even if no larger quantity were taken, the advancement in value would be found to be extraordinary. Number one large salmon fetches a much higher price relatively than other qualities, and it would therefore pay people interested to bestow more care and attention on this branch of our fisheries. It would be satisfactory to hon. members to be assured that progress is being made in the enquiry carried on by the fishery commission appointed last spring, and it is to be hoped that in a very short time the object so long and pertinaciously striven for by hon. Mr. Harvey—a fishery bureau—will assume form and substance; and that before another year comes round we shall no longer be justified in the complaint that the leading fishing country in the world is without any supervising control over that upon which its existence as a colony depends.

Hon. C. R. AYRE concurred in much that had fallen from the hon. gentleman in regard to the mode of dealing with the produce of our fisheries. His experience proved to him that a vast deal is lost to the country owing to want of care and attention in the cure of fish, thus largely deteriorating its value. This applies as strongly to our pickled fish as to cod-fish. Anyone who has had much experience in the purchase of fish, must admit that the practice of buying fish talqual, so largely adopted last fall, has a damaging effect upon the character of our produce, and it is likely to produce still more evil in that direction in the future, as it renders fishermen and curers careless and indifferent as to the quality of the article they turn out of their hands, knowing they will obtain as good a price for the bad-cured as for the superior quality. It is therefore not surprising that complaints should emanate from the markets to which our fish is shipped, and he felt certain that those complaints are too often well founded, and that a considerable portion of it is unsuitable, hence loss of character is the result. There is also a deplorable want of attention shown by our people in handling the produce of the salmon fishery. It was difficult to obtain a market for the greater portion of the salmon put up last year, as it was small and badly handled, while there was no difficulty whatever in disposing of large salmon. He thought the law on the statute book, regulating the salmon fishery, is abused, or not carried out, because if it were enforced we should not see so large a percentage of small salmon as was brought into our market last year. It is much to be regretted that the fisheries, the main-stay of our country, have not, up to the present time, received such attention at the hands of local governments as their importance merited. He hoped now, that as a result of the labors of the commission at present investigating the whole subject, a fishery bureau composed of competent persons will be formed, to take cognizance and direction of all matters relating to the fish and fisheries of the country, so as to render them of the utmost value to the people, who are relying upon them for their support. The establishment of such an institution he would regard as one of the best things that has happened for Newfoundland for many years.

(To be Continued.)

A FINE colored engraving of the Great Auk—the large sea-goose, if it may so be termed, which once swarmed off the mouths of Bonavista and Notre Dame Bays and is now supposed to be extinct—is on view in the picture-publishing store of McKenzie & Clance, Duckworth street. It is issued by the Committee of General Literature and Education appointed by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 27, 1888.

THE SAME OLD STORY.

We are in receipt of a letter from one of the best informed fishermen in the colony, respecting the Fisheries Treaty now pending before the United States Senate, and his views as therein expressed, are certainly worthy of some consideration. Alluding to the statement in Wednesday's public telegram, namely: "that an agreement, pending the sanction of the treaty, has been made for two years, and that, according to this agreement, Canada and Newfoundland grant American vessels, for a license of one dollar and fifty cents per ton, the privilege to enter ports and purchase bait and all other supplies,"—alluding to this statement, we say, our correspondent observes:—"This is the same old story over again: the right to fish in British waters, for so long, without an equivalent, as they ever have enjoyed since 1773. There have been periodical treaties, and it will be seen that time ranging from three to ten years has been obtained by the Americans in every case. The two dollars and fifty cents license is not worth a rush, when compared with the privileges granted. The Bait Act, in the face of this, is a monstrous fraud, an iniquitous imposition on the fishermen of Newfoundland. The Government pockets the license fee and our 'tollers of the sea' are subject to all the restrictions the ill-advised Act imposes, while foreign fishermen are at liberty to do pretty much as they please in our waters. The mountain which commenced to labor twelve months ago has at length brought forth a mouse, or rather an alligator whose open mouth would swallow halibut, cod, fishermen and all, if possible. Our rulers continue to waste their time and attention over the bait question—a problem that will solve itself—while the great, the all-important, question to Newfoundland—the French Shore difficulty—does not now receive a moment's consideration. From the Americans we get something in the shape of an equivalent for the privileges they enjoy; from the French we receive nothing but insults and ill-treatment whenever our fishermen are brought in contact with them. The very best part of our coasts for farming and fishing purposes are occupied by them, and no effort is made by those at present in authority here to induce the Imperial Government to shake them off. How to get clear of France is the pivot question with us Newfoundlanders, not the matter of selling bait to our American cousins—a mutually profitable transaction."

A FEW IMPORTANT REFERENCES.

In the House of Assembly on Friday last Mr. Murphy referred to the statement of Mr. O'Connell, that the merchants trading with our banks had not \$40,000 in them and still were allowed to pass notes annually to the extent of \$2,000,000 on what was to be taken out of the water the ensuing season. He referred to the mystified manner in which the two bank reports are made, the items of "notes discounted, bills of exchange, loans," &c., being lumped together, instead of being separately itemized. This was done by banks that he believed to be financially sound. The supplying merchant received there all accommodation, while the middle man, doing a safe cash trade, was not allowed to overdraw a cent. It was a significant fact that, although the volume of our trade had decreased during the past three years, the bank accommodation had on the other hand increased. He made these statements in the interest of all, and upon an institution which he knew to be sound, for otherwise he would not dare to give them an utterance. It was also unfair that all clerkships and positions in these institutions were bestowed upon the sons of friends of the Directors, and not upon the equally competent sons of our middle class—say, for instance, some of the shareholders' children educated by the Christian Brothers. He referred to the absence of road work in his own district, and the revival—with the hateful addition of disfranchisement—of the old plan of pauper relief.

THE CONVERSAZIONE AT THE KIRK.

It is interesting to notice how greatly in favor the *Conversazione* has grown of late years. Assemblages whose leading attractions were those afforded by music or speech-making were the usual means of promoting social reunions, and, though they had their charms, yet the majority of the gatherings were merely spectators passively enjoying what the active spirits who furnished the programme provided for them. The *Conversazione* goes further, it individualises the pleasant party, and each and every member of it brings his or her special talents to bear in contributing to the enjoyment of every one who is met in turn. This con-

tact of mind on mind sharpens the intellect and inspires the saying of whatever is worth relating—*bon-mots* flavored with good-nature are the jewels which glitter in conversaciones. This being so, it is not surprising that the Scottish taste finds as much, if not more, to amuse itself with in this genial mode of meeting and congratulation as in any other form prescribed by good society; and the *Conversazione* which takes place to-morrow (Tuesday) in the basement of St. Andrew's Church, is pretty certain to be one of vivacious and refined intercourse, everything, in fact, which has made the *Conversazione* an indispensable institution nowadays. It is being held under the auspices of the Missionary Association of St. Andrew's Church; and, from all we hear, it will be such a success that if those interested should fail to be present at it, they will miss one of the most noteworthy occasions of the season.

A Voice from Bay De Verde District.

NOTING THE ACTIONS OF MCNEILY AND MARCH.

They Need Not Again Apply for Election.

DEAR SIR,— In looking over His Excellency's speech, I find that it is longer than usual, but I find nothing in it which foreshadows anything for the future prosperity of poor Newfoundland. The Government seem to think themselves impregnable, with a mock opposition at their back who sit quietly and assist them to vote away the public moneys in Jubilee balls, Placentia Railways, &c., without the sanction of a majority of the country. But, Mr. Editor, I can assure you the people do not forget the loud professions of the "Reform Party" in 1885, when appealing to us for support, and that when the Government manifesto of no amalgamation was blazing before the country the leaders of the Reform Party were even then conspiring to amalgamate with the so-called opposition.

Let the present unprincipled crowd called a Government beware how they treat a long-suffering people. The time is not far distant when the Government will have to face their constituencies again, and then they will find to their sorrow whether they can deceive the people with impunity. We well remember—and will not soon forget—the broken promises and pledges of our wily members when they came as sheep in wolves' clothing.

Now, Mr. Editor, I wonder if Messrs. McNeily and March know that we are watching their actions right through since they left the district. We remember all their promises, not one of which has been redeemed, and we are glad to hear that the time is not far when they will have to hunt up another district if there is any other foolish enough to have them. I would advise them not to ever look at Bay De Verde district again. What we want is two clean men who will support Sir W. Whiteway in unfurling the flag of prosperity amongst us.

I am, yours truly,
NO HUMBBUG.

Western Bay, Feb. 18, 1888.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.

DEAR SIR,—I notice in Friday's issue of the *Colonist* that the reporter of that paper, in commenting upon the movements of Mr. T. J. Murphy, has thought fit to drag my name through his columns in connection with the matter. Sir, I would have no objection to his doing so, provided he confined himself to facts; but when he makes assertions which are utterly untrue, I consider it to be my duty to contradict them. In the first place, the *Colonist* asserts that I said "Mr. Murphy appeared as usual and nothing seemed wrong with him." This, sir, is utterly untrue, in the first place, because Mr. Murphy was laboring under great mental strain for some time previous to his disappearance, and, in the second place—which clearly establishes the falsehood of the *Colonist's* assertions—I never told the *Colonist* reporter, nor any other person, that there was nothing wrong with Mr. Murphy. I hope, in the future, that when the reporter of the *Colonist* wishes to procure "items of interest" for the information of his readers, he will confine himself to facts, or otherwise state matters on *supposition*, if so disposed, so long as he leaves my name out of it. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the use of your valuable space, I remain, yours truly,
FEBRUARY 25th, 1888. M. FLEMING.

The Newfoundland mail boat will leave on time to-morrow, the English steamer, as will be seen by the foreign message, having arrived at Halifax. One local steamer will need to leave promptly this spring for she is likely to meet considerable obstruction from ice, advices from Rose Blanche showing that the Gulf drift is already in motion southward.

The name of Miss Clara Fisher is on the programme for this evening's concert in the Athenaeum Hall.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY NOTES.

Admitting Ladies to Afternoon Debates.

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ADDRESS.

The Sealing Bill in Committee.

The House, both gallery and floor, was well filled on Friday night. There had been for the past week whisperings going across the floor from member to member as to the advisability of making provision for the admission of ladies to the debates. There appears to be a general consensus of opinion in favor of admitting ladies and setting apart that side of the "lower gangway" in which is placed the press-box. No doubt can be entertained that the presence of ladies in the House would not soften down the oft-recurring harsh, personal tone of debate. One could not be more forcibly struck with the ritualistic appearance of the Assembly Room than on the occasion to which I shall make reference. The clerk of the House, with gown and bands and closely-shaven face, stood up under the blaze of light of the new candle-sticks. It looked quite realistic and would always tempt a man who had forgotten how—say the Democrat Robert John—to kneel and pray.

At nine o'clock the popular member for Fortune Bay—Mr. Bond—got upon his legs to propose an amendment to the section of the address having reference to the Bait Bill. The amendment set out the vested interests which the people of Fortune had in the bait fishery how the present bill was empiric and speculative in its character, and that the bread and butter of the people of Fortune Bay should not be experimented upon by Government chemistry. That there were 5,300 people engaged, \$88,000 invested and about \$300,000 annually earned in Fortune Bay from this fishery.

Mr. Morine seconded the amendment in a short speech in which he not only found loopholes in the bait act, but also drove a coach and four through it and ended by showing how first a Canadian schooner and subsequently a Fortune Bay vessel might cut through it with every sail set. At the conclusion of his speech he paid some attention to his colleague Mr. Keane and asked him, in accordance with the petition of his constituents, to come over and sit upon this side of the House.

Mr. Keane rose to reply in a somewhat heated and angry mood. All through his speech he kept his right hand in his favorite razor-strapping movement. His defence was contradictory, lame and foolish. He commenced by praising the Government; he ended by abusing it. He, in the first of his speech, stated the Government had done every thing for Bonavista; that it had made it a land flowing with milk and honey, and at the tail of it, he said that the Government did not do these things, but had promised to do them, and that they were going to do them; and that Bonavista was in a bad state, and that it was not his fault.

It was now 11 p.m., and Mr. Morris rose and said, as it was now so late, and as the committee was about to be raised, he would not delay the House. It had been asserted that the Liberal Party had been bought, in fact, that he was bought. This assertion had been made by Mr. Parsons, who is now sitting with Mr. Murphy, who twelve months before had kicked him out of St. John's. While he would bear with the member for Bonavista saying he was bought, "I will not bear," said he, "with such as you," angrily pointing at Mr. Parsons.

The Democrat arose, one vast smile of contempt lit up the hills and valleys of his rugged countenance, then he proceeded to make, without exception, his very best speech. He was sorry his friend had become so angry over what must have been an imaginary wrong. He had said the Liberal Party was bought, but that reference was directed to Messrs. Scott, Callanan, Greene, O'Mara, McDonnell, etc., the elders of the party, and not to his young friend, whom he had quite forgotten. He was sorry Mr. Morris was not bought by the Government, and it was not his fault if the Government did not consider his neutrality worth bargaining for. The member for St. John's West need not be so precipitous, the time will come, for he is growing in years, in size and weight each day, when the Government will be glad to buy him. He apologised to the gentleman for saying that he was bought when the Government did not buy him.

BIRTH.

At Fortune Bay, on the 20th inst., the wife of A. J. Wiseman, sailmaker, of a daughter.

DIED.

On the 22nd inst., the Rev. W. J. Hoyle, for many years Incumbent of St. James' Church, Carbonear. On Sunday, the 20th inst., Mary Jane, beloved wife of Charles Ellis, aged 48 years, a native of Stokeintighhead, Devon, England. Funeral on Wednesday next, the 23rd inst., at 11 o'clock, from her late residence, 232 Water Street, when friends and acquaintances are respectfully requested to attend without further notice. Last evening, Annie Ashton, only daughter of John T. and Elizabeth R. Carnell, aged 1 year and 5 months, at Belle Isle, on Feb. 26th, after a short illness, borne with Christian resignation to the Divine Will, Mr. Thos. Power, aged 50 years, much and deservedly regretted; leaving a wife and six small children to mourn their irreplaceable loss. On the 11th inst., at Briggs, Goulds Road, Simon, second son of Margaret and Andrew Ryan, aged 28 yrs; deeply regretted by all who knew him.

Auction- Convers- Auction- Auction- Superfin- For sale- North St- Choice o- Dellelou- Tea-Mee- Loan mo- Canada b- White m- Notice t- Steamer- Lecture- Grand m- Meeting- Wanted- "J" in bars- wrapped a- pound, s- sore hau- ine. It p- purposes- for it. TA can be su- Househo- at the r- per ton, feb20, To-M B [At his 25 50 5 bris pi- 1 bread s- feb28 Valua I WIL tion o'clock, o- Land sit- ent occu- The abov- Davis Es- feb28 St. The AT L ONe Puch, o- Saturday- dia, Fle- Glasgow- People's- graph, 3- British- Tribune- treat Ga- Telegraph- A Qu feb25, 31, Very On Du I AM Pub March, \$200. This dw- late Joh- Legates- Office: 3- opp. F- feb14, p- Bu 25 Ca feb23, t- Corne with- on Co- 61 ye- feb21,