

HON. WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

THE NEW SOLICITOR GENERAL OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Descended from the Legislature—On the Farm, at the School and University, and in Law and Politics—He Has Followed Success and Caught It Every Time.

Today the electors of King's county are called on to nominate a gentleman to complete their representation in the House of Assembly. Hon. William Pugsley, who resigned the speakership of the house and his membership to accept the portfolio of solicitor general, will be the nominee of the government party. Progress takes this opportunity to present a very faithful portrait and sketch of Dr. Pugsley. Descended from an old loyalist family of English origin, his great grandfather, John Pugsley, of New York, was a prominent officer in the British forces during the revolutionary war. When the disastrous campaign of 1782-3 led to the recognition of the new republic, Mr. Pugsley came to New Brunswick and settled on the Hammond river in King's county. His son Daniel moved to Cardwell, then part of the Parish of Sussex, where he died at the ripe age of 84, having been one of the wealthiest and most prominent farmers in the county. His son, William Pugsley, sr., father of the subject of this sketch, when a young man purchased and settled upon a



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large farm at Sussex Vale. He married a daughter of the late George Hayward, a resident of Sussex; in his lifetime well known and justly distinguished for his high qualities of both heart and head, and today remembered by the Nestors of the Methodist church, who speak of him in the highest terms as one who strengthened the hands of the pioneer ministers of that denomination with his sympathy and his means when Methodism was struggling to gain a foothold in this province.

It was on the farm that Dr. Pugsley was brought up, and like most country boys, he was actively engaged in the work of the farm. In conversation with the writer, he has, more than once, referred with pleasure to the days thus spent, and expressed his high appreciation of the practical benefits which he derived, and the superior equipment thereby furnished him for professional and political work where physical strength and a sound constitution are such inestimable boons, and of so great an advantage to the possessor.

Having finished his preliminary studies at the common school in Sussex, he entered the University of New Brunswick at an unusually early age, in September, 1865. A reference to the calendar of the university shows that, in the class of 1868, in which Dr. Pugsley's name appears first, there were a number of young men who have since attained to high distinction in their various walks of life. Here are the names of William M. McLean, junr., now head of the teaching profession in the city of St. John. Here also is the name of the Hon. George E. Foster, minister of finance, a native of the neighboring parish of Studholm, the close competitor of Dr. Pugsley throughout his whole university course. And it is worthy of remark, as, at least, a curious coincidence, that the two leaders of the class of '68 are today both holders of portfolios given to the representatives of their native county—the one in the dominion cabinet, the other in that of his own province.

Notable amongst the distinctions won by Dr. Pugsley, showing the brilliant university career in which, year after year, he stood at the head of his class, is the alumni gold medal, awarded in his junior year, at a special competition open to all the university undergraduates.

After graduating, Dr. Pugsley entered on the study of the law, in the office of Crawford & Pugsley. The senior partner of this firm was the Hon. J. Herbert Crawford, until the day of his death a representative of Kings county, and holder of the portfolio which today is held by his grandson student. The junior partner was Gilbert R. Pugsley, LL.B., a brother of the subject of this sketch, who today is well and favorably known as a prominent and enterprising citizen of St. John. Having been admitted as an attorney in 1871, Dr. Pugsley was called to the provincial bar in June of the following year. One year later he was appointed reporter of the decisions of

the supreme court, a position which he held for ten years.

In 1877 Dr. Pugsley, who, shortly after graduating from Fredericton, matriculated with honors into the university of London, (taking second place in the competition for the Gilchrist scholarship), entered upon a special course of study in civil and constitutional law at university college, London. After successfully prosecuting his studies, under some of England's most distinguished legal celebrities, he returned to St. John, and resumed the practice of his profession, to which he has ever since devoted himself with marked success, so that, although comparatively but a young man he has already been engaged both at nisi prius and at the bar in a great number of important cases, many of which have attracted a large share of public attention. By his skillful conduct of the causes each case upon which he has been employed seems but to add to his ever growing reputation.

Not weary of scholastic pursuits, in 1878 he took the degree of B. C. L. in course, and five years later, in a similar manner, obtained the degree of D. C. L. from his alma mater.

Soon after his admission to the bar Dr. Pugsley began to show that warm interest in the politics of his native county which he has always maintained. On several oc-

casions he stumped Kings in the interests of his late partner, Hon. Mr. Crawford, who owed no small part of his great success to his youthful colleague. In 1885 a vacancy having occurred in the representation of the county by the death of Hon. Dr. Vail, Dr. Pugsley announced himself as a candidate in opposition to the late Robert E. McLeod, a wealthy and highly respected resident of Sussex, formerly a member of the legislature, who was backed in his canvass by the two sitting members and as far as they could command it by the patronage of the government which both candidates professed to support. But though thus apparently heavily handicapped the youthful aspirant for political honors entered upon the contest with a zest and confidence born of success. After a vigorous campaign of several weeks during which he met his opponent on the platform in almost every part of the county, he was triumphantly returned by a majority so great as to surprise his friends not less than his foes. After sitting one session, during which his ripe scholarship, superior tact, and perfect mastery of parliamentary procedure combined with his own great skill as a debater marked him out as the proper man for the position, Dr. Pugsley was unanimously chosen at the opening of the second session as speaker of the house of assembly. As to the manner in which he fulfilled the duties of this office a better opinion cannot be given than that which appeared in one of the newspapers published at the capital, the editor of which has had an excellent opportunity through constant attendance on the debates, of forming a mature and reliable judgement. The Farmer says:

On the assembling of the new house, he was unanimously elected speaker, a position he has filled to the entire satisfaction of the assembly and the country. He has adorned the speakership by his impartial and successful discharge of his delicate duties; he is a gentleman of calm and mature judgment, of scholarly attainments; is a polished and attractive public speaker, and will be a source of great strength and respectability to the administration.

The Hon. R. J. Ritchie having resigned the office of solicitor-general to accept the office of police magistrate of St. John, Dr. Pugsley was offered the vacant portfolio, which he accepted, and was sworn in to the duties of his office on the 14th inst. This necessitated the resignation of his seat in the legislature, and his going back to his constituents for their ratification of his action. The nomination takes place at Hampton today.

Dr. Pugsley married, January 6, 1876, Fannie, daughter of the late Thomas Parks, of St. John, in his life-time a prominent merchant of this city, and a brother of the late William Parks, the founder of that important industry, the New Brunswick cotton mills, now being successfully carried on by a company of which Mr. John H. Parks is president and manager. Mr. Pugsley, we may remark, is one of the directors of this enterprising company which has 600 hands in its employ.

Although a resident of Rothesay, Dr. Pugsley practises his profession in Saint John, where he has long been a leading citizen, and where he has a town house which he finds convenient for the winter months.

Dr. Pugsley is possessed of a good physique and a fine appearance. His manner is that of the cultured gentleman. He is a good conversationalist, and a man who commands the respect and confidence of all who know him. His tact and subtlety of reasoning, combined with his practical good sense, lead to his being listened to at all times, when he chooses to express himself on questions of public interest, with close attention by friend and opponent.

The feeling with which he inspires strangers, as well as those who know him well, that his utterances are the carefully considered views of a man distinguished for his superior ability, expressed from the highest motives, and backed by the highest principles that can actuate a human being, unites with his own pleasing manner and natural suavity to render him a powerful man in either a public or private capacity.

JOHNNY SHOCKS THE MINISTER

And Has Disgraced His Family for all Time to Come.

There was a awful time in our family this week, and I guess you goin' to be sent some where to boardin' school. When pa was mad, so's his hair wouldn't lay down he said he wished I was—somewhere what our Sunday school teacher says boys shouldn't say much about.

Anyway our minister had no business blowin' about his pictures. I suppose he thort 'cause I'm a young fellow he'd sit on me, but I guess people like him'll have ter let their hair grow longer afore they does. I don't see what their kickin' up sich a time fur anyhow, 'cause I'm only stickin' up fur our famerly, and now they say what we're all disgraced for life.

You know the minister come to our house and said what he wished to talk with the young people, 'cause he wanted to git their sympathies congregated on behalf of a nuther new kind of heathin what they'd found out, and they wanted pennies fur. He said he's appealing through the meijum of pictures which would attract the youthful eye, and what they showed the true state of the people what he wanted us to work fur. He showed me some, and the heathin's hadn't much close on. I suppose he thort he's sumthin' 'cause he had them pictures, but I guess he looked like a smashed beaver hat when I told him what they're nothin', 'cause pa had lots of photographs without much close on, and they wasn't nigger people neither.

I guess if they don't send me away I'll run away, fur a young fellow can't get on nohow, 'cause if you tell the truth they git mad and if you don't they'll git madder. Pa near went inter highstericks, like ma does, the time what I sent the undertaker up to measure him, 'cause I said he expired suddenly. But I guess he was only perspirin'.

Our cat's got kittens, and I hope what they don't send me away afore they drowned 'cause I suppose I'll git the job. We always drowned our kittens, except the good lookin' one's, 'cause ma says their a humbug when you have too many.

JOHNNY MULCAHEY.

"JERRY" AND HIS VICTIMS.

He Has an Affection For Chickens, Feathers and All.

MONCTON, May 20.—The manager of a local bank is a great lover of dogs, and rejoices in the possession of two canines, whom he regards as the very apples of his eyes, if one may manufacture a plural for the old expression. One is a spaniel of delicate constitution, and not very brilliant intellect who staggers under the appellation of "John of Gaunt" mercifully shortened into "Gaunt." The other is a Fox terrier of a sprightly disposition, and predatory habits, who bears the name of Jeremiah, but answers to "Jerry."

Shortly after he emerged from puppyhood, Jerry became impressed with the necessity of returning the tender care he had received during his infancy. And, having ascertained in some way known only to himself that the price of meat in our town was simply ruinous, he decided that an occasional contribution to the larder would be the most tangible form his gratitude could assume.

Since then it is a very poor week with "Jerry" when he does not bring home a recently killed hen or a duck, quivering in the last throes of dissolution. And terrible is the amount of chaff his devoted master has to endure from his friends, anent having stewed hen for dinner every day and roast duck for Sunday. Terrible also are the castigations this small hero undergoes, but he suffers for his convictions, and bears them all without a single lamentation of Jeremiah. He goes off, more in sorrow than in anger, and brings home a propitiatory offering of a nice, freshly-killed hen. He does not always distinguish between feathers and fur, but frequently brings in the earthly remains of a neighbor's favorite cat, to be turned into rabbit stew.

"Gaunt" is his confidant, assistant and pupil, and when I heard, the other day, of a respectable resident of the lower part of the town who was bewailing the loss of five of her best hens in one week, I said nothing, for I have a sneaking affection for

the trim, bright-eyed assassin, but I knew in my own mind that if the slaughter of five hens in a single week was a capital crime, and "Gaunt" turned queen's evidence, "Jerry" would certainly end his career dancing an entirely new and original ballet at the end of a rope.

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