POOR DOCUMENT

AGENTS FOR THE HERALD.

TRAVELLING AGENTS.

Judson True, Charles O'Brien, Thomas Buchanan, S. H. Wortman.

LOCAL AGENTS.

E. Vanwart, St. Mary's Ferry;
J. Gibson, Marysville;
T. L. Atherton, Shogomoc;
G. H. Dykeman, Mactaquack;
H. M. Stevens, Somerville, C. C.;
Alder Boone, Geary;
Herbert Grey, Bath, C. C.;
G. A. Sterling, Upper Maugerville;
C. E. Harrison, Maugerville;
B. McMulmin, Stanley;
Rev. Mr. Harrison, Jacksonville.

THE WEEKLY HERALD.

CHARLES H. LUGRIN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

FREDERICTON, N.B., FEBRUARY 18, 1882.

RETROSPECTIVE.

The HERALD has now been published for a little over two months, and it may, perhaps, be excused, if it takes a short retrospect of its work. It inaugurated a new era in Fredericton journalism. No other paper ever published here received the latest news from all parts of the world by telegraph. An occasional special was all that the predecessors of the HERALD ever had; but from its very first issue this journal has given the fullest and latest intelligence from all points. This is a source of greater benefit to the readers of the HERALD than it is of profit to the publisher. Nevertheless if one wishes to keep a journal abreast of the times it is necessary to make some sacrifice. So complete are our arrangements for the transmission of news that on Saturday, as soon as our correspondents abroad learned that Fredericton was not in receipt of its usual supply of St. John papers, they sent in all the news that appeared in those journals, and we were able to place a special edition of the HERALD on the streets very shortly after the usual time for the sale of the St. John dailies. From this fact the people of Fredericton will see that they are at last independent of foreign journals or their information respecting current events. In its local department the HERALD has taken a stand far ahead of any of its contemporaries, and facts are given with an accuracy and fidelity of detail which are not surpassed by any Provincial paper, and are equalled by few of them. To give the local news with promptness and accuracy is our great desire, and we wish to thank the citizens generally for their cordial co operation with our efforts in this direction. Members of our staff are courteously received everywhere, and every means of giving correct information is readily placed at our disposal. Many rumors reach us from time to time which do not find their way into our columns, owing to the fidelity with which our local staff trace everything to the fountain head before giving it publicity. If attacks from those on the opposite side of politics and the reproduction by its political friends of the HERALD's editorial articles are any indication that the editorial department is conducted with vigor, then we have little to desire on that point.

Our efforts to give the public a reliable journal full of news are being widely appreciated, and especially in the country districts, where the WEEKLY HERALD is rolling up a subscription list at a rate far in excess of what we anticipated.

[From Wednesday's EVENING HERALD.]

TO-MORROW.

To-morrow will be a red letter day in the history of Fredericton. In the absence of more sensational matters the opening of the Legislature is always an event of considerable interest, and perhaps it is as much for the sake of the mild, very mild type of excitement which its creates, as for any other reason, that the ceremonies connected with such an occasion have been continued. They long ago lost all their significance, but some how or other, when plain John or Thomas lay off their tweed or homespun and clothe themselves in bright scarlet and begirt with clanging sabres, march up to the throne with the Lieutenant Governor leading the procession, while a scratch artillery company touch off those asthmatic nine-pounders, we all feel something akin to the emotions which stirred the good wife's soul when she said, "Your father and I are corporals." We call it nonsense and it is stupendous nonsense, but we enjoy it all the same. And therefore we are glad that everything has been done that could be thought of to give *eclat* to the proceedings of to-morrow.

The members of the Legislature will find the building which has been prepared for their reception a very comfortable one indeed. There are some defects in workmanship noticeable in the woodwork, much of which is very rough and, we should hope, is unfinished; but the building, with all its appointments, is a vast improvement upon its predecessor, and is a credit to the city and Province. It is, of course, far from being fully furnished; nevertheless it is sufficiently well supplied in this respect for present purposes.

We have not been favored with a copy of the Lieutenant Governor's speech; but have no doubt that it will be much after the usual pattern. His Honor will probably remind the Legislature that Providence has blessed the labors of the husbandman, and congratulate them upon having so fine a house to conduct their deliberations in. There will probably be the usual reference to the Provincial claims on the Dominion Government and a hope will be expressed that they will be paid some time or other. We do not anticipate a very heavy bill of fare for the session; although bearing in mind that an election is on the carpet for next summer we expect pretty lively times between to-morrow and the day when His Honor shall return in state and tell his faithful Lords and Commons that they have been here long enough and had better return to their respective homes.

But apart from these considerations there is much to make to-morrow an interesting and memorable day. We expect to see a representative gathering such as never has been assembled in this Province on any previous occasion. The invitations have been very general and notes of acceptance have come from every quarter, so that the ball and concert rooms will be social New Brunswick in miniature. Only one fear disturbs our tranquil soul, and that is lest the ladies once they are in possession of the Legislative Halls, and all that which implies, souhld refuse to vacate the premises. What a chance for a grand *coup d'etat* is here afforded to some bright eyed, rosy-lipped Napoleon in petticoats to emancipate her sex once and forever. If such an one dare seize the reins of power who among the powers that be would have the hardihood to say "hands off?" Would Mr. Speaker, would the Attorney General, would Mr. Elder, would even the Sergeant-at-Arms be equal to so dire an emergency?. We doubt it; and so with mingled feelings of hope and fear we wait for the sun to rise to-morrow.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The *Carleton Sentinel* takes a sensible view of the curtailment of provincial expenditure; although it does not appear to have entirely understood the position we took upon the question. The *Sentinel* says:—

The *Herald* advocates the curtailment of the expenditures on the Government and Legislature at Fredericton, and devoting the amount thus saved towards building a bridge over the St. John at that city. Some of the *Herald's* contemporaries are indignant at the suggestion, and so, we presume, are a great many of the people. We wonder if the people of that beautiful city will ever learn that, to say nothing of a bridge, which would surely prove of inestimable advantage, such establishments as Risteen & Co.'s, the Fredericton Leather Co., Robert Coldwell, Edgecombe & Sons, &c., are of infinitely more practical and saving advantage to Fredericton than the whole paraphernalia and outcome of the local Government House, Government and Legislature. The former are practical factors in producing wealth for and among all branches, without any attendant disadvantages whatever; the latter is of little pecuniary benefit, while possibly doing the city some injury.

The point which we wished to make was, not that the expenditures should be curtailed in order that a bridge might be built here, but that, in view of the generally admitted fact that numerous public works were needed, for which the province would be asked to find a portion at least of the cost, it was advisable to do away with some of the useless trappings of our Legislature, and devote the money thus saved to the furtherance of schemes calculated to promote the advancement of the province; and we instanced a bridge at Fredericton as one of the projects which might be realized in this way. THE HERALD is democratic enough in its views to think that there is a great deal in what the *Sentinel* says as to the injury done to a small city like Fredericton by the maintenance of the Government House as a crown to the social edifice. In a larger place, where there are more men with wealth and leisure, its effects would not be so apparent; but the shadow of Government House has for three generations thrown its blighting influence over this city.

We desire not to be misunderstood in what we have said. The influence and example of our Lieutenant Governors have always, so far as we know, been on the side of morality and good citizenship. They have been generally estimable men, prominent in good works and worthy to fill the position. Our reference is not to Government House itself, or the festivities of which it has been the scene, but to the false social and industrial ideas, which the existence of such an establishment, in a small town like Fredericton, has developed. The men to whom this country is indebted for what little it has of wealth and prosperity are not those who were nurtured in the atmosphere of the so-called upper circles; while the future of hundreds of young men has been perverted by the efforts which the families to which they belong have made to keep up a style and dignity which were not only strange to themselves but alien to the circumstances of a new country. More than this—the "No Thoroughfare," which has been written upon so many avenues of social life, has caused hundreds of the best of New Brunswick's sons to exile themselves; and their skill, intelligence and manly integrity are to-day the life of many foreign communities. Of course one soon learns that the barrier will be thrown down to any who demand its removal; but the young men do not know this; and conscious that in education, courage and in true nobility of character, they are more then the peers of many within the charmed circle, they seek other scenes where, in the newer and broader views which are taken of life, they receive a fuller and freer recognition of their worth. Fredericton has neither time nor money to expend in what is at best only a poor imitation of State ceremonial. We have a future to make for ourselves, in which, if it is to be worth the striving for, labor, hard-handed labor, must be king.

PARLIAMENTARY ECHOES.

The usual crop of rumors which attend the opening of Parliament comes from Ottawa. It is reported that Sir John has his hands full with his party. There is said to be a good deal of discontent among the Quebec Tories, and those from Manitoba and Ontario are anxiously asking how they are going to get out of the dilemma which their leader has placed them in. The prairie province Tories cannot justify the disallowance of the Railway bill, and they cannot get re-elected if they do not either justify it or condemn it. The refusal of the ministry to recognise the Ontario boundary award places its supporters from that Province in a difficult position. They cannot hope to find reasons which will satisfy the people of Ontario that they ought to submit to be despoiled of a large portion of their most valuable territory, even if the Syndicate require it, and the Tories of Quebec would applaud it. Sir John, of course, presents a smiling front. He is too old a general to exhibit any signs of the anxiety he feels. He knows that you can never tell what the issue of a fight is to be until the struggle is over, and he does not intend to court defeat by betraying any signs of weakness. The rank and file of his party are not so wise, and they meet the queries of the Liberals as to the prospects of an election next summer with a negative so emphatic as to indicate clearly that they do not care to face the angry constituencies just now. They would like another year's grace, in which they hope their leader's fertility of resource will enable him to discover some plan by which the defeat, which now seems inevitable, can be avoided. Mr. Blake has a glorious opportunity- and we believe he will prove himself equal to it. Protection has been a failure, except as a means of collecting unnecessary taxes. The Pacific Railway monopoly has already assumed such proportions as to alarm every person who wishes well for Canada. The Government land policy, as developed, is calculated to be mischievous in the highest degree. There is a profound discontent in the Maritime Provinces, and everywhere the people are anxiously looking for the day when the policy of the Government, as exhibited in all departments of the public service, will be more in accord with the circumstances of a country like Canada. We listen anxiously for the word of the leader for a general advance.

WATER WORKS.

The *Maritime Farmer* makes a suggestion on the water works question which is well worthy of consideration. Speaking of the vote which the Council have decided shall be taken on the question: "Shall the City Corporation forthwith proceed with the introduction of water according to the best and most economical manner possible?" our contemporary says: "Would it not be better to have the vote taken on the square question, 'do the citizens desire to establish water works?' If it is answered in the affirmative, then a meeting should be called, and a committee formed of the most responsible men in the city, including members of council, to whom should be committed the task of deciding whether the works should be undertaken by the city, or a company, or jointly, by city and company. They should have full power to deal with the matter, as after obtaining fullest information, they, in their judgment, may deem right; and what they decide to do, the citizens should agree to without further question." It is certainly desirable that the electors should be asked to pronounce first of all upon the square issue of water or no water. If a vote is taken upon an issue in which anything else is involved, it will be difficult to get an answer which may be accepted as a correct exposition of public opinion. If the majority of the citizens pronounce in favor of an artificial water supply, the question of the system to be adopted will be settled without much trouble, because those who will vote in the affirmative, however much they may be wedded to one plan or another, will not be so unreasonable as to endeavor to thwart the project because their views have not been consulted as to details. The question which the Council ask the electors to vote upon is objectionable to many who think an affirmative vote would leave the matter entirely in the hands of the present Council to decide upon whatever plan and go to whatever expense they see fit. It would be better, therefore, we think, to alter the phraseology of the issue so as to remove this objection, and when a permanent vote is obtained, as we believe it will be, then will be the proper time for the people to consider whether they will entrust the whole matter to the discretion of the Council or to a mixed commission of aldermen and private citizens.

—The truth of the matter is the people will have to rise in their might and kill Vennor. Ever since he has been running the weather business we have had the beastliest climate. When you get up in the morning you never know what kind of whether you will get before night. It is an outrage and Vennor should be exploded.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LOCAL LEGISLATURES.

Mr. Blake will probably give the party of which he is the leader an opportunity, during the present session of Parliament, to place on record a protest against interference, by the Federal authorities, with the exercise by the Local Legislatures of the constitutional powers conferred on them by the British North America Act. The tendency of recent decisions in the Courts has been to restrict those powers to a very considerable degree, and it therefore becomes the more important that the exercise of them should remain free and unimpaired. If there ever was a time when any portion of the people of New Brunswick felt favorably disposed towards the idea of a Legislative union, it has passed away long ago, and we think that recent events will effectually eradicate any remnant of this opinion which may yet cling to other parts of the Dominion. But we want more than the form of a federal union, with independent Legislatures in the Provinces. The interference of the central authorities in matter entirely within the province of the local authorities must be stopped. Our people will never submit to have the enjoyment of so large a measure of their rights depend upon the whim of a premier who, perhaps, is maintained in power by the votes of another province. There is danger, great danger, ahead, if the completeness of the legislative powers delegated to the local Houses is not respected by those possessing the veto power. So long as the colonial relation continued, and all acts of assembly had to run the gauntlet of Downing street, an occasional dissent on the part of Her Majesty was accepted, by the majority of the people at least, as the mild correction of a parent would be received by a dutiful child. Our Ottawa step-mother will make a great mistake if she presumes upon this. The people know too well how the Tories got in power, and how they manage to keep themselves there, to mistake the reasons of their interference or the spirit which prompts it.

A WARM SESSION.

The Toronto *Globe* anticipates a warm Session. It says:

We anticipate that the session will be marked rather by the struggle of the Liberals to have wrong righted, bad acts amended, and jobbery condemned than by new Tory outrages on public opinion.

Those features of the tariff that enable the favored capitalists, on whom Sir John so much depends so much for his election fund, to plunder the poor will doubtless be once more pointed to and protested against by the Opposition.

Public attention will be directed to the fact that the worst anticipations of the immediate results of the Pacific Railway bargain have been more than fulfilled, and the Tory policy of violating the self-governing rights of Manitoba to secure to the Company even a more complete monopoly than they bargained for—a monopoly that Sir John last session distinctly engaged not to give the St. Paul Company—will be objected to by the Liberals.

The land regulations, devised as they are for the special benefit of speculators, contrived to secure to the Government the support of numerous active speculators, will be condemned as heavily burdensome to actual settlers, and certain to retard the development of the North-West.

And last but not least, they will be forced to show cause for placing the Confederation in peril, by attempting to rob Ontario of territory and by trespassing on the self-governing rights of two Provinces, to the prejudice of the rights of all.

The indictment of the Government for misdemeanors in every field of governmental action is the work that Sir John has cut out for the Opposition, and fortunately the able Liberal minority are well cut out for the work. The session will be an active and serious one, during which the Opposition will be sustained by the indignant people who have for over three years been outraged in every conceivable way by Sir John's perverted ingenuity and Tupper's brazen disregard for decency.

SOMETHING WORTH LOOKING INTO.

Messrs. Onderdonk & Mills tendered for the construction of the portion of the Pacific Railway between Emory's Bar and Port Moody; but their tender was some three hundred thousand dollars higher than that of Charlebois McDonald, who made the lowest bid. It appears that something irregular was discovered in the last-named offer, and so the contract was awarded to the first-named firm. Something very much like this happened when a previous contract was let on the British Columbia section of the Pacific Railway. We are quite familiar here in New Brunswick with this fashion of letting contracts and have learned, by a long experience, that it is conducive to extravagance and to something very much worse. The Opposition in Parliament will do well to have this matter ventilated, that the country may know why it has to pay $300,000 more for this section of road than is necessary. If the letting of contracts by public competition is to be of any value in an economical point of view, it is ridiculous to tolerate this sort of thing. Unfortunately the reputation of the Minister of Railways is no guarantee that there has not been some skillful manipulation to induce the parties tendering the lowest to retire.

—The Ontario boundary award which Sir John repudiated when it did not suit him reminds us of the old couplet:

"For this is the kind of a bargain you see,
Which is binding on you, but not binding on me."

A FEW weeks ago the HERALD, in common with certain of its Liberal contemporaries, was berated by the Tory press because it advocated the right of Canada to make its own treaties, and we were told that this meant treason, was very much like rebellion, was Annexation under a thin guise; and these superlatively loyal creatures, who have no opinion until Sir John Macdonald speaks and then they all echo him, sang in inharmonious chorus the villainy of such Grit schemes. And now we are told that Sir John has been working for this right all the time, and has practically secured its recognition by Great Britain. If this is true what have the organs to say about it? Will they assail the Premier with the choice invective they have showered upon the Liberal press, or will they have the audacity to claim that they too have been contending for the treaty-making power? Whatever course they may take, they will not surprise us. This they can only do by having the courage to condemn in their leader what they denounced in their adversaries, and the one of them which would have the temerity to attempt this would be read out of the party in short metre, and have its supply of Government pap cut off in peremptory fashion.

THE Local Government have appointed B. Lester Peters, Common Clerk of St. John, to the office of Police Magistrate of that city, in the place of the late Humphrey T. Gilbert. So far as legal training and judicial abilities go it would be difficult to get a man better fitted for the position than Mr. Peters is; but at the same time we do think that the principle involved in the appointment is not a good one. The matter is perhaps scarcely one to excite much interest outside of St. John, and Mr. Peters will discharge the duties of his office in a highly creditable manner. There will be a saving to the city of $1,000 in the matter of salary. It was the common talk on the street during the last year that Mr. Wedderburn was to take this office when a vacancy occurred, and that Mr. Elder was to take the Provincial Secretaryship. This plan evidently was found impracticable, and perhaps there never was much foundation for the rumor. However, people will talk; and now they are speculating as to where the Provincial Secretary proposes to rest after his political labors are ended, which some people intimate will soon come to pass.

Notes and Notions.

—Ontario lumbermen complain of a lack of snow. The Tories claimed the good crops for the N. P., will they bear the responsibility of this omission on the part of the clerk of the weather?

—The *News* is afraid that Mr. Blake's speech in Parliament on the address may have an irritating effect on the Indians. Mr. Blake ought to have been more cautious. We can fancy the Sioux braves sitting around their camp fires, about a year from next summer, and spelling out of an old *Globe* or *Mail*, which some pioneer has had wrapped around a pound of butter, the report of Mr. Blake's speech; and then some pale face will draw near and tell them that the *News* championed their cause at that momentous hour, and then they will subscribe for the *News* and then—we kindly draw the veil.

—The exports of Canada for the last fiscal year amounted to $98,290,843.

—The Moncton *Times* has the brazen effrontery to lecture its contemporaries on journalistic courtesy.

—The statement of the *Reporter*, that the Reform Club "is being used by a few wire pullers as a Grit electioneering machine," is too ridiculous to need contradiction.

—Mr. Gladstone will have some trouble with his proposed *cloture*. It is admitted that some steps will have to be taken to prevent a recurrence of the obstructionist tactics which disgraced the last session, but the opportunity which is afforded the English Conservatives to raise a cry that the liberties of the people are in danger, is too good to be lost. There is scarcely a country outside of Great Britain and Canada, in which parliamentary government exists, that some rules of procedure have not been adopted to shut off debate when it is clear that obstruction of legislation is intended.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

Tuesday, the fourteenth day of February, was St. Valentine's Day, and the time-honored custom of sending valentines of all sorts and kinds and expressive of all degrees of sentimentality, personal animosity and ludicrous perception of the individual peculiarities of character, or of the personal manners and features of others, does not seem to have waned or increased much in the past decade, but rather to have become more fairly settled as a matter of usage from much the same cause to which we are indebted for some other customs of a social nature—"use that doth breed a habit."

The practise of choosing or sending valentines existed before what time it became connected with St. Valentine, and its connection with the same is a matter of pure accident, for no reference has been found in the various legends concerning the different Saints who bore the name of Valentine, to the usage peculiar to the day. It has been suggested that the custom may have come down from the Romans who, during a festival celebrated in February, "put the names of young women into a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed;" and that the Christian clergy who followed had given it a religious aspect by putting in the place of the names of females those of particular saints; but another authority says that is far more probable that the custom is a relic of that nature-religion which was the primitive form of religion in North-Western Europe, and that it arose in observance of the peculiarity of the season. In support of this Bailey's Dictionary is cited as follows:—"About this time of the year the birds choose their mates, and probably thence came the custom of the young men and maidens choosing valentines or special loving friends on that day." Still another authority coincides with this when it defines a valentine as "a sweetheart chosen on St. Valentine's Day." The old poet Wotten also says, in apparent reference to the season,

"Now all nature seemed in love
And birds had drawn their valentines;"

And in Shakespeare's Hamlet we find that "rose of May," the "sweet Ophelia," singing in the first bursts of her madness,

"Good morrow, 'tis Saint Valentine's Day,
All in the morning betime,
And I a maid at your window,
To be your Valentine."

But after all is said the precise date when the custom originated remains unknown, and the manner of or the circumstances which lead to its birth are shrouded in doubt. We have the custom and it is harmless enough and pleasant, and occurs with sufficient infrequency not to become a nuisance; so those of the present day who delight in such quaint and pretty conceits, are sufficiently well satisfied with the fact that they have the day and observe it, not to bother themselves looking up more precise data. From the records extant of the manner in which the day has been observed, or rather the custom celebrated, we find that it is sufficiently antiquated for all practical purposes. St. Valentines Day was celebrated in England and Scotland and in Europe, but more particularly in Lorraine and Maine in France, in the manner described immediately hereafter, and was very popular among the upper classes, and at many European courts as well, during the fifteenth century. The custom was as follows:—On St. Valentine's Eve a number of young folk having got together would write up on little billets the names of an equal number of unmarried male and female friends, which would be drawn from a box of some kind in the same manner as lottery tickets are to-day, with the exception that the two sexes were in different boxes to prevent the difficulty arising of a maid or a bachelor drawing a valentine of the same sex. The person thus drawn became one's valentine; and besides having got a valentine for one's self, one became also some other person's valentine, by the universality of the practice. A double arrangement like this would seem to-day to present many difficulties and create much trouble, trenching as it does on such tender ground, and particularly as a consequence of the custom was that the young man was bound to the service of his valentine for a whole year; but Misson, a learned traveler of the first part of the seventeenth century, cuts the Gordian knot of this difficulty by noting that "the man stuck faster to the valentine that had fallen to him, than to her to whom he had fallen." Another, and a much more natural consequence of these imaginary engagements was that they frequently led to others which lasted for life It was the usage at one time for both sexes to make each other presents, but latterly this became confined to the young men. That prince of diarists, old Pepys, tells us in his Diary that married as well as single could be chosen valentines in the reign of Charles II.

Thus we see how the custom changed and varied in times long past, and how utterly variant is the more ancient usage in this connection, as it is in many more important things, with the practice of choosing and sending valentines, or the observance of the 14th February to-day. "For some time back," says Chambers's Book of Days, "the festival—at least in England and Scotland—has ceased to possess the graceful symbolic meaning it used to have and has become a considerable nuisance."

We are all sufficiently familiar with the observance of St. Valentine's day at present, and with the style of valentines usually sent and received, and but little need be said here concerning them. Perhaps some of us are painfully familiar with that species known to the trade as the "comic" valentine, in which the "fashions and the follies of the world," and of certain portions of mankind in particular, are burlesqued in a manner so broad that burlesque itself is out-burlesqued, and we fail to recognize or appreciate its application. There are "comic" valentines for all trades and circumstances of man, from the tinker, with his soldering iron and tin pot to the cross-legged tailor with his goose and shears, from the humble but industrious artist who embellishes our house fronts to the more elevated and glowing genius who spoils yard after yard of canvass working up impossible landscapes and the head centres of this line are doubtless taxed in this present year to keep pace with the times by sending forth to an anticipant world a broad burlesque of the apostle of the "utterly utter" and "quite too too." But side by side with these "skits" we find many beautiful little works of art, symbolical of the season and of appropriate sentiment, although the latter is oftener openly expressed in rhyme breathing love, tenderness and constancy to a superhuman degree, and quite often both the symbol and rhyme are common-place and hackneyed enough. Hearts are seen transfixed with darts, in the old conventional style, over a few lines of rhyme such as follow and which are generally believed to have come over in the ark with Noah:—

"The rose is red,
The violet s blue,
The honey's sweet,
And so are you!"

While over the transfixed hearts probably hovers a very nude cupid in the act of discharging another of his darts at another heart in one of the lower corners. The above lines are sometimes made to serve the purpose of the "comic" valentine as well by an alteration which draws a dark comparison between the recipient and a certain party whose name is not to be mentioned in polite society. But as we have said, some of the better and more expensive class of valentines are really works of art. Clever artists are now-a-days employed in designing them, and skilled labor and the advances in labor-saving machinery are called in to produce them in the great number the demand calls for.