

MR. JOHN BEATTY, OF THE MONTREAL WITNESS.

ONE of the picturesque figures in the history of Canadian printerdom is that of Mr. John Beatty, of The Montreal Witness. He has been to The Witness what Wellington was to the British army at Waterloo—the indispensable part of it. Without Mr. Beatty, the old friends of The Witness would scarcely know it. He was as the right hand of the founder of The Witness, the late John Dougall, was with him at the time The Weekly Witness was but a fragile plant, a few years after its launch upon the troubled seas of early Canadian journalism, saw it increase in circulation, influence and power until it passed the stages of the semi-weekly and tri-weekly and entered the realms of the daily newspaper, full of vigor as the then only half-penny or 1c. newspaper in Canada. It was very largely Mr. Beatty's energy and faithfulness to his duties that gave The Witness its early prosperity. There was opportunity, and, though it was before these days of telegraph, telephone and lightning artists' work, The Witness was up-to-date with portraits of leading men, wood cuts, that are really surprising as they show up in the files even at this day.

Mr. Beatty's watchful eye made The Daily Witness of 1860 as excellent a production as the weekly. It was the day of delight in the old one-cylinder Hoe press. The Columbia hand press, with its mounting eagle, had passed away. It was the days, too, when the wooden sidestick had uses other than locking up the form. The apprentices of those days found it as great a terror to evil-doers as the school-master's cane; and any journeyman considered himself quite as competent to use it as did the dominie. Mr. Beatty had other means of teaching his boys, and he spared the sidestick and used persuasion in most cases. His old boys are scattered over the world, many of them in positions of prominence as editors and proprietors of newspapers. They all remember their old foreman with kindest feelings, and are glad to call upon him when they come within the shadow of The Witness office.

Among the red-letter events of Mr. Beatty's career was the publication in New York of an edition of The Daily Witness. It was called The New York Daily Witness, and was a competing force in New York in 1870. A great deal of time and energy Mr. Beatty devoted to this branch of Mr. John Dougall's journalistic enterprise. His heart was in Montreal, however, and he came back to his first love, after seeing The Witness firmly established in New York, and has served it with undiminished vigor since. It was the day of small things, in 1860, when the daily first appeared. The magnificent plant and building of The Witness of this day, which is one of the sights of Montreal well worth seeing, is part of Mr. Beatty's life. It may well be considered, in great measure, his creation.

It was in 1853 that Mr. John Beatty came to Montreal from Enniskillen, Ireland, with the beautiful young wife that was loved by all who had the privilege of her acquaintance, and who

was to him inspiration and helper such as few men's good fortune give them. He had served his time in the office of his uncle, William Trimble, who published The Impartial Reporter and Farmers' Journal for Fermanagh, Cavan, Leitrim and South Tyrone, a newspaper that is still hearty and vigorous after 73 years of service.

Mr. Beatty devoted himself unreservedly to his business. He was found either at The Witness office or with his family. The printers of that day were such men as John Lovell, Rallo Campbell, Andrew Wilson, John C. Beckett, the Messrs. Starke, Daniel Rose, William Wilson, Salter and Ross, and a few others. Of these, Messrs. Salter, Stevenson and Ross are still to the fore; the two latter have long since retired. There was a printers' society in those days—not exactly a trades' union. It sometimes brought the printers together socially. Mr. Beatty was kindly hearted and many a printer remembers him in this manner. His great sorrow was in 1877, when the honored founder of The Witness was called to the reward of a busy life, to reap the fulness thereof. Prosperity followed his days of hard

work in his own family. His sons and daughters all proved a blessing to their parents, and the success of the father has been visited, with no stinted hand, upon them. There is no joy without its corresponding cup of sorrow. It was suddenly to come to Mr. Beatty, for, one morning, after leaving his happy home at St. Lamberts, a suburb which his influence had been great in uprearing, he was suddenly called to the bedside of his wife. He was sore stricken. It was with great sympathy—sincere sorrow—that his friends and old-time fellow printers followed him as they bore her to her last resting place in Mount Royal cemetery. Few thought he would ever be the same man again. Providence overrules all things, and Mr. Beatty, now in his 72nd year, would not be taken for so old a man. He is vigorous, hearty,

well set up, and his tall form is striking, even to those who do not know how much he has been to The Witness or how greatly he honors the craft as a disciple of Gutenberg, Faust and Calton. His many friends will reccho the sentiment, "Long life to him!"

J. H.

Ernest J. Chambers, of The Montreal Star, was married at Christ Church Cathedral, Wednesday, August 31, to Miss Bertha McMillan, daughter of the late Samuel McMillan, of Kingston. The wedding was a stylish and pretty one, and Mr. Chambers and his bride are followed by many good wishes from the ranks of newspaper workers. He was presented by his French and English confreres with an address and handsome testimonial. Mr. Chambers has been in active connection with The Montreal press since about 1879, having a large experience in municipal and local reporting, and possessing a great fund of information on military, political and other subjects. He was Star correspondent at the front during the rebellion, when his horse was shot under him, and he has done newspaper work of distinction during many years past.



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