The Evening...

...John, N. B., April 21, 1864.

...News of the "Asia"

(By Telegraph to the Saint John.)

New York, April 20.—The Asia arrived at 1 o'clock. Breadstuffs declined:—Wheat 2d to 3d—Flour 1s6d to 2s. Corn 1d lower.

Consols closed at 87¾ to 87⅞. Other markets unchanged.

The arrival of land officers and troops at Halifax. The Alert were detained by the ice.

An Order in Council assembles Parliament on the 28th inst. for the purpose of receiving the Speech from the Throne announcing treaties with Austria, Prussia and Denmark.

The Bill of relief has passed the House of Commons for the compensation of Canada sufferers.

Despatches from England, if it should become necessary, entrust the Czar's ultimatum made in his letter to the King of Prussia.

Lancaster Locks at Preston and Liverpool commencing, and a great battle momentarily expected.

THE FREE PRESS.

We have, it appears, awakened the ire of the intelligent editor of this formidable journal, who bestows upon us a deal of abuse of "words, words, words" upon our poor devoted head, in his issue of Wednesday last. We beg leave to inform the Free Press, that time over and again, quite as much opprobrious nonsense has been propounded for our peculiar benefit by different factious papers, and that we have not only survived such attacks, but actually grew fat by laughing at them. Hearty and continuous laughter is said to produce this result; we must therefore persist, as we have a special horror of undue obesity!

The unparliamentary allusion of the Free Press to previous matters in which the publisher of the paper, and another individual were solely concerned, which we fully explained some time ago, and which forms the commencement of our contemporary's tirade, at once gave us a taste of his quality, & we were by no means disappointed, when we ascertained at the conclusion of his hotch potch editorial, that it was more remarkable for virulence than for virtuous indignation.

Many of our best friends, social and political,—many of our best and most consistent patrons, are to be found in the Temperance ranks, and we are proud to recognize under the same banner, men of high moral standing in the many communities of which this Province is composed. To such persons we can appeal with confidence if we required the extraneous support which the weight of their judgments and influence would ponder, against the queerly and tyrannical doctrines upheld by the Free Press and a few others of the same kidney, in reference to the great cause of Temperance reform.

A good cause—which we believe this to be—requires no abuse, nor coercion to maintain it.—History informs us that all efforts that have been made amongst a free people to *enforce* the adoption of a particular form of religion, have turned out to be miserable failures, and if the prohibitted doctrines did not evince a greater degree of vitality at the sequel, at all events those who sullenly maintained them had become more dogmatical, determined and fanatical, and the spirit of true religion was less evident, than at the commencement of the conflict.

With all men capable of thinking for themselves, "moral suasion," as the Yankees call it, will effect more, than any other course which can be adopted. "More flies," says the old saw, "are caught by honey than by vinegar," the frequent assertions of the *Free Press* to the contrary notwithstanding.

We are ostentatiously told by our contemporary that he once copied an article from the *Chronicle!* We took so little notice of this important fact at the time, that we forgot to save the paper, which paid us the compliment, but we can now assure its editor that we realise some slight consolation as we reflect upon our neglect, when we recall to mind that such journals as the *London Army, Dispatch*, the *Dublin Church Witness*, and the *Woolwich Gazette*, have frequently honored the *Chronicle* by republishing the emanations of our pen, and further, that none of these valued papers ever acted so shabby a part, as to tell us of it afterwards.

It is said, that "covert insinuation is worse than open lying," and as we have before us a specimen of the former, we shall the more particularly refer to it, in order to prove the force and truth of the adage. The editorial in our issue of the 14th, and of which the *Free Press* so dolorously complains, runs precisely as follows:

"All right-thinking men approve of the total abstinence principle; but a principle is one thing, whilst the manner of carrying it out is quite another affair. When we see men, purely for the sake of realising their own selfish or ambitious ends, possessed of not one spark of love for their fellow men, holding themselves out to the world as right Samaritans, and professing to despise all others who do not in every particular unite with them in their fanatical views, and wild vagaries, and at the same time harshly condemning every one who will not rank under their banner, and vociferously approve of their conduct; we plainly tell these pseudo-patriots, that it is high time the mask of hypocrisy is torn from their lugubrious countenances, and their motives placed before the public in their true light. Excessive zeal in a good cause, when influenced by pure motives is truly praiseworthy; whilst the same amount of untiring energy in a similar cause, if prompted by selfish, by party, or by political considerations, generally ends in covering the one who manifests it under such circumstances, with unmistakeable contempt."

The object of this paragraph is self-evident. We shall not dwell upon it. All societies must consist of faithful beings. The object of many organizations, like that of Temperance societies for instance, is highly praiseworthy, but still all such associations have within them just such men as we have described. What Temperance man will deny this assertion? Hardly a day passes by, but we hear some of the number vociferously making it, and regretting the existence of the fact. Yet the principles of the Society remain the same, and are as pure as ever. Individuals, it is true, are not always what they should be, but the principle is perfect in all its ways.

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