lively airs that had a magical effect on every one present. Away went stately dames and virgins fair with their lords of creation into the merry dance, and thus the festivities commemorative of a great event in mining affairs were fully inaugurated. An ample lunch, with hot coffee and lemonade, was prepared by some one, of which every one partook. No tangle brain, Granger juice, wine or beer was used on the occasion. Water, bright water, as pure as angels' thoughts, that rushed down Silverdale on its way to the great ocean, was the favorite drink on this festive occasion.

Gen. Frank J. Marshall, President of the Marshall Tunnel Silver Mining Company, and Geo. Teal, President of No. 5 Company, were there to receive their guests, and did everything in their power to make them feel at home. James Teal, floor manager and mining engineer of No. 5 Company, performed his part as gracefully as though he was to the manner born in such affairs.

Printed by McKillop & Johnston, Canterbury St., St. John.

The Watchman.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOV. 6, 1875.

THE VISIT OF THE PREMIER.

There is no longer any doubt that the Premier's visit to St. John and Halifax was intended for political effect and was arranged in the hope that something important would come of it in the interests of the Reform Party. Certain journals, we notice, are now claiming that it was Departmental business which called him to those points, but a moment's consideration of the manner in which Mr. Mackenzie spent his time in the two cities is sufficient to demonstrate the absurdity of the claim. He arrived in St. John on Friday evening about six o'clock, and soon after seven o'clock he was seated at the dinner provided in his honor. He was out sight-seeing comparatively early the next day and spent two or three hours of the forenoon in driving around in a barouche to the principal points of interest about the harbor, including, of course, the Negro-town Point breakwater, in course of construction, and Rankin's wharf, where some parties wish to see the railway deep-water terminus located. All the detailed information in regard to his departmental works which Mr. Mackenzie received in St. John—except what he took in with the eye,—amounted to little or nothing. He gave a few minutes to a delegation from the Board of Trade in the interests of the Harbor Commission, and he could not discuss the Courtenay Bay railway extension with a delegation from the Common Council, although he talked a few minutes with the Mayor on the subject. Everything that was said or done at these interviews, Mr. Mackenzie could have transcribed through his Departmental Secretary in twenty minutes from his office in Ottawa; indeed, the conversations were really barren of results. Then he left in a special train for Halifax; reached there Saturday night; spent Sunday properly, no doubt,—for to do him justice, he does not devote his Sabbaths to week-day labor. Monday he drove around Halifax; spent part of his time in Dalhousie College, where he made a speech; was interviewed by railway contractors, to whom he was obliged to give more time than he expected but revenged himself by sending them off entirely dissatisfied; in the evening delivered a lengthy public address in defence of his Government, and next morning was off for Moncton and started homeward by the Intercolonial. It was simply impossible for Mr. Mackenzie to have given anything approaching careful consideration to the business of his Department in the few hurried moments which he devoted to his Departmental officers, and to assert that it was Departmental business which called him to these cities is making an assertion for which there is not a particle of proof.

The fact, we understand, is that Mr. Mackenzie was induced to visit the Maritime cities in the expectation of creating an impression favorable to his Government, favorable to the Ministers who represent his Government in these Provinces,—Ministers who have been unable to do much, of themselves, in that direction. The Old Grits hoped and expected that Mr. Mackenzie would have addressed the people of St. John in defence of the acts of his Administration, and they anticipated from him a speech which would have stemmed the tide of popular discontent, which is daily advancing and threatening to overwhelm the Reform Party in this part of the Dominion. That Mr. Mackenzie himself would have preferred addressing the people from a public platform, where he could launch out in vigorous defence of his acts, to addressing them through the medium of a public dinner, where his speech would necessarily be of a No-Party character, is a statement that will not be questioned; and that the arrangements in St. John were not to his satisfaction need not be doubted after what he stated in his speech at Halifax, when he said:—

My friends in St. John and Halifax were kind enough to urge upon me a public reception. When they did so I conveyed to them my desire that the reception should take the form of a public meeting rather than a banquet to myself. The people of St. John were not able to arrange for a public meeting, but I glad to say that my friends in Halifax have preferred and been able to do so. For my own part, I prefer the opportunity of addressing the citizens of Halifax at large to a private assembly of my friends no matter how influential.

The allusion to St. John requires some explanation. If Mr. Mackenzie was informed that his friends "were not able" to arrange for a public meeting, he surely received information that was wide of the mark. There was nothing to prevent a public meeting, which could have been arranged for at a few hours notice, while Mr. Mackenzie's friends had advice of his intention to visit the Lower Provinces a week or ten days in advance of his arrival. Moreover, a Committee was appointed several days before his arrival to communicate with him and secure an address at a public meeting, and the *Globe* and other papers gave expression to the strong desire that was felt among the Old Grits to have a good, healthy Party speech from the Premier. It was given out, however, at the last moment, that the Premier would not be able to address a public meeting in St. John, the blame of failure being thrown, by those who assumed to speak authoritatively, on the Premier himself. The real difficulty, we apprehend, lay with the Grits themselves,—the Old Grits being anxious to keep up the old lines of division as between them and the supporters of the late Government, the New Grits, having come in from the camp of the latter, being equally anxious to prevent an extreme Party demonstration which might be a reflection on themselves. That the latter prevailed in this instance is established by a number of circumstances. Thus, the demonstration to the Premier in St. John was really denuded of a Party aspect, contrary to the desire of the Old Grits. The *Globe* and the Old Grits generally are very cross over the result and have not failed to "pitch in" to their New Grit allies over the dinner and its attendant incidents. The absence of Mr. Deveber, M. P., from a dinner given in honor of his Leader, as well as the absence of his more intimate friends, was particularly noticeable. These facts, together with the attacks of the Old Grit Press on the appointment of Mr. Rowan as Inspector of Gas,—attacks which were specially offensive, appearing, as they did, during the Premier's visit; the sharp criticism of Minister Burpee from the same source; the attacks on the *News* for overpraising Mr. Mackenzie's speech, and the criticisms of the details of the dinner arrangements in which the Party organs have indulged,—all point to a strong feeling of dissatisfaction in connexion with the visit. What was intended for a Party demonstration in St. John has turned out a lamentable failure. What was expected to bind the Party together and impress the public favorably to the Government, became a source of weakness. At no time since the last General Election have the divisions in the Party been more bitter or more apparent. Another such Reform "demonstration" in St. John and the Reform Party in this City will cease to exist. The Premier's visit to St. John having proved a vast failure, it is rather clever in the Old Grit organs to pretend that his only errand in this quarter was connected with the affairs of his Department! The afterthought, however, will not bear examination, and after the light which we have let in on the "inner life" of the Party, it will probably be abandoned. "The best laid plans" appear to have miscarried, and it would be the manlier part for the Old Grit wing of the Party to own up at once, instead of striving to cover their discomfiture by explanations which are not calculated to improve the condition of the Party's affairs.

The Premier in Halifax.—A principal incident in Mr. Mackenzie's visit to Halifax—second only to his public address—was the interview which he was obliged to give certain railway contractors. These gentlemen have claims against the Government, amounting in the aggregate to a very large sum—we have seen it placed as high as $300,000; but although for two years past they had written and begged the Government for a settlement of some kind, they could get no satisfaction. Their letters remain unanswered, and they can not get the Government's (necessary) consent to sue in the Courts, that the justice or injustice of their claims may be tested in the most thorough and convincing form known to our Constitution. So glaringly wrong did this denial of justice seem to the public, and even to the partisan politicians,—who are generally utterly conscienceless in such matters,—that both of the political parties in Halifax and their newspaper organs, for a wonder, united in urging the Government to dispose of the claims in some shape. Up to the date of Mr. Mackenzie's visit, nothing had been done, and if the Premier could have had his own way in the matter he would have resisted to the last rather than admit the fallibility of his judgment. But it would appear the treatment of the contractors has become so great a scandal that Mr. Mackenzie's political friends, among others, urged him to meet the contractors and hear a statement of their grievances, and the honorable gentleman was obliged to succumb. That he yielded most ungraciously all who know him will readily understand, and that he acted quite discourteously throughout the interview will be believed by most of those who have come in contact with him on public business. He first tried to exclude the reporters from the interview, and sought to make out that his statements to the contractors and their's to him, on a subject of much public moment, which had engaged the attention of the Press and the thoughts of the mercantile community of Halifax,—where the non-payment of these claims has led to much commercial distress,—were to be regarded as "private conversation!" The reporters were about to leave by Mr. Mackenzie's orders, but it would seem that being there by the desire of the contractors, the wishes of the latter prevailed, and they remained and have given the substance of the interview in their respective journals. The report of the *Herald*, which we republish in another column, does not place the Premier in a very favorable light. It exhibits him as discourteous, inconsistent and evasive.

As regards his public address, which was listened to by a very large audience, it must have been sadly disappointing to the great body of the people. Mr. Mackenzie dealt principally with topics which he had previously treated in speeches at Sarnia and St. John, the local affairs of Nova Scotia receiving not the merest mention. His remarks as a whole justified the criticism of a Halifax cotemporary which said:—

He spoke on the Pacific Railway, on the Judicature Bill, on the Postal Law, on British Columbia, on our relations with Great Britain; though he did so at little length, and with conspicuous flimsiness; but he spoke

1st. Not a word on the Halifax Railway Extension.

2nd. Not a word about the Special Rates.

3rd. Not a word about Mr. Brydges' railway policy.

4th. Not a word about the Railway works at Moncton.

5th. Not a word about the merits of the contractors' claims.

6th. Not a word about St. Peter's Canal.

7th. Not a word, we need not say, about the Big Push letter.

8th. Not a word about the Steel Rail Scandal.

In fine, the honorable gentleman did his very best to make a long speech on unfamiliar subjects; in which as little as possible would be said.

The only fresh bit of information thrown out that could bear any comfort to a Nova Scotia Grit was the announcement that the General and Local Governments would probably agree upon a scheme for the preparation and registration of accurate statistics. As this scheme will involve some new appointments to office, it will naturally be received with satisfaction by Mr. Mackenzie's supporters.

THAT DINNER.

It was creditable to St. John that on the occasion of the first visit of Mr. Mackenzie, as Premier of Canada, to our city, representatives of both of the political parties laid politics aside for one evening and joined in eating and drinking and cheering and shouting in his honor. From the first moment that the notion of entertaining Mr. Mackenzie was mooted it was felt by all, except a number of officious Grits, that it should not be made the test of Party, and accordingly gentlemen of both parties were at liberty to be present or absent, according as their engagements or circumstances favored or prevented. The gathering was highly respectable, although it was not such an assemblage as would be got together, say, to do honor to Sir John A. Macdonald, should he think well at any time to visit St. John. The Burpee Interest was, of course, fully represented, members of the Interest from Carleton, York, Sunbury and St. John being present in force; and it is rumored that the sale of tickets not having reached one-half of the number necessary to defray the expenses of the affair, the Minister of Customs ordered a large purchase on his account, and these were distributed *gratis* among personal or political friends, or "where they would do the most good." The speeches were not of a high order of talent, but were probably as good as could fairly have been expected of impromptu efforts. Mr. Mackenzie did not astonish by his eloquence, and sentiment and wit seemed wholly absent. He delivered a plain, matter of fact address, very suitable to the House of Commons,—one to which comparatively little exception could be taken; and, indeed, so square edged and blunt did it appear that the *Telegraph* saw a necessity for rounding his periods, throwing in a bit of sentiment here and there by way of giving them finish and polish, and in one case it added a few lines from Tennyson, which the Premier was entirely unconscious of having uttered. The *News'* report, on the other hand, was quite as blunt and matter of fact as the Premier himself. Speaker Blaine, of the U. S. House of Representatives, and Mr. Hale, of the same body, spoke in rollicking, after dinner style. Speaker Anglin acquitted himself very creditably, as did also the Minister of Marine, except when at an advanced hour he replied to the toast of the health of "the Lieutenant Governor,"—a volunteer toast proposed by Mr. Milligan. His Honor was unavoidably absent,—the invitation, moreover, having been extended to him at the eleventh hour and then transmitted by telegraph. (We may as well mention here that some feeling has arisen on account of the Lieutenant Governor having been omitted from the list of regular toasts, and because of the delay in forwarding the invitation,—matters which have not been explained to the satisfaction of His Honor's friends.) Probably Speaker Wedderburn's speech was equal to any delivered that evening, in dignity, eloquence and fitness for the occasion. The reception of the several speakers was all that could have been desired. The heartiest cheering of all,—for some good reason, no doubt,—greeted Mr. Blaine; all parties cheered the Premier; and even Mr. Anglin, who is not and never will be personally popular, was heartily received on this occasion. The cheering of the Minister of Marine was very enthusiastic. Had the Lieutenant Governor been present his reception would probably have eclipsed that accorded to any of the speakers or guests of the evening. The dinner, as a *dinner*, was a success; while the courtesies which all parties joined in extending to Mr. Mackenzie should convince him of the fact, that although a majority of the electors of St. John are now opposed to his Government and anxiously await an opportunity to vote "no confidence" at the polls, they nevertheless respect the Premier of Canada and have no desire to extend their dislike of Mr. Mackenzie's politics to Mr. Mackenzie's person.

SOCIAL EVILS.

The recent decided stand taken by Judge Watters in regard to the duty of the Police to move more actively in suppressing illegal liquor selling and improper houses, has given profound satisfaction to all citizens of St. John who are not, in one way or another, interested in those violations of law and public virtue. The Judge appears to be in dead earnest in the matter, and if he will follow the subject up as ably and vigorously as he has commenced, he will render St. John a service which will not soon be forgotten. Already the Judge's condemnation of the Police Force, and especially of its Chief, has led to a display of activity which shows what can be done if the Police will but perform their duty. On Saturday night and Sunday, a member of the Force, detailed for the purpose, "discovered" what was no secret to thousands in St. John, namely that several bar-rooms were hard at work, regardless of the hour or the day; and these three or four places were but types of one half of the tavern and hotel bars of the city. The Grand Jury, too, have spoken out most emphatically, their Presentment—which is a credit to their candor and intelligence—showing very clearly that if Grand Jurymen will but take pains to inform themselves in regard to the public evils referred to from the Bench, they will find that they can do very much to secure proper administration of the laws and reduce the volume of crime which is sweeping over the land like a second deluge. The Grand Jury say:—

1. The Grand Jury attending the present sitting of this County Court, beg to thank Your Honor for your pointed reference to two prominent vices which exist in our midst to an alarming extent. We have had those matters under consideration, and entirely agree with your Honor that the laws enacted to control these evils are very imperfectly carried out.

2. The first matter referred to by your Honor—the selling of intoxicating liquors on Sundays and at unlawful hours,—is clear to any person who walks our streets or reads the police reports.

3. We consider the number of taverns in our city and county at least four times as many as the law contemplates necessary, and under the present system many receive license who are not possessed of sufficient moral standing.

4. As a remedy for this evil we would suggest that either taverns should not be licensed in any street or district unless two-thirds of the rate-payers petition in favor of the same, or that a committee of not less than twelve, appointed by the Provincial Government, should have control of the granting of licenses—a majority of whom must vote in favor of every license granted, any person holding an elective office, or engaged in the liquor traffic, to be ineligible for appointment on such committee.

5. No person holding a public office should be entitled to receive a license for himself or any person in his employ, or under his control.

6. In order to carry out the laws effectually, which do exist or which may be enacted, we require a more energetic Police Force. We want men who feel that the responsibility of carrying out the laws and maintaining good order rests with them, and that their duty is paramount to personal friendship or personal comfort.

7. We are informed that there are on the Police Force at present men who patronize taverns, thereby unfitting them to deal with those places; and in proof of the necessity of a more complete renovation of the Police Force, we find that while, according to the quotation of your Honor, the law points it out to be the duty of the Chief of Police and the men under him to deal with the evils complained of, and protects them in the discharge of their duty, that those evils are largely increased during the last few years; that a large number of those who receive licenses sell liquor on Sundays and other unlawful hours, and that it is a very rare occurrence that one of them is exposed.

Judge Watters thanked the Jury for these as for other portions of their Presentment, and again referred to the extreme inefficiency of the Police Force in suppressing the evils complained of. He said he would have copies of the Presentment forwarded to the Local Government, by whom the Chief of Police is appointed, and to the Common Council, by whom the Force is paid, as well as to the Portland Town Council. His Honor spoke very plainly of the necessity for some combined effort being made to check the evils complained of; and he can rest assured that so serious has the emergency become that all our citizens need is for some leader to stand forth and take the direction of the movement, in order to compel the Police authorities to do their duty. It would be absurd to speak of this as a purely Temperance movement; nor will it avail for violators of the law to seek for sympathy on the ground that they are "persecuted." When they took out licences they knew the conditions on which they received them; they tacitly pledged themselves to obey not merely the spirit but the letter of the law; and now it becomes the duty of the guardians of the law to see that they are kept up to their contract. These taverns and bar-rooms,—a majority of which ought never to have been licensed,—are doing harm enough within legal hours; and neither reason, justice nor expediency calls for an extension of the time within which they shall have liberty to poison, degrade and ruin their too numerous customers. We repeat our remarks of last week in reference to the responsibility of the head of the Police Force, and we again demand that the Chief either perform his duty or resign his office. On this point there is "a growing feeling" in the community which will compel one course or the other, and that presently.

Another social evil to which Judge Watters referred, and with which the Grand Jury dealt, is referred to in the following terms in the Presentment,—and this, we may remark, is a subject which we would gladly exclude from these columns did the gravity of the situation permit:—

8. It is notorious that prostitutes are allowed to carry on their shameless business in various parts of the city, and that notwithstanding the laws referred to above, they are continually on the increase; so far as we can gain information we have twenty of these places in the city of St. John. Ten of these are known as fashionable. The women who occupy these places lead wretched lives, and almost invariably end their days in the alms house.

9. The men who patronize many of these places are reputed respectable, and must be persons of means, as the apparel of the women indicate extravagance, and no lack of money. The outward dress of some of these houses are said to be wealthy, and are frequently seen driving our streets in the most dashing style.

10. But while we condemn in unmeasured terms the occupants of these houses, we must not overlook the landlords, who must be aware of the character of their tenants, and their means of gaining a livelihood. While the law punishes the occupants of bawdy houses, no notice is taken of the landlords. If the owners of property were liable to fine and imprisonment for renting their property to prostitutes, and also for damage done to their neighbors, these characters would not be invading respectable districts in this city, causing a decrease in the value of property in that particular locality, and lowering the moral standard of the whole community. The amount of misery and moral ruin caused by the existence of these houses is incalculable.

11. We feel that one great hindrance to dealing with either of the vices referred to is that when information is given, lawyers are permitted at the trial to hold up the person who gives the information as a pimp and spy. We have no doubt that this often prevents offenders being brought to justice, policemen and others choosing rather to shirk duty than to be subjected to such treatment. The Recorder, or some other able lawyer, should be retained by the authorities to prosecute such cases.

As parents and citizens we again thank your Honor for thus publicly bringing these vices under notice.

There is a good deal that might be said in regard to the persons who maintain these houses,—both by frequenting them as callers and by contributing to rent, buy or furnish premises for the female managers,—but which, though daily discussed on the streets, will not bear reproducing in the newspapers. The Jury have drawn a dark picture, but they have come very far short of the actual facts. Some of the worst features of the frightful traffic they have not touched upon. Of one thing those who desire to reduce the evils arising to society from this fountain of pollution should be aware, namely, that matters could not have reached their present pass in St. John if the frequenters of these places were not in many instances persons of influence, persons who pass for gentlemen of taste. If we assume that in some cases at least they are persons whom the Police fear to disturb or arrest, that in others they possess sufficient means to purchase silence; that the rowdy habits of some make them dreaded in a personal contest; and that their numbers are so large and the *esprit du corps* is so strong among them that members of the Police Force, who in too many instances are only sojourners in the department, fear to incur a life-long hatred by interference with them or their favorite resorts,—we shall probably have reached a portion of the truth. To break up these vile haunts; to preserve our youth from their contaminating touch; to remove from our midst those influences which tend so largely to destroy domestic happiness and are scattering on every hand the seeds of physical and moral death, is a work of more than ordinary magnitude. The Grand Jury, we notice, as "parents" thank Judge Watters for his timely remarks; and yet, unless public rumor is greatly at fault, the bulk of the revenues of the "fashionable" improper houses of this city is contributed by husbands and "parents," while the names of men are freely used who keep up "establishments" outside of their lawful households. Every moral citizen, every virtuous mother can estimate for himself or herself the effect of such examples on the young and unmarried, who fancy detection and exposure impossible in their own cases when older and married sinners have not been overtaken. It would seem that if there was ever a time when plain speaking was necessary on this delicate and painful subject, it is the present; for if the scenes of the past summer, on our streets and in rural drives in the vicinity of our city, are to be kept up year after year, the influence on our young men and women must be of the most fatal character. The *Telegraph* intimates that the Press and the Pulpit should deal more energetically with this great evil, and certainly the occasion seems to call for plain speaking in these quarters. Doubtless, if the Press and the Pulpit could be made to feel that their labor would not be lost,—that they would have their warfare on this giant wrong-doing the sympathy of all respectable men and women—including those who rule in society and who have it in their power to socially ostracize the debauchee and the companion of harlots,—they might combine to denounce the evil and arraign the evil doers. In the meantime the duty of the Police Establishment is clear enough. They know of the existence of those houses; they know the inmates; they know the law on the subject; and they should not be permitted longer to shirk their plain, unmistakable duty in the premises.

THE MONTREAL ELECTION.—AN ANTI-MASONIC CRUSADE.

The election to the Commons for Montreal West, on Saturday last, resulted in the choice of Thomas Workman, Esq., by a majority of fifty votes. The whole number polled (exclusive of rejected ballots, some 68,) was 4,550, of which Mr. White received 2,250 and Mr. Workman 2,300. At the General Election the vote in this division stood Mackenzie (Government), 2,038, Stevenson (Opposition) 1,442, the Government majority two years ago being 596. It will be noticed that, in this brief space, while the Government vote has advanced from 2,038 for Mr. Mackenzie to 2,300 for Mr. Workman, the Opposition vote has risen from 1,442 for Mr. Stevenson to 2,250 for Mr. White. The advance of 300 for the Government and of 800 for the Opposition illustrates pretty correctly the Party features of the constituency. The Government's friends seem to have been well aware that in a purely Party struggle they would be defeated, and they were wise enough to shape their tactics accordingly. Finding that in the election of last year Mr. White had "tied" Mr. Mackenzie, notwithstanding the corrupting agencies at work on behalf of the latter, they decided to throw Mr. Mackenzie overboard, and in selecting a new candidate the reformers entered the Conservative camp and nominated Mr. Thomas Workman, leaving him free to define his politics for himself. The Government was unpopular in the constituency; Mr. Workman was popular; and, moreover, he condemned the Government's Free Trade notions, declared himself a Protectionist, and questioned their Pacific Railway policy. Taking over with him a number of personal and business friends, and making a break in the Protectionist ranks,—the diversion in the Government's favor amounting probably to several hundred votes altogether,—he was the most formidable candidate that could possibly have been pitted against Mr. White. But notwithstanding the personal strength of their candidate, the fact that railway contractors, Government subordinates, members of the Government, and every other Government agency and influence were brought actively to bear in the election, the Government have held the seat by a majority of only *fifty*; whereas if they had stood even as well with the bulk of the constituency as when Mr. Fred. Mackenzie ran last year, they should have carried the division with several hundred votes to spare. The details of the voting show that a large majority of the business men of the division voted for Mr. White, and that he carried a majority of the English. It was the French vote which defeated him this time, although a majority in the French district was with him last year. This change was owing to an Anti-Masonic crusade instituted by the friends of the Government, and which is sufficiently explained in the following separate remarks of the *Gazette*:—

The French Canadian vote of the division, which is a large and influential one, was largely in favor of the Conservative candidate, and would certainly have remained so but for the anti-masonic agitation started by the friends of Mr. Workman. The publication and denunciation of Mr. White's portrait, in the regalia of a Past Grand Master of the masonic fraternity, appealed so strongly to the religious feeling of the French Canadians against secret societies, and especially against freemasonry, that from the moment of its circulation it was felt that the contest must be a severe one. The effect was greater than was anticipated. An article in *Le Journal des Trois Rivières*, the organ of the Bishop of Three Rivers, arguing that, much as the triumph of a Liberal was to be deprecated, the election of a freemason would be infinitely worse, and advising therefore that Mr. White should be abandoned by French Conservatives, was extensively circulated and had a great influence. Mr. White's leading friends among the French Canadian electors stood loyally by their colors and fought the battle to the last. They argued that with two Protestants in the field the question of whether one of them belonged to a secret society, which was not forbidden by his church, should have no influence. But the appeal against voting for a freemason was a ready and effective one, and scores marked their ballots for Mr. Workman under its influence. As proof of this the result of the polling at the polling stations in the lower part of St. Antoine Ward may be cited. In the seventeen polls, which included the district between St. Antoine and St. Joseph streets, Mr. Workman had a majority of one hundred and seventy-eight; and at the three polls in St. Lawrence Ward, at which the largest French vote of the Ward is polled, he had a majority of thirty-two. In the whole of St. Lawrence Ward Mr. White's majority was eighty-two, and in St. Antoine Ward, above St. Antoine street, he had a majority of forty-six. These facts show that Mr. Workman goes to Parliament, not as the representative of the political sentiment, but of the anti-masonic feeling, of the electors of Montreal West. We make no complaint of this. The appeal to influences of this kind must be regarded as discreditable on the part of those who made them. But the electors who were carried away by them simply acted in accordance with a strong religious conviction that all secret societies are opposed to the interests of the State. We think they were wrong in allowing this to affect them in a purely political contest between two Protestants; and we are glad to know that a vast number of the most intelligent among our French-Canadian citizens took that view and worked zealously for Mr. White. The influence was, however, sufficient to change what would have been a victory for the Opposition candidate into a defeat; and Mr. Workman has the satisfaction, such as it is, to feel that he has been elected not because his principles were those of a majority of the electors, but because his opponent happened to be a freemason.

The reader and the public will observe that while the Premier is everywhere proclaiming that his Government knows neither section, creed, nor class, his followers in Montreal by their acts are giving the lie to his professions and introducing into electoral contests an unprecedented and, we believe, a dangerous mode of warfare based on hatred of Freemasonry. It seems almost incredible that resort should be had in any community in Canada to an attempted proscription of members of the Masonic body from political life. The fact, scandalous and cowardly as it appears, must be recognized as another proof of the desperate necessities of the Government Party, and must satisfy all doubters as to the slight hold which the Government have on this important constituency. There can be slight reason for doubting that what appears to be a temporary advantage to the Government will really prove a permanent loss. Certainly the moral sentiment of the people of the Dominion is sufficiently sensitive to be alarmed when the representatives of the Government of the country are found circulating appeals to prejudices and hatreds worthy only of the naked savages of Africa.

A WICKED "FARMER."

The Fredericton *Farmer* is getting spicy. We never expected it, but it's a fact, nevertheless. The country will be surprised, but, then, experience should have taught us that "wonders will never cease," and our astonished fellow-countrymen must not be taken aback with anything that henceforth may happen. The *Farmer* attacks The Watchman for an article "unworthy of the paper in which it appeared," this unkind remark being applied to the few kind words which we took occasion to say in reference to the coming Convention of farmers in Burton in January next, at the call of Messrs. Perley, Stirling, Miles and others. Now, we had supposed that if there was one article more than another in The Watchman of late which ought to have given satisfaction to farmers generally, and the Fredericton *Farmer* particularly, it was our appreciative comment anent the coming agricultural gathering. Did we not hint to the Sunbury men that they were expected to find dinners for a great body of people who would probably have travelled immense distances? Could we have rendered the agricultural delegates any better service than that, under the apprehended wintry circumstances? If so, let us have particulars, but no more misrepresentation of The Watchman, such as we find in the following paragraph in the *Farmer*,—a paragraph which,—our eyes moist with tears, our hand trembling with emotion as we feel round for the steel cutting scissors,—we transfer to our sympathetic columns:—

Our contemporary says, speaking of the proposed convention: "We dare say some good may come" of it; but straightway, as if to prevent such a result, he tells his readers that the farmers of New Brunswick scarcely agree on any subject, not even about the market price of butter.

Now, *did* we really use the Butter argument to prevent good coming out of the movement of the men of Sunbury? *Could* we have been so inconsistent as to be seeking the downfall of the League movement at the same time that we broadly hinted to those same men of Sunbury that they should be as regards providing nourishment for the delegates who are to pour into Sunbury's capital in mid-winter? Out upon such an accusation! Perish the thought that there breathes a man, much less an editor, with soul so dead, that never to himself hath said that Agriculture is the basis of a country's prosperity, the very foundation stone, the cellar, the end wall, the sides, the supports and the Mansard roof of the mammoth edifice we call Society; and that the League movement, with the editor of the *Farmer* as head-bugler, is the happiest thought that Providence has yet vouchsafed to an afflicted agricultural population! Let us hear no more, then, of this latter business,—it's too slippery a subject for even the editor of the *Farmer* to handle with impunity; and he need not think to get subscribers for the *Farmer* in the rural districts by representing The Watchman as unsound on this question of questions,—the question of the price of Butter,—the question of the agreement of farmers in reference to the price of Butter,—the question as to whether a statement of disagreement among farmers as to the price of Butter is sufficient cause for ruining a St. John newspaper and consigning its editor to extra heated perdition!

But cruel as is the use which the *Farmer* makes of our statement that farmers can not agree as to the market value of Butter, that recklessly unprincipled paper hurls at The Watchman another accusation even more wicked than its first:—

"The Watchman, with the object of killing the movement in King's County, represents it as a scheme of some agitators in Sunbury County. There its Burpeephobia shows itself. A sarcastic reference to the latter County as having produced the Minister of Customs and Hon. W. E. Perley follows. Then it "opines" that the convention will be as great a success as either of these "achievements." Whatever the two gentlemen whose names we have mentioned, may be in fact, in the Watchman's eyes they are worse than failures. The conclusion is that in the opinion of that paper the object of the convention will be frustrated."

When we read these few lines—so full of all uncharitableness, so illustrative of innate depravity, so foreign to the Christian spirit which an agricultural editor ought to possess, we just sat down and wept. We thought of Beecher and his troubles; we re-called the difficulties of the Tichborne Claimant in regard to his identity; and the mind reverted to those trying times when the Editor of the *News* was trembling on the verge of that terrible plunge which landed him in the bosom of the Organized Hypocrisy; and we asked ourselves, what are all these in comparison with the shocking accusations and "conclusions" of the *Farmer* against The Watchman? Neither of these great wrong doers has caused of murder most foul. It was never charged upon them that they had deliberately and maliciously "killed" an unborn movement. Whatever outrages they may have perpetrated on society and their friends, it was never laid at their door that they entertained the opinion, in their heart of hearts, that the Minister of Customs was a failure as a statesman, that the Hon. W. E. Perley was not a brilliant success as a buyer of Percherons, or that "the object of the Convention" should be frustrated! It was reserved for The Watchman to bear this load of odium; and to have the awful burden fastened upon it by a truly good, though perhaps not over brilliant, contemporary Editor of the Celestial City. The mind is dazed at the appalling wickedness of the times in which a Celestial editor could so treat his fellow man and not be struck by lightning on the spot. But we can not pursue the painful subject further. We have said enough to show that there are journals which, though edited by truly good men, are terribly reckless and God forsaken.

Turn we now to a more congenial subject. The scene is laid in Sussex. The occasion, the assembling of a dozen or more gentlemen, known as the King's County Farmers' League, to dispose of all matters pertaining to the agricultural future of the county. Here are gathered the wit and wisdom of King's County's farming population,—the very essence of the bone and sinew of her thriving villages and fertile settlements. Keator, of Nauwidgewauk, one of the best read farmers of the Province, is there; and Nowlan, of Smith Creek, whose single Session's experience made him long for further Legislative honors, is there too. So are Stocktons and Raymonds and other successful cultivators of the soil, who were able of their experience to cast not a little light on those practical subjects which came up for discussion. But the most important feature of the gathering was the presence of the Editor of the *Farmer*; and when the President noticed the fact of there being "strangers in the House,"—a Celestial stranger at that,—so far from the old Legislative practice of clearing the galleries being followed, the Celestial visitor actually got upon his legs and poured forth a body of enlightening facts and suggestions which must have led captive the enchanted agriculturists of King's. He told them first that he knew nothing, "practically," of farming, and then the gay deceiver absolutely proved that he knew everything about it. He defined his position as a "writer on agriculture,"—a circumstance which few who read the *Farmer* would have suspected—and after explaining that "writers on agriculture" "deal in general principles," he proceeded to expatiate on "artificial manures,"—from which we infer that in agricultural circles "general principles" and "artificial manures" bear a close relation to each other. After condemning "artificial manures" as useful only to horticulturists, he eulogized lime. Lime, said the writer on agriculture, "when it is applied to clay land it is of great benefit." And again: "the application of lime to sandy soils is not really beneficial." He had personally "mixed lime with swamp muck" with the happiest results. This was great news for the farmers. The amount of new information they had there and then received was truly wonderful. They would probably have been delighted to hear the editor on gypsum, but he passed on to manure heaps and compost; and here he declared, to the great enlightenment of this gathering of practical farmers, that "one great way to add to the fertility of the soil is to increase the manure heap itself." How the farmers must have stared at each other when the revelation dawned upon them! Doubtless, they had never seen matters in that light before. But when the writer on agriculture added that "he knew a man" who "increased his manure pile more than a third" by the addition of muck, these practical farmers must have been struck dumb with amazement, and bowed their heads in shame to think a mere writer on agriculture had been obliged to come all the way from Fredericton to post them in farm management. It gives us great pleasure to chronicle this agricultural triumph of the Editor of the *Farmer*; and we know the correctness of the facts whereof we speak, for are they not recorded in the columns of the *Farmer* itself? It is easy to perceive that when such edifying remarks are made by the speakers at the meetings of the King's County League, their publication must have a stimulating effect on the backward condition of agriculture in this benighted Province.

CIVIC REFORM: SHALL WE HAVE A ROUSING AGITATION?

Some days ago, at the call of a heavy tax-payer, a considerable number of heavily taxed citizens met and discussed civic affairs, more especially with reference to the representation of property at the Council Board. The meeting, which was private, resolved to petition the Legislature in favor of a Bill making the qualification for Mayor the possession of "real, personal or mixed property" to the value of $8,000, and for Alderman or Councillor $4,000, and providing that the Mayor shall be elected from the Council. The same gentlemen will also discuss a better system of assessing and levying rates and taxes. It is gratifying to find on foot a movement of any kind looking to improvement either in our system of Civic Taxation or the constitution of the Council. Discussion of those subjects must be beneficial. When any large number of our citizens take up Civic questions earnestly, and with a sincere desire to remedy the many defects and remove the inconsistencies which are believed to adhere to the present system, every one should wish them success. They are especially entitled to succeed when they take into consideration the position of all classes of taxpayers,—those who pay on real estate, on personal property, on income and on the labor of their hands from day to day. Any measure of reform, any scheme of taxation, to be perfect must be based on the claims and circumstances of these several classes, any short-coming in this respect being certain to affect the extent of the sympathy and co-operation which a sound, comprehensive scheme would be certain of securing at the hands of our citizens at present. We trust, then, that any new movement in the direction of reform will be of such a character as will command the support of the very large body of rate-payers, of all classes, who desire to co-operate in securing a change for the better.

We hope, too, that during the winter months, when there is a lull in commercial and other pursuits, our citizens generally will see the propriety of entering energetically and thoroughly into the discussion of Civic Reform, and that the important interests at stake will not be left to be battled for by a few persons, who have already, no doubt, borne their full share of responsibility for Civic good government. Every citizen, young or old, rich or poor, should see it to be his duty to master the present Civic situation and aid in bringing about improvement, if possible. The winter months will supply many opportunities for discussion, either privately or at clubs or public meetings, the latter being preferable to any other method, as members and officers of the Common Council could be in attendance to enlighten the public in regard to past Civic management and offer their opinion on proposed changes. We are confident that three months of honest, intelligent, persistent agitation, at public gatherings and through the Press, will contribute greatly to bring out a better state of things. It would either satisfy the public mind that our present Civic system is the best we can have, or it would secure its condemnation. In either case the minds of the rate-payers would be relieved.

Ontario and the Manufacturers.—While papers such as the Halifax *Chronicle* are sneering at the value of manufactures to the country, and would, if they could, destroy the local factories by pitting against them the capital and prestige of wealthy and long established manufacturing corporations in other countries, the people of Mr. Alexander Mackenzie's own town of Sarnia are arranging to grant a large bonus to any manufacturer of agricultural implements who will start a factory in that locality. Again, we read in the Upper Province papers such intelligence as the following:—

Cobourg, Oct. 28.—A preliminary meeting of the leading men in town was held last night, in the Council room, to debate the propriety of granting a bonus to the Cobourg Carpet and Matting Co., late of St. John, N. B. A committee was formed, and a public meeting was called for Friday evening, in the Court room. As the building and some machinery are placed at the disposal of the company, it is hoped that they will come to terms and remove their plant to this town immediately.

It is no uncommon occurrence to read advertisements in the Ontario papers, offering on the part of townships bonuses such as that which will probably secure to the town of Cobourg the advantages arising from the presence of a Factory capable of manufacturing Matting and certain descriptions of Carpeting for the whole Dominion. In this way Ontario is succeeding in attracting to herself not only capital and skilled labor to an extent that would startle the other Provinces if all the details could be collected and published. They don't, up there, agree with the Halifax *Chronicle* and its wretched policy of belittling the manufacturing interests of the country. Instead of encouraging the Press to misrepresent the importance and standing of manufacturers, they would probably give any editor who attempted the game notice to "quit the township" in twenty-four hours, on pain of having his person decorated with a coat of tar and feathers if he left the remonstrance unheeded. This might seem like the justice of barbarism, but it would be fair and manly and Christian-like as the abominable treatment which the manufacturing interest of Nova Scotia has recently received at the hands of the Government Press of Nova Scotia.

The Minister of the Interior, it appears, is visiting his Belfast, P. E. I., constituents, but on the sly. He has been addressing some meetings in his County, but he was careful to give the outside world no advance hint; and accordingly no opportunity was offered those who dissent from the Government's administration of public affairs to seek from Mr. Laird those explanations which the country has a right to receive at his hands. It appears that there are foolish people and newspapers on the Island that expect Mr. Laird to explain why he and his Government colleagues called upon Her Majesty to intercede with the New Brunswick Legislature in the interests of Denominational Education, and why he and they have forced Separate Schools upon the North West Provinces. Mr. Laird will be grey headed before he offers satisfactory explanations on these points; and yet those persecuting people are asking him to call a public meeting in Char