POOR DOCUMENT

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WAS A MINISTER'S SON

REV. DR. TALMAGE ON THE LIFE OF THE LATE STEPHEN J. FIELD.

A GREAT MAN FALLEN THIS DAY

The Great American Chief Justice Could Trace an Honorable Ancestry Back 800 Years to the Time of William the Conqueror—Striking Earthly Career Merged Into Christian Character.

Washington, April 23.—Rev. Dr. Talmage took for his text to-day II. Samuel iii, 38, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" He said:

Here is a plumed catafalque, followed by King David and a funeral oration which he delivers at the tomb. Concerning Abner, the great, David weeps out the text. More appropriately than when originally uttered we may now utter this resounding lamentation, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?"

It was 30 minutes after 6, the exact hour of sunset of the Sabbath day, and while the evening lights were being kindled, that the soul of Stephen J. Field, the lawyer, the judge, the patriot, the statesman, the Christian, ascended. It was sundown in the home on yonder Capitol hill, as it was sundown on all the surrounding hills, but in both cases the sun set to be followed by a glorious sunrise. Hear the Easter anthems still lingering in the air, "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall rise."

Our departed friend came forth a boy from a minister's home in New England. He knelt with father and mother at morning and evening prayer, learned from maternal lips lessons of piety which lasted him and controlled him amid all the varied and exciting scenes of a lifetime and helped him to die in peace an octogenarian. Blot out from American history the names of those ministers' sons who have done honor to judicial bench and commercial circle and national legislature and Presidential chair, and you would obliterate many of the grandest chapters of that history. It is no small advantage to have started from a home where God is honored and the subject of a world's emancipation from sin and sorrow is under constant discussion. The Ten Commandments, which are the foundation of all good law—Roman law, German law, English law, American law—are the best foundation upon which to build character, and those which the boy, Stephen J. Field, so often heard in the parsonage at Stockbridge were his guidance when, a half century after, as a gowned justice of the supreme court of the United States, he unrolled his opinions. Bibles, hymn books, catechisms, family prayers, atmosphere sanctified, are good surroundings for boys and girls to start from, and if our laxer ideas of religion and Sabbath days and home training produce as splendid men and women as the much derided Puritanic Sabbath and Puritanic teachings have produced it will be a matter of congratulation and thanksgiving.

Do not pass by the fact that I have not yet seen emphasized that Stephen J. Field was a minister's son. Notwithstanding that there are conspicuous exceptions to the rule—and the exceptions have built up a stereotyped defamation on the subject—statistics plain and undeniable prove that a larger proportion of ministers' sons turn out well than are to be found in any other genealogical table. Let all the parsonages of all denominations of Christians where children are growing up take the consolation. See the star of hope pointing down to that manger!

Notice also that our departed friend was a member of a royal family. There were no crowns or scepters or thrones in that ancestral line, but the family of the Fields, like the family of the New York Primes, like the family of the Princeton Alexanders, like a score of families that I might mention, if it were best to mention them, were "the children of the King," and had put on them honors brighter than crowns and wielded influence longer and wider than scepters. That family of Fields traces an honorable lineage back 800 years to Hubertus de la Feld, coadjutor of William the Conqueror. Let us thank God for such families, generation after generation on the side of that which is right and good. Four sons of that country minister, known the world over for extraordinary usefulness in their spheres, legal, commercial, literary and theological, and a daughter, the mother of one of the associate justices of the supreme court. Such families counterbalance for good those families all wrong from generation to generation—families that stand for wealth, unrightcously got and stingily kept or wickedly squandered; families that stand for fraud or impurity or malevolence; family names that immediately come to every mind, though through sense of propriety they do not come to the lip.

Among the most absorbing books of the Bible is the book of Kings, which again and again illustrates that though piety is not hereditary the style of parentage has much to do with the style of descendant. It declares of King Abijam, "He walked in all the sins of his father which he had done before him," and of King Azariah, "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done." We owe a debt to those who have gone before in our line as certainly as we have obligations to those who subsequently appear in the household. Not so sacred is your old father's walking staff, which you keep in his memory, or the eyeglasses through which your mother studied the Bible in her old age as the name they bore, the name which you inherited. Keep it bright, I charge you. Keep it suggestive of something elevated in character. Trample not underfoot that which to your father and mother was dearer than life itself. Defend their graves as they defended your cradle. Family coat of arms, escutcheons, ensigns armorial, lion couchant, or lion dormant, or lion rampant, or lion combatant, may attract attention, but better than all heraldic inscription is a family name which means from generation to generation faith in God, self-sacrifice, duty performed, a life well lived and a death happily died, and a heaven gloriously won. That was the kind of name that Justice Field augmented and adorned and perpetuated—a name honorable at the close of the eighteenth century, more honored now at the close of the nineteenth.

Notice also that our illustrious friend was great in reasonable and genial dissent. Of the 1,042 opinions he rendered none was more potent or memorable than those rendered while he was in small minority and sometimes in a minority of one. A learned and distinguished lawyer of this country said he would rather be the author of Judge Field's dissenting opinions than to be the author of the constitution of the United States. The Declaration of American Independence was a dissenting opinion. The Free Church of Scotland, under Chalmers and his compeers, was a dissenting movement. The Bible itself, Old Testament and New Testament, is a protest against the theories that would have destroyed the world, and is a dissenting as well as a divinely inspired book. The Decalogue on Sinai repeated ten times "Thou shalt not." For ages to come will be quoted from lawbooks in courtrooms Justice Field's magnificent dissenting opinions.

Notice that our ascended friend had such a character as assault and peril alone can develop. He had not come to the soft cushions of the supreme court bench stepping on cloth of gold and saluted all along the line by handclapping of applause. Country parsonages do not rock their babes in satin lined cradle or afterward send them out into the world with enough in their hand to purchase place and power. Pastors' salaries in the early part of this century hardly ever reached $700 a year. Economies that sometimes cut into the bone characterized many of the homes of the New England clergymen. The young lawyer of whom we speak to-day arrived in San Francisco in 1849 with only $10 in his pocket. Williamstown College was only introductory to a postgraduate course, which our illustrious friend took while administering justice and halting ruffianism amid the mining camps of California. Oh, those "forty-niners," as they were called, through what privations, through what narrow escapes, amid what exposures they moved! Administering and executing law among outlaws never has been an easy undertaking. Among mountaineers, many of whom had no regard for human life, and where the snap of pistol and bang of gun were not unusual responses, required courage of the highest metal.

Behind a dry goods box, surmounted by tallow candles, Judge Field began his judicial career. What exciting scenes he passed through! An infernal machine was handed to him, and inside the lid of the box was pasted his decision in the Pueblo case, the decision that had balked unprincipled speculators. Ten years ago his life would have passed out had not an officer of the law shot down his assailant. It took a long training of hardship and abuse and misinterpretation and threat of violence and blackmail and knife to fit him for the high place where he could defy legislatures and congresses and presidents and the world when he knew he was right. Hardship is the grindstone that sharpens intellectual faculties and the sword with which to strike effectively for God and one's country.

The reason that life to so many is a failure is because they do not have opposition enough and trials enough or because they ignominiously lie down to be run over by them instead of using them for stairs on which to put their foot and mount. Those "born with a gold spoon in their mouths" are apt to take their last medicine out of a pewter mug. Opposition develops courage. I like the ring of Martin Luther's defiance when he said to the Duke of Saxony, "Things are otherwise ordered in heaven than they are at Augsburg."

Notice also how much our friend did for the honor of the judiciary. What momentous scenes have been witnessed in our United States supreme court, on the bench and before the bench, whether far back it held its sessions in the upper room of the exchange at New York or afterward for ten years in the city hall at Philadelphia or later in the cellar of yonder capitol, the place where for many years the Congressional library was kept, a sepulcher where books were buried alive, the hole called by John Randolph "the Cave of Trophonius!" What mighty men stood before that bar pleading in immortal eloquence on questions of national import! Edmund Randolph and Alexander Hamilton and Pinkney and Jeremiah Mason and Caleb Cushing and the weird and irresistible Rufus Choate and George Wood and Charles O'Conor and James T. Brady and Francis B. Cutting and men now living just as powerful.

How suggestive the invitation which William Wirt, the great Virginian, wrote his friend inviting him to yonder supreme court room: "To-morrow a week will come on the great steamboat question from New York. Emmett and Oakley on one side, Webster and myself on the other. Come down and hear it. Emmett's whole soul is in the case, and he will stretch all his powers. Oakley is said to be one of the finest logicians of the age, as much a Phocion as Emmett is a Themistocles, and Webster is as ambitious as Caesar. He will not be outdone by any man if it is within the compass of his power to avoid it. Come to Washington. It will be a combat worth witnessing." The supreme court has stood so high in England and the United States that the vices of a few who have occupied that important place have not been able to disgrace it, neither the corruption of Francis Bacon, nor the cruelty of Sir George Mackenzie, nor the Sabbath desecration of Lord Castlereagh.

To that highest of all tribunals Abraham Lincoln called our friend, but he lived long enough to honor the supreme court more than it had ever honored him. For more than 34 years he sat in the presence of this nation and of all nations a model judge. Fearlessness, integrity, devotion to principle, characterized him. No bribe ever touched his hand. No profane word ever scalded his tongue. No blemish of wrong ever marred his character. Fully qualified was he to have his name associated in the history of this country with the greatest of the judiciary.

As at 12 o'clock day by day on yonder hill the gavel falls in the supreme court room, and it is announced that the chief justice of the United States and the associate justices are about to enter, and all counselors at the bar and all spectators rise to greet them, and the officer with the words, "Oyez, oyez, oyez!" announces that all is now ready for a hearing and exclaims, "God save the United States of America," so I wish we could in imagination gather together those who have occupied that high judicial place in this and other lands, and they might enter, and after the falling of some mighty gavel had demanded attention we could look upon them—Marshall, the giant of American jurisprudence, and John Jay, of whom Daniel Webster said in commemoration, "When the spotless ermine of the judicial robe fell on John Jay, it touched nothing less spotless than itself," and Rutledge and Cushing and Ellsworth and Joseph Storey, called the Walter Scott of common law, and Sir Hatthew Hale and Lord Eldon and Lord Tenterden and Sir James McIntosh and Mansfield and the long line of lord chancellors and the great judges from both sides the sea, and after they had taken their places in our quickened imagination the distinguished cases of centuries which they decided might again be called on, after the assembled nations had ejaculated, "God save the United States of America," "God save Great Britain, "God save the nations."

Ah, how the law honors and sanctifies everything it touches! Natural law. Civil law. Social law. Commercial law. Common law. Moral law. Ecclesiastical law. International law. Oh, the dignity, the impressiveness, the power of law! It is the only thing before which Jehovah bows, but he bows before that, although the law is of his own making. The law! By it worlds swing. By it the fate of centuries is decided. By it all the affairs of time and all the cycles of eternity will be governed. We cannot soar so high, or sink so deep, or reach out so far, or live so long as to escape it. It is the throne on which the Almighty sits. To interpret law, what a profession! What a responsibility!

In passing let me say that for this chief tribunal of our country congress should soon provide a better place. Let some of the moneys voted for the improvement of rivers which are nothing but dry creeks and for harbors which will never have any shipping and for monuments to some people whom it is not at all important for us to remember be voted for the erection of a building worthy of our United States supreme court. John Ruskin, in "Stones of Venice," calls attention to the pleasing fact that in the year 813 the doge of Venice devoted himself to putting up two great buildings—St. Mark's, for the worship of God, and a palace for the administration of justice to man. In its appreciation of what is best let not 1899 be behind 813. With such granite in our quarries and such architects capable of drafting sublime structure and such magnificent sites on which to build let not another year pass before we hear the trowel ring on the cornerstone of a temple to be occupied by the highest court of the land.

Have you ever realized how much God has honored law in the fact that all up and down the Bible he makes the judge a type of himself and employs the scene of a courtroom to set forth the grandeurs of the great judgment day? Book of Genesis, "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" Book of Deuteronomy, "The Lord shall judge his people." Book of Psalms, "God is Judge himself." Book of the Acts. "Judge of quick and dead." Book of Timothy, "The Lord the righteous Judge." Never will it be understood how God honors judges and courtrooms until the thunderbolt of the last day shall pound the opening of the great assize—the day of trial, the day of clearance, the day of doom, the day of judgment. The law of the case on that occasion will be read, and the indictment of ten counts, which are the Ten Commandments. Justice will plead the case against us, but our glorious advocate will plead in our behalf, for "we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the righteous." Then the case will be decided in our clearance, as the Judge announces, "There is now, therefore, no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus." Under the crowded galleries of cloud on that last day and under the swaying upholstery of a burning heavens and while the Alps and Himalayas and Mount Washington are falling flat on their faces we will be able to understand the significance of those Scripture passages which speak of God as Judge and employ the courtroom of earth as typical of the scene when all nations shall be brought into tribunal.

To have done well, all that such a profession could ask of him, and to have made that profession still more honorable by his brilliant and sublime life, is enough for national and international, terrestrial and celestial congratulation. And then to expire beautifully while the prayers of his church were being offered at his bedside, the door of heaven opening for his entrance as the door of earth opened for his departure, the sob of the earthly farewell caught up into raptures that never die. Yes, he lived and died in the faith of the old fashioned Christian religion

Young man, I want to tell you that Justice Field believed in the Bible from lid to lid, a book all true either as doctrine or history, much of it the history of events that neither God nor man approves. Our friend drank the wine of the holy sacrament and ate the bread of which "if a man eat he shall never hunger." He was the up and down, out and out friend of the church of Christ. If there had been anything illogical in our religion, he would have scouted it, for he was a logician. If there had been in it anything unreasonable, he would have rejected it, because he was a great reasoner. If there had been in it anything that would not stand research, he would have exploded the fallacy, for his life was a life of research. Young men of Washington, young men of America, young men of the round world, a religion that would stand the test of Justice Field's penetrating and all ransacking intellect must have in it something worthy of your confidence. I tell you now that Christianity has not only the heart of the world on its side, but the brain of the world also. Ye who have tried to represent the religion of the Bible as something pusillanimous, how do you account for the Christian faith of Stephen J. Field, whole shelves of the law library occupied with his magnificent decisions?

Goodbye, my dear old friend of more than 30 years. Your words of personal encouragement and good cheer give me the right to offer words of commemoration. But I must leave to others his place of burial. This city might choose Rock Creek and Oak Hill, and San Francisco might choose Lone Mountain, yet if I had my choice I would say let it be the cemetery at Stockbridge. He would be at home there, and it would be a family reunited. But, whatever be the place, let me sprinkle over the newly-made grave this handful of heather from the Scotch highlands, in the hymn which the people of that land of Andrew Melville and John Knox are apt to sing on their way to the grave of some one greatly beloved:

Neighbor, accept our parting song.
The road is short, the rest is long.
The Lord brought here, the Lord takes hence;
This is no house of permanence.

On bread of mirth and bread of tears
The pilgrim fed these checkered years;
Now, landlord world, shut to the door;
Thy guest is gone forever more.

Yea, village bells, ring softly, ring,
And in the blessed Sabbath bring
Which from this weary workday tryst
Awaits God's folk through Jesus Christ.

TO PROTECT GAME.

A BILL INTRODUCED TO SHORTEN THE HUNTING SEASON.

A Number of Bills of Importance Committed, Among Them One to Abolish the St. John Labor License Law—The End of the Session Evidently Near.

FREDERICTON, April 25.—Mr. Veniot from the standing rules committee and Mr. McKeown from the municipality committee submitted reports.

Mr. Porter introduced a bill incorporating the New Brunswick Pulp and Paper Company (ltd); Mr. Hazen a bill to dispense with the use of parchment in all matters; Mr. Dunn a bill amending a by-law passed December 17, 1896, respecting business licenses, by the city of St. John.

On motion of Mr. Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Farris, it was resolved that copies of the resolution passed respecting the Canada Eastern Railway, be engrossed and forwarded to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the secretary of state, and Hon. Mr. Blair.

Mr. Tweedie committed a bill to grant aid towards the holding of provincial and county exhibitions throughout the province—Mr. Wells chairman. Agreed to.

Mr. Tweedie committed appropriation bills. Wells, chairman. Agreed to.

Mr. Pugsley committed a bill further amending an act respecting practice and proceedings in the Supreme court in equity. Burns, chairman. Agreed to.

Mr. McKeown committed a bill to declare and explain the meaning of the covenant for renewal in leases for renewable terms. Burns, chairman. Progress was reported with leave.

Mr. Robertson committed a bill to confirm a conveyance from the city of St John to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and for other purposes. Fish, chairman. Progress reported with leave.

Mr. Robertson committed a bill to amend an act incorporating the Women's Christian Temperance Union of St. John. Fish chairman. Agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Fish committed a bill to amend section 7 of chapter 107 Consolidated Statutes so far as it applies to the fire district of the town of Newcastle. Shaw chairman. Agreed to.

Mr. Lawson committed a bill in addition to act 53rd Victoria, chapter 73, incorporating the town of Grand Falls. Shaw chairman. Bill agreed to with amendments.

Mr. White introduced a bill amending chapter 100 of rates and taxes; also a bill in further amendment of an act authorizing the acceptance of policies of guarantee companies as security for the faithful conduct of public officers; also a bill in amendment of chapter 17, 61st Victoria, registration of births, deaths and marriages.

A recess was then taken.

After recess Mr. Veniot from the standing rules committee submitted a report.

Mr. Wells introduced a bill amending chapter 115, Consolidated Statutes, of sewers and marsh lands.

Mr. McKeown re-committed a bill to declare and explain the meaning of the covenant for the renewal of leases for renewal terms. Todd, chairman. Agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill in amendment of the New Brunswick elections act of 1899 and certain acts in amendment thereof.

Mr. Dunn committed a bill respecting the protection of game. Wells, chairman. The bill proposed making the open season for moose and caribou end December 31.

Mr. Lawson objected and wanted the close season to end November 30. December, he said, was the month for the lumbermen and pot hunters. Tobique sportsmen had represented to him the desirability of the changes he proposed.

Mr. Todd agreed with Mr. Lawson, especially with regard to deer.

Mr. Tweedie said December is a good month for hunting. He said the idea of lumbermen shooting any great quantity of moose was a delusion. The men are not taken into the woods to hunt moose but to cut logs. He thought it a bad policy to change the law every year. Sportsmen had already made their arrangements, guides have been employed for the present year, and it would not be fair to take off month of the open season without any notice to these men. His experience is that it is not well to change the law in accordance with every suggestion that may be made, these suggestions generally came from persons who may have fads, and do not take into consideration the whole trend of the law.

Mr Todd always felt a great deal of pride in our game resources. They would be a veritable gold mine in the future if properly protected. Maine last year had taken $2,000,000 from big game sportsmen. In that state the close season is from the first of October to November 15th and he believed the time was coming when three months would be the limit in this province.

Mr. Dunn said no doubt that a large number of moose were shot by lumbermen in December.

Mr. Porter agreed with Mr. Lawson that the Tobique sportsmen favored striking December from the open season.

Mr. Tweedie said that his experience was that more moose are killed up the St. John River out of season than in, and very little attention was paid to the law, especially in Madawaska

Mr. Dunn said he proposed making the beginning of the open season September 15th and the end December 31st, so that there would be two weeks less hunting than hitherto.

Mr. Fish discounted the idea that lumbermen cared to exist on moose meat. He favored two months or two and a half months as sufficient length of time for the open season.

Mr. Carvell said there seemed to be a disposition to discuss the question from the American sportsman's standpoint rather than from that of our own people. It would be a great mistake to strike December from the open season, especially for hunting deer. That was the time in Carleton when the people did their hunting.

Mr. Veniot wanted December an open month He denied that lumbermen took advantage of December to fill their barrels with moose meat. It was a ration they had little taste for.

The section passed, making open season from September 15th to December 31st.

A number of sections being passed progress was reported with leave.

Hon. Mr. White committed a bill to amend chapter 1751st, Victoria—Wells chairman. Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. White committed a bill in amendment of the public health act, 1898—Wells chairman. Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. White committed a bill to change the terms of Sunbury court—Wells chairman. Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. White re-committed a bill amending the law incorporating the town of Milltown—McKeown chairman. Bill agreed to with amendments.

Adjourned.

FREDERICTON, April 26.—Mr McKeown, from the committee on the municipalities, submitted a report.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie committed a bill in amendment of the New Brunswick elections act of 1880 and certain acts in amendment thereof. Wells chairman

Mr. Hazen asked if the provincial secretary proposed to explain the bill.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the bill did not require very much explanation. It was in amendment of the New Brunswick elections act of 1889. The principal amendment is that the governor in council is given the power to appoint the third revisor in each parish. At present the two councillors are revisors themselves and appoint the third revisor. It might be urged that no great necessity existed for the change. The attention of the government had been called to the fact that in many counties the revision of the lists was very unsatisfactory. The third revision would be outside of local influence altogether, and there would be greater likelihood that all parties entitled to a vote would be placed on the list. The municipalities, of course, were not interested in the election in any way, and a good deal of carelessness had arisen with regard to the revision of the voters list. In many places the duty was performed in a most perfunctory way.

There was also an amendment in regard to applications for getting names on that had been left off. The Act of 60th Victoria provided for an appeal to the county court judge. Under this bill the application is made directly to the sheriff. Some members of the house had suggested that additional polling places should be provided for, but he thought, unless pressing necessity was shown for the change, this matter had better stand over till next session for careful consideration.

Mr. Hazen he wished to place himself on record as entirely opposed to this bill. Hitherto the revising has been done by the two councillors and the third is appointed by the county council. This bill put the appointment of the third revisor in the hands of the lieutenant governor. No good reason had been shown for the change received to the effect that the revising was not properly done. No complaints had been made. Names no doubt were occasionally omitted, but this would occur under the most perfect system that could be devised. He thought the county councils were much better judges as to who were suitable men to appoint as revisors than the governor in council possibly could be. No county council had asked for the change. The government were taking away a right the county councils had always had without giving any good reason for the change. He did not think the revisors under the present system had discharged their duty from a party standpoint. The bill was open to the suspicion that it was being promoted in the party interest. There was no use in tinkering with the laws for the mere sake of change. With regard to the fourth section, which provided for appeals he did not think the power should be left exclusively in the hands of the sheriff, who was dependent upon the government for his office. The law at present giving the power to the judge of the County court was a very much safer law. He entirely agreed with section five that provided that where real estate was assessed in the name of two or more persons each of such persons must show that he owns $100 in his own right.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the house did not generally wait for a public demand for legislation before introducing a bill. Almost the first bill the honorable member (Hazen) introduced this session was to amend the elections act, though there was no demand for the change and the house decided that it was not called for It would be a poor government that would wait for a hue and cry before it took the responsibility of introducing necessary legislation. Mr. Tweedie pointed out that the dominion elections would hereafter be held upon lists prepared by the local authorities, and that was all the more reason why the lists should be carefully prepared. The government did not ask to control the assessors, but only to appoint one revisor as a part guarantee that the lists would be more carefully revised than if left entirely in the hands of irresponsible parties. The government had a right to see that everybody entitled to vote should have his name on the list.

Mr. Hazen said the fact that the dominion elections would be held on the local lists was no argument whatever in favor of the bill. The present dominion government had changed their franchise in favor of the existing local system, which they evidently thought suitable for the purpose. Why should the house say that the system should be changed? It was no part of the duty of this house to have the lists revised for the purposes of the dominion elections. He challenged any one to point out where any crying evil existed under the present system. No good cause had been shown for the legislation.

Hon. Mr. White said the honorable members should not regard the bill as a party measure. Surely it was desirable to have the lists so prepared that there would be every reasonable assurance that no injustice would be done It was to accomplish that end that the bill was framed. The present law was not efficient. In some cases the lists were not properly prepared. In the last election no less than 276 good government voters had been left off the lists, many of them purposely. The third revisor, if appointed by the government would, at all events, be in position to discover any attempt at injustice All parties would be represented. The honorable leader of the opposition seemed to think that an appeal to the judge of a county court should be provided. That might be done if there was a judge in every county.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson said it had always seemed to him that there was a necessity for this change. If the appointment of the third revisor was made by whole council there might not be the same objection as there was to the present mode. Under the present law the revising was practically placed altogether in the hands of the two councillors for the parish as they would be certain to appoint a revisor of their own way of thinking. He thought the power of appeal left to the sheriff was a very wise provision. He knew the system of appealing to the County court has not worked satisfactorily, and had been too expensive. If a voter in Botsford parish wished to appeal he had to travel many miles only perhaps to find the judge engaged. The sheriff by virtue of his office had a wide knowledge of the affairs of the people generally in the county, and was well fitted to officiate as provided in the act.

Mr. Laforest said there was certainly a great call for the change proposed in particularly the upper part of the province. Many names of persons who had been on the list for years had been taken off at the last election, and he thought the bill would in some measure prevent that occurring again. He took great pleasure in supporting a bill that would produce such a beneficial change.

Mr. Robinson thought the bill should contain some provision prohibiting members of the dominion house or this legislature from acting as county secretary, because the latter official had practically control of all the voting lists in the county.

Mr. Glasier strongly opposed the bill on the ground that it would make the revision more costly.

Mr. Veniot said this matter entirely rested in the hands of the councils.

Progress reported, with leave

Mr. Osman presented the petition of Messrs. John W. Gaskin, James T. Ryan, Sanford Ryan and 89 others praying that a bridge be constructed across the Petitcodiac River at a point about seven miles west of the Moncton bridge.

Mr. Speaker said the petition was not in order and could not be in received because it asked that an expense be incurred by the province.

Mr. Pardy committed a bill to place entire control of the appointment of members of the police for the city of St. John in the common council, Mr. Osman chairman. Agreed to with amendments and amended title.

Hon. Mr. Dunn recommitted a bill respecting the protection of game, Mr. Wells chairman.

Many of the sections of the bill created considerable discussion, and were stood over. At 6 o'clock progress upon the bill was reported with leave.

Recess.

A bill was introduced this evening by the surveyor general amending and consolidating acts relating to crown lands. It provides for the immediate survey in different counties of the province of vacant lands fit for settlement; such tracts shall be held for no other purpose than for settlement. These shall be laid out in plots of hundred acres each and rights shall be had to these lands at expense of government. Provision is also made that the settler shall have the right to any mines or minerals in the lands for a period of five years without royalty. The other provisions of the act are very favorable to intending settlers, and suitable provisions are made for a party of ten or more settling upon the lands. The act is a great improvement over the old act, and will, no doubt, facilitate early settlement of lands. Instead of the old labor act commissioners there will be a board of commissioners for each county, whose duties it will be to look into all bona fide applications made. Besides this the boards are required to report to the surveyor general all vacant farm lands or abandoned farms in every county and the surveyor general is authorized to take possession of said farms with a view of obtaining settlers for same.

The Fallacy of an Old Custom.

Obsolete ideas should give way to advanced thought in an advanced age.

There is an inherent dislike to part with old ideas or customs. When we outgrew our childhood and discovered that Santa Claus was a myth, we parted regretfully from this harmless tradition. If no harm comes from the perpetuation of an old custom there is no reason for its discontinuance. There is one old custom which smacks of the Dark Ages, yet there are many otherwise sensible men and women in the ranks of its followers. It is the time-worn custom of taking a spring medicine. Just as the good housewife gives her home a thorough cleaning at springtime, so a great many people treat their systems. And most of them need it. But why? Simply because they have neglected their health all the year. If nature's functions had been assisted, and her delicate machinery kept in good running condition throughout the year, she would meet the change of season in a natural way. Nature makes provision for this. It is daily, all-the-year-'round health you want.

The daily use of Abbey's Effervescent Salt will give it to you. It is Nature's great assistant. Take it daily and you'll always be in good health. There is nothing better to cleanse the system and purify the blood at any season. Physicians of the greatest prominence in Great Britain, Europe and Canada recommend and prescribe Abbey's Effervescent Salt as a blood purifier and system-regulator. It is the greatest preventive of disease known. All druggists sell it. Trial bottle, 25c.; large size, 60c.