

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 30, 1888.

WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA?

A LATE number of *Chambers' Journal* publishes an interesting article on this subject, which contains some remarkable facts not within ordinary observation; and, as a prelude to the interesting lecture about to be delivered by his Excellency the Governor in the Athenaeum Hall this evening, we take pleasure in laying these facts before our readers.

If any one in an ordinary assemblage, we are told, were asked, Who discovered America? the natural reply would be, "Christopher Columbus." But this reply would be incorrect, as the following facts will show. Christopher Columbus did not discover America; he re-discovered it, at a period of five hundred years after its original discovery.

If any of the readers of the EVENING TELEGRAM will be at the trouble of glancing over a map of the world, as it is constituted to-day, on Mercator's Projection, he will see an island almost exactly the size of Newfoundland, and only distant some 400 or 500 miles northwest of Britain. This island the Roman galleys, which circumnavigated the British Isles, had visited as early as the year 874, when the first settlement was made in Iceland, and not long after, a visit was made to Greenland, the next adjacent territory, where a colony was planted in the year 986, named Ericsford, by an interesting gentleman called Eric the Red. At this point the romantic story of the first discovery of America begins.

Like many other important discoveries, the New World was first sighted by accident. One of those who accompanied Eric the Red to Greenland was an Icelander named Bardson, who had a son named Biron, then absent in Norway. "On returning to Iceland, and finding that his father had left for Greenland, Biron immediately took ship to follow him, but contrary winds drove him out of his proper course, and for many days his vessel was enveloped in fog, so that he lost all reckoning as to his whereabouts. At last the fog cleared away, and he perceived land a short distance off. The nature of the coast not corresponding with the description of Greenland he had received, Biron concluded he was not on the right tract, and steered his ship to the northward. Two days afterwards, land was again sighted; but being flat and covered with trees, it was evidently not the land they sought, and accordingly was left to windward. Still sailing on, before a southwest breeze, in three days' time they came to a mountainous island covered with ice. This also was passed without landing; and, in four days more, the coast of Greenland was sighted, and Biron had the satisfaction of rejoining his father."

All this is history, not tradition, and happened in the year 986-7. There can be no doubt that the first land sighted by Biron, when the fog cleared up, was the mainland of the American continent, and that, on leaving that to windward, this "discoverer of America" skirted along the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador on his way north to his destination, Greenland.

It will thus be seen that Iceland and Greenland were the stepping stones, so to speak, to our own island, and to the discovery of North America; the pioneers of discovery being, in both cases, the hardy mariners who inhabited Norway and Sweden, those portions of Europe immediately opposite the northern islands of Iceland and Greenland.

Several years after his accidental visit to our latitudes, Biron happened to be again in Norway, when he gave an account to Earl Eric (surnamed the Red) of his southern excursion, and of the new lands he had discovered thereon. As these hardy Norsemen were then the most daring of mariners, the Earl desired that more should be learned about this strange and hitherto unknown country. Accordingly, on Biron's return to Iceland, it was determined to make a further voyage of exploration, when Leif, a son of Eric the Red, took charge of the expedition, and sailed for America with a crew of twenty-five men in the exact year 1,000. In four days' time, after leaving Iceland, they came in sight of the last land discovered by Biron, which they named Hellaland, from the shores being composed of slate, *hella* being the Scandinavian word for that substance. What part of America this was is disputed, some authorities maintaining it to be Newfoundland, while others assert that it is more likely to have been the coast of Labrador. A reference to the map will show that Cape Farewell, the southernmost point of Greenland, is about midway between Iceland and Newfoundland, and that the discoverers, on striking the first land thereafter, might have "made" land either north or south of the Straits of Belle Isle. At all events it is certain that leaving here without landing, they stood to the southward, and came next to a country covered with woods, which was either our own island or Nova

Scotia. This they christened Woodland, for obvious reasons. In two days' more, running before a northeast wind, they again sighted land. Here they sailed between an island and a promontory running northeast, and, casting anchor, went on shore. Discovering a large river issuing from a lake, they brought their vessel into it, and resolved to winter there and explore the neighboring country. Huts were accordingly erected, and the settlement received the name of Leifbuthir, where, a great abundance of wild grapes being found, the country itself was called Vinland. The whereabouts of this early settlement—the first on the American mainland—is, of course, a matter of conjecture, but judging from the description given of the climate and products of the soil, it is considered probable that it was somewhere on the coast of Massachusetts or Rhode Island."

The subsequent adventures of Leif and his hardy companions we must leave for another recital. It is sufficient for our present purpose to point out that, whatever doubt may exist as to the precise parts of the American coast and continent visited by Biron and Leif, there is not the shadow of a doubt about the main fact that these early Norse explorers did discover and land upon the western hemisphere in the year of our lord 1,000; that for five hundred years before the supposed and generally-received discovery of America by Columbus, the New World was known to the inhabitants of Northern Europe, and that for the first three hundred years of that interval, communication was regularly maintained between the two hemispheres.

How it came that for another two centuries thereafter the knowledge of this newly-discovered country was allowed to pass into oblivion, as far as Northern Europe was concerned, and how it came to pass that the New World was rediscovered by Columbus, and restored to mankind by the great Southern navigator, we leave to his Excellency this evening to narrate. No doubt he will be able to show that the later discovery of "our share of the world" by the hardy Genoese, in the service of Spain, who, in quest of a western passage to India and of that El Dorado, the East Indies, set sail on the 3rd of August, 1492, and is supposed to have landed at San Salvador, one of the Bahama Islands, on the 12th of October in the same year,—no doubt, we say, Governor Blake will be able to show that this new discovery was the really important one, as far as the interests of practical civilization and commerce are concerned, and we therefore await with much curiosity to hear where his Excellency thinks was "The Landfall of Columbus."

ABOUT THE PLACENTIA RAILWAY.

A RELIABLE correspondent writes us as follows respecting the above named "enterprise":—"It is generally believed that the Placentia railroad is finished to within six miles of Placentia. This is not the case, as the construction rails are only laid about thirteen miles from Harbor Grace Junction. The distance from the Junction to Placentia is twenty-six miles. You will see from this that the work is only about half done, although the Government has been over fifteen months at it, employing a large number of men and spending an enormous amount of public money. Blame must attach somewhere. At the Junction the delay and unnecessary expenses are attributed to incompetency on the part of those in charge of the work."

THE FOREIGN LABOR QUESTION.

WE observe from late English papers that the constant immigration of foreign laborers into London is found to be greatly prejudicial to native workmen, and is therefore arousing strong opposition. That immigration only began in 1880, and already it has reduced wages in the tailoring industry fully fifty per cent., besides having driven native workers almost entirely out of the best London shops. A deputation waited on the Home Secretary the other day, and made a strong appeal to him to put a stop to that immigration; but, however hard the case may be, it is impossible to conceive how he can prevent it. In introducing the deputation Mr. Arnold White said that "two young women, members of the deputation, had made a waistcoat (which he produced) for which they would receive 6d, and out of that they had to find silk, cotton, thread and firing—the price being only a half of what would have been obtained before the immigration of the foreigners began. In one well-known firm of tailors, out of thirty-two coat hands only one was a native, and out of thirteen trouser hands all were foreigners. As for the wages, hundreds of women worked for three farthings an hour, and they had to pay for their own cotton out of that."

TO CORRESPONDENTS:—"A Warrior Bold"—Be good enough to favor us with your real name. "Sertorius" you are too personal, especially in your references to the Chamber of Commerce,

END OF BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.

SATURDAY evening last witnessed the close of the billiard tournament which has been played between the Academia and Metropolitan Clubs, at the Metropolitan Club rooms, the Academia easily winning by about 250 points. This is the second time that the Mets have been vanquished by their more skillful opponents, the Academians, and practically gives the latter the championship of the city. For, although they have not yet measured their strength with the Total Abstinence and City Club Billiard Teams, still they have worsted picked teams from the "Temple" and the Club in the tournament just over—which fairly represent some of the best players in the city, and gives the Academia the right to claim the championship. The most intense excitement prevailed on the termination of the game, and although it must have been pleasant and painful alike to vanquisher and vanquished, the utmost good-fellowship prevailed. The two last players on the occasion were Mr. Smith for the Metropolitan and Mr. Connell for the Academia. Both play well, but Mr. C. certainly promises to be, if he cannot now be fairly called, a brilliant player in the truest meaning of the word. Mr. Smith is an easier and more cautious player, and, with more practice, would make no easy opponent for the very best player.

At the close of the match, Mr. Mott called upon those present, numbering nearly 200 persons, to give three cheers for the Academia. He said "he had watched the game with considerable interest, and not having taken part he might be excused if he hoped that for that reason anything he might say would be regarded as impartial. The Club which he represented had been beaten, but it was a consolation to know that they had been beaten by a superior team—by better men. They had to allow the Academia to be the victors for this season—to wear the laurels—to carry off the spoils. He himself believed that much good must emanate from such friendly inter-club relations. The Academia had fairly won their laurels, and it was only just that they should bear them away—*palmam qui meruit ferat*. He hoped, however, that out of their very defeat his brethren would pluck the material for a fresh battle, and on that occasion, he hoped, the result would be as agreeable for the Mets as it was to the Academians to-night. Three cheers were then given for the Academians. Mr. Morris, the President of the Academia, being present, was called upon to respond. He said he was not aware by what right he intruded himself on those present, except he could support himself by the same plea as his friend Mr. Mott, viz.: that he had had nothing to do with the game (which, he supposed, was one reason why his club had won). He thanked Mr. M. for the very kind and generous sentiments which he had expressed towards the Academia and its members, which he could say were fully reciprocated by himself and members of his club. The Academia had just scored a victory in the world of billiards. It would be idle for him to disguise the fact that he and his club were proud of it—a victory that had been considerably enhanced by the quality of the steel of their opponents. He believed, with Mr. M., that much good must come from such inter-club reunions, if it was from nothing else than a display of those genuine feelings of *bonhomie* and thorough hospitality, and which was so characteristic of the Metropolitan members, not only towards those engaged in the billiard match, but to every member of the Academia who came here. In conclusion he would say that he trusted that but a very short time would elapse before we would have such another contest—a contest in the result of which we all felt so well pleased; and personally he would say (somewhat after Alexander) that, if he was not an Academician, he would certainly be a Metropolitan. He then proposed three cheers for the Mets, which proposition was heartily responded to.—*Com.*

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

HERE is another illustration of the unreliable character and inconsistency of the *Montreal Gazette's* Newfoundland correspondent. In his letter to that paper of the 1st ultimo he speaks of the popularity of the present Government, and, in alluding to the Bait Bill, characterizes it as "a proof of the wisdom of those who pressed for the Imperial sanction." Perhaps everybody is not aware that, while thus writing, the said correspondent was denouncing the Government to Sir William Whiteway, and moving heaven and earth to induce him to accept his (the correspondent's) offspring, the *Mercury*, as the organ of the incoming Administration. Such, however, was the case. At least so we are informed on excellent authority. Of course, we know what to think of such conduct, and probably our sentiments accord with those of Sir William and the public generally.

A LETTER FROM "POKEAHUNTAS," IN REPLY TO THE COLONIST'S "CHESSEBOT," IS UNAVOIDABLY HELD OVER TILL TO-MORROW.

LOSS OF THE "FLORELLA."

The Schooner Abandoned at Sea.

CREW RESCUED BY THE "MAGNOLIA."

On Board the Latter Four Weeks. TAKEN OFF AND BROUGHT IN BY THE "MAY CORY."

THE schooner "Florella," Capt. F. Ryan, owned by D. J. Greene, Harbor Grace, was wrecked and abandoned at sea in lat. 44.50, long. 53.25, and the Captain and crew, seven men all told, were brought in here this morning by the "May Cory." The following particulars were given by the Captain at the Seaman's Home this afternoon. The "Florella" left Harbor Grace on the 21st ult., for Sydney. On the 25th, at 2 a.m., Cape Race bore N.E. by E., five miles distant, with the wind N.E. and the vessel's course was shaped W.N.W., which course she ran for twelve miles, when the wind veered W.N.W., and then the craft reached for four hours under double-reefed foresail, the wind still increasing. At 4 a.m. she lay to under storm trysail and reefed foresail. On the 26th the schooner was still heading westward with the wind very strong from the same point, W.N.W., and at 4 p.m., ballast shifted, main rigging bent and mainmast was sprung. They took down the storm trysail, wore ship, and hoisted balanced-reefed foresail. This was done to enable repairs to be effected—ballast was replaced and mainmast secured. The vessel was then close-hauled, still heading west. (On the 25th the barometer announced the approach of a storm; it ran down five-tenths suddenly till it reached 29.) On the 27th the wind changed a few points and blew from the N.W., accompanied with snow-squalls. The "Florella" lay to all day on the 27th, under balanced-reefed foresail, but she strained heavily; her rudder post started and she sprung a leak. Toward the close of the day the sea was running high and the water was gaining on the pumps. Next morning, the 28th, another change of wind took place in a heavy breeze from S. by E., but it became lighter as the day wore on. An observation of the sun was taken and the ship's position ascertained to be in lat. 44.50 N., long. 53.25 W., which is about 110 miles in a southerly direction from Cape Race. The schooner was kept on a N.N.W. course; all hands took their turns at the pumps constantly, but despite their efforts the water in the hold kept gaining. On Thursday, the 29th, captain and crew realised that their position was becoming critical; at 2 a.m. the wind veered back to N.W., blowing strong, and the vessel was kept under double-reefed foresail. By daybreak the water was gaining five inches an hour, and if a sail was not decried, it was inevitable that the schooner would founder with all hands. Fortunately, at that time, an American schooner was sighted at anchor on the Grand Bank. She proved to be the "Magnolia," of Gloucester, on a halibuting trip, and the distressed mariners of the "Florella" bore down upon her and were taken off in the "Magnolia's" dories. The "Florella's" crew saved scarcely anything. They express heartfelt thanks to Captain Marden, on board whose friendly vessel they were kindly treated for some four weeks. The barquentine "May Cory" was decried on her way here from New York, and she took off the shipwrecked men from the "Magnolia," landing them here this morning. The Harbor Gracians express their sense of obligation to Captain Goss while on board his ship.

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE IN PETTY HARBOR.

Successful Efforts of Rev. Messrs. Netten and Botwood.

DEAR SIR,—Thinking that it might be interesting to some readers of the EVENING TELEGRAM to know how the temperance work is progressing in Petty Harbor, I will try and give a brief account of our work here in that direction.

In October, 1884, Rev. Mr. Netten, (when in charge of the "outposts" mission) accompanied by Rev. Mr. Botwood, visited us with the intention of starting a branch of the C. E. T. S. They were very successful, as 28 persons came forward and signed the roll, and since then our members have been steadily increasing until now we have 52 total abstainers. At a meeting some time ago, it was agreed to have a tea-meeting, and the day was fixed for January 3rd, so, according to directions, everything which tends to make such gatherings pleasant was done, and the members of the society were given notice to assemble in the school-room, which they accordingly did, and sat down to a plain, substantial tea; and as each member was to bring his wife or friend, we were a goodly little company, in spite of the fact that all were not able to attend. Although the weather was not such as one would wish, Rev. Mr. Crane honored us with his presence, and after tea was over he gave a short address, congratulating the society upon their first tea-meeting, and expressing his pleasure in being present. Then some time was spent with readings, &c., after which the younger members retired to a house prepared for the occasion and took up what they thought to be a livelier part of the programme (dancing), when the older ones, who did not go in for such things, retired to their homes well pleased with their evening's entertainment. Thanking you for the space in your valuable paper, I remain, dear sir,

Petty Harbor, Jan. 25th, 1888.

THE "WAR SCARE" AGAIN.

"Scarlet Fever" at the Commercial Rooms.

THEY THIRST FOR GLORY INSTEAD OF "GAIN."

A Few More Remarks from 'Mechanic.'

DEAR SIR,—The *Colonist* of 28th instant contains a letter signed "Chessepot" and the writer asserts that a letter published by you (signed "Mechanic") on the subject of the "scarlet fever" which has broken out at the Commercial Rooms, was written by a journalist connected with your office. Now, Mr. Editor, you know how laborious my calling is, and I am sure that you will believe me when I say that my heart to-day is filled with hope, dreams of ambition fill my mind; I feel disposed to take down my sign and sell my tools. A bright future opens before me, because—I fear that when the "marshal" fever gets among our mechanics trade will languish and die, and if I am judged worthy of a place among journalists, why, "my calling and election is sure," for of what avail would heroic deeds on the tented field be if there were no newspapers to chronicle them?

When a desire for gore fills the hearts of such a band of harmless citizens as unanimously agreed to "solicit assistance" from an Executive whose expressed desire is to make of us a pastoral people, the danger must be near, or perhaps they have seen or read the last opera, "Ruddygore." (I never liked the name). Whatever the cause, the effect has been to turn the thoughts of some of our peaceable fish merchants and lawyers into channels which breathe slaughter and bodily injury towards some unseen enemy. What can be the service on which the Spartan band who met at the Commercial Rooms are bound? There are reasons why they would not like to be at any time far from their baggage; so they could not march as skirmishers. It is true several of them, in fact nearly all, are well acquainted with the lay of the ground about Harbor Grace Junction, quality of the water, &c., but no body of men with blood-thirsty views would choose that locality, except in summer, when the mosquitoes would soon relieve them of some hot blood. Mr. Editor, I am of the opinion that it is intended to put a force of *marines* on board the sealing steamers when they go west to enforce the "Bait Bill." I have heard of "horse marines," but never before of "commercial marines." The service would no doubt be pleasant. They would be near their base of supplies, and an occasional trip into Miquelon for repairs would keep the thing from getting monotonous. The "marshal marines" could be divided into sections, and relieve one another *per Curio*. Of course this is all supposition on my part, but I submit that you are driven into suffering to account for the warlike spirit breathed by our peaceful brethren who meet in the temple of commerce, all burning for fame and assistance from the public treasury.

Will you please to turn the matter over in your mind? Who is the Bismarck that has turned the minds of men who are scarcely done with the labor of their annual balance sheet, and leaving on one side the great questions of the hour, now only speak and think of how to marshal men in the ranks of grim-visaged war? I hope my friend, the editor of the *Colonist*, has not taken the fever. I, for one, would not like to see him arrayed in all the panoply of war; and I assure him that no offence was meant in my reference to the *Colonist* in my former letter.

In conclusion, let us hope that peace will prevail. This is no time to take money from a starving people. Better to lessen the duty on sugar, than to "play at soldiers." Such a criminal, unpopular act would only be done by fools or worse.

Yours, etc.,

St. John's, Jan. 30, '88. MECHANIC.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

DON'T forget the Governor's lecture at the Athenaeum Hall this evening.

A MESSAGE to Mr. Condon states that the steamer "Herules" left Trinity at 9 a.m. today. She will be due here to-night.

OWING to the lecture in the Athenaeum to-night, by His Excellency Governor Blake, the public meeting in connection with the Prohibition League will be postponed until to-night week (Feb. 6th) when the chair will be taken by Jas. Angel, Esq., President of the Blue Ribbon Gospel Temperance Union, and the regular work of the League recommenced.

An interesting communicated article on "Mr. McNeily and the Volunteers" has been received, but we are debarred the pleasure of giving it publicity, in consequence of an omission on the part of the writer to furnish us with his real name. Perhaps he will be good enough to send along the necessary information before noon to-morrow. No fear of disclosure.

BIRTH.

On Sunday, the 29th inst., the wife of Mr. Alexander Westcott, of a son.  
On Friday, 27th inst., the wife of Mr. Thomas Moore, of a son.  
At Western Bay, on the 25th inst., the wife of Dr. B. R. Somerville of a daughter.  
On the 28th inst., the wife of Mr. J. J. Clatton of a daughter.

By Trouble WINT A Dis COND Over Turkie in the F demands Attor night, an MacC St. Joh A fre immen million Dr. M throat y ducted a Fifty tucket. terrible. Fathe sentence holding. It is r again ar F Wind weather Fox's fl day. A LETT SIR,— appears the volu temptuo at the h It wo land wo exists i armies, sibility c between probable the stru France would fi der, and home to fusion c populati their ho for, and in spite of foundan and con North A Whet ter are make b wish to that in t a war w soon ha England machine St. Joh in the N wooden pedos, ments. would, against or Can I am Empire, the Can full priv St. J TEA best Tea had in che Editor T of all tea six dolla BROOKIN jan24