Board of Works 8May 92

PROGRESS.

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ACTORS AND THE WRITS.

THE CONSTABLES WERE BUSY ON TUESDAY.

When the Local Manager Bounced His Company—The Cause of It All and the Effect of It—Some Amusing Incidents of the Affair.

The town was full of idle actors and busy constables Tuesday.

The New York Stock company received the grand bounce suddenly and their creditors were on the look out for that event. The news had hardly reached the street before the minions of the law were on the go and any amounts that were owed by actors were collected summarily.

There have been so many stories afloat about the company and its engagement that the facts might as well have equal currency. PROGRESS proposes to give them.

Mr. F. R. Fairweather arranged with the opera house directors to secure a good company and open the new house. There were other applicants after what was thought to be a "snap" but Mr. Fairweather secured the privilege and sent a representative to New York to engage the company. Of course he was under a disadvantage, because, with every theatre in the large cities open, good actors were scarce. The never failing McDowell was just concluding a West India tour and he was wired to ship his company to St. John. Thus it was that the company which opened the opera house was in a great measure composed of McDowell's West India people. There were a few exceptions but it is now a known fact that all the new company never rehearsed an hour before they started for St. John. It is little wonder that their later work in this city was so poor.

It is not necessary to go over the engagement. It is no secret that the opening has disappointed the opera house directors, and yet it is not their fault. They expected a good company and did their part. The good company failed to materialize, and the people soon found it out. An unfortunate selection of plays, lack of efficient management, the almost total absence of lithograph paper and many other like reasons make it easy to explain why the opera house, with a poor company, failed to draw. The directors realized the situation after the first three nights and yet were powerless to help matters. They were well pleased when the engagement was ended, though regretting that it did not finish more pleasantly and less abruptly, These are their views as expressed to PROGRESS.

Mr. Fairweather takes the only ground open to a manager who breaks an engagement when he declares that the company was not carrying out its part of the contract, in other words that they were careless and incompetent. Perhaps this language would not apply to all of them, but it certainly would to the majority. Still on Monday last the company had no idea but that they would finish the week, and some of them even hoped that some one with more cash than he could use and sufficient faith would continue their engagement.

This was not to be. They were rehearsing Tuesday for *Caste* when Mr. Fairweather arrived upon the stage. He made short work of them and was as abrupt as he was decisive. His ultimatum was, no more performances; paid up to date and return tickets to New York. That rehearsal came to a sudden termination, and after an indignant parley several of the actors started off to interview legal talent.

The "talent" was handy and were ready for interviews. Others, more practical pocketed their cash, thanked the manager for the return passage and took the night train for New York. Four or five remained in the city to look into the mysteries of the Canadian law on contracts. According to PROGRESS' understanding of it the case must come before the county court and as the usual twenty days notice cannot be given before the present sitting the case cannot come off before January. While Mr. Granville says "if it costs him thousands he will fight it out" it is not probable that his name will figure in the January docket.

The news of Manager Fairweather's call at rehearsals was soon noised abroad. Those interested found out what was new and the constables had a busy time of it. Mr. Emery was introduced to five capaises within as many hours while Mr. Granville renewed an acquaintance with the constabulary begun on the previous Saturday evening just before the performance.

Mr. E. D. Lyons, whose first introduction to the St. John public this year was in the character of Diogenes with his lantern seeking an honest man, no doubt found him in Dept Sheriff Rankin, whose acquaintance he made in the county jail. Mr. Lyons was indignant that a restaurant keeper whom he had "blocked" for the oysters should want to be paid for them, and when city marshal John Weatherhead introduced himself on Germain street, Mr. Lyons drew himself up, and with all the dignity of Mr. Poskett in the *Magistrate*, began to discuss the matter. Weatherhead was persistent and a few minutes later showed Mr. Lyons through the jail. When his inspection was complete the actor concluded that the open air was better for his health and paid the bill.

It would be too long a story to speak of the trials and tribulations of the other members of the company. Those people who were under the impression that they drew fat salaries had their eyes opened when they learned their financial condition.

Mr. Emery and Mr. Granville were very indignant that they should be arrested without warning on the streets, just as if they proposed to leave the town without settling their bills! The suggestion may not be amiss that all this can be avoided in future if the merchants will do business on a business like principle with strangers—cash only.

The lack of detail management during the entire engagement was too noticeable to pass unnoticed. Attention to little things is what pleases the people, and much of the success of a house depends upon that. They were not looked after during this engagement.

The steam heaters have the whole house to themselves now. The workmen are losing no time, and when the next theatrical company comes along great coats can be left at home.

IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

Some Unfavorable Reports From the Country—A Bankrupt's Proposition.

There is some uncertainty and considerable anxiety in business circles at present; uncertainty as to the result of good crops and anxiety as to the condition of the country trade. Those who are best informed say that the outlook might be improved, and they go farther and say they think it will be. One of the largest dry goods firms in the city tells PROGRESS that as a rule stocks have been bought carefully throughout the provinces, and that is one of the best signs. Few traders of any experience have bought more goods than they could sell, and the result is that purchases this fall and winter will probably be fairly heavy.

The reports from certain sections of the provinces have not been as good as was hoped for. Amherst seems to have fallen by the wayside to a certain extent—or, at least some of its business concerns—the town is all right. This is surprising since it was thought that there was more prosperity in Cumberland county than in any other of the maritime provinces. The census figures showed it, and the push and rapid growth of Amherst indicated it. While that is true, it must also be remembered that one of the chief causes, the construction of the ship railway and the requirement of much labor, has been removed and the natural reaction has set in. The push and prosperity of Amherst with such a work going on and the first agricultural section of Canada about it, made itself felt, and the business was over done. The few failures now will be a lesson, and one that every prosperous community has to learn.

These failures which have taken place near at hand reveal an unhealthy business. There are too many private notes—notes which have no connection with the business; notes for loans, notes for notes and so on to the end. Instances are cropping up of money borrowed on account of friendship, but a short time before failure and not repaid. A friend's loan is any man's first liability and should be provided for first.

"How can a man who fails with a liability of $4,000 and assets of $3,600 only offer 40 cents on the dollar payable in 6, 12 and 18 months?" That was the query put to PROGRESS this week. It is a hard one to answer, but there are many merchants in this city who could ask tougher ones.

Paying Its Bills.

Mr. Ira Cornwal was passing around the checks for exhibition bills this week, and he also bears the pleasant information that the association is paying its scores out of its receipts. The city will not be called upon for a dollar of its gurantee which is most satisfactory considering how it were persuaded to give it. Perhaps next year they may come to the conclusion that the exhibition people can make better use of the ground adjoining the barrack square than the present lesse who pays $10 a year and utilizes it as a sod ground.

Law Students Plucked.

The usually mild and lenient law students examiners have braced up this year and "plucked" four of the applicants for attorneys. Three of them were from this city and one from the northern border of the province. Messrs. Jordan, Gregory, Allan and Vanwart conducted the examinations and, PROGRESS is informed, gave each applicant an hour's agony of oral examination. Four of the ten went under temporally as well as two of those who applied to study.

PLANS FOR THE SEASON.

PROGRESS' OFFERS TO SUBSCRIBERS AND NEW READERS.

How the Correspondence Prizes are Sought After More Dictionaries on Hand—Ten Great Books with "Progress"—Unheard of Premium Offers—Articles for the Future.

A glance at the city correspondence in this issue will show that PROGRESS' offer of $25 in prizes has induced many correspondents to see what they can do in that direction. The result is as pleasing to the editor as it must be to the readers of the paper who, in spite of all that is said, enjoy reading about the people they know. Some outside towns made the mistake of thinking that the prizes were offered generally for the province though the proposition was quite plain and definite. There is a satisfaction for those who compete in the knowledge that whether they win the prize or not they will be paid for their work.

The last dictionary of the large number secured by PROGRESS this summer was sent out this week and the demand still continues to such a degree that another lot has been ordered. They arrived by the steamer Thursday and will be in PROGRESS office today. It is surprising how widely this book has been distributed. It has been sent to ministers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, farmers, over the whole country between Cape Breton and Vancouver. One subscriber in Missoula, Montana, sent for one. There has not been a single complaint from any of the hundreds who have secured the volume, which speaks well for its worth.

When premiums are given with subscriptions it is well to select the best. Beginning with next week PROGRESS will offer another premium, which for wonderful value and merit cannot be equalled anywhere. Who has not heard of the following ten great books?—

EAST LYNNE, by Mrs. Henry Wood.

JANE EYRE, by Charlotte Bronte.

JOHN HALIFAX, GENTLEMAN, by Miss Mulock.

ADAM BEDE, by George Eliot.

THE WOMAN IN WHITE, by Wilkie Collins.

LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET, by Miss M. E. Braddon.

VANITY FAIR, by W. M. Thackeray.

THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII, by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton.

THE THREE GUARDSMEN, by Alexander Dumas.

PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PLACE, by Charles Reade.

Each of these great and powerful works is known the world over and read in every civilized land. Each is intensely interesting, yet pure and elevating in moral tone. They are published *complete, unchanged* and *unabridged*, in *ten separate volumes*, with very handsome and artistic covers, all uniform, thus making a charming set of books which will be an ornament to the home. They are printed from new type, clear, bold and readable, upon paper of excellent quality. Altogether it is a delightful set of books, and PROGRESS has made arrangements to give the whole set of ten and a year's subscription to PROGRESS for two dollars and fifty cents ($2.50). This may seem incredible but any one who will call at the office can see the books and verify it for himself. Just think of getting *John Halifax, Gentleman* for five cents! That is what it amounts to for subscription price of PROGRESS is $2 and fifty cents is the additional price for the ten books. If they are sent to the country or out of the city fourteen cents postage will be required in addition. Those who have seen the books, and they have been shown to a few, have had their names booked for a set. It is no exaggeration to say that they were astounded.

But if that is a bargain what can be thought of this. Five of Fenimore Cooper's greatest novels in one volume with PROGRESS for one year for $2.25. Six cents additional for postage. They are called the "*Leatherstocking Tales*."

The first and greatest of American novelists is James Fenimore Cooper. "His popularity," says a writer in the *Century Magazine*, "was cosmopolitian. He was almost as widely read in France, in Germany, and in Italy as in Great Britain and the United States. Only one American book has ever since attained the international success of these of Cooper's—*Uncle Tom's Cabin* and only one America author, Poe, has since gained a name at all commensurate with Cooper's abroad." The great author is dead, but his charming romances still live to delight new generations of readers. "The wind of the lakes and the prairies has not lost its balsam and the salt of the sea keeps savor," says the same writer above quoted. Beautiful indeed are Cooper's stories of the red man and the pioneer, full of incident, intensely interesting, abounding in adventure, yet pure, elevating, manly, and entirely devoid of all the objectionable features of the modern Indian story. No reading could be more wholesome for young or old than Cooper's famous novels.

An entirely new edition of the Leatherstocking Tales has just been published, in one large and handsome volume of over three hundred large quarto pages, containall of these famous romances, *complete, unchanged and unabriaged*, viz.:

THE DEERSLAYER,
THE PATHFINDER,
THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS,
THE PIONEERS,
THE PRAIRIE.

This handsome edition of the Leatherstocking Tales is printed upon good paper from *large type*. It is a delightful book and one which should have a place in every Maritime home. It contains five of the most charming romances that the mind of man has ever conceived. A whole winter's reading is comprised in this mammoth volume. All who have not read Cooper's stories have in store for themselves a rich literary treat. Every member of the family circle will be delighted with them. Such an offer as we make would not have been possible a few years ago, but the lightning printing press, low price of paper and great competition in the book trade have done wonders for the reading public, and this is the most marvellous of all.

While making arrangements to obtain new subscribers PROGRESS proposes to interest them. In a week or two a series of articles upon Joseph Howe and his times, and the men who played a part in them, will be begun. While these articles will more especially interest our Nova Scotian readers they cannot fail to be read with eagerness by those who are interested in the history of these provinces. The articles will be illustrated by portraits of Howe in his early and later days, a portrait of Mrs. Howe and his father, John Howe. In connection with his life the home of Judge Haliburton and Judge Haliburton himself will be shown. Many other engravings will be printed which will make the series of articles more interesting. They will be written by a gentleman who knows his subject thoroughly and is in love with it; who knew Howe intimately and followed his career with all the observation and attention of a trained journalist.

The articles will begin either next week or the week after of which further annoucement will be made.

RECOGNIZED THEM AT ONCE.

A Moncton Boy who Came to St. John to See the Lunatics.

A good story is being told in Moncton at the expense of the St. John hackmen who, goodness knows, deserve it richly. A Moncton man who had some business in St. John, took his ten-year-old boy with him. During the day the father and son went for a drive, and chanced to pass the Provincial Lunatic asylum. It was a beautiful day and some of the patients were to be seen at the windows, while others strolled in the grounds behind the high walls. Jack was deeply impressed, and asked endless questions about "the lunatics." In fact he talked of little else until he got home, when he related his adventures to his younger brothers, laying especial stress upon the lunatics he had seen; probably as is the nature of boyhood he indulged in a little romance, and tinted the story rather brightly, for a consuming desire to see the lunatics arose in his youngest brother's mind, and he gave his father no rest till that indulgent parent promised to take him next time. "Next time" soon arrived, and Georgie set forth on his journey with high hopes. Nothing of any importance happened on the way down, and the train came to a standstill in the station in its usual uneventful manner. The hackmen were howling, struggling and dancing in their accustomed manner, and Georgie's father, rendered callous to their performance by familiarity, was passing through the crowd hurriedly, when a sudden tuck at the sleeve Georgie was holding checked him. The boy's brown eyes were absolutely starting out of his head with mingled curiosity and surprise. "This is the asylum, father, isn't it?" he gasped, pointing to the hackmen, and shrinking close to his father's side; "I see the lunatics! I see the lunatics!" And Georgie came nearer the truth, in one way, than he had any idea of.

Worth a Dollar, No Doubt.

The following is a copy of a letter received by a resident of Albert County from a leading barrister of N.B.:

DEAR FRIEND M——: I have crossed the Rubicon and burned the bridge behind me, and now like a sleuth-hound I am on your trial, and will never stop until I have collected from you the amounts of the following notes in favor of ————, or throw you upon charities of the world, a homeless begger. It is useless to dissemble longer. The goddess of justice has become enraged, the sword has been drawn and the scabbard burned and, like the sword, suspended in mid-air over the head of the false prophet, it is now hanging over you, and naught but the payment of the above just claim will satiate its thirst for vengeance. In the name of your wife and family and that freedom you hold so dear I entreat thee to avert the terrible calamity and appease the gods by immediate payment of the above sums, otherwise you must bid adieu to those hills and dales upon which you have been wont to ramble.

Yours, etc.,

Sept. 15, '91. ——— ———.

Bibles, New Binding. McArthur's Bookstore, King street.

EVENTS IN CITY LIFE.

HOW THE CANADIAN EXPRESSMAN HELD THE FORT.

A Woman Who is Very Exclusive and Hard to Interview—Some People Who Would Like to See Her—Lower Cove Roughs.

The C. P. R. from Halifax which arrives here late at night does not stop very long before resuming its journey to Montreal, but while it is in the depot there is some hustling in the vicinity of the car occupied by the expressmen. With all their activity, however, they are unable to get the work done before the gong rings for the train to start, and it has happened that the train had to be "held" to accommodate the expressmen.

Both the Canadian and the C. P. express companies carry goods over the Intercolonial, but the Canadian Pacific has the exclusive right to run on the western road. During these last few weeks the latter company had a large quantity of perishable goods to ship, and the train had to be delayed several times on account of the extra work. This, however, did not suit the railway people, and an order was issued to the effect that the train should not be "held" on any account. The news caused a little excitement among the C. P. people, and they evidently decided to get their goods shipped at any cost, even if the messenger of the opposition company had to suffer. But the Canadian expressmen were equal to the occasion when the crisis came one night this week. The Canadian Pacific people wanted to begin to load the car the moment it stopped, and had their trucks drawn up for that purpose, but when the door opened they found that there was going to be some difficulty in carrying out their intentions. The Canadian man had all his goods at the doorway, ready to lift them on the trucks. There was a war of words in an instant. The C. P. people claimed that they had received permission to load the car the moment it stopped, while the representative of the opposition said it was against all law and reason to load a car before it was unloaded, and that he wasn't going to run the risk of being carried west with his goods. Had there been any time to spare the argument would probably have been carried on until morning, but there was none to spare, and the Canadian expressman sitting on his luggage in the doorway without doubt held the fort. There was nothing for the Canadian Pacific men to do, but move their trucks and help unload the opposition goods.

SHE IS VERY EXCLUSIVE.

A Woman Who is Never "At Home" When The Door Bell Rings.

Some time ago PROGRESS referred to an interesting little scene between a woman who lives on City Road and a constable, and from all accounts it was not the only one that the people in that vicinity have been treated to. The family referred to live a queer life, do not have intercourse with more people than they can possibly help, and have exhausted all their ingenuity to accomplish this end. The woman is evidently uncertain as to whether she is acquainted with all the constables in town, and does not seem desirous of becoming familiar with any more than are on her caller's list at present. Visitors, however, do not get a chance to leave a card and must converse with the hostess through the window. When she is out the door is locked. A number of people say they are sure of this. It is more difficult to get an interview with the woman of the house than with the Lord Mayor of London. Even the postman who is usually welcomed everywhere is not received with that expectant look which usually adorns the face of a woman when he stops before the door. He never sees her. She probably thinks that he might be a constable in disguise, and has adopted a simple device to make her mind easy on this point. A letter box has been made in the door, and all her mail is dropped into it and she gets her letters without turning the key, while the constables sigh, and walk away.

Lower Cove Corner Loafers.

The variety actors who were attacked in Lower Cove recently gave a very graphic account of the affair to the daily papers. The handful of minstrels had to contend against 30 or 40 roughs, according to their statement, but there seems to have been some uncertainty as to the time when the fracas took place. The actors, however, were in proper condition to see 45 people when half a dozen stood before them, and that is about the number who resented their cheap talk. Lower Cove is a bad place to have more to say than is necessary and the actors probably found this out. There are several gangs of loafers who frequent the corners in that vicinity at night, and peaceable citizens would feel easier if they were broken up. One of the worst crowds congregates near the gas house on Carmarthen street.

A FAMOUS WINTER RESORT.

Pleasant Information for "Progress" Readers Who Seek Warmer Climes.

It is, perhaps, only natural and right that the people of these provinces who so cordially and earnestly invite and persuade the residents of warmer countries to seek their cool retreats in the summer season, should in their turn be requested to forsake their homes when the mercury is trying to forget the time when it was ever above the freezing point. And it is a fact that every winter more and more of the people do find time and money to hasten away and enjoy the warmer temperature, remaining until the leaves and the blossoms find their way out in the spring. Of course to all such the main question is, Where will we go? Usually some place must be selected where a sojourn of some length can be made. Few people like to wander all winter.

Curiously enough the questson where to go is answered in the large and attractive announcement of one of the very best hotels in the West Indies, which appears upon the third page of this paper to-day. It gives many particulars, as many perhaps as a newspaper advertisement could well contain and the recommendations printed there cannot be questioned.

The most information of the hotel however can be gleaned from a complete set of photographs which PROGRESS was privileged to glance at. They give one a perfect idea of the house, its size, imposing exterior and handsome interior and the beauty and elegance of its furnishings. Through the wide open gates the handsome entrance shows to advantage. To one side and the other stand beautiful spreading palms, while across the entire front spacious verandahs stretch their way. The same view gives one a splendid idea of the house, each window of which has an airy-looking awning, suggestive of the comfort within. That suggestion is realized when one glances at the rear view of the house. The wide, low verandahs, one above the other, extend around the whole building, and the branches of the palm trees bend so close that a promenader can reach out and grasp them. Other views give a splendid idea of the spacious dining room and the elegant drawing rooms. Then, too, another room is shown. It is not necessary to say what room, but a neat sign hanging on the wall denotes that Horsford's Acid Phosphate can be had. The polished mirrors and counters show well in the photograph.

"The camera can't lie," and it would be difficult to imagine a more attractive spot than is shown in the Jamacia views. Many of the readers of PROGRESS have the leisure and cash to take a vacation. It will be worth their while to consider Jamacia.

No Light In the Morning.

The electric light companies who endeavor to furnish incandescent light to the people have an opportunity to improve their service. Those who were canvassed to patronize them and did so in most cases discarded the oil lamps and put them to one side or disposed of them. They depend upon the incandescent. Some of the mornings now are quite dark between 7 and 8 o'clock and where much light is required as, for example, in a printing office there is none. The incandescent people make no provision for the morning darkness. It is quite evident that the company which first makes the move to furnish light for the 24 hours of the day will secure the public favor.

The Card Took Its Time.

"Talk about fast mail service," said a well-known gentlemen, one day this week, as he turned away from the postman. "Here's a postal card I mailed to my wife three days ago. I was at Megantic then, and wanted to tell her that I was going to St. Stephen and Calais, and would not get home for a day or two. I completed my trip and got home this morning, and here is the card. I just received it from the postman."

The Oratorio Concerts.

Word has just been received that Mrs. Humphrey Allen and Mr. Parker can be in St. John on Tuesday, Nov. 10th, for rehearsal and 11th and 12th for the Oratorio concerts. These dates will probably be accepted by the Oratorio society and as the time is so short, it is necessary that the active members attend every rehearsal as there is a large amount of work to be done. There should be a full attendance on Monday.

Mr. Lugrin as a Lawyer.

Mr. Chas. H. Lugrin, well known in this province as a bright journalist, and secretary for agriculture, has returned to his first love—law—in Seattle and is one of the firm of Williams & Lugrin And he won his first case "hands down."

A Vanquished Hero.

A rather curious story comes from the Sussex camp which has a young St. John man for its hero. According to the current version he was a much vanquished hero and invisible for several days after.