

their own food and the bedding and food of two men for a seven days' trip. The distance from Lake Athabasca to Lake La Biche travelled by the party with the aid of dogs is about 425 miles. Fish for dog feed was picked up along the way from Indians; were it not for this aid it would be impossible to make such long journeys with dogs. The time occupied in travelling that distance was thirteen and a half days. At the end of the journey most of the dogs were pretty well used up; in fact one team would not have gone more than a day longer. Most of the men, too, were not sorry that the "job was done." It is needless to say that there was no riding for any of the party on the way out. The whole of the journey had to be made on snowshoes, and as the road has to be "tracked" for dogs the party had to keep ahead, each one in his turn "making track" in the trackless snow. Dog drivers carry a whip peculiar to the "craft." The handle is about eighteen, and the lash about sixty inches long. It is heavily loaded with shot, which is plaited into it. This makes it so heavy that a good blow will almost cut through a dog's skin. One accustomed to the treatment of dogs at home will often witness treatment of them there that makes his blood boil, until he starts to drive himself; then he does not think quite so hardly of the native driver, though his animals are often punished needlessly. It may be stated generally that a kind driver makes but slow progress. A story is told of a high church dignitary, who was making a journey with dogs, and becoming shocked at his driver's profanity absolutely forbade him scolding the dogs any more, except in a mild way, and use his whip in the same manner. Some days after the good man noticed that he was away behind time; at a known point he remonstrated with the driver on his slowness; that worthy demonstrated to his Reverence that it was impossible to make time with dogs, with his system of driving. The good man granted the driver an "indulgence" for the remainder of the drive, and finished his journey on time. The party passed through many scenes of peril and had some strange adventures, but it is needless to refer to them here as it would take up too much time. They saw many scenes of grandeur and beauty, which will probably not be looked on again by white men for many years to come.

CANADIAN BUILDING.

Apart from necessary improvements, which sometimes comprise the substitution of whole blocks of new and imposing buildings for those of inferior quality, it has often been remarked that in Canada houses of all kinds are much less enduring than either the nature of the material of which they are constructed or the trying character of our climate would justify one in expecting. At the recent convention of the Ontario Association of Architects, the president deemed it his duty to call the attention of his hearers to this perishable quality in Canadian buildings. Whereas, he pointed out, in England and on the continent of Europe, there are structures that have stood for three, four, and even six and seven centuries, few of those erected in Canada last for half a century. What is the reason of the lack of durability? Are the materials at fault? No. "The stone, brick and other building materials at our disposal are quite equal to those used in the buildings referred to." Is the blame to lie with our architects and artisans? It seems not. "The mechanical powers and scientific knowledge of our artisans and professional men will compare favourably with those of the older countries and past ages." The fact which Mr. Storm deplors he attributes to the disposition of the public to carry on building operations without professional aid, and this disposition is mainly due, he thinks, to want of confidence engendered by experience of unqualified practitioners. The remedy is to be sought in the incorporation of the profession. The public will then be able to distinguish between the qualified and the unqualified practitioner and trustfully employ the former.

PERSONAL

Mr. John T. Davidson has been elected president of the Toronto Board of Trade.

Mr. Lucien Huot has been elected a member of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society.

Mr. J. F. Wood, M.P., has taken the place of the Hon. Mr. Colby, as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons.

Prof. Roberts has consented to represent Nova Scotia in connection with the *Witness* prize stories and to judge the stories from Western Ontario.

In a recent lecture in the hall of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, Dr. Laphorn Smith strongly condemned the corset as the cause of many ailments.

Messrs. Henderson, Holden, Dawson, Jones and Slessor, of this city, propose forming a photographic society. An adjourned meeting will be held for the purpose of organization on the 3rd inst.

A Mr. Melville, of Montreal, has forwarded to Premier Mercier a photograph of his family, which is composed of 12 children. Mr. Melville expresses the intention of being a claimant for a lot of 100 acres under the new law.

On the 21st ult. Lieut.-Col. Massey entertained the sergeants of the Sixth Fusiliers at his residence. Among those present were Sergt.-Major Denison, Colour-Sergts. Cooper, Currie and Howard, and Sergts. Edwards and Riddle.

The funeral of the late Hon. Senator Trudel was largely attended. The Senate, the Bar, the Press, and various societies with which the deceased gentleman was connected, passed resolutions of regret for the loss sustained and of sympathy with the bereaved survivors.

At the last weekly social of the St. Lawrence Yachting Club, held in the M.A.A.A. rooms, Mr. J. P. Gibsons gave an illustrated discourse on yachts and yacht building, especially referring to the great progress recently made in their modelling and construction.

Among the guests at the dinner given by Hon. Charles Tupper, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, on the 22nd ult. were the following members of Parliament: Messrs. J. F. Wood, Baird, Bergeron, Bergin, Boisvert, Brown, Bryson, Cameron, Carpenter, Cimon, Cochrane, Coughlin, Davin, Davis, Dawson, Dickinson, Dupont, Earle and Freeman.

At the annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, held on the 21st ult., it was proposed by Rev. J. E. Hill and adopted, that the congregation convey to Sir Joseph Hickson, president of the trustees of the church, their congratulations at the high honour conferred by Her Majesty upon him, and expressing the wish that his life might long be spared to enjoy the honour.

At the last meeting of the Antiquarian Society, Mr. P. E. Leclaire exhibited two bills of the Rebellion of 1837, dated from the Distillery of St. Denis and signed by Neilson & Kimber. Dr. J. A. Beaudry exhibited the "Sieur de Royamont's Histoire du Vieux et du Nouveau Testament," printed in 1681, and Mr. Mott exhibited a photograph of the famous Sir William Pepperell as well as of his residence.

The Hon. G. E. Foster, Minister of Finance, and Mrs. Foster gave a dinner last week, to which the following ladies and gentlemen were invited:—The Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, the Hon. Senator Vidal, the Hon. Senator Perley, Mr. Gordon, M.P., and Mrs. Gordon, Lt.-Col. Tilton and Mrs. Tilton, Mr. Temple, M.P., Mr. H. L. Jones, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Ryckman and Mrs. Ryckman, Mr. George Johnson, Mr. Alger Bliss and Mrs. Bliss, Miss Kirby, Mr. Wilmott, M.P., and Mr. Hale, M.P.

On the 24th ult. the Fish and Game Protection Club of this city held its annual meeting and elected the following officers for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. G. W. Stephens; vice-president, Mr. H. W. Atwater; secretary, Mr. A. N. Shewan; treasurer, Mr. H. W. Beckett; committee, Messrs. I. H. Stearns, Jno. Nelson, A. Boyer, M.P.P., Dr. T. C. Brainerd, L. A. Boyer, George Horne, W. H. Parker, A. A. Wilson, T. V. R. Brown, A. Henderson, Geo. H. Matthews, J. W. Skelton, H. R. Ives, W. H. Rintoul, Selkirk Cross.

We have much pleasure in reproducing this cordial testimony to the value of Mr. Kingsford's history from Mr. W. L. Stone, author of "The Life of Brant" and other important historical works:—

JERSEY CITY, Dec. 17th, 1889.
MY DEAR MR. KINGSFORD,—I have received, and, what is more to the purpose, I have read the first two volumes of your "History of Canada." My studies, perhaps, give me a right to speak in regard to their merits, and I say unqualifiedly that not only is it the most lucid history of Canada, and of the aims and purposes of the early French explorers that has yet appeared, but that the hackneyed phrase so often used is in this case most true, viz., that no library of American history can afford to be without it. Cordially yours, Wm. L. STONE.

The Hon. F. J. Johnson was duly sworn in as Chief Justice of the Superior Court in this province on the 21st ult., and his commission as such was read in court in presence of the other judges on Saturday, the 25th ult. The court room was fitly decorated for the occasion. The new Chief Justice was born in Bedfordshire, Eng., in 1817, educated in England and France, came to Canada in 1835, was admitted to the Bar in 1840, was made Q.C. in 1849, and was appointed Recorder of Rupert's Land in 1854, and

later Governor of Assiniboia. Chief Justice Johnson is universally esteemed.

The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers inaugurated their annual meeting by a dinner at the Windsor Hotel, in this city, which took place on the 22nd ult. Col. Gzowski occupied the chair, and on his right sat His Excellency the Governor-General, Lady Dawson, Sir Joseph Hickson, Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. T. G. Shaughnessy, Mrs. Blackwell, and to his left Mrs. Hannaford, Sir Donald Smith, Mrs. Peterson, Dr. Selwyn, Mrs. Bovey and Mr. C. Goad. His Excellency was accompanied by Capt. the Hon. Mr. Colville and Major Prevost, A.D.C. The vice-chairmen were Mr. E. P. Hannaford and Mr. P. A. Peterson.

The marriage of Miss May Catherine Brown, daughter of Adam Brown, Esq., M.P., to Mr. Ernest Brown Smith, of London, Ont., was solemnized at the Church of the Ascension last week, the ceremony being conducted by Dean Carmichael, of Montreal, assisted by Bishop Hamilton and the Rev. E. P. Crawford. The centre aisle of the church was reserved for the invited guests, of whom there were 150, including Senator Sanford, Senator McInnes, Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P., Dean Innes, of London, and a number from Toronto, London and other cities. The bride was charmingly attired in a gown of white moire antique with a long train and carried a bouquet of white roses and lilies of the valley. The bridesmaids were Miss Lily Brown, Miss Douglas Bruce, Miss Crerar, Miss Constance Lucas, Miss Gussie McInnes and Miss Jessie Parker.

The annual dinner of the Montreal Hunt, which took place on the 23rd ult. at the Windsor Hotel, was a most enjoyable entertainment. The veteran Master, Mr. John Crawford, occupied the chair, and on his right sat His Excellency the Governor-General (who was accompanied by his son, Hon. Edward Stanley, and Major Prevost, A.D.C.,) Sir Donald Smith, Hon. Senator Cochrane, Rev. Canon Ellegood, Mr. W. J. Buchanan and Mr. J. A. Cantlie; and on his left U. S. Consul-General Knapp, Mr. Justice Cross, Dr. W. H. Hingston, Mr. L. J. Sergeant, and Mr. A. F. Gault. The vice-chairmen were Mr. H. Montagu Allan and Mr. J. Alex. Stevenson. The others present were Messrs. Robert Harris, R.C.A., Major H. H. Lyman, J. R. Barclay, H. B. Yates, Fred Saunders, C. E. Dawson, William Byrd, J. Alex. L. Strathy, Thomas Brown, Geo. Buchanan, Ernest Cochrane, W. R. Miller, Dr. E. McEachran, R. L. Gault, Leslie H. Gault, George Caverhill, W. C. McIntyre, R. B. Ross, T. A. Trenholme, F. S. Lyman, Arthur Allan, Hugh Paton, Colin Campbell, W. M. Ramsay, Thomas Davidson, Dr. D. McEachran, F. Robertson, Albert Linton, D. D. Mann, Wm. Stephen, Geo. Cantlie, Lieut.-Col. Crawford, J. A. U. Baudry, B. J. Coghlin, H. D. Jury (Dublin), W. L. Maltby, F. C. A. McIndoe, A. J. Fisk, E. J. Major, G. May, F. H. Wardlow and Leopold Galarneau.

"BEN HUR" AT HOME.

Of the most prominent writers who are singularly fortunate in their domestic relations, the author of "Ben Hur" is a striking example, says the *Woman's Journal*. Herself a writer of more than average ability, and possessed of an accurate literary judgment, Mrs. Wallace is an invaluable assistant to her husband in his work. She is a tireless worker, rapid yet very painstaking, and an expert at proof-reading. General Wallace is himself his severest critic, and after an incident or a chapter has been written, re-cast probably a dozen times and criticised from every stand-point, it is given to Mrs. Wallace and runs the gauntlet of her critical judgment. There is a singular harmony of tastes between the two, and in this wise the literary partnership is productive of the most satisfactory results. The home of the Wallaces is in Crawfordsville, Ind., and contains every comfort. They have already made a great deal of money with their pens, and are destined to make much more. Almost anything General Wallace chooses to write is an assured success, and he can therefore command high prices for his work. The sales of "Ben Hur" alone have brought him over \$30,000, and its success has also made "The Fair God" a fast-selling book. For his "Boyhood of Christ" and his biography of President Harrison he received very big payments, while for his new novel he will be paid what to many would be a snug little fortune. For Mrs. Wallace's published works there is also a steady demand, so that this literary couple manage remarkably well to secure a large share of the sweets of literature.

AFFINITY.

We gave no sign, no outward difference made
In speech or attitude, but in that hour
When first voice answered voice, glad and afraid,
We saw a new life rise in strength and power;
A Presence, Fate's strong shadow, seemed to call
To us, and touch us, and our spirits grew
Into each other, as shed tears might fall
At eve, and mingle with great drops of dew.
So must it be, though we should live apart,
Or hand touch hand in hourly fellowship,
Years pass with never word from heart to heart,
Or thoughts be daily read on brow and lip,
As star knows star across the ethereal sea,
So soul feels soul to all eternity.

SOPHIE M. ALMON.