

Charlottetown Fifty Years Ago.

Looking back after so many years recalls to our mind the Fanning garden. It was a lovely spot. The whole block between Great George and Prince Streets, on which the Y. M. C. A. and Zion Church now stand, belonged to Mrs. and Miss Fanning. The greater part of the ground was a well-kept garden, with fruit and ornamental trees. Their dwelling was a two story house, with a large porch in front, reaching to the second story. It was on the corner of Great George and Sydney Streets, facing on Sydney Street, and stood in about eight or ten feet from the corner, with a low railing around it. Shrubs and flowers were placed inside the railing. The stable was on the corner where the Bank of Nova Scotia now stands. Everything about the house and grounds was beautifully kept, and the perfume from the shrubs and fruit trees was delightful. The ladies, Mrs. and Miss Fanning, were often seen walking in the garden or sitting in the arbor at the lower part, just where the Lyceum now stands, and we have been told that the General's greatest enjoyment in his later years was to sit and read in that arbor. Not any of those fine old trees are now standing. There was one in the late Dr. MacLeod's grounds until the summer of 1898, whose large trunk and gnarled branches showed its antiquity; but it, too, is gone, and there is nothing now remaining of the lovely old garden.

We have heard the late Judge Young say he brought the first willow trees to Charlottetown. Be that as it may, we remember a large willow at the north-east corner of the Fanning garden; it branched far into Richmond Street. The ground was often very wet under it. That tree was the first one removed after the garden was divided into lots; and the first house built on the old garden site was erected upon that corner.

In the summer of 1847 the Fanning house was destroyed by fire. It was in the morning: we saw the smoke curling around the large chimney before the fire broke through the roof, or the alarm was given. To show how far apart the houses were at that time, any one standing at the north-east corner of King Square