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# The Catholic Register

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## TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

The Talbots of Malahide—Col. Thomas Talbot, Founder of the Talbot Settlements and one of the Builders of Canada—An Eccentric but Warm-Hearted Irishman who had the Disposal of an Immense Domain—The Talbot Road, a Highway Two Hundred Miles Long—The Talbot-day Festivals at St. Thomas, Ontario.

The joy bells are pealing in gay Malahide,  
 The fresh wind is sighing along the seaside;  
 The maids are assembling with garlands of flowers;  
 And the harp strings are trembling in all the glad bowers.

The Talbots of Malahide were one of the nine great houses which survived the Wars of the Roses, and are said to now present the only instance in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, if not of the whole of Europe, of a family who have retained for seven hundred years their ancestral estate in the direct male lineage and name of him on whom the ancestral estate was originally conferred.

Malahide Castle, built on an eminence commanding a view of the Bay of Dublin, is a stately building, with vine-clad walls and towers, presents a most picturesque effect, while its halls of purest Norman architecture, and oak room, lined with antique carving of scriptural subjects, are justly celebrated, and its numerous art treasures, both old and precious. Many of those works of art come to the Talbot family from its alliance with the Wogans of Rathcoffey, who are descended from Sir John Wogan, chief governor of Ireland 1295 to 1310.

The nobly wooded grounds contain ancient oaks, chestnuts and sycamores, whose lives extend back to Tudor days. Beneath two of the latter and close to the castle are the ruins of the ancient chapel and burying ground, within which, among other interesting monuments, is the sixteenth century tomb of Maud Talbot, of whom some verses were written, of which the foregoing is the first.

Here, at Malahide, on the 19th of July, 1771, was born Thomas Talbot, an eccentric genius, who was one of the makers of Canada. He was one of a family of seven sons and five daughters, both to Richard Talbot and Margaret, daughter of James O'Reilly, Esq., of Ballinlough, County Westmeath, and of the princely Milesian House of Breehney, and belonging to a Catholic family of distinction. Col. Talbot was a great grandson of the gallant Col. Talbot, who, with General Sarsfield, Col. Dorington and O'Neil, figured so conspicuously in the plains of Aughrim, in defence of their dethroned sovereign, James II.

Our Col. Talbot was born on the paternal estate in the year 1770, and after a preliminary course of common education, was sent to the University of Trinity College, Dublin, where, after a couple of years' residence in that seat of learning, he gladly exchanged his college cloak and cap to don the sword and sash.

In 1782 he accompanied General John Graves Simcoe to Upper Canada in the capacity of an aide-de-camp to the first Lieutenant-Governor. After the termination of General Simcoe's administration of Upper Canada in 1789, Col. Talbot returned to Europe, some say to take a bride; but if so, in this he was unsuccessful. In 1802 he received immense tracts of land in the virgin forests of Upper Canada, from the British Government and early the following year sailed for his new home and arrived in the Township of Dunwich, on the border of Lake Erie, on 21st day of May, 1803. The transportation of his provisions, agricultural implements, horses, oxen, sheep, cows and followers, from Quebec to the London district, at that infant condition of Upper Canada, cannot be conjectured at the present day, when every convenience is amply provided for the transmission of all kinds of effects. There were no steamboats

then in existence. A small craft was to be occasionally seen between Quebec and Montreal, and then a French bateau, which had to be loaded and unloaded at short distances, when pack horses filled up the intervening space. Roads at that time were a luxury unknown to the pioneers of the forest, who had to depend on their own exertions or the assistance of some friendly Indians, when journeying from one part of the country to another.

Of the lands received from the crown a portion was for himself as compensation for settling the rest by actual settlers, who had to agree to certain conditions before being entitled to a free deed. He was soon made a member of the Legislative Council, which then met at Niagara-on-the-Lake, which was the first capital of Upper Canada. He was not loth to put off the style of raiment common among the aristocracy of his native land and assume that of the backwoodsman, for it is said he presented himself in an overcoat of sheepskins, a monstrous cap of fox skins, with the tails and ears as natural as life, while his breeches and moccasins fully corresponded. But his politics seemed to be colorless and he sided with neither party until the rebellion of 1838, when, of course, he rallied to the loyalists. He was, however, the supporter of a very radical paper, the "Canada Inquirer," published at St. Thomas, by a brilliant Irishman named Kearney; but that may have been for local reasons, or because Kearney was a fellow countryman. His religious views seemed to be as problematic as his politics.

Col. Talbot was a strange compound of Irish pride, warm heart and odd head, qualities no doubt, which he inherited in no small degree from his relatives on both sides of the house.

Being complimented by a doctor once, on his good health, he said: "Damn your colomel pills, opium and blisters, there is my morning doctor," pointing to a cold bath in a corner of the room; "and there is my afternoon physician," glancing with complacency on a well-filled bottle of old Canadian whiskey. "At night I sleep serenely, owing to a clear conscience, for I throw politics and temperance lectures to the devil."

Many anecdotes have been told of his rudeness to applicants for land, of which the following is a sample:

A stalwart Scotchman once waited on the colonel when he was not in the best of humor, requesting a grant of wild land, but who was immediately and unceremoniously refused. The immigrant, greatly disappointed, retorted with some bitterness, and was not answered with such language as was capable of assuaging the troubled spirit of the stranger, who pounced upon him in such a manner as to compel him to seek safety in flight and to lock his office door, said office being a structure of logs. A young man of the house met the unsuccessful applicant for land on his way from the place and with eyes darting fire, came up to him and declared that "if he ever met his damned papist father from home he would break every bone in his body." The laborer about the premises afterwards designated the young man as "Young Tom."

In 1829 Col. Talbot returned from one of his tours in Europe accompanied by his brother, Sir Richard, who intended to make Canada his permanent home. The knight, who a short time before had represented an Irish constituency, in the House of Commons, it is said possessed to perfection all the worst traits of the Colonel without a shadow of any of his good qualities. He was vain, supercilious and tyrannical; nay, unfit to command the respect of serfs or helots. He hated Canada with a vengeance, as unfit for a gentleman to reside in, owing to the democratic predilections of its inhabitants; and he was frequently heard to say that he never saw a place except Paris, London, and Dublin, where a man of birth and rank was properly respected. Upon one occasion Sir Richard Talbot accompanied the Colonel to where a mechanic was erecting a building, when the employer and employed entered freely into conversation, and the greenhorn demanded with the most Czarish pomposity if the builder's hat was not nailed to his head. "No," replied the independent Irishman, "yet it is firm enough not to be taken off to a worm like myself. I reserve the privilege to honor my Creator, and for the common courtesies of life, but not for the gratification of world-

ling, some of whom are only blanks in creation."

Long after Col. Talbot arrived in Upper Canada, the London district occupied an immense tract of forest, with settlements scattered here and there like an oasis in the wilderness. It then comprised the present three counties of the Huron Tract, the counties of Huron, Perth and Bruce. Also, the Counties of Norfolk, Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex. The only court house and jail for this immense section of country was located in the village of Vittoria, County of Norfolk.

The great Talbot street or road, began in the vicinity of Simcoe (so named after Upper Canada's first Governor) and passes through some beautiful and important villages, till it terminates at the finished town of Sandwich, the capital of the County of Essex, on the south branch of the Detroit river. Talbot street is nearly two hundred miles long and passes through some of the most fertile townships of Canada. It was opened by means of settlement duties, as each individual settler who obtained a grant of land was compelled to chop and log the breadth of 66 feet along the length of his farm, and many were the difficulties Col. Talbot had to contend with in seeing that this thoroughfare was opened through so important a section of Upper Canada.

Malahide Township was named after the paternal castle, St. Thomas, after Col. Talbot himself; Fingal, after a relative, the Earl of Fingal, the beautiful village of Aylmer after Lord Aylmer, and so might be traced some others, gleaned from the heart of the recluse of Dunwich that Erin was his home.

The writer of this more than fifty years ago visited some of those Talbot towns, including London, St. Thomas, Fingal, Vienna, Wardsville, Iona, Delaware, Simcoe, Chatham, Thamesville, and found many Irish among their residents, but not a preponderance.

During his long residence in Ontario, Col. Talbot made three visits to the old country, but they were of short duration. Notwithstanding his gruffness he was beloved by the old settlers, but as they increased in prosperity their affections seemed to diminish. For many years the 21st of May—the Talbot anniversary at St. Thomas—was celebrated by a superb ball and supper. The merchants, mechanics, farmers—all the old settlers, their wives and daughters, were in the habit of enjoying a social time with dance and dinner. It was something for the good wives to boast that they had danced with Col. Talbot.

Col. Talbot was an Irishman in every sense of the word and felt proud of the land of his birth, with all its faults, for he could place them in juxtaposition with the Currans, Grattans, Burkes, Sheridans, Shiels, Goldsmiths, Moores, Wellingtons, Sarsfields, O'Connells, Swifts, Floods and thousands of others.

On St. Patrick's Day Col. Talbot was accustomed to evince more than his usual familiarity among his workmen, and always had prepared for them a lavish dinner, with a corresponding quantity of "barley brew."

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## I.C.B.U. CONDOLENCE

To Bro. Wm. Murphy:  
 Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to remove from our midst the sister of our esteemed brother member, Wm. Murphy, we, the officers and members of Branch No. 1, I.C.B.U., of Canada, while bowing in humble submission to the divine will of our Heavenly Father, beg to extend to our worthy brother our heartfelt sympathy and earnest condolence in this, his sad hour of bereavement. And we will pray to Almighty God to have mercy on the soul of the deceased.

R. SCOLLARD, W. P. OSTER,  
 President, Rec. Secretary.

To Mr. M. C. Leatham and family, Hillsburg, Ont.:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His divine wisdom to take to Himself our esteemed Brother, John Leatham, we, the officers and members of Branch No. 1, I.C.B.U., of Canada, while bowing in humble submission to the supreme will of our Heavenly Father, beg to tender to his sorrowing parents and family our heartfelt sympathy in this, their sad hour of affliction.

And we pray Almighty God to have mercy on his soul.  
 R. SCOLLARD, W. P. OSTER,  
 President, Rec. Secretary.

## An Unfounded Statement

Toronto, March 18, 1905.

To the Editor of The Register:

Dear Sir—Allow us in your columns to contradict the following statement which lately appeared in the Toronto daily papers: "At the 8th-annual conference held at St. Joseph's Convent the Archbishop of Toronto instructed the Sisters that no more postulants should be received in the Order as teachers unless they had passed the examinations and received Government certificates." Permit us to state that no such instructions were, at any time, given. Our apology for directing attention to the paragraph above quoted is, that it is misleading, because it may deter young ladies who would prove most eligible candidates, from seeking admission into our Congregation. That the educational training of the Community members destined to teach, does not end with their entrance into the Congregation, but is continued for a long period after, is a fact that the leading educationists of the Province can substantiate.

Respectfully yours,  
 THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH.

Sympathy begets sympathy; love evokes love; by a law as swift as lightning and hatred engender their kind. And in all these ways we are reminded of the words "To him that hath shall be given."

The lonely churchyard at Tyrconnell, where the eagle and the whippoorwill can chant a requiem to departed worth, whilst it will be re-echoed by Lake Erie's wave, the forest and the skies, till Niagara ceases to pour her floods to the distant Atlantic.

He possessed an excitable temperament, with a warm heart, a repulsive hauteur, with the kindest feelings of a generous nature. In fact he was an oddity unknown to himself, but who, when once he had gained a friend, never lost him by any caprice of a disposition not fashioned by nature, but by circumstances which surrounded him in his daily walks through life.

Col. Ermatinger of St. Thomas, who seemed to be a warm friend of the Colonel, wrote and published a little book of his life and description of the Talbot settlement, shortly after his demise. His son, Judge Ermatinger, has just published an extensive volume, handsomely illustrated, giving the life of the Colonel and history of the Talbot settlement; but the work on which I have relied mainly for my facts was published a good many years ago by another Irishman named Cunningham Kearney, an editor of St. Thomas, whom I once met. I am indebted to Mr. Bain, librarian of the Toronto public library, an old friend, for a perusal of all three books.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

## CARDINAL NEWMAN MALIGNED

Editor Catholic Register:

Dear Sir,—A recent editorial in The Toronto Globe and the enquiry which is in progress before a commission, indicate that there is considerable dissatisfaction with the present staff of the Toronto University. I am not concerned with the complaints which are the subject of investigation. It will, however, be conceded that a university professor, apart from his intellectual attainments, should be free from the warping influences of religious prejudice. Parents, whether Protestant or Catholic, should be able to feel that the religious convictions of their children who may seek tuition in our provincial seat of learning will be respected. I regret to say that one of the professors of Toronto University is apparently incapable of forming a just estimate of the writings of a Catholic author. In a recent lecture on "Oxford Types" delivered in Windsor, Professor Hutton essayed to deal with the religious views of Jowett and other contemporary masters. The lecturer viewed with apparent equanimity the divergent opinions of men who accepted or rejected the tenets of the Church of England so long as they gave Roman Catholicism a wide berth. He did not refer to the Oxford movement beyond digressing from his theme to belittle Cardinal Newman's literary achievements. He referred to the ribald writings of Newman, instancing "Loss and Gain." The meaning of the noun ribald according to the dictionaries, is a common and vulgar or indecent person, and the adjective which the Professor employed signifies indulging in or manifesting coarse indecency or obscenity. The world is so familiar with the pure life and chaste writings of Newman that it seems superfluous to cite authorities in support of the assertion that ribaldry is wholly foreign to his character and writings. Chambers' Cyclopaedia of English Literature will not be suspected of undue partiality to Cardinal Newman's literary productions. In an interesting review of the Cardinal's life its readers are informed "That many of his poems are remarkable for their power"; "Loss and Gain (wherein Professor Hutton's critical mind discerns traces of ribaldry). "Is full of delicate and happy sketches of Oxford life and manners." Callista is a story "instinct with literary genius as with religious devotion," and contains pictures "marvellously vivid and impressive." Attention is directed to "the singular delicacy of his literary style"; his Oxford sermons "contain some of the noblest ever preached from an Anglican pulpit" and his Catholic sermons "are even fuller of powerful rhetoric, often vehement, almost always singularly dignified." His Apologia Pro Vita Sua is "perhaps the most significant and impressive religious auto-biography of the 19th century." The reviewer found nothing in the writings of Cardinal Newman to condemn unless indeed his high idealism invited criticism. "In him as always high idealism involved too great disdain for the humbler and more prosaic temperament." I shall not suggest that Professor Hutton owes an apology to his Windsor audience or that he should refrain in future from casting unwarranted aspersions upon the character and writings of a man justly famed for his virtues and learning. I do, however, assert that such a gross misrepresentation respecting the character of so eminent a man as the deceased cardinal comes with singularly bad grace from a person professing to be a scholar and an unprejudiced critic. The greatest minds of the 19th century have not hesitated to express their appreciation of Newman's rare intellectual gifts. The religious controversy growing out of Mr. Gladstone's memorable pamphlet on papal infallibility has not yet been forgotten. Among the replies in vindication of the Vatican decree was Newman's celebrated letter to the Duke of Norfolk, which Mr. Gladstone declared was "the work of an intellect sharp enough to cut the diamond and bright as the diamond it cuts."

R. SCOLLARD, W. P. OSTER,  
 President, Rec. Secretary.

To Mr. M. C. Leatham and family, Hillsburg, Ont.:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His divine wisdom to take to Himself our esteemed Brother, John Leatham, we, the officers and members of Branch No. 1, I.C.B.U., of Canada, while bowing in humble submission to the supreme will of our Heavenly Father, beg to tender to his sorrowing parents and family our heartfelt sympathy in this, their sad hour of affliction.

And we pray Almighty God to have mercy on his soul.  
 R. SCOLLARD, W. P. OSTER,  
 President, Rec. Secretary.

## BANQUET IN MONTREAL.

The banquet given on Friday evening by the St. Patrick's Society in the Windsor Hotel was largely attended by the members of the society, representatives of kindred societies and numerous other guests, the president, Dr. F. E. Devlin presiding.

Amongst those at the head table with him were:

At the table of honor were seated: Sir William Hingston, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Junge Curran, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Father Kavanagh, Senator Cloran, Dr. Guerin, Mr. G. E. Drummond, Alderman Bumbury, Mr. R. Wilson-Smith, and a number of others.

The vice chairmen were Messrs. Frank Curran, W. P. Kearney and F. P. MacNamee and T. T. Tansey.

After full justice had been done the menu, the chairman, proposed the health of "The King."

Following the loyal toasts came the toast of the evening, "Ireland." Proposed by the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, it was responded to by Mr. G. E. Drummond, Father McDermott and Junge Curran.

In rising to propose the toast, Hon. Mr. Lemieux stated that he had always been a friend to Ireland.

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Lemieux, "I see one statue of Sir John A. Macdonald erected upon Parliament Hill, that of Sir George Cartier is also there, but, gentlemen, I fail to see the statue of D'Arcy McGee there beside them, and D'Arcy McGee was one of the authors of Confederation."

In continuing, Mr. Lemieux, in referring to the Canadian Constitution, stated that it was "as perfect as human fabric could be for a British Colony."

The toast to Ireland was then drunk amidst cheers, and after reading congratulatory telegrams from Halifax and New York Irish societies, the chairman called upon Mr. G. E. Drummond to respond.

## Dinner to Judge O'Neil Ryan

The members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians tendered a dinner to Judge O'Neil Ryan, after the concert on the 17th inst. The dinner was served in McConkey's palm room, Mr. P. W. Falvey being chairman.

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