

pen to a comet having such an orbit as that of the comet of 1680 [generally known as Newton's comet] and that he considered the consequences might be full of danger to this earth. Yet he only dwelt on the danger arising, as he judged, from the addition of so much fuel to the solar fires. We know now that the real danger lies not from the absorption of so much matter as may exist in a comet's head and nucleus, but from the conversion of the momentum of the swiftly rushing mass of the comet into heat, the thermal equivalent of its mechanical energy. Now, at present, assuming the period of the comet to be thirty seven years, the velocity of the nucleus when nearest to the sun must exceed 300 miles per second. As to the mass of the comet's head we can form no opinion. But we know that the relatively insignificant comet of 1866, called Temple's, which required a telescope to make it visible, is followed by millions of millions of meteoric masses, and that when our earth passes through this system of meteors, though they enter her atmosphere with a velocity of only about 39 miles per second, they are converted into glowing vapor in their passing through it.

If we consider how far more densely aggregated the meteoric masses must be which form the nucleus, head, and train (not tail, but extendu) of the comet of 1843, how much larger the individual meteors, and that the velocity at the time of their final absorption could not be less than ten times that with which the November meteors enter the earth's atmosphere, it will be evident that the danger of which Sir Isaac Newton spoke so impressively in his celebrated letter is by no means altogether fanciful. I have, for my own part, been long of opinion that the periodical increase of such stars as Mira (the wonderful star in the Whale, and Eta, of the ship Argo, is due to the motion of some large comet followed by a meteoric train about these two stars.

I will go so far as to express my belief that if ever the day is to come 'when the heavens shall dissolve with fervent heat,' the cause of the catastrophe will be the downfall of some great comet on the sun.

I believe the passage even of the head of a comet over the earth would do comparatively little harm, for if the shower of meteoric masses were very dense the meteors themselves being of the larger sort, and so able to break their way through the earth's atmosphere, the shower might kill a few of the earth's inhabitants or even many hundreds. But there would be no widespread destruction of life. But it would be altogether otherwise, I believe, if a comet of the larger sort fell into or were absorbed by the sun.

The danger would lie in the sun's own might; not in the comet or its attendant train. The bodies forming the head, nucleus and train of the comet would fall in immense numbers with enormous velocity, and each with mighty momentum on the sun's fiery surface. Possibly, and in my opinion probably, their most destructive work would be accomplished below that surface, under the still more stupendous attractive energy of that smaller because more condensed orb within, which I take to be the true ruling centre of the solar system. It might well be that the effects thus produced would be but transient. In a few weeks, possibly in a few days or even hours, the sun, excited for a while to intense heat and splendor, would resume his usual temperature, his usual lustre.

Such, indeed, was the nature of the change which effected the so-called 'new star' in the Northern Crown. For a day or two it shone out with several hundred times its usual lustre, and doubtless it poured forth during those few days several hundred times its usual heat. Then gradually its fires cooled, its lustre diminished, and after a few weeks had passed, it shone as it had shone before for hundreds of years, with the lustre of a ninth magnitude star only.

But it is certain that, if there are plants circling around that remote sun, and if the ordinary light and heat of that orb sufficed for the requirements of the inhabitants of those orbs, the

abnormal light and heat during the outburst in 1866 must have destroyed all living creatures from the face of each one of those worlds. It is equally certain that if at any time a great comet, falling directly upon the sun, should by the swift rush of its meteoric components, excite the flame of the sun to a lustre far exceeding that with which at present shines, the sudden access of lustre and of heat would prove destructive to every living creature, or at any rate to all the higher forms of life upon this earth. And though in a few days the sun might resume his ordinary lustre, and no longer glow with abnormal heat, he would pour his rays on a family of worlds in which not one of the higher forms either of vegetable or animal life would remain in existence.

The North Star.

CHATHAM, N. B., JANUARY 26, 1881.

J. F. COLLINS, Editor.



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF JABEZ SNOWBALL WHO IS DEAD IN THIS COUNTY.

SPIRIT OF LATEST DISPATCHES.

(Special to STAR.)
OTTAWA, Jan. 26, 1881.
The Government's Contract passed by a majority of EIGHTY-SIX.

SEVENTEEN TO SEVEN.

If a straw show which way the wind blows, the recent action of the County Council of Northumberland shows pretty conclusively how the political current sets here. We have not been here long enough to be able to speak upon the political aspects of this county with the authority of much experience, but at the same time any one who keeps his eyes or his ears open to what is going on round and about him, and judge accordingly, cannot be very far astray in his conclusions. Our conclusion is that Mr. Snowball's sun has already set—though three years of his reign have not yet passed over him. The grounds upon which we have based this conclusion are many and well worth noticing. Hundreds we hear, and learn of too, grumble about broken promises; a great or number see now, but for the present have made the discovery too late, that while Mr. Snowball may be a good business man he is not at all fit for a politician. I voted for him, says one, I never will again. Another says, He told us this County would be on the Government side, and we would get a good deal of pickings to which we are entitled. But it is in the cold shades of Opposition now, uncares for by the Government, and worse still uncares for by himself. Had we put in Mitchell, we would have some confidence in making our distresses known; we would have more public works to build; our Newcastle round house would be in full blast—but all this we have lost. Another says, He does not care about us, he cares only for himself. He cared about us and thought this syndicate bargain was going to ruin us as he says it will be should have gone to Ottawa and fought against it. But instead of that he went away to England selling his deals; and left our county without anyone to say a word for it. One man who lives down the river and who has much influence tells this story: I was a Mitchell man, but times were hard with me. Yet I made up my mind to vote for Mitchell. One day Snowball came up to me, and asked me how I was going to vote. I said for Mitchell, and I will work for him too I said. You'll do nothing of the kind he said. You'll work for me; and in return I'll give you a position on my railroad at a thousand dollars a year. Few under the circumstances would have refused the offer; nor in this case was the bait untaken. But from that day to this, the deluded supporter has not heard anything of the "thousand dollar" situation.

Those whom Mr. Snowball have deceived can not be made to hold their tongue; and in the very gruffest of the Grit camps the notes of rebellion are beginning to be heard. The

fistermen too, and over many of whose eyes Mr. Snowball pulled the wool are crying out against him. They have grievances, but they have no one through which they can make them known. If Mr. Snowball undertake to do it, the department will only laugh at him; for he does not know how to state their case properly. Nor can we promise the fishermen any respite till they have thoroughly repented of their folly, and put in a man who knows how to state their grievances; who will attend the session to make them known and who will be listened to with attention and respect when making them.

The first opportunity for the expression of public sentiment regarding Mr. Snowball and the Government's policy offered Saturday before the County Council. Mr. Swin brought in the following resolution and put it before the Council.

Whereas the terms of the contract made between the Dominion Government and the Syndicate, respecting the construction of the Canada Pacific Railway, meets with the views of the people of this Dominion,

Therefore Resolved, that this Council approves of the immediate ratification of the terms of the contract.

Had Mr. Swin moved a resolution like this:—

Whereas Mr. Snowball no longer represents the voice and sentiment of this county,

Be it Therefore Resolved, we tender him this slap in the face,

it could not have been more uncompromising and more of a cut than the resolution he did move. But no one could have feared it would ever pass. Mr. Snowball's scribes had been writing down the Government's bargain for the past two months. They had declared it ruinous and the same scribes sat in the very Council Chamber through the entire session, to represent Snowball, and "to see that everything was done right." They opened their eyes at the audacity of Mr. Swin bringing in such a resolution and made grimaces at their friends, about the Board. They had "never dreamt" of such "audacity." The motion was put, and Lo! the vote,—

YEAS.	NAYS.
Ryan,	Somers,
A. Adams,	Robinson,
Pond,	Burchill,
Kenneth,	Saunders,
Cameron,	Goggin,
Bamford,	Lawlor,
Tozer,	Loggie.—7.
Swin,	
Underhill,	
McLaughlin,	
J. rdine,	
R. B. Adams,	
Savoy,	
Sullivan,	
Fowlie,	
H. Cameron,	
McNaughton.—17.	

The anti-Snowball resolution carried by SEVENTEEN TO SEVEN! and even the united greatness of Messrs. Lawlor and Goggin, could not make it more than seven.

"Was throwing words away for still. The 'councillors would have their will, And said, nay, you're only seven."

DANGER IN THE SKIES.

We have read somewhere of a German philosopher who doubting much of what the Scriptures tell us, held in contempt the prophecies of the end of the world by fire. The thing is absurd he said. In the beginning the earth was flung out into space from the sun, a mass of burning vapor—millions of years rolled on, when it had become a solid molten mass; and millions of years counted millions more of years passed by before its hardened crust gave birth to, or sustained the life of, animals. He cast up the history of the progress of development; when gloomy oceans, enveloped in a noisome atmosphere, where carbonic acid gas was king rolled from pole to pole; and then of the great convulsions which threw up continents, and islands; and then of the plants which nature produced to inhale the poisonous gas and purify the air; and finally from the hideous things that wallowed unworldly in the ocean; the pachyderm half reptile the other half horse, winging its way through the air, the megatherium, the huge mastodon the ancestor of the giraffe, who stood in the forest, and grazed from the tops of the loftiest trees, etc., etc. This development he reasoned, went on and on, till man was reached. The earth is cooling every year he says,—and the time will come when like the moon, honey-combed and desolate, it will be a parched clayer. Its destruction "by fire" is absurd!

To do the learned philosopher justice, these are not his words, but they are his sentiments. It so happened however, that about a week after he had made up his mind that the Bible was "a fraud," he took his glass, and sweeping the heavens, a star of burning brilliancy appeared within the field of his telescope. If our memory serves us, the star was in the constellation Swan. He knew he looked upon a star of inferior magnitude but how to account for its increased brilliancy, puzzled him sorely. The star hitherto unknown and uncares for, was a hundred times brighter than it had ever ap-

peared before. The same night another astronomer, in Cincinnati we believe, from his lofty tower saw the same star, and marvelled much at its sudden brilliancy. Word flew around the globe to other observers, but misty weather came generally on, and hid the stars for some nights for all practical purposes. Again the heavens became clear, but lo, the Swan boasted no brilliant star. The star was there, like its old time self, but shorn of its new-pat glory. The astronomical world consulted, and arrived at a unanimous conclusion. The star—which means a sun, the centre of a system like our sun—suddenly blazed out to a hundred times its usual brilliancy; and woe betide the planets circling round it. Their inhabitants if they had such were destroyed.

Then the skeptic German began to think of the Bible's warning; and began to think too that our sun might burst out some day to a hundred times its present brilliancy—that the earth subjected to a heat a hundred fold greater than that of a burning summer day, would melt at the surface; its oceans and seas and rivers would boil and kill the fishes in them; its trees and grasses would wither and burn; rocks would melt, and every living thing would die. "I will not despise the prophecy," he said.

Today upon our first page we print another view, not the prognostications of that notorious impostor Mrs. Shipton, but of Prof. Proctor. Isaac Newton long ago forecasted the trouble which Proctor declares to be near. It is this; a huge comet, sportive and reckless, dashing through the heavens on his own account, for Providence only knows how long, is every year drawing nearer the sun, and will it is claimed eventually fall upon that body. Imagine throwing a fresh scuttle of coal on a sober fire, of demure red cinders: imagine this frisky night errand getting upon the sun;—and then if you will imagine the consequences. Go then, readers of the STAR and be better men and women.

It was rather a good joke to see Mr. Anglin going off to set the Halifax people right on the Syndicate question when his own constituency so badly needed his presence, and forcibly reminds one of the obtrusive housewife who gave her time telling her neighbors how to keep their households in order while the disorder of her own was notorious. The poor ignorant people of Gloucester were not worth seeing on the matter at any rate. He would see them by-and-by and it would be all right!

THE Montreal Star so much quoted against the Government Contract calls the new concern the "prairie Syndicate." It declares that evidence is not wanting that the New Syndicate "was conceived in insincerity and born in deception," and adds, "We fear the new syndicate is the progeny of political exigencies."

FORSTER has introduced his coercion bill. The magistracy may seize and imprison anyone they chose now till 1882. Keep clear of Ireland, or you may get in jail, be tried by court martial, and hung or transported.

Hon. Mr. McDougall's speech in favor of the Syndicate fell like a thunder-bolt upon the Grits.

Before the next Star appears the Government's contract will be law.

"THE Grits here are now all 'six and seven.'"

Hon. Robert Young, P. E. C. was in town today.

Lady Tilley's ball was the affair of the season.

King George of Greece will fight, they say.

Poor Ex-Governor Letellier is dying.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie is very ill.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Colonel Prejevalsky, the Russian explorer of China and Thibet, has arrived at St. Petersburg.

An extensive seizure of Nihilist arms and documents is reported to have been made at Kieff.

One of the mines at Red Ruth, Cornwall, was suddenly flooded on Thursday, and eight persons were drowned.

A despatch from Cape Town says the first of the Colonial reinforcements have arrived at Natal, and it is believed a decided check will be given to the advance of the Boers over the border.

It is reported in St. Petersburg that very disturbing news has been received from official sources to the effect that great military preparations are being made in Chinese Manchuria, in the direction of the Siberian frontier.

(Continued from 3rd page.)

ermann be divided into three districts under chap. 68, sec. 1. District No. 1 to comprise north side of Pokemouche River, District No. 2 to comprise south side of Pokemouche River down to east line of John L. Veno's head of South River, District No. 3 to comprise Green Point and Pokemouche Island. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Alexandre seconded by Coun. Sewell, that the Parish of Shippegan be divided into two districts for the election of County Councillors. District No. 2 to comprise all that portion of the Parish of Shippegan commencing and extending where Nelson Cowan now resides and running across Shippegan Island on a straight line to Portage River to and including where Alexander Campbell now resides. Carried.

Moved by Coun. Young seconded by Coun. LeBreton; that in Parishes which have two or more polling districts the hour for closing the polls on election day shall be 1 o'clock. Carried.

Moved by Coun. O'Brien seconded by Coun. Young, that a committee be appointed to revise the By-Laws and report what new ones they may deem advisable. Carried.

The Warden appoints Councillors O'Brien, Young, Alexander, Hache and the Secretary Treasurer such committee.

(Concluded in our next.)

BATHURST NOTES.

This afternoon after four days close attention to business the Gloucester County Council closed its session.

Among other important motions the Council resolved to exempt from taxation for ten years any saw factories erected in the County during the next two years provided they employ ten hands.

The Council recorded by a vote their appreciation of the many sterling qualities of Samuel Adams, Esq., late councillor for this County and now residing in Leadville, Colorado.

This afternoon before the close of the session, Councillor John Young of Tracadie, called the attention of the Council to the great question now before the House of Commons, viz: the Contract with the Canada Pacific Railway Syndicate. He said the construction of the Pacific Railway was of the greatest possible importance and one which at the present time was exciting the liveliest interest through the whole of the Dominion of Canada. Both political parties in this country had expressed their opinion in favor of the transfer of the construction of this Railway to a company in order to relieve the country from further taxation and that in his opinion the large majority of the people in the Dominion were ready to support the contract entered into by the Government while they regarded the recent offer made before Parliament, as a political dodge to embarrass the Government. Petitions and resolutions had been sent to Ottawa from different parts and he felt it was incumbent on every representative body to express its views on the question and that this Board would approve the Contract now submitted to Parliament. To that end he had prepared a resolution which he would now read to the Council.

The following is a copy of the resolution:—

Whereas we consider that the people of this Province are interested to a certain extent in common with those of all other parts of the Dominion, in the construction and speedy completion of the Canada Pacific Railway through British Territory as a work eminently calculated to promote the growth, wealth and prosperity of the country at large, and we rejoice to learn that Ministers have succeeded in contracting with Capitalists for the prompt construction of the work on most favorable terms, which were laid before Parliament in December and desires general support, Therefore,

Resolved, that we view the contract entered into by Dominion Government for the construction of this railway as a just and favorable act, and at a less cost to the Dominion than would have been readily accepted by their predecessors in office.

That the proposition offered by what is termed the New Syndicate has the appearance of a political dodge employed at the eleventh hour to embarrass the Government and delay the construction and completion of this important work, and Further, Resolved, That we consider it behooves every honest loyal lover of his country to give his warm support to the Government in this matter and frustrate the object of factious opponents who are only trifling with the best interests of the country.

After this resolution was recorded by Councillor Landry in a brief but telling speech, and warmly supported by Councillors Alexander, Hornbroke and others, it was put by the Warden and carried unanimously, Councillors Melanson and O'Brien declining to vote. The Secretary-Treasurer was then directed by vote of the Council to send copies to Senator Ferguson and T. W. Anglin.

Communications.

IS THERE TO BE NO MERCY?

No 1
To the Editor of the STAR.

DEAR SIR,—I seldom trouble myself about those matters which give so much concern to newspaper writers, and would not now have taken up my pen, but the case with which I shall briefly deal is one of no ordinary kind, and one that has made claims upon my attention for some time past. An attack lately made on Mr. Thibet's criminal has perhaps hastened my action. While I think little good but too often comes from this wrangling over public questions, and from the bitterness and strife, and ill feeling manifested in the newspaper discussions of the day, at the same time I think that matters sometimes do come up and the case before me is one of them, where interference is a matter of duty, and where silence would be a tribute to injustice.

I have lived here for many, many years; have witnessed many changes in public life; have seen questions burn upon the public stage and then die out; have seen new questions come, and those

who were their sponsors and their champions pass away again. I have seen earnest public men, and I have seen mercenary public men; some who would suffer defeat and obloquy rather than desert their principles; some who cried loud about principle and had no principles at all; some who raised the evil angel of religious discord; creating ill neighborhood, recriminations and strife, where amity and good neighborhood had for so long prevailed, for the sake of carrying themselves to power.

I need not refer to the olden times, nor dwell at much length upon the new. It will suffice for my purpose to point to the Free School question which agitated the public mind so long, stirred up the dregs of religious rancour, set family against family, and created breaches which it has taken years to bridge over. This question brings me to my subject. After the Free school question had triumphed before the county, and taken the form of a law in the legislature; the people who opposed it bowed in submission to the decree of the powers, and accepted the law. "For he that resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God, and they that resist, purchase to themselves damnation." The question was banished from the hustings, did no more duty for the men who gained power through crying it; but in the year which followed its passage in the House one denomination to-wit the Catholics, had no voice in the administration of public affairs. About this so much complaint could not be made, because the Catholics were the vanquished party, and the good things of the state, and the administration thereof belonged to the victors.

Another election came, and old issues were no longer alive. The separate school party had been beaten, the measure they opposed had become law, and there was no chance and no hope for repeal. The minority party therefore accepted the condition of things, for further resistance would only beget further strife, and make much worse the matter which they aimed to better. They therefore entered the field divested of old issues, and if my appreciation of the morality of politics be correct, were in honor and in conscience at liberty to choose a future course of action for themselves, without regard for issues past and dead, and which the state had declared a law, and circumstances and the temper of the public put beyond the power of revocation.

Every man occupying a representative place, is in some sort a pastor of his people. The duty of the politician, entrusted with the public welfare of the people, is the words public welfare embracing questions of finance, good government, public morality in a great measure, and public instruction,—is a very high and a very sacred one, and such a representative is morally bound, bound I say by conscience, to advance all those interests as far as lie within him, and to guard the same religiously and with a strong hand. On these grounds I justified the blending of parties, the entry of two Catholics members into the Provincial Government, because only out of such a policy of conciliation could justice come to a creed which had for many years before been ignored and neglected.

[This communication will be published in two or three instalments. We apologize for having to do this, but our space is so limited it is impossible for us to do otherwise.—Ed.]

Rest and comfort to the suffering.

Brown's Household Panacea has no equal for relieving pain, both internal and external. It cures pain in the side, back or bowels, sore throat, rheumatism, toothache, lumbago and any kind of pain or ache. It will most surely quicken the blood, and heal, as its acting power is wonderful. Brown's Household Panacea, being acknowledged as the great pain reliever, and of double the strength of any other Elixer or Liniment in the world, should be in every family handy for use when wanted, as it really is the best remedy in the world for cramps, indigestion, stomach, pain and aches of all kinds, and is for sale by all druggists at 25 cts. per bottle.

Mothers! Mothers!! Mothers!!!

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once to the bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has a babe used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief of health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere at 25 cents a bottle.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

The February Number of this favorite periodical is even more than usually interesting. The leading article, "Sports and Sports in America," by Oliver Johnson, is ten excellent illustrations of Winter outdoor sports. Another admirable article also fully illustrated, is entitled "London Hospitals and scenes in them," by Janet E. R. Kees. "Madagascar," by Alvan S. Southworth. A Hunting Party in Florida, Mollere and his World, by H. Barton Baker. The first voyage round the World, and a shadow, by William Ackroyd, are full of interest and information. The serial, The Amber Witch, is continued, and there are numerous short stories and sketches by popular writers of great merit. Among the many excellent poems, Angel Visits, by Charles Mackay, and A Baby Song, by C. A. Burke are especially good. The miscellany, of which there is an abundance, embraces a variety of subjects, and affords a vast source of entertainment and instruction. Each number of the magazine contains 128 quality pages and over 100 engravings, with a handsome colored frontispiece, the subject in this number is, The Sick child, from a painting by Tryer. Single copies are sold at 25 cents each, the subscription for a year \$3, or \$1.50 for six and \$1 for four months, post-free. Address, Frank Leslie's Publishing House, 33, 35, & 37 Park Place, New York.

To our Country Subscribers.

Some of the gentlemen in the country who have not paid for the STAR yet, might bring us a load of good hard wood for any kind of wood for that matter