

CANADIANS IN BOSTON

WHO HELP TO GET UP THE GREAT DAILIES.

Personal Sketches of Talented Provincialists Who Are Winning Fame and Fortune on the Herald, Journal, Traveller and Other Popular Papers.

Boston, May 10.—Take all the people of Canadian birth and training out of Boston's business and social life, and there would be left an aching void indeed. The Hub is often sneered at as being "provincial" by the New York press, a charge which it indignantly repudiates; but if this is taken in one sense, it will certainly have considerable foundation in fact, for there are almost enough provincialists of the maritime variety in Boston and vicinity to start another province. There are thousands of them, and they represent all phases of industrial and commercial life, working faithfully, attending to their own business, and voting (many of them) for the best political candidates. It would be strange, indeed, if some of these Americans of another kind were not to be found in the ranks of Boston journalism, and as a matter of fact, there are many such who are at present making a shining mark on the press of the city and state, some of whose names have become as familiar to their fellow-citizens as those of their most prominent public men of native birth. The president of the Boston Press club, an organization that numbers in its ranks almost all the journalistic brain-workers of the city, from the most mediocre to the most brilliant, is himself by birth a provincialist.

Stephen O'Meara, the journalist who has been accorded this high honor by his associates, was for ten years a provincialist before he made up his mind that the United States offered a wider field for bright young men than Prince Edward Island. He was born in Charlottetown in 1854, and came to Charlestown, now a part of Boston, in 1864, with his parents. He studied in the public schools, and while still a high school boy obeyed his newspaper instincts by becoming associated with the Charlestown Chronicle, at that time one of the brightest of local papers. He next turned up as Charlestown reporter of the Globe, in 1872, and later as a regular reporter on that paper. It was while in this position that he first gained his reputation as an enterprising newspaper man by getting a big "scoop" on the Mill river disaster. He left the Globe for the Journal in 1874, and five years later became city editor of that paper. In 1881 he was made general news editor, a position analogous with managing editor on other papers, and has been guarding the news interests of the Journal with an eagle eye ever since. Mr. O'Meara is a good short-hand man, and worked on the famous Beecher trial. Coming down to present times, Mr. O'Meara's natural modesty and retiring nature are only exceeded by his good looks and urbanity. He is liked and respected by all; so much so, in fact, that his name was prominently mentioned in connection with the mayoralty of the city, recently. As to his merits as a newspaper man, a glance at his splendidly made-up paper will tell what they are.

Henry O'Meara, a brother of Stephen, who was also born in Charlottetown, is another of Boston's successful journalists. He is older than his brother, and acquired his early education in his Prince Edward Island home. He formerly was connected with the Pilot, but the Journal now claims his services. He has a pleasing literary style, and is a companionable fellow, personally. Nova Scotia has its quota of the journalists of the Hub, and among them is Robert J. Long, who came to Boston in 1868, from his native place, Liverpool. His principal journalistic work has been the publication of the Provincialist, the bright little sheet which has recently been merged into the British-American Citizen, but he has published in the past The Garden and City, a religious magazine that ran from 1875 to 1877, and considerable other book and pamphlet literature. One of the latter, The Angel in the Marble, had a circulation of 100,000 in England. Mr. Long is interested in the present British-American naturalization movement, and now has charge of both the editorial and mechanical departments of the British-American Citizen. He is well known and respected in his adopted home, particularly in religious circles, being a good Methodist and a temperance man.

Boston press men are fond of calling those of their craft who are noted for more than ordinary dexterity in impaling a good piece of news, "hustlers," and it is to that class, beyond question, that S. Albert Wetmore, formerly of St. John, belongs. Mr. Wetmore has gained his Boston reputation as a journalist from his connection with the Herald, that paper having been the principal scene of his operations ever since he came here in 1882. He was born in St. John, and did his first newspaper work on the Globe, in 1878, leaving for the more extensive field offered by Boston journalism. His experience as a Herald man was varied by a six months' change as city editor of the Post, under Henry L. Nelson, the widely-known former Washington correspondent, but now an editor of the New York Mail and Express. He resigned this position on account of distasteful "counting-room management," as did nearly the whole force, and returned to the Herald. He has had a hand in nearly all the important pieces of work on the Herald during the last three years, including the great yacht races, the Deerfield river, White river and Bradford disasters, and has done some excellent general work. He has recently started the Boston News Service, and has refused the offer of a good salary that he might continue in this enterprise. His bureau serves four or five of the local papers, the Philadelphia Press and other sheets. Wetmore was the New York World's New England correspondent for two years before Mr. Pulitzer bought it. His enterprise and ability as a newspaper man are a very gratifying illustration of what a provincial training will do when put to the test; and this is all the more pleasing when it is coupled with the fact that Mr. Wetmore is as popular with his associates as he is pushing.

From Halifax has graduated more than one journalist who has found both a home and success in the Hub. William Murray is one of those who are to be mentioned under this head. Born in Wales, Mr. Murray

came to Halifax at an early age, and in due time took the usual course in the public schools there. After graduating from Eaton and Frazee's Commercial college, he studied law for a year in the office of the present minister of justice, Hon. J. S. D. Thompson. While there he became interested in the study of short-hand, and after learning this art drifted into journalistic work and became connected with the Halifax Chronicle and later with the Herald. He also served during two sessions of the house of assembly as assistant reporter, with Messrs. Russell, Chesley and Goldert. Like a good many other Halifaxians, in other than journalistic lines, he took the notion to come to the great provincial Mecca, and one fine Monday morning, just on the eve of the Garfield-Hancock presidential campaign, found himself in Boston. On the Wednesday following he was hard at work for the since-great Globe and immersed in political short-hand work. After working eighteen months on that paper, he became for a short time connected with the Newport Daily News, and afterward went on an eight-months tour of the United States and Canada with Prof. Fowler, the phrenologist. He next drew salary for a year from the firm of Washburn & Moon, of Worcester, and then once more returned to the ranks of Boston journalism, again joining the Globe staff, where he remained until two years ago, when he went on to the Herald. The most recent event in his interesting career has been his appointment as private secretary to General Appraiser Kitfield, a pleasant government position which he ably fills. Mr. Murray was one of the founders of the Boston Press club. He is a thorough believer in Boston and things Bostonian, has a Boston wife and three babies of the same description, and votes the straight Democratic ticket. He is well-liked by his fellow newspaper men, is a good, faithful worker, and is well-posted in political matters.

Another provincial journalist, whose genius has won for him much admiration from a wide circle of readers is James Jeffrey Roche, at present on the editorial staff of the Boston Pilot, John Boyle O'Reilly's well-known Catholic organ. Mr. Roche was born in Queen's county, Ireland, and came to Prince Edward Island, in which province he was "brought up" and received his first new world ideas. After completing his education at St. Dunstan's college, Charlottetown, he came to Boston in 1866, and has remained in the Hub, immersed in journalistic work ever since. He has been connected with the Pilot as assistant editor since 1883. Mr. Roche's prose writings are crisp and interesting, but it is as a poet that he has made his best reputation. A volume of his metrical productions, entitled Songs and Satires, was published through Ticknor & Co., last year, and was well received. Among his other social connections he is secretary of the Papyrus club. In view of his varied experiences, Mr. Roche might almost be called "a man of three countries." He is in the third one for good.

The fair sex is not unrepresented in the class of which we are speaking, and I have in mind at least one young lady who is doing what she can to show New England newspaper readers that Canadians have a talent for something besides the traditional catching of fish and the growing of potatoes. The journalist I refer to is Miss A. Marion Donovan, at present connected with the Post. Miss Donovan was born in Halifax, and graduated as a teacher two years in the Wakefield seminary. After a brief experience in teaching the young idea to shoot she came to Boston on a visit, in the latter part of 1883. Like many others from across the border who have come here on a visit, she became so enamoured of the Hub that she concluded to remain permanently. Her natural penchant for composition soon led her to enter the newspaper business, and it was not long before she secured a position on the Post, having previously written for the Courier and other papers. She has now full charge of the women's department of the Post, and her journalistic career so far has been a very successful one. Miss Donovan has the honor of being the youngest woman connected with the Boston press, and is probably the only one of them who ever experienced the sensation of a shipwreck. She was a passenger on the ill-fated steamer Merivale, which was wrecked on Little Hope island, N. S., last summer, and was one of the first to exonerate the crew of that vessel from the charges of inhumanity brought against them.

Another one of the reportorial fraternity who rejoices in the honor of being a New Brunswickian is Arthur L. Calhoun, who came from St. John a couple of years ago, took a course at "Fair Harvard," and embarked upon the troubled sea of journalism. He is at present on the staff of the Traveller, for which paper he is doing some very good work.

In writing of the colored representatives of Canadian journalism in Boston, I shall have to do so singly, and in the past tense, for the only member of that class in the city has recently retired from the wearisome task of leading men's minds and furnishing the great public with news and literary pabulum. The gentleman who has, or had, that distinction is William Grandison, who was born in Halifax, N. S., and came to Boston in September, 1869. The office of the Provincial Westegan, then published by Thomas Chamberlain, was his first field of action, and there he acquired the printer's art. Subsequently he was connected with Rand, Avery & Co., the Boston Stereotype Foundry, the University and Riverside Press, and other publishing firms. By reason of his success in breaking up the color line in the Boston and Cambridge typographical unions, he became widely known among Boston printers. In 1885, he, in company with J. D. Powell, jr., started the Boston Advocate, a weekly paper devoted to the interests of the colored people of the country, and after remaining with it two and a half years, disposed of his interest to his associate, who now conducts it. Mr. Grandison is an energetic man of 39, is married, and has resided for 15 years past in classic Cambridge.

Thomas Kirwan, who has recently left the Herald and removed to New York, is another Prince Edward Islander who has cut quite a large-sized swath in the local journalistic field. His first newspaper work was done in Summerside, where for a time he conducted a weekly reflector of island events. Coming to the United States, he entered the war, and later on published a book of reminiscences thereof. After this he returned to his native province, and again engaged in journalistic work, but

soon came back to Boston and became connected with the Traveller. Next he made an interesting expedition to North Carolina, and wrote up an important mining adventure there. In 1872 he entered the employ of the Herald, with which paper he remained until his recent change, doing some bright work during his connection with it. He is now connected with a New York electric lighting concern, upon which subject he is an expert, having published a book on it.

There are lots of other Canadians who have made, or are making, a reputation with the pen in Boston and vicinity, among whom should be mentioned Robert C. Halberley, formerly of Fredericton, and at present connected with Little's Living Age, and who conducts the Beehive, a sprightly temperance sheet, at Hyde Park, one of Boston's suburbs. He is noted for his geniality and philanthropy. He has lots of friends and deserves to have many.

Some of the transplanted Canadian journalists are also in politics. This is strikingly true of Hon. Patrick J. McGuire, who is not only publisher of the Catholic Herald, but a very prominent Democrat.

Among the out-of-town papers, the Gloucester Beezer has George W. Scott, a wide-awake Nova Scotian, for one of its best writers. Mr. Scott is also the Gloucester representative of the Associated Press and the Boston Post.

In this category comes also John C. Milne, who is editor of the Fall River News. Mr. Milne has exerted an important influence on Fall River journalism, and has been a very active participant in political matters. At present he is a representative to the legislature from his district. He is deeply interested in the British-American naturalization movement, and has done much good for it through his paper.

Another young lady journalist, who is building up a reputation among the Cape Cod sands, is Miss A. Huntington, daughter of the late Richard Huntington, of Yarmouth, N. S. She is assistant editor of the Cape Cod Item, and the Mayflower, which are published at Yarmouthport, Mass.

There may be others who have a right to figure in this roll of honor, but whose names are not recalled at the moment. If any have been slighted it is through the ignorance of the writer rather than by design. These transplanted journalists form a symposium of which patriotic Canadians may be justly proud, and doubtless none will read of their achievements without feeling a conscious glow of pleasure and satisfaction.

THOMAS FENWICK ANDERSON.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

The autobiography of Adelaide Ristori, lately published, has somewhat of interest on the question of maternity and art. While in the midst of her first scenic successes, "my art," Ristori writes with southern candor, "no longer sufficed to satisfy the desires of my soul. The passion I always had for children was not only innate in me, but was developed to an extraordinary degree, and it seemed to me that in them was to be found the realization of true felicity on earth. Maternal instinct was even so strong in me that I revolted from playing the parts in which it was overlooked." And in proof of this the tragedienne relates that for many years she refused to impersonate the character of Medea, "and was at last induced to undertake the role in Legouve's dramatization of the Grecian legend, only because in this version the mother's crime is the legitimate result of maternal affection." For all this, though, Mme. Ristori does not deny that "she considered the duties of marriage incompatible with her art." She goes on to tell that when two lovely children, Giorgio and Bianca, were shown to her and the Marchese del Grillo she began to perceive that the sweet influences of maternal affection gained such hold upon her that imperceptibly her enthusiasm for art diminished in intensity and its sway over her became less powerful. "This abnormal state of mind," as she terms it, finally caused her to retire from the stage while at the very height of her popularity.

It is an interesting confession and, if other great actresses were as candid as Ristori, might doubtless be paralleled. From the very nature of things, art can admit no rival.

Miss Helen Barry, an English actress whom everybody has heard of lately, has arrived in New York and will begin an American tour in September, appearing in *Arch-Devi's Wife*, *Lod Arctay* and *The Esmonds of Virginia*.

In Fredericton, last week, Mrs. Scott-Siddons won the cordial regard of a great audience by refusing to allow her *protège*, Mr. Henry Waller, to play on the piano provided for him. If the famous elocutionist could corral an angel and take away his harp, she would probably be able to fit Henry out to her own satisfaction.

If the esteemed *Sun* will make affidavit to the truth of its comment on my criticism of Scott-Siddons, I will reply. I learned long ago that it is hardly worth while to notice any statement printed in the *Sun*—except it is given on oath.

Mr. W. A. Whitecar is not a stranger to the St. John public, and many of the ladies and gentlemen who will assist him in the productions of the coming week are known to us by reputation. The company includes Mr. Geo. R. Edson, who has been connected with the Boston Theatre stock company; Messrs. W. B. Murray and H. S. Chase, from the Fanny Davenport company; Mr. E. B. Tilton of the Shadows of a Great City company; Percy Sage of the Wages of Sin company; Miss Amosino and Sheridan of the Boston Theatre, and Misses Sawyer and Rainford of the Harry Lacy company.

The bills for the week will be: Monday and Tuesday, *Viccor Mondaini*; Wednesday, *Fraancesca Di Rimini*; Thursday, *Othello*; Friday, *The Mountain Courier*; Saturday, *The Fool's Revenge*.

I anticipate very pleasurable evenings for those who witness this company in these plays. We know that Mr. Whitecar is a host in himself, and with the members of his company I, for one, have little fault to find. There is good reason to believe that special effort will be put forth to make the performances creditable to all concerned, and I hope that the good taste and enterprise which have thus far governed the engagement will be adequately rewarded.

LEON.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

Church of England.

Rev. John de Soyres, rector of St. John's church, will hold a service to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock, for men only. There will be a short service before the address is delivered. Mr. Coster will preside at the organ. Hundreds of St. John young men have missed these services since the departure of Rev. G. Osborne Troop, who made them so popular and interesting. It is very probable that the rector of St. Mark's parish will hold these services monthly.

Rev. L. G. Stevens, of St. Luke's church, and Rev. Mr. de Soyres, of St. John's church, will exchange pulpits Sunday morning.

Thursday being Ascension day, services were held in the Episcopal and Catholic churches in the city.

An interesting service was held in Trinity church, in the evening, which was attended by the children of the Episcopal Sunday schools in a body. Revs. Canon DeVeber and A. G. Reid, of St. Paul's; L. G. Stevens, of St. Luke's, and John de Soyres, of St. Mark's, assisted in the service, the latter preaching from John xvi., 7: "It is expedient for you that I go away."

Presbyterian.

In his morning sermon, last Sunday, Rev. Mr. Bruce made feeling allusion to the good work done for St. David's, in the early years of the church, by Messrs. William Small and John Wilson, both recently deceased. The former was elected to the eldership in 1851 and the latter in 1856.

St. Stephen's church, of this city, has a somewhat interesting history. Fifty-three years ago the old church was sold to defray a debt resting upon it. The surplus, \$4,400, was deposited at compound interest for the erection of another church. The golden nest egg doubled its value in 20 years. Then a new church was built under the ministry of Rev. George J. Caie, now of Scotland. When the new church was finished \$8,000 was required to free it from debt. Two contributions from two individuals of \$3,300 and \$1,900, respectively, were received and the congregation supplied the rest. St. Stephen's church, when opened, had no dead weight resting upon it. It has gone on and prospered under the labors of the present talented pastor, Rev. Dr. Macrae.

Baptist.

Seventeen persons were given the right hand of fellowship in the Brussels Street Baptist church, last Sunday.

The "farewell social" tendered to Rev. W. J. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart, Tuesday evening, was a very pleasant affair, rendered something more than a matter of form by the presentation of a purse. The good man and his wife are now on their way to England.

A new summer school on the Chautauqua plan has been organized by the Baptists. They have bought 150 acres of land at Bluff Point, on Lake Keuka, the Pleasant Valley mine region of New York state, and the Rev. George H. Hall, of the Hudson street Baptist church, Buffalo, will resign from his pastoral duties to accept the superintendency of the new enterprise.

The anniversary meetings of the three great societies of the Baptist church, the American Baptists' Home Missionary society, the American Baptists' Union, having charge of foreign missions, and the American Baptists' Publication society are being held in Washington, D. C.

Roman Catholic.

The Catholic University in Washington has filed plans for a building, 266x46 feet, to cost \$175,000, to be constructed of stone and brick and four stories in height. The corner stone will be laid by Cardinal Gibbons May 24.

Some of the well known and benevolent ladies of Boston have united with Archbishop Williams in his efforts to provide for the working girls of Boston, regardless of creed, a home, where they will be provided with the necessary means of existence within their means, and also find a place of rest when out of work.

Major Keily, of Brooklyn, who is related to some of the highest ecclesiastics of the church is organizing a wholesale emigration scheme which will offer inducements to Roman Catholics to emigrate to the Southern States instead of scattering them as at present through the West. A convention to be held in a few weeks governors of southern railroads and the Catholic clergy of the south are to be invited to meet and consult as to ways and means for forwarding the scheme.

Methodist.

The Portland auxiliary of the W. M. S. arranged for a missionary meeting in Portland Methodist church, last evening. The attendance was large and the addresses good.

The Methodist church in the United States, according to the report presented at the recent general conference, supports a dozen theological seminaries, more than 100 academies and over 50 colleges, all of which represent a money value of \$25,000,000, and then contributes \$1,000,000 annually to foreign missions.

In General.

The Reformed Church of England, presided over by Bishop Usher, and the Reformed Episcopal church in Canada, of the American branch, have agreed on a basis of amalgamation. Doctrinal differences caused a separation years ago, but there have been mutual concessions. A new bishop will be elected in September.

A box of manuscripts relating to Poe has been recently discovered in Georgia. It is thought that they may be those of Griswold, who was known to possess many of Poe's papers, all of which unaccountably disappeared.

We are sure that a man can glorify his Maker by publishing a newspaper as effectually as he can by preaching the gospel, but he must have a list of prompt-paying patrons to make his work a success.—*Mattha's Vineyard Herald*.

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