

Published Thursday and Saturday mornings, from the office on Queen Street, Wiley's Building.

Terms: \$2.50 per annum, payable in advance. Address: "Star," Fredericton.

The Morning Star.

J. E. COLLINS, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

FREDERICTON, MARCH 27, 1879.

Furloughs.

The military were wont to grant furloughs to men of good behavior in former days. It was found however that the relaxation did not improve their condition. They required generally a few days to recuperate.

This system of leave of absence, is, we are inclined to think, running to seed—becoming a nuisance. Thirty years ago, when old fogies, according to our modern philanthropists, governed the country, leave of absence was the exception not the rule: Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.

If those gentlemen whom we elect to represent our interests, have such pressing demands at home, would it not be better for them to remain there? The country has no right to demand such tremendous sacrifices at their hands. Were their counsels indispensable to the welfare of the Province, they might hold some of our constituencies as pocket furloughs, to be administered by proxy.

We have so many bills on file, that the accumulated talent of our commonwealth is absolutely necessary, to adjudicate on their equity, purpose and profit. The absence of one of the fathers of the country, for a single day, may entail untold miseries on the country for years. It may be that the absence of some tends to facilitate business. Should this be so, their absence is a blessing, and the longer, the better.

Our House of Assembly has now been in session four weeks, and there has not been much done. It may be all well enough for these gentlemen to amuse themselves in splitting hairs, but what may be fun for them may be death for us.

Pecuniary considerations are, we know, of no moment to those whose only thought is the happiness and prosperity of their country; yet, strange to say, all take their pound of flesh. It is their conscience, we presume, which thus actuate them. They would, we assume, prefer to serve their country gratuitously, since it would be more magnanimous, and more fully illustrate their love of their dear constituents, did not the law require it. Might we hope that a law will be passed, the present term, which should not supersede all other laws, will immortalize the memory of New Brunswick's Assembly—1879.

This may require some consideration, not from those who are prepared to live and die for their country, but from those who have the rheumatism and can't fight. Well, let us have, in the mean time, business, practical, common sense business. We have been long enough beating a bush for a hare, in which there is none.

The Prohibition Law.

The time is fast approaching when the new temperance law will be put upon our people for wear or for woe; when it will be put to the practical test whether legislation can make us a moral and a happy people. May the law prove a salutary and a wise one. But it is hard to kick against the inevitable of sound logic. It is hard to think that a fabric reared on the sands will stand the surging of the tempests; that that which is begotten of sensuality and fanaticism will be, when the froth of the time has subsided and the community has calmed down.

There is beside this theory some startling facts, figures grinning ghastly as skeletons, gathered from the records of countries which have had this law—this new born of fanaticism. We quote from an official record of the city of Boston during the years of Prohibition, and again under those of Restricted Licenses:—

prohibition were as follows:—Year: 1868, 8,223; 1869, 9,954; 1870, 10,990; 1871, 11,445; 1872, 11,526; 1873, 11,119; 1874, 11,892. Now commences the record under the present license law:—1875, 10,320; 1876, 8,564; 1877, 8,161.

These statistics are received from Mayor Pearce. For comparison we will quote a few other figures from the same source:—

Population of Boston in 1868, 230,000; 1869, 237,000; 1870, 250,000; 1871, 265,000; 1872, 285,000; 1873, 300,000; 1877, 350,000.

Thus it will be seen that Boston under a prohibitory liquor law in 1871, with a population of only 265,000 had 11,445 arrests for drunkenness; while in 1877, under the license system with a population of 360,000 it had only 8,160 arrests for drunkenness. The state of affairs in Maine is equally as bad, and we could quote official figures to prove what we here state.

In Ontario, measures are every day being taken to repeal this law—a law that makes vice more heinous and filthy because it drives it underground and into the garrets where men of bad repute assemble, where to buy is a moral crime, where to sell is a legal offence, where the revenue is swindled and vice increases. This seems to us to be the goal to which our misguided fanatics will lead us.

That Scandal.

Dr. Rand we learn pleads in excuse to our charge that he knew nothing of this teacher receiving fees for private lessons till after the session was over. We do not like to say of Dr. Rand that he speaks what is not the truth, but we will put the case before our readers:

Dr. Rand recommended students to take private lessons from this teacher. But this teacher was not obliged, or supposed by her agreement to teach private lessons. She receives a salary to teach in the Normal School during school hours. One of two conclusions is irresistible: either that Dr. Rand would wrongfully impose more than a legitimate burden on this teacher, or that he knew she was to receive pay for it. We do not think him guilty of the former but we believe him guilty of the latter.

But whether the Dr. did or (aburdly) whether he did not know of his, the practise would likely have continued, and the public been kept in the dark, had we not made an open book of it, from which all who run might read. But we are not at all vainglorious over our discovery. We may say of it as Newton did of his discovery of that force by which all things tend toward the centre. "I am but as a man who has lived on the sea shore and in his brief span examined and earned of two grains of sand. The countless millions about him knew not of it." So it is with us. We have made but a small discovery indeed in the wide realm of Randism. That which our humble pen has brought to light is but the merest speck—the worst is behind.

The whole system, Lazar-like is a mass of sores which are becoming dangerous to the soul of the system that the services of a Minister now are worse required than those of the Doctor.

Our Educational System.

The Digby Courier contains an article on education, the sentiment of which we very freely endorse. It has reason to complain of the tendency of our present educational institutions to run to seed. It denounces that system of schooling that unnerves the male or the female for the ordinary duties of life and stuffs them up full of indigestible and impracticable Greek, Latin, Botany &c. I says:—

"Better throw a location to the dogs, if the ordinary duties of life are to be neglected, in order to make us winking pedants of our boys and our girls mere snuffers in some of the dead languages, botany, music, et cetera. Our spirited contemporary, the Fredericton Star pertinently enquires:—

"What in the name of heaven, do children want with a smattering of Latin and French who to-morrow or next day have to turn out and put up their sleeves, wash their dishes, broom the floor &c. &c. How much better to them to learn some of the practical duties of life during the little time they can devote to study."

This is all but too true, though it is quite likely very many will

not realize it till some of the pernicious influences of the system are wrought. Till the time has arrived when our young people will have learnt to despise labor as humiliating, and come from school able to murder a line of Virgil, but not know how to direct the making of a pumpkin pie; know how to dissect a butter cup and go through all the modern gymnastics, but be thoroughly ignorant of how to lay the tables, or it may be feed the calves, or shear the sheep.

The Pithora.

Bills, bills, and still they come! Is there no means of checking this extravagant and senseless legislation? Our legislature has become much like our temperance societies. They have so many changes and amendments to their constitution, that they require a new one, every two or three years.

We are in a much similar position, relative to our provincial statutes and laws. We must have them, corrected, improved, enlarged and codified every three or four years. Those young neophytes are wild, they vainly imagine to be the more important they become. It may do very well for lawyers and transcribers, but it is murdering the country. Run over, if you will, the sixty-six and other bills before the house, and you will find, that perhaps one half of their read thus: "A bill entitled an act to amend chapter, &c." "A bill to consolidate and amend laws in relation, &c." "A bill entitled an act to amend an act, &c." "A bill to repeal an act, &c." "A bill to amend an act, &c."

Mr. Marshall or rather St. John, since he seems solely to represent it, ought to have a special session which would be devoted to its special benefit. It would, we apprehend, be a great relief to our exchequer and a benefit to the country at large.

Another Set.

Somebody, of late, has been fooling the Hon. Frederick Patrick, Thompson to wit that the Government sent a delegation to Ottawa mayhap for the importation of a new and improved breed of grasshoppers; and, like a good and faithful servant of his country, Frederick Patrick stood up in his place in the house and rattled off a resolution in the clock alarm style asking, with an air of holy patriotism, what had cost the province for said delegation. The Opposition was silence struck, and sat mouths agape for the denouement. With that coolness which is second nature and freezing to an opponent, double edged to the anxious Opposition men,—Mr. Secretary stood up, opened his Domes Day Book, swept his eyes around the forum, then returned to the book and read: "No delegation, of which the Government is aware, went to Ottawa." A bomb bursting eye-head could not have produced such an effect. There sat Frederick Patrick flat as a pancake, while on the under lip and massive jaw of the Opposition leader a smile of satisfaction played as he muttered: "Every dog has his day—'twas mine last week, yours now."

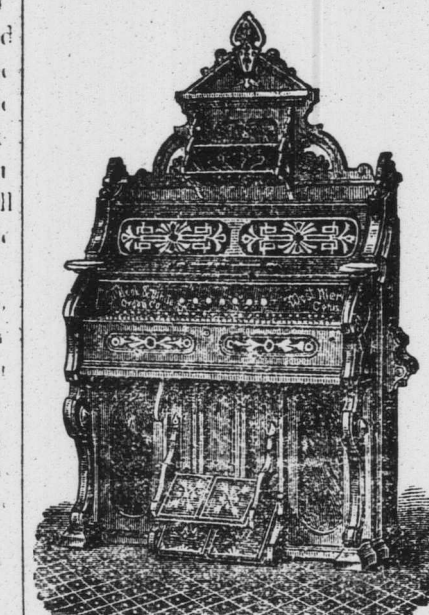
Mr. Hutchison introduced a bill Tuesday, to amend chap. 4 of the consolidated statutes, relating to the legislative Council. The object of the bill is ostensibly to decrease the representation in that chamber; but the real object of the bill is to make light of the Government's proposed step to abolish that body. No doubt Mr. H. thinks it very cute to introduce this bill, and imagine to himself all the people who will say: "That Hutchison is a clever fellow." For our part, we think it a piece of buffoonery, and just such another cute thing as the countryman does the first time he gets into a city, when he gigs and ribes all the clerks and townies. I had this bill been kept back till the Government had taken its action, the introducer of it might have earned the reputation of having a little common sense, instead of that which must justly follow his shallow-witted effort.

We do not know whether or not a bill will be brought in this Session to divide Fredericton, for the purposes of legislative representation, from York. It seems to us this Bill would be a wise one. There is much clashing now be-

tween the city and county on administration of justice and other claims. We think the principle is a good one to separate civic from rural interests when the city has attained a certain population. It does not appear to us what Opposition could be possibly raised to such a bill.

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