

THE DISPATCH.

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THE MUSINGS OF THE IMP. HE DISCOURSES ON ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT.

How the Name Originated.—Amusements on a Grand Scale Must Cease, but a Little Done on the Quiet.—Why Will Men Wear Black and White?

This is Ash Wednesday, and as Lyman Abbot says in the Outlook, Lent will soon be generally observed among all christian bodies, I will preach a brief sermon, mostly plagiarized. Lent, in the old Saxon language, is known to signify spring, and thence it hath been taken in common speech for the spring fast, and Ash Wednesday is so called from a custom that prevailed in the ancient church, for penitents at this time to express their humiliation by lying in sackcloth and ashes. Tertullian tells us, "they lay in sackcloth and ashes, they disfigured their bodies with a neglected uncleanness, and dejected their minds with grief; they used no other food but what was necessary to keep up life, and frequently nourished their prayers with religious fasting." Tertullian is an undoubted authority on the customs of the ancients. I can understand the salutary effect any system of subjecting the body may have, but to go without baths, as it is said was customary among the more religious ascetics, does not comment itself to my idea of godliness. I take it that the true idea of fasting is not to prepare for a big time of feasting when Lent is over, but rather by a systematic period of abstinence, to obtain self control for the whole year. If a man brings his body under subjection for one month of the year, he is stronger than if he does not bring it under subjection at all.

Had Burns' pious wish been granted, and there had been conferred on us the gift to see ourselves as others see us, what a world this would be! Those of us who did not die of shame would go crazy, and the whole earth would be nothing but cemeteries and lunatic asylums. We see Lent coming afar off and at once proceed to erowd as much worldly pleasure into the intervening day and nights as we can. Very possibly we do this that we may the more fully appreciate the beauties of holiness by contrast. We shouldn't dance during Lent, that would be a sinful catering to the flesh, but we can run a series of small card parties, and if the guests will be very quiet about the affair, we will sometimes wind up with a waltz—just a little one you know. Someone says this sort of thing is inconsistent, but what of that? We have Emerson's doctrine that consistency is the bugabo of little minds, and as our domes of thought are of the colossal order we don't care a straw.

I want to know why people read novels. I read them mostly when I am clean tired out and can't do anything else, but evidently we are not all alike, for I observe that R. S. Crockett's stories can't be appreciatively consumed without a glossary to the dialect employed. Just fancy a man sitting down with a novel on one knee and a glossary on the other, to take a half hour's quiet enjoyment. Some people might do it, I don't know, but I dare say. I have seen a young man waltz till the perspiration poured off his forehead and dropped from the end of his nose, and if his father had asked him to saw a quantity of cordwood he would have thought he was being very hardy used. It is rather surprising what some people will do and call it amusement.

An artist who has attained no small fame as a portrait painter, once remarked to me as he saw the people coming out of a large church, "why is it that men will persist in wearing dark and dreary clothes. It looks like one yast funeral procession. If women can wear gayly colored garments, why should not men?" It is rather funny when you come to think of it. A gentleman gets himself up for a gay ball, and it would be utterly out of place for him to have anything on but black and white. In fact, if sudden death struck him immediately after circling in the waltz, he would be exactly in the correct clothes to lie in state, and be gazed at by the curious.

Poor Mr. Blair, has come in for a severe handling from some of our super-sensitive newspaper men for a rather innocent joke he made about approving of papers which are on his side of politics, and disapproving of those opposed to him. After all, he is simply a franker than most of his kind. Newspaper men anyway should stand criticism for they are never slow to criticize. I have again tried to impress this on the

religious editor, but he has the same old re-tort. "What is the meaning of the freedom of the press, if you can't say anything you like about a fellow, even if it is not true."

Some of the boys have taken to making their own cigarettes. I presume it would be the correct thing for the census enumerator on his next trip to add each of these fellows to the list—a new industry. THE IMP.

St. Andrews in Winter.
One hears a good deal of St. Andrews in the summer, of its beautiful situation, the charming scenery in its vicinity. In winter St. Andrews is not so much in evidence, but for those who don't visit the "shire town" in the snowy season, it may be said that it is situated very much the same in winter as in summer. And, on a fine winter day the view from the hill on which the Algonquin stands is as beautiful as in the balmy days of June, and more so, perhaps, for the hills and islands in the distance, away across the calm bay, glitter in their coating of snow and ice. If ever there was a place where every natural advantage for the purpose of an extensive seaport business prevails, it is surely St. Andrews. One does not need to be an expert on harbor facilities to see that the St. Andrews harbor is unsurpassed. Room for the navies of the world, shelter from the fiercest storms, deep water, convenient access to the ocean, everything that nature could do she has done for the town. Why then is business slack? One answer may be found in the fact that business is slack in all New Brunswick seaport towns. But, the time may yet come when St. Andrews will have a trade far exceeding the trade in the days of its West India boom. In the meantime, in another way, St. Andrews is gaining in fame. The Algonquin hotel is being enlarged to about twice its original size, and won't be able to hold all who wish to put up there next season, while Kennedy's has as much as they can do in accommodating all who wish to pass a portion of the summer at their comfortable house.

Robinson & Co. do a large and successful business on the old steamboat wharf. They have a roomy, convenient factory, where they transform the fresh fish of the bay into those delicious things we call "finnan haddies," and "bloaters." Just now business is quiet, but large quantities of their product have gone and are going to Montreal, Toronto, and other points in Western Canada. This is an industry suitable to the place and its surroundings, and will probably thrive whether Mr. Gilmor or Mr. Mitchell goes to parliament next session.

Organizer Des Stoop is waiting till the snow gets off the ground, when he will put his cricket team at practice, in order to come to Woodstock and give our team a chance to return the defeat of last season. The St. Andrews team talk of coming to Woodstock on the 24th of May.

New Railways.
There seems every probability now that the much talked of Woodstock & Centreville railway will be built, and those interested in the completion of the work will be glad to hear that the time asked for the completion of the road, in the amendments now before the legislature, is only until the end of 1896. Another amendment to the charter is that the road shall commence at Woodstock instead of at Upper Woodstock. This is a commendable move as it will make the new line, in case it is built, independent, and not under the necessity of obtaining running terms over another line. As far as can be ascertained, the intention of Mr. Frank Killen and those associated with him is to commence the building of the new road very shortly—in fact as soon as the necessary legislative amendments are obtained.

The proposed line will run up the Meduxnakik on the northern side, as far as Marvin's brook, and thence follow the stream to a point on the location of the original line. The scheme is but part of a larger scheme including the building of a branch line to connect with the Bangor & Aroostook near Houlton, the extension of the Temiscouata down to St. Leonards and the building of a bridge across the river at Van Buren and the completion of the St. John Valley road. It is said that the Woodstock & Centreville concern is already negotiating to get the charter, etc., now held by the St. John Valley people. This company is willing, it is understood, to build their works in Woodstock provided satisfactory arrangements can be made.

All sounds very well. In the meantime, we will see what we shall see.

Refused to pay.
The house of representatives in congress have refused by a vote of 143 to 112 to pay the seal award made at the Behring sea arbitration.

ORANGEMEN IN SESSION.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED AT THE MONCTON MEETING.

A Large Attendance of the Delegates From all Over the Province.—Resolutions Passed with Regard to Bathurst and Manitoba Schools.

The 52nd session of the most worshipful Grand Orange Lodge of New Brunswick was held in the Orange Hall, Moncton, last Tuesday evening and continued until Friday.

Among those present at the opening were Grand Master Kelly, Past Grand Masters D. F. Merritt, Major A. J. Armstrong, G. W. Fowler, Grand Chaplain Rev. Jos. E. Flewelling, Grand Secretary J. DeVeber Neales and other grand officers also a large number of delegates from different parts of the province.

After the lodge was regularly opened, G. W. Stockhouse, County Master of Westmorland read an address of Welcome to the Grand Lodge from the Orangemen of Moncton. The Grand Master acknowledged the address briefly thanking the brethren for their kindness and expressing his gratification at the rapid growth of Orangemen in their city and more particularly during the last year.

An address of Welcome was also presented to the Grand Lodge by Mayor Fred W. Sumner, and aldermen of the city of Moncton. The Grand Master, Major Armstrong, Rev. J. E. Flewelling and Rev. A. F. Thompson replied in very appropriate and pleasing terms.

By the Grand Master's and Secretary's report the order was shown to be in better condition than for a number of years. During the last year the membership had been nearly doubled. Fifteen new lodges had been opened, including a County Lodge in Kings, a District Lodge in Carleton, a Royal Scarlet Chapter in Restigouche, a Ladies Lodge in St. John, the first to be organized in the maritime provinces, and a lodge of Prentice Boys at Woodstock. Four of the new lodges were organized in Carleton and two in York. Three new halls have been publicly dedicated during the year and one had been destroyed by fire at Florenceville a few days ago.

The Grand Master also referred to his visit to Ireland last summer in company with Hon. Clark Wallace, H. H. Pitts, T. L. Hughes, R. A. C. Brown and other representatives of the Grand Lodge of British America.

A discussion on the Bathurst school question occupied a considerable part of the session on Wednesday. The committee's report was received. The committee appointed to attend to the proper enforcing of the law, and also to carry the question to the courts of the province are Grand Master Kelly, D. G. M.; J. A. Moore, J. D. Neales, G. Chap. Flewelling, Dr. J. G. Atkinson, H. H. Pitts, R. G. Magee together with J. M. McIntyre, Rev. A. F. Thompson and J. A. DesBrisay of Bathurst.

Later a resolution was introduced by H. H. Pitts, M.P.P., of York, and adopted unanimously, setting forth that it was the unwavering opinion of the Grand Lodge that the spirit and letter of the non-sectarian free school was being violated in many places in the province, and pledging the body not to support any candidate for the local legislature who will not pledge himself to remedy the grievances. H. H. Pitts, M. P. P., Jos. Walker and Rev. J. B. Morgan were constituted a committee to prepare and circulate pledges to this end among the protestant electors of the province.

The election of officers resulted as follows: James Kelly, G. M., St. John, (re-elected); J. A. Moore, S. D. G. M., Sussex, (re-elected); Joseph Walker, J. D. G. M., Fredericton, (re-elected); Rev. J. E. Flewelling, G. Chap., Centreville, do. J. M. McIntyre, G. S., (Sussex); R. G. Magee, G. Treas., St. John, (re-elected); Rev. J. B. Morgan, G. D. S., Jacksonville; Robert Maxwell, G. Lecturer, St. John; Harry McAfee, G. D. of C., Moncton; Deputy Grand Chaplains for Carleton County—A. F. Lockhart, G. S. Wiggins, G. H. Boyer, Mered Brewer and H. I. Cluff. York County—C. W. Currie, A. D. Thomas, A. L. Harvey, G. W. Brown and J. W. Hartt. Rev. H. W. Little, G. W. Foster, G. M. Young, A. G. Downey, Isaac Howie, G. F. Currie and W. W. Lodge were also elected as D. G. Chaplains.

On Thursday morning Rev. A. F. Thompson, of Bathurst, moved a resolution that inasmuch as an effort is being made by the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical authorities to force the federal government of Canada to grant special legislation on behalf of the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba and to force separate schools upon that province, thus interfering with provincial rights and trampling upon the principles of civil and religious liberty, which are ever dear to the enlightened citizens of this country;

Therefore resolved, that we do pledge ourselves not to vote for or in any way support candidates at the next federal elections who will not on or before the day of election

pledge themselves to oppose any interference with the legislative rights of Manitoba and the unjust demands of the Roman Catholic church.

This was seconded by Rev. J. B. Morgan and carried unanimously. It was further resolved that copies of the above resolution be forwarded to Sir McKenzie Bowell and also to the premier of Manitoba.

Reports were received from the County Masters of St. John, St. John (west), Queens, Westmorland, Carleton, Kings, Sunbury and Albert Counties, in each of which the order was represented to be in a flourishing condition.

According to the report of the Grand Treasurer, R. G. Magee, the receipts for the year had been \$943.84, and the expenditures for the same time \$619.39, leaving a balance on hand of \$952.11. The receipts for the Bathurst school fund were \$427.25, with a balance on hand of \$65.22.

The next session will be held at Newcastle, Northumberland county.

After passing votes of thanks for hospitality, etc., the Grand Lodge adjourned.

A Favorable Comparison.

A leading business man of Woodstock was on a driving expedition last week, covering a good part of the counties of Carleton and Victoria. He left Woodstock, drove to Florenceville, in to Centreville where he was much impressed with the handsome stores, then to Bridgewater, Me., to Blaine, Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield, back to Andover, thirty-five miles up the Tobique and back to Birch Ridge.

This gentleman is not an optimist but he told THE DISPATCH that what particularly impressed him was that the signs of prosperity on our side of the line were greater than on the American side. There were more complaints of the hardness of times in Blaine, Presque Isle and Fort Fairfield, than in any of the Canadian centres in which he stopped. He was particularly impressed with the fact that the bridges on the American side were far inferior to those on the New Brunswick side of the line. Whatever complaint, he says, the people may have against the present local government they must if fair at all, give it credit for keeping the bridges in a good state of repair. The only poor bridge was one across the Tobique. In a stop at Presque Isle, he found that potatoes were selling from \$1.10 to \$1.15 a barrel; hay brought from \$6.00 to \$7.00 a ton according to quality; oats 39c. to 40c. a bushel. At Fort Fairfield green hardwood was selling at \$1.00 a cord; while dry hardwood is just the same price as here \$3.00 a cord.

It is the opinion of this gentleman that the Tobique country is a coming place for farmers, and he thinks that if farmers from Jacksontown had gone up to the head of the Tobique instead of across their line, they would be far better off than they are now. Up the Tobique they could get \$16.00 a ton for their hay and 50 cents a bushel for their oats. Birch Ridge he was particularly impressed with. He says it is a fine settlement, and the buildings are far superior to the buildings in Blaine, on the American side.

Taking everything into consideration times are better on the Tobique than on the American side. He was told that at Fort Fairfield, eight or ten young men were rooming in barns, as they could get no work. In contrast with American hotels, he further told THE DISPATCH that J. A. Perley, of Andover, sets a table, putting the Yankee tables to shame, and only charges about half as high. This country is all right and can hold its own with Aroostook.

Town Politics.

His worship the mayor, and J. C. Hartley, town clerk, were in Fredericton last week, on business connected with the bills dealing with the town which were brought before the legislature. These bills were referred to a special committee consisting of Solicitor General White, Messrs. J. T. A. Dibblee and Phinney. The large bill was laid over for the present as it is the intention of the legislature to adopt a bill covering all general cases of the same kind. The smaller bill which deals with the election of mayor and six councillors from the town at large was adopted, and a provision made that a vote of the people be taken on the same next September. By this bill the atrocious system of practically open voting has been superseded, and the system of voting in the future will be much the same as in the dominion elections. The change in the qualification of the councillors, raising the same from \$400 to \$1000, comes into force next February, but the people will have the opportunity of approving or disapproving this change by a plebiscite at the time of next election. And, a change in the right direction is that nominations must be a week or ten days before the date of election.

DOWN THE RAILWAY.

WHAT "THE DISPATCH" MISSIONARY LEARNED OF BENTON.

A Place Where They Have Four Times Heavy Bark Business.—Mills Employing Numbers of Men.—Chance for Pulp Work.—Four Pretty Churches.

There is a good deal of business done in Benton, although the passer-through on the train would hardly fancy such to be the case. The tannery run by Arscott & Co., and the mills by A. H. Sawyer and Murchie keep many men employed and they turn out a lot of work.

A DISPATCH missionary was in Benton a few days ago, and had an opportunity of observing the amount of business done in the village. One day, not long ago, eighty loads of bark came to the tannery. This would represent one hundred cords, and the price paid is from \$4.50 to \$5.00 a cord.

Benton has the idea of a multiplicity of times carried out with a vengeance. In Woodstock there are some people who object to the inconvenience of two times, but how unreasonable it is to mind a little thing like that, when Benton flourishes with no less than four infallible guides as to the true time. In the first place they have standard time, secondly, local time, third, mill time, and fourth, tannery time. Tannery time is twenty minutes faster than local time, and mill time about ten minutes faster than local time. It will be seen that standard time is trying to impress upon the public that it is midway, just when the tannery people are getting back to commence their afternoon work.

The Benton tannery is an imposing industry, and although now run on a larger scale than hitherto is no parvenu. It was first run by Samuel Parsons, then by Parsons, Gibson & Saunders, and now by Arscott & Co., a firm who do an extensive tanning business in London, Ont. The Co. in this firm is the celebrated Mr. Hyman of political fame, who is said to be the real member for London in the Dominion house, though Sir John Carling for a long time held the seat, and it was rather an uncomfortable seat too. About twenty men are employed here, and the sole leather is sold in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Upper Canada.

Another business which has passed through a good many hands is the saw mill now owned and run by A. H. Sawyer. A man named McElroy built this mill a long while ago. Then Jas. Rankin bought it. Afterwards, Debec bought it from Rankin. John McAdam, an old historical Charlotte county character, got hold of it, and now it is in the hands of Mr. Sawyer.

Murchie's mill, further down the Eel river stream, employs about thirty men and does a heavy business.

There are four or five stores in Benton. Wm. Gibson has a general store, Geo. Murray, the post master, keeps a good stock of groceries, etc., while a store run by A. H. Sawyer is ably managed by G. H. Campbell. Mr. Gibson has lived for a long while in Benton, and is strongly impressed with the advantages the place possesses for a pulp mill.

Spiritually, Benton is not by any means behind the times. There are four churches and they are all new, modern and pretty. The Methodists have a resident pastor in Rev. Mr. Mannington; Rev. Thos. Todd looks after the Baptists, and the Church of England people are tended by Rev. Mr. Warneford, while Rev. Father Carney, of Debec, officiates on stated occasions in the Roman Catholic church.

There is a very good school at Benton. Mr. Stewart teaches the higher department and Miss S. A. Hendrie has charge of the primary forms. Over 100 scholars attend the two schools. The Royal Templars of Temperance and the Orange order have lodges established in the village.

In past years Mr. Sawyer has carried on very heavy lumbering operations in the vicinity of Benton. This season, however, he is not doing so much, though it is said that he is cutting some 3000,000 feet on the Eel river. Mr. Wm. Harris conducts a blacksmith and wood-working establishment in a modest shop not far from the railway station. He has made and turned out twenty-four sets of sleds in three months past, and takes pardonable pride in the work that he does. Travellers who have business to keep them in Benton will find their bodily wants well attended to at the hotel conducted by Mrs. Abbott.

General Herbert has gone to England, and it is expected he will not come back to Canada.