

HOME JOURNAL

Life, Literature and Education

IN THE WORLD OF LITERATURE AND ART.

On August 26th, Wicklow, celebrated the 109th anniversary of Wicklow Baptist church, which is the first church built in Northumberland county, Ontario.

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An interesting ceremony took place recently in the Schlossgarden, at Mannheim, Germany, under the direction of the Municipal Art Association of that city. A memorial was erected to Anna Holzel, the wife of a carpenter, who in 1784 saved the poet Schiller from a debtor's prison. Schiller was at that time surrounded by men who were envious of him, and who hated him because of his liberal ideas, and the prospect of seeing him go to prison, says a Berlin paper, was a source of joy to them. At the critical moment the carpenter's wife advanced the money to satisfy his creditors, and this woman of the people has now been honored. The memorial consists of a red sandstone block, with simple ornamentation, bearing an inscription which tells that Anna Holzel was Schiller's friend in a time of dire distress.

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Cardiff Education Committee have been placed in a quandary by the appeal of over 10,000 children in the elementary schools to be taught Welsh. Up to six months ago Welsh was an obligatory subject in Standards I. and II., and the teachers were qualifying themselves to introduce the subject gradually into higher standards. Then came an outcry against compulsory teaching and an anti-Welsh Society, the British League, was formed. The city was divided into hostile camps on the subject, and eventually, by a narrow majority, the Council instructed the Education Committee to make Welsh an optional instead of an obligatory subject—a decision that meant splitting the classes in the schools, and renders necessary the appointment of supplementary teachers. A plebiscite was ordered to be taken of the 24,428 children who attended the schools, and as a result requests have been made for Welsh teaching on behalf of 10,000 children. The Director of Education, Mr. J. J. Jackson, states that the additional cost of the new arrangements would be £1,720 per annum.

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The town Council of Edinburgh has accepted from the Earl of Rosebery, as a gift to the corporation, the historic mansion in Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, known as Lady Stair's House. The mansion was bought by Lord Rosebery some years ago, and he now offers it to the city for the purposes of a municipal museum, the present museum being quite inadequate.

"I have always intended to offer Lady Stair's House to the city of Edinburgh, and I have so disposed of it in my will. But as I think it may be made immediately available for the purposes of your municipal museum, I am anxious to place it at once at the disposal and in the ownership of the Town Council. Should they do me the honor to accept it, the gift will be a very inadequate mark of the loyal affection and gratitude I have for Edinburgh."

Lady Stair's Close, in the Lawnmarket, Old High street, Edinburgh, takes its name from Elizabeth, Dowager Countess of Stair, who in her day was a leader of fashion and one of the most interesting characters of old Edinburgh. Her singular story is the groundwork of Scott's tale of "Lady Margaret's Mirror" and her house in the Close was the scene of remarkable events therein recorded.

The Countess was first married to Viscount Primrose—an ancestor of Lord Rosebery—but

he having made an attempt to murder her, she left and never afterwards resided with him. When Primrose died she vowed that she would never marry again. The great Earl of Stair fell deeply in love with her, and, against her will, forced her into a marriage. In spite of the unpromising beginning, they lived happily together.

The house was restored by Lord Rosebery a few years ago. The doorway is ornamented by the inscription, "Feare the Lord and Depart from Evil, 1622." In the adjoining close—Baxter's Close—stands the house in which Robert Burns lodged in 1786, and not far away stands the tall house known as Gladstone's Land, the original owner of which was Sir Robert Bannatyne but in 1631 it was acquired by Thomas Gladstone, an ancestor of the Gladstones of our own time.

The New Serial

We are congratulating ourselves and expecting our readers eventually to congratulate us, on securing for our next serial a new Canadian story, only published this year, entitled "Carmichael," and written by Anison North, a Canadian authoress. We feel sure that you will enjoy it and will watch eagerly for the first instalment in October. Tell your friends about it, so that they may subscribe in time to get the story from the beginning. Assure them that the instalment in each issue will be long enough to prevent the dissatisfaction sometimes caused by a serial.

Preserving Historical Records.

Comparatively speaking, Western Canada has no history, a condition which is more noticeable to the Europeans who come here than to the American or the native-born Canadian. But young as it is, Canadian history is in the making, and the first stones in nation-building are being laid now. Already the invasion of the white man who wanted to use the soil has driven back the original holder of these vast tracts who cared nothing for the riches below the prairie grass. Already the boundless reaches of untilled, uninhabited land have given place to cultivated acres and prosperous settlers. This is history-making of the best type, far in advance of ruined forts and ancient blood-stained battlefields.

But so peacefully has this country taken its first steps, that the majority of us are inclined to think them unimportant and unworthy of record for the benefit of future generations. This is a mistake. The coming peoples will want to know the beginnings of things in this country, and if they are to get correct information, some trustworthy records must be preserved.

In accomplishing something in this work of preservation, the Dominion government archives department is doing a good work. The provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia have also formed branches to keep track of local events of historic value. Dr. Doughty, who is head of the Dominion archives department, is anxious to compile a sort of historical directory for the use of future students of Canadian history, but he

finds that many important documents, diaries and manuscripts have been carelessly destroyed by owners who did not stop to consider the value of what they were destroying.

At present, Dr. James Hannay of the archives department is in Manitoba endeavoring to get hold of despatches and documents of any kind that will throw light upon the early days of the province. In an interview, Dr. Hannay says:—

"For two years I have been engaged in locating the documents of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. I came back from the island the other day, and now I am trying to do the same work for Manitoba and the northwest. There is a difficulty here because the provinces are very new. The legislative history of Manitoba only goes back to 1873, and the government has not many documents in its possession, only what have been picked up by the librarian. But there are other sources of history that might be available in Manitoba and the Northwest. We are trying to interest the members of the legislatures. The fact is that every province should have its own department of archives. Ontario has one now, and it seems to be doing good work.

"I shall welcome anything that will throw light on the history of the west, whether oral or documentary, and as I shall be here for two or three months I hope to get into touch with those who have historical material. The trouble is to get hold of private collections or single documents, not because people are unwilling, but because it does not occur to them that they are of any value. Even old account books sometimes throw light on the mode of life in periods that have passed. For example, in Prince Edward Island the land was granted 240 years ago to a number of proprietors in England and a fight went on for more than a century between the tenants and the landlords. In looking over the accounts of the French tenants I observed that they did not buy anything but rum and salt, a great preponderance or rum. Everything else that they consumed was raised on their own land. From old accounts we can learn a great deal about wages and conditions of labor.

"I shall be glad to hear from anyone who can contribute any information with regard to the past. Even facts connected with such event as the Riel rebellion will pass into oblivion unless they are rescued shortly."

THE PROPER TERM.

(ANDREW LANG in the *London Morning Post*.)

A patriot myself, I object to the phrase "Little Englander." Whether a world-Empire is a good and enjoyable thing, or on the other hand, rather more of a nuisance than a sweet boon, I am not asking. Politics are no more "my trade" than "the moving incident" was Wordsworth's. He says, in blank verse, that "The moving incident is not my trade," and he is perfectly right. A chevalier of romance in real life, the witty and daring Sir Charles Wogan, describing his adventurous rescue of Marie Clementina Sobieska from prison, tells us how he won the favor of a German noble who had detected his scheme. "Like all stupid men, he loved talking politics," says Wogan, who stuffed him with political canards, "very fearful wild-fowl," and so gained his affections and his aid. It is not my business to add, like Dr. Johnson's "Sherry," to my natural dullness, and my objection to the term "Little Englander" is not political, but patriotic. It is shared by all the more ardent patriots of my country. "Why Englander?" they ask indignantly. "Why leave out Scotlander? Is Caledonia no longer even *nominis umbra*? The right phrase is "Little United Kingdom of England, Scotland and Irelander." I deeply sympathize and hope that this convenient term will come into general use, unless public speakers prefer "Little Great Britain and Kingdom of Irelander," when they wish to designate an opponent of Imperialism.