

to contribute so large an amount to this branch of the public service, that it would be found, the Government had exercised vigilance, in perfecting the necessary arrangements, as regarded freight, rates of passage money, and other important matters. In fact he hoped that in the negotiation of the contract generally, the Government had sufficiently guarded the interest of the public.

Hon. the Premier believed that the hon. member had signed the petition for the negotiation of the contract upon the original terms. Mr. Munn had signed the two petitions and looked upon Ocean Steam Communication as one of the greatest boons that could possibly be conferred upon the country; and he would say, if necessary, appropriate a portion of the much wasted road grant for the purpose of carrying it out efficiently. [Here the hon. gentleman referred to some circumstances in connection with the expenditure of the road grants in Conception Bay, late in the season; and which had come under his personal observation, and continued.] With reference to the special grants for public improvements in the several districts, he could say that some improvements had certainly been effected in Harbor Grace. He had, last spring, forwarded a communication to the hon. Colonial Secretary, expressing his views as to certain improvements which he (Mr. M.) considered necessary; but had not since received an answer.

Hon. Colonial Secretary—Was that the application for the erection of mooring buoys at Harbor Grace?

Mr. Munn stated that the buoys would be of great utility, if placed in proper localities; but a portion of the unexpended grant of the preceding year would be available for that purpose. He, however, had not been consulted upon the subject of public improvements. He [Mr. M.] would most heartily compliment the Government on what had been effected during the past year, in relation to the postal service. He considered that both the Government and the Postmaster General deserved credit for their attention to this subject, and for the results which their labours had accomplished. He (Mr. M.) would take this early opportunity of urging a reduction upon the present high tariff of duties. The duties upon tea and molasses were particularly heavy, and even oppressive. The duty on tea amounted to 75 per cent on the cost, and on molasses to a very high figure. These were articles which entered most largely into the consumption of our outport poor people. If the hon. Receiver General would make a reduction of duty upon these articles he would gain the gratitude of the whole country. He (Mr. M.) knew that the people of Conception Bay expected that this reduction would be made. So far the people had been disappointed in their expectations, for the promises made by the Government of reduced taxation had been entirely disregarded. If not the whole, at least half the duties on these two articles of the necessities of life ought to be taken off. The country would appreciate a financial measure of that sort. When the present hon. Premier and he [Mr. M.] about thirty years ago, were framing a tariff for the country it was based upon a necessary expenditure of about £50,000 stg. and estimated to produce that amount. It produced £53,000 the first year, and never exceeded £57,000, which amount was then sufficient for the wants of the country, and gave a sum of about £20,000 for roads. It did not appear, upon contrasting the amount then raised with the present revenue, nearly £200,000, that the country was enjoying any increased advantage commensurate with this large increase of taxation. On the subject of the Washington Treaty he (Mr. M.) hoped that due regard would be paid to the important matter of the admission of our seal oil, duty free, into the American market. New steamers had lately been built for the seal fishery, incurring an outlay of about £100,000, and the shutting out of our Seal Oil from the American market would be a heavy blow to our capitalists, who had invested so largely in this business. He (Mr. M.) hoped that a deputation on this subject would be sent from this country to the United States authorities, to obtain information as to the views and wishes of the American Government, and to protect the interest of the Colony. We had adopted this course some years ago in relation to the Reciprocity Treaty, and with results most satisfactory to the Colony. An intelligent deputation, armed with necessary authority and with clear and positive instructions to guide them would effect more for us in this matter than could be done by any other means, and the expenses involved would not be worth considering in view of the important issues involved. He [Mr. M.] trusted that the Government would bestow upon this subject that attention which its great importance demanded. The next matter which the address deals with was one to which serious attention should be given. That was the preservation of our timber lands, and he was glad to see the view which the Government took of the question. A favorite election cry had been of "Newfoundland for Newfoundlanders," but his [Mr. M.] cry would be, "preserve our timber lands for Newfoundlanders." No difference of opinion existed upon this question. But it would be too late to discover the mischief after it had been effected. There was to present a greater necessity than ever for being careful of this source of our industry. A great number of vessels which had for many years been employed in the seal and cod fisheries had been destroyed or were being worn out, and to replace and renew them we had no source to look to for materials except the timber lands of our Northern Bays. If strangers were permitted to come and empty our forests of their valuable timber, our people must suffer in consequence. The last section of the address was that which best pleased him, [Mr. M.] and he trusted that

every hon. member would be guided by the spirit and desires which were there expressed. In conclusion, he [Mr. M.] would briefly notice an observation of the hon. Receiver General, who had stated that he [Mr. M.] was about to retire from the colony, and to withdraw a large sum of money with him, and without leaving any monument to his memory. He [Mr. M.] could only say that he had now been engaged in the business of the country for upwards of forty years, and if he was now to leave it a matter upon which he [Mr. M.] had not by any means decided, the best monument that he could leave behind him was the result of his relations with the people, whose best interests he had always endeavored, to the utmost of his power, to promote. The result had been uniformly that the circumstances of the people were to-day, better in all respects, than at the beginning he (Mr. M.) had found them, and he (Mr. M.) would at any rate have the satisfaction of leaving behind him as a monument this pleasing fact. He hoped the hon. Receiver General would, this session, raise a monument by which he would be gratefully remembered, in a reduction of the duties upon the poor man's tea and molasses.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE STAR.

HARBOR GRACE, APRIL 1, 1873.

MARCH has ebbed out; not, however, without leaving behind some visible traces of the lingering of winter. The advent of April, accompanied by a cold east wind and a considerable fall of snow would seem to dispel the hope that we had entertained of an "early spring." Trade at present appears to be in a very depressed state. Indeed, we may say that we have never before witnessed such an utter stagnation in business circles. This may be attributed in a great measure to lack of news from our sealing fleet and uncertainty as to the result of the voyage. Our mercantile men have a great deal at stake in this precarious enterprise, and its unproductiveness would necessarily involve a heavy loss. Hence it is that so much interest is manifested in the success of the seal fishery. It is to be hoped that a change for the better will soon be felt; and this can only be effected by the arrival of some of our sealing vessels with good trips, and favorable advices from others.

THE mails, per "Tiger"—English and American—arrived here on Sunday last. We are thereby in receipt of late papers, from which we quote various interesting items.

We are happy to note the return of Messrs. Paterson, Quintin, Hippisley, Longwell and Squires, from their spring business tour to the Old Country. These gentlemen have visited some of the largest and best manufactories in England and Scotland, and—having purchased extensively—will shortly be prepared to expose to view all the latest styles and fashions in everything that is necessary for personal adornment, comfort and convenience. They have, we learn, been particularly mindful of the ladies in selecting for their especial use beautiful assortments of pretty and fashionable articles.

We learn that the Allan steamer "Moravian" (the first boat under the new arrangement) will leave Liverpool on the 22nd inst., and may be expected at St. John's about the 29th.

THE subjoined extract from the Boston "Daily Traveller" informs us of the death of one who once occupied a conspicuous place in this community, and whose memory is still cherished by many of his fellow-countrymen. Any lengthy remarks from us in reference to the deceased would, we consider, be superfluous, as the abstract below speaks fully of the many important episodes connected with the life of our lamented townsman:

DEATH OF W. C. ST. JOHN, Esq.—We are called upon to record to-day the death of an esteemed resident of this city, W. C. St. John, Esq. Mr. St. John was a native of Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, where he was for a number of years a very successful school teacher. Thinking to enlarge the sphere of his usefulness, in the fall of 1845 he established the Harbor Grace Herald, which at once took the highest place among the journals of the island. Mr. St. John was very outspoken in his editorial remarks, and occasionally came into collision with the ruling powers of the island, (the mercantile community and the church), and not caring to suppress opinions which he believed should be adopted for the prosperity of the country, he sold the good will of the paper, to the regret of all who knew his worth, and with the members of his large and intelligent family left the island and took up his residence in Boston. Mr. St. John was a welcome contributor to the columns of the religious press of this country, especially that conducted in the interest of the Methodist Church. (C. H. St. John, Esq., assistant editor of Zion's Herald, is a son of the deceased.) Mr. St. John was an honorary member of the Royal Geographical Society of London, which honor was conferred upon him in consequence of a criticism he took occasion to make on a geographical report of Newfoundland,

drawn up by a gentleman employed for the service by the legislature of the island. Mr. St. John published a series of articles on the set of the currents around the coast of Newfoundland, accounting for the numerous shipwrecks on Cape Race, St. Shotts, &c., which was considered standard authority. He also printed a Catechism of the History of Newfoundland, which the legislature of the island voted to have used in the public schools. Mr. St. John was 66 years of age, and died after a very short illness.—Boston Traveller.

TO-DAY being the first of April, and commonly known as "All Fool's Day," doubtless many of the uninitiated have been made the subjects of severe practical joking. We once knew a poor fellow who had been sent a distance of five miles by his employer for the sake of perpetrating an "All Fool's" joke, and that too through a severe rain storm. This certainly was carrying the joke too far, as the sequel proved; for the poor victim took a severe cold, resulting in a fit of sickness that confined him to his bed three months, at the same time costing his employer £15—the amount of doctor's bill and other incidental expenses. The following little piece of information respecting "All Fool's Day," which we take from "Chambers's Key to the Calendar," may be interesting to some of our readers:—

ALL FOOL'S DAY.—From a very early age, this day has been considered as one set apart for the exercise of all kinds of mischievous and practical joking; the term given to it we may hold as a travesty of the festival of All Saint's Day. The custom of playing off little tricks on this day, whereby ridicule may be fixed upon unguarded individuals, appears to be universal throughout Europe. In France one thus imposed upon is called *Un poisson d'Avril* (an April fish). In England such a person is called an April fool; in Scotland, a gowk. Gowk is the Scotch for the cuckoo, and also signifies a foolish person, being in fact from the same root as the English word gawky. The favourite jest in Britain is to send one upon an errand for something grossly nonsensical—as for pigeon's milk, or the History of Adam's Grandfather; or to make appointments which are not to be kept; or to call to a passer-by that his latchet is unloosed, or that there is a spot of mud up on his face. When he falls into the snare the term April fool or gowk is applied with a shout of laughter. It is very remarkable that the Hindoos practice similar tricks on the 31st March, when they have what is called the Huli Festival.

WE have been requested to call the attention of our authorities to a nuisance that at present exists, and which, if not speedily removed, will doubtless result in severe injury to some of the lieges. We allude to the vast number of dogs that prowl about our streets after night. Not content with "making night hideous with their dismal howls," a pack of them recently attacked a good citizen while on his way home, and—withstanding his fleetness of foot and occasional screams—succeeded in inflicting irreparable injury on his coat tail. This is to be regretted, as the coat in question is the only one in his possession.

LOCAL ITEMS.

The Bill affecting the panning and bulking of seals has gone into committee in the Council. In its present shape it embraces a good deal of matter beyond the original proposition. It proposes that no seals shall be panned under any circumstances before the 15th March; that no seals the pelt of which shall weigh less than thirty pounds shall be killed at any time, that no old seals shall be brought in before the 15th April; and also goes to fix a date in March before which no steamer shall leave port for the seal fishery, and a date in April after which no steamer shall go on a second or third trip; with other provisions.—Newfoundlanders, March 28.

The *Topaz*, which left this port about ten days since for the Mediterranean, with a cargo of codfish, returned yesterday, the captain having been taken ill of the small pox, and the crew refusing to continue the voyage. The vessel is now in quarantine, and every precaution that is possible is being taken by the government to prevent the disease from being communicated to the shore.—Chronicle, March 29.

The Washington Treaty Bill passed through Committee in the Assembly on the evening of Thursday last.—Messrs. CARTER, WARREN, GREEN, and EVANS voted against the Bill.—"The Hon. the leader of the opposition," (according to the *Chronicle*) "did not make objection to the Treaty, but only to the fact of its adoption by the Legislature without a reference of it to the people at a general election."—Times, March 29.

Another gallant veteran Penninsular officer, Colonel John Potter Hamilton, K. H., died last week at Bodleyfryd, Wrexham, in his 96th year. The deceased entered the service in April, 1794, and served as cornet in the Scots Greys in the army commanded by the Duke of York in Flanders and Holland during the campaign of that year. In the spring of 1814 he joined the Duke of Wellington's army as lieutenant-colonel of the 83rd regiment. His Commission is dated August 12, 1819.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITORS OF THE STAR.]

DEAR SIRS,— Now that the new Custom House is completed it is to be hoped that the Government will extend its liberality yet a little farther, and give us a new Court House also. The old building in which our judges and magistrates are wont to sit in solemn conclave and deal out law and justice to delinquents is fast "falling to decay." True, it has undergone some repairs of late; but said repairs, I believe, have had the same effect as "sewing a piece of new cloth on an old garment—the old is torn away from the new and the rent made worse." The new Custom House is certainly a fine building and will stand as a memorial to the spirit of improvement manifested by the present Government. Now that the initiatory steps toward improvement in this respect have been taken, it is to be hoped that ere long Harbor Grace will be able to boast of another public building of such an imposing appearance as to be "a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well." By all means let us have a new Court House.

Yours, &c., HOMO.

[TO THE EDITORS OF THE STAR.]

DEAR SIRS,— I have been requested by a lady friend to solicit a little information respecting our mutual friend "Auld Reekie." It would seem that he became defunct shortly after the Temperance Soiree which was held in February last. Can it be that the muffer he took on that occasion so impaired his intellectual faculties as to incapacitate him from favoring the public with more of his literary productions; or has he, as some assert, gone to Africa to hunt the "white elephant" (sagacious brute). I do not think he has taken the latter course, seeing that game of this kind may be found nearer home. Anxiously waiting for information as to the whereabouts of "Auld Reekie," I remain, yours truly, ENQUIRER.

Having "interviewed" our correspondent "Auld Reekie," we have been requested to state that he is busily engaged preparing an elaborate article on "Domestic Economy," and that—being cheered (cheated) on by the assistance of his "better half"—he will shortly be in a position to lay the fruit of his efforts to economise before the readers of the "Star."—Eds. STAR.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.—On a pine woodshed, in an alley dark, where scattered moon beams flitted through a row of torturing chimneys, an awning, torn and drooping, fell, strode back and forth, with stiff and tense-drawn muscle and peculiar tread—a cat.

His name was Norval. On yonder neighboring shed his father fought the cats that came in squads from streets beyond, in search of food and strange adventure. Grim war he could tell; and his twisted tail, and spine upheaving in fantastic curve and claws distended, and ears flitting pressed aginst a head thrown back defiantly, told of impending strife.

With eyes agleam, and screeching blast of war; and steps as of the falling dew, young Norval crept along the splintered edge, and gazed a moment through the darkness down, with tail awag triumphantly.

Then, with an imprecation and a growl—perhaps an oath, in direct vengeance his e—he started back, and crooked in body like a letter S—or rather like a U inverted—stood in fierce expectancy.

'Twas well. With eyeballs glaring, and ears a-sail, and open mouth in which two rows of fangs stood forth in sharp and dread conformity, slow up a post, from out the dark below, a head appeared.

A dreadful tocsin of determined strife young Norval uttered; then, with face unblanched, and moustache standing straight before his nose, and tail flung wildly to the passing breeze, stepped back in cautious invitation to the foe.

Approached the other, and with preparations dire, each cat surveyed the vantage of the field. Around they walked, uplifted in the air, while from their mouths, in accents hissing with consuming rage dropped brief but awful sentences of hate.

Thrice 'round the roof they went in circle, each with eye upon the foe intently bent; then, sideways moving, as is wont with cats, gave one long drawn, terrific, savage, yow, and buckled in.

The fur flew. A mist of hair hung o'er the battle-field. High above the din of passing wagon rose the dreadful tumult of struggling cats. So gleamed their eyes in frenzy that to me, who saw the conflict from a window near, naught else was plain but fiery stars that moved in orbits most eccentric.

An hour they struggled in tempestuous might; then faint and fainter grew the squall of war, until all sound was hushed. Then went I forth with lamp in hand, and by its ghostly light the field surveyed. What saw I?

Six claws—one ear—of teeth, perhaps a handful—and save fur, naught else except a solitary tail. That tail was Norval's—by a ring I knew't. The ear was—But we'll let the matter rest. The tail will do without the ear.

A GROCER was complaining that several boxes of candles had been stolen from him of which he could get no trace, when a customer advised him to be of good cheer, as the candles would undoubtedly soon come to light.

A darky, left in charge of a telegraph office while the operator went to dinner, heard some one call over the wires, and began shouting at the instrument, "De operator isn't yer!" The noise ceased,

NEWS ITEMS.

The following is an extract from a letter from Boli, Florida, Solomon Islands:—"The first thing I have to tell you is that when I arrived here on the 18th November, I heard that the people round the neighbouring point had cut out a vessel. The facts are these—she came from Boche-de-mer, and cast anchor further to the south, where she remained with the crew all right for four or five days, after which they shifted further to the point, where she stayed four days, the crew being employed in building houses and drying fish. On the 5th day an attack was made upon them, and five out of the seven were murdered. The only two men that survived the attack and were on board the vessel were Captain Brodi and Louis Nixon. Last year it appears there were eighteen natives of the place murdered in cold blood, and their skulls taken to trade with, and a number of other natives kidnapped. These acts were sufficient to cause the people to look with suspicion on a boat of the same class. It also appears that they took fish from Kalea, the chief of Matergo, and did not pay for them. That night the natives agreed to get up a dance on the morrow on the beach, attack the crew and kill them. The mate (a white man) and several blacks were in the boat, which the natives seized, and put off to the vessel, while others followed in their canoes. Three white men were killed, and I do not know how many blacks. The vessel was robbed; they took a fancy to every thing on board, from the clock to the jew's-harp. The captain and Nixon, meanwhile, were in the other boat, looking out for a good bed of fish, and so they escaped. On their return the mob went ashore. The captain went on board, procured arms, proceeded ashore, rescued his boat, and got to sea as he could.

Another sad shipwreck has occurred during a storm off the Lizard, Cornwall, the unfortunate vessel being the barque "Boyne," of Scarborough, with a cargo of 900 tons of sugar, from Samary, for Falmouth. She was 120 days out from Batavia, and sighted the Lizard lighthouse on Friday night. At 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, on consultation, the officers believed they were standing right for Falmouth, the weather being very thick, and blowing heavily, and the vessel sailing at the rate of ten miles an hour. The first indication of danger was the bowsprit striking against the perpendicular rocks on the Lizard 100 ft. high. A farmer summoned the Mullion life-boat and rocket apparatus, but with the exception of four who put off in a small boat and were picked up in a lifeboat the whole of the crew were washed away and drowned. Joseph Parsons and W. Griffiths, of Glasgow, are two of those saved. The Captain refused to join them. His last words were, "Good luck to you."

There has been a fatal scuffle between a Russian frontier guard and some Prussian mining officials near Beuthen, on the Brinnitzka, the boundary river between Russian Poland and Silesia. A Russian guard, consisting of a captain, a corporal, and some privates, crossing the frontier and from no known reason destroyed the wier of a Prussian mill. On a Prussian mining official remonstrating, the captain sent a corporal for a rifle, and, deliberately firing at the Prussian, killed him on the spot. The Prussian gendarmes then coming in view the Russians retreated beyond the border. Similar violations of the frontier have been very common, but Prince Bismarck has hitherto declined to seek redress. In this case, however, the victim being a State official, he has instructed the German representative at St. Petersburg, by telegraph to demand instant inquiry.

The marriage of his Highness the Sheriff of Guazan with an English Christian lady, a Miss King, took place at Tangiers on the 17th ult. The bride rode to the English Consulate on an Arab horse, covered with a scarlet saddle and a cloth embroidered with gold, and was presented by the bridegroom. The marriage was merely a civil ceremony, and was performed by Sir John Drummond Hay. The bridegroom was escorted by a guard of Moorish soldiers. His Highness has now four wives, Miss King, by her marriage to a Mehemetan forfeits all protection of the English law.

A singular death from over-eating was the subject of an inquiry by Mr. Richards, at the Duke's Head, Whitechapel. The deceased was John Aulbury Burns, aged 64, a Custom-house labourer, living at 37 Dunk Street, Milend. On Thursday night he ate a large quantity of tripe and onions for supper, and on retiring to bed, soon after complained of feeling suffocated. At four the following morning he got out of bed, when he fell dead on the floor. Dr. Champney stated that death had been caused by distension of the stomach due to over-eating.

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