

This was our declaration of love and our betrothal ; my good sister wept tears of joy that two whom she loved so dearly were to be united.

A month later Mary and I were married and for five and thirty years she was the best and fondest wife that ever man had. When she died there ceased to beat the purest, tenderest heart I ever knew, except that other heart which was stilled on that awful October day.

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## ST. JOHN'S FREE LIBRARY.

### A Brief Sketch of The Beginning of The First Free Public Library in Canada.

Housed in a handsome building, situated in the very centre of population of the City of St. John, with 30,000 books on its shelves and 4000 patrons (and the number continually increasing) is not a bad record for the Free Public Library after 21 years of existence. This has not been accomplished without effort, for the beginnings of the Library were most humble, and it was pushed into existence mainly through the efforts of three or four public spirited citizens who realized the educational importance of such an institution.

It can hardly be said that the Free Public Library of St. John had its beginning in any popular demand