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LETTERS To The Editor

Joan of Arc.
Kingston, April 16.—(To the Editor): "The Maid of Orleans," burned alive in the market-place of Rouen, May 30th, 1431, is considered one of the most remarkable personages in all history. To account for what she did in freeing her country for nearly five hundred years, George Bernard Shaw, whose play "Saint Joan" is creating such a furore, "admits he is the first author to understand Joan of Arc. France's heroine." He says, "all others have been wrong in estimates of the Queerest Fish of Middle Ages." It strikes one as queer that he should use such a slang expression if he really understood her. Shaw's estimate of the pucelle (maid) according to what is published in an article in the Whig, Saturday, April 4th, is no more correct than any of the other authors cited therein. There have been a number of authors, both English and French, who have given historical facts which, in the light of present day knowledge, explain the character and the action of Jeanne d'Arc quite understandably. No one can understand the life of the pucelle fully from simply reading one author on the subject. Should you read only Lamartine or Michelet you would get the French side of the story. Should you read only Hume, Dickens or Barlett, you would get the English side. In addition to these authors read Henri, Martin, DeQuincy and Grimke; then you will be in a position to form an intelligent opinion of the inspired leader of the French soldiers. Joan's ideas were not due to "clerical prompting," nor was she a "masochist," as suggested by Anatole France. Neither were her actions due to "realistic imagination" as the article above referred to states. "Shaw re-creates his heroine as a girl of 'terrifying ability,' but, if so, it is not a true representation or interpretation of her life and conduct. The explanation is simpler, yet more marvelous, touching and profound.

One needs to know the antecedents of this wonderful girl; the historical background of the great drama in which she played a leading part, to get a true perspective. She lived in a superstitious age among a superstitious people. In her day the church was supreme and heretics were put to death freely. Domremy, a village among the hills of Lorraine, was the place where the heroine of Orleans and Reims first saw the light. Of all locations on earth this was perhaps the one place for such prodigies as Jeanne d'Arc to be born. For hundreds of years before the birth of this girl, Domremy had, as Michelet says, enjoyed "all the poetry of war." Being located on the line and in fact at the cross-roads between Burgundy and that portion of France which was loyal to the King, armies were constantly passing and repassing; neither the King of France nor the Duke of Burgundy were able to afford the people protection.

They continually called upon and looked for some supermundane power for deliverance, and devoutly believed that through some miraculous interposition, God would not only save Lorraine, but that through that province the alliance between England and Burgundy would be broken and all France be saved. Long before Jeanne's birth a French prophet had foretold that France would be saved by a virgin, and all through the Province of Lorraine the people believed this virgin was to be born in one of its four Domremys.

Though Jeanne never knew one letter from another, she drank in all the traditions of the church. Her religion and her patriotism were not items in her life; her life was merely an item in her devotion to religion and her country.

Signs of mediumship began to manifest themselves in Jeanne when she was very young. S. M. Grinke says: "She was but eight years old when all these signs were manifest in her. She seemed like the ancient Sybil, marked from infancy with the fatal seal of sadness, of beauty and of isolation among the daughters of men."

Then she was less than thirteen years old, being in her father's garden one day, she was attracted by a light which she said was above the brightness of the sun, and turning to it, saw two of the most beautiful and resplendent objects she had ever beheld. One of them spoke and said: "Jeanne, be a good and obedient girl and go often to church." The apparition vanished. She said: "O mother, the music of that voice exceeds anything I ever heard, not excepting your own voice." From this time forward the whole tenor of her life seemed to be changed. She seemed to feel her mission. Something in the tones of her voice seemed to tell her friends that a kind of preternatural power was discovering to her, her life-work. She was not long left to grope in the dark. Going again through the garden she again heard the voice and, turning, saw the radiance and in the midst of this ineffable effulgence stood two noble figures, one of which said: "Jeanne, go to the squire and restore his kingdom to him." She fell upon her knees and bowed her head and replied: "Monseigneur, I am only a poor girl, I know not how to ride or to lead an army." The heavenly visitor replied: "Go to M. de Baudricourt, Lord of Vaucouleur, and he will conduct thee to the King. St. Catherine and St. Margaret will be thy aids."

After remaining stupefied and in tears sometimes, other angels seemed

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These days of growing scientific knowledge" (by the way, will he kindly tell us what kind of knowledge is not scientific?) by no means alters the fundamental doctrine of Christ's resurrection, which He Himself gave as a proof of His Messiahship.

The New Testament is full of it. See Paul's strong and unanswerable argument in I. Cor. 15, and other passages almost without number.

Those who "hesitate" in accepting this doctrine do not really "accept Jesus" in a saving and scriptural way. They do not know him and the power of His resurrection; nor do they say with the inspired apostle, "It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again."

—JAMES LAWSON.
62 Seneca street, Ottawa.

Murney Tower

Professor D. A. MacArthur, head of the historical department at Queen's has kindly shown the Whig some passages which throw light on the name Murray as applied to the martello tower which the Kingston Historical Society has taken over. This tower is now called the Murney tower, but the name carved above the entrance is Murnay and the letter N is of metal, suggesting that a clumsy attempt has been made to change Murray into Murney. The two passages from the Argus, a Kingston newspaper, of the year 1848 when the tower was under construction, show clearly that the name of the tower was actually Murray and that the point on which it stands had had its name changed to Murray Point. Asked what he considered that the point had previously been called, Professor MacArthur suggested that it might easily have been Murney, a title resumed later when the memory of Sir George Murray had been forgotten.

One of the passages from the Argus dated, June 12th, 1846, reads: "OUR FORTIFICATIONS.

On Wednesday last a detachment of the Royal Artillery placed a cannon on the martello tower in course of erection at Murray Point, for the purpose of trying the strength of the masonry. Sir Richard Bonnycastle was present, and, we understand, expressed himself well pleased with the manner in which the comparatively green masonry withstood the firing. Mr. George Davidson, the contractor, has been most expeditious in fulfilling his contract, and did not require to be told that he would be able to complete his work in one-half the period allowed him to do so.

The second reference occurs in the Argus of August 28th, 1846, in the form of a note added by the editor to the account of the death of Sir George Murray, which occurred at Inverness, Scotland. The editor says:

"We notice that the redoubt nearly finished at the west end of this city has been named after Sir George, and the site on which it is erected has also been changed to Murray Point. The gallant officers who conferred this mark of respect upon their distinguished chief little thought when the work was commenced a few months ago, that the completion of their monument would have occurred almost at the moment of his death."

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Rev. Dr. MacLean Seriously Ill at Inverness, Que.

The many friends of Mrs. J. A. MacLean, Frontenac street, will be sorry to hear that she was called very suddenly to Inverness, Quebec, on account of the serious illness of her husband, Rev. Dr. MacLean in that place for the past two years.

\$500 for Cobourg Hospital.

J. D. Hayden, president of Cobourg hospital board, has received from the estate of Alexander McManis, through Dr. S. S. Dickenson, executor and trustee, a bond for \$500 bearing interest at the rate of five and one-half per cent. yearly for five years, made by Toronto General Trusts Corporation in favor of the Cobourg General Hospital.

To Wed in Chicago.

William Henry McCartney, son of William McCartney, left on Saturday for Chicago where on Wednesday, April 22nd, he will be united in marriage to Miss Edna V. Ames, daughter of Mrs. Isaac Ames, Chicago, formerly of Napanee. Mr. and Mrs. McCartney will take up residence on Alfred street.

To Buy Property.

At the regular meeting of the Pembroke Board of Education it was decided to purchase the Mackie property for a new high school site at a cost of \$20,000, provided the Separate School Board purchases the present high school property for \$11,000. This body has already ordered \$10,000.

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