

as the County of Bonaventure is concerned, would we think have astonished some of the knowing ones—we have whistled at the plough in our day, and have no hesitation to affirm, that Professor Johnston, or any other competent judge, will pronounce the Soil this side of the Bay, to be superior to that of the opposite shore. Following the line of Road from Campbellton to Halifax, we have seen none to surpass and equal it. We will even go further, and state that we have travelled throughout the length and breadth of England, and can safely assert, that the average of the soil of this County, is at least equal, if not superior to that of Devonshire or Kent, the latter known as the far famed garden of England. Yet Gaspé is considered a bleak, dreary wilderness, without even one oasis to cheer the unfortunate traveller, or gladden the heart of its miserable inhabitants.

In saying we wish Professor Johnston had extended his visit to our shores—it must be, as a matter of course understood to mean an amateur or good Samaritan. We know the rulers of Canada too well to suppose for a moment, that they would even dream of such a useless piece of extravagance—a grant for Gaspé would be as great a miracle as drawing blood from the carotid artery of one of the Elgin Marbles.

But we are digressing from our subject, we started with the Fisheries, when lo and behold the evil genius of our adopted resting place, arrays before our eyes a thousand and one grievances, real or imaginary—for there is no knowing what the lumbarities of the age may think of our midnight lucubrations—'tis the hour when ghosts, hobgoblins, wizards, et hoc genus omne, are said to disturb our over-heated imaginations—such dreary abodes as these are poor preventatives against the blue devils—be that as it may, we court enquiry—we seek it—and if some redoubtable champion of the laissez faire school will enter the lists, we shall be happy to have a tilt with him, and fearlessly exclaim—"come on Macduff!"—our thousand and one grievances we shall reserve for future consideration, and endeavour to collect our scattered ideas, in order if possible, to adhere to our text.

MERCATOR,

(To be continued.)

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

JOHN A. STREET, ESQ.

DEAR PIERCE,

By your giving insertion to the Speech, or rather ignorant twaddle, lately delivered by John A. Street, Esq., on the Anti Liquor Bill, and the notice taken thereof by the Editor of the Temperance Telegraph, you will confer a favor on that portion of your Readers, at least those who wish well to the cause of Temperance.

Mr Street evidently plumes himself upon the expectation, that to oppose Temperance in Northumberland, is to secure votes at the coming Election! but he will find his mistake.

The Freeholders of Northumberland, altho' differing perhaps, as to the best mode of promoting Temperance, are as desirous to suppress Intemperance as any people on earth; and if I am not greatly mistaken, it will yet be found that a large majority of those who take what is called a social or moderate glass, are disposed to forego the fancied pleasure, which such a habit affords, in order that they may become the means of reclaiming friends and relatives, already too far advanced on the road to ruin, too weak and prostrate to be able of themselves, to subdue their subtle enemy.

Who then among us are really at heart opposed to the Temperance Reformation? or in other words, who among us are disposed to countenance with their votes, the unblushing enemy of a cause, which, next to Christianity, has done more to ameliorate the moral and social condition of mankind, than all other means put together. Who? Why none! trust but the paltry votaries of Bacchus, who would not cease to immolate their fellow men on the fowl altar of their Idol, though all around them were rushing headlong into Hell flames.

Can that be termed Law, Mr Editor, which provides not the power to enforce its own penalties? Surely not! yet H. M. Attorney General has the impudence to ask if the Law of 1852 did any good? I tell him, that instead of good, it has done much harm, and he was the chief cause of that harm, for it was he who backed that excellent Bill while under discussion, and in so doing murdered the peace, happiness, and prosperity, of many a family in this Province.

I read lately, the melancholy story, of a man in one of the States of the Union, who in early life had received a liberal Education, and had struggled long against intemperance; this man told the Court, before whom he was arraigned, and by whom he was about to receive sentence of death, for having killed his much beloved son, while in a fit of delirium tremens, that the state of mind which produced what the Law called murder, did not result in his case from the act of drinking, but from the previous steps taken under the authority of the State to enforce that act, it resulted," said he, "from the Licensed hand that held the cup to my lips."

If J. A. Street, Esq., would but lay to heart the following truism, its efficacy in obtaining votes for him would prove a thousand fold greater and more honorable, than all the ill his blundering efforts against a noble cause can accomplish.

"No man has a right to do what he pleases unless he pleases to do what is right."

Speech of Mr. Street, on the Anti-Liquor Bill.

The Attorney General said if ever a law passed this Legislature calculated to demoralize, it was the Maine Liquor Law. Many years had passed since we had seen so much drunkenness as had been witnessed since the passing of that Law. Its result had been most injurious. The effect had been to allow every man to sell as he pleased, and to drink as he pleased. Its injurious effect on the country no one could doubt. When we had a License Law, there was some restraint, but there was none now; and when Temperance Societies confined themselves to their proper sphere, they accomplished much good. The Attorney General here went into a lengthened exposition and defence of the License Law, contending that it had had the most beneficial effect; that it was founded in common sense because it legislated against the abuse and not the use of the article—The Maine Law could not be carried out, for it was founded neither in reason nor in common sense. He appealed to every hon. member who had travelled in the State of Maine when he asserted that liquor could be had anywhere by those who wanted to get it. The Maine Law was contrary to reason, it was opposed to common sense, it added hypocrisy to intemperance, it was based in fallacy, it had failed in every place it had been tried, and he would go for repeating it in toto.

He would ask hon. members calmly if this was the proper mode of promoting Temperance? The object might be good; but this was not the way to accomplish it. The hon. mover of the Bill had read them statistics; but they did not require to go to newspapers or to books for information regarding intemperance. They had only to look around them, in their own Province, to see the horrible effects of intoxicating drink. Hon. members differed as to the mode of removing the evil, while they might be actuated by the same desire.

Has the Bill of 1852 had the anticipated effects?—Hon. members say Licences are still running, but where are Counties where there are no Licences—How is it there? The Law is not carried out—it cannot be carried out—they will sell in spite of fate.

The effect of the present measure would be to promote smuggling, and to defraud the Revenue. It was the duty of every good member of the community to prevent smuggling. Under the present Bill, it would not be so. There would be no sympathy; it would create apathy in the community at large, and they would not interfere. The Act of 1852 had proved a failure, and the present would be a greater failure still. It would promote the cause of intemperance, for the consumption of spirituous liquors would be greater. The Revenue would be defrauded, by poverty induced, and immorality increased. He should therefore oppose the Bill. Were they to prevent men from using an article because some men abuse it? Gluttony he believed to be worse than drunkenness. They might as well prescribe how much men should eat and what they should eat. The only difference between the glutton and the drunkard was, that the man who drinks may injure others as well as himself. He would vote against the Bill, not because he was opposed to Temperance but because this was not the way to promote it.

Reply of the Temperance Telegraph.

We are filled with amazement, and yet we are not surprised, at the silly nonsense uttered by some of our Members, with respect to the Temperance Bill—amazed to think that these men should display so much ignorance on a subject of such vital importance to the interests of the country and to the cause of human progress; not surprised, because we can look for nothing but the shrewdest twaddle in answer to the stern facts and the unerring conclusions presented by the advocates of Prohibition.

We find from the reports of the debate on the Bill now before the House, that the Attorney General took upon himself to inform that honorable body that "the present Maine Law as it was called, had carried more intemperance than all the laws on the Statute Book." We are not at a loss, at the outset, to know what the learned gentleman meant by this assertion. We were not previously aware that any of the laws of the Statute Book were intended or had the effect of causing intemperance, with the exception of the old license laws; and we presume the speaker did not contemplate these when he made the comparison, since they are not supposed to be on the Statute Book at the present time, and we can scarcely understand him as admitting that the license laws had been promotive of intemperance, for he subsequently commends a "wholesome law to regulate the sale of liquors" as the best antidote.—What then are we to infer? That this was an ingenious attempt to invest a vagary with the dignity of an idea—to pass off an apparition for a form of flesh, by covering it with the habiliments of the living body. But though the Attorney General failed to convey any idea of the magnitude of the evil resulting from the Legislation of '52, he is to be understood as imputing some mischievous consequences to it. "Instead of preventing persons from selling the reverse," he says "was the case, for every body who chose, did so, when and wherever they pleased; not only in houses but carried it about on sleds." How any man of any pretensions to common sense can deliberately and of forethought, get up and represent these evils as the result of a law, we cannot comprehend. They are no more the fruits of the "Maine Law so called," than sin is the fruits of the statutes, of Jehovah. And as respects the failure of the Act to remove the evil, Mr. Attorney General and his coadjutors in the Legislature are responsible for that; for we tell them plainly that they altered the wording of the Bill so as to destroy its sense and prevent its operation. We refer more particularly to the ninth section, which indicated the mode of recovering the penalties, which ran thus—"Any forfeiture or penalty * * * may be recovered by action of debt or complaint."

By changing the word or into one they rendered the principal provisions of the Bill ineffectual, inasmuch as there is no such thing as an action of debt on complaint known to our law. Does it become the Attorney General then, who as a Lawyer, Legislator and adviser of the Crown, must be held responsible for the altered wording of the Act, to turn round and condemn Temperance Legislation? It is quite time to do that after every means have been tried in vain to accomplish the object sought for by the Temperance party.

But the inefficiency of the law is not the substantial objection to the measure, in the mind of the Attorney General. He did not want it to be effectual. He would have been sorry to see it accomplish the

object for which it was framed, for he says, "The Legislature has no more right to say what a man should drink than what he should eat." Perhaps not—no more right; but we maintain that it has a right to say what a man shall eat. If any social benefit were to be derived from interdicting an article of diet, the Legislature would be fully justified in prohibiting its consumption. Nay, it does exercise its powers for this purpose in one instance at least. A similar example is to be met with in the ordinances against the sale of bad meats. Not only is the seller punished but the unwholesome food is destroyed by the arm of law.

The Attorney General's argument, if good for anything proves too much. It proves that a man has a right to inquire himself if he will, and that no one has a right to interpose between him and his designs of self-debasement or destruction. Now he must know that the suicide is a *felo de se*—a felon, in the eye of the law; and that his property was confiscated by the common law, like that of any other murderer. Again, according to his reasoning, the Duellist ought not to be molested; for, is not his life his own? and may he not set himself up to be shot at, if he pleases? and what is to prevent his antagonist from shooting him to the heart, discharge a loaded pistol at his breast? What is to prevent a man eating arsenic, or an Apothecary selling poison for the purpose of self destruction? According to the logic of the First Law Officer, a benevolent individual who essays to prevent the victim of love from terminating his misery by a leap over the Suspension Bridge, would be a trespasser and a wrong doer worthy the execration of his fellow men! "Let him alone," cries the Attorney General. Don't interfere with his personal liberty.

It is curious to observe the inconsistency that runs through the whole of this gentleman's speech—an inconsistency, in fact which is observable more or less, in all the opposers of the Bill. After having reprobated the Maine Law as an interference with the right of the subject to drink what and when he pleases, he urges, as an objection to the law, that under its operation, there is more liquor sold and drunk in Maine now than before they got the law. If so, we would ask—is not then, the Maine Law a glorious privilege to the rum drinker—the Magna Charta of his liberties—the act of emancipation from the slavish chains of the old license law!

The Hon. Attorney General denounced the Bill as coercive, and yet he would "go for a measure for the safe keeping of habitual drunkards, by building a Penitentiary or an Asylum for the safe keeping of such persons."

Here, then, we have the man who is so tender of the privileges of his fellow men, who stands up for their right to drink what they please; proposing to take money out of the pockets of the people, to build an Asylum (at what cost it is impossible to estimate,) and for what? to prevent a large number of the free and independent inhabitants of New Brunswick from—not "eating" but drinking what has become to them a physical necessity! Here is coercion with a vengeance! Here is a proposal not only to prevent men from drinking, but to shut them up, like felons in a Penitentiary or madmen in a Lunatic Asylum, and to maintain them there (mark that) at the public expense, though they become within 24 hours after their committal, as rational as other men, and as guiltless of any offence against the laws of their country as the most exemplary moderate drinker among us. And it is worthy of remark that this is doing, and directly too, the very thing that the Attorney General reprobates as the supposed object of the Temperance men—viz., saying what a man shall or shall not drink; for while he coerces the drinker, they leave him to do as he pleases, punishing only the man who tempts him, for his sake, to self destruction!

Thus the Attorney General blows hot and cold in the same breath, deprecating coercion yet unscrupulously dragging the unfortunate victim of the drink traffic from his own home and the society of friends to make him the companion of thieves and murderers.

We purpose to remark on others of the speeches in future members.

MR. EDITOR,

You know our Lumbermen love to crack a joke in their camps to while away the time in the long winter nights, now we had an odd fellow amongst us last season, who brought some of our little jests to paper, and presuming they might be amusing to some of your readers, I communicate a copy to you.

Yours respectfully,
SMALL AXE.

PUNCH IN THE WOODS.

Mr Bunkum, manager of an extensive Lumbering business, had need of a good hand.—Mr Blue and Mr Yellow presented themselves, Blue outwitted Yellow and got in, served two years, when Yellow outwitted him again; Yellow served likewise two years, and demands now the wages of four years. Mr Bunkum remonstrates, but a committee of his foremen decides by majority in favour of Mr Yellow's claims of £230.

1st Query of Punch.—Who is the better, the one who claims it or the one who votes for it? Answer, Shake hands brother, said the blackamore to the chimney sweep.

2nd Query.—How many first class schools could that money support, and how many children could be educated with it during one year? Answer, Seven Schools, and two hundred and ten Children.

3rd Query.—Ought not the names of those Foremen who voted for it, be written with large letters on the Hustings at the next Election?

Chinese Merchants frequently put up signs on their shops with these words, no cheating here. Would it not be proper if there were similar signboards put up on some Offices; Justice given gratis here, just by paying the freight as low as any where else, no barter of votes or any other articles.

Last year some Northern Fabricus reconnoitering the enemy's position, stumbled on a bundle of papers; in trying to decipher their hieroglyphical contents, he was disturbed by a noise, and turning round, beheld a stately Elephant, covered with silk cloth. This sight

did not ruffle his mind at all, nevertheless some people thought, his eyesight got somewhat dimmed by the strong scent of the Ambrosia, which the sagacious monster held out to him in a little basket with his long proboscis; but there is no mistake about him, we never believed any such thing, much less do we now, as we saw him lately flinging fearlessly a mile-post among a swarm of voracious hornets, which made such a terrible buzz about it that one of them got frightened, and tried to step the others by saying, the Queen might hear the buzz in Westminster Palace, and at once find out who steals the honey out of Her People's Bee Hive.

An Editor of a Journal is the true Knight Errant of the modern World. Fearless and independent he sits in his Editorial Chair, like the Knight of old on his warsteed, presenting his ironpointed lance to oppression, to injustice, and to calumny. The injured woman, the helpless orphan, the suffering sick and poor, and the persecuted stranger, find him ready to vindicate their rights before the world; he stands up for a whole nation as undaunted as for a single individual. What a glorious duty! more glorious still as it is a self-imposed one! may every worthy Editor, possess a pen as strong as *Cœur de Leon's* sword, iron cutter, sentiment as frank and loyal as Bayard's the Knight without reproach, and correspondents as faithful and fearless as the Esquires and Armour-bearers of the Knights of yore. May the people learn that Journals and Newspapers are the medium to enlighten the mind, that they are the railroads on which thought and opinion travel, free and unhindered over the country, and lead people to prosperity.

Unpublished list of the Crystal Palace Exhibition, in New York.

PICTURE GALLERY.

Difference in the comforts of life:—A Yankee sitting in a rocking chair, smoking his cigar, and elevating his understandings by putting them upon the back of another chair.—Opposite, A Turk sitting upon his understandings crosswise, and smoking a three feet long pipe.

The Maine Liquor Law represented as Joan d' Arc, on horse back, in splendid armour.—Device on her breastplate, a cupid in jackboots and spurs, namping and kicking among wide-glasses and decanters, and firing candysticks from a pop-gun at some fleeing nymphs. In her right hand she holds a sword, on the blade the inscription "for woman's rights." In her left hand she bears a flag, on which old dame Pallas appears, leading by the right, lady Concordia, and by the left hand, Miss Comfort, all three dressed in regalias. A suit of ladies and gentlemen follows, at whose tail the New Brunswick Liquor Law walks, represented by a tall, bald-headed old gentleman, leaning on crutches; to one of his coat tails is a cable, attached on which he tows a schooner, freighted with hogheads, marked "Jamaica;" from the pocket of the other coat tail drops a £20,000 check.

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT.

A flea of uncommon size, reared in Texas, and yoked in a beautiful little wagon, wrought of the finest California Gold, and laden with bags full of Yankee tricks, in miniature.

The Electro-magnetic-pedagogic battery, for which the inventor applied for patent rights. This machine is constructed much like a Galvanic battery. Any one who wishes to commit a whole book to memory, lays the book upon the battery, takes both wires in his hands, the operator sets the machine going, and r-r-r-r-r it goes; after five minutes, the book is learned, and never will be effaced from the memory again.

Note.—When the inventor will have his patent right secured, we may expect a great alteration in the Educational System, and no doubt Schoolmasters will become superfluous. What a valuable acquisition in hands, will this be to the Railroad Contractors; then there is no doubt that the Schoolmasters will eagerly seize upon that opportunity to get higher wages, provided they are permitted to work in gloves.

News of the Week.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The New Market House will be ready for occupation on the first day of May. The building is unquestionably an ornament to the City, and reflects much credit on Mr. Davis, the builder.

The interior of the building is admirably arranged. The Green market is in the southern end, and running east and west; and contains forty-three apartments, with the necessary fixings to each, such as racks, drawers, &c. In the cellar there are eight frost proof apartments, where vegetables and other articles may be kept during the winter.

The rest of the building is divided into Butchers' stalls, of which there are fourteen, separate and distinct from each other, so that the occupant can lock up his stall, satisfied that all is safe during his absence. The building is airy and well ventilated,