

HARBOR GRACE

Carbonear

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| 2. Has a barrack and a detachment of soldiers. | 2. No barrack. No soldiers. Why not? |
| 3. Has a Light House, situate on an Island at the entrance of the harbor: this Island is a mere rock. | 3. No Light House, although it has an Island quite as large as that of Harbor Grace, and much more picturesque and agreeable. |
| 4. Is a Free Port for foreign vessels. | 4. No foreign vessel can show her nose in this Harbor. |
| 5. Has a stone Episcopal Church, the only one built of that material in Newfoundland. | 5. A wooden Church. Why not of stone? |
| 6. The principal Roman Catholic Chapel and Priests' residence of the District. The Chapel is an ancient wooden building, and is about to be superseded by a large stone edifice. | 6. A large, substantial wooden Chapel. But the Clergyman is one of the Curates of the Parish Priest of Harbor Grace. |
| 7. A Wesleyan Meeting House, a neat wooden building with a wall in front. | 7. Wesleyan Meeting House of large size, but no wall in front. |
| 8. A Grammar School endowed by the Legislature and numbering nearly 50 boys. | 8. A Grammar School endowed by the Legislature, but containing only 22 boys. |
| 9. A News Paper, the "Herald", published regularly every Wednesday. | 9. A News Paper, the "Sentinel", published very irregularly. Why not every week? |
| 10. The Principal of one of the leading Mercantile Houses appointed to the Council. | 10. No Honorable Councillor in Carbonear, nor any likelihood of one. |
| 11. Two Watchmakers with gilded signs. | 11. No Watchmaker, and consequently no <u>sign</u> of one. Why not 3, besides a mender of Sam Slicks? |
| 12. One Tinker, with plenty of work. | 12. No Tinker, and little to do in that way. |

Footnote: The Harbor Grace "Standard" of January 19, 1878 wrote:
Notice is hereby given that a Light-house has been erected on Carbonear Island, and that on and after 1st February next, a Fixed White Light will be exhibited nightly, from sunset to sunrise, at an elevation of 195 feet above the level of the sea, and it should be visible 16 miles. The Tower and Dwelling are of wood and attached. The upright parts of the building will be painted white and the roof Red.

To these standing grievances may be added the casual slights and insults which we are subject to, for instance, on Wednesday last (August 20, 1845), the Governor and Prince Henry of the Netherlands, during their trip to the Bay, in the steamer "Unicorn", landed at Harbor Grace and walked about the town for half an hour; whereas at Carbonear, the steamer only just looked into the harbor, turned up her nose, and passed on to St. John's, as if we had been infected with the Small pox.

From the foregoing statement it must be evident to persons of the smallest understanding and the most obtuse sensibilities, that Carbonear has deep and great reason to complain of the Executive Government; the consideration of our wrongs is exciting; it may become so to a dangerous degree:- Who can account for the consequences of disappointed agitation in such a cause? Had not Switzerland her William Tell? And in more modern times, have we not seen the revolutions of France and St. Domingo?

I have the honor to be,
Mr. Editor,
An Indignant Carbonearian.

Carbonear, August 16, 1845.

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To the "Herald":

Mr. Editor,

The introduction of Kerosene Gas into this Town by Mr. McAusland has merited for him all the praises that public gratitude can bestow. How complete must have been his triumph on last Sunday night, when St. Paul's Church was first lighted with his beautiful gas. The effect was far beyond the powers of my pen to describe - You could see the smallest print in the Psalms with as much satisfaction as if the mid-day sun was shining in all his splendor. I heard from the lips of a gentleman from Saint John's, who was accidentally here, that the Saint John's gas can bear not even a comparison with our gas, and to this I can add my personal testimony. I shall cheerfully contribute to some mark of public respect to Mr. McAusland's exertions, and I hope the hint, thus whispered, will have a corresponding effect upon the mind of my fellow townsmen.

January 12, 1853.

--TRUTH

To Edward Dwyer, Esq., Secretary, B.I.S., as published in The
Conception Bay-Man, February 24, 1858.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter informing me that the B.I. Society of Conception Bay, had unanimously voted me its Patron. You will do me the favor of handing to the Treasurer at your meeting tomorrow morning, the enclosed five pounds, as a small proof of my high appreciation of their kindness in conferring upon me this unexpected honor, and of my desire to enhance, to the best of my ability, its great usefulness and secure its perpetuity.

Wishing yourself and the other members of the Society all the blessings which a merciful God has promised to bestow upon the truly charitable,

I am, dear Sir,
Very faithfully yours,
+ J. DALTON

(The Benevolent Irish Society of Conception Bay was established in 1814, and the above letter was written on the occasion of its 44th anniversary.)

To the "Standard":

Sir,

There is an illusion in your issue of the 18th ultimo, under the Editorial head to the effect that the Pond at the head of Cochrane Street is considered a public nuisance. I can assure you that the Pond or rather Ponds (for there are two), instead of being a nuisance, will in a very short time hence become a public benefit.

Why sir, the Pond to the Westward, which is the larger, commonly known as Uncle's Pond, is now well stocked with trout, brought from Muddy-hole Pond, the superior size and flavor of which have been long known to its angling frequenters. The other to the Eastward, known commonly as Aunt's Pond abounds in Conger Eels of enormous size.

The spirited proprietor of the aforesaid Ponds will, at the expiring of the period when the trout will have attained a sufficient size, throw them open for all the followers of Isaac Walton,

with a reasonable proviso, that the chair and footstool which he has placed at the head of Uncle's Pond will be occupied by no one but himself.

May 2, 1860.

Your obedient servant,
RED HACKLE

The following is an extract from a letter by an old Newfoundlander, W.C. StJohn, former Editor of the "Herald", and one time U.S. Vice-Consul for Conception Bay, who moved to the United States in 1854:

"With all your great changes and improvements, I presume I should find some things and places about the same as of old. I fancy that 'the reef' and Lady Pond, and the Beach, and Caplin Cove, and the Grove, and Otterbury Head are still there. These were my old haunts. I presume that St. Paul's Church, the Methodist Church, the Court House, and the Grammar School have not much changed. But when I think of the many boys that gathered on the green, waiting for the school to open, and of our respected teacher, Mr. Roddick, and of the parents and friends that smiled on us, my spectacles grow misty. All, all are gone, the old familiar faces! Of our Latin class, the only one left in Newfoundland is Judge Pinsent. I wonder does his Lordship remember when he used to play court in the Court-house; when William Brace was judge and John Stark was clerk and himself and Arch Emerson were the advocates, and my humble self was foreman of the jury; and suddenly Mr. Roddick put in his appearance, without summons, and we all scampered off, like frightened rabbits, except Judge Brace, whose borrowed gown was so long that he was afraid of being tripped up. Oh! those old days! William Brace is now principal of the High School in Trenton, N.J.; his brother, Frederick, is a clergyman, and Superintendent of the schools of Southern New Jersey. John Stark and William Mayne I don't know what has become of. My dear old friend, James Drysdale, is deceased. Those, with myself, constituted the Latin class of the Harbor Grace Grammar School forty-three years ago."

-- STANDARD, 1889.

An 1851 Letter to the HERALD

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During an hour's ramble which I took the other day through the town of Harbor Grace, I couldn't help indulging in a feeling of exultation, not unmingled, I hope, with thankfulness, on perceiving the rapid strides which the inhabitants are making in almost every department of social progress. So pleased was I with what I beheld that I felt irresistibly moved to jot down a few of the more striking objects that attracted my notice, for the information of those not present to witness them.

My series of observations commenced at Bear's Cove, where I found the Road Commissioners about to construct a good substantial bridge over a brook that empties itself into the sea at that point of the harbor. Proceeding westward, I noticed the extensive additions which Richard Anderson, Esq., is making to his town house, and which when finished, will render the edifice unique and uniform. The next thing that caught my eye in the way of improvement was the foundation of the new Catholic Chapel. A large number of artificers were employed here, who were rapidly carrying forward the work, as if conscious that the appearance of the town, no less than the safety of the congregation, needed the undertaking. It is to be hoped that the new edifice will be worthy both of the place and them. Further on, the alterations which Government has at length consented to effect in the walls of the prison-yard, drew my attention. These were much needed, and had formed the subject of repeated representations from the Grand Inquest of the District. My notice was next fixed upon the ample lines of wall that Dr. Stirling is throwing round his extensive property, thereby evincing the same lively interest in the improvement of the place that he has ever done since his arrival in the community. The extensive operations going on in Cochrane Street South - the racket of hammers, the perpetual din of vehicles and machinery, with the crowds of busy labourers, and forests of masts, pointed out the great firm of Ridley & Sons. A magazine or dry-goods store of extraordinary dimensions is now being erected by these enterprising merchants, which for strength, durability, and commodiousness, is unsurpassed in the colony. I understand Mr. Robert L. Whiting is the planner and architect-in-chief of this fine building. The conspicuous house erecting by Mr. Peters for the Gas-light Company came next in view. This Company are determined to give us cheap light for our money; a noble project,

which at one stride raises Harbor Grace to her legitimate place among the Provincial Sisterhood. From this point the eye ran along Harvey Street and down LeMarchant Street, both covered with road-makers, the former being, without controversy, the finest street in the Island; the latter a splendid thoroughfare, 60 feet wide, affording the utmost protection against fire. A few paces further brought me to the spot where Captain John Stevenson is preparing foundations for a water-side premises, which, if I am rightly informed, are to vie with their imposing neighbor - the splendid brick shop lately erected by Ridley & Sons. Proceeding still onwards, my progress was almost impeded by the huge heaps of material provided by Punton & Munn for the further enlargement of their gigantic premises. Here I could not refrain from moralizing a little. This, thought I, was the spot formerly occupied by the Dansons - a British House of great respectability and opulence. They are now dead - all dead; their premises have passed into other hands and their enormous wealth has been dispersed among the general mass of this community. Their very names will soon be forgotten. Long may the present occupants live to enjoy the fruits of their skill and management, and to experience as hitherto the pleasure of disseminating as well as treasuring up wealth. Reaching Victoria Street my eye was simultaneously struck with the Temperance Hall, Kearney's new ship (of peerless beauty - the observed of all observers), and the admirable brick shop and dwelling belonging to Mr. Patrick Devereaux. Then followed Mr. Donnelly's premises, the solid stone foundations of which are now being laid; the cottages of Captain Green and Mr. T. Godden; the Grist Mill nearly completed at Northern Brook; the poles (unbarked) of the Electric Telegraph! Thus in an hour's walk I had brought under my notice a vast amount of improvement and such activity and honest toil - an earnest, I trust, of future prosperity!

October 8, 1851.

--O.R.Q.

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To the Editor of the "Standard":

Dear Sir,

The Concert in the Academy Hall last evening was a decided success, and reflected great credit on the youthful manager, Master William Kennedy, and the little boys and girls composing the troupe.

By 8 o'clock, the hour of opening, the Hall was filled to the utmost with a large and appreciative audience of various denominations. Among those present were His Lordship, Dr. MacDonald and Rev. Fathers Donnelly and March, and Rev. Messrs. Noel and Smart.

The opening piece, an instrumental solo, was performed very nicely by Master William Kennedy, who also played the accompaniment to the several solos and choruses. It were a pleasure did time permit to give a detailed account of the Entertainment. The different solos, instrumental and vocal, were well done. The instrumental solos, "Moonlight on the Lake", by Miss Rose Hogan, "May Delights" by Master Henry Strapp, and "Maiden's Prayer" by Miss Alice Brien, were prettily performed. The vocal solos were sung by the following little ones of the company: Annie Fitzgerald, May Glendon, Maggie Fitzgerald, Fanny Kennedy, Alice Brien, Mary Hennessey, Aggie Thomey, Maddie Coady, Master Henry Strapp, Lizzie Winslow, Belle Kennedy, John Hennessey, and T. Hogan. 'Twould be invidious to praise one more than another. One piece, however, a vocal duet, "Whispering Hope", by Miss Aggie Thomey and Miss Mary Hennessey, deserve special mention. The voices of the singers harmonized smoothly, each sustaining her part in a manner that would do credit to much older performers. "Poor Old Joe" also deserves particular mention. The solo was sung by Master Ronald Kennedy, a little fellow of 5 years of age, who, attired in loose pantaloons, cutaway coat, and broad brimmed hat, would have us believe him the veritable "Poor Old Joe". He sang his song very nicely, and delighted the audience. The last piece on the program was "Give My Love to All at Home", by Miss Brien, after which His Lordship rose, and in a few happy and graceful remarks, thanked those present for their attendance, and complimented the little folk on the success of their first appearance before a public audience. His Lordship also thanked the Chairman of the evening, Mr. Isaac Pumphrey, for the efficient and dignified manner in which he had discharged the duties of the occasion. The proceeds amounted to about \$50 and went to the Catholic Building Fund. Admission was 20 cents reserved, 10 cents general, tickets being sold at Mr. C.L. Kennedy's and Mr. J.J. Murphy's.

December 18, 1889.

A Notable Social Event, 1855

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"The Newfoundlander", in its issue of August 13, 1855, reported that the Ball given to the gentry and élite of this town and St. John's by the Honorable Thomas H. Ridley, at his beautiful residence on Friday night, August 10, was certainly in every respect the most brilliant entertainment that has ever taken place in Newfoundland. Cards were issued to 200 people, but in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was not much more than 100. There was, however, a dazzling display of rank, beauty, and fashion. His Excellency Governor Darling arrived from St. John's in the steamer "Ellen Gisborne", accompanied by his Private Secretary, the Honorable the Speaker of the House of Assembly, and other gentlemen, on Wednesday evening, to honor the occasion. The living tide commenced to flow rapidly to the point of attraction, shortly after 8 o'clock, and from that hour until morning, the rolling of carriages through the streets well nigh expelled slumber from every couch. To describe the appearance of the room (which was a temporary decorated pavilion erected for the purpose), densely occupied by many of the fairest of creation - their luxurious, yet tasteful dresses enhancing even the charm which nature had bestowed on them - their lovely eyes flashing not less lustrously than the rich chandeliers and gas lights with which the room was studded; the splendid uniforms of the military - the admixture of gravity and gaiety in the costumes of the gentlemen, et cetera - to do justice to these themes, I say, would require the aid of a more vivid imagination than I can boast. But the Hon. Mr. Ridley can congratulate himself on a display which it would be vain to attempt to rival.

The supper, which was magnificent, both as to viands of the choicest and wines of the purest vintage, was laid out in true artistic style by Monsiieur Toussaint of St. John's, and the music was admirably performed by the Quadrille Band of the Royal Newfoundland Companies. After supper the gay dance was resumed and kept up with great spirit until morning, when the company, highly delighted with the enjoyments that had been prepared for them by their kind and hospitable host, began to depart.

On the following morning at 11 o'clock, His Excellency was waited on by a deputation of gentlemen of Harbor Grace, who presented him with the following congratulatory address, after which the Governor proceeded to board the steamer, "Ellen Gisborne", accompanied by his suite, and a number of the ladies and

gentlemen of the party, and took his departure for St. John's amid the loud, long and hearty cheering of the loyal people of Harbor Grace, the band on board replying with that beautiful and appropriate Scotch air, "Auld lang Syne", as the steamer glided gracefully from her moorings.

A D D R E S S

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To His Excellency, C.H. Darling, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its dependencies:

May It Please Your Excellency:-

We, the undersigned inhabitants of Harbor Grace, welcome Your Excellency on your first visit to this portion of your Excellency's Governmental charge.

We believe that your Excellency's appointment to the Government of this colony was an evidence of the anxiety of Her Most Gracious Majesty to confer on us the benefit of enlightened Rule; and the short experience of your Administration affords the best testimony to the accuracy of the opinion thus entertained.

We trust Your Excellency may long continue to administer the affairs of this colony, and with best wishes for your prosperity and that of your family,

We are,

Your Excellency's faithful servants,

(Signed by all the principal inhabitants of Harbor Grace).

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FOOTNOTE: Governor Charles Henry Darling was appointed by the Queen in May, 1855. He was a man of fine personal appearance, over 6 feet, 3 inches tall. He succeeded Governor Hamilton who had proved to be highly unpopular. History affirms that within two years, no less than three delegates from Newfoundland had journeyed to England to protest against his misrule. At the time Newfoundland had only Representative Government. It was not till 1855 that Responsible Government was granted. The Governor had an executive council of nine members, out of the fifteen elected. However, Governor Hamilton proved to be a despot in exerting all authority. Hence there was extreme dissatisfaction in this Island during his tenure of two years.

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