

## RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

## JOSEPH HOWE AND HIS TIMES.

## And Incidental References to Some of His Prominent Public Contemporaries.

By "Historicus," Fredericton, N. B.

NO. 5.

Sir Wm. J. Ritchie.

Another graduate of this College, (if I mistake not, at all events a Nova Scotian,) is Sir Wm. J. Ritchie, Chief Justice of the highest Court in the Dominion, who rose to his present eminent position from sheer force of character and talents, united with industry and great judicial skill. As a lawyer, Ritchie held first rank at the bar of this Province years before he ascended the Bench in succession to Judge Street, who died in England in 1855. Shortly after the confederation of these Provinces, he was elevated to the Bench of the Supreme Court of Canada, and succeeded Judge Richard to the Chief Justiceship, the duties of which he has continued to discharge with dignity and impartiality. Young Ritchie came to St. John in about 1836, from Annapolis, where he and several brothers, who all became men of distinction, were born, their father being one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Nova Scotia; and although the whole family were Conservatives in politics, from generation to generation, through all changes of government, Wm. J. Ritchie struck out on the Liberal side from the day he landed in St. John, and adhered to the principles of liberalism through all vicissitudes, as well before as during his legislative career. As a representative, he distinguished himself, and helped to bring about the system of Colonial party government which we enjoy at this day. Judge Ritchie will therefore be historically known as one of New Brunswick's early Reformers.

Rev. Dr. Crawley.

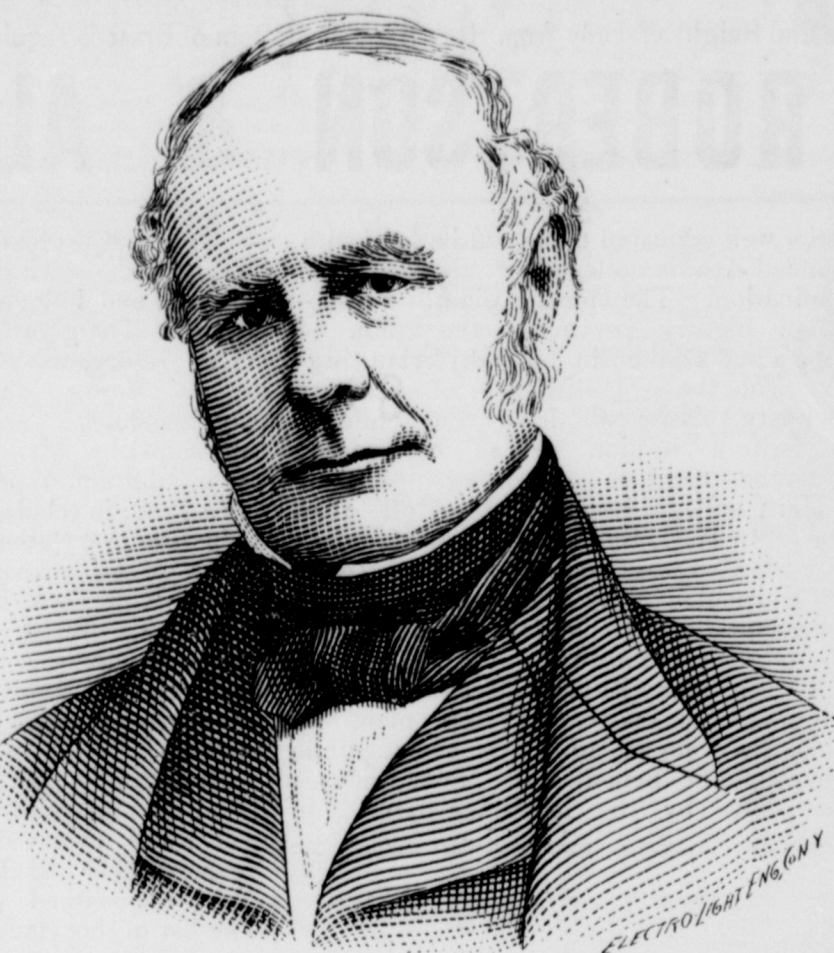
Another graduate of King's College was Rev. Dr. Crawley, of Wolfville College, who in 1825, together with a number of other first-class churchmen, seceded from the Church of England in a body, on account of the inconsiderate conduct of the newly created Bishop—John Inglis—by appointing to the Rectorship of St. Paul's the Rev. Mr. Twining, the favorite, who should have been the person. This gentleman had been Curate for many years, while Dr. Inglis was Rector—both were very much liked—and it was but reasonable and fair for the congregation to suppose that he would be the Bishop's choice as it was the universal desire. The Bishop's act caused a wound to the Church which it took many years to heal, notwithstanding the fruitless attempts at conciliation. Numerous families locked their pews and left the Church—so that the Rector was obliged for a long time to preach to empty seats. Mr. Crawley, as just stated, withdrew from the Church of his fathers, and, with others, representing some of the leading families of Halifax, set up an independent establishment, but for want of an independent Church minister, the building in Granville street, which they erected, was turned over to the Baptist body, they themselves going with it, and so the descendants of those families continue to be good Baptists to this day. Mr. Crawley was bred to the law, but shortly after the disruption he studied for the ministry, and became an able preacher. He died about two years since, at the age of 86, having been president of the Wolfville College for some years. Although Mr. Crawley entered Windsor College in 1816, he only received his degree of D. D. from his old Alma Mater about three years ago, the tardiness for which I suppose is hardly worth canvassing. Dr. Crawley was a very able man, second to none of his college contemporaries for literary and scholastic attainments. The present excellent pastor of the Fredericton Baptist church, Rev. Mr. Crawley, is a member of the same family. Indeed all the Crawleys rank high in the social and intellectual and religious scale in the sister province.

Judge Haliburton. Thomas C. Haliburton ("Sam Slick") was another graduate of Windsor, and who as a literary man has reflected lustre upon his Alma Mater and native province. In 1826 he published two volumes of the History of Nova Scotia, in the office of the *Nova Scotia*. This was long before the author intended to devote his leisure hours to literary work; and it is a question whether Haliburton would ever have become an author had it not been for Howe, both of which gentlemen were on terms of the most intimate friendship. In 1836 Mr. Haliburton wrote several letters which appeared in the *Nova Scotia*, entitled "Sam Slick of Slickville," and they were so amusing, and contained so many practical lessons calculated especially to work upon the dormant energies of the rural population, that Sam soon became a universal favorite, and the extra demand

for copies of the *Nova Scotia* could scarcely be supplied. Mr. Howe requested the author to have his letters re-printed in a new and less perishable form, which was done, and as soon as the book appeared it obtained a rapid circulation all over the Province, and a second edition was called for. This then was the beginning of a very successful career in the literary field by the first Nova Scotian author and graduate of King's College.

Haliburton as an Author.

Haliburton having thus planted his foot



JUDGE HALIBURTON (SAM SLICK).

upon solid ground and considered his reputation for literary work fairly begun, he devoted his talents and powers thenceforward more to the cultivation of letters than to the dry subtleties of the law. The progeny of this once popular author may thus be summed up—after Sam Slick came The Clock Maker—Wise Saws—Nature and Human Nature—Bubbles of Canada. These works all took well with the reading public, but some were considered better than others. As in the case of Dickens' first production—"The Pickwick Papers"—which was thought by many to be his *chef d'œuvre*—so with Haliburton's first venture. In other directions he made no improvement upon the originality and popularity of "Sam Slick." His "Bubbles of Canada" was in my humble opinion a mistake, and it brought out in conspicuous relief the Conservative tendencies of his nature, and furnished an inkling of the political school in which he was reared. The work was written about the time of the Canadian Rebellion in 1837, and designed to show that the Canadians in their struggles for Responsible Government had nothing of which to complain. It was demagogues who made all the trouble. That their grievances were imaginary, founded more upon the discontentment of their nature than any tangible presentment of well grounded political disabilities. That every time the British Government yielded to their importunities, the more they felt encouraged to re-vent their complaints. [The further consideration of this part of our subject, however, will come on later.] In short, our author was a Conservative of the first quality, and could see nothing unless through imperial spectacles—quite the opposite of Howe, although personally they were the best of friends, even companions. Like many other Haligonians, who get tired of the country of their birth and education, and where perhaps they had made their money, and then leave all behind them for

time upon the consideration of some colonial question, bringing down upon himself rather caustic remarks from several leading members. Authorship in the house of commons goes but a short distance among men of great statesmanlike qualities. You must not only speak to the point and at the right time, but say something in order to be listened to and not coughed down. In our local or Dominion Parliaments, it is different. Here, as at Ottawa, a member is personally known to the whole house, and has the sympathy of a large proportion of its members, his powers are well known, and though he may not be a heavy weight he is listened to at all events, no matter to what side of politics he belongs. Now I do not mean to say that Judge Haliburton would not be a power anywhere and under any ordinary circumstances. I refer more to the stiff and arbitrary arena presented by the British House of Commons, and the wonderful tact as well as abilities requisite to meet its demands. No doubt had our author lived long enough he would have found place among British statesmen.

We here give a picture of the old residence of "Sam Slick," in Windsor, as well as his portrait above. This once famous spot now resolved into "the Classics," but also dissolved of late years into very disproportionate proportions, is occupied by a small family "from the country," whose names are unknown to me. Fifty years ago, as a stranger I wandered about those once beautiful grounds, intersected by winding roads lined with locusts and acacias. Last summer I witnessed the scene again, but woefully changed—the roads were almost blotted out, the foliage matted and tangled, and half the shade trees gone. The Windsor and Annapolis Railroad has also laid a sacrilegious hand upon the place by cutting through the middle or towards the back part of the property, so that the peace and repose once enjoyed here, are changed for the screech of the locomotive and murderous noise of traffic. The old house is in a good state of preservation; but the home of the author has departed. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

The memory of Judge Haliburton is kept green in Windsor by its spirited inhabitants. A club called "the Haliburton Club" was started in 1884, (the President of which is Chas. G. D. Roberts, Author, and Professor of Classics in Windsor College,) which meet together periodically to revive and discuss the merits of their "Patron Author," and in other literary ways pass the time profitably and pleasantly, no doubt heightened by the exhilarations which wait upon good appetites and gentle litanies. Long may they live to meet and have a good time—for the purposes are highly creditable. [I am told that the excellent Secretary



HALIBURTON CLUB ROOM.

of the Halifax Historical Society has written a book in reference to Judge Haliburton, which I have not had the pleasure of seeing, but no doubt it is highly interesting.]

Abandoning One's Country.

With regard to persons abandoning their own country for "home," I remember listening to a University Oration delivered at one of our Encampments by a distinguished son of Halifax, and in the course of his able remarks he expatiated grandiloquently even vituperatively upon the conduct of

before occupied are unknown and unearned for by their new acquaintances. What followed this great expression of fervor? This very same gentleman in a few years afterwards "went and did likewise." Perhaps he will see this and remember the circumstance?

Rev. J. W. D. Gray and Rev. Mr. Uniake.

But to enumerate all the graduates of King's College, who in after life became somewhat famous in professional ways, would occupy more space than these letters would allow. But before closing with this college, reference to two more of her graduates might not be uninteresting, viz: the Rev. J. W. D. Gray, rector of Trinity church, St. John, and Rev. Fitzgerald Uniake, rector of St. George's church, Halifax, both of whom matriculated at the same time—1814—studied together—were close companions, almost inseparable—the one appeared to be necessary to the existence of the other—and in death they are not divided. In the centre of the little grave-yard, foot of Dutch Village hill, surrounding the church, two sarcophagi built side by side, may be seen covering the dust of these very able divines. As theologians and pulpit speakers, both rose to eminence in their respective churches and towns. As a polemical writer, Dr. Gray excelled, and was recognized beyond the bounds of his own province as a force. Rev. Mr. Uniake held his congregation in increasing numbers, growing in strength until his last days. His sermons were sound and evangelical and well delivered: His memory is held sacred to this day by the old residents of St. George's parish. Bishop Inglis and Bishop Suther, who recently died a bishop in Scotland, were also graduates of King's.

Bishop Inglis' Horses.

[On one occasion when Bishop Inglis as Patron of the College was on a visit of examination, and having spent the night with the President, he was greatly chagrined next morning when preparing to leave for Halifax, on being informed by his groom that the tails of both his horses had been shaved clean, not a hair scarcely left upon the stumps. The Bishop lost no time in going out to see for himself the outrage that had been perpetrated upon his horses and his own dignity; and when he came in sight and beheld the awful spectacle, it he did not actually anathematise he talked very loud against the guilty sinner, and it he could only catch him he would give him "the benefit of clergy" with extreme unction, which he would remember to his dying day. The Bishop had to get other horses to take him to town, for his own presented a picture worthy of the pencil of a Hogarth. The Bishop's son, afterwards the famous General, got the credit among his College chums as having been the sportsman on this occasion.]

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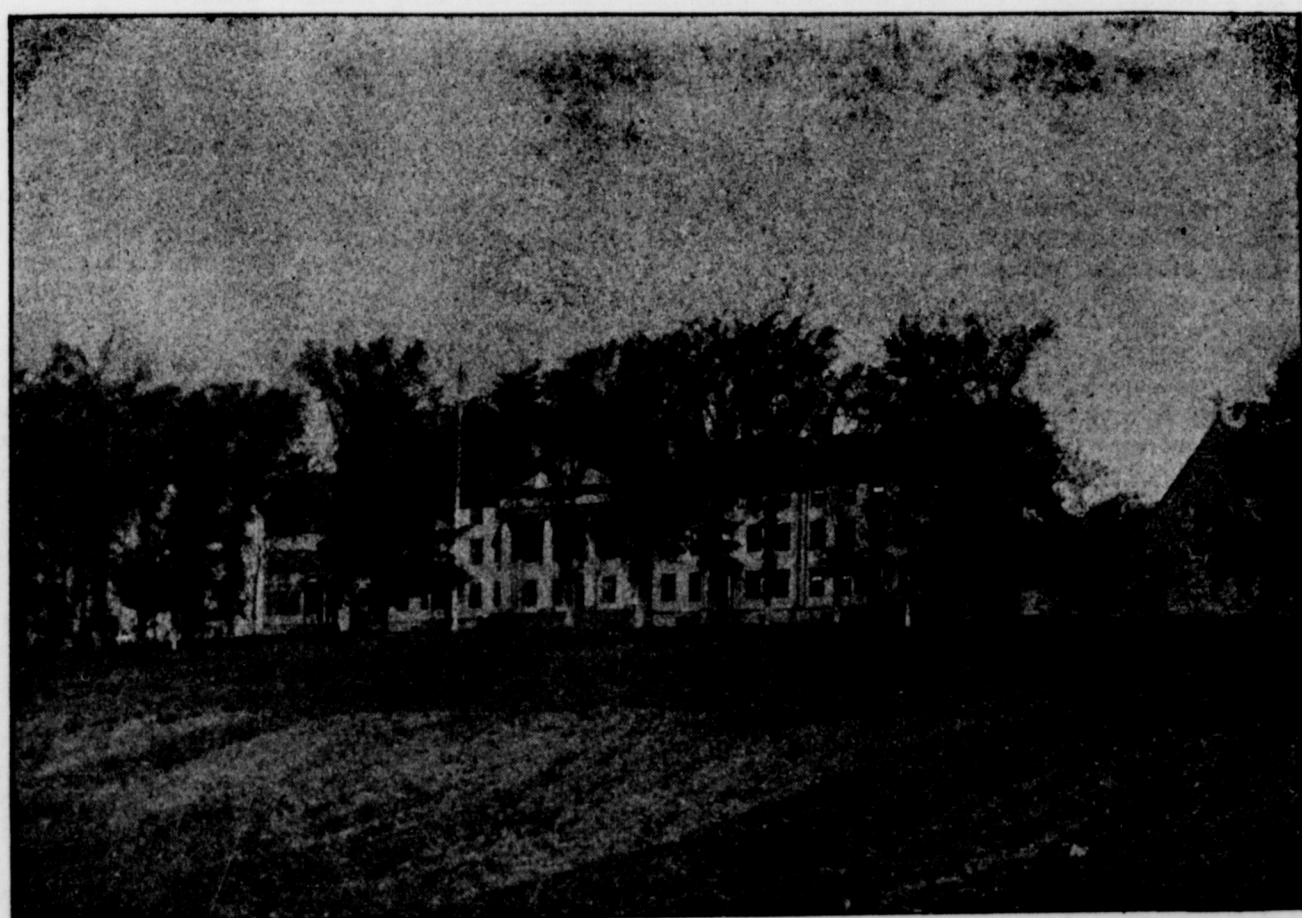


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KING'S COLLEGE, WINDSOR.



"home," there to reside and sink into non-entities, our author finally quitted his native land, and took up his abode in England, where he married a rich lady, and through whose influence he found his way into the British House of Commons, but as a member of Parliament he was not in my opinion a success. On one occasion in particular he displeased the government and house, by insisting at an inopportune