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VOL. XIV., No. 47

TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1906

PRICE FIVE CENTS

TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

My Recollections of Hamilton and Its People Continued—Some Errors Corrected—Early Owners—First Mayor and First Bankers—Street and Wardell—"French Henry"—Mr. Gilbert—Mr. Filgiano—Old-Time Auctioneers—Lawrence Devany, the Friend of D'Arcy McGee—The Father of the Dundas McMahaons—Early Burials—Gold Hunting.

I promised in my last letter to furnish my enlarged list of Hamilton readers some more items about early times at the "Head of the Lake," as the city was called in its earlier days; but I first want to correct some errors in my last contribution. The name of "Hughson" should be changed into "Hughson," the name of the owner of one of the first farms on which the city is built, and after whom Hughson street is named. Where the name "Thorn" is printed it should be "Thom"; and the name of "Jolly" added as a saddle and harness maker. Writing of the Pennsylvania Dutch that settled on the plateau above the city, the name that is printed "Lerrettrerrys" should be "Terryberrys." "Jacob" Hess should be printed "Peter." I have seen this name printed with a final e, making it "Hesse," but I think the usual way was as I had it. Writing of Daniel Kelly, the carriage builder, who opposed Timothy Brick, the first Catholic elected to any position in Hamilton, my manuscript copy said he "was not one of the faithful," but it was printed "one of the faithful," which gave no meaning whatever. I think I made a mistake in claiming that Mr. T. Brick was the first Catholic elected to any office in Hamilton. That distinction belonged to a Mr. Gilbert, an Englishman, and a very intelligent man, who kept a hotel on South James street, about where the J.M.B.A. hall is now located.

Those who owned the farms on which the city of Hamilton is erected were, counting from east to west, Land, down near the inlet named after him; Aikman, whose farm was located east of the original limits of the city; James Durand, who was succeeded by Peter Hamilton; Mr. Hughson, whose first name I do not remember; and Peter Hess. There were two or three others whom I do not now call to mind. Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Land and Mr. Hess were yet alive when I first went to Hamilton. Mr. Charles Durand, who was born in Hamilton and had a memorable career, says in his memoirs, published 1897, that if his father had not sold his farm to Peter Hamilton, the city would now be named Durand. Hamilton was incorporated in the year 1847, and there was some discussion as to what name it should bear as a city. There were some who advocated a change back to Burlington. Why Hamilton's name was given to it in preference to that of any of the other land-holders, was because his farm was that on which the town was started. On it took in the court-house square and the gore. But who it was that owned the large tract of land known as "commons," extending from the settled portion of the town down to the bay, I do not know. No doubt there were several owners of that great tract, and it occurs to me that a good deal of it belonged to Thomas and James Stinson, who were the principal property owners in those days. Samuel Mills, I believe, was the greatest landlord because he owned the most tenement houses and was not particular as to whom he rented them either, so long as he got the rent demanded. I have to enquire when I next visit Hamilton, who owned the tract on which "Corktown" was built and when it was begun. Judge O'Reilly lived in Corktown and had a small farm there, but I never heard that he was much of an owner. Judge Miles O'Reilly had a brother named Hamilton O'Reilly, who was also a lawyer, and lived on Jackson street, but it had a different name then.

The first mayor of the city was Colin C. Ferris, a Scotchman and one of Hamilton's extensive wholesale merchants, whose place of business was on the southwest corner of King and Hughson streets. It was a very large but low frame building which was moved south towards Main street when the Gore bank, of which Mr. Perry was president, was erected on its site. I watched the erection of that building from day to day, from John Robertson's printing office, which was on the opposite eastern side. It took a good while to build it because all the stone was cut and trimmed on the premises. The cashier of that bank was a Mr. Street, and a Mr. Stevens or Stevenson was manager. Mr. Street, I believe, was one of the Streets of the Niagara district. He was a man with a "sandy" complexion with large overhanging eyebrows. Some years ago I met a man on the steps of the Northwestern railroad depot, in Chicago, who attracted my attention because of those eyebrows and I accosted him. I said to him "Excuse me, sir; is not your name Street?" "No, sir, my name is Street—T. C. Street. He was the identical man. I reminded him of old times in Hamilton. He asked me who I was; but I said I was only a "kid" in those days and too insignificant to be known by him. "Call and see me at the First National Bank," he said, and there we had a chat together. The "First Na-

tional" was the leading bank of Chicago, and it is so yet, and Mr. Street was one of its vice-presidents. If he be alive he must be between ninety and a hundred years of age, for I thought him old when I was only a youngster.

Another gentleman that I met on the streets of Chicago one day whom I thought I knew and did know, was the eldest Mr. Wardell of Dundas. I accosted him and said: Is not your name Mr. Ward? "No," he answered, "Wardell." That is the name I meant; I used to know you when I lived in Hamilton many years ago; you lived in Dundas but were often in Hamilton. You were in John Robertson's printing office one day when I was a mere lad, and you had quite a friendly conversation with Mr. Robertson, who sent me up to show you how type were put together, and he dictated to me what to set up; it was about you selling your farm near Dundas." Mr. Wardell appeared surprised and pleased. He was an English gentleman and a Catholic and a great friend of Vicar-General Macdonell of Hamilton. It has been a great pleasure to me since my return to Canada to make the acquaintance of his son, who is a prominent lawyer of Dundas and a greatly respected gentleman. A grandson of his is now a doctor in Hamilton, whom I have met.

There was a man in Hamilton when I first lived there that was well known and liked, who went by the name of "French Henry," or Henry Gerard. He was a very tall man, a Catholic and an agreeable citizen. He kept a livery stable on South James street, about opposite the "Spectator" office now, and if I am not mistaken, succeeded Mr. Gilbert. I knew several Frenchmen in Hamilton after that, including Mr. Theophilus Filgiano, who came from Toronto, where he was well known. Mr. Filgiano was a dentist and a great singer, who joined St. Mary's choir. He was a very enthusiastic gentleman and when he sang the "Marseilles Hymn" made the rafters ring. He was very sociable and soon made many friends in his new home. I am glad to notice the name of Filgiano occasionally in the papers; now, but, alas, not the same Filgiano!

There was an auctioneer in Hamilton named Thornor, when I went there. His location was the southwest corner of King and John streets where Carey's Hotel used to be years before. I remember Mr. Thornor well, especially on account of a sale he held on the street corner one day. The effects were a lot of very poor furniture belonging to a very poor family who were distrained for rent. I have often thought of that sight, because of its misery and praised the laws of the United States that protect the home and make exemptions in its favor. There the landlord has to take his chances like any other debtor. Another auctioneer of the same kind that I remember was named Wonnham. Stephen Oliver was an auctioneer of a different type and got a more respectable class of business. Lawrence Devany came after I left Hamilton, but I knew him well when he was an alderman of that city. His rooms were on the south side of King William street, near James street. He was a warm-hearted, enthusiastic kind of man, with a very cutting tongue. His wife, a fair-haired little woman, used to attend the store for him and keep his accounts. I was the one who first introduced him to the late Thos. D'Arcy McGee, whose company he sought as much as possible. I asked him once afterwards how he liked McGee? His answer was most emphatic: "I like him," he said, "I love him, and right or wrong I'll stick to him!" And McGee, as warmly took to Devany and stuck to him, until the latter's death. Devany, after retiring from business, went to Montreal to live, so as to be near McGee. In McGee's volume of poetry edited by Mrs. J. D. Sadlier of Montreal, there are three poems devoted to Devany and members of his family. That headed "Requiem Aeternam" was on Devany's own death, which sad event took place on March 3, 1868, in Montreal, only a short time before McGee's assassination. I once heard a priest speak of it as one of the most affecting poems in the language. There were in it altogether seventeen stanzas of four lines each. Another entitled "In Memoriam," was in memory of Devany's little daughter, Mary Ann, who lost her life while endeavoring to save two of her playmates who had been skating on the Welland Canal at St. Catharines, on Thursday, March 3, 1864. The first stanza reads:

"Lost, lost to us on earth, O daughter dearest!
Torn, as if by a whirlwind, swiftly away;
Little we know, when morning skies are clearest,
What tempests may engulf the closing day!

Now, let me digress a little and turn to Dundas for a moment. I will quote from the reminiscences of the late Charles Durand, whom I knew well, and who died in Toronto two or three years ago:
"My brothers and I boarded a short time with the family of Mr. MacMahon. He was the father of the present Judge MacMahon, of County Judge MacMahon, and of Dr. MacMahon of Dundas. Before my brother George went to this school (Mr. MacMahon's) he attended the same school in Hamilton, a district school kept by Mr. John Law in 1826-27, at which the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, afterwards Minister of Education, also attended and received his education in part." I know, or recollect, this Mr. John Law, who afterwards held some governmental law office, and lived on Main street, south side, and a little west of Hughson street. He had two

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sons, one grown to manhood, named Robert, who became a lawyer, and the other named James, a young fellow, with whom I used to play sometimes. Egerton Ryerson, I have often seen in Toronto, especially about the time the Normal School was established. He was not "Minister" but superintendent of education, and the father of our present school system. He brought here from Dublin, Ireland, Mr. Robertson, the first principal of the Normal School, and Mr. Hodgins, one of whose names was a lawyer and is probably the Mr. Hodgins, whose name I sometimes see in the papers; and I think the late Mr. Taylor, of the education department, and a most worthy Catholic gentleman of Toronto, came out here at the same time. Mr. Durand, who was himself a good deal of a bigot, had no use for Mr. Egerton Ryerson, on account of his diverting from his early reform principles to defend Governor-General Sir Charles Metcalfe and his Tory associates.

"I have attended frequently to the burial of the old people in early times which was done on their farms—near their homes often. It is strange to think of this; but there were no public cemeteries such as we now have, some of which are beautiful for situation, and their monuments exhibit the deep affection of their living relatives. Of none have I a greater admiration than for that of the new Hamilton cemetery overlooking Burlington Bay, in front eastward, and the great Coots' paradise valley and Dundas to the west, from which we also see the green mountain forests of Flamboro and Ancaster. I believe the Catholic Holy Sepulchre Cemetery is in the same locality and possesses equal advantages.

"In the old times many of the dear ones were buried in fields or small nooks on farms—as my father laid his first wife, who was killed, as spoken of (killed coming down the mountain). In 1834, on that same farm, Mr. Geo. Hamilton's body was buried in a small burying ground a little beyond his house under the mountain ridge eastward." I have been shown recently the stone coffin of Dr. Case, on the mountain side, near the eastern ascent. "On the farm formerly owned—now cut up into residences—by the late Peter H. Hamilton, a small plot existed near where Mr. Hendrie's residence now stands, in which an ancient owner named Wedge was buried. From this it seems that neither Durand nor Hamilton was the first owner of that farm, but Wedge. "Not far from the Castle of Dundurn, built by Allan N. McNab, a private burial plot exists south-east of it, or did, in 1820-30, up to 1850—in which his son's and his own body were buried.
Even gold hunting in early days was practised in the vicinity of Hamilton. Mr. Durand remarks about this: "There was a craze of this kind all over Upper Canada. People thought there were hidden treasures in the ground, put into holes, by whom no one knew, or how I remember my father and brothers putting on blankets, coats and traveling gear, going out to dig for gold. The late Bishop Richardson of the Methodist Episcopal Church, told me in his lifetime, that he recollected this strange mania as a young man, in 1816 to 1820. He said he thought the Devil put it into people's heads to do so—made them crazy. I don't know that the Devil interferences in this way, although he goes about as a roaring lion. In mostly all new countries there is a search for gold.

WILLIAM HALLEY.
The best variety of Catholic Devotional articles in Canada. That is a big statement for a Church Goods House situated in the Province of Ontario to make. But it is a fact nevertheless. Outside of New York City and some of the larger American Catholic centres there is not a larger variety kept in stock to be found of Catholic Devotional Articles than is shown by the enterprising house of W. E. Blake, 123 Church St., Toronto, Canada. If you are contemplating the purchase of an acceptable Christmas gift the Register by all means invites you to visit this establishment. Open every evening during December.

THE HOME BANK OF CANADA
Dividend No. 2
Notice is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of Six per cent. per annum upon the paid-up Capital Stock of The Home Bank of Canada has been declared for the half-year ending November 30th, 1906, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office and Branches of the Bank on and after the First day of December next.
The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 20th of Nov., both days inclusive.
By order of the Board,
JAMES MASON General Manager.
Toronto, Oct. 17th, 1906.
City branches open 7 to 9 o'clock Saturday—8 Church St.; Queen and Bathurst

Pope Wants All War Abolished

Replying to a peace message to him by the president of the International Peace Association of Milan, the Pope reminds his correspondent that Popes are always apostles of peace and that the Vatican stands for arbitration as opposed to war. The Pontiff also calls attention to the pleasure it gave him to accept an invitation to negotiate in a conciliatory manner when three American republics were agreed to accept arbitration in order to avoid war. In conclusion the Pope exhorted all nations to abolish war altogether, and not to rest with merely moderating the horrors of conflict.

His Holiness Threatened

Rome, Nov. 19.—The Pope has received personal letters containing threats that he will be assassinated in the Apostolic Palace as a protest against the present organization of society. The anarchists, it is stated, are ready to employ every means to destroy all institutions supported by religion or by military forces.
It has been officially decided that the Pope will receive King George of Greece on Sunday next.
The Pontiff this morning received Cardinal Coullie, Archbishop of Lyons, and three French bishops, and conferred lengthily with them regarding the situation in France.
The Pope has kept one of the nails which formed the charge of the bomb exploded yesterday in St. Peter's as a souvenir of the explosion. Many messages expressing indignation at the outrage have been received by the Pontiff.

Death of Mrs. Wm. Leahy

On the 13th inst. a deep gloom gathered over the community of Brock, when the news spread that Mrs. Wm. Leahy had been called away from the shadows of earth to the "well done" of their rewarding Master. The deceased was a woman of beautiful parts; to her husband she ever proved a prudent counsellor and to her family a shining example of a model Catholic mother. Though retiring in disposition, she was always with the poor and the downcast, and in return the poor loved her. The Catholic congregation of Brock, of which she was a devoted member, will keep her name for long years in happy memory.
The funeral was unusually large, many of the friends of the family coming from Toronto, Orillia and the neighboring towns. Notable among them was Mr. G. D. Grant, M.P.
After the Mass the Rev. Fr. Cline referred to her sudden taking away at a time when she had the promise of many years to come. "Though her sun set at noonday," he remarked, "it went down in calm and in peace."
"If her death was untimely," he added, "it was well prepared for by the reception of the last Sacraments and all the consolations of Holy Church. Though young in years she had to her credit a good day's work. She well accomplished the task that was given her to do." In conclusion he feelingly said that if the vacant chair at home summoned up fond memories of her who was the angel of the hearth, the vacant place in the pew would also remind the congregation present of one who was a faithful member of Holy Church, a devoted wife and an exemplary mother. Though Faith and Hope picture her in the light of Heaven, she may not yet have attained the fullness of joy. He therefore urged that those present who loved her in life would prayerfully remember her after death—for true love or charity is stronger than death.

The deceased was born in Brooklyn, Ont., forty-six years ago and was married in '83 by the late Fr. Shea. She has lived in Brock since that time. She is survived by her husband and a family of four children: Nellie, who is teacher in the home school; John, Leonard and Loretta, the latter of whom is at present attending St. Joseph's Academy, Lindsay.

BISHOP MCFAUL'S PLAN

Appealed to the Pope—Holy Father Has Decided to Adopt for Italy the Idea for the Federation of Catholic Societies.

Since the audience granted to Bishop McFaul, of Trenton, N.J., who was one of the principal promoters of the Federation of Catholic Societies in the United States, Pope Pius X. has decided to adopt the same plan regarding the numerous Catholic associations in Italy, which have for their scope the promotion of Catholic interests. The committee in charge of the matter has been instructed by the Vatican to establish an Italian Elected Catholic Union, which is to be composed of all the Catholic societies at present doing isolated work.
The scope of the Union will be to promote the election to Municipal, Provincial and Parliamentary representation of persons in harmony with the interests of the Church, and to submit to the approval of Parliament the laws which shall be deemed more adapted to protect Church interests, while denouncing laws under discussion which may not be favorable to the Church. It is the general opinion that by establishing a Federation of Catholic Societies in Italy as it exists in the United States, the Pope has proved himself once more a shrewd politician, and that it will not be long before the number of Catholic members in the Italian Parliament will form a powerful group.

New Methodist Theology

A stir has been created in Methodist circles by a remarkable sermon delivered on Sunday in England, by Dr. Downes, editor of Great Thoughts, at Stoke-on-Trent Wesleyan Church. The preacher declared his firm belief that human destiny is not fixed at death. This was a view which for some time he had held secretly and he knew others who were similarly situated. He could not withhold this great revelation which had come to his soul.
"God is love" meant that no man would be damned eternally without a chance. He had come to the conclusion that the great hope was in this that the reforming and mediating work of Christ was continued in the unseen world. The general idea had been that man's destiny was fixed at death, and that if he died in sin he went straight to hell. Christianity demanded that no human being should be adjusted until Christ had been brought home to him, whether that took place in this life or the life after death.

The Catholic Summer School

Rev. John Talbot Smith, LL.D., has been re-elected president of the Catholic Summer School of America, Rt. Rev. Henry Gabriels, Bishop of Ogdensburg, first vice-president, Michael Bannin of Brooklyn, second vice-president; Rev. David J. Hickey, treasurer and Charles Murray secretary. The executive committee elected consists of the Hon. John B. Riley of Plattsburg, George Gillespie, Rev. D. J. McMahon, Right Rev. Dr. Loughlin, and Right Rev. M. J. Lavelle. All the standing committees of last year have been reappointed. The winter course of lectures by Dr. James J. Walsh, will be given at the Catholic Club, under the patronage of the New York branch of the Summer School, of which Rev. Dr. Francis Wall is president and Frank Cunison, secretary. Four lectures will be given in Advent and four in Lent.

The German Emperor and the Catholic Church

The well-known Catholic proclivities of the Emperor William appear to be exciting the alarm of the Evangelical party in Germany. The Berlin correspondent of "Le Temps" telegraphs as follows to his paper: "The National Liberals and also the Evangelical Union compared with bitterness the reply of William II. to the note of felicitation sent by their Congress with the telegram addressed by the Emperor to the Catholic Congress of Essen. To the latter William II. himself despatched his warm thanks, but to the National Liberals and the Evangelicals he simply transmitted his thanks through his Chef du Cabinet, M. de Lucaeus. This has irritated the "Leipziger Tageblatt" profoundly. It says: "There is nothing more distressing or significant to Evangelicals than the hope entertained by the members of the Catholic Church that they will one day count the Emperor William amongst the faithful. We profess ourselves ignorant of the private religious sentiments of the Emperor, but nobody who has eyes to see and ears to hear can deny that the Imperial attitude denotes a strong bias toward Catholicism. We do not forget the warm protestations of adherence to the Evangelical faith proclaimed on the heights of Warburg, but we cannot fail to see that the Catholic clergy are treated with more consideration by the Emperor than the Protestant clergy. His predilections are for monasteries, and those who occupy them. The Imperial desire is to revive the ideal of the Middle Ages and we see in this mental attitude a strong approach to Catholicism. The Emperor perhaps aims at a practical end, and hopes that the Catholic and Mediaeval ideal will aid him in realizing his own romantic ideal; but this personal ideal of the Emperor has much of analogy with the Catholic ideal."

BISHOP ADMONISHES PARENTS

How Can They Close Their Eyes at Night Knowing Their Children are on the Street.

Fall River, Mass.—Bishop William Stang prepared an admonitory message to the priests under his jurisdiction and directed that it be read to every Mass last Sunday. It is in part as follows:
"Catholic parents who love their children will certainly not allow them to run about the streets aimlessly after nightfall. How can a Catholic father and mother close their eyes in sleep unless they know that their children have said their prayers and have retired for the night. Our public thoroughfares are frequently polluted by unbecoming and lurid representations and pictorial advertisements, and few of our magistrates seem to have the courage or sense of propriety to prevent this outrage on public decency. Again, our cities and towns are flooded with sensational literature and filthy papers which debauch the mind and make serious reading an impossibility.
"The celebration of holy matrimony is often followed by ribaldry and offensive merriment. The day that should be observed with reverence and serious reflection as the entrance into a sanctified state of life is turned into one of riot and shameless frolic by those who should follow the newly wedded couple with prayers and good wishes. You will denounce with righteous indignation all silly and pagan customs that are desecrating the Christian wedding day, and you will threaten with due punishment all future offenders. The fair name of Catholicism should no longer be disgraced by such noisy marauders and disreputable rowdies who, under plea of fun and amusement, bring dishonor on the Church and scandalize the weak. Unless we inveigh with holy zeal against those and similar abuses disorders will grow to an almost incurable state and lead innumerable souls to eternal ruin."

Catholics and Non-Catholics in Ireland

Mr. Talbot Crosbie, an Irish landlord, recently interviewed by a newspaper reporter, expressed himself as follows regarding the relationship between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland:
"We never had religious division in the South of Ireland. We have always lived in harmony with our Catholic fellow-countrymen, and I strongly dislike the attempt to range Irishmen into hostile religious camps. Catholics and Protestants should work together in unity. We want fair play and a fair field for everyone. No man should be handicapped owing to his religion, and no man should be oppressed for it. The appeal was made to the British electorate (in reference to Home Rule), 'Come and help your co-religionists' (the Protestants in Ireland), but as a Protestant I say their co-religionists do not want help in that respect. We, as Protestants, in a small minority, have no fear of being over-ridden by our Catholic neighbors, and are perfectly satisfied that in any self-governing system in Ireland there would be no such oppression. The idea of handing us over 'to the tender mercies of the Catholic Hierarchy' is only a catchword for political purposes."

Another Instalment of Irish Home Rule

Dublin, Nov. 8, 1906. The Evening Herald declares that it has reliable information to the effect that at a recent conference attended by James Bryce, Chief Secretary for Ireland; John Redmond, leader of the Irish Party in the House of Commons; Jno. Dillon, member of Parliament for East Mayo, and Sir Anthony Patrick MacDonnell, Under Secretary to the Earl of Aberdeen, lord lieutenant of Ireland, Sir Anthony read the draft of a plan for the reorganization of the government of Ireland.
The draft provides for the establishment of a central or Castle board, an educational department, a department of agriculture and for the transfer of land. It creates an Irish council, with between two-thirds and three-fourths of its members elected on the existing parliamentary franchise and the remainder on a restricted franchise or nomination. Clergymen of all denominations are eligible for membership in the council.
Ireland is to retain her present representation in Parliament, the police are to remain under imperial control, but the force will be reduced numerically and the judiciary remains unaffected.
Mr. Redmond and Mr. Dillon strongly opposed the police and the judiciary clauses, but it was pointed out to them that certain members of the cabinet were obdurate on these questions. The proposed measure is not yet complete, but the essential features have been settled definitely and the entire cabinet is agreed thereon.
Why not Catholic books for Christmas? When the Catholic Public, who ought to be the greatest readers in the world, get to ask one another this question, the result will be beneficial. Mr. W. E. Blake, 123 Church street, Toronto, has on his shelves some 3,000 different titles, and a visit to his book shelves ought to assist in answering the question asked.