

LOCAL BEVITIES.

An Eminent Singer. Miss Annie Howden has been engaged by Messrs. Sherlock and Dean to sing here on Thursday, 27th inst.

Our Large Butter Box. Is now filled with choice roll print butter, 23; fine tub butter, 18c; all of the finest quality. Jas. Crawford.

B. Laurance's Spectacles. The only sure aids to perfect vision, at J. G. King's drug store. Buy none other. See every pair is stamped "B.L." Imitations abound. The frame may sometimes be closely imitated, the lens never.

"Comparisons are Odious." Pomeroy's Petrolene Plasters are beyond comparison with any of the old slow-acting plasters so much advertised; they are positively original and superior in all respects. Of druggists and J. G. King, Kingston.

They Can Have the Honor. The Picton Gazette claims that Sir John Macdonald did not make his first speech as a lawyer in Kingston, but in Picton, and there are people who remember him as a law student there. This is another of those discrepancies connected with the knight's early history.

A Gift for Donald. Last week Most Excellent Companion Donald Ross, of Picton, was presented with a P.G.Z. jewel by the Prince Edward Chapter, No. 31. The present was of fine gold, quite costly, and beautiful in design and secured in England by James Greenfield during his visit to that country.

It Was not Plain Enough. If John Wesley Brown had made this statement at the school board, "Take notice that we, the conservatives having a majority are going to hoist the scripture lessons from the schools," then the public could have more readily understood that politics are about to govern in the schools.

Grand Trunk Lines Clear Again. The Grand Trunk railway officials concentrated their efforts yesterday afternoon on the clearing of the road, and to that end cancelled all trains. By 7 o'clock the snow had been removed and the night expresses started from Montreal and Toronto. They passed here this morning very late.

Secured a Captaincy. Lieut. W. F. Tilley, son of the late William Tilley, has been promoted to the position of captain of the royal engineers. On the 9th of February he sails for Madras, India, to assume charge there. Our friend's course, from the time he entered the Royal military college, Kingston, has been successful.

Injured at Alabama. Yesterday Mr. W. Stewart, checker at the K. & P. R. station, received a letter stating that his son William, a railroader at Alabama, had been injured and lost his right leg. He was boarding a train near Little Verner when his leg was caught between two cars. Amputation was necessary in order to save his life.

Kingston in No. 4 District. The meteorological department has issued a map showing the storm signal stations and railway districts for which snow warnings are issued. The country is divided into eleven districts, and in future warning messages will merely give the number of the district in which the storm is expected, and the bulletins will read to that effect.

Written With a Pen. Robert S. Mowat, formerly of Kingston, now a resident of Elkhorn, Man., sends us a paper, published by a farmer of that place, the Elkhorn Review, not printed but written with an electric pen upon foolscap paper. At the meeting of the Elkhorn Mutual Improvement society Mr. Mowat was a prominent speaker and vocalist.

A Demand for Bodies. During the winter many cases of body-snatching have been reported. These of fences cannot be attributed to students of the local medical colleges, for as much as \$46 each have been paid for subjects for colleges in various parts of the dominion. A regular trade in bodies seems to have been established. Only a few days ago, at a wake in the city, a student was offered the body for \$5. The request was not accepted, though "the friend of the deceased" offered to pass the corpse out of a window while the house was occupied in another part of the company.

Another Industry for Kingston. Within a few days Messrs. Joseph Swift and Michael Grady have joined Prof. J. W. Davy in the formation of what will be known as the "Davy Excelsior Farm & Railway Iron Fence company." Its headquarters will be here, and arrangements are now being made for the establishment of works upon a large scale. The prospects of the company are very bright. Already negotiations are being had with the railway and canal organizations for the introduction of the Davy fence. In the past Prof. Davy has had success in the sale of his patent, and there is every indication of a lively trade being done by the company.

Accident at the Williams Mine. A bad accident occurred yesterday afternoon in the Williams iron mine, near Calabogie. Messrs. Balderson and J. Mulcahey drilled a hole in a rock and filled it with dynamite. An attempt was made to set it off, but it missed fire. The men very foolishly set to work to pick the dynamite out of the hole, and while so doing the stuff exploded, scattering stones in all directions and severely wounding the men. This morning it was learned that both men were living and would be transferred to the general hospital to-day. Only Balderson will be placed in the hospital. He arrives to-night. Mulcahey's injuries are not so serious as Balderson's, and therefore he will be treated at home.

A Shoe Shop Burned. Last evening, between 5 and 6 o'clock, a small frame building on Montreal street, owned by R. O'Connell and used as a shoe-maker's shop, was burned. When the firemen reached it the flames had got such headway that to save it was impossible. Most of its contents were rescued, and then the firemen began to pull it down. It was supported by posts. Hipson got a rope attached to one of them and pulled. While doing so the brick chimney in the building came crashing to the ground, some of the flying bricks striking him. They did not injure him seriously. It is said the fire was caused by a lamp exploding.

The building and contents were insured in the British American company for \$200, \$100 on the building, \$50 on the stock, and \$50 on the tools.

CARL FECHTER'S LETTER.

HIS TRIBUTE TO THE CANADIAN POET, CHAS. SANGSTER.

One Whose Talents Have Never Been Fully Appreciated—The Civil Service Only—Fit for Machine Men—Mr. Mackenzie's Meritorious Act—Acquaintance With Griefs.



CHARLES SANGSTER.

After an absence of very nearly nineteen years Mr. Charles Sangster has returned to his native city to enjoy the rest he so much deserves. I have known Mr. Sangster for many years, and regarded him as the personification of all that was pure and high-minded and virtuous. He was always quiet and thoughtful, had a poet's manner and a poet's temperament. He wrote a great deal of very beautiful poetry, and poetry which could not be expected to do if dispossessed of merit. Much of what is called poetry is not deserving of the name. A poet does not aim, as some people imagine, to produce a harmonious jingle of words. He does not write mechanically. He is inspired with a thought, and if a successful wooer of the muse he will find no difficulty in clothing it in befitting language. The idea must come first, however, before there can be an elaboration of it, and the higher and more ennobling it is the more impressive will be its development. Of Sangster's poetry the English press was exceedingly flattering in its notices, but it remained for the Canadian press, which of course knew him better, to pay him the most appreciative compliment. It was the Woodstock Times that published the following glowing eulogy of Mr. Sangster, written by Rev. W. Stephenson, an orator formerly of Ontario and now of the United States. Said he:

"While the 'St. Lawrence and the Saguenay' was replete with the outgushing effusions of no ordinary mind, 'Hesperus' is overflowing with genius of higher worth. No one, we think, in perusing either of those works—especially the latter—will deny that Mr. Sangster possesses the varied requisites of the true poet. There is a softness, a delicacy, a rich hue of thought, and withal a purity of sentiment pervading these poems, which at once and forever redeem them from a species of literature far too potent in our midst. The eye of precocious wantonness, and the heart of prurient lasciviousness, so pandered to by the venal writers of the age, find nothing to regale them on these pages. But to all who admire poetry, as she weaves her chaplet of love to deck the brow of the true and the pure, we promise a rare gratification in this book. Mr. Sangster, himself a most ethereal being, has refined, sublimated and crystallized, by the force of his genius, the object of his poetic admiration. And the sunshine and shade—the song and the sadness—the bitterness and the bliss of human life, find each their fitting delineation, their just expression. Mr. Sangster is no misanthrope; he loves his brother man with a real brotherly and genuine heartiness, and seeks, as far as in him lies, to minister to his dignity, and to regain for him his bright light. 'Who Colin' was, whose memory Mr. Sangster has enshrined in amber, we know not, but from what is here said of him we conclude he was an heir of the blood royal of bravery, whose deeds, but for the poet, might have perished in the grade of the hero, now to survive, at least, a fraction of duration. 'The poet enters the abodes of death and bereavement—where hope like a lamb lies slain—with the air of a messenger of peace—sets an iris in the darkest cloud, and leaves sparkling in the coffin lid the assurance that—

"Sorrow ne'er filled a chalice That joy did not wait to drain."

"All we have to add is, that we hope the day is not far distant, when such men as Sangster, McColl, McCarroll, and the famed author of 'Saul,' a drama, will take their proper and legitimate stand before the public of Canada. It certainly speaks and argues badly for the future of this country, that its sons of talent and genius must be tried at the bar of British criticism before their voices can ever be heard at home. Let Canada wipe this stigma from her literature, and award due encouragement to her high-souled sons, who daily toil for daily bread, and trim their 'midnight lamps' to brighten and to bless her homes. Unfortunately for Canada she has not done honor to either Sangster or McColl. Both entered the civil service, and both, because possessed of that innate modesty so characteristic of the poet, suffered from the neglect which the politician has been wont to pay to the less troublesome of his race. They preferred to leave their reward to the premier's sense of the eternal fitness of things, and he passed them by; nay, of the presence of one he purposely forgot, and of the presence of the other he rid himself so far as possible. It is reflections like these that make me ashamed of my country, or rather of those who govern my country. Their inclination is to smother out the inspiration of a man like Charles Sangster. If he has sung the songs whose music never ceases it is because his spirit has risen superior to his surroundings and sustained him despite every disappointment of life. Mr. Sangster is called Canada's own poet; he is especially Kingston's own poet. I learn, by reference to Morgan's 'Sketches of Celebrated Canadians,' that this family came from the lower provinces, and that he was born in the navy yard, Kingston, on the 16th July, 1822. His education was meagre, so much so that had he not studied assiduously when he reached man's estate we could not probably now have included his name among the eminent men of the country. His was a hard struggle. Left fatherless, the youngest of a large family, with a widowed mother to support, he strove for a length of time to push himself forward.

But, all to little purpose. Instead of receiving encouragement he only met with repulse. He was but fifteen years of age when he first got employment in the laboratory at Fort Henry, where he helped to make the cartridges with which Capt. Sandon, of the royal navy, battered the old windmill at Prescott. After this he obtained an appointment as messenger in the Ordnance office, where he remained for ten years, receiving the pay of a labourer, doing the duty of a clerk, and without any possible chance of promotion. At length, seeing how futile it was to pass away the best years of his life in so hopeless a position, Mr. Sangster gave up his situation in the summer of 1849, and went to Amherstburg, becoming editor of the Courier, and conducting that paper until the end of the year. Then he returned to Kingston and entered the Daily British Whig office. For ten years he was its manager, and discharged his duty with a rare fidelity. A vacancy occurring on the staff of the News about 1860 he was appointed to it, and, as a reporter, indulged his literary tastes as he had not done during his previous connection with the local papers. Journalism was wearying in its obligations, it involved sacrifices for which it offered no reasonable compensation, and when about 1868 Mr. Sangster was offered an appointment under the federal government, in connection with the post office department, he accepted it and removed from the city. Prior to this I believe he contributed poetic effusions to the Canadian press, and brought out two books. Of these works much has been said, but nothing to which they are not entitled. 'Mr. Sangster,' says Morgan, the biographer, 'may justly be regarded as our national bard, and Canadians may feel proud in possessing such a man, who writes not for lucre, but for the love of his country, possessing a deep regard for everything essentially British, and evidently inspired with kindly and commendable feelings. Some passages in his poems are beautiful and lofty, rich and grand in expression, honorable alike to his head and his heart. Having in view the object of benefitting his fellowman and raising him from a state of stupor to a just appreciation of the beauties of nature, he may rest satisfied with the consideration that such a life, devoted to such pursuits, is not altogether thrown away or unfruitfully employed.' To all of which I can unreservedly subscribe my endorsement.

When Mr. Sangster went to Ottawa he took with him a third volume of poems in manuscript, which had gradually accumulated since the publication of 'Hesperus' and other poems. This volume was then considered ready for the press. A few additions were made to it during the first few early years of his stay in that city, but figures and ledger work and the wooing of the Canadian muse agreed to disagree as usual, and the volume has lain in lavender—the aroma has long since left it—in truth it lies almost 'down among the dead men,' not likely to be fished up again in a long while if ever. It is true that during Mr. Mackenzie's administration that gentleman (solely on literary grounds) bettered Mr. Sangster's official position to an extent which somewhat eased the poet's mind and pocket, but too late for his poetry, and more which has passed into oblivion. The gettens up of the 'Royal' and 'Ontario' series of school books for the Ontario education department have kept our townsman before the public, in the absence of anything fresh from his pen, by selections from his poems already published. Had it not been for that one good act of Mr. Mackenzie, it looks as if Mr. Sangster might have whistled in vain for any favor at the hands of Sir John. Premiers differ with a vengeance. In the 'last scene of all' Mr. Sangster left the dominion capital with a fair retiring allowance, for which thank the gods. At present he is making his home, whether for short or long, in his native city, where nearly all he has published (as well as much that remains unpublished) was written. If anything he is more unobtrusive and retired than ever; perchance this is owing to his domestic bereavements. He was married in Oct., 1867, to Henrietta, second daughter of the late Dr. James Meagher, and by her he had six children, three of whom, dying when young, were brought here and interred in Cataract cemetery; and thither he conveyed the remains of his wife in the summer of 1884. Only those who have passed through similarly sorrowful circumstances know how to sympathize with him. That he may long remain among the friends who most esteem him, and amid scenes which move his soul, that life's burden may be made as light as possible by the affection of his many admirers, is the wish of

PERSONAL MENTION.

People Whose Movements, Sayings and Doings Attract Attention.

Isaac Pellow has been appointed manager of J. C. Hardy's new store at Renfrew. S. Bethune, Q.C., and W. H. Kerr, Q.C., are proposed for the vacant judgeships in Quebec.

John Herring has been elected president, and G. M. Elliott secretary, of the Napanee board of trade.

Hon. C. F. Fraser, of Brockville, has been elected president of the catholic literary society of that town.

Lieut. Col. Mackenzie, of the Gananoque field battery, has been elected vice-president of the Ontario artillery association.

Nelson German, of Napanee, confined in Rockwood asylum, is very ill, and Dr. Clarke has little hope of his recovery.

Thomas Brady, late manager for F. X. Cousineau & Co., has purchased the dry goods stock of MacNamara Bros. at Brockville.

George W. Platt, late of this city, is travelling for the American chemical manufacturing and mining company of Rochester, N.Y.

Capt. Thomas Donnelly and Capt. Carter, Deseronto, have been elected members of the executive committee of the Canadian marine association.

Col. Cotton, of "A" battery, thinks the best ranges in Ontario for artillery practice are at Port Colborne. In future all competitions will occur there.

A. B. Macklin, of the Chicago and Alton railway, has been appointed Canadian passenger agent for that system with headquarters in Toronto. Mr. Macklin has assumed the duties.

INCIDENTS OF THE DAY.

PARAGRAPHS PICKED UP BY OUR BUSY REPORTERS

The Spice of Every Day Life—What the Public are Talking About—Nothing Escapes the Attention of Those Who are Tablre Notes.

"A" Battery band at the roller rink to-night. Trot out your tologgan: Hurray for the fleetest piece of lark.

The Battersea and Newboro stages only reached the city yesterday. A telephone has been placed in the tailoring establishment of Livingstone Bros.

Fine Golden Russets, North Spys, and all kinds of fine winter apples; choice print and roll butter. Jas. Crawford.

Yesterday the K. & P. R. track was kept clear of snow, and to-day trains are running on time. The flag at the post office was at half-mast to-day, a mark of respect for the late F. C. Voigt.

Several Kingston masons visit Deseronto on Tuesday to assist in the dedication of a new hall. The new school board meets for organization on Monday evening in the council chamber.

A half dozen snow-shoeing clubs have been organized, and they go on the tramp almost nightly. A popular young vessel captain will soon take unto himself a mate to sail with him on the voyage of life.

The conservatives are wire-pulling with great earnestness to have a clear track for the speaker when he says "I'm ready." The Napanee stage had not reached the city at two o'clock this afternoon. The road between here and Napanee is in a bad state.

Mr. Myles, owner of the propeller Myles, sunk near the Kingston foundry dock, will arrive on Monday and perfect arrangements for raising the boat.

Swedish turnips, 50c tag; potatoes, 75c; Spanish and Canadian onions; fresh print roll and tub butter. Jas. Crawford.

John Cochrane, of this city, who won the gold medals at the Ontario College of Pharmacy, is the oldest son of the late Rev. W. Cochrane, of Middleville and Dalhousie.

Co-education is a great success in the business college. Particular attention is being given to the writing department, and to secure greater success the staff will be increased.

Robert McCullough, an ex-convict, has been convicted of assaulting his wife with murderous intent, and sent to the penitentiary for three years.

What is the use of coughing. Morning, noon and night? When a dose of Wilson's Cough Balsam Will cure you up all right! Only sold at "The Pharmacy" by W. J. Wilson.

The first meeting of the Portsmouth council for 1887, takes place on Monday evening at 6 o'clock when the usual affirmations will be made before proceeding to business.

The grand lodge of the Sons of Temperance of Canada will meet at Brampton on January 18th. It is expected that Messrs. McCrossie and James Johnston will represent Kingston.

Folger & McParland's "Membrane Mitchell" has been in Gananoque. A professor of the Guelph agricultural college, who saw him, speaks in high terms of the equine's breeding.

A movement is on foot having for its object the holding of horse races in this vicinity during the winter. There will be a meeting at Vanalstine's hotel on Monday evening.

For something really good for Monday evening read the amusement column. A trip around the world in a couple of hours, with really artistic views, presented to the very best advantage.

There will be a tea-meeting and concert in the city hall on Friday evening next, under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. Local talent will be present and Rev. W. G. Henderson will deliver an address.

Thomas Keats contradicts the statement that his boy F. Keats caused an explosion by setting fire to powder in an unoccupied house owned by Mr. Essop. Keats knows the boy who did the deed.

The balance of the season we will sacrifice our stock of choice furs at greatly reduced prices to make room for the largest and most stylish stock of stiff and soft hats ever brought into this city of Kingston.—J. B. Page & Co.

An exchange tells about "an honest old citizen," of Kingston, who, while chopping in his back shed became suddenly ill and expired. What a warning! No honest man should ever attempt to chop wood if he wants to live. Let the women do the work.

THE CHURCHLY PARAGRAPHS.

A Movement Looking Towards Union—Services in the City Churches. Principal Grant preaches in Pembroke on Feb. 6th, the anniversary of the opening of a new church.

It will be a month or more before Queen street Methodist church will be formally opened. Rev. R. B. Smith, preaches in St. James' church to-morrow morning and Rev. H. Farrer in the evening.

Rev. J. K. McMorine preaches in Pakenham T. M. church. He delivers missionary addresses at Almonte on Wednesday evening next and at Clayton on Thursday.

Rev. John Helliwell, of Hillier, well-known here, is going to tell the people of his township to-night what he knows about the "Ross bible."

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

Present Poverty and Distress in Kingston—And It Must be Relieved.

Written for the Whig. Few people in Kingston, save those who are actively engaged in our city charities, are aware how much poverty and distress is at their doors, and how scant are the means available for its relief.

The extreme severity and steadiness of the very cold weather adds to the misery caused by scarcity of work. Many working men are idle, have been so for weeks and months, and even such savings as they had have disappeared, so that some who have in past time bestowed charity have now to ask it. To meet such cases there is no regular fund.

It cannot be too emphatically repeated that the funds of the Poor Relief society are not collected, and therefore not available for such cases, being raised for those who are aged or helpless, with no able-bodied men to work for them. The failure to realize this is the cause of frequent applications and recommendations that cannot be entertained by this society out of its ordinary fund. But wives and children cannot be allowed to freeze and starve because the husbands and fathers cannot find work, vainly sought, and so some of the office-bearers of the Poor Relief society have had to become for the present personally responsible for grants of fuel in cases of urgent need. It is earnestly to be desired that public spirited citizens would take this matter into their earnest consideration, and devise means for relieving distress which must increase with the continuance of the severe cold.

Last year much misery was relieved by Mayor Whiting's donation of \$200 to provide fuel for the families of workmen out of work. By thus meeting the urgent necessities of needy citizens he set a much more worthy and christian example than he could have done by providing a luxurious banquet for those who never know what it is to want a meal. I would go farther and say that if our city council were to give a banquet to those who have to live for months on little more than bread and tea (if not on bread and water) they would enjoy it much more than the most recherché dinner that could be placed before themselves, inasmuch as it is "more blessed to give than to receive."

One of the most fruitful causes of increasing the poverty, always arising from our long cold winters, is the presence, every year, of new arrivals, chiefly emigrants from England brought out by our emigration department to swell the number of cases that have to be assisted during the winter. Arriving during the summer it is impossible for them to be provided for the winter's needs and enforced idleness, while they are of course quite unfitted for the severity of the climate, and often have weakening illness to add to other miseries. The government profess to send out only agricultural laborers, but some of these emigrants, receiving assisted passages "on this ground," are not and never professed to be anything of the kind, though certified to this effect. Something will have to be done to check the importation at the expense of our taxpayers of a class of emigrants wholly unfit for the exigencies of this climate, who are brought into circumstances of much misery to themselves and necessarily become a burden on our charities. But those who are here must be taken care of.

The strangers at our gates cannot be allowed to perish, even though some of our charitable boards may reverse the bible command to be kind to the strangers, and would refuse to succour even the neediest on the score of their not being "Kingstonians!" Christian charity, however, knows no such exclusiveness, and I am sure there is enough of this in Kingston to consider the case of these poor families now suffering distress, induced by want of work and past sickness, and to devise some means for relieving them until the advent of better times. But whatever is done must be done systematically and only after careful enquiry; since to do otherwise will only aggravate the evil we wish to lessen.—CHARITY.

Sayings and Doings at the Royal.

About twenty students remained here during the holidays. Of course they worked all the time. Only one of our boys got left in the recent examination in botany. All were successful in practical chemistry.

Since the holidays seven more young men have joined our ranks and bid fair to become worthy followers of Esculapius. The new coal stove in the dissecting room is a decided improvement. The beneficence of the dean of the faculty is highly appreciated by all of us.

What has become of our violin? Big Dan wants to play the "March of the Cameron men" on it and is very much disappointed because it can't be found. When the chemistry lectures were resumed the other day the senior chemistry class made a very pathetic appeal to Mr. Short for a speech, a short one. He failed to connect.

It is understood that the glee club will assist in the concert on the 27th inst., at which Miss Howden, of whom the press speaks so highly, will make her first appearance in Kingston.

Death of a Popular Young Man.

Yesterday the friends of Mr. John G. Couper, lately a resident of Riverside, California, were startled by the receipt of a telegram to the effect that he had been seriously attacked with hemorrhage of the lungs. A latter despatch announced that he was dead. Deceased was for many years a book-keeper in Macnee & Minnes' wholesale house. His health failing him he decided, some months ago, to go to Riverside, California, believing that the climate would restore it. His wife accompanied him. He secured a good situation, as superintendent of a large house building and furnishing establishment, which he held up to his death. He was a member of Ancient St. John's Lodge, A.F. & A.M., and of Limestone Lodge, A.O.U.W. He was a clever accountant, upright in his dealings, unassuming in his manner, steady, faithful and industrious, and highly respected by his friends and by those with whom he made acquaintance. His death will be learned with regret by all. It is the intention to bring his remains to the city for interment.

Table with 3 columns: WIND, CLEAR, COLD.

Weather Probabilities. Winds, mostly fresh, from north-west and west, partially clearing weather, lower temperature.

MONTREAL, Jan. 15.—The snow storm still continues without abatement. The trains are all very much behind time. The street traffic is greatly impeded.

"A" Battery band at the roller rink to-night.