

hungry hunter, and yet fight shy of a thoughtful and elevating book. But unhappily this rage for novels, romances, legendary tales and plays, together with comic renderings, though by professional, and even famous, readers, is too general, even in Canada, to be considered less than a great social blemish. It has become a great moral blight which overspreads the land; and which blasts the blossoms of virtue, withers every natural feeling and benevolent principle, every serious thought and religious purpose, and unfits the soul for every thing important, dignified or divine. This rage has the lamentable effect of keeping the fancy awake and the understanding asleep, of paralyzing the mind; and after having rendered its deluded votaries incapable of all useful effort and painstaking practice in this life, consigns them over to irretrievable ruin in the life which is to come. There can be nothing more destructive in its nature, or in its tendencies more inimical to the best interest of the public and the individual, than this general and deeply rooted passion for books of fiction, and exhibitions of a similar character. Every determined and judicious self-improver has faculty enough to become a good reader. His objects being power, stability, force of thought, "though baffled oft," he wins the prize. Reading becomes a mighty instrument by which he throws a new complexion over his moral history, and secures for himself an ever increasing vigour of soul. Public, boundless and unending sympathies, attach to the wise and earnest reader. In no partial, circumscribed, or partizan spirit can he, without self-reproach, permit himself to live. Books are always the highest representative value of the world; and the age has gathered around us the amplest treasures of thought, and opened the proudest mines of intellectual affluence. Let our young men penetrate the surface, become familiar with the venerable and everlasting thoughts of the great classics of our own tongue, master our mighty standards; and taking them by the hand scale the battlements of the loftiest truth, and touch the highest standard of the man.—*Hamilton New Dominion*.

## VII. Biographical Sketches.

1. MR. SYLVESTER SKINNER, who died at Gananoque, was born near Hartford, Conn., in 1800; removing to Chenango County, New York, where he lived till about the age of 16 years, and acquired the trade of a blacksmith. The hard times that followed the war of 1812 induced Mr. Skinner to come to Canada, and he arrived at Brockville—where his half-brother had preceded him—in 1816. He located first at Coleman's Corners (now Lyn), and remained there for several years. Shortly afterwards he went to Brockville, and in company with Gideon Sheppard carried on a carriage and blacksmithing business. He was a careful and competent mechanic, and his carriages were of such superior make and finish that they found ready sale in all parts of the Province, many being shipped per steamer *William IV.* to York (now Toronto). The old Johnstown District contained a large number of Methodists, with whom Mr. Skinner became identified, and being an ardent politician he exercised great influence among his co-religionists. This got him into trouble, as he arrayed himself in opposition to the Family Compact, and fought in the front of the battle for the people's rights and Responsible Government. At the breaking up of the rebellion of 1837 Mr. Skinner was arrested with others, and thrown into prison, but he was soon released. He then took a contract for building locks on the Black River Canal, in New York State, at which work he spent two or three years. On his return to Brockville he worked at his old business for a short time. In 1857 he came to Gananoque, where he manufactured scythe snaths, hames and other articles. Mr. Skinner was a thorough mechanic, and took great pride in turning out first-class goods, regardless of the time and trouble necessarily expended.—*Reporter*.

2. R. S. STRUTHERS, Esq., son of Rev. Daniel Struthers, and born at Waterbeck, Scotland, in 1818. At the age of 16, having received a Collegiate Education of Scotland, he came out to Quebec in the year 1834, and settled there. Becoming acquainted with the French language, he went to Montreal, and engaged in the lumber trade for about two years, and then removed to Kingston, where he engaged in the mercantile trade for some years. He then went to Brighton, County of Northumberland, in the year 1844; and was engaged for a year after as a Teacher. Shortly after he was appointed Superintendent of Schools, which office he held until he removed West in 1853, with his family, and settled in Louisville, where he was engaged in the mercantile business up to the time of his death.—*Chatham Planet*.

3. ANDREW PETTIT, Esq., of Grimsby, died 15th Nov., aged 84 years. Mr. Pettit, the son of a U. E. Loyalist, was the second or third white child born in the neighbourhood of Grimsby. He served

in the war of 1812, being present in several engagements at that time. Two of his sons served in the rebellion of 1838; two more and his son-in-law in 1866. Among the oldest of the settlers there was no man in the surrounding country more universally respected and esteemed in every department of life. An honourable man, a worthy representative of his father's staunch loyalty to the British crown, a generous neighbour, a friend that could always be trusted, a father that must be revered, a sincere Christian and devoted member of the Church of England, for whose creed and services he ever manifested an ardent and active love.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

4. JOSEPH FREDERICK WILLIAM DOUGALL was born in New Hampshire, in March, 1787, and died in December, 1874, aged 88. When nine years old he emigrated to Canada with his father (the late Dr. Dougall) and settled at Fredericksburg, on the Bay of Quinte. A few years after, the whole of the family removed to Prince Edward, and took up land a few miles west of Picton. In the year 1812 the subject of this sketch wandered through the wilds of Canada in search of a better locality for settlement, and was somewhere in the vicinity of Niagara when the news of the Declaration of War reached the colonists. In less than six hours after the news arrived William Dougall had enlisted in the 2nd Regiment of Norfolk Militia, and the same evening was drilling with his Company, preparatory to meeting the enemies of his King and country, who, a few years before had driven his father from his happy home in the old Granite State to seek a refuge in the wilderness of Canada! Shortly after enlisting he was attached to the Division which General Brock led against Detroit, and took part in the engagement which resulted in the surrender of that Fort to the British troops; for which service he was awarded the Detroit medal, issued by order of Her Majesty in 1848. After his return Eastward, the noble band to which he was attached were detailed to march to Queenston Heights to reinforce their comrades then engaged in deadly conflict with a superior force; but had the misfortune to arrive within a few miles of the field when they were met by the sad intelligence that the battle was over and that General Brock was killed. After his discharge from the service, in 1813, he resided for a time in Toronto (then little York) in consequence of which he was a few years ago elected a member of that venerable body known as "The York Pioneers." After a short sojourn in the west he returned to Prince Edward where he remained till his death. William Dougall was always noted for extreme loyalty to the British Crown, and was a man of unchangeable views. He was one of that peculiar class who hate the name "Conservative," and was proud to be called a Tory. In 1837 he voluntarily took his team and waggon to Kingston. He was one of the earliest magistrates, and acted in that capacity for many years. In society, he was noted for peculiar cautiousness, in never talking of his neighbours. It was the boast of his last days that he was never summoned as a witness in any court in the land. He carefully selected his associates and was fondly attached to them.—*Picton Gazette*.

5. THOMAS PARDO, Esq., was born in Colchester, Essex, in 1799. The deceased came, with his father's family, to Kent more than sixty years ago, and, with a few more of the old families, laid the foundation of the lake shore settlement in what has since become one of the most wealthy sections of the Province. At quite an early age he gave evidence of that indomitable energy and rare executive talent which have since helped him to accumulate the largest estates ever amassed in this county in one lifetime.—*Chatham Planet*.

6. MRS. PATTY C. DORLAND died in September, aged 90 years and 8 days. Mrs. Dorland was the eldest daughter of Willet and Jane Casey, of Adolphustown, and was born at Stanford, Dutchess County, N.Y., in the year 1784. After her marriage to Gilbert Dorland in 1804, they removed to "Lakeview Farm," Hallowell, where she spent the remainder of her life.

7. MR. ADAM MONTGOMERY was born in Fermanagh, Ireland. He came to Canada in 1833, and settled in St. Catharines in 1836. He followed the business of a cooper for some years, and in 1844 was appointed Chief of Police, a position he held without interruption for 18 years. He also held for several years the office of License Inspector.—*St. Catharines Journal*.

8. MR. ROSS ROBERTSON came to Kincardine in 1860, and soon became more or less identified with every movement having for its object the prosperity of Kincardine or the development of our resources. He was one of the earliest movers in the matter of salt, and was secretary of the first salt manufacturing company esta-