

PROGRESS.

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THE LEPROUS WAS NURSED

BY ONE OF THE STAFF AT THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

But the Nature of the Disease was Kept From her at First—Her Parents Made her Leave and the Matron Says That she Cannot go Back Again to Graduate.

There are more popular institutions in St. John than the General Public hospital. In fact in the imagination of a majority of the citizens it is rapidly degenerating. Just how the change has come about it would be impossible to say; unpopular physicians and matrons, careless nurses and a number of other causes have combined no doubt to bring about the deplorable state of affairs; and the finishing stroke was given recently when it was learned that a case of leprosy had been admitted to the hospital, and for several days been treated without any very great attempt at isolation, though strenuous efforts were made to conceal the fact from the public that young Roberts, the unfortunate victim of the loathsome disease, was an inmate, the nurses even, with the exception of the matron being ignorant of his condition until they learned it by accident.

It appears that young Roberts was admitted at night, and the nurse who was on duty at the time was not told by the physician that a leprosy case had been brought in. He was given a room, No 18—and a young nurse detailed to wait upon him. The latter was instructed to use every precaution in regard to the patient,—to see for instance that every article used by him was at once carbolicized, and that all his dishes, spoons, knives etc. be kept apart from the others. The dishes were all labelled with his name or number, and were washed separately. The nurse in attendance implicitly obeyed every instruction without knowing the exact nature of the patient's disease.

Though she made repeated inquiries all information was carefully withheld, until a day after the man's admission Dr. Emery mentioned to her the fact that she was nursing a case of leprosy. Though assured that there was no danger of contagion the young lady's feelings may be well imagined. With the bravery characteristic of the profession, however, she kept on with her work, revealing the fact to one nurse only—the one by the way who was on duty the night Roberts was so quietly admitted. Both the matron and Dr. Ellis instructed the nurse not to talk about the case, in fact insisted upon strict silence, both in the hospital, and her own home. When the young lady had been nursing the case for several days, she happened one evening to be paying a short visit to her family, and the leprosy case was introduced into the conversation; deeming it a duty to tell her mother the facts, the nurse asked if her relatives would be greatly shocked to learn that Roberts was in the hospital and that she was nursing him?

The sensation this announcement caused was greater and more serious than she had anticipated, for her mother was so thoroughly shocked, that she advised, in fact commanded, her daughter to remain at home, and not to even think of returning to the case. The nurse went back however, but when an hour or two later her father, who was absent during her visit, returned, he sent her sister at once to the hospital with a peremptory message, to the effect that his daughter return at once. This was about nine in the evening and the resident physician was out at the time. The matron, however, communicated with him and the nurse was allowed to depart, after having received the assurance that she would never again be admitted as a nurse or candidate. In view of the fact that the young lady was within a few months of graduating, this seems a particularly unjust course.

Most of the doctors who were around the hospital at the time were very anxious to have Roberts removed before the fact of his being an inmate became generally known to the public; and just here the question arises, if secrecy were absolutely necessary, why was he admitted to an institution maintained by the people, and in which they are surely supposed to be deeply interested? If the disease is not contagious so much the better for humanity; but if not, why was so much precaution and secrecy necessary? why were all articles used by Roberts carefully labelled with his name and kept

apart from other utensils? Why was his underclothing carbolicized before being sent to the laundry? Why was the nurse in attendance forbidden to mention the case to the other nurses, or at her home?

If all this were necessary there must surely arise some doubt as to contagion and the action of those who were responsible for his presence in the institution must be strongly condemned. There are cases which a nurse is at liberty to decline, if by accepting she exposes herself to danger of contagion. Small pox and cholera are among such cases and if a nurse is allowed an option in either of those, most people would think that she should have some choice in regard to leprosy. If the Commissioners of the hospital were cognizant of the true state of affairs, so far as this particular case is concerned, they have shown an indifference to public opinion that is to be deeply regretted. The fact, that within the last year nurses in the discharge of their duties have contracted fever and that a patient sent there for a surgical operation died of typhoid fever a month or two ago, and the recent leprosy admission, gives much ground for the charge that there is mismanagement somewhere. The people of St. John are dissatisfied with the way in which the General Public hospital is managed at present, and commendatory opinions are freely expressed.

What is the cause of the trouble, and where may the remedy be found?

THEY WON'T PAY FOR MUSIC.

But the Temple of Honor Band Will get its Money all the same.

It is quite a long time since the new engine house in the North End had the honor of having its cornerstone laid with such imposing ceremonies as were recorded at that time. Those who read the accounts of the affair in the newspapers will remember that the chairman of public safety Alderman McGoldrick with his director Mr. Wisely were very properly to the front on such an auspicious occasion. So was the Mayor and his worship made a most eloquent speech upon that occasion and had the satisfaction of talking to an audience that was almost purely North Enders. The good chief of the police will remember how anxious the mayor was that all the people should hear him because before he started he desired him to see that all noise upon the thoroughfare was stopped. So it was.

But there was another sort of noise upon that occasion that was not stopped and that was the music of the Temple of Honor Band. Not that PROGRESS would for an instant designate the music of this good representative band of the North End as "noise" but upon that day with the general hubbub its good work could not be appreciated. The writer heard the mayor upon different times during that brief afternoon call upon some one to ask the Band to play and consequently it was with the greatest surprise that the report of the treasury board was read that its modest bill of \$10 which had been passed at the safety board had been refused payment.

Perhaps as a matter of courtesy simply the treasury board should have passed an account which read as follows and was not only endorsed by the safety board but by the director of public safety as ordered by Mayor Robertson—Here is the bill.

ALEXANDER TEMPLE OF HONOR BAND.
J. T. Brown, Secy., 67 Victoria St.
St. John N. B. Nov. 1st, 1897
Robt. Wisely, Dr.
To Temple Band for services at laying of cornerstone of new Engine House.....\$10.00
Ordered by Mayor Robertson.

Robt. Wisely,
Director of Public Safety
Passed Board of Public Safety.

The above is the account that the treasury board ordered to be laid on the table even after Mayor Robertson had explained the circumstance of the engagement. But the chairman of Public Safety was to be reckoned with and when he found that the small sum of ten dollars for band services in his department had been not only called in question but laid to one side he made his way to the city building with but one idea in his head. That was to get the bill referred to above and pay it himself. He succeeded in getting the bill covered all over as it was with city stamps and board of safety O. K.'s and then made his way toward the North End.

Some body said that the aldermen were about to make a "tar-paulin" and contribute sixty odd cents each toward the payment of the band but who ever suggested it had

better keep quiet for the band will get paid without such measures even if it is from the private funds of the chairman of Public Safety—Alderman McGoldrick.

LIVELY BOBBS IN A LOCAL TRAIN.

A Lawless Countryman Makes Things Warm on a Christmas Eve.

One of the incidents of Christmas eve was on the Sussex train which carried a large number of passengers out of town. Some of them were returning home after a day's business in the city and among them was a huge countryman named Lawless. He proved to be lawless by nature as well as by name. When passing through the smoker he espied a liquor vendor from Hampton who it seems had at some time in the past refused him a drink. It was quite evident that the ardent had not been refused to him in the city for he was in an abusive and wild west fighting mood. The sight of the liquor vendor was like a red cloth to a bull and he began to abuse and threaten his enemy. To the credit of the latter he did not make much if any reply at first but when Lawless returned and struck him he made a return with a huge cane that he carried. The result was a severe cut across the countryman's forehead. There were more exchanges and another cut across the skull showed upon Lawless, who in the meantime however had clutched his opponent's ear and throat and was in a fair way to do him serious injury when the conductor and some passengers rushed in and parted the combatants. But another countryman with only one arm and usually of a quiet and easy temperament, excited by the fracas and what Christmas cheer he had imbibed pushed his way forward and began an indiscriminate attack upon the passengers. When he fell upon the Torryborn platform as he was hurled from the train the passengers thought his skull was broken; then he rolled over the edge of the platform and had to be pulled out and placed in a baggage car for the rest of his trip. Truly it was an exciting time and one altogether out of season. The next morning when the train returned any passengers who sat in the car where the fight occurred must have thought of some general slaughter for the blood was spattered everywhere and frozen on the windows.

HUGH MCCORMICK'S CHRISTMAS.

He is indebted to the invitation of Weyman for the County Cheer.

Hugh McCormick, carman, skater and proprietor of the hotel at the Willows, Reeds point, did not spend this Christmas in the bosom of his family. Not but what he would have liked to do so but the attentions of a person named Weyman, who occupies the position of Scott act Inspector for Kings county induced him to escape from the turmoil of an active life for a time and test the hospitality of the country hotel at Hampton. In other words he is in jail for violation of the Scott act.

This is the first time that the famous skater of former years has been in the toils of the law for violation of the Scott act and he made a strenuous effort to defend his case. He was tried in Hampton before Justices Piers and Smith and was defended by Mr. Fred Sprout. Conviction followed. But few of the witnesses were called but it is understood that Mr. Weyman had a list of somewhat alarming proportions.

The fine was \$50 and the costs between forty and fifty more. So Hugh made up his mind that it was cheaper to go to jail than to pay up the fine and costs. He has been there a month and an application was made this week for a habeas corpus on the ground of excessive costs. It seems that the constable who served subpoenas had to go from Hampton to Kingston and while he served four or five on one trip he charged costs for a trip for every witness.

Buttermilk as a Christmas Present.

A gentleman from the west side called upon PROGRESS one day this week and told how unique a Christmas present he had received. In the summer time he occasionally makes excursions to the interior of the province and was in the habit of calling at a certain farm house for butter-milk of which he is especially fond. The good hearted occupants of the farm house thinking he might like buttermilk on Christmas day sent him a can, and in the box with it was a can of cream, and a bottle of preserves. Perhaps the curious part of the incident is that, though the cans and bottle were filled, to within half an inch of the top, not a drop was spilled by the Dominion Express Company who delivered the parcel in all the Christmas rush.

KING TELLS HIS STORY.

THE DEFENDANT ON THE STAND IN CIRCUIT COURT.

His Evidence is Emphatic and Interesting—His Explanations are Clear and He Tells a Good Story—But His Evidence is Not Finished.

If the size of a court room audience is any indication of the interest of the people in the case being tried, then the Sloan-King matter is not an all absorbing attraction for the public.

For the court room could have held three times the number that gathered on Monday afternoon to hear a continuation of the evidence. The principal characters sat about the barristers table while some minor evidence was given and the group was certainly an interesting one. To the left and facing the witness box was the plaintiff clad in rich furs and wearing that peculiar smile that marks her face. She was supported on either side by her solicitors, Messrs. Macrae and Sinclair while Mr. Pugsley, always cool and alert was at the head of the table. Mr. King and his lawyer Mr. Currey had the opposite side while behind them was the supporting presence of Chief Clark.

Of course the chief interest of the day was in the evidence of Mr. King and when he was called to the stand he was naturally nervous and because of that no doubt he saluted the good book twice when about to be sworn and answered the injunction of the clerk to tell the truth by an emphatic "Yes Sir." Then he told in a concise fashion where he lived and what he did, how he had two residences, one here where his business was and one in Calais where he was known socially. His memory was excellent but it was not good to tell how long he had known the plaintiff. He made a generous allowance however and said that not more than 20 years and not less than 15. When questioned about visiting her house he was very frank and said that in common with many others he had called there, considering it a way-side inn where he paid for all he got, whether meals, cigars or accommodation for his horse. He gave an emphatic denial to the story that he had been ill and was nursed there. That story was not half so false however, according to his evidence, as the statement of the plaintiff that he went out there with \$17,000 in bills in a small satchel. "No sir, I swear I never did," was his emphatic answer to the query if he had ever done such a thing. Later on he gave an explanation of how the sum of \$17,000 was in the mind of the plaintiff.

He had mentioned that amount to her a day or two after he had had a large transaction with an operator of his who wanted \$17,000 to pay off his men in the spring. But as for carrying \$17,000 about with him and giving \$5,000 of it to the plaintiff that was false. In this connection the evidence was somewhat dramatic. When he made the statement that he never gave her \$5,000 he emphasized it and surprised the judge and court by bringing his fist down on the counter. But that was nothing to the sensation he caused when his lawyer asked him if he had ever told the plaintiff that he proposed to pension her off, that she had been better and kinder to him than anyone else on earth. Then raising his hand and bringing it down with emphatic force he replied "So help me God I never did." He had given small sums at various times and one time sent a package of \$600 which was all due to the good feeling he had for the plaintiff at that time. At one time he had given her \$100 and sent a slip with it with the phrase "Merry Xmas and Happy New Year."

"Now, how would you regard that money" came forth in the smooth tones Mr. Pugsley.

The witness hesitated for a moment and then said with a laugh "I suppose you might properly regard it as a Christmas present at that season of the year." The aim of the plaintiff's case was to prove that these several amounts of \$50 and \$100 were interest on the \$5,000 that the plaintiff alleged had been given her and then taken away to invest in United States bonds. To the listener it was difficult to understand what rate the interest would be to bring in \$600 a year for an investment of \$5,000 for there are not such good paying bonds floating around every day.

In connection with the bond story, Mr. King told how the plaintiff had the address of Samuel King Hamilton of Boston. He had given her the address when he learned

that he was going to Boston to rent an apartment house and let rooms. He thought she might want somebody to look after her business. He denied that she had ever called upon him at his office and that he had shown her Bank of New Brunswick stock and told her it was his. He had at one time shown her a circular from the bank which indicated its standing for the year and upon which the estate of S. T. King was credited with 62 shares, but that was all.

Mr. King denied the statements of the plaintiff ones by ones as Mr. Currey read there from the transcribed evidence. This went on until five o'clock when for the convenience of Mr. Pugsley the court adjourned until Thursday at 11.30 o'clock.

WHAT DOES THE ROLL SAY?

At a Recent Fire But Seven out of Forty Salvage Corps Men Were Present.

A few nights ago a fire occurred on Brunsells Street, a few doors below the Centennial school. The alarm was sounded about four in the morning but it did not seem to alarm either the firemen or the salvage corps in a general sense.

The fire started in a brick building below the Centennial school and, so the police state, was discovered by a Miss Kate Brittain, who keeps a small shop for the sale of cigarettes, cigars, and light beers in the lower flat. She was asleep and the first warning she had of the blaze was the burning embers falling upon her bed. Rushing forth she aroused the inmates of the flat above and probably saved the lives of Mr. Finn and his family. Then thinking that she might save something of her own she made a rush for her own apartments only to find that her way was barred by a member of the Salvage Corps who prevented her from saving what she wanted most. Two of her trunks were taken out afterward but so soaked with water that the contents were practically useless. That seemed to be hard usage after her efforts to save the lives and effects of her neighbors and so the spectators thought. The young woman was but thinly clad in the excitement of the fire and had rushed forth to do the utmost she could to save those living near her. Those who were present of the Salvage Corps did what they could, and they must have acted speedily for out of forty members there were but seven men present.

But what does the roll say?

BUT THE POLITICIAN SLEPT.

Religion had no Charms for Him Even From Mr. Armitage.

HALIFAX, Dec. 30.—St Paul's church this city is now favored with a rector equal to any in a long time of illustrious predecessors. Rev. W. J. Armitage preaches sermons whose lessons find their way into the hearts of the people in no uncertain way. Yet a curious phenomenon occurred in this place of worship on Sunday evening. One of the representatives of this city in the Dominion parliament was locked in the church and was with difficulty rescued that night. The inference is that the good M. P. fell asleep and hence had the key turned upon him. Or he may have been lost in reverie, or became so interested in conversation that he failed to observe that the sacred doors were closed upon him and that he was cut off from the world if not from the flesh and the...

The Parity of Galley Whiskey.

The attention of the readers of PROGRESS must have been directed from week to week to the advertisement of Galley whiskey, handled in this province by William McIntyre, successor to McIntyre & Townsend. A recent number of Science Sayings has a long and interesting account of the excellence and purity of this whiskey, to which PROGRESS will make further reference next week.

Good Time at the Loyalist House.

Weather permitting, Mr. E. A. Treadwell proposes to give the public some interesting horse racing and a good dinner at the Loyalist House on New Years day. Horses without a record can enter for one dollar and the purse will be divided among the winners. Dinner will be served at 1.80.

Progress and Life of Howe.

To all new subscribers received at the office during the month of January 1898, PROGRESS will be sent for one year and with it the Life of Honorable Joseph Howe for two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) payable in advance.