

Toilers Final Fight For Liberty

Fifteen Hundred Electors Ask Kean's Arrest Charging Him With Criminal Negligence.

Lower and Lower Comes The Honor of Munn An Open Letter to His Excellency and Ministers

Petitions Asking Kean's Arrest

The Powerful Unity of a Long Suppressed People Breaking Out at Last and Demanding For the Last Time—"So Help Their God"—the Justice That Is Theirs

We Ask Any Man—Any Honest White Man From This Dear Old Terra Nova—Is Kean Innocent of ANY Wrong Doing, ANY Negligence, or ANY Carelessness When he Ordered Those Poor Unfortunate Souls to Leave His Vessel?

In the early stages of the F.P.U.-Bowring-Kean controversy, the general public though understanding the particulars and data and facts of the case, did not fully grasp the great importance and significance which outlines it.

It was a question, so people agreed, that had in its debating very striking features, and the interest that any such question of the hour will evoke was therefore called forth. It remained however for the F.P.U. to show the real weight and expressive importance of the matter and to accurately define the position it claims in the public estimation.

We promised to begin an agitation that would have no compeer since the days of Responsible Government, but even knowing how great would be that agitation, and how far afield its powers would penetrate, we had no idea that in a few days it could excite such indignation, and arouse the public to the determined stand which is hourly being assumed, in the cause of Righteousness and Justice.

It was after all only necessary for the F.P.U. to again state the broad facts to the people, the resentment and aversion were already smouldering in obedience to any hasty measure or action, it but remained for us to tell the people, and to tell them truly that the Bowring firm that had heretofore possessed a universal confidence, was determined to overthrow the law of that people—and to make a law unto themselves."

When we commenced this agitation we, though we knew our own power, and were aware—fully aware—of the justice of our claims, had no thought or idea that thousands of our public would so quickly arise to back us up and give us so strong a support.

We knew how very indignant the masses were, and we knew how insulted the general people felt by the conduct of Bowring and Munn, but we could not imagine that the public spirit would break forth into such a maelstrom and conflagration, and which now threatens to destroy everything or anything that shall dare oppose it. What a horrible, and awe inspiring thing is the imagining of the freedom of an outraged and insulted public.

Just consider the united and unanimous voice of a people raised to demand JUSTICE? Imagine, if it is possible for us to imagine—the one loud call of say twenty thousand voices raised in demand, demanding too what is justly theirs Realize reader—if it is possible for any of us to grasp this horrible reality—the powerful unity of a long suppressed people breaking out at last, and demanding for the last time "So Help Their God," the justice that is justly theirs.

Place against that demand the wrong, and utterly wrong influence of THREE MINDS. Consider with this the knowledge that those three minds have, of the error of their contention. Place again with this, the violated words, and promises, and honour of those minds.

Again, think of the unbearable arrogance and conceit and vanity of those three minds which would destroy (if they could) the justifiable requirements of the people. To this, add the facts that the public have been most kind and considerate and magnanimous in their approaching those three egotistical persons, and laying before them proofs—absolute proofs of that, which the public would have righted and made just.

Going over all this again—thinking over every point and proof, viewing it from every aspect,—is there one fair minded and honest gentleman, in this Country which takes a pride in its honourable record, will say that Mr. John Munn, and Mr. Eric Bowring, and Capt. Abram Kean, are justified in the course they are claiming to be right? Is there any honest and honourable man in our midst who will stand out and say "that the Bowring House is doing right in allowing their Commander Kean to sail in this season's sealing fleet?"

We will once more ask any man—any honest white man from this dear old Terra Nova of ours—this question:

Is Captain Kean, who commanded the S.S. Stephano, at last year's sealing voyage, innocent of ANY wrong doing, ANY negligence, or ANY carelessness, when he ordered those poor unfortunate souls to leave his vessel?

We once again ask that question, we ask it impassionately, calmly, and in a straightforward manner,—we ask, IS CAPT. KEAN INNOCENT OR GUILTY? Did Capt. Kean act the humane part when he sent those men into the approaching storm? Did he act as a man and as a brother, and as a christian would act when he did this thing?

We will for the moment withdraw ourselves from the matter altogether, and leave the question between the Public on oneside and Bowring Bros. and Captain Kean on the other. Let Coaker and the F.P.U., and Coaker's associates, and the supporters of the F.P.U. be forgotten in this case altogether. Let Coaker be in this as if he never existed, or had never heard of Bowring Bros., Munn or Kean, and see if the outrage is less an outrage, or if the whole unhappy affair has less frightful features in its whole terrible conception?

Read again the correspondence that passed between President Coaker and Mr. J. S. Munn, only yesterday. Here again Mr. Munn has been even kindly and reasonably approached by Coaker, and asked if he will NOW withdraw Capt. Kean, if he will NOW (after the finding of a legal Commission) withdraw this man whom two legal gentlemen have declared GUILTY of utter neglect? Mr. J. S. Munn promised to do this if the Commission in question showed any stigma on the part of Capt. Kean. Mr. J. S. Munn now denies having made that agreement.

Mr. J. S. Munn says "I never said this, I never promised this."

JOHN S. MUNN AGAIN DEFILES HIS HONOUR. Once more, Mr. Munn, who had at least the confidence of honourable men forfeits his honourable name. The name of Munn, the word of Munn, the honour of Munn comes down, down into the dust.

Honourable men will shun him—Public opinion will blast his name and his faith, Gentlemen, whose WORD is their BOND will point the finger of scorn at him.

What are wealth, and power, and glory, and position, when HONOUR is gone? HONOUR, which is the most glorious thing in a man's life—for Public honour is security. A man may fall from power and from wealth, from position and from public greatness—but he is still a MAN when he can say with that fearless, brave, unconquerable front "All is lost SAVE HONOUR."

To-day or to-morrow men will shake the hand of Munn, they will speak to him and hob-nob with him as of yore, perhaps they will walk with him from one end of Water Street to the other—but in their secret hearts they will despise him—they will know that he has lost that which MAKES THE MAN, whether he be rich or poor—that sacred and grand thing called HONOUR.

A few weeks ago, and the vast public believed in John S. Munn—here, they said, is an honourable man—a man to whom any of us might go to seek the ethics of real and true honour—here is a citizen, a credit to us all, an honourable man in whom we should hold great pride. The good, old, honourable name of Munn, wealth and power and friends, and interest may pass—but HONOUR—NEVER. All is lost, everything is gone—and oh, good God—HONOUR! HONOUR!!—that which was ALL, and meant ALL—THAT is all now gone.

A few weeks ago, he might have stood amongst Princes and against the world, to-day there are none so poor—as to pay him ONE single mark of respect. He passed his word—THE WORD OF A MAN—the word that is a MAN'S BOND—an honourable promise.

HE VIOLATES THAT WORD—and the honour of his good name passes.

Where is the manhood in this? Where is the sacredness of a plighted promise in this? Where now is the boasted HONOUR? Where is the validity of character or of faith.

Why Coaker—Coaker whom the high, and haughty and the supposed noble—would pass by—NEVER YET BROKE HIS WORD OF HONOUR—Coaker who does not pretend to the blue blood of the mighty—NEVER YET WENT BACK ON HIS WORD—NEVER YET.

Did Coaker—who is only a fisherman, go back on his word when it had been once given—NEVER!

(To be continued from day to day)

"Now is the Time to Stop this Insurrection—an Insurrection Without Character—Remembering Always, That the Saddest Phrase of all Phrases is the One—"TOO LATE."

HALT! Then I Say, and to You, Who are in Power in This Land my Appeal and my Cry are To-day—Act Then Immediately—at once—NOW—There May be no To-morrow in This Case

Gentlemen:—Can the voice of an unbiased mind—cry HALT!—with an effect—from an awful pending danger, the equal of which this Country was never threatened with before, and for which no equivalent redress can ever be vouchsafed, once the tragedy is over—with regrets, desolation and perhaps murder staring us in the face.

We, a God fearing, and God loving people, to whom much has been given, to whom Divine Providence has lavished abundant blessing, with no unpropitious hand.

Now is the time to stop this insurrection—an insurrection without character—remembering always, that the saddest phrase of all phrases is the one—"Too Late."

Are we, gentlemen, as a people, at this stage of the world—while mighty Powers—and tottering Empires, are in deadly strife—are we while God's vengeance, manifests itself over nearly the whole universe—are we while our sons, and sires, and brothers under God are engaged in nefarious warfare—are we I say, a people—peaceable, and favoured—favoured as by kind heaven itself—are we I repeat to wage fight against each other so horrible in its uprise, so serious in its nature, that once begun, can only have, an unholy ending.

HALT! then I say, and to you, who are in power in this land my appeal, and my cry are to-day—act then immediately—at once—now—there may be no to-morrow in this case—one word from you will influence—then Gentlemen, for God's sake speak that word—and ward off forever—a threatening—dangerous evil.

I have carefully read, in their every particular—pro and con—the evidences of the Kean case, and also have I sifted minutely all the correspondence from time to time bearing on the points between Coaker and the Bowrings—I have weighed both sides, faithfully and justly (holding no brief from either) in the limelight of—HONEST WISDOM—conjured up. For the love of my Countrymen—for the love of God, and our homes—with the easy result that—IT IS A MILLION TIMES BETTER—that Captain Kean stay from the icefields this year—which assurance, would forever, put an end to this pending horror—than for Kean—because he is a Kean—to be allowed to go with, even the smallest RISK OF RIOT and BLOODSHED.

Before entering on this hurried letter, Gentlemen, I saw the true vision of what the result must point to, if Kean be disqualified this year from proceeding to the icefields—it would be a golden precedent, on our records—on the records of men's memory—if you will—for the future, and GREATER protection of our poor working toilers of the deep—For now that competition, on those vessels is so keen—and—Get Money Quick Craze so rife amongst us—a parcel of men, of another ship, is not, always desirable on board another vessel, whose Captain is ambitious, with schemes of a fatty Klondyke in the perspective.

In the front page, for all time to come, this case as a precedent—will be our poor sealers great safety and protection—and God knows—last year's tragedies show—that both those commodities—they sadly need.

Now, Gentlemen, you who can—cry HALT—right here. This is your warning—you are called upon to do no wrong—if you do not act—yours will be the GUILT—when the blow shall fall—you will stay an evil, of a most horrible nature—an evil which otherwise cannot be avoided—call Kean off, for this one season only—and gain the good will, and praise of ten thousand men, who are after all and undoubtedly, the ruling power of our good old peaceful land. —CATHOLICUS.

To you, Mr. Coaker, whether your efforts be crowned with success or not, you have done your share, with true earnestness, in good faith and above board. The hard worked and the poor of this Country, have much to place to your credit, and your fight in their behalf, in the columns of The Mail and Advocate will not be without its merit.—C.

To His Excellency the Governor in Council:—

The petitions of the undersigned residents of Holyrood and electors of the electoral district of Harbour Main, humbly sheweth that on March 31st and April 1st last, seventy-eight sealers of the crew of the sealing steamer "Newfoundland" died on the icefloe from exposure, and that in the opinion of your petitioners, Captain A. Kean, Master of the "Stephano," was guilty of criminal negligence in relation to the said men, wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Your Excellency be pleased to test before the Courts the liability or otherwise of Captain Kean. And as in duty bound they will ever pray.

- JOSEPH G. MURPHY
- PATK. HEALEY of JOHN
- JAMES CORBETT
- RICHARD McKAY
- FRANCIS HEALEY
- JOHN HEALEY
- EDWARD JOY
- PHILIP HEALEY
- JAMES HEALEY
- JAMES HEALEY
- JAMES HEALEY of JAS.
- EDWARD HEALEY
- JOHN PENNEY
- JAMES McKAY
- CHRIS. DWYER
- THOMAS QUINLAN
- RICHARD HYNES
- JOHN DWYER
- PATRICK DWYER
- JERRY QUINLAN
- JAMES HYNES
- PATRICK J. HEALEY
- THOMAS O'CONNELL
- WILLIAM DWYER
- JOHN T. DWYER
- PATRICK QUINLAN
- JAMES QUINLAN
- MARTIN FITZGERALD
- WILLIAM MOORES
- JOSEPH PENNEY
- JOSEPH PENNEY
- PHILIP PENNEY
- WILLIAM VEITCH
- DAVID BOLAND
- J. F. LEWIS
- WILLIAM KIRBY
- JAMES McGRATH
- JOHN O'ROURKE
- DANIEL WHELAN
- JOHN HARDING
- PAT HARDING
- RICHARD HARDING
- JAMES HARDING
- JOHN F. HARDING
- JAMES DUFF
- MAURICE MURPHY
- JOHN CORBETT
- PATRICK CORBETT
- THOMAS CORBETT
- ARTHUR DUGGAN
- JOHN MURPHY
- JOHN MORRISSEY
- PHILIP KILEY
- THOMAS KILEY
- MATT. O'ROURKE
- WILLIAM CURREN
- JAMES KILEY

(Continued on page 4)