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TERMS AND NOTICES.

The Religious Intelligencer is published weekly, at the Office of Messrs. BARNES & CO., St. John, N. B.

TERMS.—\$2.00 per annum.

PAYMENT IN ALL CASES IN ADVANCE.

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All Communications for insertion, should be addressed, JOHN McLEOD, Fredericton.

Remittances may be sent to either Messrs. BARNES & CO., St. John, N. B., or to the Editor, at Fredericton.

Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., APRIL 16, 1869.

An unusual quantity of matter has crowded out editorial text, inasmuch for this week.

For the Religious Intelligencer.

FAIR PLAY.

It is deemed necessary that every man have a profession or calling. "A place for every man," and then "every man in his place." It is pleasing to see every man performing his own duty without meddling with the rights or duties of any other man; and it is equally displeasing and wrong to see any one interfering with his brother man's privileges.

In the profession of law, and also of medicine, ample compensation for services is demanded and received. A lawyer gives counsel, or pleads a case; or the doctor is called upon to visit a sick person, distant one mile or ten miles; the first named, whether he manage his client's case successfully or not, is only satisfied with a liberal fee, and the last named, whether the patient live or die, is only satisfied in precisely the same manner. So it is in almost every other calling; where service is given there must be payment made, and if not made the "strong arm of the law" is appealed to. I think that in this enlightened age there are none who are unwilling to admit that the minister of the gospel has an equal right with men of other callings to receive remuneration for his services. Men in these days do not imagine that the satisfaction derived from the consciousness of being in the path of duty is all the reward ministers require. Physical and mental strength being called into requisition, and his time being employed in the discharge of the duties of his office, there must be a pecuniary reward. And yet, while this fact is universally admitted, there are many instances of ministers being much neglected, or to say the least, not being treated with all the courtesy their position demands. A minister is engaged, the salary is fixed, each member of the church and congregation agrees to pay his proportion. So far all is right. Subscription is easy, but payment seems hard; and while some do all, and more than they engaged, others fall in their pledges; thus doing injustice to the minister, and, though they know it not, to themselves as well. Of course the poor clergyman, though pressed down with a mountain of cares and wants, must bear the disappointment and injustice with the utmost meekness, never allowing a sigh or murmur to escape him, else he will be charged with "caring more for the fleece than for the flock;" in other words, that he was more anxious for the money of the church, than solicited for their spiritual good. He will not forsake his calling, for this he loves, feeling also, "Woe is me, if I preach not the gospel." There are other grievances which I might mention. Bro. C. is pastor of several churches, located in quite an extensive district. He has no more time or energy than is necessary to be expended on his own circuit. Yet how often is Bro. C. called upon to drive to another circuit, it may be ten or fifteen miles, to attend a funeral, not without receiving any remuneration whatever, no one deeming it even necessary to reward him for his services with a simple "thank you." He may have had to hire a horse at his own expense, unless some considerate brother provided him with a conveyance; or he may have a horse and carriage of his own, but then it should be remembered that it costs something to keep these fit for service. All this is discouraging; but then the unpleasant feeling is not unfrequently increased by other circumstances, which in themselves may appear trifling, but which have weight nevertheless. Bro. C. has been brooding over his discouragements, and wishing to remove his thoughts from the dark side of the picture, he takes up the family paper, hoping to find there a crumb of comfort. His eye catches the marriage notices, and there he sees that Mr. B. and Miss T., of the very locality where a few weeks previously he had gone to attend the funeral for which he had received nothing, one of them a member of the family of the deceased, have been married, but they took the trouble of driving into town to have the city minister officiate, and there is another couple who have procured the services of a clergyman of another denomination. These facts coming to his notice do not add very largely to his comfort. He had performed the funeral service gratuitously, and if now, instead of going to another, they had solicited his services, he would have felt richer in pleasant thoughts, besides having the contents of his purse increased by \$5 or more. These are but little things in themselves, but they serve to show Bro. C. and men of his class the thoughtlessness—for it cannot be wilful neglect—of many to whom he would look for sympathy. Think not that I write to censure unjustly. Many—and the number is happily increasing—are scrupulously careful of their minister's feelings and comforts. But still many faithful labourers have experience not unlike what I have stated above.

Remember those who labour among you, and esteem them very highly for their work's sake.

Dor.

OUR INDIA LETTER.

Cheering News from Nova Scotia—Visiting the Churches—Our Great Field—The Pilgrim to Japan.

Navy sailed, India, Feb. 15, 1869. Mr. Easton. Last Saturday there came a letter to our camp bringing cheering news. It was from Bro. Crowell, the Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Mission Society, recently organized in Nova Scotia, and addressed to my dear sister, whom the brethren of that Province wish to adopt as their missionary. This intelligence is truly encouraging, and I think that God that this movement has been made. It looks like going to work with a will, and it promises to prove a blessing not only to the heathen in India, but also to the N. S. brethren themselves. Let me then in this public way commend the new enterprise, and assure the dear brethren of our sympathy and prayers for their abundant success. While in this way they strive to water others, may their own hearts be richly watered by heavenly showers, so that they shall know from previous experience how much more blessed it is to give than to receive.

It has always been a source of regret to me that I did not visit the N. S. Churches while in that part of the world. An engagement at Bates College called me back to the States much sooner than I should have otherwise returned. Even the New Brunswick Churches were passed over in a great hurry, there was so little time between the session of the Annual Conference and the date of my engagement at Lewiston, Maine. But some future day, if it please God,

hope to devote more time to visiting the Free Bap at Churches of both N. B. and N. S. I very much wish to do this, but whether I ever can remains to be seen. In a few weeks it will be five years since we met with many Christian brethren at your Conference at Fredericton. Since that time several prominent men of your denomination have passed on to the church triumphant. Among them has gone that much esteemed pastor of the church with which the Conference convened, and the Editor of this religious journal, whose hearty welcome and generous hospitality I shall not soon forget. So, one by one, my dear brethren, the Master summons His servants home. But it matters little how soon or how late He calls us, provided only that we are found at our post diligently at work for souls. The hour of release will be a glad and glorious hour if we die in the field, fighting valiantly for our Great Captain. The road to heaven is just as short and just as sure from Africa, India or the ocean's deep bed, as from St. John, Portland or London. Let us all work hard while life lasts.

This is the closing month of our cold season work. How quickly the weeks have fled! We have had plenty to do every single day, but O, how much more we have left undone! On every side of the track we have made through the country like numerous villages, densely populated districts into which we could not go.

Another season, the Lord helping us, we shall try to visit some of them. But O! the vastness of the field into which God has sent us! When shall we be able to visit at least one of the great valleys to each one of the mighty millions who are sweeping down the steep of desperation to an awful eternity? Christian reader, it is quite impossible for me to convey to your mind any just conception of the emotions that fill my soul to-day, as I sit here, looking out upon our broad field teeming with a countless pagan population so devoted to idolatry and so forgetful of God and their own salvation. While doing all in our power to acquaint these multitudes with the saving truths of Christianity, our hearts still very often cry out, "Who is sufficient for these things?" I see this unnumbered host of immortals madly rushing down to ruin, and I would that my voice could reach every ear, and that God would give me a word for every heart. Such a scene as I daily witness on this old pilgrim road to Japan, is enough to make any pious heart cry aloud to God for help. A heavy rain storm drove me from the little tent to this small mud hut, in which I have lived a week. It faces the hard broad road that goes down to Paris; and every hour crowds of poor, deluded creatures are passing my door. Old men with bending frames and blistered feet; young men with resolute tread; tender women, doped and debauched by cunning libertines, wearing the badge of a sensual priesthood; all these go by day and by night along this way of death. As we call out to them, they halt a moment, hear a word, and then lifting the merry shout, "Jai Japannais, Souhaite Jai," the merry group hastens on. Many of them shall never return. On the hard ground, worn smooth by a million feet, many a man and woman of this shouting company, must lie down and die, unattended, alone, and hopeless. The seducing priest will pass on, smiling over the coin he has wrested from the dying grasp of a fallen pilgrim. The dogs and jackals, crows and vultures, will hold high carnival over their easy prey. And the poor, pagan pilgrim's soul, will go on to the righteous judgment of the last great day. Reader, ponder these facts, pray over them, and do your duty to the perishing heathen. J. L. PHILLIPS.

MORE ABOUT THE CONVERTS.

The Freeman, of the 6th inst., in an article of nearly a column in length replies to what we said about converts. He gives us credit for honesty in publishing his contradiction of the "convert stories," but thinks we are awfully ignorant, and hence very much prejudiced. He admits much, in fact the greater part of what we said to be correct, but yet, in a way peculiar to that journal, he strives to smooth the whole matter over, and make the conventional system appear the most beautiful and probably ever known. But with all his cleverness we can scarcely believe that he can, with the facts of recent, as well as former, revelations staring him in the face, convince his own mind, much less the minds of Protestants, of the purity and usefulness of such a system. Mr. Anglin is correct, beyond a doubt, when he says the protestant mind scorn the idea that God can be well pleased with the style of mortification and self denial practised in converts. What there is pleasing to God in wearing an old pair of boots about one's neck, a dirty duster upon the head, being made to kiss the floor, to satisfy the cravings of an appetite with the refuse of a previous day's meal, or wearing clothes till they become so filthy that they are actually alive with vermin, is more made more religious by practices of such an utterly degrading nature, or that practical Christianity is advanced by such heathenish usages? And then it should be remembered that these things were not voluntary on the part of the man, but the Mother Superior compelled her to submit to them. She would not only not be benefited, but disgusted with the system and the promoters of it. Notwithstanding his assertions to the contrary, the Freeman under "and all well" that the recent trial has not only not established the holy character which these institutions would fain assume, but has developed a state of things which cannot but add an additional testimony to the weight of evidence which brands the entire system as entirely void of religion. The petty spite of jealousy practiced by the Superior towards Miss Saurin, as proved in the recent trial, is contemptible to say the least.

It may be that persons whose minds are so "dissected" by the vicious training of their youth, that they believe it wicked to doubt the correctness of the teaching of the priesthood, however absurd, who depend exclusively for their hope of eternal life on the dogmas of the Roman church, and who are brought to believe that even were they to enquire into the correctness of the notions taught them, or the honesty and wisdom of the various modes of operation in connection with the church, they would seriously endanger their salvation—it may be that such persons do look upon conventional life as one of the roads to happiness here and hereafter. They accept the system simply because the church sanctions it. But how such a man as Mr. Anglin, who, to some extent, has broken loose from that clannish bondage which perverts the mind from the exercise of legitimate enquiry, and has even gone so far as to arraign his ecclesiastical superiors on the question of their political powers at least, and dares to express an opinion on some subjects in some respects connected with the religious faith of the church, can endorse the immoral and inhuman practices of converts, is just a little surprising. Though he might conceive them to be useful institutions he could at least raise his voice against the abuse of power by those in authority. The recent facts, proved in the highest courts in England, do not represent a solitary case of the absurd and ridiculous transactions of conventual life. Many similar cases doubtless exist, hidden as yet from the public view, while this, with a few others, has accidentally, or providentially, been brought to the surface. The Freeman tells us that only some convents look like prisons, and that the others are very cheerful and pleasant looking buildings. He thinks we must be ignorant indeed not to know this. Perhaps he thinks we are ignorant of the fact that the Roman Catholic system is of no pliable a nature that it

is the law of the church in one country may not be the law in another country; and therefore that the style of convents externally or internally, the mode of life included, which suits in a country exclusively Roman Catholic, would be a great failure, and expose the rottenness of the system, if existing in countries only partially Catholic. Doubtless the bold assertions of the Freeman will satisfy his Papist brethren that all is right and just; but exposed to the light of noon-day, and subject to the criticism of the masses, is the fact that strange revelations continue to be made; and that these have a tendency to enforce the conviction that conventional life is not what it is represented to be—that the inmates are but powerless victims under the control of those who are prepared to bring them into a state of the most humiliating submission, by inflicting the most wretched and humiliating punishments, all calculated to destroy and crush the spirit; and all this done "in the name of God, and disguised under the specious forms of religion and devotion." Away with such a system!

P. S.—Having no inclination for controversy, we shall not probably prefer to this subject again.

MIDNIGHT MEETINGS.

Burleigh, in one of his letters from London to the Boston Journal, gives the subjoined sketch of midnight meetings that city, inaugurated specially for the purpose of rescuing the fallen and degraded. The gatherings known as midnight meetings are among the peculiar institutions of this country. The number of girls on the streets of London is estimated at 80,000. The great drift of them are young. Hundreds of them come from homes in the country to do work in London, and in the city. The number increases with prosperous times when money is plenty, and diminishes when times are hard. To reach and rescue this class the midnight movement was started. It has been in operation several years. It is directed by an organization. The plan is to set up a party of, perhaps thirty in number, go out two or two into the thoroughfares where the class throng when they seek. Each carries a bundle of tickets handomely printed, which are cards of invitation to tea at 12 o'clock that night. I was present at one of these gatherings held in the French restaurant, one of the most fashionable in London, gorgeously arrayed after the French style. At a quarter to twelve parties began to arrive. At a quarter after twelve the room was crowded. All classes, grades and styles were there. Old women haggard, shaven and forlorn—women of middle age with babies in their arms—dashing young women in satins, velvets and jewelry. Young girls scarcely 12. They all seemed to know each other. And as parties came trooping in they were recognized. Their names shouted out and demonstrations of welcome given. They had their cliques and "sets" like fashionable people, and kept apart each at their own table. As usual they arose to sing "Grace." They sang very reverently during the prayer and all sounded the "Amen," as is the English custom at the close. They arose and sang "Thanks" at the conclusion. Hymns were sung after supper, the words being found on printed slips placed in the hands of each one present. The tunes were familiar to them all. So large a number of them were young that the gathering, 200 in number, seemed really like a Sunday School. While the tea was going on a number of ladies and gentlemen present visited each table and held a little talk with the parties. The addresses were short, practical and tender. During some of the addresses the girls cried and sobbed in a most heart-rending manner. One gentleman asked all present who had ever attended Sunday School to hold up their hands, and over two-thirds of them did so. All who wished to change their course of life were invited to remain, and a large company stayed behind. Temporary homes are provided for all. The society have rescued several hundred the past year, and full 75 per cent of them have been reclaimed and are placed in good positions. The meeting was one of great interest.

REVIVAL—NEW CHURCH.—Rev. A. Kinney writes us from Bowdoin, under date of April 3rd. He has been at that place since February 15th. The roads were then almost impassable, much of the travelling having to be done on snow-shoes. The prospect looked dark, many of the men being in the woods. Bro. Kinney felt however, that the Master had directed him to that place; and very soon it was evident that the Holy Spirit was striving with many hearts. On the 14th of March, five were baptized. Immersion had never before been witnessed in that section of country. Sixteen had been baptized up to the time of writing. A church has been organized, which now has a membership of eighteen. We presume that Bro. Kinney intends remaining there for some time yet. We trust that the little branch may flourish.

Subscribers will notice that their papers are marked again this week with the number to which they have paid. We hope those in arrears, or whose subscriptions have just expired, will lose no time in making their remittances. It is highly important to us that payment should be immediately made. We require the money now!

Our friends will also bear in mind our offer to new subscribers, and take advantage of it.

We are indebted to C. H. S. Barker, Worthy County Secretary of Victoria County Lodge of British Templars, for an interesting account of the formation of a Lodge at Grand Falls. It is rather old for publication now, especially as we noticed the organization of the Lodge in our issue of last week. He predicts that the new Lodge will have 100 members by the first of June.

Our Nova Scotia readers will be interested in the letter of Bro. Phillips.

His reference to the vastness of the work, and of the blind devotion of the heathen to their idols, must awaken in all breasts a large degree of sympathy for that portion of the human race, and incite to greater earnestness in our prayers for their conversion, and to greater sacrifices to send them the blessed gospel—the power of God unto salvation. Christian men and woman should not now slacken their efforts.

For the sermon, the first part of which we publish on our first page, we are indebted to Mr. M. S. Hall, Bookseller, Fredericton. He keeps on hand a supply of Mr. Spurgeon's sermons.

A small pamphlet containing "Arguments in Favor of Direct Taxation for Common Schools," by Wm. Wilson, of Douglas, York County, and published at the Colonial Farmer Office, Fredericton, has been received. This, we understand, is the prize essay on that subject, which was competed for by the students of the Baptist Seminary for 1868. It will well repay a perusal, especially now that the subject of education is beginning to assume an importance in the consideration of our public men beyond that of any former period. We are glad to see public attention thus called up to a consideration of its merits, and hope our readers will avail themselves of every opportunity to inform their minds on this most important subject. For sale at Hall's and Beverley's Bookstores, Fredericton. Price 10 cents.

Mr. M. S. Hall, Fredericton, has placed upon our table the latest number of Frank Leslie's Ladies' Magazine. This work is particularly interesting to the ladies. It is replete with engravings and descriptions of all the late Paris styles, for ladies and children's dress, manner of wearing the hair, &c. Accompanying this number are two full-sized paper patterns. It contains some useful historical information, together with many household receipts. For sale at Hall's Book Store, Fredericton.

"Dot," in another column, pleads for "fair play" to be extended to a class of men, who, it is alleged, do not always receive it. Some may think the case is too strongly put; but there is a vast amount of truth in it.

We have pleasure in directing the attention of farmers to the advertisement of the Carding Machine in another column. Mr. C. P. Craig is an experienced carder, and will doubtless give the fullest satisfaction.

NEW BRUNSWICKERS IN OTTAWA.

DEAR INTELLIGENCER.—Presuming that New Brunswickers at home may care to know something about their countrymen abroad, I have taken up my pen to supply, in a limited measure, the requisite information. And beginning at the top of the list, with our Ministers of State, we will first look in upon

THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.

The fine personal presence, familiar face and happy smile, that have so often won upon the affections of the citizens of St. John and of the Province of New Brunswick, have lost none of their former attractiveness, and we may safely assume that the prospective features of the outer man are still inspired and animated by the clear intelligence, large administrative ability and political tact, that were so characteristic of the late Provincial Secretary. The Minister is well preserved, and while daily displaying an amount of work in his official capacity that would weary a less methodical and less energetic person, and drive an indolent one to despair, he bears but little trace of the cares of office. Yet in addition to the arduous duties of the Presidency of the Customs Department, Mr. Tilley in the absence of Mr. Macdougall, is Acting Minister of Public Works. It is said of him that he is always at his post, and most thoroughly conversant with all that pertains to his department. Opposition journals sometimes attempt to make political capital out of the occasional absence of one or more ministers from the capital. But they have to admit that the New Brunswick representatives in the Cabinet, and especially Mr. Tilley, are always present. The correspondence of the Customs Department is clerical, and the work to be performed by the staff of clerks is very large. For a portion of the time they have had recently to work "over hours," and at any time, under the constant supervision of the Minister, there is "no loafing." The bringing together of different provinces, in each of which the tariff rates, and the manner of conducting the business and keeping the Customs accounts was different, rendered this department one of the most laborious, if not the very most.

Mr. Tilley with his family live in Daly street, the Fifth Avenue of Ottawa. I need not tell you that he is personally popular here, and is in great demand as a speaker when any moral or philanthropic object is to be publicly advocated. Some of his very best efforts in behalf of the Temperance cause have been made on the platform in Ottawa, during the past fall and winter.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Mr. Mitchell's department is in the Western Block, and across the square from where we found the Minister of Customs. The visitor finds there five departments, in which he very naturally thinks that with \$5,000 a year he could make himself tolerably comfortable. Perhaps you could, sir, but the difficulty is to get there. And if the qualifications of the present occupant are to be the standard of the future Ministers of Marine, you will require a clear head, an indomitable will, and a thorough knowledge of men and things, and how to use them before you can sit down to that capacity. You will need the power to inspire others with your spirit, make them enter into your plans, feel an interest in your objects, and thus multiply yourself until a score—a hundred heads and twice as many hands, are busy thinking upon and executing your projects; until those about you move as a part of yourself and yet unconscious of the fact. We may not penetrate the mysteries of Council and bring to light the influences that induced the adoption of the North Shore route for the Intercolonial Railway, but everybody seems to share the opinion that the Minister of Marine is largely chargeable with the fortune or misfortune that may accrue to the Dominion as the result. The people of the North will say that it completes the railway system of the Province, the western and southern portions of which had been provided for before, and that without their important district must long have remained destitute of railway facilities. To them the railway will be as a monument to their favorite Minister, a monument as enduring as time, and unlike the marble column which speaks to the eye alone, it will be eloquent with the voice of steam and the thunder of swiftly rolling wheels.

The staff of officials in the department is comparatively small, but most active and efficient, and pretty hard worked if report says true. The business is important. It has to do with interests of the first magnitude. Take the Marine Branch for instance. Only three of the nations of the world, England, United States, and France, have a mercantile marine in excess of tonnage of that of British North America, and France only exceeds us by some 50,000 tons. The light-houses that blaze upon the headlands of the lakes from Thunder Bay to Kingston,—in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy, and on the farther shore of Nova Scotia, for warning of danger and guidance in the way of safety, belong also to its jurisdiction. Nor is the Fisheries Branch less important. The protection and preservation of the treasures of the sea, outlying in value the gold of California or Australia, the encouragement and guardianship of the hardy and adventurous race that gathers in this wealth, are cares of no mean import and of no small magnitude. But they are in good hands.

CH. GRAY, M.P.

A Canadian paper recently dropped the remark that the greater men of the Dominion were those who came from "down by the sea," and that in the future the Maritime Provinces would be to the Dominion what New England is to the Great Republic. Whether true or not, I will not contradict the sentiment. It is in reference to Mr. Howe and one of the New Brunswickers named above that it was written. It is worth while to have a distinguished representative abroad. The whole lot is judged by a sample. And in this respect no small credit is reflected upon New Brunswick by the presence of the subject of this sketch. What George the Fourth, when Prince of Wales, was to Europe, Ch. Gray in a better sense is to Ottawa—"the finest gentleman." Nor are there few aspirants to this high honor. The capital is a place where gentlemen of pretensions in this line very much do congregate. But gradually, and without any pretension, almost unconsciously, on his part I think, the representative of St. John County has taken position at the head of the class. And the natural inference is that New Brunswick has more such.

The Colonel and his accomplished lady reside at the Russell House, which is pre-eminently the hotel of the capital. He is engaged in the work of codifying the Civil Law of the Dominion, and with his secretary occupy as offices the apartments of the Secretary of State for Canada, in the Custom Block. The work upon which he is engaged is important and arduous, and I presume is entrusted to hands that have an especial fitness for the right discharge of such a duty. In framing a code for the Dominion, the laws of New Brunswick, which, since the revision of 1854, have been models of conciseness, simplicity and brevity, must influence to a large degree the tenor of the

whole. No regular Law Commission has yet been appointed; nor am I aware to what extent the business of adjusting accounts and balances between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in which Ch. Gray is to act as Dominion Arbitrator, has been proceeded with.

HON. MR. CHANDLER.

The construction of the Intercolonial Railway is one of the most important matters of public interest now in progress on this continent, and all must agree that the superintendence of so important a work, and the disbursement of the many millions that it will cost, should not be entrusted to incompetent men. The New Brunswick representative at the Railway Board seems to have been a peculiarly felicitous choice. Scarcely a word was said against his appointment by the press of any section of the Dominion, and this is a rare exception, especially in the case of a person so widely known, when appointed to so responsible a position. Mr. Chandler has been but a short time in the Capital, but he was preceded by his high and honorable reputation as a statesman, a man of integrity and business ability, and everywhere commands the highest respect. He resides at the Russell, where all who meet him, either in the way of business or friendship, must be impressed with his affability and gentlemanly courtesy. At an age when most persons think of retiring from active public life, he apparently preserves the vigor and readiness of middle life, we might almost say of youth.

Without intending at the outset to do so, I am compelled to reserve for another paper notices of a considerable number of other "New Brunswickers at the Capital." Among them we shall find some more occupants of public offices, the editor of a leading daily paper, two or three clergymen and a school teacher.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Fredericton, April 13.

The record of the past week has been an exceedingly busy one, and more real business has been done in one day than in three during the earlier part of the session; and yet, a great deal of work must be done before the House rises, or else no business will be left undone. A great effort will, however, be made to get through by Thursday or Wednesday next; and it is understood that prayers will be read at 9 o'clock instead of 10, as heretofore.

BILL RELATING TO TRUSTEES.

Hon. Mr. King's bill relating to trustees has been agreed to in committee, and is of considerable importance. It provides that the Supreme Court in Equity in this County may have power to remove any trustee, and appoint a new one in his stead, as well as determine what amount of compensation they shall receive. He had introduced a similar bill, but it was doubtful which existed, and which had been expressed by the Judges at the last sitting of the Court, as to whether the enactments of the Imperial Parliament applied to this Province. The measure before the House provides that they shall so apply. There are, also, some minor provisions which are, I suppose, necessary to render the bill perfect. With the consent of the House, Mr. Moore moved an amendment to the effect that the purchaser of trust property should not be liable for the proper application of the purchase money. Hon. Mr. King supported the amendment, and showed the hardship of the present law.

RAILWAY SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

Mr. Needham has committed a bill to incorporate a Company for the erection of a Railway Suspension Bridge across the Falls of the Saint John, to connect the E. & N. Railway with Western Extension. The members of the Company are to be Alexander Jardine, Charles H. Fairweather, John Boyd, William Parks, John Pickard, and Thomas Temple, of Fredericton, as well as Blane Bedford, Francis Hibbard, and Angus MacQueen, M. P. S. The Capital stock is placed at \$750,000, with power of increase to \$1,000,000. There are to be 75,000 shares of \$100 each. This bill has occasioned a good deal of discussion, and progress has been reported upon it. The reason for the objection is, that the bridge is necessary both for the Dominion Government and for the Western Extension Company; and it is feared that, if once vested rights are secured to a third party, they will either build no bridge, or build one at a bonus for the right of way, or, having built the bridge, they will charge whatever tolls they please for the traffic passing over it. If a bridge was needed, said the opponents of the bill,—and it undoubtedly would be so needed,—Western Extension Company should have the first privilege of building it. The bill was finally disposed of by a postponement for three months.

SUPPLY.

The most important item in Supply has been disposed of since our last letter. I mean the proposed appropriation of \$23,340, under the head of Woodstock Branch Railway. This grant caused a discussion for two days. The facts are these: The Woodstock Railway Company being short of funds and desirous of raising money in order to carry on their work, issued debentures upon the balance of the Provincial subsidy still remaining to their credit. The certificates of these debentures were as required by law, and as has since been shown, deposited in the Provincial Secretary's office. These certificates disappeared in some unaccountable manner. No entry of them was made in the books. Mr. Hay, President of the Company, knowing as he must have known, that these debentures were about, notwithstanding this, came to Fredericton, and, believing I suppose, that it was a matter of life and death to the railway, asked for the subsidy. Ignorant of the outstanding certificates of debt the Government paid it. The parties who hold the debentures, supposed to be Jones & Co., of England, now come in and claim the payment of them. They advanced the money upon the credit of the Province, and it would certainly be a stain upon the provincial honor, and a blow to the provincial credit, if these innocent creditors were compelled to suffer by reason of the fraud perpetrated by a third party. All Government and Opposition, agreed that the action of the Company was unjustifiable in the extreme, and agreed that, if it was possible the guilty parties should be made to suffer; the majority—a majority of eight, the vote standing 22 to 14—believed that Jones & Co. should be paid their money, and that without further delay, in order to leave no stone unturned to compel a man to sue the collateral before exhausting the principal. It was, of course, admitted that no action could lie against the Province, because the people, as a body, cannot be sued. If an action could be brought, however, in a court of law, it would be the legal opinion of the House, that Jones & Co. could recover the amount of the debentures to the last cent. Then argued honorable members, if, in a court of law they could be compelled to pay, being as they were, the highest court of judicature in the country, the fountain of all law—were they not in honor bound to settle every just claim against them. This item passed, and supply was postponed until today, in order to get bills ready for the Legislative Council.

JUDGES' SALARIES.

The upper House has refused to join in the address in favor of the equalization of the salaries of our Judges to those of Ontario and Quebec. Mr. Needham, however, ever indomitable, never despairing, proposed an address, fought it through the House, and sent it alone on its mission of justice and equality of rights.

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ACT REJECTED.

The Government bill for the effectual prevention of bribery and corruption at the election of members to serve in the General Assembly, and for the more efficient trial of election petitions, was introduced by Mr. King, and is at present under consideration. It removes the trial of election petitions from the control of a Committee of the House of Assembly, and places it in the hands of the Supreme Court. The causes are to be tried the same as an ordinary suit at law at the Court House of the County from which the petitions come. Its provisions against bribery and treating are very stringent. Giving refreshments, after the issuing of the writ is sufficient to constitute treating under the Act, for which the election is voidable. The mover of the bill made quite a lengthy speech in explanation of its provisions.

There was a time, said the hon. gentleman, when it might, with good reason, have been deemed dangerous to take the trial of election petitions out of the hands of the people and place it under the control of the Judges, who were irresponsible. At pre-

sent, however, no such danger existed, because the history of our Bench was a bright record from beginning to end, and their actions had shown that the peoples' liberties were safe in the hands of the Judges of the land. The trial would be more effectual, because the Supreme Court was removed altogether from popular influence, and their dignity, their learning, and their integrity made them peculiarly well fitted to give just and wise decisions. It would also be much more convenient to have the petitions tried in the different Counties, and would save the trouble and expense of coming to Fredericton with all the witnesses in the case. It had been thought best to make the provisions against bribery and corruption of the most stringent nature, because elections had come to be a great burden to candidates.

ABOLISHMENT OF IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Mr. Needham's Bill to do away with imprisonment for debt, and to provide for the attachment of the property of the debtor, is also before the House. This is a very important Bill, and has been compiled from the laws at present in force in the States of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and Illinois. Mr. Needham, in moving that the Bill be read section by section, spoke well and eloquently in support of the measure. He showed the harshness, nay, the cruelty of the present law—"a pound of money or a pound of flesh." The custom of imprisoning a man for debt was an ancient but it was a barbarous custom. The doors of a prison should never close upon a poor unfortunate in business, but only upon the guilty criminal, and the dishonest debtor should no longer be regarded in the light of a debtor, but in that of a criminal. The present law sets the limits of a criminal, and the debtor is a perfect absurdity, there being no reason or justice whatever in its provisions. Where the limits had been the matter of paying a debt, it would have been paid whether or no. The debtor with a good attachment and proper guards thrown around it in order to protect the rights of the creditor, as well as to give consideration to the honest debtor, all the property may be readily secured without first going to the trouble and expense of a tedious suit and imprisonment. He may go forth into the world a free man. It was fearful to contemplate the amount of intelligence that was languishing within the walls of the gloomy dungeon. In order to fill the grand object of the Creator, all the brain and all the muscles of the country must have free scope. Progress was reported on the Bill in order to give time for further consideration, and it will probably pass the House.

BILL RELATING TO PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Mr. Needham's Bill relating to the property of married women, and I have done, because I fear my letter is already too long and tedious.

This bill, relating to the property of married women, when first introduced, provided that, in cases where a woman is living separate and apart from her husband, though not deserted or abandoned by him, or when the husband is a worthless man, and the wife, by her own skill and industry, has acquired property, she shall have complete and absolute power of disposition of that property. This seems to me nothing more than right. The bill was then beautiful in form. But from the horrid clutches of the hard-hearted bachelors and the cruel and unfeeling hands of the House, it has come forth—not only not exactly, for progress was reported—mutilated, deformed, and ugly, simply because it is not complete. They have altered it, so as to apply only to the cases of women living separate and apart from their husbands. So, no matter how worthless a man may be, no matter how much of a drunkard and spendthrift—no matter how noble, self-sacrificing, industrious, the wife may be—the cruel, lazy, idle, worthless, good-for-nothing husband shall still have the power to sell and squander away the hard earnings of his broken-hearted wife. Why? Simply because honorable gentlemen are afraid of disturbing the sacred relations of the matrimonial knot. Alas! for our morals. Alas! for our intelligence, if we believe that, to prevent the lazy brute of a husband from gloating over and spending money which he has never earned, and has not the shadow of a right to, would be to disturb the sanctity of the marriage vows.

Surely the days are passed away when the husband, with any show of reason, says to the wife, "What's yours is mine, and what's mine is yours." Surely it is a myth—a ghost of the rude ideas of the dark ages—that the husband should be lord and master, with none to dispute his right to all he surveys. Loosen the strings, O man, or woman will surely burst them asunder!

[From Telegrams to Morning Papers.]

The following bills agreed to since our last issue:—Bill in addition to Act to establish a Polling Place in Carleton County; Bill to exempt Fredericton Branch Railway from taxation; Bill relating to assessing rates and taxes in St. John; Bill to establish a Polling Place in St. Stephen, Charlotte; Bill authorizing Commissioners of Sewers, St. John, to reimburse persons heretofore assessed for improving King Street; Bill changing the time of holding Spring Term of County Court, King's.

The following were introduced by Mr. Needham:—Bill relating to election of Members of Assembly; Bill relating to Island in St. John River, opposite Kingsclere, York; Bill relating to recovery of dues; Bill authorizing Judges of County Courts to preside at Sheriff's inquisitions. By Mr. Peck—Bill relating to Commissioners of Sewers for Albert County. The following received from Legislative Council:—Bill to incorporate Milltown Public Library; Bill relating to St. John Police Force; Bill relating to Justices of the Peace.