

elements of all genius! Not there, indeed, to halt, but there ever to commence. What remains to carry on the intellect to mastery? Two steps—to reflect, to produce. Observation, imitation, reflection, reproduction. In these stands a mind complete and consummate, fit to cope with all labor, achieve all success."

A noteworthy essay, in a few words, by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. Observation! Train your eye to look at things critically, until you are able to see them with your inward as well with your outward eye, and do so, if possible, without acquiring the habit of knitting your brow and frowning at those things you think worth looking at. Clear vision, and the memory of sight, have more to do with drawing than you may at first imagine. Those who observe accurately, and can remember, have no difficulty in drawing what they have seen. In my intercourse with men I have been surprised, and often amused, at the want of skill in drawing the simplest objects, and those too which have been seen a thousand times. How many grown up people, of all you know, think you, are able to draw a human face, or a profile of one, that is not shockingly idiotic?

This lack of skill is due more to the want of observation, than to the want of ability to draw what has been clearly seen. Louis Agassiz, the celebrated naturalist, though no artist, has a very happy faculty of reproducing objects on the blackboard. While explaining some phenomenon of animal existence, he will, with a piece of chalk, draw on the blackboard an admirable outline of the object on which he is conversing. So thoroughly are the forms which he has seen, or on which he has thought, fixed in his mind, that he will draw a deer, for instance, by commencing at the tip of the nose, and, proceeding from that point, trace the complete outline of the animal, without once lifting his chalk, till he returns to the point from which he started;—a feat I have never seen accomplished by any artist.

Very lately I wished to have a wheel cast for a new contrivance I was constructing, and I was taken by a machinist through the shop, in which was stored his stock of 'patterns.'

Among hundreds of beautifully finished patterns there was a rough looking cogwheel about a foot in diameter. Instead of being made, like all the others, of a hundred separate pieces, beautifully jointed, and as smooth as glass, it had evidently been hacked out of a solid piece of soft wood with a jackknife. The master smiled as my eye rested on this ill-shapen block. 'Some fool from the country sent that for us to make a casting from it.' 'A man must indeed be senseless to think that a casting could be made from this.' 'But was it not sent,' I suggested, 'because the person could more easily whittle out a cogwheel than draw one?' 'That never occurred to me,' replied the master, 'but I think it very likely.'

## V. Biographical Notices.

(No. 9.)

### 1. THE LATE HON. W. MORRIS.

The subject of this brief notice was born at Paisley, Scotland, on the 31st October, 1786, and was in his 72nd year at the period of his decease.

He emigrated with his parents, who were then in comfortable circumstances, from Scotland to Upper Canada, in 1810. Three years afterwards, his father having settled in this city, was engaged in business; but having lost a homeward-bound ship in the Straits of Belle Isle, and no part of the cargo having been insured, owing to the carelessness of an agent, and having sustained other heavy losses, he was compelled to close his business in Montreal, and retire to a farm near Brockville.

In 1809, his father died, leaving large debts in Montreal and Scotland, and Mr. Morris continued at Brockville with his brother and the younger members of the family, helping to support them by his exertions, till the war of 1812, with the United States, commenced, when he left his business and joined the militia flank companies as an Ensign, having received his commission from Gen. Brock. In October of that year, he volunteered, with Lieut.-Colonel Lethbridge, in the attack of the British forces on Ogdensburg, and commanded the only militia gunboat that sustained any injury, one man having been killed and another wounded at his side by a cannon shot. In 1813, he was present and took an active part in the capture of Ogdensburg, having been detached in command of a party to take possession of the old French forts then at that place, and nobly performed the duty. His comrades in arms, some of whom are still living, speak in high terms of his soldierly bearing, and of the affection with which he inspired his men during the early portion of his career. He continued to serve till 1814, when a large body of troops having arrived in the Colony from the Peninsular, he left the militia service, and returned to Brockville, to assist his brother in the management of their business there.

In 1816, he proceeded with the military and emigrant settlers to the military Settlement near the Rideau, and there commenced mer-

cantile business, at what is now the substantial and prosperous Town of Perth, but which was then a wilderness. He continued for some years to bestow his active attention on the mercantile business conducted at Perth by himself, and at Brockville by his brother, the late Alexander Morris, Esq.; and having prospered, in 1820 an incident took place that marked the character of the man, and was an index to all his future career. In that year, he and his brother received two handsome pieces of plate from the creditors of their late father in Glasgow, for having voluntarily, and without solicitation, paid in full all the debts owing by his estate. Such respect for a father's memory indicated a high-toned rectitude, that could not fail to command success.

In this year, also, the political career of Mr. Morris commenced, he having been elected by the settlers to represent them in the Provincial Parliament. He soon took an active and prominent part in that assembly, and in 1820 took one of the leading steps in his political life, when he moved an address to the King, asserting the claim of the Church of Scotland to share of the Clergy Reserves under the Imperial Statute 31 Geo. III., cap. 31. With no hostility to the Church of England, but yet with a sturdy perseverance and a strong conviction of right, he urged the claims of his Church, basing them upon the Act of Union between England and Scotland. The Colonial Government resisted his pretensions, but sixteen years afterwards, the twelve Judges in England decided in effect that Mr. Morris was right. In 1835 he was elevated for the sixth time consequently to Parliament for the County of Lanark, and on this last occasion was not a candidate. In 1836 he was called to a seat in the Legislative Council of Upper Canada.—In 1837 he proceeded to the Colonial Office, Downing Street, London, with a petition to the King and Parliament from the Scottish inhabitants of both Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, asserting their claims to equal rights with those enjoyed by their fellow-subjects of English origin. He was selected for this mission by a meeting of delegates from all parts of the Province held at Cobourg. Subsequently he received from the Scottish inhabitants of the Province a handsome piece of plate, bearing an appropriate inscription as a token of their appropriation of his public services.

On his return to Canada, in 1837 and 1838, he was actively engaged during those years in drilling and organizing the militia of the County of Lanark, of which he was the senior Colonel, and twice sent to the frontier detachments of several regiments, going in command on one occasion himself. In 1841 he was appointed Warden of the district of Johnstown, under the new Municipal Council Act, and carried the law into successful operation.

In 1844 he was appointed a member of the Executive Council, in Sir Charles Metcalf's Administration, and also Receiver General of the Province. He was a most efficient departmental officer, and proved himself, as Lord Metcalf described him,—"a valuable public servant. While Receiver General, he introduced into that department a new system of management, and paid into the public chest, while he held the office, £11,000 as interest on the daily deposits of public money—an advantage to the public which had never before been attempted.

In 1845 Mr. Morris resigned the office of Receiver General, and was appointed President of the Executive Council, the duties of which office he discharged with great efficiency and vigor. In 1848, on the retirement of the Administration of which he is a member, he retired into private life, with health impaired by the assiduous attention he had given to the public duties. Till the year 1853, when he was seized with the disease which eventually terminated his career, he continued, when his health permitted, to take an active part in the Legislative Council.

A clear, logical, vigorous speaker, he was always listened to with respect, and having a very extensive knowledge of Parliamentary law and practice, he did much to establish the character of legislation in that branch of the Legislature, of which he was long a member, and owing to his high moral character and firm adherence to principle wielded a very beneficial influence on that body. Few public men pass through life, and carry with them more of public confidence than Mr. Morris. He has left a bright example of spotless integrity to us in these times. In private and public life, he has shown himself to be the noblest work of God—an honest man—and now that full of years and honor, he has after five years of patient suffering and Christian resignation entered upon his rest. He has left the fragrant memories of his busy active career, as an example and incentive to men in public and private positions, to follow his footsteps.—*Montreal Gazette.*

### 2. DEATH OF THE MOHAWK CHIEF.

On the 28th ultimo, between the hours of one and two o'clock, a.m., De-yonh-he-gonh, or Jacob Martin, a Mohawk Chief, died of consumption, at his residence in the township of Tuscarora, in the 57th year of his age.

In drawing our pen to pay homage to the illustrious dead, we feel