

LOCAL MATTERS.

Wild Geese
Have put in an appearance in considerable numbers at Escuminac. This seems spring like.

A trout catch
Mr. E. Park of Derby, caught one hundred and five excellent trout on the North west on Tuesday last.

The Ice.
Parties who have cut holes in the ice say there is no more than six inches of solid ice altogether. The rest is snow.

Personal
The Surveyor General went down to St John the first of the week. He was accompanied by J. Sadler, Esq., and Major Call of Newcastle. The two latter gentlemen have since returned.

Lobster Business
Mr Arch. Fleigher of this town, is manufacturing 50,000 lobster cans for his brother Mr Thomas Fleigher, who does a large business in lobsters at Escuminac.

Accident.
While coasting last night down Muirheads Hill, Miss Brimmer who was on a sled, was thrown violently off against a barn at the foot of the course, receiving a very severe shock.

The New Mill
The two new double edgers manufactured at the Miramichi Foundry, for Senator Muirhead's new mill, have been placed in position. The mill will be ready for work as soon as the season opens. Long may it "hum."

Business Notes
The Misses Maher, late of Halifax, have opened a Millinery and fancy store in the Butler building up town. These ladies are said to be first in their profession, and there ought to be plenty of room for them to do well in Chatham.

Lumber cut on Renous River.
Mr Daniel McLaughlin has got out about 4,000,000ft. of logs this winter on the Renous. He will have about 5,000,000ft. altogether up river this winter. The total quantity of logs cut on the Renous this winter, is estimated at about 13,000,000ft.

Patridge killed by hail
Men who have returned from the lumber woods inform a STAR reporter that after the late heavy hail storm, in open places several partridge were found dead. The only conclusion they could reach is they were killed from the effects of the hail stones.

Black River Roads
The roads to Black River and other rural districts are almost impassable. Parties from town who lumber there for scows etc., cannot get the same out. On Wednesday last six teams from Chatham started for the timber but had to return the roads were so bad.

Table with 2 columns: Crime/Category and Count. Includes: For Larceny (2), Vagrancy (2), Assault etc. (9), Resisting Police (4), Contempt of Court (1), Desertion (5), Bastardy (4), Drunkenness (30), Debt (23), Tax (3), Shouting on Street (3). Total: 27 and single 59.

How True?
There are some men, in this county, as well as everywhere else, who will "support the party" so long as the sun shines. Give them this favor and that favor and the other favor, give them carte blanche to break the fishery regulations or any other regulation, wink at them when they take smelt or salmon, or bass out of season, and they cry "God save the party!" It is the best we have ever had. Refuse them a favour though, or bring them up for a wrong doing and then Hosanna becomes "Crucify them."

St. Patrick's Day
Thursday the 17th was a beautiful day. It is not often that St. Patrick's day is favored with such excellent weather, it generally being stormy and disagreeable. In Chatham the day was observed quietly. A large number of people wore the shamrock. At the Cathedral large congregations attended the different services. His Lordship the Bishop preached after high mass, which was celebrated by the Rev Father Bannon, assisted by the Rev Father McDonald and Rev Mr Maillet as Deacon and sub-Deacon. After vespers in the evening there was Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The music was exceptionally good, and the singing excellent.

In the evening the members of the Temperance Society, with some friends, attended in the Hall where a number of musical selections, songs, addresses and recitations were given. A marked feature of the day was the quiet manner in which it was observed, not a single disorderly person being seen on the streets.

NEWFOUNDLAND NEWS.

St. John's, N. F. March 5, '81.

The residence of Father Walsh of Fermeuse, was destroyed by fire on the 22nd ult. The inmates barely escaped with their lives.

The North Star describes a fearful gale in the Straits of Bellisle. Information was received in town in the fore part of the week to the effect that a terrible storm of wind had occurred on the 22nd November last on the Newfoundland side of the Straits. At a place called Flowers-cove the sea ran at least six feet higher than was ever observed for 60 years past, and stages, boats and all property near the shore were swept away by the waves. From the wreckage everywhere observed, along the Straits, it is supposed the gale must have extended across the Straits, and done a great deal of mischief on the Labrador shore.

At Catalina a great number of sea birds have been killed lately. Several of the boats got as high as 25 brace.

The Isabella belonging to Job Bros. & Co., with all hands on board, has been lately lost in St. Mary's Bay.

Captain Howarth, R. N. and Stipendiary Magistrate, at St. Georges Bay, is dead. His wife and children were in England at the time of his death. The poor of St. Georges Bay will miss the worthy gentleman.

Mr Edwin Duder one of the foremost mercantile men in St. John's, died the 20th of last month.

The Chronicle, Mr Bennetts personal property, and the Government's political property, has stolen and published a paragraph about Prof. Bards invention or rather discovery of Gill cell nets. It is told as a great wonder by the St. John's newspapers, it has been floated through our Provincial papers, and all the time, year for 20 years back, precisely the same kind of nets, gill nets have been used at or near Cape St Mary's and a hundred other places around the Newfoundland coast. It is bad enough for the Canadian papers to be ignorant of this fact, but that the N. F. press could be ignorant of it, is hard to believe.

Ed. CHATHAM STAR.

A Correspondent from Cape St Mary's writes us:-

The weather here up to the 15th ult., has been the finest I ever remember seeing at this season: You could take a telescope and scan the landscape for a circuit of miles around, and not see as much snow as you might see in the month of June in other years. As you remember, there are gulches here that invariably

"Keep till June, December's snow." and some of them retain it till August. So fine is the weather that before you hear from me again the "murs will have come" and the "firing places" will be clear enough of snow to allow the shots of the neighborhood to wing the game. John Young is still reckoned one of the best shots, but to tell the truth, I think I can take down bird for bird with him.

The first of the winter, farmers on Cape Shore disposed of their cattle for a very small price. Those Doyle of Gooseberry Cove, one of our most worthy settlers, sold five large cows for the small sum of £12—only a fair price for two. Such sacrificing sales were due to scarcity of hay.

Rabbits are scarce through the country; so are partridge. "Gambirds" are numerous around the coasts, but it is not smooth enough to kill them.

The inhabitants around the coast have picked up no wrecked lumber this winter, owing to the prevalence of Easterly winds.

Messrs Croke and Davis killed five deer near the Mountain about ten days ago.

Father Irvine has gone to Ireland to arrange about a deceased uncle's property and also for the good of his health. Father Jas. Whelan, our esteemed priest is officiating in his absence at Placentia.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

THE "PLAIN DEALER," THE "STAR," & Co.

We like to get the N S Plain Dealer. Its columns are always full of readable matter; and readable because well written, fresh, and original. The selected matter is also good. We cannot always agree, however, with our talented contemporary. It had some time ago an article on Howes contemporaries, to which we took objection. (It continues these generally excellent articles yet.) It seems to fall into the error that it cannot do justice to the dead without belittling the living,—on the same principle that it would not be sufficient justice to Mr Jones living on one side the river, to say he was an "honest man," unless you said Mr Robinson who lived on the other side was an "infernal rogue." We grant nothing better brings out merit than comparison, but it is not wise to "bring out" these qualities at the expense of truth.

Every good story told in modern days is of something said or done in olden times. Napoleon could not be painted riding over the Alps without being put astride a white charger. The fact is if he went up the Alps at all, he went up on a mule. The exploits of Jack the giant-killer, happened also in "olden times," and it was in years before our time, that Jack's great "Bean Stalk" grew to the moon. The father says to his son, "When I was your age John, I could take care of the farm, or sail a ship." It is only natural too, that in dealing with Howes contemporaries the Plain Dealer writer, with all his ability and he has much ability, if we may be permitted to "judge," should fall in with the general custom. "Tapper is able, but what was he to Howe or to Uniacke, in old times!"—No more, we

grant than Jack the Farmer of today is to Jack the Giant Killer of forgotten centuries. The Plain Dealer does not agree with our strictures on its well written article, but says:—

"The North Star remarks that 'great occasions oftenest beget great men.' Occasions may bring great men to the surface, but it cannot beget them; they are always the Supreme Creator's handiwork. Truly great men may be lowly born;

But pyramids are pyramids in vales."

The Plain Dealer in picking up the word "beget" shows itself to be more witty than wise. If occasions do not "beget" men, neither does the Creator "beget" them, as the Plain Dealer contends. Men are not accounted great unless they say or do some great thing; and if the "occasion" do not exist, they have no means of exhibiting the greatness that is within them. How can a man show to the world that he is an athlete, unless he has a bar to perform upon? how can he show that he has power over an audience, till he has practised upon an audience, and shown his power over them. The occasion will not beget the greatness: that is born and then developed, but it affords the opportunity for the display of that greatness. Occasion is the garden in which the tree of greatness grows. Nova Scotia's politicians of today may be great, but they have no field in which to develop that greatness. They may do like Don Quixote tilt against wind mills, but they have no great realities to deal with.

By way of confuting our contention, the Plain Dealer but confirms what we said. It asks,—

"What great occasion arose in the mind of Columbus the animus of maritime adventure?"

Easily answered: a great something to be done: and that great something the discovery of new worlds and a short way to India. What greater occasion could arise? Suppose Columbus got Patents under Victoria instead of under Henry VII, what could he have done in the way of maritime discovery to make himself famous? Nothing. But he would be the same Columbus all the time: thus proving the truth of our contention that "great occasions oftenest beget great men." Greatness may lie latent in a man as heat in inorganic bodies, for ever, unless developed Occasion develops it.

"The fault is in our stars, not in ourselves That we are underlings."

It is not fair for the Plain Dealer to refer to Burns, because he was a poet, or to Bacon and Newton because they were philosophers. We spoke of politicians, and political opportunists, contending that since politics have been removed to Ottawa there is little to develop talent in the Provinces; but that looking to Ottawa where the field is, Nova Scotia has as great and greater than ever Howe, or Uniacke, or Doyle was, and he Sir Charles Tupper. Says the Plain Dealer though:

"The North Star intimates that there is no provincial matter in Nova Scotia that affords the opportunity for the exercise of great ability. In our opinion this is a time peculiarly fitted for calling forth personal greatness."

Then the writer unfortunately puts in a plea for the disruption of the confederation. Such a painful, pitiful theory coming from a writer we admire, forbids us to deal with the subject.

Speaking of Wilmot and Fisher the Plain Dealer says:

"Their names are the most brilliant stars that brighten the history of New Brunswick. Compared with those dead giants, Tilley is a living pigmy."

If we have shows, and we undoubtedly have, that the Plain Dealer is not altogether equal to the task of establishing correct comparisons between its own dead and living statesmen, how much less equal is it not to the task of making correct comparisons between ours? Wilmot had his admirers and many yet respect his memory, but while brilliant he was shallow, and while earnest was fanatical. He was a second rate man. Fisher never either got beyond second rate, and never was Mr. Tilley's equal. Mr. Tilley always towered above him.

OUR LOCAL LEGISLATURE IN SESSION.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE GRAND SOUTHERN DEBATE.

Mr. BLAIR.—As stated in our last the Attorney General brought in an amendment to Blairs amendment in re Grand Southern R. R. matters. After the Attorney General had concluded his lucid and convincing speech, showing that under the law the Government had no alternative but do as they had done, Mr Blair followed in an appeal to the "constitutional" sense of the House. The better to understand what follows, let us say that last spring the Grand Southern railway company came to the Legislature and asked for an extension of the charter under which their company had been incorporated. Under the act they had been incorporated for a certain number of years, and this incorporation gave them the right to locate and construct lines, draw subsidies, etc.; but owing to the stringency of the money market, and "delays" over which the company had no control, the time set out in their charter expired and found the road little better than half built; rails purchased, and all or nearly all the heavy debts incident to construction, contracted. Extend our Charter, was the company's request—give us time to finish the work. Their request was fair. When the charter was granted them, its intention was that they might build a railroad. Within reasonable limits, what then had the mere nominal time to do with the

intention, and the essence of that contract? If Mr Blair is not lawyer enough to see this, he ought to have common sense enough to see it. Well—the lower house renewed the charter; the upper house threw it out, that the argument might be used, the upper chamber was of some benefit. While this was the chief reason for the rejection of the Bill up stairs, there were other reasons too, so people said. The vanity of some of the old men had been tampered with, and it is further hinted three or four of them were bought up. However, the government possessed latent powers, and turned up a statute a few days afterwards giving the company a stated time to settle up their affairs, or in other words to finish so much of their contract as had been unfinished. Under the law, a law of the land, a law known to every ordinary lawyer—unless it be to illustrious Cokes and Storrs like Ritchie who would disdain to quote the law of Kent and Blackstone—the Government continued to pay subsidy, etc., to the Grand Southern Railway, as if the charter had been in existence. Shortly after this, Mr Justice Palmer in a lengthy and profound judgment strongly endorsed the acts of the Governments. Blairs amendment was brought in to ensure the Government for paying the amount. It is not worth while to follow Blairs argument here. It is simply clap-trap, founded neither on common sense nor common law. As a sample of his sophistries we will quote just one sentence of his—after he had tacitly granted the Government had a legal justification for paying the subsidy.

"We don't stand on the legal aspect of the case"—as if it is "constitutional" to do that which is illegal, which is unlawful. But the same Blair tells us a little later on the "Legislature is the highest court in the land." Imagine the "highest court in the land" not standing "on the legal aspect of the case." Alas poor Yorick! Will the hon. gentleman of his Legislature read the above and tell us what their private opinion is of Mr. Blairs sanity, not to say of his legal abilities.—Ed. STAR.

Mr. DAVIDSON.—Followed Mr. Blair, and said when the Bill came up before the House he voted against it on principle. But the question then, was not the question now. Then it was a question should the House further recognize railroad legislation. His vote said No. Now the question is a legal question, and asks, Did the Government do a lawful act when they paid subsidies etc., under the statute? Was it for this House to say whether the action was a legal action or not? How sound,—what a pattern is not talk like this for little small bore lawyers of the Ritchie pattern!

Mr. HANINGTON.—Next followed. He said one would have thought Blair had got his party in enough ridiculous positions this session before, without bringing them into this ditch. He said if Blair talked such ridiculous law at the bar, as he did before the House, then would he hesitate a long time before he would bring him a case. His speech was forcible and logical.

Mr. RITCHIE.—Who has some low cunning, (which by the way is not an intellectual attribute) followed Mr. Hanington. What he said is not worth repeating, because it is the little old story of the police court lawyer over again. The only thing which we may be excused for writing of his sayings is "Part of the Governments authorities to justify their proceedings, were Blackstones and Kents commentaries, the first books placed in a students hands." Compared with R. J. Ritchie we know either Kent or Blackstone must dwindle into insignificance, but they do very well in ordinary cases. Chief Justice Ritchie who by the way Robert Ritchie claims as a relation on the quiet, and in important whispers, quotes Blackstone and Kent, and so do the English chief justices; but it must be remembered Justinian dropped his old shirt on some progenitor of the R. J. Ritchie legal stock, which at once explains the contempt for Blackstone and Kent.

HON. MR. LANDRY.—followed Ritchie. He said the last speaker, much as he had endeavored to misconstrue the Government's act in this matter, and much as he tried to twist and distort facts, did not go so far as to say the Government had done contrary to law. And if the Government had acted according to law, could there be found a man in the House to say they had done wrong. It was said what was the necessity of bringing in a bill to extend or revive the Grand Southern Charter since the power to continue the work under the advantages of charter was conferred by another statute. To this his reply was he was not ashamed to admit he was not aware of such a section till it had been brought to his notice, and that was after the bill had been defeated. And that section having been brought under the Governments notice it was their duty then to recognize it. They did so. Mr Landry proceeded in a lucid and logical way to show that the act of incorporation was still in force. He pointed out that Blair contended the Legislature was the highest court in the country, but the legislature has only to make the laws, and when the courts interpret them the House had to abide by the decision. For the Legislature to pass a resolution overriding the decision of the courts, would be to make it a laughing stock for the world.

MR. BLACK.—Then arose. He had a satchell full of figures, some kept over from his last discussion in a country district debating school, some derived from F P Thompson, Blair having furnished that little chattebox with figures and notes enough for a half dozen sessions. Mr Black is very vain, and talks for the love of making a speech, and of getting his utterances into the papers. All you say in a debating school, is lost to posterity, because it is never published.

ed. Mr. Black speaks in a dreary monotone, and has acquired the fashionable method of forcing a portion of the sound of every word through his nose. He said common sense was very good law, and laymen could pronounce upon this question as well as Government lawyers could. And then to show he has been reading some magistrates statutes, he throws in a legal phrase while he asks, "If the failure of last springs Grand Southern Bill would not have put an stoppage upon the work, why did the Attorney General so zealously strive for its passage?" Such a question might stun the abating wisdom of a Westmorland debating school, but it can be answered in one way, and accounted for in another. It can be answered in the words of Mr Landry, that the Government may have had no knowledge of the reserve clause, and really thought the passage of the Bill, essential to the safety of the corporation. It can be accounted for in this way. Supposing the Government did know such a clause existed, they also knew that by acting on it as an executive they would call down upon their heads the censure of political mountebanks like Mr Black, knew a howl would be raised through the country by men who had no responsibility save to make the Government appear in the worst possible light, and therefore did their very best to make the legislature rather than the executive, assume the responsibility. This would be only natural, it is only what any Government would have done, and what we would be a party to doing if we were in a Government tomorrow and if we were afterwards to be censured by a horde of Blacks numerous—

* * * "As autumnal leaves that grow the brooks "In Vallombrosa."

This was the proposition: There was a law providing for justice to the Grand Southern. For the government to extend the operation of that law, as a government, would bring down all the small bore politicians in the land upon them. They did not want to incur this, if the Legislature would undertake to do justice to the company; for a man will often fly a gang of musquitos. But the Legislature did not extend an equitable justice; ergo it devolved upon the government, and they did their duty like men. This is what the Blacks and the Whites et hoc genus omne bring them to book for.

Mr. ELDER.—Who, though a layman, is blessed by Providence with good sense, and good intellect too, followed Mr. Black. He said he had many good reasons for voting against the Blair amendment, and the chief reason was that some of the statements made in the amendment were not true. He said no authority had been shown that the corporation was dissolved, but the contrary had been abundantly shown. It was an argument that the clause giving the company a term of grace was not referred to by the government, as lawyers don't usually volunteer opinions. Nor was it fair to expect that the Attorney General ought to be a walking legal Encyclopaedia. But the law existed, under which the corporation has continued its work. The Legislature being a high and mighty court might have shut its eyes to this clause of grace, some have said, but surely justice is a high court too, and such a proceeding would be in the face of justice. Mr. Elders speech was a markedly able one.

In our next we will give a digest of the remainder of the speeches on this subject. We may anticipate these by saying the governments amendment to the amendment was carried by two to one—by 24 to 12.—Ed. STAR.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

After much discussion progress was reported on the St. John River Bridge Bill.

In supply they passed \$250 for the Provincial Assayer.

They passed \$720 for the Blind Asylum, Halifax. The following other items passed. Contingencies \$10,000, Halifax Deaf and Dumb Asylum, \$1,500; Erection of School Houses in poor districts, \$176,500.—[but this must be a mistake.—Ed.]

Chatham Markets

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes: Flour, from \$6.00 to \$6.50; Corn Meal, per bbl. 3 75; Oat Meal (Canada) 5 75; Beef, Mess, per bbl. 14 00; Prime Mess, do. 12 00; Pork, Mess, do. 20 00; Prime Mess, do. 17 10; Pork Hams (covered) per lb. 12; Home Made do. 12; Fresh Pork, do. 12; Salt pork, per lb. 10; Salt Beef, do. 12; But r (Arkin), per lb. 20; But'r (in roll), do. 22; Eggs per doz. 25; Salmon (in case) 20; Lobster do. 14; Oysters do. 20; Oysters (Harrington's best) p. bbl. 2 00; From other sources 1 00; Mackerel (fresh) none; Macker (salt) 25; Codfish ried), per lb. 04; Potatoes, per bbl. 1 00; Carrots, per bush. 75; Turnips, do. 40; Fresh Beef, per lb. 08; Mutton, per lb. 07; Lamb (good), per lb. 08; Rabbits per pair. 20; Apples per bbl. \$2.50 to 3 00.

Over day at home. Staples worth \$5.00. Free. Address Station & Co., Portland, Maine. mar 12 sw 1y. \$12 a week. \$12 a day at home. Usually made. Dosty Outfittee. Address True & Co., Augusta, Maine. mar 12 sw 1y.