

The call on the University of Toronto to give its new chair of English Language and Literature to a native Canadian is getting general throughout the country. The two names that are chiefly in view are those of Professors Roberts, of King's, N.S., and Alexander, of Dalhousie.

A writer in the Montreal *Gazette* draws attention to the fact that there is not a single chair of Canadian history in the whole range of the seven Provinces of the Dominion, and in the three or four dozens of colleges and universities. It is remarked that the point is one which might well be considered by some of the wealthy gentlemen interested in the seats of learning in Canada.

The Haliburton Society, of King's College, Windsor, N.S., will shortly issue its first volume of Proceedings, which will consist of a biographical and critical study of "Sam Slick," by Mr. F. Blake Crofton, author of the Major's Big Talk Stories, and a brief introduction by the President, C. G. D. Roberts. The work can be had of the secretary, Mr. George F. Thomson, King's College.

Messrs. Durie & Son, publishers, of Ottawa, are about to undertake the publication of an English edition of the "Life and Speeches of the Hon. J. A. Chapeau." A French edition was given to the public a year ago, and English speaking Canadians will, no doubt, hear with pleasure that the public utterances of the Secretary of State, from Confederation to the present time, will be made accessible to them.

RED AND BLUE PENCILS.

In a sketch of the present issue, entitled "Sam Slick and Old King's," the reader will find an account of "The Devil's Punch Bowl," in a clump of wood surrounding King's College buildings, a geological curiosity which is found in many parts of Canada. A friend invites me to write to Mr. Heneker, of Sherbrooke, for a photograph and description of the falls and the "pot"—the same phenomenon as at Windsor—of the Magog, under the cliff in his garden.

My friend adds that the place he refers to is the most beautiful in Canada which he has seen, except the view of the church which he got built at Milby. Sherbrooke is truly one of the most pleasantly situated towns, with remarkably scenic land and water-scapes, of the Dominion, and if Mr. Heneker, or any other gentleman there, sent us photographs of such views, we should be happy to place them before our readers.

An American paper, speaking of the statue lately raised by Scottish men to the memory of Gordon, and described in this paper lately, finds it strange that such a soldier should be made to carry, instead of a general officer's sword, a rattan or cane under his arm. The writer forgets that the hero of Khartoum never drew his sword and seldom bore it, and that throughout his singular career in China, his rod of command and power was the very wand which has been retained as a reminder of his singular ways.

A gentleman of Quebec, bearing a well-known name, sends me the following note: "The Tri-lets, in your paper, have tempted me to try my hand at them, and I have turned out some, which I send you for approval, hoping you will not find them very weak for first attempts. Wishing you continued success and ever-increasing circulation, I am, etc. Please suppress my signature." I shall do so, but begin this day by giving the first of the neat pieces which were enclosed in the letter:—

VANITAS VANITATUM.

I declare 'tis a shame,
What a time she has taken!
Thy sweet satin crème,
I declare 'tis a shame,
She is greatly to blame,
And deserves to be shaken!
I declare 'tis a shame,
What a time she has taken!

I suppose I must go,
But will feel like a fool,
There'll be crowds that I know,
So I guess I must go,
Though I'll look but so-so,
If I wore my old tulle;
I suppose I must go,
But I'll feel like a fool.

I should not have gone
I feel so diminished,
My train got all torn,
I should not have gone;
If I could have but worn
The dress that's not finished!
I should not have gone
I feel so diminished.

It is a pity that the last verses should be weakened by the limp rhyme of "gone" with "torn" and worn."

H. J. writes that he has a very curious old engraved portrait of a tall slim man—*habitant* cast of features—long hair flowing over his back, clothes all patched. The curious part is his coat, which shows five tails hanging near his heels, in each of which seems to be a weight or something else to keep them down. He holds one up in his left hand. Underneath are the simple words: "Cholera Doctor." It is said by some of our old residents to have been published in cholera times, about 1834 or 1837, in Montreal, but exactly for what purpose? Will some correspondent enlighten us?

My readers will be pleased with the following from one of the brightest pens in England:—

WHO WAS IT?

(The very latest thing in drawing-room ballads, with apologies to Mr. F. E. Weatherly.)

The flowers were bright, the fields were gay,
And every lambkin was a skipper,
Who was it sought those fields to play?

Why Jack —

Who found him looking glum and grey,
And thought his accent gruff and foreign,
Then raised his hat and went away?

Sir Charley —

Who was it leapt across the stile,
His eye ablaze with wrath and frenzy,
And made old Bismarck green with bile?

Morrell —

Who was it, when Vox Populi
Did every oath the language hath use,
Refused to budge, but winked his eye?

Why, Henry —

Who is it lets me year by year
Still keep my worn-out liver gag on,
In spite of cynic's jest and jeer?

Good old Pen —

Who is it has for bread to jest,
Though oft with aches and pain beset, sir,
And pulls a face, but does his best?

Why, patient, gentle Dagonet, sir.

The first four blanks can be safely filled by "Jack the Ripper," Sir Charles Warren (Chief of Police), Morell Mackenzie, and Henry Matthews (Home Secretary); the fifth is "Pendragon" (Harry Sampson, editor of the *Referee*), and "Dagonet" is the *nom de guerre* of George Sims, the writer of the above lines, in the *Referee*.

Professor Roberts writes that the name of the beautiful verses "Tout de L'Amour," published in this column, on the 10th November, is Sophie M. Almon, daughter of the Honourable Senator William Johnson Almon, one of the distinguished men of Nova Scotia. Miss Almon, although young, has done some charming work, as I am told by one who writes from knowledge, and I have no hesitation in thinking the same, from the single example which I refer to above. My readers will be glad to learn that the young lady is getting ready a volume of poems for the press.

As I have already said, Miss Elizabeth Gostwycke Roberts, with whom we became acquainted last week, is a young sister of the poet-professor. Her mother was a Miss Bliss, grand-daughter of Judge Bliss, nephew of Emerson's mother. Bliss Carman is a cousin of the Roberts' on the Bliss side. Barry Straton, author of a small volume of very musical verse, and who will appear in Lighthall's Anthology, is also a first cousin of the same family, through the Blisses. Professor Roberts says that, on both sides, they have the *caeothes scribendi*. Nay, not so.

Ingenium cui sit, cui mens divinior atque os
Magna sonaturum

To such as these we give the meed of the poet,
since the days of Flaccus. TALON.

TRYING TO CATCH A HUSBAND.—We must give all the nice, modest girls we know credit for not consciously endeavouring to catch husbands. If men fall in love with them and desire to marry them, and they are the right sort of men, and the girls can love in return, well and good—they marry and hope to be happy ever after, but they will not run after men, or think in everything they do or say. "Can I catch a fish with this bait?"



Chief Justice Sir Andrew Stuart and family are going to spend their winter in Florida.

Robert Alder Strong, assistant commissioner of public lands in Prince Edward Island, is dead.

Sir Donald A. Smith has been, since his arrival in England, confined to the house with a slight cold for a short time, but is now strong and well again.

The death of Sir John Macdonald's maiden sister at Kingston has caused profound sorrow among her large circle of friends. The deceased was a most estimable woman.

Lucius R. O'Brien, the well known Canadian artist, and Mrs. Parker, sister of Mr. C. Brough, local manager of the Bank of Montreal, were married at Toronto last week.

The Young Men's Association of St. Andrew's church, Montreal, have published Dr. W. George Beers' speech on "Professional Annexation" in pamphlet form for their bazaar.

Richard Carr, who shipped the first load of grain to England from California, by the ship "Great Republic," died at Victoria, B.C., aged 71. He arrived in California in 1848 from England.

Hon. Edward Blake, in reply to a correspondent who asked him to speak at a meeting in favour of Imperial federation, declined to do so, or to have any connection with public advocacy of the movement.

The Governor-General and Lady Stanley of Preston will spend the first three days of next month in Hamilton, and will hold a reception on Saturday, Dec. 1st, and open the Arts exhibit on Monday, Dec. 3rd.

It is estimated that the settlers in Manitoba and the North-West this season will be double the number for 1887. The total amount of foreign arrivals there since last spring is approximately given as exceeding 9,400.

Mr. W. J. MacDonell, the aged Vice-Consul of France, who is best known in Toronto by his connection with many public charities, has been honoured with the distinction of being created a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour of France.

The fame of the Canadian Pacific Railway has spread to Africa, and J. E. Thompson, of Toronto, who is Consul-General for Liberia, has received a despatch from the Liberian Government asking for particulars as to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Mr. Wm. Mussen, a very old resident and man of worth, died at his residence last week. He had been for many years a justice of the peace and clerk of the Division court. He was universally respected and was most highly respected. The deceased was a captain of the 37th Battalion.

The pupils of the Industrial School at Fort Qu'Appelle, N.W.T., presented Major McCibbon with an address on the occasion of his recent inspection. The address referred in touching terms to the death of the Inspector's son, the news of which reached Major McCibbon during his inspection.

Sister Joseph, one of the Grey nuns at St. Boniface, Manitoba, is about to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of her assuming the habit of a *religieuse*. This event will be the more interesting as the lady is the last survivor of the four nuns who were sent as the pioneers in the present North-West missions.

The chiefs of that section of the Oka Indians, which removed to Gibson Township, Muskoka, some years ago, were in Ottawa on business with the Indian Department, after transacting which they proceeded to Oka for the purpose of endeavouring to persuade the remainder of the Indians to join their brethren in Muskoka.

Mr. James Cook, who was for several years reeve of Rawdon, died at his home in that township, aged about 70 years. Mr. Cook, who was an Irishman, had lived about forty-five years in the township. He was perhaps the best political organizer in this part of the country. Mr. Cook leaves a name which will long be held in honour.

John A. Cameron, better known as "Cariboo Cameron," died at Baker's last week. He left Toronto two months ago. He was an old pioneer of the province, and arrived in Toronto in the year 1860. He was one of the first men to enter the gold fields of Cariboo and secured a large fortune in the mines. He then left for Eastern Canada and lost nearly the whole of his fortune in commercial speculation.

Colonel Francis Duncan, C.B., Conservative member of Parliament for the Halton division of Finsbury, is dead. Colonel Duncan was an M.A. and LL.D. of Aberdeen University, an honorary D.C.L. of Durham, and also bore an honorary degree from King's College, N.S. He was well known in Canada as the author of pamphlets on colonial subjects, but was principally famous as re-organizer of the Egyptian artillery.

Sir John Lester Kaye, who has arrived at Winnipeg, reports all buildings, cattle sheds, &c., on his eleven farms are finished. Crops at Balgonie were excellent. Samples of flax were sent to England by Sir John and tested as to the quality of fibre, with the result that it was better than fibre used in Ireland, which brings \$350 per ton. Machinery has been sent out for the purpose of scutching straw and producing fibre. Sir John says the fibre will produce the finest linen. He intends making binding cord from the coarser quality of fibre, and soon will supply the whole of Manitoba and the Territories. Thirty-three thousand sheep now in Oregon will be brought to the Kaye farms next summer.

MINDFUL OF THE MEN.—A correspondent of a ladies' paper has hit upon a real want of civilization. She proposes to come to the aid of the desolate bachelor by establishing a mending-shop where all sorts of repairs, from darning socks to relining a dressing-gown, could be undertaken. Bachelors living in chambers or in college find great difficulty in getting their linen repaired. It is proposed to take two rooms in a central position, where articles needing repair might be sent, and where menders could undertake the work. But the project is a dangerous one, since it can only result in bachelors becoming even more contented with their lot than they have been hitherto.