

In Memoriam : D. J. Macdonnell.

Καλός και ἄριστος,
Such was thy soul, friend, since life's early morning,
Virtue ambitioning, littleness scorning.
Spurning the twilight with vision my open,
Loving the daylight, the sunlight, the open,
Where to know loss is gain, and to dream gain is loss.
Καλός και ἄριστος.

Καλός και ἄριστος,
Not to be bound with conventional fetters,
All thine exactors transforming to debtors,
Mechanical minter converting to miner,
Bringing the ore of Truth to the Refiner,
Joying when fine gold was severed from dross.
Καλός και ἄριστος.

Καλός και ἄριστος,
On thy back ploughed the plougher ; he made long his furrows.
Tribulation thou hadst ; saint and fiend made it thorough.
Yet no murmur escaped thee. Brave heart, on the morrow,
Rose strong and triumphant o'er yesterday's sorrow,
Cheerfully bearing life's many a cross,
Καλός και ἄριστος.

Καλός και ἄριστος,
True heart's truest love on a cold world bestowing.
Till the virtue that left thee enkindled its glowing,
Till envy was stifled, ill-will unregarded,
And that would its leal friend with late friendship rewarded.
Now mute is the tongue that would carp at the gloss,
Καλός και ἄριστος.

A Curious Old Pipe.

I HAVE in my possession a curiosity which, so far as my knowledge extends, is unique in Canada if not elsewhere, a description and account of which may interest not only antiquarians but others, especially smokers.

It consists of a clay pipe, the bowl of which measures about seven-eighths of an inch from the mouth to the base, while the shank is about an inch long. The bowl, which does not hold more than one-third or, I might almost say, one-quarter as much tobacco as a modern pipe of ordinary size, is set at an obtuse angle to the shank, and is in the form of a human head of which the features front the smoker. The face is that of a military looking man with a mustache, and the nose, eyes, ears, and hair are well defined. The shank terminates with a foliated ornamentation, and the orifice at its extreme end is too small to receive a hollow stem of the kind generally inserted when the shank is short.

This pipe was presented to me some seventeen or eighteen years ago by Mr. J. Walter Beard, a member of a firm of dry goods merchants in St. John, N.B., who assured me that it had been dug up by Adino Paddock, a well-known loyalist, in 1784, on Navy Island, in the harbour of St. John, not far below the Falls, and near Carleton.

Unfortunately I was at the time occupied with other matters, and did not make a full investigation as to the history of the pipe or its custody subsequent to its discovery; and Mr. Beard's death afterwards deprived me of the means of ascertaining the necessary facts.

The appearance of the pipe is, however, a sufficient guarantee that it is a genuine relic of the past, and there is no reason to doubt the absolute accuracy of Mr. Beard's statement to the extent of his knowledge and belief.

I may mention that, when the pipe was given to me, there was attached to it a label, the inscription of which is as follows: "This pipe was dug up by Mr. Paddock on Navy Island in 1784, supposed to have been buried with one of the French killed in the naval action, 14th July, 1696." In the engagement which took place on that date, according to Dr. Baudoin, a missionary priest on board of one of the two French vessels taking part, the latter defeated two English ships of war, and captured one of them, which, with a tender, were at the mouth of Saint John harbour, but without a single Frenchman being injured. (Murdoch's History of Nova Scotia, Vol. I., pages 217 and 218). The hypothesis therefore appears to be unsupported by evidence, and the exact age of the pipe must be considered undetermined. The locality is, however, one, if the curiosity is of French origin, of which there can be but little doubt, in which it might well have been deposited.

There is, at least, a strong probability that the site of the celebrated Fort Latour was very near, and there is no question that French soldiers were constantly occupying or passing over the place where it is stated the discovery was made, for a large part of more than one and one-half centuries prior to 1784.

The occasional errors of associations like the Pickwick Club, and of students of the type of Monkbarns may at first have rendered me cautious in claiming its true value for my treasure trove. At length, however, certain facts with reference to ancient pipes became known to me for the first time, and led me to regard my possession with much greater interest than before.

Mr. Charles Walker and Mr. Henry F. Perley, the latter now of Ottawa, were associated in the construction of the Thames embankment in London, England, and, while making the necessary excavations, Mr. Perley collected from the excavated material and preserved a number of early English clay pipes. It was my privilege to inspect this collection, and I at once observed that in general form they closely resembled the specimen obtained by me from Mr. Beard. Mr. Perley's pipes, however, were devoid of ornamentation or extraneous device, and were apparently intended to be used with an inserted stem. The size and capacity of the smallest of them were approximately the same as those of mine, but his collection exhibited a gradual increase in these particulars until types of the modern clay pipe were reached.

Now it seems to me that a consideration of these facts helps to determine the age of my pipe.

When Europeans began to smoke, tobacco was obtainable only in small quantities and at a comparatively high price. Moreover there were others besides King James who were strongly opposed to smoking, and there can be but little doubt that prudent physicians would not encourage the practice until ample opportunity had been afforded for noting results.

As a consequence, and perhaps because the tobacco then supplied may have been of an inferior quality likely, on the consumption of but a small quantity, to produce vertigo and nausea, the earliest pipes manufactured would be made to hold but little.

It may then be fairly claimed that the hypothesis upon the label, although erroneous as to the exact date and the circumstances of the deposit, may not lead to an incorrect conclusion as to the age of the pipe in question.

Possibly some of your readers, especially those in the Province of Quebec, may throw some light upon the matter.

I never saw or heard of a history of smoking; yet such a work would not be devoid of interest. In view of the efforts of the anti-tobacconists, and the tendency of the age to destroy the restful for the purpose of establishing the despotism of activity, it is at least possible that pipes like swords as articles in common use, patterns, stocks, and snuff boxes may become things of the past.

And is it not advisable that a true record should be produced to prevent a non-smoking posterity from making mistakes as to the practices of their smoking ancestors?

How sad it would be if, a century hence, a student of Walter Scott should be led to believe that the men of to-day may have smoked tobacco in iron pipes during the preaching in church, after the manner of Duncan Knockdunder.

I. ALLEN JACK.

At The House of Commons.

THE long-expected, long-deferred, much-dreaded day has come and gone. The Remedial Bill held the attention of every politician, and was, too, of such wide-spread interest that the galleries of the House of Commons were crowded. Had it not been for the efficient aid of police stationed at the diverging ways of the galleries to separate the crowds, the horrors of the crushing and jamming during the crisis in January would have been repeated.

Directly after three o'clock, after the jangling of the bells announced the summoning of the House to prayers (at which the public are not permitted to attend, more's the pity) Sir Charles Tupper moved for the second reading of the bill in a long speech, the preamble of which dealt with