PROGRESS.

W. K. REYNOLDS.....Editor.

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News and opinions on any subject are always welcome, but all communications should be signed. Manuscripts unsuited to our purpose will be returned if stamps are sent.

EDWARD S. CARTER,
Publisher and Proprietor,
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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 19.

CIRCULATION, 6,800.

☞ THIS PAPER GOES TO PRESS EVERY FRIDAY AT TWELVE O'CLOCK.

THE CITY COMMITTEES.

One of the most objectionable features in the present system of civic organization is the method by which boards and committees are chosen. In former times, when there were no boards and the committees were smaller than now the appointments were made by the mayor, but under what is supposed to be an improved system the choice is made by the whole council. The theory, no doubt, is excellent, but the objections to it are numerous and well grounded.

The men most competent to serve on boards and standing committees should be the men with previous experience in such positions, but if the council, or a faction of it chooses, it can ignore all who have any such qualification and put in men who will best serve certain ends. A clique can have the whole programme cut and dried in advance, spring their motions on the unsuspecting council and run matters to suit themselves for the year to come. There is no assertion that this has been done, but the possibilties exist and the danger is one to be guarded against.

The objection to this method of appointing committees is that as everything is done at hap-hazard when the council is rushing business, the men most fit to serve in certain capacities are as likely to be left out as they are to be chosen. There is no carefully considered plan in which the object in view is the best interests of the city. The aims of individuals or cliques are served, and that is about all that seems to concern some of the council.

There should be a better system. When good men are on a committee they should be kept on it, and when there is to be a change in the chairmanship, the choice should fall on some competent man who has been active members of the committee for the preceding year. It is absurd to pass over such men and appoint new and inexperienced men to their positions.

Besides, the boards and committees are very much bigger than common business principles would dictate. The members, as a rule, are simply in each others' way.

A TOPIC FOR PREACHERS.

While it is scarcely the duty of a secular paper to advise the clergy as to a choice of topics, PROGRESS is of opinion that a great deal of ministerial energy has been wasted of late in denunciation of dancing. It is true that in some churches the amusement is forbidden, and if such denominations choose to discipline their members for the offense, it is not the business of anyone outside of their fold. Dancing may or may not be a sin. It is a matter of opinion and of conscience. If it be a sin, it can scarcely be regarded as a deadly one, and is therefore scarcely worthy of the fierce and persistent assaults upon it. There are more crying evils in the land than dancing, or even drunkenness. The one which obtrudes itself most unpleasantly at the present time is political immorality.

One or two of the ministers in St. John and Fredericton touched on this subject last Sunday. More of them should do so. There is need of all that they can say, and all that honest citizens can do, to bring about a better state of affairs. It is not that this country is worse than any other country, for it is morally better than some of its neighbors in this respect, but it needs no more than a passing glance at either Fredericton or Ottawa to show that in all conscience, it is quite bad enough. The country is run by the professional politicians, and the people, who imagine that they can control affairs, are simply the tools with which the work is done.

It matters not which party is in power, or what man is at the head of affairs. A good citizen who becomes a professional politician is almost as certain to become a corrupt man as a money lender is to become a hard man. Few have the strength to withstand the temptations of a bad system, encouraged by the press, condoned by the clergy and endorsed by the people because they have been educated to believe in it. It is a blot on the civilization of the nineteenth century that place and pelf seekers should keep themselves in power year after year, not because a majority of the honest men want them, not because they are of any benefit to the country, but because they are more successful than their opponents in their conspiracy against the people's rights, because they have more hirelings who fill offices in their gift, or because they have either more money to distribute or fewer theives among the heelers who are entrusted with the dirty work of buying up enough human cattle to make a majority of votes in an electoral district. This is the way that elections are run and carried, and this is the way that what by supreme irony is termed "the voice of the people" is made itself felt in almost every election. Once in a while it may be, there is an issue in which a principle is involved and in which bribery does not carry the day, but such cases are rare. As a rule, the man or party with the most money is the one certain of victory.

The fact that ANDREW G. BLAIR got $1,500 from St. John as part of a fund to use on the electors of York does not make him or his colleagues the chief of sinners. If the same or a larger amount was also sent to GEORGE F. GREGORY there is no sane man who imagines that he did not not readily accept and use it. In the miserable, lying jugglery of politics such funds are considered as legitimate and indispensable. There is no man who runs a contested election who does not either actively engage in this corruption or calmly acquiesce in it. He may be a leading light in his church, a man redolent with the odor of sanctity on Sundays, but he accepts the situation as inevitable, and lends himself to the iniquity with a peaceful and pious resignation.

True, we have laws against bribery, and against a great many other bad practices. Of what use are they? How many petitions are carried to trial, and if they are what is the result? Either the man who has bribed is returned again, or a man who can bribe more skilfully is returned in his place. The laws are a sham, and, even if enforced, can never improve the morality of the politicians.

The laws are a sham because their only effect is to put the people to trouble and expense without any corresponding result. The persons who profit by them are the lawyers. Such laws inconvenience the politician, but they do not punish him.

The law which makes bribery and receiving bribes a crime should not be a dead letter, and it would not be it others than politicians controlled it. The briber and the bribed should equally lose their rights, and for all time. They should be deemed criminal conspirators against the rights of every citizen who tries to vote according to his conscience. And such a law should be enforced, as it could be if the lawyers and politicians were not more mighty than the people.

What is needed then is an effort, by those who aspire to teach morality, to lead the people to a realization of the need of better things. The preacher in politics is objectionable, as a rule, and when he simply espouses the cause of a party or a man, where no principle is involved, he does positive evil. In the question of abstract right and wrong he cannot speak too earnestly or too often. If he will read the newspapers without party bias, he may find in the politics of to-day more grave and pressing calls for his interference than the dancing or other little lapses of his flock. There is need for all he can say.

And he will teach the people that if Christianity is worth anything, its cardinal precepts are worth applying to their politics.

THE MILL IS GRINDING.

Can any of the Ottawa tariff tinkers tell us what remarkable change has come over the fruit growing districts of Canada in the last two years? At that time it was considered in the interests of the people and the country that apples and certain other fruits consumed in large quantities should be admitted free of duty, and they were so scheduled. Now it is announced that the duty is to be reimposed, and that every barrel of American apples shall hereafter pay a tax of forty cents to aid in supporting the men who make taxes for the people, and in adding to the machinery by which the grinding millstones are turned.

The maritime provinces are those most oppressed by this latest extortion. While it is true that some of the finest apples in the world are produced in Nova Scotia, it is equally true that the best of them are shipped across the ocean, and that in St. John, as a rule, only the inferior and perishable kinds can be procured. It may be that, since the duty will so largely increase the price of the American product, it will be worth while for the Annapolis Valley to send better fruit to St. John, but why should many thousands be thus laid under tribute to benefit a few hundreds who are doing well enough as it is? Nobody will imagine that the Nova Scotia fruit grower will be willing to take any less than he can force the people to pay. He is not of that kind. Buyers are usually more than satisfied when they find his barrels of regulation size and the fruit in the middle something in size and quality like that at the ends. The past has shown that they have no right to expect anything more.

The most mischievous result of the policy of the government in thus placing a duty on articles which, two years ago, they made free is that the United States is likely to retaliate. The fact that we are deprived of early strawberries does not hurt the American grower, but if Congress imposes a duty on late strawberries sent from New Brunswick it will be a serious blow to what has of late years developed into a most flourishing industry. In the same way, eggs, the exports of which from the provinces exceed even those of fish, may have what amounts to a prohibitory duty placed upon them. Thus, by the greed of the tax makers, in both countries, the money which belongs to the people is snatched by the government, and nobody is any the better for it.

When once the tariff tinkers begin to legislate for the few at the expense of the many, no one can foresee to what results their policy of folly may lead.

SUNDRY HITS AND HINTS.

The people run the country, of course, but who runs the people?

Mr. Atkinson has begun house-cleaning, and is having a trying time of it.

Hon. P. A. Landry is not a good judge—of whiskey. He is not one of that kind.

The busy season has begun in Halifax. There were eight funerals there, the other day.

Mr. A. G. Blair, at $1,500 a night, is by all odds the highest priced lecturer ever brought to St. John.

Now that the duty on chocolate is to be raised from one cent to four, invalids can economize by drinking champagne.

Now that the momentous question of the appointment of school trustees is settled, the council has one less trouble ahead of it.

It may be because a new broom sweeps clean, but the city, since it has started to keep the streets in order, is doing lots of work.

The Leary telegram was manufactured for political effect, says Hon. William Pugsley. And a fine political effect it had, to be sure.

The remarks of the Director of Public Works, on hearing of Ald. Connor's charges against him, are not quoted, and possibly are not quotable.

If the political morality of this country were as it should be, no lawyer's quibbles would be allowed to head off an investigation where the whole truth was sought.

That many of the street laborers are old and feeble is no reason why they should have to work ten hours a day, when stronger and better paid men work only nine hours.

Concerning the bank agent who skipped from Woodstock, the statement is made that he "has hitherto borne a good character." Chestnuts. They all do.

There is no greater terror at this season than the woman with the varnish brush who daubs up everything in the house, so that none of the varnish will be wasted.

Ex-Alderman Jack believes in taking time by the forelock. He announced last Tuesday that he would be a candidate for alderman on the first Tuesday in April next.

If, as charged, $6,000 was sent from St. John to aid the opposition in York, it must be conceded that friend Gregory is a pretty heavy load to carry under the best of circumstances.

Hundreds of sweet-toothed readers of PROGRESS will be under deep and lasting obligations to the correspondent who describes what a sugar camp is like. It is a very appetising account, isn't it?

The idea that cholera follows in the track of the grippe appears to have deeply impressed the tories at Ottawa. They want to keep all American fruit out of the country, for fear some of it might be unripe and dangerous to health.

Considering that the mayor has no means of knowing anything about other places than St. John, isn't there a good deal of "taffy" in his assertion that the council is "second to none on the continent of America?" Second to none for what?

It makes the occasional visitor to Halifax very tired to hear the papers talking about the need of a new public square with bronze statues on it. There will be time enough for that after the sidewalks are made passable, the stores modernized, and the houses painted.

JOYS AND WOES OF OTHER PLACES.

Free Pews in St. Luke's, Halifax.

For a lady to go to a crowded church, on a hot summer day, dressed in clean, fresh, cool garments (even though only cottons) and find herself seated beside a great unwashed man, who will probably spit over her before the service is finished, is a great trial to female temper, and is apt to divert attention from prayer and praise.—*Hx. Mail.*

Critical Essay by Dr. Geo. Stewart, Jr.

The post office lobby positively stinks, and it is high time time that something in the way of ventilation were done. We hope that the postmaster will break a few panes of glass, or open a window or two, so that fresh air may get in. The lobby is foul.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

A Resurrection Threatened.

The bridge at the mouth of the Aroostook still remains a standing menace to life and property. Will it be necessary for one to rise from the dead to make the government believe that this is so.—*Woodstock Press.*

Big Contract for Four.

Bro. Coy also said a missionary society was very needful, as they are continually getting calls to go work in other places, and if we had the means four men could be put in the field and kept there to fight sin, intemperance, tobacco, and iniquity in all shapes.—*Woodstock Press.*

The Toper's Utopia.

Every shop and hotel that cares to sell by the glass is selling, every one that cares to sell to minors is selling, most of them are selling during illegal hours, and twenty per cent of them on Sunday.—*Hx. Voice.*

What Halifax May Expect.

If our city allows the saloon element to return its aldermen and mayor, it deserves to have its treasure absorbed by the pot-houses, its youth corrupted by saloon slums, and its morals and its industries paralyzed by the god Gambrinus.—*Hx. Voice.*

Improved Circuit Breaker.

The wire of the W. & D. Tel. Co. was broken one day last week, and upon inquiring we were informed that an ox tried to jump the wire at Freeport, but failed to clear it; hence the break.—*Digby Courier.*

Another Editor Made Happy.

Our thanks are due the Red Store for generous samples of delicious maple sugar.—*Canning Gazette.*

The Fate of Iconoclasts.

Why it is that when a respectable body of our citizens approach the city council and point out the miserable state of many of our tenement houses, the necessity for improvements in our dwellings for the poorer classes, and the desirability of better sanitary inspection, they should be snubbed or ridiculed?—*Hx. Mail.*

They Eat Clothes Lines.

Frequent complaints are being made that cattle are allowed to run at large and as there is little feed for them at this time of year, they do considerable damage in back yards and elsewhere.—*Moncton Times.*

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

With the Easter season comes the usual inundation of concerts of all descriptions, some good and more bad. However, I think I can safely recommend the general public to patronize the concert in connection with the Neptune Rowing club, which promises to be very good. Among the selections, I notice "The Spinning Chorus" from *The Flying Dutchman* by Wagner, and also the "Bridal Chorus" from *Lohengrin*. I only hope that sufficient time will be given to practise them properly, for nothing is more painful than Wagner badly sung; still the chorus is in good hands and I am going to hope for the best. The following is the programme: The Philharmonic Club will play March from Athalie; Overture to Zampa; March from Tannhausen. Miss May Bowden will give a piano solo, and Mr. J. M. White a violin solo. The soloists will be Mrs. W. S. Carter, with a capital new song; Miss Clara Quinton, Rev. J. M. Davenport, Mr. A. H. Lindsay, Mr. T. Daniel with a new song composed by Mr. J. S. Ford. A well known amateur will also sing a sentimental ditty. The bridal chorus (Lohengrin), serenade by Offenbach. Spinning chorus (for ladies) will conclude the programme. The accompanists are Mr. Morley and Mr. Ford.

The meeting of the Oratorio society, Monday evening, was a very interesting one, as the question of the entrance fee was again discussed. I do not think that any definite understanding was reached, there being so many different opinions on the subject. It seems to me that instead of an entrance fee of two dollars (which might prevent new members from joining the society, and certainly let the old members off "Scot free") it would be a good plan to have the fee one dollar and charge all the old members the same, or make a yearly fee of one dollar to all. I'm sure it is little enough when one thinks of the benefit which the members derive from the society. Why one half, no, more than one half, of our church choirs have to thank the Oratorio society for the proficiency their members have in reading music at sight, and think of the time Mr. Morley gives up to the rehearsals. Perhaps it is none of my affairs, but I really think a fund ought to be started for giving a salary to the conductor, and hope ere long something of the kind will be undertaken.

Mr. Hugh Swanton's many friends in St. John will be glad to hear news of him. Mr. Swanton, who is at present organist and choir master of St. Thomas' church, Sioux City, has been training a surpliced choir, which sang for the first time on Easter Sunday. I think there are 35 voices in all, and they must be higher church than our Trinity, for I noticed in an account of the service that a memorial cross was carried for the first time, and they also had a processional hymn. Mr. Swanton, I believe, intends giving a series of organ recitals, to be held after the evening services. How I wish some of our organists would follow his example. Of course, there would be a lot of people who would object at first, but they would soon get used to it. I am told that Mr. Swanton has written a new setting for the office of the Holy Communion, in the key of G, which includes Kyrie's Glorias, four offertory sentences, Creed, Sursum Corda, Sanctus, and Gloria in Excelsis. The service will be published in London this month. Mr. Swanton has also placed several compositions for the organ before the public. The hymn, "Sweet Saviour, bless us ere we go," which was published in the New York *Churchman*, was sung at St. Thomas' at the evening service the first Sunday after Easter.

Miss Bowden has returned from Boston, and I hear that Mr. Percy Bourne (organist of St. Paul's) spent his Easter holidays in the same city. I rather break the tenth commandment when I think of all the good music they must have listened to, for Boston is unusually lucky this spring, having both the German and Italian opera and several oratorios, besides all the other attractions I see in the papers.

The organ recital which was held in St. Luke's, on Thursday evening, came off too late for me to say anything about it this week, as also did the musical programme in connection with the farce, *The Elevator*, which was given in aid of the flower mission, in the Church of England Institute lecture room on the same evening.

Two rehearsals for *Dorothy* were held this week, one on Monday and the other on Friday. I heard of some trouble with the Philharmonic club, but am not quite sure of what it was about.

Rev. J. deSoyres and Mrs. deSoyres gave a musical evening on Wednesday, for the members of the choir of St. John's church.

"Terpsichore" will be pleased to learn that the members of Trinity choir have acknowledged the "most kind act" of the rector, church wardens, etc., by a note of thanks, to which all their names are appended.

An English paper says:

That the musical infant phenomenon is not a new invention is proved by the following advertisement from the *Morning Chronicle* of June 9th, 1783, which has been forwarded to the *Musical World* by Messrs. Broadwood: Mr. Astly, of the Amphitheatre Westminster Bridge, begs leave to inform the nobility, gentry and others that he has engaged for twelve nights that amazing phenomenon, the musical child from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He is only thirty-six months old, has the judgment of the most professed theorist in music, and is allowed by all ranks of persons to be the most astonishing natural production that has ever made its appearance in the known world. This infant is to perform in the centre of the schore on the on the Forte piano several known airs, etc.

The same journal in announcing a performance of *Messiah* by the Royal Society of Musicians, intimates that "no ladies will be admitted with hats, and they are particularly requested to come without feathers, and very small hoops, if any."

The "old musical club" met at the residence of Mr. G. Ludlow Robinson, on Tuesday evening, and a very enjoyable programme was rendered by the members. The next meeting will be held at Miss Bowden's, corner Princess and Sydney streets, where Rossini and Mozart will be the composers represented.

I fancy the three choirs which are to take part in the service in Trinity on St. George's day are having a busy time of it, for I hear of a good many practices being held.

TARBET.

PERTINENT PERSONALS.

PROGRESS does not usually call attention to its own typographical errors, but when a man so prominently identified with the Masonic history of New Brunswick as Robert Marshall, is referred to as "John" Marshall a prompt correction is due. The reference was made in connection with an incident in the life of the late Judge Botsford.

Hon. P. A. Landry, who succeeds the late Judge Botsford as a judge of the county court, is the first Acadian to be raised to the bench in this province. Mr. Landry is, however, a good deal more English than French in his ideas and training, and does his thinking in the former language. In old times, when he expected to make a speech in French, he used to think it out beforehand, in a much more careful way than he did his English addresses. Since being a representative at Ottawa, however, he has probably acquired a greater fluency in his mother tongue. Mr. Landry has always been a politician who believed in policy. When an election was over, he preferred to conciliate those who had opposed him rather than to adopt the foolish course of showing open resentment. "Peter" knew his business as a politician, and when the opportunity offered, treated his enemies on the principle that they would one day be his friends. He has been a very important factor in the political history of Westmorland, and the conservative party owes much to him for his work among his people.

PEN AND PRESS.

The *Dramatic Mirror* will issue the first number of a new periodical, the *Dramatic Mirror Quarterly*, early next month. This magazine will contain the dramatic essays which have latterly become the *Mirror's* first page feature, together with certain other special matter that it is promised will prove valuable to those interested in current dramatic literature. The *Quarterly* will be edited by Harrison Grey Fiske.

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CHATS WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

WILL society correspondents please make an effort to have their letters reach this office by Thursday morning, if possible, and save the printers from being crowded at the end of the week?

TRURO, Shediac and Chatham lettters are omitted because it is impossible to find room for them. Don't get discouraged, girls. Better luck next week.

PEG, Truro—Five pages of foolscap mean a good deal of labor, but what can we do when they do not get here before Friday morning?

Delicate and Artistic.

It would be hard to find a more delicate and artistic piece of printing than the souvenir of Golden Rule Lodge, which has just come from the *Telegraph* presses. It is a beautiful piece of work, and does great credit to that artist printer, Charles Lawson.

Now is the Chance.

Knights Templars from other parts of the province who are in St. John next week, should call on A. R. Campbell, 46 King street, if in need of furnishings for uniforms. A choice supply of blue lodge regalia also on hand.

What More Does Man Want?

A correspondent concludes his letter as follows:

We are enjoying the best of health, lovely weather and the robins sing every morning.

Oh, No, He Hasn't.

It is said that Mr. Tweedie is greatly tickled with PROGRESS' biographical effort and has purchased a large number of copies for distribution, and especially in Black Brook.—*Moncton Times.*

MARRIED.

GODSOE-ELLIS—At Centenary church, on the 15th inst., by the Rev. Dr. Pope, Frank A. Godsoe, D. D. S., to Carrie Manuel, second daughter of Thomas Ellis, Esq.

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