

WOOD VERSUS WILSON.

THE FOUNDER OF THE MAPLE LEAF AND HIS PASTOR.

Charges That the Minister Has Tried to Magnify Himself at the Expense of the Editor—A Hot Letter From the Breezy Pacific Slope.

Rev. Robert Wilson would be very much interested in a letter addressed to Progress by a former member of his congregation at Albert, were that letter to be published as the writer of it requests. It is withheld, however, not only because of its length but because some of the language is rather too strong for the climate at this season of the year.

The writer of the letter is Mr. Lovett M. Wood, the founder of the Albert Maple Leaf, but now engaged in newspaper work in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Wood was a forcible writer when he was in this part of the world and the breezes of the Pacific slope have not lulled him into that serenity which the science of using strong adjectives is forgotten. He calls his former beloved pastor some pretty hard names.

Mr. Wood started the Maple Leaf at what was then Hopewell Corner, at the close of the year 1879, on a very small scale. The first few issues were about the size of a sheet of large note paper, two columns to a page, and printed a column at a time on a small amateur press. In 1880 quite a complete plant was secured, the paper was enlarged from time to time, and under the management of Mr. Wood it became one of the brightest and best looking weeklies in the maritime provinces. Mr. Wood went west about five years ago, and has been there ever since.

His pluck and perseverance in starting a paper without any previous experience, and the success in establishing it on a firm basis under circumstances which would have discouraged most young men, are worthy of the fullest recognition. It is because he considers Mr. Wilson has sought to "filch his good name" that he now asks for a hearing.

A short time ago, in the season when peace and good will are supposed to prevail among men, the present publisher of the Maple Leaf issued a Christmas number with a fac-simile of the first issue. Due credit was given to Mr. Wood as the founder of the paper, whereupon Rev. Dr. Wilson wrote to the editor as follows:

Allow me to congratulate you on the handsomely gotten up and well written issue of the Maple Leaf of this week, which I have read with much interest, but permit me to say you are quite in error as to the brain in which the idea of the paper originated. It was not in Mr. Wood's but in mine, and for nearly two years every line of editorial matter that appeared in its pages was written by me. . . . I make this statement in the interests of historical accuracy and for that reason only, and can assure you I am pleased to see my bantering succeed.

Now as Mr. Wood was known as editor, publisher and proprietor of the paper for ten years, he naturally takes exception to Mr. Wilson's claim. He says, indeed, that a more unblushing falsehood could not be penned, even by a certain personage not mentionable to ears polite. He also gives some personal recollections of Mr. Wilson and the early days of the paper, when Mr. Wilson was stationed on the Hopewell circuit. Some of Mr. Wood's statements may now be given in his own words:

"Rev. Robert Wilson, when the matter was mentioned to him, favored it and predicted success, but most emphatically and unqualifiedly he was not the author of the idea. He did, however, suggest the name I adopted. Mr. Wilson also volunteered to write editorial matter for me in exchange for printing, the first work being deeds for the pews of the Alma Methodist church, from which my pious friend derived a pecuniary profit not usually accorded to the cloth. If the present editor will turn back to the early files of the Maple Leaf he will find an editorial stating that Robert Wilson would not contribute further to its columns. The reasons for this are these: Mr. Wilson issued a political flier called the Advocate. He saw that the Maple Leaf would be a success. He desired all the credit without any of the risks. He thought he was a shrewd politician and had an unsophisticated youth to handle. He was, when fairly asked to show his hand, unprepared to assume any financial obligation for an interest in the paper. Frankly, he wished to be the patronizing, profiting politician who lives off the labor of others, whether of more or less ability. He sought his object by early objecting to an article contributed by a gentleman now on the spot, who is at liberty to verify what I say.

"Mr. Wilson said he was anxious to help me in every way, but if he was to have the editorial work he must know who wrote that article. He also desired to editorially attack it. I then and there informed Mr. Wilson that he was not the manager of that paper. I denied his right to demand the name of any correspondent, or dictate the paper's policy, and informed him that thereafter he should contribute no lines to the Maple Leaf, editorially or otherwise. I so announced in the paper."

Mr. Wood further says: "During the first year I wrote many of the editorials, and in the succeeding nine years while in

control wrote the editorials with few exceptions, and was responsible for all of them."

It so happens that a present member of Progress staff was in Albert during the latter part of 1880, after the new outfit was secured, and until July, 1881 he assisted Mr. Wood in every department of the paper from furnishing copy to sticking type and pulling the lever of the Washington press. During that period, certainly, Mr. Wilson did not write the editorials for the Maple Leaf or have anything to do with its policy.

Mr. Wood among other things, asserts that Mr. Wilson so misrepresented matters as to secure from the minister of railways and canals a pass as editor of the Maple Leaf, and used it nearly a year after Mr. Wood "had repudiated him and his writings in that paper," and that this act of Mr. Wilson's was at the time unknown to Mr. Wood.

If Mr. Wood is not mistaken in this allegation, there is yet a hope that Mr. Wilson may be able to explain how this happened. In any case, however, the weakness of the average clergyman for free passes on account of newspapers should be taken into consideration as a mitigating circumstance. Progress trusts that there is some mistake about the matter, and will be happy to afford Mr. Wilson the opportunity to give his side of the story.

Mr. Wood has a good deal more to say about Mr. Wilson in the abstract, apart from his connection with the Maple Leaf. His remarks might be considered in the light of chatty personals in the columns of a western paper, but they are rather torrid for this side of the continent.

CONFIRMED BY MR. PORTER.

He Admits the Facts in the Case of Mr. Ford and Himself.

The strained relations between Mr. Alfred Porter and Mr. James S. Ford are not a matter of special interest to Progress nor to more than a limited circle of its readers. The statement was made, last week, that Mr. Porter, who is secretary of the Oratorio society, had in his capacity of treasurer of the Church of England Institute, succeeded in getting Mr. Ford ousted from the rooms of the latter organization. Mr. Porter has since written two letters to the Sun in which he admits the animus, and endeavors to justify himself. He has written nothing to Progress, nor has he requested that anything be written.

Mr. Porter, in his letters, makes the assertion that the article in Progress was "inspired" by Mr. Ford, and that he is "responsible" for what he terms the "mis-statements". The extent of the inspiration may be inferred from the fact that after the article appeared Mr. Ford was the first to inform the writer that there was an inaccuracy in the statement that the last bill for rent had been paid. It is quite true that some of the information was obtained from Mr. Ford, but neither he nor anybody else with a grievance can use Progress for their own purposes, or be responsible for its statements.

The whole tenor of the story was to show that Mr. Porter had used the Church of England Institute to carry out certain ends he had in view as the guide, philosopher and friend of the Oratorio society. His own letters amply confirm the view that was taken. Despite the fact that many of Mr. Ford's class are loyal members of the Oratorio, and that Mr. Porter himself was willing to be a non-active member, he considers that class is in direct opposition to the Oratorio. He also disclaims any personal feeling in the matter, despite the fact that the Oratorio board has declined to assume any responsibility for what he has done.

As to the rights or wrongs between these two combative lovers of harmony in the past, Progress offers no opinion. It may be quite true that some of the Oratorio did not like Mr. Ford's manner, just as it is understood that four of them have withdrawn during the last week on account of Mr. Porter's manner. The paper that would espouse the quarrel of any musician must have more space at its disposal than this paper can afford. Musicians, in the abstract, are as quarrelsome as English sparrows, and make relatively as much noise in proportion to the cause of their dispute.

The fact remains, however, that at a thinly attended meeting of the council of the Church of England Institute Treasurer Porter of that body carried the point aimed at by Secretary Porter of the Oratorio. It is further stated, by a clergyman who was present, that the matter was put through in such a way that the significance of the motion was not understood by some of the council.

That is about all it is necessary to say, though much more might be said were the subject worth the space.

What the Hospital Needs.

The ventilation of the General Public hospital in the winter season is about as bad as it can be, and especially in the main wards. This is not the fault of the management, but of the building, which has never been ventilated by a proper system, and when the double windows are on is simply a large but oftentimes exceedingly

MANY PROPHETS SPOKE.

SOME OF THEM SHOT PRETTY FAR FROM THE MARK.

The Loyalty Sentiment Showed Itself in St. John, but the Old Sports Gambled on Corbett—Some Citizens Who do not Believe in Prize Fights.

Chief Engineer John Kerr must have felt his mind at ease Thursday night. He was one of the prominent citizens who had been interviewed by a Daily Record reporter as to the prospects of the fight, and his sympathy for Mitchell had been saddened by the fear that if his favorite won there would be a riot.

A number of other citizens gave their opinions in advance, and it is pretty good evidence of the discernment of St. John men that the number of those who predicted a victory for Corbett was in the proportion of four to every three who relied on Mitchell. In view of the fact that the "loyalty" question had some effect in determining preferences, Corbett seems to have been the favorite on the merits of the fight.

Further analysis of the interviews shows that most of the men who have a status in sporting circles favored Corbett. The gentlemen of the Tanyard club, for instance, gave a large majority for the



JAMES J. CORBETT.

James Corbett, America's great citizen, whose right hand has won him the championship of the world, enduring fame and \$50,000 in lawful money.

American, only Capt. Wm. Mitchell, Pat McGinn, and Jack Duffy, favoring the Englishman. There was no consensus of opinion secured from the members of the Union club as a corporate body.

Among others whose prophecies proved true in the main, though sometimes wildly astray in the details, were Arthur McHugh, the trainer, Alds. James Knox, and R. Radford Barnes, W. J. Pitman, and Charlie Gurney, tonsorial artists, Thos. L. Bourke, Ernest Turnbull, Michael Hogan, Hon. David McLellan, Jack McAllister, Peter Clinch, Walter Lantalm, J. E. E. Dixon, Constable McPherson, Capt. Hastings and Ned Gorman.

Mr. Geo. Carvill was another who favored Corbett, and is quoted as saying that if he were a betting man he would take that



CHARLES MITCHELL.

Poor Charlie Mitchell, the vanquished, whose defeat yields him only the sad consolation of having \$18,000 and the sympathy of a lot of people who bet the wrong way.

side of the game. It is greatly to his credit that he is not a betting man, and refused such a chance to make money.

There were some of the knowing ones, however, who were astray in their predictions. Chief Clark, for instance, asserted that it would be "one of the greatest pugilistic battles ever witnessed," and he had faith in Mitchell. So had Capt. Rawlings, late of the force, who had the same opinion as his former chief for the first time in many months. "If he doesn't knock the stuffing out of him, then, for once, I am radically wrong," said Rawlings, after asserting that he knew a thing or two about prize fighting himself. Capt. Jenkins was also a Mitchell man.

Among other citizens who pinned their faith to the Englishman were Ald. Wilkins, Dave Gleason, Dr. J. Steeves, Charlie Wood, Ald. Kelly, John McLaughlan, Charles Mayall, Morley McLaughlan,

Thomas Bain, E. I. Simonds, J. Boyd McMann and Charlie Landers.

Among the St. John citizens who declined to give an opinion as to the result was Dr. R. F. Quigley, whose words have the ring of sound common sense, from the standpoint of those who think the conservation of public morality preferable to the establishing of slugging records. Mr. James A. S. Mott was also interviewed, but said he was so disgusted with the space the newspapers had given to the affair that, if he had an opinion, he would refrain from expressing it. It needs a horse race to get Mr. Mott to speak with an authority that carries the weight of prophecy.

So soon and so quickly did the crowd disperse that the special artist of the Telegraph got no chance to snap his kodak on them, but he amply avenged himself on the too hasty pugilists by the keen sarcasm of the portraits which appeared the next day.

The common council held a session after the result of the fight was known, but no resolutions on the subject were offered.



JOHN I. SULLIVAN,

The ex-Champion.

John Lawrence Sullivan, E. C., LL. B., as he appears when he is gone on a keg and is sorry for it.

The portraits given herewith show two rather good looking young men, who have a much more intellectual cast of countenance than some of the football heroes in the college matches. A portrait of Mr. Sullivan is also given, as a matter of historic interest. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Mitchell fought to a draw a year or two ago, but the question of their relative pretensions is more definitely settled by Corbett having put both of them to sleep. Mr. Sullivan has of late given his attention to music and the drama, but he is not the Sullivan who had a hand in getting up "Pinatore." That individual is Sir Arthur Sullivan, who has had no record whatever in sporting circles.

It may be added that Mr. Mitchell's portrait does him full justice. He is rather a swell young man when in the capacity of a private citizen, or at least he used to be when he was known to the writer. He is very English, and at times, especially when heated with wine, evinces a decided antipathy to the Irish. During the famous six day go-as-you-please walking match in Madison Square Gardens, in 1884, Mr. Mitchell showed such disapprobation of the success of Mr. Paddy Fitzgerald, who then beat the world's record, that only the timely interference of friends saved him from a worse pounding than Mr. Corbett gave him Thursday. So far as the writer has been able to size him up, he should take the championship of the world if entered in a match where he could fight with his jaw.

The portrait of Mr. Sullivan does not do that truly great, though vanquished hero full justice. His ears are too aggressively in evidence, for one thing, and the aesthetic Boston smile on his face is not true to the situation when he is discussing his past, present and future, under the inspiration of a properly modulated snifter of nerve stimulant. This picture looks as John might look after one of his occasions of swearing-off, and before he had begun to reflect what a lot of fun he was bound to miss by his resolution to never touch the accursed bottle any more.

Mr. Sullivan would not ordinarily be mistaken for a delegate to a Sunday school convention, should he happen to drop into one by mistake in his nocturnal peregrinations in a strange city.

All three of the gentlemen now discussed by the elite of two continents are far removed from the old time conventional idea of a prize fighter. Mr. Sullivan is to some extent informed in classics. On the morning of the day he won his first great triumph by knocking Paddy Ryan stiff, he sat on the piazza of his hotel and testified his admiration of the sea in front of him by a quotation in Hellenistic Greek. Mr. Mitchell does not profess to be a classical scholar, but he is "English, you know," and a son-in-law of Pony Moore, while Mr. Corbett's vocation was originally that of a bank clerk, an "officer of the bank," as he would be called in St. John. This of itself, is supposed to be a passport to society circles, and as St. John people know, Mr. Corbett is not the only bank official who is handy with his fists and has made a "record" within the last few months.

HE SAID HE WAS BARON.

THAT WAS QUITE SUFFICIENT TO INSURE HIS CREDIT.

Halifax Has Another Distinguished Man Whom It Squanders Some Wealth—Talk of Roodie in the Matter of a Steam Fire Engine.

HALIFAX, Jan. 25.—Some people in this city are not hard to deceive. Several days ago a fakir came to Halifax and registered at the Queen Hotel as "Baron von Rabenau." He told a story that was not even plausible but it was accepted as truth by a number of hotel habitués as well as the proprietor of the house. He was allowed quickly to run up a bill of \$60. That amount of money was consumed by copious supplies of wine and frequent visits to the bar. He never paid for a drink but invariably had it charged. Perhaps the reason some people were so ready to accept the "baron's" story was that they were invited to share with him the drinks and cigars. Be that as it may, many there were who drank and smoked at the baron's expense, though as it finally happened, at the hotel's expense and their own. When the little bill had reached the \$60 mark the eyes of the hotel men were opened very quickly. The baron was found to be penniless, and he was arrested. To the credit of the men who were so ready to fraternize with the "baron," and drink his wines, it is stated they did not leave him the moment the police nabbed him. They made up a purse of \$20 to partially satisfy the hotel people, taking a \$1 paste ring and some valueless baggage as security for their money. One of the friends the baron made during his short career was a New Brunswick traveller for a Halifax wholesale grocery house. He, too, chipped in to make up the \$20. What will become of the adventurer is a problem, as he is stranded here without a dollar, and minus even his "paste" ring. Yes, Halifax hotels, and young men who like "barons," are not the hardest people in the world on whom a fakir may hope to impose with success.

WORKING A CITY COUNCIL.

Some Methods Disclosed at the Trial of a Case in Halifax.

HALIFAX, Jan. 25.—A suit was brought by J. B. Neily, of this city, against J. D. Ronald of Ontario for remuneration for services in trying to sell to the city the Ronald engine. A decision was given a few days ago by Judge Meagher in which the method of "working" the council was severely condemned by the judge, who hinted broadly that Neily bribed the aldermen with \$200 received from Ronald. The judge coupled Alderman Foster's name with Neily's as making a pair who under the name of "Foster & Us" had the council under their thumb, so that the city would be forced to buy a Ronald engine whether they thought it best in the citizens' interests or not. The decision made a great shaking among the aldermanic dry bones, for not only was Alderman Foster implicated, but other aldermen were "in the soup" as well. Alderman Foster demanded an investigation into the charges made by Neily of what looked like "boodling," as the judge called it. J. B. Neily, at Tuesday evening's council meeting transmitted a letter in which he denied the improper use of money and eulogizes Foster as a high-minded, honest alderman, and taking exception to the judge's way of construing his letters. The mayor remarked that the council should feel elated at Ald. Foster and the other aldermen receiving a certificate of character from J. B. Neily. The letter was filed.

PROF. MURRAY WAS NOT IN IT.

How St. John Was Represented in a Hoax Worked in Halifax.

HALIFAX, Jan. 25.—Two Dalhousie students distinguished themselves this week by spreading the report that a professor had been "scragged" by other students. There was nothing in the yarn, but the two youths who worked up the story did so in such an effective way that it found its way into one of the papers as gospel truth. It was a young man of Halifax and a genius of St. John, whose inventive minds matured the story, and whose glib tongues spread its airy details.

The narrative they told was that D. K. Grant, at the expense of Doug Mackintosh and Wm. Ross, had made it hugely uncomfortable for Professor Murray, formerly of New Brunswick. The inventors busied themselves circulating their story that Grant had been at a party, and on his way home had met Mackintosh and Ross. He told them that it would be a good plan to enter the room of a certain fellow student, and pull him out of bed. They consenting, Grant was said to have led the unsuspecting collegians to Murray's room, where in the darkness they made it interesting for the professor till the light was turned on, when he made it interesting for them.

There was not an atom of truth in the report, and now the authorities are threatening to have their innings on the originators of the hoax.

The Halifax hoaxer is an enterprising student, far more of an expert at hockey,

etc., than at his books. Some time ago he appeared at the police court to answer to a charge of having challenged one Carman to fight him with pistols and swords. He was discharged with a caution.

THE COURT HAD IT DE JURE.

But the Woman in the Case Managed to Secure It De Facto.

In a certain North Shore town, a week or so ago, writes a correspondent, the husband of a certain woman patronized a certain hotel, on a Sunday, to the detriment of his sobriety. The woman called at this hotel on the same day and from the unsuspecting proprietor purchased a bottle of liquor. Next day she made a formal complaint to the inspector of licenses, with the result that the man who sold the liquor was notified to appear before the police-magistrate, who is reputed to have great powers for consuming "wet goods." On the day appointed, the plaintiff, defendant, the inspector and one spectator were present. After hearing the case the magistrate fined the defendant a small amount and costs. To all appearances this ended the matter.

The plaintiff however had brought the liquor purchased into court as evidence, and was determined to carry it away again. To this the magistrate strongly objected, stating that such evidence came into possession of the court and had to be destroyed. To make the argument stronger, he appealed to the inspector for his opinion, which was that the court should have the bottle and contents. While the discussion was going on the woman got hold of the property and marched out of the court, and that ended the argument.

THOUGHT HE WAS LOW CHURCH.

St. Jude's Congregation Did Not Know All About Mr. Hudgell.

It would seem that quite an injustice was unintentionally done the congregation of St. Jude's, Carleton, last week, by the statement that, while they were low churchmen, they had engaged Rev. Mr. Hudgell knowing him to be a ritualist. They asserted that they accepted him on his own assurance that he was an evangelical churchman; but when they found he was not they concluded to make the best of it. As a result they lost the grant of the Continental society.

Mr. Hudgell, however, did not make any pretence of being a low or even a broad churchman after he became rector. On the contrary, he actually seemed to glory in wearing the medal of the Anglican Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, which low churchmen, when they inquire about it, are taught to consider a very dreadful society that even prays for the dead. It is but just to some of the people of St. Jude's to assume that they did not know what the medal meant, and were quite innocent in their admiration of the tastefully designed bit of bronze worn by their rector.

Elected Him Out of Office.

One of the baptist churches in St. John is without the assistance of a well known citizen who has been leader of the choir. There is said to have been some wire-pulling by interested parties in order to reach the result, and it was finally accomplished by the election of the choir-master to the music committee. This looked like a reward for his services, but as the rules provide that no member of the music committee shall be a member of the choir, the leader found too late that he had been legislated out of office.

Nearer Than Jacksonville.

Col. W. W. Clark, chief of police, is quoted by the Record as giving an opinion on the merits of Mitchell and Corbett. It would have been a matter of more interest to the citizens had he given his opinion of the "scraps" that take place with bloody results in an unlicensed resort in the business portion of this city. One of the recent privileged spectators at one of these affairs was an alderman, who probably forgot that he was ex officio a justice of the peace.

Hard Weather for Cook.

Joseph Cook, the blind basket maker, has been having a hard fight to get along this winter, and would have fared badly enough had not some charitable people aided him a little. Mr. Cook does not ask for charity, so long as he can get along by working, but he has a large family and his orders for baskets have not been large. He lives on Peters street, and will be glad to get some new customers.

More Will Be Welcome.

Mrs. McQueen, the elderly newspaper vendor who met with an accident recently, is not likely to be able to get around before spring. In the meantime any further additions to the fund for her relief will be welcome. This week "A Friend" has sent a dollar and "X. Y. Z." 25 cents. Whatever is forwarded to Progress office will be judiciously applied for the benefit of the sufferer.

Caught Just one of Them.

According to the annual report of the chief of police, just one arrest for corner loafing was made in St. John last year. The police have a good chance to improve their opportunities in this respect.