

METHODS OF MACKASSY.

TWO CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS.

Halifax is Getting All Ready for the Annual Fight About a Liquor License Inspector—Why Some Citizens Have Been Dissatisfied in the Past.

HALIFAX, Feb. 1.—At a meeting of the city council next week the liquor license inspector for another year will be appointed. Applications for the position are to be in today, and it is understood that two will offer to serve the city. John A. Mackassy wants to be inspector for twelve months more, and Walter E. Messervey will oppose him for the position.

There is no use disguising the fact that the present license law is not popular in Halifax, and except in the temperance party is generally condemned as unworkable. On that unpopular Mackassy seems to depend for re-election. He is doing his best to show that the law cannot be enforced, and to impress the public with the idea that he is the man who can best sit in his office and do nothing, so that there may be no question about the unworkability of the law. He is trying to please people whom he expects to support him, not only by doing nothing to earn his salary, but by placing every obstruction he can in the way of Chief O'Sullivan and the police force, who are waging an aggressive war against violations of the law. He is leaving no stone unturned to make himself solid with the opponents of the license law.

Mr. Mackassy does not conceal his work, nor his opposition to the police, and it is his attention is called to the matter he lets himself down by saying he made a "mistake." For instance in a recent summons to H. Howell he dated the paper 1893 instead of 1894. A number of summonses he has sent out unsigned by the magistrate, of course thus rendering them void. The police some time ago secured the conviction of Verdi and of Flawn. Mr. Mackassy in making out papers to secure payment of the fine inserted Verdi's name on Flawn's document, to Mr. Flawn's great delight, in fact a large percentage of the processes issued by him are marred in some way. Thus Mr. Mackassy seems to hope to strengthen himself with the city council. Surely it will prove a short-sighted policy this time, though success has met him before.

Messervey's qualifications are unknown. He may be a better man, could hardly be as bad, and certainly could not be worse than the present license inspector. He runs a hair-dressing business, and one would think he should find that a more congenial occupation than even drawing \$1,000 a year as liquor license inspector for this city.

The aldermen will make it a close vote—Mackassy versus Messervey.

The liquor people of Halifax have a bill before the legislature to legalize selling by the glass and drinking at the counter. Neither can now lawfully be done in Halifax. They also want the hours for selling changed to 7 in the morning and 11 at night, five days in the week, and 6 in the morning till 9 at night, on Saturdays. The license fee is to be \$100, and it shall be unnecessary to obtain signatures to a license application after having held a license for two years. On the other hand the temperance people have introduced an amendment abolishing screens in bar rooms and making it compulsory to have the bar and the whole interior of the shop exposed to view from the street.

THINKS MACKASSY DOES RIGHT. Another Opinion as to the Inspector's Methods.

HALIFAX, Jan. 24.—The annual squabble over the appointment of liquor license inspector for this city, under the provisions of the Nova Scotia liquor license act of 1886, will, according to present indications, be marked this year with a degree of activity and bitterness that will exceed all previous battles, sanguinary as some of these have been. Mr. John A. Mackassy has held this position ever since the act came into force, and the extreme temperance element has not been pleased with his administration of the law. Their somewhat fanatical views do not meet with the support of citizens generally and the city council which holds the appointment in its hands, has kept him in office, in spite of earnest, if not strong, pressure from those who sought his removal by making general charges of lax administration and of partiality to the vendors of the ardent as against the wishes of those who think it a crime either to buy or sell a glass of liquor.

The position of inspector, although fairly well paid, the salary being \$1,200 per year, is not by any means an easy one to fill. It requires tact and judgment, and the holder of it is continually being roasted between two fires. On the one hand there is the liquor interest, which is a very powerful one, especially when we put, as they should be put in all fairness, the seller and the buyer in the same boat. The writer, and he has had exceptionally good means of obtaining correct information on the subject, has no hesitation in saying that at least seven out of ten of the adult male population of Halifax are in the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors to a more or less extent. This habit is not by any means confined to the baser element of the community, as the friends

of extreme temperance legislation are pleased to contend—but includes men occupying the highest social, commercial, public and professional positions. A too literal construction and administration of a law, a law which is far in advance of public opinion in Halifax, would not be acceptable to these people, and the inspector who would act on these lines would find himself extremely unpopular with a very large majority of the citizens. On the other hand, there is the active, persistent and untiring extremists representing temperance fanaticism, who are always on the alert to trap him and catch him in some apparent winking at violations of the law. He would be argus-eyed indeed, if he were capable of finding evidence strong enough to convict every offender; yet his foes think that he should be dismissed in disgrace should they hear of some case of sale at forbidden hours on six days in the week, or any sale at all on Sunday. Under these circumstances, it will be readily admitted that his position is not one to be envied. The writer thinks that, all things considered, Mr. Mackassy has discharged his duties with discretion and common sense, and there is no doubt that this is the view taken by all fair-minded people in the city. If the position were put up to popular vote he would be re-appointed at the close of his term, 15th March, by an overwhelming majority.

As has been said, his tenure of office is in the hands of the City Council, and this year a determined effort will be made by his enemies to influence that body to dismiss him and fill his place by the appointment of a man who will be expected to discharge the functions of a violent partizan in the interests of extreme temperance. The lines have been fairly well laid to accomplish this purpose by a conspiracy of which the chief of police, O'Sullivan, is reputed to be the principal agent, if not the prime organizer. Since his appointment he has been very active in endeavoring to harass certain license holders, while the same activity has not been displayed in rooting out shebeens where vile liquors are sold without any sanction of law. He has tried to organize the whole police force into a band of liquor detectives acting under his instructions. If the force were at their legitimate work, fewer serious crimes would be committed and the general good order of the city would be better maintained. If there were less evident malice in the selection of victims and less manifest partiality in overlooking the lapses and delinquencies of more notorious offenders his conduct would not be looked upon with the feeling which it now excites in many influential quarters. The prime motive, however, in such prosecutions as he has set on foot is alleged to be to undermine and throw discredit upon the fidelity and good faith of inspector Mackassy. When a conviction is secured by him or his agents against any liquor seller, there is a shrugging of the shoulders and a malignant winking of the eye, accompanied with the sneering question, "Where was Mackassy?"

I have given the readers of PROGRESS a general outline of the plan of campaign in the pending contest and, with your permission, will describe the unfolding of future developments as they may occur. FREE LANCE.

AMONG BOSTON THEATRES. Dramatic Events That Attract the Citizens of the Hub.

Well we have had the great English actor and actress with us for four weeks and they have as usual, with them, captured the town and put much money in their purse. It had never before this enjoyment been my pleasure to see Irving and Miss Terry, and I looked forward to their coming with agreeable anticipations. I have of course read and heard much of Irving and had formed ideas of my own as to his abilities as an actor, ideas which were confirmed into certainties when I saw him. In the round of plays produced during the engagement namely: Becket, Henry VIII, Merchant of Venice, Charles I, Olivia, Lyons Mail, Louis XI, and The Bells, one was fairly able to judge of the abilities of the actor, and of them all, Irving's Shylock, in the Merchant of Venice, and his Mathias in The Bells struck me as showing his best work. Irving to my mind is more of a melodramatic actor than anything else, and in plays of that class he shows his abilities to greater advantage than in those of the more strictly legitimate school. His Louis XI, the double character in The Lyons Mail, Mathias and Shylock are more effective than his Becket, Wolsey or Charles I. Irving cannot be considered a great actor, in the sense that Macready or Booth were, or the elder Salvini; he is a good actor, but he has his limitations, and also is handicapped by his many mannerisms, tricks of speech and odd changes of pronunciation. As a manager and stage director he stands pre-eminent, and it is safe to say that no man in the business puts plays on the stage in the same manner, with the same careful attention to detail of every kind, as does Henry Irving. His productions are perfect pictures superbly framed. In Becket one could almost fancy that Rosamond's Bower was a reality; in Henry VIII, the Merry Masque in the great Cardinal's palace, and the procession that thronged around Anne Bouleyn on her return from her coronation, were no mere stage pic-

tures, the excited crowd that filled the court-room during the trial scene in the Merchant of Venice, did not look like ordinary stage supers; in Olivia the simple, rural surroundings had not the appearance of ordinary theatrical appointments, and in short, in every production the master's hand was plainly in evidence, and the master's patient care was visible in the perfect representation of the several plays. None of my pre-conceived ideas regarding Irving's status as an actor have been changed, rather made stronger and hardened into actual belief.

Miss Terry, without whose aid Mr. Irving would not now have occupied his present proud position, is charming. Undoubtedly she stands today the best all round actress on the stage. There are actresses who excel her in individual parts, but there is no one who could play the number of parts Miss Terry does and play each so well. Her Rosamond is lovely, sweet and fair indeed; her Portia, which in the opinion of many is her masterpiece, is a revelation. It is a treat to hear her read the lines of the great speech in the trial scene in the "Merchant of Venice," beginning "The quality of mercy is not strained," and what a lovely picture she made in the doctor's flowing robes of scarlet; her Queen Katherine was noble and womanly; her Queen Henrietta was widely and devoted; her Nance Oldfield a perfect gem of light comedy acting; her Olivia a realization of the gentle vicar's daughter. In every part the consummate art of the player, the sweet voice and charming personality of the women took captive the splendid audiences that met to greet her. We have not quite done with the Irving company for he plays a return engagement of a week, beginning March 12.

At the Tremont street theatre, The Cadets have followed Irving with an amateur production, from the pen of Mr. Barnett the author of 1492, called Tabasco and it has proved a splendid success. It will be gone over thoroughly and played by professionals later.

Oscar Wilde has made a reputation as a playwright, and the latest production of his pen, A Woman of No Importance, is now being played at the Hollis street theatre by Rose Coghlan and her company and has been warmly received by admirers of plays of this class.

The Grand Opera House Stock company are home again and have been playing a piece called Sappho which is said to be funny but which is really very dull and flat.

The Columbia has given us the funniest play we have had here for a long time in the shape of Charley's Aunt, which has been a laughing success from the start, and it will doubtless fill the pretty theatre for another month.

Henry E. Dixey exhibits his nimble legs and dances in his usual sprightly style at the Park theatre where his burlesque of Adonis is the attraction—Dixey is a clever imitator, and his appearance as Irving in Hamlet is a wonderfully life like imitation of the great Henry.

The magician Hermann has just closed his season at the museum, and this week Mari Wainwright has been seen in her round of plays and has made many new friends and admirers by her clever work.

Bowdoin Square has been in possession of Lewis Morrison this week and he has of course been seen in his spectacular production of Faust. Last week at this theatre there was a revival of Little Emily.

The piece was splendidly staged and played by a company especially engaged for the purpose. Among them were Rachel Noah and J. W. Hague whom old theatre goers in St. John will remember, and also Miss Alice Graeme, a St. John lady.

Stagelists. Since the Globe Theatre was burned Mr. John Stetson has been homeless, but it is said he has leased the Park Theatre.

Grand Opera comes in March, and as the entire company now playing in New York will be brought over, fine productions may be looked for and doubtless will be seen, for such singers as Mmes. Emma Eames, Calvi, Melba, the de Reszke brothers, Lasalle and others, are sufficient guarantee that the vocal success is assured.

The Boston Press Club will have its annual benefit on March 6th, and it goes without saying it will be the event of the season. PROSCENIUM.

SAVED BY A NEWSPAPER.

THE STORY OF AN OTTAWA BUSINESS MAN.

Amicted With Deafness and Partial Paralysis—Obliged to Give up His Business on Account of These Infirmities—To the Surprise of His Friends Has Been Fully Restored to Health.

(From the Ottawa Free Press.) Mr. R. Ryan, who is well known in Ottawa and vicinity, having been until recently a merchant of this city, relates an experience that cannot fail to prove interesting to all our readers. It is well known to Mr. Ryan's acquaintances that he has been almost totally deaf since twelve years of age, and that some time ago this affliction was made still more heavy by a stroke of partial paralysis. Recently it has been noticed that Mr. Ryan has been cured of these troubles, and a reporter thinking that his story would be of benefit to the community requested permission to make it public, and it was given by Mr. Ryan as follows: "In the fall of 1883, when I was about twelve years of age, I caught a severe cold in the head, which gradually developed into deafness, and daily became worse, until in the month of July, 1884, I had become totally deaf, and was forced on account of this to leave school. The physicians whom I consulted informed me that my deafness was incurable, and I concluded to bear my ailments as well as I could. In 1889 I started a store about two miles from Calumet Island, Que., but not being able to converse with my patrons on account of my deafness, I found it almost impossible to make business a success. However, things were getting a little brighter until last April when I took a severe pain, or rather what appeared to be a cramp, in my right leg below the knee. I was then doing business in Ottawa, having come to the city from the place above mentioned. At first I

gave no heed to the pain, thinking it would disappear; but on the contrary it grew worse, and in the course of a few weeks I had to use a cane and could scarcely bear any weight on my leg. I continued to go about this way for two weeks, when a similar cramp attacked my left arm, and in less than two weeks, in spite of all I could do for it, I could not raise the arm four inches from my body and I found that the trouble was a partial paralysis. Judge my condition—leg and arm useless, and deaf besides. Being able to do nothing else, I read a great deal and one day noticed in one of the city papers of a man being cured of paralysis by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I immediately began the use of Pink Pills and before I had finished the third box I noticed a curious sensation in my leg, and the pain began to leave it excepting when I endeavored to walk. Well the improvement continued, gradually extending to my arm, and by the time I had completed the seventh box my leg and arm were as well as ever, and my general health was much better. And now comes a stranger part of my experience. I began to wonder why people who were conversing with me would shout so loud. Of course they had always had to shout owing to my deafness, but I was under the impression that they were beginning to shout much louder. After having bade them "speak lower" several times, I inquired why they still persisted in shouting, or rather yelling at me, and was surprised to be informed that they were not speaking as loud as formerly. This led to an investigation and judge of my joy when I found that Pink Pills were curing the deafness which was supposed to have been caused by my catarrh. I continued the Pink Pills for a month and a half longer, and I now consider myself perfectly cured after having been deaf for ten years. I can hear ordinary conversation and am fit for business, though I am yet a little dull of hearing, but this is not deafness, it is simply dullness, the result of my ten years' inability to hear conversation, which still leaves me with an inclination not to heed what is being said. But I am all right and you may say from me that I consider Dr. Williams' Pink Pills the best medicine known to man, and that I shall be for ever indebted to them for my renewed health and strength.

Newspaper ethics usually prevent the publication in the news columns of anything that might be construed as an advertisement, and thus much valuable information is suppressed that might prove of incalculable benefit to thousands. The praise of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills should be sung throughout the land, they should be familiar in every household, and newspapers should unite in making them so.

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