

# PROGRESS.

VOL. VII. NO. 356.

ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1895.

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## AND NOW FOR REFORM.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS ARE NERVOUS IN APRIL.

The changes recommended by the Minority in respect to the Abolition of Office and the Reduction of Salaries were discussed at the Special Meeting called.

Usually about this time of year people are beginning to wonder who will be in the majority in April. This year the council does not hold. Though it wants to meet on the 23rd, the Mayor has taken his annual journey to the police court there has been little interference of opinion supporting the probable majority.

The fact is that people have been too busy with the irritating work of the council to think of anything else and now they are beginning to feel that in the space of time the council has been in the office it has done little for the city.

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## RICH MEN OF HALIFAX.

THEY ARE VERY UNPRETENTIOUS IN THEIR TASTE.

William Roche, M. P. F., a Student of Literature—A Wealthy Member of the Upper House—The London Head of Harcourt's Nephews—A Patron of the Theatre.

HALIFAX, Feb. 21.—There are not the same number of very large fortunes in Halifax that existed years ago, but there are more men who have "made their pile" large enough to be independent than in the "good old days." They are not all old men either who own them. It would not be a difficult matter to accumulate some seventy-five men in this city, whose aggregated fortunes average considerably more than \$100,000 each.

Though there are not so many large fortunes as there were ten, twenty, thirty, or more years ago, but there are as already stated a greater number of smaller fortunes of from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The big fortunes of old times have been divided up and distributed in various quarters. Yet the increased number of smaller fortunes is not, to any appreciable extent, due to the breaking up of the old great ones. Our smaller fortunes are

result, in most instances, of the efforts of their owners, who by their exertions, ability or luck, or all combined, have made them and are increasing them.

Notwithstanding the constant cry of "hard times" and the talk of even harder competition, the facts speak for themselves that money can yet be made in this city and sometimes made fast too. Several comparatively young men have made \$100,000 each in less than 35 years, and with no run of what would be called specially "good luck." A man may have to work harder nowadays to achieve success than in the good old times, but it he does work hard and intelligently success can be attained.

In Halifax, as doubtless also in other places in Canada, not only are fortunes smaller and more numerous but the comforts of life are distributed more generally. The people as a whole live better than ever before. They have better houses and their tables are spread more luxuriously than of old.

In days gone by Halifax was the headquarters of a lucrative West Indian business as it still is, and trade not only of Nova Scotia, but of the maritime provinces, centred here. Most of the big fortunes accumulated by the past generation were made either out of the West Indies; out of a provincial or inter-provincial wholesale trade, or from shipping. If those

avenues do not now lead with the same directness or speed to wealth there are new roads leading to riches.

But the idea of this letter was not to tell people how to get rich. It was made for how it can be done in Halifax, as it was to point out to men who have the money. Progress readers already know that the richest man in Halifax is William Roche, M. P. F., and in order that people outside this city may become acquainted with the features of our money king, who can write his name to a good check for about \$600,000 his picture is here presented.

Mr. Roche is a peculiar man in many

## LOOKS LIKE AN ANGEL.

BUT HE IS A FALLEN ANGEL, AT ANY RATE.

The "Affable Stranger" Trusted Again—Mr. and Mrs. Hagan are Out-Gamblers alias Bryde—An Expert in Shaving, and a Good Judge of Whiskey.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Hamilton Hagan will not trust the "affable stranger" in future. They did this week and the experience cost them something like three hundred dollars. But they cannot be blamed for this stranger was extremely affable and hospitable and they could not but be hospitable in return.

The next morning, which was Friday last, he was gone and three hundred dollars worth of Mr. W. Hamilton Hagan's jewelry had gone with him. He has not been seen since.

The man gave his name as Simmer to

those whom he met in this city but word came from Digby that this is only an alias. He turns out to be Nicolay Bryde, the second officer of the Swedish barque John, which went ashore below Digby Gut some time ago. He was in Digby for some weeks after the vessel went ashore and there he was towed to St. John. He has made many acquaintances and represented himself as the son of a wealthy shipowner.

He was very fastidious in his tastes. He was a judge of a good cigar, and was also a connoisseur in whiskey. The Digby Telegram is authority for the additional statement that he shaved every day and powdered and painted his cheeks. This may be a rash statement, but it is quite certain that he did one good day's work in St. John in the way of shaving, and it is also quite evident that his cheek needed some daisies.

CONFESSING PILOT'S EVIDENCE. Strange to Say, It Comes From the Same Witness.

The pilotage enquiry is nearing the end and it will have taken a little less than a week for the commissioners to obtain the city's expert opinion upon this subject. The enquiry commenced on Thursday, Feb. 7th, and up to and including Thursday, Feb. 21st, during which time the court had sat twelve days, thirty-four witnesses were examined with half a dozen still to be heard from.

These thirty-four witnesses represented various interests and all classes of people who would be affected by any change in the system of pilotage payment was on the stand. Five pilots were on the stand and all of course were united in their advocacy of compulsory pilotage. Four members of the pilotage commission beside the secretary and Mr. W. A. Black of the Halifax commission gave testimony supporting the compulsory system, except Mr. J. W. Smith who as an owner of coastwise shipping was opposed.

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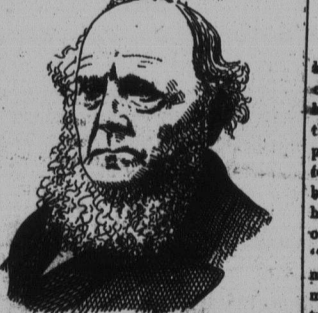
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WILLIAM ROCHE, M. P. F.



HON. W. J. STAIRS.

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