

PROGRESS.

VOL. XIII., NO. 679

ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1902.

PRICE THREE CENTS

THE SUNNY AND SEAMY SIDE OF LIFE IN ST. JOHN.

According to the opinion of one Rev. gentleman, St. John is the abode of sin, or, to use his own words, 'the nursery of Satan.' Rev. George A. Sellar at the Centenary church last Sunday morning spoke of debasing influences upon society and professing Christians of the dance, the theatre, the gaming saloon and resorts, of unquestionable respectability. Strong drink, he urged, had wrought its fatal work amongst generations of our young manhood. From it they had graduated to the abodes of vice in billiard hall and brothel. According to the Telegraph, Mr. Sellar said intemperance and sinful resorts had exercised their destroying power, which knowledge was grievous enough to know, but even more vile was the realization that thousands who considered themselves as examples of Christian manhood and womanhood, were being drawn steadily away from the church through the foibles of so-called innocent amusements. It was in the apparent simplicity of the dance that its principal danger lurked. It was in the brightness, the lightsome vivacity, and sparkling fascination of the opera or play wherein the presence of evil was so successfully cloaked that the real danger lay. 'They are all,' concluded Mr. Sellar, 'but nurseries of Satan; traps of sin.'

These are strong words coming from a minister of the gospel and certainly contain an arraignment against the citizens of moral St. John.

The newspaper scribes of the city had themselves billed for a drive out to mine host Newcomes to day. The weather clerk intervened, however, and the drive did not materialize. It was a good thing for 'Billy' that the spread did not take place as he would have been minus his Sunday dinner, the proverbial reporter's appetite, liquid and solid, is known to be voracious.

There was a hot time in the old town on Monday night when the colored brethren got real mad in St. Phillip's church building. The scene was probably the most exciting of the kind ever held in St. John. Visions of razors, etc.

The meeting was called by C. E. Brackett, Philip Bushian, I. T. Richardson and John Jackson, trustees of the Ferris fund, they desiring to render an account of their stewardship to the people of the church.

The meeting opened with John Jackson in the chair and a crowd in attendance that was limited only by the capacity of the room. Instead of being in the lower portion of the building, which is used for the devotional services of the congregation, the meeting took place in the upper room. All the trustees were present and John Keer was in attendance as their legal representative. Mr. Richardson, for the trustees, submitted a statement of receipts and expenditures and contended that the board last reported 18 months ago instead of seven years as had been stated by the other party. He had vouchers for all the expenditures made and also had a report from W. C. Simpson as auditor who certified that the accounts were correct.

Just before the statement was finished, Philip Bushian arrived and took the chair, Mr. Jackson resigning in his favor.

R. H. McIntyre and Rev. Mr. Morley were the principal agents of the people of the church. Mr. McIntyre stated that the accounts should be audited by an auditor of their own choosing and moved that the meeting elect three men, they to select an auditor and have the accounts gone over at once. Mr. Bushian stated the accounts were already audited, but this did not suit Mr. McIntyre, who pressed his motion, which was seconded by Rev. Mr. Morley.

When the motion was put the chairman asked that the meeting express its approval or disapproval in the usual manner, viz. aye or nay; but such a pandemonium was raised that this plan was found inappropriate and a show of hands was called for.

'All in favor of the motion raise the right hand,' said Mr. McIntyre. In their excitement some attendants became confused as to which was the right hand and

to be on the safe side elevated both to an altitude limited by length of arm only. Then Mr. McIntyre started to count and count he did at a rate which would have done credit to a lightning calculator. Fast as his lips could frame the figure he announced them to the audience—one, two; three and so on up to 70; then he stopped for breath.

There was considerable difficulty in getting a vote as the whole meeting was in an uproar and the chairman, or any one else for that matter, could not make himself heard. There was crimination and recrimination. 'Why can't you keep quiet?' said one of the present trustees. 'We can't make your gang shut off' was the response from one of the other faction.

Rev. Mr. Morley then appealed to the meeting to keep some semblance of order. They should respect the rules of decency and decorous behavior.

'You can't run us all' said a voice from the back of the room and so the conflict waged.

Finally when, as stated, the vote was counted and the result announced, both sides let loose, the supporters of Mr. McIntyre's motion in shouts of acclamation and the opponents in as vigorous denunciation.

Both sides claimed the victory and how the affair would have ended would be interesting, but just here an interruption occurred which changed the tenor of events.

Down in the centre of the room were two ardent church attendants of the male persuasion and the sister of one of them. Carried away by the excitement and the general exuberant environments the woman in the case commenced to express her views in a manner by no means sotto voce.

'Hold your jaw,' said one of the men.

Then the woman's brother rose to the occasion and announced his ability to 'hand one out that would make the opponent hold his jaw.'

He was just preparing to give an unsolicited exhibition of his ability in the hand out line, but friends interfered and the contestants merely glared at each other encouraged by cheers, hisses, admonitions of 'soak him Billy,' and other remarks which would have been in better taste in the squared circle than in the circle of the church. The dispute, small as it was, sufficed to remove any chance which might have existed of getting the gathering into order. It was bedlam broken loose and after a vain effort had been made to restore quiet Deputy Chief Jenkins, with difficulty, worked his way to the chairman's table and suggested the advisability of an adjournment.

This ended the proceedings and a few minutes after the room was cleared, save for a few of those most directly interested who remained to discuss the situation. Finally, those departed and the meeting was a thing of the past.

Each party is inclined to blame the other for the manner in which the meeting ended. Just what will be done now is a matter of conjecture as Messrs. Brackett and Richardson state that their board is not affected by the election of church trustees. They are still the trustees of the Ferris fund and as such will continue to exercise their functions. They will not deliver any books or accountings to the other party beyond the statement submitted at last evening's meeting.

Dr. A. B. Walker, the colored legal luminary, came out in the papers and deprecated the whole affair, describing it as a regular 'Jim Crow' affair, etc. Dr. Walker did not like the idea of Lawyer John Kerr being present at the meeting in the capacity of a paid counsel. The whole matter seemed of a sharp nature.

All is not harmony at present in police circles. There are many evils existing in that happy home on King street east. The police, the bench and the jail authorities are a three-cornered combination that fail to work. One of the grievances which the public is called upon to witness is that prisoners arrested on Saturday by the

police are compelled to remain in the Central lockup until Monday morning, as the jail authorities refuse to receive anyone who has not been brought before the magistrate for disposal. This arrangement has come into effect since the outbreak of smallpox, and it is a matter of decided inconvenience. Even though persons happen to be drunk, it seems hardly fair to leave them for almost two days in a dingy underground cell in the basement of the police court, where there are no conveniences for eating or anything else.

That the city has a great big elephant on its hands is simply demonstrated by the sore way in which the ambulance has been used.

There have been several calls for the ambulance since the deadlock about its 'keep' set in, and in every case a coach was forced into service, Mr. Hamm adhering to his decision in having nothing further to do with the Red Cross vehicle. Such a state of affairs, citizens claim, should not exist. At Sand Point accidents of a serious nature are happening every few days, and a coach, with its limited capacity, is not a fit conveyance for a broken limbed or badly shaken up sufferer. A few weeks ago a man was conveyed from Carleton to Lombard street in a coach, suffering untold agony on the way home in his cramped-up quarters. Boards were put crossways from seat to seat, but still he was not in the proper position for one hurt as he was. If the unfortunate man Howard, had been badly broken up, instead of killed instantly, what sort of a conveyance would a coach have been for him? The ambulance is one of the best in Canada and few in the States excel it. It cost the city nothing to build it, and during its few years in town has done untold good. It is now out of service because the city cannot find housing for it. Practical taxpayers say the natural remedy for the present trouble is a house built specially for the vehicle.

Coasting, that good old sport, is all the rage at present and is not a lost art by any means. During the past few nights the moonlight and the favorable condition of the hills continued to bring many out. Last night, Cliff street, Carmarthen street, Wentworth street and the ever popular Cradle hill were thronged.

The County Councillors meeting, the Board of Health report, and tax collections, etc., have been the cause of much comment in certain local circles this week. Some warm words were passed at Tuesday's meeting. In the matter of delinquent county tax payers, Council Christie and Lowell, had a verbal battle, that was as loud in its reports as the shells that flew at the Relief of Making. We append a few of the choice tit-bits.

Council Christie said the financial conditions of the county was deplorable. This would easily be seen if the whole list was read. He moved that the auditor read the names of persons in arrears and then it would be seen who the people were who would not pay.

Council Lowell again asked the name of every delinquent was on the list.

Council J. R. Armstrong stated that many delinquents were able and willing to pay it called on to do so. He instanced the case of one man who had never received a bill for his taxes and consequently did not know how far he was in arrears.

Council Lowell again arose to attack the auditor and said he objected to any officer of the municipality bringing out the names of individuals as delinquents. It was a high-handed piece of business and if the auditor would busy himself as much about the city indebtedness as about the county he would find the burden would be shifted.

Council Christie rose to a point of order, claiming Council Lowell should not attack an officer of the council in an open meeting where the officer could not reply. Any grievance should go before a committee rather than be ventilated in open council. He (Christie) was prepared to take all the

responsibility for the list as it was prepared under his instructions.

Council Lowell wanted to know if the municipality was to be raised by Council Christie. If so it was unfair, and he would not tolerate it any longer.

The warden upheld Council Christie's point of order and stated that he must rule against Council Lowell.

Council Lowell again asserted that it was unjust to single out certain men and hold them up as delinquents. It was one of the meanest most contemptible things he had seen in his six years at the board.

Council Christie — 'Call him to order again.'

Council Christie—'This business of not paying taxes has been going on for years. When Council Lowell attempts to rail at me I don't care that for him,' accompanying the remark with a snap of the fingers. 'I have my duty to perform here and am not to be burked by him. If he is as interested as he seems he can tell on me and I'll tell him who the delinquents are. He needs not threaten the auditor for that gentleman is in no danger of losing his office because he has acted honestly. I intend to see that the people of the parishes pay their taxes as well as those in the city. There should be no such arrearage. Any gentleman who can take European tours can pay his taxes.'

Council Lowell—'Who do you mean?'

Council Christie—'I'm not such a fool as to be caught by you.'

The matter of granting better remuneration to Drs. Morris and Ellis was up before the County Council for consideration. The members were in favor of such a measure.

Council Baxter asked what remuneration was paid to Drs. Ellis and Morris for the services they had rendered.

Council Daniel replied that Dr. Ellis was hired by the hospital commissioners at \$7 per day. Dr. Morris was hired by the board of health at \$5 per day until he assumed charge of the isolation hospital, he got \$7.

Council Baxter thought the remuneration was too small and though the council vote more.

Council McGolderick strongly censured the board of health for not paying Dr. Morris a larger salary. He thought they should resign as soon as they had settled with the doctor, for that gentleman was not fairly treated.

Council Millidge thought both Drs. Ellis and Morris should have been paid at least \$10 per day each.

Two Hebrews and an auctioneer, furnished some little amusement at the city court this week. There was a long session on Thursday, there being several defended cases and some remnants on the docket. The session was continued up to ten o'clock at night. It is seldom a night session is necessary. One of the cases caused some amusement. It was an action by a firm of Hebrews, Hervend & Levy, against Dennis Burke, auctioneer. The plaintiffs swore that they had purchased a desk at Mr. Burke's auction room and had paid for it, but when they went next day to take it away, Mr. Burke prevented them and ejected them from the shop. Mr. Burke swore that it was not a desk they purchased at all, but a bed, and that he prevented them from taking away a desk that did not belong to them. There was evidently a misunderstanding, and the judge advised Mr. Burke to refund the money paid him.

The sunny and seamy side of life in St. John have each had their innings each attended by their cheer and care. Life revolves in the same old rut some are glad some sad, one half of the world does not know what the other half is doing.

A Well-Earned Promotion.

Mr. R. W. Walker Frink who has been agent for the Western Assurance Company of Toronto for the past twenty-six years, has been appointed manager for that Company in the Maritime Provinces with headquarters

in St. John. This is a most deserving promotion to one of our most prominent citizens who has gained the confidence of his numerous patrons by his strict integrity and fair business dealings.

Archbishop O'Brien and the King's Oath.

A mass meeting of the Catholic citizens of Halifax was held at that place on Wednesday night. The meeting was called and headed by Archbishop O'Brien. A protest was made against some features of the King's Accession oath. The oath is given below:

'I, A. B., King of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, do solemnly and sincerely promise in the presence of God profess, testify and declare that I do believe that in the sacrament of the Lord's supper, there is not any transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever; and that the invocation of the Virgin Mary or any other saint and the sacrifice of the Mass as they are now used in the Church of Rome are superstitious and idolatrous; and I do solemnly in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare that I do make this declaration and each and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary sense of the words read unto me, as they are commonly understood by English Protestants, without any evasion, equivocation or mental reservation whatsoever, and without any dispensation already granted me for this purpose by the Pope, or any other authority or person whatsoever, and without any hope of such dispensation from any person or authority whatsoever, or without thinking that I am or can be acquitted before God or man, or absolved of this declaration or any part thereof, although the Pope or any other persons or power whatsoever should dispense with or annul the same, or declare that it was null and void from the beginning.'

Personal Mention.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fleming and Mr. Daniel Fleming of Brooklyn, N. Y. arrived in the city on Thursday to attend the funeral of their mother, the late Mrs. Mary Fleming.

Frank McCafferty, city editor of the Telegraph left on Tuesday of this week for a well earned holiday to the New England States. Mr. McCafferty will return to his labors next week.

Mr. Frank H. Foster, of the firm of Doherty & Foster, accompanied by Mr. P. Mahony, of this city, are paying a visit to the sister city of Halifax this week. The firm of which Mr. Foster is a member has the contract of providing uniforms for the I. C. R. conductors.

Mr. M. F. Mooney expects to leave in a short time for Great Britain.

Mr. James H. Doody who had been on a visit to Ottawa returned on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kane McLaughlin, of Boston, who have been paying a very happy visit to this city returned to their Boston home on Friday. They were accompanied by their niece, Miss M. Lowe, of Broad Street.

He Was Not Unreasonable.

A young man with an impediment in his speech went to a stammerers' institute and asked for a course of treatment. The professor, who according to the Independent, had an eye to the main chance, asked him if he wanted a full or a partial course.

A p-p-partial c-c-course?

How much of a partial course? Enough so that when I go to a florist's and ask for a c-c-c chr-chry-s-anth (whistle her] e-n-mum, the-th-thing won't w-will b-before I g-get it.

The Alderman's Gift.

St. Clement's church, at Millidgeville, has a fine bell, the gift of Alderman McGolderick, in whose ward the church is situated.

Umbrellas Made, recovered, Repaired
Dun, 17 Waterloc street.