

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

JOSEPH HOWE AND HIS TIMES.

And Incidental References to Some of His Prominent Public Contemporaries.

By "Historicus," Fredericton, N. B.

NO. 19.

But What Came Out of the Rebellion?

Let us see. We are told in the good book, "out of evil good comes," but no one sows bad seed and expects profitable returns; and yet, perchance, good growth often springs from poor tillage. So in life among men. The effect of the rebellion was to arouse the attention of the British Nation, and an inquiry into its cause was demanded; and when the people of England speak the Government have to listen. There must be something serious at the bottom of all the trouble to account for such a terrible outbreak—besides the great sympathy manifested by the United States on the side of the rebels, had a very decided meaning.

Accordingly the British Government now saw the importance of appointing a special commission to go out to Canada and intelligently ascertain the cause of the trouble; and Lord Durham was the nobleman selected as the intermediary, with that end in view. On arriving in Canada he did not allow himself to be taken in hand by either party; but resorted to the most studious ways possible to get at the bottom of the whole story. His first step was to ascertain the names of the leading politicians on both sides and upon whose moderation reliance might be placed. He called just such persons together, and thus after sifting all the evidence and making allowance for the partisanship as exhibited on both sides, he was enabled to reach the prominent facts, and strike a just balance between the two parties.

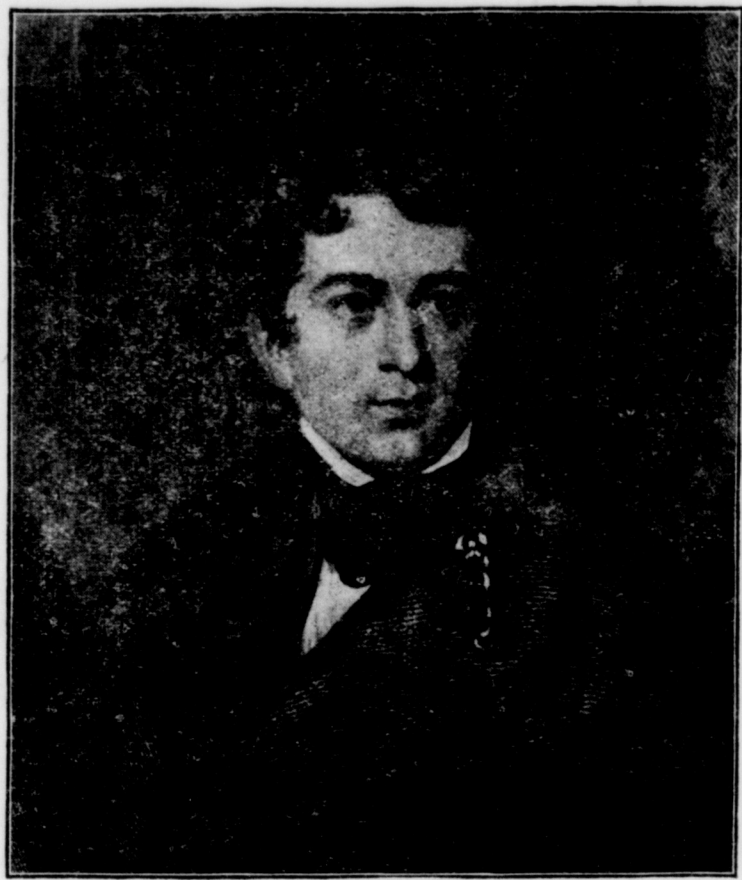
On his return to England he drew up his famous Report, which must forever stand in our Colonial Annals as the most important political document ever published by a British Statesman, in which is set forth in the most fair and masterly manner, the grievances of which the Liberals had for so many years been complaining, and which finally culminated in open rupture. But LORD DURHAM'S REPORT must be read to be understood and appreciated by all fair minded persons. The effect of its publication in England upon the British public and Government was prodigious. Mr. Charles Buller, private Secretary (since deceased), a very able man, rendered no unimportant service in the composition of this Report—so said at the time.

Mr. Paulett Thompson, Afterwards Lord Sydenham.

What followed—after this long digression. Mr. Paulett Thompson, President of the English Board of Trade, was next sent out to Canada (1839) as Governor General, clothed with plenary powers, and as a pacifier, with a view of restoring peace among the contending parties and placing on a more equitable footing a system of Government, such as all parties might accept without prejudice. What was called "Responsible Government," a sort of mongrel affair, had been acknowledged by the Tories for several years back. Finding it impossible to stem the incoming tide any longer, they made a virtue of necessity and accepted the new order of things, but not with a very good grace. The old Adam was still living in the Tory breast, and Mr. Howe they thought was a dangerous man to be in power. The heads of Departments continued to hold on to their offices, without reference to the people's representatives. Responsible Government with the Tories did not mean the surrender of a single privilege they had always possessed—it simply meant a willingness to do what the people wished, so long as their own individual interests were not disturbed. To carry out the new system in its entirety meant party government, which would never do for the safety of the Province, because suppose the Howe party once got into power, British connection would be at an end, for being sustained by the Legislature they would some day bring in such radical measures that a second edition of the Canadian rebellion would be sure to follow. As it was as soon as the outbreak before referred to commenced an earnest endeavour was made by the Tories to incriminate the Howites, because the reforms for which they were contending were precisely the same as those of Papineau and Mackenzie—but with this difference, the action of the one set of men was treasonable, while that of the other was peaceful, constitutional, altogether within their rights as British subjects. Then there was a strange absurdity in the objection set up by the Halifax Tories when they sought to show the danger of party government; but were they not at that very time carrying on party government themselves? None but those of their own stripe had ever been allowed to take part with them. As in Canada above so in the Maritime Provinces below—the Reformers everywhere were prostrate, so long as the Governors and Councils of the respective Provinces held the reins of power and were upheld by the Colonial Office, which until now had received all its information, *ex parte*, as before stated, surreptitiously, from behind, at the back door, through the many speaking tubes the Tories had at command.

But now Mr. Thompson came out—he

landed in Halifax and there commenced to lay his plans; but before accompanying him further on his mission, and by way of episode, an amusing incident might be recalled. In 1837 (?) this gentleman being President of the Board of Trade and an active free trader in the House of Commons, was instrumental in a measure being passed for the abolition of the Timber duties. Now timber from the Baltic entered sharply into competition with our New Brunswick staple, notwithstanding the high foreign levies. To remove this duty then at one fell-swoop, was thought to be death to our St. John trade. Accordingly our citizens (the noisiest part of them) turned out and got an effigy of the right honorable gentleman prepared and bundles of faggots and set them in a blaze on King



LORD DURHAM.

Square, amidst shouts and execrations by the motley crowd there gathered. The business of the Province however survived the shock and trade in timber went on as usual, or with perhaps some diminution. On arriving in St. John from Halifax, on his way to Canada, in a year or two afterwards, as Governor General, he was received with open arms, and shouts of welcome. "Crucify him—crucify him," now gave place to *peans* of rejoicing. Triumphant arches were erected at principal points for His Excellency to pass under. Nor was the irrepressible Address omitted, exuberant with loyal and devotional expressions of attachment to "our beloved Queen." The fickleness of public opinion so often spoken of here found expression in its most fantastic form.

A Coalition Government.

To go back where we left off. When Mr. Thompson landed in Halifax he called together the leading members of the opposing parties. Mr. Howe being the central figure in the opposition ranks, of course received the lion's share of attention. Lord Falkland was then the Lieutenant Governor, a nobleman of most fickle temperament, moulded pretty much after the Sir Francis Bond Head pattern (before alluded to,) and of whose subsequent capers we shall see more presently. His wife was the natural daughter of the King (Wm. 4th) through whose influence no doubt he obtained the position for which he was altogether by nature unfitted. The better plan thought Mr. Thompson for cutting the Gordian knot, in a tangle about both parties, was to call upon Lord Falkland to form a coalition government—it would not do to dismiss the present cabinet, that would be giving way too much to the opposition—nor would it do to form an out and out opposition government. As a compromise then, Mr. Howe was invited by the Governor General to take with him into the Cabinet two of his colleagues, and this at the time was considered all round to be the best possible arrangement that could be made. Messrs. Howe, Uniacke and McNab accordingly entered the Government—three in number—while the old party retained six, so that the balance of power was anything but fair, still it was an acknowledged acknowledgement of the claims of the Liberals to a voice in the executive and controlling power. All went on well for some time under the new dispensation; and had the Tory element possessed a little common sense this state of thing might have continued for years; but No! their old proclivities were too rooted and grounded in their nature to enable them to keep their eyes open to the dire possibilities of their own fatuity. After the first year of the "coalition," the Liberals found that their colleagues were too many for them—in numbers—they discovered from time to time manoeuvres of which they could not approve, and to add to their annoyance they saw that my Lord Falkland was playing into the Tory hands. Now, if Falkland had no brains his wife had. She was a person of remarkable talents and accomplishments, a fine conversationalist, and an excellent lady in all respects. She thought that Mr. Howe was one of the most able and brilliant men she had ever met—so I was informed about the time. No doubt, then, that this lady was the means of cementing the strong friendship of her husband with Mr. Howe. But after a year or so, perhaps finding his old boon companion getting too strong for him, even in the Cabinet, his Lordship became jealous and more foolish than ever, and so his pliable majority, willing at one moment to drive the minority out, were ready to welcome the first opportunity for the fulfilment of their wishes. There were

rumors from time to time that all was not harmony within the Council Chamber of Government House—in short, the mountain was in labor and the air filled with sulphurous fumes, while other signs were ominous of an eruption to take place at no distant day, and a great smash-up all round.

Break up of the Coalition.

At length the storm burst—the small cloud which for a long time had been gathering in volume over Government House, startled the community with a crash. Without consulting their three Liberal colleagues, the Tories advised the Governor to appoint another gentleman of their own politics to a seat in the Council, and his Lordship most stupidly consented. This was the last straw that broke the camel's back. Messrs. Howe, Uniacke and McNab immediately threw up their seats—the "coalition" was at an end, which was the case with all coalitions, dissensions within and want of cohesion without, among friends. The success, or rather want of it, in the Pitt and Fox coalition is familiar to the English reader. And as another instance of the want of harmony in such combinations, may be mentioned what occurred in this province. About two years after the break-up of the Halifax coalition, our great Liberals were wheeled into the committal of a similar coalition blunder, when in 1845 (?) Messrs. L. A. Wilnot, Charles Fisher and George Stillman Hill left their party as it were, and joined the Tory Government, and thus prostrated themselves at the feet of a large majority of their opponents, and at the same time crippled what was left of the Opposition in the House. They did this with their eyes open to the consequences in Nova Scotia, of such an impolitic proceeding; and the same results followed here as there—but the particulars of the circumstances are not called for in this place, but may come up at some future time.

While the coalition lasted in Halifax, the Tories in the House and the Liberals were at peace. Both sides slaked their thirst at the same stream. It was a sort of truce, but was immediately broken after the Tory treachery instigated by Lord Falkland had manifested itself. And now the old Government was resolved once more into its original form, as "compact" as ever.

USE OF THE HANDS.

When Employed in Writing Nearly Every Muscle in the Body Helps Them.

At the late International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, in section 4, which was concerned with the hygiene of infancy and school life, a resolution was passed in favor of the teaching of upright penmanship or vertical writing, on the ground that spinal curvature and short sight are caused by the faulty position of the youthful student, which is necessitated by slope of the letters. We can all of us remember the trouble of learning to write, and the mental and physical toil which the making of our first penmanship and hangers involved. The number of muscles put in action when a person is writing is prodigious, and it is probable that in beginners every muscle of the body must yield its assent before the graphic symbols trickle from the pen.

The fingers, wrist, elbow and shoulder must all be held steady. The spine must be rigid and fixed below as well as above. The pelvis must be firm, and to this end the child often gets support by its feet from the legs of the chair. The thorax is more or less rigid, and its movements are determined more by the work of the hand than by the respiratory needs. Lastly, the knit brows and protruding tongue are unconscious muscular acts which serve to mark the effort, both of body and mind, which the child undergoes when learning to write. It is notorious that in writing our individuality asserts itself in spite of the pedagogue. We are taught certain rules for sitting at the desk and holding the pen, which we ultimately learn to neglect, and finally write in a fashion of our own.

The true remedy for the evils produced by learning to write seems to us to be to teach the child to use both hands, and to practice alternately with either hand. Vertical writing lends itself more readily to ambidexterity than does sloping writing, and there can be no doubt that a clerk who could write with equal facility with either hand, and could rest one side of the body while the other was working, would be little liable to writer's cramp and similar troubles. Seeing how enormous is the muscular effort involved in giving the hand sufficient steadiness, and that the brain tag is scarcely less than the muscle tag, it goes without saying that writing lessons should at first be of very short duration. Ten minutes with each hand ought to amply suffice.—*London Lancet.*

A Question for Widows.

W. J. Lampton's unique contribution to the January *Cosmopolitan*, "What Say Ye, Women, to This?" is the subject of much amusing commentary. The question as to which the woman, ascended to Heaven, would choose as her companion, the husband of her youth who had led her a variegated and altogether severe existence in the way of hunger and cold and drunkenness, punctuated by an occasional beating, but whom she loved (!), or the well-behaved, loving, tender, judicious husband who followed number one and perchance by his goodness erased every recollection of that unworthy companion of her ignorant girlhood. The conundrum is now propounded in every drawing room. Sentimental girls, blooming widows (for the first time) and wives are all ready enough with opinions, but from the twice-widowed I have heard an answer only once, and that was so very naughty I am ashamed to repeat it, but as a newspaper never blushes, I will confide it in cold type. This was a pretty woman, too, and still young, but when she was asked at the portal of Heaven which of the two she would choose, for her companion through eternity, she boldly answered:

"Neither. I wouldn't live with any man in heaven that I had lived with on earth."

"But," persisted the interlocutor, "you'd have to; you couldn't go to heaven unless you did."

The pretty widow decisively shook her head and quipped with her mourning fan, and murmured: "I wouldn't, I'd rather go to the other place."

The maidens all exclaimed with one accord that the first love would always win the day, that the fine sentimentalism of the sex, coupled with its usual ingratitude, would obliterate the claims of the nobler and later affection.

MEN WHO KNOW THE WEATHER.

How Predictions are Made by the Officers of the Signal Service.

The predictions of the weather heretofore made by the Signal Service and Weather Bureau have been usually for the twenty-four hours immediately following the observations at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. As it took two and a half hours to collect the data by telegraph, enter them on maps, make the weather map and draw up the forecasts, and a longer or shorter time to telegraph the forecasts to the newspapers, get them in print and distribute the papers, the forecasts were always belated to such an extent that several of the hours predicted for were already passed before the predictions were ready by the public. The time which elapses between the taking of the observations and the placing of the forecasts before the public is now, considering everything, amazingly brief: it is a case of speed which fairly surpasses the fairy tales which our ancestors used to indulge in, and no material shortening of this time can be reasonably expected. The correction of the evil must come from a lengthening of the time for which the forecast is made, and it will be of interest to see what progress has been made in this, and what may be expected.

1. In the first place the rules for the forecasters at Washington have been lately changed so that the predictions are practically for the thirty-six hours following the observations. This enables the evening paper to print the forecast for the next day, and the morning paper to repeat the forecast with improvements, and those interested in Friday's weather, for instance, will have a forecast in their Thursday's evening paper to cogitate over—with an improvement on it in the next morning's paper, if later observations should show that the early prediction is in any degree modified by observations taken twelve hours later. This extension of the forecasts adds to the difficulties of the forecasters, and it may be that the verifications will suffer somewhat in consequence, but the interests of the public demand this change and it has been made. The change took effect on 1st of January, 1892, but the forecasters had already put it into practice tentatively.

2. As a matter of practice it is found that it is much safer to predict in some weather conditions than in others, and it occasionally happens that the forecasters can foresee the weather with considerable certainty for two or even three days ahead; at other times the weather conditions are so unsettled that a prediction for the next twenty-four or thirty-six hours is unsafe. The forecasters are obliged to predict for practically thirty-six hours whether they feel certain or not, and, to get all the advantage to the public which can be drawn by them from the weather map, they are encouraged to make predictions two or three days ahead when they can. Different forecasters take advantage of this liberty to different degrees.

THINGS OF VALUE.

When conscience forsakes a man the spirit of God does so too.—Thomas Wilson.

Fellows' Dyspepsia Bitters is highly recommended for Indigestion, Headache, Biliousness, etc.

No book that will not improve by repeated readings deserves to be read at all.—Carlyle.

The best remedy for Summer Complaints is Fellows' Speedy Relief. Speedy in results as well as in name.

Culture is like wealth; it makes us more ourselves. It enables us to express ourselves.—Hamerton.

To strengthen the hair, thicken the growth, stop its blanching and falling out, and where it is gray to restore the youthful color, use Hall's Hair Renewer.

Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great.—Emerson.

"I believe your Kerr Evaporated Vegetables for soup are going to come into common use," said a prominent Halifax merchant to us quite recently.

It is not what he has, nor what he does, which directly expresses the worth of a man, but what he is.—Amiel.

Ask your Druggist or Grocer for the Wilnot Natural Spa Water by the gallon or glass, or Spa water aerated, by the bottle, and drink it as a table water or for benefit of your health.

When moral courage feels that it is in the right, there is no personal daring of which it is incapable.—Leigh Hunt.

Nature's cure is the best and simplest. Drink the Natural Spa water. Wilnot Lemonade, Club Soda or Ginger Ale made from these waters and pleasantly cure your Kidneys, Bowels, Stomach and blood complaints.

If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some, for he that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing.—Franklin.

Assimilable Phosphorus is the brain and nerve food, *par excellence*. One bottle of Putnam's Emulsion contains more of this invaluable element than a gallon of the much vaunted stimulants, Liquid Beefs, etc., of the day.

We often boast that we are never bored, but yet we are so conceited that we do not perceive how often we bore others.—Rochefoucauld.

Wm. McKelvie, Machinist, New Glasgow says:—"I paid Drs. O. S. Sweet, of Boston, \$100, for six months treatment for dyspepsia, besides cost of medicine. No cure. I then tried Dr. O'Connor, all of Boston; was told I was past recovery; was induced to try K. D. C., have used four boxes; and have been well now nearly two years, can eat anything. I would advise dyspeptics to try it."

Affability, mildness, tenderness, and a word which I would fain bring back to its original signification of virtue—I mean good nature—are of daily use; they are the bread of mankind and the staff of life.—Dryden.

Ex-Mayor Robert Bowie, Brockville, Ont., says:—"I used Nasal Balm for a bad case of catarrh, and it cured me after having ineffectually tried many other remedies. It never fails to give immediate relief for cold in the head." This is the experience of thousands in all parts of the Dominion. There is no case of cold in the head or catarrh that will not yield to Nasal Balm. Try it. Beware of substitutes.



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A few more Bargains in Winter Goods before the arrival of our Spring Stock. We are selling the remainder of our stock of **Overcoats** and **Reefers** twenty-five per cent. cheaper than our regular winter prices, rather than carry them over to next season.

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