

The Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, MARCH 6, 1888.

The Mercury on Mr. Winter's Mission.

The Mercury of Saturday has some illogical and stupid remarks in reply to our observations of Friday last touching Mr. Attorney General Winter's "fool's errand" to Washington. We say "fool's errand" advisedly, for no perfectly sane man with an adequate idea of the honor and dignity which belong to the ambassadorial office would have entered upon such a mission under any circumstances.

It was humiliating enough, in all conscience, not to be consulted about the matter before arrangements for the commission had been completed. But what shall we say of the insult flung in our teeth by the Imperial authorities by telling us that we could appoint an agent, if so disposed, and send him to Washington merely to watch the movements of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Sir Charles Tupper, Secretary Bayard and other members of the Commission. He would be permitted to "watch," we were told, from the hotel windows, the delegates as they passed to and from their place of meeting; but in no case would he be allowed to attend the Convention or acquaint himself with what transpired there. Fact is, the Secretary of State for the Colonies might just as well have intimated to us that we were at liberty to appoint an agent to accompany H. M. Stanley on his expedition for the relief of Emin Bey, for all the good Newfoundland was likely to derive from this "fool's errand" to Washington.

But, in spite of our humiliation, we are forced to laugh when the Mercury—the organ of the Government—comes out with the assertion that "Mr. Winter went to Washington as our authorized representative, and has done his work admirably." Now, we should very much like to know something about the scope and nature of the "brief authority" in which Mr. Winter was dressed during his visit to the American capital. Not a few very intelligent people here and elsewhere seem to think that the Newfoundland Attorney General had no more "authority" to say or do anything than had the late Mr. Micawber, who was only noted for his long speeches, ambiguous style, alternative elevation and depression of spirits, everlasting troubles, and for his constantly "waiting for something to turn up."

Be that as it may, of one thing there can be no doubt, namely: that Mr. Winter, as our "authorized representative" did nothing here or there, for or against the agreement now awaiting the ratification of the United States Senate. Hence the drollery of the joke unconsciously perpetrated by the editor of the Mercury when he says, "He (Mr. Winter) has done his work well."

Interesting to Newfoundlanders.

An esteemed correspondent sends us the following extract from a letter received by last mail from a friend in British Columbia. It will be read with much interest by all Newfoundlanders who contemplate going there to make it their home:—"You asked me to furnish you with a description of British Columbia and its resources. I regret to state that any effort will but feebly convey to you an adequate idea of what it really is. I am not exaggerating in stating that I consider it to be a magnificent country, and destined to become the home of some millions of people from all parts of the world. Its capital, New Westminster, situated on the Fraser River, is only in its infancy, containing a population of something like 4,500 inhabitants. The salmon fishery here appears to be a great source of industry, there being thirteen large canning and packing establishments engaged in the business, which, no doubt, is a splendid paying one. To those wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits, this country offers special inducements. Immense tracts of land, of a most fertile character, are already taken up all along the banks of this magnificent river, which is destined, at no distant day, to become the greatest grain-growing district on the Continent. To give you an idea of the rapidity with which places here spring up, I may mention that Vancouver, the terminus of the G. C. P. R., has, within the past two years, grown from a miserable lot of log-huts, in which dwelt the few original settlers, to a city of now some ten thousand (10,000) inhabitants; and I feel disposed to think, from the rapid advancement so recently made in its population, that there is a big future in store for this infant city. The land in the vicinity of this city is mountainous, but there are fertile valleys of almost limitless extent, at a distance of four miles, that are being rapidly settled by emigrants from Scotland and elsewhere; so that in a few years it is destined to become a most important farming centre. Any Newfoundlanders coming here to engage in fishery operations will find ample scope for the prosecution of the

god or any other fishery on the many islands along the Pacific Coast. I would recommend Queen Charlotte group as the most suitable; for not only do the waters abound in fish of all kinds, but the soil is of a most fertile description, capable of producing all the necessaries of life. These islands are near the sealing grounds, and, as considerable numbers are sometimes captured, it might, in addition to other resources, prove valuable to settlers. I have met with a few Newfoundlanders here doing fairly well, among them a nephew of Capt. Jackman, who was master of the S.S. Curlew, running the mails to the West Coast. Any man having a moderate share of brains, and not too lazy to work, will get along here. It being a new country, it only requires brain and muscle to develop its resources, while the climate, I believe, is the healthiest on the Continent. A large number of emigrants are expected here this season from Scotland. This is just the country for the hard-working, thrifty Highlander, where splendid land is obtained for a nominal amount, and where he is free from the grasping tyranny of heartless, unrelenting landlordism, now blasting and blighting the prospects of the already miserable farmer in Britain. To yourself or any Newfoundlanders desirous of coming here I would, considering the chronic poverty we are led to believe prevails down there on your island rock, advise an immediate start. There is plenty of room for honest labor and moderate capital, and by energy and perseverance you will no doubt attain the summit of your ambition."

"Dann with faint praise, assert with civil leer, And without sneering, teach the rest to sneer." He has, also, another mark for the stings and arrows of his sarcasm besides the Doctor's patriotism. "Willing to wound and yet afraid to strike" at the fame of the great Prelate to whom Dr. Howley attributes the honour of dispelling the existing prejudice against a native priesthood, he is anxious to allot a share of the glory to Dr. Dalton, Dr. Carfagnini, and Dr. Power. But of this I shall treat in No. 2. "The accomplished historian is," says "Vindex," "if anything, patriotic." He is patriotic; and his patriotism is sincere, is ardent, is fruitful. He is not only patriotic; he is one of the most learned and efficient clergymen in Newfoundland, and in the ardour of his patriotism, as well as in the untiring efforts of his zeal for the good of his church and country, he is only practising the lessons taught him by the word and example of the great Prelate, Dr. Mullock, with an extract from whose lectures I shall, for the present, conclude:—"Of all the feelings implanted in the heart of man, next to religion, there is none so strong as patriotism: the dulce et decorum est pro patria mori (it is sweet and honorable to die for one's country) is not alone the expression of the pagan moralist, it is the universal feeling of all people in ancient and modern times: nay, more; we know that our Divine Redeemer Himself, when foretelling the destruction of the capital of His people, Jerusalem, pointing out from the summit of Mount Olivet the glories of the Temple, the golden vine, His own image sparkling in the setting sun, the lofty towers of the city of David, the massive walls which for so long a period resisted all the efforts of the Roman power, wept over it, and lamented that the crimes of its inhabitants should have provoked the Divine justice not to leave one stone on another. It is, then, to encourage this sacred feeling of patriotism among the youth I now see around me, that I have been induced to take the subject of Newfoundland in this and the following lecture, as most calculated to foster it. If I have succeeded in making you in any way better acquainted with the by-gone times of the land we live in, and exciting in the generous young hearts I see around me an enlightened love of their native land, I am more than amply repaid. Newfoundland has more claims on us than any other part of the world. If it is not the native country of most of you, it is the native country of your children, and I am sure that every one who has adopted the country as his home, and especially those who have brought up a family in it, love it with a sincere though not perhaps as tender an affection as if it were the land of his birth. If the ashes of his ancestors repose in the old land, and his cradle was rocked there—his tomb will be here, and his children here will venerate and bellow his memory. With politics or parties I have nothing to do, and if I make any suggestions for what appears to me to be the improvement of the country, I hope all will esteem them as dictated solely by a love of Newfoundland and its people. I assure you, in all sincerity, that whatever observations I made in the course of my lectures were dictated solely by a love for our native or adopted country. I remain an ardent friend of the land we live in—Newfoundland."

CENTRAL DISTRICT COURT

Rhodes versus Fairweather. (BEFORE JUDGE CONROY.)

This celebrated case excited immense interest amongst the "bone and sinew," and the announcement in yesterday's TELEGRAM that it would be heard to-day, caused one of the largest multitudes that ever gathered before the Court House to assemble there this morning. In effect the complaint is that the defendant, who is commander of the Dundee sealing steamer Terra Nova, did, before midnight of the 12th March last, through the instrumentality of his crew, kill and take seals in violation of the statute. Before this charge could be substantiated by complainant's witnesses, and before it could be contradicted by defendant, counsel for the latter (A. J. W. McNelly, Esq., Q.C.) raised a barrier in the shape of a point of law which prevented proof of complaint being entered into; for the law of '87 on the subject, which was amendatory of that of '79, expressly declared that the complaint should be made before a court of law within three months of the commission of the offence. His Worship ruled that this objection was fatal to complainant's action. Complainant's counsel, Sir William Whiteway, Q.C., who was assisted by Mr. Johnson, contended that such a procedure would have been futile, as defendant was then beyond the reach of our courts on a whaling voyage; not till the present time could be brought to task for his violation of law. His Worship thought that notice of intention to institute proceedings was in that case necessary. A great deal of further argument on both sides ensued, but, practically, the issue was determined by the application of the law-point referred to.

All the Galt sealing steamers got clear yesterday—the last one, the Leopard, having passed out between 5 and 6 o'clock. They will take their customary clearances at Channel,

PATRIOTISM.

Editor Evening Telegram.

SIR,—There are many points in the "observations" of the Colonist's correspondent, "Vindex," about some trifling mistake in Dr. Howley's Ecclesiastical History of Newfoundland, which ought not to be allowed to pass unchallenged, and I am surprised that no one of the author's many friends in St. John's has come forth in his defence. I trust you will give me space in your widely circulated paper to say a few words on some of these points. I purpose to address you, with your permission, on the following topics as suggested to me by "Vindex's" "observations." 1st—Dr. Howley's patriotism. 2nd—Dr. Mullock and the "tainted prejudices." 3rd—The College. 4th—Dr. Howley and the "native priests." 5th—Dr. Carfagnini's "preserves." But, as in the words of "Vindex," "brevity in correspondence is a joy to the printer, and an encouragement to the general reader," all these points cannot be discussed in detail in one letter, without discouraging the one and displeasing the other, I shall adopt his plan and treat each point according to number in a separate letter.

And, firstly, with regard to the "learned Prefect's" patriotism, I am sure that every impartial reader of the "Ecclesiastical History of Newfoundland" admires with sincerity "the love of fatherland displayed in Dr. Howley's book." But "Vindex," who evidently cherishes some spleen against the History or its author (perhaps it is because he does not figure in it) emphasizes the Doctor's patriotism in order that he might

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He has, also, another mark for the stings and arrows of his sarcasm besides the Doctor's patriotism. "Willing to wound and yet afraid to strike" at the fame of the great Prelate to whom Dr. Howley attributes the honour of dispelling the existing prejudice against a native priesthood, he is anxious to allot a share of the glory to Dr. Dalton, Dr. Carfagnini, and Dr. Power. But of this I shall treat in No. 2.

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I am, Mr. Editor, yours very truly, BRIGGS, March 5, 1888. KENELM.

THE PLACENTIA RAILWAY FRAUD.

Editor Evening Telegram.

SIR,—Your valuable paper has been and continues doing noble service to the people of this country by shewing up the revolting political aspect caused by that notorious fraud the Placentia Railway. One of your local contemporaries is also aiding in this good work. I therefore venture to point out through the medium of your columns that the practical management and working of this affair is fully in keeping with its political turpitude, and that the whole undertaking, politically and practically, is a combination of folly and roguery.

Let me first refer to some remarks on this Railway fraud made by the special correspondent of "the Colonist." This special correspondent speaks of having walked 22 miles on the track. 'Tis a pity he didn't also walk the remaining 5 miles to Placentia itself. This statement of his having walked 22 miles on the track is very misleading when nothing is said about how many miles were graded, or how many miles of rails were laid and ballasted. It might have been wise for him to deal with generalities alone, omitting detail. He further says that he went to gather data for ascertaining the value of the agricultural district through which this railway passes. Well, he had very simple work in that; for the value of the country traversed is simply, agriculturally, nil.

Next let me draw attention to Placentia as a railway terminus. I contend Placentia is not at all suitable for such purpose, if it is the intention to have freight or passengers from other Western places landed there. Placentia is simply a shallow, open and exposed roadstead. It will cost thousands and thousands of dollars to make Placentia a harbor suitable for accommodation of moderate size vessels.

Then the "special correspondent" lays great stress upon the location, and evidently would lead the public to believe it a great feat of engineering. It is no great feat to run a line straight over every obstacle, without any regard to cost. Well-informed men of Conception and Placentia Bays, who know the country, will say there was a much better route a little to the south of the present one, which would have been easier to construct and give better grades. It is said Mr. W. B. Reid made his survey in this place I speak of, but it was condemned by Mr. Randall because he wanted to throw dust in the eyes of the Executive, and want his own superior worth as an engineer. So the country has to pay dearly that Mr. Randall may win renown. At all events, the line, as now laid out, is two miles longer than it ought to have been, and it is so, simply to please Mr. Randall and some of Messrs. Donnelly and Emerson's leading constituents in Placentia.

Again, the Colonist man says nothing of the grave made by the locomotive when it buried itself, having run off the track. Surely, in his pedestrian tour, he must have seen the receptacle of the engine. The cuts are made so narrow in other places as to prevent such a mishap in the future; but they are also so narrow as to cause some worse evil to befall them. I mean that after a snow-storm the engines will stay in them and take up their winter quarters. If they wish to get the team along, an immense amount of money will need to be spent to "clear the track."

There is not one mile of the line honestly and fully ballasted. In any place the ballasting is not the width of the sleepers, and in most places there is barely enough ballast to keep the sleepers in position. Many of the banks are several feet lower than they should be, and will of necessity need to be raised in the spring.

The track is laid about fourteen miles at the most—not one mile properly ballasted—and the grading beyond is more or less in an unfinished state. Great and strenuous efforts were made to make a big show in the report to the House as to how many miles were finished, but the people must not be deceived by such representations, when the real facts are that no train can be properly operated unless a big lot of embankment and ballasting is first done. And, in fact, to put the line in order, a very great deal of money will have to be spent which will not appear upon the construction account, but will be charged to maintenance account. Time will tell if these statements are correct or otherwise, but I write not without authentic information. Thanking you for publishing this letter, I am, yours truly, St. John's, Mar. 5, 1888. OBSERVER.

ANOTHER LETTER ON "CRUELTY TO ANIMALS."

Editor Evening Telegram.

MR. EDITOR,—May I, through your paper, call attention to the brutal manner in which dogs are treated in this town by boys and even grown up men; and, strange to say, the police do not seem to take any notice of it in spite of the statute against cruelty to animals. Such a state of things would not be allowed in any other country, and why should it be in this. Hoping that something may be done to remedy the evil, I remain, Mr. Editor,

Yours truly, STONEHENGE. St. John's, Feb. 29, 1888.

THE ATHENÆUM ENTERTAINMENT.

THE entertainment at the Athenæum Hall last evening more than realized the expectations of the officers and committee. It was, in fact, a brilliant success, and as such it will long be regarded by all who had the good fortune to be present. Mr. Simpson, the conductor, certainly deserves to be congratulated on the admirable manner in which the programme was disposed of, and as for the ladies and gentlemen who took part—nearly all of whom are popular favorites—it is only necessary to say that they never appeared to better advantage. There was one new luminary in the firmament of song—Miss Harris—and her appearance was justly hailed with genuine pleasure. Miss H. has a charmingly sweet voice and promises to be a star of the very first magnitude. Mr. Flannery was, as usual, simply inimitable.

THE CATHEDRAL BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the C. E. T. S., Cathedral Branch, was held last evening in the Boys' Sunday School room. The Rev. A. Heygate, M.A., presided. The officers presented their reports for the past year, which were very satisfactory and declared the branch to be in a healthy condition. The officers having vacated their seats, the secretary proceeded with the election of their officers and committee for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:—

Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Edens, re-elected; Secretary, Mr. C. Stirling, elected; Financial Secretary, Mr. John Coffin, elected; Committee of Management—Messrs. S. Pike, A. W. Millar, J. M. Stirling, Fred. Collier, E. Chapman, Thos. Peal, Jno. Graham, E. W. Bennett, Sr., J. Percy, Chas. Stinson, Jno. Martin, W. H. Horwood.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

A PRACTICE for the Benevolent Concert takes place this evening—basses at 8.15, and full choir at 8.45. A large attendance is urgently requested.

THE sealing steamer Neptune arrived at Hant's Harbor at 7 o'clock this morning, where she discharged a quantity of freight, and left at 11 a.m. for Catalina.

THE progress of the Norwegian cod fishery is shown in the following telegram to Messrs. R. Prowse & Sons:—for the period ending last Saturday the catch was 16,000,000 as compared with 9,000,000 for the same time last year.

THE Rev. M. P. Morris' lecture on the "Two Golden Jubilees" takes place this evening in the Star of the Sea Hall. The interesting character of the discourse and the charitable purpose for which it is given, not to mention the attractive way in which it will be treated, will without doubt have the effect of crowding the Hall.

THE following is a complete list of the passengers for Halifax per Newfoundland, sailed at 8 o'clock this morning. The boat took only a few packages of freight:—

Mrs. Cairns, Mrs. James Murray, Messrs. C. R. Rodgers, J. D. S. Gourlie, F. W. Gard, M. G. Winter, Arthur Clift, W. B. Browning, Laurence Barron, John Hayward, James Murray, James Black, W. H. Firth, Wm. A. Mott, Captain Perez, Captain Manuel; sixteen in steerage.

[FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAM.] ABOUT THAT CARPET.

I. R. McNEELY SOLILOQUIZES. 'Death! 'tis plain this horrid EVENING TELEGRAM That carpet business doth again parade For cads to laugh o'er: Why on earth is this "vile sheet" allowed to live? 'Tis ever showing up the weaknesses of honest men— Men whose integrity, like mine own, Is unimpeachable. Something must be done to make it clear To the public that thieving is respectable, When done by men of the people's choice. I recall the resolutions, one by one, Of that Jubilee Committee; Which were

1. That the carpet be taken from the floor of the House.
2. That a new carpet be got for 1888.
3. That the new one be made out of the old one.
4. That the old carpet be used till the new one is made.

[ENTER THE SAGE OF DEVON ROW.] Good evening, Mac! what makes you look so blue? 'Tis evident too much honest work is havoc making With thy beautiful countenance.

I. R. McNE.—Welcome, indeed, art thou at this moment. Here, read this "vile paper," and you'll see That carpet is once more upon the floor, Not of the House, but—alas! Of public opinion.

THE SAGE—Terrible accusations these, but what are we to do? No scripture verse exactly covers our disgrace. I'll tell you! Of course, another carpet must be got, And we'll tell the public by-and-bye That the old hath been to England, And hath been used In the manufacture of the new. And further we will represent The price of the new As the cost of making from the old. See?

I. R. McNE.—Good! thy genius I admire. To-morrow we shall float the story: The public have no wits And the Government hath less.

BONAVISTA, Feb. 14, 1888.

DIED.

At Meriden, Conn., Anne, beloved wife of Captain George Barry, and daughter of the late Thos. Lawlor, formerly of Newfoundland. On Monday morning, after a long and painful illness, the beloved wife of Peter H. Tilley, aged 29 yrs. Her funeral will take place to-morrow (Wednesday) at 2.30 o'clock, from her late residence, James' street, west; friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend without further notice. Last evening, after a short illness, Honorah, beloved wife of Mr. John Lawlor, aged 64 years. Her funeral will take place on Thursday, at 2 o'clock, from her late residence, No. 45 Brine street; friends and acquaintances are requested to attend without further notice. This morning, after a short illness, Mr. Joseph Mulowney, blacksmith, aged 65 years. Funeral will take place from his late residence, Water street, west, on Thursday next, at 2.30 o'clock.—E.I.L.