

ST. JOHN'S EARLY DAYS.

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE, PLEASANT AND QUAIN.

The Good Old People of the Good Old Times—Two Lovers—One Girl—and Ludlow Robinson Got the Girl—A Wager and a Cup of Tea.

First and foremost there is old Trinity, where good old Pastor Pidgeon preached to his devout hearers, seated in their square pews of that day, some of which had iron rods fastened to the tops, and on these hung curtains which the occupants would draw at pleasure and so shield the pious people therein from profane eyes, and the ladies eyes from wandering to Mrs. So-and-so's pretty bonnet. The Trinity of that day, with its priest and people, has passed away, and another Trinity has arisen on its ashes, another generation now worship there. In those days but one church of England was known, not the three of today "High church," "Low church," and "Broad church."

Let them be steadfast therein "For the threefold cord is not easily broken," but divide and conquer. Next we come to the old Grammar School, and here it is "good morning, Mr. Patterson," afterwards Dr. Patterson, fresh from the "Land o'cakes." As one may easily tell the boys are at their desks—there stands the master; the door opens and enter the trustees. The old Chief Justice Chipman, nearly bent double with age and rheumatism, leading, I believe, the following scholars who were there at that time: Robert J. Hazen, Robert F. Hazen, George Hazen, William Boyd, R. D. Wilmot, George Wheeler, the others I cannot call to mind. Now we will bid farewell to the Grammar school, and passing by the residence of the late Chief Justice Parker, then Mr. Parker, walk on to the back shore and Courtenay bay, here green fields stretched to the water, covered with flocks of geese owned by the occupants of the Negro huts there standing, one of whom, old Dinah Kingsley, was in great request among the married ladies as "chief cook and bottle washer;" and "there shed an odor round the room whenever gentle Dinah come."

There was not any dwelling house there at that time, civilization had not yet extended its baneful influence, the merchant princes dwelt in the houses that held their shops, the parish of Lancaster was not then known; the falls had no bridge spanning it to spoil its beauty; there was no Insane Asylum, there was no Fairville, only one house for three miles and that was the Yorkshire tavern. How often have I stood on the heights of Carleton in a bright sun, looking over to St. John and seeing nothing but the steeples, the city being buried in fog, Bay of Fundy fog. Down through the Carleton of that day were few dwelling houses and many fish stores for herring. There was then but one place of worship, the Church of England, the Reverend Abraham Wood rector, a big Englishman, so big that one day when in the mill on the Straight Shore at Otty's mill the big wheel caught one of the laps of his coat and tore half off his coat off sleeve and all, and yet it did not jar him. I enjoyed his hospitality afterwards at Grand Lake; (he changed places with the Reverend Frederick Ooster, Mr. Wood going to Grand Lake).

Well, having gone from Carleton to St. John in the ferry boat with Donald Robertson, ferryman, and landing at the foot of the stairs at South Market wharf, in the slips, now on the top of the Wharf and looking down into the slip, I see it filled with schooners, woodboats, sloops and farmers' boats with produce. The first shop on the wharf was B. F. Marsh's, Big Fat Marsh he was called. And well named he was too, and like most big men was big hearted. Then looking up from the wharf, we see the Coffee House, Cody's Coffee House. There in the corner looking down upon the slip is the office of Horatio Nelson Hinks Lugin, Moses H. Perley, George W. Cleary, all lawyers in succession. Cleary was there, I think, when I left St. John in 1825. Cleary and Ludlow Robinson were rivals for the hand of a very fascinating young lady, Miss—; Lud carried off the prize. It was not to be wondered at, for he was in his way as taking as she was. They were well matched in this respect—poor Lud! Peace to his ashes. He was, I think, in great request among his brethren of the long robe. Now from Coffee House corner along Prince William street and past Horsfield street, we come to Mr. John Bentley's store and dwelling house. He was a Quaker, I think, and a little eccentric, as one would think from the following anecdote: One citizen made a bet with another that he would take a cup of tea with Mr. B., so one evening about tea time, he called on him at his store and finding him there, said: "Mr. Bentley, I have come to take a cup of tea with you?" "Very much pleased to see you, sir," said Mr. B., "please to take a seat." Then Mr. B. disappeared through an open door into a backroom, and soon returned, carrying a cup of tea in each hand, "Now sir," said he to his visitor, "I shall be happy to take a cup of tea with you," and then there they took it. Now here is a question for the debating societies. Who won the bet? Did the visitor? 'Tis true he took the tea, but not in the accepted and usually understood mean-

ing of "taking a cup of tea," which was doubtless meant when the bet was made.

Now up along King's square, there is a house on the north side, the first built (unless Mr. Wright's in the lower part of the town, was.) These two were the first built of stone. Mr. Charles J. Peters, dwelt in the first, and opposite to him on the upper part of the square lived the Doctors Paddock, father and son, eminent medical men; they were the first and only ones I believe then; others soon followed, yes, there was a Dr. Head contemporary with the Paddocks. I think he was before Dr. Bayard.

Well, what next? why next to physician is Divinity of course, and next to the established church, comes Dr. Burns, of Scotland. It was a dark day that I heard him—so dark that there had to be lights in the church. What year was that? I wonder who can tell? In the day of which I am writing, the city of St. John had no police, but it had watchmen at night; they were furnished by the citizens themselves. I know my father did duty in this way, and I recollect hearing him call out, "All's well" past twelve o'clock. We lived then on Prince William street, now we come to the celebrated Barlow's Corner. Above this a few doors lived a Mrs. Miles, the front part of whose house was built upon posts, high enough to allow a man to go under and to the back of the house to get a bucket of water, which issued continually from the creek, cool and delightful, and for which she received a penny a bucket—a good milch cow for her. Now up along King street, on opposite side stood Mr. Davanste on the sidewalk; he was shot by Barton Wallop. I saw the tragedy; it was done honorably, he not knowing the pistols were loaded—I knew both parties. But as proved here, we are on King square, that stone house on the north side was built and was occupied by Mr. Charles J. Peters, clever lawyer,—there he is now. Do you see that middle-sized man with quick and active step? watch him now and you will see him, when he comes to the corner, stop, look quickly around, shrug his shoulders, kick the ground with the toe of his boot, and then suddenly start off to his office, and from there to the court house, to do legal battle with the old Attorney General, Wetmore, who has come down from Fredericton to meet him there, where they are well matched. Mr. Benjamin L. Peters, one of his brothers, had a large glassware store on the upper side of Water street. He was a very tall man—remarkably so, as the following anecdote shows: When last in London he was asked if he was in London at such a time; he said he was. "Well," said the querist, "I thought so. It struck me then you were the tallest man I had ever seen. Now," said he, "I will make you a present of this knife until you find a man taller than yourself." Most likely the family still possess it.

Now I think I shall bid farewell to the city of St. John. You have grown and prospered greatly since the boys, and I among them, went swimming from the rats of square ton timber that were lying between the wharf—South Market wharf.

You have had your ups and downs, and still you have gone on and prospered, having nobly overcome all losses and difficulties, it is marvelous in my eyes when I can look back almost to its beginning, and here shall be an end.

And if I have done well, And it is fitting the story It is that which I desire; But if slovenly and meanly, It is that which I could attain to And here shall be an end.

THE LOST DAY RACKET. How a Captain of a C. P. R. Steamer Fooled Quarrelsome Missionaries. During the journey across the Pacific to Japan a shifting of time takes place. Apropos of this a rather good story is told. On board one of the C. P. R. steamers running from Vancouver to Yokohama was a

large consignment of missionaries destined for China and composed of representatives of nearly every sect which the Christian religion boasts. The first Saturday at sea there was a great palaver among them as to who should conduct the service on board the next day, but unfortunately that state of peaceful agreement which the world expects from a Christian priesthood was sadly wanting among the missionaries in question, for episcopalians, Roman Catholics, methodists, baptists, presbyterians and other disciples one and all considered themselves best qualified to officiate on the occasion? The unfortunate captain, who was a man of peaceful disposition, and anxious to satisfy all his passengers, was at his wit's end for a solution of the difficulty. However that afternoon as he was sitting in his cabin working out his position on the chart a happy idea struck him, as he saw that his ship was nearing the 180th meridian. True, they would not cross it for a day or two but what did that matter, so long as it worked out all right at the end of the voyage? Accordingly he waited till close of church time the next morning, when the missionaries were working themselves into a suppressed state of excitement as to who was to win the day, and then requested them all to meet him in his cabin. "Gentlemen," he said, "a most unfortunate occurrence has happened. I find that in racing with the sun we have caught up to him by a whole day and are all out of our reckoning. Today in fact, is not Sunday, but Monday, so there will be no service." The missionaries were nonplussed, for though they hunted the scriptures from start to finish, they could find no holy writ or instruction to guide them in their conduct on such an occasion as this.

Merely Curious. There is no end to the mischief that John Phoenix of California is responsible for. A short time ago, while enjoying himself at a theatre, he observed a man sitting three seats in front of him whom he thought he knew. He requested the person sitting next to him to "punch the other individual with his cane." The polite stranger did so, and on the disturbed person turning his head a little he discovered his mistake—he was not the person he took him for. Fixing his attention steadfastly on the play and affecting unconsciousness of the whole affair, he left the man with the cane to settle with the other for the disturbance, who being wholly without excuse, there was of course a ludicrous and embarrassing scene—during all of which Phoenix was profoundly interested in the play. At last the man with the cane asked, rather indignantly: "Didn't you tell me to punch that person with my stick?" "Yes."

"Then what did you want?" "I wanted to see whether you would punch him or not."

DEATH RATE REDUCED. Gratifying Report of the Dominion Health Bureau—Forty Per Cent. Fewer Deaths in Canada Last Year Than Ever Before. OTTAWA, June 25.—The last report of the Health Bureau here contains the highly gratifying intelligence that the death rate in Canada during the last year was lower than in any previous year since Confederation, being within a fraction of forty per cent. lower than the best year ever before reported. Closer examination reveals that the greatest decrease was in deaths from Bright's disease, Diabetes, Dropsy, Heart disease, Rheumatism and other diseases caused by disordered or diseased kidneys. Further investigation shows that where the cases of such diseases have decreased, the people have within the year made free use of Dodd's Kidney Pills. Consequently it is safe to say that the falling off in Canada's death rate is due to nothing but Dodd's Kidney Pills.

RECIPE FOR MAKING A DELICIOUS HEALTH DRINK AT SMALL COST. Adam's Root Beer Extract.....one bottle Fleischmann's Yeast.....half a cake Sugar.....two pounds Lukewarm Water.....two gallons Dissolve the sugar and yeast in the water, add the extract, and bottle; place in a warm place for twenty-four hours until it ferments, then place on ice when it will open sparkling and delicious. The root beer can be obtained in all drug and grocery stores in 10 and 25 cent bottles to make two and five gallons.

MEMORY The World-famed PROF. A. LOISETTE, OF NEW YORK AND LONDON, Will Give His Free Lecture on ASSIMILATIVE MEMORY. TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 3rd, At Centenary School Room at 8 p. m. He is endorsed by Stonyhurst College, England; Dr. J. M. Buckley, Hon. Judah P. Benjamin, Hon. Wm. Waldorf Astor, Francis Wilson, the comedian; Sir Edward Meredith, Bart., Dr. Wm. A. Hammond, Henry Guy Carleton, the dramatic editor; Daniel Greenleaf Thompson, the distinguished Psychologist, and many others of international fame.

INFLUENZA, Or La Grippe, though occasionally epidemic, is always more or less prevalent. The best remedy for this complaint is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. "Last Spring, I was taken down with La Grippe. At times I was completely prostrated, and so difficult was my breathing that my breast seemed as if confined in an iron cage. I procured a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and no sooner had I begun taking it than relief followed. I could not believe that the effect would be so rapid and the cure so complete. It is truly a wonderful medicine."—W. H. WILLIAMS, Crook City, S. D.

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