

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 15, 1888.

OUR OCEAN MAIL SERVICE.

Some Facts the Public Should Know.

WHAT about the ocean mail service for this year? It surely is time the public knew something of what may be expected. If the Allans are to get it renewed, a distinct stipulation should be made that comfortable and proper boats should be given us; also reduced passage-money.

Both the *Peruvian* and *Assyrian* are quite unsuited for this service. We believe the Messrs. Allan laughed at a certain gentleman of influence here when he complained of the *Peruvian's* discomforts. But the sooner the Allans are told, and made to feel, that those who pay the money are the proper judges of the article supplied, the better will we be served. No sane person will allow a draper to thrust damaged calico upon him for good.

Hitherto all our Governments have allowed Sir Ambrose Shea to dictate terms; but now that he is out of the way, the present Executive should try to show that they are able to make favorable terms for the colony. Can any satisfactory reason be given for the fact that passengers can go on board the steamer at Halifax calling here and pay \$50 for passage to England, while any one joining here is compelled to pay \$62.40 for exactly the same accommodation. Indeed, he may have the same stateroom as the Halifax man, who often expresses surprise and asks how we allow it that he can sail 500 miles further, have forty hours' additional board, and yet pay \$12.40 less.

Again. Any man going to Halifax just now can ship for England at \$50 in boats far superior to those calling here. Strange commercial principles these! Who can explain them? *Sound they are not!*

We have been credibly informed, also, that our Canadian friends have a stipulation that children going to, or returning from, school in England, should be taken at reduced rates. As many here are connected with the Old Country and require to send their children away, we, surely, are entitled to the same consideration as the Dominion. If we cannot get lower rates than the Halifax people, we are certainly entitled to equal, as it is contrary to all common sense that we should be automatically compelled to pay higher.

Perhaps some independent member of the House will, in the interest of the public, enquire as to the above inconsistencies. His Excellency, who appears to have his head put on straight, will oblige the travelling community if he declines to sign any new contract until justice is done.

ADVICES FROM THE WESTWARD.

The coastal boat *Curlew*, Captain Delaney, arrived here at 2.30 p.m. yesterday. She had some difficulty in getting through the ice off Cape Race and was occasionally brought up. The in-shore winds of the past week have jammed a considerable body of ice in on the coast, and it looks as if the interval between the present time and the advance of spring is to be one of those seasons when navigation will suffer more or less interruption from this cause. Little has been done in the winter fishery of the south-west coast the past fortnight, owing to stormy weather, but there are no complaints of any scarcity of the staple, and there is a fair prospect of operatives putting together a good paying voyage during the mild intervals between now and May. The *Curlew* brought a thousand rabbits from Renews, and some venison and fresh cod from ports at the other end of her route.

THE TAYLOR MEDAL MATCH.

The Taylor medal—a handsome gold memento, presented by A. Taylor, Esq., as an object of competition between the curling Clubs of this city—was played for yesterday in the Parade Rink by teams representing the Terra Nova and Micmac Clubs, with the result of the former club coming off the winner. To become the permanent possession of any club, the medal must, however, be won two successive seasons. The occasion was one of hearty enjoyment to all the players engaged.

The steamer "Newfoundland," with the English and American mails, left Halifax for this port at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. She will be here by Friday morning if the ice offers no obstacle.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Port-de-Grave on the 10th instant, says:—"A man named Butler shot an old harp seal the other day, weighing about one and a half hundred pounds, from which he took a whitecoat that turned the scales at nineteen pounds."

"PUBLIC SPEAKING."

Lecture Delivered in the Athenæum Hall on Monday Evening Last, by Rev. T. Hodgkinson.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have inflicted many sermons on long-suffering audiences, but only one lecture. I should not have delivered a second, but I saw no door of escape.

When, last year, I was waited upon by a gentleman of the dimensions of the honored President of the St. John's Athenæum, and when, this year, I was requested to lecture by your worthy Secretary, who is a lawyer, I thought it time to say yes, lest some worse thing befell me.

If I severely tax your patience in listening to me to-night, be magnanimous and ascribe my tediousness to lack of practice, not power. About lecturing I have received several hints which afforded both direction and unspoken reflections.

One gentleman informed me that "a lecture should not be of a denominational character." I assented, but thought it strange that in so many of these lectures the ism of the lecturers happened to be the ism of the bulk of listeners. This is a pity, for contact with various isms rubs off the angles of particular isms.

Another young gentleman, who reminded me of an "innocent abroad," informed me, with a sapient look, "that a lecture was different from a sermon." This critic seemed afraid lest I should stich two old sermons together and palm them off as a bran new lecture. I assented to the emphatic but bold statement "that a lecture is different from a sermon," although there is a good deal of lecturing in some sermons.

Another gentleman somewhat critically regarded me and informed me that "St. John's people did not like a dry lecturer." I deferentially asked how long a lecture usually took in the delivery. He answered, "over an hour." I thought that a miracle would have to be performed with some lecturers if they were not dry, and if their tongues did not cleave, with an affection that was painful, to the roofs of their mouths before the hour had expired, although the lecturers might be genuine prohibitionists.

Another critic, a lady by the way, confidentially informed me "that St. John's people liked an interesting lecture." I thanked my fair critic for the information, and I thought, but did not say so, that it was not always the fault of the lecturer that the lecture was not interesting. It is sometimes the fault of the hearers. I have observed in a library, not a hundred miles from here, some excellent books and magazines that are in excellent condition. They don't appear to have had many visits from admiring friends, and other books in faded coverings and short titles have had many friends who declared them to be "most interesting." Reflections of this sort put the chagrined lecturer, whose laborious effort is almost unanimously judged to be uninteresting, on excellent terms with himself and his select minority.

Having pondered over these unpaid-for suggestions, and this sage advice, I cast about for a subject and found one which I thought might at any rate be helpful to some listeners. I gave the subject a plain title, not a splay title, not a mystifying title, not a house-cramming title.

Unless you are certain that the predictions of friends and generous critics respecting your dear baby-boy will be verified—unless you are certain that he will turn out eventually an able man, an eloquent man, a brilliant man—don't give him a startling, a grand name. If you do and the unique baby turns out only a middling sort of a man, he will always suggest the discrepancy between his illustrious name and his mediocre attainments. I leave the unspoken yet suggested analogy to your excellent memories and vivid imaginations.

Though the subject to-night is a commonplace one, yet it is of engrossing and practical interest to all denominations: to preachers, politicians, judges, lawyers, interesting lecturers, very dry lecturers, extemporaneous speakers, speakers who read what they have written, auctioneers, embryonic orators at exciting debating societies and sweltering tea-parties.

Please to bear in mind in this lecture that we are describing an ideal. We have not attained to it, but that does not deter from the effort. A man may only have a shabby, seedy-looking overcoat, but that fact does not preclude the hope of having a good one in "the sweet bye-and-by."

The first requirement of a public speaker is that he should have something to tell the people. To do this a man has diligently to collect reliable information. To verify this simple yet important statement, analyse the public efforts of any great speaker. You will perceive here and there the main facts which form the framework of the discourse. The stated facts have been gathered from many sources—from history, from literature, from

the realm of science, from everyday life, from experience and patient observation.

Take your pencil and underline the facts stated in the *verbatim* report of a speech or a printed lecture. Your hand and brain will be busy for some time! Try this plan with a political speech by William Ewart Gladstone, or any great politician who may be "your man." Try this plan with a lecture by Carlyle on "Hero Worship," or Max Muller on the "Science of Religion." Try this plan with a lecture by Prof. Seeley on "How we Conquered India," sometimes ignominiously curtailed at one end and rhetorically elongated at the other end into "Gorgeous Ind." Or, to come home, try and recall the facts stated in the lecture, whose pleasant music still lingers in your ears, on the "Landfall of Columbus" (not windfall). These lectures shew to us the labour expended in collecting facts. Facts don't spring up like mushrooms. Facts cannot be fabricated in the inner consciousness. Toilers have to travel far and dig deep for the golden ore, then fuse it in their own brains, and, in the last process, stamp it with their own God-given individuality. I have read that Thomas Carlyle studied cartloads of books in compiling one of his greatest works—"The Life of Frederick the Great"—and Macaulay would take wearisome journeys in order to verify an historical allusion.

From the consideration of facts the speaker proceeds to build up some argument, or elucidate some principle, or interweave some idea, or draw some moral lesson, or prepare a lecture. It is interesting to observe how differently men view the same facts.

Having roughly massed his data and thoughts together, the thinker proceeds to the selection of the fittest. This part of the work involves much mental chiselling, assortment, sifting, weeding and pruning. There is much waste of paper, if not nerve tissue.

Some statements have to be discarded as vague, not squaring with truth. The thing illustrated is entirely forgotten in the height, and depth, and length of the illustration. Some thoughts are curiously and unnaturally joined together. They remind us of the various kinds of fruit, oranges, apples, &c., that are hung on a Christmas tree. But a Christmas tree is not a type of Nature's tree. There everything is after its kind. Good thoughts should be in their right places, and not promiscuously huddled together.

In other parts of the literary effort no scope is allowed for the thought and the imagination of the hearers; every joke is explained. The mental scissors are wanted here. In other parts too much space is devoted to details. The details are like young babies in long clothes, rather tiresome and they need shortening. If any aesthetic young gentleman cannot understand this reference, let him ask the best expositor, his mother, and in the meantime possess his soul in patience.

There are three preparatory helps to public speaking which we will notice here. We may have to do a little "tacking" in this lecture, but we shall reach the haven in due time. These three helps are indicated in the famous saying of Bacon: "Reading maketh a full man, writing an exact man, and conference a ready man."

A man has to read not only to get his facts and information, but also to acquire a good style. In this matter a man can read the works of the monarchs or the pigmies of literature. The reader can truly "pay his money and take his choice." If he comes under the influence of the great masters, they will put iron in his mental constitution, impart tone to his thoughts and speech; or, if the reader only reads sensational literature, his style will become grandiloquent, like what has been felicitously termed "the hot gin and water style." A good speaker is careful about the company he keeps in his hours of study. He reads the best books—lives on the best food.

A public speaker writes copiously. This discipline tends to correct the vices of verbosity and reiteration. Writing tends to ensure grace of expression, crisp sentences, concise statements! Not a few great speakers have been great writers. The success of the speaking has largely been owing to the writing.

A public speaker converses with friends about his subjects. I read a good hint in this connection the other day. The gist of it was this: Suppose you are at a public dinner and have to make a speech after dinner. Tell your neighbor how you intend to begin your speech, and then, when you rise, say (of course in the most parenthetical manner) "I was just saying to the gentleman who sits beside me that"—and then you repeat your remark over again. Now, this is an excellent suggestion, but I would develop it further: I would advise a man not only to talk to his neighbor about the beginning of his speech, but also the middle of it and the end of it. Also, I should not confine the remarks to neighbors. I should extend them to friends, to strangers, to brethren and sisters, and, best of all, your wife. I am sure that the wife of Ewart Gladstone and the wife of Lord Beaconsfield had the cream of their husband's speeches before they were delivered. Public speakers acknowledge their indebtedness to their wives from a literary point of view. I dare say sometimes great speakers have sorely tested the patience of their wives with their unfinished orations. Possibly your listener, whoever it may be, may denounce you "an insufferable bore," as you falter through your speech or come to a dead stop for the want of a word in an undressed illustration. But have talkers never bored you? and is it not more blessed to give than to receive?

(To be Continued.)

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

(Continued.)

The speech informs us that measures tending to "develop the resources of Ireland and facilitate an increase in the numbers of proprietors of the soil," will be introduced in the Imperial Parliament this session. We have always regarded it as a fatal mistake to reduce the value of land in the western kingdom by arbitrary enactment. There is no bottom to such legislation. When a country begins to depreciate its own property, where will improvement for that country's future set in? The land is the national capital of every country, and if a man buys a piece of land for a given sum to-day and finds it reduced, by arbitrary enactment, to one-half that value to-morrow, it is obvious that, in that country, the land has no substantial value at all. Its substantiality has been confiscated by law. Looking at the matter, therefore, from the lowest level, it must be evident that depreciation of its land by any country is simply self-depreciation: merely another form of repudiating its liabilities, or of asserting that it is no longer able to meet its current obligations. Investment is repulsed thereby, and emigration is rendered involuntary; for who, under ordinary circumstances, would willingly undertake to share in that country's advancement which says beforehand: I have no standard, I am bound by no fixed laws, I am amenable to no settled principles whatever!

Besides, what an injustice to the country itself! No! as here, it is the people, and not the land, who want to be benefited. Development of the latter, and not depreciation of the former, are necessary to improve both. When the earning and saving capacities of the people recede from the improved value of the land they occupy, it is obvious that voting the latter valueless will not enrich the former. Then Providence opens a door by which those whose capacities at home are unequal to their surroundings, may, in other lands, find cheaper soil and improved workmen. Both may be found, but not "at home": the former will be the new country of their adoption, and the latter will be themselves as dwellers therein.

A measure to increase the numbers of landed proprietors as tillers of the soil is promised. This we conceive to be a step in the right direction. No man, to our mind, should be allowed to own more land than he can occupy, and why? Because it is the occupation of the land, and not its ownership, on which depends the means of sustenance for its population. To be sure, in some parts of Ireland the holdings of property have been too much divided, which is an error in the contrary direction. Then, if so, the same principle of legislation and the same right of legislation will correct both. This is not a depreciation of the value of the land, but rather an improvement of the same; and justifies, for the common good, an act of legislative interference to prevent pauperism from both causes. If a few people hold large tracts of land they cannot occupy, while the many starve for want of it, the state, which bears both the moral and material onus of that destitution, must intervene to remedy it; and if many people seeking an attenuated existence on an extent of land that in an agricultural country cannot possible support them, again the law must intervene, and for the same general reason, to combine these isolated fragments of land and to aid the surplus population to where the conditions of life are possible to them.

A measure is also promised to deal with the question of local government for England. This implies and pre-supposes an equal measure of local government for the sister isles, and it might have been better to have said so. Already we have pointed out that the tendency of the times is towards the distribution of power, and, within reasonable boundaries, the more this distribution is made the more satisfactory will be the working of the higher legislative bodies. We do not need to specify the general principle on which this statement is founded, nor to trace its logical development. Man is essentially a self-governing being: nature prescribes, and the law allows it. The more, therefore, we make men self-governing the more we make them self-responsible, and remove their "grumbles" by affixing these upon themselves. It is wonderful how tender of itself a self-governing body is; what shifts it will put up with; what excuses it will decry in the ashes of its failures. Ah! we are all very good servants when we serve ourselves; and now, at last, we are dimly beginning to decry that this lifting of the weight off individual shoulders and placing it upon those of large legislative bodies, is like dividing the interest between landlord and tenant. Instead of *dividing* the interest and the responsibility until both are lost in indefinitely-remote representatives, let us bring home as much as possible, and *write* these to the people who are locally concerned in them. "Absent landlordism" is as bad in legislation as it is in land. The nearer the remedy is to the potential disease, the better will be the physician and the less the physic.

The improved prospects of commerce as distinguished from those of agriculture is next touched on. When the agricultural interest in Britain suffers, the interests of those who live by trade are correspondingly improved, because such indicates that the cost of their living is thereby cheapened. And if of one, then of both interests. If agriculture does not pay on its merits, it is because food products are reduced in price; and as all men eat, and drink, and wear, then the blessing is wider in its operation than the curse. In England this indicates that with free trade the colonial farms are supplying the parent farms with cheaper food than they can raise themselves. The dearth of Canaan is supplemented by the corn of Egypt, and the low price of bread is the price paid for agricultural depression at home.

That British trade revives is a useful phrase in a parliamentary sense few will deny, but who will authenticate the fact? How can trade revive, using the term in its ordinary significance, when the tradesmen are all the time, by their subtle ingenuity, multiplying the means of their own extinction. It puts us in mind of the picture of a woodman sitting on the end of a long limb, at the top of a tree, and sawing off that limb next the trunk. Down goes the limb, sawyer and all! The British workman has been giving away the secrets of his trade, as well as its privileges and implements, to all comers. Nay, he has so increased their capacity to produce independently of himself, by means of improved and multiplied machinery, that the human creator of these facilities now stands as an idle spectator—the victim of his ingenious industry.

"Thou shalt help thy neighbor against thyself," is the eleventh commandment—an inexorable law of human nature, so vast that we must tear it to pieces to annihilate that instinct. When we contemplate the almost superhuman power of selfishness as a power, we might feel inclined to say, Who can stand up against thee? But let us look a little deeper and we shall find a law of love written upon nay, incorporated with, our essential human nature, as inevitably beneficent as its divine origin would imply. It is the watermark of the species. Below all obliterations there is the sign-manual of deity which says, "I made him: My mark."

FROM OUR FRIENDS UP NORTH.

The Outlook in Bonavista.

A PUGNACIOUS SERGEANT OF POLICE.

Ridiculing a Deserving Resident.

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR,—Winter is passing away with but little to disturb the "even tranquility of our way"; times are very dull, especially among our merchants and traders, and even our doctors complain that "the ills to which our flesh is heir" are sadly wanting in "this Bonavista of ours." Truly the latter is not a source of congratulation; for, owing to their (the doctors') support of Mr. Morine, their purses are not very well replenished by Government pickings.

Destitution is very widespread, both here and in neighboring localities. Our merchants are issuing very limited supplies. Consequently the bulk of our fishermen are obliged to shift for themselves. 'Tis true that work is being done on that much-talked-of concern—the Breakwater; but what avails a paltry \$500 among such a population. Those who are slaving at it have to work from daylight to dark on warm water and caplin, and some hardly that, for the princely sum of 40 cents per day, while the inspector or driver receives his dollar a day.

Our redoubtable sergeant of police has lately been doing his afflicted country a service (though not in the way approved of by ardent patriots). It seems that on Christmas Eve he met one of "my men" and interrogated him in his usual lofty style. Hello! B., why were you not home to tea? B., not liking to be spoken to in this childish strain, retorted; words led to blows, and, "my bleeding country!" the burly sergeant bit the dust. Rising and coming up to the scotch he was again lowered, but not so gently. Calling for and receiving assistance, he had the offender locked up. The matter was referred to the Inspector, that functionary placing the affair before the Government and, notwithstanding the previous good conduct of the prisoner, he was dismissed for the force.

An article has lately appeared in the *Colonist* entitled "An Eccentric Newfoundland," calculated to bring ridicule on a most deserving resident of this place. The writer, who ever he may be, will surely fail in his object, namely: the \$20 prize offered; but will gain, instead, the lasting and contempt of his fellow-townsmen. Yours &c., TOM ASCAT.

Bonavista, Jan 20, 1888.

MARRIED.
At the Methodist Parsonage, Hamilton Street, on the 14th inst., by the Rev. G. J. Bond, Mr. William H. C. Edwards, of Boston, Mass., to Susan M., daughter of Captain James Day, of this city.

BIRTH.
Yesterday morning, Mrs. Josiah Leard, of twin daughters. On the 14th inst., the wife of James H. Evans, of a son.

DIED.
This morning, Lucy May, aged 3½ years, beloved child of Carrie and Josiah Leard.
At St. Jones, Trinity Bay, on January 15, after a week's illness, Bartholomew, eldest son of Samuel King. Drowned at sea, from on board the schooner *Delight*, Matthew, eldest son of the late Thomas and Ann McGrath, aged 20 years; he leaves a wife and four sisters and a large number of friends to mourn his sad loss.