

Yesterday opened a new year and we commence to write 1885. As we look back over the past and see our many blunders and shortcomings, we feel regret; but we can still see that we have made a little progress. Our paper has found its way into many new homes since the year began and has been made welcome and invited to stay. Our friends have made us glad by sending us their bright half dollars and equally bright words of encouragement. We have worked hard on our paper and are satisfied that our labor has not been in vain. In confining ourselves to purely local matters we felt that we were endeavoring to fill the place in the minds of our patrons which our contemporaries in their flights after greater things have greatly overlooked. We have not tried to please everyone, and so have not failed in doing it. That superhuman task we have left for someone who is hardy enough to undertake it, and we will be as sorry for him as he will be for himself when he realizes the utter fruitlessness of his efforts.

One person has tried to injure our business by lying about our circulation etc., but as he is well known in this community it has not hurt us in the least. He has said that he refused to write for us but the truth is we rejected his manuscript on several occasions and that accounts for his bitter enmity against us.

It is also asserted by this individual that a certain learned gentleman in this town was acting as our Editor. For his information and those who may have been misled by him we would say that we are editing this paper ourselves and will continue to do so; that we are not to be belied or coaxed against our principles; and that we are just as Honest, Independent, and Fearless as when we started.

In the New Year we will try to confine ourselves, as formerly, to King's County, and will always try to be outspoken and impartial in our views.

Our friends we thank sincerely; our enemies, if we have any, we defy, and intend to show them that we are able to try to take our own part whether we succeed or not. With party bickerings we have no sympathy, with private quarrels we want nothing to do, and with people who have no respect for themselves we sympathize and hope when they get older they will know better.

The *Hants Journal* man has been seeing blue lights in mid-day. Hope he don't put too much preservative in his mutton-meat. It must be his "river" instead of his "lights" that is out of order. Try Syvin Cure.

The weather again — mild

We give this week on first page the opening chapter of a new serial. It is a good one and will, we think, prove very acceptable to our readers.

A petition has been circulated this week and numerous signed praying the Local Government to reconsider the matter of putting a draw in the Port Williams Bridge.

The Kentville paper has been calling the *Halifax Herald* a dirty bully &c. Another instance of the pot calling the kettle black. The *Hx Chronicle* thinks it great fun to see two tory papers fighting—and seems to think as Josh Billings did about the rattle snake and the skunk—"There's a pair of them; let them fight it out."

**ANNEXATIONISTS**—Would gain something, if they could satisfactorily explain the reason why N. Scotia, N. Brunswick, and even Quebec have advanced more rapidly than the State of Maine, during the last ten years. The Provinces in question are similar to Maine in climate and natural resources, and in the American Union would make similar progress. But in the Canadian Union, they have made and are making much more, particularly since 1878, than their Republican neighbor State. This fact is undoubtedly established by statistics; and we think it ought to be explained away in some manner by every person in N. S. who advocates annexation.—*Antigonish Gazette*.

**Reading—Wise and Foolish.**

It is an undoubted fact, that slowly and silently a revolution in literature is taking place. We can easily discern that gradually books of a higher and more profound thought are taking the place of the worthless. Happily the instability of the human mind works sometimes for good as well as evil. No matter to what extent we enjoy a certain thing, if we indulge in it too freely, it will at length become vapid, tasteless. Goldsmith says in his "Traveler," "Each favorite good begets peculiar pain," if it is carried to excess, and it certainly will from its very nature. Metaphysics teaches us that pain arises either from a faculty being restrained in its spontaneous tendency to action, or from being urged to a degree, or to a continuance, of energy beyond the limit to which it of itself naturally tends. This it is, by indulging too freely, men grow tired even of amusements. Works of fiction at length cease to interest them, and they turn from novels to works of genius, which, having their origin in deep principles of our nature, retain untainted a firm hold upon the human mind for ages.

A great proportion of the books read at this time is useless, I had almost said injurious. Certain it is that all the pernicious and exciting dime novels are very injurious to a person's morals. They have delineated the hero in such a manner, with all his vices, that the youthful mind has been led to imitate him. But there are many books, that well deserve to be read, which many young persons derive no benefit from. We frequently see persons pouring over a book, reading whatever pleases the eye and leaving the rest. To them long paragraphs seem useless, and only to fill up space. Such persons as these read only for amusement. The story is the only thing they care to follow. The genius of the writer; or the truth which he desires to bring out, never come to their mind. They look upon the intellect as given them to enjoy life; and they put forth no energy of thought on the topics which fly through their mind. Having this insensibility as to the special dignity of the intellect, and this occupation, and frittering away of the mind with superficial reading, we cannot see in what manner they can claim superiority to the common laboring people, who thoroughly understand one thing, their own business, and who are working for the benefit of themselves and their fellow-creatures. Reading fails of its best end when it does not minister to a higher power. But our minds must not be fettered by too rigid rules. "Curiosity, amusement, natural tastes," says Channing, "may innocently direct reading and study to a certain extent. Even in these cases, however," he goes on to say, "we are bound to improve ourselves morally, as well as intellectually, by seeking truth and rejecting falsehood, and by watching against the taint which inheres in almost all human productions."

Now the grand purpose of books is to rouse us to deep thought, to turn us to great questions, advanced by great men, who will live forever through the genius of their writings; and furnish us with material for the advancement of our judgment and imagination. If our minds were never brought into contact with minds superior to our own, we would undoubtedly run one and the same dull round of thought and action to the end of life. Therefore let us select books written by strong-minded real thinkers, who do not repeat what others have said; but have something original and write to give relief to their own earnest thoughts. And let us not skimmer them for amusement, but read with fixed attention. These silent teachers, studied in this manner, will, before long, accomplish more than artillery, machinery, or legislation. And being universally spread, whilst an unspeakable good to the individual, is also to become the stability of nations.

In the selection of books for reading, it is best to follow our own taste at first, that we may be able to concentrate our thoughts upon the books we read, and then we can follow others that will be a benefit. In literature we should study works of a lofty genius, which strive to join an austere logic

with a fervent eloquence, and, perhaps frame for it a vast machinery of fiction. History and poetry should also occupy a part of our time, the first that we might learn from the past how to comprehend the dangers and duties of the present, and from the latter, to discern the beautiful and sublime in nature.

To answer the great end of reading, we need not many books. A few are better than many. If the Sacred Writers will enter our dwelling; if Milton will sing to us of Paradise; if Shakespeare will open the worlds of imagination; if Macaulay will call forth our sympathies with the human race; and Bacon to enrich us with his wisdom, we will not want intellectual companionship, though excluded from the best society where we live.

ROBERTO.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

*To the Editors of the Acadian.*  
Dear Sirs:—In your last issue "Certain firm" spreads himself with a letter of explanation. So I hasten to apologize for my haste in thinking that advertisement of the scene in window referred to me; and would just say, I did not see "Certain Firm" himself under the tree or his brother behind the fence looking over.

Yours, etc.,  
NOR A. P. P. O.

**GENERAL NEWS.**

—Great want and suffering prevails at Chicago.  
—Cariboo are seemingly plentiful in Quebec at present.  
—Irish sentries have been placed on duty at the Tower of London.  
—Mitchel, the pugilist, has been arrested at Philadelphia for murder.  
—Prize fighting is to be suppressed in England if Sir William Harcourt can do it.

—It has been decided to hold a Church congress in 1885 at Portsmouth, England.

—John B. Hoffman was hanged at Cincinnati on the 16th, for the murder of his son.

—The Egyptian cotton crop is the largest ever known. It will exceed 149,250,000 pounds.

The snow storms in the Alpine regions of Switzerland have been unusually early and severe this season.

—Small-pox is raging in Trieste, twenty-five cases occur daily, twenty per cent of which are fatal.

—The preliminary steps are being taken at Cambridge for raising a University memorial to the late Professor Fawcett.

—A seam of coal of good quality, ten feet thick, has been struck at Crawford station on the C. P. R., 765 miles west of Winnipeg.

—Lake Superior iron mining interests and Southern sugar grounds are organizing opposition to the passage of the Spanish treaty.

—At the Sydon library sale at London on the 20th December a "Psalmorum Codex" of 1429 printed by Faust and Schoeffer brought £4950.

—A locomotive arrived at Lockport, N. Y., Saturday, bearing on the cow-catcher the headless body of a man who had fallen in front of the train.

—Secretary McCallloch has returned to a citizen of Russia a Confederate note for \$100, which was sent to Washington for conversion into national currency.

—Mr. Van Horne is reported as saying that the Canadian Pacific Railroad will be completed to Selkirk Mountain eighty-five days from Monday the 22d inst.

—The number of failures in the United States continue to increase; this week they numbered 57 and increase of 531 compared with the preceding seven days.

—At the sugar grower's convention at St. Louis it was stated that if the sugar industry was fostered and protected by Government all the sugar needed in this country could be raised within its borders.

—The grand cathedral, built in Moscow in commemoration of Napoleon's retreat, and which has been over half a century in building, is now completed. It will accommodate 20,000 worshippers, and has cost over \$10,000,000.

—On the night of the 17th ult the thermometer was 16° below zero at Chicago with a tendency downward. The temperature another point in the North West ranged from 16° to 43° below zero. At Ottawa it was 30° below on the 16th.

—In Jasper county, Ga., last week Col. William Barr, a well-known planter deliberately shot and killed a negro tenant because he refused to lend him a bale of cotton. Notwithstanding the outrageous nature of the murder, the perpetrator was not arrested.

**Going West!**  
**Grand Clearance SALE!**

On and after Dec. 29th and until Feb. 1st, the subscriber offers his entire stock of

**GROCERIES AT COST!**

Also, his Household Furniture, 1 good Carriage Horse (7 years old), 1 Top Buggy (nearly new), 1 Double Wagon, Harness, etc., etc.

If not cleared out by Feb. 1st it will then be sold at

**PUBLIC AUCTION!**  
**J. E. PALMETER.**

Wolfville, Dec. 23d, 1884.

N. B.—All outstanding Accounts not settled by Feb. 1st will then be placed in collection, as the business must positively be closed up.

**G. A. PATRIQUIN,**  
**HARNESS MAKER.**

Carriage, Cart, and Team Harnesses Made to order and kept in stock

ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO

Note but first-class workmen employed and all work guaranteed.

Opposite People's Bank, Wolfville

**NOTICE!**

W. T. Thompson & Sons beg to inform the public that they have for sale a quantity of DRY CORD WOOD also a lot of TIMBER, FENCE-POSTS, POLES, etc. etc., etc., at their place, Handcock Mountain (beyond John McInnes). They will also deliver the same at a low price.

The subscriber would like to say right out loud to the public that he is selling the

**CELEBRATED ACADIA COAL**

very cheap. Also that he is taking orders for HARD COAL, which he will supply at hard pan prices.

D. HUNFORD,

W. & A. Ry Depot, Wolfville, N. S.

**DENTISTRY!**  
**E. N. PAYZANT, M. D.,**  
**DENTIST.**  
WOLFVILLE.

Dr. P. will remain in Wolfville during DECEMBER to wait upon patients in Dentistry.

Sept. 8th, 1884

**Burpee Witter**

Has received this week another lot of

**LADIES' Mantles & Ulsters,**

**BLACK Peacock & Victoria Yarns**

**GENTS' Underclothing!**

**HORSE RUGS!**

**WHITE AND COLORED FLEECY COTTONS.**

Wolfville, Dec. 2d, 1884.

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—OF—  
**Every Description**  
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**NEATNESS, CHEAPNESS, AND PUNCTUALITY.**

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**INDEPENDENT,**  
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**Publishers & Proprietors.**

Devoted to the interests of the people of King's County in particular and to the Province in general.

Aims to give its readers a condensed summary of the Local and General News of the day.

Nothing to offend the taste of the most fastidious will be found in its columns.

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