

PROGRESS.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

MORE THAN THEY ASKED.

HOW ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH PEOPLE GOT A NEW LAW.

They Voted to Have the Date of the Annual Meeting Changed—It Was Done and Something More—Why Half the Congregation Has Not Been Able to Vote.

The trustees of St. Andrew's church are likely to ask for additional legislation at the next session of the provincial parliament. It has taken them some time to discover that they needed any, but now they begin to look upon it as a long felt want.

Some of the congregation are just as anxious as the trustees to have the existing state of things remedied. When it is done a good many of them who have been deprived of their votes for the last six years will have a chance to exercise their franchise, of which they now think they should never have been deprived. The people who are thus situated are said to number more than half of the congregation.

Everybody who knew anything about St. John prior to 1877 knew the old kirk, the oldest presbyterian place of worship in the province. It was built in 1835, and for more than three score years it stood in almost the same form, outside and inside, as when the builder handed it over to the trustees. Concurrently with its erection began the legislation which was designed to make everything plain in regard to what was right and what was wrong in respect to its temporal affairs. A year or two later came another act to extend the powers already given, and then come further and other acts to extend, amend and explain, what had been done in the first instance. There were no less than eleven of these Acts of Assembly when the big fire came and the old wooden church went out of existence.

After the fire, the lot on Germain street was clear and clean of everything that pertained to the past, but it was very different as regarded the church corporation. They were loaded with eleven different acts of the legislature, and it was difficult for anybody to find out just in what position the body stood in the eyes of the law. It was decided not only to build a modern style of edifice, but to modernize and simplify the accumulated mass of legislation. Two pretty good lawyers, S. R. Thomson and B. Lester Peters, took their turn in consolidating all the old acts into one which would be clear and definite to the most ordinary understanding. The result was the act of 1879.

Previous to the fire the pews in the church had been owned by individuals, and the trustees were elected annually by the pew owners. When the new edifice was erected the plan was that pews should not be sold, but leased, and the act expressly stated who should in future vote where only the pew owners had voted in the past. The idea was to broaden matters on the lines favored by the General Assembly, and the franchise was therefore extended to the lessees of pews or of sittings, or of a single sitting held directly from the trustees, and all communicants who had attained the age of 21 years. There was no distinction as to sex. The date of the annual meeting was fixed to be on the first Wednesday in June between 7 and 10 o'clock in the evening.

All went well, and for several years it was found that no further legislation was needed. At the annual meeting in 1887, however, a resolution was passed that the trustees apply to the legislature for an amendment "changing the time for holding the annual meeting from the month of June to the month of January, and such other further changes as they shall deem to be in the interests of the church, and submit such bill to be a congregational meeting to be held at some future day."

At a meeting of the trustees, held six months later, Dr. Inches and Mr. J. G. Forbes were appointed to prepare a bill "to change time of holding annual meeting." At a trustees meeting in March, the action of Mr. Forbes in asking the assent of the presbytery to the bill was confirmed, as it was ordered that the bill be forwarded to the legislature.

Two points are necessary to be borne in mind. First the purport of the bill, as everybody apparently understood, was merely to change the date of the annual meeting, so that the church year would coincide with the calendar year. Next, the bill was to be submitted to a meeting of the congregation.

The congregation heard no more of it, however, until after it became law. Nobody thought anything of this, because there was no opposition to merely changing the date of the meeting, among the congregation, and nobody imagined that anything else was in the bill.

At the annual meeting in June, 1888, when the pew holders, holders of single sittings, and male and female communicants gathered as usual, "the chairman stated that the bill presented to the legislature to change the annual meeting from June to January, had passed, and the next annual meeting would be in

January 1889." This seems to have satisfied everybody and they thought no more of the matter. The act was not to go into force until the next January.

When the time for the annual meeting arrived a remarkable discovery was made. The act of assembly, apparently, not only did all that had been desired but very much more. The time for the meeting was changed, beyond doubt, but all who were not either lessees of pews or male communicants were shut out from taking part in that meeting. The first section of the new act referred to "the annual meeting of lessees of pews and male communicants," without a hint of any of the others, though it did say "as provided for in the twelfth section of the previous act." So far as a large number—probably half—of the congregation were concerned, the act was less important in what it said than in what it did not say. It further declared that so much of the provisions of the old act as was inconsistent with the new one stood repealed.

The disfranchised seems to have accepted their fate with a truly christian spirit, though now and then they might privately discuss the question of how far the new act would stand ventilating in law. Nobody went to law however, and it was not until after the annual meeting last January that anything like a serious opposition to it was developed. In the meantime the trustees of St. Andrew's church, chosen at the meeting from which the former voters were excluded, had for six years been in control of properties valued at about one hundred thousand dollars. The question was whether they really had been duly elected trustees, and if not whether their corporate acts had been legal or illegal.

This caused a commotion in certain circles. Mr. Forbes, now a judge, gave extrajudicial but emphatic opinion that the amending act was perfectly solid in abrogating the provisions of the previous act, and that only lessees of pews and male communicants could vote. Hon. Robert Marshall, who has not been as much of a lawyer as Judge Forbes, but much more of a legislator, contended that the first section, though omitting to name others than lessees of pews and male communicants, did not take away the franchise previously enjoyed by others. In this he was supported by a high legal opinion that the first section, in this particular, was merely erroneously descriptive. This seems to be the now generally accepted view, and all that is needed is enough legislation to expunge just seven words, so that the act will read "The annual meeting of St. Andrew's church," the act of 1879 showing of whom the annual meeting is composed.

As to the position of the trustees and their acts for the last six years, it is not believed that any trouble will or can be made. The opinion seems to be that their acts would not be void or voidable. The excluded voters could at any time have sought their rights through the courts, after the English custom of the "aggrieved parishioner." So St. Andrew's will probably get its fourteenth act of the legislature, and the next one, though small in size, will be of no small importance to about half the congregation.

PERHAPS IT WAS CONTENT.

The Case of Two Orphans Who Were Taken off by a Captain.

HALIFAX, May 30.—Two Innes brothers of this city disputed over the guardianship of a dead brother's two orphans. One of the brothers had been appointed guardian by a dying third brother in Boston. He came here with the body of the dead father and the children. The latter were put in a charitable institution for temporary safe-keeping. The elder brother to prevent the children from a return to the younger, made an affidavit that he was not a fit moral character to be entrusted with them, and the children were kept in the institution. A legal process was taken out to recover them, but they were not forthcoming. Then a habeas corpus writ was issued and served, but by this time they had been spirited off to New foundland in the care of Captain Campbell of the steamer Barcelona, who was a sympathizer with the brother directed to the guardian. In Newfoundland the children will be in charge of relatives of their mother who are of a different religious faith from the dead husband.

Proceedings may be taken charging contempt of court on account of the removal of the children after the issuing of the first legal process, and the lawyers may make it interesting.

Let Their Steam Escape.

The exhibition will come off without any doubt, but St. John has so many men who oppose everything that a reasonable time must be allowed them to blow off their steam. Some of the aldermen have opened their escape valves and the association can afford to wait until all of it escapes. But it is annoying all the same to have such a project that will bring thousands of people here with their trade and their money, hindered in this fashion.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.

THE CONSOLIDATED EMPLOYEES WHO WILL RETIRE.

A Reduction that Reaches All Ranks from Engineers to Laborers—The Lack of the Men who Drew Lots to Stay or go—The Question of the Price of Lights.

"Since the amalgamation of the two companies we require to reduce our staff." This is the very terse but unsatisfactory explanation that a number of the employees of the combined gas and electric light companies are receiving with the notice to quit on the first of this month or in the near future. The reduction is a general one, from the ordinary laborer employed about the electric light stations to engineers and clerks in the service generally. The cut has fallen more severely, of course, upon those receiving the least amount of wages, and unfortunately, the four laboring men who had to go had quite large families.

There were eight of them in all. When they learned that four of them had to leave the service, it is said that they drew lots to see who had to go. Fortune in this instance was against the men with families, and the lot fell to them to lose their jobs. The work of eight men will consequently fall upon four. The hours will be long, something like thirteen instead of the usual working day of nine. One of the light trimmers has also gone and the work that two men did now falls upon one, but it will keep him busy, and he has undertaken it rather than stand a chance of losing employment. There has been one change already in the electrical department, and in consequence the lineman had an opportunity to secure a good position in Boston, which it is said he has done. Mr. Brown will, it is understood, shortly have charge of the electrical department in both stations. Other changes in the same direction are contemplated by the management. These will fall upon those holding higher positions, and of course, the saving will be correspondingly greater.

The announcement is also made that the price of electric light will be adjusted to the greater profit of the company in a short time. There is no doubt that in many cases the contracts made for electric light in the days of competition were ruinously low, but how the old customers will relish the advance of them is a question of considerable doubt. The fear is strong upon the people that, as the company has everything in its own hands now it will make the people pay a sufficient sum for their light to declare a rattling good dividend to the stockholders. How much of a dividend will satisfy the stockholders of the company is the question, and upon that the price will depend.

On the 24th of May an unusually excellent service of the street cars was given. Twelve cars were placed upon the route instead of nine and the receipts averaged about \$18 per car. This must be considered in connection with the fact that there were many people out of the city and that there was little moving to and fro compared with what there will be when the weather gets warmer. Such receipts as these would hardly be satisfactory for the summer though and would not give the company much margin for profit.

HIS STYLE OF DOING IT.

An Opera House Usher Who Has His Own Idea of What His Duty Is.

The behaviour of an Opera house usher to two ladies, upon the occasion of the last performance of "Tribby", has excited much comment among those who witnessed the incident.

Two ladies, one of them well known in society here, visited the Opera House on the evening of the Queen's birthday and were shown to the seats called for by the tickets they held. Their seats were quite near the front and at the end of the row nearest the centre aisle, all the other seats, except the two nearest the side aisles, being occupied. Shortly after the ladies had taken their seats one of the ushers stopped at that particular row with a lady and gentleman, for whom the vacant seats near the side aisle were evidently intended and without preface the matter in any way, or apologizing for the trouble and inconvenience he was about to cause the usher in a peremptory manner requested the lady nearest the aisle to "step up." Not quite understanding just what was wanted of her the lady remained seated when the demand was made in a louder and still more peremptory tone. By this time the incident was attracting notice to the ladies, who felt the position keenly but did not see the necessity of being disturbed themselves or of disturbing others. In a quiet and lady-like manner one of them asked the usher why he had not taken the couple down the other aisle as their chairs were at that end, "That's all right," was the rejoinder, "it wasn't so convenient."

A gentleman friend of the ladies who happened to be near leant forward and advised the lady to keep her seat, when the usher, who had heard the remark, turned

to the others, and in a voice that could be heard in almost any part of the house, said, "If she is a lady she will stand." Not wishing to attract any further notice, the lady and the other occupants of the row rose to make room for the other couple to pass in, and with a triumphant smile the usher remarked, "I told you she was a lady."

The incident has been reported to President Skinner.

MORTIMER LINWOOD DIX.
The Man Who is Honored for Saving the Life of a Fellow Being.

At Toronto, today, Mortimer Linwood Day, of this city will be presented by the Governor General, with the bronze medal of the Canadian Royal Humane society for



his great bravery in rescuing from drowning Alexander Gorham and Walter Baginall at the north end on the night of the 24th of January last.

Mr. James Taylor who assisted in the rescue was presented with the diploma of the society.

ELEVATING THE STANDARD.

The New Rector Thinks Conversion Should Precede Confirmation.

Rev. Mr. McKim was inducted into the pastoral charge of St. Luke's, last week, and this week there was confirmation in the church with a class of more than thirty candidates. It is said there are some who had started with the class, but decided, after the arrival of Mr. McKim, a few weeks ago, that they should wait until they were better prepared. Some of them were a good deal surprised at what the new rector told them in regard to preparation for confirmation, and declared that his views were something new to them.

According to the decision in the famous Gorham case, a belief in baptismal regeneration is not essential in clergy or laity in the Anglican communion. As a matter of fact a great many do not have this belief, though it is a firm tenet of the profession of high churchmen. All are bound to believe however, that baptism must precede confirmation. Mr. McKim was even more particular than usual on this point, for in the case of those who could not bring legal evidence that they had been regularly baptised, he administered conditional baptism. Their mere assertion that they had been baptised was not sufficient. To this of course, no exception could be taken, but there was no little surprise at the rector's views of what the spiritual state of candidates for confirmation should be.

A good many churchmen will remember that when they were confirmed they looked upon the ceremonial as imposing on them the responsibility of the vows previously made for them by their sponsors. They had to make suitable preparations for confirmation, and were supposed to be in a state of grace at the time. Some conscientious ones, when urged to join a confirmation class, have pleaded that they were not good enough, and wanted to wait until they were better. The reply to this has been they should be confirmed in order that they might be enabled to be good, and that additional graces would be given them which they could not obtain until after the laying on of hands. In this way, very many have been brought forward, some of whom may have not at a later day availed themselves of their rights as communicants.

Mr. McKim, however, was understood to teach that the actual conversion, known in other denominations as a change of heart, was essential in those who sought to be confirmed. In other words, to become a communicant, a religious experience analogous to that accompanying conversion among the methodists or baptists was necessary. This was what is said to have excited some who had started to go forward as a matter of duty rather than of pious inclination, and this is why it is alleged the class was not so large as it otherwise might have been.

A Great Variety of New Designs in Wall Paper and Window Shades at McArthur's 90 King St.

DIXON WAS NOT HAPPY.

THE COLOR QUESTION CAME UP IN SPORTING CIRCLES.

Decided Objections to Comparisons With the Opposum—A Relative Who Was Opposed to Fistic Science—The Expected Crowd Failed to Materialize.

HALIFAX, May 30.—"Sparring competitions" which are to be "strictly friendly" and where "the intervention of the police will positively not be needed," do not seem to have any very great hold on the affections of Halifax sporting people with the prices for admission fixed at 50 and 75 cents, even though the principal star is a champion in his pugilistic class and a native of this city. The visit to his old home of George Dixon, colored feather weight champion, accompanied by fifteen fellow boxers and fighters, was not a great financial success. Only a comparatively small amount of money was made, either by O'Rourke, Dixon's managers, or the local Halifax manager. Instead of thousands flocking to the rink to see the sparring exhibition only hundreds went out. The attendance at the performances was not more than 1,600. A prophet or a prize-fighter, may not be without honor, save in his own country. A question that maybe asked in this connection is; "can the fact that Dixon is a colored man have had anything to do with this?"

George Dixon is well connected here. His uncle is a baptist minister at Preston. The rev. gentleman did not go to the performance however, though he was in town; asked if he was to be present he replied: "Well, no sir; I hardly think it would become the dignity of my cloth to patronize George's prize-fighting show. I shall not visit the exhibition, sah." So also said a good many others,—not relations of George.

The nearest approach to fighting in earnest was the bout between Steele and Mullin which was stopped by Manager O'Rourke. The two men had been drinking and there was some bad feeling between them. When they got on the stage they tried to settle their little difference on the spot, but this was prevented, though one of the prize-fighters came out of the fray with a swelled eye.

Boxer Steele, one of the party, was in Halifax two years ago, when he stopped at the Royal Hotel. He went away leaving behind him there a little board bill of \$6. He did not pay off the old score on his return the other day with Dixon, so the force of a capias was resorted to. Costs added made the amount \$7.05. Steele was taken by a policeman and he settled on the basis of \$7.00, for as every cent he could gather together still left him 5 cents short the authorities for once became generous and gave a receipt for the whole amount, though five cents was missing.

One word regarding Dixon. Those who met him, and know him, speak of him as a gentleman. The general opinion is that he has far more of the instincts of a gentleman than the white "person" who refused in New York to sit with him in a parlor car because Dixon happened to be what he called a negro. A story is told of an encounter at a Sackville street saloon on Friday between the featherweight world's champion and Jack O'Brien a well known local boxer, which illustrates how touchy Dixon is when a question of color arises. The champion thought O'Brien, who had just been introduced to him, made an insulting remark when he asked one of Dixon's companions if he was "playing possum." O'Brien claims he was merely jesting, but Dixon failed to understand it that way, and had not friends intervened the saloon would have been the scene of trouble. Despite his quick temper, Dixon is too good a man for the business into which he has been drawn.

His Experience of the Law.

HALIFAX, May 30.—The law is an expensive plaything, and a dangerous one. Such is the conclusion to which E. J. H. Pauley, an amusement caterer in this city, has arrived. A tent was placed in his establishment. Pauley alleged it was stored there, but the man who brought an action for its value, claimed it had been sold to the defendant. The case was tried, and Pauley lost. His bill for tent and costs, he thought, was about \$75. He paid that amount to the lawyer on the other side. But it seems he forgot his own lawyer's costs, and this had to be brought to his attention by the legal light in the form of a process demanding immediate payment of \$18.40. The money was paid, and now the defendant wants nothing more of the law for a long, long time. He finds the tent a very expensive article.

The Crackers Went off.

The chief of police had hand-bills posted all over town last week, giving warning that the firing of crackers and the like, was a violation of the law, and that the regulation would be strictly enforced. The hand-bills were half-sheet size, and the type was big enough to be read a hundred feet away. The only people who did not hear crackers

going off on the street on the holiday seemed to be the police and the deaf men. Somebody makes the suggestion that the next time there is a holiday the boys might try the experiment of pinning bunches of crackers to policemen's coat tails. It might, perhaps, have the effect of getting them to move along in a less lazy way than most of them do now.

CONSTABLES IN THE LOBBY.

Patrons of the Opera House Find the Door Guarded by Messrs Beckett and Wiley.

Some of the younger patrons of the Opera House have been rather annoyed of late to meet, as they enter the lobby two well-known city constables, and find them in charge of the door and entrance. It appears that the reason for the change was the wish on the part of the policemen who formerly held the position to have an increase of wages. The policemen were receiving \$1 per night for their services, but as they usually were from 7.30 to eleven or 11.30 o'clock they thought that the time was worth at least \$1.50. Instead of granting this the Opera House managers, desirous of running things as economically as possible, engaged the constables for 75 cts. each. But those gentlemen of the law cannot blind themselves to the fact that there are a good many people going to the opera house and taking friends with them, who are also upon their books, and whom they seek to interview frequently to induce them to settle up. The young man who talked to Progress complained of the fact that if he went to the opera house with his young lady, he was very likely on the following day to be reminded that if he could patronize the opera house, he might at least pay something on his account. While this is probably true enough the complainant did not seem to view it in that light, and thought that the management of the house should not place those who patronize them in such a position. A rather awkward incident arose out of it a few days ago, which has caused one of the constables to be reported to his worship the mayor, and what action may be taken is not known yet.

HE TOOK FIFTY WITH HIM.

A North End Young Man About to be Married Changes His Mind.

A well-known young man of the north end, made up his mind to leave the ranks of bachelorhood some time ago, and with the pleasant object of matrimony in view began to make certain preparations. Of course the principal of these was to secure a life partner. That was accomplished after the usual preliminaries, and a young lady belonging to the suburbs of St. John consented to become Mrs. ———. It is even said that the affair was to have taken place on Wednesday morning last, and the customary banns had been published in St. Peter's church. The prospective groom was well-known in the community, and his employer had sufficient confidence in him to be so obliging as to lend him fifty dollars in view of the approaching ceremony. It is also stated, but on what authority Progress cannot say, that he borrowed from other persons, his landlady being among the number, in the shape of an unpaid board bill to a considerable amount. All this, however, was represented by him to be O. K. when he succeeded in securing this life partner. But the marriage did not come off on Wednesday morning. On Monday the expectant groom took a sudden idea into his head that he would like to go to the States, and the morning boat took him in that direction along with his borrowed \$50, and the hopes of his bride.

She could not Read Writing.

Telephones are very convenient things sometimes, and at others they are annoying and amusing as they are convenient. A well known business man found this out a few mornings ago when he reached his office and ascertained that he had left behind him an important telegram that had been delivered at his residence the evening before. Going to the telephone he requested the domestic who answered the call to read him the telegram. Mary got the message, and began to read it, but she took his request very literally, and began with the printed "Western Union Telegraph Co." at the top, and, in spite of all the advice she got on the subject from her master at the other end, succeeded in giving him all the conditions that are so familiar in fine print upon one of the company's blanks, before she got down to the telegram proper. Then she stopped. "Well," said the master, patiently, "now we have heard all that, read the rest of it." "I am very sorry, sir," was her reply, "but I cannot read writing."

Will Have a Grand Theme.

Mr. F. H. C. Miles of this city has received a commission to paint an altar piece for a church in Restigouche, the subject being Di Vinci's famous representation of the Last Supper. The size of the picture will be ten feet by twelve, and the work will occupy Mr. Miles during the summer months.

Go to McArthur 90 King St. An Elegant Design in Wall Paper