

Windsor Items.

April 9.

The snow is still quite deep here; good hauling on the roads, and not much signs of Spring.

The lumber parties have about all come from the woods and report quite a successful winter; la grippe interfered with them some, but otherwise the men were quite healthy while in the woods. After coming out however, a good many were attacked by A. L. C. O. H. O. L. grip some being completely taken down with it and rendered unconscious. We think the health officer Mr. McClintock, should turn his attention to Glasville, the Miramichi and Hartland, and not confine his labors to his own village.

George Kimble met with a severe loss yesterday, his house being burned to the ground. The fire caught in the roof and before it was seen had got under good headway. Nearly everything in the house was burned. Mrs. Kimble and the little children being the only ones about the place at the time, before assistance came it was too late to do much; all that was saved was by Mrs. K's personal efforts; a watch and what money was in the house was burned.

John Thompson is quite sick with la grippe.

Middle Simonds Items

April 9, 1890.

Spring is coming slowly, and it has the appearance of a very late season. There is an abundance of snow, and very fair travelling on the roads. The ice is still firm in the river, affording good crossing.

By the death of Mr. Josiah B. Holmes, which occurred on Friday 4th inst., Simonds lost one of its genial and esteemed citizens. The deceased had been suffering slightly from a cold for some weeks past, but nothing serious was apprehended. Only a few days ago, he was able to be upon the street, but the cold developed into pneumonia and proved fatal on Friday. The funeral services were conducted by Elder John Hutchinson.

H. Stoddard, for several years a resident of Simonds, has disposed of his property to Lieut. W. Ross, and removed to Lansdowne, followed by the kind regards of many friends. A few evenings before his departure, a number of the young folk met at his residence and spent a very enjoyable evening.

D. W. Shaw and Miss Eliza Colwell have returned from Lowell, Mass., where they have been spending the winter. We would gladly welcome more of our young people's return home from the neighboring Republic.

Mr. William Mills has returned from his trip up the Tobique river, and reports all quiet at the Point.

Many persons would be pleased by receiving a valentine, but this is not the case with one of our citizens who instead of being pleased has offered a reward of \$25 for information leading to the apprehension of the offender, and now the query is "Who sent the Valentine?"

Jim Carr, the writer desires to say is shoe-making at Hartland "He is indeed a surgeon to old shoes; when they are in great danger, he recovers them. As proper men as ever trod upon neat's-leather have gone upon his handiwork."

Benton Items.

April 9, 1890.

A successful basket sociable was held at Oak Mountain on Thursday evening last. Proceeds devoted to church purposes.

Messrs. Murdoch & Sons and Sawyer's mills commenced sawing yesterday.

Scarlet fever is still lingering in this vicinity. On Monday evening, Gordon, a young son of W. B. Speer, died, and others of the family are very low with this disease. A child of Thomas Winchester's also died a few days ago with the same.

Lewis Clarke fell on the ice yesterday and dislocated a shoulder. Dr. Best was summoned.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Blackie, accompanied by their daughter Gertrude, leave to-morrow for Lowell, Mass., where they will join their son and two daughters. It is Mr. Blackie's intention to remain in Lowell. He has leased his farm here to John Dickinson, who has recently returned from the west.

Andover Items.

Two feet of snow on our streets the 9th April. A gang of men are at work on the bridge, one of the piers being undermined.

The citizens of Four Falls are agitating for a new bridge to span the Aroostook at that place, fully expecting to see the old one swept away during the May freshet. Near its mouth the Aroostook is nearly free of ice.

E. C. Withe, manager of Steven's flour mills at Four Falls, is about to erect a substantial dwelling house.

Mrs. Jno. Street was called to Peel last week, to witness the closing hours of her son, Josiah Holmes.

Jas. McNair's family removed to Arthurette on Wednesday.

Dame rumor has it that Rev. Mr. Fiske is to leave Kincardine.

Misses Kate Watson and Alma Reed arrived from Houlton this week.

Alex Paschke has his sign out for painting, wall papering and whitewashing. Paint applied as judiciously as it was last summer, will soon cause the stranger to stop and inquire if this is a brand new Yankee town.

While our "feller citizens" at Fort Fairfield get \$1.50 per bbl. for potatoes, ours are bought up at \$1.

While Stratton Bros. were receiving a car load of N. S. furniture the other day, one could not very well forbear exclaiming, why thuse? Surely, now, thanks to the Temiscouata, we can import machinery, etc., at a far less cost than they can in N. S. They why, with the best of wood, and cheap labor available, don't we begin to think of exporting furniture?

Hon. W. B. Beveridge and Wm. Currie attended the St. John R. L. D. Co.'s meeting in Fredericton, last week.

The music in the Episcopal and Methodist churches on Easter Sunday was unusually fine, according to the verdict of the large congregations that enjoyed it.

A good butcher will be in demand here this summer.

Nearly forty Andoverians patronized the pie social and entertainment at Aroostook Junction last Wednesday evening. "Joe" did well on the 15th at the door; the pies went away up, and the resulting \$40 sent the spirits of the ladies who started the affair, up higher still. The two or three Junction men who were present were lost in our crowd.

Thos. Clows of Perth, recently moved into Andover. He is bringing pressed hay here for sale from Wicklow, via N. B. R.

RAMBLES IN THE LEVANT.

By FRANK S. MILBURY, M. D.

Letter No. 6.

Editors Sentinel.

THE HOWLING DERVISHES.

A visit to the temple of the howling dervishes at Soutari (—a town opposite Constantinople)—is a most interesting pastime. The chapel has a gallery running around three of its sides, and screened with lattice-work, for the use of Mussulman women; the broad space beneath, divided from the floor of the chapel by a railing, being devoted to visitors. Strangers are freely admitted. At the principal end of the chapel there is neither railing or gallery, but a slight recess, occupied by a copy of the Koran, placed on a divan, covered with a gold embroidered velvet cloth; at this place a horse-tail standard is reared against the wall, and around hang instruments of torture, daggers with balls and chains, thongs of leather, swords, and iron hooks. The floor is partly covered with skins of the sheep, some dyed red or blue, others in their natural creamy whiteness. On one of these the Sobeik takes his place cross legged, but when engaged in prayer he makes his prostrations, not on the sheepskin but on a sejjide, (prayer-carpet.) The chief of this teke (name of the service) is an elderly man, pale and serious, with flowing, grizzled locks and beard; he is attired in a dark green pelisse, with large open sleeves, and an ample muslin turban wound round a felt cap. A boy of 5 or 6 in a red and yellow gown and a little fez, comes solemnly forward, salutes the priest with intense gravity, kissing his hand and putting it to his forehead, then takes his place beside him, sitting back upon his heels. They are not all dressed as dervishes for many wear the common dress of the country; each person reverently salutes the Sobeik before passing to his place. There is a very careful distinction observed in the manner in which these salutations are returned; those of apparently the highest rank receive a kiss on either cheek; for such as wear the green turban round their felt cap, the Sobeik touches that also with his lips; of others again he merely receives the salutation. The service opens with a low chant, the worshippers kneeling and going through the positions required by Mussulman prayer, the little boy following every movement with the greatest decorum; they stroke their beards, he strokes his tiny chin, and shows no sign of weariness or inebriation; he sits back, as before, when the prayers are ended, gravely watching throughout the whole proceedings. Then the prayer-carpet and sheepskins are folded in heaps on two sides of the chapel, and an old man, gifted with wonderful lungs, sitting crouched on one of the heaps, leads another chant, accompanied by a performer on a small native violin, making a very discordant sound. The devotees, standing in a row opposite to the Sheikh, begin to cry out altogether the name of the Almighty, with a few words accompanying each cry. Then they hold hands and sway in a mass, shoulder to shoulder, now sideways, now forwards. The murmur, at first gentle, soon increases in vehemence; they become heated; a dervish goes round the circle with cool linen caps for such as wish to throw off the turban or fez, then they begin to throw off their warm upper clothing for the exercise is growing fast and furious; many strip all but the shirt from the waist upwards, not intermitting for one moment the swaying and the groaning shout, "allah! illah allah! allah! illah allah!" Meanwhile the Sobeik has passed behind the chanters, attended by a black dervish, who lifts off his master's turban, kisses it, and lays it reverently down beside the others, and then puts on him also the linen skull cap. There is a pause in the shouting; the Sobeik returns to his sheepskin and begins to bless bottles of water brought for that purpose; he murmurs a short prayer over each bottle as he blows into it; it is then handed back to the owner, supposed to be endowed with healing virtue. Some babies are next brought forward by the black dervish who is very energetic. He lays them (3 or 4) in a row, on their faces, and is particularly careful to straighten their little limbs, holding them gently down; but there is no sign of resistance from these infant devotees as the Sobeik, first passing his right foot softly down the body, walks over them, carefully stepping on the upper part of the leg and supported on each side by an attendant; the pressure though momentary, must be considerable for such tender forms. Yet strange to say, the little ones seem to enjoy it, there is not a cry or murmur from any one of the children. Many have gone of their own accord to undergo the sacred trampling, and laid themselves down as if it were a customary observance, jumping up afterwards quite briskly and kissing the hand of the Sobeik who, in return, presses his two hands gently on either side of their little faces, murmurs a prayer and blows upon them, after which, well pleased and feeling all the better for it, they regain their places without the least confusion. Amongst these children, a sweet looking little girl with long fair hair streaming over her faded pink cotton dress, came and knelt down before the venerable man. It was a lovely picture, the delicate child placing her slender hands between his broad palms, the light falling strongly on the fair head with its pale green twist of gauze for adornment, and on the venerable beard and sober-toned cloak of the dervish.

The background, a sombre depth marked here and there by glimmering touches of light reflected from the implements of torture. Some of the infants after undergoing the tread and receiving the blessing, are carried round by their mothers to be blown upon by the most saintly among the worshippers. This treatment is not alone confined to children, but adults old and young undergo the same performance. The row of "howlers" has formed again during these proceedings. They hold each other close now, the arms entwined and the hands on the shoulders, so that it is in a compact mass that they sway altogether. The stamping and howling becomes every moment wilder, as the excitement increases. The voices grow harsh and hoarse. The recurring cry, "Allah! how

how! Allah! how how!" loses at length all semblance of words; it gathers into a roar like the wild howl of some savage beast. Perspiration streams from the faces, the veins of the head swell, we expect to see them fall into convulsions, but still the swaying and the stamp, and the groaning "Allah! how!" go on ever stronger and fiercer. It is a cry of raging demoniacs; nature cannot longer endure the strain. Suddenly the measure changes to a rapid jump for the space of a minute or two then ceases. The maniacs are instantaneously calm and apparently little fatigued. The performance was over, having lasted over two hours, during which time the Sobeik, calm and dignified, had never once looked towards the group of strangers stationed within a few feet of him. A few days later I had the privilege of visiting a Persian Mohammedan teke, and there I saw the use of some of those weapons that were lying around among the carpets and sheepskins. The order of the ceremonies was the same as that just described till in the height of the swaying and excitement, three men darted from the circle, seized each a long needle, and presented themselves before the Sobeik. He prayed and blew upon them, then with his finger in the open mouth of the enthusiast, pressed the cheeks very firmly, passing at the same time the long needle quite through, across the mouth, and out at the other cheek. The men walked off and placing themselves again in the row, stood for half an hour looking very placid and comfortable under the circumstances. This action opened the ball, and other fanatics rushed forward seizing the weapons, cutting and slashing themselves in a horrible way. We soon retreated, both from fear and the repulsive sight of seeing men so terribly out and the blood running in streams from them. I might keep on and write of dozens of other things, but my patience and time are about exhausted and I am very sure yours will be before it is half read. Right here I wish to say that I am indebted for a great deal of information in this article to H. Nalbandian, 519 Grand Rue de Paris, Constantinople, an Armenian, owner of the only so called English book store in the city, a very intelligent honest man to whom I may recommend all travellers. I spent hours in his shop gaining information in a friendly chat.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

In the House of Assembly on Monday Mr. Ketchum committed a bill incorporating the Britton Mining Co., Mr. O'Brien in the chair.

During the consideration of the bill a general discussion took place in reference to the rights of the crown regarding minerals in the granted lands of the province. The consensus of opinion was the crown had a right to grant mineral licenses in such cases either to the grantees of the land or other persons.

Agreed with amendments. And Mr. Ketchum's bill relating to the property devised to Lewis P. Fisher and the town of Woodstock by the late John W. Connell, was agreed with amendments; as was also the bill confirming the sale of real estate of the late Henry Appleby.

Dr. Atkinson moved his resolution, seconded by Dr. Lewis, for a committee to investigate the management of the government stables at Fredericton.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said no charge had been preferred, and as the public accounts contained all the items of public expenditure with the stables, the resolution should not be allowed to pass.

Dr. Atkinson said it was a matter of notoriety that all manner of charges had been made, and if the government were not aware of them it was time such charges should become known to them.

The resolution was lost, the vote being: Yeas—Hanington, Stockton, Turner, Phinney, Alward, Atkinson, Lewis, Stevens, Powell, Rourke, Smith, Shaw—12.

Nays—Blair, Mitchell, Ryan, Pugsley, Tweedie, LeBlanc, Poirier, Russell, Theriault, Harrison, Taylor, Melanson, Hibbard, Hetherington, Murray, Wilton, Robinson, Ketchum, Douglas, Labilloy, Bellamy, Anderson, O'Brien, Burchill—24.

Mr. Ketchum committed a bill authorizing the town of Woodstock to erect a stand pipe and connect it with the system of water works in the said town, Mr. McKeown in the chair.

After explanations by Mr. Ketchum the bill was agreed to.

Mr. Ketchum committed the bill incorporating the town of Woodstock and acts in amendment thereof and other acts relating to said town, Mr. Powell in the chair.

Mr. Baird said he was unavoidably absent when the vote was taken on Dr. Atkinson's resolution. He asked to be recorded as voting against the resolution.

Mr. Ketchum committed a bill incorporating the Woodstock Electric Light Co., Mr. Wilson in the chair. Agreed to with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Blair committed a bill to legalize the action of the sheriff of the city and county of St. John and of the sheriffs of the counties of Carleton and York at the elections held in January last, Mr. Baird in the chair. Agreed to with slight amendments.

Dr. Atkinson made his inquiry: Is it the government's intention to grant this session a subsidy to the Woodstock Centreville or Hartland railway?

Hon. Mr. Blair—I cannot give the hon. member definite information at this moment.

Dr. Atkinson made his motion, seconded by Dr. Lawie, regarding the Fredericton Park Association government stables, etc. Dr. Atkinson said he had made a motion last year with the view of learning whether the ground upon which the government stables were located belonged to the province or not. He was then informed by the government that the ground was leased by the Fredericton Park Association, and that the government stables were built there under an arrangement between the government and the Fredericton Park Association. He (Atkinson) has now reason to believe that there is no such arrangement and that the Fredericton Park Association really has the government in its power.

Hon. Mr. Blair.—The papers referred to in the resolution will be furnished without address. They will, perhaps, be ready in the morning and will show that on this matter as in many others the hon. member has been very much misinformed.

Dr. Atkinson made a lengthy statement, after which he recited all his charges in the following notice of motion, which was seconded by Mr. Turner:—

"Resolved, That M. O. Atkinson, a member of this house, having stated in his place that he is credibly informed and believes that he can establish, by satisfactory evidence, that in anticipation of the general provincial elections held in January last, an agreement or arrangement was entered into by the Hon. Andrew G. Blair, attorney general and leader of the government, and one J. D. Leary and other persons interested in the making by, and procuring from, the government to said J. D. Leary a contract for the construction of docks and harbor improvements in the city of St. John, whereby the said J. D. Leary, by himself and his agents or such other persons, agreed to furnish a large sum of money to assist and aid the said Andrew G. Blair and his colleagues in securing their elections and the election of some of his supporters, in consideration that the provincial government would enter into and deliver to the said J. D. Leary, or in his name, a contract for the construction of certain dock and harbor improvements in the said city of St. John; that the said Hon. Andrew G. Blair, under the said arrangement, did by himself and his agents, receive from the said J. D. Leary and his agents a large sum of money, to-wit, several thousands of dollars to aid him and his supporters in the election at the said general election, on the understanding that the said J. D. Leary should receive the contract for said docks and works, and the contract between the Government and the said J. D. Leary for said dock and works, dated the 17th, day of January last, was delivered to the said J. D. Leary's agent or some one or other person aforesaid alleged as interested in the said contract, upon such payment being made and in consideration thereof and in connexion therewith. Therefore

"Resolved, That a committee of seven members be appointed to inquire as to the allegations and facts aforesaid, and all the circumstances connected with the matters in question, and in the negotiations and circumstances connected with the granting and delivery of said contract for docks and works to said J. D. Leary and his agents, with power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses under oath, agreeable to the provisions of the statute and act of assembly in such cases made and provided, and all other powers then thereunto enabling and with instructions to report in full the evidence taken before and all the proceedings of said committee."

It was moved by Hon. Mr. Pugsley, seconded by Hon. Mr. Mitchell, as follows:—

"Strike out all after the word therewith at the end of the recital of the charge and insert the following:—

"And whereas, The said Andrew G. Blair is desirous that the said committee be appointed without delay, and the inquiry into the said charge proceeded with immediately; therefore

"Resolved, That a committee consisting of five members of this house be appointed to inquire into the said charge against the said Andrew G. Blair and into all the facts and circumstances connected with the matter of the said charge, with power to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses under oath, agreeable to the provisions of the statute and act of assembly in such cases made and provided, and all other powers thereunto enabling and with instructions to report in full the evidence taken before the committee and their opinion thereupon and all the proceedings of said committee."

Hon. Mr. Blair said as the resolution involved a serious charge against himself he desired that there should be no delay in having the fullest investigation. With the consent of the house he would ask that the committee be appointed immediately instead of waiting the usual two days before making the motion. If anything could be proved against his public character, against him as one of the people's representatives, he was anxious that the investigations should be commenced without a moment's unnecessary delay.

Mr. Hanington.—The leader of the government is taking the course that I would adopt under similar circumstances. There will be no objection from this side of the house to an immediate appointment of the committee.

Recess till 7.30 o'clock.

After considerable discussion Hon. Mr. Pugsley's amendment was carried, the vote being:—

Yeas—Mitchell, Ryan, Pugsley, Tweedie, LeBlanc, Poirier, Russell, Theriault, Harrison, Melanson, Palmer, Hibbard, Hetherington, Murray, Wilson, Robinson, Ketchum, Douglas, Baird, Labilloy, Bellamy, Anderson, O'Brien—23.

Nays—Hanington, Stockton, Turner, Phinney, Alward, Atkinson, Lewis, Stevens, Powell, Rourke, Smith, McKeown, Perley—13.

Mr. Shaw and Mr. Burchill paired. Mr. Speaker said he would appoint the committee in the morning.

FREDERICTON, April 9.—This morning the speaker named as the special committee to investigate Dr. Atkinson's charges Messrs. Mitchell, Phinney, Wilson, Atkinson, and Hetherington.

(By telegram to SENTINEL.)

Fredericton, April 10, 1890.

In closing the debate for a committee to investigate his charges against Attorney General Blair, Dr. Atkinson said he did not rise for the purpose of adding anything to the remarks that had been already made by hon. members of the Opposition side of the house, but he was very much surprised at the stand taken by the leader of the Government in his endeavor to burk enquiry, and he was the more surprised because when he had thrown out the challenge that hon. gentleman had courted the fullest enquiry, he had since then receded from his position. He did not think that the hon. gentleman charged should be the party whose province it was to dictate to the house its method of procedure against himself. Were the amendment the same as the motion then why, he would ask, was there such a move made to shut off legitimate enquiry into the whole circumstances connected with the granting of this contract?