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TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1905

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## TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

**Mr. John Brick's Hamilton Assessment**  
 —Names of Prominent Business Men and Firms that Existed There More Than Fifty Years Ago—A Visit from Mr. E. M. Meehan, President of Toronto Typographical Union No. 91—Old-Timer was once a Member and an Officer of that Trade Guild—Mr. Meehan was once an Apprentice Under the Late Patrick Boyle of the Irish Canadian—The President of the International Typographical Union a Man Named Lynch, whose Name Indicates his Nationality—Some of Toronto's Old-Time Printers—Many of Them Irish Catholics—Old-Timer's Acquaintance With Them.

I now take up the continuance of the assessments in the First Ward on King street west, in Hamilton, from Mr. John Brick's assessment role, now in my possession, and kindly lent me by his daughter, Mrs. Chas. J. Bird, of 56 Chestnut street. The first name is that of Mr. Hiram Clarke. He was a man of some business importance and an American. David Pyle I do not remember. Samuel Kerr was a grocer and a citizen of good repute. Sanders & Robinson were business men of some importance. I think Mr. Sanders was a Dane or Norwegian. Distin & Sons were important business men, I think in the tinware line. The elder Distin was one of Hamilton's first mayors. I have a kind friend in Chicago who is his nephew, J. T. Thom was a saddler and harness maker. He was Irish, I think. James Hammell was a small and a worthy citizen of Irish nationality. Sloan & Drake were business men of some kind, and Irish too, but what their business was I do not remember, although the name sounds familiar to my ears. John Ryckman is an old Hamilton name, and I think was a son of Samuel Ryckman, who was town constable. John Gardner I have to pass over. Jasper Gilkison was an agent and I think a dealer in real estate. His personality stands before me. He was a young man of some style, red-headed and bright-eyed. He usually swung a short cane which was somewhat the fashion, Gilkison might be taken either for Irish or Highland Scotch. A guard-house comes in here for there were soldiers in Hamilton in those days. W. P. McLaren was an extensive wholesale grocer, and Highland Scotchman. Those Highland Scotch were all Celts and by no means feeble fellows. William Press was proprietor of the Burlington House, the best hotel in Hamilton in those days. I went to Lord Metcalfe's reception, held there. Paola Brown, the bell-ringer, was there too. Charles Langdon was the stage agent, who had his office in Press's Hotel. I rather think Press was of German stock, a plain, agreeable man. Langdon, perhaps, was Irish. W. E. Clarke was a business man and an American of New England stock and of New England thrift. Hugh Walker I must pass over. Scotch, I guess. A. Kerr & Co. were wholesale dry goods dealers. I think the firm name was afterwards changed to A. & T. C. Kerr, whose place of business was on the south side of the Gore. Scotch you know. A. Bigelow was a crockery dealer, whose nationality I can hardly guess at, but maybe he was an American. Bryce, McMurrough & Co. had a large wholesale dry goods business. I rather think this McMurrough was in later days the well-known John McMurrough of Toronto. Scotch thrift animated him. C. C. Ferrie & Co. were wholesale merchants of the early days. Their place of business was the southwest corner of King and Hughson streets. Their store was a large two-story, white frame building, which was moved back in 1845 to make way for the Gore Bank Building, erected that year. Mr. Ferrie was, I think, president of the bank at that time. W. A. Price & Co. were merchants of whom I have no remark to make. Kennedy Parker

& Co. were whole merchants. Armour & Co. were prominent merchants. John P. was a retail dry goods dealer. Catholic, who, only for his Irish name, might be taken for a French Canadian on account of his rather swarthy complexion. He was a very nice man, however. He was one of those business men that removed from the older town of Dundas to Hamilton in the early forties. Thos. Brown I don't remember. John Winer I have a very lively recollection of. He was a wholesale and retail druggist, come from Rochester, N.Y., and had a family of boys and girls, who were very good looking. Several members of the family married Catholics, including William Winer, who married a daughter of Dr. John King of Toronto, a prominent Irish Catholic, who was a Professor of Medicine in Toronto University. The firm name of John Winer & Co. is still in existence on King street. R. Beasley was the father of the present city of Hamilton. He was a magistrate and a man of some importance. The present city clerk, his son, has held that office for over fifty years, succeeding a man named Jackson, a cultured man, but addicted to liquor. John Young, jr., was a grocer on the south side of King street, who did a thriving business, especially before the Murphys came to be his neighbors in the same line, but the Murphys came after this roll was written. John Young, of course, was a Scotchman, and he had brothers who served in the store. It looks as if Glasco or Aberdeen had ridden of its young business men to seek their fortunes in Hamilton. I was often a customer in John Young's store in the days of its prime. Robert Holbrook was a boot and shoe dealer and I think an American. Davidson & Inman were business people of whom I have lost recollection.

This list by no means finishes the names of business men in Hamilton in the forties, but they are all that I can give space to in this issue. The names here given were all residents of King street west of Hughson St.

A few days ago Old-Timer had a visit from a man who knew him in the days of his youth and bears for him a fond recollection. It was Mr. E. M. Meehan, President of Toronto Typographical or Printers' Union, No. 91. His name indicates his nationality and glad I am that Mr. Meehan has conducted himself so well and so satisfactorily as to win the confidence and esteem of the nine hundred good men and true that are members of that union. I have after all my rambles and roamings, an affection for old 91, as I was not only a member, but an officer of it in the early fifties. Mr. Meehan has placed in my possession a copy of the Souvenir publication of the Annual Convention of International Typographical Union, held in Toronto Aug. 14th to 20th of this year, which I greatly value, not only for the source from which it comes, its interesting contents, but also its superbly artistic style. It is without exception the handsomest piece of printing I ever handled and I must compliment the printers, Messrs. Mill & Birmingham, on the execution of the same, although their names are new to me. It is pleasant to me to notice so many good old Irish names among the officers and members of No. 91; but what is still more pleasant is to notice the splendid face and figure arrayed with the laurels of the International Union, in the person of Mr. James Lynch of Syracuse, N.Y. To be at the head of so large, important and learned a body of men is not only a great personal success for Mr. Lynch, but a triumph for the nationality to which he belongs. What makes the honor greater for the race is that Mr. Lynch's opponent for the presidency at the last election also bore a prominent Irish cognomen. The second and third vice-presidents of the International Union also bear Irish names—J. W. Hays of Minneapolis and James J. Mulcahy of St. Louis. Among the articles written for this Souvenir are "After a Quarter of a Century," by James M. Lynch; "The Futurity of Anti-Union Crusades," by W. R. Prescott; "The Apprenticeship Question," by Edward M. Meehan; "Sketch of the Early History of No. 91," by John Armstrong; "Labor Laws of Canada," by D. J. O'Donohue; "Woman's Auxiliary to the I. T. U.," by Frank A. Kennedy of Omaha.

Old-Timer is especially interested in the "Sketch of the Early History of No. 91," by John Armstrong, because he knew Mr. Armstrong and many of the persons and events re-

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cited by him, being historical. From Mr. Armstrong's narrative I learn that Toronto Typographical Union is one of the oldest trade unions on the continent of America. Seventy-three years ago twenty-four journeyman printers considered the propriety of forming a society to protect their trade interests, and accordingly a meeting was called by Mr. J. H. Lawrence on the 12th day of October, 1832, at the York Hotel. W. A. C. Myers, sometimes known as "Wae" Myers, was called to the chair and stated the object for which the meeting was called. A resolution was passed to form themselves into a society. A constitution and by-laws was drafted and £1, 15s. set as the regular weekly salary for journeymen printers. This was in what was known as Halifax currency, which was less than sterling money. Among the members who signed the roll was David Bancroft, who was the society's first president. He was the grandfather of Hon. Geo. Bancroft, the American historian, who at one time represented the United States at the Court of St. James. Mr. Lawrence, who called the meeting to order, Old-Timer has a recollection of. In the early forties he was foreman of the "Christian Guardian" office, and a promoter of temperance, and a leader in temperance organizations. In 1844 he headed a temperance excursion party from Toronto to Hamilton, where there was a grand temperance parade, in which Catholics and Protestants joined, for he it known, those were the days when Father Mathew was active and admired by Protestants as well as Catholics.

Mr. W. A. C. Myers, who was called to the chair as stated above, I knew well, because he was my foreman in the old Daily Colonist office, in the early fifties. He was a man of no particular merit apart from his being foreman of the old "Patriot" office under Dalton. This same "W.A.C." Myers was Mr. Matthew Teely's foreman in the same old "Patriot" office, where Mr. Teely was learning the printers' trade in the years between 1836 and 1840. Mr. Dalton, the proprietor of the "Patriot," died in 1840, and Mr. Myers not liking Mr. Teely, told him that Mr. Dalton being dead, he was at liberty to leave. Among those who were then employed in the "Patriot" office under Myers, were several Irish Catholics, including Matt McDonough, who became an actor; John Gannon, who was a most exemplary man as well as a good printer; Thos. Maenamara, a nephew of old Captain Maenamara, who went west and started the Ingersoll "Chronicle"; William Malloy, a son of the late John Malloy of Osgoode Hall, and who died in New York; Thomas Shanklin, a brother of the Rev. Mr. Shanklin, a Church of England minister, and an Irish Protestant, was another; and so was James Gedd, an Englishman and a pressman; and a son of William Lyon McKenzie, was others. At any rate, Irish Catholics were in the majority in the "Patriot" office. But why a son of William Lyon McKenzie should be finding employment in the office of the super-loyal "Patriot," while McKenzie himself was publishing his paper "The Colonial Advocate," in Toronto at that time, is what puzzles Old-Timer. The family of Mr. Myers were once my neighbors and I noticed that Mrs. Myers was a characteristic little Irishwoman; but the children had all the "big copper nose" of their father. I never knew

Mr. Myers' nationality, but I should judge him to be a Pennsylvania Dutchman. He had peculiarities that the late Peter Nolan, a compositor in the "Colonist" office, used to take off to perfection; and this Peter Nolan, when he died of consumption, was greatly regretted, so amiable was he in manners and disposition. James O'Connor, a brother of His Grace the Catholic Bishop of Peterborough, was another compositor and amiable young man, who set type under Myers in the old "Colonist" office. Old-Timer worked under him as compositor and assistant foreman, and from this latter position was promoted to be proof-reader and city editor. It was while filling the latter position he received Thomas D'Arcy McGee on the occasion of his first visit to Toronto in 1855.

The first man to present a reciprocal trade card to the York Typographical Union was a printer from Cork, Ireland, named Baird; but there was no work in Toronto then for him and he received from the treasury of the Union 17s. 6d to take him to the United States, where thousands have since followed.

Robert Wilson Clindinning was one of the recruits of this trade union in the year 1835. I knew him well. He was so correct a compositor that it was totally unnecessary for the proof-reader to read his proofs for correction. I have many things to say about Mr. Clindinning and his brother, who was an intellectually bright young man, who died young.

John Robertson, a smart Scotch printer, I believe from Edinburgh, was an early member of No. 91. I knew him better than any of the others. He was my trademaster. He removed to Hamilton in 1840 and there started a printing office of his own. Among the printing contracts he secured there was the printing of "The Catholic" newspaper, for the Very Rev. William Peter McDonnell, the first regular Catholic parish priest of Hamilton. Robertson was not a Catholic, however. His wife was a sister of Sheriff Smith of Simcoe County. When Smiley started the Spectator in Hamilton in 1846, Robertson joined him, contributing his job office and himself as his only apprentice, to the stock of the concern. He got somewhat dissipated and finally went to Australia in 1852 when the gold fever broke out there. Mr. Henry Robertson, K.C., of Colingwood, the well-known barrister, is his son.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

## OLD-TIMER'S LECTURES.

Mr. William Halley of Toronto, well known as Old-Timer, is now in the lecture field, and has made dates as follows:  
 Dundas—Town Hall, Monday evening, Nov. 27.  
 Hamilton—C.M.B.A. Hall, Tuesday evening, Nov. 28.  
 Center Toronto—St. George's Hall, Elm street, Tuesday evening, Dec. 5.  
 The subject of Mr. Halley's lectures is "Personal Recollections of Thos. D'Arcy McGee, Irish Patriot, American Editor and Canadian Statesman."  
 Mr. Halley will be pleased to hear from Societies throughout the province for future dates, and would like to have the assistance of musical and literary talent at his lectures. He would ask his friends in Toronto, Hamilton and Dundas to assist him in making his lectures in those localities successful.

## GLADSTONE MEMORIAL

Tribute by John Morley

London, Nov. 6.—The bronze statue of Mr. Gladstone, by Mr. Hamo Thornycroft, R.A., which is one of the forms of the National Memorial resolved upon by the Grosvenor House meeting soon after the death of the eminent statesman, was unveiled in the Strand to-day by Mr. John Morley.

Mr. John Morley, who was received with cheers, said—Lord Peel, ladies, and gentlemen—I am sure there is one feeling in which we all share, and that is a vivid regret at the absence of Lord Spencer (hear, hear). Those of us who have long been his friends find a certain consolation for his temporary disablement, and that is the chorus of appreciation which has gone forth from every quarter—appreciation of his public courage, his transparent unselfishness, his devotion and ready response to every call of patriotism and of honor (cheers). It is a particular felicity Lord Peel has consented to preside over our proceedings to-day, because, as he has already told you, it was the illustrious statesman whose name he worthily bears—Sir Robert Peel—who first, when Mr. Gladstone was only 27, singled him out for his ability in the performance of public work. It was he who first gave him office, who first invited him to take a place in a Cabinet. Those of us who knew Mr. Gladstone remember that he was never weary of telling us that

IT WAS FROM SIR ROBERT PEELE that he learned the lessons of administrative and legislative practice. He was never weary of telling us that the after-knowledge of such a man, and intercourse with him, was a high privilege and a priceless possession. Sir Robert Peel heard Mr. Gladstone's maiden speech in 1833, and applauded it; and as Lord Peel has reminded us, it fell to him as the august President of the House of Commons to hear Mr. Gladstone's farewell words in that great assembly (hear, hear). Now there are many of us here—perhaps most of us—who need no memorial of Mr. Gladstone in marble or in bronze, but find a lasting memorial of him in our own inspired recollections of him as guide, comrade, and friend (cheers). But time passes. Great events soon become chapters of past history. In the well-known image of the poet whom he idolised, and which may come to our minds in these autumn days:

"Like the generations of leaves the generations of men are.  
 The autumn winds strew them over the ground;  
 Then spring comes; the tree putteth forth anew.  
 So with the races of men—  
 New come out and the old pass away."

It is good for us, therefore, to place on high this effigy of Mr. Gladstone, because great inspirations come from heroic names, and his name was truly heroic (hear, hear). And it is good that his effigy should be placed on high there amidst this thronging tide of life, so that men may know by recalling his achievements and his character, which was greater even than his achievements (cheers)—may know how great a thing the life of a man may be made (renewed cheers). Many of us have been inclined to regret that this statue could not have found a place down in Westminster, but there were reasons for that, I dare say, and I can recollect that there is a statue of him in marble in the precincts of that House of Commons of which he was the glory (cheers). There is a statue of him in the Abbey, where he rests among the Kings and heroes. We are still within the precincts of the City of Westminster, and I believe I am saying what the Committee would wish me to say when I express our appreciation of the help which the proposals of this committee have received from the local authorities, and I believe we have the honor of welcoming to-day here the Chief Magistrate of the City of Westminster, and we owe special thanks to the London County Council (cheers), who have shown a genuine interest, and capacity in providing for us what I do think is in many ways

ONE OF THE GRANDEST SITES to be found in this immense city of London. I will tell you why I say so. London is, as has been said, ten or twelve cities. We are here in the centre of one of them. Here, if any-

where, we realize what Wordsworth said when he talked of "ships, domes, towers, theatres, and temples." Here we are surrounded by the tide of life, and Mr. Gladstone's sympathies with all the infinite variety of human life were so rich and manifold, his interests in human endeavor were so animated, his sense of the ebb and flow of human beings was so keen and singular that I for one find great ground not only to be reconciled to, but to rejoice in the fact that his effigy finds a place here. He is very near the palace of the Inland Revenue, in the doings of which he was so much concerned, and in the doings of which we are all in some degree concerned. He is close to the Palace of Justice, where, as you recollect, he presented a noble figure when it was opened in the reign of Queen Victoria. He is near the tide that flows past here through all the day and half the night. When it is said by unkind critics that Mr. Gladstone was a rhetorician I should like to say this: Go down to the City of London and see the floods of men that surge into that city every morning and make it the one great centre of commerce, the centre of the financial world. Remember that in the admirable qualities of the merchants, bankers, dealers,

MR. GLADSTONE WOULD HAVE BEEN A MATCH FOR THE BEST OF THEM

In these very qualities (hear, hear). In exactitude of accounts, in unswerving, unshining and unflinching labor, in precision in computation and calculation, in the vigilant survey of markets and of prices, they would have found in him a match and master. Take the Bank of England, the London and North Western Railway, or any other great concern, how much would they give any day to get such a man as "the rhetorician." Mr. Gladstone was an extraordinary case—perhaps, the most extraordinary in our minds—of a man who had the magic and the glory and the ardour combined, with the passion and the power of the man of action (hear, hear).

HE WAS EFFECTIVE

—I will use the word effective—(hear, hear)—in Council. He was effective in the House of Commons almost beyond parallel, whether in exposition, in argument, or in debate. He was effective in one department—the Exchequer—almost beyond any man who has ever controlled the Department of Finance. He was effective in what he used to count the most difficult and laborious of all the operations of a public man—the framing, the constructing, and the conducting of long, elaborate, and complicated measures through the House of Commons. He was effective almost beyond anybody in England—I will not talk of Ireland—effective beyond any man in the force by which he could draw first of all, the House of Commons—and in spite of what might be said, he himself gloried in thinking it the elite of the business faculty of this country—effective there in persuasion, and he was, if possible, more effective when he touched with his own passion great multitudes of men, and his faith in this power was really boundless; for I have heard of cases where he would detain a huge audience of many thousands with a discussion of a Bulgarian Constitution or with some point about Maltese marriages. He was persuaded, and he was right—his success justified him—that he could pour his own interest into these great classes of men. It is said that he followed public opinion. No, gentlemen,

HE DID NOT FOLLOW PUBLIC OPINION.

In all the great causes in the high land marks of his life, he created, he shaped, he moulded, he guided, he inspired that public opinion upon which his success depended. The secret of his effectiveness did not reside, principally at all events, in his strong and powerful and capacious brain. It lay in his indomitable heart. It was pointed out the other day that his great qualities were faith, courage, labor. I think that is a perfectly true account of him. But dauntless courage was, after all, the greatest of those qualities. But where did that come from? It came from his fervid conviction that the arguments with which he was at the time pressing his cause were unsalable. It was

THE FERVOUR OF HIS CONVICTION

that gave him that heart, along with his power of brain, to perform those (Continued on page 5.)

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