

THE ARNPRIOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1865- 1922 - Continued

HENRY LLOYD SLACK

The second Headmaster was Mr. H.L.Slack, M.A., a graduate of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Quebec, who guided the destiny of the School from August 1867 to July 1871. His initial salary was \$500 per annum, but the Minutes of the Board of Education for 1867 show that it was then increased to \$600. From August to December 1867 his classes were held in the frame building on the east side of Harriett Street, north of Victoria. In January 1868 the School was moved "up on the hill", to an old frame building on the west side of Harrington Street, about 75 yards north of Madawaska Street -- where the German Methodist Church now stands. Upstairs there was a Lodge Room used by different fraternal societies, and a Private School conducted by Miss Minnie Sinclair. Here the Grammar School remained for a couple of years when it was again moved -- this time to the frame building now occupied as a butcher shop at the north west corner of Madawaska and Harriett Streets.

One of the first things Mr. Slack did was to abolish the use of slates, and show his students how to make their own exercise books from paper obtained at the printing office of the "Arnprior News". During the four years he was here he extended the course in Latin, introduced the study of Greek, and laid emphasis on English Literature. Some of the text books used in Latin were Arnold's Latin Prose Composition, Anthon's Caesar, Anton's Cicero, and Anton's Latin-English and English-Latin Dictionary. Mr.Slack also laid considerable emphasis upon the subjects of Oral Reading and Public Recitation. One of his students says that when the work in school was unusually well done they were rewarded by his reading to them some passage which they themselves had chosen. So sympathetic were these readings that the students "worked like nailers" to have these rewards of industry come as often as possible. Altogether, he was a most inspiring teacher, a lover of good literature, a good public speaker, took a keen interest in cricket and other outdoor games, and was a prime favourite with both students and citizens. The Rev.M.D.M.Blakely, of Pembroke, was one of his students and pays him a particularly fine tribute in the following words,"I venerate, and shall always venerate the name of Henry Lloyd Slack, because of his profound interest in his pupils. His life was bound up in "the bundle of life" with his pupils. He had no greater joy than to see his Grammar School pupils afterwards making their way in gaining, imparting, or otherwise utilizing knowledge and mental power.

In referring to the many forms of amusement which distract the attention of students nowadays, Mr. Blakely says, "There were no scheduled games of baseball, football, hockey, skating parties, moving pictures, motor car rides, or dances to distract the attention of the pupils outside of school hours;