John Robertson Miller, Esq., P.G.M.

From the Toronto Observer.

The subject of this sketch is John Robertson Miller, Esq., of Goderich, the immediate past grand master of our Order, and one of our best known representative men. Mr. Miller was born in Lanark, Scotland, in 1842; but, except that "the Scotch blood leaps in a' his veins," both his father and mother being Scotch, he may be termed a Canadian, for when only a year old his parents came to Canada and settled in Toronto, in 1843. Toronto at that time gave little promise of becoming the great commercial centre it now is; and any conception of its future greatness, if conceived at all, existed only in the minds of the few; the many inclined to the belief that the rural districts with their fertile soils and wealth of timber offered, to the men destitute of capital, and possessing only the right and capability to labor, advantages which the city did not then afford. Mr. Miller's father shared the opinion of the latter class; and after five years residence in Toronto he removed to York Mills, where he and his estimable partner in life resided for the long period of thirty years. They are still alive, hale and hearty old folks; and what is even more remarkable, of the nine children given them they have not been called upon to mourn the loss of one.

In those early days at York Mills "life was real, life was earnest," and the problem of how to make both ends meet frequently became a difficult one to solve. John R. being the eldest of the family began when quite a lad to learn the trade of his father which was that of a shoemaker. Partly owing to this premature start in life, but more so on account of a weakly constitution, he obtained but little schooling; and when at the age of 19 he bade farewell to the "last and awl," and in 1862 entered the Normal School, Toronto, what ever education he had acquired up to that time resulted almost entirely from self-study.

Placed under the able tuition of Dr. Sangster, now of Port Perry, a gentleman of whom Mr. Miller ever speaks with feelings of respect and gratitude, he made rapid strides in learning. After leaving that institution he began his career as a teacher, and taught in York township until 1865.

In 1866 he entered St. Francis' College, Quebec, where, for some time he studied and tutored; and later in the same year he matriculated in arts at the McGill University, Montreal. Whilst at McGill he joined the college volunteer corps, a corps it may be remembered, that proferred its services to the government to aid in repelling the Fenian invasion, but whose assistance was not required. Towards the close of 1866 he returned to Toronto with the intention of prosecuting his further studies at the University there, but ill-health which had seriously impaired his eyesight necessitated the abandonment of that project, and after a brief interval of rest he betook himself to his first love and resumed teaching. Securing a first class certificate, he waited his chance, and a vacancy occurring at Bothwell shortly afterward, Mr. Miller obtained the appointment. He labored there faithfully for three years, and in 1870 his ability gained for him a higher position—that of principal of Goderich Public and Ward Schools. In the year following the new School Act came into operation, rendering another and more stringent examination necessary to be undergone by those teachers whose ambition it was to rank higher in their profession. To this ordeal Mr. Miller submitted, and was duly registered "First-class, grade A, qualified for Inspector." Promotion speedily followed, and in June of the same year he was appointed one of the School Inspectors of Huron county, which position he still fills creditably to himself and satisfactorily to the government.

During 1875 the late Dr. Ryerson selected him one of two Inspectors to organize into school sections the districts of Parry Sound and Algoma, and notwithstanding the additional labor this entailed, the work was prosecuted with vigor, and resulted in evolving out of chaos, as it were, an admirably arranged system adapted to the wants of these outlying localities. This was not accomplished, however, without telling severely on Mr. Miller's health, and with a view to its restoration he visited Europe in 1876, and when in Edinburgh represented the United Temperance Society of Canada at a large gathering of temperance workers held in that city. This visit to the

"Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,
Land of the mountain and the flood,"

the land of his sires, and his own land too, although this was the first time he consciously beheld it, had a revivifying influence on both body and mind; and after gazing his fill on its heather hills, and rambling for a brief period through its romantic glens, he returned to Canada physically and intellectually a better man. Since then his life has not been an idle one. Besides attending diligently to his duties as Inspector, he has found time to engage in the study of law, and has passed all the examinations except the final one. He is also a captain in the 33rd Batt. of volunteers under the colonelcy of the Provincial Treasurer.

His connection with the A.O.U.W. commenced in 1879, when he joined Maple Leaf Lodge, Goderich, of which lodge he is still a member. Made Grand Overseer in 1880, Grand Foreman in 1881, and elevated to the rank of Grand Master in 1882, holding the latter position for two years. His advancement was as rapid as well deserved.

He is a charter member of the first Legion of Select Knights instituted in Canada, and when Ontario was organized into a separate jurisdiction he took rank in its Grand Legion. At the Session of Supreme Legion held in Buffalo, he in conjunction with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Missouri, constituted the Committee on Laws and Constitution; and that he did his share of the work well may be inferred from the fact that Supreme Legion raised him to the dignity of Supreme Lieutenant Commander.

Such is a brief outline of Mr. Miller's life thus far. As Grand Master he ruled firmly yet tolerantly. His long public connection with the temperance movement stood him in good stead so far as the routine work of the office was concerned; and on questions relating to the welfare of the Order his excellent judgment and practical common sense rendered the decisions he arrived at generally acceptable. Surrounded in childhood by adverse rather than adventitious circumstances, he had to make his own way in the world; and unless his character had been formed on correct principles, his energy and perseverance alone, strong as they are, would not have secured for him the many friendships he can lay claim to today.

"A king can make a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Guid faith he maunna fa' that!"

And Mr. Miller is essentially an honest man.

The Government to Blame.

The letters received by Judge Elliott and his family of London, from Mr. Shef Elliott (killed at Duck Lake), for months past have contained references to the troubles which have been brewing there. He seems to have felt for the wrongs of the settlers, but did not anticipate that those wrongs would bring on open rebellion. He told, in his various letters, how the land which had been tilled by the half breeds for years was given over their heads by the Dominion Government to

LAND SHARKS AND SPECULATORS,

who turned the settlers off and sold their homesteads at their own sweet well. He again and again said the half breeds had great cause for complaint on account of the injustice being done them, and were threatening to rise. He told how Riel had returned, and how a war council had been called, and an ultimatum issued to the Dominion Government saying that if some satisfactory arrangement to settle the claims of the half breeds were not made within fifteen days they would rise. He subsequently wrote that Riel had given the Government until the 17th of March to act, and then he jocularly added that the Irishmen would all be out on that day, St. Patrick's, they could depend upon them to suppress the revolt. In his last letter to Mr. Hume B. Elliott, dated March 4th, he says:—"Riel says he has several thousand Indians who will rise at a word from him. If they do we'll be in an awkward position, as the Government have taken all our arms from us." He went on to say, however, he hoped it would all end in talk.

The Toronto *News* says:—"The fool fellow who neglected to lock his stable until after his horse was stolen, has been quite eclipsed by Sir John A. Macdonald, who refused to send out a commission to inquire into the state of affairs in the Northwest until it became impossible to conduct such an inquiry. So long as the rebels are able to maintain their ground it will be impossible to elicit their evidence, and after they have been defeated and scattered through their forest fastnesses it will also be impossible to do so. A plainer confession of government neglect and incompetency than this appointment at this hour could not have been."

Recall Dewdney at Once.

No one in eastern Canada has confidence in Governor Dewdney. The half-breeds, Indians and settlers simply detest him. He has bungled everything. And yet in these troublous times he is still kept in office. If he were removed the disaffected people in the northwest would have reason for thinking that a change of policy it their favor was about to be made and the restoration of law and order would be accelerated. Keeping him there and sending troops forward will convey to the rebels the idea that government approve of Dewdney's policy and that they are going to run it down their throats at the bayonet's point. Dewdney must be recalled immediately. To keep him there longer is criminal.—Toronto World.

The Men Who are to Blame.

It is years since the Prime Minister was told that his Lieutenant Governor of the territory paid more attention to town site speculations than to settler's grievances; that he was more intent on becoming rich at the expense of those placed under his charge than, on seeing justice done; and even so good a Tory organ as our namesake of Winnipeg hinted that he ill-treated the Indians to oblige his partners in speculation, who were also contractors for supplying the aborigines. Did Sir John Macdonald order an investigation into these serious charges? No! The Premier shielded Dewdney, and told those who so grievously complained of his maladministrations that he was the best officer he ever had. Dewdney's resignation is now demanded, but against it is exclaimed, "Too late! The evil is done."

Sir John Macdonald will not ask Dewdney to resign. Dewdney knows too much about the Northwest speculation jobs to render that course safe. It would be very inconvenient to have him begin to tell tales out of school at this stage. The Government is in deep enough water already. Though the Northwest should suffer, Dewdney must remain at the head of affairs. Somebody else will have to be sacrificed.—[Hamilton Times.

The Kind of Fighting that will be.

Those who know the country and the breeds say that the former is adapted to and the latter excellently qualified for guerrilla warfare. It is not likely that there will be a regular battle between the infantry and the rebels. Any fighting will be between mounted men, like the police or scouts, and the breeds also mounted. These breeds are fine cavalrymen. They range the country without trouble; they are well armed, and good shots; have lots of horses; can travel 100 miles at night without trouble and hide in the daytime. The infantry will never get a sight of them. The country north of the North Saskatchewan is wooded, and in it the breeds could not be followed. The only soldiers of any use for fighting will be the police, or a cowboy or scout corps well mounted. The infantry will be able to protect the railway and hold the forts (once they get in them), but will be of no use in following up the rebels. As for the cavalry force to be sent against the rebels, it ought to be made of men used to the Northwest (cowboys, policemen, scouts, ex U. S. cavalrymen, surveyors, trappers, traders, etc.,) organized up there, without uniforms, armed with repeaters and revolvers (swords are useless), mounted on nitive horses. And a force of this kind ought to have commanders like Major Walsh, Colonel McLeod, ex Inspector Walker.

The Rations.

WINNIPEG, April 3.—The prime grievance of the troops is the result of a change of fare, there being considerable difference between the every-day food of a civilian and a volunteer in active service. The ration list for each man is daily one and a half pounds of biscuit or flour, one and a quarter pounds of cooked meats or bacon, one ounce of tea, two ounces of sugar, one-eighth of an ounce of salt, quarter of a pound of beans, and one thirty-second of an ounce of pepper.

Liquor Licenses Under the Scott Act.

As will be seen by refence to the list in another column the License Commissioners under the Dominion Liquor License Act, for this county, have issued licenses to a number of persons to sell liquors as provided for by the Scott Act,—that is for medicinal, sacramental and chemical purposes, on the certificate of a clergyman, doctor or magistrate. The law evidently contemplates that these licenses should be issued to druggists, but the Huron Commissioners, so far, have issued them to hotel keepers and liquor dealers only. Why they have pursued this course may be admissible of satisfactory explanation, but we think it would have been much better had they followed precedent and adhered to what plainly seems to be the spirit of the law under which these appointments are made. If, however, they adhere rigidly to their resolution and prohibit those whom they license, selling liquor in their hotels or in connection with their other business, and require them to have a place separate and by itself for the sale of liquor, then the appointments are not so objectionable; but if these hotel and saloon keeps who have been licensed are allowed to continue the sale of liquor or even give it away in, or in connection with their hotels, then the Commissioners are simply placing in their hands the means wherewith to enable them to evade the law and to carry on illicit business. Should this be the result, the Commissioners have taken a step that will not be sanctioned or approved of by the people. Should the license holders respect and abide by the law, no person will have cause to object to the appointments; but should they use their license as a screen to enable them the more easily to evade the law, the people will object, and they will demand that other appointments be made. We hope, however, that the resolution passed by the Commissioners will be carried out in the spirit as well as in the letter, and if it is we do not think that any person will seriously object to the appointments made so far.—[Seaforth Expositor.

Josh Billings Says:

Next to a clear conscience for solid comfort comes an o u shoe. One trouble exists in the fact that old shoes wear out, and another that they they cannot always be worn. Undoubtedly Josh must be a sufferer from corns, and has not yet heard of the great and only sure corn cure: Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. This great remedy never fails to remove the worst corns—soft or hard—in a few days. No discomfort, no sore spots, but prompt and certain cure. Beware of flesh-eating and sore producing substitutes. Use Putnam's only. N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, proprs.

Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup—An agreeable, safe and effectual remedy to remove all kinds of worms. 1m

CHAPTER II.

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The second made me as well and strong as when a child.
'And I have been so to this day.'
My husband was an invalid for twenty years with a serious
'Kidney, liver and urinary complaint,
'Pronounced by Boston's best physicians—
'Incurable!'
Seven bottles of your bitters cured him, and I know of the
'Lives of eight persons'
In my neighborhood that have been saved by your bitters,
And many more are using them with great benefit.
'They almost
Do miracles!'
1m Mrs. E. D. Slack.

Well Rewarded.

A liberal reward will be paid to any party who will produce a case of Liver, Kidney or Stomach complaint that Electric Bitters will not speedily cure. Bring them along, it will cost you nothing for the medicine if it fails to cure, and you will be well rewarded for your trouble besides. All Blood diseases, Biliousness, Jaundice, Constipation, and general debility are quickly cured. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded Price only fifty cents per bottle. For sale by J. Wilson. [5]

McGregor's Speedy Cure.

Every purchaser of common sense business capacity, when requiring an article for a certain purpose, purchases only that which has been tried or is allowed to try before buying. You are allowed a free trial bottle of McGregor's Speedy Cure, the great remedy for Dyspepsia, Impure Blood and Liver Disorders at Geo. Rhynas' drug store. Sold at 50c. and $1 per bottle. See testimonials from persons in your own town. 2m

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Seeing is believing. Read the testimonials in the pamphlet on Dr. Van Buren's Kidney Cure, then buy a bottle and relieve yourself of all those distressing pains. Your Druggest can tell you all about it. Sold by J Wilson Goderich 2m

Did She Die?

"No; she lingered and suffered along, "pining all the time for years, the doctors doing her no good; and at last was 'cured by this Hop Bitters the papers 'say so much about. Indeed! indeed! "how thankful we should be for that 'medicine.".

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The greatest medical wonder of the world. Warranted to speedily cure Burns, Bruises, Cuts, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Cancers, Piles, Chilblains, Corns, Tetter, Chapped Hands, and all Skin Eruptions, guaranteed to cure in every instance, or money refunded. 25c. per box. For sale by J. Wilson. 1y.

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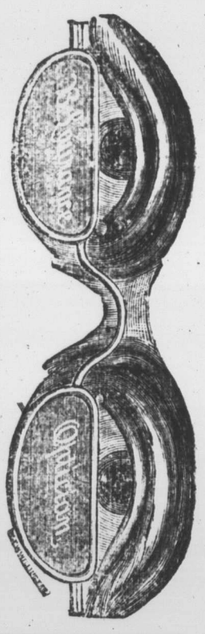

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