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CHRONICLES OF AN OLD-TIMER

Some Irish-Military Men of Old Toronto That I Remember—Col. O'Hara, Col. Baldwin, of the Gore; Major Goodwin, Officer Cornelius Mahony, Captain Bailey, Captain de Vere Hunt, Col. D. K. Feehan, of No. 2—Matthew Teefe's Fellow-Apprentices in the Office of the "Patriot"—James Gedd, William Molloy, John Gannon and "Tom" Shanklin, Dr. Riddle—Joseph Molloy, of Chicago, and his Sisters—Charles McTavey, the Editor and Publisher of the "Constitution" Newspaper.

Chicago, April 16, 1904.

Editor Catholic Register:

There were some Irish military families in Toronto in my early days that are worthy of mention. Some of those were Catholics and some Protestants, foremost among which I would place the O'Hara family of the West End. I am not acquainted with the history of this family, but know it was prominent in its day. I don't know, but I have a strong belief they were United Empire Loyalists like the Robinsons, Gambles and Denisons. Do you know that the Robinsons and Beverlys were neighbors of General Washington in Virginia before the revolutionary war, and evidently were on most excellent terms with him socially? Do you know that at Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown in the revolutionary war, it was not Cornwallis that made the surrender at all? It was General O'Hara, the second in command. The British commander-in-chief was so overcome at the disaster to his army that he delegated the surrender to this soldierly Irishman. It has often struck me that Col. O'Hara of Toronto, where he long resided, was a son of the British officer. But, of course, this is only speculation. I do not remember, but one member of the family, a tall, red-haired young gentleman, who, I believe, responded to the call of "Bob." I forget the name of the street the family residence was upon, but it was in the aristocratic portion of the West End, close by the Chief Justice Robinsons' domicile; also that of the Macdonalds and Denisons. The house was a very respectable red brick edifice of the rigid, old-fashioned style and of ample dimensions for all purposes.

We once, in Bishop de Charbonnel's days, had an Irish priest in Toronto whose name was O'Hara, and a very eloquent preacher he was. I do not know that he was at all convivial in his habits, but it used to be said that he spent a portion of his time at the O'Hara residence at the West End, and maybe there was a relationship between them. The attractions of the soldier's home at any rate were such that the great preacher would be out late sometimes at night, and Bishop de Charbonnel did not like that. He made it a rule to have the "palace" doors locked at ten o'clock, and after that hour no one who was out could enter. Father O'Hara returned to the episcopal residence on Church street one night and found himself barred out, to his great chagrin and humiliation. There were no more great cathedral sermons after that. The blood of the O'Hara was up and away he went to some eastern diocese of the United States, and ere long, I believe, was made a bishop. Father O'Hara was a man to be remembered. He evidently was of a fine family, as he displayed polite manners and aristocratic inclinations. I am sorry I do not know more of his history. He was tall, athletic and handsome, and many a Protestant lady went to the Cathedral Sunday afternoons to listen to his lectures.

There was another priest in Toronto in Bishop de Charbonnel's time who was a great preacher too, and delivered the regular high mass sermons every Sunday for several years. He was an Irishman, too, but not large nor athletic like Father O'Hara, but given more to devotion and sanctity. That was Father Maloney, who came to Toronto from

Paris along with some other priests of the Oblate Order. He was a sweet and charming little man of rather youthful appearance. There was consternation in the Cathedral congregation when it was known abroad that Father Maloney had disappeared and would preach there no more. No explanation of the reverend gentleman's absence was ever given, and I do not know where he went to. But there was grief in the Cathedral when the fact became known, for he was dearly beloved by all, men as well as women, ecclesiastics as well as laymen. But this is a digression.

Another military Irishman was Col. Baldwin of the Gore of Toronto. This Baldwin was a Corkonian, too, and as all Corkonians are, a very patriotic Irishman, notwithstanding his Waterloo medals, and the fact that at the time of the rebellion in 1837-8, he raised an Irish regiment to suppress the outbreak at his own expense. I do not now remember Col. Baldwin's Christian name, although I knew him well. He was a rather small man and well advanced in years. The Irish partisans of Thos. D'Arcy McGee made him their leader and always selected him to preside at their meetings. He presided at his first lectures in Toronto. He had a warm friendship for the late Senator John O'Donohue, and would usually do whatever that gentleman suggested. Although he lived in the country he was often in the city. He was no relation to Robert Baldwin, and unlike that gentleman, was a Catholic. Captain McNamara was another Waterloo medal man, who resided long in Toronto, and was a devoted Catholic and a member of the Catholic Institute, but I believe in politics he was a Conservative. But he took little part in political affairs. He used to live with a French-Canadian family named Baby, on Queen street, near Church, with whom he had some family relationship.

Major Goodwin, who taught fencing and drilled the police force, was a good Irishman and good Catholic. I do not know whether he fought on the field of Waterloo or not, but I think not. He was a most sociable and admirable character and the young men of Toronto who took fencing lessons from him and in fact all who came in contact with him, dearly loved him and he was a great favorite with the Bishop.

Col. D. K. Feehan never belonged to the regular army, but was strong in military feeling. He it was who organized Company No. 2 of the Canadian military, the Catholic company, of which Mr. Eugene O'Keefe was first lieutenant, and if I am not mistaken, Col. Mason, who holds the position in the Savings Bank that Col. Feehan used to hold, is his regular successor.

There came to Toronto in my day an officer of the Engineers named Mahoney, a Cork man too, who although belonging to the regular army, was a most enthusiastic Irish patriot and a very social gentleman. I used to meet him frequently at a small hotel in King street east kept by Patrick Keenan, a well-known man in Toronto in his day. We chatted a good deal together on Irish affairs. I introduced him to Mr. McCoy, the editor of the "Mirror" newspaper, and they enjoyed each other's society like two minds with a single thought, two hearts that beat as one. I don't know what became of Mahoney and I even forget his rank, but I found him the most companionable of men.

The father-in-law of Mr. Eugene O'Keefe—whom I shall name Captain Bailey—was a military man too, but I know nothing of his career or rank. These, by no means, make full the measure of Irish military residents who had mostly retired in my day, but others I cannot now call up from the recesses of my sluggish mind.

Just as I finished the last sentence another military character popped up. I believe he was a captain in the regular army in the days of Wellington, but when I knew him he was a school-master, and a peculiar one, in Toronto. Who now in Toronto remembers the classic William de Vere Hunt; not the printer, but his father? He was an antique and no doubt of it. He took snuff, he was loyal to the heart's core, and loved to talk on Irish antiquities. I once heard him discourse in the old Mechanics' Institute in Court street, on Irish antiquities, music, etc. He was describing the Irish wolf dog. He took a great pinch of snuff and went on to describe the animal. "That was a great dog, I tell you, he measured" (here a draft struck his bald pate and he rushed from the platform half way down the hall to where he had left his wide-rimmed straw hat, clapped it on his head and returned to the platform to finish his sentence) "six feet from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail," amid roars of laughter from the audience.

Col. Feehan was a gentleman every inch of him and was full of military ambition. He came to Toronto from Montreal in 1849 as agent for the Montreal type foundry. Mr. W. J. Macdonell and he were great friends. The latter was agent for the Jones transportation line of Brockville. Mr. Jones was a Catholic and so was Mr. C. T. Palsgrave, proprietor of the Montreal type foundry, for whom Col. Feehan was agent. It was with him the writer learned that branch of business, and at which he was for a time quite successful. I had a good opportunity of knowing Col. Feehan, and can truly state that he was a high-minded gentleman, with a touch of vanity in his make-up. He was well educated, well read and well-bred. He possessed every qualification for a first-class business man and was for a time quite successful. But he was lavish in his expenditures, and too free to respond liberally when his purse was appealed to. His was an unfortunate mixed marriage and his domestic relations became quite unhappy and so preyed

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the bottle to drown his sorrows. Not only his family affairs but his business became embarrassed and broken. He left Toronto and what became of him nobody seems to have positively known. It was reported, however, that he joined Maximilian's army in Mexico and was killed, which is most likely to have been the case. It was reported that he left the Toronto Savings Bank in a very embarrassed condition, and that it took years for the directors to recover the loss he caused it. I believe he was a cousin of the late Archbishop of Chicago. James Hallinan, the lawyer, who was a bachelor, and he spent many of their evenings together in Hallinan's house on Church street. It was a great pity that so noble a man, through a mistaken marriage, was allowed to go to the bad. I don't know whatever became of his little family.

Some time in 1903, I think it was, that the venerable Matthew Teefe of Richmond Hill, gave his recollections

to one of the Toronto papers of his trade-learning of the printers' craft in Toronto, between the years 1836 and 1840, years that extended before and after the rebellion of 1837-38. He had his experience in the office of the "Patriot," an ultra loyal organ of that time. The "Patriot" was owned by a man named Thomas Dalton, I think an Irish Protestant. He named those who were his fellow apprentices in the "Patriot" of fee at that time, every one of whom I happened to be afterwards acquainted with, and with two exceptions they were Irish. Strange to say, one of them was a brother of the rebel leader, William Lyon Mackenzie; another was James Gedd, I think, an Englishman. The others were William Molloy, John Gannon, and "Tom" Shanklin. I knew them all long afterwards as members of Typographical Union No. 24. I think Archy Riddle afterwards a doctor, was one of the number, too; William Molloy was a son of "Abby" Molloy, who was ever so long the

caretaker of Osgoode Hall, and in his younger days a man who had rendered many and valuable services to the British government, and which were fully recounted in the local papers at the time of his demise. "Bill" Molloy went to New York and became rather dissolute. Mr. Molloy had another son named Joseph, who was the first acquaintance I made in Toronto, when I went there from Hamilton in the fall of 1849, and it was he that found me a place to put up at temporarily. This Mr. Molloy is exactly of my own age and like myself, has been a resident of Chicago for many years. He looks remarkably well for a man of his years. Sisters of his were the wife of Mr. Matthew O'Connor, and another was Mrs. Connor Tracy of Hamilton; and another the wife of the late Alderman Fitzpatrick of Hamilton. I think Mrs. Fitzpatrick died in Chicago a few years ago. One of her sons is cashier in the office of the Clerk of the Probate Court in Chicago, and a daughter is the wife of Dr. Cullen, a well-known physician.

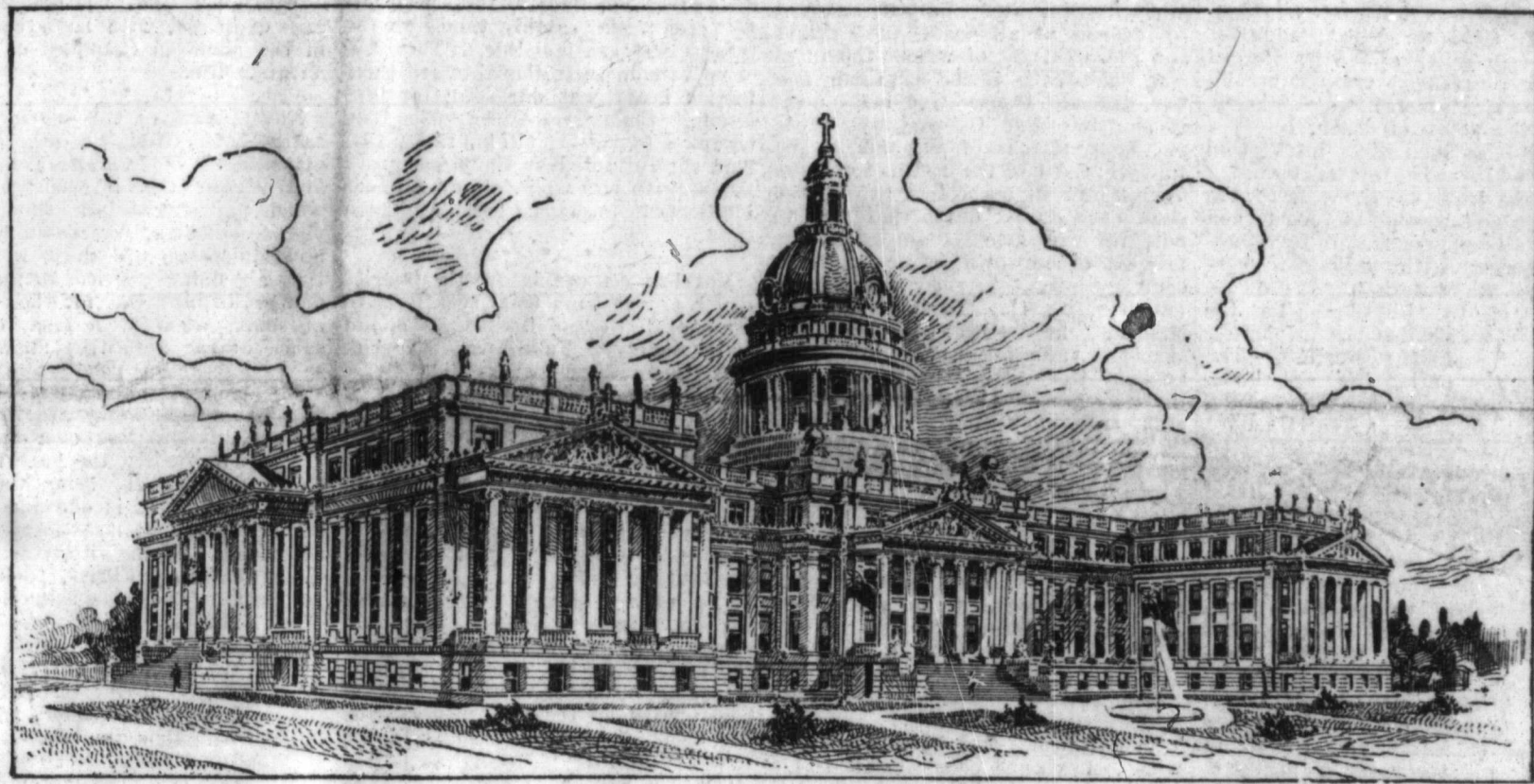
John Gannon was my boarding mate at the residence of Mrs. Patrick Lee on Frederick street, the grandmother of the Lee brothers now in business in your city, before I was married, and a nobler specimen of a type I never knew. He had a distinguished appearance, was highly intelligent, gentlemanly, and in every way beyond reproach. On account of illness, he being subject to asthma, he had to retire from the exercise of his trade at an early day and give himself up to seeking his health. He was a very exemplary Catholic, who is long since dead. "Tom" Shanklin was an Irish Protestant, a whole-souled, good, honest fellow, who was very companionable. He was unmarried and used to board with

the mother of the wife of the late Patrick Boyle. He was a good singer and a good story-teller, and used to sing Samuel Lover's Irish songs such as the "Low-Backed Car" and "Widow Macree" with great taste and rollicking style, which was always very acceptable to his admirers, who were many. James Gedd was a pressman, who was prominent in the Typographical Union in those early days. I think he was the union's treasurer, when Old Timer was secretary of the same; and that was after the "big strike" of 1854.

Dr. Riddle, who lived in the East End, was a very prominent man in the Typographical Union organization and was at one time president of the same. He also took a hand in local politics and professed to be a Reformer. His fault was that he was vindictive. He studied medicine and became a doctor, practiced in Mexico for a few years and returned rich. Those were a group of the oldest Toronto printers that I had knowledge of and they were true and worthy, and I love to dwell upon their memories.

There was another Toronto printer, an Irishman and a printer who was at one time associated with Charles Donlevy in the publication of the Mirror newspaper, and that was Charles McTavey. I am sorry that I do not remember more of him. But he has a record. When William Lyon McKenzie discontinued the publication of his paper, in the late thirties, Mr. McTavey took the subscription list and continued the publication of the Reform journal under the name of "The Constitution." I remember seeing him once when he was connected with "The Mirror" in 1843. When and where he died I cannot tell. He was an Irish Catholic.

WILLIAM HALLEY.



THE ARTS BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

THE NEW ARTS BUILDING OF THE OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

Tenders for the construction of the new arts building of the University of Ottawa have been called for. It is the desire of the university authorities that Canadians, Ottawans if possible, secure the various contracts. As can be seen from the accompanying cut, showing the splendid building as it will stand when fully completed, the main structure of the restored Catholic institution of learning will be an imposing one. Profiting by the costly lesson of Dec. 9th last, every precaution has been taken in the plans to have the building as nearly fireproof as possible. There will be only a minimum amount of wood and other inflammable material used in the construction. The style of architecture will be pure classical Greek, with monolithic columns with Ionic capitals. The material used is to be white Indiana stone on a granite base. In the interior construction of the new arts buildings ferro concrete fireproof will be used in the floors, walls, etc.

The new arts building will have its main entrance on Laurier avenue, the accompanying cut showing the view from that thoroughfare. The building will occupy part of the site of the old university and the square on all sides will be laid out as a park dotted with ornamental trees, fountains and flower plots, and traversed by walks. The students' entrance will face on Cumberland street directly opposite St. Joseph's church, with a park in front. The statue of the founder of the university, Mgr. Tabert, will be removed from its present position

facial Wilbrod street, to a central spot in the park facing Cumberland street and St. Joseph's church.

The new arts building will be surmounted at its central part by a dome after the style of St. Peter's at Rome. It will be adorned with statues of the twelve apostles, and surmounted by a cross, while the parapets will be ornamented with statues of Canada's great men, symbolizing respectively religion and country.



REV. DR. EMERY, O.M.I., President University of Ottawa.

It is the intention to rush work on the main part of the arts building so as to have it ready for occupation before the end of the year. The wings on either side will be completed later on. Accommodation will be provided for 500 students. All the walls of the old buildings have been razed to the ground, and men are now at work clearing away the debris. As the new building will differ in size and shape from the old one, the debris will be used to fill in the exposed foundations of the former university.

The university authorities expect to be able to lay the corner stone on the 24th of May, Victoria day, which also coincides with the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Canada. All the old students and friends of the university are earnestly requested to be present on this occasion as the guests of the university. As their addresses have nearly all been lost in the fire, they are asked to correspond immediately with the president, Rev. Dr. Emery, O.M.I., so that he may make, if possible, special arrangements for the learning and accommodation of the visitors.

It is altogether likely the seminary for secular priests will also be erected this year. A site has been chosen on Wilbrod street immediately east of St. Joseph's church. It will be a matter of four or five years before the restoration of all the university buildings is completed, as it is the intention to broaden the scope of the institution's work. Towards this end a school of medicine is to be established. The medical hall will occupy a site in the main square, opposite St. Joseph's church, at the northeast corner, where Wilbrod and Cumberland streets intersect. The academic hall will be located in the southeast corner of the same square where Laurier avenue and Cumberland street intersect, with its main entrance on Laurier avenue.

On a line with and midway between these two buildings, fronting on Cumberland street and facing St.

Joseph's church will be the university library. It is the intention to establish an English juniorate or collegiate hall, in the square at the rear of St. Joseph's church and facing Laurier avenue.

A dormitory for the senior students will also be built on the corner of Wilbrod and Waller streets adjoining the present science hall. A departure will be made, however, in this respect, as many of the students will board out.

The different buildings in each group will correspond as to design and material used in the construction. This will produce a similarity of style that will tend towards the beauty of the whole. When all the different buildings are completed they will, together with the present structures, St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart churches, the science hall and the French juniorate, form a group of which the Capital may well be proud, and that will prove a splendid monument to the cause of religion and education. Moreover, Ottawa's reputation as a city of splendid buildings, "fair city, crown

(Continued on page 5.)

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