

HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS.

1605-1804.

(Written by A. W. Fullerton.)

AROUND Annapolis as around no other locality in America cluster most interestingly the memories of the past. With so prominent a page upon the History of Canada its story is known to all. It has gone forth to all the world of how the Rival Nations wrestled the one with the other to gain possession of the place, and who hath not heard of the carnage and warfare that was enacted long years ago where now tread the footsteps of British citizens, in peace and prosperity. It will not here be necessary to tell of DeMonts the founder; of Argall, the first destroyer; of Alexander; of Sedgewick and Phipps, the New-England victors; nor of Nicholson, through whose deeds the British flag waved final triumph in 1710. History has recorded their acts of bravery and on printed page has told to present generations the stories of their achievements. It is rather the purpose of this article to briefly mention a few interesting particulars concerning the more ordinary life of Annapolis as it was two hundred years ago and subsequent and final capture.

There is a bravery of which the world doth not hear the half—the bravery of every-day life, and this in the early times of Annapolis is what now calls for our unstinted admiration. All honor to the pioneer citizens of Annapolis! All honor to those who struggled so manfully against the trials of enmity, the inconveniences of a new country and the hardships and privations of pioneer life!

We, in this favored day, let us pause to think upon the vicissitudes of days gone by and to admire the valor of those heroes whose praises are now so little sounded.

In 1670 there were in Annapolis sixty-six families aggregating three hundred and eighty souls. Among these people were a surgeon, a weaver, four coopers, a farrier, two armorers, a mason and a maker of edge tools. There were at this time three hundred and sixty-five acres of land in cultivation around the town. In 1714, four years after the capture, another census was taken showing a population of six hundred and thirty-seven, belonging to ninety families. It was between these dates, from 1683 to 1694, that the French writer La-Hontan was in America and writing of Annapolis, he says:

"Port Royal, or the only city in Acadia, is in effect no more than a little, paltry town. In fine it is only a handful of houses two stories high and has but few inhabitants of any note." Diereville, writing in 1708, has a still poorer opinion of the place: "The houses are only hovels, badly built of mud with clay chimneys." He probably exaggerates as the Nova Scotian settlers were never a race of mud masons. He adds that

the church was more like a barn than a temple of God. He also makes reference to three mills on the L'Quille River—two saw-mills and one for grinding corn. Orchards of apple trees were planted by the settlers in general. Summing up the whole he says in rhyme:

"Where else can greater joys be found?
All simple though they be;
Though but few luxuries here abound,
They're cheerful, brave and free."

The most prominent members of the first council chosen in 1720 by Governor Phillips were John Doucett, William Skene, William Shereff and John Adams. The latter three were in 1727 appointed members of a court of Justices. The manner in which this council dealt with offenders is somewhat amus-

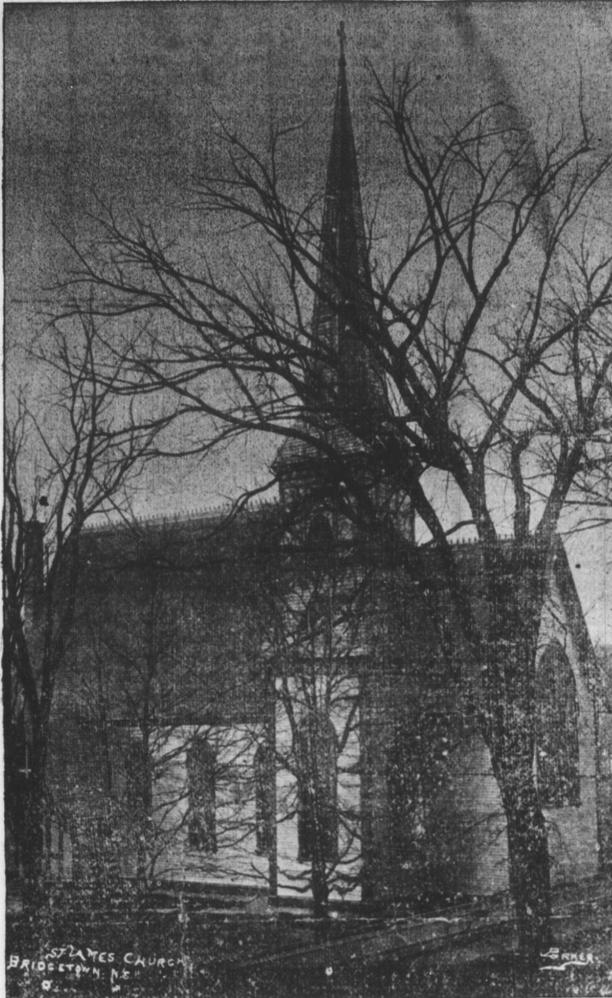
ing. Witness the following sentence upon one Nicholas:

"The punishment therefore inflicted on thee is to sit upon a gallows three days, half an hour each day, with a rope about thy neck and a paper upon your breast whereon shall be wrote in capital letters, 'AUDACIOUS VILLAIN,' and afterwards thou art to be whipt at a cart's tail from the prison up to the uppermost house of the cape, and from thence back again to the prison house, receiving each hundred paces five stripes upon your bare back with a cat-of-nine-tails and then thou art to be turned over for a soldier."

officials, plunder the town and convey the pillage to Boston. It was happily averted and the fifty desperadoes duly punished. The government was poor, the ramparts broken down, embezzlement of funds was common and jealousies everywhere abounded. This, added to their natural disadvantages made the lot of the early Annapolitans a peculiarly hard one. Yet, through it all there existed a spark of healthful cheerfulness—a measure of happiness. For this, the more honor to the early citizens of Annapolis!

Perhaps there could be no better closing of this article than in the words of the late A. M. Gidney, editor of the Bridgetown Free Press, whose view of the town in 1800 is exceedingly happy, yet whose lamenting note in 1865 is, as shown by after events, as much too hopeless:—

"Annapolis is now an 'old town.' . . . A shadow of antiquity is hanging over the birthplace of the hero, who, in the midst of famine, long preserved Kars from the besieging foe. As one passes along its streets a sense of the past renders the present footprints of decay a subject of pensive regret. He thinks of it as it was in the early part of the present century, when its garrison and fortifications, bristling with cannon, were in excellent repair and in charge of a regiment of soldiers. Then the sound of martial music awakened the echoes along the swift-gliding river and reverberated through the picturesque valleys and up the towering hills that render the surrounding landscape so beautifully fascinating. . . . The times to which we allude were the palmy days of Annapolis—'bright summer days that never will return.'"



SPICES CHURCH BRIDGETOWN, N.S.

For three-quarters of a century after Nicholson's capture civil unrest was rampant. The town suffered greatly from "hostile incursions of Indians" and the Acadian habitans were far from being friendly. Nor was there lack of inward malcontent. There were spirits of evil within the town that on every favorable occasion burst forth into acts of violence. In 1734 there was a great prevalence of thefts and robberies, and summary steps were taken by the council as a means of detection. A night watch was instituted and authorized to arrest suspicious persons and "to fire on those who refuse to answer after being thrice challenged." In 1785 a plot was formed to murder one of

The Monitor's Career.

(Continued from first page.)

of close upon 1600 subscribers grants it their much appreciated support and encouragement. The advertising and jobbing departments are manifestly and rapidly increasing in growth and efficiency, and the frequent commendatory comments and other marks of approval of more substantial nature with which it is our good fortune to be favored are most gratifying and encouraging tokens of our success.

Nor must we fail to acknowledge our indebtedness to our local correspondents, whose valued services have contributed so much to the system by which we are enabled to place before our readers a resume of all matters of local interest transpiring weekly in the various portions of the county,—a feature which we are convinced has materially advanced the MONITOR'S popularity.

Feeling amply rewarded by the substantial encouragement which has stimulated our endeavors, we desire to extend to our patrons and friends our most cordial thanks and to assure them that it shall be our highest ambition in the future as in the past to win their approbation, so far as our efforts shall be in accordance with the highest and best interests of our town and country and the truest welfare of our fellow-beings.

The One Prayer.

The dear God hears and pities all;
He knoweth all our wants;
And what we blindly ask of him
His love withholds or grants.
And so I sometimes think our prayers
Might well be merged in one,
And nest and perch and hearth and church,
Repeat, "Thy will be done."

—Whittier.

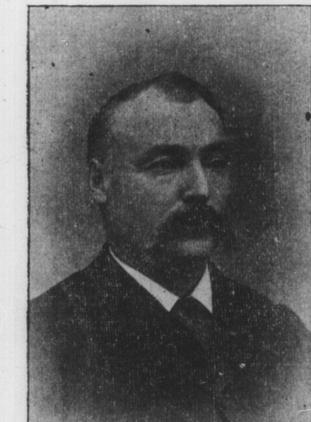
J. W. BECKWITH.

J. W. BECKWITH, Merchant, of Bridgetown, is a descendant of the Beckwiths who emigrated from New England to Nova Scotia in 1760 and settled in Cornwallis, thus becoming the founders of the Beckwith families of the maritime provinces. The New England Beckwiths came from Yorkshire, England, in 1635, and settled in Massachusetts. These again trace their ancestry back to a valiant old knight who came over from Normandy with William the Conqueror, and whose name appears in Domesday Book as the holder of lands. He was born at Bridgetown, July 20th, 1848, and received his education in the common schools of that place. He began the study of life as a clerk with Fred Leavitt, then doing business at Paradise. Here he remained two years. Then, after assisting his father in his customs clothing business for a time, he went to Halifax and remained for a year with C. F. Elliott, where he gained a thorough knowledge of the furnishing trade. Returning to his native town he opened a general dry goods store in 1880, where he has since carried on business. From a small beginning his business has grown to large dimensions. Pushing and energetic, a liberal advertiser, and sparing neither trouble nor expense in meeting the wants of his customers, Mr. Beckwith has built up a trade which in volume and extent is second to none in the county in the line of general dry goods. Nor has this one enterprise absorbed all his energies. An enterprising and public spirited citizen, he has done much to promote the prosperity of this his native town, having built a number of new houses, and being now the owner of eleven houses, besides his store, the electric light station, and the entire electric light plant.



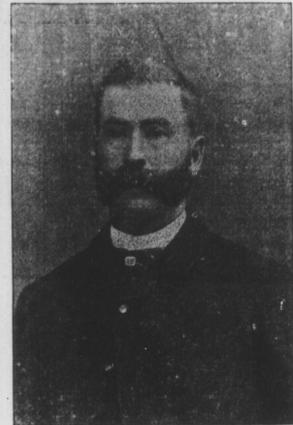
S. W. W. PICKUP.

S. W. W. PICKUP was born at Granville Ferry in the year 1839. Is the great-grandson of a United Empire Loyalist who settled in this county at the close of the American Revolution. Educated in the common schools of his native place and at Mount Allison College, where he took a special course extending over two years. Is an extensive ship owner, being largely interested in both sailing vessels and steamships. Is of present a director in the Bay of Fundy Steamship Company and the Acadia Steamship Company. Was a promoter of the Valley Telephone Company, and did much to aid in the establishment of that enterprise. Is now a Director of the Company. Also took an active part in promoting the Valley Water Works. Has been a member of the Municipal Council of the County since 1884.



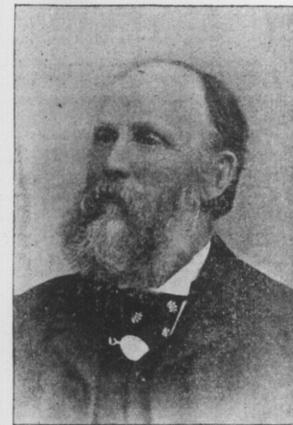
S. C. PRIMROSE, M. D.

S. C. PRIMROSE, Physician and Surgeon, of Lawrence town, is a connection of the Primrose family of Scotland, whose most distinguished member is the Earl of Rosebury, Premier of Great Britain. Is a son of Dr. John Primrose, late of Lawrence town, himself a son of Rev. John Primrose, D. D., Professor of Divinity in Edinburgh University, whose father was younger brother of the then Earl of Rosebury. His father, Dr. John Primrose, born and educated in Edinburgh, Scotland, came to this country in 1831, and married Ann, oldest daughter of Hon. Samuel Chipman, of Cornwallis, who died recently at a very advanced age. Dr. Primrose Sr. practiced at Kentville, and afterwards at Lawrence town, being one of the best known and most extensive practitioners in western Nova Scotia. Born at Kentville in 1838. Studied medicine with his father, and at Harvard University. Began practicing in Queens county in 1862, where he remained till the demise of his father when he returned to Lawrence town, and has since practiced there. Like his father, he too has enjoyed an extensive practice, being especially skilful as a surgeon. Is now one of the leading physicians of the province.



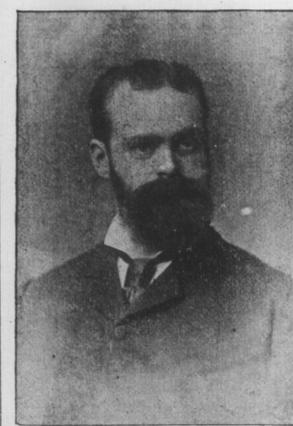
J. AVARD MORSE.

J. AVARD MORSE, Sheriff of the county of Annapolis, is a native of Bridgetown, where he was born May 18th, 1843, of English and Loyalist descent. He was educated in the common school of this county. Previous to being appointed to his present position he followed the pursuit of an agriculturalist, being at the present time the owner of a large amount of real estate in Bridgetown and vicinity. Appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1875. Was for many years an officer in the militia. Appointed Sheriff of the county in March, 1884, and has discharged the duties of this responsible position fairly and impartially, and in a manner highly creditable to himself. Sheriff Morse is an enterprising, public spirited citizen, and has always shown himself ready to aid with his influence and his means every enterprise calculated to promote the well-being and prosperity, not only of his native town, but of the county as well.



J. R. ELLIOTT.

J. R. ELLIOTT, merchant, of Lawrence town, was born in Clarence, N. S., April 30th, 1844. He is of English descent, his grandfather, Samuel Elliott coming from England about one hundred years ago, and settling on the farm in Clarence now in possession of his brothers, Leonard W. and Edwin Elliott. He was educated in the common schools and by private study, having in the midst of a busy career, during the last thirty years, carried on a careful and systematic course of study in many subjects, although making that of political economy a specialty. He was for many years a commercial traveller, representing some of the most prominent houses in Canada and the United States. Mr. Elliott is the author of a work entitled "American Farms" which has received very favorable notices from many of the leading newspapers of the day. He has also published a pamphlet directed against "Commercial Union," and has another work nearly ready for the press. He is an advocate of equal rights for women, his wife being at present Maritime Superintendent of Franchise in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. He prides himself on the fact that for three generations his family have been total abstainers from the use of intoxicants and tobacco. He believes in prohibition, and is a prominent advocate of it upon the platform and in the press. He is now serving his second term as member of the Municipal Council of this his native county.



R. S. MCCORMICK.

In placing the "Monitor's" anniversary number before the public, I desire to express the sincere thanks of the proprietor and myself to the many patrons who have so kindly furnished the information necessary to its production. Trusting that the biographical sketches together with the historical articles and other matter will meet with the approval of all readers, and warrant a continuance of the support so generously bestowed upon weekly issues in the past,

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. MCCORMICK,

Manager.