

PROGRESS.

W. K. REYNOLDS, EDITOR.
Subscriptions, \$5 a year, in advance; 60 cents per six months; 25 cents for three months; free by carrier or mail.

ADVERTISEMENTS, (contract,) \$15 an inch a year. The edition of PROGRESS is now so large that it is necessary to put the inside pages to press on Thursday, and no changes of advertisements will be received later than 10 a. m. of that day.

News and opinions on any subject are always welcome, but all communications should be signed. Manuscripts unsolicited to our purpose will be returned if stamps are sent.

EDWARD S. CARTER, Publisher and Proprietor. Office: No. 27 Canterbury St., (Telegraph Building)

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCT. 12.

CIRCULATION, 6,000.

This Paper Goes to Press Every Friday at Twelve O'Clock.

THEY ARE WISE.

The solicitor general and coroner, who are the custodians of any secrets there are in the poisoning matter, have acted wisely in refusing to give the newspapers information. It is well enough for old and discreet officials to trust themselves to talk, but where, as in this case, they are new at their vocation and without experience in criminal investigation, the safer plan is to say nothing, lest they say too much.

As for the chief of police and his assistants, they have been silent because they have had nothing to tell. The assistants made an arrest because the chief directed them to do so, and he so directed them because he was ordered to do so by the solicitor general. The latter acted upon information received, in regard to which certain newspaper men have found out as much as the police. It speaks well for the dreaded representatives of the press that the secret has been kept so well.

The method of prolonging the enquiry, while somewhat novel in the history of important inquiries, has the advantage of keeping the public on the ragged edge of expectation from day to day, much after the manner of the sensational serial story. The people have plenty of time to reflect upon the theme between the instalments. Besides, it inculcates the admirable virtue of patience.

A CHOICE OF SYSTEMS.

Without any desire to enter into a controversy with Post Office Inspector KING, on the subject of street letter boxes, we adhere to the belief that the contract system is not the best in the interests of the public.

While it is true that there is a possibility of neglect, or even dishonesty, when the work is done by regular employees of the office, we submit that in such case the risk would be reduced to a minimum. The award of a contract is made to the man who tends most favorably for the interests of the department, and not because the contractor is in all cases a man who would be trusted as a regular employee. Admitting, however, that none but thoroughly reliable men are considered in the tenders, and that they give ample security, who is to vouch for their employees? The contractor does not do the work. He tenders low enough to secure the job, and then, to make anything out of it, hires boys as cheaply as possible to perform the service for him. It is an exceptional boy who retains such a position any longer than he can get an easier one, and there is a liability to have a frequent change of collectors. Admitting, again, that the contractor takes special pains to secure honest assistants (and there is no intimation that it has ever been otherwise) it is impossible for him to guarantee that each will be a model of diligence and zeal. It is not human nature for a lad to prefer the public service to his own comfort, when he is paid only a trifle for his work.

On the other hand, an employee of the post office is appointed with a due regard to his character and fitness for the position. He is usually very faithful to his trust, and has a sense of duty which becomes natural to a man in the government employ. Looking at it in another light, he knows that, though he may be superannuated on starvation wages in his old age, he is sure of a place so long as he is able to do his work well. Position, and possibly promotion, give him an incentive to duty.

Inspector KING is recognized as an official who is anxious to do whatever is most in the interest of the public. The contract system is not of his creation, and he is not responsible for any faults which are inherent in it, or for the failure of the present or any other contractor to perform his full duty. In the absence of many complaints, he naturally believes that the work is well done, and he has the courage of his convictions in the matter.

It is just open to question if the absence of complaints is positive evidence of the performance of duty.

A great scheme of rapid transit, which is said to have the endorsement of General JOHN NEWTON, is proposed for connecting New York and Brooklyn. It is simply an adaptation of the principle of the Toboggan slide, the speed to be regulated by the incline, from twenty-two miles an hour upward. The introduction of it in St. John would make a great boom for Highland park.

ANGELS, OR OTHERWISE?

A good man died in Nova Scotia the other day. He was one whose unglorious life was marked by simple faith and noble purpose. Probably, if ever a mortal deserved to put on immortality and be welcomed by the angels, it was he. And it is said there is evidence that such a blissful event took place. "About an hour before he died," writes a friend, to a denominational paper, "he looked up smiling, and said he could see the angels hovering over his head."

This remarkable statement will probably be treasured by those who loved him, as an evidence of blissful transition from this world to a happier one. It will be quoted from the pulpits as a proof of the doctrine of the christian faith, and it may, like similar anecdotes of other good men, be faithfully preserved in the Sunday school books of the future. It is a beautiful incident, and to many a convincing one.

But, it may be asked, did this good man really see the angels of God hovering over his head? Were they waiting to welcome the soul from its trail tenement of clay and bear it to a better land? The answer of many will be, yes. We are sorry that we cannot agree with them, for we believe that the vision was due to physical condition rather than to spiritual visitation.

It is true that this is not an isolated instance of the kind. Many who read this may recall like occurrences in their circle of relatives or friends. Yet, however harsh it may seem to seek to dispel a fond illusion, it is but right that the truth should be told. The doctors say that the conditions preceding dissolution, in some instances, are such as to induce visions and disordered fancies. Such visions are not always of angels. It depends entirely upon the condition of the patient's mind. They may be of purely material objects. Such is the scientific view of what some have deemed miraculous phenomena.

Why say this, when a belief in the presence of angels may give much comfort to mourning ones, and even if erroneous, can do no harm? Because it is not true. That is a sufficient reason for banishing any belief which pertains to the here or the hereafter. The very fact that such instances are not very common would be enough to shake belief in them, even if there were no practical explanation. Good people die in pain, in stupor, and sometimes in fear, but no vision is vouchsafed to them. People of creeds diametrically opposed, and people who were no more righteous than their neighbors, have had such visions. They prove nothing, except a scientific fact in regard to the brain.

There is enough that is solid and substantial in christianity without recourse to superstition, however comforting it may be. There is enough that is practical without resort to visions. If it were not so christianity would not be adapted to the needs of the nineteenth century.

Some of the Orange body may find food for thought in an extract from the Toronto Telegram, in another column of this issue. It appears to hit the nail on the head. It should be said, however, that while the quotation is given in full, it is not because it points to the conservative party as the offender, but because it tells of a state of things might exist under either liberals or Tories. The point is that the Orange order has grown weary of being led by trimmers on either side of the fence. It has objects and principles, which are not to further the interests of any set of politicians, unless there be more than party politics involved.

CLARK BRADEN denies, in very emphatic terms, that he has any need to resort to subterfuge in dealing with CHARLES WATTS. It is understood that Mr. BRADEN, who represents the Disciples of Christ, is not in full accord with the teachings of all the Halifax ministers, and will not undertake to represent their "various and conflicting views." As, however, he has been endorsed by the Evangelical Alliance, and has in other ways shown a willingness to enter the list, most people would think he had done quite enough. An explanation from WATTS is now in order.

If the Evangelical Alliance would attend St. Stephen's church any Sunday, it would find something worthy of its attention in the noise made by the engines and cars in the railway yard. Sunday appears to be the Intercolonial's busy day, and if its employees choose to work on that day it is nobody's business. It is quite another matter when the right of people to worship as they please is interfered with by the shrieking of whistles and other noises. Then the I. C. R. work becomes a nuisance that ought to be abated.

It was not because of the bad weather of the last three days of the electric exhibition that there is a deficit to be faced. The mistake was in having a carnival and electric exhibition at the same time, of prolonging the carnival for a week, and in playing off a counter-attraction to the exhibition every afternoon and evening there was anything to see. As to the carnival itself, it is only a wonder its deficit is no larger.

Those who bought Winnipeg lots during the boom, and neglected to unload on their friends, will find consolation in DOUGLAS SLADEN'S prediction of the future of the prairie city.

Advertisement for IDEAL SOAP featuring an illustration of a man and a woman. Text includes: 'THIS IS THE COCK THAT ROSE IN THE MORN THE DAY THE IDEAL SOAP WAS BORN HE HAD RISEN EARLY TO TELL TO MANKIND THAT WONDERFUL SOAP TO SEEK AND TO FIND.', 'USE IDEAL SOAP. All grocers sell it.', 'THE WORLD IS WAKING UP TO THE VALUE OF IDEAL SOAP.', 'Made only by WM. LOGAN ST. JOHN N.B.' and 'IDEAL FULL POUND BAR'.

STAR CHOP Black Tea. A PURE ENGLISH BREAKFAST.

SUNDRY HITS AND HINTS.

The coroner never felt bigger in his life. A chance for junks. The plant of the Hillsboro Observer is to be sold by auction. The greater portion of the Kentville police force is incapacitated from duty by illness. His name is O'Grady. The local government is likely to see more propriety in thanking-day this year than it will see next year. Connecticut, too, has adopted the Canadian ballot, with the result of defeating prohibition by an overwhelming majority. A Halifax man got so "dead drunk," the other day, that he was taken to the police station in an undertaker's wagon. Mayor Lockhart is more than fulfilling the expectations of the public as a presiding officer at church entertainments and concerts.

interview with him swore he did nothing of the kind. Will somebody suggest what should be done with Weeks?

The Moncton Transcript has not come to hand this week, probably because PROGRESS admitted that the Yankee-made, labor-defrauding boiler plate was preferable, typographically, to the Transcript's editorial page. The silly editor will hereafter have to pay three cents a copy for PROGRESS, or borrow it from his neighbor.

The militia department at Ottawa is debating whether marriage is a failure or otherwise. The regulations require that a permanent officer must reside at the mess daily, but married men are exempt. As all of the bachelors have been captured from some of the schools, the department has a serious problem to solve.

CHATS WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

How to Manage. Yes! thanks awfully, you know, dear editor of PROGRESS; we will take the hint—"speaking for self and friends," as Sam Weller said—and begin our contributions to the world's literature as low down on the page as you like. True, oh, king! the postage on MS. is but one copper coin of the realm for four ounces, but the best quality of foolscap paper is still 20 cents a ream, and if you peek not of the countless sheets of best, ruled, extra, that you consign to the waste basket, we—who pay for them—reek very much, and so we try to save a little.

The writer of the above is one of the most valued contributors to PROGRESS, and though the "hint" was not intended especially for her, it is gratifying to find that she will heed it. It is not necessary to use foolscap which costs 20 cents a quire. A grade of paper which answers every purpose can be got for much less than that figure.

SPORTSMAN, MISQUASH.—PROGRESS is not a medium for the publication of slurs on people of any class. It is simply a waste of postage to send such stuff as was in your letter.

A LADY FRIEND.—We pay no attention to any communication unless it is accompanied by the real name of the writer. In all cases of personal mention, the writer must be known to the editor, or give references as to good faith. This rule is necessary as a matter of protection from hoaxes.

COMMUNICATIONS intended for publication should be addressed to the "Editor of PROGRESS," and not to the publisher or editor personally.

Anglin Had Met Joe Knowles.

The Toronto Telegram, in a sketch of the Separate School Board, deals with a former citizen of St. John as follows: Another noticeable figure at the meetings is that of Hon. Timothy Warren Anglin. He is an advanced "Timramontane," and upholds the church in everything. His title "Hon." and the high, straight-backed, green upholstered chair in the hallway of his residence on Queen street avenue are about the only remnants of his former greatness, when he was speaker of the house of commons in the Mackenzie regime. The honorable and ponderous Timothy, in the old Ottawa days, was the victim of Hon. Edward Blake's historic attempt to make the joke about the snow. "Just say, 'Snow matter' when the next man makes a remark about the snow," was Joe Rymal's advice to the great Liberal orator. "Oh, it's quite immaterial," said Mr. Blake, meeting Mr. Anglin before the buildings.

The speaker stared at him and said: "Well, the snow is pretty safe, at any rate; we needn't have any anxiety about that." It was Mr. Blake's turn to look puzzled. "Why?" he asked, "do you say that the snow is safe?" "Oh, because most of it is in banks," replied Hon. Timothy, bursting into peals of loud laughter. "See the drift?" he added, punching Mr. Blake's waistcoat with his fat forefinger, and removing his own spectacles to allow his merriment freer play. Hon. Mr. Anglin is not jocosely nowadays. He rarely rushes into the debates at the meetings, but his silence is eloquent and his vote goes for the clerical party every time, with a third that is both dull and sickening.

Merchants' Week.

Beginning Monday, and lasting until Saturday, excursion tickets to St. John, good to return any time within a week from date of purchase, will be issued by all the leading lines of transportation in the province. This chance for all classes to visit the maritime metropolis has been secured by the efforts of the board of trade.

Just Look at Them.

A. O. Skinner is showing some beautiful curtains at such low prices that every household will be able to have heavy curtains this fall. Just look at the prices: Chinelle for \$9, Turcoman for \$4.

Yarns—About Yarns AT "THE PRETTY STORE."

THE KNITTING SEASON has once more rolled around, and with it many inferior makes of YARN have appeared, being represented "Just as Good" as the more reliable brands. Consumers' attention is directed to the HALIFAX, HIGHLAND and BEE HIVE YARNS, which for general Knitting purposes are unequalled. These three brands are known as "Baldwin's." See that the name is on each Hank.

BARNES & MURRAY A Well-Known and Thoroughly First-Class Article is always Desirable Stock. THE JEWEL RANGE, The New Model Range, And the PRIZE RANGE,

Are Goods of which this may truthfully be said. However, every one sold sell many more, for the user will advise their friends to buy no other. Thus to present profit is added future gain, and, what is of more value, the reputation of furnishing Reliable Goods.

The exact reverse of this proposition is true of cheap and poorly constructed goods. They are dear at any price. Call and examine our Stock.

SHERATON & SELFRIDGE, 38 King Street, (Opposite the ROYAL HOTEL.) P. S.—JOBGING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

THE WIDOW GOT HALF.

Which Was Better Than if They Had Given Her Only a Percentage.

Mayor Lockhart presided with his usual grace at a concert given in Berryman's hall, Thursday night, and the occasion was made still more attractive by the presence of the Fusiliers' band and a number of well-known vocalists. The band charged nothing for its services, and it is presumed the others did likewise, because, as was announced in the papers, the proceeds were "to be given to a deserving widow," and every one who could should make a point to attend. Quite a number did attend, and the philanthropically disposed were pleased at the prospect of good cheer for the widow. All the proceeds would not be a fortune, it is true, but they would be quite a help to a woman in need, so the audience settled down feeling very complacent indeed. Their feelings were different when it was announced from the platform that half the proceeds were to go to the deserving widows—and half to Finch Lodge, I. O. G. T. As Finch Lodge had up to that moment been out of sight as a beneficiary, the band was made very tired by the announcement. So were some of the audience. However, the widow got half, which is very decent of the temperance people. They might have earned her prayers and gratitude by giving her only ten per cent. of the proceeds.

Mr. Matthews is There.

Right Eminent Frater Samuel Frederick Matthews, provincial prior for New Brunswick, under the jurisdiction of the Great Priory of Canadian Knights Templars, is attending the triennial convocation at Washington. From letters received in this city, it appears he is having a good time. He called on his old friend, General Roome, grand master of the United States, and was warmly and generously received. He is, of course, accorded all the privileges of his rank, and it goes without saying that his uniform was greatly admired. The Encampment of St. John, which is under the jurisdiction of Scotland, is not represented at the triennial.

It Will Speak for Itself.

PROGRESS is happy to announce that a press fully equal to the requirements of its increasing circulation has been imported, and is now in course of erection on the new premises, Germain street. It is expected that the next issue will be printed on it, when the public will have a chance to judge of its capability for doing good work. Good Luck to Him. The Grip-sack for October announces the dissolution of the firm of Knowles & Reynolds. The publication will in future be carried on by Mr. Knowles, who will make it bright, breezy and interesting for the men of the road. Don't Wait Till Then. Kit Wynham, or Fettered for Life, has been received from Messrs. J. & A. McMillan, and will be noticed next week. Those who want what seems like a taking story should not wait till then, but pay 30 cents and judge for themselves. Reinforcements Now Advancing. Fifty tons of liquor have reached Halifax, on the way to St. John. It looks as though the local government will make a hard fight in the January elections.

Here Are Ideas.

The New York Sun's call for a World's Fair attraction to surpass the Eiffel tower, has waked up an army of cranks. Here are a few of many suggestions: A 44-story building with a spiral railroad; A gigantic orrery, in which people could be swung to a height of 1,200 feet; A perpendicular concert garden, 1,200 feet high; A steel wheel higher than the Eiffel tower; An aerial railroad, suspended 250 feet above the earth; A gigantic toboggan slide; An aerial metal tunnel; The biggest steam engine in the world; A pneumatic tube, by which people could be shot under the Hudson to New Jersey in 30 seconds; An electro magnet weighing 200 tons; A steel tower in joints like a telescope, to be worked by hydraulic power; A tower the shape of an American eagle, with a steam calliope in the head. Other ideas are coming to the front each day.

Must Keep Clear of Boiler Plate.

Ever since Amherst has begun to grow, it has needed a respectable weekly paper, and Messrs. Fitch & Bryenton have come to the front with a Weekly Press, in an effort to supply the want. The initial number, considered as such, makes a very good appearance. It has no boiler-plate, and if it never has any its chances of success are good.

Bad News For the Boys.

The Scott act people having closed up the three best hotels in Amherst. Samuel Deloie intends to dig a well 500 feet deep, and Rhodes, Curry & Co. one 142 feet deep. This is bad news for some of the boys.

Orange Bosses Brought to Book.

All over the dominion Orangemen are rebelling against the district leaders who betrayed their principles in Goderich at the bidding of Hon. Mackenzie Bowell. The revolt of the rank and file against the political captains who have used the confidence of a great society as a card in the game of politics, is a hopeful sign. The Orange private has always cared more for principle than for party. His weakness has been the habit of yielding unquestioning allegiance to selfish leaders. Thus a society that might have been a power for good has become influential only as a means of helping men into the cabinet and getting their favorites positions in the civil service. The action of the brethren in Toronto, Manitoba, and now in New Brunswick, is a symptom of a fraternal determination to end the reign of the trimmer. The character of the order is being vindicated by the members who can put principle before party, and repudiate leaders who look upon the Royal Orange association as an agent for the perpetuation of the government of Sir John.—Toronto Telegram.

The Deadly Pie Social.

The demoralizing means so generally resorted to for raising money for the churches was another curse of religious work. He did not wonder that the young people were milked that way for church support came to despise the church and became the prey of unbelief. Basket and pie socials, which were liable to such abuse that they were an insult to decency, were enlisted in aid of the church treasury. They often ended in scenes of the most disgraceful rowdiness.—Elder Grierson, at Presbyterian Synod.

Good Old Paper: Five Qu'rs for 15 cents, at Mr. Arthur's Bazaar, 80 King Street.