

McGill's services were also sought for and readily obtained. He was for some time an Executive Councillor and, in 1813, was, by Lord Metcalfe, offered the speakership of the Legislative Council, an office which, although he then declined it, he afterwards, in 1847, accepted and held until the following year, when, with his colleagues in the administration, he resigned it. Mr. McGill was also, for many years, President of the Montreal Bible Society, and when he resigned the office, in 1843, not only received the cordial thanks of the Society for his long and zealous services but was placed at the head of the Honorary Governors of the Society, then created. He was also the first Chairman of the first Railroad Company—the St. Lawrence and Champlain—established in Canada, from its commencement, in 1834, until the completion of its road, in 1838. For many years, dating from its commencement in 1835, he was President, and gave much of his time, and no small amount of his means, in supporting the National Society of St. Andrew. He also served the office of Mayor of Montreal from 1840 to 1842, during which period many and great improvements were effected in this city. In short, whether as a statesman and politician, a useful and active member of our municipal government, or as patriotic, liberal-minded and philanthropic citizen, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to name any man who, in our community,—or indeed in any community—so deservedly meriting the esteem and regard of his fellow-men as the late Mr. McGill.—*Montreal Herald.*

—About the same time that the obituary notice on Sir George Simpson was inserted in our columns, another notable of the North-West, though of humbler pretensions, disappeared from the scene of life. Mr. J. B. Faribault died in Minnesota Territory, on the 20th of August last, aged 87 years. He was born at Berthier, Lower Canada, in 1773. His father, Barthélemy Faribault, a Parisian by birth, had filled the office of Military Secretary under the Duquesne Administration, and died in 1801. Some years before this event took place, Mr. J. B. Faribault had removed to Quebec, where having obtained a situation as Accountant in a mercantile establishment, he remained five years. As this calling ill-suited his inclinations, he longed for a change and offered his services to the American North-West Company, which were accepted. In May 1798 he started from Montreal for Makinaw, where his stay was but of short duration. While on this journey he married Miss Ainsie, by whom he had eight children. Having remained eleven years in the employ of the North-West Company, and experienced many reverses, he at last fixed his home in Minnesota, and founded the settlement which bears his name. He was the first who cultivated the soil west of the Mississippi. Forty years ago, having purchased agricultural implements he taught the Indians how to till the earth, in which undertaking his success was complete. He was universally known by the tribes from the Mississippi to the Missouri, and possessed their entire confidence. He could not, as the late Governor of the Hudson's Bay Territories, boast of the honor of a visit from the Prince of Wales during the sojourn of His Royal Highness in Montreal; still, as one of the enterprising and chivalrous descendants of those Europeans who first settled in the wilderness of the Far West, he had the good fortune to share in the inauguration of a civilization, the results of which the Prince has now had an opportunity personally to witness and to admire.

—An earthquake was felt on a vast area of the continent of America, on the 17th of October. There were several shocks at different times, but the most violent was felt at a quarter before six in the morning. This convulsion seems to have been felt with various degrees of intensity at the same moment, from Portland to Montreal in a northern direction, and from Belleville to *Pointe aux Pères* in an eastern direction. Although the shock was sufficient to throw light objects about within houses and to cause the fall of stones from chimneys, and of tiles from roofs, it does not appear that any serious accident happened anywhere. Reports vary as to the duration of the phenomenon.

A friend writes to us: "At about four o'clock I felt a sharp shock and heard a noise in the direction of the street as if the windows were about being forced. I first thought it was the wind, but upon reflexion I found that the stroke at the window was too sharp and not of sufficient duration to be caused by the wind. I thought of thieves, rose from my bed, and went to the window. The atmosphere was very dark but there was no wind. I returned to my bed and remained watching for some time until I fell a sleep again, the thought of an earthquake never came to my mind. I was dreaming that I was on a railway car and pretty well jostled on a rough track, when I was awakened with the same sensation one feels by the sudden stopping of the cars. Then I felt for some time as if a huge animal was under my bed moving it up and down, and at the same time, I heard a tremendous rattling about the house accompanied by the same noise as that of several heavy carriages running in the street. I then, of course, had no doubt that it was an earthquake and that the noise I had first heard from the window was a warning or *avant courcur* of the frightful phenomenon. I cried out to the other persons in the house 'let us go down in the street' but before we had put on the necessary garments, all was quiet again. I looked at the clock it wanted twelve minutes to six. Other persons in the house who had been awake before the convulsion began, say that it had certainly lasted more than one minute; with an interruption of a few seconds. For my own part I have no doubt that I felt it and heard it during nearly one minute, though it must have begun while I was sleeping."

Earthquakes are attributed to the same causes as volcanoes, viz.: the masses of ignited substances which are in the interior of the earth. That large masses of *liquid fire* exist under the crust of the earth is evident from the eruption of volcanoes and also from artesian wells, and springs of hot water. The explosion of gases caused by the contact of such masses with water or by chemical action which we may imagine, although their precise nature is unknown to us, is sufficient to create violent convulsions at the surface of the earth.

The greatest earthquake felt in Canada was that of 1663, described in Charlevoix's history. The greatest on record are those that destroyed Lima and Lisbon, the first in 1716, the second in 1753, by which more than 22,000 lives were lost. It extended to Greenland and to Africa. Quito was also partly destroyed by an earthquake, and in 1830, Guatemala suffered in the same manner by shocks that were renewed during five consecutive days.

—The last census develops the fact that there are more Scotchmen and descendants of Scotchmen in London than in Edinburgh, more Irish than in Dublin, 100,000 more Roman Catholics than in Rome, and more Jews than in Palestine.—There are also 60,000 Germans, 30,000 French, and 6,000 Italians; a large number of Asiatics, and many who still worship their idols.

EMMATUM.—In the article which appeared in our last, on the reopening of the Commercial Academy in Côté Street, for "Mr. Hogan, a young gentleman of promising ability," etc., read, Mr. Keegan, etc.

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