

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 21, 1884.

Mr. Hodgson's Letter.

SHOULD Mr. E. J. Hodgson make good the proposition contained in his letter—which will be found in another column of to-day's issue of THE EXAMINER—there are, without doubt, strong grounds for petitioning the Governor-General in Council to disallow "the Chancery Amendment Act, 1884." At any rate, Mr. Hodgson is right in his suggestion that important Bills should be printed, so that members may be able to critically scan them; and, we think it is greatly to be regretted that greater care is not taken in the passage of Bills. In the Dominion Parliament, the Bills are all submitted to Committees who examine them in the presence of the public; and if all the explanations required cannot be made by members, outsiders having specific knowledge of the subjects of the Bills are called upon to give their views. Parliament, though not infallible, will not legislate in the dark; and neither should our Local Legislature.

The Water Question.

CITIZEN is right. There is an urgent necessity for a further discussion of the Waterworks question; and it had better be begun now than later. Some people evidently need a few more lessons about the question; and we hope that they may not be taught only by fire and by pestilence. A discussion in the Market Hall may bring home to the minds of, at least, some of those who signed the petition against it, the lamentable blunder that was made in the rejection of the Bill to incorporate the Waterworks Company, and the absurdity of rejecting it on the ground that it provided that each member of the Company should have the same number of votes as he had shares.

The direct loss of citizens an account of the rise in the rates of insurance will be equal to a tax of about two dollars a head on every man woman and child; and every hour that we are without waterworks the personal risks and discomforts of citizens are greater than those of any neighboring towns. While Truro, Moncton, Fredericton and other towns, smaller than Charlottetown, enjoy the incalculable advantages incident to copious supplies of water, we are dependent upon itinerant vendors, for every drop we drink, and are left without resource in time of fire; and when offered the means of supply by a Company, we refuse them except on terms which no Company could entertain. In Banks, Railway Companies and Chartered Corporations of every description doing business with the public, the invariable rule is that shareholders have as many votes as they have shares; and the amendment of the Legislative Council, which provided that the largest shareholders should be deprived of a portion of their votes, was of course made as an easy and convenient means of killing the Bill.

The damage is done. It cannot be undone this year. But by discussion and agitation we may provide a public opinion which will next year resolutely demand the passage of the Bill.

Rabbits in Australasia.

SOME months since we gave a short account of the rabbit pest in South Australia, and recently we came across a paper containing some interesting notes on the subject, which we condense for our readers. It appears that New Zealand is also troubled with the pest to as great a degree as are the two South Australian Colonies of Victoria and New South Wales. About a quarter of a century ago, the first rabbits were imported to South Australia as delicacies for the table, but now their extermination forms one of the most serious problems for the legislatures of the Australian Colonies. New Zealand did not receive the gift till some years later, when, unfortunately, it occurred to a colonist to turn adrift a few pairs of rabbits on the bleak sandhills of one of the coasts of New Zealand. He accordingly imported a little family of seven from the old country, and very soon he and his friends were able to indulge in some pleasant shooting, and found a change from constant mutton very satisfactory. It was soon found that their sport could not keep pace with the increase of the rabbits. Soon, every blade of grass was consumed, and then the hungry creatures nibbled the roots which bound the light sand hills and prevented their blowing over the arable land. Farmers then began shooting and trapping with all their might, but the rabbits spread in every direction, defying all the efforts of the widely scattered settlers to suppress them; and it soon became necessary to hire men to trap, shoot, and ferret professionally. These trappers required the aid of large packs of dogs, and it was soon found that the disturbance thus caused among the flocks resulted in greater mischief than even the ravages of the rabbits. Trappers were paid two pence a skin, but it was not long before the market became so overstocked that skins sold for less than they cost.

Rabbits bring forth young when six months old, and thenceforth have about six litters a year, of from six to eight. It has been reckoned that one ancestral couple, having attained the age of four and a half years, may very well see around them a prosperous clan of descendants numbering upwards of one

million two hundred and seventy thousand! As cats were considered the natural enemies, in a measure, of rabbits, it was hoped that their introduction would subdue the pest; but the experiment was a failure, as the cats preferred a purely domestic life. In Victoria it was at first hoped that the native cat, a kind of weasel, would prove a foe to the rabbits, but it seems that the two animals fraternize so far as in some instances to occupy the same burrows. All manner of remedies have been tried, and successively given up as useless in the face of the widespread evil. The extent of the ravages of the prolific rodent can scarcely be credited. The statistics of the Rabbit Nuisance Committee, however, are authentic. They report that in one section a couple of men state that in one year they had killed five hundred thousand rabbits by poison, and in the following spring the sheep-run was just as densely peopled by them as ever. A Mr. Kitchen had kept nearly a hundred men working as rabbit killers for four months, and had actually cleared his land, but new comers had arrived and now the rabbit pest was worse than ever. Still the plague spreads, and the whole land is more or less infested, and many districts are reduced to mere rabbit warrens, on which it is impossible to feed sheep at all. Many farmers have been compelled to abandon runs of fifteen to sixteen thousand acres. One man was compelled to abandon two hundred and fifty thousand acres. In one year he expended £3,000 in endeavors to clear about half of this land from the pest. Another man reports having killed one hundred and fifty thousand rabbits within twelve months. In 1878 the total number of sheep in New Zealand was thirteen millions; but in consequence of the rabbit pest the returns of 1881-2 showed a diminution of two millions in the number of sheep, and a falling off of ten per cent. in the export of wool. As a slight compensation for the losses sustained through the plague of rabbits, the exports of rabbit skins for the period mentioned shows an increase of £36,000, the number of skins exported averaging ten million a year. One hundred thousand rabbits were also sent to England by the New Zealand Meat Preserving Co., and the Company have been so satisfied with the venture that they advertise their readiness to receive ten thousand rabbits a day for preserving for a foreign market. Australia has also several rabbit preserving factories, putting up from ten to eighteen thousand pairs per week.

Great hopes are now entertained that a really successful rabbit destroyer has been secured or discovered. This is the East Indian mongoose (*Herpestes Griseus*), which has done such good service in Jamaica as a rat-killer for the past ten years. It occurred to a Jamaica planter to introduce this notorious ratter, and the results have surpassed his highest hopes. These active little creatures, resembling large ferrets, multiplied with great rapidity, and waged a deadly war of extermination against the rats. The New Zealand and Australian Governments have applied to the Government of India for a supply of mongooses which are being collected and forwarded to the Zoological Gardens at Calcutta, to be sent thence to Australasia when a sufficient number has been obtained.

Rightfully his, of which he has been deprived. This Act takes from the Court all power to help him. The ninth section provides that "a decree obtained against an absent defendant when the service of a subpoena has been made under this section, shall in every respect be as binding, as if the defendant had been resident in this Province and had been duly served." It does not require a lawyer to appreciate the terrible position in which every man, owning any property, is placed, if he may happen to be absent from the Island for a short time; for he may return to find himself ruined. He is left without any remedy. The Judge may have been led to make an order by having had facts laid before him, which, although strictly true, would have borne a different aspect, had he been able to have heard both sides, instead of only one. But the "binding" nature of the decree effectually prevents relief being given, and unavailing regrets at the miscarriage of justice, although they may be shared by the Court and the defendant's friends, will be a poor exchange for the property of which he has been deprived.

Of course I do not allude to cases in which a decree has been obtained by fraud. These can always be opened; but a fraudulent claim, regularly obtained, cannot. This Act requires no security from the plaintiff in case of a re-hearing, and a reversal of the judgment; there is, in fact, no provision made for a rehearing at all.

It is a difficult matter to explain a statute relating to the complicated procedure of the Court of Chancery, so as to render it easy of comprehension to your non-professional readers; but, with your permission, I shall endeavor to do so. I propose to deal with the matter in a series of letters, for it would be quite impossible, in one communication, to discuss the objectionable features of this measure. I am not writing in the interests of my profession, for they are well guarded by this Act. But I address myself to those who are possessed of property, and who have a stake in the country. I do assure them that, under this Act, they may find themselves deprived of their property or decreed to pay a large sum of money without having had an opportunity of defending themselves. Of this, I shall convince the most skeptical, and I feel confident that many will join in protesting against this measure, so as if possible to procure its disallowance, and, failing that, to agitate for its repeal.

I do not seek to charge any one on ulterior motives in drafting this Act. I have no reason for doing so. I do not even know who drew it. There was, no doubt, a laudable desire to shorten the too lengthy proceedings of chancery. But the Act bears evidence of having been drawn in great haste, and some of its clauses will operate in a manner, which I feel satisfied, could never have been contemplated. The moment I saw the Bill, which was a few hours before the House was prorogued, I hurriedly drew up a memorandum and forwarded it to the Lieutenant Governor, entreating him at least to reserve the measure. It seems that this cannot be done; and the only course now open is to appeal to the representative of the Queen's Majesty in Canada to disallow it.

Another Spy.

"I know him a notorious liar, Think him a great way fool, solely a coward." —Shakespeare.

SIR,—I perceive in yesterday's EXAMINER a letter from "Principle," in which he draws attention to the actions of a party whom he very properly designates as a "mean spy." It is quite probable that the man who is writing abusive letters to young ladies is the same who has attempted to vilify the good name of several married ladies. Too cowardly to write to them, he speaks and writes in a sneaking manner of them.

We are assured that nobody minds what he says, and that he only renders himself a "laughing-stock," etc.; but, after all, these vipers in human form impose upon some well-thinking people.

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," and the governing property of this hoary-headed deceiver being "cheek," strongly flavored with serpentine hypocrisy, he can, generally speaking, drag one's character to the borders of perdition, and yet manage to crawl off unpunished to some hiding-place. His present shelter is behind the good character of a luckless woman who calls him husband.

If envious of a married man's happiness, "spy" will at once represent him as "hen-pecked;" then, meeting said man will grin lovingly in his face, and grasp his arm with tender affection; but being repulsed, he will shoot off into some store to recover his insane expressions, and remark: "I will never speak to Mr. G.—again, he can't take a joke!" Another gentleman passes—Malinger with a warning nod towards the window, launches forth again, "Poor W— they say he's awfully jealous. Did you hear about her?" And having spewed out another symptom of villainy, he clears off to an office where he fondly imagines the clerks laugh with, instead of at him, as he blandly offers them a little slip in the information that if he possessed a wife like B— over there, he'd—but I shame not the Queen's English by proceeding with Spy's threat. Then, tearing up his spiteful effusions, he gracefully removes, and goes on his way rejoicing, sowing defamation as he goes.

Should he meet with those of superior mental ability, otherwise lacking, he clutches the opportunity to insult the Almighty by nicknames of "hunchback," "cripple," etc., forgetting that his own mental and moral deformity, which he is responsible for, are disgustingly repulsive. He would gladly walk on crutches forever could he possess one iota of the brains of club-footed Byron, or gain the popularity of her—the cripple and the deaf—whose lovely face looks down to me through Time, as almost rivalling the tender beauty of the Madonnas of the great Masters,—I refer to the Princess of Wales.

No marvel that Holy Writ denounces infamous slanders as "scattering firebrands and death." Only the King of Terror will stop the foul tongue of the wretched, cowardly malinger, who praises the God of truth and justice, whilst his heart is rampant of the devil; who pretends to acquaintance with polite literature, whilst reveling in obscene language, and who willingly acts as the accomplice of evil.

For the consolation of the public generally, and the female sex particularly, I can say, with authority, that this pest of our city is likely soon to be brought to account.

I am, Sir, Yours, JUSTITIA.

Ch'town, April 16, 1884.

The City Council as it Was and Is.

SIR,—During a discussion upon the cost of our city schools, the following question was asked, viz: "Has the intelligence or brain power of our Civic Rulers improved since the Free School Act was passed?" To enable the citizens to form a correct opinion upon this important point, I subjoin a list of the names of those who represented, "before the School Act was passed," the same Wards as are now represented by the majority of our present city fathers:—

Past.	Present.
Mayor—DesBrisay.	Mayor—Hooper.
Ward 5—D. Laird.	Ward 5—J. P. Tant n.
" 5—J. H. Fletcher.	" 5—A. Horne.
" 4—W. D. Stewart.	" 4—S. McRae.
" 4—P. D. Beer.	" 4—Wm. Ladrer.
" 3—James Currie.	" 3—E. Davy.
" 2—James Byrne.	" 2—H. Douce.

CITIZEN.

Ch'lotown, April 21, 1884.

Will Blake Resign?

The St. John Sun's Ottawa correspondent telegraphs:—"It is rumored that Blake, disgusted with his followers for deserting him and supporting the Government measure relating to Subsidies to Railways, has threatened to resign the leadership of the Opposition. Nineteen of the Opposition supported the Government. There were three ex-Ministers among them, and a fourth (Mills) left the House and shirked the vote. Not a single one of his supporters from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia voted with Blake, and only one of the Quebec Liberal contingent. He forced the opposition to the measures to vote upon them, and they having grown restive under his arbitrary way, secretly rejoice that he found himself in so slim a minority. It is stated that the Ontario contingent believe that Blake's policy is bad, seeing that his followers are being steadily reduced and becoming disorganized. They advocate Mowat to take Blake's place."

Another Letter from Hon. D. Ferguson.

To the Honorable David Laird, Editor of the Patriot.

SIR,—In THE EXAMINER of Friday, I accused you of publishing editorial matter relating to myself, which was venomous, vulgar and false. You do not deny the impeachment, but you plead that you neither wrote nor inspired the article in question. Now you are known to be Editor of the Patriot, and, as such, you are responsible for every line which it contains. Your defence proclaims your incapacity, or meanness, or both. If you knew your place as editor, and was capable of filling it, and had any manhood about you, you would not attempt to shelter yourself behind a shareholder of your company, or anybody else. You may be a mere figure-head in the Patriot office, as you were in the public positions you have held; but while you are editor and manager of the paper, the public will hold you, and you alone, responsible for what is published in it. It would, no doubt, be very convenient for a man of your shuffling propensities to be able to clear his sanctimonious skirts, by attributing all his false and vulgar editorials to cyphers or shareholders; but, I assure you, the dodge will not work in this case.

When you say that I am Editor of THE EXAMINER you simply state what you know is false. THE EXAMINER has an Editor who never shirks his responsibility, and under whose management the paper has secured the support and respect of men of both political parties. THE EXAMINER'S suppression from its weekly issue of the correspondence containing the comic telegram, which has been so much complained of, contrasts strongly with your conduct in sending almost every week to the country, in your weekly issue, statements which have been proved to be false. You are evidently one of those who love as well as make a lie.

Your reference to "sturdy Christianity" is rather amusing. Christianity to be "sturdy" must be built on true manly character, and it is none the worse, (at least you appear to think so), of having behind it a physical basis of vigorous manhood. The "sturdy Christianity" which you pharisaically invite the public to discern in yourself, appears to the eyes of others as a blasted, rickety, caricature of Christian life.

Your allusion to the Saviour's action in driving the money changers out of the Temple, and the license which you claim it gives Elders to meet arguments with blows, if not blaphemous, is in exceedingly bad taste. Has it never occurred to you that the man who trades in his religious professions, is engaged in the same nefarious business as those who, eighteen hundred years ago, converted the house of prayer into a "den of thieves?"

I am yours, etc., D. FERGUSON.

Ch'lotown, April 21, 1884.

BIG FIRE!

GREAT CLEARANCE SALE.

DURING the next few months, W. & A. BROWN & CO. will clear out, at greatly reduced prices, about

\$50,000 WORTH OF DRY GOODS,

the greater part of which was saved from the fire. This is a positive clearance sale, as we mean to be ready for our new premises in early fall.

We trust our customers will not fail to find us out.

Remember the Place: Harvie's Old Stand, NEARLY OPPOSITE WATSON'S DRUG STORE.

W. & A. BROWN & CO. Ch'town, April 21, 1884. —dy wkly

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY,

—IN THE— METHODIST BRICK CHURCH, —ON—

Monday Evening, 21st instant, at 7 30 o'clock.

Rev. Ralph Brecken, A. M., in the Chair.

MISSIONARY REPORTS AND ADDRESSES BY YOUNG MEN.

Sunday School Reports and Presentation of Missionary Contributions from the different Classes of the School.

Singing by the Scholars, who will occupy the Choir and Galleries.

A GRAND MEETING EXPECTED. THE PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

L. W. GOFF, Sec'y of Com. Ch'town, April 19, 1884.

GREAT SALE OF

New Cottons.

We have just opened a large Stock of

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PRINTS, NEW SPRING STYLES, Received Before the Advance in Duty.

We have an immense stock of

GREY AND WHITE COTTONS,

Purchased when the Cotton market was at the lowest point of depression.

Fleecy Cottons, Sheeting Cottons, Pillow Cottons,

TABLE LINEN AND NAPKINS, Towels and Towelling,

TAPESTRY, SCOTCH AND BRUSSELS CARPETS,

And other House Furnishing Goods.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

CHOICE TEAS, VERY CHEAP!

By the Chest, Half-Chest, and Quarter-Chest. Also, in Packages of 5, 10, 15 and 20 pounds.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

Ch'town, Feb. 11, 1884.

Charlottetown Boot and Shoe Factory.

OUR MAKE OF

BOOTS AND SHOES ARE MADE OF SOLID LEATHER,

And give great satisfaction throughout the Island.

The Best merchants sell them, and when buying be sure and ask for our make.

DORSEY, GOFF & CO. Ch'town, April 12, 1884.—eod wkly

EVERY part of a gun or a sewing machine made at Brown's shop, on corner of Prince and Orange Street Ch'town, [Jan 25] wkly.