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THE MAGAZINE GUARDIAN

Succeeding the PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAGAZINE Issued Every Saturday Morning.

OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS NEW SERIES No. 6

By John McSwain

BELONGING to the same order as the ducks are the wild geese, brant and swans. The arrival of the wild goose or Canada goose is noted with satisfaction as it is one of our most certain indications of the anticipated coming of the warm weather of spring. As soon as open spaces are formed in the Bays and Harbors under the influence of the increasing warmth of the lengthened March days, they occupy the openings, rifts in the dreary ice and snow encountered scenery of sea and land.

Here they obtain their food, which is chiefly vegetable, as well as the rest needed in their long journey to the distant north. When flying, they advance in two columns which meet in front and have the form of a wedge. The leader, generally an old and experienced gander, leads the double column. With his honking cry he guides the closely following columns, warns them of danger and seeks a place for rest and refreshment. The one does not occupy this position during the whole journey. Others among the veterans of the flock relieve him from this duty and assume the leadership.

The first to arrive are here some time in March, rarely later. In the year 1902 their arrival was recorded on March 3rd, the earliest since 1894. The latest during the same period was on April 8th, 1890. An average date for these ten years would be the 20th of March and we may assume this date to be the average time of arrival of the wild geese.

Besides the interest in their arrival common to all as indicating the coming of the genial days of spring and summer there are some who have an added interest aroused by the prospect of capturing the wild goose. Waylaid and deceived, while on their way north and south, some fall victims to the artifices of the wily and inventive human animal. Yet so wary and watchful have they become through this constant persecution that comparatively few succumb to the deceptive and fatal instruments of man's ingenuity. "So acute" says Audubon, "is their sense of hearing that they are able to distinguish the different sounds or footsteps of their friends or foes with astonishing accuracy. Thus the breaking of a stick by a deer is distinguished from the same accident occasioned by a man. If a dozen large turtles drop into the water making a great noise in their fall, or if the same effect has been produced by an alligator, the wild geese pay no regard to it, but however faint and distant may be the sound of an Indian paddle that may by accident have struck the side of the canoe, it is at once marked.

Every individual raises its head and looks intently towards the place from which the noise has proceeded, and in silence all watch the movements of the enemy."

Their object is to reach a nesting site far from the haunts of man, where undisturbed and in security they may rear their nestlings. Of their breeding ground, Dr. Bell of the Geological Survey of Canada says: "The southern limit of the ordinary breeding ground of the Canada Goose runs northward across the continent from the Maritime Provinces to the valley of the McKenzie. I have met with them breeding in considerable numbers in the interior of Newfoundland; but in the same latitude, between the Great Lakes and James' Bay, only chance pairs lag behind in their northward flight to hatch their broods. They also breed on the islands along the east coast of Hudson's Bay. To the westward of the Bay they are first met with, raising their young on the lower part of Churchill river. To the eastward it is said that very few Canada geese breed northward of Hudson's Strait."

In the catalogue of the American Ornithologists Union fourteen species of geese are enumerated as North American. Two species of brant are included in this enumeration. Most of them are found on the Pacific Coast, or in the interior of the Continent. But besides the Canada or wild goose *Branta Canadensis* and the brant *Branta Bernicla* a few of the others are seen as accidental visitors on the Atlantic side. Altogether we may name the following as being found, at one time or another in greater or less numbers, on our Eastern coast:

Greater snow goose.....very rare
American white fronted goose.....occasional
Canada or wild goose.....common
Hutchin's Goose.....rare
Brant.....common

Here are short descriptions of the five named above. As there is little likelihood of any other being found here, these descriptions will be sufficient to identify any goose which, through good or evil fortune, may be captured by any reader of this article. The Greater Snow Goose is white in its adult plumage, with the head sometimes of a rusty red. The bill and feet are red. It is thirty inches in length. The young are of a dull bluish color.

The White Fronted Goose has the head, neck and back gray with more or less white on the rest of the body. In its mature state there is a white band on its forehead just at the base of the upper mandible. The young bird is without this white band. The bill is pink; the feet are yellow. It measures in length twenty-seven inches.

The Canada Goose or Wild Goose is brownish grey above, lighter or paler below. The head, neck and tail are black. A large patch of white on the throat extends upwards. The bill and feet are black. Length thirty-six inches.

Hutchin's Goose answers to the description of the Canada Goose which is given above. There are minor points of difference; the principal are its smaller size and that its tail is sixteen feathered. The tail of the wild goose has eighteen feathers. Its length is thirty inches.

The Brant has the head, neck and fore part of the body, black. There are white streaks on each side of the neck and some white underneath. Its bill and feet are black. The length is twenty-four inches.

The neck of a swan is as long as the body; the neck of the goose is shorter than its body. Two swans are found in North America. They migrate to the north also during the breeding season and rear their young within the Arctic Circle, on the Islands along the shores of Hudson's Bay or in Alaska. One species, the Trumpeter Swan seems to have a more western range than the other which is seen sometimes along the Atlantic coast. Both are white as all swans are excepting the one Australian species which is black.

There is but one record of a swan being taken here and that was by Mr. William Stead of Wheatley River on October 7th, 1885. It was the Whistling Swan and the mounted specimen is in the private collection of Judge McDonald in this city.

CONTINUITY

There is no death—for, in the great Hereafter
Remembrance of this life shall have its part;
Nor shall our griefs and sorrows, joys and laughter
In the last sleep depart from mind and heart.

The eye that flamed, inspired with glorious vision,
Shall it be blind, and deaf the listening ear?
Shall the freed spirit, bent on its new mission,
Fail to commune with those on earth held dear?

Will Raphael in that life of bliss and wonder,
Forget the Virgin which his genius wrought?
Will Mozart cease to love his Requiem yonder?
Will Shakespeare give his Hamlet no more thought?

No it can never be. That which gave life its merit
On this our earth shall still be ours to love
In form perfected by the gracious Spirit,
Who gives this life, and fuller life above.

* It is an open secret that this poem is by the Russian Grand Duke Constantine.

PEN PICTURES OF THE FATHERS

THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE

A conspicuous figure in the first session of the Canadian Parliament was the eloquent Irishman, Thomas D'Arcy McGee. His ability and genius, his eventful life and his tragic death alike contribute to keep his memory fresh in the hearts of his countrymen and of the Canadian people. In his early life in Carlingford, Ireland, where he was born, he was contemporary with the great Father Matthew, the apostle of temperance, and young McGee became the eloquent boy-advocate of total abstinence.

Later he listened to O'Connell in those great out-door meetings which were some times attended by 100,000 people. His ardent nature became imbued with a deep sense of the wrongs of his native land and this had led on eventually to his joining in the mad effort to overthrow British power in Ireland by revolution. The revolution ended in a miserable fiasco, and McGee, with a price set on his head, fled in disguise to America.

He arrived in the States with the strong conviction that these things would be quite to his liking, but like Tom Moore he was destined to become disillusioned, and in 1837 he came to Montreal, founded a newspaper and entered Canadian politics as the representative of Montreal West, a position which he held until his death. At 37 years of age he was made President of the Council in the Liberal Government of that time, led by Sandfield Macdonald. He had risen solely by his talents of speaking and writing.

In time and not without cause he broke with his Liberal colleagues, but was again elected at the head of the poll in Montreal, and became Minister of Agriculture in the Conservative Cabinet of which Sir John Macdonald was the real, and Sir Etienne Tache the nominal leader. He had now become a devoted upholder of British rule which still an ardent lover of Ireland, he gave his zealous and eloquent support to the confederation movement and rendered great service in shaping the sentiments of the Irish people in Canada in its favor.

It was in Ottawa in November 1867 that I first met Mr. McGee. I held a junior clerkship in the House of Commons and was interested in him from several reasons. He was one of the Committee associated with the Speaker in managing the internal economy of the House. The staff of the House was almost wholly the old Canadian officials of pre-confederation days. Mr. McGee contended generously for the rights of the Maritime Provinces in the distribution of offices in connection with Parliament and the Departments. The true basis, he maintained, was to give the Eastern Provinces one third of the offices, as they were given one third of the membership in the Senate.

This generous attitude toward the weaker Provinces was an evidence of his sense of fairness and justice in which, however, he was not supported by the majority from Ontario and Quebec. I was interested in Mr. McGee for other reasons. He was a journalist of note and recognized as such in Ireland, in the United States and throughout Canada. I had made a beginning in writing for the press, and was then sending from day to day sketches of the sayings and doings at Ottawa to a St. John newspaper. Unknown to me he was reading some of the things I wrote. "Once he came to my room with the St. John Telegraph in hand," "I am told you wrote that," he said indicating an Ottawa letter. I modestly admitted as much. Then he laid his head on my shoulder. "Keep on writing," he said simply, but earnestly.

He came frequently to my room and we talked of various things. He was a most engaging man. Once he told me of the threats and plots against his life. It seemed incredible to me that any one could wish to do him harm, and I told him so. He repeated very sadly that his days were numbered. "I shall be shot in the back," he said, and then turning away as he walked slowly toward the door he repeated, "I shall be shot in the back."

How sadly prophetic these words were the event proved only too truly. Even then, though we did not know it, the assassin was dogging his footsteps.

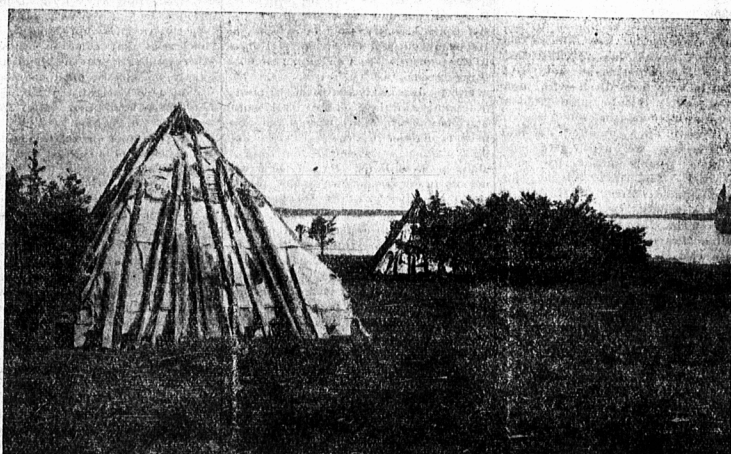
I heard his first great speech in the Canadian Parliament and listened enraptured to his melodious periods. House and galleries were alike spell-bound. The orator had been ill and was slightly lame. He walked with a cane. As he delivered his great speech he rested one knee on a chair. Thus restrained in regard to the accessories of oratory, it may be added that his gestures were singularly infrequent and reserved. There was only the animated countenance, the magnetic eye, the fervor and music of his voice, the force and scope of his argument and the classic beauty of thought and diction. These were enough. It was the greatest speech I ever listened to in seventeen sessions of Parliament which it was my privilege to attend.

Mr. McGee was at this time forty-two years of age. He was short and stout in figure, of very dark complexion, with a large head, adorned with curling locks. He had a great heart and a great brain. When some months later his life had ceased and an autopsy was, quite unnecessarily, held on his remains by Coroner Van Cortlandt his brain was weighed and found to be with a single exception the heaviest of which there was any record. Few men, even among the great ones by whom he was surrounded had attained any such fame as he at the age of forty-two. What a pity that he could not have been spared to enjoy and to adorn the public life of Canada down to a green old age!

I must reserve for another paper some account of his tragic death and the trial and execution of his murderer.

M.

(To be concluded.)



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FRAGMENTS OF THE ADDRESS OF REV. WM. DOBSON AT THE TEACHERS' FEDERATION

THE powers and possibilities that existed in Plato, Homer, Shakespeare and Dante lurk in us all. The laws of heredity determine mental accoutrements.

Heredity means more than the transmission of parental characteristics. As in chemical union compounds possess properties differing from those of their constituents, so the abilities and tendencies of children are frequently dissimilar to those of parents. Genius is often of commonplace parentage.

The philosophic mind deals with general principles rather than particular details, is capable of holding itself down on a given fact until it sees its difference from all other facts, learning thus to compare all facts of knowledge according to their likenesses and differences and view them to their harmonious relation to each other.

The large majority of men see things isolated, not united in a common whole. One fault of novelists, politicians and preachers is that they retail the ideas of others uncolored by their own thought and individuality.

Genius is the philosophic mind risen to its height in masterly constructiveness.

the ability to see the infinite relations of things and group them in the wondrous harmonies that bespeak rhythm of soul. The genius of Shakespeare, of Dante, of Sir Isaac Newton was no less present in their childhood than in the acme of their splendor. There was no creation in after life; time but unfolded their natures.

We make the mistake that children think wrongly or ungrammatically. A child's intellect is conditioned on all sides by intellectual laws. No child ever thought ungrammatically, but only the symbols of thought are inaccurate.

No teacher may outrage the laws that govern a child's intellect, or thwart his constitution.

As it is the function of medical science to remove pain, to restore harmony between our physical natures and the laws of their being, so it is the duty of teachers to remove all friction, and allow children's minds to unfold naturally, to develop a fullness and roundness, to lay themselves open to all their surroundings.

The aim of education should be to develop the weaker tendencies of children, that their natures may be symmetrical. One should not allow his logical or poetical

or metaphysical proclivities to run away with him. Education means more than leading out the powers and possibilities of children's natures; it means the revealing of a child to himself.

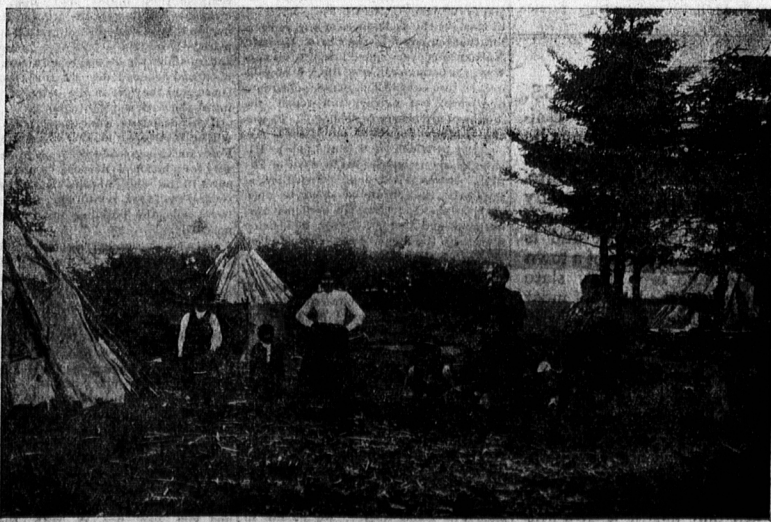
To be educated to-day means the ability to bring our minds to bear on all subjects around us.

What is uninteresting needs the genius of teachers to make it interesting.

All the value of a book is its power to reveal oneself to oneself. Facts of knowledge are of use only as they are built up into a whole—isolated facts are but a burden to memory, a nuisance to one's brain.

The greatest responsibility of teachers is their personal influence, that influence which moulds and fashions the characters of those they teach, and shapes their destinies for time and eternity. Proud, vain, skeptical, pedantic teachers see their characteristics imaged in their pupils. Gentleness and refinement beg gentleness and refinement.

The secret of all true nobility is the culture of the heart.



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Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald, Hazeldean, Ont., writes us as follows: "I was a great sufferer from kidney trouble for eight months. I had terrible pains across the small of my back. I would have to stay in bed for three days at a time and could not do any work. I tried several remedies but of no avail, and also plasters but they were of no use."

One day a neighbor of mine advised me to try Doan's Kidney Pills. I was so much discouraged I told him I was tired of trying remedies, but he urged me to try one box so I purchased one, and before I was through using it, I found a change for the better so I got five boxes more, and I have had no trouble with my kidneys since. I would not be without Doan's Pills in my house."

It is really not difficult to cure kidney trouble in its first stages. All you have to do is to give Doan's Kidney Pills a trial. They are a never-failing cure for all forms of kidney trouble. They quickly relieve the congested, overworked kidneys, and gradually bring them back to health.

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