General Business.

FALL GOODS.

THE Subscriber begs to call attention to his sup

STAPLE WINTER GOODS.

BLANKETS. FLANNELS, TWEEDS WINCEYS. COTTONS,

YARNS, &c. &c ALSO :- His usual well-assorted stock of HARDWARE. English & American Glassware,

-INCLUDING-La mps, in great variety, Decanters, Tumblers Port, Sherry and Champagne Glasses.

A large Stock of IRON. Cut and Wrought Nails' Spring Blister and Cast Steel.

IMPROVED COOKING STOVES.

to burn wood or coal.

HALL AND PARLOR STOVES. FOR BUILDERS,

A quantity of SEASONED PINE LUMBER

> No. 1 & No. 2 Sawed and Split Pine and Cedar SHINGLES. F. J. LETSON,

Chatham, 22nd Nev., 1876

NEW STORE.

THE Subscriber would beg leave to intimate to the inhabitants of Chatham that he has opened a shop in the place lately occupied by C. O. Ericson, where he will keep constantly on hand— Dry and Pickled Fish. Corned and Fresh Pork, Corned and Fresh Beef.

And having imported a Sausage Mill from the U States, I am prepared to fill orders for SAUSAGES. in large or small quantities, at the lowest possi STEPHEN WHITE.

WANTED.

A Competent Carriage Blacksmith GOOD WAGES PAID. Apply to the Subscriber. WM. SIMPSON

MANCHESTER House

Chatham, Jan 22, 1877.

NEW GOODS.

Ex S. S. Peruvian and Austrian. Seal Brown French Merino: Black Matalasse Mantle Cloth; Indigo Worsted Coating; Black, Seal, Navy and Cardinal Silk Velvets; Black, Seal, Navy & Cardinal Corded Ribbons; BUTTONS, in Black, Navy and Seal, in great Variety: Ladies' Black Cloth Mantles; Black Fur Trimming; A few Promenade Fechues and Scarfs, in Card

> W. S. LOGGIE. NOTICE

PPLICATION will be made to the Legislature of this Province, at the next meeting for an A of this Province, at the next meeting for an Act authorizing the erection of a Boom and maintenance of the same at the Mouth of Barnaby River, in the Parish of Nelson, in the County of Northumberland, for securing and rafting of lumber brought down said River, and levying and collecting fees for booming and rafting such lumber.
RICHARD HUTCHISON Donglastown, 3rd January, 1877.

Holiday Goods

X'MAS & NEW YEAR

I AM OFFERING DURING:THE

HOLIDAY SEASON.

an attractive assortment of FANCY GOODS.

Gold, Silver and Plated Articles,

LADIES OR GENTLEMEN.

WATCHES AND CHAINS LADIES' JEWELRY.

GENTS' JEWELRY, FINE MEERSCHAUM PIPES.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ETC., ETC., ETC.,

In great Variety and at Prices in keeping with the Times.

ISAAC HARRIS. Chatham, Dec. 7th, 1876.

HOLIDAYS

Oranges and Apples

(Per Steamer to Halifax.) Cases and Boxes Valencia RAISINS and FIGS Cases and Boxes Valencia RAISINS and FIGS.

Oranges, Wholesale—\$5.00
Retail—40c. per doz., DuringHolidays.

Also—3 doz. Clipper Sleds, for Boys;

5 "Assorted Sleds, for Children;
1 "Upholstered Sleds for young ladies.

Also, low for Cash during X'mas Holidays.

100 Bbls. APPLES; 50 Bags, 20 lb. each, Pastry Flour; Graham Flour (retail);

50 brls. Spring Extra Flour. 10 " OATMEAL:

20 Boxes and half-boxes Raisins Valencias & Seedless do. 1 Brl. Currants 10 Bxs. Candied Lemon, Orange and Citron Glasgow Apothecary Company's Extracts,

O " CORNMEAL :

in Lemon, Citron, Nutmeg, Rose, Celery, Peach, Cinnamon, Vanilla, Peppermint, Orange, Cloves. SPICES. in Cloves, Mace, Nutmegs, Carraway, Allspice. SAUCES:

in Worcestershire, Tomato, Mushroom & Anchovie

Corn Starch,
Almond Nuts,
Hazel Nuts,
Scotch Confectionery,
Crocks,
Preserved Gi Preserved Ginger, Dundee Marmalad Canned Mackerel, Lobsters and Oysters. PICKLES,—in Chow Chow, Walnut and Mixed. Cayenne Pepper, Mustard, White Pepper. Chests & Half-Chests TEA

(In Black and Green.) CRUSHED AND PULVERIZED SUGARS. Allllow for Cash. Chatham, Dec. 3, 1876. WM. WYSE.

BUSINESS NOTICE.

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE' is published at Chatham, Miramichi, N B., every THURSDAY morning in time for despatch by the earliest mails of that day. States or Great Britain (Postage prepaid by the Publisher) for \$1.50 A YEAR, or 75 CTS. FOR 6 MOS. the money, in all cases, to accompany the order for

Advertising. The advertisements in this paper are placed under

\$1 per square, or inch, for 1st insertion, 35cts. per square, each time, for all insertions LOCAL COLUMN, or reading matter advertisement 20% more than above rates.

LOCAL, COMMERCIAL AND YEARLY RATES. business men and others on the North Shore—and to give them the benefit of a large circulation in the Counties of Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester and Restigouche, Bonaventure and Gaspe, their advertisements will, on arrangements being made therefor, be taken at CONTRACT SCALE RATES, The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" having its large circulation distributed among communities en-gaged in Lumbering, Fishing and Agricultural pur-

suits, offers very superior inducements to adver-tisers. Address Editor 'Miramichi Advance," Chatham, N B.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 1877

Fish

This is a fish and lumber country. which accounts for the fact that our columns have been lumbered with fish niatters for the past month. The general reader may turn up his nose at the scaly manner in which we fill the space usually devoted to matter of wider interest, but the discussion we are carry-WATER STREET. ing on is one of importance to a very large number of our local readers, and we believe it will have the effect of furthering the interest of an industry which is of great moment to the people of the North Shore. The Department at Ottawa has, from time to time, been put to no little trouble and inconvenience n making and unmaking regulations connected with the fisheries of this and adjacent counties and, from the developments of every day, we are convinced that the gentleman who holds the office of Inspector for the Province has failed in the duty of placing in the hands of his superiors data which would enable them to make regulations based on a due regard, on the one hand, for the right and privilege of the people to fish, and on the other, for the protection of the fisheries. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that one man should be able to master the question, and the unstable regulations that have been made from time to time since Confederation are, doubtless, the result of the mistakes and misconceptions which have naturally grown out of the Inspector undertkaing too much. The frequent changes in regulations and the dissatisfaction of the Inspector, on the one hand and of the fishermen, on the other, show that a better understanding of the question in all its bearings should be had. If the Department will cause special enquiries to be made by some person or persons who will gather all the evidence possible from both officers and fishermen-treating the latter a little better, and their statements as entitled to more respect than the character given to them by the Inspector will warrant, and the former like men as liable to error as other mortals-we believe it will be enabled make regulations which will be more permanent than those which have caused the dissatisfaction now existing. It is not a small matter for men who are generally far from well-off to go to expense to follow their avocations within

The Incorporation Meeting.

the provisions of regulations which, with

the next tide of official caprice, may be

wiped out to give place to others requir-

ing new facilities at new expense, and

it is because we desire to secure better

administration in this respect that we

are now giving so much of our space to

the discussion of points bearing on a

matter involving such important issues.

Owing to the Masonic Hall being engaged for Monday evening last the meet ing of Ratepavers to consider the proposed bill of Incorporation had to be postponed. It is now appointed to take place in the Masonic Hall on Satorday evening, commencing at seven

Statute and Regulation.

The Globe made a mistake last wee in pronouncing an Amendment made last winter by the Legislature in the Common Schools Act, a "Regulation" of the Board of Education, and it took occasion to berate Dr. Rand as being the instigator or what it endeavored to show was a very recent and obnoxious change. The Telegraph pointed out the Globe's error, but the latter took the expose of its ignorance in the matter with very bad grace and is working itself up

nto a great fury about it. "THE TARANTULA," which will be found on our fourth page, is the subject of a sketch by George J. Forbes, Esq., of Kouchibouguac, who has gained quite a reputation as a magazine writer. He "crossed the Plains" before there was a mile of railway west of Missouri and we hope he will favor our columns further with some of the interesting experiences of those earlier days when so many went westward to the land of gold.

THE INDIANS. - Hon. Richard Hutchison, who has given the subject a good deal of attention, writes a letter which appears in this issue of the ADVANCE, suggesting a plan for the education of the Indians of the County. It will occur to any person who gives the matter any thought at all, that there is no reason why Indians should be excepted from the general educational policy of the country, and we hope the subject will be followed up in such a way as to secure to them the boon advocated by

our correspondent.

OVERSEER HICKSON has joined the corps of writers who are seeking to keep up the misunderstandings which have arisen in respect of the smelt fisheries through the official efforts of the Inspector, himself and others. We expect him to stick to his official representations, however unjust they may have been, but he should remember that if he is found to be now sinning with his eyes open, it will be much worse for him than making statements at variance with the facts when he tock much for granted

that was told him by interested parties. CONTENTS.—Owing to pressure of to use all four pages to accommodate it. tion in affording her relief, we claim that fishermen, who once had their lines and Fisheries Department in New Brunswick ing fish or those that had spawned, were The above is from the pen of W. H. ed Bishop in Rome on the 12th of June,

the fourth are the lists of parish officers for Derby, Glenelg, Hardwicke, Ludlow and Nelson, and an original sketch by Geo. J. Forbes, Esq., of Kouchibouguac. The second and third pages are more fishy than they would be were we to consult our own taste, but if we dose the patient we are treating well now, it may save both ourselves and our friends

a good deal of trouble hereafter. THE "ADVOCATE" says it has been fishing for nearly a quarter of a century. As it is only about ten years old the statement is rathergood. It says smelts are now spawning; that is precisely what we said three weeks ago, and we are glad to find it coming round to our opinion in the matter. It thinks also that the Department should give the larger mesh a trial during the remainder of the season. That means that the nets purchased at a cost of from \$30 upwards since a year ago, shall be laid aside and like sums be invested by the fishermen in new nets, as an experiment with a probability of their being forbidden altogether through the efforts of the Inspector, Overseer Hickson, the News, Advocate, et al.

The Inspector of Fisheries' Second

Letter. In the ADVANCE of fourth ult. we re ferred to steps which had been taken by the Inspector of Fisheries for New Brunswick and others for the disallowance of the use of bag-nets in the prosecution of the smelt fisheries and for the prohibition of bass fishing in Napan. Black River and theother Lower Miramichi waters, where that industry is allowed in the Spring by order of the Department of Marine and Fisher-

Our articles dealt to some extent with the habits and conditions of Bass and Smelts, as they have been observed in Miramichi waters, with the manne in which they were taken and the uses they had been put to, etc. From the facts, as we understood and presented them, we made certain suggestions. Those bearing on the smelt fishery were for the prohibition of the capture and use of that fish for any purpose other than as an article of commerce, or food, and the making of regulations as to size of mesh of bag-nets, the distances they should be set from bridges and each other etc., while those bearing on the Bass fishery were in favor of the contin uation of the rights now enjoyed by the Napan, Black River and other lower Miramichi people - all backed up by reasons which seemed to us, good and were based on an equitable regard for the proper protection of the fish and the interests of the fishermen. Our objects were simple, and lest our readers may be led to lose sight of them in the mystification and bogus points of Natural History with which the Inspector now labors to conceal them, we will re-state them. We desired simply to check the Inspector in his attempts to cause unnecessary restrictions to be placed on the prosecution of the smelt fisheries at

Bathurst and Miramichi, and on bass fishing at Napan and Black River, and along the shores of the Miramichi in the near vicinity of those rivers. The week after our articles appeared, on the day we usually go to press, we received a long letter from the Inspector of Fisheries, in which he presented a well laid scheme for the demolition of our facts and suggestions. As his letter was a flat denial of what we had advanced as facts, and he attributed our position to interested motives and ignorance, we felt it was our duty to defeat the evident mo tive with which, at the latest possible moment, he placed his letter in the hands of the editor-viz., that it might go to the public, but more particularly the De partment with its statements unchallenged --- and defend and strengthen what we had already advanced. Th

Inspector's letter, therefore, appeared in the ADVANCE of 18th inst. together with our comments upon it. Finding that his bold assumptions and dogmatic rulings on matters in which he is but an imperfect and slow-plodding student were treated as their superficial character deserved, he waited again until Monday afternoon of last week, when he presented himself at the office of the

ADVANCE with a five column letter, just as the editor was leaving for Bathurst, and was accompanied by Officers Hickson of Bathurst and Hogan of Newcastle When he was informed that so long as his name was appended to his letter it should appear in the next paper, although the editor would have opportunity neither to read nor reply to it that week, he strongly advised its perusal on the ground that it was so overwhelm ing in its refutation of our position, so necessarily personal and, generally, se able, that if he were editor of the Ap VANCE he would not-if he wished to retain the confidence of its readers-pub-The letter was hastily glanced over and sent to the composing room, the editor who, according to the Inspector, was to be crushed by it, went to Bathurst, the proof was read by Mr Venning, himself, and the editor really read it for the first time in last week's

ADVANCE. So far, therefore, as that letter was concerned the Inspector gain ed the advantage he sought and was permitted to run riot against us through our own columns unopposed. Having now read the letter of the Inspector we are absolutely astonished at the charac ter of its contents. We will, therefore, proceed, as briefly as possible, to rescue the real points at issue from the matter with which he has surrounded and en-

them as the interests affected require. Having brought against us the charge of using personalities the Inspector pro mises that his remarks shall be as little personal as possible and, thus, paving the way for vulgarity which mars a letter which any penny-a-liner, mucl less an important officer in a Government Department, ought to feel ashamed to write, he proceeds to make his first point which is as follows:-

deavored to involve them, and deal with

"In the very first sentence of your remarks you appear to show but little real know ledge of facts. I am not Inspecor of Fish for Nova Scotia, nor have I been since February, 1875, when an Inspector was appointed for that Province.'

We presume that when Mr. Venning was relieved of the Nova Scotia portion of his Inspectorship the Department did not, for several reasons, notify the whole world of the change, so while congratulating

matter at issue. The Inspector says: "You say you have been two years acuiring information on the subject of the We said nothing of the kind. The only excuse the Inspector can give for so posi

tive a misrepresentation is the following: [From "Advance" editorial 18th inst.] "For more than two years we have found it necessary, in the discharge of self-imposed duty, to oppose views entertained their eyes are witnessing falsely or ignoror acts done by both the fishery authorities and the fishermen, themselves, and because we have criticised both as we thought right, we have had our motives misunderstood, and that being so, what there was

fisheries of your river."

ost sight of to a great extent." The Inspector reiterates his former de nial that he stated he had stopped bag-net fishing for smelts at Bathurst altogether and says that the conversation on the sub ject was between himself and Mr. Crocker.

of reason and right in our utterances was

He says: "I felt that I knew more about th natter than Mr. Crocker possibly could from a short reconncitering visit to the place, and I told Mr. Crocker very decidedly that I differed entirely from his opinion, and that if any influence of mine could stop them, it should be used to that effect. appeal to Mr. Crocker and Overseer Wyse to attest the substantial correctness of this plain statement."

The Inspector's "feelings," as above stated were, no doubt, as he portrays them, but it was not until after he told the writer of this article, in presence of Mr. Crocker, that he had stopped the use of bag-nets in Bathurst altogether, that the conversation between the Inspector and that gentleman took place. In fact it was that statement by the Inspector that caused his discussion with Mr. Crocker. Overseer Wyse was seated in his sleigh a short distance off and took no part in the conversation. which, Mr. Crocker says, was as we now state it. What the Inspector means by "a short reconnoitering visit," when Mr. Crocker said he had been engaged in fishing with bag nets at Bathurst for two months previous to the conversation alluded to, we leave the gentleman who feels

that he knows so much to explain. The Inspector next endeavers to impress upon the minds of his readers that he did not misrepresent the facts when he gave out that the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst harbor were of a very limited extent. In our remarks on his former letter

in so large a place as the area covered by the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst harbor, does not prevent hook and line fishing by those who either hold Mr. Vennings high opinion of its enjoyments and profits, or are too poor to provide themselves with nets." * * * spector of Fisheries must, therefore, advance some stronger argument against bag net fishing than the fact that the extremey poor cannot afford to iudulge in it."

He is now driven to a point on which he is forced to speak of a matter which is familiar to all the people of Bathurst. least, and he writes as follows:-

with hook and line; perhaps you will point out the passage, but you assume, (as indeed you do most things throughout your whole three columns) that I have not made out a case against the bag-nets, and then you go on to show most conclusively that you know just nothing at all about the peculiarities of Bathurst Harbor. [Hickson tells me that since that time some nets were moved to the Harbor.-W. H. V.] The bulk of the smelt fishing in Bathurst was done in the Basin formed by the confluence of Middle and Little Rivers above the Bridge which separates it from the Harbor. In this basin, at low tide, the ice rests on the bottom, and only the channels of the two rivers, which are very serpentine, have, at that time, any water. as the tide rises, the ice floats, and with the tide come the schools of smelts, which are caught along the edges of these channels; the bag-nets were in some cases, just as at Napan, in the middle of them, the simple bag-netters pretending to think they complied with the law, by taking the third of the channel, out of the middle of it, and leaving the two thirds, which the law says must be kept clear, one at each end of the net, until the officer enlightened their ignorance. The large area "covered by the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst Harbor," exist only in your vivid imagination and I confess I am a little surprised at your courage in thus drawing upon it, when you ought to have reflected how easy it is to convict you of utter want of correct knowledge on the subject. As these bagnets were set all along the channels, and the hook and lines can catch them only in the channels, perhaps you may now comprehend, how much chance they had, when the beg-nets were in use! So far from the smelt grounds in Bathurst being large or extended, they are, in reality, very restricted indeed, and the hook and line can take them in quantities quite as large as displayed a "misplaced and mistaken soli- were gladly obtained by the people of the with great gravity in the hands of Mr. citude" for the poor people of Bathurst. I am very glad to inform you that in this mistaken solicitude I am joined by the Minister, who has very judiciously ordered the discontinuance of all bag-nets there, and he has done this after a most fair trial, and actual experience of their working. and this decision was not arrived at from my report alone, but from those of Overseers Hickson and Mowat, both experienced

officers of many years standing in the service, and who were more familiar with our fisheries before you were born, than you will ever be in all your life, unless you take more pains to learn the truth than you appear to have done in this branch of The italics in the above quotation from the Inspector's letter are all his own and even the most casual of our readers, will we think, agree with us that the whole paragraph is peculiarly worded while some of its sentences might as well be left out. We will explain to our readers, however, that the Inspector has, personally, told a number of his friends that he had made certain representations to the Minister in reference to Bathurst Harbor and it must. therefore, be borne in mind that while he publishes his misrepresentations in a newspaper and thus braves public knowledge and public opinion, he consoles himself with the thought that he may be credited at Ottawa and, to use a trite phrase, "save his bacon" in that important quarter. What the Inspector means by the words he has placed in brackets we do not know. They refer to nothing that we have said and we can only explain them on the theory that they are meant to give color to something written editorially in the News and intended to awaken "the sleepy one" at

Ottawa, or to emphasize some of the statements of "Roving Special" of the same paper, who, by the way, the Inspector says he wishes he could come across [ahem!] We say, in plain English, that when the Inspector endeavors to make his readers or the Department believe that what calls the Basin, above the Bridge, forms even one tenth of the area comprising the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst Harbor and does it after-according to his own statement-he had thoroughly examined into the subject personally at Bathurst, he is guilty of one of the boldest attempts to practice deception that we have ever known in a public officer. Simple contradiction is not sufficient to meet such a gross misrepresentation of facts. It below the bridge, as well as "the Basin" has been fished the present winter and if ed by the Department. The holes through | in any report of his as evidence in support which the fishing was done are yet in the of his own crude and swaggering declaraoriginal matter this week we are obliged Nova Scotia, upon the Government's ac-

thing in the point raised which affects the the Inspector's ill-considered advice. These proofs as well as the evidence of any honest man, who is familiar with the facts will show that the area of the smelt fishing grounds of Bathurst Harbor are, at least five miles in length and of varying width, and yet the Dominion Inspector of Fisheries for the Province of New Brunswick subverts the facts, tries to make it appear that those who speak on the evidence of

antly, and he declares in fact, that the interests of the fisheries are endangered because one bag-net to every mile of channel was used. Why does he not present the facts as they are, and say that one man with a seine, in the earlier part of the season, blocked the channel and bagged large and small smelts alike in a manner and in quantities that should have secured punishment that would have made him smart for his greed? Why did not officer Hickson, who says this same person buried the small and unmarketable smelts to hide his scandalous work from the public. bring him to book?

It seems, however, that official duty was not to be done then, but when the simpleminded habitans were instigated to raise a cry against the five bag nets subsequently brought into use, because they confounded them with the seine and its destructive work, those who were seeking to strengthen their political influences-banded with others determined to keep "the outsiders" away,-found it easy to secure official aid in working an injustice upon the general interests of the place. Speaking of the extensive area of the Bathurst harbor smelt fisheries last week to officer Hickson the writer was told that if the bag-nets were not prohibited there might be three hundred of them fished there at one time and he wanted to know if such a state of affairs would not soon destroy the fishery. If that officer advanced such ideas at that time it is reasonable to assume that they are a fair sample of the intelligence with which he would advise the Department on the subject. Let our readers pause, for a three hundred bag-nets" fishing in Inspector Venning's "Little Basin" and then reflect upon the incalculable damage to the very existence of the smelts for all time which would be done by five bag-nets (and that is exactly the number used in all Bathurst Harbor this winter) on smelt-"The fact that a few bag-nets are used | fishing grounds where the local officer is afraid three hundred of such nets might

be set if the use of them were not prohibited altogether. We pass over the absurdity of the idea that the fishermen would ever use fifty, much less three hundred bag-nets in Bathurst harbor, to note what an intelligent officer, determined to know only his duty, might have done. If he were afraid that three hundred bagnets would be fished he might have made an estimate of the number that could be used without endangering the fisheries. The Department, advised by him, might "I am not aware that I said anything have issued regulations limiting the numabout the "pleasures" of fishing for smelts | ber of bag-nets accordingly. It would be the Overseer's duty to select or approve a number of stands equal to the number of nets allowed and issue licences therefor to those who first applied, or if more applied at one time than there were stands

> tion. This might have been done, for the Fisheries Act of 1868 says:-"Fishery officers may determine or prescribe the distance between each and every fishery and shall forthwith remove any fishery which the owner neglects or refuses to remove and such owner shall be, moreover, liable for a breach of this Act and for the cost and damages of removing the

Such regulations as we have suggested, together with the provision of the Act, would have enabled the Overseer to have prohibited fishing in the Basin altogether

if he felt justified in doing so. But the principal grounds on which the Department acted in "limiting the catch ing of smelts in Gloucester to the hook and line"-which means much more than the prohibition of bag-nets-was the statement that large numbers of small and unmarketable smelts were taken with those fit for market and that the former were destroyed. We believe this part of the business was too much at varience with the facts for the Inspector to become re sponsible for stating it, so he managed to give color to it when it was published by that handy friend of his "Roving Special" of the News. We are satisfied however, that only about two per cent of the smelts taken by bag-nets in Bathurst harbor were town and used as food. told the writer, just before he went to Bathurst last week, that it was said at that place that these small dead smelts had been thrown back into the holes in such quantities as to pollute the waters and drive the other smelts away, but that officer appeared to forget that a dead smelt especially when frozen, will float with a buoyancy as great as a piece of ordinary wood. As the ice at the sides of the holes extends from one and a half to three feet down under water forming box-like walls, our readers can form their own ideas of the character of such stuff as the following which, if not written by Mr. Venning himself, has been sanctioned by him

"If he [Overseer Hickson] is far enough off to give them five minutes, up comes the net, contents are emptied out of the bunt the small ones, which of course are all dead in less than one minute, are shuffled back into the holes, and when Hickson's dotand-go-one racer reaches the place, the viley men, with their tongues in their cheeks, and a knowing wink at each other, remark - "a very poor haul this time, Sir; fish not running to-day.'

Of course "poor Hickson," who is represented by this same friend of the Inspector as having "a hired man to spell him" in watching these five bag-nets in denies it we shall establish it as such be that dead smelts sink, as did a prominent Gloucester politican now at Ottawa in Wilbur's Hotel, Bathurst, who also said that when he telegraphed the Minister ur- tecting the latter, the better it will be for ging that if the bag-nets were not prohibited the smelt fisheries would be ruined, by others and he really believed that these dead smelts were thrown into the holes, where they sunk as Captain Cuttle would

say, "down, down-Derry down." The Inspector, feeling that his own knowledge and oracular assertions failed to be convincing, called in Overseer John Mowat, as a witness on the question at issue. We will let that officer's opinions go for what they are worth. He and the Inspector, in this matter are arcades ambo Mowatt displays a feeling which is creditable to him as a matter of esprit de corps,

well known that the channel of the harbor although his opinion is not entirely reliable. It will occur to the reader, however, that the Inspector confers a leftproof of the fact be needed it can be obtain- handed favor on officer Mowatt by calling

writing for a specific purpose, under the inspiration of one who can suffer no man. to differ from him without incurring his lasting and vindictive displeasure. The Inspector says:

You deny that Herring and Mackerel eat "smelts." I said they feed upon the fry of smelts, which, however, I hazard

nothing in saying you never saw. Those who do not know how reckless the Inspector is when cornered in matters involving the character of his wonderful and exclusive knowledge of fish-lore, would imagine, after reading the above, that we had made a mistake in reference to what he wrote. Fortunately for him he did not write that he had absolutely prohibited bag-net fishing in Batnurst; he only articulated it on the crisp air at Napan, and but for our witness would be able to eat words with tolerable success, but in the matter above quoted he says: "I said to his letter we find that the following is

The vast quantities of spawning smelts destroyed for the purpose of impoverishing the land, is depriving the deep sea fishes, such as the Cod, Mackerel, Bass, Haddock, Pollock, Herring and others, of the food that brings them to the coasts. As food producers for these fish, the smelts are of far more value than as a fertilizer, and their wholesale destruction will most assuredly be followed by the failure of the

We only wonder that instead of endeavoring to wriggle out of what he wrote, the Inspector does not stick to it that herring and mackerel do eat smelts and prove known. it by calling in some other officer's report on the subject, written especially for the

Without going particularly into the other points connected with the smelt fishery in the Inspector's letter just now, we will pass on to the question of the Napan and Black River Bass fishery. In

former letter, we said:tion of extending the season for bass fish- the condition of Napan Bass in the Spring the industry menaced and, in part, desing in the lower Miramichi waters was bemoment, to imagine Overseer Hickson's ing discussed, the writer, accompanied by one of the best angling sportsmen of the Miramichi, proceeded to Napan and brought to Chatham about twenty bass out of a hundred or more which were taken in that river with a seine. The writer opened and carefully examined seven of the largest fish, which averaged five pounds weight each, and not one contained ova. Four contained milt, but it showed no sign of ripeness, being firm and comparatively mall. Our enquires among those engaged in the bass fishery in Napan, together with our own experience, therefore, lead us to the conclusion that breeding or mature fish are scarce in Napan in May.

Here is the Inspector's rejoinder in full: "To this I rejoin, that your own words confute you. You opened five fish and not one contained ova. The reason was as I stated, the fish had spawned, because, had they not done so, the spawn would have been in them. Well, having just spawned, they were spent fish, and very poor food as I said. Four males contained milt a certain proof that they had not yet milted, thus proving incontestibly, by your own showing that the Napan fish are in the very act of procreation, which is just what said. To convince you, if such a thing is possible with so "positive" a man as ourself, here are the roes of two bass. taken this morning from fish weighing between 4 and 5 lbs. caught last night in the North West. Now just examine them, and tell me what state they will be in on for, set the licences up at public competi- the opening of navigation. You pretend to know so much about it, just bring along old and experienced Bass fishermen from Napan, and let us hear their opinion on the matter. I sent two similar ones and a whole Bass by mail last week to the Minister. He can judge quite as well as you or your Napan folks, and he will have the assistance of Mr. Whitcher to guide him, than whom there does not exist in Canada a man better informed on this sub-

The Inspector, no doubt, thinks the

above a clincher, but we hope to succeed

showing its utter worthlessness. Be-

fore we had read the proposition in connection with the Bass roe test, we were nonored with a visit from the Inspector, who was accompanied by Overseer Hickson. After endeavoring to impress upon the editor of the ADVANCE how little he knew about either fish or fishing, he displayed two bass roes and asked him how near ripeness he judged them to be. The editor informed him that although he had seen bass roes very near ripeness he had never seen the ova spawned, and he was then catechised by the Inspector as to his ideas of its color and general state, which ordeal being over, he was asked for his judgement in reference to the state of the roes exhibited. He said he thought they would run at least four months before being ripe for spawning. The Inspector laughed conthey should be taken. You think I have too small for shipment, and nearly all these temptuously at this and placed the roes Hickson and, after delivering a homily on that officer's superior knowledge in the matter, propounded the solemn question as to its condition. Mr. Hickson. with the air of a man who never saw either the Inspector or those identical roes before. took the latter in his hands and delivered his prinion in a way that reminded us of Jack Bunsby; and the opinion was that ripenes would have been reached in three months. At this the Inspector grunted defiance. assured us of his strong personal regard and undying solicitude for the fishermen of h native county and left. We have since been told that he toted those unfortunate roes about in different places in the hop of finding some fishermen who would cor roborate the opinion of Fidus Achates Hickson, but with disappointing results, and that when one of the oldest fishermen of Napan told him they would not be ripe for four and a half months he told him that he was a d--d fool and was told in r turn by the unpretentious old man, whos opinion he sought and treated so rudely that " if he had said mackeral and herrin fed on smelts he might think he deserved the name!" This rude and farcical conduct of the Inspector in his search for knowledge is not overstated. It is true and if h the Inspector's little Basin, could not see | youd the possibility of doubt. The Dethese frozen and dead smelts if they were partment he represents cannot, gain either floating on the water as shuffled in; but respect, credit or influence by such means perhaps he or the Inspector will tell us and the sooner it instructs certain of its officers to hide their rudeness and incapacity from those who, if they fail to recognize the former are quite capable of de itself and those of the people whose in terests it doubtless desires to protect. he did it on representations made to him Perhaps if the writer, who is represented as so very ignorant, some of our old fisher men and even a fishery officer or two, were

to go, together with the Inspector, his roes and his writings before the Minister and Mr. Whitcher, the Inspector might more fully appreciate the difference between sturdy experience and his own shallow abnormis sapiens. His assumption that the writer opened spent fish in May 1875 and did not know they were spent, is only amusing. The estimates made by bound to stick to each other, and officer the Inspector of the quantities of Bass caught in Napan are inexcusable in their exaggerations although the blame is not his alone. He says:-

Gathering courage as you advance your blundering, you have the temerity to charge me with "making a statement at variance with the facts, as they are known by hundreds of persons best acquainted Real Reasons" and correspondence. On natural one and, in any case, there is no- exist when the Department acted upon ed from the subordinate, especially when were, because they were first sent to me, diate it as he tried to do his assertion that would be Archbishop Connolly's successor.

as Inspector, and by me to the Department at Ottawa; but then I know furtherwhat you do not know, or if you do you choose, for the sake of "making the worse appear the better reason" not to tell your readers—that not one man in Napan made an honest statement, but all gave short returns to evade the paltry tax of one tenth of a cent per lb. on their catch. And I bring before you Overseer Wyse, who collected the tax, as witness to the statement. In his official letter to me dated 12th June 1876, he says:-"I can safely say 80,000 lbs. of Bass were taken, and of that quantity 70,000 lbs. were seined." And I bring Overseer John Hogan, truthfulness wherever he is known, to testify that to the best of his knowledge and belief the 61 tons you admit as being caught, found their market in Chatham Douglastown, Nelson, Newcastle, and Bathurst. So that, if Messrs. Loggie or Morrison really did freeze the most of tons, it proves two things:-lst that much that these gentlemen did a most dishonest they feed upon the fry of smelts." Turning thing if they put upon the markets of the U. S. spent and spawning fish, pretending that they were in good condition as food and if the same dreadful slaughter is allowed this coming Spring, I shall consider it my duty to send circulars to all the leading fish dealers of my acquaintance, and I know most all of them personally, in Boston and New York, to be on their

> Before proceeding to deal with 'facts" of the above we call upon the Department to note the threat which the Inspector makes respecting circulars, for his official position would give a weight to such documents where he is not otherwise

We regret that Officer Wyse should so thoughtless as to have forwarded the above figures officially and also that his letter to the Inspector, which has been shown to us, makes serious charges against the honesty and general character of the fishermen interested. Officer Wyse admits to us that the figures are erroneous and he our comments on the "first fact" in his ought to settle the other matter with the men whose good name he has injured. We On the 24th May 1875, when the ques- are enabled to produce some evidence on go quite as far as that of the Inspector! It has all reached this office since Friday last and we are obliged to those who sent it. Here it is :-

> MR. EDITOR :- I fish seine No. 1 at Napan with Mr. Samuel Coulter. I judged my catch of Bass in May last at two tons I sold them in Chatham and to Messrs. Loggie & Anderson, Burnt Church. never saw a spent bass in May. ALEX. MCKNIGHT, Napan.

NAPAN, Jan. 26th. D. G. SMITH, Esq., SIR :- The quantity of Bass I caught in seine No. 2 Napan last May was 3,943 lbs., over and above a few pounds sold in Chatham by the piece. do not know the weight sold in the latter way. Messrs. Morrison & Co., got no bass in Napan last May. I have been living in Napan over thirty years and I have been in the habit of opening bass every Spring in May, but I never met with a spent bass. I have been salmon fishing for a number of years and have caught bass not spent in my salmon nets in June. I have caught them in July. These were spent fish not fit for use. No kind of spent fish is fit for use. What I have said above I am ready to attest to at any time if required. I remain yours,

ALEX. MURDOCH. To the Editor of the Miramichi Advance. SIR :- We fished with Alex. Murdoch's family, with seine No. 2. In this fishing we have done, we never saw a spent bass in May. Loggie & Anderson got from us 1,545 lbs. of bass; we have sold the same quantity in the Chatham Market. We sold no bass in Newcastle, Douglastown or Nelson. How could Mr. Venning say that there were nine tons of bass taken in Napan last winter, when there was not 50 lbs. taken. Mr. Morrison did not buy any bass last Spring in Napan, and Mr. Ven-ning should be careful how he makes wild

Yourstruly, PHILIP & C. BRIMNER, Napan. To the Editor of the Miramichi Advance. SIR:-I fish seine No. 3, at Napan, caught about 2 tons of bass last Spring. Part of them I sold in the Chatham markets, and the remainder in this settlement. Loggie & Anderson got none of my fish. Mr. Morrison got no bass out of Napan in the month of May, and I never saw a spent bass in the month of May. I will bet Mr. Venning \$20.00 that he cannot produce a spent bass caught in Napan in May. Now Mr. Editor there is a chance for Mr. Venning to make some money.

GEORGE MCKNIGHT, Napan. Napan, 26th Jan., 1877. MR. EDITOR:-I came to this country n 1816 and followed fishing for a number of years. At one time I owned two seines. one for bass and one for gaspereaux, and during that time I split and salted a good many bass and never found a spent bass caught in May. I have found an odd spent bass caught in my gaspereaux seine near the last of June. I am now 66 years | called who proved the time she worked of age and not interested in fishing, either directly or indirectly, as I have not caught

have lived in Napan the last 60 years. I am, dear sir, your obt. servant. JAMES MCKNIGHT. A point in the above that should be noticed is that the Napan people sent bass only to Messrs Loggie and Anderson's freezer at Burnt Church and not to that of Messrs. D. Morrison & Co., also, as some of our friends informed us. In referring to that part of the subject we said most of the Bass caught in Napan were sent to Messrs. Loggie & Anderson or Morrison's establishments. We put it in that way because we were really under the impression that but one of the two firms obtained Bass in Napan and we have now the proof that our opinion was correct. This proves that the quantity sent to Burnt Church was even smaller than we

The three seines mentioned in the above communications are all that are owned or fished in Napan and there are some "set" or gill nets which took perhaps 1500 lbs. We, therefore, believe that the whole catch of bass in Napan in May last was only about nine tons, while, as Messrs. Brimner say, not 50 lbs. were taken there last winter, notwithstanding the Inspector's ridiculous assertion that nine tons were taken during that time. If the Inspector will still pretend to believe that nine tons of breeding bass were taken he must assume that all the bass caught were breeding tish, a thing which he will scarcely do. We are hardly done with the Inspector yet however. He says:-The only practicable way to prevent the destruction of young fish in the Napan

river is to prohibit seines altogether, and to prevent the destruction of breeding fish. is to prohibit Bass fishing there in the Let our readers turn with us to "Sup-

plement No. 4, Report of the Commission. ers of Fisheries for the year ending 31st December, 1875" where we find the following on page 184.

· From careful enquiries made during the summer, I am of opinion that bass fishing might be permitted in Napan Bay and River from opening of navigation until the 25th of May without serious injury the fishery. At the breaking up of the ice in spring, bass enter this bay and river in pursuit of food, and remain until the middle or end of May. It would be a very great boon to the inhabitants of Na-Black River and Chatham to be able to obtain this fine fish for home consumption, after a long winter, and at a time when fresh fish are not otherwise to be obtained. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend, that from the opening of navigation until the 25th May, bass fishing be allowed in Napan Bay and the river

running into it, such fishing to be pursued

mackerel and herring eat smelts, or that he told the writer on Dec. 28th at Napan that he had "prohibited bag-net fishing for smelts at Bathurst." Presuming, however, that he will not have the audacity to deny his recommendation made "from careful enquiries" in 1875, may we ask him what purpose he now desires to serve in seeking to show that those enquiries were of a worthless character? The facts are the same now as they were then, the habits of the fish and the conditions of the river are the same. It is only a whim of whose name is a synonym for honesty and | the Inspector, then, that his former "careful enquiries" must go for nothing and his respectful recommendation," based there. on, be reversed. What changes one short year will bring about!

We do not intend to let this important subject rest where it is, but we must leave over 9 tons were taken as I stated. 2nd, it for the present. We have not the space to reproduce the Inspector's grathful portrayals of the "dastards," as he terms the up-river fishermen, but our readers will understand that even were shot-guns fired to intimidate officers, or a pistol snapped in the face of one of them with murderous intent, it is an outrage for a whole community or class to be branded as "das guard against any further such dishonest tards, " " scoundrels, " etc., by an officer who should be above spiteful misrepresentation and vindictive sander. The fishermen of the North Shore need not wonder if regulations, which appear oppressive or persecuting, emanate from the Department at Ottawa, for when both their personal characters and the facts connected with their interests are misrepresented, as they have been by some of these officers in the public press, what may they not expect when communications are covered by the secrecy of official privilege? In view of the developments of the past two or three weeks, we have to say that if the Department continues to act on the suggestions of the Inspector without a fair and impartial enquiry into the points on which we have brought him to book, we shall be driven by our duty to as well as on the subject of the catch last | troyed, to offer such opposition to any unready enforced at Bathurst, as will, we trust, assist in leading to a better understanding of the interests involved, and bring about such laws and regulations as will give the assurance of a permanency that cannot be affected by official pretenders and quacks, and render the investments of fishermen based upon them, something better than speculations depending for their returns on the whims of one who aims to play the role of the tyrannical autocrat.

Northumberland County Court

[Reported for the "ADVANCE."] Newcastle, Jan. 23rd, 1877. January Term of Northumberland County Court opened this morning, Judge Williston presiding. There was no criminal

As the crier John Wilson departed this life since the last, County Court ordered that Angus Campbell be appointed Crier. Judgment was delivered in the Queen vs. Donovan-complaint for selling liquor

to an Indian. Conviction affirmed with The Queen at the instance of the commissioners of Alms House of the County of Northumberland vs. Geo. H. Arbo-allowed to stand over till July Term.

The following civil causes were entered: Joseph Chaplin vs. Daniel McLaughlin, A. A. Davidson, Esq. Alexander McDermaid and John Mc

deceased, vs. Michael Gotro, A. A. David-John Noonan vs. Ed. Faye, L. J Tweedie,

Dermaid Executors of Alex. McDermaid.

Mary Devereaux vs. John Devereaux. L. J. Tweedie, Esq.

John McKay and John Flinn vs. James Nowden, A. H. Johnson, Esq. James Baxter vs. Ann Ullock, Executrix, of Jeremiah Ullock deceased, John-

son and Fraser. Joseph Chaplin vs. Daniel McLaughlin, ordered to stand over till April Term, on account of absence of a material witness. L. J. Tweedie, Esq., Counsel for Michael Gotro defendant in McDermaid et al Executors etc., vs. Michael Groto, withdrew

the plea in that case. Mary Devereaux vs. John Devereaux was then called on. L. J. Tweedie, Esq., for Pltff., M. Adams, Esq., for Deft.

This was an action for work and labor performed by Plaintiff for Defendant-her father-The Plaintiff was the only witness and wages per month-M. Adams, Fsq., opened for defendant, and as the latte not present, Court adjourned until to-mor-

row at ten a. m.

Court opened pursuant to adjournment. Mary Deveraux vs. John Devereaux was continued no evidence was called on behalf of the defendant. Verdict for plaintiff; damages \$127.50.

On reading the affidavit of Michael Adams, Esq., Counsel on behalf of the defendant it was ordered that the plaintiff in the case of McDonald vs. Southwood do show cause next April Term why judgment as in case of a non-suit should not be entered against plaintiff for not proceeding to trial pursuant to notice.

John Machey and John Flynn vs. James Vowden; was moved to trial by Mr. Thomson, Messrs, Thomson and Johnson for plaintiff, Messrs. Wilkinson & Tweedie for defendant. This was an action for a quantity of spars ordered by defendant from plaintiff. Defence-not delivered at ship according to agreement. The court adjourned after all the wit-

nesses were examined THURSDAY. Counsel address the jury on behalf of plaintiff and defendant; verdict for plaintiff, damages, \$34.00.

Noonan vs. Fay was settled. Baxter vs. Ann Ullock, executrix, etc., Wm. McCullum vs. Wm. Simpson and

David Edwards; rule absolute for judgment as in case of a non-suit. Robert Sturgeon vs. Wm. Watt. Last Term a rule nisi was granted calling on the plaintiff to show cause why judgment as in case of non-suit should not be entered against him for not proceeding to trial pursuant to notice. Rule discharged on plaintiffs Counsel giving a peremptory un

dertaking to go to trial next July Term. Court adjourned sine die. PALATABLE MEDICINES. - Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is a honeyed drop of relief: his Cathartic Pills glide sugar-shod over the palate; and his Sarsaparilla is a nectar that imparts vigor to life, restores the health

and expels disease. - Waterford (Pa.) Ad-THE NEW ARCHBISHOP. - The St. John's, Newfoundland, Chronicle says: "It has been informally announced that the Roman Catholic Bishop of St. John's has been appointed to the Archiepiscopal See of Halifax, made vacant by the decease of the late Right Rev. Dr. Connolly."

The Right Rev. Thomas J. Power is the name of the Bishop thus elevated. He is an Irishman by birth. He was consecrat-On the first page will be found an editorial article, "Official Reasons and like a straw by a drowning man, was a like a straw by a drowning man,