

BORN.
Born At Johnstone, N.Y., on Wednesday,
20th Feb., 1868; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Nichols,
son.

DIED.
Died At Pontiac, Mich., on Thursday, 26th
February, 1901; George Ryker, late of Astor,
aged 75 years.

Die At Hastings, on Saturday, 28th Feb.,
Rev. Thomas Vassall, wife of Joseph E.
Hastings, after 88 years.

Die At Acton, on Sunday, 29th Feb.,
John H. Clark, wife of John H. Clark, 70.
He died after a long illness.

The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1903.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Statistics have recently been compiled showing the extent of territory in the United States under prohibitory legislation and are surprising even to those who have already learned from the signs of the times that the end of the bar-room is a legalized institution in within measurable distance. It is estimated that the total population living under prohibition beneath the Stars and Stripes is upwards of thirty millions—or almost half the entire citizenship of the Union.

Punishment for selling liquor on Sunday is severe, as it should be, in many parts of the province. William L. Currie, a hotel-keeper of Tecumseh, near Windsor, was fined \$12,237 or two months in jail on Tuesday. It was the second offence of the kind during the license year, and the fine is fixed at \$100, but charges were laid against him for selling on three successive Sundays, and the magistrate made the fine consequently heavy.

The Globe's leading article yesterday said: "What ought to be done by the Government and Legislature of Ontario, at the coming session, in the matter of temperance legislation? The bar-room ought to be abolished throughout Ontario, and all sale of intoxicating liquors, for scientific, mechanical, domestic and other uses, ought to be made through a limited number of shops conducted either under special license or under Government control. We have no hesitation in saying that legislation securing such ends would best serve the highest interests of the industrial, social and moral life of the Province. The barroom as an institution is discredited, and its continuance is a standing menace to the economic, social and spiritual well-being of every community that supports it. It served usefully no good purpose, and the growing distrust with which it is regarded only confirms it in its downward tendency. Its evils are inherent. It ought to be abolished."

HALTON S. S. WORKERS.

An Interesting and Profitable Convention Held at Oakville.

J. S. DEACON, F. S. L. ELECTED PRESIDENT.

The annual Convention of Halton Sabbath School Association was held at Oakville and was helpful and inspiring to Sunday School workers.

Rev. D. A. Moul of Oakville, was presiding officer of the convention, and devotional exercises at the opening of the various sessions were conducted by Rev. John McNair, Rev. R. MacNamara, Rev. J. Culpe, Rev. E. L. Flagg, and others.

The following composed the convention committee:

Nominating:—Messrs. Wusa, Freeman, Wrinch, Young, McNair, Syer and Noble.

Business:—Messrs. Wusa, Savage, Syer.

Statistics:—Miss Davidson, Messrs. King and Hunter.

Resolutions:—Messrs. MacNamara, Dr. Lusk and Young.

And the numerous topics discussed thereon.

"The International Plan of Study," dealt with by Rev. E. F. McIlvane, of Milton, who favored gradual lessons, according to the measure of development of the various classes.

Mr. J. A. Jackson, provincial secretary, spoke upon the importance of Normal work, with a view to greater proficiency on the part of teachers.

Rev. C. T. Tough, of Hornby urged the desirability of "making the Sunday School room attractive" (1) as to appearance (2) its temperature (3) its teaching.

Rev. D. Anderson, of Burlington, dealt with the work of the teacher in his class, taking an interest in his pupils not only during the "Sunday School hour, but during the entire week.

Mr. W. V. Hopkins, of Burlington, spoke of the superintendent's work and qualifications, and gave numerous helpful hints.

Rev. J. S. Williamson deplored the difficulty there seemed to be in keeping the good boys and girls in the Sunday School.

Judge Gurnam's subject was The Sabbath School as a factor in The Nation's Life. It was a very able and thoughtful address.

The closing address was by Rev. T. Albert Moore, on the work of the Lord's Day Alliance, which emphasized many points of interest in connection with this important subject.

Mrs. Davidson, treasurer, reported the receipts as follows: Nelson \$23, Nassagaweya \$5, Trafalgar \$35.00, Esquena \$13.50, collections \$10.55. Total \$121.55. The expenditure was about \$109, of which \$85 was paid to the Ondary Association.

The innumerable committee presented the following report which was adopted:

President:—J. S. Deacon, Milton. Secretary:—Miss Davidson. Statistical Secretary: Miss Noble, Norval.

The Convention of 1901 will be held at Milton.

ONTARIO BY-ELECTIONS.

Hon. W. J. Davis returned for North York and Miss Clark for Centre House.

The provincial by-elections in the completion of the Legislature were held on Friday, February 26th. E. J. Davis was re-elected for North York by a majority increased from 200 to 471. In Centre Bruce Mr. Hugh Clark was re-elected by a majority of 52.

OUT ON SUSPENDED SENTENCE.

Judge Gorham's Charge to the Boys Conceived in Post Office Robbery.

JUDGE JAMES BOOKS SEVERELY SCORED.

The trial of Frederick O. Maddock, Joseph Athron and Hilton H. jeans, who were committed on the 23rd ult, for trial on the charge of receiving money stolen from a Post Office, the 11th February, was held before His Honor Judge Gorham, in the County Court House, Milton, last Tuesday, 26th ult.

Through their counsel the accused pleaded to be tried simultaneously, the charge being similar in each case.

The evidence of Malcolm McEachern, who was tried the previous week—James Matthews, Postmaster, H. P. Moore, J. P. and Rev. H. A. Macpherson was taken, and the depositions of the accused given at the preliminary trial were also put in.

The Judge, seeing the evidence was incontrovertible, called up the prisoners and delivered the following charge:

Frederick O. Maddock
Hilton H. jeans

I suppose you boys know what I mean when I talk about "the law." You understand now that it lies with me to send you to prison, but you do not realize what the penalty is. You are in the hands of the law, constables are all around you. You're in a court of justice. It is in my discretion to send you to the Penitentiary at Kingston, or send you to the Central Prison, or to the Reformatory, for long years, and none of the Jesus James books you ever read can give you an idea of the life you would live in one of these places. I wish you could see the hideousness of them. I wish you could leave part of the story out.

Now listen to this as the law:

"Every one guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for life, or for any term exceeding one year, who steals (a) a post-letter bag, or (b) post letters from a post letter bag, or from any Post Office or from any other place where letters are kept, belonging to the post office of Canada, or from a mail; or (c) a post letter containing any chattel, money or valuable securities; or (d) any such mail, unless in value, security from cut off of a post letter."

You have all your life before you and for an offence of this kind you may be sentenced to spend that life locked up in penitentiary. I sincerely hope you realize that if I sentence you at all I cannot do it for a less period than three years, three long years. I tell you the days and nights would hang heavily on your hands and you would wish you were back in Acton. In penitentiary you would hear the clang and jar of iron doors and the rattle and clank of iron chains. You would see great burly jailers and armed guards, whose instructions are to shoot down any man who attempts to run away. If not obliged to the rules of the prison you would be liable to be stripped and flogged or to be shut up in a dark cell and kept there on bread and water for days.

Now, I do not want to sent you boys to such places, because I think there is something in you, something in you that deserves just one more chance. I never saw a boy yet who, when he was in trouble, did not beg for just one more chance. I am going to give you that chance and let you go back to Acton on what we call suspended sentence. I will tell you what a suspended sentence is. You have been here in this court, standing where you are, will be brought up against you. More than that, if you do not behave yourselves up in Acton, I will send you and sentence you, and I will have no hesitation in doing it, if it is ever reported to me that you are misbehaving yourselves. I shall let it happen, but you will not make it plain. You are old enough to understand what I am saying.

The Crown Attorney will see that whatever is necessary to be done is done in taking your recognizance for your good behaviour.

There is a tendency among boys to make a hero of a boy who has come through an experience such as you boys are coming through, but you are not heroes. You stand there in the sense of criminal upon the sentence of the court may be passed at any time, and if you find any person encouraging you to do anything that is wrong under the impression that you are heroes, just bear in mind that herosism of that kind may lead you to the penitentiary where you will hear the jarring of iron doors and the clanking of iron chains.

Malcolm McEachern, whose trial was held the previous week, and who was remanded until the 23rd, was then called up and charged by His Honor the Judge as follows:

"KING v. McEachern."

You have heard me read what the law is, as regards stealing from the post office. It lies in my discretion to send you to gaol for the balance of your life, or for term of not less than three years. It is in my option to send you to Kingston Penitentiary, or to the Central Prison or to the Reformatory at Penetanguishene. I have thought over your case a good deal.

Q. How long have you been in gaol, a week? A. A week and two days.

Q. The time did not pass any too swiftly did it? A. No.

Q. It was pretty long, and I guess you must have wished yourself in Action? A. Yes.

The conclusion I have come to, from what I have seen of you and the other boys, and after hearing the evidence, is that in character you are not a bad boy, but like all boys who have reached your time of life, your imagination

is free, and like a great many other Canadian boys you are fit for any devilry that comes along. Whatever promises a lark, or fun, you are ready for it, in fact, I judge from what I see of you that fear, such as is usually known, is not known to you.

I am going to give you a chance, just that chance that the law always wants—one more chance, and if you abuse the chance I give you, you will regret it fully and it will be all the harder to get out of this hole.

You have got to tell the other boys they will be doubly watched. Now you will be doubly watched. You will not be able to leave the town of Acton without the constables and magistrates having an eye over you; but if not, what part, park M. the Province you go to. If you are found doing wrong in any place, people will know you came from the County of Halton. The Crown Attorney will be asked to make a report on your character and he will report that you spent a week and two days in gaol for a charge of stealing from the Post Office and that you are under-suspended sentence. You have an awful road to travel. One false step, outside of that which is honest and upright may send you to one's penal institution. I wish you could see the hideousness of them. I wish you could

THE LATE ASA HALL, J. P.

A Pioneer of Acton, A Good Neighbor, A Friend to All and Christian Gentleman.

BRIEF SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

"Never mind the ancestry! I am a man once heard of was nothing to boast of. I am the son of James Hall, a blacksmith, born in 1776 in the democratic spirit the late Dr. L. Massy disposed of the history of the family to the Maynooth Seminary and he studied over it, a blacksmith. They never had any skill in the trade."

In his democratic spirit the late Dr. L. Massy disposed of the history of his ancestors, taking no credit to himself for his achievements, and feeling in no way responsible for their failings. It is nevertheless interesting to us readers that away back in 1776 the ancestors of the late Asa Hall, Esq., the subject of this sketch, lived in the neighborhood of New Haven, Conn., and were of English descent. He was converted in his boyhood and died at the old home in Acton. With great gratitude he willingly testified at the last before his deathbed that God had kept him for over seventy-five years a Christian. Before the era of churches in Acton he home often went to church services. He was a source of great delight when in 1811 Asa was made a regular appointment of the Nahon Circuit and an ordained minister preached here every two weeks. But his supreme joy was reached when in 1813 a church was erected—the neat white frame building now owned by the Disciples, and still used as a place of worship. With his own hands he assisted in the erection of this building, and associated with him were the Browns, and the Moys, the Spighlers and the Ladys, the Matthews and others. The early settlers who were instrumental in the formation of the Methodist church in Acton from that time until the hour of his death. He was helpful both in who came and in generous financial aid. For forty years he and his Christian wife attended to the preparation of the sacramental elements. His home was always the home of the Methodist minister, whether he was the pastor of the circuit or not. He was a good man and he experienced no greater joy than to see others turn to Christ at times of special evangelistic effort, and especially if they were the children of old friends or neighbors. The Sunday School was also a place of great interest to him and he was enrolled a member from the day of its organization, 50 years ago, until he died.

Mr. Hall retired from active labor when he reached seventy-five. The years since have been years of much pleasure and profitable leisure and leisure.

The home of his family always welcomed him and he made annual visits to each, making personal calls and talking with his wife.

Mr. Hall died on Saturday evening, Feb. 26th, 1903, at his home in Acton.

He was buried on Sunday morning, Feb. 27th, 1903, in the cemetery of the First Methodist Church, Acton.

He was a man of great worth and a good citizen, and will be missed by all who knew him.

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