

LOCAL MATTERS.

Personal.
The Surveyor General will be home in two or three days.

Prospective.
Mr. Joseph Jimmo of Escuminac is getting out stuff for the frame of a large coasting schooner, which he will build next winter.

To the Little Ones.
Let the little ones put out their stockings tonight; because while they are asleep Santa Claus will go round distributing his Christmas gifts.

Bear Killed.
Mr. Connell of Bartibogue, killed a huge bear a few days ago. He brought the hide up to Chatham on Wednesday and sold it to Mr. Jas Clowery.

A Huge Drove of Caribou.
Mr Phillip's Light House Keeper at Escuminac Point, saw a few days ago a drove of caribou on Escuminac Plain, in which he counted 57 head.

Sure Enough.
The Toronto "Mail" remarks that "Halifax is not Nova Scotia." This is cruel. There are a good many people bold enough to say that Halifax is not the Dominion; but it is drawing the geographical line too fine to say that "Halifax is not Nova Scotia."—*Moncton Times*

New Publications.
Hubbard's great Newspaper Directory will be out in 1881. It will be the greatest book of the kind ever published: it will contain the name of every newspaper in the world, and the population of the town where published. It will be a gem in the hands of all great business houses. When one looks at the magnitude of the undertaking he must applaud the enterprise of the publisher and wish success as we most heartily do.

A Word to say to the Postmaster General.
In a day or two—when we get time—we shall enquire why the Chatham Branch train which is or ought to be bound to convey Her Majesty's Mails without delay from the I. C. R. station to Chatham, waits over for freight after the arrival of the train, sometimes for two hours. We could get the mails quicker to Chatham by having an Indian employed to carry them than by depending on the Chatham Branch.

Accident.
Two weeks ago on Monday last, Mr Donald McLeod of Bay du Vin broke his thigh. He felt great pain but did not suspect the limb was broken, till two or three days ago a clergyman called into his house, and looking at the leg, informed him it was broken. The suffering man was brought to Napan where Dr. McCurdy visited him, finding that inflammation had set in. It is improbable that the bone will ever knit again.

Wedding Bells.
The wedding bells of the Fredericton Cathedral will soon peal their joyous notes to celebrate the union of one of our young Canadian poets with the daughter of one of Fredericton's leading citizens. The young gentleman belongs *pro tempore* to Chatham, and went to Fredericton a few days ago to prepare for the happy event—which is to be consummated on Tuesday morning. Among the many others who will be present will be Mr Mackenzie our popular young druggist. He leaves here on Saturday.

Pressed Hay.
A good deal of fault is beginning to be found by purchasers with the vendors of pressed hay. The latter bring their bundles into market lumbered up and made weigh very much more than the legitimate weight by huge withes. Besides this bundles outwardly fair and good on being opened often prove to contain in the centre rotten, damp or worthless stuff. For the brief hour of selling this may pay the vendor well, but depend upon it honesty pays best in the long run. If pressed hay dealers in the future do not show more honesty and manliness it would be well to subject their article to the inspection system.

Lumbering Notes.
Messrs. McGraw and Sergeant are lumbering on the Escuminac River. They have 8 teams and 12 men and will get out 1,000,000 feet for Williston & Co.

Mr Dapin Lewis & Co. who lumber on the Tabusintac, will get out 1,000,000 feet for Stewart.

Messrs. Tebo and Portugeaux have commenced lumbering on Portage River, a branch of the Lower Bay du Vin, and will get out about 1,000,000. This lumber will be sold to parties in Chatham. Down river men seem to have better facilities for getting out lumber than those up river. This is chiefly owing to the short distance they have to carry provisions, etc.

Bad Ice.
For many years the ice has not been so bad on the lower part of the river as at present. This is due to the fact that there has been little freshet this winter, and it is well known that ice made of very salt water, falls asunder on very slight heat. Had the lower river water been fresh this winter, owing to the heavy frosts the ice would now be very good, but in consequence of the reverse the case is quite different. Last week there came two or three mild days which made the ice about Black River unsafe for teams; and but that the people living there gave timely warning to strangers there might have been fatal consequences. The ice is very poor there now.

STAR BRIEFS.

Gangs of men have come out of the woods, to spend the Christmas holidays with their families.

On Monday night a gang of wreckers pulled down a new fence belonging to Mr. Geo. Traer.

A son of Mr. Lawrence Rainsburrow of St. Margarets Parish, died on the 22nd of diphtheria. The boy was aged two years.

The blue looks and sad hearts of our small fishermen ought to induce them to retain their fish till there are better prices.

The Grand Southern is at last *un fait accompli*. The best thing Murray Kay's employers could do now would be to call that person home, and put him in some straitened position where he could do no harm.

A Newcastle Man Hangs Himself.
In March last, Martin Foley of Newcastle was admitted into the Lunatic Asylum, St. John. Some time ago, having shown decided improvement he was let out and obtained work in a quarry. A few days ago he was missed but no one took any heed of it. On Wednesday a small boy named George Taylor, roaming through the woods near Fairville was horrified to see a dead man hanging from the limb of a tree. He ran home and told his story; and the men who came out ascertained it was Martin Foley. He leaves a wife and seven children.

Foxes.
Foxes are at present plentiful at Eel River. They entered the barn of Mr. Robert McIntyre lately and took 12 hens, 6 ducks and 4 geese.

[NOTE.—The Editor is strongly of the opinion that the person who gave the above item to our Reporter is himself the fox or fowl.—Ed.]

Fishing Notes.
Some of the men who went down from Chatham to Tabusintac took nearly a ton each on Wednesday night.

Newcastle News

BWARE OF LIMPOODLES.

AN INTERESTING PAPER.

Sir,—In my last paper on this subject I touched on the nocturnal habits of these queer animals. For the benefit of the people of this town, Newcastle, I shall enter on a minute description of the Limpoodle, as observed and studied by me in one of their most favored haunts—Stewart's corner.

I have already remarked the mysterious revolution night works in the nature of this queer animal. In addition to these changes, the creatures assume more or less of the peculiarities of the ordinary quadruped, or rather the monkey, and that in a strange manner. The legs grow weak; so that great difficulty is experienced by the animal in maintaining an erect position; the powers of balance are lost; and many of them are observed to abandon the upright position and assume that of quadruped, moving about on all fours. In this position the noise made appears very much allied to that of a brute, especially the coarser Quadrumina. One can easily picture the smile of delight flitting across the face of a disciple of Darwin, as he contemplates these animal affinities. The mysterious influence that culminates in this animal posture, is slow working. A mere staggering is at first perceptible, coupled with the change of the voice, before alluded to; but the creature seems conscious of the danger of exposing its true radical; and it is not only amusing, but instructive, to witness the serio-comic efforts it makes in preserving its balance in the presence of a human being. During the first hours of the evening, these efforts are moderately successful; although a sharp observer can even then, easily detect the beginning of that wonderful transformation which reaches its culmination about midnight; when the Limpoodle is nothing but a hideous, repulsive quadruped. Many animals have the activity of their organs and instinct affected by darkness—the eyes of cats and owls and the fierce spirit of the lion are examples; and in a similar manner, the Limpoodle, even whilst perceiving its human verticality in the first of the night, and being mistaken for a human being has a dreamy fixity of stare, combining with a snapping double-action wink, resembling the owl or cat's, but performed with greater rapidity. As if energizing under some internal stimulus, the eyes protrude farther, and often glare more wildly than the corresponding organs in man. As night advances and the brutal characteristics of the Limpoodle manifest themselves more and more, the eyes become less and less human in appearance; the gaze grows weaker and more dreamy; the wink has left its quick double action snap, and is performed to deathmarch time; and the powers of vision are no longer of any service to the animal. Nature, however has well adjusted this relation, for the Limpoodle is then in such a state of torpor that the eye is of no use to it.

As I have already observed, the tendency to animalize themselves begins early in the night. Slowly the contest of the human like movements and actions is lost; the legs that have been unjustly imposed on during the day, and obliged to sustain the whole weight of the Limpoodle, which should have been borne on four members had the intentions of Providence been acquiesced in, refuse to do duty. The knees show the first sign of the wishes of nature to take down this upright imposition on human shape, and place it in its proper and normal position on all fours. As

the unseen growing spirit of weakness and insubordination manifests itself in the legs, the arms are soon inspired with a knowledge of impending changes; and, as if conscious that their services will soon be required, they commence to anticipate the result. It is indeed wonderful to observe the action of the arms on this occasion. They sway from side to side, reaching after and laying hold of every support; first those on a level with the shoulder, then abandoning these and clutching, with death like grip, lower ones; and so on until the body is brought down to a horizontal position, and this swaying upright monster of blended human and animal characteristics finds itself on its proper level.

Before this stage in the dehumanizing process is reached, many points are brought out in the Limpoodle's nature linking it partly with the monkey, partly with some of the most snarlingly ferocious of the lower animals. Every one has observed a monkey or a bear imitating, under the directions of his keeper, the locomotive exploits of man. It is very difficult for these creatures to maintain the vertical position long, without some kind of support; and canes, poles, and leaning aids are employed, with which these creatures often amuse and astonish us with their antics, and the strange thoughts of possible affinities such antics suggest. Limpoodles before reaching their proper animal level, pass through a stage at which they strongly resemble the monkey and bear; not only in their movements, but also in their conduct. And this is particularly noticeable about the time, and directly after, the legs refuse to do human duty. The leaning tendency of the Limpoodle is now very marked. I have on several occasions seen eight or ten in the Quadruminal state of body, clinging to the fence at Stewart's corner, or holding on to the pickets or palings for support; an effort which involved considerable exertion, for many of them soon sank down on all fours. But this is not the only proof of monkey affinities they exhibit, at these times. They indulge in feats of grinning and grimaces of every conceivable form, often equalled but never surpassed by leopards and baboons. As in the case of the latter, so with Limpoodles, this noisy dental chattering, broad mouthed leering and indescribable jumble of jargon, hiccoughing, snarls and growls, are most marked when large numbers of these creatures are together; but, as they are gregarious by night, like many other monkey races, these exhibitions are of frequent occurrence. They also at this step in the process of animalization, evince a pugnacious spirit, resembling the quarrelsome tendencies of cats and monkeys when together in troops. The broad grins and leerings directed at one and another, are, I am inclined to believe so many challenges to combat, and their unintelligible mutterings may signify the same; but, let this be as it may, they often fly at one another like so many angry cats. These feline encounters are seldom productive of any serious results; for unable to stand without their supports, they have no sooner locked than they roll helplessly on the ground. The whole troop gather round whining and growling, but as few of them are able to keep the position of bipeds, they soon get inextricably mixed up in a rolling heap of Limpoodle confusion. Many are often pulled out by the hinder members, like dogs. Indeed they show no knowledge at all of the manly art. Like ordinary animals they only scratch and bite, for I have frequently seen Limpoodles at Stewart's corner with their noses barked and eyes scratched and bunged, like so many unfortunate tom cats that came off second best at some nocturnal wool-pulling.

Dec. 23rd 1880.

Ottawa News

Sir,—Most of the members are leaving for their new holidays and the House adjourns today.

REMOVING TAXATION.

I think I finished my last letter with the concluding portion of Hon. H. L. Langevin's speech. After this, various matters were taken up; several notices of motion made, and replies given to formal enquiries. For example in reply to Farrien, and the amazement and disappointment of the Opposition, Sir Leonard Tilley said it was not the intention of the Government to propose this session any protection against large quantities of foreign salt brought into Canada yearly. You know the great cry of the Reformers is the pressure the tariff has put on the poor man. Yet under this very tariff the poor man gets his tea and his sugar for less than he did under the Mackenzie regime, and now his salt in a measure is to come free. I may say to you Sir Leonard Tilley aims to remove almost all the duty off articles not produced in the country—and to lighten the tax on that consumed by the poor man. At the end of the fiscal year he will have a surplus of about *Five millions*, and he will next year in making his estimate be able to revise his tariff.

THE WINTER PORT.

I need not tell you there was a lively discussion in the House on making Halifax the winter port of Canada. The Halifax members stood up like men for the claims of Halifax; but I need not say to you that Mr. D. M. and Sir Leonard Tilley and others fought just as hard for St. John. Their cause being poorer, that is their claims being less, the plea put in by Sir Chas. Tupper, Mr. Daley and others will carry. It was amusing to hear Mr. Anglin stand up and put in a plea too for St. John, and state wilfully that the trade of the port was in a wretched condition, but it was also interesting to hear the rebuke Sir

Leonard administered him "Why said Sir Leonard," can we believe our ears, that the Hon. gentleman has gone back on Gloucester! Many a time and oft in the past have we heard Gloucester claims to the winter port set up—why has the hon. gentleman changed his policy; what has Gloucester done to him? But Sir Leonard probably did not know as others knew that Mr. Anglin is seeking a constituency in St. John now, and in that case pitches Gloucester overboard. He thinks his time is coming in St. John, and to this end his claim for that harbor to be made the winter port was put in. However Gloucester deserved a little better than that at his hands I should fancy. Sir Leonard then went on to favor the claims of St. John, and said when the returns were brought down Mr. Anglin would see precisely the condition of the port trade of St. John.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

I may say to you there was no little anxiety over the adjournment. Mr Blake pressed for the adjournment from Thursday till the 4th prox—10 whole days.

Sir John—I have yielded to the gentle pressure. (Cheers.)

Mr Flynn, C. B.—I have a long way to go to my home, and the time's not sufficient.

Sir John—I pity the hon. gentlemen, but his case is no worse than mine. My constituents are in British Columbia, and you know I can never get there and back in ten days. (Great laughter.)

Mr Anglin—The time is too short. I will find it so, at least to get home.

Sir John—There now! this is what comes of yielding. Had I stuck to my original intention, this would have all been avoided. I can yield no further.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY DEBATE.

Mr McLellan resumed the debate. He said the House should deal with this question as patriots, not as partisans. The building of this great road should not be considered like building a sewer—and there was no use in fixing fanciful prices on lands. The prevailing price in the States was \$1.25 an acre. In a state of nature the lands were no good; it is only in their development there was value. We could not value the lands as we could our food or raiment—we might as well put price upon the light of heaven. It were as wise to value our lands at \$40 an acre as at \$1. The prospect of the development of these lands were a good compensation of the lands themselves. The epithets of disappointment that were showered during the debate, should not be regarded as the expressions of sincere men. Sir Richard Cartwright had earned another name besides the King of Defects, and that was "The Sayer of Bitter Things." Every member of the Opposition was committed to the scheme of building this road by a syndicate, and he fully expected the Hon. member for Lambton to support the Government. He discussed at length Mr. Mackenzie's policy of 1874 of building the road by a subsidy of \$10,000 a mile and 55,000,000 acres of land, a total of \$210,000,000. But that was not all, for he practically extended an invitation to contractors to say how much more subsidy they would take in shape of 4 per cent interest. (Hear! hear!) Referring to the cost of the scheme to the country, almost \$1,400,000 per annum for interest, he said it was less than any of Cartwright's yearly deficits. Mr. McLellan was deservedly well cheered at the close, and is an ornament to his party.

MR. IVES.

It would do one good to hear the scathing Mr. Ives of Quebec gave the false prophets—and his clear common sense argument for the contract. After speaking of the scheme of building it by the Government he said the syndicate would operate it much more cheaply. The construction of the road would be a valuable impetus to immigration; it would induce people to settle in the North West; it would thus save the Government hundreds of thousands of dollars—now spent for immigration purposes. He went into elaborate and carefully prepared statistics showing that the presentscheme was vastly superior to that propounded by the Grits while in office. He quoted Anglin's speeches in 1871 in which he spoke of the North West as a barren wilderness, the lands of which were not worth a dollar an acre and contrasted that with his present speeches in which he now declares the land as worth four or five dollars an acre. He quoted from speeches of Anglin, Mackenzie, Smith, Mills and others, showing what an enormous sum would be required to build the road by the Government, and how that they, themselves, estimated that it would cost six millions annually to operate the road after it was constructed. He thought in view of these declarations of the Opposition leaders that the Government were making a splendid bargain in getting rid not only of the construction but of the enormous cost of forever operating the road.

20,000 of the pamphlets issued in the interest of settlement have been translated into German and sent to Germany. Mr. Blake moved for a map showing the proposed railway grants under the Canadian Pacific Railway contract on the table, so far as with the present information the same can be laid down. Carried.

Sharp child—"And so you are very poor, marm?" Aged Party—"Ah! I'd be glad of a copper from anybody." Sharp Child—"I've got a bad shilling; will you have it?" Aged Party—"A bad shilling ain't no use." Sharp Child—"Oh, ain't it? That shows you don't go to church and never put money in the plate."

ELECTRIC SPARKS.

A military school is to be established at Hampton, King's Co. N. B.

They have had Venner's snow storm in the South—but 18 inches instead of 11 feet.

Captain Scott has been sent to bring the Charybdis to St. John.

A new brick building belonging to Wright and Macnutt, P. E. I., collapsed lately, killing one man and injuring another. There was too much of a weight of oats and flour on the loft.

THE RUSSO PERSIAN WAR.—A telegram from Bami reports that a body of cavalry successfully stormed the fortified village of Karys on the 9th inst., and routed the Tekkes after obstinate resistance. A thousand sheep and cattle and a quantity of arms were captured. The Russian loss was slight. Several thousand Merv Turcomans are advancing with artillery to the aid of the Abkol Tekkes. General Skobloff suddenly pushed forward his advance guard last week, surprising a large body of Turcomans, 35 vests from their entranced position at Geok Tepe, and entirely crushed them.

The Christmas Craze

While the winter snows are dressing
All the trees in spotless white,
And the twilight and the fire-light
Round my ingle
Blend and mingle,
And the night
Creepeth on apace, there towers
On my hearth a tree whose flowers
Sure are born in elfin bowers
Far removed from mortal sight.

'Tis the King of all the cedars,
And its branches, green and fair,
With their weight of golden fruitage
Bend and glisten;
And I listen,
While the air
Seems with benisons replete,
Which my lips and heart repeat.
Borne on incense wondrous sweet—
Incense sweet beyond compare.

Myriads of dainty baubles
Nestled in its branches are;
Ranks of shining, tinted tapers,
Flashing, gleaming,
Each one seeming
Like the star
Which through all the toil and danger
Led the magi to the manger
Where was born the Royal Stranger.
From the heavenly court afar.

As the tapers, slowly burning,
Set in darkness, one by one,
And the troop of rosy children
Round my ingle
Throng and mingle:
While the fan
And the look of glad surprise
Fade from out their sated eyes:
"Tell us now," my princess cries,
"Of the Blessed Virgin's Son."

Little Princess Golden-Locks,
Thronged upon my knee again,
Waits to hear the old, old story.
New forever,
Which hath never
Ended been:
How the Eastern sages bring
Treasures to the Peasant King,
And the hosts of heaven sing
Peace on earth good-will to men

NAUTICAL ACADEMY,

MULLINS BUILDING, NO 1 NORTH WHARF
ST JOHN, N. B.

Candidates for Certificates of Competency for Masters and Mates taught by McNally's Method by

CAPTAIN P. CASSELY,

Pupil of McNally, and Daniel Dias, formerly assistant of McNally, of the late firm of

McNally & Seaton.
dec 24th

Chatham Markets

CORRECTED AND REVISED FOR THE STAR.

Flour, best brands Spring Extra..	\$ 6 10
Higher Brands.....	5 50 to 8 50
Corn Meal, per bbl.....	3 40
Oat Meal (Canada).....	6 00
do. (home made).....	5 00
Beef, Mess, per bbl.....	14 00
Prime Mess, do.....	12 00
Pork, Mess, do.....	20 00
Prime Mess, do.....	17 00
Pork Hams (covered) per lb.....	12
Home Made do.....	12
Fresh Pork.....	11
Salt Pork, per lb.....	11
Salt Beef, do.....	10
Butter (firkin), per lb.....	20
Butter (in roll), do.....	22
Eggs, per doz.....	15
Cabbage, per doz.....	60
Salmon (in case).....	20
Lobster do.....	12
Oysters do.....	12
Oysters (Harrington's best) p. bbl	2 00
From other sources.....	1 00
Mackerel (fresh) per doz.....	20
Mackerel (salt), do.....	25
Codfish (dried), per lb.....	04
Potatoes, per bbl.....	60
Carrots, per bush.....	50
Turnips.....	40
Fresh Beef, per lb.....	05
Mutton, per lb.....	06
Lamb (good), per lb.....	08
Partridge, per pair.....	20
Brant, do.....	50
Geese, do.....	100

FOUND!

An L.C.R. check on Thursday last. The owner can have same by proving it to be his, and paying for this advertisement, apply at this office.
Adv-274

Wit and Humor.

The King of Greece—Oleo-margarine.

The real ode de Cologne—The debt on the Cathedral.

It dont take a very fast horse to catch the epizootic.

A green correspondent wants to know if policemen are protectionists.

The telegraph tells us "the Kurds have fallen back," which perhaps, indicates that the they is clear.

The trees are beginning to get their trunks in order, and they'll keep them so all winter, so they can leave early in the spring.

A London bookseller who tried to imitate Dr. Tanner, lived five weeks on filtered water and then "kicked the bucket."

A cross-eyed man, who said that he was going to "vote as he shot," had his ballot carefully put among the "scattering" by the judicious inspector.

A plot that most of Erin's peasantry would gladly own is a plot of land entirely to himself. He'd have no other conspirators engaged on such a plot as that.

First gentleman (at the theatre)—"What do you think of the scenery?" Second gentleman—"I never saw a prettier Gainsborough hat in my life.

A medical writer asks:—"Does position affect sleep?" Well, rather; if you're hung up by your trousers on a spiked fence, you wont sleep very soundly.

Mistress—"Mary, this venerable goose is tough enough to break one's teeth." Maid—"Yes'm; didn't you tell me, ma'am, that you wanted it for a *piece de resistance*?"

A bon mot of Offenbach:—"Your music is too light," said some one to him. "So much the better," replied the maestro: "so much less chance for it to fall dead."

It is a mean thing for a handsome man to go to a town and give every indication of being in the market until half the girls are wild about him, and then send for his wife.

"How shall I have my new bonnet trimmed," asked Maria, so that it will agree with my complexion?" "If you want it to match your face, have it plain," replied the hateful Harriet.

Two mothers were boasting of the smartness of their babies. "Why," said one, "when my baby cries it puts the telephone to its mouth, and I can hear it away down in the parlour."

Strict discipline: Major—"How dare you smoke at parade? Throw your cigar away at once." Lieutenant—"With pleasure Major." Major—"You must throw it away without pleasure."

A gentleman saw an old Highlander one day fishing with a bent pin. He said to the man, "Fish will never be caught with that." "Ay, they will" the man replied, "If they'll only take it into their heads."

"A kiss," said young Charles "is a noun, we allow; but tell me, my dear, is it proper or common?" Lovely Mary blushed deep, and exclaimed, "Why I vow, I think that a kiss is both proper and common."

A Galveston man furnishes the following certificate of a really valuable medicine:—"Six months ago I was unable to move one of my limbs owing to rheumatism. I tried one bottle of your Life Renewer, and now my best friends are not able to keep me from running for office. I have posted the label on the seat of my pants, and will sit down on my opponent with a very heavy majority. Send me another bottle, and I will land in the United States.

Everybody has heard of the jolly Dutchman who, when the steamboat was likely to sink, succeeded, after much trouble, in finding a life-preserver large enough to fit him. While he was trying his best to blow it up, a young fellow standing by said:—"You can't fill that with wind, it leaks. Don't you hear it hiss?" "Ish dot," he replied, "Vell, I dinks don, I petter keep the vind in myself."