

BIG MEN AND WOMEN.

Some of the Giants and Giantesses of Winton History Tells.

The Irish Times says: At all times and in all countries, kings and nobles had a fancy for including among their retainers either a giant or a dwarf, sometimes both.

THE GROWTH OF MUSCLE as does the stronger diet of meat. The eighteenth century, to judge by contemporary letters and newspapers, seems to have been more than usually prolific in giants and giantesses.

Horace Walpole mentions a giant and giantess who were on view respectively at Spring Gardens and Half-moon Court, Ludgate Hill. They were both, it seems, handsome and well-proportioned persons, and without the usual awkward ungainliness peculiar to their kind.

FULL OF THE NATURAL WIT of his mother country; but unfortunately the large fortune he rapidly gained by the exhibition of himself led him into habits of gluttony and intemperance, and he died at the early age of two-and-twenty, leaving instructions that his body was to be buried at sea; but the College of Surgeons in some way obtained his corpse for the sum of £800, according to certain reports, and the skeleton was "set up" in their museum by William Hunter, the famous anatomist.

Shortly after Bryne's death another Irish Giant exhibited himself in London, by name Patrick Cotter, alias O'Brien. He was so attenuated that, tall as he was, he appeared even taller. His height was eight feet seven inches. Feeble and debilitated in health, he could only walk by supporting himself on the shoulders of two tall men walking in front of him, resting a hand on the shoulder of each. Many amusing stories are related of him. One evening, at a Masonic dinner, he took out of his pocket the celebrated dwarf, Count Borulaski, and set him upon the table, to the astonishment of all. Some time after, while staying at Bath, he nearly terminated a night watchman out of his wits by taking off the top of a street lamp and lighting his pipe with the flame. He was of an amiable and gentle disposition, but not remarkable for

ANY INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY. Since his day to the present time London has only seen four giants of any abnormal size, namely, James Toles, eight feet six inches in height in 1819; Scott, Chang and Herr Wickelmeir, the Bavarian giant. Of giantesses, Miss Scott and Pauline Maria Elizabeth Wedd are the only colossal ladies who have astonished the eyes of the sight-seeing world. The latter, called the Queen of the Amazons, was born at Ben Rendorf, in Thuringia, on the 31st of January, 1866, and introduced to the London public at the Alhambra in a piece entitled "Babil and Bijou." She was good looking, and of a handsome, well proportioned figure and measured about 8 feet 4 inches in height. Of her subsequent history and career we have not been able to trace any account, since her provincial tour in France, after she had exhibited herself in this country. It is a curious fact that giants rarely exceed the age of 40 or 45, and few among them ever show signs of much intellectual capacity. They are, as a rule, good tempered, indolent, and placid; their opposite extremes, the dwarfs being irritable active clever, and ill tempered.

Rev. Dr. Caven and Prof. Goldwin Smith spoke at the opening meeting of the Toronto Young Men's Equal Rights Union Monday night. The former, who presided, took issue with the statement that the movement was nearing its end, and showed that it was vigorous still, that its effectiveness was being felt more and more, and that the principles which it proclaimed would be upheld so long as men lived up to the standard of right. Professor Smith gave a comprehensive review of the matters to be dealt with by the association, and drew a distinction between Roman Catholicism and Ultramontanism. He objected to separate schools, recounted the work already accomplished by the Equal Righters, and declared the prospect bright and full of hope.

ARCHBISHOP WALSH

Addresses the C. M. B. A. Society.

Montreal, Sept. 4.—The C. M. B. A. Convention was honored this forenoon with a visit and address from His Grace Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto. The morning session was devoted to the election of officers, but at 10.20 business was suspended for the reception of the distinguished prelate. He was conducted to the platform amid hearty applause, and President O'Connor welcomed him to the Convention in a few words, calling the attention of the Association to the fact that the Archbishop was the first prelate in Canada to join them and that by word and example he had done them great service. He thanked him for the honor of his visit. The Archbishop said: "I am glad to be here and proud to see so many representative members of the association assembled for the promotion of its better organization and efficiency. I believe your association is a good thing for the protection of homes and Catholic interests. It does good in a social sense by bringing Catholics to know each other better and strengthening the bonds of fraternal love and neighborly spirit. Before the days of this association Catholic men in many parts of the country were as items, scattered amongst a non-Catholic population and almost absorbed. It has almost brought together Catholic toiler and artisan, professional and business men from all quarters of Ontario and Quebec, and cemented them together in a common bond for the protection of Catholic interests. Hitherto there was a strong temptation to Catholic men to join other benefit societies of doubtful and questionable morality. I do not mean that the members were not of good character, moral and respectable, but the principles of these societies and their rules of life and conduct were not those of the Catholic Church, and exposed to danger of our people. When entering these questionable societies they took the first step towards actually forbidden societies. Your association is in harmony with the church, and I believe it is good from a religious point. You enjoy on your members the observance of Easter duties and others, and a body conscientiously and fearlessly attending to their religious duties is a good example both in the home and in the parish. Financially too it is a good thing. It has brought comfort to many a home that without its aid would have been desolate; it has wiped away the widow's tear and enabled many a Christian mother to rear her children in respectability and give them a useful education. These convictions led me to join it and to promote its interests wherever I can. I am delighted with the spirit of harmony that has prevailed throughout your meetings. I trust that you may continue to prosper until the C. M. B. A. becomes coterminous with the Dominion of Canada, and that its name be blessed by widows and orphans for all time.

Mr. J. McCabe, the newly elected president, also spoke a few words of welcome. His Grace then gave the meeting his blessing, after which he withdrew, leaving the association to proceed with its business.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At 2 p. m. the C. M. B. A. concluded their elections which resulted as follows: John A. McCabe, of Ottawa, president; W. P. Killaskey, of Chatham, Ont., first vice-president; Judge Rioux, of Sherbrooke, second vice-president; W. J. McKee, of Windsor, Ont., treasurer; Saml. R. Brown, of London, secretary; J. E. Martineau, of St. Rochs, marshal; Joseph Rheume, of Amherstburg, guard; trustees, O. K. Fraser, of Brockville, Rev. M. J. Tiernan, of London, and T. P. Tansey, of Montreal. Committee on Laws.—J. K. Barrett of Winnipeg, Thomas Coffee of London and R. L. Dowell of Almonte. Finance Committee.—Thos. O'Neil, of Paris, Jas. Quillinan of Niagara Falls and John Ronan of Hamilton. Representatives to the Supreme Council:—T. J. Finn of Montreal, J. D. O'Connor of Stratford and Rev. Father Murphy. The motion to separate from the United States for congo before the Supreme Council for congo and when passed a Canadian firmation and when passed a Canadian Supreme Council will be established. The drive has been postponed until to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Possibilities of the Telephone.

Though the telephone has long since ceased to be a wonder, its great powers and adaptability to various purposes, as yet but hinted at, must still command attention, very much on account of their commercial aspect. This is evident on contemplating the work done by this instrument in the installation at the Lenox Lyceum, by which the "long distance" telephone company has placed before the public an exhibit of superb qualities. It seems strange, indeed, that up to the present time, the telephone companies have not done more towards exploring a field which certainly could be made a source of considerable revenue by the furnishing of musical and other entertainments by wire at the fireside. But still more impressive than the musical part is the remarkable clearness of the long distance transmission. Although we are all accustomed to ordinary local telephone transmission, the mind can yet hardly grasp the reality of the enormous progress which permits persons hundreds of miles apart to maintain perfect oral intercourse. Yet we believe the time is not remote when even this will cease to attract even passing notice, and when the "long distance" lines, now mostly confined to the Eastern States, will cover the entire country with a vast network of "speaking wires." The "long distance" company is to be commended for the liberal policy adopted by it, in educating the public to the proper appreciation of the facilities available for it, and, if we are not mistaken, it will date one of its quickest and longest strides forward from the display at Lenox.—Electrician Engineer.

A WOODSTOCK SENSATION.

Rumor That an Important Witness Has Skipped Out.

WOODSTOCK, Ont., Sept. 4.—The latest and most startling developments in the Birchall case are the announcement tonight in an evening paper that Alice Smith of Eastwood, one of the principal witnesses in the case has skipped out, and that Mr. Benwell, father of the unfortunate victim, also an important witness is dying. The absence of Miss Smith from the trial would certainly have an important bearing on the case. She is the witness with whom it is alleged Birchall shook hands at Eastwood station on the memorable 17th of February. In her evidence at the inquest she swore that she was at the station and saw a man there whom she knew as Lord Somerset. He came up and shook hands with her and asked her how the governor was, meaning her grandfather, whom Somerset or Birchall knew quite well. She also swore that his boots were very muddy, his pants were rolled up and he wore an imitation dog-skin hat. The crown lawyer Mr. F. E. Ball, was interviewed to-night and gave it as his impression that the story was "all a lie. He states that Detective Murray has seen Miss Smith within the last two days. He says it is true that Col. Benwell is ill and that it is probable his son will be out here to attend the trial. S. G. McKay, one of the lawyers on the defence, was also interviewed. The announcement in to-night's paper was his first intimation of the matter. He believes it was a story started for a purpose.

NEWS FROM MONTREAL.

A Hamilton Commercial Man Robbed.

MONTREAL, Sept. 4.—This morning a commercial traveller named D. H. Fletcher, of Hamilton, complained at the police station that he had boarded a Grand Trunk train at Sherbrooke last evening, and while enroute for Montreal had been relieved of \$108 in cash, a cheque and three drafts amounting in all to \$900. It appears that Fletcher made the acquaintance of three jolly strangers after coming on board the train and an empty pocket was the result. The detective force is at work

KICKED TO DEATH.

A very sad and fatal accident took place the other day in the parish of St. Joseph, Saultages county. A rich farmer, Narcisse Contant, went outside to lead in a young horse that was in a neighboring pasture. Mrs. Contant waited for her husband for some time, but the farmer not putting in an appearance, she started out in search of the missing man. A few hundred yards brought the distracted woman to a field where her husband was seen lying on the ground stone dead and covered with blood from head to foot. The horse had kicked the unfortunate gentleman in the temple, and death must have ensued in a few moments.

THE GAS VICTIM.

Mr. Levi Morris and Mr. W. B. Couch, friends of the unfortunate jeweller of Bowmanville whose death at the Albion hotel was referred to in to-day's edition, arrived this morning from the west. Coroner Jones held an inquest on the body later on. Everything went to show that Mr. Buckler retired to bed perfectly sober and in good health, but that the stop pin of the gas bracket had been lost in Mr. Buckler's particular room, and in turning the gas off there was great danger of it being turned on again at the same time. The following verdict was returned: "That Aaron Buckler was suffocated by inhaling gas in room 77 of the Albion hotel, Montreal, on the 2nd September, also that by reason of an imperfect gas cock in the said room there was sufficient escape of gas to cause the death of the said Buckler." The two gentlemen mentioned above left this evening with the body for Bowmanville.

The Fatal Mistake Which a Farmer Made While Hunting for Bears.

OTTAWA, Sept. 4.—John Melville, of the 7th concession of Clarence, and John Brown, of Cumberland, on Monday night last, in company with Melville's son, started out to hunt for bears, which had been destroying their grain. The men separated, and for over two hours, with his gun loaded with two bullets, Melville, sr., remained patiently on the watch, and at last saw some dark object move among the grain. He took good aim and fired. The report was followed by a human shriek. Horrified, he rushed to the spot, and found John Brown bleeding, speechless and dying, one bullet having penetrated his breast and the other the neck. He expired in a few moments. Brown was widely known and highly respected in several of the surrounding townships, and his funeral, which took place yesterday, was largely attended.

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

Human improvement is from within outwards. No circumstances can repair a defect of character. "Earnestness is enthusiasm tempered with reason." Many of our cares are but a morbid way of looking at our privileges. Homely truths, like medicine, often distress us, but that is part of the curative process. Even more than a greater length of days we need arduous perseverance, and a clear perception of the rightful objects to be attained. Where men feel most, they speak not most for in the deep things of the heart, as in things spiritual, there are feelings which cannot be uttered. For a few brief days the orchards are white with blossoms. They soon turn to fruit, or else float away useless and wasted upon the idle breeze. So will it be with upon the idle breeze. So will it be with present feelings. They must deepen into decision or be entirely dissipated by delay.

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