

## The Rockwood Review.



J. DAVIDSON.

The first of April, 1860, is that from which Mr. John Davidson dates his earthly existence, and though born on All Fool's Day, he has amply proven that he has no lack of wit on account of his natal day. He was educated in the Portsmouth and Wellington Street Schools, in the latter being under J. H. Metcalfe, now Warden of the Penitentiary. John was a good student, but to his credit he never imbued any of the political principles of his tutor, and, like his father before him, was always a staunch Liberal. An enthusiastic sailor always, he gained his first experience on the Yacht "Bloodhound" which plied between Hatter's Bay and Lemoine's Point, and after that on the schr. Eureka, but owing to ill-health he gave up his sailor life for the less exciting one of a landsman. His first attempt in his new sphere was farming, but after four days trial, he found that the arduous trial of a farmer's life was incompatible with his already impaired constitution, and in consequence accepted the position of

junior clerk in the Portsmouth Marine Railway. Eventually he entered Rockwood Hospital in October, 1881; and in October 1885, was promoted Superior of the Regiopolis Branch. He was married the same month, to Miss Harriet Genge, who ably assisted him in his new position. When the Branch was closed in 1891, Mr. Davidson was again promoted to the position of Chief Attendant. The year 1885 not only witnessed his promotion and marriage but also his departure with the volunteers, in April, to the North West. In July he returned, and though he did not gain the Victoria Cross, he did achieve a growth of whiskers, which temporarily precluded the possibility of his recognition even by his nearest and dearest friends.

A lover of athletics, he was a prominent member of the Rockwood Ball Club till its disbandment, and is now in the front rank of the Rockwood Curlers, having won the Senior Single Competition of 1893, and plays third stone on Rink No. 1. As a ball-player his errors were few, but one notable instance occurred, in a game between the "Rockwoods" and their old time rivals the "Princess Streets." John was in the act of catching a fly, which to such a player was a veritable "cinch," when some opposing rooter referred to himself and family in offensive terms. Utterly ignoring the play, he turned his attention to the offender, and could look have killed him, that rooter would have instantly dropped dead. It was several seconds before John sufficiently recovered to return the ball infield, and resulted in so palpable an error that the manager only forgave him when he learned of the trying circumstances. In every respect, "Jack," is a good fellow, and as Chief Attendant he is a decided success, and commands and retains the respect of those with whom he is associated.