

THE CITY OF BUFFALO.

Some Impressions From a Recent Visit.

BY J. E. POLLACK, B. A.

The city is said to have obtained its name from Buffalo Creek, and the creek from an Indian of that name. Fort Erie was built in 1764, but Capt. Wm. Johnson, who married a Seneca woman was the first white settler at the mouth of Buffalo Creek in the year 1793.

Buffalo, like Toronto, is a great steamship and railway focus, each being the centre of a great and rapidly increasing trade on the lakes and through a fertile country lying east and west.

COINCIDENT FORTUNATE SITUATION of each, the character of its inhabitants, salubrious climate, fertility of soil, links of connection with town and country—by steamboat, railway, telegraph and telephone—have made and are still making each a great and prosperous city, with a progression rivalling the first cities on the Continent.

Buffalo is the larger (250,000), the wealthier, the more democratic of the two; Toronto the more aristocratic, with its finer situation, fine harbor, better boulevarded but inferior paved and narrower streets, handsomer lawns, finer architecture, superior schools and colleges and University. Toronto, too, has the more romantic and healthier situation. In Toronto the English, Scotch, and Irish elements of nationality largely prevail, while Buffalo seems to have a large German element, which, perhaps, may be accounted for by the purchase of the Reservation lands of the Seneca Indians by the Holland Company in an early period of the city's history.

TRIBLES OF THE IROQUOIS, occupied the lands surrounding the village. In one of their visits to Buffalo they made a raid upon Mr. Ransom's house in his absence and being denied liquor resolved to carry off the little girl Portia.

In walking up Main St., Buffalo, one might easily fancy himself on Yonge St., Toronto.

PURE AND LOVELY CALLAS arose from a vase at the corner of the chancel while the entire pulpit front was concealed by a mass of white and delicately-tinted flowers intermingled with green vines all artistically arranged. Fully one fourth of the immense assemblage that filled the sanctuary were children.

On the other hand, few cities, perhaps, on the American continent, can boast so fine a Court House as Buffalo. Built of pure white stone, devoid of elaborate ornamentation, like the chaste Greek columns of old, it rises in the purity and simplicity of its grandeur. It occupies an elevated space with main entrances from opposite sides. Its interior is as

CHASTE AND MAGNIFICENT as the exterior, having double stairways and double enclosed elevators leading from floor to floor. A tablet in the entrance hall shows the number and office of every room in the building. The Americans are a practical people. The Court House was erected in 1875, and in that same year they erected a magnificent gaol of white stone in the rear of the Court on the opposite side of the street.

In another respect Buffalo far exceeds Toronto. No monument in Queen's Park, lovely as Nature has made the surroundings,

risers half so stately and grand as Buffalo's "Monument of Liberty" in Union Square. It was erected in 1882. The base has the statue of a soldier standing at each corner as if to guard from every point of the compass the maiden standing at the pinnacle of the monument and representing the Liberty of the nation.

The Handwriting on the Wall. One day last summer I went into a lawyer's office. I climbed up a flight of dusty stairs, turned to the right, walked down a hot, dingy passage-way until I came to a door, and knocked hard.

"This is my busy day." And over the little iron safe emphatic letters in chromatic print said:—"Time is money." I hadn't the heart to wake him. I sat down and gave him an hour of improving reflection, and credited myself with that amount on my bill.—Burdette.

Artistic Curtain Stuffs. I know of nothing in the matter of furnishing, that appeals so strongly to a housekeeper's heart as beautiful stuffs for curtains and hangings. A visit to one of our large emporiums the other day satisfied me that those of us who cannot afford superb tapestries with French Renaissance patterns, or brocades of the time of Louis Quatorze, can still drape our doors and windows artistically.

How to Annihilate Poverty. Inequality in the distribution of wealth seems to many to constitute the greatest of all social evils. But, great as may be the evils that are attendant on such a condition of things, the evils resulting from an equality of wealth would undoubtedly be much greater.

The U. S. senate committee on foreign affairs by a strict party vote has reported against the ratification of the fishery treaty. Although this is a great and serious check to the agreement recently reached at Washington coming into effect, there is an apparently well-founded opinion at Ottawa that ultimately the Cleveland Cabinet will prove strong enough to have the conclusion arrived at by the recent commission adopted.

Germany's Next Emperor. William is very deeply and thoroughly Prussian. He is a living, breathing embodiment of all the qualities and lack of qualities which, through precisely two centuries, have brought the little mark of Brandenburg up from a puny fief, with a poor, scattered population of a million and a half, to the state of a great kingdom, ruling nearly fifty millions of people, and giving the law to all Europe.

Life of the London Sweater. The Earl of Dunraven is not only desirous of reforming the House of Lords but is earnest in trying to better the condition of the poor slaves of what is called here, as in the United States, the "sweating" system. He is chairman of the committee of which Lords Derby and Rothschild are members. They met in the library of the House of Lords taking testimony. The view is thus stated in an answer to a question which Lord Dunraven put to a witness, Arnold White, formerly member of Parliament and co-laborer with Walter Besant, George R. Sims and others in ferreting out abuses on the poor.

Conversations With the Duke of Wellington.

In Temple Bar for April appears an article on conversations with Wellington. The materials have been collected from the commonplace books of the Rev. J. Mitford, of Benhall, who probably heard most of them at Rogers' table, where he was a frequent guest. The Duke took kindly to Rogers, and consented to have his own words put on record. To many other interlocutors he was anything but kind.

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THE "SWEATING" SYSTEM. Mr. White went on to detail how, being interested in social questions, he had repeatedly come in contact with the "sweating" system. Lord Rothschild asked:—"How would you describe 'sweating'?"

A POOR DINNER. This piece of bread was produced and shown to the committee. Lord Derby asked, "But was this piece of bread for the man's dinner or breakfast. Mr. White?" "I took it myself," said Mr. White, "as the remains of his dinner. He had coffee with it, but no fish, nor meat, nor anything else. It is the ordinary food of the sweaters. By working eighteen or nineteen hours a day for some years the working sweater in the slop boot trade hopes to be a knifer himself. The colonial market is flooded with work of the most worthless description turned out by these sweaters—boots with soles made largely of brown paper."

THE LIFE OF A LONDON SWEATER. The Earl of Dunraven asked:—"What is the price paid for finishing these boots?" "The manufacturers pay fourpence a pair for finishing, or four shillings a dozen."

SEVERAL WORKMEN WITNESSES WHO WERE EXAMINED fully bore out the truth of Mr. White's investigation. One can stand as an instance of all.

Mr. Bradlaugh put his foot into it badly when he charged that Lord Salisbury had given £25 to promote the meeting of working men in Trafalgar Square that culminated in a riot. Lord Salisbury proved conclusively that the cheque for that amount was given to provide food for unemployed working men and was used for that purpose, so that the contribution, instead of being to his discredit, was one for which he should be honored.

and was there told by a man that he could learn the boot finishing business in four weeks.

He worked for the man for four weeks for nothing, beginning at five o'clock in the morning and leaving off at midnight. He worked every day except Saturday. For those four weeks he was not paid anything. He subsequently obtained employment in another workshop. He had labored for the past ten years at sweating work from six in the morning until midnight each day in the week but Saturday and now earned fifteen shillings weekly. He had a wife and six children, and paid four shillings a week for rent.

He was not required to work so hard that he could not drink his coffee or tea until it was cool, as he could not spare the time to drink it warm. The workroom was about four and a half yards square and two or three yards high. It had two windows, two gas-lights and one heating light, and four workmen, besides the master, were employed in it. No inspector had ever visited it. The witness spoke in broken English, but was at last questioned by Lord Rothschild in German, and in reply answered as above.

Orillia town has awarded the band \$100 for weekly open air concerts during the summer season. Beaverton council should do likewise.

The Presbyterians of Orillia have decided to erect a new church in that town capable of seating one thousand.

The Narrow's bridge is now completed. Another victim of the deadly railroad fog is reported from Allandale.

The new locks at Rosedale are to be started at once.

The brickmakers of Peterborough have formed a trust that will put brick bats at too great a premium to be used as weapons in affairs of honor between members of the Lime Juice Club in future.

Lindsay has established a home for indigents.

A ladies' brass band is talked of in Shelburne.

It is reported that a nugget of pure gold weighing 99½ ounces was taken out of Vermilion mine, at Sudbury, last week.

What was doubtless intended for a joke, but is a malicious hoax, was perpetrated by some unthinking numskull in inserting in the Toronto "World" a notice of marriage of J. V. Ham to Miss Nellie Armstrong, two estimable young people of Markham. Some people have very queer ideas as to what constitutes a joke.

Fall wheat has suffered in some parts of Ontario from night frosts. The top of the plant has been nipped, while the process of freezing in the night and thawing in the daytime has upheaved the soil leaving the roots bare. The extent of the injury is not fully known and it is possible that it may be in part recovered.

Burglars spent several hours breaking open an empty safe at Spinks' flouring mills, Pickering, on Saturday. The safe was entirely destroyed.

The last annual report of the births, marriages and deaths, ending 31st Dec. 1886, issued by the Ontario Government and just to hand gives the population of the county of Simcoe at 82,394 with 1687 births, 517 marriages and 601 deaths during the year. The following are the five principal causes of death: old age, phthisis, diphtheria, diarrheal affections and typhoid fever.

An addition of 100 volumes is to be made to the Waubashene library.

Oil was struck at Comber, Essex county, in a second well, at about a fopth of about twelve hundred feet. A rich oil field undoubtedly exists there.

George Greer, son of Richard Greer, farmer, township of Fenelon, was killed Friday afternoon by the falling of a tree while chopping in the woods. He only lived about half an hour after the accident.

A curious horn was recently turned up by a plough on the farm of Peter

Landlady (swell boarding house)—Have you any children, madam? Applicant (meekly)—Only one, a little boy, and he is very sickly. Landlady (dubiously)—I hardly know what to say, madam. Some of these sickly children often linger a long time, you know, and I don't like to take any chances.

Medical science is cruel to Emperor Frederick of Germany in prolonging his agonized physical existence; yet except when in extreme distress, he undoubtedly wishes to live to complete his long-cherished work of constitutional reform. This endurance for his people's sake of tortures, fierce and incessant, is one of those superb instances of courage which pass into history to adorn its pages forever.

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Samuel Workman, whose appearance contradicted his name, a boot finisher, said that he came from Hungary ten years ago, as he could not get a living there.

"What were you engaged at there?" asked Lord Dunraven.

"I was a teacher."

"Then what made you think you could do better here?"

From what friends in Hungary told him he came to England, went to the East End

"Ah, no, I never work," he said; With pride he gazed aloft, "Indeed, I always sleep in gloves, It keeps my hands so soft."

"I see," the cruel maid replied, "How you accomplished that; And, pretty sir, when sleeping, Do you also wear your hat?"