

full extent. Had such a law been passed under a recent administration parties in Pictou as unitedly as at present would have repudiated the measure as unjust and oppressive.

We shall not here discuss the principle of assessment for education, but even admitting the soundness of the principle, it is an outrage on private rights to levy the rate in the proportions fixed by our System of County assessments. A sense of the security of property is essential to the encouragement of industry and enterprise and to the prosperity of a people. The depredations of the thief and wrongdoer are only occasional and may to a great extent be remedied, but from spoliation sanctioned by law there is no relief.

Under the act a simple majority of rate-payers present without reference to the amount of their property or rates, virtually levy the tax without any check on their extravagance; whilst those owning the great mass of property and who really bear the burden of Assessment, have no more voice or influence in the distribution of their own property than if it did not belong to them. There is practically no better criterion of power and intelligence than property, but by this new law it is ignored. If the power of Assessment had been vested in a majority of rate-payers provided they also represented the greater, or some other proportionate value on the Assessment rolls, the law would have been more equitable—every man's vote or opinion would count equally, and his property would be also represented according to its value—but the Act assumes that intelligence alone shall exercise the power, tho' that intelligence should be represented as it commonly is by those persons who figure on the County rolls a few shillings above the poll tax.

The Act itself is an undigested production rendered little more intelligible by the copious comments appended to it. It would be unreasonable to expect its mysteries to be unravelled by any District Inspector, and accordingly on account of serious omissions and blunders, its operation in the neighbourhood of Pictou will be defeated, at least for the ensuing year. Many sections have refused to organize under it, and in others, large majorities will take advantage of irregularities. In one section adjoining Pictou the whole business of Assessment was done at a meeting of five rate-payers. County Sections generally will repudiate the measure, and the seaport of Pictou, liable as it is to an influx of pauper rate-payers and navvies, and wisely dreading any such assertions to their troublesome seat of Water street philosophers will vigorously oppose the introduction of this hasty, unjust, and levelling enactment.

We have gone too far in the paths of universal suffrage, and by the act under consideration, its practical tendencies have been illustrated in a manner more significant than by theoretical declamation about equality and natural rights. If the administration of our affairs, from the highest Legislative and Executive functions to the management of the most ordinary municipal matters, is to be conducted with wisdom, and impart to our institutions a character of stability and dignity which will secure respect, principles of a more conservative nature must be encouraged. We need not go far to witness the evils of a corrupt and debased democracy.

OVERCOMING "EVIL WITH GOOD" ILLUSTRATED.

About three years ago, two burglars broke into a store, in this city, one of them presented a pistol at the head of the owner of the store, and threatened his life. The burglars were eventually arrested, brought up before the Supreme Court, convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment in the Penitentiary. Not many days ago, on some one visiting the Penitentiary, it was mentioned that one of the men was dying of consumption, and that in the opinion of the Medical Officer, his days were numbered. It was also stated that the Government were willing to grant him a free pardon, if he were conveyed to England free of expense. Funds were raised—the passage money produced, and the pardon was granted, but where was the unfortunate man to remain before the steamer sailed. Clothes and money he had none. One cabman refused point blank to allow his cab to be engaged for taking him away. At last, a certain individual hearing the case and pitying his forlorn condition, drove down to the Penitentiary with comfortable warm clothing, drove with him to his house, kept him there till the Mail Steamer for England arrived, took him down, put him on board, gave special directions for his comfort, supplied him with a sum of money, left him with kind words of hope and encouragement. This "good Samaritan" was no one else than the very person whose store had been broken into, by this man, who had been robbed by him of five and twenty pounds, and whose life he had threatened to take. Such a man is indeed an honor to any community.

Local Items.

Dr. Tupper (the Provincial Secretary) returned to this city last week.

Our readers need no longer consult our advertising columns for notices of Government Railway contracts, tenders, &c.

Farini, the celebrated rope walker, has been performing during the week in our city. His feats of daring and aplomb equal, if they do not surpass, those of the great Blondin. The most noticeable parts of Mr. Farini's performances, was the ascent on the high rope with the feet incased in baskets, the walk on the high rope without a balancing pole, and the feats of agility on the horizontal bar.

The Amended City Charter authorizes His Worship the Mayor to appoint—without pay—a number of special Policemen, who shall be subject to duty when called upon, in cases of emergency, and whilst on duty to receive remuneration. At a meeting of the Council, held yesterday afternoon, His Worship signified his intention of exercising the power thereby delegated to him. He is privileged to appoint any number not to exceed one hundred.—*Chronicle*.

GRAND CONCERT.—We learn from the *Star* that the members of the Choir of St. Mary's Cathedral, in this city, under the leadership of J. P. Hagarty, Esq., are making arrangements for giving a Grand Concert, soon after the arrival of the new Organ, now building in Boston. The musical public may, therefore, look forward to one of the most effective musical entertainments that has ever previously claimed their patronage. Mr. Hagarty's ability as a leader is unquestioned; and the Choir of St. Mary's comprise several of the finest voices in Halifax.—*Colonist*.

CONCERT IN ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL HOUSE.—The Amateurs of the Cathedral choir gave a concert on Tuesday, which was numerously attended. We cannot compliment the managers on the Programme neither can we see the object gained by interspersing the compositions of first rate masters with so many works of very inferior merit. The performance was on the whole good. Mrs. Cosse was in excellent voice, and as usual charmed her audience. Capt. Thomas's performance on the flute deserved and received much applause. Mrs. Toldey rendered a Cavatina from *Lucia* with much grace. The choruses we think would have been improved by an extra rehearsal. We hear however that the concert was arranged in a hurry which must excuse this defect.

THE SCHOOL LAW IN YARMOUTH.—The Yarmouth *Tribune* says the school bill, from which so much was expected, has not been cordially received by the people in that county; all but four or five of the School Sections have spurned the Provincial allowance and refused to place themselves under government control. In many places a most belligerent spirit has been manifested, and in some instances the rival factions have only stopped short of actual violence.—*Citizen*.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Miramichi correspondent of the *St. John Telegraph*, writing on the 5th inst, says:—"The recent failures in England referred to in my last, have not been so disastrous to our mercantile community as many were led to believe. True, the times are exceedingly dull, money very tight, lumber low, wages low, and every thing else on a low level. Yet the business of the County is going on, if not so briskly as heretofore, nevertheless going on in the department of lumbering, ship-building, &c., to an extent that will give employment to the labouring classes. No mercantile firm has collapsed—no shipyard has suspended operations—no store has closed its shutters. On the contrary, new vessels are being laid down in our shipyards—lumbering parties are getting into the woods, and loaded scows and truck wagons are hourly taking their departure from our wharves, freighted with the needed supplies for the many camps in the distant forest. The only exception so far, is the shipyard at Rose Bank, occupied by John Haws, Esq., who some months ago, in consequence of the low prices for ships, decided to suspend operations for the winter.—*Citizen*."

CROSSINGS.—The Streets Committee are placing a number of new granite Crossings at some of the nuddest corners. All the principal streets are now pretty well supplied with crossings, although some places may yet be found, where they would be of great benefit to pedestrians. The Committee have expended a large amount of money in this service during the present year, but they have never spent money for a better purpose. Every tax payer who is eased by this improvement from wading ankle deep in mud, feels as his foot touches solid granite that in this case he receives value for his money.—*Citizen*.