

The Evening Telegram

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1886. POPULAR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SET ASIDE.

What the Present Coalition Really Means.

Individualism rests on the principle that a man shall be his own master, that he shall have liberty to form his own opinions, and freedom to carry into effect his resolves.

The word individualism, according to an eminent authority, means "a political system which regards the rights and interests of individuals in a community, as opposed to socialism."

Now, the question arises, in how far do the people of Newfoundland, at this moment, participate in the system to which we here refer? True, general elections are held every four years, there is an annual session of the Legislature as usual, and, to the casual observer, the machinery of Responsible Government would seem to run just as smoothly here as it does in any of the neighboring Provinces.

It may be asked, Why should such a condition of things exist in a British colony only about two thousand miles from the parent isle, and presided over by an officer of the Crown, sent us for the special purpose of protecting our rights and privileges? In answer, we need only say that the corruption now complained of is in a state of many years' growth.

Since then the whole political, as well as legal, temp has become so badly leavened that corruption, in some form or other, is now perceptible in almost every branch of the public service. The wholesome restraint exercised by the machine in other countries, when "hold, had men" slip into office, is absent here, for one simple reason: "that the masses of our people do not yet realize the importance of their duty to the country in this respect."

It is not the wish of the clever office-holding and office-seeking few that the people should be led to enquire into these things. Hence we are always sure to find the organs of these parties fully prepared to "wile away" any gift that may incidentally fall among the machinery employed by them to deceive their constituents.

Tommented with this feeling of uneasiness and insecurity, we turn from the subject in disgust and seek relief in the ordinary affairs of life. Meanwhile the dishonest politician continues to ply his plundering avocation. Every year witnesses the disappearance of from £200,000 to £300,000 of the public money, and still no attempt is made by the people to bring the thieves to justice.

We cannot say just here what effect the present coalition plot will have in the way of arousing a healthier sentiment in the popular breast. Some little time, of course, will be needed to enable us to fully realize the meaning of this arbitrary act.

Anything would be better than the petty political tyranny of a hierarchy or an oligarchy, and it is of vital consequence that we should realize this fact of life. Otherwise, let us do

away with the farce of secular Government altogether, and leave the control of temporal affairs, as well as spiritual, entirely in the hands of the church of England Synod, the Roman Catholic Consistory, the Methodist Conference and the Presbyterian General Assembly.

AMUSING ALLIANCES.

It must be rather amusing to old timers in this community to witness some of the new alliances lately developed in connection with the game of politics here, and how "the exigencies of the situation," as Mr. A. J. W. McNeilly, the Acting Attorney General, would say, bring together in the close "bonds" of a bread-and-butter friendship foes who had used to know each other best afar off and at the point of a dagger!

Here, for instance, is Mr. A. J. W. McNeilly himself, associated with the Rev. Moses Harvey, F.R.G.S., as joint editors of the Evening Mercury, and both of them so trying to disguise his style as each to pass for the other's. Yet these "noble Roman brothers" once fought like Kilkeny cats, as witness the "skinning letters" written and published by Mack in the old Telegraph newspaper about the Rev. Moses, charging the latter with stealing away from a prayer meeting in his church to attend a Governor's dinner-party, and with leaving the Sacrament table halfly one 'Sabbath in order to drive over to Conception Bay to meet the cable steamer Puraday.

On the other hand, witness the sty cedeastic who now helps Mack with the Mercury, blackguarding that little man in defence of the Whiteway administration, as a quarrelsome and bad-tempered mischief-maker, who would break up any political party, in six months and whose uncle was to be deprived of the public clocks because the nephew had "struck" work as a Whitewayite!

Now these two political prospectors, in their search for gold, have met again in the same field and all is forgiven. "My dear Moses," says Mack, "how I love you! I have never so loved anybody in the wide world. Let me but kiss the hem of that shabby black coat again and I shall die in peace."

As for his part, "the eminent divine" is as suitably affected as he could possibly be by one of his own sermons. "Mac Kneely," cries he, "my own lord, long-hat Mac Kneely, come to my bosom once more. Too long have we been parted, by the wrong of fate, until my heart was almost steeled against thee. But now, Mack! we sail again in the same boat, and she is copper-fastened this time. Heave the lead, brother, and let it hit the common enemy. Between us we have a sufficient stock of brass to last out the voyage, and before our bows are 'silver'd over' we'll reach the Eldorado of our hope—the golden shore!"

FRUIT AND FLOWER FESTIVAL.

The annual fruit and flower festival of the Methodist Church and Paragon Aid Society had such a brilliant opening to-day in Victoria Hall that its fair promoters already predict for it "the greatest success yet." Of course the good ladies will have a busy time this afternoon, and the Hall will be visited by hosts of large-hearted and liberal-handed patrons, of all denominations. But still there'll be room, after business hours, for the great number of young ladies and gentlemen who expect to luxuriate amid the fairy-like scene from 8 to 10 this evening. Admission only 10 cents; and no collection at the close. Why, 'tis positively within reach of everybody.

A MERE PUPPET.

An error of two occurred in yesterday's article entitled, "An Unworthy Scotchman." The third sentence should read as follows:—"In the face of all his (Mr. Thorne's) professions of political integrity, independence and strict commercial principles, here we find him to-day a mere puppet in the hands of a few of the most unscrupulous politicians in the country—men who positively take no interest in anything that does not put money into their own pockets."

HIS WINNING WEICH.

We should like to ask the junior legal editor of the Mercury the following conundrum: How does it happen that Mr. March gets the Government coal contracts and the other tenderers are left out in the cold? Does he give it up? Answer. Because of his winning weigh.

COME HOME, JAMES.

We understand the following cable telegram was despatched, at the public expense, to the Hon. James S. Winter on Saturday last: WINTER, London: Coalition completed; return soon possible. THORNBURN.

LETTER FROM MR. JOHN SAVAGE.

DEAR SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your giving me space in the columns of your paper to show to the public the harsh and illegal manner in which I have been treated by Keeper McGowen of the Penitentiary. In the month of May, 1885, I was appointed Turnkey in the Penitentiary, the duties of which I fulfilled until the 15th April last, when I was suspended by Mr. McGowen. No reason whatever was assigned by that official for suspending me from duty.

When appointed to the Penitentiary I was under the impression that, as I was residing in the gaol, board would be supplied me. A man, Hammond, who was ostensibly appointed as a Turnkey, (but in reality Keeper McGowen's servant, as he drives his horse, looks after his cow, attends his house, etc.) was furnished with board, as were, also, two other men who were engaged as Acting Turnkeys. The Keeper was opposed to me from the very first day that I went to the gaol. He openly stated that as he could not get a certain friend of his appointed that I would not be long there, and he has faithfully kept his promise. When I presented myself at the Penitentiary, on my appointment, he was so bitterly opposed to me that he gave me no instructions as to the performance of my duty; he treated me all through more as a felon than as an official; however, I put up with all the insults and sneers that I was subjected to by this pompous official.

During the last session of the Legislature a petition was presented by Mr. Kent, Q.C., from three of the officers of the Penitentiary, including myself. This petition set out the grievances under which we were labouring.

(1) It prayed for an increase of salary, as the pay was inadequate. (2) That the officials be supplied with board, the same as is allowed in English prisons. (3) That two of the petitioners, Jonathan Martin, who has been Warder for twenty years, and John Fleet, who has been in the establishment for fifteen years, be restored their gardens, which were valued at fifteen pounds each, which they held for a number of years, and in which they were able to supply themselves with all kinds of vegetables for their families until they were taken from them by the avaricious Keeper. Before this petition was presented in the House of Assembly, Mr. McGowen was informed that it was the intention of the officers to bring the matter before the Legislature. The Honorable Attorney General was requested to support the petition when it would be brought forward. The following is a copy of the letter forwarded to Mr. Winter: PENITENTIARY, March 20th, 1886.

To Hon. Attorney General, J. S. WINTER.

Sir,—We, the undersigned, would respectfully ask you to support a petition which we are sending to the House of Assembly, praying that we may get our rations, with increase of salary, as we can assure you it would be a great help to us. We are getting a small salary, we may say an insufficient sum to support us; not only that but we are put to great inconvenience as regards getting our food; we are constantly on duty, which leaves us scarcely any time to get it from our homes. The petition will be presented on Monday, and if not, as soon as possible, after which you will be able to better understand the nature of it. JOHN SAVAGE.

St. John's, April 22nd, 1886.

JOHNATHAN MARTIN, JOHN FLEET, RICHARD RYAN.

On the day after the petition was presented, 15th April, I was immediately suspended by Keeper McGowen, and, as I have already stated, no reason was given for my suspension. I repeatedly demanded the reason why I was suspended, but could receive no answer. I also demanded to be furnished with the charge or charges, if any, and that a sworn enquiry into the case be held, but it would not be granted. The following is a copy of a letter forwarded to Keeper McGowen on 22nd April: St. John's, April 22nd, 1886.

To the Governor of the Penitentiary, Sir,—I would respectfully ask of you whether I am dismissed from my situation or merely suspended, and, also, what I have been guilty of to deserve either one or the other. I desire to say that I know of nothing of which I have been guilty which merited either one or the other. As I have to petition the Executive Council I would like to be able to say with what offence I am charged and whether dismissed or suspended.

I have the honor to be, Your obedient servant, JOHN SAVAGE.

Not getting any answer, I sent him another note. The following is a copy: St. John's, April 24th, 1886.

To the Governor of the Penitentiary, Sir,—Would you be kind enough to favor me with an answer to the letter I sent you on yesterday; by so doing you will oblige.

Your obedient servant, JOHN SAVAGE.

On the 12th instant, I received a letter from Mr. McGowen, informing me that my services, as an officer of the Penitentiary, were no longer required. This letter purporting to be

written on the 1st July, but at the time I received it (12th July) the ink was not dry on it.

In another letter I shall lay before you further particulars regarding the high-handed manner in which I was treated by Keeper McGowen. I am, sir, Your obedient servant, JOHN SAVAGE.

St. John's, July 22nd, 1886.

LETTER FROM AN "OUT-PORT CLERGYMAN."

DEAR SIR,—As a rule political squabbles are to me matters of no moment whatever. The question of amalgamation of political parties, however, at the present juncture, is too serious a one to be trifled with, and, as one interested in the present and future weal of the colony, I deem it wise and right to record my protest against this wily scheme of the present tatter'd Administration, before it becomes ratified and settled as the laws of the Modes and Persians. I submit, Mr. Editor, with all possible earnestness and sincerity, that the question of right and wrong—of what is constitutional and what is unconstitutional, and the probable disastrous issues that would follow close on the heels of such an arrangement as that aimed at by greedy office-seekers, are matters of paramount importance—matters that should guide the hand, the heart, and the head in relation to this important question.

I am entirely out of sympathy, sir, with those persons who, from personal motives of course, endeavour to make it appear that the present general depression in trade and the gloomy outlook of the fisheries are arguments in favor of a patched-up, unconstitutional Government. If constitutional order is perverted in the present instance, deleterious consequences must follow, and a precedent will be established that might, possibly, at some future time, embroil our entire population in social and political confusion. Would this amalgamation business be a safe rule to work by, for all future Governments? Certainly not, and I am inclined to the opinion that the protraction of this business is simply the result of the desperate struggles of right for its proper ascendancy over wrong, even in the minds of those persons who have so far yielded as to hear the overtures of the Government party.

I am astonished, Mr. Editor, that the Hon. Mr. Thorne and our shrewd and far-seeing Roman Catholic friends should lend themselves to such an unsound proceeding. If the Premier has become unpopular, and does not carry with him the public sentiment of the colony, he is to be overthrown, and under present circumstances this matter should be tested at the polls as early as possible. What is a Premier, what is a Government—unsupported by public sentiment?

Let our public men be wise and act in concert with the public will. Let them endeavor to achieve "noble ends by noble means," and prove themselves worthy of the trust and confidence of the people.

Yours, &c., AN OUTPORT CLERGYMAN.

SHORT NOTE FROM "ONE WHO KNOWS."

DEAR SIR,—The editor of the Mercury needsn't flatter himself that the Catholics feel in any way indebted to him or his party in connection with the Amalgamation terms. What Catholic believes these terms were given to Catholics from any consideration for them? Not one. Only to save their own skins. They tried to run the Government without the Catholic element until they found they were at a loss, and then they came whining to us for aid. Who blames us if we took advantage of the situation and asked all we could get? But if fair and even-handed Protestants had held the Government in the first instance there wouldn't be either injustice to Catholics then or over indulgence now. Yours, &c., ONE WHO KNOWS.

St. John's, July 27, 1886.

DEAD.

On Sunday, 25th inst., in St. John's, in the 86th year of his age, Mr. Samuel Millin, an old and respected citizen of Bonaville, and father of Mrs. C. E. Thompson and Mr. James Millin.

Last night, Alice, relict of the late James Barry, Esq., died on Thursday, at 2.30 p.m., from her late residence, Lime Kiln Hill.

This morning, Bridie, aged 1 year and 7 months, infant daughter of Stephen and Mary Angell.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED. Kite, Ann, Sydney, 3 days, Rowing Bros.—230 tons coal. Waverly, Morris, Gloucester, 3 days, the Captain—ballast. Minnie, Rowe, Glouce Bay, 3 days, Dock Co.—154 tons coal. W. R. Lattimer, Davies, Sydney, 3 days, E. Monroe—260 tons coal. D. A. Hunting, Ashburn, Glouce Bay, 19 days, M. Tobin—100 tons coal. David Binns, Jones, Cadiz, 30 days, W. Grievie & Co.—180 tons salt. Plover the Sea, Hayes, Bouris, 3 days, J. & W. Pitts—35 head cattle, 65 sheep, 10 pigs, 4 bris. heads, 2 horses, 655 bush oats. Zenoni, French, Glouce Bay, 4 days, J. Woods & Son—400 tons coal. Maggie, Kerr, Cadiz, 24 days, Baine, Johnston & Co.—160 tons salt. Helen Isabel, O'neil, Greenock, 24 days, Baine, Johnston & Co.—810 tons coal, 10 casks, 150 bris. sugar, 2 qr. casks whiskey. Rosie, Hale, Sydney, 3 days, J. Murray—162 tons coal.

CLEAR'D. Tessa, Conlhan, St. Pierre, J. R. Knight—140 tons salt. Four Brothers, Forlter, New Richmond, Olliv, Wood & Co.—ballast.