

The Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, MARCH 3, 1888.

MISTAKEN AGAIN! The "Mercury" Thinks We Tried to be Funny.

AND so the Mercury thinks we tried to be funny in our remarks of Thursday last on that celebrated "defence" of the Government by the Honorable Augustus Frederick Goodridge. Strange that our astute contemporary should fall so readily into such an "error of judgment."

The Honorable Augustus Frederick Goodridge, if our memory serves us right, once before appeared in the people's House, clad in all the awe-inspiring "panoply of war."

Up rose Augustus like a flash of light. Nor less his change of form appalled the sight: Up rose Augustus—not in "fish-fake" garb, But like a warrior bounding on his barb.

We have invoked the Muse to aid us in describing "the fury of that moment," but even Apollo seems unable to adequately describe the scene. Imagination must, therefore, make up the deficiency.

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THREE worthy citizens of this town celebrate this year the jubilee anniversary of their entrance into Her Majesty's military service: they are Sergeants Doyle and McBay, and Mr. William Murray.

An able letter from Rev. J. E. Manning, on the liquor question, will appear in these columns on Monday.

DR. HOWLEY'S HISTORY.

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR.—A correspondence, very properly stigmatized as "trifling" by the Very Rev. the Rector of St. Bonaventure's College, has been going on in the columns of your contemporary the sub-organo lately in re Dr. Howley's History, &c., into which I feel moved to insinuate myself, edgewise as it were, with your permission.

I feel all the more free to do so, and have a "go" at Mr. "Vindex," now that we are assured (to all intents and purposes) by the Very Rev. Rector of St. Bonaventure's College that the writer who uses the nom de plume of "Vindex" is not only not himself, (Rev. M. A. F.) but is not even known to him at all.

Permit me then as a friend of the Very Rev. Prefect's, and as he is not here to reply for himself, to say a few words about the matter at issue while the subject is still warm; for by the time the Colonel reaches the west coast and the mails reach back here the whole thing will have lost its interest for the public, and this "trifling" may even be trivial and childish, controversy will have been forgotten.

I spoke of animus and heat: I think these are shown unmistakably in the attribution to Dr. H. in so many words, in the first letter of "Vindex," of so paltry and unworthy a motive as "the desire to keep alive the controversy over his book in order to increase its sale;" in other words, that the poor Prefect, who is anything but shrewd and worldly-minded, as even his enemies (if he have any) well know, was actually schemer and artful dodger enough to contemplate such a petty way of raising the wind.

So much for that point, though I have not the faintest hope of convincing "Vindex" or those who think with him, if such there be. Their minds are doubtless made up and my mere anonymous ipse dixit will barely shake them.

But a more important point is the Seminary question and all that it implies to those who "know the ropes." To the remarks of "Vindex" on this head I would venture to reply that their tone implies even a deeper animus and smouldering heat than his former allusion, and lead one to speculate as to the underlying motive thereof, evidently there is one: "Hæret lateri lethatis arundo," as friend P. V. Maro, deceased, has it.

Now, the object of Dr. Howley in all he says on this seminary and native-priest question is clear and obvious enough to all who wish to understand it. He wanted to set forth in a clear historical light the clear historical facts: 1. That Dr. Fleming had a strong prejudice against the employment of native priests on this mission: a prejudice shared by almost all his contemporaries; that he acted upon it all along and carried his convictions upon this point to the grave with him.

These I repeat are, to my mind, the main points which the rev. author tries to bring out, and which I contend he does bring out quite clearly to all who read his book with unbiased mind. All else is merely matter of detail, "chips in porridge," and his inaccuracies are of small moment in this connection—not worth controversialising about—or, as the worthy Rector says, "trifling." In fact, they have neither weight nor power.

Now, to come more directly to the seminary question: the late Dr. Mullock established that institution as a seminary et preterea nihil, placing it at first under the temporary charge of Rev. J. Forriatal, as Rector, until such time as a specially-trained person could be secured to take charge. This was done not long after, when Dr. Henry Carfagnini was installed as Rector, a man of high scientific, classical and general attainments, who, from his previous experience, was deemed a most fitting person and specially qualified for the work.

Dr. Mullock took the deepest interest in the success of the young institution, and even found time, after the exhausting labor of his daily Lenten sermons, to spend an hour with the Bonaventure boys, instructing and lecturing them, and above all, losing no opportunity of instilling into their minds the duty of love of their country, which he ever dwelt upon and encouraged in their minds in every way. As for the minor questions of ecclesiastical dress, tonsure, &c., suffice it to say that the former was worn by the Bonaventurians from the first, and that the latter is no longer worn either in England, Ireland, or America, not even by priests.

Hence "Vindex" must be taken "cum grano salis" on this point, and cannot at all be accepted as speaking ex cathedra, the decree of the holy Synod of Trent to the contrary notwithstanding. Those disciplinary regulations have clearly not been accepted as dogmatic pronouncements, binding semper ubique et in omnibus. They were promulgated three or four centuries ago in mediæval Europe, but we are now in the nineteenth cen-

fishery, whose opinion is that the measure now proposed would not prove beneficial to the interests of the seal fishery, and that the law of last session should be allowed a trial for a few years before being condemned. He felt constrained to vote against the measure upon the grounds: firstly, that the law passed last session having come into force after the sealing voyage was entered upon, has had no trial; and, secondly, that it would work with manifest unfairness against the chances of success of the smaller power vessels.

Hon. C. R. AYRE was in favor of giving the law passed last year a fair trial, and he believed that, if repealed by this bill, the litigation which that law was designed to lessen would continue as heretofore. Those who lent their aid in framing the present law, which had received great consideration in both branches, believed it to be a measure needed to regulate the prosecution of the important industry it has relation to, by placing it on a more satisfactory basis. There can be no question that the practice of indiscriminate panning of seals has caused an immense loss of valuable property to the country.

Hon. M. MONROE said, as he had the honor of introducing the bill, which became law last session, personal feeling may be imputed to him with regard to the action he intended to take on this measure. He emphatically disclaimed all personal motive, the only one prompting him being that which governed his action in bringing forward the bill of last year: a desire to conserve and promote what he considered to be for the welfare of the colony.

Hon. G. T. RENDALL.—The question before the house is a somewhat peculiar one, as it involves a proposal to deal now with legislation of last session which, though law, has never come into operation. Under ordinary circumstances such a course as is now proposed should be avoided, but the features of this case are of an unusual character; and hence the propriety of giving it serious consideration. He was not aware of the procedure that took place with reference to last year's Bill, but it would seem to be considered by those practically interested that it needs attention now before the sealing voyage is commenced, inasmuch as those persons holding property in the seal fishery are interested in the interests of those concerned in the voyage.

ters of sealing steamers, wanting simply to be possessed of unlimited power to kill and pan all the seals they could find upon the ocean. The idea that appeared to prevail in the minds of those interested in steamers is that it will suffice if the seal-fishery will last their day: come easy, go easy, deuce take the hindmost, regardless of the interests of others and of the destruction of this staple industry of the colony. He must express his surprise that representatives of the northern districts ever gave their sanction to the measure now before us, which must, if in operation, work highly prejudicially to the interests of their constituents.

We, in this chamber, are taunted with want of experience in the subject; we are told that none of us were ever at the seal-fishery; that, therefore, we know nothing about it. But where is there in the country a man who has not many a time and oft heard sealing masters kill their voyages over again, and any one who spends a little time in their company will take part in the slaughter of as many seals as have been brought into the country for twenty years. Like the ancient warrior, they delight in recounting how fields were won. The charge of want of knowledge falls, therefore, without force. To continue the practice of indiscriminate panning must work injuriously to the future interests of the seal-fishery, because every year large numbers of seals are killed, panned, and never recovered. He thought the question of danger to the men was a sentimental idea rather than a real hardship, and merely put forward by the promoters of the bill, as a cloak for other objects.

A few years ago six or seven large steamers were jammed for some time in the ice in the neighborhood of Twillingat, and it was a common custom for a crew to travel some twenty miles, kill, pan and flag a lot of seals and return to their vessels, while there was at the time no probability of the steamers securing these seals the whole Spring. Next morning another crew would go out, take down the flags placed as marks on the pans by the preceding crew, and so on until the last crew arriving on the scene and doing the same thing and substituting their flags, claimed ownership of the whole lot, according to the custom then in force. From sixty thousand to a hundred thousand seal pelts were lost that year to the colony, whereas had the crews remained in their ships, the probabilities were that they would subsequently get amongst those seals and secure them. No person will deny that the seal fishery is a risky business, but at the same time it is a many one, and we should do all we can to foster in our men that spirit of daring which has been much diminished by the introduction of steam in its pursuit. He should like, therefore, to see greater encouragement given to the weaker crafts, so that in the near future there may be a reasonable chance of a large fleet of sailing vessels once more taking part in this industry with a prospect of profit. There is now being built in the colony a superior class of vessels for the prosecution of the seal fishery, and there is no reason why they should not take a venture in the sealing voyage without prejudice to their fishery on the Banks; and he trusted the day is not far distant when such will be the case. The measure passed last year received the deliberate and protracted consideration of both branches. It was sent hence to the lower house, where a select committee, and conference and discussion upon it were had between the most intelligent members of both branches, with the result now shown by the law on the Statute Book. Yet in the face of that well-considered and deliberate action of both branches, we are now asked to reverse a measure by adopting a measure rushed through the other branch at railroad speed under suspended rules, and passed finally at twelve o'clock in the night, when members were fatigued after a long debate on the address. He would simply ask, is that the way legislation should be carried on; was such indecent haste, which by assenting to this Bill, the member would be a party, becoming to us in our capacity as deliberative bodies? He thought not. The existing law should be allowed a fair trial, and if, after one or two years' operation, it should be found to work injuriously, he should be the first to move that it be amended. For these reasons he could not vote for the motion before the house.

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tury and in a new world, under new conditions that were then wholly undreamt of. But I am asking too much of your space I fear, and must draw rein, though I had much more to say.

Doubtless Dr. Howley will reply, if indeed he should think it worth his while, ex manu propria. I have merely tried to step in and vindicate him from "Vindex," who seems to consider the matter at issue "dignus vindice nodus," notwithstanding its "trifling" nature, and, therefore, goes to the trouble of writing two powerful would-be sarcastical letters. Dr. H. may not think so, however, and may, so far from thanking me, bid me to mind my own business.

In conclusion, then, and to sum up, I assert that a seminary is a seminary (which nobody can deny). That Dr. Fleming shared the prejudices of his day and generation, prejudices which sometimes show a tendency to survive in a marvellous way, like some of the Darwinian instances of that phenomenon, that Dr. Mullock sailed on an opposite track, that Dr. Howley, though he may be inaccurate in minor matters, is, on the whole, and in relation to larger historical points, quite correct; finally, that "Vindex" himself, though seemingly not a "Levite," had, perhaps, better "leave it" alone. Au reste: let Rev. Mr. Howley answer for himself.

Thanking you for space, I am, dear Mr. Editor, Yours very truly, INDEX.

St. John's, March 2.

Governor Blake at the Methodist College.

Editor Evening Telegram.

SIR.—Will you allow me space to express the gratification of the Executive of the Methodist College here at the interest taken by their Excellencies the Governor and Mrs. Blake, who, on the 1st inst., accompanied by the Private Secretary, made an inspection of the new buildings and their equipment for educational purposes?

Immediately on entering the spacious hall, the visitors expressed their delight with the beauty and lightness of the large hall; where, under the leadership of Mr. Walker, the boys gave a very finely rendered dumbell exercise.

After the boys were finished, the girls, in drill costume, appeared on the floor, and went through a similar exercise, showing careful training.

Their Excellencies were then conducted through the various rooms in both departments, when they had an opportunity of seeing the large number of scholars in their places.

Returning to the main hall, where, in the meantime, Professor Holloway and Miss Narraway had assembled the scholars from both departments, the Chairman of the Directors, after the singing of the National Anthem, expressed the pleasure it gave the Executive and staff to receive their Excellencies, and thus give them some idea of the efforts being made by the denomination to meet the needs of our youth.

After a hearty cheer His Excellency spoke some earnest and eloquent words to the scholars, complimenting them upon their privileges in connection with such an institution, and urging upon them the necessity of improving the present, if they would reap in the future. The Governor further stated that, in his examination of such buildings for similar purposes, he had not seen any one where the appointments were more complete than in the Methodist College here.

The chairman having called for three cheers for their Excellencies, the boys cheered lustily and the girls waved their handkerchiefs. In acknowledging this act, the Governor asked that a half-holiday might be given, with consent of Mr. Holloway and Miss Narraway, which was agreed to, and another cheer was given.

All the members of the Executive here were present during the visit, and to them it was a genuine pleasure to have an opportunity of shewing to the representative of Her Majesty, and his lady, their efforts after the higher education of the boys and girls.

They fervently hope that the good wishes expressed may be fully realized as the years roll by. Yours, &c., G. B. St. John's, March 3rd, 1888.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES. SUNDAY, March 4. GOWER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. Rev. J. Parkins; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. Boyd. COCHRANE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. Rev. G. Boyd; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. Parkins. GEORGE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. W. Graham; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A. ALEXANDER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A.; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. E. Manning. ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. Rev. J. E. Manning; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. W. Graham. QUEEN'S ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and 6.30 P.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson. REFORMED CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—TRINITY CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and at 6.30 P.M., Rev. A. N. Suckling. GOVERNMENT TEMPERANCE SERVICE in Buchanan Street Schoolroom every Sunday at 3 P.M. All are cordially invited. Service in Temperance Hall on Sunday evening at 8.15 o'clock, under the auspices of "Young Men's Christian Association." All are invited.