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Our Hotels.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL

Perhaps one of the best known hotels of by gone days was Dolby's, which stood where the Dominion House now stands. It was a long, low, one-story frame building reaching nearly across the whole front, with a stable at the north end. Here the aristocracy of Toronto in their trips to and from the upper lakes would call for refreshments, so that for many years Dolby's, and Steele's at plication to the Mail Order Bond's Lake were the most popular on Yonge Street. Captain Bonnycastle, afterwards Sir Richard Bonnycastle, the author of "Canada and the Canadians," passed through here in 1846, and in his letters, thus refers to our village. "We reached Richmond Hill, 17 miles from the Landing, having made a better jour, ney than usual through a road that might be called the "Slough of Despond" for the Board of Works. But why Richmond Hill should be so called never could discover, for it is neither very picturesque nor so very highly poetical, although Dolby's is a most comfort. able resting place for a weary traveller, at which a prose writer or a poetiser might find a haven. Attention, good fare and nearness prevail." Sir Richard's search for the picturesque did not extend far, if it did not reach beyond the window

of a village tavern. Dolby's was the stopping place of the old stage crach that ran between Toronto and the Landing, with its great lumbering box swung on heavy leather springs. manufacturer's, and with each | bouncing and jolting its dusty occupants to then destination. The arrival of that coach once a week with its four and sometimes six in hand was as great an event Ladies' Grey Wool Hose at to us boys as the coming of a locomotive and its long train of cars is to the boy of later days. On the day the stage was and 25c., Children's at 5, 10 due we would gather around the great and 121c. and Boys' Ribbed sign-post, on which swung high above us a toll length portrait of a handsome young lady called "The Lass of Richmond Hill," and form a sort of reception committee for the passengers en route. Here a change of horses took place from large stables which stood on the site of the present Herald Office. Phose stables went down in an extensive buildings, horses and equipments with a row of dwellings on the south, and the Northern Railway killed off the rest of

and Silver Spoons \$2.50 to The old fashioned clap-boarded build ing gave way to a more substantial edifice, which in its turn disappeared from what any person else may be sight under a suit of brick-clad clothes and handsome trimmings with comfort. able surroundings in abeyance to the excellent taste of the present enterprising

proprietor of the Dominion Hotel, In the past tifty years of the history of Youge street, hotels increased until a one time they were thirty in number, or about at average of one to each mile Many of these landlords entered upon the business fine, noble-hearted men, who would in almost any other calling have been ornaments to society, but wrecked

passed away and are forgotten. The number of liquor sellers on Yonge Street in the first fifty years of this century was 100.

In these one hundred families there

Lots of scope around the Drunkards 214 Suicides known to the public..... Premature deaths by drunkenness... 203 Widows Orphans 235 Murders Executions.....

Loss of property, real estate once own-

This does not include their customers, many of whom were promising young 'Lily Series' at 29c. each, the men, who, lured on by temptation, have had their lives blasted for time and eternity-nor the hundreds of ruined homes the 'Ruby Grace Series' at and worse than widowed women, who have dragged out miserable existences as drunkards' wives during that fifty years.

The last half of the present century is perance influences the traffic is doing its best to pile up a record, and locally contragical results. The year 1850 had only just set in, when a young Mail Orders have special man having drunk at each hotel, before he got out of the village fell over the dash board of his wagon, got under the wheels and was instantly killed. A little later a hostler of one of our hotels who had once been a man in business, tired of life took laudanum and committed suicide. An unfortunate girl in another, the victim of a drunken profligate, did the same and died. Two or three of the landlords of others killed themselves by drinking. From the hand of the land competition with the multitude. lady of another a bottle of laudanum was | weight alum or phosphate power I OF OFTO - CENT. snatched by a neighbor just as she was

hotel a man fell down stairs and broke his neck. From another a man went home drunk and in the morning was found so frozen that he was rendered helpless for life. Another young man started for home the worse of liquor, and before he reached it fell out of the wagon and broke his neck. One man was hrutally kicked and roughly shoved off the platform of a hotel, and received injuries that resulted in death, and another was pitched head-foremost out of a bar room and died a short time after. One man deliberately drank himself to death, and another got a stroke in a drunken row that ended his life in an hospital. Another, a strong, able-bodied man, rotted to death through the excessive use of strong drink. A young man, through drink, ruined his home, broke his mother's heart, and died a sot. Another man drank until he became a panper. died a pauper's death and received a pauper's burial. A single man, a drunkard for twenty years, told the writer that he expected to be found dead in a ditch, died in absolute poverty. A married man who had drunk the hard earnings of nearly a lifetime, retired with his wife to the county poor house where they fived and died at the public expense, and another, an old man was dragged dead drunk out of a burning building. Strong drink ruined an industrious poor woman, who drank until she died, and it dragged a kind and amiable lady from a high circle of respectability down to be an outcast from society, and made her husband, an educated and well-read man, a wretched and drivelling sot. It caused a cheery, happy-tempered old man, who in his numerous sprees, had broken almost every bone in his body, to fall down through a hay loft and break his neck. and it gave a middle-aged man the delirium tremens. Poer Bill, his experience was a sad one, and when related by himself or by others, who witnessed it, would cause a shudder. He was an industrious mechanic and boarded at the old hotel at the south end of the village, alterwards burned. When the dread phantasm would come upon him after a prolonged spree, he fancied that he was surrounded by tiends. He would shut himself in his room with his back to the door to keep others out, while he fought those within which he would do with terrible energy, with fearful yells and screams, fiercely kicking at the snakes that he fancied were crawling around his legs, twisting themselves around his body and trying to get at his throat. With tightened fist he would strike a: the tantalizing imps as they perched first on one shoulder then on the other, whispering in his ear, darting and hissing in his face, until exhausted by his fruitiess efforts to free himself from his tormentors he would fall helplessly to the floor. It was a terror to hear him tell it without passing through the terrible ordeal. Poor fellow, he moved away from our village, and on one bitter cold night after a spree that had lasted for weeks, when the delirium was upon him he rushed undressed from his bedroom, ran a mie fcom home and was found next morning in a snow drift frozen to the middle. He was taken to the hospital and died there.

It made a raving yelling maniac of an honest, old, colored man, and sent him to a drunkard's grave, and another unfortunate fellow crazed with drink, while his mouth was filled with oaths and curses, was dragged head foremost into a threshing machine and ground to death. This Upas tree of evil has taken some

time to develop its fruit, but much of it (CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE)



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