



ST. PETER'S HOME FOR INCUREABLES, HAMILTON.



The voters of Toronto need have their considering caps well on to-day, since they not only choose their mayor and aldermen for the year, but also decide whether Ald. McDougall's scheme for the division of the city into seven districts instead of two wards, and the election of representatives for two years, shall be adopted. Ladies on the school boards will be placed squarely before voters by the names of candidates being submitted to them; also, a gathering of ladies and gentleman dealt with this question a few days since, and nominated several ladies, Mrs. Jacob Spence, Dr. Emily R. Stowe, Mrs. R. Macdonell and others, as school trustees. At a subsequent meeting, Mrs. John A. Scales, Miss Carty and Miss Wilkes were nominated for the High School Board. Miss Carty has served on this Board for two or three years, and has the confidence of the parents. All the ladies mentioned are prominent in city affairs, and will no doubt be elected. Seventeen of the Aldermen have signified their approval of women on the school boards, and several of the candidates have made this matter a plank in their platform.

Much of the prejudice that formerly existed against women in public affairs is disappearing in this province before the wave of intelligent thought and fair consideration of the subject that has swept through it on the tide of the Women Suffrage Question. As "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," so the proof of women's value in public councils has been shewn by its results whenever women have had an opportunity of being heard.

Not only may they act, and sing, and dance acceptably in public, but at length they may also speak, and are sure to have an attentive audience, and not the mere poverty of the thing.

The Rev. Anna Shaw, whose portrait I hope to send you, together with a short sketch of her life, is a lady who always draws a crowded house, whether it be to preach on the Lord's Day, for she is a Methodist minister, regularly ordained, or to speak on her favorite topic, "the right of woman to the right of her citizenship," namely, the right to vote. Miss Shaw lectures in Toronto, both at Association Hall and the auditorium, next week. She then proceeds to Hamilton and Woodstock. At the latter city is a strong society of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of Canada as can be found outside of Toronto.

A highly interesting occasion brought a young lady on to the platform at Grafton, Co. Northumberland, on the 3rd January, when the *Empire* flag, won by a boy, Herman Rogers, was raised upon the Public School. The lady was Miss Greely, whom the chairman on the occasion introduced to the audience as his teacher in that school forty-three years ago. At the age of eighty-five Miss Greely addressed the children and audience assembled in a long and ardently patriotic speech, filled with reminiscences not only of pioneer life, its difficulties, hardships, freedom and health, but of the sound of the guns at the battle of Queenston Heights and the death of General Brock.

There is a splendid ring about the whole of this lady's speech, which is fully reported in the *Empire* of Jan. 5, and her peroration is worthy of our Legislative Houses. "There is not a boy or girl that lives under the shadow of the British flag and attends this school, or any other, for the purpose of acquiring knowledge which will fit him to do his duty to God and his fellow-creatures, but has the right to place his name as a Briton beside that of Alfred the Great and Roger Bacon, Wycliffe and Cranmer, Sir Philip Sydney and Sir Isaac Newton, Shakespeare, Addison and thousands of others whose names shine bright in English history; and every girl, no matter how lowly her station or humble her abilities, if she faithfully perform her duty in that station where Providence has placed her, is worthy of being a countrywoman of Queen Victoria, whose highest praise is that she faithfully tries to perform

her duty in that station God has given her to occupy, and may feel that she is performing her part towards the prosperity of the empire equally with the most learned or accomplished individual who dwells under the British flag." Truly happy were the pupils of such a teacher, and happy the country they have lived for.

Your readers will like to know that the prize story, written by Miss Alice Jones, Halifax, N.S., appears in the issue of *The Week*, Jan. 2. But I am disappointed in finding that it deals very little indeed with Canadian surroundings or conditions, a requirement that was made a point of by *The Week* in announcing its regulations. However, the story is well told, though the plot is rather far-fetched.

I am glad to know that Mrs. Edgar's book, of which I spoke last week, is selling well, and is spoken of as throwing additional light on some points in Canadian history not always accepted; among such is the conduct of General Proctor in the war of 1812, which has lately been handled in the correspondence column of *The Mail*.

The pupils of highest room, that of the head master, Mr. Muir, in Gladstone Avenue Public School, are entering upon a competition for certain prizes offered them by a lady of this city for the four best essays upon the separation of Canada into provinces, the causes that led thereto, and the early settlement of the upper province.

There is a spirit of ardent patriotism in this school that is very pleasant to realize. The head master, though a Scotchman by birth, has taken the land of his adoption into an equally patriotic embrace with the land of his birth, as he shows on all proper occasions, and proves by the loyal and patriotic songs he has written, one of which, "The Maple Leaf Forever," bids fair to be, if not the national anthem, at least the national song of Canada.

I was disappointed in not being able to visit the exhibit of paintings by L. R. O'Brien, R.C.A., at Matthews' Bros., during Christmas week, but sickness holds on like a chain