

The Daily Examiner

MARCH 9, 1886

Commutation of the Death Sentence.

The news that the sentence of death, passed upon Alexander Gillis for the murder of Callaghan, has been commuted for imprisonment for life was received here with mixed feelings. The murder was undoubtedly one of the most atrocious in the annals of crime, and it ever a man deserved hanging the murderer in this case did. Human nature calls for blood in reparation of the horrible deed; the death penalty is sanctioned by the laws of God and man; all men shrink from death, and death by hanging is a death so utterly disgraceful and awful, that the fear of it is supposed to have a deterrent influence over criminal minds. From all these motives it seems right and desirable that the murderer of the poor, unfortunate, defenceless old man Callaghan should suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

Yet, on the other hand, most persons experience a feeling of relief that Gillis is not to be hanged. If they could but feel perfectly assured that he would never escape again to menace the lives of his fellows, this feeling would be strong. The community shrinks from having the blood of even such a Gillis on its hands; and would be well pleased to see the murderer of Callaghan punished fully and directly by "him to whom vengeance becometh." Then, if it should, after all be proved that Gillis is innocent of the crime? Chains of circumstantial evidence just as strong as that by which Gillis is bound have environed other men, and even after the hanging, something has occurred to prove beyond a doubt that they were "not guilty." What if it be so in the case of Gillis?

We feel assured that it is this consideration alone which has moved the Governor-General to exert his prerogative of mercy on Gillis' behalf. The execution of Biel and other criminals in opposition to the strongest influences which could possibly be brought to bear upon him, shows that His Excellency is not afraid to let the law take its course in cases of murder in which it is perfectly certain that the right man is in the grasp of the law. But in this case—depending, as it does, solely upon circumstantial evidence—he has, no doubt, deemed it wise and right to follow the rule, set by Her Most Gracious Majesty, not to permit the death penalty to be inflicted.

Two persons at least will be glad at heart that he has done so. The prisoner will rejoice that he is permitted still to live; for life is sweet even to those most miserable. It is reported that he has been brought to a repentant state of mind; and it is to be hoped that, if guilty of the murder of Callaghan, he will make public his confession, so that every trace of suspicion may be removed from others whose names have been mentioned in connection with the crime.

The other person who feels glad about the commutation is our respected High Sheriff. He has been relieved from a terrible duty—and we heartily congratulate him.

Prince Edward Island as a Field for Immigration.

Mr. A. B. WARBURTON has written to the Scotsman, of Edinburgh, a letter setting forth the advantages of Prince Edward Island as a field for immigration. Mr. Warburton points out that,—

"Intending emigrants usually have their attention drawn to new regions, such as the Northwest Territory of Canada, or the Western States of the American Union, while the older settled localities are in great measure overlooked. The reason is not far to seek. Governments, railway companies, and land corporations, owning vast tracts of fertile prairie, destitute of inhabitants, and unproductive till settled, are naturally anxious to promote their lands with the most promising consideration whether or not those new places are adapted to the wants and modes of life of emigrants from a very old and thickly populated country. The farmer from an old English or Scotch farm, which has been under cultivation for generations, who settles in one of these new lands, singly enters upon an entirely new condition of life, and one for which his previous experience has not trained him. He is away from neighbors, he has not his churches or schools, and he is not within reach of the thousand and one conveniences to which he has all his life been accustomed. The case is altogether different when he comes to an old settled colony such as Prince Edward Island. The change is not so violent. Compared with the country he has left, this is a new, compared with the new regions of the West and Northwest, it is old. Here he has neighbors on every side; within easy reach of his door he finds a school for his children, in which a free education is provided; every settlement has its church; and what the emigrant requires on his farm he can procure without difficulty. Compared with other regions the population is dense. Prince Edward Island contains 119,000 inhabitants within its area of 2,144 square miles, or about 55 to the square mile. This density is the British farmer who comes here is no doubt great, but it is nothing to what it would be a prairie farm, and it is one for which his previous training has well fitted him."

Mr. Warburton proceeds to show that the Island has other advantages—particularly in nearness to markets and coal; and, altogether, gives reasons for preferring the Island which should apply with force to the minds of Scotch farmers.

We congratulate Mr. Warburton on his "new departure"—so much better than running down one's country for the sake of cracking up the Unparliamentary Party—and trust that it is but a prelude to his renunciation of the Grits, and his adhesion to the great party which is opening up highways for the people and striving to build up the country.

Trade of the Country.

It appears that the exports of Canada, in the past fiscal year amounted to \$89,238,261, and the imports to \$108,941,466,—making a grand total of \$198,179,847.

Of the imports, \$102,710,019 worth

were entered for consumption; and the duty collected amounted to \$19,135,558.90.

The percentage of duty on the total value of the goods imported, dutiable and free, was 17.55; the percentage of duty on the total value of the goods entered for consumption, dutiable and free, was 18.61; and the amount of customs duties per head of the population was \$4.29.

"The Canadian Government propose to frighten the United States Government into appointing a fishery commission, by threatening to drive away the American fleet who endeavour to fish on their shores."

"We venture the assertion that Capt. Scott, of the Royal Navy, or any other captain, will not have it all their own way in this driving off business."

"The so-called three-mile limit will be defined, and our fishermen will abide by it. The old game of harassment will not be submitted to, and we want our Canadian brethren not to forget it. The American fishermen are going to have their rights all along the coast, and if unjustly interfered with, somebody's going to get hurt."

This is loud talk. It is from the Cape Ann Advertiser.

Our cousins are evidently nettled at the bare idea of not being allowed to fish where they please—all for nothing.

If the United States fishermen abide by the Three-mile Limit, they will act prudently.

City Council.

The regular meeting of the City Council was held last evening. The Mayor, Recorder and all the Councillors were present.

After the minutes had been read and a number of small bills passed,—

A letter was read from the President of the Benevolent Irish Society, asking that St. Patrick's Day be proclaimed a public holiday. On motion, the request was granted.

The resolution of Councillor McRae, concerning certain irregularities in the leasing of Queen's Wharf, was then discussed.

The Recorder explained that as he drew up the lease in question, and from which the clause relating to wharfage was omitted, he, and not the Mayor, should be held responsible. He said he assumed all responsibility in the matter, and would see that the City did not lose any money by the omission of the clause referred to. If the rent of the wharf could not be collected from the lessee, he would pay it out of his own pocket.

The explanation of the Recorder was considered satisfactory, and Councillor McRae's resolution was, on motion, withdrawn.

Rev. J. M. McLeod, on behalf of a deputation from the Dominion Alliance, submitted a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the Alliance, requesting that the police be instructed to search out and bring to justice all persons guilty of an infraction of the Scott Act. He supplemented the resolution with an eloquent speech in favor of the Act, and the necessity of its being strictly enforced by the officers of the law. He said there were upwards of one hundred places in the city where liquor was sold openly in defiance of the existing law. He thought this a deplorable state of affairs, and one which should not be allowed to continue any longer. He also read a memorial—on the same subject as the resolution—prepared by the late Rev. G. W. Hodgson, and which, owing to that gentleman's death, was not before submitted to the Council.

A discussion ensued on the subject, in the course of which it was shown that the Council had no control over the policeman other than appointing them to their positions and paying them their salaries. The police were in the charge of the Stipendiary Magistrate, and by him they were controlled.

The Recorder said that each month he instructs the police to look after Scott Act offenders the same as other violators of the law, and he could not see the necessity for requesting him to do what he had already done.

On motion of Councillor Crabbe, the prayer of the petition was granted.

Councillor Crabbe gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would introduce a by-law for the taxing of Commercial Travellers.

Councillor Morris gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move for a reconsideration of Councillor Crabbe's resolution concerning the Temperance Alliance.

Councillor Douce moved that the issuing of poll tax executions be postponed till the 1st of May, owing to the lack of work and money.

Councillor Hazard explained that the subject matter of Councillor Douce's resolution had been considered by the Finance Committee some days ago, and it was decided then that those who were at present unable to pay their tax should be allowed an extension of time.

On motion, Councillor Douce's motion was withdrawn.

Councillor Crabbe moved that the Royal Electric Light Co. be notified that they are required to sign the contract as awarded them for lighting the city forthwith, and that the Council repudiate all liability and responsibility by reason of said lighting. Carried.

The Recorder submitted his written opinion concerning the qualifications of certain Councillors charged with supplying goods to the city during the recent epidemic. The opinion was read and ordered to be placed on file in the Council Chamber.

After some further discussion on unimportant matters, the Council adjourned at 11.10 to meet again on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court met this morning—the Chief Justice and Mr. Hensley presiding. Mr. Hodgson mentioned to the court that the Sheriff had received a telegram from the Secretary of State stating that the death sentence passed on Gillis had been commuted to imprisonment for life. The court directed that the day of execution be postponed for ten days in order to allow time for the necessary papers to arrive from Ottawa.

In the Scott Act case tried at Georgetown, Mr. Hensley delivered judgment as follows:

Martin, appellant, against Mooney, respondent—Appeal allowed without costs.

McKinnon, appellant, against Clay, respondent—Appeal dismissed and conviction affirmed with costs.

Mr. Henry Wright, of Summerside,

made an application on behalf of Mrs. Noonan, to quash a conviction made by the Stipendiary Magistrate of Summerside, for a breach of the Scott Act. Mr. Hodgson opposed the application. The court refused Mr. Wright's motion with costs.

In the case of Pearson vs Sherron, tried last January, Mr. Hodgson, for the defendant, obtained a rule nisi for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict was against the weight of evidence, and that there was evidence that the defendant had a title to the land by possession, which should have been considered by the jury.

Unearthing a Mystery.

A FATHER AND SON UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER.

The Bridgetown, N. S., correspondent of the Halifax Herald says a murder trial is in progress there that is creating considerable excitement. On the 29th November last, a boy named Wallace Carter, aged about 12 years, disappeared from Phinney Mountain under suspicious circumstances. This place is situated a few miles north-west of Bridgetown, and has a somewhat unsavory reputation. The boy Carter was sent by his employer, Smith Lorimer, to a neighbor named Ebenezer Jones (colored), who lives a mile distant, for a spade, and left for home in the afternoon, since which time he has not been seen. Jones has a boy named William, 14 or 15 years of age, between whom and the Carter boy bad blood existed. The Jones boy was at Bridgetown that afternoon and it is surmised that he met the Carter boy on the road, a lonely sled road through the bush pasture, between Jones' and Lorimer's, and that a quarrel took place with perhaps fatal results. Some time after the disappearance of the boy, the local government offered a reward for the apprehension of the murderer. Charles R. Harvey, a young man, formerly a resident of that locality, but lately in the employ of Wm. P. Cameron, of Maitland, Hants, in the capacity of cook, constituted himself an amateur detective, and has been working up the case, with a fair prospect of running the criminal to earth. His theory is that the boy was fatally injured by a large stone, thrown by the Jones boy; that after dark he, assisted by his father Ebenezer, took him to the cabin, where he remained for a day or two, till he died, or was finished by them and quietly disposed of, probably by sinking in the Bay of Fundy, the shore of which is only a few rods distant. The trial commenced on the 4th, J. G. H. Parker, counsel for informant; Irwin, for defendant. Three witnesses were examined, one of whom, Mrs. Carter, an honest old English woman, who has seen better days, testified that she was in Jones' house two days after the disappearance of the boy; that she heard moaning and groans, with faint cries for water, proceeding from an adjoining room; that Jones' dog seemed excited and wanted to get in the room. John Allen testified that he saw indications of a struggle on the old sled road, and marks of a boy's bare foot (the Carter boy was barefooted); found also a stone weighing two lbs. on the same spot—Jno. Ed. Phinney, 70 years old, a graduate of the county poor house and valuable member of the interesting family of Phinneys, resident near that locality, who lives with Jones and his family, gave very contradictory evidence, apparently in the interest of Jones.

Fourteen Fishermen Drowned.

The hopes which have been entertained of Virginia Dare that she might yet return to port, have been abandoned, and the sad truth is forced upon the mind that she has sailed her last voyage. She left port Dec. 15th on a halibut trip to the Grand Bank, and has therefore been absent eleven weeks yesterday. She had on board fourteen men, all natives of the British Provinces, but who were residents here and have followed fishing from that port several years as follows: Fabian Nolan, master, leaves a widow and three children; Elijah Nolan, brother of master, native of Chesapeake, P. E. I.; Daniel McDonald, Daniel McKinnon, both of Prince Edward Island; Angus McKinnon, Daniel McMaster, Queensfield, C. B.; Laverette Tinker, Campbellville; Michael McLennan, P. E. I.; Wm. Roper, Sydney; Stephen Steward, Lunenburg; Joseph McDonald, Chesapeake, P. E. I.; Frederick O. Spinney, cook, Argyle—all single; James Murphy, Guysborough, leaves a widow and one child; James Murphy leaves a widow, native of Straits of Canine. She was a first class vessel, and her crew was one of the best that ever went on board a fishing schooner. She was built at Essex in 1832; 80 tons, owned by Messrs. P. O. Gardiner & Co. Insured in the Gloucester Mutual Fishing Insurance office for \$6,120 and \$1,700 on outfits.—Advertiser.

Home Rule.

The Tribune's London special says: A square on right home rule bill before the House of Commons within a month, and dissolution of Parliament not later than July—this is the forecast which one of the very best supporters of the ministry made to me last evening. Fear of death forces Mr. Gladstone's hand. There is absolute necessity for the next campaign being fought under his banner. None realize a more than he that when he retires the liberal party, as it now exists, will go to pieces. Hence, although he has always been committed against allowing the action of the Lords to dictate dissolution, he is now reluctantly compelled to assent to make that the basis of an early move.

Rioters Sentenced.

Eight men who had been convicted of talking a prominent part in the Trafalgar Square and Hyde Park riots, have been sentenced at the Middlesex session. All were condemned to penal servitude, for terms ranging from one to five years. The judge justified his sentence by denouncing "so-called popular demonstrations of working men."

No means has been taken by the manufacturers to push the sale of their "Myrtle Navy" tobacco, except giving from time to time a simple statement of the facts connected with it in the public press. The large and rapidly increasing demands for it has been the result of the experience of smokers, which these statements suggested. Their advice to business men is to advertise largely if they have the right article to keep up the advertisement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Commutation.

Sir,—The commuting of the death sentence passed upon Alexander Gillis to imprisonment for life, must have been a surprise to the greater number of the readers of yesterday's EXAMINER. And now the question is asked, why was it done? If at all permissible, it is to be hoped that those who are responsible for the act of the Governor-General will enlighten the public upon the matter. It cannot be that Gillis is considered innocent; if so, he should have been pardoned, and not imprisoned for life. The fact of the sentence being commuted, shows that. If there was any doubt about his guilt or innocence, a reprieve, until the matter could have been cleared beyond a doubt, would have been preferable. If a cold-blooded, cruel, merciless crime, such as was proved to have been committed by Gillis, can be perpetrated, and after conviction the sentence of the law be commuted to imprisonment for life, the sooner the death penalty is removed from the Statute Book the better.

There is something repulsive to every one in the thought of depriving a fellow-mortal of his life; but the higher sense of justice which seems implanted in all, for the protection of life and liberty, becomes infinitely more shocked at an evasion of the law than in its being carried out, even in its most sanguinary form.

It is to be hoped that in the interests of the public some explanation may be given, where one is so decidedly needed.

Urron.

A Word of Praise.

Sir,—Our City Council on the temperance question last night, gave indications of the dawn of a brighter day for temperance, and consequently the general morality of this city. Six of the councillors struck the key note of success. For the past five years our good temperance law has been trifled with. As citizens, moral men and christians, we may congratulate ourselves on having in the Council such men as Messrs. Haszard, A. McLean, T. McLean, S. McRae, Crabbe and Horna. These gentlemen have taken the first step towards the investigation as to where the lassitude has been, with the Council, or the Stipendiary. These gentlemen looked like champions standing in opposition to the other four councillors, who ought also to be found on the side of morality and right. If this vote, taken last night, be a genuine expression of sentiment in reference, which we doubt not, then the citizens would, at the first opportunity, have the whole Council composed of such men as the six.

LOOKER ON.

Nickerson & Co's Failure.

Referring to the recent failure of Messrs. Nickerson & Co., the Boston Herald says:

"Primarily the failure may be said to be due to the loss of the steamer City of Columbus, the consequent suits at law, and the general depression of business. The firm has dealt in hemp, sugar and other staple articles in commission, and also directly. The settlement will doubtless require a long time, but the members of the firm hope that, with careful nursing, the assets will yield a very good dividend to the creditors. The assignment made to Mr. J. B. Russell, who has been for fifteen years their confidential clerk, not only includes all the firm's property, but the property of individual members as well. The firm commenced business in 1847, consisting at the time of Frederick and Jonas S. Nickerson. Since then there have been various changes in the make-up of the concern; but till the death of Frederick Nickerson, in 1873, he was always regarded as the senior partner. At the time of Mr. Nickerson's death the firm style was Frederick Nickerson & Co., and the successors continued the business under the same style, till January, 1881, when the present style was assumed, Frederick W. and A. A. Nickerson are the sons of Frederick Nickerson above mentioned. Mr. Crosby has been with the firm, either as clerk or partner, since it commenced business in 1847. Frederick Nickerson, at his death, left a fortune of about \$300,000, which his widow, two daughters and the two sons inherited. Mr. Crosby is a single man, and must have accumulated some property of his own, but still the Messrs. Nickerson have been looked upon as the capitalists of the firm. The firm has some bonds and considerable vessel property, and it will require good management to prevent the assets from shrinking largely from their nominal value upon conversion into money. It is said that, at the time of the disaster to the City of Columbus, the steamer was only partly paid for, and that most, if not all, of the insurance money (which was only a few thousand dollars) was used to pay what was still owed on her."

ENTERTAINMENT

ST. JAMES' HALL.

TUESDAY, 9th MARCH.

PROGRAMME
Opening Piece.....Choir
Reading.....Miss Ellen Lawson
Duet.....Messrs. Lord and Mackinnon
Recitation.....Mr. Thomas McLean

INTERMISSION.
Song.....Mrs. Roome
Reading.....Miss F. Lawson
Song.....Mr. Maynard
Reading.....Mr. Carruthers
Closing Piece.....Choir

Admission, 10 Cents; Entertainment commencing at 8 o'clock.
March 6, 1886.

SEED WHEAT

BEST WHITE RUSSIAN,
FOR SALE CHEAP.

JOHN NEWSON.

Ch'town, March 4, 1886.—5wks dy wky

The Charlottetown Water Works Co.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Stock Book in the above Company has this day been opened, and that such Stock Book is now in the office of R. R. Fitzgerald, Solicitor, in the Cameron Block, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where any person or body politic or corporate can subscribe for shares in the above Company, under the Act or Charter incorporating the same.

Dated this 24th day of February, A. D., 1886.

ALEXANDER MCKINNON,
R. R. FITZGERALD,

for Incorporators.
Feb. 24—dy 25

JAS. PATON & CO, MARKET SQUARE,

OFFER special inducements to purchasers of House Furnishing Goods, during the month of March. Those in need of Carpets and Oilcloths should give us a call. Our stock is pronounced the largest and cheapest in the city, and entirely new. 100 rolls Carp't, in Brussels, Tapestry, Scotch and Hemp. 75 " Oilcloth, from one foot to twelve feet wide.

A special lot of Bleached Sheetings and Pillow Cottons, slightly damaged, will clear off at a bargain. Ask to see them.

Grand value in White and Grey Cottons, Shirts, Print Cottons, Cretonnes Table Linens, Towels and Bed Tickings. 1,200 pairs Corsets, cheap.

Gilray's Patent Lace Curtain Stretcher. Ladies should see them.

JAS. PATON & CO.,

SUCCESSORS TO

W. A. WEEKS & CO.,

March 5, 1886.

CHEAP CASH SALE.

CARPETS, COTTONS, &c.

J. B. MACDONALD

WILL clear out his stock of Carpets at Tremendous Reductions:

Brussels Carpets.
Price \$1.00, reduced to \$1.15.
Price \$1.50, reduced to \$1.05.
Price \$1.25, reduced to 85cts.

Scotch Carpets.
Price \$1.25, reduced to 85cts.
Price \$1.10, reduced to 75cts.
Price 90cts, reduced to 65cts.

Tapestry Carpets.
Price 90cts, reduced to 65cts.
Price 65cts, reduced to 45cts.
Price 55cts, reduced to 35cts.

Hemp Carpets,
10, 12, and 14 Cents.
Floor Oilcloths, Lace Curtains, &c., at Liberal Discounts.

COTTONS! COTTONS!

30,000 yards Grey Cotton at cost; 20,000 yards White Cotton at cost; 20,000 yards Print Cotton at cost.
If you require Carpets, now is the time to buy. A great part of this stock of Carpet was imported last year.

J. B. MACDONALD,

QUEEN STREET.

Ch'town, March 1, 1886.

OUR SECOND

ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

—OF—

BOOTS AND SHOES

WILL COMMENCE

Monday, March 1st, 1886.

Discount 15 to 25 per cent. Look out for Circular giving full particulars.

J. C. SPRAGUE & CO.

Ch'town—2aw 3wks & wky

CASH SALE! CHEAP SALE!

DIG SALE OF DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING, HATS, &c.,
B at L. E. PROWSE'S. Now is the time to buy! Big discounts on Dress Goods, Cashmere, Merino, Flannels, Feathers, Laces, Embroidery, Gloves, &c.

HATS, HATS,

Largest Stock in the City; Lowest Figures in the Dominion. Come and see the Cheap Goods.

L. E. PROWSE,

Sign of the BIG HAT, 74 Queen Street.

Ch'town, Feb. 16, '86—eod wky

JOHN MACLEOD & CO.,

MERCHANT TAILOR.

WE are offering the balance of our winter goods at lower prices than have ever been offered the public.

A lot of Men's and Youth's Overcoats from \$5 to \$8, worth from \$8 to \$14

Overcoats made to order, from \$12 to \$18, worth from \$18, to \$24.

Men's Heavy Shirts, Underwear, Fur Caps, Gloves, &c at the same rates.

Worsted and Tweed Suits at very low prices.

Island Tweed Suits from \$10 to \$12.

JOHN MACLEOD & CO.

Ch'town, Feb. 9, 1886—tf eod wky