

CANADIAN AND LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin is not one of the forsaken wits, when once he is lifted to his feet, the focus of an army of eyes; for the platform, the stump, for aught I know, the table or barrel, have more than once been the scene of his easy triumphs. On the floor of the house at Ottawa he is described as very dazzling, while he continues to stand, wreathing the sharp sword of truth with myrtles, and at the same time robbing the belated members of their much-needed rest. And again, at the desk he is far from tame; the pen with him is an implement of equal power. He has a dash, an exuberance, that remind one of John Wilson, with never a tinsy slobber; but, with a grace, a spirit, an erudition, quite his own. The series of papers now in The Week, entitled "A Modern Mystic" are at once the liveliest, the most suggestive and inspiring, among Canadian prose writings; and are frequently insistent with the truest spirit of poetry. In the last, as in others, he pictures and praises that vast and rapidly-growing West in which is his home; and now and again we get an outburst of patriotism like this—well worth quoting: "Good heavens!" said McKinnon, rising from his place and looking East and West and North and South, "What might not this country do if Platonic principles prevailed! The wretched doubts we hear at times—the want of certainty which we too surely see—the absence of elevation—the mediocrity in thought and phrase and aim—if there were *thermos*—a high and noble and courageous enthusiasm—these whimperings and wallings would be hushed. In such a country, what do people mean by discussing the future, helplessly forecasting what may happen? Let them go and act and make a great nation. If Canadians fail to make this country great, powerful, free, a blessing and wonder to the world, history will write them down as dastards, such as never before have proved themselves unworthy of high opportunities. You want enthusiasm to create enthusiasm. Leading is everything. Great things have been done. That C. P. R. is a great work. But it is a purely material work, and greater things are yet before us. The greatest of all can be done only on Platonic principles. As in the man the *nostra*, the reason, the intellect should be supreme. So, only, by having the intellect supreme in a people can you make it feel the sense of oneness; give it unity, fusion, harmony, a single purpose. You may paint a piece of basswood to look like a loadstone, but it won't draw a needle to it, and you may dress and paint a cord to look like wire, but it won't bring down the fire from heaven. What is it distinguishes man from the beasts? Mainly the power of incarnating his thought in expression. In fact, he cannot himself know his thought, and of course, it cannot be revealed to others until he has thus incarnated it; and in all nations not dead—in all nations and in young nations especially—all there are great thoughts, great hopes, great desires, great resources of power—of more power, the greatest force that has yet appeared in this world—all this must get expression or the nation languishes." Some of these words are strong and weighty, and can well be heeded.

Who needs to be informed as to the authorship of "Low Tide on Grand Pre," and "The Wraith of the Red Swan." He is in the midst of busy life, as one of the editors of the New York Independent, yet he gives his friends a cheery word: "I wish that I could write to you in a leisurely way—running like a full stream in a meadow. That is impossible now. Out of much noise and long hours I send you a hearty greeting. I fear I shall be nothing but a toiler."

A dreamer lives forever. But a toiler dies. But the dreams are in our poet's soul, and spite of noise and hurry they will out. The public may be on the watch for some poems soon to appear, which are as fine as any he has yet written.

The Canadian scholar and antiquary, J. M. LeMoine, F. A. S. C., was cicerone to the Count of Paris, and party, lately in Quebec; whom he declares "a courteous and well informed man." He could not wonder if he looked upon a future occupant of the French throne. Doubtless not. He says: "We are just preparing for winter here. Our parliament is in session; but it is a mostly assentment of politicians."

Dr. A. H. Chandler, during his late visit to Boston, Mass., was favorably mentioned in the columns of the Herald as "the Canadian poet." Dr. Chandler has contributed several of his poems to the journals of that city.

Mr. H. Sidney Davison, of Wolfville, N. S., writes concerning his departed brother,—that bright spirit, so soon departed,—whose "Stray Leaves from a Book of Wonder" were lately so highly spoken of by the Editor of the Dominion Illustrated. He says: "Perhaps it was read by you with a peculiar interest. You would certainly read it with interest because its author was, like yourself, a Nova Scotian; and, if there were aught in it worthy of praise, for your country's sake, that praise would not be withheld. There was an old similarity of occupation in the lives of both of you, at their beginning. The Acadian mind was an interesting name to you. It is not the old Acadian and it is not the old building; but I fancy when sometimes the mind wanders back to Wolfville the old associations come up, and the place is as it was when the years had not slipped between. Is it not an odd circumstance that on the old Acadian and on the new a poet stood at the type case and took his three at the press. The affair in question was given by Mr. Albert Smith.

Miss F. Dunlop, of Amherst, is visiting at River-side, the residence of Mr. J. W. Webster. Mrs. J. McFadden, Miss L. McFadden, and Master Frank McFadden, left by the afternoon train on a visit to St. John. SOMERBY.

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SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[FOR ADDITIONAL SOCIETY NEWS SEE FIFTH AND EIGHTH PAGES.]

HAMPTON.

[Progress is for sale at Hampton station by T. G. Barnes, and Geo. E. Frost, and at Hampton village by Messrs. A. & W. Hicks.]

Nov. 19.—Rev. O. S. Newnham, of St. Stephen, and a former rector of this parish, was in town last week and took part in the funeral services of the late Edward Seely at the village on Wednesday.

Mrs. E. M. Barlow, of St. John, who is visiting relatives here and in Lower Norton, left for home on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. J. C. White and family, left last week for Newton Centre, Mass.

Mr. Theodore Ayer, of Sackville, was visiting relatives at the village on Wednesday and Thursday. Rev. H. S. Wainwright, of Kingston, paid a visit to Hampton on Saturday.

Mr. R. C. Thorne, of St. John, was in town on Thursday evening a very enjoyable party was given by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Brown at their residence. Some forty of the young friends of the village were invited. A very pleasant evening was spent by all who were fortunate enough to be present.

Rev. Howard Sprague spent Sunday here, the guest of his parents, at Sunny Slope.

Mr. E. L. Whitaker purchased the splendid residence, lately owned and occupied by Mr. G. J. C. White, situated between the station and village. The family took possession of their new home on Monday.

Mr. Charles Fawcett, of Sackville, was in town for a few hours on Friday.

Mr. Geo. Barnes is improving, and his many friends hope to see him about again before long.

Mr. F. E. Morton, Mr. A. S. White and Mr. W. Watson Allen were in town on Monday in attendance at the probate court.

Mrs. Alex. Clarke, of South Farmington, Mass., is visiting friends at the Vendome.

A confirmation service will be held at the old parish church, Lakeside, on Tuesday evening next. The Bishop Coadjutor, Right Rev. H. Tully King, will officiate.

Mr. Charles E. Gilbert, of Gagetown, and Mr. L. E. Tapley were among the visitors in town last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. McLeod, who have been residing at their summer residence, "Asholin" since June last, left for their home on King Street, East, in the city, on Monday, to spend the winter.

CHATHAM.

[Progress is for sale in Chatham at Edward Johnston's bookstore.]

Nov. 17.—Mr. Gordon M. Blair, of the Bank of Montreal, Moncton, spent Sunday and Monday here and received a warm welcome from his numerous friends.

Mr. R. G. Blair left this week for St. John, where he has accepted a position with Daniel & Robertson.

Miss Wright, of St. John, still lingers with us, the guest of Miss Mabel Murray.

Miss Jennie Shirrel is visiting her home, after a year's absence, spent in Toronto.

Among the visitors last week, I noticed Miss Diney Davidson, who for the last seven years has been residing in Seattle. I hope her native air will induce Miss Davidson to remain sometime with us. At present she is the guest of Mrs. R. R. Call, Newcastle.

Mr. E. M. Archibald and family left on Monday for Sydney, where they intend making their future home.

Miss Purdy, of Amherst, is the guest of her friend, Miss Haviland.

Dr. S. Benson is enjoying a well-earned vacation in Boston and New York.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Nealis returned from their bridal tour, on Tuesday, and have taken rooms at the Bowyer House, where Mrs. Nealis is this week receiving, assisted by Miss Noonan.

The Misses Benson entertained a number of their friends on Thursday evening last week.

Hon. F. P. Thompson is the guest of Mr. J. B. Snowball.

The formation of a Bread and Butter Club received the hearts of our young people, last week, when the first meeting was held at the residence of Miss Winslow, where a most enjoyable evening was spent, and dancing indulged in till a late hour. The club meets at Miss Pierce's on Tuesday of this week.

The severe weather of the last few days has given our young people ample opportunity of indulging in one of their favorite pastimes—skating. Among those wending their way to the lake on Monday, I noticed Mrs. W. C. Winslow, the Misses Winslow, Miss Wright, of St. John, Miss Murray, Misses Foster, Gillespie, Norton, and Messrs. Blair, Stykeman, Harrison and Snowball.

Congratulations to Mr. P. C. Johnson, who this week arrived from Fredericton with his bride.

RICHIBUCTO.

Nov. 19.—Mr. Rufus Chandler, of Campbellton, was in town last week, visiting friends, after an absence of ten years.

Richibucto was started last Friday morning, on learning that Miss Hackenly, wife of Rev. Mr. Hackenly, had died suddenly during the night. Mr. Hackenly arrived here from Gagetown about a month ago to accept the rectorship of St. Mary's church. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. F. B. Hooper, of Weldford. Mr. Hackenly has the sympathy of the entire community.

Messrs. E. McSwain, of Amherst, and Fred Piron, of Montreal, were in town last week.

Mrs. F. H. Almon, of Halifax, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Upham Bliss, for several months, returned home last Friday.

Mr. Charles Cole, of Moncton, spent Sunday in town.

Mr. William Pine left for Nova Scotia on Monday for a holiday trip.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. James, of Butouche, were in town on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Loggie spent Sunday in Chatham.

Mr. J. M. Robertson, of St. John, was in town this week.

Rumor says that one of our churches is soon to lose its organist. The gentleman is engaged in legal business. HENRI.

SHEDDIA.

[Progress is for sale in Shediac at A. Stone's store.]

Nov. 19.—Shediac still sustains its record of peacefulness and quietism. Our beautiful Indian summer-like weather has been something wonderful, but today the scene has changed, and the first fall snow of the season whitens the earth.

Mrs. Kinneer has arrived home, after a somewhat lengthy stay in the "Athens of America," and well pleased with her visit.

Mr. W. H. Moore, of Campbellton, is in town this week, visiting his home.

Mr. W. Avard, of Shediac, is absent on Prince Edward Island on business.

Mr. R. C. Tait made a short visit to St. John this week.

I hear that several of our young men propose instituting a club room, or something of that order, to while away the winter evenings.

Allow me to correct a mistake which occurred in the course of my report of the party mentioned last week. The affair in question was given by Mr. Albert Smith.

Miss F. Dunlop, of Amherst, is visiting at River-side, the residence of Mr. J. W. Webster.

Mrs. J. McFadden, Miss L. McFadden, and Master Frank McFadden, left by the afternoon train on a visit to St. John. SOMERBY.

WELDFORD STATION.

[Progress is for sale at Mrs. S. J. Livingston's grocery store, Weldford Station.]

Nov. 19.—Mr. S. C. Weeks, of Richibucto, was at the Eureka on Friday.

Mr. J. Frank Whiten left for Mattawamkeag, U. S., by yesterday's mid-day train.

Conductor Whitman Haines, of the Dalhousie Branch railway, was in town on Monday.

Mr. James Smith has been on a business trip to Kings County, for some days past.

Mr. William Nicholson went to Fredericton on Monday to visit relatives.

Mr. W. Miller, of Millerton, was at the Central on Monday.

Dr. Nicholson was summoned to Newcastle on Saturday to attend a relative who is ill. REX.

ANAGANCE.

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