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Gustavus William Wicksteed

One of the most useful offerings the ANGLO-SAXON could make to its readers at this Christmas season—when the hearts of Englishmen instinctively turn to the old land—is the life of Gustavus William Wicksteed, Q.C., of Ottawa. That he is probably the oldest son of England now living in Canada would be of itself recommendation enough to our friends to whom we now introduce him. But he has been a life worth living, in its record of true manhood and as an example of what a righteous man really is in the flesh. Mr. Wicksteed, whose name and person have been familiar to law-makers and law-expounders for over seventy years, is now nearing the end of his first century, and will reach it when the Christian world sees the nineteenth century since the birth of Christ, completed, closed and past. The subject of our sketch was born in Liverpool, England, on the twenty-first day of December, 1799. Born in the eighteenth century, his friends speak in the most confident terms of the ability of this patriarch to continue to breathe the air of this earth well into the twentieth century. He will thus form a link between three centuries—and what centuries! what ages of war and peace and progress have they been and will they be! how great the glory of England in the first two, how much greater in the last, if her sons will be as unselfish and liberal hearted and minded to the world of men as has been the noble character we are now sketching. Longevity is not to be desired—either by the long-liver himself or by his friends for him—if the one whose days are long in the land is not healthy and strong in body and mind, and lives a life of usefulness and honour. Such has been the lot and life of Mr. Wicksteed. Apprenticed in early manhood to a Civil Engineer in England, he threw up his articles on and the advice of his uncle Mr. Justice Fletcher, of the Saint Francis District, he left for Canada in 1821, and there entered upon the study of law. It is as a member of the latter profession—the noblest of all—that he is most widely known; but still, several roads and bridges in the Province of Quebec, and the engines of at least one steamboat even now running on the St Lawrence, attest his early training and the bent of his mind towards engineering, and give proof that whatever his hand found to do he did with all his might. It was as a draftsman of our Canadian statutes—and their consolidator and reviser—that his name has become famous and a part of the political history of our land. But besides this work, the Imperial and Canadian Governments employed Mr. Wicksteed to carry out several important commissions—such as the expropriation of lands for the Levis forts, the postal service, the Craig's road commission, &c. In all that he did his clear head, calm judgement, incorruptible probity, knowledge of law and business, and through acquaintance with the English and French languages, made his work valuable to his employers and his country, and honourable to himself. His classical and scholarly attainments are very considerable, and do credit to Merchants' Tailors' school in London, England, where was educated. Nowhere does he shine more than in the company of highly educated men, men capable of appreciating his graceful and harmless and witty humour, and knowledge of books and

men. Since boyhood he has shewn strong literary powers. His poetry assumes the form of *vers de societe* and some of the best are not surpassed for wit, rhythmical flow and clever hits. He says that he takes more pride in his prose compilations than in his poetical ones, and certainly in what he has written, be it on law points, on financial matters, on trade questions, on educational questions, or in historical criticism, he has displayed the cultured mind, the unbiased and unprejudiced judgement, and the charitable man. With the exception of a slight deafness, all his mental faculties are unimpaired. His physical powers still surprise the people of Ottawa, who constantly and regularly meet him on his way to the Bank or his other business haunts, walking with upright figure and elastic step, disdaining any other support than that given by a light walking cane. His longevity is partially owing to heredity, doubtless, but to a sound constitu-

tion he has added the vigor given by an inflexibly temperate life both in the matter of alcoholic stimulants and narcotic sedatives. In aid of these promoters of health and long life, his abstinence from intoxicants and tobacco, his cultivated a meek and quiet and placid disposition and lives a life of untroubled serenity. His cheerfulness and good humour never desert him, and he attends any gathering (not always delightful to himself, but at which he knows his attendance will give pleasure to others. His extreme modesty is proverbial, his dislike to notoriety is such that we are inserting this biography unknown to him,—for to ask permission would be to be refused. His courtesy and gentleness of manner to all are excessive,—yet he lacks not a proper sense of dignity, and the respect due him by the very highest in the land. The story goes that once a member of parliament was offensive to him in manner—as they often are to those whom they consider servants—Mr. Wicksteed resented the affront, and the offending member was obliged to apologize right humbly. He is a righteous God-fearing man; it is this that makes his life a shining light to all Canadians. His advice to his children is valuable to everyone;—make all the friends you can;—look on the bright side of things and of men;—treat every person as if you wanted to make him your friend and believed you could let not thy lips praise thee;—do that which you most dislike, first;—owe no man anything. Just and true in all his thoughts, words, and actions; he ever follows and is a living epitome of that greatest of all chapters on love viz. that found in the epistle to the Corinthians, written by Saint Paul. In fine he has ever acted out his duty to God and his duty to his neighbor as found in the catechism of his beloved church of England;—that catechism so full, complete and godly, that beautiful compend of Christianity.



GUSTAVUS WILLIAM WICKSTEED, OTTAWA.

"A SECOND TERM."

The Brantford *Expositor*, commenting upon the mayoralty of that city says:—
"From present appearances Mayor Elliott will be unopposed. Apparently the present incumbent of the office has given very general satisfaction to the ratepayers of all classes, and there is a disposition to pay him the compliment of a two-year term."
The citizens of Brantford in deciding to give Bro. Elliott a second term as Mayor, is an honor which Englishmen throughout the Dominion will appreciate. Never before in the history of the Order as the delegates been welcomed to a city by a Mayor who is a Past Supreme President of the Order. The Grand Lodge will meet in the city of Brantford the second week in March.

The election of officers of the four lodges in Ottawa, Derby, Bowwood, Stanley and Russell, took place in the early part of the month. There is no material change in the personnel.

An Element of Discord.

The Editor ANGLO-SAXON.
I have read with pleasure the letter of Bro. Thos. Elstob, in your November issue, and I thoroughly endorse the opinion he expresses with regard to the Official Organ. The members of our lodge with whom I have discussed the matter are unanimously of opinion, that so long as we could depend upon the ANGLO-SAXON working honestly and intelligently for the Order and for Englishmen in general, it was an act of folly to put the Order to the cost of supporting an additional paper. The benefits to be obtained by so doing being in no way commensurate to the cost.
The ANGLO-SAXON is doing good work both inside and outside the Lodges, and the fact that it does not confine itself exclusively to the official reports, &c., renders it more acceptable to the majority of readers, whilst the patriotic and historic articles appearing in it are well calculated to foster a healthy feeling of pride in our nation and filial affection to our Mother Country, which, by national evolution will result in the growth of a desire for closer union amongst Englishmen.
Whilst Englishmen are, to an extent, unparalleled amongst other peoples of the world and possessed of the individual characteristics which make great men, they are lacking in cohesiveness, and do not hang together as they ought to do. This is, in a great degree, attributed to their natural independence of character, but it is time they learned the lesson so farly set forth by Esop, centuries ago, that in unity only is strength. Typical Englishmen are like grains of quartz or silica, bright, pure, strong and slightly angular, possessing no natural cohesion but unsurpassed for strength and endurance when united by a proper cementitious medium. If then, we desire to perpetuate and increase England's greatness we must be united, and I believe that our Order offers the best medium, at present presented to us, for attaining this end, but to make it effective we must jealously guard against introducing any element of dissention into our organization which might cause internecine separation.
The numerous letters from members of the Order, appearing month after month in your paper, are evidence that the action of the Supreme Lodge, in arranging for the publication of the *S. O. E. Record*, does not meet with the unanimous approval of the brethren, and it is to be sincerely hoped that this element of discord will be removed from amongst us at the next meeting of the Supreme Grand Lodge.
I am yours fraternally,
S. A. CLARK, Pres.,
Empress of the West, No. 176,
Regina, N. W. T. 2nd December, 1896.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The election of officers of Lodge Eton for the ensuing year took place on the 2nd inst. The president, William Egan; worthy president, Will Beardon; vice-president, John Wainwright; secretary, George Worthy; assistant secretary, Thomas Evans; treasurer, Thos. Dover; chaplain, Rev. W. J. Kirby; inside guard, S. Whitlock; outside guard, A. W. E. Doble; surgeon, Dr. H. D. Johnson; marshal, S. D. Stearns; deputy, James D. Lapthorne; district committee, John Field, W. F. Riggs, A. Williams, Leonard Bellamy; trustees, James D. Lapthorne, J. C. Crabb, C. J. Turner; auditors, E. D. Sigraa; Secy. D. Wright, W. W. Chisholm.

A Fitting Representative of Englishmen.

BRO. BARLOW CUMBERLAND,
Supreme Grand V.-President.

AN OFFICIAL TOUR AMONG THE OTTAWA VALLEY LODGES.

Black Prince Lodge, of Pembroke, Ont., had an official visit from Bro. Barlow Cumberland, S.G.V.P., recently and from a report received we are able to say the visit was highly beneficial to the brethren and Englishmen generally of that town. Black Prince lodge was instituted some five years ago, and until last month was only visited by Bro. W. R. Stroud, S. G. P. P. An interesting programme was carried out with Bro. John H. Phillip, in the chair, the following took part—Bro. L. N. Pink, song; W. H. Bone, address; H. R. Neapole, song; Miss E. Cressy, recitation. The local address for event was the address of the Supreme Grand V.-President, Bro. Cumberland, who was able to keep his audience in good humour, while he is sending home some well aimed thrust, and leaves behind him something for his hearers to think over. A Pembroke paper speaking of his address says: "Mr. Cumberland is undoubtedly a charming speaker; he is witty too, and drew forth much laughter. He is broad in his views, and his selection for his present position was indeed a happy one."
Nelson Lodge, No. 43, Almonte, was also visited by Bro. Cumberland, and he assisted in initiating three candidates. He paid a tribute to the abilities displayed by the officers of Nelson lodge, and alluded to the excellent financial condition in which they were in. After the lodge meeting was over part of the members and friends partook of an excellent dinner at the Commercial House. Mayor Bro. Wm. Thoburn acted chairman, with Bro. R. W. Hayden, P. B. D., in the vice chair. Among those present were Rev. J. G. Low, Mr. B. Rosamond, M. P., Rev. Mr. Hagen, Warden Willoughby, Dr. Kirkland, Mr. A. M. Greig, from Severn lodge, Arnprior, was Bro. A. C. Pye and Bro. Richmond. The S. G. Vice made an effective speech, and kept the question of the importance of the Order to the front, and said one of the chief aims for which the Sons of England are striving to cultivate was land where of the Empire.
The Almonte Gazette speaks of Bro. Cumberland as follows:—
"The speech of the evening was that of Mr. Cumberland, who was heartily cheered when he rose to reply. His address was of a very patriotic kind, and such as could not fail to do good in any gathering of Canadians. He expounded the nature of the order he represented, and pointed out the benefits to be derived from membership in it. But the greater merit of the speech was taken up in showing what a grand heritage Englishmen have, but that, while they glory in the brave deeds and virtues of their ancestors, they should all join heartily with their brethren of Ireland and of Scotland in their making Canada the brightest gem in the British crown. The speech was not only interesting and inspiring, but it bristled with wit, and in spite of the allegation that Englishmen are too dumb to be witty."
Beaconsfield Lodge, No. 171, Carleton Place was visited by Supreme Grand V.-President Barlow Cumberland, on Wednesday evening the 26th November. It was a great pleasure to the brethren having him present, being the first time an official visit by a Supreme officer since the lodge was instituted four years ago. There were four candidates balloted for and received, three of them having taken part in the Indian Meeting. The S. G. V. P. took part in the initiation, giving the final charges. Bro. Cumberland gave a very interesting and stirring address, and brought out many important points in the aims and objects of the Sons of England. He congratulated the officers and thanked the members for the hearty manner in which they had received them. Bro. Beaton, president, replied on behalf of the members, stating the gratification it had given them all in having the Supreme Grand V.-President the guest of the members of Beaconsfield Lodge.