PROGRESS.

VOL. VII., NO. 347. ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1894. PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE PREMIER'S HOME.

HOW HE WAS KNOWN AND APPRECIATED IN HALIFAX.

An Old Colleague Talks about Him—In a Temperance Lodge and at School—His Law Partner and How He Succeeded—Pulling Himself Together.

HALIFAX, Dec. 20.—There is real sorrow in Halifax over the untimely death of Sir John Thompson. The regret is felt by liberals and conservatives alike, for was not Johnny Thompson a Halifax boy whom everybody knew, and whom thousands admired? He had been closely identified with many of our societies and institutions, and rose from the ranks of the people to the pinnacle of fame, and then died in the castle, and almost in the very presence of his sovereign.

Party feelings run high in Halifax, but but when a politician dies all rancor is gone instantly. An instance of this occurred in the city council on Tuesday night, when Ald. Wallace moved a resolution expressive of the corporation's high sense of the dead statesman's worth, dwelling upon the fact that our city had lost its most talented son and our country its most distinguished statesman, one who had risen to the highest possible position in the gift of the nation. The resolution was adopted and the city hall will be draped in mourning.

Yet, when Sir John was here some months ago an effort was made to have the city council express its appreciation of Sir John. He was in Halifax as premier of Canada, and he came a native of Halifax. The very same Alderman Wallace was to have moved congratulatory resolutions, and everybody expected he would, but partisan feeling was too much for him or for his friends, and the resolutions never came out of the alderman's pocket. Nothing can be said now that could not with equal truth be uttered then. 'Twas ever thus. We wait till our friends are dead to say our best things of them. It is better to say good things after friends depart than not at all; but it is best that kind and true praise should be uttered when it can do some real good to others than to friends of the dead.

The state funeral which will take place next week will be the grandest and most solemn pageant ever witnessed in Halifax. Those who see it will never forget the burial of the Right Hon. Sir John Thompson, as those who saw the interment of Governor "Joe" Howe will ever remember that great funeral procession and obsequies, etc., at the grave of the father of his province. The military, the church, the state, and the people, will leave nothing undone to honor our noble dead next week.

Great preparations are going on for the funeral of Sir John Thompson, which people expect will take place on January 2nd. Louis Coste, of Ottawa, is here taking charge of the preparations and is being assisted by Mr. Dodwell, of Halifax. Mr. Coste registered at the Halifax on Monday.

There will be an immense crowd here from all the cities of Canada. The city will be honored by the presence of all the leading dignitaries of the fair Dominion. The hotel will be crowded and Mr Sheraton says that the Queen has had a large number of applications for rooms already.

Everywhere people are talking of the late premier and of the imposing funeral that will be. Even the bell boys in the hotels were heard talking it over between calls.

AN INNER VIEW.

Sir John Thompson as Viewed by a Friend.

This morning I had a very pleasant talk with the deceased premier's late colleague in the provincial house, Mr. S. H. Holmes, now prothonotary of the supreme court.

Mr. Holmes' recollections of him cover only the period when they were associated in local politics. He had not known him until they met in an election campaign in Antigonish in 1877.

His memory of him was very pleasing, and the qualities which he saw in him were of the best. Every one knows that he was a hard working and industrious man, that he was a man of few words, that he was not one who was always discoursing on the floors of the house, and that his speeches always told, whether aggressive or defensive of their policy.

It was of his personal and social attributes that Mr. Holmes spoke. He was a man who combined reserve and cordiality in right proportion. Among those who knew him best he was most genial; his laugh was pleasant, his appreciation of humor was keen and he could also tell a good story himself.

But yet he was a man of great reserve. To the outsider it would not appear that he was a man of emotions. He was, the difference being that he suppressed his feelings. It would have been better if he had allowed them to find vent.

About his youth Mr. Holmes knew only what he heard from others. He understood that the boy John Thompson was a studious, steady, ambitious, sincere youth. He had a field laid out before him and so he did not stray into the byways and forbidden paths into which young men are apt to wander. He was in fine an exemplary youth and became an exemplary man.

While I sat talking with Mr. Holmes another gentleman who was there broke in with a remark that he knew Sir John when he was a boy of fourteen or fifteen. "At that age the boy John joined Chebucto division, S. of T., and I sat with him," said the speaker, "for ten years. Both he and his father were members."

"If I remember rightly," he said, "I think that the division provided his gown when he was called to the bar."

Sir John's Legal Partner.

Having seen his politicial partner I started to find his legal partner, but here I discovered an obstacle. His partner was Mr. Joseph Coombs, who is now in London. Mr. Coombs left Halifax under a cloud. He left a number of obligations behind. Despite the example of rectitude set before him by the late premier, he seemed to have gotten into bad habits, ending in his going from the country.

But he appears to be an example of a man who having gone to pieces pulls himself together again. He is now doing well in London and some time ago sent for a statement of his liabilities. This was sent to him and he is now liquidating them. Some say that he has cleaned them all off.

MR. KEARNY COMES TO TOWN.

And he Calls Upon "Progress" For a Chat About his Indentity.

Mr. B. F. Kearny called at PROGRESS office this week. He carried an open copy of PROGRESS in one hand and rather an ugly look upon his face. He was after satisfaction and he went about the matter like the angry man that he was. A good many people think that Mr. Kearny should look and feel happy: he has the oat contract for the city of St. John in which he has lived only about three months. According to his statement to PROGRESS he came to this city about the last of August of this year and he has paid a $20 license for doing business.

But what he objects to was the statement that he had been engaged in an oat transaction with a man named Stirling from Prince Edward Island and that the latter thought he had been sharp.

Generally speaking this is not serious language but it appears that this time PROGRESS like a good many other people got this particular Mr. B. F. Kearny mixed up with a Mr. Robt. Kearny who had the transaction with Mr. Stirling. Inquiry revealed the fact that Robert is a brother of B. F.'s, and that they are both engaged in the oat business. They seem to resemble each other in a wonderful degree and if they are both as sharp as they look, no doubt they will succeed in their own particular fashion. But still it is well to note as PROGRESS has done that Robert Kearny who had the oat transaction with Mr. Stirling is not the B. F. Kearny who has oat transactions with the city, or some say with A. C. Smith & Co.

Referring to this Mr. Kearney was quite explicit and plain. He did not think it was the business of the public where he got the oats he supplied the city with. He could buy them from A. C. Smith & Co., if he liked and it was nobody's business. Mr. Kearney did not go so far as to say that he did buy his oats from A. C. Smith & Co., or that he was going to do so but he was independent and very broad-minded. He took the view that he could come into town for a few months, pay a paltry license and underbid responsible citizens for a civic contract. These citizens had contributed to the revenue of the city for years and will do so again for years, probably, but according to his view they are not entitled to any consideration on that ground. This may be true, though PROGRESS does not share this view of it. The city should set a good example and patronize its tax-paying citizens and not any produce pedler who qualifies to do business by paying a paltry license. There is plenty of room for inquiry into such matters as these—plenty of evils to be remedied that will be warmly welcomed. And while any such investigation is going on let the coal contract for the ferry be looked into thoroughly, how it was given, on what grounds and whether there was any consideration of any kind whatever.

More Care for the Future.

Mr. Chamberlain Sandall's statement about executions for taxes and the charges for them seems to have aroused a number of people whose experience has been that they have paid the fee without seeing or hearing from the marshal. All of them agree that the Chamberlain is not aware of this and that he must take the word of his marshals, some of whom can afford to be more careful, at least in the future.

Celluloid Photo frames, Lowest Prices, at McArthur's, 90 King street.

SHE WOULD NOT SING.

THE LEADING SOPRANO IN THE MINSTRELS RETIRES

For a Curious Reason—She Gave her Reasons to the Manager and Was Allowed to Go—Another Talented Lady Takes her Place in the Cast.

Quite a little breeze of excitement and possibly other emotions were aroused in amateur minstrel and musical circles last week. The provoking cause of this flutter of excitement was the action of the young lady selected to sing the principal role in "the Pirates of Penzance," then and now under rehearsal by the St. John amateur minstrels. The story as learned is that the young lady referred to on the occasion of a recent rehearsal entered the hall and laying down the music she had been studying, announced to the management that she had decided to give up her part and resign her position. This was rather in the nature of a bombshell and dismay prevaded the breasts of all. Astonished! That word fairly expresses the emotions of the manager. That courteous gentleman suggested reconsideration, but the young lady was implacable. What was the matter? What had gone wrong? Had any one offended her? If so it must have been wholly unintentional and as the male members of the company were all gentlemen, the offender would cheerfully apologize as soon as he knew wherein he had offended. The manager inquired the cause of this action and to his utter amazement learned that the lady objected to the personality of the gentleman who had been selected by the club to sing the opposite leading solo. What had he done? Surely there must be some mistake! "The young man," said the manager, "is very popular with all the members. He is a modest gentlemanly young fellow a good singer and spoken well of by all who knew him." The lady eventually stated her objection, which was contained in the startling announcement, that "he is a Catholic." That the manager did not faint on hearing this can only be accounted for in the fact that he has an iron constitution. He was not a little bit rattled, 'tis true, but he drew himself together again, as it were, and advised the lady to consider well what she was doing, but she replied that she had considered it. The manager remarked, "Why, you played a part with Mr. —— before," but he was completely overwhelmed when he received the answer, "Yes, but he (Mr. ——) was in a different set." The objectionable young man on learning the facts, generously proposed to retire, but to the credit of the club, be it said, this proposition was promptly and positively negatived. He could not go. The outcome of the matter is that the objecting lady has been permitted to retire, and another young lady with much musical ability has been secured in her stead. It is a matter of regret that such an episode as this should occur, but it is just as well in view of all the interests that are and might be involved that the facts should be known by the public.

THERE IS ROOM TO INVESTIGATE.

Were These Settlements Suggested and by Whom—Who is to Blame?

PROGRESS has a letter from a good citizen that contains such grave reflections upon portions of the city government and such suggestive statements that it is worth reproducing in part.

Most of the people will agree with the correspondent that the taxes are too heavy but whether the majority will unite with him in saying that the money is squandered is another question.

This gentleman refers particularly to one or two cases that have been "settled" of late. He speaks of the Beatty cases and thinks that the suit of I. O. Beatty against the corporation was settled hurriedly and without proper consideration. It will be remembered that the claim of Mr. Beatty was for injury at the ferry floats and it was settled after the decision of the court in the Silver case when the city had to pay between $4,000 and $5,000. Mr. Beatty's case came along just afterwards and whether the aldermen took an extraordinary fit of caution and hesitated to risk adding costs to damages or were advised from inner circles to pay the claim is not known. At any rate the claim was settled for $800 and the costs came to some $400 in addition.

This indignant citizen claims that it was a shame to pay so much money for so small an affair and call for an investigation to show what there was in the accident and by whose advice it was settled.

PROGRESS agrees with him in one particular—there should be a rigid investigation into the case—a free and public investigation—to show who was to blame; how the accident occurred and what methods can be adopted to prevent similar ones in the future.

"Talk about the ring and corruption in New York," writes the correspondent; "Comparatively speaking, St. John is just as corrupt. Verily believe we have as much corruption rings and cliques proportionally in St. John and especially in that part of it called Carleton as they have in New York."

Then he goes on and calls for a Lexow commission, for a body of men who will do their work in the light of day. This is the opinion of many citizens. An investigating committee should throw its meetings open to the public. PROGRESS is, something like a good many people who supported the T. R. A., waiting anxiously to hear what the committee has done. This paper was always of the opinion that action should have been taken as the inquiry into each department was completed. Eight months of the aldermanic year have passed and not only has there been no action but not even a report. This is not satisfactory to the people. The committee satisfy those who speak with them that they have worked hard—the mayor speaks freely to all who wish to talk over the matter—but nothing has been done save inquiring. When the report and its suggestions come in there will be enough to discuss to keep the matter open until the elections come on in May.

But there was another statement in the letter that will bear inquiring into. The writer says that Mr. Geo. W. Beatty was arrested for taxes due upon property in his wife's name or something of that sort that the warrant was served by Constable Smith who put him in jail. The willingness of Mr. Beatty to go in is also discussed but it occurs to us that Mr. Smith would be a better witness upon that point than any other. But Mr. Beatty should not have been arrested and he knew it. His suit for damages was settled quietly and the public did not know much about it.

Now who was responsible for this? The blame must rest somewhere and it is only right that it should be placed upon the shoulders of the right man.

Mayor Robertson, here is some more work for a good investigation, but let it be open to the press and the public.

AN EVENT FOR THE BOYS.

Upon Mr. Calvert's Invitation They all Assembled at the Wedding.

The event of the week among the boys was the marriage of Miss Calvert and Mr. Dakin. Seldom indeed is any couple honored with the presence of so many young men when starting out on the matrimonial voyage. The event has been looked forward to for some time and the father of the bride has not been at all backward in issuing invitations. In fact the list grew so large that those who proposed to attend concluded that the residence of Mr. Calvert would be inadequate in point of room to present the address. So Spencer's hall was engaged and the elegy upon "Time" delivered. The point of the address was neatly turned and then came the signatures. They were many and included so many of "Charles'" friends that PROGRESS cannot find room for them. The wedding coachman was the renowned William Warner and the fact that his horses seemed somewhat gay and restive was not so great a compliment to the quantity and quality of the oats they get as to the bubbling spirits of the crowd. The looseness and general uncertainty of the harness, the lightning change of drivers, the flight of luggage, all bore testimony to the good will and energy of those assembled to see them off. Then the scene at the house! That cannot be described. The only incident to damp the enjoyment of the occasion was the seizure of a fair-sized keg—contents unknown—for the rent of the hall hired for the reception.

Who Was He?

One of the most prominent and popular men in St. John met two ladies and a little girl on the street the other evening.

"Don't you think he looks like William Cullen Byrant?" said one lady, after the prominent citizen had passed into the night.

"I don't know," said the other lady. "I never saw William Cullen Bryant. He always reminds me," continued the lady, "of Moses."

"I never saw Moses," said her companion.

The other lady seemed to enjoy the joke as much as the maker thereof. Just then the little girl, whose thoughts, as those of all little girls at this time, were with the season, turned to the ladies and asked, "Ma, is that nice man Santa Claus?"

The question which will be left to the reader to decide is, who was the prominent and popular citizen?

The Season for Furs.

Furs are what everybody needs at the present time of year. There is no Christmas present that it will cause anyone to think of you more warmly during the winter than something in the fur line. Messrs. Thorne Bros., as may be seen by an advertisement in another column, are specialists in furs, and will help you to a Merry Christmas and a merry winter.

Lowest Prices on Children's Books, at McArthur's, 90 King street.

Large assortment Teachers' Bibles, Lowest Prices, 90 King street.

WE ALL LIKED THIS MAN

REGISTRAR McLELLAN PASSES TO HIS LONG REST

After a Brief Illness from Erysipelas—He was Popular with all Men, and did Much for His County in the Legislature—His Social Qualities.

It will be difficult for those who were accustomed to hear the cheery greeting of Registrar David McLellan almost every day, to realize that he is dead and that they have exchanged the last word with him.

Perhaps there was no man in the united city more popular than he was, better known among all classes of people and with fewer enemies. Indeed, it would be a difficult matter to associate the latter word with him. If it can be said of any man that he had no enemies it might truly be said of the late registrar.

He was comparatively speaking a young man, younger than most of the people, who did not know him intimately, imagined. He was four years short of threescore and just as active and energetic as when he used to run and win elections.

The people of this city and country knew Mr. McLellan best as a representa-

tive and as a merchant. Latterly he has had the position of registrar of deeds and probate. But as a representative he was popular to a greater degree, perhaps than any politician St. John has known—well liked by his opponents who voted against him with regret. Many indeed voted for the man for the time being putting principle aside, and felt better for it. No one has ever ventured the assertion that he was not a good representative. He did all for his county and his province that any man could and in many parts of rural St. John the effect of his work is seen. He was as popular among the members of the house of assembly as among his constituents and in this way he was a tower of strength to his government in its earlier days.

A good and shrewd merchant Mr. McLellan made a good provincial secretary. He was largely instrumental in the attempt to improve the stock of the province. In this and all other matters that he took in hand he was practical.

But apart from his political popularity who did not appreciate him as a man, as a companion? Who could resist the droll incidents he could relate and the happy accounts of his personal experiences?

Always full of life and energy he never failed to find the time for a pleasant chat with old friends. He was ever ready with help for them if they needed it, and when he was able no one had occasion to make a second request of him.

THE FIREMEN'S QUARTERS.

Where the Brave Fire-laddies Sleep and Enjoy Themselves.

Last summer everybody in St. John—and a good many from all over the country, saw what a grand outdoor exhibition the firemen could give. Anyone wanting to see what a grand inside one they can furnish would do well to visit some of the firemen's quarters.

Take No. 1 Fire Company. Their room is a thing of beauty, and is probably destined to be a joy for a long time, if not forever. This room was furnished by means of funds from their tournament in the Singer rink. The beautiful oak chairs and walnut tables, and the fine pictures on the walls, present a combination pleasing to the eye. The pictures represent scenes in the great battles of the English nation, but singularly enough, there are no pictures of battles with what is known in newspaper parlance as "the devouring element." There is one picture, however, whose presence is eminently fitting. That is a handsome portrait of their late brother-fireman, "Joe" Duffell. Mr. David Dearness is the popular foreman of No. 1.

No. 3 company also has beautiful quarters. Here is to be found the handsome room of Mr. Wilson, superintendent of fire alarms. Besides many other curiosities, he has a beautiful cabinet of fireman's badges, one at least from every state in the Union. The rooms that the salvage corps occupy are splendidly furnished, a handsome piano being one of the fittings. The men's bedroom has the only sliding-pole in the city. No wonder No. 3 is generally sharp on time. The days of the firemen's childhood, when they used to slide down the bannisters, are vividly recalled when they slide down to the engine. The batteries for the fire alarms are stored in the upper floor. Mr. Oliver Thompson is the genial foreman.

The other fire-companies in town have good comfortable quarters. When the companies follow the example of No. 1, and get up a tournament, they will be well patronized, for St. John realizes the courage of her fire-defenders, and also the fact that the companies are all composed of jolly good fellows. PROGRESS will describe some of the other rooms before long.

CHARGES NOT ONE-SIDED.

Some Things That Will Make an Investigation of Considerable Interest.

An additional to the article about the hospital in Halifax printed upon the ninth page of PROGRESS this week says that the charges are not all on one side, for it now appears that the superintendent is in trouble on account of some patient whose case is to be brought to the attention of the government. Interesting statements are also before the government regarding the management of the lady superintendent. It is charged that some time before the present difficulty occurred it was known that shortcomings, ficticious or real, were being eagerly watched for by the hospital authorities, and there is talk of conspiracy and that sort of thing. The government will have its hands full to investigate and satisfactorily settle these charges and suspensions, and the counter charges.

The suspension of the house surgeon and nurse was not the first attempt under that unofficial rule. A young lady from St. John's, Nfld., who joined the nurse's staff on the authority of a prominent politician, positively and rightly refused to do the peculiar work demanded of her. Then the lady superintendent suspended her. She refused to leave or even to consider herself suspended and went about her work as if nothing had happened. And nothing has happened. Eventually "nothing will happen" in regard to the others.

AS A LETTER WRITER.

Mr. Percy Lear Contributes a Letter to the Halifax Press.

One of the "features" in a recent issue of the Halifax newspapers, was a letter from Percy J. A. Lear. He sent it to all the newspapers that have come to the desk of PROGRESS, and, presumably, has not slighted any of them except PROGRESS itself, which, however, will reproduce it for the benefit of all concerned.

SIR,—A notice appeared in city newspapers, viz., that the Lear-vs.-Carter case had been discontinued. Such statement, I learn, produced an erroneous impression. The facts shortly are, that I was under the firm conviction, both from information received, and as a result of business transactions with the St. John, N. B., newspaper called PROGRESS that Franklin B. Carter was one of the proprietors, and finding him in this city connected with the sale and distribution of said paper, and on business connected therewith, I at once caused a writ to be issued against him, claiming damages for the "lying" and malicious libels published in former issues, and he was arrested on a capias issued in the suit. When F. B. Carter was examined under oath on the charge of perjury he made against me, he swore he was not a partner or proprietor of the sheet he represented, but was only agent and bookkeeper, though a brother of the real owner, whom he stated on oath was Edward S. Carter. Under these circumstances, inasmuch as the gist of my action was the fact of his joint ownership. I was advised to and did discontinue that suit.

This discontinuance has no effect or relation whatever to the other proceedings I have taken and intend taking, all of which will be carried out to the bitter end.

Yours respectfully,
PERCY J. A. LEAR.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 19th, 1894.

While Mr. Lear's "firm conviction," will probably be tried out when his trial comes on it is worth while noting that it must have been shaken very much before he got the papers out for Mr. Carter's arrest, which was on Friday a day before PROGRESS reached Halifax. How then could he have been connected with the "sale and distribution" of the paper?

Sir John's School Days.

"Yes, I used to go to school in Halifax with Johnny Thompson," said a lady now in St. John, in answer to the reporter's query.

"What kind of a student was he?"

"Well, he never impressed any of us as being very remarkably clever, to tell the the truth," said the lady. "Now, he didn't begin to compare with Wilberforce Longey, who was in the same class, and was considered by all odds the smartest boy in the school. Wilberforce was a lively boy, too."

"Was Sir John at all lively."

"Sir John was very quiet indeed. He was liked pretty well by everybody, especially by the girls, although he was not by any means as popular with them as the coming attorney-general. But the attorney-general was always, even in early youth, a great ladies' man."

"And how about Thompson in that respect—when he went to school, I mean?" asked the reporter.

"He never even looked at us," said the lady, with a smile.

Bargains in Dressing Cases, McArthur's, 90 King street.

Bargains in Fancy Goods, McArthur's, 90 King street.