

# PROGRESS.

Board of Works 85495

VOL. VII., NO. 348.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1894.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## DRAPERIES OF SORROW.

### PREPARATIONS IN HALIFAX FOR THE FUNERAL

Of the Late Premier, Sir John Thompson—The Council Chamber Will be Draped—The Tomb in the Cemetery—Sir John's Respose of Manner and Jest.

The council chamber of Province hall is a place where much history has been made. Many distinguished men have met there and the essence of their genius has gone out and flared all the weighty deliberations. Scenes of many kinds have been witnessed, grave and gay. It has resounded with the laughter that followed the flashes of men of wit, it has joined in the breathless silence that pervaded when the destiny of a people was being decided, it has witnessed scenes of deepest sorrow when hearts have bled and darkness has come down upon men.

Again the chamber will be the scene of an historic event. This time it is one of sadness. Canada's chief son will rest there for the last time before he is consigned to mother earth. The royal men and women will look down from the walls in the dim light upon one who was more than their equal in intellect and who overcame the accident of birth and enrolled himself on the page of fame as their equal in repute. But now they are together in the arms of death and earthly vanity and distinctions forgotten.

The provincial building lies between Hollis and Granville streets. It is built after Grecian models with a row of Doric pillars on front and back like the ancient Parthenon. The council chamber is in the second story and occupies the southern end of the building.

It is not a large room, its length being the depth of the structure. Its chief objects of interest are the splendid array of paintings which adorn the walls. There are handsome portraits in oils of William IV., Queen Charlotte, George II., George III., Queen Caroline, Sir John Inglis, Sam Slick, General Williams, Sir Thos. Strange, Sir Hastings Doyle and Sir Brenton Halliburton.

A day or two ago I paid a visit to the chamber to see what were to be the nature of the drapings. I found the workmen busy there arranging them. The ceiling was completely covered with black cashmere and nearly nine hundred yards had been used. The drapings of the walls are to be of crape and there will be festoons of purple about the cornices. The whole ceiling and walls will be a mass of black. The material will be box pleated into the windows so that the natural light will not get into the room. About the tops of the chandeliers there will be large rosettes of black and the chandeliers themselves will be draped in black.

Opposite the main doorways into the chamber and close to the south windows the canopy, on which will repose the remains of the premier, will be conducted. It will be fourteen by eight feet and will reach to the summit of the windows, a height of about twelve feet. It will be of black, with purple lining and silver fringe.

The distinctive traits of Sir John Thompson's character are too well known to need much remark. His positive attributes were keen and rapid intellectual insight, great capacity for work and unswerving ambition. His negative attribute was a judicial reserve and a sparseness of speech that added to his dignity and gave weight to his remarks when they were made.

Perhaps his negative features had as much to do with establishing his position as his positive. Some men are great because they are splendid listeners. He had well developed powers of concentration which combined with a mental machinery which associated and compared with great readiness made him able to grasp what he heard, to sift out the leading from the subordinate ideas, to trace out the lines of thought and to quickly have complete mental control of the subject.

Then when he spoke it was not frequently or for long. He waited until his ideas became crystallized and then his words came with the power of conviction to those who heard. His manner also assisted to this end. His reserve and impassiveness gave him a judicial air. In fact he was a judge more than he was a politician, both in taste and adaptability. He had not the qualities or the desires that would make of him a natural politician.

A question that has been asked is whether he was what is termed a brilliant man. Some have said that he was a man of merely ordinary ability, others that his advance was due to his opportunities, others hold that his intellect was brilliant and unsurpassed and that despite encumbrances they carried him to the front.

Many thought that he was of a dull cast of temperament, not responsive to the humor and the pathos of life. This belief was erroneous. As has been variously shown in the press there was much humor in him and his sympathies were marked. The difference between him and other men was that he hid the lighter vein in his nature from most people and his joys and

sorrows were shown only to the few. His humor was shared only with particular friends and his sorrows were preserved in the privacy of his own heart and his own home.

A couple of instances of his delicate humor were told me by Mr. John T. Bulmer and they were at his own expense. In one he brought out Mr. Bulmer's habit of interesting himself in public matters at the expense of his own business. Someone asked him where Mr. Bulmer was. "He is at that point in the city of Halifax," he replied, "which is furthest removed from a five dollar bill." At another time he remarked that Bulmer was an authority on all kinds of books but those that treated of his own profession. At college, too, he added, he read every book he could get hold of provided it was not in the curriculum.

Sir John Thompson was not essentially a club man, nor was he even naturally one. His chief delight was in work; leisure was not very necessary to him. He was of course a member of the Halifax club to which every prominent man in Halifax belongs. But the society to which he gave more of his attention and patronage than any other was the Irish Literary society to which he belonged from his young manhood up. He frequently spoke at the annual dinners and it is stated that his after dinner speeches were very good, though of the serious rather than of the witty, sparkling order.

The cemetery of the Holy Cross where Sir John Thompson is to be buried is a small piece of ground of about an acre's extent situated on South Park street. The lot on which the vault is being built is on the main path a few yards from the entrance gate. The vault will be a large one and will occupy the area of a whole lot. The spot was his own and relatives of his wife were buried about there. His father and members and relations of his own family are buried in Camp Hill cemetery.

### HALIFAX TAX REFORM.

Our Sister City is Going In for it With a Vengeance.

HALIFAX, Dec. 27.—The Halifax city council has gone in for tax reform in earnest. The main change proposed is the abolition of the tax on merchandise and the substitution therefor of a business tax based on the rental value of the premises occupied, special business taxes, and the levying of an income tax on anything over \$500 a year. In the case of furniture or household effects the tax shall be based on the value of the houses occupied, but shall not exceed one-half per cent. on the assessed value of the buildings, and shall not be levied where the rental is less than \$80 a year. Real estate is to be assessed at its full value, but the buildings erected thereon at only half the value. The legislature has yet to speak on the subject.

The South end aldermen were unanimous in favor of the change, and enough of the North end men were gained to secure a good majority. The intelligence of the council is almost exclusively represented in the ten men who voted for reform. Mayor Keele distinguished himself by determined opposition to the reformers, who won't soon forget his conduct. People like the mayor personally, and he is an estimable citizen, but his public acts don't by any means all bear the light of criticism. His conduct while in the chair during the discussion of the tax reform scheme is a striking instance of this.

It's Mr. Keele's third and last term as mayor, and there are few who would say that he has strengthened his chances for a successful liberal candidacy for the legislature by his share in some events of the past few months, or weeks, or days.

By the way, Ald. Stewart is the father of tax reform in Halifax, but the present scheme, which is called after Ald. Redden, could never have passed the council as it did, without the adroit and skilful engineering of A. W. Redden from Ward 2. Friends and foes know that.

### Christmas on Board Ship.

A PROGRESS representative had his Christmas dinner on board Pickford & Black's West India steamer "Taymouth Castle," the commander of which is the general and popular Capt. Forbes, of Barrington, N. S. It was probably as good a dinner as was enjoyed anywhere in the city, and was very creditable to the steward and stewardess of the "Taymouth." The saloon was decorated with tropical plants, as well as our own spruce and fir, and the clerk of the weather probably drew Christmas "mild" this year in order to make the officers of that vessel feel as little contrast as possible to their last year's Christmas.

### Old Time Houses.

"Why is it that Price Webber can fill the opera house or the institute or any other place he plays in this city?" This question puzzles those in the business. Perhaps PROGRESS can answer it. Webber is always honest with the people. He claims no more for his show than it is worth, his admission charge is in proportion, more than that he knows everybody and they know him. This is why, perhaps, he played in spite of the miserable weather on Christmas afternoon and evening to 694 matinee people and an audience of 1362 in the evening. And he will repeat it New Year's.

## NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE

### TO INQUIRE INTO THE CAUSE OF MRS. BEATTY'S ACCIDENT.

Faulty Construction of the Floats Claimed as the Cause of That—It Cost the City \$1200—The History of the Case and the End of It.

There has been so much and yet so little said about the claim of Mrs. Beatty against the city for damages on account of being injured at the ferry floats and the way the case was settled that after all the public has very little information respecting the real facts.

When Mrs. Beatty met with the accident the matter was placed in the hands of Mr. A. P. Barnhill and he wrote to the city council. The accident happened in this way. A plank was loose in the float and as Mrs. Beatty was walking up there a horse directly opposite slipped upon the plank, one end of the wheel went down and the other in going up struck Mrs. Beatty upon the knee, injuring it in such a way that she has been lame since.

These facts were known to the city and the recorder and the committee to which they were referred concluded that they would settle the matter if they could reasonably. Mr. Barnhill was willing and so was his client. They placed their damages at \$1200 and would not vary. The city first made an offer of \$400; then they intimated that they might go as high as \$600. This was refused and the matter remained in abeyance. The writ was issued but the declaration was not filed upon the special request of the recorder, who agreed to allow the case to come to trial and take its place upon the docket if a settlement was not reached.

Still the council was slow to act, probably because the Silver case was going on and there was a desire to see how that would result. If the city had won there is little doubt but that a settlement would have been a difficult matter, but the city did not win and the case was approaching trial. In the meantime there had been further negotiations between the committee and the plaintiff. The latter and his attorney, Mr. Barnhill, agreed to permit two physicians to examine Mrs. Beatty and learn the extent of her injuries. Doctors Inches and Daniel performed this duty, and their report, it is understood, was to the effect that she had been injured, though to what extent they did not say.

With this in hand the committee did not care for the case to come to trial and there were special meetings held to endeavor to come to a settlement. None was arrived at and then they received a notice from Mr. Barnhill that the offer would not be open if not accepted by such a date. The committee met again on that date and Mr. Barnhill was present by request. There is no doubt but that the committee tried as hard as possible to lessen the amount and while in the end the city did not get clear with less than \$1200 the report got out that the damages were \$800 and the costs \$400. The release that the city received bears this out and yet it does not for it indicates that there was \$200 for doctor's fees, etc., and \$200 for legal expenses.

This is the history of the Bentley case as far as it went—perhaps it would have been cheaper for the city had it gone to trial and the facts brought out. For it is no secret that the claim would have been made that the construction of the floats was faulty and rendered the city liable. If that be so the same disability exists today. PROGRESS thinks with many others that such matters should be closely inquired into and the fault located. If the floats are constructed wrongfully the city should know it. An inquiry will do no harm and will show, in the event of any future accident that the authorities were not lax at any rate.

### THE "ORPHEUS" CONCERT.

An Organization of Which Halifax People are Proud.

HALIFAX, Dec. 27.—The Orpheus Club gave its first concert of the season last week. It was successful in brilliancy of audience and in artistic merit of performance. Two hundred sets of tickets at \$5 were sold, but the club could have accommodated 100 more had there been the demand. As it is the gross revenue from the series will be \$1,000, whereas it should have been \$1,500. The fact is there are certain people in Halifax who will patronize the Orpheus club, no matter what the tickets cost and it was very little less difficult this season to sell \$5 tickets for three concerts than \$10 tickets for five or seven concerts.

The Orpheus is a musical organization of which Halifax people may well be, and are, proud. Indeed, they think there is no such musical society of such excellence elsewhere in the maritime provinces.

There are always some people who seem to aim at notoriety by carping criticism. One of these is a local writer who signs herself "Lady Jane." She will hardly feel like using the nom de plume again, or C. H. Porter, conductor of the Orpheus,

has written such a scathing letter that the poor body will hardly like to recognize herself. Mr. Porter, in dealing with her unjust criticism of the orchestra, does not hesitate to call a spade a spade. He seems to know pretty well, as the public, too, knows, the reason why "Lady Jane's" pen is dipped in such bitter ink when she tries to write of the Orpheus.

### THE FOOTBALL MEETING.

Mr. George M. Blakney Gives his Version of the Affair.

Shortly before the time for PROGRESS to go to press, the following letter was received from Mr. George M. Blakney, of Petitcodiac. As Mr. Blakney has received considerably more abuse than any other member of the Mount Allison team since the match, and as he claims that the meeting was misrepresented by the St. John press, the letter is published. In any other case it would have been better not to have published it, after the apology of Mr. Sanford, and the accepting of it by the St. John team, which should have ended the matter.

I have just read the reports in the morning papers concerning the Moncton meeting. The Sun misrepresents the case somewhat; the Telegraph a good deal. Our evidence was as follows, which was brought before the meeting and which would be sworn to before the executive if necessary—Three reliable Monctonians saw on the roles of Jones' and Gerrard's boots what they would take oath to be not leather—and in the soles of Howard's boots spikes or projections about 1/2 in. long. I produced the written statements from each of these gentlemen in which they stated they were prepared to take oath, the only stipulation being that their names should go no further than the executive which as you can see, would be unnecessary.

The second was the fact of Howe Jones' getting a spike hole in his hand. He swears that when he was down a St. John man tramped on his hand and immediately afterwards he found in his hand a cut or hole which he could not conceive of being made from anything but a spike. The third sworn statement was that of Shewen who said that a St. John supporter innocently told him that Geo. Jones had irons on his boots to keep him from slipping. But Howard, Gerrard, and Jones each produced sworn statements that they did not wear such. Then we could do nothing further—for to question the thing would be to intimate that they might perjure themselves. On the other hand throwing everything over was acknowledging that our witnesses were prepared to perjure themselves. Thus the thing stood and Sanford withdrew protest. I conducted the whole case and brought on all charges—as it is upon me the whole blame rests. I was acting simply in the interests of good football and as I stated time and time again in the meeting hoped that evidences would be brought forward to exonerate the St. John men. We were not considering it as a protest, simply as charges preferred which were serious enough to look into. But I would not crouch and crawl to the beck and nod of Messrs. Skinner and Jones, and I moved that five competent men decide the case but the motion was lost.

Imagine the absurdity of a man presiding over a meeting in which he was being tried for a charge. Imagine a judge for instance presiding over a court which was trying him (the judge). This was the case in Moncton, Geo. W. Jones presiding over a meeting which was to prove evidence and decide upon it in re a charge against him. Mr. Skinner moved as an amendment to my motion to appoint a jury of five, that we do not appoint a jury. Any school-boy knows enough about parliamentary procedure to know that no amendment can be made entirely destroying the original motion.

### An Monopoly of Exhortation.

Less than a hundred years ago, a self-styled evangelist of a singular experience in the northern part of Westmorland county. One of his followers agreed to let him hold a meeting in his house on a certain evening, the only condition being that the householder should take a turn at exhorting. When the time and congregation had arrived the owner of the house decided to take his turn first, and having got the floor, he was so impressed with his own eloquence that he showed no disposition to stop. This was not what the evangelist had bargained for, but his winks and nods were disregarded, and for once he had to be a listener instead of a speaker. Remonstrances were then tried, but with no effect, and when the congregation had got their fill of exhortation and started for home, the Baie Verte Road man was still holding the fort, and the evangelist's turn had not come.

### A Very Handsome Robe.

Perhaps one of the very handsome gifts of the season was that given to proprietor McCormick of the Victoria hotel by his employees. The musk ox robe that has been so much admired in Thorne Bros. was selected for his acceptance. It is a beauty and no one blames Mr. McCormick for prizing it highly.

## SHE WANTS TO BE FREE.

### MRS. WILLIAM L. BUSBY SUES FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE.

She Charges Her Husband With Neglect and Unfaithfulness—Mr. Busby's Answer to the Allegations—He Produces an "Unwifely" Letter and Denies Unfaithfulness.

The sensation of the week has been the publication of the application for divorce made by Mrs. W. L. Busby, a well known society lady of this city. Readers of PROGRESS do not need to be told who W. L. Busby is. He was a prominent figure in St. John not many years ago. He was rich or, at least, was so thought, and cut such a dash that many others in "the set" could not stand the pace.

In spite of this however his contemplated marriage with Miss Jessie Florence Burpee did not give the utmost satisfaction to all of the friends of the lady. Still she was determined and the opposition was not vigorous enough to stop the course of true love. They were married and not a few will remember the brilliant Busby-Burpee wedding. All was gaiety. No expense was spared. It was an event in society circles and it was fitting that those who were in "the set" should make as grand a display as was possible. To cap the climax the gift to the bride from her father was a magnificent brick residence on Mount Pleasant.

There the young folks set up housekeeping. They entertained lavishly. Mr. Busby was a genial host. His wines were excellent and his friends—and he had plenty of them in those days—were only too glad to visit him and partake of his hospitality. Still his money was not unlimited and pretty soon funds began to be short. The coal business he was in would not support such lavish expenditure. Busby had too many irons in the fire to give it strict attention and the result was failure.

But before this Busby had a seat in the old Portland council. He was a member of the "ring" and largely through his efforts the Mount Pleasant road—which PROGRESS at that time christened the "Busby Boulevard"—was improved at such enormous cost. He got out of the council after this and very little was heard of him. He went to New York and but for an occasional reminder from one or the other of his friends who did not forget him entirely in his adversity he was lost to sight.

Mrs. Busby went to Ontario, where she resided with her sister. The brick residence was sold and the contents. Even the wedding presents were not spared but in most cases shared the general fate. This was more than two years ago and since then Mrs. Busby contends that she has not been supported in any degree by her husband.

Her application for divorce is upon the usual grounds, neglect to provide and unfaithfulness. There is no direct charge in the latter indictment but only a general statement which shows, however, that the movements of Mr. Busby have been an object of interest to some person in New York.

In consequence of Mr. Busby's neglect the plaintiff says in her complaint that she has been forced to return and reside at her mother's house and has been for the past two years and is now wholly dependent upon her mother and friends other than her husband for maintenance.

Then follows the serious charge of unfaithfulness which alleges that on the 20th of September last past and on divers other days and nights W. L. Busby, being unmindful of his conjugal vows and being of a lewd, wicked and debased temper, and neglecting his duty to his wife in New York and elsewhere, committed adultery with a certain woman or women whose names are unknown.

This is the substance of Mrs. Busby's charge against her husband. In his answer to them Busby admits that he has not contributed to her support, but denies that he could keep it because of his business misfortunes and he couples with that the withholding by George E. R. Burpee, of financial assistance which he had promised him, having by his advice and persuasion assigned all his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors and was obliged and compelled to leave St. John with the full knowledge and consent of his wife in search of employment, whereby he might support himself and her.

He goes further than this and points out that while his wife lived with him he supported her in such a style as befitted her station in society, and even beyond his means. He denies the charge of unfaithfulness in toto and claims that his wife knew of his poor circumstances, and yet in the face of that in February last wrote him the following letter:

DEAR WILLIE.—As your mother has requested me to write you, as a personal favor to her, I will do so though my letter can bring you no pleasure. You must know by this time that my feelings toward you have changed very much, that at last silence on your part settled them altogether. Knowing as you did that through a fault of mine I was compelled to live with my family you still did not think it worth while to write and ask the reason why you did not hear from me, even after your mother had written to tell you I had never received your last letter. Taking

many things into consideration, your past neglect of me, your failure to support me in any way no matter how small the amount might be, I can draw but one conclusion, "you care as little for me as I do for you." Your mother also gives me the idea that you are under the impression my family wish for a final separation. They have never influenced me in any way, nor tried to do so nor has anyone here. I keep my affairs to myself, but I feel every day the unpleasant position I am in. I hope sincerely you will be successful in whatever you undertake, and I am very glad you wrote to your mother so often. I know at one time my influence over you to write to her was of no use. I hope also you are keeping well. I have been better this winter than for years and have had a very enjoyable time. Jack and I have been more than good to me; in fact I may say I never knew how to appreciate myself until this last year or so. I can always hear of you and your success from mother, and you can be sure I am sincere in hoping you will do well. I do not wish to write again, so it is not necessary for you to answer this. Believe me, Yours, etc., JESSIE.

There are many facts—simply rumors now—that will no doubt be brought forward at the time of the trial. Mrs. Busby may have her grievances, but the friends of her husband are not slow in asserting that he too has opportunities to complain. A well known citizen told PROGRESS that he met Busby in New York not long ago and talking of a certain young society man of this city who is deeply interested in athletics he was surprised to hear Busby exclaim that he would think nothing of shooting him on sight. Then it is alleged that witnesses be brought forward to prove that Mr. Busby was not the only one in the wrong; that if he grew careless about his marriage ties, his wife also grew indifferent and liked the society of other people. Up to this time the assertions go no farther than this, but it seems if Mrs. Busby was under the impression that her husband was indifferent to this, that it was not so. He remembers all the circumstances and while they cannot be made to serve him in any other way they may at least be some excuse for the indifference that seemed to exist between them.

While there cannot fail to be much interest taken in such unusual proceedings between parties so well known there is an undoubted feeling of regret that such a step should have been thought advisable and much sympathy for the near relatives of the lady concerned.

### A GREEN CHRISTMAS.

Do Not Let us Hear the Old Saws; Let us Interpret Them Aright.

It will be remembered by those who have "spent their days and nights in the study of Addison" that Mark Tapleyish knight, Sir Roger de Coverly, says that it is a very good thing that Christmas comes in the disagreeable season of the year it does, as people forget then that the weather is disagreeable. But Christmas in St. John is generally one of the pleasantest times of the year. We do not usually have the chilling mist of merrie England, despite the remarks of our Halifax contemporaries. We generally have it just cold enough to make one feel that one is living, and then we have snow. But this year there was no snow. Instead there was wind and rain; but all St. John and his wife and family enjoyed Christmas as much as did Sir Roger de Coverly in his ancestral halls.

There is a very pleasant old saw concerning a green Christmas. It is said that it "makyth a full churchyard." There is another unpleasant remark of wisecracks or foolshires that "it Christmas day on Tuesday be, that yeare shall see muche sickness," and much famine, and goodness knows what else. But why need we fear if we interpret the saws rightly? The year in which this Christmas came is nearly done; there has been "much sickness," and much subsequent death. But this year of sickness and famine and strikes and woes is nearly ended, and we are all looking forward to a happy and prosperous '95.

### On Behalf of the Soprano.

A near friend of the former young lady soprano of the minstrel club writes to PROGRESS to explain her position. It is claimed for her that she sang through the whole opera with the tenor without having been introduced to him and this is considered a reflection on the manager. Notice was given, it is claimed to the president of the club who did not communicate with her further though that was the understanding. The letter concludes as follows: "Now as regards the young lady, objecting to any one's 'creed or set' I might say that she wishes it known that such was not the case."

### "Love at First Sight."

Mr. Lemuel Allan Currey was married in Michigan, Thursday evening. The young lady is an American and those who have seen her have nothing but praise for Mr. Currey's choice. Sometime ago, PROGRESS heard how the clever lawyer met his bride. It was while on a trip to Bermuda last winter and the present Mrs. Currey was enjoying the mild air and breeze of that island. It was a case of "love at first sight." Mr. Currey's departure for the recent event was very quiet but the welcome for him and his bride will be none the less warm on that account when they reach this city.