

ings and Doings of Sam Slick of Slickville—first series. These sayings and doings first appeared in the *Nova Scotian*, ed. by Joseph Howe, in 1835 and 1836.

1838. (a) *The Bubbles of Canada*. A series of letters on Canada and the colonial policy of the home authorities. (Crofton dates this 1838; Morgan, *Bibliotheca Canadensis*, 1839.) (b) *The Clockmaker*. Second series
1839. *The Letter-bag of the Great Western; or, Life on a Steamer*.

This collection of letters gives the Judge a chance to show his deep knowledge of human nature, for each individual passenger exhibits the characteristics of his class in a very clearly defined manner. It will surprise some to hear the land about to be visited, Nova Scotia, sketched off beforehand *à la* Max O'Rell.

1840. *The Clockmaker*. Third series.
1843. *The Attaché; or, Sam Slick in England*. First series.
1844. *The Attaché*. Second series.

There can be very little doubt that our author was here indebted to Dickens, whose "American Notes" had appeared in 1842.

1849. *The Old Judge; or, Life in a Colony*. These sketches first appeared in *Fraser's Magazine* in 1846 and 1847. (Morgan dates this 1843.)
1851. *Rule and Misrule of the English in America*. His third and last historical work. (Morgan dates this also 1843.)
1859. *The Season Ticket*. The notes and observations of a Mr. Shegog, holder of a season ticket on an English railroad.

Two other works of his belonging to the Clockmaker Series are: *Wise Saws and Modern Instances; or, Sam Slick in Search of a Wife*, and its sequel, *Nature and Human Nature*. Crofton gives no dates for these; Morgan gives 1843 and 1855, respectively. Probably the former dates from a year or two later than 1843, else Haliburton's productivity was enormous, and as the latter belongs to the same series, it was probably written, if not published, much earlier than 1855.

Haliburton acted as editor of a number of stories under the title, *Traits of American Humour* (1843, Morgan) and *Americans at Home* (1843, Morgan), sometimes called *Yankee Stories* (1852, Morgan).

The oft-repeated 1843 as dates for Haliburton's works, given by Morgan, seems to me suspicious. Our author had been a busy man up to that date and perhaps his favourite character's push is only a reflex of his own.

Judging from the wood engraving of Haliburton in Crofton's monograph, he was a good natured, fun-loving character, all of which is borne out by a perusal of his works. He gradually grew more and more indisposed to show push in literary or parliamentary affairs and hence it does not surprise us to find that he was no success in Imperial politics. As the Clockmaker was his favourite character, I propose now to give some quotations from the series which will show the general trend of his thought and humour, and which, I believe, will justify his claim to be considered one of our brightest literary stars. (I, II, and III, stands for 1st, 2nd and 3rd series, respectively).

Samuel Slick, a sort of American Sam Weller, was a citizen of Slickville, Onion County, Connecticut, the home of wooden nutmegs and the birthplace of the genuine Yankee. He travels up and down Nova Scotia selling clocks at a profit of 500 per cent. or more (s. I, ch. 2) by a use of "soft sawder" and a knowledge of "human natur'." He likes a good smoke. "The fact is, squire, the moment a man takes to a pipe he becomes a philosopher:—it's the poor man's friend; it calms the mind, soothes the temper and makes a man patient under trouble. It has made more good men, good husbands, kind masters, indulgent fathers, and honest fellers, than any other blessed thing in this univarsal world." (II, ch. 4). He has no patience with prohibitionists and half sympathizes with all the means used to evade the rigid laws of prohibition Maine. "When I liquidate for my dinner, I like to get about the best that's goin', and I ain't a bit too well pleased if I don't," says Sam (I, ch. 18).

Samuel has no very high opinion of the Bluenoses. They are altogether too slow for a cute Yankee like himself, but he would scorn to steal from them as his countryman, "Expected Thorne" tried to do (II, ch. 10). "An American citizen never steals, he only gains the advantage." Both he and "Expected" have the same opinions of the Bluenoses, viz.: "They ain't able to think. They ain't got two ideas to bless themselves with," etc. No wonder that our author was not very popular at home. Politics is the ruination of them all in Nova Scotia. Nick Bradshaw (II, ch. 4), although a very improvident farmer and a very sharp contrast to Squire Horton, who is sketched in the same chapter, is still far in advance of his times, and might be called a precursor of the N.P. believer. He wants a *shilling a bushel bounty for raising potatoes, two and sixpence a bushel for wheat and fifteen pence for oats*. Aylesford, one of the candidates in the election about to take place, has promised all that and a good deal more, and Nick feels quite encouraged, now that there is a prospect of the Legislature doing something, that good times may soon come again. And that's the trouble with the whole country (I, ch. 14). But politics is a bad business, according to Sam. The best member he had ever seen was John Adams, President. "Well, John Adams could no more plough a straight furrow in politics than he could haul the plough himself." (I, ch. 14). The excuses he had to give when asked to explain this were multitudinous. "Politics teaches a man to stoop in the long run." And yet it has some good effect (?) on the candidates. "Nothin' improves a man's manners like an election. A candidate is a most pertikilar polite man, a noddin' here and a-bowin' there, and a-shakin' hands all round." (I, ch. 15). Sam calls an election, "The dancing master's abroad." The humorist has good sound sense in regard to the subject. He speaks (II, ch. 3) of the difficulty there is in picking out a good horse or a good nigger and asks; "If it takes so much knowledge to choose a horse, or choose a nigger, what must it take to choose a member?" Did Sam foresee some latter-day developments? He gives Mr. Buck, the member-elect for the township of Flats, some very practical advice about how to succeed: "Raise a prejudice if you can, and then make everything a church question." (II, ch. 3). The rest of the chapter is crammed full of such practical (?) advice. Our author makes a strong plea for Im-

perial Federation, advises England to keep the colonies but bind them closer to her, (II, ch. 21.) He wants the different provinces bound together by a railroad and that full fifty years before the C.P.R. He advocates a canal from St. Johns to the Bay of Verte, and a railroad from Halifax to the Bay of Fundy. Numerous quotations might be given to show that the author is a thorough student of human nature and not only knows the weaknesses of politicians but that he is gifted with great political foresight in the best sense of the term. Nowhere, however, does he hit the claspnet cries off harder than when he speaks of the loyalty or patriotic cry (III, ch. 21). "Patriotism is infarnal hungry and as savage as old Scratch if it ain't fed. If you want to tame it, you must treat it as Van Amburg does his lions, keep its belly full."

Haliburton is in favor of slavery (II, ch. 7), and makes out as strong a case as possible for that side. He contends it is far better than white slavery, i. e. the farming out of paupers (I, ch. 27).

In religion he favors an established church and prophesies that the Catholic church will in time be the established church of the Republic. His favorite pastor is Mr. Hopewell who belongs to the church "whose ministry is composed of gentlemen." He favors a regular stipend instead of voluntary contributions (II, ch. 2). There would then be no temptation to popular preaching. Ahab Meldrum is the opposite pole to Mr. Hopewell and is painted in very black colors (II, ch. 2, and III, ch. 14). Haliburton has no sympathy with what he calls *preachin' to the naves*.

Nor is our author less severe on Lawyers and courts. His experience as judge had given him abundant opportunity to make observations. Justice Pettifogg (I, ch. 5) is a case in point.

Education was of course at this time in a backward state in Nova Scotia and many were the examples of heads turned by the merest smattering of learning. Arabella Green (II, ch. 8) is one case. Samuel is at the "let off" when Arabella gets home from five quarters' schooling in Halifax and plays the stupid generally in not understanding or in not seeing the young lady's perfections. At the end of the chapter, the father who is not in sympathy with the mother on this point, asks for advice and gets something very pointed on how to bring up a farmer's daughter to be a good housekeeper and good wife instead of wasting time and money on tinsel accomplishments. "A good darter and a good housekeeper is plaguy apt to make a good wife and a good mother." In general he wants all to keep in their "proper element. Everything thrives better in its own element."

Although Samuel had such a poor opinion of the Nova Scotians, he had by no means a like opinion of their country. It was the prettiest State in North America, St. Johns, would become the next city after New York, there was everything at hand that one could desire. Canada was better than the United States and a federation of the whole was the only thing lacking (II, ch. 21).

The American who exclaimed "what a tarnel waste of water power!" when he saw Niagara Falls for the first time must have been a plagiarist of Samuel's, for in II, ch. 18 he descants upon the water power of the Falls and wishes that some "jint" stock company would take hold of it for factory purposes. Poor "minister," Mr. Hopewell, was very much shocked at this