

and we wish to announce that our next issue will contain the initial chapter of a serial school story, written by a frequent contributor to these columns. We may also state that our next number will give a full account of the At Home. The notice referred to was for the benefit of the new boys especially.

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### OBITUARY.

An old friend of U.C.C. passed away January 17th in the person of Mrs. Robinson, wife of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, whose face has been so long familiar to the boys, and to whom we are indebted for so many holidays in the past.

Mrs. Robinson was ever a true friend to the boys of U.C.C., and on every possible occasion she gave proofs of her strong interest in them. Last Games day, for instance, she presented them with a portrait of Mr. Robinson.

Out of respect to her memory, classes were dismissed at noon on the day of the funeral, and the College flag was hung at half-mast.

We are deeply conscious of the great worth of the departed, and desire to extend to Mr. Robinson our heart-felt sympathy for his great bereavement.

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### THE EARLY DAYS OF UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

THE COLLEGE JANITORS—OLD SAM AND YOUNG DAVY ALDERDICE.

#### *Fourth Paper.*

The janitor of a college in Canada or the United States has very much the same duties to perform as a beadle in one of the larger establishments in England has, and is usually well known and popular among the students.

Since Upper Canada College was founded, away back in '29, there have been but three janitors in connection with it. These three are Sam Alderdice with his son David, and J. A. Frost. With the last named this paper has nothing to do, as he is too well known to us all to need mention in these columns. We might

say, though, that he has remained with the college since 1867, and in fact has been here longer than any of the masters.

Old Samuel Alderdice was, in his way, a celebrity. He was respected by the masters and honoured by the boys, and had grown up, as it were, with the school. He was with it when it was conducted in the old Blue School, and he remained with it for years after its removal to the King street building.

Alderdice was an Irishman, and had been born at Armagh in 1774. His father was a joiner, and after Sam had left school he became, in time, a full-fledged mechanic, who could hold his own easily with any other in the neighbourhood. After living the best part of his life in Ireland, he resolved to emigrate to America and try his luck there. He arrived at Quebec late in the summer of 1822, after a rather rough voyage of six weeks' duration. He brought over with him his whole family—a wife and four children—and, although nearly fifty years of age, he stepped ashore with bright hopes for the future. The family lived at Montreal for some years. Alderdice began life in Canada as a janitor in the old Blue School, which has been frequently referred to already in these papers, and was the janitor who, together with some of the masters, went into the new building when it was completed in 1829.

A slight description of him might not be amiss. He was of medium build; not large, but broad-shouldered and long-armed. His countenance betokened his good nature; his voice was sharp, but not harsh. His style of dress did not change with the fashion: a long, frock coat, a vest to match, a pair of grey trousers and a high, old-fashioned silk hat were the chief items in his outfit.

Alderdice did not bring his family down to the college when it first opened on Russell square, but, in 1832, when a frame house was put up for him in the west end of the grounds, he changed his residence from the old Nelson street grounds to there. Shortly after 1845 he began to feel the effects of his long and faithful service. David, his youngest son, had long helped him with the firewood and the sweeping. At last, in the autumn of 1849, he died, and was buried in St. James' cemetery. A stone was erected to his