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HIS WORDS OF WISDOM.

MR. SAMUEL SCHOFIELD'S OPINIONS ON MEN AND THINGS.

He Allows a Suit against Him to Go to Trial and Does Not Defend It - Letters that Helped to Make Up the Evidence in the Case.

Money has not been very plentiful in St. John this summer, so some of the people who are in business say. Collections have not been easy, and though there has been no immediate cause for alarm, the condition of things has been such that every fraction of the circulating medium will be sharply felt.

To withdraw nearly \$50,000 from circulation in a moment and to send it out of the country to enrich already rich men in England is therefore no light matter. It means the interest on a sum more than twice as large as would effect all the proposed harbor improvements, or build a substantial bridge across the harbor.

Yet this sum, or to be more exact, the sum of \$48,000 is the amount that will go over the water if Mr. Samuel Schofield draws a cheque or purchases a bill of exchange to liquidate the verdict given against him at the suit of Antony Gibbs, Sons & Co., of Liverpool. The case was finished this week, and the jury assessed the sum due at the figures quoted. It was \$18,000 more than the plaintiff claimed, for the damages in the declaration were laid at \$30,000.

Up to the hour of going to press Mr. Schofield had not paid over the amount. Until he undertakes to do so nobody will apply for an injunction to restrain him from creating a panic in the money market by such a rash act.

The suit covers transactions between the parties from 1882 to 1887, when Mr. Schofield became the victim of commercial disaster. In the year first named he arranged with Gibbs & Co. for a credit, he drawing on them from time to time and forwarding cargoes of lumber and giving mortgage security on his vessels. This credit amounted to some \$50,000, and when Schofield failed he admitted large indebtedness to the plaintiff's agent. He disputed it later, however, and so the case went to trial.

In the ordinary course of things when a man defends a lawsuit he has some defence, but in this instance there was none. Mr. Schofield neither gave evidence for himself nor produced evidence on his own behalf. His lawyer was kept busy, however, in objecting to every piece of evidence introduced by the plaintiff. The judge said that this extraordinary conduct was without a parallel in his experience, and in other words expressed his opinion in very plain terms.

It is not to be wondered that Mr. Schofield objected to some of the documentary evidence produced, in the form of his own letters. It is a mooted question whether he shines to greater advantage as a board of trade orator or as a ready letter writer, but his letters on all subjects far outnumber his orations. In his dealings with Messrs. Gibbs he wielded a facile quill, and covered a wide range of subjects. His advice on various topics of interest was freely given, and his comments on men and things must have convinced his correspondents that, apart from any question of climate and season, there were no flies on Mr. Samuel Schofield.

Usually, when his letters were of any special value, they were marked "private," and Mr. Schofield doubtless supposed that such a mark would exclude them as bits of evidence. He was mistaken. As these private letters contained frequent admissions of his indebtedness, Messrs. Gibbs considered it advisable to make use of them, and so they with all their sage reflections on the integrity of commercial life in this part of the world were put into the case. Mr. Schofield does not appear to have had much of an opinion of anybody in the shipping business outside of himself, and in one instance he seems to have been on the point of getting discouraged at his efforts to reform the world in general and St. John in particular. He writes that he has practically wasted three years of his "valuable time," and he laments at the methods in which his fellows go wilfully astray from the high standard of commercial morality which he has set up. In the summer of 1884, for instance, his tranquil spirit seems to have been exceedingly vexed by the loose business methods of a certain Alexander Gibson, who apparently had not sought the advice Mr. Schofield would gladly have given him as to the management of his affairs. Mr. Schofield undertook to enlighten Messrs. Gibbs as to the public estimate of Mr. Gibson by sending a complimentary notice of that gentleman's business published in a daily paper, explaining that the papers liked to tickle Gibson's vanity, and he was glad to have them do it, but that the men in the shipping business simply laughed at such stories. The truth was, he asserted, Gibson wanted to make a show of the biggest shipments even though he lost by it. Then

MUST RESIGN HIS SEAT.

JUDGE SKINNER MAKES A CHOICE OF TWO POSITIONS.

The Attorney-General had no hand in appointing him Judge of Probates - Reasons Why St. John Will Have Another Election for the Commons.

Everybody was glad to see Attorney General Blair in town this week. His very looks were a source of comfort to his supporters, and the words which he uttered to some of them had all the effects of the judicious pouring out of a can of oil on a troubled mill pond.

For, truth to say, some of the St. John supporters of the local government have not been happy. They have had to swallow Mr. Charles Nelson Skinner, M. P., as judge of probates, and the dose has not agreed with them.

Mr. Blair was in Europe when his wicked partners chose to ignore the claims of the supporters of the government and give the office to Mr. Skinner, who had no earthly claim to it, except that it seemed to be a pity to let it go out of the Skinner family.

There was, however, an impression among many people that Mr. Blair had been communicated with by cable and that he had agreed to the appointment. Such a belief was calculated to do him no particular good, but it was a belief which gained strength as time went by and nothing was heard to the contrary.

Mr. Blair settled the matter this week by declaring that he had not been consulted in the affair, and had heard nothing of it until he got a letter from his son saying that Mr. Skinner had been appointed. The appointment did not please Mr. Blair, and it is quite within bounds to say that it would not have been made if he had been in a position to decide the matter.

This statement fully exonerates the attorney general from any blame in connection with this most extraordinary appointment, and the responsibility must rest wholly with the wicked partners.

The question of whether Mr. Skinner should hold both the position of judge of probates and representative of St. John in parliament has been discussed at some length by the daily press. So far as Mr. Skinner is concerned, he would no doubt be quite willing to serve in the dual capacity, but the public sentiment has been that he should take his choice and give up one or the other. While it is possible he might be very ready to accommodate his political belief to suit any party or occasion, the public have taken a somewhat different view, and Progress is now in a position to state that the opinion of the public will be regarded to the extent that Mr. Skinner will hold only one of the positions. He will not again take his place in parliament.

So far as can be gathered, the matter was put so squarely to him that he could not help seeing the point, which was that if he chose to serve his country at Ottawa, it would be the plain, if not painful, duty of the local government to appoint another judge of probates here.

The probate judgeship is worth a great deal more per annum than a seat at Ottawa. With the absolutely iniquitous fees permitted by law it is a very snug berth for any man. Besides, Mr. Skinner can hold it for life, if he chooses, while no such good fortune would be likely to attend him as a representative of St. John, on either side of the fence.

So Mr. Skinner has decided to resign his seat in the commons, in preference to being fired from the judgeship. It is not likely that he will resign at once, as that would look too much as though pressure had been brought to bear, but it is certain that his seat will be vacant at a reasonably early day.

This will mean another election in the city and county of St. John in the near future. Isn't it about time for the junior liberal-conservative club to begin to hustle?

Not What She Expected.

One of the lectures in connection with the Summer School of Science, not down on the programme, was by a Nova Scotia school teacher. It was in the natural history society's rooms, and quite a number enjoyed it. During the day some of the animals got shifted round, and it happened that the moose got under the kangaroo's label. The Nova Scotia school teacher came around to it in the course of her investigations, and instantly gave every evidence of surprise. She said she had no idea that a kangaroo looked like that and proceeded to air her knowledge of the animal kingdom to the amusement of all in the room.

Put a Bell on the City Hall.

Box 26 is on the city hall and a key is in care of the janitor. As the janitor lives in the top of the building and there is no bell which he can be aroused, that key is practically not accessible to anybody who discovers a fire in the night. There ought to be a doorbell on the building, or a speaking tube leading from the street to the janitor's bedroom so that he can be aroused if he is wanted.

AN ELEVEN YEAR OLD AGENT.

The Bright Little Girl in Harcourt Who Sells "Progress."

Progress has spoken once before of a bright young agent it has at Harcourt station, but few people know that it is a young girl of eleven years to which the credit of this is due. When Progress started she was only seven years of age, but as the years have passed there has been a steady increase in the sales of the paper, until to-

RAWLINGS DRUNK AGAIN.

THIS TIME AT THE SECOND FAIRVILLE FIRE.

He was Saved From an Excited Crowd by a Newspaper Man who Took Care of Him - Time That he was Discharged From the City Police Force.

Captain Richard Rawlings, captain of the police force, has been at it again.

Drunk again, and this time in Fairville. The night of the Fairville fire there was another sensation in Fairville; the crowd that gathered to watch the flames in their destructive course was diverted by the spectacle of a police captain from the city so drunk that he did not know what he was doing and so insulting to the people of Fairville that for a time he was in danger of being mobbed.

It does not appear that the protective force of Fairville stood in need of any assistance, though if Captain Rawlings had gone there with that object no doubt his act would have been appreciated. But as it was he went there in such a condition that it required much of the attention of Officer Hennessey and some good-hearted newspaper men to protect him from the violence of the excited crowd.

If Rawlings had kept quiet he would probably have been treated the same as any other drunken man under the circumstances. There was too much to look after to pay attention to drunken people, but instead of minding his own business he seemed to possess the peculiar idea that all Fairville was under his especial protection and that no person had a right to be on the sidewalk except him. His very general commands and the flourishing of his revolver excited the wrath of the people and they turned on him. It would not have taken them long to run him across the suspension bridge had not a morning newspaper representative saved him from the indignity by taking care of him.

Progress has spoken so often before of Rawlings' tricks and offences that they are not new to the people. But the sight of a captain of the city police, who it is said was in charge of the force at the time owing to the absence of Chief Clark, going to Fairville during a serious fire and disgracing the city by his drunken acts is surely sufficient to warrant his discharge.

This is a matter worthy of the attention of the public safety committee who should see to it that the chief of police does what is right and proper under the circumstances. There is a general impression that the chief for very good reasons has no wish to discharge Rawlings - in fact that he dare not do so on account of the well-known "log book" that the latter carries. The friends of the chief deny that this is so and say that when Clark is ready Rawlings will go. The time has come "Mr. Chief;" the people agree with Progress that the good name of the city and the police department requires that the officer who has disgraced both should walk the plank.

It will be interesting to note Chief Clark's action in this matter. By doing nothing he can win much condemnation; if he discharges Rawlings the people will applaud him.

He Couldn't Squeeze Through.

A rather amusing episode occurred in No. 3 fire station last Sunday morning. It seems that the driver of No. 3 engine is away on his vacation, and a substitute is doing duty for him. The "sub" is a stout, fleshy man, and therefore not quite as active as he might be. When the alarm struck on Sunday morning for the Humphrey-Baillie fire the new driver was the last to get to the sliding pole. All the other firemen had reached the engine floor some seconds before and were busy hitching up the horses, etc. All of a sudden, just as the hose reel was about starting out for the fire, they were startled by a great "racket" overhead, and on looking up for the cause discovered the driver jammed, hard-and-fast, in the hole for the sliding pole. Those who saw the burly form of "Aleck" frantically struggling in mid air, vainly endeavoring to squeeze through either one way or the other, could not help indulging in a hearty laugh at his expense, while at the same time they made all haste to extricate him from his disagreeable dilemma. Perhaps it might be in order for the corporation to enlarge the holes through which the men have to go on the sliding poles, or establish a standard for "sizing-up" all who may become attached to the companies and have to sleep in the engine houses.

The Interest in Military Drill.

The growing popularity of the artillery with the young men of the city was fully attested at the parade this week. It was the largest and best turnout of the kind seen in the city for many years, and the marching and drill of the men showed the interest they take in making the brigade a model one. The artillery band has also made wonderful strides forward and under bandmaster Horsman has become one of the largest and best musical organizations in the provinces.

Luxuries Are Expensive.

In the case of Gibb vs. Schofield, tried in the circuit court this week, no less than 375 papers were put in evidence by the plaintiff and the clerk's fees amounted to \$90. The trial occupied five days. It costs ten cents to file a paper and ten cents to have it read.

Yardmaster Irvine, of the I. C. R., believes in enjoying all the luxuries possible for a man in a government position. In warm weather he has a weakness for ice, and as he lives near the railway yard and a consignment comes to St. John every day, he is able to indulge his fancy. Getting a daily supply of ice has apparently been placed on his list of duties to be performed, for he attends to it with remarkable regularity. When the car is being unloaded he usually manages to have enough to satisfy him remain, then the car is shunted down the yard opposite his house and the yardmaster's supply unloaded. The men about the station and railway yards all have a weakness for ice in warm weather, but are not so fortunately interested as the yardmaster.

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CUT THIS OUT

Silver Service Coupon.

To the person who Sends in the most of these Coupons by Saturday, September 24, Progress will present a handsome Silver Service of seven pieces, Quadruple Plate, Guaranteed, valued at \$45

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CHIEF KERR GETS EXCITED.

The Fireman's Relief Association Wanted to Have a Picnic, But He Objected.

During the last eight months over \$1500 have been paid in benefits by the Firemen's Relief association. This has been quite a drain on the funds, and some of the members thought that a grand picnic would give them a boom. At the meeting Tuesday evening the matter was brought up and a motion that the association have an excursion was carried with but one dissenting voice. That was the chief of the department. He was opposed to the picnic idea, and said so in plain terms. One of the firemen thought that his influence might be of service in making arrangements for transportation, and said something to that effect. Then there was a scene. The chief got excited and gave vent to his opinion of picnics and certain members of the department that was totally unexpected. He was determined that no picnic should be held under the name of the department or in any other way, and dared the association to make a move in that direction. It got so exciting that there was a possibility of something more than words being exchanged. The meeting ended very unsatisfactorily, but the chances of a picnic by the Firemen's Relief association are said to be meagre.

GOT THE OLD MAN'S MONEY.

A Transaction that May be All Right or Possibly All Wrong.

The particulars of what appears to be a peculiar affair have been furnished Progress by a person impressed with the idea that there was fraud of some kind in the matter. An aged couple, residing in the North End, have for some time past been unable to agree and have lived separate and apart from each other. Both are quite infirm, and the man who is past 80, can only walk painfully by the aid of a stick. He has, however, had about \$1,000 in the Savings bank, but it is there no longer, and nobody seems to know just where it is. The story is that an enterprising lawyer of this city, to whose methods Progress has had occasion to refer in the past, induced the old man to sign a paper which now proves to have been a power of attorney to the lawyer to draw and invest the money. It is alleged that the old man did not clearly know just what he was doing, and that his son being away from home he had nobody to advise or caution him. Whether the lawyer wanted the money to give to the old man's wife, or whether he "invested" it with some of his other investments cannot be learned. It is quite possible there may be two sides to this story, but whatever may be the truth, it seems pretty certain that the old man has put the money out of his hands and would be glad to get it back.

Above the Electric Lights.

The men who look after the arc lights that illuminate the city see some strange things when they get up in the world. One of them has been particularly interested in watching the progress of a number of sparrows in increasing the feathered population. The birds find the large cones above the lights excellent spots to build nests in, and the men seldom disturb them. The heat from the light makes it comfortable in the cool of the evening, while during the day the cone is a shield from the hot sun. Several broods have been raised this summer from one pole on Brussels street.

Anxious About His Dollar.

The North End man who got ahead of a New York green goods sharper a short time ago has had another letter from him. The New Yorker is evidently anxious about his dollar and wants to know if the man who got it means business. He furnishes further credentials to the effect that he is alone in the business, and, although 70 years of age, has never been caught. The North End man has concluded his part of the business and is no longer interested.

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