

PROGRESS

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AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.

A Catholic Priest Refused Admittance to the Salvation Rescue Home.

The Maternity Home in connection with the Salvation Army on St. James street was the scene of a most unfortunate occurrence on Thursday. The trouble arose over the refusal of those in charge of the Home to allow a Roman Catholic priest to visit a dying patient. The story as told by those acquainted with the facts is a painful one.

About a year ago a young girl by name Ella Goodine was persuaded to leave her happy home in Kingsclear by a faithless Fredericton lover and come to St. John under the promise of marriage. The same old story of deception, disgrace, betrayal and downfall followed. The poor girl after vain endeavors to find shelter and food was at length taken charge of by Miss Wesley who found the unfortunate one in a place on Brussels street deserted and alone. A child had been born and the mother lay in a helpless and serious condition. Through Miss Wesley's kind offices she was removed to the Salvation Army home where she has since remained.

Soon after arriving there consumption rapidly developed, and it soon became evident that death was but a matter of a short time. An application was made to remove the patient to the Home of Incurables, but before anything could be done that the girl's condition had become so serious that her removal became an impossibility.

About a short time ago Rev. Father Gaynor was requested by Magistrate Ritchie to visit the place and this he proceeded to do. Then the trouble arose. Father Gaynor in talking to Progress said:

"I knew in advance from some remarks which Judge Ritchie made when in the office that there was a young catholic girl at the Army home that he was trying to get into the Home for Incurables. Of course I had no idea that she was in danger, until Wednesday night, when the judge telephoned me that the girl was too ill to be removed to the Home for Incurables and asked me to go over and prepare her for death. On Thursday at 11 o'clock I went over there and met the head nurse, Miss Hicks. I told her that I had been informed by Magistrate Ritchie that this girl was dangerously ill and as she had been a catholic I wished to see her. She told me that I could not see her. She told me that I should have to see her, and that as she was a catholic I must see her. She said she would go and see the girl. She was absent some time and returning told me that I could not see her. She did not say the girl did not want to see me. I told her that I thought they were making a great mistake, that I had understood that this was a charitable institution, receiving support as such but that it seemed more like a place of proselytism. Then I told her that I should be back again. Then I telephoned Judge Ritchie and told him of the reception that I had received and he told me that he would go down himself to the Home between one and two o'clock and he would secure admittance for me. He went down and saw the nurse, Miss Hicks, the matron being still absent. The head nurse told him that the patient was then under the influence of morphine and in no condition to be seen, but gave him to understand that it was possible that I might see the girl later on. He telephoned me as much. I then prepared myself for the last rites. This time the head nurse met me at the entrance and went and brought the matron. The matron told me that this girl was at peace with God that she was saved and every thing had been done for her soul and she could not under any consideration allow a minister of any denomination to see her. I repeated again what I had said about the institution receiving support from the public as a place of charity and instead of that it was more like a place of proselytism. I said this girl had been born a catholic and reared as one and says over her own signature that she is a Roman Catholic. You cannot do anything for her, you cannot begin to help a catholic who is dying. And I asked her what business they had in taking girls who were inmates of the Home, up to their barracks and making them parade the

streets and sing their hymns. That was surely not freedom of conscience in a public and charitable institution. I left then but told the matron that I would come back again. I went to the near drug store and telephoned Judge Ritchie and asked him what he thought I had better do. He said to telephone Mr. Bullock and this I did but was told that Mr. Bullock was out of town. Then I tried Dr. Skinner, who was attending the girl, but found that he was away in Sussex. In the meantime the judge was waiting for me to answer, and when I told him that the doctor was out of town he said he would drive down and meet me. He did so, and together we went to the Home. There we were again met by the head nurse and the matron, and a consultation was held in the hall. The judge said she had no right to interfere with the religious beliefs of any of the inmates and that she could not prevent me from seeing the girl. He said "Father, you go up to this girl's room and ask her if she wishes your ministrations and if she does not wish them then you turn and leave the house, your duty is at an end." I felt loathe to force my way in manner and thought that a little more reasoning would bring them to see things in their right light.

But this did not seem to be the case. After talking a time the judge started up the stairs and I followed him. The matron was behind us but tried to push past the judge in order to get to the room ahead of him, but as she could not do this she called to the nurse. When we arrived at the landing we found the nurse was holding the door.

Admittance being refused we turned away. The judge said that if any one had told him that this institution which professed to be a charitable institution and received the support of the public as such would prevent a catholic priest from seeing a dying catholic he would not have believed it. Mr. Ritchie did not revile the matron, did not say anything offensive, but said the institution had been masquerading before the public as a place where good was done and where everybody was free to visit the sick. Miss Hicks then denied that she had spoken to the judge about morphine.

Here it might be stated that the matron said that Mr. Thomas Bullock knew about the girl. Mr. Bullock when asked about this told Fr. Gaynor that he understood the girl did not wish to leave the Rescue Home to go to the Home for Incurables and that he was not aware any clergymen were prevented from attending the sick at any time.

One who is well acquainted with the facts, in conversation with Progress this morning said that the girl previous to her being taken to the Home had lived for some time in a house owned by Mrs. Corkery on Brussels street. She was sick for 4 or 5 weeks and in poor circumstances. She was kindly treated by the people of that locality and during her illness received every attention.

She often spoke about her religion, and many times stated that she had been brought up a catholic and was one of Father Casey's parishioners.

Even up to the last she had the utmost confidence in the man who betrayed her and would believe nothing against him, always claiming that he was her husband and would come back to her. She said that his name was Mason and that he was for some time waiter at the Grand Union Hotel.

When asked by the neighbors how she intended supporting herself she would remark that she could very easily obtain employment as a waitress and would thus earn enough to keep herself and pay for the board of her child.

Adjutant Holman, matron and ensign Hicks, head nurse of the home give this version of the occurrence: Ensign Hicks said that when Father Gaynor first called at the home yesterday morning she opened the door. He stated that he had been informed by the police magistrate that there was a patient in the Home named Ella Goodine, and that he

would like to see her. I told him that she was resting, that the doctor had just left her after giving her opiates; that I thought she was dying and that she was unable to see anyone.

"Fr. Gaynor informed me that on the girl's papers it was stated she was a Roman Catholic, and he therefore felt it was his duty to administer absolution. He asked if she had ever expressed a desire to see a clergyman. I told him no. I had often asked her that question, and she said this morning she was prepared to die. Fr. Gaynor insisted on seeing her, and I told him that in the absence of the matron I could not let him up stairs. I then went up to the patient and told her that Fr. Gaynor was there. She said she had no desire to see him. Before going away he said he would have to inform Judge Ritchie of what I said and would take steps to see the girl.

About 1.30 p. m. Police Magistrate Ritchie came down alone. He said Father Gaynor had telephoned him that he had been refused permission to see a patient in the Home, but that he (Ritchie) replied there must be some mistake, as the thing could not be so. Mr. Ritchie then said he would like to see the girl personally. He had some little business to talk over with her. I told him I was very sorry, but he could not see her today. Mr. Ritchie said if I refused him he would have to insist on seeing her. He said Mrs. McLellan had papers that she was a catholic and he would not refuse Fr. Gaynor admittance. He urged me very strongly to let Fr. Gaynor go up stairs. I told him the matron was absent and I did not think the visit necessary at all. Mr. Ritchie then went away.

Soon after Fr. Gaynor came again, I let him in. He said he understood from Mr. Ritchie that I said he would be allowed to see the girl. I told him that was a mistake. It was impossible Fr. Gaynor said he must see the girl and would take steps to compel us to let him give her the death rites of the church. He asked to see the matron, and I called Miss Holman.

Adjutant Holman took up the story at this point. She said: "I told Fr. Gaynor he could not see the girl. He persisted and said he would go back to the police magistrate as requested. He said we were trying to make Salvationists of the girls, and that we had no right to take them to the barracks on Sunday. About 4.30 p. m. Fr. Gaynor and Mr. Ritchie drove up. I let them in. Mr. Ritchie said he brought Fr. Gaynor to see the dying Ella. I told him, as before, that he could not go up. Mr. Ritchie said he would have to go up. This was after Fr. Gaynor had started to go up and had turned back.

I got up stairs I think before either of them and called the nurse, who closed the girl's door and then stood with her back to it. They insisted on getting in. Mr. Ritchie caught hold of the girl and pulled her away.

The nurse here resumed her narrative. She said "Mr. Ritchie reviled a motto I wore and said we were not christians. He wanted to go in and would compel us to stand back and open the door. He caught me by the arm and pulled me away from the door. Then I stepped back again. He seized my arm and wrenched my hand off the door. I had previously taken the keys from my belt, and I now reached round and locked the door with my other hand. Mr. Ritchie used a lot of abusive language about the institution. Before that he had said he was so sorry he could not help us with this girl."

The nurse continued, "I asked the girl this morning if she wanted to see any one, and she said no, she was not afraid to die. She said she had been brought up a Catholic, but had not been to that church for years. I told Mr. Ritchie this, and that in the time of her need the church had neglected her and we had to bear the expense of her care. The girl, with tears in her eyes, begged not to be moved. It would kill her at once. She prayed she might die rather than be moved from the home."

"Mr. Ritchie said he could and would get a writ to remove the girl by force. My wrist was red for some time from the force Mr. Ritchie used when he wrenched my hand off the door. At this time there were nine patients on this floor, two recently confined, and the noise made by Mr. Ritchie excited the patients very much."

"I am a nurse with over nine years experience. No one has attended this girl for a long time but myself. She required so much of my attention, she was so weak. Her temperature for the last two weeks was from 102 to 104."

THE COMING CONTEST.

Dr. Daniel and Edward Sears Will Run for Mayor of the City.

Ex-Mayor Sears has announced his intention of being a candidate in the approaching mayoralty contest, so it is likely the lover of red hot elections is going to have his feelings satisfied. The present chief magistrate of course will be in the field again and whether or not any other gentlemen feel that they should come forward and sacrifice themselves in the city's interest time alone will tell. Mayor Daniel during his occupancy of the chair has, his friends claim done full credit both to himself and the city, while there are others no doubt think very differently. In justice to his worship, however, it may be said that the latter class probably embrace those who voted against him last election and will continue to do so. Mr. Sears has his following and it is no small one. He is popular and stands well with his friends. Besides this he is a good canvasser and in this he excels his opponent and good canvassing means much in an election. Both Dr. Daniel and Mr. Sears have been tried and the general opinion is that they both have made good mayors. Dr. Daniel's knowledge of civic business is unquestionable and the valuable services he has rendered the city in times past both as alderman and in the higher office, cannot but be appreciated. Then His Worship has done his part well on all occasions where the dignity of the city was to be upheld and his speeches on public matters have for the most part been good and sound. The strongest canvasser, perhaps in his favor will be that according to precedent he should be given a second term at least. Mr. Sears has many things to put forward in his favor. His circumstances allow him to devote his time fully to the public interest and not a few think that a large salary like \$1600 should guarantee a man's whole time, and so the ex mayor pleases these. There is no better host than Mr. Sears and St. John people feel that with him at the head of affairs visitors to the city cannot leave without carrying away a good impression. If the Duke of Cornwall should visit here this fall, there could be no better man to meet His Highness. This may seem of little account, but it is the little things that often work an election. Mayor Howland of Toronto, or at least his friends used it as a drawing card that Howland should be elected as he was the right kind of a man to entertain a Duke and the canvass went like a charm. It is not likely that Count de Bury will be a candidate as he has likely come to the opinion that winning elections is not in his line. Mr. Moulson may be heard from but it is doubtful. The probability is that Dr. Daniel and Mr. Sears will fight it out between themselves, and it is better if this should happen to be the case. Mr. Sears' friends claim that if such had been the case before the result would have been different. It is hardly worth while to say that the mayor does not agree with such a statement. That the fight will be an interesting one can be taken for granted, and whoever the people may select they can feel that he is a good man, and it is not always that this can be said about an election.

If there are to be many opponents to the present board of Aldermen they are certainly keeping very quiet. As far as can be judged there seems to be no aldermanic fever in the air this spring. The great honor of being a city father does not as usual attract. In one sense this is to be regretted as it shows a lack of interest in public affairs. Progress would be very sorry to believe as some believe that many of those who get to be aldermen do so from their own personal desire and are not brought forward by the people themselves. It may be the case in one or two instances, but the ratepayers for the most part induce the man and put him in the fight. That there will be contests in certain wards are certain. Lansdowne would be lost if it did not have a chance to vote and North End wards are very much the same. A few days may bring something to light, but the time is drawing near when the dark horses will have to come out of the wood pile.

Dr. Smith's friends say that he will again be a candidate, and several names have been mentioned for siftermen-at-large, but the latter are only rumors. If Mr. McKown's bill passes the legislature there may be quite a change in the present quietness. It is hoped, however, that politics may be kept out of the coming contest. They do no good and much harm may result.

STILL FURTHER GLIMPSSES. Into the Future as Seen Through the Great Instrument.

It would be wrong to read too much fun from the newspapers future issues as it might greatly interfere with the sale and success of many journals. Some items therefore will not now be produced and long accounts of council meetings, political notes and such will only be summarized. The first paragraph of interest that strikes the eye is found in a St. John paper of February 1901. It reads:

At a meeting of the Safety Board held this morning it was decided to make still further changes in the police force, by the appointment of two majors. This is to be by the elevation of the two now holding the office of captain. The force as reconstructed now consists of chief, deputy chief, colonel, two majors, two captains, three sergeants, three colonel sergeants and three corporals. The rest of the force is just known as common policemen. Any complaints must be made to an ordinary policeman, who will in turn transmit it to a corporal, who will report to a sergeant and it will be reported through the others in order until it reaches the chief.

November 1912—The Exhibition Association declare that the deficit of the exhibition this year will amount to \$5,000. The attendance during the ten days was seventy-five thousand. A few years ago with the attendance sixty thousand the deficit was but \$3,000. It has always been the history, however, of St. John exhibitions that the larger the attendance the greater the deficit. There is some talk of making a change in the management, Mr. Everett, it is said, not having sufficient experience.

January 1918—Edward VII, King of Great Britain, Emperor of India, Lord of Africa, Supreme chief of Canada, High sovereign of Australia & Co., will open the Imperial Parliament tomorrow. The Earl of Quebec (formerly Sir Wilfrid Laurier) Canada's representative in the government has arrived in London to attend the session.

March 1910—The delegation appointed by the St. John Board of Trade to go to Ottawa to present the claims of St. John to a Dry Dock proceeded on their journey yesterday. Mr. Robertson who is still in England writes that everything looks favorable towards getting a grant from the home government.

February 1914—The Chief Magistrate this morning gave the police a severe lecture for not putting down the disorderly houses that exist so numerously throughout the city.

PROGRESS CONTENTS TODAY.

- PAGE 1.—This page is right before you. Read it.
- PAGE 2.—Lockjaw's Deadly Germ—Old ways in which tetanus may enter the system.
- PAGE 3.—Musical and dramatic news of the week.
- PAGE 4.—Editorial, poetry, news of the passing week and other topics.
- PAGES 5, 6, 7, and 8.—Social happenings throughout the province.
- PAGE 9.—Newfoundland's Graveyard—Natives that save life and also loot the wrecks. Latest Moving of Chili—Her object in seeking a coalging station from Salvador.
- PAGES 10 and 11.—Opening chapters of an interesting serial entitled "A Terrible Bond."
- PAGE 11.—Many matters of interest to Sunday readers.
- PAGE 12.—A Cross Roads Gambler—One of the type once common on the Mississippi.
- PAGE 13.—Chat of the Boudoir and frills of fashion.
- PAGE 14.—A Remarkable Hanging—Many Indians executed forty years ago.
- PAGE 15.—Miss Desire Prim's Will—An interesting short story. Births, marriages and deaths of the week.