The Watchman.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUG. 14, 1875.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION AGAIN.

Thursday morning's papers contained a copy of the New Brunswick Government's replies to certain proposals made by Roman Catholic members of the House of Assembly in reference to the School Question. The memorandum is as follows:—

Copy of a Minute of Council made by His Honor the Lieuten[illegible] Governor, on the sixth day of August, A. D. 18[illegible] approving of the replies made by the Committee of the Executive Council to certain propositions submitted by Messrs. Burns, O'Leary, Blanchard, Theriault and Johnson, members of the Assembly, as the basis of a present settlement of the School question.

Proposition No. 1. "That the pupils residing in all populous places where there may be a sufficient number of children to form two or more schools, should be permitted to attend schools outside of the districts in which they may reside."

Reply—The power to admit to the schools of a district, children residing in another district, is vested in the Trustees.

In the case of districts in which there are two or more schools, the Trustees may, subject to proper provision for grading, allow children from any part of the district to attend any of the schools within the bounds of the district.

No. 2. "That regulations be made to provide for the granting of licenses to persons holding certificates from the Superior of any religious order, or where such persons hold no such certificates, that provision be made for the examination of such persons at their place of residence or school rooms."

Reply—Any person who has undergone training at a recognized training or Normal School in another country, or who holds a diploma from a chartered College or University, is eligible for examination for license under Regulation 30 of Regulations of the Board of Education.

The certificate of the Superior of any of the Roman Catholic teaching orders is recognized as rendering the holder eligible for such examination—and it would not be necessary for such persons to attend the New Brunswick Training School.

Where such certificates are not held attendance upon the Training school is required.

No. 3. "That in schools taught by the Christian Brothers or Sisters of Charity, or which may be attended by Roman Catholic children, the teachers shall not be compelled to use any books which may contain anything objectionable to them in a religious point of view, referring now more particularly to the History and Readers published by the Board of Education."

Reply.—The greatest care has been taken to keep the school books free from matter objectionable to any on religious grounds, and it will be the aim of the Educational authorities to render the Text Books suitable for all. In reference to the prescribed History of England the Council are prepared to recommend to the favorable consideration of the Board of Education, the adoption and insertion of notes compiled from Lingard upon such portion of the text as may be deemed objectionable in a religious point of view, when presented to the Board on behalf of the Roman Catholic minority.

No. 4. "That provision shall be made that the Trustees shall allow religious instruction to be given in the school rooms under their control after regular Secular School hours, said hours to be shortened to the extent allowed for religious instruction."

Reply.—It is obvious that if the Trustees be required to allow the teachers to give denominational instruction after school, to the pupils assembled for public purposes under the authority of the School Act, the direct tendency of such a provision would be to render the selection and appointment of teachers a matter to be determined rather by their denominational views than their fitness to discharge the specific duties required of them during school hours.

Where, by negotiations with the governing bodies of schools existent at the passage of the School Act, arrangements are made by Trustees under 36 Vic., cap. 12. sec. 58, no restriction is placed upon the use of the buildings after the close of the school.

Certified,
F. A. H. STRATON,
Clerk Executive Council.

This document sets out with the assumption that the proposal of Messrs. Burns & Company is "the basis of *a present settlement* of the School Question." To fully estimate the value of the proposition in this sense, the Government ought to have published the full correspondence which must have taken place, and which, we presume, shows the authority by which these five gentlemen claim to speak for the Roman Catholic Church in New Brunswick; for it should always be borne in mind that this School controversy is a controversy with a Church whose authority and influence are represented, not by the body of the people but by Bishops and Priests. The agitation against the Non-Sectarian, Free School system of New Brunswick was worked up by the Bishops and Clergy. They lobbied against the Bill at the time of its passage. They have led off in attacks upon it from the altar and at public meetings. They wire-pulled at Ottawa; and, generally, they have been the head and front of the Opposition, not as delegates or the chosen of the people, but by right of their position as the ecclesiastical "rulers" in a powerful communion. It ought to be explained, then, and satisfactorily explained, before any stress is laid on the "propositions" above referred to, how it has happened that in an attempt to settle the controversy, Bishops and Priests have disappeared from the front, and men of straw, like Messrs. Burns and Blanchard, of Gloucester, and Messrs. O'Leary and Johnson, of Kent, appear as the spokesmen of the Catholic party. The public will, certainly, need to examine the correspondence for themselves before accepting these propositions as binding on the Roman Catholic Church, either as a "present" or final settlement, or other than a settlement that may be repudiated if the Church sees fit to deny that these five members were authorized to negotiate. It is due to the New Brunswick constituencies, to those electors who a little over a year ago gave expression at the polls to their deliberate judgment on the School question, that they should be treated with the utmost frankness in this matter, and candor requires that the full correspondence be laid before the public without delay.

The principal interest in the "propositions" and "replies" centres in No. 3, which proposes, on behalf of the Government, that the History of England now in use in the Common Schools shall be so modified as to present the Roman Catholic interpretation of History along with the version which the Board of Education had already decided to be a non-sectarian and correct version of certain historical facts. The question will naturally arise, Is this Roman Catholic version of English History to be placed in the hands of Protestant pupils? If so, then there will assuredly be decided objection raised by Protestant parents. If not, is it to be used in certain schools to be known as Roman Catholic or Separate Schools, and will the special provision thus made for Separate Schools be a legal recognition of such schools? These are points which call for explanation. Evidently the *Telegraph* is uneasy on the subject, and it will probably again call for information. The *News* has not delivered itself very clearly in regard to it; but as its editor is a member of the Government that prepared the replies, the *News*, of course, must support the provision in regard to the revised English History, as well as the other propositions in the document. The *Globe*, which has persistently advocated Separate Schools for the Catholics, regards the Government as having made concessions which ought to be acceptable to the Catholic party, at least for the present, though encouraging them to hope that all their demands will ultimately be granted. The country press has not yet been heard from; and comparatively few persons have made up their minds as to the meaning and merits of the demands and answers, apparently waiting until informed of the steps and incidents which have led up to and resulted in the document quoted above.

REMOVED.—We understand that H. T. Stevens, Esq., editor of the Moncton *Times*, has been removed from the office of Collector of Inland Revenue at Moncton. Mr. Stevens was the only first class officer in his Department in the Province, and always performed his duties intelligently and faithfully. He was one of the two Inland Revenue officials in this Province who, of all the staff, succeeded in passing the prescribed official examination; and it is understood that the other who was so unfortunate as to be able to run the gauntlet of the Department's interrogatories, stands trembling lest his head be cut off, also. The public will expect some explanation of Mr. Stevens' removal.

THE CARLETON "PROWLER" SENTENCED.

On Monday last Israel McLaughlin was put on his trial a second time in the County Court, charged with an indecent assault on the Misses Beatteay and Williams, and on this occasion there was no failure of justice. Mr. Alward, for the defence, decided not to call evidence as to McLaughlin's good character, as it was understood that witnesses would be forthcoming for the Crown who would overwhelm all evidence of this character. The Jury, this time, considered that the young ladies had fully identified the prisoner, and, after a brief absence from the Court room, they agreed upon a verdict of "Guilty," and Judge Watters, after fully endorsing their verdict, sentenced the prisoner to seven years in the Penitentiary, with hard labor. The Judge stated, moreover, that the crime with which the prisoner was charged was in his opinion one for which the law did not provide adequate punishment, and he would be unworthy of the position he held as a Judge if he should in this case undertake to lessen the penalty provided by the law. The verdict of the jury and the sentence of the Court have been received with general satisfaction and will tend to the suppression of the form of crime of which McLaughlin, from whatever motives, was undoubtedly guilty.

We notice that Mr. Alward, counsel for McLaughlin, sought to influence the Jury by representing that THE WATCHMAN, in presenting to the public evidence bearing on the case of which no use had been made in the first trial, had acted unfairly towards his client. He is thus reported in the *Telegraph*:—

"In conclusion, the jury were to decide the case on the merits alone. No outside circumstances were to influence them. The press had, with but one exception, fairly dealt with the case, and he could not see the object of the course taken by that one, unless it was to injure the prisoner. He believed in the liberty of the press, but he believed in a censorship in preference to unbridled license. He believed in giving a prisoner a fair trial, in accordance with British justice, and not in allowing a newspaper to manufacture evidence. It was unfair to the prisoner, pinioned in jail, that such a course should be taken, and he trusted the day was not coming when trial by newspaper would be substituted for trial by jury."

This is all very well as a lawyer's "point," but as long as the public interests are regarded as paramount to private interests, so long will newspapers deal with such matters from a public stand point. It was evident to many minds, when the first trial of McLaughlin had closed, that the Police had again proved their inefficiency by failing to place in the hands of the Crown officers evidence which ought to have been before them. A WATCHMAN reporter was despatched to Carleton, who gathered a number of facts connected with the case and published them, and we have reason to know that the fact of THE WATCHMAN's reporter being on the ground stimulated the Police, who then obtained such information as, when brought to the knowledge of the legal gentlemen in the case, prevented Mr. Alward from venturing on the dangerous course of introducing evidence as to McLaughlin's character, as on the first trial. The course of THE WATCHMAN was entirely proper, and such as it will feel justified in again adopting under similar circumstances, especially as no injustice can be done the party on trial as long as jurymen possess the ordinary feelings and sentiments of good citizens. If a newspaper unduly prejudices the case of a party under trial the latter is pretty certain to derive benefit from it; but it must be a very bad case indeed that can not stand such facts and limited comments as those relating to the McLaughlin case in last week's WATCHMAN. But McLaughlin's case *was* a bad case, one of the very worst cases that have ever come before our Courts. Let us add, however, that it was a bad case ably handled by the prisoner's advocate, whom we should have liked to have heard on the other side, espousing the cause of outraged innocence, for then we should have had a moving speech and a formidable indictment, and talent employed for worthier ends.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONTRACTORS.

The attention which the public business is receiving at the hands of the Mackenzie Government, and especially the management of the Department of Public Works which Mr. Mackenzie insists upon adding to his duties as Premier, is aptly illustrated by the statement of the Halifax *Reporter*, which informs us that "this morning [Aug. 7] a deputation of contractors connected with Dominion public works, waited upon Messrs. Jones and Power to request them, as representatives for Halifax, to remonstrate with the Dominion Government on the manner in which the claims of contractors have been neglected. There are some *three millions of dollars of claims against the Government* for one kind of work and another. The settlement of these has been postponed from year to year, to the immense injury of contractors and those associated with them. Men have, in this community, been driven into insolvency, because they have been unable to obtain a settlement. Indeed, so reckless have the Government become, so regardless of the interests of those to whom they are indebted, that not even the first step towards adjudication has been taken. Time after time letters have been written to the proper departments, and even the small courtesy of an answer has been denied, or else the writers have been told to wait till Mr. Mackenzie returns from England, where he is disporting himself in pleasure and revelling in ease and recreation, while scores of men are at their wits' ends for money, and in some cases have had to succumb to the times, when a settlement of their claims would have relieved them and their creditors from embarrassment and given them a good balance at their bankers, besides conferring untold benefits upon the general public by means of the relief thus afforded."

The charge embraced in this statement is one of terrible import. It means that not only have the Government refused to reimburse men for expenditures incurred in behalf of the Government, and for works by which the country is to be benefitted, but they even refused to consider the claims presented; they will not do the contractors the meed of justice which is involved in acknowledging the receipt of their communications in regard to matters of most pressing moment. The Government, while revealing themselves in a light so cruel and pitiless, in a time of financial distress which is trying the resources of the foremost monetary institutions of the country, shamefully misrepresent the sentiments and wishes of the people of Canada. So indefensible has been the attitude of the Government in this matter that even a hide-bound partisan like the Halifax *Chronicle* is compelled to abandon their case and to admit that "some of the "claims have been standing for a long time. It "would appear that there has been ample time for "investigation into their merits, and that an imme-"diate decision may fairly be asked for. If the "claims are clearly just they should be promptly "paid. If they are clearly unjust they should be "dismissed without any further delay. If they are "fair matters for trial the Government should per-"mit them to be taken into court at once. The de-"lay in deciding is what may reasonably be com-"plained of, for a delay of justice is a denial of "justice." Readers of the *Chronicle* must have understood,—what is the fact,—that the Reform Government of Canada, the Government whose members were to illustrate all the virtues of the highest sphere of political existence, have been guilty of gross dereliction of duty, as regards the public interests, and shameful injustice to the rights of individuals, when the *Chronicle* was obliged to yield to popular pressure and give utterance to the few words of condemnation which we have quoted.

OBITUARY.—On yesterday morning, Mr. B. Early, of 106 Charlotte street, the father of the successful authoress, Mrs. May Agnes Fleming, died, after a lingering illness.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Neil Warner is playing at the Theatre Royal, Montreal. The management of the establishment is styled Warner & Co. We have no doubt that Mr. Warner's versatile abilities will be generally appreciated by the Montreal theatre-goers.

O'CONNELLISMS.

It is highly probable that the celebration of the O'Connell Centennary has done more harm than good. It certainly has not elevated the Irish in the esteem of other races. The particulars of the Dublin fracas have been circulated broad cast. We notice that, in Toronto, Archbishop Lynch came out squarely for "Home Rule" for Ireland, and the orator of the day was a Reverend Mr. Pepper, who had been brought in from Ohio to deliver a treasonable speech. Mr. Boyle, editor of the *Irish Canadian* newspaper, presided. Pepper is described a "Methodist Minister, a native of Belfast, Ireland," eloquent and fiery. So "Anti-British and inflammatory" were his remarks that the Toronto *Mail* "forbears giving an extended report;" and among the sentiments which were received with "cheers and great excitement" was one that "Ireland would never have peace again until that cruel flag—the British flag—that for 700 years had floated o'er her, was torn down." He eulogized "John Mitchell, the unpurchasable, the noblest Roman of them all." We are told "the lecturer concluded by urging Irishmen to unite. He said he could see the morning of Ireland's redemption; already he could hear the steps of the Irish soldiers marching to the air of the 'Wearing of the Green.' (Loud and enthusiastic cheering.) Amidst the wildest cheers he strode across the platform, and grasped the hand of the Rev. Bro. Arnold and declared that no matter what our creed is, Liberty makes brothers of us all!" A fair specimen of the bosh and balderdash which the "Centennary" has produced will be found in the following extract from a speech by Father Murphy, at the Montreal celebration:—

"No press to write for him; no merit to bless his efforts; no people to lend him the assistance of even an encouraging cheer: right before him all the cunning of Pitt and all the stubbornness of Wellington and all the scholarship of Canning and all the genius of Peel; everywhere around him, dogging his footsteps, the paid spies of the London Government and the paid assassins of the Dublin Corporation; warnings and dooms rolling around him in the air; the scaffold that smothered the speech of Emmett, and the failure that broke the heart of Grattan, ready to receive him; nothing under God's sky to trust in but his own undaunted heart Irish of the Irish, but his own unequalled brain, Irish of the Irish, too, our soft young Kerry barrister, only a few days ago in the High School of Dan Maloney, only yesterday disturbing with his drollery, the serene palcidity of the limits of Saint Omer's, becomes suddenly filled, as though the Divine breath were on him, with the spirit which brought Israel out of Egypt and out of the house of bondage, and filled with that mighty spirit, on he went into the very forest-fire of danger, until the lightning of his genius, gleaming out stroke on stroke, the thunder of his speech striking out blow on blow, all foes had to fall back afrighted, all barriers had to crumble down, and over the body of D'Esterre, and over the curses of Wellington, and over the sneers of Canning, and over the wiles of Peel, and over the maudlin tears of the bloated buffoon George the Fourth, and with the wonder and praise and cheers of an awakened people, one man of men, the strong son of one great old mother, trampled in the dust the bigotry of ages, stamped it firmly till it could move no more, and raised a nation out of disgrace, and lifted slaves from out despair, and crowned his people and crowned the world for ever with the freedom that belongs to the unfettered soul, the Divine freedom of Religious Emancipation!"

THE LANCASTER LANDS.

Referring to a Heavy Tax-payer's "talk" on the subject of the St. John Corporation's lands in Lancaster, a correspondent writes:—

"On reading in your WATCHMAN what a Heavy Tax-payer is represented as saying about the loss of money to the City through the mismanagement of the Lancaster Lands, I took the trouble to drive out there on Saturday, to satisfy myself in reference to the truth of the statements, and I must now confess that 'the half had not been told.' It is a very sad sight to see the number of houses,—on several of which several thousands of dollars, each, have been spent,—with windows boarded up, or lying tenantless, on one of the finest roads of the Province, within a half-mile of Fairville, and, of course, going to ruin, as all such property must, without tenants and without fire in winter or the time of spring and fall rains. The grounds are neglected, and those where a great deal of taste and care, and a good deal of money, were formerly expended, are losing their original form and are now scarcely to be distinguished from the ordinary fields near by. The fences are uncared for, and the fields are growing up with weeds, which formerly were nicely cultivated. The Yorkshire tavern property, under lease, is fairly cared for. The next property toward Fairville, formerly owned by James Thompson, Esq., who had made it the prettiest place on the Manawagonish Road, has been sadly neglected. It was kept as a Hotel by a Mr. Calkins for a short time, and was called Glenwood Villa, but it is closed for such uses now. It is not probable the Corporation can get much for its use, if it has failed to answer the purposes of a Hotel. The next, known as the Stevens property—formerly owned by Mr. William J. Stevens, so long with Messrs. Harris and Allan—is occupied by Mr. Hurd Peters, City Engineer, as report says, free of rent. This is probably the most comfortable house, both for winter and summer use, of any of the Corporation houses, and Mr. Peters has shown practical wisdom in selecting it. The next house is a two-story, square building, in a nice field; apparently well built; all the windows boarded up; house unpainted; gate lying where it has fallen; general unfinished appearance to the building. The next is a brown, two and a half story building, built by Mr. Melrose, the builder and contractor, for his own residence. Unoccupied. The house must have cost $2,500, and there is also a barn. Mr. M. lived here several years, and the house was very comfortable. It is, I understand, well planned and suitable for a large family. The next is the house occupied by Mr. Notman, photographer, and is the one spoken of as rented for $100. There is a convenient stable and carriage house attached. The premises are unpainted; the house seems to be comparatively new. Each of these houses has a large body of land attached, ranging, I should say, from five to twenty acres each, and the best portion of the land cleared. A back street runs through these Corporation lands for a half mile or more, on which there are several residences, each with its body of cultivated land; the buildings are of a poor description. I understand that the premises I have described are only those on the "Lewin Lease," which was cancelled two or three years ago, and although these are very valuable properties, and this lease must have covered eighty or one hundred acres, this important property does not amount to a fifth part of the estate which is meant when 'the Lancaster Lands' are spoken of. As a matter of fact, the tax-payers of St. John have been the possessors of a landed property in the Parish of Lancaster which, if properly managed, ought to have been the means of largely reducing the civic taxes, but which can now be scarcely counted on for revenue,—the premises I have described being, indeed, at the present moment a great burthen on the tax-payers, owing to mismanagement. In a word, the land on which a great part of Fairville is built is owned by the City, and when you drive past the present residence of the City Engineer and look towards the River St. John, nearly all the soil you will see, for miles in extent, is the property of our City. And, still, scarcely anything is known of this magnificent property, and it is doubtful if the members of the Corporation's 'Lancaster Lands Committee' can tell the heavily burthened tax-payers where these lands lay. It is well, therefore, that the public should be aroused to the necessity of dealing with these Lands in such a way as to secure some revenue from them, and it would be a good thing for the City to have public attention frequently drawn to their condition through THE WATCHMAN and others of the City Press."

[Our correspondent requires correction in some respects. This we shall apply next week.—ED.]

MR. FELTWELL's speech at the Academy on last Sunday evening, does not appear to be in the best of taste, or likely to further the cause of Temperance to any great extent.

CIVIC AFFAIRS.

What Tax Payers are Saying—The Pulse of the People.

The Cynical Chap and the Heavy Tax Payer, having come together at Chubb's Corner, on Monday morning, were somewhat surprised to find the subjects and details of their conversation on civic matters reported *verbatim* in THE WATCHMAN, and there were mutual accusations of furnishing THE WATCHMAN office with the particulars. The Heavy Tax Payer ventured the remark that he didn't lay much stress on the assistance of the Press in securing Civic Reform, as the Press had Advertising at stake, and wasn't much given to quarreling with its bread when well buttered. Furthermore, there were political reasons for keeping quiet, most of the editors being members of the Legislature, present or prospective, and it wasn't convenient for them to quarrel with Aldermen and Councillors, and city officials, who could make trouble for them at an election. The Cynical Chap, though generally sceptical, seemed to have more faith in newspapers, and was of opinion that they risked rather more in this way than private individuals were disposed to risk. "For instance," he said, "you don't find a man who is selling supplies to the Corporation making any ado about the extent of city taxes or the extravagance or bungling of officials. Like a sensible man, he quietly holds his tongue and sells all he can at profitable prices, and nothing short of a civic earthquake will move him to utter a word against the ruling powers; whereas the editor does occasionally say something in a general way, even if only enough barely to show which side he is on." The Heavy Tax Payer muttered a sort of surly assent, but still maintained that a subject which was agitating every breast within the limits of the St. John Corporation, was being very gingerly treated by the Press, and for his part he had no hope of the newspaper men taking any different course as long as so many of them were under personal obligations for aid in past elections, and so many were looking forward to "running" at some future time for the Legislature. "We want," said the Heavy one, "independent journalists on our Press,—men who look to the public for their reward, and who will not allow any consideration to prevent their standing up for the people's rights." This enlightened discussion of the Press and its responsibilities might have gone on for an hour or two, had not a member of the Corporation's Market House Committee passed the Corner at the moment, when, somebody's exclamation, "How are you, Market House?" suggested a new line of thought to the Heavy Tax Payer, who quickly launched forth on this theme.

HEAVY TAX-PAYER.—Yes—"how are you Market House," sure enough. There's been any amount of scheming and log rolling about that same Market House. Why, its five years since the Common Council commenced to build the Market House. "O—No?" But I say, "O—Yes!" Its five years since the late John Smith was turned out of the shanty on the corner of Market and Charlotte streets, and his business broken up, under the pretence that a new Market House was to be built and the Council must have the site of the Smith building whereon to commence operations. So the building, which brought the Corporation in $500 a year, was demolished, and since then the Corporation and tax-payers have lost $500 a year, —say $500 each for five years,—or $2,500 in that time, and the Market building is only now commencing. Nothing would do the Council but the demolition of that building. They could have rented it from quarter to quarter or month to month, until its destruction was absolutely called for. But this did not satisfy the "wise acres" at the Council Board. The building was pulled down and removed which might have stood until this day, for, on the very site of it, the Corporation have just erected a temporary building for Mr. Godsoe whose shop they have taken at the other end of the street. Summary:—old building torn down; removed; five years rent lost—say $2,500; new building put up on same place, to be again torn down presently. Isn't that a nice piece of civic management?

CYNICAL CHAP.—Well, yes,—the way you put it, it does look badly, especially as you leave the impression that nobody benefitted by the arrangement? But are you sure nobody benefitted? I have generally understood that the removal of that shanty was necessary to reveal the aesthetic beauties,—

HEAVY TAX PAYER.—Say it again—the what beauties?

CYNICAL CHAP.—The aesthetic beauties—the fine architectural proportions and finish—

HEAVY TAX PAYER.—Oh, yes, the beauties of the Old Market House *minus* the Smith shanty.

CYNICAL CHAP.—I beg your pardon. I refer exclusively to the architectural beauties of Furlong's wine cellar. There is a building which is a credit to the City; and if it was really necessary in order to show forth the beauties of that palace, that the Smith place should be removed and $2,500 rent lost to the City, I really think the City is the gainer,—from an aesthetic point of view. If you have ever been there,—for I've been there and still would go,—you must have noticed this.

HEAVY TAX PAYER.—There—there—that will do. I have never been there and I don't want to go. So let's change this subject. Let's speak about the Market House. It's a new subject, you know. There isn't anybody talking about the Market House yet—you know, O, no! That Market House is not a bad project, of itself, but when the scheme gets loaded down with $50,000 or $60,000 for land and another large sum for land damages and rum damages, its getting pretty clear to my mind that a cool quarter of a million won't see the end of the affair.

CYNICAL CHAP.—Well, what's a quarter of a million? The members of the Council could pay the interest and never feel it.

HEAVY TAX-PAYER.—I should say they could, with a vengeance. Do you know how much the members of the Council have had themselves taxed this year.

CYNICAL CHAP.—O, I don't mean that, I mean they would have no difficulty in ordering it to be paid.

HEAVY TAX-PAYER.—Ah,—there I agree with you. They never experience the slightest difficulty in that direction. Its easy enough to make an order to pay, or pass resolutions, or draft bills for the Legislature; but to foot the bills is a different affair, and I for one believe that by the time this Market House is paid for there will be a good deal of squirming over the footing of the bill. At any rate, why not have divided the amount and given the City several Market Houses? Why should the people from Lower Cove and the Marsh Road be compelled for ever to buy country produce on Market street? Then there was the fight over the contract,—the "bluff" game that went on, where the lowest tender was rejected, though undoubted security was offered and the contractors attended the meeting of the Council at which the matter was disposed of and gave every assurance of proceeding with the work,—this was a bad omen for fair play and economy in the future. It looks a little as if private rather than public interests are being considered.

CYNICAL CHAP.—Well, that is your opinion, but don't you think it possible that these matters might be managed better by a few than by the many? Can't you imagine a case where the few might be right and the many all wrong? For my part, I would rather take counsel of two or three Aldermen in regard to building a Market House, than of five thousand rate-payers, believing the Aldermen, if intelligent, will give more general satisfaction. In fact, don't you really think that this "popular" system of Government is about played out?

HEAVY TAX PAYER.—Well, if it's played out we ought to know it. We ought not to be keeping up the form if the substance has disappeared. If the people rule, the Aldermen can't rule; and if the Aldermen are our rulers, and the people have no voice in the matter, we ought to know it. If, again, public buildings, public contracts, public expenditures of all kinds, are merely brought forward for Aldermen to quarrel over and their friends to profit by, and are not to be treated as public trusts to be managed faithfully and prudently in the public interests, we ought to know that too. I am inclined to think that before another civic election comes on, some members of the Council will discover that popular government is not played out; they will find the people still have something to say about the management of their own affairs. In fact, I may let you into a secret—.

CYNICAL CHAP.—Hold a moment—before you tell me any secrets, tell me who that chap is just behind us, looking hard at the ground and apparently not noticing anybody. Look carefully, over your shoulder, as if you weren't looking.

HEAVY TAX PAYER.—I see! It's probably one of those prying Reporters. Suppose we move off. Suppose we look in on Morrisey.

And they moved off, and down the hill towards Water St., but whether to Morrisey's or Furlong's this deponent sayeth not.

NOT SO.—The current report that the Heavy Tax Paper, whose sagacious utterances on Civic affairs are served up, fresh, every week in THE WATCHMAN, is George V. Nowlin, Esq., is not correct. The patrons of Chubb's Corner must guess again.

HER MAJESTY'S WAR SLOOP "ARGUS."

Her Engines.—Officers and Crew.—Pay and Pensions.—The Warrant Officers duties.—The Marines.—Appearance and Discipline of the Crew.—The Ship's Armament.—Transport Accommodation.—The Record of the "Argus"—Its Sanitary Arrangements—Appointments, &c.

BY OUR REPORTER.

During the stay of H. M. S. *Argus* in the port of St. John, she has received much attention from our citizens generally. The courtesy of the officers, as well as the fine appearance and manly bearing of her crew, has favorably impressed the people of this city—indeed, so much so that a detailed description of the vessel will be found interesting to our readers.

The *Argus* was built some twenty-five years ago and is one of the few paddle men-of-war left. She is 981 tons, and barque rigged.

HER ENGINES

are Penn's oscillating cylinder of 800 horse-power. They are placed as nearly amidships as possible. Communication is had from deck by telegraph. The engine room is also furnished with a speaking tube. She carries one Chief and two subordinate engineer officers, and is specially adapted for store and transport service. There is, in connection with the engine room, a fire engine, for use in cases of emergency, which is supplied from the principal boiler. There are four boilers in all. Her boiler room is airy and spacious. Her capacity, when under full steam, is ten knots per hour.

HER OFFICERS AND CREW.

The list of officers is as follows:—(It should be mentioned that those whose names have the letter "m" placed after them have received the Ashantee Medal.)

Commander,—Edward J. Jermain, promoted from 1st Lieutenant, May 19th 1869, appointed to command of vessel April 14, 1874.

Lieutenants—Alfred W. Brookes, (m.); John L. Burr, (m.)

Navigation Lieutenant—John Stocker, (m.)

Staff Surgeon—William D. Longfield.

Paymaster—Valentine D. J. Rickard, (m.)

Chief Engineer—William B. Harvey, (m.)

Sub-Lieutenants—William H. L. Gale, M. H. W. Laborde.

Surgeon—Thomas Harvey (m.)

Engineers—John Dyson, (m.), John D. Wood, (m.)

Gunner—2d class, Walter West, (m.)

Boatswain, 2d class, James Young.

Acting Carpenter, 2d class, J. Bennett, (m.)

The officers' quarters are fitted up with every regard to comfort, consistent with economy of space.

THE CREW.

The number of able seamen on the ship's books is 155, including the chief and petty officers of the first and second class. The ratings of the seamen are, leading, able, ordinary seamen and boys. Boys who may wish to enter the service, with the consent of their parents or guardians, sign an engagement to serve ten years from the age of eighteen. They enter the training ship from fifteen and a half to sixteen and a half years of age, and, at first, are rated as second class boys. As soon as they pass their examination they rank as boys of the first class. None but first class boys go to sea. The navy is now mainly recruited from this source.

THE PAY.

The men are paid monthly. An able seaman's pay is one shilling and four pence per diem. He may, however, get extra pay for the following qualifications:—1st class men, four pence per diem extra; 2nd class, two pence; and for every good conduct badge, one penny per day. The first good conduct badge is obtained after three years' service, then another at the end of five years, but not to exceed three badges during the period of enlistment. The retention of these good conduct stripes depends, of course, on the behaviour of the seaman.

PENSIONS

vary according to length of service. One shilling per day is usually given after twenty years service, with an increased rating according to the rank of the pensioner at the time of his discharge. A warrant officer, for example, will get his shilling a day with the proportionate addition of pay equivalent to rank. An ordinary seaman may rise to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer, which is the highest position a non-commissioned officer can aspire to.

WARRANT OFFICER'S DUTIES.

This official has charge of the stores pertaining to his special department, and he is held responsible for them. The rank is somewhat similar to that of a Quartermaster in the Army.

THE MARINES.

The detachment of marines on board the *Argus* numbers twenty-two men, under charge of a Sergeant. In larger vessels an officer is usually aboard. Their duty is to guard the ship, and assist in performing various grades of work. The pay of a marine is one shilling and two pence per day. They are armed with the Snyder Breech Loading Rifle, with sword bayonet attached. The loyalty of this important branch of the naval service has been made a matter of historical comment on various occasions. Capt. Marryatt, in several of his novels, pays a just tribute to their services in the past history of Britain's navy.

THE MESSES.

There are twelve lower deck messes, with an average of thirteen men to each mess or meal a day. Breakfast at 6.30 a. m., dinner at noon, and tea at 4.30 p. m. A seaman may, if he wishes, in lieu of grog, get a quarter of an ounce of tea and one ounce of sugar added to his daily ration, or, if he prefer grog money, may draw as an equivalent four shillings and three half-pence per quarter.

TEMPERANCE MEN.

In addition to other temperance men on board, who belong to religious denominations which do not favour secret societies, there are seventeen men, members of the Naval Lodge of the I. O. G. T. Some of the crew are members of the sect of the Plymouth Brethren.

THE CREW'S APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT.

During the two hours our Reporter spent on board the *Argus* there was *not one single instance* of profanity or unbecoming conversation. The men appeared to be fine, manly, courteous fellows, as becomes those in Her Majesty's service. We do not say this in a spirit of flattery, but as a simple tribute of justice. In *physique* and uniformity of size, they compared favorably, we are informed, with those in other vessels in the service. Their officers are particularly proud of this fact.

THE SHIP'S ARMAMENT.

Some idea of the heavy responsibility the Commander must feel, may be realized from the fact that the *Argus* carries, in addition to her other stores, the following *ammunition* in her magazines: Powder in cases, 4 tons, 13 cwt.; shell and shot, 13 tons, 15 cwt.; rifles, 59; seamen's do, 24; marines pistols, 18; cutlasses, 52; boats' guns, with ammunition, 3 guns, 6 tons, 7 cwt., 1 qr.; small arms ammunition, 1 ton, 7 cwt.

In addition to this there are six guns,—five broadside rifle muzzle loading cannon, each weighing 71 cwt, and one revolving gun. The projectiles, answering the double purpose of shot and shell, are each sixty-four pounds in weight—with a seven pound charge of powder. The ship's guns are of iron and the boat's guns of the same twisted metal, and are suitable for land service. The ship's guns are worked on tramways.

TRANSPORT ACCOMMODATION.

There is a fore and aft troop deck used for sleeping purposes, with a stores room below where clothing is kept in canvass bags. The quarters are fairly well lighted. Everything is ship shape, neat, clean, strong and well looked after by one of the Naval police who informed our Reporter with characteristic candour "that the object of our branch of the service is not for the purpose of detecting crime, so much as the *prevention* of it." The moral may be well applied to similar organizations ashore.

THE RECORD OF THE "ARGUS."

The vessel has frequently been in active service. During her stay on the China Station she took part at the engagements on the Pekin and Tako Forts in 1858-59-60. She was also actively engaged in the transport service during the Abyssinian Expedition in 1866, as well as in the Expedition under Sir Garnet Wolseley, K. C. B., when she had as many as 600 natives on board at one time. At the time of her leaving Sierre Leone for England, for recruiting purposes, her orders were countermanded. During this war the *Argus* had 3 officers and 24 men wounded, and 1 man killed. The amount of ammunition expended during the several engagements of that expedition was: shot and shell 250 rounds, war rockets 60 rounds, and pistol and Snyder cartridges 5,500 rounds. The Quebec *Chronicle* of Sept. 4, 1874, has the following reference to her:—"The *Argus* was commissioned in March of last year, and was sent with all despatch to the Gold Coast, she being the first vessel to arrive there after the outbreak of hostilities with King Coffee Kalkali, and the last to leave the Coast after the termination of the war, having to convey the "Glover" Expedition to Lagos and other ports after the transports left. She then received orders so proceed home, and was actually at St. Vincent, (Cape Verde Islands) when a telegram was received to 'proceed to Bermudas.' Her late Commander, Capt. Percy P. Luxmore, C. B., was severely wounded on the River Prah, in the same boat with Commander Commerel, K. C. B. Her late first Lieutenant was severely wounded at Tacarady, where the men of the *Argus* were alone engaged: he was, with several other officers, promoted for gallant conduct. Sixty-nine men were supplied from this ship for the Naval Brigade, of whom only 19 returned to the vessel. Her officers and men took part in the following well known engagements in connection with the Ashantee War, viz: Elmina, Chasma, Abrakrampa, Akimpoo and others." There are between thirty and forty men serving in the *Argus* at the present time who were present during the Ashantee hostilities and assisted in General Wolseley's Campaign.

SANITARY.

The health recruiting qualities of this station, after the hard climate of that of the West Coast of Africa, make it a desirable and popular one to the officers and men. We only saw one man sick. One of the best evidences of a due regard for the health of the crew is instanced in the fact that the ship is supplied with a Condenser which, by a process of distillation, freshens the sea water. This huge "condenser" has a capacity for holding over 23 tons of water.

MEMORY OF A NEW BRUNSWICKER.

Among the objects of interest which were shown to us, was a photograph, taken in Italy, of the burning of H. M. S. *Bombay*, in 1864, off Montevideo, and the rescue of her crew by the *Water Lily*, then commanded by Capt. A. G. Troop, formerly of this city. The event at the time created much excitement in all the British colonies but especially in New Brunswick, and the brave services rendered by Capt. Troop are still remembered with gratitude by a large number of Naval officers in Her Majesty's service,—many of whom retain sketches and paintings of the memorable incident.

CONCLUSION.

We cannot conclude this article without expressing our obligations to First Lieutenant A. W. Brookes, for the courtesy and hospitality extended to our reporter, and it is chiefly through his kindness that we have been enabled to present so detailed an account of one of the representative vessels in Her Majesty's Navy. May her flag float ever as the emblem of Britain's many naval triumphs, and as an ensign of her supremacy on land and sea.

THE SUNDAY EVENING ADDRESSES AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Speeches by the Rev. H. Prescott, of Boston.—The Rev. Mr. Forsyth, of Bucksport, Maine, and the Rev. E. Feltwell of St. John.

BY OUR REPORTER.

After the usual preliminaries attending the meetings held at the Academy of Music under the auspices of the Temperance Reform Club, the chairman, Mr. F. E. Saunders, introduced the first speaker,

THE REV. HARRISON PRESCOTT, OF BOSTON.

He said that to give a character to these meetings it was an important essential that the clergy of the city should openly encourage the objects for which they were organized. The presence of the clerical element would inspire confidence in the minds of the members of their congregations. Intemperance is always an unpopular subject. The speaker proceeded to give a description of the work the Y. M. C. A. of Boston are engaged in. A committee of young men belonging to that Association went in street, lane and alley-way picking up drunkards and bringing them in to their meetings. The Committee were out all the time. He recollected on one occasion they brought in fourteen drunken sailors. Their work was purely one of religious influence, and to effectually perform it, the pastors of the various churches should lend their aid. He never expected to see the time when the traffic in liquor would be entirely abolished, but we can extinguish it from our door. He cited various instances, derived from personal observation, of the enormous evil influences of the liquor traffic. He gave a vivid account of the Washington Home for Inebriates which was partially supported by an annual grant of $10,000 from the Legislature. He detailed the doings of a formerly notorious person, well known in Boston, named McKenzie, who had been reclaimed and was now devoting his energies to the temperance work.

THE REV. MR. FORSYTH

also made a few remarks in which he advocated a vigorous use of the tongue in this work. He gave an account of the reform which had taken place in his own locality, where 800 persons out of a population of some 1200 souls, had joined the "cold water army." He believed that so soon as the vigorous talking abated so also would the temperance cause similarly succumb, and its days be numbered. His ideal of a temperance man was one who will take all the lusts and sinful affections of his nature and trample them under his feet. One stronger than "the strong man armed" would help them—the Lion of the tribe of Judah would give them strength. He hoped the interest of the young men in their work would make them vigorous and strong.

THE REV. E. V. FELTWELL

of the Reformed Episcopal Church, of this city, said it afforded him much satisfaction to be present. God originates occasions, and raises men for those occasions. He believed sincerely from his heart that God had put it into the hearts of these young men to come out in behalf of independent reform. It was an occasion the young men of the Temperance Reform Club should take hold of. It was an occasion, which, if permitted to slip by, it might take years to recover. He (the speaker) was independent in his views of the temperance question. He was opposed, on principle, to the organization of secret societies which are supposed to be formed for the public good. He was opposed to the Independent Order of Good Templars, with its regular paraphernalia, its beautiful buildings, its grips, signs and so forth. He was opposed to meetings held in rooms with locked doors—by those who called themselves Sons of Temperance, and Templars of Honor. Not long since he took occasion to remark in Portland with reference to the use of liquor for medicine. A man who was a member of these very societies had told him that the doctor had saved his wife's life two months before by the use of brandy. He (the speaker) had been called to task for the opinions he had expressed; but he believed that when the vine ceased to bear a grape, then, and then only, would the manufacture of liquor cease. He was led to these remarks with a view of complimenting the young men of the Temperance Reform Club upon the position they had taken in regard to independent reform.

What (asked the speaker) is the Young Men's Christian Association doing to reform drunkards? They may be converting a vast number who had been under the influence of drink, for aught he knew. What was the Evangelical Alliance doing? What reform was *it* making for the refuge of sinners who were going about from day to day? When he came to this city, seven months ago, he had found the Evangelical Alliance dead and buried. He believed that the work of Temperance reform, rightly undertaken, would be a golden era in the annals of St. John. It would be a permanent monument if taken hold of by the clergy of this city. The various ministers of the gospel would not take hold of it because they dare not.

The ministers of pulpits drink. He had seen them do it. (Sensation.) What did they say? They had said, "Don't tell it; if you do, it will only do harm and no good." Shame on such a policy! (Applause.) So long as they bound themselves in this way they place themselves in such a position that they cannot be saved. The truth was to be deplored, but who dare say these things were not evils? He could take his hearers to New York and show them a cellar in that vast city where a young man, formerly worth $21,000, was barely living with his wife and two children; dragged down to this condition from too frequent a use of the social glass. Is it not a great evil which leads to such degredation? The owners of ships suffered their men to leave port soddened with liquor. What was the consequence? The knife had struck one of them down. He advised the young men to go forward in this work,—God had raised them up for the occasion. Go forth, then,—fear not. He honored the band of females who had organized to meet the enemy, and by persistency in their efforts they would not fail to become victorious. He prayed that they would succeed and bring about a condition of a new state of things. The leading men of the city were afraid to identify themselves with the work—"even your Mayor is partly interested in the sale of liquor." (Applause and hisses.) He trusted that the young men would not be disheartened, and that the exertions they were making would make them new men in Christ Jesus.

A hymn was then sung, and after a benediction by the Rev. E. V. Feltwell, the proceedings terminated.

A REMINISCENCE OF CAWNPORE.

The March.—The Rescue.—The Well.

An ex-noncommissioned officer of the famous Seventy Eighth Regiment of Highlanders, now a citizen of St. John, has given us an interesting account of his knowledge of the services of that distinguished regiment in connection with the relief of Cawnpore and the march to Lucknow. Of the general features of that memorable occasion our readers are already aware; but the local interest attached to the event will be acceptable, chiefly because we have among us one who took part in the relief of Cawnpore.

In the middle of August, 1857, Colonel McIntyre marched from Agra with a force of between 250 and 300 men. One hundred and twenty-six miles were covered in eight days, by forced marches at night, during which time four engagements were hotly contested by the relieving force. Reinforcements for the succour of the besieged had arrived at Cawnpore some days before, and part of the same regiment with the 32nd had been left there by the main body in its route to Lucknow.

The principal engagement in which the second detachment took part was at Oona, and upon the arrival at Cawnpore a general battle ensued, in which the 78th had some twenty men killed and wounded. Brave Havelock was the Commander upon that occasion. The besieged, in the meantime, were reduced through want and suffering almost to despair; but those brave spirits still "hoped against hope" for assistance. Their uniforms had become mere shreds so as to be almost irrecognizable, and presented anything but the appearance of a Scottish regiment. Worn out by hardship and suffering, the timely assistance of the first detachment was received with an enthusiasm which gave them new life. It was here that the soldiers in solemn conclave gathered around

THE WELL

and took that oath of vengeance against those demons that had massacred all the helpless women and children in the garrison whose bodies lay mangled, bruised and bloody in its awful chasm. (At this scene our informant was present.) How well that oath was kept, all remember. How that beneath the cold steel of the British bayonet the mutinous Sepoy in vain appealed for mercy, which met with no response, except the historical reply, "Remember our women and children!" The well was six feet in diameter, and was literally choked with the remains of Britain's fairest daughters.

It was here that a daughter of General Wheeler bravely defended herself against some dozen natives, who, after many ineffectual attempts to enter her hut, were met with bullets fired by that brave lady. She was eventually rescued by the relieving force.

Among the stories current with the Highlanders of the 78th was one told by Piper Gibson, one of the besieged, to the effect that he frightened a body of native cavalry by exposing himself to the enemy and sounding the wild pibroch screech of the Highland slogan. Amazed and dumbfoundered, the Sepoys turned and fled in all directions, attributing the noise to some mysterious agency to be feared and avoided.

NO JESSIE BROWN.

It is with much regret that we are compelled to dissipate the pleasing fancy which has long existed in the minds of thousands of people, of the truthfulness of the legend associated with "Jessie Brown." Our authority informs us that "Jessie Brown" is simply the creation of Dion Boucicault, based upon the poetical imagination of an English newspaper correspondent. We wish that it had been true, but unfortunately it is true that the story is untrue. However, there are still enough stirring *facts* left to shed their lustre upon British valour in India, so that we can afford to dispense with the above fiction.

THE CUDICH 'N RIGH CLUB,

of Montreal, consisting of some fifty members of the 78th Highlanders, meet annually on the 25th September, to commemorate the Relief of Lucknow, when Highland honors are conferred upon the memories of those heroes who took part on that day. (The translation of "Cudich 'n Righ" is "the King's defenders.")

It is pleasing to every loyal British subject to know that the valour of British arms in India is fittingly accompanied by the bravery of her naval sons at a subsequent period, as detailed by our Reporter in the record of the war sloop *Argus*, described in another column.

REFORM POLITICS AT HOME.—The New Provincial Secretary of Ontario, Hon. Casey Wood, has been re-elected for South Victoria by a majority of 74. The same gentleman, when running a short time ago on his personal merits, won his seat by a majority of about 350. Now, altho' aided by his position as a member of the Ontario Government, by all the influence of that Government as well as the Mackenzie Ottawa Government, his majority is reduced by nearly 300! Mr. Wood's opponent was a gentleman new to the political field, was hastily placed in nomination, and was generally ridiculed by the Government Press for venturing to oppose a member of the Government; and yet he came near defeating this important member of the Ontario Administration,—from which fact, with others of similar import, we infer that the Reform Party is rapidly losing its hold on the Ontario constituencies. It is stated as a matter of fact that Mr. Wood was saved solely by means of a bargain which gave the Government the support of the Irish Catholics in return for promises of and appointments to office. This affair, one of the most disgraceful in the political annals of that Province, was as open and public as it was disgraceful. Irish Catholic leaders called on the Reform leaders and demanded office as the price of their further support; offices were promised them, and they went back content. The Dominion Government have just paid an instalment of the price in the appointment of a Judge McManus as County Court Judge for Simcoe, and others are to follow; thus affording another Grit illustration of the use and value of the Bench in political emergencies. The Catholics, or such of them as these intriguing leaders represented, in return supported the Provincial Secretary, and will probably support Mr. Treasurer Crooks, if he should think it worth his while to again present himself before a constituency, that gentleman having held office in the Local Government without a constituency for the past six months. Such compacts enable to guage at once the morals and the necessities of the Party of Purity at the Homestead itself.

GRIT PRECEPT AND GRIT PRACTICE.—About two years ago the Grit party asserted in tones that shook the country from end to end, their indisputable claims to the attribute of political purity. The following events which have occurred since that time will give some idea of how their actions correspond with their professions. The Grits of London paid some $20,000 to elevate the standard—Major Walker disqualified, in consequence. H. H. Cook bought up North Simcoe twice, at a cost of $28,000. M. C. Cameron, of South Huron, paid some $10,000 to secure his election and put down corruption. Fred. Mackenzie, of West Montreal, obtained the seat by the expenditure of some $15,000, and so designed to do away with bribery. Chambly cost Mr. Jodoin and his friends about $12,000, all spent in raising the tone of political morality. Mr. Norris, of St. Catharines, distributed a large missionary fund in Lincoln, and thus established his reputation as a purist of the first water. Messrs. Wilkes, O'Donohue and Dymond, of Toronto; McGregor, of Essex; Barber, of Halton; Chisholm, of Peel; Cushing, of Argenteuil, and many others vindicated their principles by elevating the standard in true Grit style in their respective constituencies.—*Hamilton Spectator.*