

Time Institutions in Charlottetown

Some of the text of the lecture... "Some Old Time Literary Institutions of Charlottetown" delivered by Mr. W. L. Cot...

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introductory remarks to do with the old-time literary and other institutions in Charlottetown, the subject which I am to discuss before you this evening. Those to whom I have referred, ladies and gentlemen, were of the personnel with the conditions and circumstances in and by which the finished products were and are developed; and the old-time literary and other institutions of Charlottetown were, as I shall show, very influential in the production of the ability that has been displayed by P. E. Islanders and recognized throughout this North American continent and to some extent throughout the British Empire and the world at large.

on Society," by John Lawson, Q.C.; "An Enquiry into Some of the Causes which have had a Tendency to Retard Civilization," by the Hon. George Dalrymple; "The Art of Dyeing," by Mr. Hatch; "Astronomy as Practically Applied to Some of the More Useful Sciences," by Duncan McLean, editor of The Islander; "On the Moral Faculty," by the Rev. Robert S. Patterson, Presbyterian pastor of Bedford; "On the Objects, Uses and Means of Knowledge," by the Rev. John Kier, of Malpeque; "On the Deluge," by Rev. John Geddie; "Elementary Education," by Mr. John LaPage, afterwards known as the Island Minister; "On the Nature and Sources of Human Happiness," by Ben. Clark; "On the Origin and Forces of Civil Government," by Rev. Robert S. Patterson; "On Commerce," by the Hon. Daniel Brennan; "On the Fisheries of the Island," by Captain Edward Kitcham; and "On Mechanics," by Mr. Isaac MacPhail. The Islander reported that Mr. Smith treated this subject in a masterly manner, and took a most comprehensive view of it. He investigated with great clearness the properties of matter and the laws of gravitation and motion. Another notable lecture was that of the Hon. Edward Whelan on "The Character and Genius of Shakespeare."

ber, 1875. Mr. Robert Harris opened a debate on the question "Does any Good Result from the Existence of National Societies in the Colonies." After a long and heated discussion this question was decided in the negative. A paper by Mr. A. B. Warburton on "The Great Epochs of English Literature, and the Events which Caused them," was on the following week read before a large audience of ladies and gentlemen, and highly commended by subscribers. Later, the question, "Should the Government Subsidize Branch Railways on this island," was opened by Mr. Robert G. Weeks, and after a lively debate decided in the negative. "The Respective Merits of Grant and Greeley," was one of the questions discussed, the opener being Mr. Neil McLeod, afterwards the Hon. Judge McLeod, of Prince County. On the following week the subject of discussion was "The Character of Cromwell," the opener of the discussion being Mr. H. James Palmer. Early in the season of 1876, Mr. W. W. Stumbles opened this question, "Does a Person Gain More Benefit from Reading all Available Books than he does from only Standard Works," and among other questions discussed were: "Have the Colonies Sufficient Cause to Revolt Against the British Crown?" This discussion was opened by Mr. Thomas W. May, and decided in the affirmative. "Should the Policy of the Dominion Government in Respect to the Canadian Pacific Railway be Endorsed by the People," was a question opened by Mr. Donald C. MacNeil and decided in the negative. "Is the Secular Principle of the present Free School System the Best for the Country," was a question opened by Mr. Oliver Rattenbury, and decided in the negative. "Should Voting be Made Compulsory in this Dominion," was a question opened by Mr. Henry Lawson, and also decided in the negative. For these debates the leading members made careful preparation, and were enabled to deliver their facts and opinions with force and effectiveness.



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L. Cotton. There were others who took part in the critical activities of the Shakespeare Club from time to time. The method pursued by members of the Club, as far as the first of all, to read carefully a play or part of a play, and then to review it, dwelling upon the particular beauty of its several parts and on the wisdom and imagination of the poet as well as on the historic incidents referred to, and treated. In one of his plays, Shakespeare remarks that "beauty is bought by judgment of the eye." It was by careful scrutiny of his lines that many of the beauties of Shakespeare were impressed upon the imaginations and the memories of the Shakespeare Club. In this way, also, members of the Club obtained clearer views of some of the more stirring events in British History than were possible by personal of the prose writer. More than that, the stirring events and personages of history, anterior to those of Great Britain, such as the tragic death of Caesar and Coriolanus, were recorded in words that became fixed in the memory—the treasure house of the mind. Scholars and critics have determined that the name of Shakespeare is the greatest in our literature. By many it is held to be the greatest in all literature. Others may have been even more pathetic, others may have equalled him in grace and purity of language, and many others may have avoided his faults—but no name is held, ever came near him in the creative powers of the mind; no man has had such strength of diction, combined with such variety of imagination. The philosophy of Shakespeare, his intimate searching of the human heart in the dramatic exhibition of character, is a gift peculiarly his own.

She to her home will go. A teacher from West Kent Street School. A man of noble worth, Can always be relied upon. The meaning to unearth.

And to the members one and all. I have a word to say. In taking up the books to read, Let me request I pray.

There was the Native Benevolent Society, established in the year 1840, of which the late Mr. Charles DesBrisay was the honoured secretary, and the Hon. Geo. Coles, Hon. Wm. McDonald, Hon. Patrick Walker, and Messrs Donald Beaton and John Collings formed the committee of charity. The ladies now as conceives into societies for the benefit of their sisters in the community. In 1844 The Ladies Benevolent Society included Lady Hurdley, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor, Mrs. Bayfield, wife of Admiral Justice Jarvis, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Orlebar, Mrs. Beete, Mrs. McKinnon, Miss Hodgson, Miss MacGowan, and Miss Fanning. But the most numerous, widespread and active of the societies, and probably the most necessary and useful, were the temperance societies. In the early years of the last century the Liquor Evil, widespread throughout the island, causing much distress and poverty together with sins and crimes of various kinds—and early deaths—When the population of Charlottetown was about ten thousand there were it was stated, no less than sixty open taverns, with wide bounds. Throughout the country there were in every village, several taverns, and along the sides of the main post roads there were taverns within five or ten or twelve miles of each other. Of the social conditions and customs of that period we have a most interesting picture have myself seen run down by the bucketful when an election was pending, and at every frolic in the country, and many of the social gatherings, there was drinking and drunkenness. The very best men in town and country were victims of the liquor habit for intoxicants. In this situation the Clergy—Roman Catholic and Protestant alike—were roused to take an active and prominent part in the formation of temperance societies. In January of the year 1841, "A Grand Temperance Convocation" was held in Charlottetown. As a result a branch of the British and Foreign Temperance Society was the next day motion of the Rev. John Knox, pastor of the Baptist Church, formed in this City. On the same day a number of prominent Roman Catholics met in the parochial house in this city at the invitation of the Rev. Father Reynolds, and it was there and then resolved, that the efforts recently resorted to by our reverend Bishop, the Right Rev. D. Macdonald, in order to realize in this island a society professing total abstinence from the use of all intoxicating drinks, such efforts having the deserved success, as the maintenance of such principles amounts to nearly five thousand individuals and as there is every probability of a vast accession of others yet embracing the revered principle of temperance—therefore this meeting deems it necessary to organize and establish in this island a Provincial Benevolent Institution for the pecuniary relief of such indigent professors of temperance as may be deemed worthy thereof.

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For a number of years Roman Catholic priests and Protestant ministers preached and worked and prayed, each in his own way, and through temperance societies, Bands of Hope, etc., towards the abatement of the Liquor Evil, and the betterment of social and economic conditions throughout the Province. That they were successful is now apparent. In the early years of the last century, the late Rev. Geo. W. Hodgson and the late Rev. Father McGillivray led in a movement towards the introduction of the Canada Temperance Act; and later, when it was shown that the effects of that law were not satisfactory, the Prohibitory Liquor Law was introduced and enacted under the leadership of the late Hon. Donald Farquharson. Though there are yet some evil results of the illicit sale and use of intoxicants and though the activities of the clergy and leading laymen of the Province on behalf of total abstinence have been greatly lessened, the social evil of temperance has been to a large extent minimized. There are no such scenes as were all too frequent in the past, and the name of Prince Edward Island remains at the head of the official lists of Provinces in respect to absence of crimes and disturbances of the peace.

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in full accord with the Rev. Mr. MacKenzie, who said at the conclusion of one of his courses of lectures, that the Charlottetown Debating Club ought to be revived. In the meantime the young men who attend this course of lectures do well if they prepare to take part in the hour after discussions, and so improve themselves, and prepare for progressive movement. The youths of town and country must enlarge their sphere of action beyond that of the daily round and trivial talk—they must begin to think nationally, imperially, scientifically, carefully about the questions and problems which confront us in Canada of ours if they are to keep in the higher walks of life, make legible footprints in the sands of time, or promote the prosperity and greatness of their country and the consideration, study and explanation of questions such as those discussed by members of the Mechanics Institute, the Ch'Town Debating Club, the Shakespeare Club and the Natural History Club of Prince Edward Island, will arouse interest and impel thought upon conditions by which humanity is affected and compel resort to the methods which make for mental and all round improvement. I have no instance, would never have gained its facility of speech as a popular and parliamentary orator, if he had not practised carefully the art of speaking effectively in public would never have gained the knowledge of human nature and of the problems affecting mankind which is the highest goal to fill successfully the highest positions in the State and on the judiciary if he had not been impelled to the study of such questions as those discussed by members of the Ch'Town Debating Club, if he had not been constrained to meet argument by argument, opinion by opinion, to contest with his fellow members questions outside the sphere of the law which was his profession. Edmund Burke said truly "that great men are never sufficiently shown but in their struggles;" and certainly, men never arrive at the heights of intellect, against the attrition of mind against mind that intellects are brightened and sharpened. It is by the study and contemplation of works such as those studied and contemplated by the members of the Shakespeare Club that men and women are improved and elevated. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the clubs and societies as those to which I have directed your attention this evening will be revived and maintained in Charlottetown and throughout Prince Edward Island. The winter season, stimulating to mental as well as to physical activity, with the surcease from business and labor which they afford to many persons, should be utilized in the promotion of individual and general improvement.

Spanish Love Song As He Went To The Gallows. FLORENCE, AFR., Jan. 12.—Before being hanged for the murder of a policeman, William A. Lawrence, 27, played a guitar and sang a Spanish love song. Before stepping on the trap he asked the several people present to kneel in a seven minute silent prayer.

Plan A Success. CHICAGO, Jan. 12.—The success of the Dawes plan was outlined here by Owen D. Young, who was a companion of the President Dawes in the reparations conference at Paris, before the Commercial Club of Chicago. "Germany should have paid, by the terms of the plan, one billion marks in the past year," he said. "Actually, she did pay 1,000,225,000. Of the money paid in reparations by Germany, France received 47 per cent—454,000,000 gold marks. The United States received 15,000,000, while Great Britain drew 190,000,000."

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