OLD BOYS TALK AGAIN. SIR LEONARD TILLEY HAS A JUBI-LEE DINNER.

The Survivors of the Saint John Young Men's Debating Society Revive Memories of Long, Long Ago - A Training School which Sent out Useful Workers.

In the good old days, when William IV was king, and base ball was an undiscovered science, some of the bright young men of St. John had a happy thought.

They resolved to form a debating club. Not one in a hundred of those who read Progress have ever even heard of the Humberfield academy. Fifty odd years ago it was an educational institution as prominent in St. John as is the Victoria school today. It stood at the southwest corner of Union and Charlotte streets, and was conducted by Mr. S. M. Chamberlain. In this building six young men met on the night of Oct. 10, 1835, and formed "The St. John Young Men's Debating society."

The six ambitious youths were S. M. Chamberlain, John M. Campbell, W. R. M. Burtis, Joseph W. Lawrence, Charles Ansley and Henry Hanford. They adopted a motto: "Our most important are our earlier years." Then and there they debated the question: "Was the world benefitted or injured by the discovery of America?" Only one man of the six, Mr. Lawrence, is now living, and he has no idea how the momentous question was decided.

Soon after this, the list of members was increased by the following additions: Robert Shives, Barzilla Ansley, John Sears, S. L. Tilley, Henry J. Chubb, John Ansley, Charles Percy Betts, James A. Harding, William Thomson, Valentine H. Nelson, William H. Adams, A. Hunt, George Hutchinson, Thos. Paddock, Robert Smith. Thomas G. Barr, William Mills, F. Smith, James W. Delaney, John Crosskill, William Moore, Robert Thomson, Zebedee Ring, J. Morris, William Greenwood, George H. Lawrence, R. Sneden, C. Estabrooks, T. R. Gordon, R. Moore, I. Faulkner, George Eaton, George Stymest, Charles M. Gardiner, W. L. Avery, Thos Taylor, George W. Smith and others whose names cannot at present be re called by the survivors.

Debates were begun and carried on with great activity that winter and for the three following winters. Weighty questions were discussed with no little zeal. One of these was: "Resolved, that the measures of the Reform parliament have proved injurious. not only to Great Britain, but to her de pendencies." And it was carried in the affirmative. As the measures included the emancipation of the slaves throughout the empire, the decision was a strikingly bold

Another debate was to decide: "Which is the greatest bulwark to British freedom -full and perfect representation in parliament; liberty of the press with equitable restrictions; or trial by jury in its purity?" Still another was: "Was Great Britain justified in sending Bonaparte to the island of St. Helena?"

These debates were public ones. They were held in the long room of the Masonic hall, as the building known as the St. John hotel in later days was called. The society had its quarters in one of the smaller rooms of the same building, after removing from the Humberfield Academy.

The society during the six years of its existence had about 50 members. Many of them were content to listen while the others talked. A few were prominent in every debate. Among these were Messrs. Chubb, Shives, Moore, Hunt and Burtis, who have passed away, and Messrs. Lawrence, Harding, Delaney, Tilley and Sears, who are still living.

One of the brightest of these was James W. Delaney, now residing in Somerville, Mass. He was then an apprentice to George Hutchison, the watchmaker, on Dock street, while the present governor of New Brunswick was a clerk in the drug store of William O. Smith, on Market square. The two young men had many a wordy tilt in debate, and on one occasion Delaney taught his friend a very useful lesson. The two were to lead a debate on opposite sides. Before the meeting Delaney, who was to open, dropped into the drug store and stated the line of argument he intended to take. When Tilley heard it, he quite as freely stated the nature of his reply. That evening Delaney made his speech and at every friend, Tilley, was likely to say in reply. At the same time he completely demolished every peg on which his opponent had expected to stand. The druggist boy never forgot the lesson, and in all the future years of a brilliant political career he never showed his hand so soon that an opponent

The first anniversary dinner, on October 10, 1836, was a memorable event in the history of the society. It took place at the cafe of Thomas Gard, which was then on Prince William street, where Chubb's building is to-day. The Observer of the following day stated that "the company of the boys of 50 years rgo.

could reap the benefit.

separated at an early hour, highly pleased with the evening's entertainment." The toasts which were given are worthy of pre-

1. The King and Royal Family. May they never forget that freedom of debate placed their ancestors on the throne of Great Britain.

2. The St. John Young Men's Debating Society May its prosperity go hand in hand with its useful-

3. The Freedom of the Press, and that vital principle of all liberty, the right of free discus-

4. The March of Intellect. May it spread wide diffuse happiness and glory in every country, and

not overstep the line of honesty. 5. New Brunswick, the Land of Our Nativity May prosperity attend her agriculture, her man

factures, her commerce and her fisheries. 6. Education. May the spread of knowledge

dignified by the spread of wisdom. 7. The Mayor and Corporation of the City of St

8. His Honor the Chief Justice and the bar of New Brunswick. May merit ever meet its reward. 9. The Halifax Mechanics Institute. May our society be the for erunner ot a similar institution in

10. Old England, the Birthplace of Genius, the Palladium of Liberty and the Emporium of Science. 11. Lord Melbourne and His Majesty's Ministers. 12. The Heroes, Orators and Poets of Great

13. The Flowers of Literature-May they ever bloom brightest in our garlands of national fame. 14. The St. John Literary and Gentlemen's Debating society-May their opinions be formed by the force of argument, and not by the argument of force.

"The cup thus devoted to woman, Yields the only true balm of the heart."

In October, 1837, John Crosskill, for merly of Halifax, published the first number of The Literary and Historical Journal. In it was a paper on elocution, read before the society by V. H. Nelson; also a prize essay on "The Rise and Progress of New Brunswick," for which the society awarded W. R. M. Burtis a gold medal.

The following is from the Observer of January 23, 1838:

At a late meeting of the Young Men's Debating society, R. Shives, J. W. Lawrence and J. A. Harding, having resigned their respective offices, a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to each. Then John Sears was elected president; S. L. Tilley vice-president; H. J. Chubb, censor; George Hutchison, secretary-treasurer.

The society continued to exist until 1841, when more important duties of life called for the attention of the leading spirits. The influence of the debates was seen in after years. The members had been taught to study, to think and to seek for the improvement of the minds. Some of the young debaters became leading spirits in the formation of the Mechanics' Institute. Sir Leonard Tilley and John Sears were indeed its very first members. Others of them were known down to quite recent years as lecturers of no mean ability. It may be that the spirit of research which has distinguished J. W. Lawrence, and caused him to place the students of local history under so many obligations, received no small impetus in those early years. If the society had done no more than this, it would be entitled to be held in grateful remembrance today.

But still more direct results can be traced. It was in the public debates on questions of the day that the druggist boy of Market Square took his early lessons in that oratory with which he was to sway the minds of men in future years. It was the first step on the rung of the ladder, at the top of which stands to-day Sir Leonard Tilley, governor of New Brunswick.

The last anniversary dinner of the society was held on October 10, 1838. Wednesday night was therefore the jubilee anniversary of the event.

Sir Leonard Tilley, holding the past in pleasant memory, bethought himself that no more fitting time could be found to revive the past than the fiftieth anniversary of the last merry meeting. With this view he searched for all of the survivors who were living and within reach. In addition to himself, there are now but six in St. John and vicinity. These are J. W. Lawrence, Sheriff Harding, John Sears, Geo. Hutchison, Robert Thomson, and Robert

Smith, of Portland. It was intended that they should dine together at the governor's residence, Carleton House, on Wednesday night, but as some of them had engagements for that date, the dinner was given on Thursday evening. All of the survivors who had been found in the city were present, with exception of Mr. Hutchinson, who was prevented from attending by illness.

They had a sociable, old fashioned time. Fifty years had passed since they had met before in the same way at the social board. The boys of 1838 were the patriarchs of today. Yet though their heads were silvered stage of it informed his auditors what his the vigor of mind and body of each of them gave the evidence of well-spent lives. Time has not dealt unkindly with them. Their hearts have not grown old.

There may be, and it is very probable there are, other survivors, even in this vicinity, who have not been found. They will be sought out in the future. At the dinner on Thursday night, it was resolved that hereafter a dinner should be given on the 10th of October in every year. All who were members of the society, wherever they may now be living, are requested to communicate with Mr. J. W. Lawrence, that their names may be placed on the list

for future reunions. And may there be many more gatherings

WAGG'S IN WATERVILLE

BUT, BY LETTER, HE GETS THERE JUST THE SAME.

The Nationals' Pet Coacher and the Baseball Cranks' Hero Talks About Our Players and Says a Good Word for the Worthy Ones-That Is, All of Them.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE. |

TO THE EDITORS OF PROGRESS: You ask me for my opinion of the city of St. John and an estimate of her ball-tossers; and in reply permit me to say that I am most happy to comply with the request, and at the same time allow me to thank you for your kindness in placing your columns at my disposal. St. John and her ballplayers is a theme that would act as an incentive to any enthusiast, even if not personally interested.

Of the standing of base ball in the city, prior to my connection with the National nine, I know only by report. Although teams, moderately strong, have existed there for several years past, only during the last three or four has the present lively interest been aroused. Yet, as an active supporter of the greatest of American games, the city of St. John is not equalled by any city of similar size within the circle of the New England States, though there is a difference between them. In America base ball has always been played as the distinctively national game, and the interest in it far exceeds that excited by any other sport. When St. John people think well of an institution, they give it support of a kind both practical and liberal; nor is their attention confined to base ball alone. Time, money and skill are devoted to that great English-Canadian game of cricket; and, by the way, setting aside the batting, it is my opinion that the work of the cricketer is excellent training for the game of base ball. The cricket player gains from his game agility, quickness of recovery, and ability to throw swiftly and accurately, as well as skill in judging the course of a bounding ball, qualities all of which are essential to the successful ball-

It is interesting for one to note the remarks of the various players who have visited St. John during the last two seasons. Since my return to Maine, I have met several of them, and in reply to the question as to their opinion of St. John as a base ball city, the answer comes invariably, "The best I ever struck"; and whether victorious or defeated, the men come back to the states with the pleasantest recollections of the city over the border. Base ball stands upon a higher level there than it does in many of our large American cities. The audiences are far more impartial in their treatment of the players, and are composed of representative peoplethat is, people who represent the best element of Canadian society. Please bear in mind that these words are intended to be applied to New Brunswick cities alone. To speak of impartiality in connection with Halifax, would be like "carrying coals to

Newcastle"-entirely unnecessary. Of the Nationals as a team and individually, one hears only words of praise. "Fine grounds, fine team, fine city and a fine time," was the laconic expression of one of the Colby players, who paid his first visit to the provinces this summer. "Gentlemen, whether they win or lose," said another, and such words of praise uttered as these were, miles and miles from the scene of conflict, are a tribute of which any nine might well be proud.

Passing to an estimate of the abilities of the various members of the National team, very naturally the battery is first to be mentioned. Taken simply as battery men, leaving out of consideration the marked abilities of Messrs. Robinson and Whitenect as all-round players, there is no finer strictly amateur battery to be found in the New England states, with the possible exception of some of our larger universities, such as Yale, Harvard and Williams. Possessing the speed of many of America's professional pitchers, Robinson has in addition to this, endurance that is almost unlimited; and I believe the only one of the qualities necessary to the make-up of a protessional, which the St. John pitcher lacks, is the ability to throw a swift overhand drop

Of Whitenect's catching, words of praise only can be written; a good backstop and more than an average thrower, he works hard and successfully for the interest of his nine. Skilful as a batter and daring in his pase running, there is no ball player in the city who can be counted on to cross the plate oftener in the course of a season's playing than Whitenect.

From a personal acquaintance with all the prominent ball players in Maine and several of her neighboring states, I can truthfully say that no more gentlemanly player ever stepped upon a diamond than Captain Bell of the National team. Possessing the entire respect and confidence of his players, he has also in an eminent defielder, particularly strong upon balls thrown low or wide of the "sack," he never fails when upon the field to encourage his men both by precept and practice.

What can be said of Milligan, except the "old, old story"-the finest second baseman that St. John has ever seen. Covering an immense amount of territory in the region of second base, a sure and graceful catcher of all fly balls, he tries for everything batted in his direction, thinking little and caring less for the record he is making. Besides all this, he is a good coacher, and one who, no matter how far behind his team may be, never loses heart.

In the person of Frank White we see our ideal of a ball player—a player and a gentleman, sans peur et sans reproche, and one who never forgets that he is a gentleman. Fleet of foot and quick to recover himself in preparing to field a ball, he is a player who rarely or never loses his head at the critical point of a game. A heavy, rather than a safe, batter, his fleetness in running is almost sure, when once on first, to take him across the rubber. In addition to these qualities, he is one of the players that is always ready to sacrifice his record, both in fielding and batting, for the benefit of his nine. As a coacher, he is successful and encouraging.

One of the hardest working players that can be found on the National or any other team is Jimmie Kennedy. Just the kind of a man to have on third base, one who is fearless in facing the hardest hits; a good, swift thrower, yet one who at times seems distrustful of his own abilities, he works hard for his team, and plays to win every time. Kennedy's fielding average is no criterion of his ability as a player. It can be safely laid down as one of the unwritten truths of base ball that the hardest working players are those whose fielding averages are far from perfect, and such is Kennedy's case.

We had hoped to have Holly here with us, and to see him don the traditional silver grey and help to lead Colby's nine to victory in our coming campaign, but the Fates have willed otherwise. Well, it may be all for the best, and though greatly disappointed, we can still see that Colby's loss is St. John's gain, and he could not be left in better hands. Strong in every department of base ball, fielding, batting and base-running, he is sure to make his mark to any team of which he may be a member.

Centre and right fields have been occupied nearly all the time by the remaining regular members of the National nine, Messrs. De-Forest and Barker—two old and successful players. Both of these men have done work, steady, always, and at times phenomenal, and with these men in their respective positions, the amateur teams of Canada that can boast of a better outfield than Holly, DeForest and Barker make up are few and far between.

It is a recognized fact that the St. John C. and A. club have ball players enough enrolled among their members to make up two respectably strong nines; and three other players, fitted by experience and ability to occupy a position upon any amateur nine, are Will White, Christie and Mitchell. Christie, if given a chance, is a player bound to make his mark within the pitcher's points, while the two other players are too well known in St. John to need extended mention in a place like this.

One word more and I am done. If, in the lines written above, any member of the Nationals has been misjudged, I hope and believe that it will be set down as an error of head and not of heart. The treatment that Mr. Larrabee and myself received at the hands of the citizens of St. John was far too cordial and friendly to admit of any remarks on my part, other than those actuated by the kindest of feelings.

A. P. WAGG. Colby University, Waterville, Mame, Oct. 9.

IN THE FRONT RANK.

The St. John, N. B., "Progress" stands in the front rank of Canadian weeklies. There is about it a good, healthy atmosphere which is inspiring. It looks steadily on the bright side of things, and its readers are the better of perusing it. Its news and sketches and social gossip are served up in a racy, piquant style, its editorials are short and sensible, and the printed page is a model of typographical excellence. It is a new comer, non-political and with apparently good staying powers .- Toronto Empire.

Worth More Than a Dime.

The ladies of Leinster street church have been at all times successful in their entertainments, but especially so in the series of with a sour mixture of pop and lager. home concerts which have been held in the basement of the building. So large has been the attendance here that the advisability of securing Berryman's hall for their musical event of the 25th has been mooted. The consenting talent is of an unusually good order, and Leinster street will have stolen a march by opening the church concert season.

He Is Looking Well.

Hon. Senator Boyd is out again, giving gree that ability to command, required by his attention to private and public business. every successful field-captain. Sure as a His friends are glad to see him looking so well, after a somewhat tedious illness.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

DAILY HAPPENINGS OF LIFE IN OUR CITY.

Uncle" and the Pigeon-Mr. Lynam's Pets -Mr. Dunn's Dog Schneider-Dr. Hallett and His Visit-The Sales of an Apothecary in Two Hours.

Dr. Hallett was in town, this week all the way from Kings county, "chuck full' of electricity as usual. The boys gave him a grand reception and passed him around in royal style and the feats he accomplished were even more wonderful than those that first gave him fame.

That the doctor is feeling well may be inferred from a remark he made to George Barker. "If I could get a battery big enough to give me a strong enough charge,' he said, "I could lift a house."

It may be added that even if the house afterwards tell on the doctor, the prevailing (electrical) condition of his system would never allow him to "tumble."

The doctor has made a good many acquaintances during the last few days and when he took the Thursday night train for home tears were shed by eyes unused to weep. Not to mention other good acts, he had cured a King street merchant's rheumatism, stopped a Union street man's clock and set back the hands of the watch in Billy Quinton's pocket-all through personal contact alone. George Whitenect was somewhat sceptical, but the doctor made short work of him. Holding his hands, he asked, "Do you feel anything?" "Well," George answered, doubtfully, "my feet feel warm." "That's the first symptom!" cried the triumphant doctor-and George was converted on the spot.

The doctor is so fully charged with electricity that the ends of his fingers snap. So he says, and no one has contradicted him this week. He goes around with his feet wet in order to keep the battery in good working order. If he should happen to soak his head it would probably cut off the

MILLIONS IN IT.

The Course of Trade in a City Drug Store During Two Afternoon Hours.

"There's lots of money in the drug business! Oh, yes!" and the up-town apothecary smiled sardonically. "Just for fun, I kept a list of the articles that were asked for by the persons who visited this store between 12 and 2 o'clock, Wednesday afternoon. After I read this to you, please take your pencil and calculate how long it would take me to pay my rent out of such a trade-if it was like that all the

Then the druggist kicked the cat out of the back door and growled "No!" at the small boy who came in to use the telephone. and his voice took on a deeper bitterness as he read this record of what his early

afternoon customers demanded: Prescription. Four cents' worth of toothache drops. Postal card. Almanac. Three-cent stamp. "The lend o' the paper."

Two cents' worth of licorice, Drink of water. Three cigars.

Three cents' worth of cough drops. Five cents' worth of paregoric. Stamp.

Business card. Cigar. Prescription.

Three cents' worth of machine oil. Ten cents' worth of benzine. Two bilious pills.

Cent's worth of licorice root. Mr. Dunn's Dog Schneider.

Mr. R. C. John Dunn has a wonderful dog which he calls Schneider. It resides chiefly at Dunn's crossing, Musquash, while Mr. Dunn resides chiefly in the city. Grand Southern express trains stop at the crossing only when signalled, A red flag lies on the platform for the convenience of the public. The other day Mr. Dunn was on a train approaching the crossing and the dog was on the platform, watching the train. Getting a scent or a sight of his master, and fearing that no stop would be made, the intelligent brute seized the flag with its teeth and waved it vigorously until

"Uncle" and the Pigeon.

says that this is a true story.

the engine whistled for brakes. Mr. Dunn

It was a bright, sunny morning, this week, and a pretty pigeon perched on the curbstone in front of "Uncle's," dressing its dainty coat. Then "Uncle" appeared Swish! Contrary to law and decency, he threw the contents into the gutter and over the pigeon.

"Py the coot Cot," said "Uncle," as with bedraggled plumage the half-drowned bird got away, "that pigeon vas not a duck."

Mr. Lynam's Pets.

An amateur census-taker was around, Tuesday morning. He confined his attention to dogs, and in the country market, at 9 o'clock, he counted 27 of them. A city ordinance says that dogs shall not be allowed in the market—but, unfortunately, the dogs can't read. Eh, Mr. Lynam?

IT BLEW IN.

A Letter in Which Mr. Edwin Lewis of St. Martins Frees His Mind. to the Editors of the Progress

Dear Sirs in reply to an artical in yours

of the 29 September concerning the grading of the Grounds at the baptist seminary in St martins what I have to say is that that statement is not true and if the parties who rote that had any braines he wouldnot have lefft that artical with the Editors but would have left it in the stove and he or they as the case may be wouldnot have expsed themselves with false statements because the public at large is farly well a quainted with the slight superintendent and also with the graders at least with the latter as working men the public in gineral has a fare idea of working men at sight the superintendent might do to scrape the contribution box but not the scrapers to grade the ground and I think if the Editors had saw the ground before the cot came off and see it now he would agree with me so much for the sper I wonder that the little fellow that som people call the architect didnot have something to say about him self well as long as he did not I will relate a little storey concerning a man that looked very much like him he had the overseeing of a very large building and I guess he had to furnish a plan for the building but he was like the man who wrote that artical that appeared in progress concerning the grading at the baptist seminary in St Martins he hadnot branes enough to draw one and they say that he some way or other got hold of one that was partely drawn and couldnnt or didnot finish it and spoilt the building and I think they say what is tru and I think Mr Editor if you could see the building you would agree with the greate mas of the people where he got the partly finished plan I donot know perhps it was an oald one of Mr dunns it is a bad gob for the owners of the building that the plan was not finished before he picked it up because they would have had no trouble in keeping the watter out of the bacement but as it now is they are put to their wits end to know how they will keep the watter out of corse this man of whome I have spoken of couldnot have been the architect of the seminary in St Martins because he is to honest and why I say he is so honest not long since whilst driving over the Road with him he began to tell me what an honest man he was that he never was bought in his life and that he was the only architect in the sity that could not be bought he also said that the contracters of baptist semenary would have bought him if they could but they Couldnot and that is a sure sign that a man is honest when he says so himself

EDWIN LEWIS.

C O. D. FISH,

Bibles, Prayer and Hymn Books at Mc-

St. Martins, N. B.

Arthur's. 80 King st. Sportsmen Must Have 'em.

Progress is in receipt of the following:

CIRCULAR. The undersigned would at this season of the year call the attention of fishermen to his special

line of Haddock and Codfish paintedto resemble These fish are painted and prepared for sportsmen who cannot catch fish, and who are anxious to

make a good show on their return . Owing to a special preparation in the paint, these fish always present a fresh appearance, and can be used for years without getting tarnished or stale-

CALL AND SEE THEM FOR YOURSELVES. ONLY \$6.00 A GROSS.

A lifetime of real genuine sport and glory can be secured for \$6.00. Yours, &c.,

REFERENCES BY PERMISSION GEORGE W. STOCKFORD, High Constable. ISAAC WALTON, Piscatorialist, and numerous references at Factory.

Alive to What Should be Done.

"Union street will be the street of the future," said a smiling merchant yesterday, and the men who have stands here should keep them and reap the profits of the change. I have a suggestion to make which will, I think, increase the popularity of the thoroughfare and the value of our stands. We have a block pavement-let us keep it clean. If the merchants will club together and pay a man for this work, as is done on Prince William street, and in addition subscribe sufficient each week to run four electrics on the thoroughfare, I am convinced that it would be the most popular walk in the city. What do you think of the idea?"

Progress thinks the idea a good one. It bows to any original and popular idea. Would that there were more similar suggestions!

Another Chance for Boston.

Last week's excursion to Boston by the All-rail line was taken advantage of by so many persons that the New Brunswick railway has decided to run another this week, of which, announcement elsewhere gives complete information. Railway excursions are always popular, but especially so when the time is fast, the cars elegant and comfortable, and the destination a favorite pleasure resort.