

PROGRESS.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 24 1899.

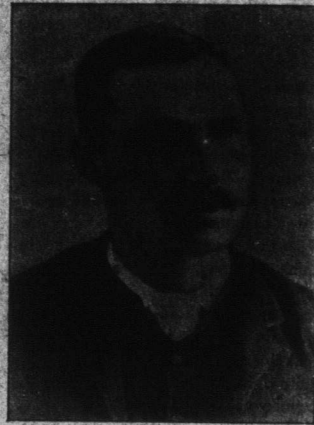
PRICE FIVE CENTS

A HANDSOME FAREWELL.

THE FRIENDS OF MR. R. J. WILKINS WISH HIM HAPPINESS.

As he Departs From the Banks of the Michael, Present Him and His Wife With a Handsome Farewell and Tell How He Will Be Remembered.

It is not often that so popular a bachelor leaves the ranks as Robert J. Wilkins and his departure from them this week was made the occasion of a pleasant gathering in the City Royal when about sixty of Mr. Wilkins' friends sat at the festive board



ROBERT J. WILKINS.

with him and recounted many of the happy times they had spent together and gave him plenty of advice for the future. There were scores of his friends who were not notified because it seemed to be impossible in the short time permitted the committee to think of all who would have been pleased to be there and it had been possible there is no banquet hall in the city that would have held the crowd.

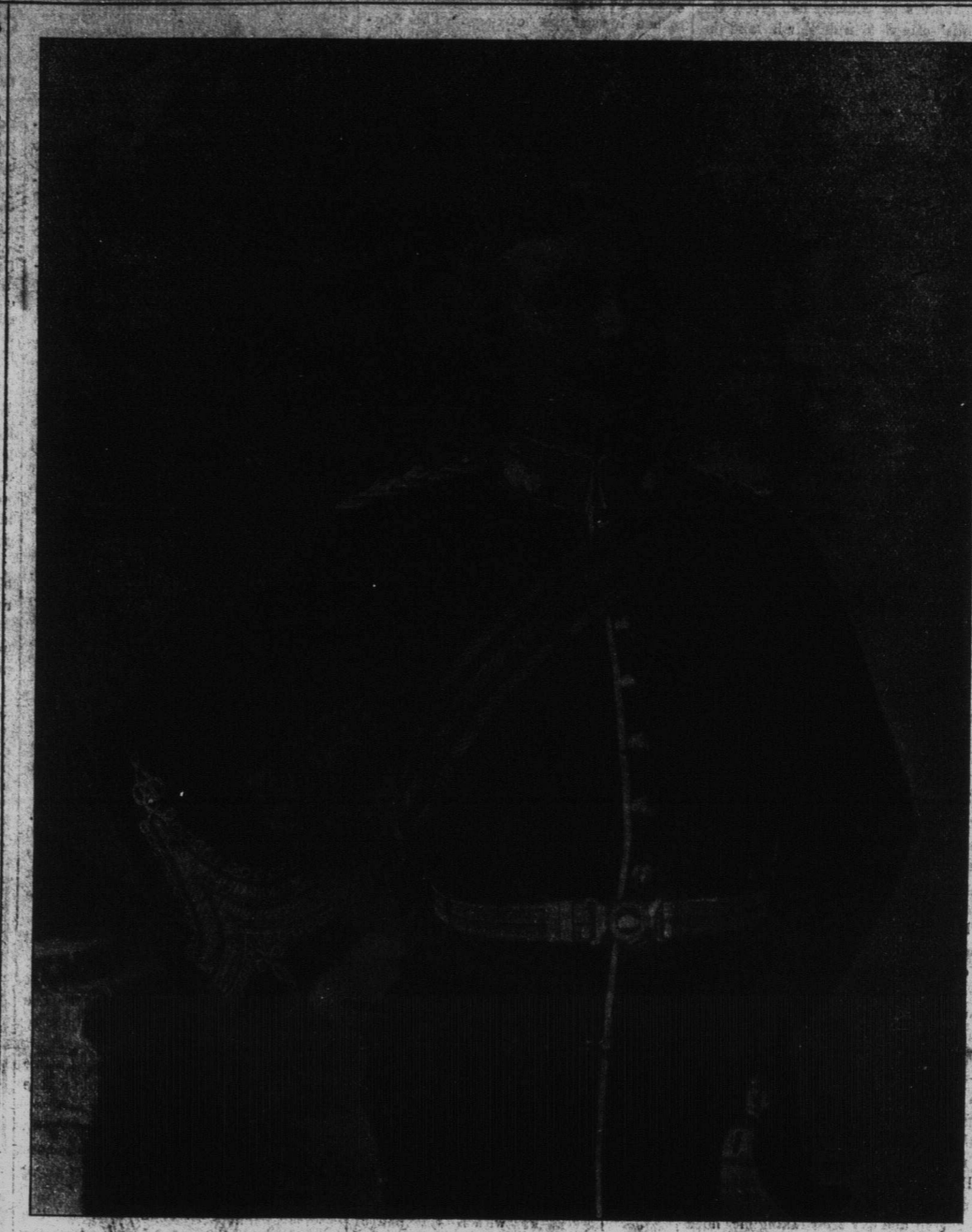
As it was when Ald. John McGoldrick took the chair with Mr. Wilkins on his right the long tables in Mr. Clark's restaurant were filled. Ald. White was in the vice-chair and Deputy Mayor Macrae presided over the second table.

After some light refreshments had been disposed of Chairman McGoldrick made a happy speech proposing the health of the guest of the evening, Mr. Wilkins, and presented him and his future bride with a very handsome parlour set as the contribution of a few of their friends towards their new home. The alderman proposed the toast in admirable form and Mr. Wilkins' response was brief but clever. Then the cheers that were given were not in any way half hearted and the song, "For he's a jolly good fellow" added to the tributes that was flattering to a man even so popular as "Bob."

Then the list of social toasts began and Mr. John Walsh was the first man to bear the brunt. He did not know what Dr. White meant when he began to speak of the successes of married life but he had a fairly good idea when reference was made to the man whose house was painted a bright green during his absence on the morning of the 12th of July by the workmen of Mr. Wilkins, whose guest he was in Sussex. His youthful heir came in for recognition in connection with the toast and by special request Mr. Walsh told the story of how the practical joke of the groom had alienated for a time the affections of his orange friends.

The song of Jack Powers that followed was altogether in keeping with the occasion and rendered as only he can.

The city fathers, of which body Mr. Wilkins was a former member, brought in deputy mayor to his feet and in a witty and laughable speech he pictured the past successes and future triumph of the prospective groom whose proverbial good nature carried him through the jests of his friends. The "Private Stih" of "Danny" Dins proved as popular as ever and Messrs Finn, Morrison, Burke and Hatheway found occasion to make many felicitous remarks in a reminiscent vein, respecting the groom when responding to "Our Mercantile Interests." The happy knack of making appropriate remarks in a pleasant way is possessed by Mr. Finn whose after dinner speeches are always enjoyed by those who hear them. Mr. Wm. Walsh talked about his old time friendship with the groom of the evening and sang about "Silver Balls" the chorus of which was well known to the party. Then "The boys of St. John" followed and with a lot of names were mentioned in connection



LIEUT. COL. H. H. McLEAN.

Lieut. Col. McLean sails this week for England as commander of the Biely team. This is not the first time that the hockey has fallen to a St. John man but to no one before more popular in military circles.

Lieut. Col. Hugh H. McLean was born at Fredericton, N. B., on March 22, 1854, and educated there. Lieut. Col. McLean is a barrister-at law and has practised his profession since 1875, when he was called to the bar. He commenced his military career in 1870, when he joined the 71st Bata. as a Bugler. After passing through the various ranks of corporal, sergeant, etc., he was appointed ensign in the same battalion. In 1875, on removing to St. John, he was gazetted ensign in the 62nd Bata. "St. John Fusiliers"; promoted Captain May 6, 1876; appointed adjutant January 19, 1877; promoted major October 2, 1885; and Lieutenant-colonel commanding September 2, 1897. In 1878, when a war with Russia was imminent Capt. McLean raised a company of 100 men for active service in the field and forwarded his application to the Imperial Government. As the war did not take place, the Imperial authorities declined the offer with thanks, conveyed through the militia Department. At the time of the Northwest Rebellion, 1885, a provisional battalion of 14 companies was raised in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for service in the Northwest. Capt. McLean was appointed adjutant of this battalion. Unfortunately for Col. McLean, the battalion was stopped at Sussex, returned home and disbanded, owing to the suppression of the Rebellion.

with the toast, Messrs. Hunter, Dawson and Powers were the principal talkers. Mr. Hunter sang a song too which was as funny as it was original. B. C. John Dunn's speech was full of conditional promises that he would follow in the footsteps of "Bob" when June resolved us again. The entertaining feature of the evening was the song of "Jim" Lambkin who became acquainted for the first time with many of those present. He can talk and sing and made an impression that will ensure him a great welcome at any gathering in St. John.

There was a talk from the mayor who arrived about this stage and Messrs McKelvie and Kelly and others contributed to the speakers of the evening. Then the Chairman, in speaking of absent friends, paid a glowing tribute to an associate upon the committee, Mr. W. A. Quistco to whom in a large sense the success of the gathering was due.

"And Lang Syne" was the finishing touch of the social affair which was pleasant in every way. Few men get so spontaneous a send off as Mr. Wilkins enjoyed. A great practical joker himself he must have appreciated an effort in the same direction on the day of his marriage. When he went to the issuer of marriage licenses to get the necessary permit he was gravely informed that there was a large petition there praying that no permission be given him to dissent the ranks of bachelors; as he was not responsible for his actions!

An account of his marriage appears in

the social column and the only omission in it is that the groom sustained his proverbial reputation and was twenty minutes late.

Among those who were present and invited to be present at the Cafe Royal to honor Mr. Wilkins were the following gentlemen:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Ald. McGoldrick, | Andy Hunter, |
| J. McCleary, | E. Wagon, |
| Jan. Kelly, | John Kelly, |
| Wm. Clark, | J. Killean, |
| Chas. Jackson, | John Walsh, |
| Wm. Colker, | Bruce Caldwell, |
| John Connor, | Mayor Best, |
| Captain Ferris, | N. Cameron, |
| Deve McGarry, | D. Boyle, |
| T. Woodrow, | R. Ash, |
| Wm. Doherty, | Frank Foster, |
| Ald. Colwell, | Ald. Wain, |
| Ald. Allan, | Ald. Mann, |
| M. A. Finn, | D. Day, |
| W. McQuade, | H. McKown, |
| J. Lowry, | John F. Morrison, |
| T. Cronin, | D. C. Quinn, |
| R. LeBel Willis, | W. A. Quinn, |
| John Collins, | E. S. Curtis, |
| T. O'Leary, | Wm. Knox, |
| T. Fred Powers, | Chas. Galtier, |
| Harry Hopper, | Alfred Debris, |
| R. S. Jackson, | W. C. Godeau, |
| Gilbert Tracy, | D. W. McQuade, |
| Edw. A. T. Deane, | W. F. Harrison, |
| T. C. Godeau, | John Allen, |
| Wm. Wallace, | John W. Watson, |
| Chas. Troop, | J. B. Lambkin, |
| R. C. J. Dunn, | W. B. Quinn, |
| E. Trivie, | A. J. St. John, |
| Thos. Gilliland, | W. H. Hatheway, |
| Thos. Bell, | R. L. Johnson, |
| Dr. W. St. John, | Mr. Ferguson, |
| John Barry, | John J. Armstrong, |
| | Chas. Notman. |

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TURNT TABLES ON HIM.

MRS. DR. CURRIE WIFE OF A FORMER FREDERICTON DENTIST.

Applies for a Divorce in Boston and Gets It. While Her Husband has had an Application Before the Fredericton Court, Which She Defended Years Ago.

BOSTON, May 22.—An event happened in Cambridge this week that will be a great surprise to many people in Fredericton and St. John and that forms the culmination to quite a story of marital unhappiness. In the superior court of Middlesex county sitting at East Cambridge Mrs. Willard A. Currie brought proceedings for divorce from her husband on the ground of desertion and the case being uncontested the divorce was granted, the case requiring only a few moments for the judge to dispose of.

It will be remembered that a year or two ago Dr. Willard A. Currie, a dentist, formerly of Fredericton, brought suit for divorce from his wife in the divorce court of New Brunswick on the ground of adultery. Mrs. Currie contested the case and there was a long continued fight and very damaging evidence was produced on both sides. W. Vanwart was counsel for Dr. Currie and Geo. F. Gregory appeared for Mrs. Currie and both were engaged at great expense taking depositions in Boston.

It appeared that four or five years ago Dr. Currie left his wife and went to Fredericton Mrs. Currie was unable for some time to ascertain his whereabouts but finally she located him in Fredericton. Then the doctor instituted proceedings for divorce as stated and at present the case still hangs. The court in Fredericton however awarded Mrs. Currie alimony of \$5 per week.

Dr. Currie has since removed from Fredericton to Cambridge where he is practising his profession and resides with his brother Dr. John Z. Currie, a doctor, also at one time practising in Fredericton.

Last February Mrs. Currie rather turned the tables on her husband bringing proceedings for divorce on milder grounds than in the counter case, viz., desertion. She engaged as her counsel Messrs. Eston & McKnight's young firm of lawyers recently graduated from the Harvard Law School. Mr. McKnight formerly studied with Currey & Vincent of St. John and is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick. Mr. Eaton is a Truro man. The firm has worked up a large practise and are meeting with much success.

They managed to conduct the case with considerable secrecy and the counsel in Fredericton gained no inkling of what was going on. It was proven that Dr. Currie had deserted his wife and had been absent from her three years which under the law of Massachusetts is sufficient ground for granting a divorce. The divorce was granted on Monday, 19th inst., and Mrs. Currie is now a free woman. She has been living in Beachmont and has been attending a school of stenography with the intention, it is understood, of securing a position in a lawyer's office.

Mrs. Currie did not ask for alimony or for the custody of her 12-year old daughter who is with her father. The divorce became nisi in six months allowing the libellant, Mrs. Currie to marry in that time and restraining the libellee from marrying for two years.

Small Things Talked About.

Alderman Colwell's ferry regulations provoked lots of amusement in the common council Thursday. Some of them were thrown out and some allowed to pass though it was plain that the chairman of the public works department wasn't enthusiastic over them. The suggestion that the names as well as the number of the people who patronize the last trip of the ferry be taken created much merriment but did not pass. Ald. Allan's idea that the ferry was as much a highway between two portions of the city as the street between Indian town and the South End was sensible and is bound to prevail in time. It wasn't considered advisable to prevent smoking in the gentleman's cabin or to keep gentlemen out of the ladies cabin. Ald. Christie was irritated at one time and declared his opinion was a good one, as good if not better than any man's at the board as the records would show. The chairman was mainly carried on by Ald. Colwell who is deeply interested in ferry matters. Ald. McGoldrick welcomed the proposal to investigate the base purchase under oath and explained that everything was done as it should have been.

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L. E. BAKER, President and Director.

Yarmouth N. S., January 9th, 1899.

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