

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER

SACKVILLE, N. B. OCT. 24, 1895.

CROSSING THE STRAITS IN WINTER.

The Summerside Journal has lately been giving some of its space to the question of winter communication with the mainland. If the Island Press as a unit would say to the government "We want the quickest and best communication possible between the Island and the mainland of Canada during the winter months; we do not ask you to take into consideration the claims of Charlotte town or of Georgetown or of Summerside or of Cape Traverse experiment until you get the route that will give the most regular mails and that will carry at the least cost the largest freight, and we will be satisfied." This course taken by the Island would give the government a free hand and would surely hasten the experimental work that still seems necessary before settling the problem. It is conceded that the Stanley is a well built boat. Her qualifications for breaking board ice or making her way through fields of floating ice are attested to by those who claim to know what a boat constructed for that purpose can do. The Stanley cannot, however, built as she is, overcome the difficulties of continuous winter navigation on the Pictou and Georgetown route. A half dozen winters experience has settled that. As we understand the question, the difficulty that meets the steamer or that route is the packed ice. A solid field of packed ice from ten to twenty feet thick has enough of the qualities of resistance common to solid land as to make it impossible for marine navigation. When the ice pack forces winter navigation is stopped as completely as far as steaming through it is concerned as if the straits had disappeared and solid land had taken their place. The advantages claimed for the Cape route by those who have had the best opportunities for knowing is that the ice never packs solid between Summerside and Pictou. The peculiarity of the tides meeting here every day from the north and south sides of the Island, the comparatively narrow passage between the two Capes, and the mouth of the Bay Verte being here, all continue to prevent anything approaching to an ice-pack of any magnitude. Open water is visible almost any day all winter between these two points. The claim is made for the Stanley that she can push her way through any quantity of ice that is navigable and the statement is also made that the ice is always on the move between the Capes.

If these ideas are correct, and they look reasonable, and are made with a great deal of positiveness by a number of persons, the experiment of placing the Stanley to run to Cape Pictou from Summerside if deemed best, or from any other point determined, ought surely to be tried. There would be this advantage in having the steamer and the ice-boats at the same point. If the mail could not be taken by the steamer they could be put on board the ice boats at once, no time would be lost as now, in running back from Pictou to Sackville and from Sackville to Summerside.

The Local Opposition have digged their own Pitts into which they have fallen. Mr. Blair has political opponents and enemies enough to overwhelm him with destruction, but there is as much confusion and disorder amongst them as amongst the builders of the tower of Babel and they only confound and embarrass each other.

Mr. Stockton is credited by a part of the press with doing much to help Mr. Blair. Probably Mr. Stockton did as much with the heterogeneous elements at his command as any man could. Besides the Run-a-luck politicians of the Pitts stamp, the Opposition possessed some high class boulders, who would slump any leader. Mr. Stockton is blamed wrongfully.

Political degeneration is the most noticeable feature in Local politics. The Northumberland deal was the first open break against a moral standard that our politicians held or at least professed to hold. Since then the descent has been rapid; it seems as if a sledge would buy most any of them and that they would equal any and all degrees of public pledges and principles, will ratify any jugglery or fraud imposed on them. Sir John MacDonald was entirely right in his original design of a legislative union of Canada, instead of a federal; the tendency of the local is to develop what Parkman calls a moral post hole.

The Opposition did not appeal to the people with an attractive programme—or any policy at all, except opposing Mr. Blair's administrative acts. A lack of creative faculty was shown by the opposition party, in promulgating a policy to call forth some support and enthusiasm to their cause. In the present condition of local affairs, it would be difficult to originate a policy that would obviate some of the present evils and that would win public confidence.

Mr. Blair with his 37 supporters is not entirely to be congratulated on his success. A noted Acadia member from the borders of Quebec used to loudly commend a small majority at Fredericton; his political motto was, "keep few pig—feed them well." Mr. Blair will have to finesse with skill to have enough to go all around. If he fails in this, he will have come to feel that hunger and rebellion go together.

We do not know whether it is a matter of congratulation or reproach to the Tory party that in the present Assembly Tories are largely in the majority, for it may be confessed that some of the least desirable elements are Tory.

The schooner Manda S. Capt. Derry is engaged transporting gravel from Apple River to Amherst to be used on the streets of the town.

DR. SEXTON.

Dr. Sexton filled his appointments on Sabbath and on Monday evening to the latter. He preached in the Methodist church on Sunday morning, lectured in Music Hall in the afternoon, and preached for the Baptist minister in the evening, and on Monday evening in Music Hall gave his lecture on "The difficulties of infidelity." At all these meetings the Dr. attracted large audiences. At the close of the lecture on Monday evening a vote of thanks was moved by H. A. Powell, M. P., and seconded by banker McDougall. Dr. Stewart presided. After the vote of thanks the question box was opened and a number of questions were cleverly answered. Some of the questions, however, did not commend themselves to the Dr.'s common sense and he did not hesitate to say so.

Dr. Sexton is an Englishman. He came to Canada in 1884 when the British Science Association met in Montreal intending to return at once but was engaged by an American Society to lecture for a year in the United States. After that he received a call to a Presbyterian church and has been a settled pastor most of the time since.

The Dr. has visited England once since he came to America. He is well past middle life, a little below medium height, has a determined look, combative temperament, wears a moustache, and is what would be called a strong character. A short synopsis of the lecture Monday evening will be found in another column.

St. John Letter.

St. John, Oct. 21.—Slowly but very perceptibly is the winter drawing near. Even as I write I can see the regular mail and that will carry at the least cost the largest freight, and we will be satisfied." This course taken by the Island would give the government a free hand and would surely hasten the experimental work that still seems necessary before settling the problem. It is conceded that the Stanley is a well built boat. Her qualifications for breaking board ice or making her way through fields of floating ice are attested to by those who claim to know what a boat constructed for that purpose can do. The Stanley cannot, however, built as she is, overcome the difficulties of continuous winter navigation on the Pictou and Georgetown route. A half dozen winters experience has settled that. As we understand the question, the difficulty that meets the steamer or that route is the packed ice. A solid field of packed ice from ten to twenty feet thick has enough of the qualities of resistance common to solid land as to make it impossible for marine navigation. When the ice pack forces winter navigation is stopped as completely as far as steaming through it is concerned as if the straits had disappeared and solid land had taken their place. The advantages claimed for the Cape route by those who have had the best opportunities for knowing is that the ice never packs solid between Summerside and Pictou. The peculiarity of the tides meeting here every day from the north and south sides of the Island, the comparatively narrow passage between the two Capes, and the mouth of the Bay Verte being here, all continue to prevent anything approaching to an ice-pack of any magnitude. Open water is visible almost any day all winter between these two points. The claim is made for the Stanley that she can push her way through any quantity of ice that is navigable and the statement is also made that the ice is always on the move between the Capes.

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The Difficulties of Infidelity.

Music Hall was crowded on Monday night to hear Dr. Sexton lecture on "The Difficulties of Infidelity."

The Dr. commenced by saying that he did not use the word infidelity in an offensive sense, but he employed it because it was the only term that expressed the idea that he desired to convey. He meant by an infidel a man who did not believe in Christianity. It was fidelity were anything more than a mere negation, it must have a positive side, and that positive side ought to be stated. Fidelity down could only be tolerated as a process preliminary to building up. There were certain facts of existence which must be confronted, and to these our views must be adjusted if we desired to be considered consistent thinkers, or indeed thinkers at all.

The physical universe presented a great difficulty to the sceptic, who frankly told you that it was a problem that could not be solved. Was there one substance or two? And if only one what was it? We heard much talk about matter and force, but neither of them had been accurately defined. If matter were the one existence it must possess continuity. But in that case no expansion or contraction could occur, for particles in actual contact could not be brought nearer. If matter were not continuous then there were spaces where it was not and where there could be no force unless force could exist without matter. Then as to force, that could only originate in intelligence.

Order was seen everywhere in nature, and wherever there was order there was plan, wherever there was plan there was purpose, wherever there was purpose there was thought, and wherever there was thought there must be a thinker. The whole stellar heavens were connected upon the very highest mathematical principles. All regularity of form was as truly an expression of thought as a geometrical diagram could be if drawn on a blackboard. All natural forms conformed more or less to geometrical ideals, this was seen alike in plants and crystals, in animals and plants. And the religious instinct in man was universal. Worship of some kind or other was in all ages and in all lands. The origin of religion no Atheist attempted to explain. "The Positivists" who were Atheists had adopted the idea of worship, for their founder said that any system that did not make some provision for satisfying the instinct of worship would crumble to pieces. The tremendous influence of the Bible upon society also needed explanation. It did not avail to say that the book was not true, for that made the task of accounting for it all the more difficult. This book had produced a thousand times greater effect upon the world than the entire literature of Greece in her palmy days. And its mode of preservation was a most remarkable feat. There were five Mss. dating from the year 350 to 450 of the 5th century of which were therefore fourteen hundred years old. No classic would compare with these. In each of the 37 plays of Shakespeare, all written only 300 years ago, there were at least 100 different readings about which the best Shakespearean scholars were often disagreed. But in the Bible there were nowhere different readings which would effect one fundamental doctrine of Christianity.

The origin of Christianity no infidel could explain. If not supernatural then we ought to be informed as to the natural causes which conducted to bring it into existence and to raise it to the position which it occupied in the world to-day. The condition of the heathen world when Christ came was terrible to contemplate. As to purity there was none worth naming. The details of licentiousness were sickening in the extreme. Crimes which to-day even bad men would shudder at were regularly practiced by ages and philosophers. Suicide was a common remedy for all the ills of life. In fact it was declared to be a courageous and virtuous act for a man to take his own life. Seneca pleaded for it, Cicero advocated it, and Brutus and Cassius in company with many others both defended and practiced it.

The effect of Christ's teaching was very marked both as to the individual and the Roman. As a great religion, Judaism ceased. Today it had neither Temple nor altar, nor sacrifice nor priest. It kept the passover, but had no paschal lamb. The Jews no longer looked for a Messiah. False Messiahs were as plentiful as blackberries once, but they were heard of no more. When Barabbas held forth the sword of Julius Vespasian the reign of Jewish ended, the hopes of the people were finally crushed and Judaism ceased. Then was fulfilled that Old Testament prophecy. "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come, and to him shall the gathering of the people be." To-day the Jews have not their country, nor have they a ruler. They are scattered over the earth, as they have been for eighteen hundred years.

The great Roman Empire, that had held the world in awe, legislated for all people, and seemed to be as invulnerable as the granite rock, had crumbled to pieces before Christ's truth. The Cross supplanted the eagles, and Christ's moral influence swept the Caesars from their thrones.

The lecture occupied about an hour and a half in the delivery, and was listened to with the most marked attention throughout.

Point de Bute.

—Some of the members of John N. Oulton's family in Joliet are still very ill.

—Arthur Sayer and Fred Sayer from Bon, nephews of Mr. John Robinson, are making their uncle a visit.

—Tom Cornish's son Mick, died with typhoid fever last week. The remains were taken to Memramook for burial.

—Capt. Chesley Wells is ill with typhoid fever, and is under the medical care of Dr. Calkin. The whooping cough in the house also.

—Rev. C. H. Paisley occupied the pulpit of the Methodist church on Sabbath. His sermon was the interest of the superannuated fund of the maritime provinces. The claim of the funds upon the membership of the church was forcibly put.

—Fred Reid, a St. John pugilist, who about two years ago spent some time in Amherst managing prize fights and teaching the art of boxing, was sentenced at St. John on Monday, to three years in Dorchester penitentiary with hard labor.

—Rev. Father MacNeil was consecrated as bishop of Nilopolis, west coast of Newfoundland, last Sunday at St. John's Cathedral. Antigonish, Arch-bishop O'Brien, Halifax, Bishop Cameron, Antigonish, Bishop Hovley, St. John's, N. B., Bishop McDonald, P. E. I., and Bishop Rogers, Chatham, took part in the service.

—In the Probate Court on Monday in W. D. Wilbur estate, ordered that executors have 15 days to file accounts. In estate of Spurgeon Powell, valued at \$1,000, probate granted to Tilly Powell, executor, and V. S. King and Fred Cameron, executors. In Harvey A. Anderson estate, R. A. Freeman and Josiah Anderson petitioned to pass accounts.

Dry Goods!!!

PER S. S. COREAN.

WE HAVE NOW OPENED MOST OF OUR

ENGLISH GOODS

For Fall and Winter and are prepared to show our Customers

a larger and more stylish line than ever before.

DRESS GOODS in Cashmeres, Henriettas, Serges, Cheviots, Check and

Knicker Tweeds, Plaid Goods, Meltons, Etc. For Coats and

wraps we have Serge Mantelings, Beaver Mantelings,

Reversible Mantelings, Ulster Tweeds, Blue Naps

and Cravenette, Flannelette Goods in

endless variety. Silks, Satins,

Velvets, and Velveteens, Ribbons,

Shawls, Linings, and full

stock small wares.

LADIES' SACKS and COATS, very stylish and pretty.

STAPLE CANADIAN GOODS in White and Grey

Cottons, Cottonades, Flannels, Shirtings, Wraps, etc.

MENS & BOYS CLOTHING in Overcoats, Ulsters,

Reeters, Suits, shirts and drawers and general furnishings.

OUR TAILORING DEPARTMENT is still under Mr. Snow-

don's management. Our stock is fresh and nobby. Scotch, English, and Canadian

Tweeds, Worsteds, Pantings; Beaver, Melton and Nap Overcoatings. The

celebrated "Tyke" serge suitings. Style, fit and finish guaranteed.

NEW CARPETS.

NEW FURNITURE.

J. L. BLACK.

The Late Canon Townshend.

On Sunday morning, Rev. George

Townshend died at the residence of his

son, Medley Townshend Esq., Amherst,

at the venerable age of 86 years. He

was rector of Amherst for the almost

uninterrupted period of 61 years, being

ordained in 1835, and while since 1863,

he has not been actively engaged in the

parish, he remained in touch with the

people and to the last took a zealous

and ardent interest in their welfare.

As minister to a flock in a country

parish, Canon Townshend's life has been

marked by his high religious, notwith-

standing its great length, still by his in-

terest and meaning to many outside of

his immediate friends and religious con-

gregation. He was a man possessing

in an eminent degree generous instincts.

Suffering or want had but to present

themselves to him to awaken his warm

and active sympathy. It was a duty

taught him by his religion, happily

seconded by his natural impulses, to be

gracious to the resources and attentive

for others in need. He was a faithful

son of the Church of England, he held

and inculcated the highest conceptions

of his mission and work and re-

sponsibilities, and while he could not

admit that any other denomination had

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