

# PROGRESS.

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## POLYMORPHIANS PLANS.

### HOW THE BOYS ARE WORKING FOR THE JUBILEE.

What They Have Done in the Past and Show They Have Helped to Make St. John Holidays Home Affairs—Recollections of the Dark Town Fire Brigade.

The citizens of St. John generally, are not yet fully aware of the increasing activity being shown among the four Polymorphian clubs in the city and will therefore be somewhat surprised, agreeably no doubt, when the processional features of the coming celebration are made public. One could hardly be accused of speaking extravagantly, if it should be said the backbone and solid foundation of the coming jubilee arrangements lies almost wholly with those gentlemen who delight to be known only by that many-syllabled but not inharmonious name.

Almost every association, club or society has its creed, nor are the polymorphians an exception in this particular. On the contrary they seem to be one of those very few organizations which live up to their theories and principles as near to the last letter as possible. The motto of all such, seems to be, loyalty, the promotion of loyalty and the preservation of loyalty. This takes in a great deal more than can be thought of in a moment. Not only does it mean that upon all occasions members of the organization shall openly display their love of "God, Queen and Country," but it shall also devote upon them to promote public celebrations upon such occasions as call for united expressions of truth and fidelity in the loyal sons and daughters of merry old England and fair Canada. Just now our broad Dominion is bubbling over with British enthusiasm, the St. John pressure having about reached the safety valve limit and while our friends with the yard-stick name have done and are doing nobly toward keeping the chaldron on the boil yet it would not be just to give them the credit of stirring up all the British spirit now being shown on every hand; nevertheless they have yet to play their trump card, which may prove disastrous to the equanimity of our easy-going and only occasionally demonstrative city.

Of late years the people of St. John have adopted the fad of leaving town upon every public holiday, whether national or religious.

It was not so in former years. In days of yore public demonstrations were quite ordinary upon such occasions, the town retained its people, and excursions from all quarters brought in hundreds more. The polymorphians, who have won fame for themselves as entertainers, turned out in force delighting the populace with their beautiful as well as grotesque displays. As time sped on however the organization commenced to wane and with it the public taste was changed, so now one of the main objects of the resurrected polymorphian clubs is to make national holidays in St. John as they were of old, full of loyalty, and everything that is British.

Polymorphianism in St. John dates back some few years before the centennial exhibition of 1883. At the big celebration in commemoration of our city's one hundredth birthday, the Haymarket Square club with affiliated societies paraded most magnificently, as they did also at a later date, the Queen's Jubilee of ten years ago.

Both these occasions are no doubt quite fresh in the memories of even youthful St. John. Those chiefly identified with the movement at that time and who may today be considered the pioneers of polymorphianism in these parts, were; Messrs. Charles Nevins, J. F. Fraser, R. J. Wilkins, Jas. Slater, Jr. Charles Jackson, W. H. Love, F. Goodere, D. McQuarrie, John Doherty, and Geo. A. Campbell.

North End, or in those days the City of Portland, was represented by Chas. F. Brown, R. H. Rubins, Herbert Eagles, Richard Rawlings, Duncan Lingley, George Gorham and Herbert Howe. When amalgamated the two clubs mustered about two hundred and fifty strong.

Notably, the Dark town fire brigade turned out during the Queen's Jubilee was a spectacular as well as extremely humorous success. When the head of Mill street was reached a halt was called and a medium sized house on wheels was driven on to Market Square and there set on fire. The Laborer's bell at the head of North Wharf rang in an alarm and soon the whole Darktown Brigade was on the scene of conflagration. Members of the brigade rushed into the

burning house and rescued the furniture in a manner affording great amusement to all. When the blaze had been extinguished after a half hour of screamingly ridiculous fun, the brigade answered to their names some of which were as follows: "Rusty Keys Hunter," "Winder Up Vaughan," "Call-Me-Slow Jackson," "First-There Tufts," "Iron Pot Burns," "Scott Act Smith," "Join-On Lowery," "Evaporate Kennedy," "Fish Patterson," "Paste-Pot Connolly," etc. Fully twelve thousand people watched the manoeuvres of the polymorphians which were without doubt the most amusing ever seen in St. John. At the same demonstration the Portland polymorphians illustrated the five decades of Her Majesty's reign and a visiting club from Moncton the "Mikado." The Armoured lancers, "Noah's Ark," "Blind Half-Hundred," "Japanese Pagoda," tableaux "Canada," "Fairy Land" etc., were other specialties in this parade.

At the celebration to be held now in a few weeks the polymorphian displays to be made bid fair to outline in almost every particular the efforts of the old time clubs. There are at present four organizations, the Pioneer Haymarket square club, the south end club, the Algerine contingent of west side and the north end division. All are distinct institutions and the keenest rivalry is being demonstrated to who shall submit the most original and elegant displays. President Jas. McKinney and his band of lieutenants in the South end are using every effort to make their "Jameson Raid" party of one hundred and seventy five mounted men as near the original as possible. In West End President Whipple is receiving any amount of support. The Carleton lads will mount fifty men, seventy five will walk and three floats, burlesque, fancy and suggestive will constitute their part of the parade. The North Enders are working behind the scenes for all they are worth and promise a few surprises. President John Brayley says they will have floats and one hundred and fifty men in line. Judging from the death like silence of the Haymarket square club members one would think theirs was a secret society with coffins and other hideous accessories, but not so they are working on the "Q. T." and do not intend in the least to allow the younger clubs to surpass them. A conservative estimate of the cost of uniforms, horse hire etc. would amount to nearly \$3,000, if not more, so it can readily be understood that the demonstration in this particular is to be carried out on a grand scale.

The only matter at present bothering the polymorphians is the obnoxious of certain members of the Parade committee who desire both the military and polymorphian processions to be held on the same morning, Tuesday June 22d. The utter foolishness of this contention needs no explanation. Any person with reasonable judgment can see at a glance the impossibility of carrying out two such large demonstrations within four hours, not allowing time for delays, accidents, also the fact that one depends larger upon the other for its men who would have to change their uniforms in record-breaking time indeed to make connections.

### WILL HAVE NO WARSHIPS.

HALIFAX WILL BE WITHOUT THEM DURING THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

HALIFAX, June 3.—The orders of an admiral of this station are not like the laws of the Medes and Persians, for they can be changed. The jubilee celebration committee in this city found out the other day that Admiral Eskire had disposed of the ships of his fleet so that there would be none at Halifax while the festivities concerning June 21st. were under way. The committee seemed to take it for granted that the Admiral would have a ship or ships at Halifax whether he was requested or not. Admiral Eskire was not constituted that way. To make up for lost time and try to have the ships here Mayor Stephen and Governor Daly had to do some lively hustling. These two dignitaries held a conference with the Admiral, and told him how desirable it was that the British navy should be represented in what went on at the jubilee in Halifax. The result was that the order sending the flagship Crescent to St. John's, Nfld., for Jubilee week was cancelled and she will float in Halifax harbor.

The week beginning June 21st will be a gay one at Halifax. The annual meeting of the Royal Society and the CABOT celebrat-

ion, added to the jubilee demonstration will keep sightseers fully engaged.

### REVENGE WAS SWEET.

But Paying Costs for Assault Was Quite Another Matter.

TRURO, June 2.—"Insufficient evidence and thrown out of court" was the decision of His Honor Stipendary Crowe, in a rather sensational case brought against the proprietress of The Prince of Wales House, Truro, lately. This was the climax of a craving for revenge on the part of a well known commercial traveller, representing a large rubber firm in Toronto, on whose goods appears a large maltese cross.

Only a few weeks before, the traveller, wife and two children were apparently happy boarders at the Prince of Wales, but, alas, appearances are deceitful. Feeling that the dignity of the firm rested on her shoulders during the absence of her husband, the wife thought that she should be treated to a larger measure of deference than is usually given to the ordinary mortal. It is feared that the son of the proprietress, Walter by name, had not that distinguished regard for the lady that he ought to have had, or did not cultivate the christian graces in her behalf. It is even rumored that he once left a door open and let the draught blow in on the lady, much to her discomfort, and danger to her delicate constitution; at any rate there was a jar, and the lady packed up and left, informing her husband by letter that she had been insulted by Walter and had changed her residence.

Now this commercial traveller is somewhat hot blooded, and being an out and out "Corbetonian" and in touch with all the "fancy" blows, on his return sent emissary after emissary to inform "that young whelp" that when he met him some one would be a-la-Corbett, and it wasn't likely to be the traveller.

Some days passed without a meeting; meantime the pugilistic tendencies were running stronger, and on a fine afternoon the traveller walked up to the hotel with "blood in his eye" "ready to do or die," and found his enemy seated on the verandah.

Walter was first informed in strong terms just what the traveller's opinion was of his character. Eye witnesses vary in their report of the subsequent proceedings as to whether it was a Fitz-simmons short arm hook or a Corbetonian jab. At all events the traveller got in a light right on the face and got away without a return, somewhat exhausted and showing signs of fatigue, but still active; friends rushed in and stopped the battle at this point, and the traveller retired to his home to be sponged down by his trainer. Now if this was all the story would end, but Walter thinking that perhaps it was going beyond a joke to have a man rush up and assault him in his own castle, started the machinery of the law and the same evening a summons for assault was served on the doughty warrior by a sturdy policeman; result—the warrior was gently requested to give over \$6 20 for the maintenance of law and order and bound over for one year to keep the peace, all for the pleasure of avenging his honor by a "deed of arms". But a brilliant idea flashed on him at this stage, and he decided to have his revenge in another way much more satisfactory after all, for there is nothing like striking the pocket. The proprietress kept a small stock of liquors and cigars for the convenience of guests. He had partaken of her hospitality himself; why not bring an action for selling liquor without a license; so he prosecuted, with himself as witness, and testified that he, in company with another gentleman, had drunk a bottle of beer together; the other gentleman had paid for it; the other gentleman was called, but he failed to throw any light on the matter, in fact didn't think he paid for it, while the proprietress was quite sure neither of them had received anything on the date mentioned.

Result, as mentioned at the first of this article, the puglist again is out all the costs of the case.

### The Authorities Do Not Agree.

The action of Liquor License inspector Jones in insisting upon the rigid enforcement of the law is something new in the history of the business in this city. All the saloons that pay \$300 a year for their license are closed at ten o'clock or are supposed to be closed and few if any of them care to risk losing their license by violating the law. But the hotels that pay \$100 for the privilege have been allowed a little latitude for the privilege of their guests, who, it is said have been able to get refreshment as late as midnight in the bar of the house. Now this is changed and the door must be closed at ten o'clock sharp. The reason that this privilege is taken away is said not to be that it was abused, but in the conflict between the authorities as to what was the proper interpretation of the law. The report of several people for selling soda water and light drinks last Sunday is an example of this difference of opinion.

## AFTER THE CONSTABLES.

### MR. KING KELLY THINKS THEY ARE VERY NEGLIGENT.

They do not Attend to Their Duties Properly and Much Annoyance and Inconvenience is Caused Thereby—How Constable Prince Covered Himself With Glory.

Mr. King Kelly has been airing his views this week on the efficiency of the local constabulary force and they are not by any means complimentary to that august body. Mr. Kelly's grievance is not a fancied one at all, nor is it of recent date. He has had several encounters at various times with the local constables and has managed to keep his temper fairly well under very trying circumstances but the last straw was added a short time ago when Mr. Kelly gave one of the not over popular fraternity a summons to serve upon a well known official, against whom Mr. Kelly had a bill of five dollars.

Armed with the proper papers the constable bled him to the residence of his victim but as is the unfailing rule in such cases the man was not at home.

The constable evidently did not consider this as any hindrance to the enforcement of his duty for he left the papers with a little boy with minute instructions to give them to his father when the latter returned. Time passed and as the official did not show any disposition to appear in answer to the summons, or settle the matter out of court, an execution was issued and this is where Mr. Kelly dates his latest trials from. The constable who had left the summons at the official's residence refused to have anything to do with the later papers giving as a reason that he did not know the man by sight. Others to whom he applied refused on the ground that they had not served the summons.

The matter was brought up in the police court one morning this week when Mr. Kelly complained of the constable's action, intimating that about all the latter cared for was to get their fees with the least possible trouble. Summons are given to children sometimes if a man can't be found at the first visit and the constable rarely makes an effort to locate the proper individual, if he doesn't happen to be on hand waiting to receive the man of law. As a consequence the man easily claims that he never received the summons and in this way important cases are delayed sometimes for months, greatly to the annoyance and inconvenience of some of the parties concerned.

Magistrate Ritchie agreed with Mr. Kelly that there was great cause for complaint and said that constables should be made to do their duty, or else be replaced by men who would give proper attention to matters of this kind.

Not long ago a lady, resident of this city sold a portion of her property to the widow of a former Dock street fruit dealer, but before the transfer was made the taxes for this year were paid. The present owner was told of this and therefore did not give the matter any thought. Her surprise was consequently great when constable Prince presented himself a few days ago and requested the payment of a city debt amounting to about five dollars. The owner insisted that the tax had been paid but she had no receipt and the lady from whom she had bought the property was out of the city for the summer.

It was an embarrassing situation, as the property holder did not happen to have the required amount on hand, and the constable was very persistent, in fact insolent, saying in his own elegant way that he "be to have it" then and there, and the consequences would not be very pleasant for somebody. Who the indefinite individual was Mr. Prince did not condescend to explain, and the thoroughly alarmed lady tried to make some arrangement to pay the amount later, but nothing would satisfy the irate constable except an immediate settlement.

Not wishing to have legal proceedings taken against her the lady handed over her gold watch saying that she would redeem it by paying the tax bill in a short time. When the zealous official returned to the city chamberlain's office and handed over his spoils in a little paper bag, that gentleman accepted it smilingly, thinking it was a package of garden seeds that the constable had one time promised him. With that comfortable feeling that comes from consciousness of duty well done Mr. Prince watched the city Chamberlain as in a puzzled

way he examined the contents of the bag. When the explanation which he requested was given, Mr. Prince didn't feel half so good. In fact his action did not look nearly so brave even in his own eyes when he heard what the Chamberlain thought of it, and of the man who would be guilty of such conduct.

Later in the day a daughter of the lady who had been subjected to so much annoyance, came to get back her mother's property. In the meantime it had been found that a mistake had been made in the first place, and that the bill was owed by another woman in the South End, also a widow and of the same name. Apologies were made by the officials but the constable's part in the matter is not regarded as at all creditable to him. If men have these unpleasant duties to perform they should try to act with a little common sense and discretion.

### HE ISN'T A JACKASS.

That's What the Other Man said When He Made an Apology.

HALIFAX, June 3.—It is not a safe thing to make disparaging remarks about a lawyer, or indeed of any one in these days, when the law can be brought to bear on the case. It is more dangerous to commit those statements to writing. This is what E. T. Hammett, a young business man of this city has found out. He had some dealing with F. B. Scott, a bright citizen who is entering on the practice of the law. Mr. Hammett wrote to a client of the lawyer a letter in the course of which he likened the legal gentleman to an ass and made reflections on his knowledge of the law despite a Dalhousie College training. This was the climax of a number of slights directed against the standing of the lawyer. The result was that a writ was issued charging libel and claiming heavy damages, J. F. Frame acting for Mr. Scott, and Harris, Henry and Caban for Hammett. After a few days it was stated that the suit had been settled by the agreement by Hammett to pay \$300 as a salve to the wounded feelings of the aggrieved lawyer.

Some days later it was announced that no such sum had been paid, though the action appeared to be withdrawn. Subsequent to this withdrawal a new writ was issued, the name of another lawyer being substituted in the document. Then the announcement was made again that a settlement had been made out of court. On this occasion it would appear that it is a settlement which is a settlement, and while there is no such salve as \$300 would afford there is a decided quid pro quo for injured reputation. It comes in the form of an apology, and the payment of costs which will not be inconsiderable. The apology is to the point, so it is said, and is to the effect that the lawyer was not ignorant at all, but that the ignorance was all on the part of the young business man who was so audacious as to characterize the legal luminary with lack of knowledge.

It is pleasant to see this little matter end in so amicable and reasonable a way, and both parties are to be congratulated on avoiding litigation, even though litigation is the lawyer's business on this earth.

### HE WANTS THE JOB.

An ex Alderman Thinks the Jail Needs Some Repairs.

Recently much attention has been called to the very bad condition of the roof of the jail building and also of the leaky condition of the spouts in connection. Until last year all repairs of this kind were done by Mr. Magee, but with the advent of a man in a similar business into the city council he lost his job. The work was transferred to the alderman in question, who attended to everything of this kind and put up some new spouts, that in the estimation of those who saw them, were likely to last for some time.

But times have changed since last year and the alderman referred to does not shed his light at the council board any more. He is an ex-alderman now with all the glory and privileges of such a position and rumor has it that he is greatly exercised over the very bad condition of the spouts, and the inconvenience caused pedestrians by the water, which at times he claims flows out over the sidewalk. The majority of people however can see nothing wrong with the spouts or the roof, and it is likely they will be left as they are this year, unless the council decides to put up something permanent in the way of spouts as a sort of jubilee memorial.

Chairs Reseated, Cane, Splint, Perforated Duvet, 17 Waterloo.