

PROGRESS

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THE LIBRARY SCHEME.

IS NOT MAKING THE PROGRESS THAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED.

Some of the Reasons Given for the Want of Interest Taken—The Tactics Employed in Taking the Management of the Old Library Away From Those in Authority.

The public library project is not making that progress that would be expected in a city such as this and there may be various causes advanced why such is the case. One reason given by a prominent citizen is the facility with which laws may be passed expropriating property, or ideas, if the term is allowed and not only frustrating the intentions of donors to a philanthropic or benevolent enterprise but interfering with business as well. A few days since this library project was discussed by a number of prominent citizens and one advanced as his reason for not aiding the new project the peculiar tactics employed in seizing the old library and taking it and its management away from the men most prominent in its establishment.

The history of the case, as he detailed it is as follows:

In 1879 after the disastrous consequences of the great fire had been fully understood, the following citizens decided that a library was a necessity.

S. Z. Earle, M. D. Mayor of the City of St. John, N. B.

James Domville, Henry Duffell, Chas. Emerson, H. A. Glasgow, J. H. Allan, S. B. Brittain. Aldermen of the City of St. John, N. B.

James Adams, Wm. Peters, Harris Allan, William Rennie, T. B. Hannington, G. H. Martin. Councillors of the City of St. John, N. B.

Hon. W. J. Ritchie, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Hon. R. D. Wilmot, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick.

Hon. Sir S. L. Tilley, Minister Finance, Canada.

J. W. Domville, Major-General, Royal Artillery.

Hon. John Boyd, Senator, Canada.

James Domville, M. P., Dominion of Canada.

Hon. Robert Marshall, M. P. P., Member Legislative Council.

David McLellan, M. P. P., Provincial Legislature.

Daniel & Boyd, Hall & Fairweather, J. & W. F. Harrison, Geo. Fleming & Son, John McMillan, Thomas Furlong, Merchants of St. John, N. B.

They consequently issued a circular and sent it to all parts of the civilized globe, where there was a library, or a government that would be prevailed on to aid them with books, or state papers. James J. Woodland, then secretary for Col. Domville, M. P. had charge of the work of communicating with the Vancouver government.

The British government responded with a grant of £250, books to that value to be selected by General Donville, father of the Colonel, and the late William Elder, M. P. P. The society for the Propagation of the Gospel responded with a grant of £50, and books and donations were received as free gifts from the United States government, Her Majesty's Treasury offices, East India government, U. S. Army, P. O. Department, U. S. Religious Tract society, Marcus Ward & Co., Smithsonian Institution, British Museum, Maine Historical Society, Massachusetts Historical Society, Shakers' Society, American Academy, Arts and Science, New York State Library, Dean & Co., State Library, "Lansing," Shakers' Society (Shirly Village,) William L. Leggo, Rev. W. Hill, Shakers' Society, (Albany Co.) House of Commons Library J. B. Plumb, M. P., and many others.

Hon. Mr. Elder referred to the matter as follows: "Several spasmodic attempts have been made by the press, and by private individuals, to provide a free public library for St. John, but without success. The destruction of books and libraries in the great fire of the 20th of June, 1877, was so great and so widespread that the want of the library is now felt more keenly than ever before. It was stated on the street, yesterday, that Ald. Domville, M. P., was about to expend a portion of his unexhausted energy in soliciting copies of books from authors and publishers in Europe, the United States and the Dominion, with a view to provide such library. We have no doubt that the appeal would be handsomely responded to, and that if Mr. Domville takes up the matter, and 'keeps at it' it can be made a success.

Several of our citizens would aid. The Common Council would, no doubt, be willing to provide a room for the library, and the fund raised by the citizens should go towards paying a librarian and assistant to manage it.

The library became a fact and the committee created a perpetual deed of trust and had it recorded conveying the library into the hands of trustee, two of whom were Mr. W. F. Hatheway and Collector Ruel.

It was concluded by the city council that the rate payers should pay a grant of \$600 to the new enterprise. Matters were progressing at a satisfactory rate and the promise was good for a library of more than modest proportions when steps were taken to rob those who had done the work of that honor that should have been theirs.

The government of Mr. King now Judge King passed the "libraries act," conveying from the trustees the work of years breaking the trust deed, and placing the trusteeship in the hands of those who had very little interest in the formation of the institution.

An entry was made but the matter could not be charged and the men decided that it was not always safe to invest money on an enterprise in project while the government could so easily raffle them away.

In this may be seen one reason why public men are slow in coming to the support of the new library. There should be some arrangement made that those who aid the enterprise may not be legislated against—then the citizens will readily aid the erection of a new library building.

THE ALDERMAN'S JOKE.

He Spoke Figuratively but the Man Had a Jag Just the Same.

There is a certain member of the city council who is noted for his formal nature and unsmiling mein, and one of the city legends says that the faintest tinge of a smile was never known to cross his melancholy countenance. He is however a very popular alderman among his fellows and the fact that last election he was returned with a bigger majority than ever before proves that he is extremely popular with the citizens as well. A few days ago he made what his fellow aldermen declare to be his only joke and he enjoyed it too for rumor has it that he chuckled and was even seen to smile rofly to himself. The circumstances surrounding the joke are rather funny particularly as the laugh is on a city official whose duties are generally supposed to consist of holding up the corner of the City Hall and drawing his salary. His bump of importance has however not been diminished any by his lack of employment for he still considers himself the hardest worked man on the staff. Not long ago he went on a good time with some friends and as he has not a very large capacity for holding ardent liquors he was soon seeing double.

Even in his belagged condition his sense of importance did not leave him and he dragged himself in the direction of the City Hall; there to stand on the corner and leer at passers-by. He arrived at his destination in safety but had not the strength to stand up so he contentedly stretched himself out in the vestibule safe from the prying public gaze.

Just as he got nicely ensconced on the tiled floor, the grim-visaged alderman came in. The sight of the man on the floor brought a faint smile to his lips and he hastened up stairs. Meeting another city father he said "Where is the ambulance kept and how can I get it?" The alderman questioned returned the necessary information and asked "Why what's the matter?" Oh there's a man lying down in the hall who appears to be "paralyzed" said he of the grave countenance. The ambulance was telephoned for by the other alderman, who happened to go down stairs a minute after, and saw what the trouble was. The call was at once cancelled but the alderman had his little joke just the same.

Captain Wiggan and His S. S. Work.

HALIFAX, February 18.—Captain Wiggan, of the Royal Berks regiment, who was removed from the superintendency of the Garrison Church Sunday school by General Montgomery-Moore, because the General did not approve of the officer's methods and views, is now enjoying the work of a teacher in St. Paul's Sunday school, where he will have the cordial support of Rev. Dyson Hague, the rector, and of all in the congregation, and where he will not be hampered by any restrictions, such as can be exercised by

an official like the officer commanding the forces in Canada. There is no greater enthusiast in Sunday school work than Captain Wiggan, who is quite the equal in this matter of his friend, Captain Winn, R. E.

HIS ABBREVIATED GARMENTS.

A St. John Man Finds Himself in a Dilemma But Comes Out all Right.

There is a young man in this city who, like all other youths, enjoys a good time as well as any one. It was with great delight therefore that he accepted an invitation to a dance lately, and in order that his enjoyment of the occasion should be the more complete he invited two young lady friends to attend the terpsichorean function. The ladies equally appreciative of the dance readily gave a favorable response to his request. The young man was delighted and began with some little leisure to make his preparations for the eventful evening. It proved to be much more eventful in fact than at this period he had any idea of. In this process of preparation, he sent a pair of his best trousers to a tailor to be pressed and renovated. Further thought prompted him to send his best dress shirt to be laundered. Everything was going along all right. He had seen the ladies again—and arrangements were duly made as to the hour he would call for them in order to accompany them to the dance. The eventful evening at length arrived and at an hour somewhat later than he expected he found the tailor had not sent home his trousers as he had promised. This was alarming. The tailor had gone home from his shop at this time; and a messenger was immediately despatched to his residence with instructions also to call at the laundry for the shirt which by some mistake or other had not been sent home either. The young man waited the messenger with all the patience possible but with a large amount of inward bitterness. Time was flying and still the messenger returned not. It would not do to disappoint the ladies. Some plan must be devised whereby he could escort them as he had engaged to do.

Now this young man in point of cleverness is second to few in the city, and full of resource as well. A happy thought struck him. There was yet time so with admirable courage and nerve, he put his coat on over an ordinary suit and with ulster buttoned up close around him he presented himself at the home of the ladies in readiness to accompany them. The trio wended their way to the scene of the festivities, the young ladies never doubting but that their companion had his dress suit on under the ulster. Having discharged his escort duty so successfully this resourceful man hastened home to find that his tardy messenger had returned bringing with him two parcels, one of which, he found contained the shirt, and the other a pair of pants. The latter he promptly donned only to find them about four inches too short. The tailor had sent home the wrong pants.

The young man,—who laughingly tells the story himself thinking it too good to keep—managed however to get to the dance after all and enjoyed himself to the utmost, the enjoyment being perhaps the more because of his trials of the early evening.

IT IS A WICKED CITY

If the Statements of Some of the Civic Officials are to be Believed.

HALIFAX, Feb. 18.—At a public meeting on Monday night when citizens were given the right to address chairman McIure and his committee of temperance men from the house of assembly on proposed amendments to the liquor license act an alderman, one of the candidates for the mayoralty at the forthcoming elections made a rather strange statement. He was getting in his work on inspector Banks and the police, and he said that there are 67 unlicensed places on Brunswick and Albe this city. He also is reported to have made the still more striking assertion that there are 365 bad houses in this good city of Halifax. When the candidate for mayoralty honors was asked what he had done to give success to such a state of affairs he replied that he was not elected to act as an informer, but he went on to show that he had done all he could to expose what he found to be wrong. The alderman surely over draws the opportunities for evil that exist in this city, or is it that his knowledge of the bad is so out of proportion to what he knows of the good that he speaks hastily and without due consideration. Whatever may be the fact in this regard there is no doubt that the above is the way the alderman sizes up Halifax.

MET IN DEADLY COMBAT.

BUT THE DUEL WAS DECLARED OFF THROUGH ILLNESS.

One of the Principals Fainted at the Beginning of the Mill and Now They Will Fight It out After the Sick Man Recovers His Health—Other Matters.

There is a certain girl in the West End who has been the innocent cause of a lot of trouble to a couple of North End lads during the past week. One of the young men is employed in a N. E. barber shop, while the other lives on Adelaide Road and clerks in a city dry goods store. Both have been in the habit of attending the Carleton skating rink where they have enjoyed a number of bands with the girl in question and up to a few days ago each of them thought that he stood first in her affections. A few evenings ago, however, one of them engaged a certain band with the young lady for the following evening, which happened to be band night. The barber was the lucky man so next evening he got away from work a little earlier than usual and hid him to Carleton rink where he expected to find his inamorita impatiently awaiting him. His hopes were not realized however for one of the first things he saw when he arrived on the ice was his charmer enjoying a skate with another North Ender. He waited impatiently for his band, with disappointment and amazement stamped on every feature. It came and he at once ventured to remind the fair one of her engagement only to meet with a second rebuff at her hands. In the most innocent manner imaginable she told him that she had thought he was not coming so had given his band to another and more fortunate man. He inquired the name of his rival and was greatly surprised to find that it was the dry good clerk whom he saw in her company on a previous occasion during the season. That was the last straw and thoroughly enraged and disgusted he left the ice vowing eternal vengeance upon whom he termed the meddler. Two days after the measurer of tape received a letter from the angry tonsor who alleged that he had been grossly insulted at the hands of the clerk and threatening to get satisfaction by physical force if an apology was not forthcoming. No notice was taken of the letter and the barber next called in persons to enforce his demands. He did not get any satisfaction out of the interview, but so annoyed the clerk that the latter agreed to fight him and settle the matter. A mill was arranged to come off at a club in the city, and attended by numerous friends, both parties put in an appearance at the stipulated time. The barber looked very pale, however, and while preparations for the go were being made he fainted. The usual restoratives were used and he soon came back to consciousness but declared he was too sick to fight. He however promised to meet his opponent as soon as his health would allow so the affair was called off. The friends of the dry goods clerk now say that the barber will take good care not to recover sufficiently to enter the ring, believing discretion the better part of valor. Meanwhile the dry goods clerk is a regular attendant at the Carleton Rink and still continues his attentions to the girl.

They All Had a Good Time.

Those members of the Licensed Victuallers Association who patronized the drive to the Ben Lomond House on Wednesday could not fail to enjoy the pleasantness of the event and the best of good times. Colwell's big sleigh took the most of the party but a number found their way out during the afternoon in their own teams. The sport on the ice was of a peculiar nature—rolling skating—and was provocative of much laugh and enjoyment. Then the supper was of a bountiful nature well cooked and splendidly served. Mine host Barker must be congratulated upon the way he entertained the crowd. There were speeches and songs, music and merriment and when the sleigh left for the city, the committee could be congratulated upon the fact that nothing had occurred to mar the enjoyment of the day's outing. Many of those who went in private teams had an opportunity of being entertained at the old Allandale house of which Mr. Rowley is proprietor, and enjoying its pleasant hospitality.

Her Marriage Joys a Myth.

HALIFAX, February 17.—When a man finds a woman silly enough to marry him because he points a revolver at her, people

need not expect much matrimonial felicity. It was such means that a North-end blacksmith took a couple of months ago to induce a young woman to consent to wed him. Now she is seeking the good offices of the S. P. C. to protect her from what she charges is his ill-usage. The marriage took place in the house of a friend; the license was regular and the minister was O. K. He had a ring too, but the other day the poor wife had an application for it from a kind hearted woman who said that she had merely loaned it that the wedding ceremony might proceed. The S. P. C. is trying to make peace but one would think it rather difficult work with such material.

RESERVED FOR THE D—

A Funny Incident that Occurred in a Halifax Church Lately.

HALIFAX, Feb. 17.—A few people in Grafton street Methodist church are talking of a rather funny incident that occurred in the school room of that church on a recent occasion. The Sunday school children were giving an entertainment under the management of Dr. Woodbury, an earnest church worker and successful member of the dental profession. The room was crowded so that all the seats were occupied except one near the front which was marked "Reserved for the Doctor," intended for Dr. Woodbury.

A little after the performance began in came Dr. Maria Angwin, and as she drifted to the front her eye caught the label "Reserved for the doctor."

"What a good idea" she ejaculated as the accomplished lady doctor took the seat and made herself comfortable.

The next moment Rev. Mr. Dobson the pastor of the church happened past and Dr. Angwin called his attention to the decoration of the seat she so fortunately had found. The good lady sat in front of the label in such a position that all the pastor of Grafton street could see was "Reserved for the D—."

"Reserved for the d—," said the minister with emotion, "what an ominous place for a lady to occupy!"

Rev. Mr. Dobson is one of the two or three most popular ministers in Halifax, but despite that fact the possibly suggestive tone as he uttered the words, "reserved for the d—" is said to have considerably angered the fair occupant of the doctor's bench.

SOME CIVIC QUERIES.

Questions that Await Answers Prior to the Civic Election.

What a wonderful look of surprise and astonishment certain members of the civic council adorned their faces with yesterday when the gentle insinuation was made by Ald. McArthur that the advisory board had taken upon themselves things they had no right to do. What terrible insinuation was hidden in those few words was not learned, but the council thought it a very bold and defiant statement. Why not have an investigation? It would not cost more than an appropriation and there has been no legal expedition by the board for a week or ten days.

Then there are people asking about the two hundred and forty eight piles that Mr. Robert's drove and charged four dollars each for. Did he do it without any agreement with the advisory board, the council, the director, the mayor, or did he do the work and charge what he pleased for it? It is believed the latter is true for never before was four dollars charged for pile driving, the sum of two dollars and fifty cents each being considered sufficient.

These are some of the questions the general public are discussing prior to selecting a candidate as alderman. There is another question that they would like to know something about—that is the total cost of the Sand Point wharves but after getting the \$150,000 the remainder of the cost is lost in a mist of accounts or returns. Probably the tax bills for the year will tell part of the story.

A Good Showing.

Kerr's business college shows a well filled list of pupils this year all of whom are reported particularly bright and capable. The graduates from this institution find no difficulty in obtaining employment and it speaks well for the thoroughness of the training they receive that all of them are now enjoying splendid positions and not one of them is out of work. An enquiry into the methods of the college will be of great benefit to students who expect to enter a mercantile life.