

PROGRESS.

W. K. REYNOLDS, Editor.

Subscriptions, \$1 a year, in advance; 50 cents for six months; 25 cents for three months; free by carrier or mail. Papers will be stopped promptly at the expiration of time paid for.

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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: Masonic Building, Germain Street.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 8.

CIRCULATION, 6,200.

THIS PAPER GOES TO PRESS EVERY FRIDAY AT TWELVE O'CLOCK.

TIME TO TAKE AN INTEREST.

Is it not about time that the people who pay the taxes should take more interest in public affairs?

In other words, is it not time that people should govern themselves in municipal matters, instead of being governed by the men who have the most assurance, thrust themselves to the front and are elected because the citizens are too indifferent to nominate the best available men?

There have been and are now good men in the council under such a system, as PROGRESS has said before, purely an accident. They happened to come out, or be brought out by a few friends before the field was crowded with less valuable timber, and since their merit has been recognized, they are likely to hold their places for a time.

Had some more enterprising and less worthy candidates been alert enough to have come forward before them, they, in some cases, would have remained, and been content to remain, in private life. The recognized principle appears to be that when a sufficient number of aspirants come to the front, so that there is a contest created, all has been accomplished that a reasonable man can desire.

There is less interest taken in the civic elections, which directly affect the pockets of every voter, than in the exercise of any franchise which the people possess. There is less system about them than there is about any act which the people as a body perform.

The remedy for all this is that the people should take more interest in their own affairs, and govern themselves by the choice of the best available men as their representatives in the council. It cannot be too often repeated that the office should seek the man, and not the man the office.

The governing of the city the size of St. John is no trifling matter. The people should govern, not merely in theory, but in fact. They can do so only by a wise and prudent choice of men who will, as aldermen, be faithful to the trust reposed in them.

Such men may not be too plenty, but they can be found, if the people will look for them.

And it is time that the search was begun.

At a meeting of the White Cross society, the other night, Rev. WILLIAM LAWSON is reported to have discussed "Impurity in literature and art as great incentives to vice." It would be interesting to know what the gentleman considers impurity in art, as there appears to be a good deal of difference of opinion on that point.

A MAN MAY NOT MARRY, ETC.

As if there were not already laws enough which rational people consider it a virtue to break, a new and most absurd clause has been introduced in Sir JOHN THOMSON'S proposed act to further amend the criminal law of Canada.

"More nearly than the fourth degree" means not only that a man may neither marry his deceased wife's sister, nor the niece of a deceased wife's sister, who is not, save in the legal interpretation of affinity, of the most distant relation to the man.

The bill has not passed, and it is safe to say that the clause in question will never become law in Canada. Should it do so, it would be difficult to find a jury to convict a man who transgressed it.

The question of the propriety of marriage with a deceased wife's sister is a purely ecclesiastical one with which the church has a right to do as it pleases. So far as we know, however, even the most straight-laced of churchmen have never attempted to reach the extent to which this bill aspires.

It is not every man who desires to marry his grandmother, and a good many men would strenuously object to taking a second wife from the same family that from which they were unfortunate enough to take the first one.

The day has gone by when any such law can be enforced in a free country. It is better to let the church deal with it, as it has a right to do. For those outside of the church's control it is, and should be, a matter of conscience whether they marry a deceased wife's sister or somebody else's sister.

As to the expediency of marrying a deceased wife's sister's niece, that is on a par with the expediency of marrying anybody. The sweeping character of the clause is probably due to the fact that the man who framed it had no idea that it went so far.

Some feeling appears to have been excited in England by the existence of what is termed "The Boys' Brigade," an adjunct of certain Presbyterian Sunday schools, in which the effort is made to teach youths to be Christians by training them to be soldiers.

There will be something of the poetic in the landing of immigrants to this land of liberty at the foot of the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World. Something poetic, perhaps, but that is all. They will see the statue of Liberty, while they learn they are not at liberty to land if they have exercised their liberty to accept an engagement to work instead of coming on speculation, nor will they have such liberty unless they can show that in coming to "the refuge of the poor and oppressed" they have the means to support themselves.

So far as the teachings of the New Testament go, they do not appear to give any ground for the idea that the church should be the training school of the army, and it is probable that such a belief was very far from the minds of the pioneers in Sunday school work.

The question of the utility of Boys' Brigades can hardly be denied from the military point of view, but whether they



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are equally useful from the church's point of view is a question for their advocates and opponents to settle among themselves. A soldier, and above all a British soldier, is honored as a man with whom duty is paramount to all things.

Mr. Brooks—we believe he is a "Dr." but in view of the cheapness of that title, nowadays, it is better not to give him the prefix—preaches a rational Gospel, which contains a great deal of truth and a very little of creed or doctrine.

When Rev. Dr. Wilson avowed his belief in a personal devil, last Sunday, he omitted to explain what some curious people would like to know. Namely, who made the devil, and why was he made?

A city paper says that "a lecturer announces for his subject (it is in Halifax) whether a wife or library is most desirable." We should say that a library, with a grammar, was the more desirable for the man who framed the sentence.

Success to the Boston preacher in his efforts to convert the brokers.

VERY POETIC.

The new arrangement to land immigrants at Bedloe's Island, instead of Castle Garden, prompts the New York Press to remark that

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For Another Week.

Mr. Scholl finds that the number who are charmed by the beauty of the picture, "Heavenly Love," is increasing every day, and has decided to continue the exhibition at Jack's Hall for another week.

You can place your orders for all kinds of Painting, with Wilkins & Sands, 266 Union street. Telephone connexion.

SUNDRY HITS AND HINTS.

What do you think now of the prospects of a dock?

How do you bet on the Scott Act election in the North End?

There is likely to be fun in Fredericton when the legislative band begins to play.

Ice is going up on account of the thaw. It will be pretty well gone up in a month or so.

The citizens are beginning to wonder whether it is this dock they want, or that dock, or any dock at all.

Has the fact that Boreas has been blowing his blast anything to do with the discord among the musicians?

"Coffined by flames" is a head-line which it is quite needless to say is found nowhere but in a St. John daily paper.

The most dangerous sidewalks in St. John, in icy weather, are those in front of such public buildings as the police office and jail.

There seems to be more under the surface in the dock business than in anything the common council has tackled for many years.

About four weeks from now people will begin to wake up to the fact that certain wards need better men in the common council.

Don't be alarmed, dear ladies of the Dorothy company. All this publicity may not be very pleasant, but it will help to advertise the show.

A Halifax youth has been arrested "for notoriously mispending his time." If such arrests were common, a good many of our friends would get into trouble.

According to the "editorial notes" of a city paper when "the average country village is reduced to ashes" "a quarter million or so is expended in rebuilding the ruins."

The Dorothy people have been having a little entertainment all to themselves. It was not contemplated in the original programme, and the libretto has not been preserved.

President Green of the Western Union, doesn't think the government can run the telegraph as well as his company can. One thing is certain, they can't make as much money out of it.

What is the matter with some of the St. John ministers, anyway? Are they trying to draw a crowd by some of the subjects they select, or is that simply their idea of preaching the Gospel?

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If there was likely to be any doubt about the result of the Scott Act election in the North End, the friends of good order would have a potent argument in the result of the investigation made by the Presbytery of St. John.

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Send us 43 cents and we will forward, prepaid, a pair of LADIES' UNDERVESTS. Same goods as last year at 60 cents. BARNES & MURRAY, 17 Charlotte Street.

Look on this Picture, And then on this. THE TRIUMPH OF THE SELF-WRINGER. BRIDGETS' WRINGER. THE NEW WAY. THE OLD WAY. SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW. One of the most sensible, useful and valuable Household Inventions ever offered to the public.

SHERATON & SELPRIDGE, SOLE AGENTS FOR THE JEWEL RANGE, No. 38 KING STREET. READ THIS! W. H. Fry, Official Stenographer writes: My machine has been in continual use since August, 1885, and this is a specimen of my work: Manifolding Eight Copies with a soft roller. I have made on this machine during the Cadby trial, with a hard roller, from Ten to Twelve Copies. I pin my faith to the Caligraph. This is the best manifold machine in the market, in addition to its other points of superiority. SEND FOR CATALOGUE. ARTHUR P. TIPPET & CO., Sole Agents.

CORNELIUS GALLAGHER, Painter Glazier and Paper Hanger, Imitator of Wood and Marble. 99 St. Patrick Street, St. John, N. B. Wishes to thank the public for the very liberal patronage bestowed upon him in the past, and referring to his experience of twenty-five years in business, and to his increased facilities for work, he hopes to merit a continuance of such patronage in the future.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES. My letter this week will be, I am afraid, rather dull, as there has been so little going on in a musical way. I went to the band concert, and although it is late to do so, must congratulate the boys on their success. I understand that the concert was worked out entirely by the members of the band, without any help from the officers, which has always been given for former concerts in connection with the 2nd Battalion. All the numbers by the band were performed very evenly and carefully. Perhaps there were a few ragged passages here and there, but, on the whole, I think they did remarkably well. Mr. McSorley was ill and could not appear. Mrs. Carter also was suffering with a cold, and in consequence her solo had to be omitted. However, she managed to take the soprano in Mr. Ford's dainty quartette, "My Little Barque," which was sung very effectively by Mrs. Carter, Miss Alice Hea, Mr. A. H. Lindsay and Mr. Daniel. Mr. George Coster pleased every one with his solo, "To Anthea." I only wish he could have sung twice in the evening. The duetto, "B Flat Clarionets," "Robert Le Diable" would have been improved, in my opinion, had there been an accompaniment of some kind. To me it sounded crude, although played evenly, and all that sort of thing. Mr. Mayes sang well, and his song, "The Old Brigade," by Barri, evoked an encore.

Why will Miss Hancock sing songs that are two or three times too big for her? As I said before, I think she is the possessor of a very sweet and true voice, which would be heard to an advantage in ballad music, but it is not nearly strong enough or brilliant enough for the music she sings.

Miss Bowden and Mr. Ford substituted the "Overture to Rosmond" for the "Italiana in Algieri," and I for one was glad. The latter composition has been played so often in St. John that it was a relief to hear something else in its place. I liked Mr. Daniel's selection. It is an old song, and I fancy quite new here. Mr. Mayes might have found a better, or at least newer song than "Man the Life Boat," which I think has gone the round of concerts etc., faithfully, and deserves a rest for a while. Mr. Lindsay sang fairly well, but I have heard him do much better on other occasions.

A word for Mr. Ford's exquisite accompaniments, which I think all the singers appreciated most highly, for who has not gone through the agony of having one's song accompanied by some one who just knew enough to spoil the song. Taking it all in all, I thought the band concert very good, and hope they will give another soon.

The Episcopal and some of the other churches are busily practising their Easter music, and I expect some of it will be very fine. There is one choir, however, that is anything but pleased with the prospect held out to them. I refer to the choir of Trinity, who do not know anything definite as to what they are going to do. Some time ago it was thought that the surplised choir would sing for Easter, but since that some say no, others yes, others again I don't know; and through it all the rector and organist keep a profound silence. What is all the mystery about? Are the members of Trinity all children, only to be told things at the rector's discretion? I heard a member say, "If they only knew that they were not to sing, some of them could assist in the other churches."

There has been some trouble about the opera Dorothy, and some important changes have been made. Mr. Jas. Ford is conducting in Mr. Strand's place, and I hear of some changes in the committee. The opera will be given in the middle of May if the members of the company make up their minds to work hard enough. It is very discouraging to a conductor to find only half his chorus at the rehearsal, and besides it puts back those who take the trou-

ble to go regularly. A meeting of the ladies was held last Tuesday afternoon to decide about dresses, and practice some of the dancing, besides a solo rehearsal was held at Miss Burpee's Monday evening, and a thorough practice at the Mechanics' Institute Thursday evening. Mr. Morley has taken the leadership of the Rothery Choral society, which meets for practice every Tuesday evening, at the houses of its different members. The next meeting will be at the residence of Mr. James Robertson. My copy of "Cataline" has not come to hand as yet, I am sorry to say. Concerning the attraction for next week, at the Mechanics' Institute, the Boston Sunday Globe says: "Who's Who? has made a big hit, and Messrs. Gilbert, Pepper and Lodge have won lots of honours." I understand Mr. A. M. Smith has been offered the place in St. David's church choir lately occupied by Mr. Binning. Mrs. deB. Carritte, who sings the leading soprano part in Dorothy, is visiting in New York and Boston. PERTINENT PERSONALS. Miss Lelia J. Robinson, formerly of St. John, who is practising law in Boston, is a believer in Bellamy's utopian scheme of nationalism. She recently came to the front in an address which severely criticized a sermon of Rev. Minot J. Savage, who does not believe in Bellamy. Miss Robinson is president of the Boston Second National club. Rev. George E. Lloyd, late chaplain of the Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto, and now rector of Rothery, is one of the church militant. At the time of the Northwest rebellion he volunteered as a private and went to the front, where he received a severe wound in the discharge of his duty. After his recovery, he was appointed chaplain. Before leaving Toronto, he was the recipient of a handsome illuminated address from the officers and members of the regiment, in which a high tribute was paid to him as one who had proved to be as good a soldier of the cross as of his sovereign. On the arrival of the steamship Parthia at Yokohama, at the beginning of February, Douglas Sladen and his party went on board for a six weeks' cruise in the China Seas to complete his examination of the C. P. R. route to the east, for his book on the functions of Canada in the empire. He will, all being well, visit Kobe, Nagasaki, Shanghai and Hong Kong and perhaps Amoy and Foo Chow, and on his return to Japan will disembark at Kobe, to visit Nara, Ise, Nagoya, Osaka etc., returning to Yokohama and Zago overland. He expects to return to Canada in the summer and the United States in the fall. Owing to the proofs going astray, Younger American Poets is still in the press, about half the volume being printed. MIDWINTER THAW. How shrink the snows upon the upland fields, Under the dove-gray dome of brooding noon! They shrink with soft, reluctant shocks, and soon In sad, brown ranks the furrows lie revealed. From radiant cisterns of the frost unsealed Now wakes through all the air a watery runc— The babble of a million brooks atone, In fairy conduits of blue ice concealed. Noisy with crows, the wind-break on the hill Counts o'er its buds for summer. In the air Some shy foreteller prophesies with skill— Some voyaging ghost of bird, some effluence rare; And the still-wearied cattle dream their fill Of deep June pastures where the pools are fair. —Charles G. D. Roberts, in Belford's Magazine for February.