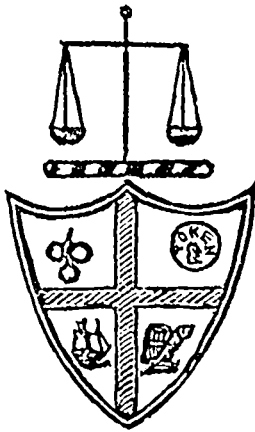


COATS OF ARMS (CONTINUED.)

Ex uno disce omnes.

Except the alphabetical arrangements of the deaf mutes, what can be more expressive than the language of the Heralds office? If it be a rule in reference to these testimonials of achieved rank and biographical honors, that in every family tree is found, at least, one knotty, (or naughty!) branch, the application may possibly be looked for in the subject under notice. Yet this, at least may be said by anticipation, that as a representative man he was

never known to our informer, the oldest inhabitant, to have been identified with a fishy transaction. He cannot, therefore, be open to the usual sneer made applicable by vulgar custom to the suggestive appellation of a Cod-fish Aristocracy.

As our first honorable mention was of a family pedigree and descent standing A. 1. in all the kindly relations of social life the following may in one sense lay claim to class as A. too. The enquiry will necessarily extend back much further into remote history to arrive at the origin and reason of things. If we have briefly to revert to the dark ages and trace to the pedigree unfolded chiefly by the pages of old Almanacs, we must beg to be excused for the inevitable errors of tradition. Our informer finds the first trace of the ancestral tree, whose sprout requires critical notice, in Italy, when at a given time Claudius whimsically commanded that all *Jews* should depart from Rome, and roam wherever else their sweet wills should dictate. Thence coming to the gold coast in that dark age of slavery when the British Buccaneers carried the war and its concomitants into Africa, and again making progress by their mode of transportation to Britain and her Colonies in this western world. The ultimate expulsion from the revolting Colonies followed, as a matter of course, at or before the existence of a state of open warfare, and the Boston Tea-shine never presented any attractions for the immediate ancestry of our hero A. 2, who preferred individual peace, in remote Halifax to a state of disturbance in Mass. If we could record all the family adventures thereafter, or believe half the gossipy traditions of the day, which we don't, the details might be woven into a thrilling narrative that might be thought to possess too much of the personal element. This characteristic it is our aim to avoid, after the example of our great co-temporary and prototype of Ontario, the *Globe*, who claims that the avoidance of personalities, has always been a cardinal principle in the editorial management of that sheet. But our rule, in strictness, goes further than this, inasmuch as we propose to deal only with the lives of those who have "gone up," and not with the living armor bearers, except by that incidental reference to like names, and titles, and circumstances of life that comes of necessity. If we err in regard to facts or particulars of pedigree, it arises from the weak threads of historical record in the early settlement of a new country, or by placing undue reliance on collateral evidences supplied by the oldest newspapers and the oldest inhabitant. As regards this branch of enquiry, the name of Mathew had been given to the future financier and trader, and is supposed to have been hereditary through the line of a maternal ancestor in some way connected or allied to a dignitary of the early Church of the pilgrims. An anecdote related of a

certain D. D. at the advent of the tea-pot tempest in Boston, seems to confirm this view, while it may also remind of a tradition that Mathew's love for the tea cup amounted almost to a passion, so that a dozen of the old-fashioned saucers were insufficient to satisfy his thirsty soul, in virtue of which passion he eventually arrived at a point in the social status where he was enabled to choose a lady love from a good family, and among the tallest of the flock.

The D. D. referred to was justly suspected of loyalty to the King's cause, and as a precaution against an interchange of sentiment and news of the time, with his friends—the popular party had detailed a citizen soldier to mount guard at his gate—knowing the civil character of his guardsman he resolved to play off a practical joke on his simplicity. Rushing out of the house with a letter in his hand he exclaimed, "Here! here! my good man, just take this for me to its address, in the next street, and I'll mount guard over the old fellow in your absence and take care of your musket," and so he did. The musket never went off but the joke was reported, and whatever may have happened to the militia man, the event has served to perpetuate the loyal record of the connection ever since.

It is inferred that on the original adoption of New England as a place of settlement, the progenitor of Mathew was engaged in that indispensable manufacture of a new region that necessitates the use of the awl, and for which the bench and the lap-stone are appliances of primary values—while they too are suggestive of a good understanding with all classes, which they over enjoyed. The abilities of some members of the connection in the more learned professions also were then known and read of all men as clearly as was their loyal record by preferring the Kingly rule to the Government of a democracy. The career of the young man in the past century was like to that of the present day in some respects, when ambition prompts one to become a leader of others, to achieve high position or eminence in a chosen profession, or calling, with resolve in spite of all drawbacks, to attain to office and honors in the State or Province, and such aims will generally be crowned by success. Of Mathew, however, it was said that being a *self-made* man he consequently relieved Providence of a serious responsibility, but this taunt had, doubtless, reference rather to his adult career after he had graduated as a commercial student in the business house of Messieurs B. and B., of London, and who also carried on a mercantile establishment, ere Halifax became an incorporated city, at the locality known to the early residents, as Commercial wharf and water street. In this firm his quality of smartness in trade was marked, but not of that nature that would induce the old Heads of the House to seek a junior partner, so that after having married and joined the church like a christian he looked about him for new fields of enterprise. His trading experience having demonstrated the strength of a money power, his genius led him to the promotion of a new institution to facilitate the means of getting it. The effort was rewarded by the purchase of a site and the proper initiation in a humble way of the establishment then known as Mathew's Mint. In those old times there were wealthy men, and even women, widowed and others who desired investments, and what could be more promising than a Mint for making money. So the company was formed, a Foreman appointed to work it by the assistance of inferior labourers and the advice of Directors. These must be called to order by a President, and who could be more eligible than the man whose acumen had devised the plan of operations and promised success in its development—and so it was, that though the mint building was at first of humble dimensions, its business so increased