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GAINSBOROUGH BORN TWO CENTURIES AGO

Thomas Gainsborough, whose fame had climbed to new heights by virtue of the record-breaking sums paid for some of his portraits, was his verdict thus: "All these odd town of Sudbury, Suffolk. The exact date of his birth is uncertain, form and all the parts seem to drop although that of his baptism is on record. Sudbury has other claims to fame, for it is suposed to have figured in "Pickwick Papers" as Eatanswill, and undoubtedly suggested the name for the Canadian city that is in the heart of the greatest nickle deposits in the world. His father was a substantial tradesman, at one time mayor of the town, and described as "milliner, clothier and crepe maker. Like most other painters who have achieved fame, Gainshorough's talent manifested itself at an early age, and when he was twelve years old he was pronounced a "confirmed painter," though lacking all instruction. He was allowed to leave home and seek his fortune in London when he was fourteen, and from that time on was self-supporting, though it was not until several years had passed that he was able to earn a living by his brush alone.

Wife of Royal Blood

He was apprenticed to a silversmith and from his instructors in this craft he caught some of the delicate touches that are seen in both his landscapes and his portraits. Like the comedian who aspires to play Hamlet, Gainsborough had little pleasure out of portraitpainting. His ambition was to do what he called "landskips." But it happened that it was by portraits that he caught the popular fancy and became the rage. Thereafter his exclusive tastes or perhaps the mor expensive tastes of his family doomed him to continue at the portraits, and only rarely did he have the opportunity of studying nature. He was married early, his wife being Margaret Burr, who boasted that she had royal blood in her veins and in proof thereof was able to point to an annuity of £200. Later investigation showed that in all probability she was the daughter of the fourth Duke of Beaufort, man. who was a direct descendent of Edward III. She was proud of this bar sinister and her daughters shared her pride, perhaps thinking more highly of their descent from a battered rake of a duke than from one of the greatest portrait painters of the century.

Disliked His Sitters

plenty of money she established That caused the Brazilians to turn cal difficulties had been added econherself as treasurer of the house- to the skunk for relief. wife and daughters had a feminine vorite dog.—George Ballard Bowers. weakness for high society which abounded at Bath, where the family spent a considerable period. But Gainsborough had no use for any Readers would do well to the Union and some had advocated annexation of the great Northwest etc., will rob me out of my last

Some Famous Portraits

people and painted no fewer than ad., but for the smaller artisix portraits of his friend David Garrick, one of them, according to cles you will find they will do Mrs. Garrick being "the best por- the trick. Try them. trait of my Davy." He also challenged comparison with Sir Joshua | The millennium will be here after Reynolds who has immortalized people repent without being Mrs. Siddons as "The Tragic Muse" caught. when he painted her as herself, and | When the office seeks the man it a magnificent portrait it is. The doesn't need a search warrant. portraits of General Wolfe with which Canadians are familiar are the work of Gainsborough who painted two portraits of the soldier when he was at Bath shortly before he sailed for Canada and immortality. He was an early member of the Royal Academy of which Reynolds was the first president. Gainsborough exhibited at its second exhibition, and the first recorded criticism of his work is to be found in the "St. James' Chronicle" reporting the show. It is as

"Mr. Gainsborough, No. 30, A whole length of a gentleman with A good portrait and a pleasing likeness of Mr. Poyntz. The dog well done." The subject of the portrait was a Berkshire squire who was the uncle of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, who was to become the subject of Gainsborough's most celebrated portrait. At this exhibition also there appeared "No. 85, Portrait of a young THE NEW NO KNOCK IMPERIAL Gentleman," which was probably

the famous "Blue Boy." How He Worked

Says a writer in the New York Times Magazine.

"He painted in dim lit rooms by choice and even by candlelight, and otherwse worked much as he pleased-using brushes on the ends of sticks six feet long, and applying

his colors when he fancied with his fingers, bits of sponge or even the sugar tongs. As a painter, who in spite of his own experiments, was in theory firmly devoted to good form in his art, Sir Joshua could not quite approve of this sort of thing. Moreover, Gainsborough was aggressively independent. So there were times when Mr. Gainsborough was at outs with the P. R. A. Nevertheless, Sir Joshua was not scratches and marks by a kind of into their proper places.'

THE SKUNK TO CLEAR BRAZIL OF SNAKES

The skunk is that little white and black creature so well known in America that no description seems necessary. While many think of this cunning little animal in terms of fur coat, thief, or smell, a few see him as a great benefactor, not only as a ravenous eater of destructive mice and insects, but of the dreaded rattlesnake.

It is frequently asked why snakes multiply no more rapidly and what are their natural enemies. The skunk is the answer. Science knows no other animal immune from rattlesnake poison. Hence, anyone who dreads snakes should hesitate to kill a skunk. As skunks should not be killed for fur, and only rarely for their raids upon hen nests and tiny chicks, the only objection left would be the odor emitted when molested. This may be avoided by not disturbing the skunk while it slowly waddles through field and orchard searching

snakes. There the snake is a na- constitutional history of Canada is than twenty thousand persons are has been discovered to save the multiplying rapidly in the cultiva- ifest by her attitude toward the reted areas where man has overturned the balance of nature. No doubt ing animals, but they do not follow into the cleared regions where upon mice and other creatures upon which snakes thrive. Thus menace the land most desired by

The Brazilian scientists have turned to America for relief. They country of their dangerous snakes and, in the west, a vast unoccupied Empire.—Mail and Empire. and to keep down the creatures up-

on which snakes thrive. perimented with various animals to tions under which the inhabitants find an enemy of the venomous were governed, and rebellions had The marriage was a happy one at snakes so abundant there. Two broken out in the very year of her first, and perhaps Gainsborough birds, the emu and the jaburu, eat was to blame that it did not prove snakes as does the wild pig. A pet union of Upper and Lower Canada ing a truck. a continuous idyll. But he was a skunk at a Brazilian snake farm under a single system of governman of convivial, not to say spend- pointed the way. It wandered ment in 1841 had failed to bring thrift habits, and annoyed Mrs. about at will, frequently receiving harmony and contentment. Indeed, Gaisborough by contracting loans snake bites, but whenever it was it had accentuated the racial diviagainst her annuity. So it came to hungry, it simply picked out a choice. pass that when he was making rattler, bit off its head and ate it. created new problems. To politi-

hold, receiving all monies and dol- The knowledge of the use of the the free trade movement in Great ing out to Gainsborough what she skunk should cause one to hesitate Britain had deprived Canada of thought was enough for him. She when his provoking little creature seems also to have been jealous makes a raid on a ben nest or turns Mother Country. The consequence and probably not without cause, a pet dog into temporary odorifer- had been a demand in some quarters The estrictions imposed upon him ous abomination. The offending in Canada for annexation to the frequently led to outbursts of tem- skunk may have been hunting for a United States. A reciprocity treaty per, in which, as a biographer rattlesnake in the hen roost, or with the United States, negotiated notes, he would fly into irregular- clearing the mice out of the garden ities and sometimes excesses. His when it was molested by that fa- had been abrogated in 1866. In the

Chronicle Want Ads.

society but a musical or convivial look over our Small Want to their country. In Great Britain, one. "Now, damn, gentlemen," said and other Ads. on page 7. at the same time some statesmen of the manchester school had viewed to a real artist in the world as There are many things in the British overseas possessions as they are in if not kept at a proper them that you might want a burden. fine ladies, with their tea-drink- to buy, and if you have anyings, dancing, husband-hunting thing to sell they can do that

Of course, they can't take He loved the society of theatre the place of the big display

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

North America Act, another date Brazil has a pest of poisonous that is quite as important in the

Nor is it a matter for surprise it happens that in Brazil snakes that the Queen should have been undeveloped land. In the two largest of the five colonies there had For years Brazilian scientists ex- been dissatisfaction with the condiaccession to her high office. The ments when he wishes he were drivsion of the population and had omic difficulties. The progress of certain tariff preferences in the in 1854, had eased the situation, but some statesmen in the United States had favored squeezing Canada into

Under these conditions, the policy

and, through the co-operation of While July 1st commemorates the Canadian statesmen of various policoming into force of the British tical parties, an actuality. The project looked to a settlement of local difficulties, to the creation of optional problem. Each year more March 29th. On March 29, 1867, and to the establishment of what sixty years ago today-Queen Vic- Sir John Macdonald described as an bitten and five thousand die an- toria gave the Royal assent to the "auxiliary kingdom," extending nually of snake bites. While a serum legislation through which Confeder- from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In ation was accomplished. That Her estimating the importance of the people bitten, Brazil has no animal Majesty was deeply interested in Union to which Queen Victoria gave which preys upon the snakes the passing of this Act is made man- the Royal assent on March 29, 1867, it is well to consider what might presentatives of Canada who were have been the situation had Canada engaged in arranging its terms. lacked men of courage and forein the jungles there are snake-eat- She gave audiences to the gentle- sight to undertake the work of conmen constituting the Conference federation. It is possible that, in and enquired sympathetically from that event, the great Western territhe poisonous snakes go to feed time to time into the progress they ories might have passed into other hands, that the divided eastern procoast would not have been able to anxious to facilitate the union of carry on such great tasks as the the North American colonies. When construction of the Intercolonial she had ascended the throne, thirty and the Canadian Pacific Railyears before, there had been five ways, and that the Dominion might have chosen that little smell maker, such colonies in the eastern portion not have set the example of conthe skunk, to help them rid their of the territory that is now Canada, federation for other parts of the

Probably man was made to mount but that's another job he turned

Every man has his indignant mo-

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Many there are who make of a legitimate and well established business nothing but a convenience—a place from which to get odds and ends when there is no time to go farther afield. They do not hesitate to send their good money away for many things they need and which could just as satisfactorily and much more promptly be supplied by their home merchants and dealers. No business, no matter of what nature, can long exist on this sort of patronage. Nor is it fair to expect that it should. The public expect to receive services as and when they demand it; but many do not do their part in making this bossible.

There are manufacturing industries with fairly complete equipment which, because of lack of consideration, are idle much of the time. It must be patent to all that a busy plant can operate much more cheaply than one which is working only part time. Therefore it should be the policy of all to place their business of whatever kind it may be with the local plant or factory to the end that it may be kept reasonably busy and thus be in a position to give its best service.

When it is printed matter of any kind, remember the plant and equipment of

The Durham Chronicle

Issued by the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association 313 Manning Chambers, Toronto

Her First Problem

Little Betty had never used the telephone. One day, when the bell rang, she approached the table, removed the receiver and listened, as she had seen her mother do. At the sound of her father's voice she burst into tears.

"How are we going to get daddy out of that little hole, mummy?" she asked.

Forty minutes for a speech at Ottawa has been suggested as the limit. And there is little doubt some politicians could tell all they knew in one tenth of the time.-St

AUCTION SALE

Catharines Standard.

Of Farm Stock and Implements, the property of the late Hugh Campbell, on Thursday, June 9, at 2 o'clock, p.m., at lots Nos. 9 and 10 Con. 1, N.D.R., Glenelg. For turther particulars see bills.

SOUTH GREY AGRICULTURAL SO ciety are staging a mammoth Garden Party on the Agricultural Grounds, Durham on Thursday, June 23rd, when Ye Olde Tyme Village Quartette of Toronto, with Miss Pearl Carter, reader, will supply the entire programme. These artists have frequently been heard in radio programs, but have never yet appeared personally in Durham. Plan to hear them. Fuller announcement later.

COMING AGAIN TO RELIEVE EYEsight trouble, Prof. E. Ketz, the well-known optical specialist, on Wednesday, June 1, Hahn House, Durham. Headache, pains in the temples and back of the neck, dizziness, defective vision, relieved through properly fitted glasses. As. Prof. Katz is known to be one of the most skilled and experienced opticians of today he can help you even if others fail. Remember the date. See the glasses for \$7.50,

Ship Your Wool

The Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers' Association will load wool at the following places and dates;

DURHAM (C. N. R. June 9 HOLSTEIN June 10 MT. FOREST (C. N. R.) June 11

Wool will be taken any time during the days mentioned, and sacks and twine may be obtained on application to

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