

## HONORABLE MENTION.

Former pupils of Richmond Hill schools can be numbered by the score who are filling some of the best positions in the Province. Among our former citizens who have given a good account of themselves since leaving here, probably no person is deserving of greater credit than Mr. James Brackin. Mr. Brackin resigned the position of Principal of the Public School 22 years ago, and accepted a similar position in the town of Chatham, now a city. He still holds the same position, though in a much larger and more commodious school building than where he started, and from the day he commenced his labors until the present time, he appears to have been idolized by pupils, parents and citizens alike. The city dailies of June 22 give a glowing account of an At Home held the day before, and the Banner-News «editorially refers to the Principal of McKeough school as follows:

"When the story of the progress of the County of Kent is written by an unbiased historian, the name of Brackin will be mentioned as one who has endeared himself to more people of the district than any other «one individual.

" Yesterday, afternoon and evening, the principal of McKeough school entertained the pupils and parents in what is considered to be one of the best equipped school edifices in the country. It is doubtful if any other institution is surrounded with so many attractions, or, in a word, is so ' home like.'

"Mr. Brackin has been teacher, counsellor and friend to several generations. He is still in his prime, alert, vigorous, enthusiastic, retaining in a marvellous degree all that charm of manner that links teacher and scholar in one common purpose.

" ' Knowledge is power,' and thousands in Chatham, and scattered over 'this splendid Dominion of ours, and across the border, have been made more useful citizens through the ability possessed by this one man to impart 'knowledge.'

"It was fitting that some tribute be paid him, and yesterday his heart must have been gladdened by the many things said to him, and about him.

Mr. Brackin has raised a family of three sons and two daughters, and

This is surely a mistake, and a case in Markham seems to bear out what we say. The World of Tuesday contains the following :

has a written agreement, under seal, with L. H. Graham, science master, for another year, renewed as late as June 17, '01, and they refuse to cancel it to allow him to take the position offered to him by the Oshawa High School Board."

Markham Village appears to be getting the worst of it all round. Six months ago Messrs. Underhill & Sisman, who were employing a large number of men and carrying on the manufacture of boots and shoes, not liking the treatment they were receiving in Markham, decided to pull up stakes and settle in Aurora. Markham entered suit against Aurora for offering inducements to the firm in the form of a bonus, and a few days ago judgment was given against Markham, the latter to pay all costs in connection with the suit. The Markham Sun speaks of the "miscarriage of justice," and is ready to fight the judge who gave the decision in favor of Aurora, the Minister of Crown Lands, or any person in sight.

Rev. Dr. Chambers, a prominent nember of the Orange Order, speak-No. 3, County of York, will be held in the Court Room, member of the Orange Order, speaking in Toronto at the celebration on the 12th of July, pointed out the need of orphanages for children of deceased members. "Why should the orphans of brethren," said he, " be compelled to go to public insttutions, or to institutions provided by the Roman Catholics ? I thank God that the Roman Catholic Church open its doors in such a way, but there should be no need of sending

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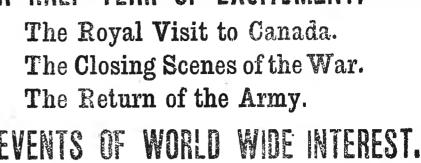
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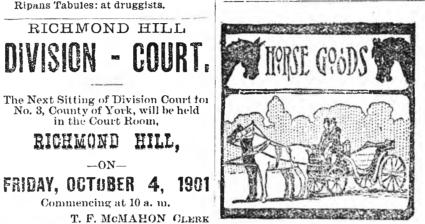
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every member of the family is a skilled musician, two being teachers of instrumental music. The Daily Planet of the 22nd ult., in a three column article on the present and past musicians of Chatham, concludes with the following reference to Mr. Brackin's eldest son :

"And now, in conclusion, we must say what has been on our heart and mind for some time touching Mr. W. Brackin. We enjoy his cornet playing, we enjoy his violin playing, we enjoy his piano playing, especially in the capacity of accompanist, where he seems so tenderly sympathetic; we enjoy his pipe-organ playing. But when he sings he holds us spellbound. What is it about that voice which searches the deepest recesses of our hearts.? Old and young feel its influence and he is greeted with the warmest enthusiasm wherever he sings. That heroic strongth, that sublime richness and fulness, that indescribable individuality which his voice possesses at once claims for him the superior cultivation of the Ger-.man education in the musical art."

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS.

The Richmond Hill Board of Education rarely has written agreements with the teachers they engage. The latter, therefore, may leave at any time by giving a month's notice, even if it be in the middle of a term. The opinion-of some of the members of the Board is that special written agreements do not bind teachers.