

They were not inferior men, not wastrels driven from larger centres. They were for the most part men of culture and education—men brought up in the old land under the most favourable surroundings—men of marked individuality and force of character, who came to share in the future of the new land.

A number who resided here were mere birds of passage. Some military surgeons who came and went with their regiments, others after a few years left for pastures new. A few remained throughout their whole career, and their names are associated with all matters of public welfare.

The first general practitioner here was Alexander James Christie. He came with the arrivals in 1826, and lived here until his death in 1843, in his 65th year. He was the first to secure a town lot in upper town, and lived for some years at the north-west corner of Wellington and Victoria Street. This house may still be seen just falling into ruin. Later, he built a large stone house, nearly opposite to Christ Church Cathedral, which still stands in the rear of 399 Sparks Street.

Dr. Christie was born near Aberdeen, Scotland. His father was the Rev. Alexander Christie, dean of Aberdeen, and rector of Fyvie. He graduated Master of Arts at Marischal College, Aberdeen in 1807, and became a licentiate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1811. In the war of 1812 he was a naval surgeon, and was wounded in the thigh when on duty, which resulted in a limp for the remainder of his days. He came to Montreal in 1819, and entered upon the practice of his profession. Here he remained until he removed to Bytown. I cannot find any details as to his professional work, but he acquired an extensive practice, and was esteemed as a physician for several years. In McTaggart's work he is frequently referred to in regard to his professional worth. His college note-books also show that he was a thorough student. Dr. Christie's bent, however, was public life, and he gradually withdrew from medicine to the wider field of journalism, and during his later years he appears to have entirely given up practice. His literary tastes led him to edit, when in Montreal, *The Canadian Magazine*, a high-class monthly publication, and later, in Bytown, he established *The Bytown Gazette*, the first newspaper, which he continued to edit to the day of his death. He filled many offices, and among them I noticed a reference to him as the "Dean of the Guild," which odd title was difficult to interpret until I met in McTaggart a reference to the earliest attempt at municipal government. He says, "Bytown is regularly incorporated by a charter, according to an act of the inhabitants themselves, sanctioned by a