PROGRESS.

W. K. REYNOLDS......EDITOR

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One Inch, One Month, - - - -The edition of PROGRESS is now so large that it s 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. Advertisers will forward their own interests by sending their copy as much earlier than this as possible.

News and opinions on any subject are always welcome, but all communications should be signed. Manuscripts unsuited 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?

That there have been and are now good men in the council under such a system is, 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 that the marriage is null and void, they is no better field in America for the preachto have come forward before them, they, in some cases, would have remained, and to do, by crossing over the line, being York. There is no class more in need been content to remain, in private life. The recognized principle appears to be returning to Canada. Perhaps it is to stop stocks. that when a sufficient number of aspirants this very convenient proceeding that the come to the front, so that there is a con- bill proposes to brand such free-thinkers but in view of the cheapness of that title, test created, all has been accomplished as criminals and send them to the penitenthat a reasonable man can desire. It may tiary. be apparent that the best of these aspirants is bad enough, and that the object of the election is a choice of evils, but the citizens accept the situation with patience and resignation, fold their hands for a season, grumble when the tax-bills come in. and submit to the same process at the next | deceased wife's sister or somebody else's

There is less interest taken in the civic elections, which directly affect the pockets of every voter, than if 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. It is a happy-go-lucky sort of an arrangement, a lottery in which there are sure to be blanks and only occasionally a

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. It should always be remembered that the best men to be in the council are not those most anxious to get there. There are good men who will not thrust themselves forward, but may indeed be reluctant to serve, because and that the brigades are in fact being they are men of affairs. Such material is turned into recruiting depots for the not scarce, if the electors will only take the British army. In support of this it is trouble to look for it.

John is no trifling matter. The people should govern, not merely in theory, but in fact. They can do so only by a wise The question is naturally asked whether it and prudent choice of men who will, as aldermen, be faithful to the trust reposed school to educate fighters, and whether the in them. The passport to the council should not be that a man has assurance and diverting the youth of the country from ambition, that he will "run well among the boys," regardless of his fitness, or that "the hundred dollars is an object to him." It should be that he is an honest man, a sensible and prudent citizen who will avoid private cliques, be above catering to this interest or that to strengthen his own interests, and who will have the courage to do right from a sense of duty, rather than to curry favor from motives of expediency.

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.

the other night, Rev. WILLIAM LAWSON is art, as there appears to be a good deal of difference of opinion on that point. Some something highly improper. Then again, some other people, including the Canada customs authorities, have very peculiar ideas as to what is understood by the impure ought to be settled.

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 Thompson's proposed act to further amend the criminal law of Canada. This clause provides that any one who marries any person related to him or her, whether by consanguinity or affinity, more nearly than the fourth degree, computed according to the rules of the civil law, shall be deemed to have committed a crime and be liable to fourteen years' imprisonment.

"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. Yet for doing such an act, perfectly right from every moral and rational point of view, a man is liable to go to the penitentiary for a longer term than is ordinarily given the burglar, sneak thief and forger. He is made a criminal without having committed

This 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 con-

vict 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- and opponents to settle among themselves. laced of churchmen have never attempted A soldier, and above all a British soldier, to reach the extent to which this bill aspires. They have, as a matter of conscience, asserted that "a man may not marry his grandmother" but they have never included the deceased wife's sister's niece, as the lawmakers of Canada propose to do. It is not every man who desires to marry his grandmother, and a good many men would obey. If it is made illegal to the extent will be of a most beneficial nature. There will avoid it, as they have been accustomed | ing of the Gospel than this portion of New legally married in the United States, and of regeneration than the dealers in

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 sister. It is none of the law's business.

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. Such a prohibition would be simply from the temple, and the occupations

YOUNG CHRISTIANS MILITANT.

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. It is claimed that by this process the military enthusiasm is aroused less for the benefit of the church than for the state, shown that at Elgin, where the movement The governing of the city the size of St. originated, eighty per-cent. of the 500 boys, after graduating from the brigade have enlisted either in the line or volunteer service. is one of the functions of the Sabbath ends of Christianity are best served by industrial occupations to what, in times of peace, are lives of idleness, or worse.

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. Yet the figures quoted would seem to give ground for the belief that the brigade movement is having that effect. According to the Christian World, Lord Wolseley recently took occasion, when presenting colors to the London boys' batallion, to urge upon them At a meeting of the White Cross society, the great attractions and advantages of a soldier's life. Among other things, he reported to have discussed "Impurity in told them that "he knew of no profession, literature and art as great incentives to save that of soldiering, where a man, bevice." It would be interesting to know fore he reached the age of forty, could rewhat the gentleman considers impurity in tire with a pension varying from two-andsix-pence to four shillings a day." This was his inducement for them to employ people go so far as to advocate the clothing | their best years in such a life, in order of nude statues, and denounce VENUS as that, under exceptional circumstances, they they might, when it was too late to learn another trade, look forward to an income of a few dollars a week.

The question of the utility of Boys' literature. The question is one which 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 is honored as a man with whom duty is paramount to all things. Whether it is the business of the church to make soldiers is another matter.

PREACHING TO WALL STREET.

A notable series of Lenten lectures has been begun by Phillips Brooks, in strenuously object to taking a second wife | Trinity church, New York, and has atfrom the same family that from which they | tracted large numbers of the business men were unfortunate enough to take the first of that part of the city. This, of course, one. If the church chooses to prohibit it, means the attendance of the Wall street and they are good churchmen, they will brokers, on whom, it may be, the result

Mr. Brooks-we believe he is a "Dr.," 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. According to one report, he tells men that "it is of little consequence what they believe, so that they believe it and are true to themselves, their largest welfare, their highest possibilities, the divine ideals of life." His teachings are practical, simple and effective. They ought to do good.

If the precepts of the Gospel could be taken to heart by the financiers of New York, there would be no Wall street as the world know it now. The stock brokers would vanish as did the money changers based on speculation would yield to a more So would all the rest of the clause, for healthful activity in the legitimate lines of industry. No process of sophistry can reconcile the gambfing of financial life with the pure and simple precepts of the New

> 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

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. It they do land, they will find that there is a good deal they are not at liberty to do, in a land where some of their fellow-immigrants have been hung for having a political opinion. They may be at liberty to starve in the coalfields of capitalists, but they won't be at liberty to complain about it. Oh, no. Capital is maintains a paid police to inforce its ideas of liberty. But, after all, it is nice to have things poetic. Poetry does not always imply truth.

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. After that the painting will be exhibited in Montreal Today the school children will attend, free of charge, by Mr. Scholl's invitation. The lovers of the beautiful in art, who have not seen the picture, should not fail to visit and admire it while the opportunity remains.

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SUNDRY HITS AND HINTS.

What do you think now of the prospects of a How do you bet on the Scott Act election in the

There is likely to be fun in Fredericton when the egislative 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 s this dock they want, or that dock, or any dock at Has the fact that Boreas has been blowing his

plast anything to do with the discord among the "Coffined by flames" is a head-line which it is quite needless to say is found nowhere but in a St.

The most dangerous sidewalks in St. John, in icy weather, are those in front of such public buildings s 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 Don't be alarmed, dear ladies of the Dorothy com-

but it will help to advertise the show. A Halifax youth has been arrested "for notorious-

y misspending his time." If such arrests were com-

mon, a good many of our friends would get into 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 reouilding 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 hink the government can run the telegraph as well as his company can. One thing is certain, they an'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?

sonal 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.

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. It has found that in counties where the act has been proclaimed in force, it has in no case been enforced. What is the good of such an act, anyway?

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

A Salvationist Driven to Drink. To the Editor of Progress: In a recent

number of the War Cry this paragraph appears: He professes to be an S. A. soldier, but runs to a rtain church meetings two or three times a week. One of the church officials was telling me about it, and said, "Oh, I suppose he comes to get a chance to spout." No spouters need apply. For my part, there is no place like home.

This was written by Captain Kimball, S. A., and is intended to hit me because I wanted to attend a certain church. I have asked all the officials of that church if they used the words quoted and they all deny that they did. I can get no satisfaction from Capt. Kimball, who has prostituted his position as correspondent of the War Cry to slander me and say what is false, knowing it | Boat," which I think has gone the round of concerts to be false. Is this anything like a Christain spirit? I joined the Army and was through it led to abstain from drink. Through the way in which the Army has treated me I have been driven back to drink, and my wife has now a drunkard's home where it should have been a happy one. I hold Capt. Kimking in the land of liberty, and monopoly ball and other uncharitable officers responsible for having one's song accompanied by some one who

I consider the conduct of Capt. Kimball in abusing ne in print neither christianlike or manly. The War Cry is no place in which to stir up bitter feelings as Kimball has done. THOMAS NORMAN. Portland Bridge.

CHATS WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

Two Constant Readers (Woodstock) send anonymous communications to Pro-GRESS. Besides your "poetry" is too personal for publication, in any case.

Progress (Annapolis)—Your sketch is good, but would take more space than can be spared, in view of its purely local in-

OBSERVER. — The correspondent who sends copy written on both sides of the paper is likely to find it left out, especially

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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 When Rev. Dr. Wilson avowed his belief in a per- up 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 62nd 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 Rosemond" 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 odd song and I fancy quite new here. Mr. Mayes might have found a better, or at least newer song than "Man the Life 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 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 surpliced choir would sing for Easter, but since -You are not too constant readers, or you that some say no, others yes, others again I don't would have known that it is of no use to 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 rehearswhen it reaches the office late in the week. | als, 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 chorus practice at the Mechanics' Insti tute Thursday evening.

Mr. Morley has taken the leadership of the Rothesay 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

I understand Mr. A. M. Smith has been offered the place in St. David's church choir lately occupied

Mrs. deB. Carritte, who sings the leading soprano part in Dorothy, is visiting in New York and Bos-

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 Rothesay, 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 func tions of Canada in the empire. He will, all being well, visit Kobe, Nagaski, Shanghai and Hong Kong and perhaps Amog and Foo Chow, and on his return to Japan will disembark at Kobe, to visit Nara, Ise, Nagoga Ozaka etc., returning to Yokohama and Zokgo 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

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 rune-The babble of a million brooks atune, 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 stall-wearied cattle dream their fill Of deep June pastures where the pools are fair. -Charles G. D. Roberts, in Belford's Magazine for