

love seemed an inexhaustible force. Her love for her horse, for her dog, for her birds, was a passion, and the affection she lavished on me, on her brothers, sisters, relations and friends, was persistent, all embracing, perennial and indestructible as the light of the sun." When he has recorded her death, Lord Dufferin breaks into the following pardonable threnody: "Thus there went out of the world one of the sweetest, most beautiful, most accomplished, wittiest, most loving and lovable human beings that ever walked the earth. There was nothing wanting to her perfection; and I say this, not prompted by the partiality of a son, but as one well acquainted with the world and with both men and women."

The subject of this memoir was naturally brought into contact with many of the distinguished men of her time, amongst whom may be mentioned the poet Rogers, Lord Brougham, Lockhart, Sidney Smith, Theodore Hook and Mr. Disraeli. Here is an incident in the relationship between Lady Dufferin and the man who was destined to be Prime Minister of England: "The elder Mr. Disraeli being as yet more celebrated than his son, my mother had expressed a desire to see him. But the introduction could not be managed, inasmuch as at this particular moment, Mr. Disraeli had quarrelled with his father. One fine morning, however, he had arrived with his father in his right hand, so to speak, in Mrs. Norton's drawing room at Story's gate. Setting him down on a chair, and looking at him as if he were some object of vertu, of which he wanted to dispose, Mr. Disraeli turned round to my mother and said in his somewhat pompous voice: 'Mrs. Blackwood, I have brought you my father. I have become reconciled to my father on two conditions; the first was that he should come and see you; the second that he should pay my debts.'"

Lord Dufferin himself notes that one of his earliest encounters with Mr. Disraeli, who always treated him with great friendliness, was in Brook street the afternoon of the day on which he had won his Buckinghamshire election.

I stopped to congratulate him on his successful campaign, when he said to me: "Yes, I said rather a good thing on the hustings yesterday. There was a fellow in the crowd who kept calling me 'a man of straw, without any stake in the country,' and asking 'what I stood upon,' so I said: 'Well, it is true I do not possess the broad acres of Lord So and so, or the vast estates of the Duke of A., but if the gentleman wants to know upon what I stand I will tell him I stand upon my head.'"

Lady Dufferin's poems require no introduction at least to the millions of her fellow countrymen who have settled in

America. No books are required to keep alive several of these poems, for they live in the hearts of the people, and will be transmitted from generation to generation.

Coming as the author does from the family of Sheridans, as remarkable for the deep potations as for the richness of their intellectual endowments, Lord Dufferin feels that he has a right to refer to the burden which his ancestry has bequeathed to him. The great Sheridan was, of course, exceptionally weak headed, on the other hand Lord Dufferin's paternal grandfather, who never had a day's illness, and lived till 81, was just the reverse. He would occasionally begin a convivial evening with what he called "a clearer," that is, a bottle of port, and continued with four bottles of claret, afterwards retiring to bed in a state of perfect though benevolent sobriety. "I have reason to complain," the editor adds, "that my two grand fathers, by overdrawing the family account with Bacchus, have left me a water drinker, a condition of degeneracy which caused, I remember, serious concern to the older members of the family."

As once more showing the necessity of something being done to improve the city water supply—and that before long—we have the case of the Messrs. Dunsmuir, who, in connection with their new storage warehouses, declare that it is not fit to be used in the manufacture. They have, therefore, made arrangements to use the article supplied by the Esquimalt Water Works Co., and, with that object in view, have made a connection with that company's system on the other side the railway bridge, in that way obtaining the water. This action of the Dunsmuir is to avoid the clause in the Water Company's charter, which stipulates that they shall not lay their pipes on this side of Victoria harbor. The case is likely to find its way into the courts, the contention being that the Messrs. Dunsmuir take delivery of the water outside the city limits and bring it in themselves. Here is undoubtedly an issue for the lawyers to wrestle over.

Some profess to believe that the Dunsmuirs, being anxious to dispose of a certain interest in the Esquimalt Water Works to the city, have adopted the plan referred to in the foregoing paragraph in order to strengthen their contention that a better and purer supply may be obtained from their company. Of this, I know nought; but I am perfectly satisfied that the water which the people of Victoria have been compelled to use for the last month or so could not very well be much worse. The champions of the Elk Lake article contend that it would be everything desired if the sewers were regularly

flushed. The cost of this work would be nothing compared with the risk which the consumer is taking in using city water. It is said that several cases of typhoid fever are directly traceable to this source. The Elk Lake water may be all that is claimed for it, but, under existing conditions, as it comes from the taps, it is unfit for man or beast.

It is asked by some, and not without reason, how is it that certain officers of the corporation have permitted the water to come to its present condition during their term of office, the fact being absolute that up to the last two years the water from Elk Lake was always pleasing to the taste and devoid of smell?

In the past this city has claimed an unbroken record for safety from conflagrations. Year after year five figures covered the losses. Insurance companies became impressed with the large harvest to be garnered, and numerous agencies were established, which accepted risks at rates in proportion to the losses. Within the last week two fires have taken place in business blocks from some unknown causes. Despite the efforts of the authorities, evidence to prove the origin of either was lacking. The owners say they left the buildings long before the fires occurred, and were positive everything was safe at the time. Fortunately, the fire department saved the buildings with little loss; but the question of responsibility for the fires rests somewhere. If we have a band of fire-bugs in our midst they should be hunted down. The burning of one building amounts to very little; but endangering the whole city appears to deserve more than passing consideration. Investigations have proved very little after numerous fires on account of an obsolete law on our statute book empowering juries to arrive at conclusions after listening to witnesses. This city requires a fire marshal to examine into the origin and causes of every fire. The officer should be vested with power to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify in relation to any matter which is subject of inquiry or investigation. He should have authority at all times to enter upon and examine any building and should be clothed with the powers of a trial justice. At a recent investigation the chief of police conducted the examination of witnesses. The jury consisted of residents of the locality where the fire occurred. During the examination, no evidence of the origin of the fire was adduced, simply because very little was known about it by any person present.

The *Insurance Monitor* contains the following suggestions from a prominent Canadian chief of fire department, residing within one thousand miles of Victoria:

"It strikes me that insurance com-

panies are
risks.
many ins
fires in b
the insu
some rec
insured p
instance
this city
business
occurred
gation.
satisfied.
They ha
city. At
store. I
frauded
Will be s
under an
Before is
residence
city and
order to
something
years' ex
ten cases
ated in b
insurance
option of
tice, shot
ance com
ness to a
party app
wise to is
wards.
buildings
before iss
tious sho
ance com
one priva
men find
jured wh
the fire r
high insu
scruples,
be respon
I expect
ready we
alone, me
in five
should ta
the value
share of
Another
insurance
the fire v
Taking
way Co
about as
place on
thorough
is indef
with the
I would
ent woul
in the
viding
to stop