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HISTORY BY THEMSELVES.

What the Biographical Review Says About Some St John People.

A somewhat remarkable publication has recently been delivered in this city though the gentlemen who received it do not appear to be in exuberant spirits.

Some eighteen months ago a most persistent and insinuating canvasser by the name of Dunbar began to circulate through New Brunswick and call upon people, more or less prominent in all walks of life. He had a plausible tale and many of those whom he talked with were flattered by it. In short he had been selected to write up the old families of the province—the F. F. V's as it were—and the favor of a sketch was solicited. To obtain one of the books after publication would cost \$16, but this of course was but an incident, for any descendant out of an old family would not object to paying that amount and signing a contract to that effect.

The idea "caught on" and the leading men of the province were the first signers. The rest was easy and the contracts flowed in so fast to Mr. Dunbar that he was always in an amiable frame of mind. The fact that the name of Mr. I. Allen Jack was associated as the editor, made his work much easier for him. It would appear that Dr. Jack's duties were not onerous. If he had seen some of the sketches there is not much doubt but the temptation to use the blue pencil would have been irresistible. The publishers are careful people for the very first thing to meet the eye after the title page is the following "note," which is reproduced in part.

All the biographical sketches published in this volume were submitted to their respective subject or to the subscribers from whom the facts were primarily obtained for approval or correction before going to press. * * * We have indicated all uncorrected sketches by a small asterisk placed immediately after the name of the subject.

In his preface Dr. Jack says that "well regulated family pride is indeed a concomitant, if not an element of patriotism and an essential quality for the maintenance and advancement of society. But in order to render it truly efficacious, creed and practice must go hand in hand, the jewel transmitted to unworthy keeping soon loses lustre, the buried skeleton cannot maintain the standard without the aid of the living descendant. And further that such a pride should be felt but not expressed, at least in words; the boaster is usually, and generally with propriety, classed as a snob when glorying in his own achievement nor can he claim exemption from the term when he relies upon what has been achieved by another."

In the light of the publishers note and the very concise paragraph of Editor Jack some of the biographical facts have an additional interest. The date of the Review is June 1900 so it is the very latest authority at hand. There are some 600 pages in the volume.

From that famous day on the hustings when some one in the audience asked George Robertson, then a candidate for the legislature, whether he was a grit or a tory, and he replied "I am, I am, I am what I am" there has always been a fearful doubt as to which side of the fence this gentleman was on. The question is now decided for the first time; Mr. Robertson is astride of the topmost rail. He has endorsed the following statement: "Politically, Mr. Robertson is an Independent. In 1898 he was elected mayor of the city, a position to which he was annually re-elected until 1898, when he was not a candidate. During his mayoralty he had the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing Canadian interests greatly developed by the opening of St. John and other important ports of the Dominion as ports for the winter trade, a measure which he strongly advocated while president of the Board of Trade."

There are interesting facts in connection with other biographies. For example, Col. Markham almost became an American citizen. He landed in the United States and was a passenger in the ill fated Bohemia which was wrecked and 42 people drowned. Then for two years he worked in the States and came to Kings county as the representative of an American concern. No one will dispute his Canadianism now, however, and nearly every one knows him from his connection with the Sun newspaper.

Dr. Gilchrist, according to the same excellent authority "Settled in Portland * * * and for many years has been regarded as one of the most able physicians in the city. * * * He is chairman of the conservative organization for Landsdowne ward and a member of the executive committee. In campaigning he is said to be a master of invective and sarcasm."

A few of the legal lights are represented in the Review, but perhaps the most complete biography is that of Mr. D. Mullin which as given here is somewhat abbreviated:

Daniel Mullin, Q. C. one of the leading members of his profession in St. John, N. B., his native city, is the son of Patrick Mullin and his wife, Catherine Rice, who, emigrating from Cork county, Ireland, first settled in St. John, subsequently removed to Westmorland County, residing there on a farm for many years, and finally returned to St. John. It will thus be seen that the future lawyer in his youth communed with nature, and doubtless, amid New Brunswick forests primeval, did "find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stone, and good in everything. * * * His reputation for integrity and honorable conduct is the highest, while his success as a lawyer has been notable in all branches of his profession. It is in the criminal courts, however, that he has attained his greatest distinction. His achievements in the defence of prisoners have been indeed remarkable, and he is to day regarded as probably the most powerful advocate at the bar in such cases.

Essentially modest, as he is known to be he could make the proud boast (were it not for his rigid regard for truth, which as a lawyer is not the least of his merits, and which compels him to acknowledge one solitary exception) that he never lost a criminal case before a jury, though he has been engaged in a great number of them. Triumph has followed triumph, and within the last few years, he has had an unbroken series of a dozen such victories to his credit. He possesses in an eminent degree the qualities which go to the make-up of the successful *nisi prius* advocate, his predominant characteristic being intense force coupled with consummate tact and an intuitive knowledge of human nature.

When thoroughly aroused, his forensic eloquence is of a high order, and has been greatly admired. His speech in the defence of Horace G. Burton, who was brought from Toronto on a warrant charging him with embezzlement of a large sum of money from his employers, Messrs. P. F. Collier & Co., (a New York publishing house with a branch in St. John, of which Burton had been manager), and tried in the St. John county court in May, 1897, was pronounced by many persons who heard it to be the finest address delivered in the St. John court-house since S. R. Thompson's famous speech in the Munroe murder trial thirty years ago. On this occasion Mr. Mullin's address, which was a merciless criticism of the methods pursued by the parties behind the prosecution and an impassioned appeal to the sympathies of the jury, occupied over two hours in delivery and evoked deep emotion, causing many of the jury and spectators, as well as the prisoner himself, to shed tears. On being acquitted, Burton with an excess of feeling, dramatically embraced his counsel. The case excited much interest; and the unexpected acquittal of the prisoner, who was a comparative stranger in the city and whose doom to incarceration for a long term in the penitentiary had been a foregone conclusion in public estimation, though a great surprise, produced a revulsion of sentiment on the part of the public toward him.

Although Mr. Mullin, by force of merit alone, now practically monopolizes this branch of the profession in St. John, yet he has no special liking for it, and prefers his general practice, which is large and varied and constantly increasing. * * * Mr. Mullin is yet a young man on the sunny side of forty. He is a Catholic in religion, a Reliance in Equity, a bachelor, and a member of the Union Club, Residence, Carvell Hall, St. John, N. B.

A TALKATIVE SCRAP.

Dibblee Vs. Murphy in the Police Court. This Week.

Edward S. Dibblee, a grocer doing business on the corner of Dorchester and Sewell streets, while he is a true British subject and thinks the world of Her Majesty and her flag, has his own opinion of British law as it affected a case in which he was interested in the police court during the week. He was the plaintiff in an obnoxious language tangle and Edward Murphy, the City road carriage builder, was the defendant.

Mr. Dibblee tells PROGRESS that last fall he took his delivery wagon and carriage to Mr. Murphy's establishment for storage and to be made ready for next spring and summer. Spring came, but neither vehicle was attended to. He had to have his express wagon, so he withdrew it from the repository unpaired. The carriage was not ready until about June 1st, which he claims to have been a very late job indeed.

But the real grievance Mr. Dibblee had was in the manner Mr. Murphy is said to have treated him. When the grocery wagon was taken out of winter quarters it was minus its seat cushion, which Mr. Dibblee swears was in it when the wagon was given over for storage. The carpet belonging to the carriage was also missing upon the return of that vehicle, although "cushion and carpet" was chalked on the under part of the carriage cushion by somebody in the carriage factory. That these articles ever entered his premises Mr. Murphy flatly denied and when Mr. Dibblee inquired in a gentlemanly manner of other employes of the factory as to the whereabouts of his belongings Mr. Murphy flew into a rage.

He rang up the Dibblee grocery on the telephone and threatened to smash the proprietor's face, so the proprietor asserts, and a few minutes later appeared on the scene himself. He was in a passion and extended a hearty invitation to Mr. Dibblee to come out on the street and struggle, but as Mr. Dibblee was a little cooler than his would-be adversary he declined the kind offer with thanks. All efforts to talk calmly were in vain, so after a voluble outpour of wrath talk during which Mr. Dibblee ordered him to depart. Mr. Murphy gave vent to his unfriendliness for the little grocery man.

Then Mr. Dibblee telephoned for a policeman, but the carriage builder, fitted himself with rubber tires, so to speak and slipped softly away ere the brass buttons saluted around the corner. Then the case came into court. Mr. Dibblee told his story and Mr. Murphy, said the grocer called him a whole series of very naughty names. When this was sworn to, Mr. Dibblee says he nearly collapsed, for no such words ever left his mouth. Still this was the chief item of defence Mr. Murphy's lawyer put forth, and as Mr. Dibblee had nobody to plead his case, thinking it unnecessary, the matter was dismissed by the magistrate.

IN BLACKEST ST. JOHN.

What One of the Best Authorities on the Crime, Poverty and Squalor of Our City has to Say.

"If I hadn't seen them with my own eyes I wouldn't have believed that St. John had so many vile spots, so many festering sores I might say."

These words from the most prominent philanthropic agent in the city carried a lot of weight.

"Heretofore we have all labored under the impression that the bad localities and moral cess pools of the town were situated in certain neighborhoods, but that's an old song now. Vice, filth and squalor can be found in every section of the city nowadays, east, west, north, south, and within these lines it is growing commoner. For a city its size St. John is in a disgraceful state."

The lady speaking was none other than Mrs. Hall, the untiring secretary of the Associated Charities, whose years of actual experience with the Kings Daughters and other charitable organizations has fitted her preeminently for the great self imposed task of the Associated Charities. Mrs. Hall is a thoroughly practical woman with the courage of a man, and goes about her endless work with such vigor and tact that St. John's darkest side is fast being revealed to the wondering populace like the unrolling of a giant canvas.

In her slumming tours and poverty investigations Mrs. Hall has found enough want, misery and degradation right here in little St. John to make the very angels weep. She has an entirely unique view of the city in her mind, a mental map, which few, if any others possess. To her our once-thought good and moral Loyalist town is spotted like a leopard with disreputable resorts, feated tenements, poverty-stricken households and workless families. She can put her hand on any one of them and tell pretty nearly all about them: She has learned of them either from personal investigation or from the reports of her half dozen aides. The Board of Health have frequently to confer with her, the Alms House Commissioners seek her knowledge quite often, in fact all the civic and provincial authorities of this sort have grown to greatly acknowledge and respect the wonderful forward movement of the Associated Charities yet but a year and a quarter old. The amount of work still ahead of this organization is enormous. New territory and unheard of cases are coming to light every month, but the A. C. is arming to the teeth for the fray, and when winter with its bane of want and woe sets in the small but specially selected corps of practical christianity exponents will be into the thickest of it, strong and unflinching.

All last winter the Associated Charities did a noble work. Over seventy families were provided for and made comfortable. Mrs. Hall and her half dozen Investigators kept a vigilant watch for all classes of need and each one was thoroughly inquired into. Many applications for aid were made to headquarters and alike received fullest attention. As soon as the Investigators, who went about their work more as a friendly visitor than in a business-like way, made their reports to headquarters the case was handed over to the church to which the needy one said they belonged, or attended. Then material aid was dispensed by the church.

In this manner a very great many frauds were stamped out, frauds that have been existing in St. John for years. Unworthy and lying people have season in and season out been plying from church to church, from neighborhood to neighborhood, seeking unnecessary aid, telling of their "ten children" perhaps, children they never had, and of bogus consumptive husbands. While in a large measure such fake beggars have been cast aside, a great many new and perfectly worthy cases have been unearthed, people who were loathe to make known their dire necessities.

"I estimate conservatively when I say that \$10,000 has for years been wasted in St. John by indiscriminate charity," said Mrs. Hall, "but through the agency of the Associated Charities we are making every cent find its value in real, needed aid."

"During the months of July and August",

says Mrs. Hall, "there are comparatively few needy cases. Pretty nearly everybody can get work, but as soon as building matters become slack and general laboring drops off the monster of want starts on a rampage"

"All the employers in the city are telephoned daily in the "no-work" seasons and asked if there is not some chores or small jobs to be done. Often there are and applicants are sent to do them."

Then speaking of the laxity of the law in certain cases an instance was cited in which an old man and his sister were for weeks locked in their home, both sick. They were in a frightful state when found, which was only after the house had been virtually broken into. The Board of Health was next communicated with, but the old man died. This was in one of St. John's most desirable neighborhoods.

Among the squalor districts in town, are the Acadia, Chapel street hovels in North End, the Duke street alleys and shanties, Sheffield street dens, some Brussel street and Marsh Road houses, and a few Main street tenements.

The following extracts from the constitution of the Associated Charities are self explanatory:

"The objects of this Society shall be: To secure the concurrent and unanimous action of the different charities of Saint John in order to raise the needy above the need of relief, prevent begging and imposture, diminish pauperism; to aid in the diffusion of knowledge on subjects connected with the relief of the poor."

In order to promote these objects it is designed that the Association shall be a centre of communication between the various churches and charitable agencies in the city with a view to fostering co operation among them.

"It shall investigate thoroughly and without charge the cases of applicants for relief which are referred to the Association for enquiry, and keep a correct register of the same; and send to the persons having a legitimate interest in such cases full reports of the results of investigation."

"It shall keep a list of persons desiring to have work done and a list of applicants for work (domestic service expected) and assist in bringing those persons into communication."

It shall provide friendly visitors who give counsel and advice in cases referred to the society."

O'DONNELL MEETS HIS MATCH.

A Halifax Doctor who Would not put up With his Nonsense.

HALIFAX Aug. 2.—Halifax has a sensation! The mighty has fallen and in falling bit the dust. The redoubtable "Neddy" has met his Waterloo and that at the hands of a well built and muscular sawbones who put up such a scientific battery, he nonplussed and out punched the erstwhile alderman from ward 4. The event happened some days ago, and is only now getting out, the affair being kept quiet for obvious reasons. Now how, ever, it ceases to be a nine days wonder, and the puppys eyes being opened, the sports about town are beginning to enjoy a laugh at the alderman's expense. The row or quarrel began from small beginnings. The Alderman with his usual pomp and importance used his mouth with too great effect calling the worthy sawbones a plain unvarnished liar, and following it up with a slap on the face. This roused the ire of the M. D., and without considering the non-importance of the representative from ward 4, sailed in with all sails flying, and soon laid the corpulent alderman hors de combat. The mill was soon over for friends of each combatant stopped the fracas and restored order not however, before the belligerent alderman had received a discolored optic, and a pretty good thumping. The M. D. is receiving congratulations all round, for the alderman is not loved but by a few and is more cordially hated than any man in a public position in this city.

She Went Home in a Barrel.

Yarmouth Times). Persons who go in bathing at the Sand Beach should take care to conceal their garments before making the acquaintance of the briny, else they may meet with the unpleasant experience undergone a few days ago by a young lady, who was forced to walk from the beach to the home in town, minus the nether garments demanded by conventionality.

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