

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS

JOSEPH HOWE AND HIS TIMES.

And Incidental References to Some of His Prominent Public Contemporaries.

By "Historicus," Fredericton, N. B.

NO. 16.

Howe and Tilley on "a Lark." Shortly after the Civil War had broken out in the United States, in 1861, there was a great deal of hard feeling expressed by the Northerners against Canada and England particularly, under the impression that they were in sympathy with the South, even affording it "aid and comfort." No doubt there were everywhere outside the United States warm feelings and wishes for the success of what is now called "the lost cause," not for the upholding of slavery, but on account of the political and economic grievances of which the South complained, and had been complaining ever since the days of Calhoun, and the "nullification" outbreak. Although this feeling in favor of the South was only shared in by a minority, it was somewhat excusable, on the ground that human nature is always on the side of the weak when in resistance to the strong; and in no country in the world is this manifestation more pronounced than it is in the United States, as, for example, during the Canadian rebellion in 1837 and the Irish escape in 1847, when public meetings were called in all parts of the country and resolutions passed, supported by some of the leading public men, against England and for the encouragement of the malcontents. All this was quite natural, if not justifiable. Therefore it should be considered in all such cases, that what is sauce for the goose should be allowed to be the right sort of sauce for the gander.

At about this time (1861 or 2) Mr. Howe and Mr. Tilley (our present excellent lieutenant-governor) happened to be in London on some special business in connection with their respective Provinces, when one evening at a late hour they were walking through the Strand on their way home. Now, there is situated in the Strand an institution called "The Free Discussion Forum," its membership consists of any one who chooses to enter and take part in the debate of the evening. This club has been in existence for many years, and has proved to be a nursery for eminent statesmen and lawyers who have resorted hither to try their practice hand at public speaking, and it has always been attended by the first people in the land—its proceedings are conducted with the strictest parliamentary decorum, and here some of the finest and most brilliant speaking is to be heard, and yet the speakers may be unknown as the name is given under a pseudonym when the chairman's eye is caught. When our Colonial friends entered the hall of this intellectual gathering, over a thousand persons being present, the subject of the evening's discussion was the President's Message just delivered to Congress—an important topic at the time as England secured a considerable share of attention in said message growing out of the civil war, although the message was of a pacific character. When our friends entered there was a tall, lank Georgian upon his feet declaiming bitterly against the South, (probably he was then a resident in the North) and he was immediately followed by a Connecticut Editor who was death upon the slave-holder and the effete citizens of the South whose lives were spent in idleness and debauchery, a wretched lot the whole of them, residing South of Dixon's line. No doubt our Editor was under the impression that he was pouring out his talents on a sympathetic audience, since "slavery" was the principal plank he used in his platform. As soon as the last gentleman finished, Howe sprang to his feet, caught the Chairman's eye and went ahead on the side of the South—not that his sympathies were in that direction, but rather Northwards—as it was a sort of free lance, however, a man was at liberty to argue against his own convictions, *ad captivandum*, and so our hero improved the occasion in his own off-hand, nonchalant way, to the delight of his audience. Everybody was amazed at the speaker's powers, his minute knowledge of the subject under discussion, his mastery of language, his oratory—in short all felt that England's greatest man had the floor, but who that man could be was the great puzzle to them all. The arguments of the poor Georgian and Editor were turned inside out and they themselves mercilessly held up to the ridicule of the vast assemblage who enjoyed the "circus" heartily.

It was now after ten o'clock, the hour for closing, an hour rigidly adhered to, no matter who the speaker having the floor at the time; but the audience was boisterous for Howe to go on—time with them on this occasion did not count for much, and so the more he talked and attempted to sit down the more they insisted upon his going on. It was after 12 o'clock when Howe finished, when suddenly a wisacre in the audience sprang to his feet, none other than the irrepressible Citizen George Francis Train. Howe knew that he was caught, his individuality discovered, although he felt sure up to this moment there was not a soul in that vast assembly who could have possibly known him. Train's rising was to announce to the Chairman that he wished to reply next evening to the gentleman from Nova Scotia. Of course as Howe and Tilley were only bent on "a lark," for "that night only," in going into the club, they had no idea of repeating the operation another night.

[On speaking with Mr. Tilley—since this story was told me two years ago—about its correctness, that gentleman informed me that it was substantially correct, and he further said that that speech of Howe's was the most powerful he had ever heard him deliver, and he also remarked that the audience were so carried away by his eloquence and good humor that they would have remained half the night had he kept on.]

A few years after the above episode (I get my information from a gentleman who was present) a public meeting was held at Birmingham—it was during the time of the cotton famine, when thousands of workmen were out of employment and the object of the meeting was for the encouragement of emigration to the Colonies. It had been previously announced that several Colonial statesmen would be in attendance and address the meeting. The hall was an immense one in size, but not half large enough to hold all who wished to gain admittance. The chairman announced that each speaker would be allowed twenty minutes to address the meeting. After several talented able gentlemen had spoken, Mr. Howe from Nova Scotia was introduced to the assemblage. He created such a powerful impression that the time allotted—twenty minutes in his case—all the gavel in the world brought down upon the desk, would not have been heard by the vast assemblage—counted for nothing. (Chairman and all, in fact, took no heed of time, but allowed, nay, compelled, the speaker to keep on. Instead of speaking for twenty minutes he held the floor for a whole hour, and even then had some difficulty in being allowed to stop. After the meeting was over, several persons, which soon became a little crowd, went up to Howe, with delight beaming on their countenances, to get further information about this Eldorado, Nova Scotia, whose charms and attractions Howe had so vividly portrayed—for its great agricultural capabilities, its mineral and mining resources, its magnificent climate, its fauna and flora, and in fact for being a land "flowing with milk and honey"—and so impressed were they by the description that they had made up their minds, "there and then" to emigrate forthwith, as there was nothing at home for them any longer but starvation, the cotton mills all being "shut down." My informant says he never in all his life saw an audience so swayed and carried away as that Birmingham gathering under Howe's magical wand—his oratory, rhetorical and descriptive powers of persuasion.

Mr. Howe Twelve Feet High. A bucolic gentleman (having heard a great deal about "Joe Howe" and being a great admirer of his, was very anxious to see him. He accordingly called one day at the Secretary's office. He saw Mr. Howe when he entered, standing at his desk engaged in writing. Our friend from the country soon felt himself at ease in the presence of the Nova Scotia Giant; on stating his errand, Mr. Howe was glad to see him, and talked with him as freely as though they had been life-long companions—so that our friend felt all over as if "Joe Howe" was not only the greatest man in the world, but the most agreeable that ever lived since Adam. Had Mr. Howe invited him to dine which was no uncommon thing for Howe to do, even with comparative strangers, our friend would have gone off in a blaze of excitement and perhaps never have got over it. At all events in due time the gentleman backed himself out of the office, and was soon afterward on his way home rejoicing.

Shortly after this he was asked by an acquaintance what he thought of "Joe Howe" since he had had an interview with him. "Think of him," was the reply; "there is no room to think at all. He is the most wonderful man I ever saw. When I entered his office he seemed like a very ordinary mortal, about five feet high. I had not been there more than half an hour when he seemed like a man eight feet—but before I left, to my astonishment, his head touched the ceiling—twelve feet high."

[I should here state that I have read in the papers a story something like the above, in reference to another person; but who the original was I am not prepared to prove. It is my opinion, however, that it is applicable to the Howe statement, as it is a long time since it was told to me.]

George T. Phillis the Auctioneer. Another great admirer of "Joe Howe" was George T. Phillis, auctioneer, whose business establishment was on Water street, a short distance south of the "Ordinance." He was one of the wits (after Doyle) of the time. Persons of leisure from all parts of the town would make it a point to pass along when an auction was underway, in order to be regaled with Phillis's stories while selling goods. "Here's a fine box of dip candles for you, warranted to burn faster than any other dips in the town—by lighting them at both ends, you may have the protection policy (at this time the talk was English free trade and protection, both parties for or against at bitter variance) illustrated—you see, in this way, you make money by encouraging the domestic workman, and the faster you burn the candles the more light you have for yourselves, and the more money you save to the country." Again, "Here is a leather bed made upon a new pattern—[bed somewhat ancient]—here in the middle of it is the Map of Europe, of which you may make a study before getting up in the morning—here you have the Mediterranean, with Africa on the one side and Europe on the other, beautifully traced out. Why, gentlemen, this Map if sent to the British Museum would bring its weight in gold—going, going—are you all done—gone. Some of you will feel sorry when you come to reflect that a leather bed Map of Europe should pass out of your hands, on account of two pounds ten"—[no cents then.] "Next, gentlemen, I have to offer you is a lot of India Rubber over coats, warranted to keep the rain from penetrating the skin. These holes, gentlemen, [referring to several worn holes], are intended to let the water out, when it rains too heavy for it to run off, made after a

new pattern, and of great historic value, as they were used by the antediluvians when coming out of the ark." Then, again, "here is a lot of old iron, the remnants of a Bankrupt Estate, the irony of fate had a good deal to do with the articles getting into my hands. Here you have tongs, shovels, old scraps, nick-nacks, and here is the remains of a big grid-iron of great historic value, as it was used in the Masonic lodge for a great number of years, and is capable of broiling anything, from a Free Mason to a tough beef steak."

WHY ANIMALS ARE DUMB. A Curious Tradition of the Indians Offers an Explanation.

The American Indians, especially those of the lake regions of Southern Canada, relate a curious tradition to account for the fact that all lower animals are dumb. In very, very early times, they say, the father of all tribes lived in a beautiful country over against the rising sun. His form was perfect and his face handsome in the extreme, his descendants being all superb specimens of humanity. Knowing of their accomplishments and being much given to flattering each other, they became very haughty and arrogant. As a punishment for their bigotry, the Great Father warned the fathers of the tribes in a dream that a deluge would be sent to drown them from off the face of the earth. In the dream which forewarned the father of the tribes of the great calamity impending, there was presented to his visionary view the form and outlines of a raft, which was to be used in saving a remnant of this bigoted people. In those days all animals talked as men do; and when the father of the tribes informed the beasts of the field of his dream, and of his intentions concerning the building of the great raft, they protested, declaring their unwillingness to accompany him on any such expedition.

But the man's superior intelligence prevailed. He built the raft, and lo! had hardly finished when the great flood came. The man's family and pairs of every beast took passage and floated for many months on the surface of the deluge. The clouds cleared away on the second day after the embarkation, and for seventeen successive moons the man used the sun as a guide, continually steering towards his place of setting.

The animals, however, every one of them (who, it will be remembered, had the power of speech), protested against sailing to the west, declaring in one voice that they preferred steering towards the sun's rising-place. These murmurs had been going on for some days when, to the infinite joy of the man, who had been holding the fort against this horde of creatures who had the voices of men and reason of beasts, great spots of dry land began to appear. Finally this rudely-constructed ark grounded, and the man and his family and the beasts were again permitted to press the face of the earth with their feet.

But a great and lasting calamity had overtaken the animals. For their murmurs against the man while on the water they were deprived of the power of speech, and have remained dumb from that day.

The Origin of Leap Year. Spinners who long for a gude man at your ain ingle-cheek, your chance has come again! Leap year has dawned and the great privilege of *le femme proposee* is once more yours. This eventful period, as every maiden knows, occurs every fourth year, and in it the gentler sex can assert their woman's right to propose for the hand of the hesitating lover, and if their suit be rejected, can claim a silk dress. (For the prices of the latter, confirmed bachelors are referred to our advertising columns.) The origin of this quaint privilege of the ladies goes back to the days of the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. Tradition tells us that St. Patrick, having "driven the frogs out of the bogs," was walking along the shores of Lough Neagh, when St. Bridget came forward, and, with tears streaming down her sweet face, told him that a nutty had broken out in the number of which she was Superior, the ladies claiming the right to "pop the question." St. Patrick smoothed the gentle sister by telling her that he would concede the ladies the right on condition that it be only exercised every seventh year. At this announcement St. Bridget threw her arms around his neck and exclaimed, "Arrah, Patrick, jewel, I daurn't go back to the girls wid such a proposal!" St. Patrick replied, "Bridget, acushla, squeeze me that way agin an I'll give ye leap year, the longest of the lot." St. Bridget took him at his word, "squeezed," and popped the question to St. Patrick himself, who, of course, could not marry. So he solved the difficulty as best he could by giving St. Bridget a kiss and a silk gown.

Something About Siberia. Siberia is not the semi-arctic, barren province which it has usually appeared to the popular imagination, nor is its population composed only of exiles, soldiers, officials, and some half-wild aborigines. It is really a continent in itself, with many diversities of climate, scenery, and vegetation.

It is a continent stretching over thirty-seven degrees, or two thousand five hundred miles of latitude, and one hundred and thirty degrees or five thousand miles of longitude.

It could take in the whole area of the United States from Maine to California, and from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico, and still have room for the part of Europe besides.

Of course a land of such extent must have great diversity of climate as well as of scenery and physical characteristics. There is, for instance, the great northern belt of tundras, or frozen steppes, extending along the Arctic sea-coast from Novaya Zemlaya to Behring's Straits. Then there is the forest region, a belt which stretches across the middle of the continent from the Ural Mountains to the Sea of Okhotsk. Lastly, there is the fertile region, which extends from Ekaterinburg to the Pacific along the frontiers of the Central Asian khanates and of Mongolia.

Mark Twain Says: You cannot tell by the size of a frog how far he will jump. Neither can you tell by the appearance of the Rigby cloth that it is waterproof. But, oh! what a difference in a rain storm, if you happen to have your spring or fall overcoat Rigby-proofed.

THE FIRST WATCH. When and by Whom it was Made Seems a Historical Puzzle.

Watches are believed by historians to have been used as early as 1470. The word watch is derived from the Saxon waccan—to wage; the Swedish vacht, to watch, and the Danish vagt; the English watch has the same meaning, taken, probably, from the watch of the night. The actual name in its earliest days was pocket-clock. It was the perfected invention of the horological science of many centuries, and included the sun-dial, the clepsydra or water-clock, the hour or sand-glass, and wheel-clock, by actual gradations of experiments and skill.

The ancient German city of Nuremberg claims the invention of the pocket-clock, and it is a fact that these first clumsy watches were from their oval shape called Nuremberg eggs, and that the town was famous for their production.

A noble Milanese poet alludes to watches in a sonnet written by him in 1494, so that watches had then reached Italy. And that country has endeavored to fasten the triumph of their invention upon a Florentine astronomer, but without success. The Emperor Charles V., of Spain, possessed a watch or, as it was then called, a small table-clock. He amused himself with several of these in his retirement in the monastery of St. Juste. It is said that he could not make them record the time, and one day he broke out in this impatient moral reflection on his past conduct: "What an egregious fool I must have been to have squandered so much blood and treasure in an absurd attempt to make all men think alike when I cannot even make a few watches keep time together."

Watches were introduced into England during the reign of Henry the VIII., who possessed a watch that went for a week. A watch belonging to this monarch was on exhibition in London at the world's fair in 1851.

The manufacture of tiny watches, so minute that they could be worn in a ring, is mentioned as early as 1500. A musical watch now exhibited in the St. Petersburg Academy of Science performs a religious chant with scenic accompaniment. It is about the size of an egg. Within it is a representation of Christ with Roman sentinels on watch. On pressing a spring the stone rolls on the tomb, the sentinels fall down, the angels appear, the holy women enter the sepulcher, and the same chant which is sung in the Greek church on Easter Eve is actually performed. This watch was invented by an ingenious Russian peasant during the reign of Catherine of Russia.

The early watches had but one hand, showing the hours. They usually required winding twice a day. Originally the mainspring was a straight piece of steel. The invention of the balance spring is credited to Robert Hooke, of London. An inscription on a watch presented to Charles II. would seem to establish this. It reads: "Robert Hooke inv't 1658."

Repeating watches were invented by Barlow in 1676. There are many modern curiosities in the shape of watches, and antique ones appear at frequent intervals which have been heirlooms and kept from the public gaze. Occasionally a clever impostor introduces to the world an antique chronometer with a spurious history. Such was the watch which was said to be a relic of Robert Bruce.—Detroit Free Press.

THINGS OF VALUE.

Habit is the deepest law of human nature.—Carlyle.

For Cholera Fellows' Speedy Relief stands ahead of all other preparations.

Who gives a trifle mealy is meaner than the trifle.—Lavater.

Fellows' Dyspepsia Bitters is not a new remedy. It has been known in this country over fifty years.

The heel of progress bears the spur of the moment.

Other Cough Medicines have had their day, but Putner's Emulsion has come to stay, because its so nice and so good.

Remember that the tongue is a weapon of offense as well as defense.

"I would not think of making Soup from Raw Vegetables," is the verdict of all ladies who have used Kerr Evaporated Soup Vegetables.

Backing has probably ruined as many young men as the want of it has.

For restoring the color, thickening the growth, and beautifying the hair, and for preventing baldness, Hall's Hair Renewer is unsurpassed.

Usage has more to do with making English grammar than anything else.

Extract from statement by John Collett Esq. Director of Contracts for the British Navy—"your Evaporated Vegetables are superior to any other preserved vegetables to contain more nutriment than the French."

When all the people go out together to hunt an excuse they are sure to find one.

"In 1872 I was poisoned by Ivy and hearing of the beneficial effects of the Spa Spring water of Wilmot in skin troubles I applied them with result of perfect cure, although numerous medicines failed.

W. A. SPROULE. Clementsport, Anna. Co. N. S.

Fire and swords are but slow engines of destruction in comparison with the babblers.—Steele.

Mothers, are your daughters pale or sallow? Remember that the period when they are budding into womanhood is most critical; fortify their system for the change with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills unsurpassed for the speedy cure of all troubles peculiar to females. A trial of a single box will convince you. Beware of imitations and take no substitute.

"In weakness is strength," and in strength is weakness. Nothing is more thoroughly mixed in this world than strength and weakness. They are sometimes the same thing.

K. D. C. Co.—DEAR SIRS,—Being troubled for a number of years with dyspepsia and having tried every medicine heard of to cure said disease, I now wish you if you will, to make the following statement public in any way you may desire. I used four packages of your K. D. C. according to direction and can say now that I am entirely cured and never felt better in my life.

Yours truly, J. P. QUINN, Commercial Traveller, St. John, N. B.

Surprise Soap does the wash without boiling or scalding a single piece.

To Our Patrons! We take pleasure in announcing to you that we have opened, in connection with our Laundry Business, a Dyeing and Cleaning Department, and have secured the services of an expert English Dyer, who has had an experience of a great many years LONDON and PARIS; all work will be done at Lowest Possible Prices.

Table with two columns: CLEANING and DYEING. Lists prices for various items like Coats, Vests, Pants, Overcoats, Dresses, etc.

UNGAR'S Steam Laundry and Dye Works, 28 to 34 WATERLOO STREET, 62 & 64 GRANVILLE STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B., HALIFAX, N. S.

FREE! GERMAN ELECTRIC BELT AGENCY. Comparing our prices with other Electric Belts. THE GERMAN ELECTRIC BELT AND APPLIANCES WILL CURE FEMALE COMPLAINTS, RHEUMATISM, LAME BACK, KIDNEY DISEASES, DYSPEPSIA, NERVOUSNESS, LUMBAGO, &c.

ARE THEY ELECTRIC? So many bogus Appliances have been sold claiming to be Electric that produce no action whatever, that many persons have come to the conclusion that no Appliance can be made in this form that will generate a current. To settle this matter we will guarantee that we will forfeit \$500.00, Five-Hundred Dollars, if a test by means of a galvanometer does not show that The German Electric Belt generates a current. Write for full information enclosing six cents for postage to Canadian Branch German Electric Belt Agency, Parkdale, Ont.

BUY Model Grand Ranges! and all kinds of Kitchen Furnishings from COLES, PARSONS & SHARP, 90 Charlotte Street.

Cheapest BOYS' SLEDS in the city at EVERETT & MILLER, 13 WATERLOO ST. Includes images of sleds and a rocking horse.