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NEW SERIES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1890.

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ALMANAC FOR JANUARY, 1890.

MOON'S CHANGES.
Full Moon, 6th day, 7h., 49.3m., a. m., W.
Third Quarter, 14th day, 2h., 30.2m., a. m., E,
below horizon.
New Moon, 20th day, 7h., 36.6m., p. m., NV.
First Quarter, 27th day, 4h., 3.9m., p. m., SE.

DAY OF WEEK	Sun	Sun	Moon	High	Day's
M	rises	sets	rises	(water)	len
	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
1 Wednesday	7 49	4 19	1 33	7 9	8 39
2 Thursday	49	20	1 57	8 9	31
3 Friday	49	21	2 32	8 59	32
4 Saturday	49	22	3 11	9 32	33
5 Sunday	49	23	3 59	10 12	34
6 Monday	49	24	4 37	10 49	35
7 Tuesday	48	25	5 33	11 26	37
8 Wednesday	48	26	6 35	n/a	39
9 Thursday	47	27	7 59	0 34	40
10 Friday	47	28	9 4	1 9	41
11 Saturday	47	30	10 9	1 46	43
12 Sunday	46	31	11 14	2 26	45
13 Monday	46	33	morn	3 11	47
14 Tuesday	45	34	0 21	4 11	49
15 Wednesday	44	35	1 32	5 20	51
16 Thursday	44	37	2 46	6 43	53
17 Friday	42	38	4 2	8 0	56
18 Saturday	41	40	5 17	8 40	59
19 Sunday	40	40	6 27	9 51	61
20 Monday	39	43	7 28	10 38	64
21 Tuesday	38	45	8 28	11 28	66
22 Wednesday	37	46	9 28	morn	68
23 Thursday	36	47	9 35	0 12	11
24 Friday	36	49	9 56	0 54	13
25 Saturday	35	51	10 10	1 34	16
26 Sunday	35	52	10 42	2 8	18
27 Monday	33	53	11 6	3 4	20
28 Tuesday	32	54	11 31	4 4	22
29 Wednesday	31	55	11 58	5 11	24
30 Thursday	31	57	aft	1 6 23	26
31 Friday	7 29	4 58	1 10	7 26	9 29

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Charlottetown, Dec. 9, 1889—dy 2aw wky

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- Choice Figs (in small boxes and by the pound),
- Mixed Spices (mixed by ourselves and guaranteed pure)
- Flavoring Extracts on draught and in ½ oz. and 1 oz. bottles,
- Coffee, fresh roasted and ground,
- Layer Raisins, from 20c. up to 40c. a pound,
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VOYAGE OF THE SHIP POLLY
—TO THE—
Island of Prince Edward in 1803.

A Biographical Sketch of the Earl's Agent, one of Her Passengers.

BY G. F. OWEN.

One of the principal events in Prince Edward Island in the year 1803, was the arrival of an emigrant vessel called the Polly, that brought a large number of settlers from Scotland. In this vessel came the forefathers of many of the families now living in that part of this Island called Belfast, from whence many of our leading lawyers, doctors, merchants and ship captains hail; and the following biographical sketch of one of the leading actors in this immigration, and of some incidents in the voyage of the Polly, will, doubtless be read with interest by many of our people.

The writer obtained the story from a memorandum book that he found in an old oaken chest, that evidently had been brought from Scotland at the time the emigrants left the land of their forefathers, for its battered sides and roughened edges showed clearly that it had knocked about o'er troubled seas and stormy oceans. The manuscript, for such it may be called, was written partly with a lead pencil and partly with pen and ink; and from the minutiae with which many of the details are given, was evidently penned by a contemporary of the agent whose history is given so fully. The manuscript is entitled:

LAWYER SANDY.

"It is a joy to straighten out one's limbs, And leap elastic from the level counter, Leaving the petty grievances of earth, The breaking tire, the din of clashing shears, And all the needles that do wound the spirit.

But this unnatural posture of the legs Cramps my extended calves, and I must go Where I can coil them in their wonted fashion."

The subject of this sketch was a native of Kirkcubright, the capital of the shire of that name, in the south of Scotland. He obtained some education in one of the parish schools of his native town; but at an early age went to learn the tailoring business. Being of an active temperament and restless disposition, he ran away from his master, after serving a few years, and enlisted in the army. About a year after his enlistment, the Regiment in which he served was ordered to Ireland. That country was then in a distracted state. The Rebellion of '98 had just broken out and Sandy (for such was his Christian name) saw some hard service. He fought at the battle of Vinegar Hill, and had a hand in various skirmishes with the Irish patriots. In one of these he was severely wounded, and rendered, for a short time, unfit for duty. When the trouble in Ireland subsided, his Regiment was ordered to Canada, and our hero went with it; and on his arrival had some experience of the cold of a Canadian climate while doing garrison duty in the old citadel at Quebec. After three years, the Regiment was recalled and Sandy again trod his native land. The wound he received in Ireland had never thoroughly healed, and had broken out afresh. The voyage across the Atlantic was long and tedious in a troop ship of those days, and the soldiers suffered severely from scurvy; and when the ship arrived at Portsmouth it was found that Sandy was no longer able to serve the King; and his discharge, with a small pension, was the consequence.

After his discharge he returned to Kirkcubright and went back to his old trade for a while; but although his health was somewhat restored by his native air, his heart was not in the monotonous work of cutting out and making up clothes. The old restless feeling came on, and he wandered off for whole months at a time, travelling from village to village and from town to town, recounting his warlike experiences in Ireland, and describing the wonders of the world he had seen beyond the Atlantic.

At that time the question of emigrating to America occupied the minds of the peasantry in many parts of Scotland; and Sandy who had lived in that wonderful land, could well describe what he had seen of the country, either in English or Gaelic; and consequently he had no difficulty in introducing himself to the people of the districts where he travelled; and an invitation to call again, especially from the warm-hearted, hospitable people of Perth and Argyleshire, amongst whom he made his longest journeys and longest calls.

Possessing a clear and vigorous intellect, a ready command of language, and a dogged pertinacity in argument, he was one of those men who are capable of wielding a certain degree of influence, even when the higher moral powers are wanting. The great flaw in his character was his fondness for litigation and general controversy on all matters within the scope of his knowledge that admitted of any doubt. In early youth it was noticed that Paul's Epistles had greater charms than the narrative portions of either the new or old testament; and while learning his trade, a great portion of his leisure was spent in poring over Blackstone's Commentaries and other legal works which he borrowed from a learned shoemaker in the neighborhood. These books he subsequently purchased and treasured with the greatest care. He had them in his Irish campaign. He took them across the ocean to Quebec and back to Scotland; and one or the other of these volumes he carried about with him in his Highland rambles. And more than sixty years afterwards, the old volumes, thumbed and battered and worn, might be seen reposing alongside the family Bible on a shelf in his humble home in Prince Edward Island.

very, his readiness to furnish everyone who had a *casus belli* with a stock of ammunition from his storehouse of legal and scriptural knowledge, gained for him the soubriquet at the head of this sketch.

By some means or other, in the fall of 1802, he attracted the notice of Thomas, Earl of Selkirk, who was then, in pursuance of his many schemes of colonization, anxious to stir up the people of the Highlands, in order to furnish recruits for an expedition which he intended fitting out for America next year. The Earl had large estates in Prince Edward Island, and that colony was to be the destination of the vessel. Governor Fanning in November, 1802, in his speech to the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, said that "he had the satisfaction to inform them on the highest authority that the public affairs of the Island had been brought under the consideration of His Majesty's Ministers, in a manner highly favorable to the late humble and dutiful representations made on behalf of the inhabitants, respecting the many large, unsettled and uncultivated tracts of land in the Island." Consequently it was most important that the land proprietors should exert themselves to get emigrants to settle on their estates. A very slight acquaintance with our friend Sandy convinced the Earl that he was just the man he wanted to act as an agent to go about among the people, to point out to them the many advantages the New World offered to the emigrant, and to induce as many of them as could get ready to take passage in the ship, which was to sail from Oban during the coming summer.

The Earl made him a liberal offer to induce him to undertake the work, and Sandy started on his mission. The work talked well with the natural bent of his mind. Nearly everyone he met had fears, doubts and misgivings about going to America. The dangers of the voyage, the cold of the winter, the difficulties to be encountered in cutting down the trees, the dread of the Indians, and of the bears and other wild beasts with which the forests were said to abound, were causes of much anxiety to the intending emigrants.

In combating these natural objections, and allaying the fears of his countrymen and countrywomen, Alexander was in his true element. He had his fill of discussion and controversy all that winter, and many a bottle of whiskey was drained round the peat fires of the simple cottagers whose homes he visited in the Highlands. He contrasted all the advantages they would enjoy in the new world, after the first few years, with their present condition. He represented that the ship which was intended to carry them across the ocean was a stout and strong vessel, well found in boats, rigging, sails, chains and anchors. He told them that the trees in America were of a soft fibre and easily cut down. He expatiated on the various uses to which their trunks could be applied, such as house and ship building, fencing, firewood, etc. The sugar maple he represented as particularly valuable, from the fact that a slight notch cut into its substance set free a copious stream of saccharine liquor, which might, with very little trouble, be boiled into sugar of the most delicious quality; or by certain process, which never seems to have been tried by the settlers, could be converted into fine whiskey. Tea (a rare luxury in the Highlands in those days) equal to any that came from China, he told his hearers, could be gathered in the swamps and grew in rich abundance in the forests, especially at the roots of the maple trees. The Indians, he told them, had all been converted to Christianity by Catholic missionaries, who went among them all over America in the early days of the French occupation. He only laughed at their fears about the wild beasts, and represented a bear hunt in the woods, with dogs, guns and cudgels, as one of the most enjoyable and exciting of sports. But the crowning argument in favor of the new enterprise, which the agent termed the *argumentum ad crumenam*, was founded on the facility with which large farms could be obtained on long leases at a nominal rent. The hardships to be encountered in clearing their farms, he carefully kept in the background. Although these statements were nearly all false quantities, they contained a small nucleus of truth, around which the witty agent, with his glib tongue, contrived to throw a very attractive halo of shadowy and unsubstantial fiction.

This, the people whom he persuaded to leave their homes in the Highlands on that occasion, found out to their cost before they were long in the Colony.

To men advanced in years, whose principal occupation had been fishing or tending flocks and herds, the axe was a laborious implement to handle. The trees were of much harder grain than the agent represented them to be. The snow in winter, which was not much taken into account in the discussions around the peat fires in Scotland, they found a source of the greatest discomfort all through the long winter, and the kilt of the Highlands proved poor protection against the biting frosts of an American no' waster. The tea and sugar privileges did not come up to their expectations, and even the crowning argument itself, founded on the abundance and cheapness of land, turned out to be a fallacy, and many a hearty malediction directed against the Earl's agent afterwards found utterance in the depths of the lonely forests, as the settler, scantily clad and badly fed, sweated from every pore in his awkward efforts to lay low some giant of the forest.

All through the districts over which the agent travelled a feeling of restlessness soon prevailed. There was much serious consultation among the cottagers. Some had decided promptly before he left the village, while others were slower in making up their minds. However, when the spring set in a great many were preparing to leave the country for America.

Sandy was in his glory. He had executed his mission with great success, and when he reported to the Earl of Selkirk, about the first of May, the result of his work, the

Earl was so well pleased with his representation of the state of affairs, that he supplemented his former very liberal allowance with a free grant of 200 acres of land on his estates in Prince Edward Island, giving the agent *carte blanche* as to the location, Sandy having decided to throw in his lot with the emigrants, and cross the ocean in the same ship.

Accordingly, about the first of June, 1803, the good ship Polly set sail from Oban. Her living freight, besides her officers and crew, consisted of about 600 persons of all ages, from the child at its mother's breast to the old man or woman of three score and ten.

(To be Continued.)

THE RINK.—The new Souris Skating Rink will be opened this evening. The Band will be in attendance. A pleasant time is expected.

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"I am safe in saying that my sales of Ayer's Sarsaparilla far exceed those of any other, and it gives thorough satisfaction."—L. H. Bush, Des Moines, Iowa.

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