

PROGRESS.

VOL. VII., NO. 340.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1894.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MR. LITTLE TO BE TRIED.

ONE OF THE FIRST CASES IN THE DIOCESE'S HISTORY.

How the Court of Inquiry Will Proceed to Investigate—Mr. T. Carleton Allen Will Preside and Rev. Mr. Little's Interest will be Looked After by Dr. Pugsley.

For the first time in the history of the Diocese of Fredericton a Court of Triers is to be assembled to adjudicate upon changes brought by a church against its minister. There have been similar church courts held in the other denominational bodies of the province even in recent years. In the Methodist church Rev. Mr. Currie, was thus tried and in the Baptist church Rev. Dr. Day, was before an ecclesiastical council to answer charges brought against him. Hitherto what troubles there have been in the church of England have been settled without recourse to the means provided by the church discipline. But the time has at length come when the church could not get along with its rector, and to call to its aid the canons of discipline of the diocese.

In a few days Rev. Mr. Little, of Sussex, who has been attracting public attention for the last few years, will have to appear before a court of triers and defend himself against charges which his parishioners have brought against him. The trial will be the culmination of a long series of difficulties attended with events dramatic and humorous in their nature. Until this summer the troubles did not reach beyond the confines of his church. At the session of the synod in July, however, a number of his parishioners presented a petition to that body seeking redress from their grievances. The synod would not entertain the document, but declared that the petitioners would have to seek satisfaction through the means provided by canon law. This they proceeded to do and this summer they have been engaged in satisfying all the formalities that the canons prescribe. These are many and occupy in the setting forth over a dozen pages in the constitution.

Those bringing a charge have to first memorialize the bishop stating in detail the nature of the complaint. The person charged can then elect to be tried summarily by the bishop or else by a Board of Triers. Mr. Little, chose the latter course and the board was then appointed. There is a board of discipline from which the court is chosen, composed of all the clergy of the diocese of over ten years standing and twelve laymen appointed annually at the meeting of the synod. The court consists of five persons, three clergymen and two laymen, chosen by lot from the board of discipline. The lots are drawn by the secretary of the synod in the presence of the parties or their representatives.

The court is presided over by an assessor who is appointed by the bishop and must be a barrister of the supreme court of seven years standing. His Lordship has appointed Mr. T. Carleton Allen, of Fredericton, to fill this position in the Little case. His duties will be to preserve order, to regulate the proceedings, inform and advise the court on any legal matter that may arise and generally aid the court in their distributions. In all other matters the Board of Triers will have jurisdiction, but it will have a casting vote if only four members of the board are present and should they divide on any question relating to evidence witnesses will be examined.

In the Board of Triers is vested the power to say yea or nay to the charges brought against the minister and to impose the penalty if they find him guilty. It however, requires the assent of four out of the five to make a verdict. When they have arrived at a decision it has to be approved of by the Bishop and until that is done it is kept secret. The trial will take place at Sussex and will of course be held behind closed doors. The bishop can attend and if the Board of Triers are agreeable members of the congregation of the church can witness the proceedings.

There are several offences for which clergymen may be charged. The main ones are preaching or teaching any doctrine contrary to the Thirty-nine articles of religion and the book of common prayer; any crime, dishonesty, immoral or disorderly conduct, or concerning when there may exist scandal, disobedient conduct toward the bishop; violation of the constitution or the canons of the church; habitual irregularity or neglect in the performance of divine offices; schism, and exercising any lay profession or occupation inconsistent with his calling.

For these offences there is a scale of penalties starting with an admonition and going through suspension and deposition from office in the church to the greatest of all, degradation from the ministry.

The circumstances which led up to this trial may be told in brief. Some years ago Rev. Mr. Little came to Trinity church, Sussex, from England. At first he made excellent impression and for a long while got along splendidly. Then he began to evince dogmatic and overbearing character-

istics. Carelessness in financial matters, added to this, succeeded in alienating all the better class of his congregation and they decided to seek another rector. But it was first necessary to get rid of him.

About two years ago they asked him to resign, but he refused. At the Easter meeting of 1893 a resolution was passed requesting him to tender his resignation and fixing his salary at forty dollars a year. But Mr. Little was pugnacious. He hung on and drew about him a party of sympathizers. But his opponents were greatly in the majority, both in point of numbers and influence.

At this year's Easter meeting by a vote of 20 to 14 his salary was further reduced to one dollar. It was also decided to ask the synod for legislation enabling the bishop to take cognizance to a greater extent of troubles in a parish. It was further agreed that all envelopes in the offertory should be used by the wardens for the purpose of the church; also, in the election of officers Mr. Little's supporters were every one defeated. It was now thought that Mr. Little, having no foothold left, would depart. But not so, he still clung on, even to the last dollar. All sorts of methods were followed to raise money for him and he even stood at the church door, plate in hand, taking collections.

Then at the synod meeting in July last a memorial was presented from the church asking to have certain laws with regard to the appointment and removal of clergymen from the parishes changed so that if a parish did not wish a clergyman to remain they could remove him. This, however, the synod would not grant, and the church thereupon proceeded to carry the case before the ecclesiastical court.

This summer there has been no improvement in the condition of affairs at Sussex. The great body of the congregation and nearly the better class are opposed to the clergyman and his friends are few. The breach has widened between them and the church has suffered greatly. "The little minister," however, shown as much Scotch stubbornness as his parallel, the creation of Mr. Barrie. He has retained the Hon. Wm. Pugsley to represent him, and will make as strong a defense as possible. Whether, however, he will have the same success as the Auld Licht minister in winning over the sundered hearts of his people is considerable of a question.

TROUSERS MAKE THE MAN.

Good Citizens of St. John Return Home With Saxon Styles.

Some of St. John's leading citizens have been enjoying a vacation in England, and now that they have returned they are serving as the "glass of fashion" to the city's few Anglo-maniacs and the accentuated bell-bottom coat and the other distinguishing features of dress in the park and promenades of London are transplanted here.

Dr. Murray McLaren, Mr. J. D. Hazen and Mr. J. J. Cremer are among those who are bringing home these whiffs of balmy English air, but the Venerable Archdeacon Brigstocke is the most noticeable in his importation of Saxon styles. It is even said that he went across the water primarily to get used to the donning of that which is the distinctive dress of bishops and archdeacons in the old country. Now as he walks along the promenades of St. John, many look behind and make mental comparison. His leggings do not show the same finely rounded proportions that Bishop Kingdon displays, but still they happily do not go to the other extreme.

Some one has very pithily said that "tis not the coat that makes the man, it is the pants." From the Englishman's point of view, perhaps from the Archdeacon's point of view, an amendment is necessary. "Tis not the coat that makes the man, it is the trousers."

The Orphans' Playroom.

Some time ago a correspondent under the nom-de-plume "Mignonette" wrote to Progress about the play room of the P. O. Asylum, pointing out that it was cheerless, etc. The ladies connected with the management of that institution felt that the criticism was keen and they hastened some efforts they were making to improve the matter. Now the play room is finished and a brighter, cheerier apartment cannot be found anywhere. But there are some things lacking that "Mignonette" the ladies think, might perhaps contribute or help them secure, such as a children's rocking horse, chairs, rockers, etc., that all go to make the children comfortable. Progress is asked to extend a cordial invitation to the critic and to any others interested in the P. O. Asylum to visit the institution and see new children's playroom.

It Was Not "William" Ogden.

Mr. William Ogden, of Sackville, writes to Progress, claiming that its correspondent made a gross misstatement when he mentioned his name in connection with the Ogden-Cole trial, and says that he is in way connected with either party. Progress regrets that its correspondent made a mistake in the christian name of the gentleman alluded to.

U. E. COMPANY DISBANDS

BY ORDER OF THE HALIFAX CITY COUNCIL.

A Historic Volunteer Corps that is More than 100 Years Old Dismissed Because it Refused to Receive a Member Since Arrested on a Serious Charge.

HALIFAX, Nov. 1.—The Union Engine company is no more. Dating its formation back to 1768, the city council on Monday night swept it out of existence at "one fell blow." "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." Because the U. E. C. refused to receive into its membership a man whom the city council insisted should be accepted; because they sent the council a peremptory note that they refused even to consider the matter further, the council got on its dignity and abolished the volunteer fire department of Halifax, which has existed for 126 years and has had a grand record.

That is one way of looking at the situation, but it is only a surface view. The cause of the dismissal of the U. E. C. is deeper than that. The agitation for a paid department has continued for a couple of years or more and previously had been talked about long ago. Strife of factions in the U. E. C. has furnished the opponents of the volunteer system with deadly weapons which they gladly use. Peace in the company was the exceptional state of affairs, not the normal. The sides taken, the bitter hostilities engaged in, have served to cement the foes of the U. E. C. within and without its ranks, so that now, handed with men who, on principle, advocate a paid department, they have been able to deal the old Union Engine company its death blow. The historic organization went out of existence on Monday night on a vote of the city council, 10 to 7, with the suddenness of a thunderclap.

History repeats itself. A reminiscence of thirty-three years ago is interesting just now. In 1861 a somewhat similar state of affairs existed as that which has prevailed in the U. E. C. and council for the past six weeks or so. The difference is that now the trouble, in addition to being a row among members of the company and partizan outside, is a struggle between grit and tory for control of the fire department. In 1861 it was religious strife which prevailed. Then the company was composed solely of protestants. Four catholics were proposed for membership and rejected by the U. E. C. The city council demanded nevertheless that they be received. The U. E. C. said "no," and intimated that if the council persisted in its demand they would resign. The council was obdurate, and the U. E. C. in 1861 handed in their resignation to a man. In 1894 the U. E. C., the successors of the men of 1861, were asked to accept one F. J. Horneman; the company blackballed him, the council said you must take him. The U. E. C., instead of resigning as did their predecessors, hung on to their apparatus and waited for dismissal. They stayed till peremptorily told to get out. And the mandate came so suddenly at last that the breath was taken out of most of the volunteer firemen of Halifax, and especially of their officers. There is thus quite a contrast between the manner of the exodus of 1861 and that of 1894.

The advocates of change were ready the night the old firemen were dismissed to man the apparatus with a new body of men, with a new captain, elected not by the firemen, but appointed by the council. The old firemen received no pay. The new men in the meantime will receive a small remuneration, merely a nominal salary, and later bigger wages will come.

An observer of the way the coup was accomplished looks at it in this way: He says it was alderman O'Donnell who led the forces which destroyed the U. E. C. The alderman seems to have secured a powerful influence in the council, into which he jumped in spite of the most strenuous opposition. He has developed strength and has a following there, as was shown by the men who voted in his undoubted majority of the council at his back. The nine who voted with him were made up as follows: Ald. Redden, the large boot and shoe dealer; Ald. Geldert, the lawyer and swift short hand man; Ald. Wallace, a future liberal M. P.; Ald. Duggan, a son of ex-Mayor Duggan, who ordinarily hates his leader of Monday night; Ald. Hubley, the kicker against anything not originated by himself; Ald. Eden the philosopher; Ald. Creighton, the liberal standard-bearer of ward 6; Ald. Outhit, without opinions; and Ald. Ryan, who is second only to Ald. O'Donnell in his hatred of the late captain of the U. E. C. and all his connections.

These were the men who enabled Ald. O'Donnell to abolish the Union Engine company, 1768, and thoroughly they did their work. The U. E. C. has gone the way of all the earth. There is one good thing about it, which possibly will atone for increased taxation with only a problematic increase of efficiency, and that is that the

obnoxious "firemen's vote" is also a thing of the past.

The Charge Against Horneman.

HALIFAX, Nov. 1.—If F. J. Horneman, the dry goods merchant of Spring Garden road, had dropped dead, it would not have been a greater shock than when it was learned that he had been arrested and charged with an offense for which he is liable to a life term in Dorchester penitentiary. The arrest was based on the deposition of Miss Foot, a 16 year old sales-girl in his shop, the daughter of the sexton of Brunswick street Methodist church. At the time she made the statement she was feared to be dying, but since she has passed out of the stage of immediate danger. Horneman proclaims his innocence. It will be for the courts of his country to determine the truth of this. There is much sympathy for his family if not for Horneman.

Had Horneman been arrested twenty-four hours earlier it is doubtful if the Union Engine company would have been dismissed by the city council. He was the prime mover in the more recent troubles, and it was over his admission to the U. E. C.—his blackballing by that body—that the fighting raged in the city council. The very day after the Horneman victory in the council he was taken by the officers of justice on a charge unmentionable almost in its abhorrent character. Alderman Geldert took Miss Foot's ante-mortem confession regarding Horneman on Saturday midnight and yet he came to the city council on Monday night and was one of the chief advocates of Horneman's claims on the U. E. C. and moved the resolution that dismissed the volunteer firemen because they refused decisively and peremptorily to accede to the council's demand to admit him or even to discuss further the subject. The other nine aldermen, whose names appear elsewhere, must find themselves also in a rather awkward position, though in a less degree than the junior alderman for ward 1.

"A Nova Scotia Ghost."

The story, "A Nova Scotia Ghost," which appears in another part of Progress, is from the facile pen of a lady well-known in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—Miss M. G. Cogswell, of Sackville. The story is largely based on a solid foundation of fact—Progress has this on the authority of the proprietor of "Broderick's." If other persons alluded to in the tale follow the example of Mr. J. McNeill Whistler, who came down on Mr. DuMaurier like the wolf on the fold, "A Nova Scotia Ghost" will have to be materially altered before it is published in book form. One of the undergraduates was a former Acadia man who attended St. John Business College this summer and fall, and was one of the best players on the St. John football team this year. He is now at his home at Amherst. The other undergraduate is now a graduate, being of the Acadia class of '94. He is a Gaspeurean man, and was once a page in the Canadian house of commons. The "widow, pale and pretty," was not a widow at all—at most, she was a grass widow. The "little minister" is a B. A., '93, of Acadia, and is well known all over Nova Scotia, the other diminutive pet name by which he is known being the "parsonette." The story is particularly appropriate for the Halloween season.

HOW TO GET RICH.

A Rich Merchant of St. John Has a Peculiar Way of His Own.

"Who is our richest citizen?" was the question put by one man to another on King street this week. "Mr. W. W. Turnbull, I suppose was the reply, "he is probably worth in the vicinity of half a million." "How did he make it?" Oh, by industry, shrewdness and personal economy. "What makes you ask?" was the return query. "Oh, nothing much," was the answer, "only I heard a little story this morning that has set me thinking how a man can save money, and I am undecided whether I wouldn't prefer my self respect to the cash. A gentleman we all know worth fully as much as Mr. Turnbull has an estimable wife who has been ill recently. The physicians prescribed some medicine to allay her fever with instructions to the nurse that if the fever abated to stop giving the medicine. The fever went down when two doses had been taken and of course the most of the medicine was left. When her husband came in his economical instinct prompted him to instruct the nurse to return the medicine to the druggist and obtain credit for what was left. She did so and the druggist, appalled no doubt by the circumstances, took the bottle back and credited the difference, and this rich citizen was richer by half a dollar. Perhaps this is how he made his money. What comfort there must be in it." This citizen was in a cynical mood and he passed on. But the man he told the story to was skeptical, and inquired into the truth of the story. He is a cynic now too. He found that the story was true.

BLACKMAIL IN PLENTY.

MR. AND MRS. PERCY LEAR HAVE RAISED THE WIND.

Mrs. Lear Found in an Embarrassing Situation by Her Husband, Who Gives Out that He Wants a Divorce, but Will Settle with Correspondents for a Consideration.

HALIFAX, Nov. 1.—The sensation for a week has been the conduct of the well-known Percy Lear and his wife. It is not creditable to the morality of Halifax that such a couple should have so long been tolerated in society, but it is sadly in keeping with many another wrong which is allowed to continue. The story how this man found his wife at a city hotel, registered as the wife of a Montreal commercial traveller, is known. It has been told in the daily papers. There is another side to the story which is not known. The papers have said nothing at all about it. Immediately on that hotel "discovery" the man blazoned it abroad that he intended to take steps to secure an "absolute divorce" from his wife. Thereon hinges the interest.



This is an excellent photograph of Mrs. Lear, the wife of Percy J. A. Lear, who, acting in collusion with her husband, has been able to levy blackmail wholesale on men in Halifax, and has struck terror into the hearts of many others, who fear their turn to pay up or be exposed may come next. Mrs. Lear was an actress on the variety stage when she was married to Percy. Photographs of him are scarce, while Mrs. Lear's pictures are to be found in many houses. They will be all covered out of sight in a few days. A photograph of Percy Lear, which his friends were wont to prize very highly, shows him in the uniform of an officer of the 63rd Halifax Rifles.

It had been well known for years that the character of this woman was the opposite of good. She was, indeed, almost openly bad. Yet "society," more or less, smiled upon her. Everybody knew what she was, but this did not hinder "society" people from making much of her. For instance, the woman regularly sang in a wealthy church choir till very recently; the Orpheus club not long ago had her for one of their leading soloists at a big concert; and she was invited, at least, to one of the largest and most swell social entertainments given in honor of the Governor-General and Countess of Aberdeen during their recent visit to Halifax. People knew perfectly well what this woman was then—just as well as they know it now, with the sole difference that till now charges had not been publicly made. It seems to be possible for some people to do almost anything without impairing their social standing in much of "society" here, so long as the affair does not actually become a subject for the courts or the press.

It is appalling the power a bad man may obtain over his fellows, owing to a mis-step they may have taken. Such a power this unprincipled couple obtained. They used it, and they have been able successfully to practice wholesale blackmail. So deep a game has been heard of in larger cities; but it is new to Halifax.

That "discovery" by the husband at the hotel, was only a display of mock indignation, a show of hypocritical wrath. It was merely the climax to the plot. This is the side to the story that people generally know nothing about. This woman, who for a time had held her head high in some sections of "society," had arranged with her husband to be found as she was found. It was all planned out. The alleged suit for divorce was all arranged to be taken. The commercial traveller was merely a figurehead. The game was to name him as a co-respondent in the proceedings for divorce. But no blackmail could be levied on that traveller; he had no money to pay, and no reputation to lose. Yet it afforded a rich chance for blackmail on others, and it was availed of to the utmost. Men about town who possibly were innocent of anything beyond a mere acquaintance with her, but who were not inclined to have their names mixed up with the disgraceful affair, or who did not feel like undertaking an attempt to prove their innocence, were to be named as co-respondents.

Nothing but money would prevent the bringing of the divorce proceedings and

the naming of these men. If they felt like coming down handsomely peace would be proclaimed; if not their portion would be the consequences of whatever publicity might follow. Supposing there were six men who could thus be named, and supposing they were asked \$1,000 each to call proceedings off, that would be a nice little pile of \$6,000. That actually was the condition of affairs. The successful blackmailers aimed that high. But they failed to get beyond the round figure of \$300 each. Very few business men can go out in the morning and make \$1800 in one transaction. It was so large a sum as that which this wicked blackmailer and his wife succeeded in levying upon a half dozen men that day. It paid to threaten "divorce proceedings" and to mention a few names as possible co-respondents. It is sad to think that the scene of so scandalous an affair should be laid in this fair city. It is no less lamentable that some churches, some societies, and many people to a certain extent "in society" who know what manner of woman this was, should have given her the entre to their platforms and to their private social entertainments. They have not, in most cases, the excuse that they were acting in ignorance.

Such is the history of the latest blackmailing incident. Here is another barefaced attempt which occurred two or three weeks ago. For the benefit of any others who may find themselves approached as was the military officer who is a central figure in the following sensational incident, it is here distinctly stated that the silence of Progress, or its correspondent, is not, never was, and never shall be purchasable. If any one is ever asked for money to secure the hushing up of news which they do not wish published in Progress, then they may conclude at once that an attempt is being made to levy blackmail upon them, and they will be fools if they pay one cent. Don't do it, for you are being bucconed!

The chief dramatis persona in this earlier attempted blackmail were a high officer in this garrison and McLennan, a local insurance man, and he was audacious, unprincipled and wicked. The story, "as true as gospel," is this in brief:

The insurance man was in the country canvassing for business. The military officer was there for pleasure. So were an American tourist and his wife. The policy seeker saw something going on, or imagined he did, which he thought could be construed into questionable conduct on the part of the officer. Whether his suspicions were well founded or not does not matter just now, but the conclusion was come to by him that there was a pot of money in it to be made by blackmail. The insurance man decided to become the blackmailer. And this is the way he went about it. He returned to town and awaited the arrival of the officer. Then he wrote a lying letter to the officer saying that he was a sincere friend, who knew a man who intended writing up for Progress the alleged escapade. He mentioned circumstances sufficient to show that he had been keeping his eyes open and had observed a few facts and perhaps been deceived by many tancies. The lying letter went on to state that the correspondent of this paper was a most mercenary man, that he was about to describe the incident, but silence regarding what was alleged to have taken place could be purchased. The blackmail named was \$100. The insurance man would devote the money to buying off the alleged writer. The officer was much alarmed. He did not know what to do, and at one time had about made up his mind to pay the money to his anonymous "friend," trusting that he would apply it to hush the matter up and avoid annoyance. Luckily the officer bethought himself that it possibly was blackmail, and he consulted a lawyer about it. An investigation was hurriedly set on foot. The evening when the \$100 was to be paid came round and it was not till within an hour of the time, that the officer and his lawyer became finally convinced that it was blackmail; that Progress correspondent probably knew nothing whatever of the matter; and that the insurance man was an unmitigated scoundrel. When the officer and his lawyer met the blackmailer at the appointed hour the latter's eyes twinkled as he saw in imagination the crisp bank notes paid over to him. But his face became ashen in hue, and his limbs trembled, as a burly policeman stepped up from behind and laid his strong hand upon the fellow's shoulder to arrest him for attempting to obtain money under false pretenses. The insurance man was charged with his perjury, and the denouement was so sudden that the blackmailer broke down. The game was up. The military officer was on top. It was the civilian now who was the victim, and he was intensely glad to get off on giving the most solemn assurance that he would never again try such an evil business. Since then he has continued his solicitation for insurance, and the military officers doubtless congratulates himself that he thought "a second time" before paying out \$100 in such a cause.