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The Watchman.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1877

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

The following, which we find in the *Freeman* of Tuesday, is probably authorized by Bishop Sweeney:—

On Sunday at 9 o'clock Mass in the Cathedral His Lordship the Bishop announced the fact that arrangements had been completed by which the schools lately conducted by the Christian Brothers will come under the management of the Board of School Trustees for the city. His Lordship referred to the fact that for several years past the Catholics have, besides paying their proportion of the general tax for school purposes, been obliged to maintain their own schools at their own expense. This burden had become so great that some time ago he commenced negotiations with the Government and the School Board for the purpose of relieving the congregation of so heavy a charge. These negotiations, he had now to inform them, had resulted in an arrangement by which the Catholic Schools will come under the control of the School Board. The only thing he regretted was that the Christian Brothers are not to remain. They, acting under orders from their Superior, were not willing to accept the terms offered, and His Lordship was reluctantly obliged to let them go. The schools, however, would still remain to all intents and purposes Catholic Schools. The school rooms are leased to the Trustees during certain hours each day. Catholic teachers will be employed, and before and after school hours these teachers will instruct the children in Catechism, and give such other religious instruction as may be required. His Lordship stated that he had been met in a very friendly spirit by the members of the School Board, who had offered every facility for the completion of the arrangements, under which he hoped to be able to establish schools at York Point, Lower Cove and Marsh Road, which the smaller children can attend instead of being compelled to walk long distances to school as formerly. He again expressed his regret at having to part with the Christian Brothers. It was agreed between His Lordship and the Superior of the Order when the latter was last in St. John, that on notice being given the Brothers would be recalled. This notice had been sent during the past week and the Brothers, who had ceased teaching on Friday, would probably soon take their departure. The schools will for the present remain closed, and the children will stay at home until the re-opening, which will be announced from the pulpit.

It will be noticed that the Bishop states that "the schools will still remain to all intents and purposes Catholic schools," and that he, at the same time, explains why he thinks they remain Catholic schools.

1. The Sectarian School rooms are leased to the School Board. There is certainly nothing contrary to law in this circumstance:—Orange Halls, Protestant Sunday School rooms, the basements of churches, have all been so rented without the lease conveying any imputation of sectarian influence being exerted on the schools.

2. Catholic teachers will be employed. Individual teachers who may be Catholics will, no doubt, be employed, but "Catholic teachers," as such, are unknown to the law and unknown to the School Board. The Board will ask no questions and entertain no proposition respecting the religious faith of any teacher in the School service. The fact that the Christian Brothers will not remain to teach the schools is pretty good evidence that sectarianism in the teacher can not be recognized.

3. Before and after school hours, religious instruction will be imparted to the children in these schools. As in Carleton for the last four years, so here in St. John, the School Board will not interfere with what is done out of School hours. They will know simply what is done *in* school hours and in reference to the studies prescribed by the School Board. Under the Law, no unauthorized text books will be used; teachers will be duly licensed; all the requirements of the Law and the Regulations of the Board of Education will be enforced; and when full compliance with the Law and the Regulations during school hours is yielded, the St. John School Board will not concern itself as to the lessons in the Catechism, which the parents of pupils may wish their children to receive before or after the public school hours. The St. John School Board and the Government in no way recognize the teaching of the Catechism, which is a matter of purely local arrangement. The children will undoubtedly be of the same religious faith, and no offence or injury will be done to the faith or conscience of any pupil.

When the reasons which the Bishop gives for regarding his schools as still, to all intents and purposes, Catholic schools, are considered, we find that if the Bishop is satisfied, city tax-payers and the public generally have no reason to be dissatisfied.

It may be said, perhaps, that these are Catholic schools because they will be attended by none but Catholic children. But there is nothing in the law to prevent other children from attending such schools—nothing in law, indeed, but a good deal in that manly sentiment and courtesy which should be cultivated in all mixed communities—a good deal in that unwritten law which exerts so large an influence over all our actions. We are confident that there is not a father or mother in this City who, while differing from the faith held by their Roman Catholic fellow citizens, would insist, for the mere sake of vindicating a legal right, or for some inferior reason, on forcing his child into a school which is generally attended by Catholic children. We are confident that as long as the leading features of the new School Act—Education free of charge and the non-recognition of denominational education by the State authorities—are fully kept in view, the public and the Legislature will not enquire whether this or that school is attended mainly by the children of Roman Catholic parents or the children of Protestant parents; they will not ask whether this or that teacher is a Roman Catholic. It is true that in this country the State cannot recognize any difference of religious sentiment between the people constituting our communities; it can not take "the proprieties" and the chivalrous part of our nature into consideration when framing laws of general application; but as individuals we can make up for the law's deficiencies in this respect and we can extend to honest differences of opinion that large measure of toleration which is so proper in those who ask the largest measure of freedom for themselves and in all who would seek to harmonize jarring interests.

We deem it a matter for profound congratulation that the School Difficulty in St. John has been settled at last, and we trust it may never be re-opened. There is no reason why it should be re-opened, if the spirit which appears to animate Bishop Sweeney be maintained. The Bishop is now fully satisfied. The members of the Saint John School Board, who are satisfactory representatives of the popular view of the School Question, are also satisfied. We do not believe any difficulty will be created in the public mind, nor does there seem to be any ground for agitators on either side to stand upon in an attempt to keep the breach open. And seeing that such is the fact, seeing that the difficulty might have been healed in this way long ago, it is proper to ask: why was it not healed? The arrangements are precisely the same as Father Dunphy accepted in Carleton four years ago: why were they not extended to St. John at the same time? We believe the cause may be found in the persistent agitation of Mr. Anglin and his *Freeman*; in the fabulous charges which were made against the Free Schools and their promoters through that channel; in the determination of Mr. Anglin to build himself up at the expense of Catholic tax-payers. There are few in this community who do not regret that Catholic parents have been obliged by the requirements of the law to pay their taxes for the public schools, while taxing themselves to maintain their separate schools, and all must deplore the fact that many thousands of dollars have been lost to people who were ill able to afford it, through the persistent misrepresentations of one who assumed to be *the* Catholic champion. We believe, however, that the mist has cleared away from before the vision of the great majority of Roman Catholics in this Province. They see very distinctly now that while Mr. Anglin has done very much for himself he has not been able to do anything for them. They understand that while he has pocketed probably thirty thousand dollars of the public moneys for himself during the past three years, he has done nothing for Catholic tax-payers except printing a paragraph from Lord Carnarvon's despatch at the head of his Editorial column. They asked him for bread and he has indeed given them a stone! After four years of ceaseless agitation, after all their labors and sacrifices, after following their Champion through mud and mire, after ranging themselves at his bidding in positive antagonism to their fellow subjects throughout the Province, after abandoning for a term all hope of political preferment and advantage, they find themselves exactly where they were at the outset of the contest. *They* find themselves so situated, but their Champion rejoices in the Speakership of the House of Commons and $4,000 a year, besides official apartments, member's pay, mileage, and Post Office printing *ad lib*, and all coined from the enthusiasm, the simple faith and the sacrifices of those who foolishly believed that Mr. Anglin studied anything besides his individual gain and his political elevation.

MR. DOMVILLE, M. P., ON THE SITUATION.

In the course of the Debate on Mr. Wood's Amendment to the Government's notice to go into supply,—

Mr. Domville wondered if the country could exist if the Minister of Justice were removed. He had carried the country over many difficulties, and it would be utterly impossible to find one competent to fill his place in the ranks of the Opposition. He proceeded to condemn the policy of the Government as a policy of doing nothing, and he was surprised to hear their supporters defend them so vehemently. While they were dilatory in legislating for the interests of the country, they could spend public money without receiving much in return. It was the custom of the Ministry to draw public attention from their own shortcomings by reviling their opponents. Such conduct could not long deceive the people, and he looked forward to the time when the affairs of the country would be managed by many County Judges on this policy! The commercial and manufacturing classes were depressed to-day simply from want of confidence, and what was more likely to cause that want of confidence was the act of the Finance Minister in throwing cold water on every attempt to establish manufactures. He wished to be able to record his vote for protection and against the policy of the present Government. They had entered office with the cry of reform and purity, but beyond promises there was no sign of carrying out these pledges. The people would not be deceived by promises, and he prophesied that the next election would show their disapproval of the conduct of the Government. They had increased the taxes on articles imported into the country for no other purpose than to meet the increase in departmental expenditure. He complained that the Customs Department was not strict enough in suppressing smuggling, and many cases occurred in which a trader had been carrying on a system of smuggling by which he was enabled to undersell all competitors, and when discovered he would be punished with a paltry fine of $100. He went on to show that the expenditures on steel rails and in other ways unnecessarily aided to create the deficit, and in that connection took occasion to say that only recently he had a telegram stating that he could buy the rails at £5 10s per ton, and the same could be purchased now at £5 5s. He referred to the loans negotiated in England by the Finance Minister, and compared the terms with those obtained by the Australian Government. The latter obtained tenders for six times the amount asked for, the minimum being £96 10s., and the maximum peing par. But the Canadian Minister of Finance was content with £91 for the 4 per cent. loan, less reductions. Yet he said if you were to put £50,000 upon the market, it would sink it 2 per cent. The deduction from all this was that the Minister of Finance acted imprudently in leaving himself in the hands of three or four persons in London, who understood one another and knew exactly how to manage him. He thought the Finance Minister, instead of sheltering himself behind the axioms of Free Trade, should have introduced a bold, vigorous massacre which would benefit the country and meet its wants. In 1875 Canada imported $10,000,000 worth of iron. If this had been manufactured here there would have been $1,000,000 expended on it. There would have been 150,000 tons of coal used. We should have a duty on iron and keep this work for the country. He referred to the West India trade, to show how the want of a careful, fostering policy may change the channels of trade and promote the mercantile interests of the country. The policy of the present Government had diverted the trade in sugar from the West Indies to the United States and Great Britain. Our vessels went to the West Indies, and they had to come back empty, because there was no return freight. The way in which the duty was levied discouraged any direct trade. He criticized the tariff changes, and did not think that they would have the effect of increasing the revenue. While the Government had made no effort to meet the wants of the people, they had continued in a course of extravagance! If he went down to his constituents, they would ask him what about the Intercolonial Railway? Champagne flowing and gilded cars gliding along; that was the way the money went.

The *Mail's* correspondent says that Mr. Domville "made some excellent points. His references to the Tariff resolutions, and especially to the Sugar Duties, which he has the merit of understanding, were very telling. On the last loan he made a statement which leaves Mr. Cartwright not a leg to stand upon. Mr. Cartwright listened for a short time, then seized a newspaper and pretended to read, and ultimately ensconsed himself in the library, and sought solace between volumes of Adam Smith, Stuart Mill and even more ancient authorities." The Montreal *Gazette's* Ottawa telegram says:—

The statement by Mr. Domville last night, in relation to the South Australian loan, is a general topic of conversation to-day. The precise facts are that the South Australian Government advertised for tenders for a loan of half a million pounds sterling, at four per cent. The tenders came, and were opened on the 10th of February last, when it was found that no less than three millions had been offered, at prices varying from 97 to 100. The loan was all taken, at an average of 97½. In the *Economist* of the same day, the quotations of the day before showed South Australia four per cents at 97 to 98, so that the entire loan was taken up at the same price at which small lots were quoted. People are wondering how Mr. Cartwright will meet this crushing condemnation of his wretched mismanagement of his last loan.

D. H. WATERBURY'S CASE IN PARLIAMENT.

In the Commons, on the 22d inst., Mr. Palmer brought up the case of Mr. David H. Waterbury, who was dismissed from the St. John Post Office on suspicion of having tampered with money letters. As our readers are aware, there was no evidence against Mr. Waterbury, and the Postal authorities have never ventured to prosecute him. On the other hand, Mr. Waterbury has left no means untried of endeavoring to secure an investigation, and has finally been compelled to sue Inspector Dewe in order to get an opportunity of vindicating his character before the public. We copy from the *Mail's* Parliamentary summary:—

Mr. PALMER moved for an order of the House for copy of the commission, or other documents, appointing John Dewe Post Office Inspector, and also of all orders defining his duties and functions, and within what limits he was to exercise his said office; also copies of all instructions (if any) that he received from the Postmaster General to make any inquiry into the conduct of David H. Waterbury, a clerk in the Post Office at St. John, or to dismiss the said Waterbury from his said office. He said that Mr. Dewe had dismissed a clerk of the St. John Post Office, without having the charges against him inquired into. The result had been that the clerk in question had been cast upon the world with his charactor destroyed without any justification.

Mr. HUNTINGTON said the clerk had been suspended in consequence of some peculations which were discovered to have been going on for some time. A lawsuit had been entered by him against Mr. Dewe and he (Mr. Huntington) did not think it would be wise to bring down the papers until that was settled. He hoped the last part of the motion would be withdrawn.

Mr. PALMER said the case had been a very unjust one, Mr. Dewe had offered to overlook the matter if the young man would confess. The young man, knowing that he was innocent, refused to confess and was consequently dismissed, and he remained outside of society, as it were, until the real culprit was discovered.

Mr. BLAKE said that as soon as the legal proceedings in connection with this matter which were now pending were terminated, the hon. gentleman might move in this House in the matter, but he (Mr. Blake) thought they ought not as a Parliament to use their power either to further a prosecution in a court of justice or the reverse.

Mr. DOMVILLE said the young man was very respectable, and had suffered a great deal of hardship, and he (Mr. Domville) hoped the Minister of Justice would do all he could to put the young man in question in a proper position.

Mr. BLAKE suggested that the mover of the resolution should simply apply for the instructions.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD thought that suggestion should be accepted. From an intimate personal acquaintance with Mr. Dewe, he (Sir John) gave that gentleman a very high character.

Mr. MITCHELL thought all public information which could properly be given should be at the disposal of every suitor who might require it.

The latter portion of the motion was struck out, and with that amendment it passed.

The *Mail's* correspondence says that "Sir John Macdonald, whilst expressing his high opinion of Mr. Dewe, still protested that Mr. Waterbury's case deserved consideration. Messrs. Mitchell and Domville also favored the application, and remarked on the harsh nature of the case." The Halifax *Herald's* Ottawa letter remarks:—

Mr. Blake and Mr. Huntington would have refused the papers altogether, on the ground that there was a suit pending; but as the gross injustice of this was made plain by Mr. Palmer in his remarks to the House, and, as the accused man had been ruined in character by the mistake that had been made regarding him, it was only common humanity that the required papers should be brought down. Mr. Palmer amended his motion at the request of the Government, and his motion for papers passed. There was a good deal of feeling in the House on this question, and it would have been unsafe to deny the request.

THE ST. JOHN COUNTY SESSIONS.

The Sessions system of County Government, under which nominees of the Provincial Government imposed local taxes and managed all County affairs, has come to an end, and not a hand or a voice—save the voices of a few gentlemen connected with the Provincial Farmers' League—has been lifted to stay its fate. The Sessions system was useful in its day; it was even necessary at a time when popular government was but little understood, when population was sparse, the country poor and the taxes imposed insignificant in amount. But ever since Responsible Government was granted to the Colonies, the people have been chafing under the administration of County affairs by a Board not responsible to and not controlled by the people, and from year to year a public sentiment hostile to the continuance of the Sessions has been maturing and extending. At last the favorable moment for a change has been seized by our Provincial Government; a bill has passed compelling all Counties to organize as Municipalities, and in a few weeks a Municipal Council will be elected by the rate-payers in each County of the Province. The change gives general and complete satisfaction, except to a few Magistrates who may fancy that their importance in society has been somewhat reduced by the summary abolition of their right to do as they pleased with the County moneys and County appointments. We do not think the hardest working and most influential Justices regret the change; their duties, which were onerous, were performed without fee or hope of reward; much of their time and labor was given to the zealous and active discharge of their duties, which in many instances were really a great personal burthen. In parting with the Sessions, the public should not overlook the services of such Justices; and although the public can not pass formal votes of thanks applicable to their cases, we have no doubt that the rate-payers in each County can mentally select a number of their Justices to whom all will agree in yielding a large measure of thanks for unpaid public work as honestly and fearlessly performed as if these Justices had been in the receipt of ample salaries. Even if the system had outlived its usefulness; if it was not in accord with the latest and best views of self-government, we need not hesitate to concede that it gave us many instances of unselfish and conscientious Justices whose example, we trust, will not be lost on those who are to succeed them by virtue of the popular suffrages.

On Tuesday, at a meeting of the St. John County Sessions, steps were taken to wind up the unclosed business of the body, preparatory to the inauguration of the Municipal Act. The Sessions's Committee, with Justice Robert Marshall as chairman, appear to have gone to work very thoroughly and to have acted with the utmost harmony. We quote from the *Telegraph's* report:—

THE MUNICIPALITIES ACT.

Justice Marshall handed in the report on this subject, which was read by the Clerk and was as follows:—

To His Worship the Mayor and the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the City and County of St. John:—

The Committee of Sessions appointed at the last meeting thereof, to obtain a certified copy of the Act relating to Municipalities, passed at the late sitting of the Provincial Legislature, and to take the same into consideration and make such recommendations to the Court of Sessions as the Committee should deem necessary for the due winding up of the business of the Sessions under the Act, beg now to report, as follows:—

1. Finding that a Certified Copy of the Act was about to be published in the *Daily Telegraph*, the committee, instead of sending to Fredericton for a manuscript copy, arranged with Mr. Elder to provide the Sessions with a sufficient number of printed copies, which are herewith submitted to the Court.

2. It will be seen by the 127th section that the Act comes into force on the first day of May next; and that by the 128th section, upon that day, "the Court of Quarter Sessions" is abolished. From that day, therefore, this Court will cease to exist, and whatever it may deem necessary to do before its legal termination must be done previously to that date.

3. No order or action, however, of the Court would seem to be necessary to transfer or carry over the business of the Sessions, or the property or affairs of the County under its control to the Municipality or County Council which is about to take the place of this Court. All that is done by the Act. Thus by section 98, all the powers of the Sessions, or of any Committee, Board or Commission appointed by the Sessions under any Act or Assembly, and so far as in accordance with the Act and the Law generally, to be exercized by the County Council; by sections 106, 120 and 123, all liabilities of and debts due to any County or Sessions, and all lands and property held by Sessions whether for the County or in trust for schools or other purposes, are transferred to and vested in the Municipality by section 61. The Clerk of the Peace and the Treasurer of this City and County are continued in office for one year from the date of the organization of the Municipality, and by section 79 all County Officers continue until appointments are made by the County Council; and all Parish Officers, until the meeting of the Council in January, 1878, when all parish appointments are to be made.

4. This Committee deem it, on the other hand, of great importance that the affairs and all the public accounts of the County should be definitely closed up, audited and reported upon before the first May and that the position and condition of all public Institutions and Buildings, the lands and premises, and the finances of the County should be set forth and recorded fully and clearly, and also published in such a manner as to form a book of reference in time to come.

They, therefore, recommend that the Sessions pass an order at once requiring all Justices having defaulters lists of taxes in hand for collection, and all persons and bodies having any funds of the County, on whatever account, to make payment and full returns on or before the 10th day of April next; that the Auditor and Committee on Accounts should be requested forthwith to audit all returns made and accounts rendered; and to report fully upon the same on or before the last day of this present Quarter Session, namely, Saturday, the 16th day of April; also, upon any not rendered, and generally upon the financial position of the County; that all other Committees, as the County Buildings, Public Slaughter House, Quaco and Simonds Lands Committees, etc., etc., be also requested to report fully at the same time, and that if necessary a Special Session should then be ordered for, and be held upon the last Tuesday or such other day in April, and for such purposes, as the Sessions may appoint.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT MARSHALL, Chairman.
CHARLES A. EVERETT,
JOHN J. JORDAN,
ALEX. LOCKHART,
C. P. BAKER,
W. A. MOORE,
JAS. GEROW, — Committee.

H. W. FRITH, Clerk of the Peace.
St. John, N. B., 26th March, 1877.

Justice Marshall stated that the Committee found that everything necessary for the transition had been provided for in the Act, and that the work of the Committee was very easy.

On motion of Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Everett, the following resolution was unanimously carried.

That the report be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein contained be severally complied with, and the necessary orders be and are hereby made.

Moved also by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Everett:—

That the Clerk of the Peace be directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Chairmen of the respective Committees and to all other officials interested.

It will be noticed that the "winding up" resolutions were moved by Justice Marshall and seconded by Justice Everett, the two gentlemen who were recently rival candidates for the vacant seat in the Assembly! The existence of the *entente cordiale* is a subject for public congratulation, even though it should exist for purely local purposes. There may, possibly, be a significance in the circumstance of somewhat deeper import than appears on the surface. Whether this be so or not, it was quite proper that these two gentlemen should present the resolutions which virtually closed the reign of irresponsible County government, for both are strong believers in popular government and both have recently received unmistakable tokens of popular favor. Both were intelligent members of the Sessions. Mr. Marshall, in particular, had been an active working member of that now defunct body, giving to the Sessions—what, indeed, he has given to every association, society or public body with which he has been connected,—the benefit of untiring personal industry and unflagging perseverance. Justice Everett had recently come to the front in the Sessions, especially in connection with Slaughter House matters, but whether more from love of County interests than dislike of Justice Marshall, this deponent sayeth not.

And now, the Sessions abolished, the place which knew our numerous Justices shall know them no more for ever. "Othello's occupation's gone." Henceforth Justice Nowlin will be compelled to ventilate his economical, reform theories at Chubb's Corner, or the "House of Lords" or in that Art Gallery of which less has been heard of late than formerly. Justice Milligan's Industrial and Reformatory Institution (yet to be erected) must pass from his hands and into those of Councillors elected by the People. The Slaughter House question will have a rest, no doubt, unless Justice Marshall can succeed in infusing into the elect of the people the enthusiasm which burns so brightly in his own bosom. The squabbles of Lancaster,—South Bay *versus* Musquash and Spruce Lake,—are possibly settled by the division of the Parish, but we may reasonably expect active representative men such as Justices Roxborough, Baker, Thomson, Robinson, etc., to secure seats in the new body. Altogether, the Municipal Act will work a revolution in the administration of County affairs, and the revolution is inaugurated by the death and burial of "the Sessions." May it (or they) rest in peace!

THE INTER-COLONIAL RAILWAY.

The Iron Roof from Phœnixville.

A few days ago, according to the telegraphic reports—

Mr. Domville called the attention of the leader of the Government to the fact that the House had called for returns giving copies of the correspondence which may have taken place between any official of the Inter-Colonial Railway and the Phœnixville Iron Company in the State of Pennsylvania, regarding tenders for bridges, iron roofs, locomotives, etc., since 31st Dec., 1875, for that road. A return had been furnished, but instead of it giving the desired information, it only contained eight or nine lines stating that a turn-table had been purchased at a certain price. It contained no correspondence, nothing about bridges, locomotives, engines or supplies of any kind.

Mr. Mackenzie paid no attention to the complaint, probably hoping the matter would be allowed to drop. But, later in the day,—

Sir JOHN MACDONALD called the attention of the Premier to the statement of the hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville) relative to the return brought down concerning the Intercolonial railway.

Mr. MACKENZIE said he could not bring down papers which were not in existence, and he could only say that the notice for the papers was sent to the proper office. The hon. member for King's had constituted himself public prosecutor with regard to Intercolonial matters, and seemed to think that he (Mr. Mackenzie) could bring down papers whether they were in existence or not.

Mr. DOMVILLE protested against the Premier designating him as a public prosecutor. It was not the first time that he (Mr. Mackenzie) had made insulting remarks to him (Mr. Domville). It occurred once before in a Committee, and he (Mr. Domville) after that really hoped it would not occur again. The Premier had no right to speak of any hon. member of this House in that way. [Hear, hear.]

At the request of Sir John Macdonald

Mr. MACKENZIE made a note of the papers which were asked for, and promised to make enquiries regarding them.

The *Mail's* Ottawa correspondent states that the "return" in question was simply "a sheet of foolscap containing a copy of a brief communication from Mr. C. J. Brydges concerning the purchase of a turn table," and was no reply whatever to the Order of the House, which Mr. Holton says should be treated as "sacred" and be obeyed both in the spirit and the letter. The shuffling of the Government in this matter appears to indicate that there is something worth unearthing in this connexion, but we shall be surprised if even the present Grit House of Commons is prepared to say that the Government may expend what public moneys they please and refuse to give an account to Parliament when ordered.

AN ANTI-RAILWAY MAN.

A correspondent of the *Telegraph*—bogus, of course,—complains that last week's issue of THE WATCHMAN contained nothing new *versus* Inter-Colonial Railway management. Now, that correspondent, if he is honest and patriotic and has anything new to offer, should send his facts to THE WATCHMAN. If, however, he is a humbug, as we presume he is, he does well to correspond with the *Telegraph*.

LOOK OUT FOR "SMASH-UPS."

Says the Sackville *Post*:—

A big smash up, with loss of life, on the I. C. Railway may be expected some of these days, by the gross carelessness of train despatchers. On Wednesday of last week two trains passed each other at Spring Hill; one conductor had not been notified of the other train at all, and was not aware that it was ahead of him, and the other conductor had been ordered to pass at River Philip! Thus the merest chance prevented a collision. A smash up of two engines occurred at Wentworth on Thursday. A despatch to the *Chronicle* says the rails were *slippery* at the time. An examination might show that something more was wrong besides a slippery track, viz.: the orders.

The other day, a conductor was ordered to take a special train from Truro to Halifax. He had the right of track. At Polly Bog he stopped to water. Imagine his surprise when another special of which he had not been notified from Halifax passed him while at the tank! Had his locomotive not wanted water—another collision would have been recorded. Happily, passenger trains have enjoyed almost a special immunity from accidents, and loss of life is rare, but if hair-breadth escapes of trains are recorded every week, how long may it not be before a passenger train is demolished, and the authorities will have to answer for a car full of maimed and mangled passengers?

HOW NOT TO DO IT.

Says the Newcastle *Advocate*:

On Wednesday morning a small case of fresh fish for shipment to Boston was offered to the proper authorities upon the accommodation train going south at the South West Bridge, and where the train had stopped; that the officer refused to take charge of it "because the freight was not prepaid." The next morning (Thursday) the same shipment was offered and the freight tendered, when it was again refused "because it was not billed from Newcastle." In consequence of these contrary opinions and the delay resulting therefrom the shipper has had his fish spoiled, and we ask that the matter at once receive attention, and also suggest that when radical changes are made in freight arrangements that the customers of the road should be duly notified of the change, so that they may not suffer loss by their goods being detained.

HOUSEHOLD FASHIONS.—No. 2 of this series of papers appears on our first page to-day. We understand that No. 1 was read with a good deal of interest by house-keepers and others who consult the pages of THE WATCHMAN for advice and information. *Carpets* is the subject treated in No. 2. Our lady readers will ultimately vote the time given to the perusal of these papers "well spent," since they are the product of a very wise old head.

[FOR THE WATCHMAN.]

FASHION NOTES.

It seems a very short time ago since we spoke of the audacious combinations which fashion was contriving in the way of coloring, and remarked that a climax must surely have been reached, as nothing more opposed to precedent could be imagined than some of the contrasts which we cited at the time; and yet it now appears that the climax has not been attained even yet, and that this spring will witness more

BIZARRE COMBINATIONS

than any previously attempted. Foremost among those is the union of blue and green, not only in hats and minor trimmings, but in full costumes as well, the dress, which, it is needless to say, is a Parisian dress, being green and the trimmings blue, or the dress blue and the trimmings green. By the blue being a little faded, and the green slightly tinged with yellow, mutual concessions are made, and thus, upon being placed in juxta-position, they will not cry out so loudly as one would at first imagine; but even at its best, such a combination appears so painful to us that we dare to hope it will not become universal. Rose color and garnet is the next on record, but as neither of those colors is used for anything more than hats, ties, etc., their intermingling will not be on a very extensive scale. Blue accommodating itself to the neighborhood of a vinous, reddish violet is also foreseen; and, lastly, fawn color mixed with a brick red shade.

FOR THE USES OF MILLINERY,

the three most fashionable tints are Mandarin yellow, pink coral and bright *flamme de vesuve*, but instead of being used separately, as common-place people would expect, the most stylish spring bonnets are adorned with eight, ten or even twelve roses of those three shades, clustered together without foliage of any kind. Other bonnets have bouquets in which blue forget-me-nots are mixed with yellow buttercups and deep red roses, while others still are trimmed with satin in the *flamme de vesuve* shade and mignonette blossoms of tilleul green. A bonnet of black chip, with Normandy crown of peach colored silk, is trimmed profusely with coral and Vesuvius poppies. A Tuscan braid, trimmed with pale moonlight blue silk, has a half wreath of yellow cowslips drooping from a bouquet of forget-me-nots, damask roses and ivy leaves. Leghorns are trimmed with pale green silk, mignonette, crimson roses and Margeurites or small daisies. Brown bonnets are principally trimmed with "old gold" satin, but even when this is used, other colors are liberally introduced, the fashions of this spring being opposed to monotony, especially in the matter of millinery.

SATIN,

as we foresaw earlier in the season, will be very popular as a trimming, most of the newest ribbons being satin on one side and gros grain on the other, while mostly all the new bonnets and hats have fine pipings of satin combined with folds of turquoise silk. In Paris, the leaders of ton wear whole dresses of satin, as, for instance, pale pink satin, buttoned from top to bottom, with rubies set in the form of buttons, and worth thousands of dollars. The dress is generally made in Princesse form, with a train of point d'Alencon laid in large pleats, and is described as being very elegant as well as simple; but regarding the latter adjective, we unsophisticated Provincialists are inclined to wonder, if this be *simplicity*, what is *magnificence*? Other dresses, also Parisian in their outlines, are often composed of three materials, such as satin, faille and damask, or gauze, satin and damask, by which it may be seen that in material, also, combination is being piled upon combination, and the harvest time of ingenious ladies, who delight in using up old materials, is not yet passed. True, we have heard it rumored, and this from Paris, too, that long and pleasant as the reign of over skirts, polonaises and draperies has been, it is slowly approaching its end, and that soon all such things shall have passed away; but as this information is decidedly disagreeable, we prefer to disbelieve it, and incline instead to the impression that no such important changes in the fashions of the day will be effected until 1880, or the time when a change will take place in the Constitution of France. New monarchs make new laws, and, absurd as it seems, it is also true that where France is concerned new governments are the forerunners of very new fashions; therefore, it will be as well for us not to distress ourselves with possibilities, but simply wait for certainties.

In

KID GLOVES

for the Spring, the newest retain their long-wristed shape, and are entirely without fanciful stitching of any kind, being merely bound with white kid, while the stitching is simply that made necessary by overstitching the three seams, which is done in silk of the same shade as the kid. Gray, from pale French gray, through blue gray and steel gray, down to the iron and ink shades, is the most fashionable color for every-day gloves; but for more special occasions the favorite colors are cream color (which for gloves, as well as silk pocket handkerchiefs, is more used than ever), straw, maize, pinkish lavender and marine. A more recent caprice is long, black kid gloves, to be worn with light evening dresses; but this fancy is only for the moment, and will not stand the test of general usage. Undressed kid is, it is said, superseding dressed kid for street wear, while even for the most dressy costumes are imported undressed gloves in the most delicate shades of buff, pearl and French grays. For deep mourning they are preferable to all others, being of that soft, dull black which accords so well with crepe, and of a simple long shape, which causes the hand to look visibly smaller than when covered with Josephine, or kid of the glossy black nature. Later on in the season the novelty will be

MITTS,

lace, silk, velvet, kid, and in fact every other style in which our grandmothers once delighted, excepting, of course, worsted mittens, which, even if they are re-introduced, will, it is to be supposed, be saved for usage until, at least, eight or ten months shall have passed away. Even now white lace mitts are being very much worn in New York and Paris, and in a short time they will be re-inforced by black lace, in three sizes, or we should say, of three kinds, namely: those without fingers, those with half fingers, and, lastly, those with whole fingers. Net-work mitts will be embroidered in many bright colors to match summer costumes, which, it is said, will be very much trimmed with Hamburg edging worked in colors. Velvet mitts will be generally black embroidered with gold thread, and laced with gold cord finished by tassels. Finally, as suitable for the seaside, will be a kid or doeskin mitten long enough to cover the wrist and forearm. It is said that they are all remarkably neat and stylish in their shape, but of this we shall never feel assured until enabled to judge for ourselves.

The last subject for to-day's consideration is one which we have been saving until the mention of it should not seem inconsistent, viz.:—

PARASOLS.

For Spring and Summer the novelty is parasols made of blue and white bunting, with canopy-shaped tops, a ring and bow to close them, and sticks of bamboo. Loops of ribbon half an inch wide are arranged as trimming for the edge, which ribbon is generally cardinal in color, the ring that passes over the top to close it being of the same shade. A few models are entirely navy blue and white, but they do not afford such an opportunity for making known our loyalty as the "red, white and blue" ones above quoted; therefore, they have not the same claim to public favor. For more dressy parasols (and *en passant* parasols will be most used for the intermediate seasons, sunshades proper being reserved for mid-summer,) black brocaded silk will be used, and the lining will be white silk, while the trimming is three rows of black fluted lace headed by a ruche. Others, and in fact the majority, will match the costume in color, and will be trimmed most elaborately, sometimes with ruffles, pleats and fringe, and sometimes with embroidery either self-colored or in gayly contrasting shades. Cardinal silk sun umbrellas will be offered later on in the season, and the fashion books prophecy that they will monopolize a large share of public favor; but we should imagine that in anything of a strong light, umbrellas of this hue would have more the effect of a *sunset* brought close before us, than of a *sun-shade*. Whatever *blue glass* may do, we can never believe that red silk would be good for the eyesight, but there is no known method of accounting for tastes, and thus the fashion books may be right and many people may like cardinal umbrellas.

For

PARASOL HANDLES,

fashion and ingenuity combined present very elegant effects, some being ebony or black lacquered wood, with Japanese designs of birds and flowers in gold lacquer, or else pearl and ivory handles with gold engraved heads, while others still are of wood partly, and partly cornelian or coral, with silver horse shoe links and chains to fasten them to the belt. Light fancy sticks of bamboo or other wood, with natural roots at the end, are especially liked for plainer parasols, but, as a matter of course, fancy affairs of rich silk, embroidery and real lace demand something more elaborate; many ladies having handles, which are small treasure heaps in themselves, and which make it a matter of more than ordinary importance should they lose or forget their parasols. For children are very dainty reproductions of all the styles mentioned above, excepting that they are on a small scale; so small, in fact, that we shall not devote any extra paragraph to them unless it be to say that we are old-fashioned enough to prefer a sunburnt parasol-less child to the dainty infants who require costly trifles of silk, fringe and laces as a shade for their precocious fashion-spoiled faces.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

RUSSIA, by D. Mackenzie Wallace, M. A. New York: Henry Holt & Co. St. John: J. & A. McMillan.

This is one of the notable books of the year, and certainly the most exhaustive work on Russia thus far given to the public. Mr. Wallace is a writer of singular beauty of style, the possessor of an original philosophic mind and a sound practical thinker. He is a man of great intelligence and perseverance, and his treatise on this vast and almost unknown land, gives evidence of a close study of the men and manners and customs of the Russia of our day. Not only are we given a glance at the picturesque aspects of the country, but we have a near view of its practical and philosophical character. For six years our author lived in Russia, mingled freely with the people of every degree and position, studied the language carefully, and now in a noble volume of six hundred pages he gives us the result of that experience in a style as delightful as it is vigorous and full of interest. The knowledge which Mr. Wallace has of Russia is thorough, and the reader can read scarcely a dozen pages without observing the truth of this. The politics, social state of the people, and general condition of the country are described in a bold, comprehensive way. Every statement Mr. Wallace utters may be accepted as fact, and his broad and wide-minded mode of observation gives his work a lasting value. It is the fullest and most thorough history of the country we have, and fit to take its place with Gibbens' Rome or Macaulay's England. It is of great permanent value and its pages are as entertaining and delightful as an old romance. When one considers the vast territory of this Empire, the difficult means of procuring information, and the various perplexities of internal politics which beset the historian at every turn, the reader can form a tolerably correct idea of the enormous amount of labor which has been expended on this book. No one doubts the truth of the facts it contains. Every statement has been verified, and in this book about Russia we have the only complete and reliable work on the subject extant. No book for years has attracted so much attention from the leading minds of Europe, and on every hand the work has been received at a high estimate. Its true value will become known as the years pass away, and its readers multiply. The volume abounds in quotable passages, and we have marked several pages for quotation, but our space will not admit of them at this time. We can only recommend the book to our readers, and draw attention to its extraordinary merits. One excerpt, however, may be made to show the scope and character of the work. In speaking of the railways of the country, and after telling us why the managers avoid leading towns, the author says: "From St. Petersburg to Moscow the locomotive runs for a distance of 400 miles, almost as the crow is supposed to fly, turning neither to the right hand nor to the left. For fifteen weary hours the passenger in the express train looks out on forest and morass, and rarely catches sight of human habitation. Only once he perceives in the distance what may be called a town; it is Tver which has been thus favored, not because it is a place of importance, but simply because it happened to be near the straight line. And why was the railway constructed in this extraordinary fashion? For the best of all reasons—because the Tsar ordered it. When the preliminary survey was being made, Nicholas learned that the officers entrusted with the task—and the Minister of Ways and Roads in the number—were being influenced more by personal than technical considerations, and he determined to cut the Gordian knot in true Imperial style. When the Minister laid before him the map with the intention of explaining the proposed route, he took a ruler, drew a straight line from the one terminus to the other, and remarked in a tone that precluded all discussion, 'You will construct the line so!' And the line was so constructed—remaining to all future ages, like Saint Petersburg and the Pyramids, a magnificent monument of autocratic power." Very many books have been written about the Russian Empire, but they are merely meagre magazine sketches as compared to this one by Mr. Wallace, whose name will be forever inseparably connected with his work. The book, which is accompanied by two well executed maps, may be seen on Messrs. McMillan's counter and it is marked at a reasonable figure.

THE SCOTCH NATURALIST, by Samuel Smiles. New York, Harper & Bros.; St. John, J. & A. McMillan.

This is a book with a history. It traces in a succinct form the career of one of the most remarkable men of his age—a man who has devoted his whole life to the study of the science of natural history. He has pursued his favorite study surrounded by obstacles and while suffering the greatest privations, often wanting even the common necessaries of life. He had no money with which he could buy books, and his "findings" had oftentimes to be sent to the naturalists for verification. But the old man toiled on, making his notes and classifying his objects at night when his day's labor was over. He was and is yet a worker at an humble trade, and his name will be found, like Whittier's and Gifford's, among the eminent shoemakers of history. His life has been one of hardships, but his heart is as rugged as his own native hills, and amid the most trying circumstances he has brought himself to the state of perfection in which it now is. The last days of his career have been made glad. Samuel Smiles, whose books are godsends to our local platform orators, met him a few years ago and mentioned him in "Self Help." Since then the biographer has not lost sight of him or his noble work, and we have to-day a splendid history of Thomas Edward, beautifully illustrated by Mr. Geo. Reid, and charmingly written by Mr. Smiles from facts supplied by the subject himself. The book will do much to lift Thomas Edward from the obscurity in which he lived. Already three editions have been sold in England, and the Queen, after a perusal of Mr. Smiles' work, generously bestowed on Edward an annual pension, which will at least relieve him from want during the remainder of his days. It seems scarcely possible that Edward should have been forgotten for so many years and allowed to suffer as he has. His writings should at least have yielded him some adequate return and kept him from absolute want. In the appendix to the present volume the author has included a selection of the Fauna of Banffshire, which is of great value, and Mr. Smiles regrets that much more of his work could not be added to the book, but this would have occupied more space than the biography itself. The life of Thomas Edward is written in Smiles' fascinating style and there is not a dull page in the book. The publishers have brought the book out in admirable style.

ELI PERKINS (at large), by Melville D. Landon. Toronto, Belford Bros.; St. John, J. & A. McMillan.

This is a collection of the droll sayings and doings of Eli Perkins, an American humorist, who puts things in a quaint and entertaining way. The jokes are spirited and in pretty good taste, and a good many of them are quite amusing. The illustrations are cleverly done, particularly those in *Silhouette*, which are quite good. The book is worth looking through, and the reader will be sure to enjoy a laugh over its pages. The publishers and artists carry out Eli's preface to the letter, where he says: "The literary part of this book may not be very nice, but the cover is pretty and the pictures are life-like." The book is a credit to Messrs. Belford Bros.' publishing house.

BEN MILNER'S WOOING, by Holme Lee. Boston, Roberts Bros.; St. John, J. & A. McMillan.

This is the initial volume of a new series of excellent books which Messrs. Roberts Bros. have in press. It is called the Town and Country Series, and literature of a standard character only will be embraced in this set. The books promised will be of a more thoughtful mould than those usually found in collections of light reading, and "Ben Milner's Wooing" is the first of these. The story is admirably told, and there are bits in it of real genius. The character drawing is finely wrought and the plot is well imagined and happily carried out. Holme Lee writes with delightful vigor and in a charming and interesting style. There is an absence of sensation also in the story that will commend it to all readers, and many lessons of practical benefit may be learned from it. The tale is entertaining withal, and the interest is well sustained from the first chapter to the close. The moral taught is a good one, and the nervous dash which the story possesses to a degree will make it a capital fireside companion, and no one can lay the book aside until the reading of it is complete. It fulfills the publishers' aim, and the book is undoubtedly an acceptable volume at all seasons, in town and country. This series will not comprise fiction only, but the broader fields of poetry, biography and religion will be laid under tribute, and we may expect to form the acquaintance of the standard works of the best American and foreign authors through this medium. All who want a good healthy volume of high class fiction should read "Ben Milner's Wooing." The "Town and Country Series" will be fully as popular as "The No Name Series," in a little while.

A delightful set of little books comes to us from Messrs. Harper & Bros., New York. They comprise the "Half-hour Series," and thus far we have two standard works, Edward Freeman's pertinent and masterly paper on the Turks in Europe, which is a slashing article, full of fire and strength, and Anthony Trollope's charming tale of "Thompson Hall," which is written in the elegant novelist's liveliest vein. These booklets, which sell at a mere nominal price, ranging from 15 to 20 cents each, are handy in size, neatly printed and tastefully got up in every way. They are intended for the leisure hour, and their convenient shape and clear, legible type will make them very popular with all classes. In this series we will have from time to time all the standard and leading papers, stories and poems of the day, and the great writers of the age, of both hemispheres, will be laid under contribution for the letter-press. When practicable, these pleasant little volumes will be illustrated. The two *brochures* mentioned above may be had at Messrs. J. & A. McMillan's.

THE MAYORALTY.—Mayor A. Chipman Smith, having decided not to offer again, the cards of two well known citizens appear in the papers, namely, Dr. S. Z. Earle and James Milligan, Esq. Dr. Earle, as our readers are aware, was a candidate last year in opposition to Mayor Smith, polling a very large vote and pushing Mr. Smith very hard, the winner barely saving his distance. He is personally very popular, of affable manners, and will make a good chairman. If elected, the Doctor will make his influence felt in the deliberations of the Council. Mr. Milligan, who represents the commercial classes more particularly, has had large experience in local matters at the Sessions, in which he has taken an active part. He was formerly Alderman for Queen's Ward. Wherever placed, he will probably be found acting upon his own judgment, undeterred by factions or cliques. We are not sure that all the possible candidates have been heard from. There was an impression last year that Alderman Kerr was in training for the Mayoralty, and we find this impression still remaining.

Since Mayor Smith has decided to retire, it is only just to state that considering his rule, as a whole, it has been for the benefit of the City. The term "rule" may, we think, be properly applied to the character of his administration, as he has made his personal and official influence felt in the affairs of the City far beyond that exerted by many of his predecessors. He has shown a strong desire to promote civic improvement, and he leaves the City buildings and other property in a better condition than that in which he found them. For so young a man, Mr. Smith has shown much firmness of character, as well as administrative ability; he has pretty steadily resisted clique movements, and has not abandoned necessary improvements under the pressure of temporary clamor. If he has done nothing else, he has certainly aided in giving us a new Market Building, which is a credit to the City; in compelling the Dominion Government to complete the Courtenay Bay Railway Extension; in obtaining for the City a large block of valuable lands at the Barrack Ground; in obliging the Dominion to go forward with the construction of the works at the Lower Cove Breakwater; and in promoting the legislation necessary for putting the Harbor in Commission. These are all measures of great importance to the well being of the City; indeed, it is scarcely probable that any other Mayor will be called upon, during his term of office, to deal with an equal number of equally important questions and acquit himself as creditably as Mayor Smith has done in regard to all of them. In leaving office, he does so without any hostile pressure being brought to bear to compel his retirement; indeed, it is doubtful if any other candidate could defeat him at this moment.

RAILWAY EXPOSURES.—Before the Railway Committee of the Nova Scotia Assembly, an enquiry has been in progress in reference to the manner in which the Yarmouth and Annapolis Railway (subsidized by the Province) has been constructed. It has been charged that immense quantities of brush and rubbish have been used in embankments, where solid earth should have been filled in, and the evidence given by parties who worked on the line certainly places the Government engineers, Messrs. Murphy and McNab, in a very awkward position. The *Chronicle* (Government) admits the importance of the evidence, but very properly intimates that the engineers should not be condemned before being heard. It is, moreover, alleged that nearly all the subsidy has been drawn, and not one half the work is completed. The Opposition Party are elated and the Government's friends stunned by the exposure, especially as Premier Hill had at first refused to allow the subject to be investigated, and only agreed to its going before the General Railway Committee on ex-Attorney General Weeks intimating that he might act with the Opposition in this instance.

We hope that the Engineers will get every fair play in the matter, especially as one of them, Mr. McNab, occupies a very important position on the Inter-Colonial Railway. At the same time we fear that some of the evidence given will be very hard to get over, especially of those parties who, as sub-contractors, foremen, etc., swear that they seldom or never saw Mr. Macnab on the work. It is difficult, indeed, to see how Mr. Macnab could possibly have been on the work more than a few times a year, when his engagements with the Inter-Colonial required him to be constantly on the latter road.

LOYALIST AND PURITAN.—In another column we surrender space to a correspondent who adds to the stock of old time information of the forefathers of Queen's County, as presented by Dr. Wiggins. He also gives a list of the names of the Loyalist and Puritan ancestors of many of the inhabitants of our Province. Quite a number of these names are familiar to very many of our readers.

THE LANGEVIN ELECTION.—The beauties of Grit ideas of electoral purity and reform were admirably illustrated in the recent Commons election in Charlevoix. While the election was being run the Grits were very jubilant and boasted that after the former election there had been 250 votes added to the electoral lists in Mr. Tremblay's favor. Nevertheless, they did not stop short of wholesale bribery. Says a telegram from Malbaie to Quebec on the day of the election:—

"$100 having been offered to a voter by a well-known Rouge to vote for Mr. Tremblay, the recipient took it direct to Mr. Langevin's advocate, Mr. Pelletier, and made a formal declaration of attempted bribery by a partizan of the Dominion Government candidate."

In spite of the re-arrangement of the voting lists and unblushing bribery on behalf of the Government candidate, Mr. Langevin was re-elected by a satisfactory majority.

THE SOCIABLE OF ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, on Thursday evening, drew a very large attendance of the adherents and friends of the congregation. After a hearty tea in the class room, all present assembled in the body of the church, where the pastor, Rev. Dr. Waters, presided in his usual bland but business-like style. Here appropriate speeches were made by Rev. Messrs. Macrae, Burgess, Stavely, Carey, and Messrs. Boyd and Watson. A pleasant feature of the evening's proceedings was the presentation to Miss Georgie Adams of a handsome gold watch, and to Mr. Alex. Binning of a well filled purse, in recognition of their valuable musical services in the choir, Sabbath School and Bible Class. The proceeds of the entertainment go to the purchase of an organ for the School and Class.

THE ST. JOHN AND PORTLAND WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS.—We would call attention to the very interesting report of Superintendent Murdoch which we publish on our fourth page. It will bear careful perusal and be found particularly instructive as indicating the rapid strides the City and Portland have made in recent years in the matter of Water Supply and Sewerage. The Auditors' report on the Accounts for 1876 will be found on the same page. It is a very satisfactory exhibit of the year's operations.

THEATRICAL.—Mr. Wm. Nannery opens the Academy of Music, for a short dramatic season, on Monday evening next. Robertson's comedy of "Caste" will be played.

THE STRENGTH OF PARTIES.—Mr Blake's opinion will be found on our first page.

☞ "A Scene in the Senate" and "A Sharp Encounter between Messrs. Tupper and Mackenzie," on our first page; a clever political squib on our fourth.

—Remember Stewart & White's auction sale of English Plate and Mirrors, on Tuesday, April 3rd.