

audience. The faculty of doing this is greatly helped by an early and persistent practice. Aspirants for oratorical honours, without neglecting the severe preparation of the study for especial occasions, should lose no opportunity of speaking off-hand. One should not be down-cast at failures. They are often far better for the student than successes. He who goes to school to his mistakes, will always have a good schoolmaster, and will not be likely to become either idle or conceited.

3. Public speaking means business, or ought to. Although there is a great deal of fancy talking, after-dinner speeches complimentary speeches, and religious exhortations, all of which are meant to fill up time, yet public speaking, in its nobler aspect, is an attempt to gain some definite and important end by the use of reasons and persuasions. When a man seeks his neighbour for a business conversation, he knows just what he wants, and he settles with himself by what method he will get it. This is the very genius of a good preparation for a speech—to know definitely what you wish to gain of an audience, and the means by which you propose to secure it. All true oratory is practical psychology.

4. A man may speak deliberately or even slowly, but no man can succeed who speaks hesitatingly—who goes back on a sentence and begins again. Such a speech is like a shying horse or a balking mule. At all hazards, the young speaker must learn to push on—to keep a current moving from beginning to end of his address. If you drop a stitch don't stop to take it up. If you stumble on a word, let it go. Don't go back to it. Keep right on, no matter what happens, to the end. Momentum is of more value than verbal accuracy. Of course the best speech is that which is full of good substance, expressed by the best language, and fluently uttered. But while one is learning, he should never let himself be tripped up by a word, or the want of one. Jump the gap; run over the mistake. Keep right on. It will be time enough the next endeavour to profit by the experience of mistakes.

5. If one is slow of thought, dull of feeling, very cautious and secretive in nature, without that latent combativeness, which tends to protect one's mind upon another's, or if one be excessively sensitive, so that a mistake gashes like a lancet, it is not likely that he will succeed as a public speaker.

III. Biographical Sketches.

1. JOHN B. MARKS, Esq.

Mr. Marks was born in Plymouth, in the year 1777, and entered the Royal Navy at an early age. From his good conduct and intelligence he was promoted to the post of Captain's Secretary, in which capacity he served under Lord Nelson, and was present at the battles of Copenhagen, the Nile and Trafalgar. In the year 1813 he came to Canada in H. M. S. *Woolwich*, for service on the lakes, in which service he continued for over 31 years. He was clerk in charge at the Kingston Dockyard; Purser of H. M. S. *St. Lawrence*, one hundred and twenty guns, built at Kingston; Secretary to Commodore Sir Robert Barrie, Deputy Store-keeper at Montreal; and he filled many other offices in the naval establishments of Canada. After the breaking up of the Dockyard at Kingston, Mr. Marks continued in charge of the Government property for many years, and being much inclined to agricultural pursuits, commenced farming in Pittsburg in the year 1836, from which his attention was diverted by the Rebellion in 1837, when he returned to active service in the Navy, and was employed in the Dockyard as Naval Store-keeper till 1844, when he retired upon a good service pension of £200 sterling per annum. Captain Taylor, who is still living, then succeeded him, and gave up the Dockyard officially in 1854. In civil life Mr. Marks ably filled many important offices. He was appointed first Warden of the Midland District by patent in the year 1842, which office he found it necessary to resign in consequence of his official duties in the Dockyard. After his retirement in 1844 he was again appointed Warden by patent. When that office became elective Mr. Marks was elected Warden by the County Council, with many expressions of esteem, and he continued to serve as Warden for a considerable period, during which he rendered great and effectual service to the Municipal Council, then unaccustomed to the conduct of public affairs. Mr. Marks ably discharged the duties of many other civil offices. He sat in Parliament as Member for Frontenac for several years; he was Inspector of the Penitentiary; Auditor of Public Accounts; Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Frontenac Militia; and a Justice of the Peace. He was a man of great natural ability; possessed a masculine and powerful intellect; was in politics a strong Conservative; and in all things a thoroughly honest man. He spent almost the whole of an unusually long life in the service of his country and his Sovereign, and now descends to the grave leaving an untarnished reputation, troops of friends, and not a single enemy.—*Chronicle and News*.

2. R. W. KERR, ESQ.

R. W. Kerr, Esq., was born on the 17th March, 1810, at the family residence, Tulley Hall, Sligo, Ireland, and was, therefore, at the time of his death, a few days over sixty-two years of age. Having fitted himself for and embraced the profession of land surveyor and engineer, he practised it for a short period in Enniskillen. He was offered a position in the Sligo Branch of the Bank of Ireland, that of agent, which he accepted and held until his removal to Canada in 1835. Shortly after coming to Canada he settled in Dundas as engineer of the Desjardins Canal. He held the position of Captain of Militia during the rebellion in 1837. In 1840 he removed from Dundas to a place near Guelph, where he resided and practised his profession until 1847. In the last named year he removed to Hamilton, and in 1853 was appointed to the post of City Chamberlain, which he held up to the day of his death.—*Toronto Mail*.

3. JOSEPH H. LAYLOCK, Esq.

Joseph H. Laylock, Esq., one of the first settlers of Blenheim has departed from our midst. He had been complaining for a few days of a pain in the side, but retired to bed on Friday night last in apparent health; however, in a short time after, one of the family entered his room to get the lamp and found his spirit had fled. He seems to have suffered no pain, as the limbs were not convulsed nor the clothing disturbed. He was about 72 years old, a native of England, and came into this country about 40 years ago. He had ably filled the office of Township Clerk and Treasurer for nearly 35 years. He was always at his post of duty, being absent at only two meetings of the Council during this long term of office. Previous to this he had traversed the wilds of Blenheim as Assessor when dense forests covered the land, dotted occasionally by a log hut, surrounded by a few acres of clearing. The deceased was of a genial disposition, and his memory was replete with anecdotes and reminiscences relating to the early times and settlers.—*Brantford Courier*.

4. COLONEL FRANCIS DRAKE.

A valued correspondent sends us the following for publication:—“On the 3rd inst., that good, friendly and highly esteemed old gentleman departed this life, after a short illness of three days, at his ancient and well-known residence on the River Thames, in Raleigh, to which he moved, as he habitually said, in the year one (1801), being then twelve years of age, and eighty-four at the time of his decease. His remains were interred beside those of his beloved wife in the new cemetery of this town, after divine service had been performed in the Catholic church. The Colonel was a loyal subject as shown during his whole life, particularly in his special services in the war of 1812, and in the Rebellion of 1837. His constant honesty and civility towards us all have caused him to leave after him thousands of friends and not one enemy. As some short notice of his history will, I doubt not, be desirable, I will say he was born at Carrillon, on the St. Lawrence, in the Province of Quebec. His father, Capt. John Drake, one of our first and most efficient settlers in this country, was a native of St. Mallins, County Carlow, Ireland. He was originally a Fitzpatrick, two of his brothers, Rory and Patrick, followed him to this country, and died here as good, honest, pious old bachelors under the old, noble Irish name *Fitzpatrick*. The Colonel's mother was a daughter of Donald McKay, a Scotchman, who came to Quebec as a member of the military band under the great General Wolfe, in 1759—he married shortly after a Lower Canadian lady. One John Peck, an Englishman, who was master of said band, was the first settler on Riviere a Peck, in Essex, and the venerable forefather of all our River Thames and Sydenham friends of that name,—married a *Demoiselle Brav* of Quebec, previously of L'Acadia,—and Mrs. Col. Drake was a daughter of one of his daughters, old Mrs. Williams, who also was interred here a few years ago, at the mature age of nearly one hundred years, being the widow of Thomas Williams, a U. E. Loyalist, from Kentucky, who was one of the earliest settlers in this part of the world, and forefather of the first Williams here.—*Chatham Planet*.

5. MR. ROBERT RITCHIE.

This venerable old man, who was known to most of the older inhabitants of this city and neighbourhood, has gone to his rest. He died at the family residence, Belleville, at the advanced age of 87 years. Mr. Ritchie came to this place, then Bytown, about 38 years ago, the central portion of the Parliament Buildings now marking the site of his former residence, where he lived for over a quarter of a century. He came out to Canada in connection with