

Historical Society.

VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION—LIGHT ON A DARK ACT—THE MISSING RECORD FOUND, WITH A CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT OF THE LOSS.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Historical Society was held in the Legislative Library, on Saturday last, 4th March, instant. Present—Rev. George W. Hodgson, Judge Alley, Charles Palmer, Esq., Malcolm McLeod, Esq.

A Committee consisting of Messrs. Malcolm McLeod, G. W. Hodgson, and A. Macdonald was appointed to prepare an Act of Incorporation of the Society, to endeavor to effect some arrangement with the Government and Legislature, whereby the Legislative Library may be placed under their control, and also to secure a place of meeting in the Provincial Building, and a grant in aid of the Society's operations.

The Clerk brought to the notice of the Committee that he had received a large volume, with a letter accompanying it, addressed, "Charles Palmer, Esq., President Historical Society."

The letter, which was read, is as follows: To Charles Palmer, Esquire, Member of the Historical Society of P. E. Island.

Sir,—Accompanying this letter you will find a volume, which I ask you to place in the archives of your Society, for the benefit and instruction of future generations.

It possesses no intrinsic value, and but little antiquarian interest; nevertheless, it is historical in its character and may hereafter supply a fund of information not obtainable elsewhere. It contains a faithful record of the doings of our police authorities, and with a single eye to the claims of veracity it registers the hours of duty of the police officers, their waking and sleeping moments, the hours they are on duty, off duty, and unfit for duty.

How it came into my possession it is not necessary to enquire. During the silent watches of the night, between the hours when the God of day sinks beneath the western horizon and the still calm of that supreme moment when he again appears in the east to enlighten our planet with the resplendent rays of his countenance, a lonely traveller strayed into the sacred precincts of the Police Station. All was quiet and serene, and the stillness of night was only broken by the snoring of the officers, who, walled in the embrace of Morpheus, made night hideous with their deep and snoring snoring. I have kept the precious volume ever since that midnight adventure transferred it to my custody.

I now hand it over to a Society for whose welfare I have the very best wishes, &c.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, SIMON MITCHELL, Mic-Mac.

Owing to the absence of a number of the members of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned until Saturday next, 11th March, inst., when all the members of the Committee are respectfully requested to attend at the Governor's Office, Provincial Building.

FREDERICK W. HUGHES, Clerk to Committee.

The Temporaries' Fund.

On the suggestion of the following gentlemen, viz: James Croil, Vice-Convenor of Committee on Legislation; John Cook, D. D., Member of Temporaries' Board and Commuting Minister; Robert Campbell, M. A., Member of Synod's Committee on Legislation; William Darling, Chairman of Temporaries' Board; Daniel M. Gordon, B. D., Member of Temporaries' Board; John L. Morris, Member of Temporaries' Board and Synod's Committee on Legislation; Robert Dennistoun, Member of Temporaries' Board, the subjoined petition has been put in circulation:

To the Honorable the House of Commons of the Dominion in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the undersigned members and adherents of the Presbyterian congregation of — in the Province of —, respectfully sheweth—

That your petitioners have no direct pecuniary interest in the Fund known as the Temporaries' Fund; but they have an interest in seeing the terms carried out on which the Union of Presbyterians was accomplished in the year 1875—76, and which, under discussion, were held to have accorded justice to all parties concerned;

That one of the conditions on which the Ministers and Members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, went into that Union, was that the property in question should be legal conveyed with them into the Union—

which condition they believed was secured by the Act of the Province of Quebec, recently declared unconstitutional by the Privy Council;

That the Union has been harmonious and satisfactory, a boon to the religious community embraced in it, and they believe a blessing to the Dominion; but the disturbance of what was thought legally settled is likely to affect injuriously the peace and prosperity of the United Church;

Wherefore, it will afford great satisfaction to your petitioners that effect be given by the Parliament of Canada to the wishes of the late Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, one of the parties to the Union, as expressed in the Act lately declared invalid, by passing the same into law.

And your petitioners will ever humbly pray.

Fair Trade.

THE Fair Trade movement is still moving in England; and a writer in the London Quarterly furnishes, in a few words, "the reason why." He says:—

"The financial pretenders tell us that whether we spend our money abroad or at home, it is all the same; but Adam Smith does not say so. If we buy in the cheapest market, we ought to be able to sell in the dearest, and that we cannot do. We are not free to exchange our iron or cotton for all the corn we want. We must pay in cash, or the direct equivalent of cash. That a nation can permanently prosper with a trade carried on under these circumstances, no man of common sense will believe."

The Lost Register.

THE Stipendiary Magistrate, the police officers, members of the City Council, and citizens generally, will be delighted to know that the missing "register" is in possession of the Historical Society. That the person who sent it remains unknown will not be regretted, or only regretted inasmuch as it will be impossible to give him the thanks he deserves for the recovery of the volume and for the letter he has written in connection with its presentation to the Historical Society. We can imagine, though we cannot describe, the feelings of the grave and learned committee as the parcel was, with all due deliberation, untied, and the long lost volume, with its accompanying note, were revealed.

NOVELS.

DR. MURRAY'S LECTURE. (Summary Report.)

1. NOVELS—the word is indefinite, and, in itself, gives no idea of the nature or character of that species of literature to which it is now appropriated. Writers define the novel to be a portrait of something new, falling within the domain of fancy or imagination, with its interest centering in love.

The romance which originally was applied to the wild and extravagant fancies of the Troubadours, is founded on song, and is generally classified as follows: (1.) the allegory, this containing the fable and the allegory; (2.) the extravaganza and (3.) the sentimental romance—the love and marriage tale. The novel proper, is founded on the imagination which creates something new. It is divided into the following: 1. The novel of domestic life containing reference to national peculiarities of men and manners and the home life. 2. The didactic novel, which seeks to convey information on subjects moral, social, political and religious. The sphere of the domestic life is essentially the sphere of the novel, and love its great theme. As the former is the foundation of all society, and the latter what makes life worth living, it will be seen how absolutely necessary it is to follow the guidance of God in both. Departure from this must work wide spread and terrible ruin. Do novelists follow this guidance?

How can the romance justify its existence? If it can aid in a preparatory way to something important, it ought to be used. Hence the fable and the allegory are useful or helpful. The extravaganza, if any class of the community can be taught some truths better in this way than in any other, it may be adopted. Hence there is room for such efforts as Don Quixote, especially for the young and inexperienced. But for the sentimental romance there ought to be no place given to it but the fire of Kaled's torch.

It is admitted that the "national and historic phases of customs and character need to be portrayed," and in cases where the portraiture is most needed, the facts of common life which furnished their original setting have been lost, and must be supplied by the imagination. Such facts may justify the existence of the novel. It fills a gap, and teaches in this department better than anything else can; and so has a right to be heard. The same necessity may exist, and often does exist, for the home novel. For the every day phases and developments of this life may be better told in this way than in any other. All we care for is to know these phases. The parties involved may not be known, or, if so, ought not to be exposed, or the facts may be of too sacred a character to warrant such. The didactic novel might portray domestic life as modified by a poetic, ethical or theological truth, but when it attempted more it was out of place and should receive little or no encouragement.

How are we to judge of the claims upon our regard of individual novels of any or all classes, was next referred to. This question must be decided by an application of the laws of the True, the Good, and the Beautiful. Even heatism, has taught to reject what is not in accord with these qualities. This world has no need of lies; and the liar has no right to ask for an audience. "Thou shalt not bear false witness." Carlyle has said: "Fiction, while the feigner of it knows he is feigning, partakes more than we suspect of lying." In the utterance of sentiments in describing character or the world, its Maker, His law and government, we must demand truth. But much of the sentiment expressed by novelists, as it regards home and love, is false, unreal, and therefore injurious. How often are his characters, also, mere monstrosities in a social, intellectual, and religious point of view! and are, therefore, in this important department of human life, wholly misleading. His views of the world also, are often shamefully incorrect, as regards God who made it, the laws by which He rules it. God's providence, general and particular, is sadly misrepresented and distorted. Nothing but evil can come from such bungling.

Then the law of the good demands that everything which is vile, base, injurious, should be avoided; and everything pure, right, and beneficent fostered. This law is often violated by the novelist by importing into his tale what is little and worthless; or by avoiding what tends to elevate and improve, but more particularly by the way in which evil is treated. Evil is in society, and the novelist must deal with it; but how, and for what purpose? If he endense it, if he introduce it for its own sake, or do anything which would misrepresent its hideousness—a thing often done—then it is a curse and a violation of the law of the good. Often, too, is this law violated by the introduction of the vulgar and low, which are made to appear in different hues than are for the good of the reader or society. But especially must the lecturer protest against these leprous novels which, decked in silken vestures and painted in gorgeous colors, are meant to betray and ruin the uninitiated and unsuspecting. There are tons of these read, and all novel readers are in danger of coming in contact with them. They are a curse, and can be nothing else. As to the law of the beautiful, nothing can be beautiful that is not true to the laws of nature and is not good. Besides these three things must enter into the formation of the beautiful: there must be unity, progress and completeness in the tale.

2. NOVEL READING. Suppose, now, we have novels which reach the foregoing standard, another question arises: how much share of our reading capacity should be given to them? The proper answer is, that as the place of the novel in its relation to other departments of thought, as shown in the lecture, is very limited, so the amount of time devoted to it should be very limited. Will we read the novel to the exclusion or prejudice of the claims of poetry, or of history, or biography or science? This would be absurd, and a sore evil. Reasoning from established and admitted laws affecting the human mind, the no time reading of even good novels must be accompanied by the following permissions: 1. It weakens the intellect. Hence a good authority has said, "the devourer of novels sooner or later loses power to grapple with the great truths that underlie the realities of life, and becomes a weakling, if not a driveller, in the world." 2. It hardens the feelings. This was shown

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to be true by an unanswerable argument from Peter Bayne, the great essayist. We are sorry that we have not space for this extract. 3. It also destroys benevolence. The laws of habit and of the emotions prove this, which warn us not to rest in the barren luxury of emotion, but to advance at once to the action which is the appropriate end of emotion; since the emotions not only begin to subside from the moment they reach a certain point, but if neglected to be carried on into appropriate action that lag or proceeds all the more rapidly till it terminates in insensibility. "Hence," (says Harris) the fearful consequence of indulging in that species of reading which excites a sympathy never to be carried out into benevolent conduct." 4. It destroys the taste for solid reading. Hence whenever this result is beginning to be experienced let the best novel be laid aside.

But if such evils accompany, and flow from inordinate novel reading of the very best stamp, what may be expected from inordinate and indiscriminate reading of novels but worthlessness, vice, and crime, an unfitness to live in this world or to go out of it. This is an unmitigated evil.

It is claimed that the novel rules the present generation. As this can only mean that it has a predominant influence, then, to be consistent it must be held responsible for the predominant features of the present state of society. To prove what these are, a long extract was read from the *Princeton Review*. It turned out to be a "terrible indictment of the age, violation of law, human and divine predominates. And the issue reached was, that as the helm of the ship of society is in the hands of a mad pilot, and if he be not forthwith dismissed, and a truer, stronger, and wiser steersman takes his place, that ruin, widespread in its extent, and incalculable in amount, is inevitable.

A Comparison of Expenditure.

THE Montreal *Gazette* says:—"Another fallacy which the Finance Minister effectually disposed of in his speech on Friday, was that the expenditure under the present Government has been relatively greater than that of their predecessors. We have already pointed out from the public accounts, that, although the gross expenditure has been somewhat larger in the past two years than it was during the preceding Administration, the increase has not occurred in what are termed the controllable sources of outlay, but from the establishment of Post Offices, and the working of the Government railways, both of which are compensated by the increase in the revenue derived as a direct result of these expenditures, and from special grants for the relief of the distressed, providing food for the Indians, taking the census, etc., over which no Government can exercise control, and for which they are not in any sense responsible. Sir Leonard Tilley was able to show not only that the annual expenditure has not been increased by his Government but that it has actually been decreased in the past two years by an average of \$1,153,245. Here are the figures, which cannot be disputed: From 1874 to 1879 the average annual expenditure on account of the Consolidated Fund was \$23,935,856, while from 1879 to 1881 the average yearly expenditure has been \$25,178,443, showing upon the face of the figures an increase of \$1,229,372 in the annual expenditure. But looking into the accounts what do we discover that the extra mileage of the Intercolonial Railway worked in the past two years, involved an additional charge upon the revenue of \$302,000 as compared with the years of Liberal rule; that the average amount of interest paid upon the debt and sinking fund was greater on the average \$1,230,996 in 1879-81 than in 1874-9; that the expenditure on account of the Indians of the North-west was more by \$235,042, and that the grants for the relief of the distressed in Ireland, the destitute by the Hull and Quebec fires, and the census constituted an annual average charge of \$114,579 under this Government which had not to be borne by their predecessors. Therefore, if we add these sums together, it is found that the average charge on account of special and exceptional services during the past two years has been \$2,382,617 per annum, while the increased expenditure as compared with that of the MacKenzie Administration has been only \$1,229,372. Or, to put the matter in another way, the present Government has spent annually \$1,153,245 less than their predecessors, when the special charges devolving upon the Conservative ministry and not met by the Liberal Government, are taken into consideration. So that to all the other splendid achievements of the present Ministry, there was to be placed to their credit a substantial economy in the public expenditure.

TO be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, on TUESDAY, the fourth day of April next, 1882, at the hour of twelve o'clock, noon, at the Court House, in Summerside, in Prince County, under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in an Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the first day of February, A. D. 1880, and made between Thomas McCarroll and Briget McCarroll, his wife, of the one part, and Edward Jarvis Hodgson and Neil McLeod, of the other part,—

ALL that tract, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being on Lot or Township Number Twenty-seven, bounded as follows, that is to say: Commencing on the south side of the road leading to Charlottetown, at the north-west angle of land in the possession of Edward Hughes; thence south to the division line of the north moiety of the said Township; thence west eleven chains; thence north to the road, thence along the road to the place of commencement, containing eighty-three acres of land, a little more or less.

For further particulars apply at the office of Messrs. Hodgson & McLeod, Solicitors, Summerside. Dated this third day of March, A. D. 1882. EDWARD JARVIS HODGSON, NEIL McLEOD. [mar 6 saw 11 sp]

TO the Editor of the Examiner. SIR,—I would like to ask why it is that there is no discrimination made between a common loafer and the cab-driver who is waiting on business at the station, or why it is that he is thrust out of the waiting room because some loafers happen to be in there and get chewing tobacco and squirting saliva over the floor. It is strange that the keeper of the room cannot keep the loafers out without compelling those who are on business to leave the room, and in consequence have to wait outside in the cold until arrival of the train. It is bad enough to have one's horse out for half an hour or an hour in the cold, especially when it is not the most agreeable weather, without one's own person being so exposed. I sincerely hope Mr. Archibald will have this matter remedied. Yours, &c., A CAB DRIVER.

TO the Editor of the Examiner. SIR,—The letter signed "Caution" in your issue of Saturday, is made up of insinuations and silly questions, and is apparently the production of an ignorant person. The first statement is an amusing one and is not connected with the subject of his letter. It spitefully remarks that Dr. Jenkins has failed to draw attention to the Lunatic Asylum. From what I have heard from country people the subject is creating an agitation which will not soon be allayed. Instead of \$2,000, only \$800 were paid for the Hospital alluded to, and no "Horse Jockey" was admitted to it. No one knows better than "Caution" that there were genuine cases of small-pox taken charge of during the "scare." If the Dominion Government have promised the use of their Quarantine Hospital to the city in case of need, it is very satisfactory and does away with a serious responsibility. Will "Caution," who is in a position to know all about this matter, inform the City Council, with authority, that such is the case? "Caution's" questions, as to who made Dr. Jenkins Health Officer! are too childish—the public will know the Doctor has occupied the position for the past fifteen years. Yours truly, AN EX-COUNCILLOR. Charlottetown, March 6, 1882.

SIX Fathers of the Redemptorist Order, who devote themselves to preach missions, go to Halifax the fourth Sunday of Lent, the 19th of March, to give, by request of the Archbishop, a series of lectures and instructions to Catholics in that city. The fathers will go from their houses in Boston, New York and Baltimore. They have churches in Quebec and Toronto also, and in the principal cities of Europe and America. Their stay in Halifax will extend over some weeks.

THE only place on P. E. Island, where you can get every part of a Gun made, is at Brown's Shop, owner of Prince and Graham Streets.

TO the Editor of the Examiner. SIR,—In a late issue of the *Patriot*, Mr. Warburton complains of the hardships of having to shovel out the winter roads. A correspondent in your paper rather ridicules the old gentleman's complaints, in terms that, to my mind, seemed needlessly sarcastic. The dwellers in the suburbs are in something of the position of Mahomet's coffin. We suppose there is a road overseer; but his duties out in the country seem to keep him busy. I don't mind so much the labor of keeping the winter road open; but it strikes me that it is laying it on a little too heavy to have to repair the roads in summer as well. The road appropriation for Charlottetown Royalty is altogether inadequate, and with the paltry pitance at his disposal, it is impossible for the Supervisor to keep the roads in good order. The Malpeque road will require extensive repairs. If the extension of Queen Street was enlarged and graded, it would relieve the traffic to some extent. As it is the City seems to be waiting for the Government to move, and between them they do nothing. Yours respectfully, H. COOMBS.

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