

IT STANDS AT THE HEAD.

THE OLD BUT PROGRESSIVE FIRM OF J. AND A. McMILLAN.

Publishers, Printers, Bookbinders, Stationers and Wholesale and Retail Booksellers, and Successful in Every Capacity—The History of Sixty Years of Growth.

If a score of the business houses of St. John could by any means attain to the rank and standing of that of Messrs. J. & A. McMillan, the city would at once become a metropolis, by virtue of the impetus which their mere existence would lend it.

The history of this firm is a striking illustration of the truth that, when ability, energy and integrity direct a business, it is sure to grow. In 1822, 66 years ago, John McMillan opened a modest bookstore on the western side of Prince William street, where the store of Henderson, Burns & Co. now stands. In 1839, removal was made to a larger store, on the site of the present building. The earlier of these establishments was a bookstore, and nothing more, though the first head of the firm began, in a small way, what has since developed into an important industry—the publication of school-books. In course of time, a bindery was added to the departments. Shortly after the house had attained its majority, so to speak—in 1845—another important extension was made, and the firm opened its printing office. At this time, the firm-name, originally John McMillan and afterwards David McMillan, was changed to that which is familiar the world over, J. & A. McMillan. Most of the readers of Progress will know without being told that the parties to this partnership were Messrs. James and Alexander McMillan—father and uncle of this present head—than whom no more enterprising and sagacious business men were ever established in St. John.

In view of this steady development, which has been such as one would expect from such direction, it would be natural to suppose that the house has met with few reverses. This is not altogether the fact, for the firm has been burned out, "clear and clean," no less than five times! The last baptism of flame was that of 1877. At that time, workmen were busy before the bricks had cooled and the present handsome and commodious structure, though most substantially built, rose very quickly over the ruins of the last. It is doubtful if there is in all Canada a building better adapted to its uses. Every inch of every floor is occupied, but the perfect system which prevails does away with any appearance of crowding. Light is provided by large windows at either end of the building and by an enclosed skylight which is carried from top to bottom—and serves the additional purpose of supplying cool air in summer. An elevator, with speaking tubes and bells, assist communication between the floors and ingenious contrivances for economizing time and space are found in every department.

Fifty employes find work to do in this establishment, and it is interesting to see how quietly, but effectively, the far-reaching operations of the house are carried on. The basement and the second floor are, as it were, the reservoirs from which they all draw. In the former is stored the heavy stock, inks, common printing paper, etc. On the latter are the wholesale department, in charge of Mr. Sam. Blaine, and the stock-room, superintended by Mr. Golding. At the Prince William street end of the building, Mr. Blaine presides over books, pens, pencils, etc., enough to stock a half-dozen ordinary shops, and attends to the mail orders, which are many. At the other end, Mr. Golding keeps a watchful eye upon great cases of stationery, from which, as occasion requires, the printing, retail and wholesale departments are all supplied. It may not be generally known that paper comes to McMillan's in "flat" form—that is, unrulled and in sheets of all sizes—and that there it is ruled, cut into note, letter and foolscap, blank books, exercise books, memorandum books, etc. Such is the fact, however. The ruling machines owned by the firm are as perfect as can be procured, and they find a good deal to do; how much, one realizes best when he ascends to the third floor.

McMillan's bindery is an institution of which St. John has a right to be proud, since, under the capable management of Col. Blaine, it turns out work that few establishments can equal and fewer still excel. The best test of the quality of a binding is its elasticity. For example, to hold open the average book requires quite an effort, and if a book thus tightly bound is much used, the binding is sure to break. A volume that has passed through Col. Blaine's hands is above criticism in this particular; it will lie open anywhere. With all that, every book is a work of art. Even business men who seldom recognize beauty in anything but a column of figures, are ready purchasers of the neat and durable account books which come from this house. No one could help admiring the workmanship of the great ledgers used in the banks of the city, which are made here. In more artistic attempts, Col. Blaine's assistants are no less skillful. Those who saw the beautiful edition of the poets, which Col. Blaine introduced last Christmas, will be ready to join Progress in the very highest commendation of his perfect taste. In the retail store are many other gems of books, in

calf, morocco and tree-calf, which have passed through his hands. More than this, however, almost every book-buyer—and especially every professional man—in St. John, has specimens of the work of the bindery, in the form of volumes of magazines, music, law-books, etc.; and this work is its own best advertisement.

Of the printing department, which is under the capable superintendence of Mr. Charles Lawson, the same may be said. This branch of the business occupies the entire fourth floor, and here a printer might spend a pleasant and profitable day in examining the thorough equipment of type and machinery, and observing the methods by which so much good work of the very highest quality is done. The head of the department, Mr. Lawson, is one of the best job printers in Canada—so good, indeed, that men trained by him take the highest places in other offices—and every order, small or great, receives his conscientious attention. A stranger may best measure the force of this statement by a glance at some of the productions that bear McMillan's imprint. To the citizens of St. John it will stand without proof.

From what has been said, it will be taken for granted that when the printers and binders of this establishment join hands, the result is an enduring monument to the honor of both. Such a work was the magnificent Jubilee Memorial prepared last year for presentation to her majesty—than which, Progress feels confident, she received no more beautiful gift of the kind. Less pretentious works are all the time attesting the same truth. The firm publishes many books, few of which are not of enduring value, and all of which are as perfect mechanically as care and taste can make them. Of recent issues that have attracted favorable notice, may be mentioned Mr. Hunter Duvar's *Deliberate*, Mr. Montague Chamberlain's *Canadian Birds*, and Maj. E. T. Sturdee's *History of the 62d Battalion, St. John Fusiliers*. Somewhat earlier, in point of date, came Hannay's *History of Acadia*, Lawrence's *Footprints*, Archer's *School History of Canada*, *The Loyalist Centennial Souvenir*, *Bailey's Elementary Natural History*—and scores of others. Indeed, to name the works which have come from the McMillan press would be almost to catalogue the Canadian literature of the last 60 years.

Mention of books recalls the retail department, which owes no little of its popularity to its genial and capable manager, Mr. Alfred M. Smith. The store itself is the largest, handsomest and most convenient in Canada, and more than that, is not equalled by any this side of Boston. Of the stock, it is enough to say that the firm receives every book issued by every American publisher of standing and that it has extensive dealings with all the leading English houses. The feature of the place which most strongly marks its superiority, however, is, perhaps, the facilities offered to customers. Much of the floor space is taken up by counters, of course, but every visitor is able—and welcome—to remove and examine the books which, classified by subjects, are ranged along the shelves on either side. The advantage which this method offers to the patron who has no special work in mind but can easily suit himself when he has freedom of choice, are obvious. Of late years, American booksellers have fallen into this style of arrangement; but, as in other matters, McMillan's was the first—and for a long time, the only—Canadian store in which it was pursued. In another matter, the firm established, some years ago, a desirable precedent, tending to promote the comfort of customers: a "stranger's desk," in the private office, well provided with stationery, of which all visitors are cordially invited to avail themselves. This is a trifle, to be sure—but the sum of such trifles is success.

The head of the book-keeping and cash departments is Mr. H. H. Godard, whose efficiency and promptness are fully recognized by the many customers of the firm. A book-lover could nowhere spend a happier day than in McMillan's store. All around him lie the best works of the best authors—an exhaustive assortment, covering every subject, appealing to every taste, from which he might select the text-books for a college, provide light literature for his summer reading, renew his treasured store of standard works or—supply a Sunday school library! Whatever his inclinations, he might wander at will between the long shelves and no one would weary him with importunities to buy; but if he wanted help he would meet the ready and painstaking assistance of those capable of directing him to the best book on any subject; and it is safe to say that if he entered the store, a stranger, he would return to it, a regular patron.

The teachers who honor St. John with their presence at this time will find entertainment and instruction for themselves in this vast repository of books. They may draw many useful lessons for their pupils from the history of this firm which rewards fidelity in the persons of the many employes who have grown gray in its service; which combines enterprise and fair-dealing so fully that it ranks among the first in Canada and easily first in the maritime provinces; and which advances with the age, by means of the energy, foresight, and business ability of its head, daily strengthening its footing in a position of influence which even the founders of the house could never have dared to hope that it might attain.

OUR EDUCATIONISTS.

MEN AT THE HEAD OF OUR COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS.

Dr. Inch of Mount Allison, Dr. Harrison of the New Brunswick University, Supt. Allison of Nova Scotia, Supt. Montgomery and Principal Anderson of P. E. Island and Messrs. H. C. Creed, A. M., I. B. Oakes and Wm. McLean.

Some educational leaders of the maritime provinces are portrayed in this issue, and their several careers slightly touched upon. It is difficult in many cases to obtain the information essential to a good biography of professional gentlemen, and this drawback makes itself painfully apparent in this series. A fear of egotism is always uppermost in the minds of the subject, consequently a newspaper neither does itself nor its subjects justice.

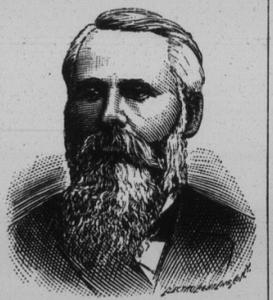
But little need be said of the work of these men. It speaks for itself. The faces of our own university presidents, Drs. Inch and Harrison, are familiar to all. Their work has made itself felt, first in the public schools of our province, then in the college class-room, and now at the head of our two leading and honored institutions. Their influence is a power for good. Both of these gentlemen have popularized and modernized their colleges. Every year sees Mount Allison strengthened in some department, and with a marked increase in attendance. Since President Harrison has been head of the New Brunswick university the changes have been many and beneficial, and today no institution has better or more opportunities before it.

In Nova Scotia the name of David Allison, chief superintendent of our sister province's schools, is synonymous for energy and ability. Respected and honored by the teachers in his jurisdiction he is consulted by the principals of the higher institutions of learning and his opinion on matters of educational importance carries greater weight than any other we know of. Dr. Allison is an eloquent and forcible speaker and his presence at educational gatherings is anticipated with pleasure.

Principal Anderson of Prince of Wales college and Superintendent Montgomery are to Prince Edward Island what Presidents Harrison and Inch and Superintendent Crockett are to New Brunswick. Their educational system is peculiarly well adapted for the wants of the people, the population and wealth of the province. With resources more limited than either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, they have a system which is admirably complete.

The three other gentlemen, Inspector I. B. Oakes, H. C. Creed, A. M. and W. M. McLean are all prominent in their respective positions. Mr. Oakes has been the inspector of the higher schools of the province, Mr. Creed is secretary of the Educational Institute of New Brunswick and Mr. McLean is principal of the St. John Grammar school.

James R. Inch, M.A., LL.D., president of the university of Mount Allison, Sackville, N. B., is of Scotch-Irish descent, his parents, Nathaniel Inch and Anne Armstrong, having emigrated from Enniskillen to New Brunswick in 1824. They settled in Petersville, Queen's county, where Dr. Inch was born, April 29, 1835.



PRESIDENT INCH.

His earlier education was received at the district school and at the High school of Gagetown. After attending the training school, in St. John, he received a license as a first-class teacher in 1850. In 1854, he accepted a position at Mount Allison academy, and when Mount Allison college was organized with university powers, in 1862, Dr. Inch entered the junior class, and took his degree of B.A. in 1864 and M.A. three years later. In 1864, he took charge of the Ladies' academy, which was then heavily burdened with debt and without resources. He held that position for fourteen years, during which time the institution, through his efforts, was placed on a firm basis.

In 1878 Dr. Inch was called to the presidency of the college, but before he took that he was honored by his alma mater with the degree of LL. D. Since he assumed the position a handsome stone university building has been erected at a cost of \$35,000, and the endowment fund has been increased by about \$100,000. During the existence of the University of Halifax Dr. Inch, who was appointed a Fellow of University by the government of Nova Scotia, rendered the institution valuable service as a member of the senate and examiner in mental science and logic.

Dr. Inch is a member of the Methodist Conference special committee, and has represented his district at the general conference sessions on all occasions except four.

He is also a member of the board of management of the Church Educational society and lay treasurer of the Supernumerary Ministers' fund. In 1886 Dr. Inch was elected vice president for New Brunswick of the American Institute of Christian Philosophy.

In 1854 he married Mary Alice Dunn, of Keswick, York county, and has one daughter, now the wife of Prof. Sidney Hunter of Mount Allison university.

Thomas Harrison, LL. D., Trinity college, Dublin, president of the University of New Brunswick, was born at Sheffield, N. B., on the 24th of October, 1839. He had the good fortune in early life to be taught by T. B. Barker, Esq., of St. John, and by



PRESIDENT HARRISON.

Mr. George T. Taylor, of Sheffield, teachers of the most thorough and efficient kind. At the age of 16 he was sent to Sackville academy and studied there for two years under the able tuition of the Rev. H. Pickard, D.D., and Prof. Thomas Pickard, M. A. At the age of 18 he was appointed master of the New Glasgow Grammar school. In 1869 he entered the University of Dublin, and spent five years of patient study under the tutorage of that distinguished mathematician and theologian, the Rev. George Salmon, F.R.S., now provost of Trinity college. Dr. Salmon's works have for many years been the standard treatises for advanced students in some of the highest branches of modern mathematical science.

Having frequently obtained first honors at the term examinations, Mr. Harrison, after four years of hard study, became a candidate for and won one of the five mathematical scholarships vacant in the year 1863. After the scholarship examination, he attended law lectures, and took the degrees of B.A. and LL.B. in 1864. He has since proceeded to the degrees of M.A. and LL.D. in the University of Dublin.

As a schoolmaster, in the maritime provinces, few men have had a wider circle of pupils. Mr. Harrison has in his possession many proofs of the affection of former pupils in New Glasgow, Lower Horton, Sackville and Sheffield. It was in this latter place that, in conjunction with Mr. Burpee and Mr. (now professor) Bridges, he put forth his best efforts as a schoolmaster. The result of their united efforts was that, for several years in succession, some 45 of the finest boys from St. John, Fredericton, St. Stephen and other parts of the province entered as pupils at the Sumbury grammar school.

In June, 1870, Dr. Harrison was appointed professor of the English language and literature, and of mental and moral philosophy, in the University of New Brunswick. In 1885, on the retirement of Dr. W. Brydson-Jack, the present provincial government showed their confidence in Dr. Harrison by offering him, unsolicited, the presidency of the university—taking, in this, a step never to be regretted by themselves or the friends of the university.

Mr. I. B. Oakes was born at Albany, Annapolis county, N. S., in November, 1848. After a common school course he studied at Horton Collegiate academy. He matriculated in 1866, and graduated at Acadia college with honors in 1871, capturing the alumni essay prize of \$40 in his senior year. The subject of Mr. Oakes'



INSPECTOR OAKES.

graduating oration was "The Teacher," showing the bent of his mind. He taught the high school of Hantsport for one year after graduating. He then went on a six months tour to England and the continent, and returning spent two months in the New England States. During his travels he visited many schools and colleges. In 1873

he took charge of the Kent County Grammar school, holding that position with success for four years, when he was unanimously chosen out of 83 competitors for the principalship of the Northumberland County Grammar school, which position he held till 1879, when he was appointed inspector of schools. In 1885 a Grammar School inspectorate was created, consisting of the Grammar schools and the incorporated towns. Mr. Oakes was called to fill the office, which he held for two years when, on account of the excessive distances to be travelled and the loss of time involved the Grammar School inspectorate was abolished. Since that time he has held the inspectorate of York and Carleton counties.

In 1885, Mr. Oakes inaugurated the Arbor day movement at St. Stephen, when several hundred trees were planted upon the school grounds of that town. In 1886, he appointed an Arbor day throughout his own inspectorate, when over 1,600 trees were planted. Many schools in other places followed the good example. In 1887, the Board of Education, under the influence of the movement, introduced a regulation making provision for an Arbor day throughout the province of New Brunswick. Under this regulation, during the past two years, the day has been very generally and enthusiastically observed in the planting of thousands of trees, shrubs and flowers upon the school premises throughout the province.

Mr. Oakes has at different times been invited to other important positions in the educational field, but he has steadily adhered to his chosen work among the common schools.

The present Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, David Allison, M.A., LL. D., is a native of that province, having been born at Newport, Hants county, July 3, 1836. His father, James W. Allison, and his mother, Margaret Elder, were Nova Scotians, but their parents were North of Ireland people who had settled in the province. Dr. Allison's father and grandfather were both members of the local legislature.

Dr. Allison received his preliminary education at the Halifax Academy and the Wesleyan Academy at Sackville, N. B., spending four years at the latter institution, when he entered the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., from which he graduated in 1859. He was then appointed classical teacher at Sackville academy and



SUPERINTENDENT ALLISON.

there remained until 1862, when he took a similar position in Mount Allison college. When Rev. Dr. Pickard resigned the presidency in 1869, the directorate unanimously elected Dr. Allison to that position, which he occupied for nine years. During that time the college work was conducted effectively and with great success. He was appointed to his present position, chief superintendent of education for Nova Scotia, in 1877 and under his administration wonderful advances have been made in the educational work of the province.

Dr. Allison received the degree of B. A. in 1859; M. A., 1862, and LL. D., from Victoria college, Cobourg, Ont., 1873. He was appointed a fellow of the senate of Halifax university in 1876. Dr. Allison is a member of the Methodist church and went to London in 1881 as a delegate to the congress of Methodists held in that city. On June 18, 1862, he married Elizabeth Powell, a Richibucto lady whose descendants were Loyalists. He resides in Halifax.

Dr. Alexander Anderson has, for the past 26 years, been one of Prince Edward Island's leading educationists, and during that time has been foremost in every movement that would tend to advance the cause of education. For 20 years he has been principal of Prince of Wales college, at Charlottetown.

Dr. Anderson was born at Aberdeen, Scotland, September 30, 1836, his parents, Alexander Anderson and Margaret Murray, coming from the adjacent parishes of Banchoy Ternan and Midmar. He received his earlier education from William Rattray, a teacher widely and favorably known in the north of Scotland, and one of the first in that part of the country to hail the system of government grants and inspection, which was then being brought forward, and which was to develop into a national system of education.

In 1854 Mr. Anderson went from Aberdeen and entered the training college at Moray House, Edinburgh, having gained the first scholarship at the annual competition in that city. Moray House

was at that time reputed the best college of its kind in Great Britain, being under the rectorship of James Sime, one of Scotland's greatest scholars, and a most enthusiastic teacher. Mr. Anderson remained here two years, and, on finishing his course, was selected as an assistant teacher in the public school in connection with the training college. After about two years he resigned this position to resume his studies at the University of Edinburgh. During his attendance of four years at the university he took first place in the classes in mathematics and natural philosophy, and in both was bracketed with another for the Straton gold medals, at that time the highest mathematical honors conferred by the university.



PRINCIPAL ANDERSON.

In 1862 he accepted the appointment to the second professorship in Prince of Wales college, and proceeded to Prince Edward Island. He was appointed principal of the college in 1868, and on the amalgamation of Prince of Wales college and Normal school he was made principal of these institutions and a member of the Board of Education.

Dr. Anderson has done much to arouse interest in the public schools of the province, and his influence and devotion has been felt, and is being made apparent in the schools of Prince Edward Island. Students from his classes generally gain high honors throughout the maritime provinces, and two of his pupils have won successively the Gilchrist scholarship. In December last, his former students tendered him a banquet to signalize the completion of a quarter century's educational work on the island, accompanying it by an address and a handsome present. Just previous to that, he had been invited to become one of the editors of the *Educational Review*. He is at present the president of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' convention.

At the annual convocation, April 30, 1888, McGill university honored itself and Dr. Anderson by conferring upon him the degree of LL. D.

Mr. D. Montgomery, chief superintendent of education for Prince Edward Island, was born at Valleyfield, P. E. I., May 3, 1848. He received his primary education at the school in his native district and at the Provincial Normal school. He then taught school for a few years, after which he attended Prince of Wales college, where he completed the course of education usually given in that institution in 1873. At the close of the college term in that year, he stood first in all the English subjects, first in classics, first in chemistry, first in mathematics, and a close second in all the other mathematical subjects, taking the highest place in general standing. He was then appointed master of the Harrington Grammar school, to fill the place of D. G. Schurman (now Dr. Schurman of Cornell), who had



SUPERINTENDENT MONTGOMERY.

resigned. In the following year he was appointed principal of the Provincial Normal school, which position he continued to fill until 1877. He then attended for two years the McGill university, taking a selected course in arts and law. In 1879 he was offered the position of chief superintendent of education for his native province, which he accepted and which he has filled since that date.

Mr. Montgomery, in his administration of the island school laws, has introduced many effective changes, quietly and gradually, but persistently. To him is due the credit of putting into harmonious and successful working order the legislative enactments of 1877. To do so more thoroughly, he recommended the amalgamation of the provincial college and Normal school, (Continued on Sixth Page.)