

icicles of sap observed from broken twigs of maple. 23rd, dust in clouds. 28th, lunar halo early in evening, disappeared about 10 P.M. Gales of wind 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 29th, 30th. Fog 29th. Snow 1st, 2nd, 10th, 11th, 18th, 27th, 30th. Rain, 2nd, 29th. Month very dry and mild.

PEMBROKE.—On 20th, large lunar halo. Wind storms on 5th, 9th, 20th, 24th, 30th, 31st. Snow 2nd, 5th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st. Rain 5th, 9th. Temperature remarkably high.

PETERBOROUGH.—On 20th, the auroral light this evening was like a soft brilliantly white cloud, close over N.H., about 9° across in centre and tapering towards E and W; hail; very brilliant meteor at 10.12 P.M., like a large blue rocket, in S part of Z, which fell perpendicularly for a considerable distance and shed a bright rich light. 31st, meteor at 8.15 P.M.; bright, cast shadows as it glided along, moved rapidly from N to S in W part of Z, and burst into fragments, leaving train visible for some seconds. Hail on 20th. Snow 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th. Rain 8th, 9th, 29th, 30th. Month generally dull and gloomy, with unusually high temperature, mean being 23°.33, and for January, 1868, 14°.95. Very little snow on ground.

SIMCOE.—On 27th, the sky being overcast, the lunar eclipse could not be observed. Wind storms 1st and 23rd. Snow 1st, 10th, 11th, 18th, 27th, 28th, 30th. Rain 2nd, 8th, 9th, 29th. This has been one of the most extraordinary months ever known at the station. The roads were as dusty as in summer, and birds almost as numerous as in spring.

STRATFORD.—Thaw from 3rd to 9th, inclusive. 27th, eclipse of moon, not seen; sky unfavorable. 28th, large lunar halo, 7.30 P.M. Wind storms, 1st, 3rd, 9th, 30th. Fogs 17th, 29th. Snow 1st, 2nd, 5th, 10th, 18th, 28th, 30th, 31st. Rain 8th, 9th, 29th, 30th.

WINDSOR.—On 3rd, meteor from E towards N; lunar halo. 6th, meteor from N towards W. 7th, meteor from N towards W. 10th, meteor from S towards SW. 13th, meteor from S towards SE. 16th, lunar halo. 25th, large and distinct lunar halo, and again on 26th. 28th, large lunar halo. Wind storms, 1st, 4th, 8th, 19th, 23rd. Snow 1st, 2nd, 18th, 25th, 27th, 30th, 31st. Rain, 2nd, 8th, 29th.

V. Biographical Sketches.

1. JAMES WEBSTER, ESQ.

He was the second son of James Webster, Esq., of Balruddery, County of Forfar, Scotland, and was born on the 28th of May, 1808, and was consequently at the time of his death in the sixty-first year of his age. In the year 1833—six years after Guelph was founded—he emigrated to Canada, his companion on the voyage being the late Rev. Peter Bell, Mr. Webster's tutor—and who also is well known as the inventor of the reaping machine. Some two years previous to that the late Hon. Adam Ferguson had made a tour through Canada. He returned to this country in 1833, along with Mr. Webster, and the two bought in shares 7,200 acres of land in the township of Nichol, and founded the village of Fergus. Mr. Webster and another gentleman from Scotland—Mr. Buist—took up their residence in the first house ever built in Fergus, and passed the winter of 1833-4 in what was then the solitude of the forest, though Fergus is now a large and thriving village, and the scene of busy industry. Through the efforts mainly of Mr. Webster, settlers began to come in. Mr. A. D. Ferrier, who came to Fergus in 1834, states that in the summer of that year, several houses, including an inn, were put up, a church and school-house soon followed, and in the autumn a good many settlers bought lots and planted themselves down in the bush. Mr. Webster took the most lively interest in the progress and prosperity of the infant settlement. The early settlers had many difficulties to encounter and overcome in these years, but they had always a fast and true friend in Mr. Webster, who was ever ready to lend a helping hand and cheer them on their way. Many of these old settlers, yet alive, will bear his memory in grateful remembrance for the many acts of kindness done to them by him while they were as yet strangers in a strange land, and beginning as it were the world anew. In 1835, he was one of the township commissioners, and a commissioner of the Court of Requests. When the new municipal act came in force he was appointed a District Councillor for the township of Nichol. In 1844, when the second election took place for the then District of Wellington, Mr. Webster opposed Mr. Durand in the Conservative interest, and was declared elected by the small majority of seven. In 1857, at the general election he contested the North Riding of Wellington in the Conservative interest against the late Mr. Charles Allan. The latter was elected, but afterwards unseated. In 1859, he was elected Mayor of Guelph. In June of the same year he was, on the death of the late Mr. Peterson, appointed Registrar of the County of Wellington, and held the office till his death.—*Mercury*.

2. JOHN REDPATH, ESQ.

He was born in Earlstoun, Scotland, in 1796, and was early left an orphan. After learning his trade as a builder, he emigrated to Canada in 1816, and has resided since that time in Montreal, with the exception of one year in Quebec and a few years on the Rideau

Canal during its construction. In company with the late Hon. Thomas Mackay, he executed several extensive contracts on that national work, to the entire satisfaction of the chief engineer, Colonel By. The stupendous locks, &c., at Jones' Falls, were the portion of this great work that Mr. Redpath was more immediately engaged in, (as his partner was in the construction of the series of locks at Ottawa), and we are informed that they are as perfect now as when first finished. Mr. Redpath took a lively interest in the development of the resources of Canada, and aided in many public improvements by his means and management. He was one of the first promoters of a forwarding company on the Ottawa and Rideau route, and he was a partner in a steamboat company between Montreal and Quebec. He was largely interested in the Montreal Telegraph Company from its commencement, and more recently took a heavy interest in copper and slate mines in the Eastern Townships, iron mines at Hull, and coal mines in Nova Scotia. He was the first to turn attention to sugar-refining in Canada, and erected and carried on the extensive refinery near the St. Gabriel locks, which constitutes such a prominent and important part of the manufactures of this city. For thirty-five years he has been a Director in the Bank of Montreal, of which he was Vice-President since the death of the Hon. Peter McGill. He was an active Alderman of the first City Council of Montreal, and first President of the Mechanics' Institute. It was, however, in works of Christian philanthropy that Mr. Redpath found his highest and most congenial field of usefulness. For many years he gave unremitting attention to the Montreal General Hospital, part of the time as chairman of the Committee of Management and latterly as President. The first meeting to get up a House of Industry in Montreal was held in his house, Dalhousie Square, in 1835. He also took a deep interest in McGill College, and was one of the special subscribers to its endowment.—*Witness*.

3. ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE

Was born at Macon on the 21st of October, 1792. His father, the Chevalier de Lamartine, was a loyalist, and fought in defence of the royal family on the 10th of August, 1792. He was thrown into prison during the Reign of Terror, and on his liberation, he retired to Milly, near Macon. There the young poet was brought up till the age of 12 years, when he was sent to learn Latin with a priest in the neighborhood. Shortly afterwards he was sent to the college of Lyons, and from that he was removed to the Jesuit college at Belley. In 1809 he was sent off to Paris. In 1811 he went to Italy, and passed the following winter in Rome. He returned to France in 1814, and entered the King's Body Guard. On the return of Napoleon from Elba, Lamartine retired into Switzerland. After the restoration in 1815, he returned to Paris; and in 1817 produced the first of the poems which were afterwards to render him so famous. About 1820 he was appointed to the Neapolitan embassy. He resided partly abroad and partly in Paris till 1825, and from that time till 1830 he lived in Florence. Prior to the fall of Charles X., Lamartine was offered the embassy to Greece; but the revolution having put an end to that arrangement, he declined to serve the government of Louis Philippe. In 1832 he undertook his great journey to the East; and on his return to France, more than a year later, he found he had been elected a deputy. His political position was rather strange. His family traditions were legitimist, but his own tendencies were towards a more democratic order of things. He, therefore, held a sort of middle position in the Chamber. On the death of the Duke of Orleans in 1842, Lamartine supported the claim of the Duchess to the regency. On the fall of Louis Philippe, Lamartine proposed the nomination of a provisional government, of which he became the head. It was then that he stopped an outbreak of the populace by his wonderful eloquence and courage. But he had really no political sagacity. He joined in the establishment of the *ateliers nationaux*; and when national bankruptcy threatened, he at last saw that government required something more than eloquence, and resigned, supporting the dictatorship of Cavaignac. He was a candidate for the presidency; but he had only a small number of votes. In 1849 he was elected a *depute*. In 1851 he retired from political life, and endeavored to restore order in his private affairs by continuous literary labor. In 1856 he was so reduced in circumstances that he made an appeal to the public to subscribe to his *Cours familier de littérature*, which was to appear monthly in French and English. Most of our readers will remember that in the fall of 1856 he even sent an agent to Canada (M. Desplace) to obtain subscribers. This periodical did not produce the results that were anticipated; and in 1858 his friends tried to raise a subscription for him, but without much success. In 1860 the municipality of Paris presented him with a house in the Bois de Boulogne, and his chateau at Macon was relieved of debt and returned to him. Lamartine was rather a voluminous writer than a great author. As a