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TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

The Late Charles Durand's Reminiscences Revived—His Brother at Kingston, not his Father, Called "Jimmy" Durand—Peter Des Jardin—The Des Jardin Canal R. R. Bridge Accident—Gold Hunting in Upper Canada—The Late George Gurnett—Dr. Rolph Prominent in Upper Canada—What Col. Talbot's Brother, an Irishman, said in His Book—Sir Allan McNab and Family.

The "Jimmy" Durand I mentioned in my last sketch was a brother of "Charley" Durand, not his father, as I stated, although his father was conspicuous in his day and a member of the Upper Canada Legislature, representing the Counties of Wentworth and Halton. James or "Jimmy" Durand lived in Kingston and was a conspicuous man in that city. I used to hear the Smiley boys, who started the Hamilton Spectator, who came from Kingston, talk frequently of "Jimmy" Durand, and supposed he must have been a good deal of a character, like his brother.

I think Mr. Charles Durand must have been a good deal mistaken about the size of his father's farm if it extended from the brow of the mountain, in Hamilton, to the north side of King street, and from James street on the west side to Wellington street on the east. Surely that extent of territory was much more than one hundred acres; I should say several hundred acres. It included the court house square and the "Gore" on King street.

In coming from Norfolk County to take possession of this farm, they came down the mountain over a trail when his father's first wife lost her life by being thrown out of a two-wheel currie, over the rocks. This was said to be the first accident of the kind that occurred there. People can little imagine the danger that travel on that mountain was inclined to in its native state. I have, however, myself seen the boys of Hamilton fly down it on sleds on the John street road in winter time, "belly-gutter" when the sleighing was good. The Dr. William Case that Mr. Durand mentions in connection with this sad accident, I well remember, and I think was once employed in our family. Dr. Case was a venerable man when Mr. Durand wrote, but his father was a doctor in Hamilton before him, and attended his father's wife when the mountain accident occurred that brought on her death.

Mr. Durand calls to recollection the name of a man who was at one time conspicuous in Dundas—a Frenchman named Peter Des Jardin, the father of the Des Jardin Canal, extending from Burlington Bay to Dundas. This gentleman was in the employ of Mr. Durand's father as assistant in his Norfolk store. He accompanied the Durand family from Norfolk to Hamilton and was in the party when the accident here related occurred. There was a railroad bridge built over this canal when the Great Western Railroad was built, and there is one there now. It gave way under a train from Toronto one night in 1856 and precipitated many people into the ice-covered canal below, and killed them. I intended to be a passenger on that train that evening, but fortunately for me, I was not ready when the hour of departure (about seven o'clock) arrived. I viewed the wreck, however, next morning. Among the dead were Mr. Zimmerman, the contractor for that section of the road; Mr. Donald Stewart, merchant of Hamilton, and Mr. Hugh McSloy, merchant, of St. Catharines.

I never knew there was at one time gold-hunting in that locality, but Mr. Durand says his father and elder brother went hunting for gold in the mountains of Flamboro and Esquesing. But there was a craze of that kind all over Upper Canada as there

is generally over all new countries with mountains. The time was from 1816 to 1820.

I am surprised to learn from Mr. Durand's book that one of Toronto's ex-mayors and police magistrates that I knew well, once resided at Ancaster, an old village now delapidated, and situated seven miles south-west of Hamilton. That was Mr. George Gurnett. He also published a newspaper there called "The Gore Gazette," which he removed to Toronto and published here as a family compact paper for some years, as "The Courier," and advocating Conservative principles. He was mayor of Toronto when the Baldwin Administration passed the anti-party processions act, about 1844. The Orangemen of Toronto were bound to have their parade on the 12th of July, act or no act, and Mr. Gurnett tried to stop them; but they showed their respect for the representative of the law by overturning him in a ditch. The law, however, was observed by the more respectable of the followers of King William, and only the tag-rag-and-bob-tail insisted on "walking." Old citizens will remember what had felt many Orangemen used to have in those days, howsoever they got them. As Mr. Gurnett was an Englishman, however, he was "trooly-loil." Years ago I knew two of "Cady" Gurnett's nephews in Oakland, California, where they were prominent in business, and one of them was quite a representative man. Mr. Durand did not have a very good opinion of Mr. Gurnett, because he was too subservient to the "Compact" people.

Mr. Durand's father was the most important early settler in Hamilton. He was the first merchant, the first distiller, the first captain of militia, the first newspaper publisher, and a member of the Upper Canada Legislature for the united counties of Wentworth and Halton. He was also the first registrar of lands.

In 1828 Mr. Charles Durand went to school in Dundas to a teacher named McMahon, a Dublin scholar brought out to Canada by four Canadian gentlemen—his father, Mr. Emanuel Overfield, Mr. Cable Hopkins and Mr. Nelles of Grimsby. He was a very capable teacher and a Greek and Latin scholar. Of these four gentlemen the present writer has a good recollection of one, Mr. Caleb Hopkins, who lived across the bay from Hamilton in Halton county. He was the man whom the "Calebiters" or "Clear Grits," were first called after. I think he was a farmer. When John Wettenhall, a Liberal, representing Halton, was taken into the Cabinet by Mr. Baldwin and when up for re-election he was opposed by Mr. Caleb Hopkins and defeated. This was really the beginning of the "Grit" party, which Mr. George Brown strenuously opposed and ridiculed in its infancy; but subsequently became its leader himself.

Mr. Durand and his father boarded a short time with the family of Mr. McMahon. He was the father of the present Judge McMahon, of County Judge McMahon, and Dr. McMahon of Dundas. After going to Mr. McMahon's school for a year or two with his brothers, Mr. Durand went to a school in Hamilton kept by a Mr. Stephenson Randall, a very odd but gifted young man from Quebec, who had been sent up as a protegee of Bishop Mountain, the Protestant Bishop.

John Law is a famous name in American and European history. Hamilton had a John Law in those early days, who taught school too, and Mr. Durand was for a time one of his pupils. I knew his sons, Robert and James, in my young boyhood days, and well remember their residence on Main street, a little west of Hugon street. Mr. Durand studied law close to the same spot with a Mr.

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Robert Berric, a Scotch lawyer, who was also clerk of the peace for Wentworth and Halton; and, if I am not mistaken, his office was on Hugon street, in the same brick house in which was situated afterwards the law offices of Hugh B. Wilson, George S. Tiffany, and John Sheridan Hogan, all famous men in their day. In the basement of the same house resided Col. Brown, Hamilton's famous colored man and bell-ringer in the forties. I remember well witnessing this colored man's interview with Lord Metcalfe, when he held a reception at Berric's Hotel, on the occasion of his visit to Hamilton in 1843. There was another Governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland, who visited Hamilton as early as 1825. It was for that era in Canada a great affair. He was one of Wellington's Waterloo colonels, and was succeeded in 1828 by Sir John Colborne, another Waterloo hero. Maitland was opposed to the work and agitation of the McKenzie of that day, Robert Gourlay, who was also bitterly antagonized by all the "Family Compact," composed of the Robinsons, Strachans, Allans, Smalls, Ridouts, Powells, Cruickshanks, Campbells, Jarvises, Gambells, etc.

Dr. John Rolph was somewhat prominent in those days, residing at different times in the Talbot settlement in Norfolk County, in Dundas, and subsequently in Toronto. He had a brother too, who resided in Ancaster and Dundas at different times. A brother of Mr. Durand married a sister of his, Miss Maria, in Dundas. Marshall S. Bidwell, the most able man connected with the rebellion of 1837, was a fast friend of Dr. Rolph; but he went to New York state, whence he came, before proceedings could be taken against him. Dr. Rolph regretted the part he himself took in the rebellion, but Mr. Durand says if he had put his foot on the incipient movements, the rebellion would not have taken place. At any rate the great doctor was an uncertain quantity and in the legislature of United Canada before confederation, John Sheridan Hogan, when parliamentary correspondent of the "Daily Colonist," used to describe him as "Old Dissolving Views."

A brother of Col. Talbot, an Irishman, published a work in early days about Canada, in which he asserted that "the flowers of Canada had no fragrance, the birds no song, and the women no virtue." This must be an old slander, because I remember the same used to be asserted about California in later years.

In the year 1827 Francis Collins, an Irishman and an accomplished journalist and parliamentary reporter, published a paper in Toronto named the "Canadian Freeman." For rather too freely discussing the conduct of the official aristocracy of York and their narrow, bigoted views as to emigration, speaking of John Beverley Robinson, then Attorney-General of Upper Canada, used the term "his native malignity." It was called a criminal libel for which Mr. Robinson had him indicted and tried, and the Court fined him £50. At the time the current price of money. In addition he was sentenced to imprisonment for one year. Mr. Collins was defended by Mr. R. B. Sullivan, who was brought from London, Ont., for the purpose. The severity caused

a great sensation and a clamor arose against the Attorney-General that was not soon subdued, and most people thought it was good proof of the "native malignity" of the man. Collins laid in jail and defied the "malignity" of Mr. Sullivan and got up a petition in favor of his client and showed such interest in his behalf that the people sent him a requisition to return to Toronto and make his future home there as they needed so able and eloquent a man "to fight the Compact."

In his description of York in 1831, Mr. Durand says of the churches then in Toronto: "There was an old Kirk of Scotland church almost opposite the Cathedral (St. James), and there was a little rural church near where Knox's church now stands. There was a brick Methodist church on the corner of Toronto and Adelaide streets. Those two churches disappeared long ago and Knox's church is now gone. There was a small wooden church on Jarvis street near Richmond in which the Congregationalists worshipped. 'No Roman Catholic church of any size (if any at all) existed.' St. Paul's was built in 1826, a good sized brick edifice, and of course existed. But Mr. Durand overlooked it, I suppose, as it was not in the centre of the city, like the others."

Mr. Durand describes the newspapers of that day as follows: "The papers in York were the 'Courier,' a leading Tory, once owned by George Gurnett; the 'Observer,' owned by Mr. Carey, a well-known independent, but odd writer; the 'Freeman,' by Francis Collins, who had offended John Beverley Robinson's 'native malignity'; W. L. Mackenzie's 'Advocate,' a most spicy political critic against the Family Compact; the 'Colonist,' edited by a bullying bigoted Scotch Tory named Scobie, who was like George Gurnett, and the 'Patriot,' bitter against the poor patriot prisoners. It was a large paper and ably conducted. In fact, the talent in papers was with the Tories, and in that day York had many." "Mr. Dalton published a paper called the 'Patriot'—continued in the 'Leader'—in very modern times. He was the father of the late R. G. Dalton, Master in Chambers at Osgoode Hall, one of the fairest, most learned and most useful lawyers in Toronto, whose death I, and all lawyers, regretted a few years ago. I am not certain but that Mr. Fothergill published a paper, the Palladium. The 'Christian Guardian,' a religious paper, was in existence and most ably conducted." I believe there were one or two papers omitted from this list, but I am not prepared to mention them now, as I am not certain of their dates. Mr. Durand mentions an editor, an Irishman named Johnson, who published a paper named the 'Western Mercury' and died of the cholera in 1832. He came to the country in 1831, when quite a number of educated Irishmen came out, such as the Blakes, Crovns and Killas, and settled near London. Mr. Durand does not mention where Mr. Johnson published the 'Western Mercury,' but I presume it was in London.

The cholera followed the course of immigration everywhere in 1832, and the poor immigrants suffered death very largely. It was said to have been fatal to one in twenty in Toronto.

Mr. Durand joined a revivalist church and some of the Hamilton people, he says, ridiculed the idea. He names some of them, nearly every one of whom I knew in the forties. They were "Edward Jackson," he says, "a worldly business man." He kept a tin-shop on King street east, and was an American, and during my time was considered pious. "John Winer, a good-natured, easy-going, worldly man." John Winer was a manufacturing druggist and an American. His first occupation was said to be that of blacksmith in Rochester, N.Y. He raised a large family, mostly girls, some of whom married Catholic gentlemen. His son William was the doctor of the Mulligan Irish Brigade of Chicago, in the war of secession. He married the youngest daughter of Mrs. and Dr. King of Toronto a Catholic. Both are long since dead. The Mr. Daley referred to was once a neighbor of mine. He was known as "Billy" Daley, an Irish hotel-keeper, up King

JUBILEE PRESENTATION TO REV. FATHER CONWAY

Popular Parish Priest, of Norwood, Honored Upon the Occasion of His Golden Jubilee—Presentation Was Made in the Parlor of St. Peter's Rectory, by Rev. Father Murray, of Cobourg, at Close of Retreat for Priests of the Diocese.

At the close of the retreat for the priests of the Diocese of Peterborough, Rev. Father Conway, the venerable and highly esteemed pastor of St. Paul's, Norwood, was invited to the parlor of St. Peter's rectory, where His Lordship, Bishop O'Connor, and the priests of the diocese were assembled, and there presented with several valuable gifts by his Lordship and brother priests. The presentation consisted of two rich copes with veils to match, two costly chasubles, one in gold and the other in red silk velvet, a handsome missal and stand, a complete set of highly finished candelabra and a chime of altar bells.

The special present of His Lordship was a magnificent set of lamps, for the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

This beautiful display of rich and valuable altar goods artistically arranged on tables, on one side of the parlor, presented a very attractive appearance, and sufficient to quite unnerve the otherwise stout heart of the venerable patriarch of Norwood. Father Murray, P.P., of Cobourg, was chosen to make the presentation and he did it, with his accustomed easy, graceful, touching style, which lends force and conviction to every word he utters.

He could not, he said, go back to Father Conway's early days as a priest, and speak, from personal observation of a career so loudly praised by older men, but he would speak of Father Conway, as he knew him, since his coming to Peterborough diocese some twenty-five years ago. He then recited his many labours, in the service of the Divine Master from the days of the Sacred and beloved Bishop Jamot, down to the present time, his unceasing devotion to duty, his kind, warm Irish heart, and the genial hospitality for which his

street west, near the residence of Hon. Samuel Mills. "The two Clarks," who were Yankees of a pronounced type. One was a cabinet-maker, the other a tailor. The cabinetmaker was called "Lignum-vitae Clark" and "Hickory Clark," he was so hard and tough in business matters. "Alexander Carpenter, who kept a tin-shop on John street, near King William street." He, too, was an American. Mr. Durand calls him a foundryman, which is a mistake. About the year 1845 or 1844, however, he started a small foundry in the old "Journal and Express" building, on John street, a little north of King William street, and brought over two young moulders from New York state to run it for him. He had an Irishman named John Kenny to break the pig iron and do the laboring work. Those two young men were the Gurneys, who since become so famous in the industrial world, and died millionaires. "Mr. Burley, the innkeeper, and George Carey, the innkeeper." I did not know only by reputation, because they were before my time. "Mr. Sheldon, near Hamilton." He was an American, too, and a rather worldly man. He sold his farm near Hamilton, and moved into the town. "The Case family; among them Horace, now dead; Doctor William Case, now so old, near 100." I knew them; Horace Case was an architect, and Dr. Case lived up King street west. I remember having occasion to call on him several times. They, too, were an American family. The Hamilton family; Mr. John Law, Stephen Randall, Sheriff Jarvis, all dead." Mr. Law's office, I well remember. Stephen Randall I have no recollection of, but I know he was in Hamilton in my day. I have no recollection of a Sheriff Jarvis being in Hamilton. "I forgot Andrew Miller and Andrew Mellroy." Andrew Mellroy was the only Irishman in the lot. He kept teams and did contracting. "These," he says, "were some of them that knew me, and yet another well-known worldly man, Allan N. McNab, always then and ever so, to my knowledge, scoffing at religion." Sir Allan was nominally a member of the Church of England, but his good wife was a devout Catholic, and was always present at mass with her sister and daughters, in the little, old roughcast church, that preceded the present St. Mary's Cathedral, when old Vicar-General Macdonell was the parish priest; and Sir Allan himself became a convert to the true faith on his dying bed, and was attended, I think, by the late Bishop O'Farrell.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

home was ever noted. He bore testimony of Father Conway's sterling worth, as a man and as a priest, every word of which found a responsive echo in the hearts of the bishop and priests assembled, by whom the reverend father is held in the highest esteem, not alone for his long years of faithful service in the ministry, but also for that uniform kindness and consideration which marks his intercourse with others. The address of Father Murray, though entirely impromptu, was a polished piece of literary diction. Father Conway was visibly affected as well by the elaborate display of vestments, as the kind and feeling words with which they were presented, and some moments of utter silence elapsed, before he could give expression to the fullness of his heart.

He thanked his brother priests for their kind remembrance of him, on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee, and very modestly disclaimed any right to the many flattering things said of him, by his tried and trusted friend, Father Murray. He had only done his simple and plain duty as a priest, and it had pleased Almighty God to bless his feeble efforts. He referred most touchingly to his dear departed friend Bishop Jamot, with whom he had worked side by side for so many years, and to whose fatherly advice he owed much of his early success in this diocese and that of Toronto. For the priests of Toronto diocese, most of whom had seat their congratulations, accompanied by suitable tokens of regard, he had only words of the highest praise. For his Lordship, Bishop O'Connor, he could not find words fitting to express his thanks. He had always found in him a true and faithful friend, a prudent and kind father, whose cheering words of congratulation he appreciated beyond gold or silver. Referring to Father Murray's remarks regarding his spirit of hospitality, he said, that his heart and home would ever remain the same, and that a "Caed mille fallit" always awaited his friends and associates both past and present. At the close, his Lordship Bishop O'Connor, addressed a few words of congratulation to Father Conway, thanked him for his many years of faithful service in the good work of the diocese, humorously referred to many pleasing incidents in Father Conway's early life, and prayed that God might prolong his days of usefulness, and grant him the happiness of celebrating his Diamond Jubilee, either here in the land of his adoption, or among the friends of his youth, in the Green Isle beyond the sea.

Death of Sister Johanna Kelly

A conspicuous figure in the ranks of the Community of Grey Nuns, Ottawa, has passed away in the person of Sister Johanna Kelly, who died at the Mother Home, Aug. 21st, after a very brief illness. The deceased Sister was born in the city of Cork, Ireland, in 1840. As a student with the Community in which she died she made her mark particularly as a mathematician. She entered in 1858 and during her time in the Order was noted for her enthusiasm in her work. Ogdensburg, Buffalo, Plattsburg and Avimer were in early days the scene of her labors. The last years of her life were passed as superintendent of the education of the orphan children of St. Patrick's Home, Ottawa, and many men and women, once children under her charge, now testify to her zeal in their behalf. At the funeral His Grace the Archbishop of Ottawa presided. Thomas and Frank Grimes, Ottawa, and John Grimes, Toronto, are nephews of the deceased "Sister, R.I.P."

New Catholic Orphan's Home for Montreal

A new home for orphans, as an addition to the present St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum, is to be built in Montreal at a cost of \$150,000. An addition is also to be built to St. Bridget's Home, Dorchester street, at a cost of \$55,000.

Priest Reported Robbed

Rev. Benedict Rosinski of St. Stanislas Church, Cleveland, on entering a house on a sick call, is said to have been robbed of \$1,000 in cash and two cheques for \$500 each. The story is doubtful.

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