

NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



THIS society was organized at a meeting in Halifax, on the 2nd of January, 1878. A large and formal inaugural meeting was held on the 21st of June of the same year, in the Legislative Council Chamber, when Governor Archibald delivered the address, which is published in the first volume of the society's collections. His audience included the general and admiral commanding at the station, and many leading citizens of Halifax.

The society was incorporated on the 17th of April, 1879, the incorporators named in the Act being Hon. J. W. Ritchie (the first president), Rev. G. W. Hill, Rev. T. J. Daly, Hon. W. J. Almon, T. A. Ritchie, W. D. Harrington, G. E. Morton and J. T. Bulmer. The corporation is authorized to "purchase, take, hold and enjoy real estate not exceeding twenty thousand dollars in value." But the society has not yet found it necessary to exercise this privilege, for during the legislative session of 1880 an act was passed amalgamating the library of the society with that of the legislature, and giving members of the society concurrent library rights with members of the legislature (except during the session of the latter body.) The Legislative Library, the receptacle of the joint collection, is governed by a commission, four of whose members are appointed by the Provincial Government and four by the Historical Society, the Lieutenant-Governor, *ex officio*, being the president. The Provincial Librarian is nominated by this commission, appointed and paid by the Government, and holds office "during good behaviour." By this rather anomalous amalgamating act, which has nevertheless worked fairly well so far, the society is relieved from paying for the storage and custody of books and pamphlets, and is enabled to devote its funds mainly to the publication of its Collections, though small expenditures are of course incurred from time to time for transcripts, stationery, halls for meetings, etc. Most of the society's books, pamphlets, newspapers and manuscripts have been acquired by gift or exchange, very few by purchase. The latest, as well as the most important, donation, was made by the will of the late T. B. Akins, D.C.L., of whom a picture appeared in the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED of May 30, with a biographical sketch by F. Blake Crofton. At the time of his death Dr. Akins was first vice-president of the society, of which he had been president in 1882. The clause by which he bequeathes all his books and pamphlets connected with British North America to the society, on condition that it provides satisfactory accommodation for his collection and keeps the same apart from its other effects, may possibly oblige the society to exercise its right to acquire real estate.

The first volume of the Nova Scotia Historical Society's Collections made its appearance in 1879, and is now almost out of print. The seventh volume has just been published. Exclusive of rules, lists of numbers, etc., the contents of volume I. are papers entitled, "History of St. Paul's Church" (Halifax), by Rev. George W. Hill, D.C.L.; "Nicholson's Journal of the Capture of Annapolis in 1710"; "An Account of Nova Scotia in 1744"; "Papers Relating to Trials for Treason in 1776-77"; and "Thomas' Diary of the Expedition of 1755 against the Acadians." Volume II. contains papers entitled, "Proposals for an Attack on Nova Scotia in 1776-77"; "The First Council," by T. B. Akins; "Journal of Witherspoon"; "History of St. Paul's Church" (continued); "Mémorial of Rev. James Murdoch"; "Mémorial of Sir Alexander Croke," by Sir A. G. Archibald; and "Papers Relating to the Acadian French." Volume III. includes the "History of St. Paul's" (continued); "Winslow's Journal of the Expulsion of the Acadians in 1755"; and "Government House," by A. G. Archibald. Volume IV. comprises papers entitled, "Biographical Sketch of Hon. Samuel Vetch," by George Patterson, D.D.; "Papers Connected with the Administration of Mr. Vetch"; "Journal of Colonel John Winslow" (during the siege of Beauséjour), and "The Province Building," by A. G. Archibald. Volume V. has, "The Expulsion of the Acadians" (Parts I and 2), by Sir A. G. Archibald; "Gordon's Journal of the Siege of Louisbourg, 1758," and lists of papers so far read before the society since its inception, indicating those that were and those that were not published. Volume VI. contains papers on "The Acadian Boundary Disputes and the Ashburton Treaty," by Judge R. L. Weatherbe; "The Loyalists at Shelburne," by Rev. T. W.

Smith; "Early Journalism in Nova Scotia," by J. J. Stewart; "King's College and Episcopate in Nova Scotia," and "Notes on the Early History of St. George's Church, Halifax," by Francis Partridge, D.D. Volume VII. includes a paper on "Vinland," by Hon. L. G. Power; "Notes on the Census of 1767," by D. Allison; "Letters and other Papers Relating to the Church of England in Nova Scotia," contributed by J. J. Stewart; "Deportation of Negroes from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone," by Sir Adams Archibald, and the continuation of Canon Partridge's "Early History of St. George's," with a list of papers read (supplementary to that printed in Volume V.), and some remarks of the president on the work and progress of the society.

Though sometimes inviting addresses on local literature, or on general Canadian history, the society has hitherto felt constrained to limit its publications to papers having some direct connection with the history or development of Nova Scotia. Many of these papers have attracted considerable attention and furnished material for historians. In Winsor's "Narrative and Critical History of America" (Vol. v., p. 419), there is an "Essay on the Sources of Information" concerning the final struggle of France and England in Acadia and Cape Breton. The writer ranks the society's collections as only second in value to "Selections from the Public Documents of Nova Scotia," edited by T. B. Akins, and published in Halifax, in 1865.

Next in importance to this volume are the publications of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, which was formed in 1878, and incorporated in 1879. Since that time it has printed four small volumes of collections, comprising many valuable papers.

The writer proceeding to specify some of these papers, not unnaturally gives the first place to "The Journal of Colonel Winslow at the time of the Expulsion of the Acadians"; but this was before Sir Adams Archibald and Professor Hind had read their important papers, which have thrown fresh light on the sad subject of *le grand dérangement*, and evoked spirited rejoinders from the Abbe Casgrain and other gentlemen.

Among the members of the society are many of the most gifted and most eminent men in the province, of all creeds and parties. According to the list in the forthcoming volume the membership comprises one life member, three honorary, six corresponding, and 159 ordinary members. But it is just possible that this list, like some other lists, may have been laxly, or charitably, revised, and may include the names of two or three gentlemen whose membership has technically lapsed. An ordinary member contributes five dollars in the year of his election, and two dollars in each subsequent year.

The officers of the society for the current year are:—President, Sir Adams Archibald; vice-presidents, Judge Weatherbe and Dr. Allison; corresponding secretary, F. Blake Crofton; recording secretary, Sydenham Howe; treasurer, R. G. Wilson. The Council is composed of the above gentlemen, with the addition of Senator Almon, Principal A. H. McKay, Rev. T. W. Smith, and Peter Lynch, Q.C. The president, the two vice-presidents, and Rev. Principal Forrest are the society's present representatives in the Nova Scotia Library Commission.

Hon. Sir Adams George Archibald, K.C.M.G., D.C.L., ex-Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and of Nova Scotia, has been president of the society since 1886. Whatever may be the verdict of historians upon his public career (too long and important to be noticed here), the Historical Society of Nova Scotia will keep his memory green. His contributions to their Collections, numerous, able and interesting, his constant attendance at their meetings, his genial dignity in the chair, and his forethought and judgment in providing the yearly bill of fare, have contributed to the success of the society to an extent that can hardly be overestimated.

Hon. Mr. Justice Robert L. Weatherbe was born in 1841, called to the Bar in 1863, and appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in 1878. He is a graduate of Acadia College (B.A., 1858; M.A., 1861, and honorary D.C.L., 1883.) He was counsel for Canada in the Halifax Fisheries Commission of 1877. Of late years Judge Weatherbe has shown a marked interest in the meetings of

the Historical Society, sometimes enlivening the proceedings by unexpected flashes of cynical wit. Besides his contributions to the society Judge Weatherbe is the author of a pamphlet entitled "The Dawn of a New Empire," signed "British American," and published in Halifax in 1864; and he wrote, in conjunction with United States Judges Miller and Cooley, the article in the *American Law Review* upon the "Codification of Law." The Judge is an enthusiastic apple-grower. He has induced some English friends to settle in Nova Scotia and engage in his favourite industry, for which his native province is so signally adapted: and he has aptly christened his pretty country place at Grand Pre "St. Eulalie," for it was the "sunshine of Saint Eulalie," according to Longfellow, "which, as the farmers believed, would load their orchards with apples."

David Allison, LL.D., the other vice-president of the society, was born at Newport, N.S., in 1836, graduated at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., in 1849, was appointed President of the Mount Allison College in 1869, and Superintendent of Education of Nova Scotia in 1877. This last office he has held, to the satisfaction of successive governments, to the close of last month, resigning it to accept a second call to the presidency of Mount Allison. Dr. Allison will be much missed both in the Department of Education and at the meetings of the Historical Society. In 1873 the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him, *honoris causa*, by Victoria College, Cobourg, Ont.

Mr. Sydenham Howe, a son of the distinguished and high-minded statesman, Hon. Joseph Howe, was born in 1843. He served in the Royal Navy as naval cadet and midshipman, from 1855 to 1860, when he was invalided. Soon afterwards he obtained a position in the Nova Scotia Civil Service. In 1869-70 he was private secretary to his father. In 1870 he was appointed Dominion Auditor for Nova Scotia, which office he held until its abolition in 1887, when he was superannuated and attached to another department of the Civil Service. He has filled the post of recording secretary to the society for many years, and has proved himself a courteous and useful officer. Mr. Howe has edited a considerable portion of the printed collections.

Mr. Robert J. Wilson, the efficient treasurer of the society, was born in 1834. He was for twenty years an assistant master in the Halifax Grammar School, then under the mastership of Dr. Gilpin, at present Dean of Halifax. For the last twelve years or so Mr. Wilson has been Secretary to the Halifax School Commissioners. He has always taken an interest in church matters, and has been lay Secretary of the Diocesan Synod of Nova Scotia since 1872. He is also secretary to the governors, as well as to alumni, of King's College, Windsor, N.S.

A portrait and biographical sketch of Mr. Crofton, the corresponding secretary of the society, appeared in THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED on the 25th of last July.

How He Spoke of Adam.

"I always speak of Adam as Colonel." "Why so?" "Why? I liken him to a Kernel, and hence to a kernel of corn." "O, rubbish! What are you trying to perpetrate? Why do you liken him to corn? Because he was gathered by the ear?" "Well, no—that's not the answer, though it's not half bad. I liken him to corn, don't you know, because he was shocked in the fall."—*Philadelphia Press*.

The Sportman's Gun.

Ed. W. Sandys, in Rod and Gun department of *Outing* for November, says: "I would advise no man to use a gun larger than a ten gauge, and honestly believe that it would be better were the 'shoulder cannons,' such as four gauges, not manufactured, and the same also might be said of repeating magazine shotguns. The ordinary sizes, ten and twelves, are already too deadly in practiced hands for the welfare of our diminishing supply of game. Neither is it good sport to take too great advantage of opportunities. Two barrels and a killing power, say as far as sixty yards, should be enough to satisfy an honest sportsman."