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Evangelium suum est optimum. - Cic.

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SAINT ANDREWS, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1858.

[Vol. 25]

Provincial Parliament.

House of Assembly.

Monday, March 15.
Progress was reported on Mr. Chandler's Bill to abolish imprisonment for debt. The feeling of the House is in favour of the Bill.
Hon. Provincial Secretary laid before the House the Report of the Board of Health for the City and County of St. John.
Another long discussion took place on Mr. Widdowson's Disqualification Bill. Mr. Mitchell proposed an amendment to the effect that all persons engaged in the disbursement of public money should be excluded from becoming members of the Assembly. The amendment was lost by four members voting for it. The Bill finally passed with sundry amendments.

The School Bill was taken up in the afternoon. The first section passed without opposition. The salary of the Superintendent was fixed at £300; Assistant or Clerk at £150. To the second section Mr. Allen moved an amendment, which he finally withdrew. The section then passed. The third section relative to changing the number of Inspectors was opposed by McMillan, McPhelin and others, and supported by Wilton and Gillman. Progress reported.

Mr. Gray gave notice of his intention to move a resolution to the effect that the Government should hereafter have specific days of the week for discussing their measures.

There is a disposition in the House to get through with the business as soon as possible.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that committees should meet either in the evening or at eight o'clock in the morning.

The Postmaster General applied for leave of absence for four days.

Tuesday, March 16.
A long discussion took place on the motion to add a suspending clause to the disqualification Bill.

Motion was strenuously opposed by Mr. Mitchell, but finally prevailed.

Progress was reported on a Bill to amend the Act relating to Municipalities.
A resolution submitted by Mr. C. Perley to impose a tax on wild lands, for the purpose of making and improving woods passed without a division.

The consideration of the School Bill was resumed. Mr. Holsford proposed an amendment to the third section to the effect that the same number of Inspectors should be continued as at present.

Only 3 members voted for this. Original section then passed. Salary fixed at £250.

Mr. Gray moved an amendment to the 4th section to the effect that the City of St. John should be divided into 4 instead of 2 Parishes.

Motion lost, only 4 members voting for it. Section then passed entire, when progress was reported.

Attorney General gave notice that on Saturday he should move the House into committee of the whole in consideration of an address on the subject of an intercolonial Railway.

The Alien Bill was again introduced under a new title.

House adjourned a few minutes before 6.

Wednesday, March 17.

The House was occupied with an important business during the morning. Mr. E. Perley gave notice of his intention to move an address with a view of ascertaining the number of pensioners now existing in the several Counties of the Province.

The House went into Committee on the subject of the correspondence relative to the inter-colonial Railway. Mr. Deafbrisy moved a resolution which was treated as expressing a want of confidence in the Government. Progress reported.

The Bill to amend the Act relating to the opening of Canterbury-street, St. John, passed in Committee, with some amendments.

At half past 2, Mr. End moved that the House adjourn till to-morrow at 10. The reason he urged for adjournment was that several members were obliged to be absent on the Railway Committee, and another very important reason was that this was the anniversary of the Patron Saint of Ireland, Mr. Brown remarked that St. Patrick was a Scotchman. Mr. McPhelin said that he was a Frenchman. The motion was debated for 20 minutes, and the adjournment was carried by 29 to 17.

READING.

Every man and woman who can read at all, should adopt some definite purpose in their reading—should take something for the main stem and trunk for their culture, whence branches might grow out in all directions, seeking light and air for the parent tree, which it is hoped might in time become something useful and ornamental, which in this country is rare. (Critic's Magazine.)

at any rate, all along, will have growth and life in it.

It must not be supposed that this choice and maintenance of one or more subjects of study must necessarily lead to pedantry or narrowness of mind. The Arts are sisters; languages are close kindred; sciences are fellow-workmen; almost every branch of human knowledge is immediately connected with biography; biography falls into history which, after drawing itself into various minor streams, such as social economy, jurisprudence, political and general economy, issues forth upon the still deeper waters of general philosophy. There are very few, if any, vacant spaces between various kinds of knowledge; any track in the forest steadily pursued, leads into one of the great highways; just as you often find, in considering the story of any little island, that you are perpetually brought back into the general history of the world, and that this small remote place has partaken the fate of mighty thrones and distant empires. In short, all things are so connected together, that a man who knows one subject well, cannot, if he would, fail to have acquired much besides; and that man will not be likely to keep fewer pearls who has a string to put them on, than he who picks them up and throws them together without method. This, however, is a very poor metaphor to represent the matter; for what I would aim at producing not merely holds together what is gained, but has vitality in itself, is always growing. And anybody will confirm this, who, in his own case, has taken any branch of study of human affairs, and upon it, for he must have observed how all things seem to work in with and against it, and how it is itself a subject. Learning, his lonely walks, or in society, or in the quiet of his study, he finds one pursuit was something almost independent of himself, always on the watch, and claiming its share in whatever is going on.

Anecdote of Mrs. Burns.

It is generally known that Mrs. Burns, after her husband's death, occupied exactly the same house in Duffries which she inhabited before the event; and it was customary for strangers who happened to pass that way, to call upon her, with or without letters of introduction, precisely as they do to the chugyard, the bridge, and harbor, or any other public object of curiosity about the place. A gay young Englishman, who had been visiting Mrs. Burns, and after he had seen all she had to show—the bedroom in which she poetized, his original portrait by Nasmyth, his family Bible, and some other trifles of the same nature—he proceeded to entreat that she would present him with some relic of the poet which he might carry away with him, as a wonder, to show in his own country. "Indeed, sir," said Mrs. Burns, "I have given away so many relics of Mr. Burns, that to tell the truth, I have not one left." "Oh, you surely must have something," said the persevering Saxon; "anything will do—any little scrap of his handwriting—the last thing you please." "All I want is just a relic of the poet; and anything, you know will do for a relic." "Some further alteration took place, when, at length fairly tired out with the man's importunities, Mrs. Burns said to him, with a smile, "indeed, sir, unless you take myself, I don't see how you are to have what you want really." "Is the only relic of him that I want?" said the petitioner at once without less request.

The "Mod" of St. Kilda.

In the Island of St. Kilda, far out among the waves of the Atlantic, is a purely Celtic population, retaining many of the earlier customs of the race. They have never been brought into contact with our civil government, and they have no sheriffs, gaols, policemen. Yet they have important causes to be decided; an annual division has to be made of their rocks for fowling; the birds caught on neighboring islands have to be allocated; and disputes of various kinds among the community arranged. And how is this done? Just by means of the "mod." The men of the island, as often as needs be, meet in a certain spot, and there, as round the Indian council fire, settle the affairs of the nation. The writer of the sentences, along with some friends visited this distant land a few years ago. They had brought along with them several articles as presents to the poor people. The fears of the party were awakened with regard to the division of the presents, and they doubted whether, whether they could be apportioned with out giving offence, he at once relieved one of the company, saying, "Oh, leave that to our fears, saying, 'This was accordingly done, and in self.' Half an hour the whole was divided with an institution of which we have a perfect specimen at St. John's Celtic population, in this country is rare. (Critic's Magazine.)

A Bewitched Mississippi Girl.

We find in the "Granada Republican" the following singular superstitious narrative:

"We are credibly informed that there is now, in this country, a girl, ten years old, who is very singularly afflicted. It appears that she labors under the impression that she is bewitched. Her case is certainly a remarkable one. She wears a piece of gold around her neck, and if the gold is not watched, the string will twist to suffocation. She thinks if the gold was removed she would die instantly; on one occasion it was removed while she was asleep, and immediately there was a sign of strangulation. Another remarkable feature connected with her case is this: cut off a piece of her hair and throw it into the fire, and she will show evident signs of pain, or uneasiness by screaming. Her hair has been burnt half a mile distant, and at the very instant of burning, she manifested the same sign of pain. Another strange feature in this case is, if the picture of the individual whom she believes to be the cause of her sufferings, is drawn upon paper, and shot at with lead, it makes no impression upon her, but present a gun loaded with silver, and she is thrown into spasms; fire and she is calm again.

A Strong Minded Woman.

Mr. Clayton, author of a book on the Crimean campaign, met in his journey with a strong minded woman. He says: "We next touched at Malta, taking on board a few fresh passengers in lieu of some we landed there. Among the new comers was a lady of a most violent temper, so ungovernable that she had mortally all who did not agree entirely with her ideas upon everything. Her husband informed us that just before his marriage, he was warned by several of the lady's fiery disposition, and to test the accuracy of the information, one evening, as he sat next to her at dinner, he managed cleverly to jog the servant's elbow as a plate of moose turtle soup was offered her, which of course was upset over the young lady's white dress of tulle lace. No complaint, nor even a frown, being evinced, the delighted suitor concluded that what he had heard was a mistake, and that his prospective wife was as harmless as water, gruel, or any other food. So the marriage took place; but soon the lady's real character displayed itself, as always the case after marriage, but never before, and his wife like a human Stromboli, was subjected to fiery eruptions every 10 minutes, upon a fair average. 'How is it my dear,' said the happy husband, 'that having so bad a temper, you stood the ordeal of the soup so well?' 'Why,' answered the lady, 'I may have appeared indifferent at the time, but good heavens! you should only have gone into my room a little while afterwards, and seen the marks of my teeth on the bed-post!'

His Dictionary.

The apt reply of a distinguished American scholar to a benefactor of learning, with whom he was connected, when an increase of the library was a subject of discussion, deserves perpetual remembrance:

"We want more books," said the professor.

"More books!" said the merchant; "why have you read through all you have already?"

"No; I never expect to read them all!"

"Why, then, do you want more?"

"Pray sir, did you ever read your dictionary through?"

"Certainly not."

"Well a library is my dictionary."

The Leviathan.

It is estimated that the total cost of completing her fittings, putting on board stores, etc., and making the Leviathan in all respects ready for sea, will not exceed £120,000, and that the time required will not extend beyond the month of July. It has been proved eight, anchors are not sufficient to hold her at moorings during only a half gale, and she has been supplied with ten, five at the stem and five at the stern. The masts are being made at Millwall: six in all, three square-rigged, and three rigged with fore and aft sails. They will all be composed of plates of wrought iron, an inch thick, riveted together in the same manner as the sides of the ship, or a steam boiler of the strongest description. They will vary from 130 to 170 feet from the keel, to a diameter at the base will be 3 feet 4 inches, to 40 to 45 tons, the weight varying from 30 to 40 tons, exclusive of yard or rigging. In case of it becoming necessary to cut away the masts, an apparatus working by means of a powerful screw is made to compress the two sides together in such a manner as to completely crush them in, and let them fall over the sides immediately. All the main and topmast yards of the square-rigged masts will also be of iron plates. The main yard will be 130 feet long, and lighter than if made of wood. As there is no dock large enough at the entrance to take in the Leviathan, when she needs cleaning, she will have to be "grit-browned," that is, run aground on rows of piles along the Mersey's side for the purpose, and the tide, of course, will leave her dry each low water. (Boston Courier.)

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FORM OF CONTINENTS DETERMINED BY THE SUN. The scientific circles at Cambridge have been recently interested in an observation of Professor Peirce, not yet published, upon the form of Continents. If we elevate a terrestrial globe until the Arctic and Antarctic circles are tangent to the horizon, and then cause the globe slowly to revolve, we shall find that a majority of the lines of elevation in the earth's crust—the coast lines and mountain ranges—will, either as they rise or go down, coincide in passing with the wooden horizon. For example, the main coast of the United States, tending Northeast will, if carried on in a great circle, graze the Arctic circle, and the coast of Florida and Labrador tending Northwest will graze it on the other side. The same is true of the east coasts of South America and Africa, the coasts of the Red Sea, of Italy, of the Black Sea, of Hindostan, of New Zealand, &c. The Arctic and Antarctic circles are also coast lines, being always tangent to the horizon.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this fine discovery, proving as it does, by so logical facts, that the obliquity of the ecliptic has been essentially unchanged since the dawn of creation, and that solar heat was the agent to carry out the command on the second day to let the dry land appear. The line of separation between light and darkness, between solar heat and the coolness of night, travelling daily for two months in summer, and again for two months in winter, in such a position as to coincide in passing with the lines of upheaval, indicates unmistakably that it was connected with the determination of those lines; the slight expansion and shrinking being sufficient to determine the line of rupture of the crust. From a comparison of the continents, Professor Peirce also draws the origin of their Western Continent is older than Europe, and that the Gulf Stream, during the second day of the creation, caused the greatest variety of outline in that continent.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE MARCO POLO AT THE GOLD DIGGINGS.—Sir Henry Barkly has "led the fashion" of making the tour of the mines, it appears. The *Belfast Star* thus describes an interesting incident:—

"The claim of the Caledonian Company was yesterday visited by a party of gentlemen from Melbourne, among whom was Mr. Murphy, of the firm of Messrs. Mackay, Baines & Co., and Captain Clarke, of the celebrated 'Black Ball' clipper Marco Polo. After the party had gone down the shaft (which is 260 feet deep), and were examining the workings below, the miners then at work, nearly all of whom were sailors, were made acquainted with the fact that the commander of the Marco Polo was among the visitors. This created some what of a *furor* among them, and that gentleman quickly found himself the great centre of attraction. The miners presently declared there were only two 'land lubbers' among them, and forthwith presented to Captain Clarke, a handsome nugget as a token that, though they were now engaged in a very different occupation, they had not forgotten 'old times.' Mr. Murphy also presented of their overflowing generosity, and as the representative of the celebrated 'Black Ball' line was presented with a nugget. Captain Clarke thanked them in a telling speech, and the scene, as may be imagined, was rather a striking one, strongly impressing the visitors with the peculiarities of mining life, and the heartiness and geniality of of a sailor's reception."—*M. bouen Age.*

Capt. Clarke is a New-Brunswick, and is son of Mr. James Clarke of this City. The esteem in which our deserving countrymen are held abroad is highly gratifying.—*N. Br.*

A SAD EVENT.—On Saturday afternoon, Miss Sarah Barnard, only daughter of Mr. George M. Barnard, of No. 109 Beach-st., lost her life in consequence of her clothes taking fire. Her mother, who was one of the managers of the Fair for the Poor, was at the Music Hall at the time of the occurrence, and Mr. Barnard was absent. The only persons at the house were Miss Barnard's grand-mother and two servant girls. At four o'clock, Miss Barnard was sitting in the drawing-room, before a fire, awaiting the arrival of a friend, who was to accompany her to the fair. A few moments before her friend had left, her reading, and gone into another room to sit, when she was startled by the screams of her grand-daughter, and rushing in, found her standing on the door with her dress in flames. Her outer

dress was of woollen texture and the fire had taken hold of the linen composing her undergarments. The old lady endeavored to smother the flames with a rug which she threw over them, but being very much alarmed, Miss Barnard broke from her and rushed out of the room, and down the staircase to the kitchen, which was immediately below. Her hurried passage through the air quickened the flames, and on opening the kitchen door she was entirely enveloped in them. The servants ran from the house screaming for help. The first person who reached the spot was the coachman of Mr. G. B. Barnard, who found her lifeless body upon the floor, and her clothes still burning. Dr. H. W. Hooper, who resides next door to the house, was sent for, but his aid was unavailing, she having probably died where she fell. She was an accomplished young lady, and greatly beloved by a large circle of friends. The precise manner of the accidental firing of Miss Barnard's clothes is not known; nor is it quite certain that she was burned to death. It is surmised that upon reaching the kitchen the lost hope, and becoming bewildered died of fright. (Boston Courier.)

THIRST WORSE THAN HUNGER.—That disturbance of the general system which is known under the name of raging thirst, is far more terrible than that of starvation, and for this reason:—During abstinence from food, the organism can still live upon its own substance, which furnishes all the material; but during abstinence from liquid, the organism has no such source of supply within itself. Men have been known to endure absolute privation of food for some weeks, but three days of absolute privation of drink (unless in a moist atmosphere) is, perhaps the limit of endurance. Thirst is the most atrocious torture ever invented by Oriental tyrants. It is the most effectual to tame animals. Mr. Astley, when he had a refractory horse, always used thirst as the most effective power of coercion, giving a little water as the reward for every act of obedience. The histories of shipwreck paint fearful pictures of the sufferings endured from thirst; and one of the most appalling cases known is the celebrated instance in the *Black Rover*, when the crew of a vessel were reduced to the last extremity.

THE MARRIAGE TREATY OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The treaty signed on the 18th of December between Her Majesty and the King of Prussia for the marriage of the Princess Royal (here styled Duchess of Saxony) has just been printed for Parliament. It provides that the expenses of their joint establishment shall be defrayed out of the appanage of the Prince, which is fixed by the King at 92,000 thalers a year; the Queen gives her daughter a marriage portion of £40,000 the interest of which is to be paid to their Royal Highnesses jointly, and in the event of the decease of either, to their survivor for life, to their next children or next of kin. The annual sum of £8000 is to be paid in quarterly instalments by Her Britannic Majesty for the sole and separate use of the Princess, who cannot alienate, mortgage, or receive it by anticipation. On the other hand, the King of Prussia secures for a jointure of 30,000 thalers in case of widowhood, or of 40,000 if the Prince should die when immediate successor to the throne.

IRELAND.

THE TRIAL OF THE REV. MR. CONWAY.—At the sitting of the Court of Queen's Bench on Saturday, 20th inst., the jury on this case were in consultation for a long time, and at length were compelled to notify the court that there was no probability of their agreement. Under these circumstances, the Lord Chief Justice discharged the jury, and thus this prosecution, ordered by the House of Commons ended. A Dublin evening journal says there were six Roman Catholics and six Protestants upon the jury. All the latter, and two of the former, it appears, pronounced for a verdict of guilty upon all the counts. One Roman Catholic concurred with them in respect of some counts. Three Roman Catholics were disposed to acquit the traverser. (The *Standard*.)

TRIAL OF THE REV. LUKE RYAN.—When the Court of Queen's Bench sat on Monday, the traverser's counsel applied for a postponement of this case until next term. This application was grounded upon an affidavit made by the Rev. Luke Ryan, in which he set forth that he had summoned a gentleman named M. Donohue to give evidence on his behalf; but from some cause not ascertained, this witness, who is expected to give material testimony for the defence, had not entered an appearance. Under these circumstances the Attorney General announced that he would not press the case to a trial, and the Chief Justice, concurring in the propriety of the defendant's application, the case was accordingly postponed.