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VOL. XII., No. 15

CHRONICLES OF AN OLD-TIMER

Henry James Morgan, the Literary Herald of Canada and His Work—The Canadian Rebellion Losses Bill of 1849 and Burning of the Parliament Houses in Montreal—Five Corkonians in the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration of Canada—Hon. Robert Baldwin, Francis Hincks, Robert Baldwin Sullivan, James H. Killally, and Louis H. Drummond, the Men.

Chicago, April 9, 1904.  
Editor Catholic Register:

Through the kindness of my old Ottawa friend, Henry James Morgan, the Herald of Canada, I am enabled to make a mental excursion through the biographical fields of the Dominion and renew my acquaintance with many an old familiar name, that kind, good-natured gentleman having presented me with a copy of his valuable work, "The Canadian Men and Women of Our Time." It is so long since I first learned of Mr. Morgan that the time is out of mind. I think, however, it was when parliament was first moved to Toronto from Quebec, which was in the early fifties. In the early part of the year 1849 the parliament house at Montreal was burned by the ultra-Tories because the members had passed what was called the Rebellion Losses Bill, and Lord Elgin, who was then Governor-General, had signed it, and for which he, too, suffered condign punishment from the gentlemanly Tories of Montreal, who rotten-egged him in the streets of that once tory-ruled city. After that Montreal was abandoned as a capital city and a rotary system between Quebec and Toronto was adopted. Who the leaders were in that outrage I do not know, but the names of Alfred Perry, chief of the fire department, and one Courtney, were freely used. The bill was a just one, because much damage was done to the property and feelings of innocent sufferers, whose sympathies were with the abortive movement under William Lyon Mackenzie in Upper Canada and Louis Joseph Papineau in Lower Canada. The outrages and cruelties perpetrated by the ultra loyalists in those days surpassed belief and this just act only partially compensated the sufferers for what they had lost and endured.

But this is wandering from my subject, which is Mr. Morgan. Although a barrister-at-law, I believe Mr. Morgan has practised but little at the bar, preferring the rosy meads of literature to pursuing Blackstone or Coke upon Littleton. The people of Canada are largely indebted to him as their chronicler and gazetteer for without him there would be little known to-day of Canadian ancestors and the performances of Canadian statesmen, scholars and patriots. I do not know Mr. Morgan's precise nationality, but I am sure that he is a Celt, for Morgan is both a Welsh and an Irish name. I have reason to think Mr. Morgan has strong Irish sympathies and by a perusal of his book I am assured the Irish settlers in Canada and their descendants are done full justice to, for nearly every one that was prominent of my nationality in the long ago has received a full share of recognition and praise at his hands.

Mr. Morgan is a man of strong affections and warm friendships for those that he knew in the long ago. He was the first man to write me a word of praise for my brochure issued in Toronto in the early sixties. It was that speech I prepared for the St. Patrick's Day banquet at Platt's Albion Hotel, and which Geo. L. Allen, the editor, and his yellow followers prevented me from delivering, and which was entitled "The Irish Race at Home and Abroad." Adam Wilson was then mayor, and a giant named Robinson was chief of police. That pamphlet did not have to be given away either, for a large number of copies was sold. Mr. Morgan was a very warm friend of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, and he and myself have exchanged a number of letters on matters touching that dis-

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tinguished Irish-Canadian statesman, and he has recently, through the press, been demanding that a monument be erected to his memory.

With the aid of his work so kindly presented, I will be able to trace further and more clearly the history of some of the families of yore, especially Irish and Catholic families. In dealing with Irish families I shall make no distinction on account of religion and treat all alike, for I have remembrance of many generous and liberal Irish Protestants in my own Canadian experience.

Perhaps the most remarkable incident with regard to the Irish in Canada is the fact that in the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration of the late forties and early fifties there were five Corkonians or sons of Corkonians, all of whom I have seen and heard in their day.

When I described this circumstance at a social gathering in Chicago one night, some years ago, to Jos. K. R. Forest of the Chicago Daily News, the original Old-Timer, he was the most delighted man I ever saw, for he was himself a native of the rebel city, though not of the rebellious sort. He wrote several articles on the subject and a sweet little poem on the beauties of the River Lee, which appeared in the Daily News. Mr. Forest was one of the pioneer settlers of Chicago and was connected with the first newspaper efforts in the Garden City, and was married to the daughter of the publisher of Chicago's first newspaper—the Democrat. He was also one of the founders of the Chicago Tribune and was connected with that greatest of western journals long before the late Joseph Madill had anything to do with it. When I mentioned the name of Hon. Louis H. Drummond he told me he was once compared by a Canadian gentleman to Judge Drummond in personal appearance, and as I had often seen Mr. Drummond, I was able to bear witness to the truth of the resemblance between those two distinguished sons of the beautiful Munster city. Judge Drummond was a Catholic, however, which Mr. Forest was not. He was a tall man with a florid complexion, an erect form and a clean-shaven face and a bold, brilliant pair of eyes. The last time I saw him was on a public platform, where he was accompanying one of Illinois' greatest men, ex-U.S. Senator Lyman Trumbull, the author of the 15th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and one of the noblest Romans of them all. That was the last public appearance of these two remarkable men—one a Connecticut Yankee and the other a Munster Irishman—for both died soon after.

The names of the five Corkonians in the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration were Robert Baldwin, the Premier, Francis Hincks, the Receiver-General or Minister of Finance; Robert Baldwin Sullivan, Provincial Secretary; James H. Killally, Commissioner of Public Works; and Louis H. Drummond, of Montreal, Solicitor-General. Robert Baldwin was born in Upper Canada, but his father, who was a leading Reformer before him, came from the city by the Lee. It was during the administration of these men that responsible government was wrought out for the Canadian people and that such great measures as the abolition of the Clergy Reserves, the abolition of the Seigneurial Tenure in Lower Canada, the extension of the franchise, the establishment of a system of provincial education, the compensation of those patriots who suffered losses in the rebellion of 1837-8, the better division of the parliamentary constituencies, and many other important measures were put through parliament and enacted into laws. In Lord Elgin the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration found an executive that was thoroughly cognizant of the necessity for those measures and was in full accord with his Cabinet. The exact number of years this administration was in office I cannot recount without reference, but it was preceded by the Baldwin and Hincks Administration in the forties, and Lord Elgin came in 1846. The Reform party split in 1853 and the administration was succeeded by a coalition in 1854. In this coalition were Sir Francis Hincks and some other Reformers, along with Sir Allen Napier McNab of Hamilton, who was Premier, and Sir John A. Macdonald, who filled the office of Attorney-General. It was then that Geo. Brown assumed the baton of leadership with the clear Grits that he first named in derision. No man ever struggled for political office more persistently than Mr. Brown, and he desired the emoluments of the premiership just as much as he did the power that he loved and hoped to wield. No man ever expended so much time and effort with less remunerative results.

The Baldwin family was socially very important in Upper Canada and held many and large possessions. Besides politicians, there were admirals, soldiers and ministers among its members. Spadina avenue in the west end, is a Baldwin name brought from Ireland. I had the satisfaction of seeing Robert Baldwin shortly before his death. He did not long survive the split in the party and the defeat of his own method of settling the Clergy Reserves question. He was a good churchman and did not like the spoliation methods of the radicals or clear-Grits, led by Malcolm Cameron, Michael Hamilton Foley and William McDougall, and he resigned. When I saw Mr. Baldwin stepping from his law office in York Chambers, King and York streets, to his carriage, his face was the gravest I ever looked upon, and I do not think that of the Saviour at Calvary was more profound. His face was long, its color was saffron, the setting of his eyes was dark and hollow, and withal there was a spectacle in his presence commanding reverence and awe. It is discouraging to think how lit-

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tle gratitude there is expressed for this great, peaceful liberator in Canada to-day—that Canada that owes his memory so much. There never was a more personally disinterested politician. James Beatty, the founder of the "Leader" newspaper and subsequently member of parliament for East Toronto, was in the habit of declaring his principles to be those of a "Baldwin Reformer" and it was his hate for George Brown and the "Globe" that induced him to start the "Daily Leader" newspaper in the middle fifties.

Francis Hincks possessed of many administrative parts. He was a good writer, a great calculator, an excellent bookkeeper and a man of wonderful memory, but very elastic. He had many enemies and seemed to like the work of creating them. He was merciless towards his political enemies and lashed them with scorpions. He was untamable in his treatment of the Tories and they took their revenge by christening him the "Hyena." He was the founder of the "Examiner" newspaper, which did service for the Reformers many years before the "Globe" was started by Mr. Brown. Mr. Hincks disposed of the paper when he went into the government to James Leslie, brother of the late Postmaster Leslie, who was an old friend, and it had as political writers at one time such distinguished contributors as Chas. Lindsay, now Register of Deeds, and afterwards editor-in-chief of the Leader; Mr. William McDougall, afterwards prominent as a politician, and nicknamed "Wandering Willie"; and Daniel Morrison, who was afterwards a writer on the "Leader" and the "Daily Telegraph." Before Mr. Hincks joined the coalition he went down to Montreal and there started the "Daily Pilot," but it was not a lasting success. He afterwards got the appointment of Governor of the West Indies, and after an absence of many years he returned to Canada and again entered the political arena, having found an Ontario constituency in North Renfrew. He also edited a daily commercial paper in Montreal and started a bank. He was a widower and late in life married, the widow of Judge Sullivan, the former Provincial Secretary. Just fifty years ago the writer of this was connected with the Toronto "Mirror" and wrote for it an article entitled "Ireland's Present Prospects," which was two columns in length, and Mr. Hincks did it the honor of copying it whole into his "Montreal Pilot," a compliment which stimulated "Old Timer" to continue in the field of journalism. That article was hopeful, as it was at that time that Shearman Crawford had started his agitation for tenant right in the Province of Ulster.

I first saw Robert Baldwin Sullivan in 1846 in Hamilton, where he delivered a lecture on the advantages of home industries, of which Canada had then but very few. He now from small beginnings certain towns in the United States had grown up from hamlets through the cultivation of certain industries, such as stove making, agricultural implement manufacturing, etc. He instanced a case where the starting of a broom factory started a town. Mr. Sullivan paid a compliment in that lecture to the art and skill of the French-Canadians. He instanced the stone carving over the entrance to the Bank of Montreal in Montreal, which he said was beautifully designed and executed by a French-Canadian workman who was unable to write his own name. The delivery of that lecture by the Hon. Mr. Sullivan in 1846 was the starting point of the thrift and industry that has steadily advanced in that city. The lecture was printed in full in the columns of the Hamilton Semi-Weekly Spectator, and I was the chief that pulled the proof sheets and handed them to the author for revision.

Mr. Sullivan was a great political polemic. His most noted encounter

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was with Rev. Egerton Ryerson, founder of the "Christian Guardian" newspaper and Ontario's first superintendent of education, an able man, who espoused the cause of the Family Compact. Ryerson wrote under the non-de-plume of "Leonides" and Mr. Sullivan of "Legion," their respective communications week after week appearing in the Toronto papers. He spoke of the privileged class of those days as "people who could not neither did they spin." Mr. Sullivan did not long survive the collapse of his administration. He died young, soon after Mr. Baldwin led the way to death. He was a tall man of scholarly appearance. He was a fine lawyer and an eloquent speaker, and was correct in his habits. He upheld well the honor of his race on Canadian soil. I saw his funeral, which was deficient of all pageantry and was poorly attended. He had two sons that I was well acquainted with, as they were members of the Ontario Literary Society, to which I belonged. Robert, the younger, gave great promise of being a bright man, and was one of the coterie of wits that wrote sharp things for "The Grumbler," that clever little sheet that was published at first by Erastus Wiman and revived by John Ross Robertson. But he died young. The elder son, William, has resided in Chicago for many years, following the profession of his father, and is well known as the publisher of the Chicago Law Directory. He has children and grand children, among whom are propagated the names of Baldwin, Hincks and Sullivan, even unto this day, in Chicago.

Mr. Killally, the Commissioner of Public Works, I am not able to say much of in this writing. He resided at St. Catherine's, and was one of the engineers of the Welland Canal and some of the other Canadian canals. When he died I do not know, but I think the family removed to Toronto, during my day here. At any rate Mr. K. has long been absent from the land of the living.

Louis H. Drummond was an eminent Montreal lawyer of Reform proclivities when taken into the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration. He was tall, thin and smooth-faced, and represented the Irish Catholics of Lower Canada. He was a scholarly man and deeply read. He, too, is long deceased. All the members of that distinguished Canadian administration have long since passed away and their lives and achievements are already forgotten. I once heard Judge Drummond deliver a St. Patrick's Day speech at McCowen's, in Toronto. It was a mixed assembly. I thought he dwelt too much and too favorably on the political philosophers of the French revolution. His son is the Rev. Henry Louis Drummond, who entered the Jesuit Order in 1868, and taught classics in St. Mary's College from 1870 to 1872. The Rev. Father has had a remarkable career as priest, teacher, traveller. His mother was a French-Canadian lady. A remark made by Judge Drummond long ago, when on the bench I have never forgotten: "The day will come when men will look upon trial by jury with as much abhorrence as we now look upon the trial by ordeal of our ancestors."

WILLIAM HALLEY.  
EASTERTIDE  
(Written for The Register.)  
"Eastertide"—its memory brings Thoughts of many wondrous things; For now, another spring awakes And from the grave of winter breaks Stirrings faint, our old earth feels, And a new-born hope reveals. Stream and river, pond and lake, From their quiet sleep awake, Root and tendril, bough and hole, Feel once more the throb of soul; Spring-flowers, delicate and fair, Fling abroad their blossoms rare; Blue bird, robin, chickadee, Fill their world with melody; New life, new hope, returns to earth And man rejoices at its birth, Believing Eastertide to be A token and a prophecy Of "Death and Immortality."  
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PIUS X., POPE.  
Venerable Brothers; Health and the Apostolic Blessing:

The memory of that great and incomparable man, Gregory the First, the thirteenth centennial of whose death we are on the eve of celebrating with all due solemnity, brings to us, venerable brothers, great joy. Amid the almost innumerable cares of our Apostolic ministry; amid all the anxieties of the government of the Universal Church imposed upon us, amid the pressing solicitudes of satisfying as best we may our claims, venerable brothers, who have been called to share in our Apostolate and the claims of all the faithful entrusted to our care, it was ordained, in our opinion not without a special providence, by that God "who killeth and maketh alive, who humbleth and exalteth"; it was ordained, we say, that at the beginning of our Pontificate our gaze should be turned towards that most holy and illustrious predecessor of ours who is the pride and the glory of the Church. We feel great confidence in his intercession with God and we are strengthened by the memory of the sublime maxims he inculcated in his lofty office as well as by the virtues he devoutly practised. Through the efficacy of the former and the fruitfulness of the latter he left on God's Church an impress so great, so deep, so lasting, that his contemporaries, as well as posterity, justly bestowed upon him the title of Great. After the lapse of centuries the eulogy engraven on his tomb is still true: "By his countless good works he lives eternal in all places" (Apud. Joann. Mac. Veta Greg. iv., 68). With the assistance of divine Grace all imitators of his glorious example will be able to discharge their duties so far as the weakness of human nature will permit.

There is but little to repeat here what public documents have made known to all. When Gregory assumed the Supreme Pontificate the disorder in public affairs had reached its climax; ancient civilization had all but disappeared, and barbarism was spreading throughout all the dominions of the crumbling Roman Empire. Italy, abandoned by the Emperors of Byzantium, had become as it were the prey of the Lombards, who were still unsettled, and roamed up and down the whole country, laying waste everywhere with fire and sword, and bringing with them desolation and death. This very city, threatened from without by its enemies, tried from within by the scourges of pestilence, floods and famine, was reduced to such a miserable plight that it had become a problem how to keep the breath of life in the citizens and in the immense multitudes who flocked to it for refuge. Here were to be found men and women of all conditions, bishops and priests carrying the sacred vessels saved from plunder, monks and innocent spouses of Christ who had sought safety in flight from the swords of the enemy or from the brutal insults of abandoned men. Gregory himself calls the Church of Rome "an old ship woefully shattered; for the waters are entering on all sides, and the joints, beaten by the daily stress of the storm, are growing rotten and heralding shipwreck" (Registrum I., 4 ad Joannem episcopum Constantinopolitani). But the pilot raised up by God had a strong hand, and when placed at the helm was able not only to reach port despite the raging seas, but save the vessel from future storms.

Truly wonderful is the work he succeeded in doing during his reign of little more than thirteen years. He was the restorer of Christian life in

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its entirety, stimulating the devotion of the faithful, the observance of the monks, the discipline of the clergy, the pastoral solicitude of the bishops. "Most prudent father of the family of Christ" that he was (Jeann. Diac., Vita Greg. I., 51), he preserved and increased the patrimony of the Church and liberally succored the impoverished people, Christian society, and individual churches, according to the necessities of each. "Becoming truly God's Consul" (Epitaph), he pushed his fruitful activity far beyond the walls of Rome wholly for the advantage of civilized society. He opened energetically the unjust claims of the Byzantine Emperors; he checked the audacity and curbed the shameless extortions of the exarchs and imperial administrators, and stood up as a public defender of social justice. He tamed the ferocity of the Lombards, and did not hesitate to go to meet Agulfus at the gates of Rome in order to prevail upon him to raise the siege of the city, just as the Pontiff Leo the Great did in the case of Attila; nor did he desist in his prayers, in his gentle persuasion, in his skillful negotiations until he saw that dreaded people settle down and adopt a more regular government—until he knew that they were won to the Catholic faith, mainly through the influence of the pious Queen Theodolinda, his daughter in Christ. Hence Gregory may justly be called the saviour and liberator of Italy—his own land, as he tenderly calls her.

Through his incessant pastoral care the embers of heresy in Italy and Africa die out, ecclesiastical life in the Gauls is re-organized, the Visigoths of the Spains are welded together in the conversion which has already begun among them, and the renowned English nation, which, situated in a corner of the world, had hitherto remained obstinate in the worship of wood and stones (Reg. VIII., 29, 30, ad Eulog. Episcopum Alexandr.), now also receives the true faith of Christ. Gregory's heart overflowed with joy at the news of this precious conquest, for it is the heart of a father going out to his most beloved son. He attributes all the merit of it to Jesus the Redeemer, for whose love as he himself writes, we are seeking our unknown brothers in Britain, and through whose grace we find the unknown ones we were seeking (Reg. XI., 38 (28), at Augustin. Anglorum Episcopum). And so grateful to the Holy Pontiff was the English nation that it called him always: Our Master, our Doctor, our Apostle, our Pope, our Gregory, and considered itself as the seal of his apostolate. In fine his action was so salutary and so efficacious that the memory of his works wrought by him became deeply impressed on the minds of posterity, especially during the middle ages, which breathed, so to say, the atmosphere infused by him, fed on his words, conformed its life and manners according to the example inculcated by him, with the result that Christian social civilization was happily introduced into the world in opposition to the Roman civilization of the preceding centuries, which now passed away forever.

(Concluded in next issue.)  
PERSONAL  
Dr. Peter J. McDonald of Little Current, Manitoulin Island, was in the city last week. The doctor is in the best of health. On his way down he spent a few days with his relatives in Barrie.

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