

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 13, 1888.

SOME FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

What Kind of Men Our Representatives Should Be.

Now that we are approaching the last session but one of an incompetent and profligate Administration, and with the fact before us that, in a year or two at most, the electors of the country will be in a position to dismiss their offending public stewards, and appoint capable and honest men to offices of trust and responsibility, it is very necessary that the friends of good government should make ample preparation for the next political contest, especially in respect to the selection of suitable candidates for the different districts. In too many instances this important arrangement is neglected until the eve of a general election, when the party leader finds himself so situated that he must accept any ambitious noodle, or "ne'er-do-well" who may choose to "step out" as a candidate for the district in which he resides.

To prevent a split in the party ticket, often, much against their inclinations, the leader and his friends are compelled to support such "candidates," and hence it is that so many needy, ignorant and otherwise unsuitable persons manage to obtain seats in the lower branch of our local Legislature. It is high time to administer a firm rebuke to all such unworthy aspirants after political place and pay, and we hope Sir William Whiteway, when he begins to organize for the approaching campaign, will bestow upon this matter the weighty consideration it undoubtedly merits.

Plutarch, in one of his "lives," gives some remarkable illustrations of the evil effects, in "days lang syne," of the practice to which we refer. He assures us that the fable of Ixion was designed to represent the conduct of "ignorantly ambitious men." Ixion, we are told, took a cloud instead of Juno to his arms, and the Centaurs were the offspring of their embrace: the ambitious embrace a certain kind of honor—such as some of our "honorable" at the present time grasp at—which is only the image of virtue; and, governed by different impulses, actuated by selfish emulation and all the variety of passions, they produce nothing pure and genuine; the whole issue is of a preposterous kind. The shepherds in Sophocles say to their flocks,—

These are our flocks, yet we serve them,
And listen to their mute command.

The same may be here affirmed of those would-be statesmen who govern according to the capricious and violent inclinations of a comparatively small class through whose suzerainty or assistance they are enabled to obtain office. Once in the House of Assembly, they soon become party slaves to gain the names of magistrates or commissioners, or any other offices upon which their minds may be fixed. Take for example the cases of Mr. J. G. Conroy, of the Central District Court, and Mr. W. B. Grieve, of the Placentia Railway Commission. We intend no offence to these gentlemen. Their names are mentioned simply because they afford a remarkable illustration of what is here meant. However, as in a ship, those who are on the lookout can see what is before them better than the pilot, and yet often turn back to him for orders: so they who take their measures of administration only with a view to self-aggrandisement, are called rulers indeed, but, in fact, are no more than mere slaves of those who really govern.

Hence, an immoderate passion for position and emolument, on the part of members of the Legislature, is always dangerous, and in most cases positively destructive of the dearest interests of the Commonwealth. On the other hand, the complete, the honest statesman feels no such unholy passion, and has no further regard to the opinion of party leaders, than as the confidence it gains him facilitates his efforts for the public good and crowns them with success. Such statesmen "bless, adorn and immortalize empires." They are the salt of the earth, nature's untitled nobility, the truly great whose "footprints on the sands of time" lead to heroic deeds, to sublime actions. The poet pays a fine tribute to this type of "stalwart greatness" when he sings—

Who are the nobly great?
Those who have boldly ventured to explore
Unsound seas, and lands unknown before—
Conquered on the wings of science, wide and far,
Measured the sun, and weighed each distant star—
Pierced the dark depths of ocean and of earth,
And brought uncounted wonders into birth—
Repelled the pestilence, restrained the storm,
And given new beauty to the human form.
Wakened the voice of reason, and unfurled
The page of truthful knowledge to the world:
They who have toiled and studied for mankind—
Arouned the slumbering virtues of the mind—
Taught us a thousand blessings to create:—
These are the nobly great!

Now, while we do not expect to find in our local legislators the poet's perfect ideal of greatness, as given above, yet it is very desirable that they should be men of intelligence and common honesty. These qualifications are absolutely necessary. Without them it is

folly to expect either wisdom or equity in the administration of our public affairs. Socrates says, "an honest death is better than a dishonest life," and the great philosopher is right, too, although members of the present Government may not coincide with his sentiments.

However, the duty of the Opposition is too clear to need any explanation in this connection. There must be no compromise with Premier Thorburn's Executive, or with any member thereof. And, above all, care must be taken to provide suitable persons as candidates for the different constituencies. These should be honest, intelligent men, of independent means. That is to say, men who will not be looking for office as soon as they are elected—men whose circumstances and surroundings will admit of independence and honesty in their conduct towards the public. The demand for such men is extremely urgent at the present moment, and if they are to be found at all, now is the time for them to show their patriotism.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

On Friday last we published a full report of the Queen's speech at the opening of the Imperial Parliament, specially telegraphed to this paper. We do not claim this as an unprecedented feat of journalistic enterprise, nor do we wonder that our envious contemporaries to the left of us have not flocked round with congratulatory encomiums in consequence thereof. Even our more exalted brethren of the British press, we are told, did not flock around that peerless representative of Anglo-Saxon journalism the other day when its centenary celebration took place; "but, for the most part, the other London daily papers maintained a strict silence on an event almost unique in the history of journalism, and on which we beg to offer the great leading journal our hearty congratulations," observes *Public Opinion*. If, therefore, the small jealousies and petty personal prejudices of newspaper men of such calibre restrain them from the exercise of press amenities on such a supreme occasion as that referred to, we can scarcely wonder that our dailies take a higher level in the journalistic scale.

All the same, their coldness under the interesting circumstances shall not prevent us from giving, here and now, a few comments of our own on the important document we have just furnished to the Newfoundland public—the Queen's speech.

Any utterance of Her Majesty, even when inspired by her ministers, is of interest to us, her loyal and devoted subjects, and all the more so when it relates to that legislation on which our own is founded, and which, in many instances, is only the foreshadow of what our future legislation will be. Apart from that, the Queen's speech has interest for us as bearing upon the fortunes of our own dear Fatherland and Mother country—the land we love so well—the land that to every loyal-hearted Briton typifies what his land was to the patriotic Hebrew, when, tho' an exile from it, he exclaimed, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning; if I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth!"

Yes, and the Queen's speech is of interest to us of a wider sort when we remember that Britain, not only in material greatness, but in intellectual and moral wealth, stands in the forefront of the legislation of the world. To her the eyes of the nations are directed, as they trace her footsteps from afar and follow therein. Like a radiant guide she leads the way to wider and ever wider developments of liberty—of liberty bounded by law; she waves higher and brighter the torch of intelligence, and is ceaselessly engaged in ameliorating, by wise laws and well-tempered legislation, the condition not only of Englishmen but of all men. Bearing the brunt of the ill tongues of the ignorant, she moves steadily forward on her heaven-appointed mission as the Messiah of nations and the great moral mistress of the world. And why? Because her hand is ever consciously kept within the grasp of that greater power which moulds the nations at His will, and shapes the hearts of men like plastic clay. Rule, then, Britannia; Britannia rule the world!

We notice, in the first place, that the imperial legislature was not opened on this occasion by the Queen in person, an honor which is reserved for special occasions in the nation's history. We are not to argue therefrom that the present forthcoming session of Parliament will not be an interesting one, or that the occasion of its opening is not one of importance. On the contrary, the legislative issues now before the nation are of vast importance to the future of our country, on whom the rising star of empire has never yet declined, and the situation trembles with significance.

Reference is first made in the Royal speech to the foreign efforts of the British Government to mediate in the interests of peace. We learn therefrom that the international boundary in Afghanistan has been satisfac-

torily fixed between Russia and England in that part of Asia where the possessions of these two great powers come into contact. We hear that British efforts to mediate in the interests of peace, though fruitlessly, were made in Abyssinia, and that similar efforts are now being made at Washington for a settlement of the Fishery question or dispute between British North America and the United States. Similar peaceful negotiations have been employed in regulating the commerce of the Suez Canal, in providing for the protection of the New Hebrides, and in arranging for an equalization of the sugar duties among all those who sweeten their tea.

Then we get on a step further to consider the estimates of funds required for the public service. Here "advance" is still the order of the day. Improved appliances of warfare and increased scientific perfection in its application to the same have rendered it necessary that the old lady at home should look after the fortification of her coaling stations, where those huge behemoths of steel, iron and steam, which now "guard our native seas," take in their necessary supplies, so that an invading foreign squadron may not cut off this floating garrison from its ammunition. Then a similar squadron is required for the protection of Australian commerce, within that ariferous archipelago where a newer, fairer and even more affluent branch of the Anglo-Saxon family is budding and blossoming beneath its Austral sun.

Domestic legislation begins with Ireland, that ailing and refractory member of the British family, for whose sake the whole household has been kept "in penal servitude" for many years past. This unhappy Ireland consists of an impoverished peasantry, a few patriots, and a great many idle and designing rogues, the latter of whom trade upon the simplicity of their countrymen and instigate them to rebellion and crime, that they (the rogues) may be advantaged thereby. Vast and unceasing measures to ameliorate the condition of the people there have been rendered nugatory from this cause alone, and the sympathies and charities of vast numbers of their fellow-countrymen across the border line have been chilled into apathy, or poisoned into animosity from the same cause. While all desire to enlarge the bounds of liberty within the Emerald domain, as much as is consistent with the common safety of the United Kingdom some there, by secret efforts to disintegrate the latter, have postponed the former, and rendered necessary an interval of stringent legislation. This, we are glad to hear, has borne the peaceful fruits of good government; the law has been vindicated; the honest and law-abiding have been measurably protected; rapine and deeds of violence have been put down by the hand of authority; while fair Industry and peaceful Patriotism have again lifted up their heads in comparative safety. The "iron hand" of authority within the velvet glove of constitutional law has purged the land of its parasites or, at least, St. Patrickised these reptiles for the time being into harmlessness or exile. May the spirit of that great Christian regenerator soon take possession of that island as a whole, and show to every turbulent spirit there that the aim of good men everywhere is always the same—that right MUST triumph and justice MUST prevail!

Thrice blest is he who can divine
Where real right doth lie,
And DARES to take the side that seems
Wrong to man's blinding eye.
For right is right, since God is God,
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ANOTHER test, which will be made some miles at sea, of Earle's marine distress shell, takes place some day this week. Captain Green takes considerable interest in the success of this invention, and the intended experiment will be made from the steamer *Ingraham* on the first convenient occasion. Sir A. Shea, before his departure, brought the merits of this invention to the notice of his Excellency Governor Blake, who has also promised to witness a test of its capabilities. The *London Shipping Gazette*, a high authority in maritime affairs, states, that in consequence of the growing use of rockets as private signals at night, they are becoming practically useless, especially in the English Channel, as signals of distress, and cites instances of vessels in distress using them to attract assistance from the shore where they were disregarded, being supposed to be private night signals only. The same authority states that the use of rockets must either be discontinued as night signals (the passage of a law being necessary to effect this) or some other means must be found by which shipwrecked vessels may make known the peril in which they may be placed.

The drift-ice is placing its embargo on the coast rather earlier than usual. On the snow-white gordon has again closed in on the shore, putting a stopper on the ingress or egress of vessels. This experience we may expect to see repeated till the "dandelions bloom in the Spring."

"EYES FRONT!"

Saturday's Meeting of Citizens.

A LIVELY TIME AT THE COURT HOUSE.

The Ancient Edifice Crowded

DEFEAT OF THE SECOND RESOLUTION.

The Movement Ends in a "Fizzle."

In accordance with the Sheriff's announcement, a very large meeting of citizens was held at the Court House on Saturday evening, "to take into consideration the advisability of establishing a military force to aid in the defence of the colony, and for the protection of the inhabitants thereof." Every inch of the venerable Hall of Justice was occupied, and hundreds of loyal and warlike lieges were unable to gain admission. However, the meeting was a thoroughly representative one, all classes being present, including even some of those to whom Butler refers when he says:

Such as do build their faith upon
The holy text of pike and gun,
Decide all controversies by
Infallible artillery;
And prove their doctrine orthodox
By apostolic blows and knocks.

In the absence of the Sheriff, Mr. Robt. J. Kent, Q.C., was called to the chair. Mr. J. Outerbridge moved the 1st resolution, and did so in an excellent speech, remarkable for its fluency and martial tone. He pointed out that this was the only colony without a military organisation for defensive purposes. We were absolutely at the mercy of an enemy in time of war, and in the event of hostilities a small privateer, even, could bombard the town and destroy its shipping and everything of value. It could land a force and seize the contents of our Banks, even of the Savings' Bank, the deposits of the toiling humbler classes of our population. A military force such as he sought to establish would be a means of protection from such aggression; it would inspire confidence in ourselves and show to the world that we had the desire and power to defend our possessions against attack. He put before the meeting several other reasons for the enrollment of the proposed corps and concluded by offering the following resolution:—

Resolved,—That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is very desirable that a Volunteer Military Force be established to aid in the defence of this Colony, and for the protection of the inhabitants thereof.

It was seconded by Mr. L. O'B. Furlong in a neat and warlike speech, endorsing the sentiments of the previous speaker and pointing out the strategical importance of the island as the key of British North America. The resolution was then put and carried.

The second resolution, as follows, was moved by Mr. McNeilly, Q.C., and seconded by Mr. D. Browning:

Resolved,—That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested, in the name of this Meeting, to apply to the Imperial Government for aid in equipping a volunteer force, and that the Imperial Government be solicited to supply the necessary guns and rifles.

Mr. Parsons, M.H.A., took exception to the manner in which the officers and men of the old volunteer battalion had been treated by the promoters of the present movement. The old volunteers, in whose ranks he had been enrolled, eventually rising, by promotion, to the post of captain, had been entirely ignored; and he regarded it as a deliberate affront to men who, now, as then, were actuated by an honest determination to defend the colony, and with their lives serve their Queen and country. What good would the present volunteers, even if they were raised, do in these "piping times of peace?" It would only have the effect of increasing the rate of taxation and adding to the already over-burdened load of the fishermen.

Mr. G. H. Emerson, M.H.A., strongly opposed the resolution, on the ground that it implied, if it did not say as much in plain words, that the colony would be called upon to pay part of the expenses of such an organization as was contemplated. In view of the present condition of the country, and the many pressing demands upon the public treasury, he could not consent to any appropriation for the object under consideration. After some further remarks, he moved an amendment to the effect that the Imperial Government be asked to defray all the expenses of the said organization. Mr. Emerson's motion was seconded by Mr. W. H. Whiteley, who said:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I feel it my duty to the class of whom I am one, to object to the principle of the motion before the chair. I would be false to my convictions if I did not do so. This is a public meeting of the citizens of St. John's, and it is the privilege and duty of every good citizen to record his views on any matter affecting the public welfare. I trust that no citizen will blame me for taking this public stand in defence of what I believe

to be the interests of the fishermen of this colony. We have no right to object to any number of men forming a volunteer force; but we have a right to object to any of the funds of this colony being used for any such purpose. The burden of taxation falls, out of all proportion, on the working classes; all the necessities of life are heavily taxed; property is not taxed at all. This peculiar system of taxation exists in no other British colony. If the young, hot blood of the town want a volunteer force, let them open a subscription list; let the banks and various companies be called upon to contribute towards their own defence, if they see the necessity of having volunteer protection, and believe the situation to be so perilous as it is represented to be. Here I am reminded of a man who lost his horse in some way, I think he fell dead on the street, and as the usual crowd gathered around and expressed themselves so sorry, an old Frenchman at length said, "You are all sorry; I am sorry ten dollars. How sorry are you?" And passing around his hat, he soon collected a large sum for the man, who went on his way rejoicing. Now, this is the course for the volunteer committee to adopt—"pass around the hat," and according as the warlike spirit moves, let every man give, and set the example of self-help to the fishermen. The great complaint of our day is that every man wants what he calls his share of the Government money. How can we control this popular view of the duties of Government if we ourselves set the example by asking for public funds to defray the expenses of a volunteer company? The expenses of governing this colony are too great, and altogether out of proportion to the means of the working classes. These expenses are steadily growing with our growth as a colony. The proposed grant of money is another instance of unnecessary expenditure. The amount may not be great, but the principle is wrong. If a grant be made from the public funds for a volunteer force for St. John's, how can Harbor Grace, Trinity, Catalina, Placentia, Brigus, in fact every large town of the colony, be denied a proportionate amount for the same purpose? Why, the motion before the chair, if carried, would be a guarantee that they could not be denied.

Last winter the leading mechanics and farmers of this town waited on the Government and asked them to guarantee the interest on twenty thousand dollars, which sum the mechanics and farmers agreed to raise themselves, and with the money erect an Exhibition Building on public ground, placing the title of the building in the hands of the Government as security. It was proposed to hold annual exhibitions of the products of the colony, and to use the building during the summer months as a market house. Surely these were worthy objects. Yet they were refused on the ground that the other districts would object to such an investment; and they were advised to get a guarantee from the citizens of St. John's.

A petition was presented last winter to the House of Assembly, signed by all the boys of the various schools of the town, praying that a grant of, I think, two hundred dollars, be spent in providing a bathing place for boys. They represented that the growth of the town had driven them from their usual bathing places or ponds. The prayer was refused, and the Attorney General, Mr. Winter, in his speech on the petition, remarked very strongly the boys and adults who signed the petition, saying that it was a sign of the general begging spirit pervading all classes, when even the boys were taught to look to the Government for aid. If this is sound doctrine, how much stronger does it apply to the young men—the hope of the colony? Should they not be encouraged to help themselves? I will come nearer home. His Excellency the Governor, acting as patron of the Agricultural Society, in his speech to the farmers, advised them to cultivate the practice of self-help, and, above all, not to look for help from the Government. The Governor was right; and the Agricultural Society far more entitled to help from the public funds than a Volunteer force?

As regards the formation of a volunteer company, I have no objection to offer. I have been a volunteer, and hold a captain's certificate from the Military School of Quebec, so I can speak from experience. I have seen who have left their native land and joined the tide of emigration that is depopulating this colony so fast—emigration caused, as I believe, by the neglect of the fishing interests and the natural results of a persistent squandering of the revenues of this colony. If my sons were here, I would be glad to see them volunteer. The next best thing I can do is to follow the example of Artemus Ward: I am willing that all my wife's relations should go to the war as volunteers. I do not wish to take up the time of the meeting. I simply stand here as a fisherman, with strong sympathies for the class to which I belong, and in view of the great distress that exists in all our northern districts and in our city—distress that is undoubtedly and terrible—I must do and protest against any action calculated to increase the public burdens. I do not suppose that my words will affect the decision that this meeting may arrive at, but I feel that I have done my duty, for which no honest man can blame me. I beg to second Mr. Emerson's amendment.

The amendment was put and carried, and the proceedings were concluded by a motion of Mr. Outerbridge thanking the Chairman, Mr. Kent, for his services in presiding. It was seconded by Mr. I. R. McNeilly and adopted by the meeting.

To-morrow we shall furnish a few more details respecting this movement, draw attention to the real object in view by its promoters, and comment on the series of blunders which culminated on Saturday night in one of the greatest "fizzles" on record.

BIRTH.
On the 9th inst., the wife of Mr. Charles H. Thomas, of a daughter.

DIED.
On Sunday morning, after a lingering illness, Maurice youngest son of Laurence and Julia Corcoran, aged 8 years and 6 months.
On Saturday, Edward, youngest son of Robert and Frances Hurley, aged 24 years. Funeral to-morrow, at 2 o'clock, from No. 87 Patrick street.
On the 4th inst. Mrs. Mary Ann, wife of Edward Hart, of Farnham, deeply regretted by a large circle of friends. R.I.P.
On Saturday night, after a long and painful illness, the beloved child of Michael and Hannah Walsh, aged 2 years and 4 days. Funeral to-morrow (Tuesday), at 10 a.m., from her late residence, No. 5, Lion's Square.
This morning, after a long and painful illness, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of James Griffin, aged 22 years. Funeral on Wednesday, at 2.30, from her mother's residence, 44 Marsh Hill.

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