

## ALONG THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

FROM THE "RAMBLER."

When last addressing the numerous readers of the "REGISTER," I had reached, in the course of my peregrinations, the flourishing village of Renfrew. It would be different to pick out a cluster of houses which more fittingly typifies the average overgrown Canadian village than does this, the third place in population and importance in the extensive, populous, and wealthy County of Renfrew.

About the year 1840, saw and grist mills were erected on the Bonnechere River, which at this point afforded then, as it does now, excellent water power. At this period the population of Renfrew was very sparse indeed, numbering only the family of the proprietor of the mills already indicated, the occupants of a caravansary or "stopping place" as the impressive tavern was then, as it is now, very frequently called along those regions, and an enterprising blacksmith who with bellows and anvil, and with some trifling aid from *ingery*, blew himself into prominence before the expiration of many years. In process of a brief time, as the fertile lands around Renfrew were being settled upon, business began to develop and population increase and the embryonic village went on enlarging its dimensions until ultimately both sides of a well-travelled high way for nearly a mile long, had been fringed with buildings of every conceivable variety of modern architecture; whilst the confidence which its future inspires has brought about the opening up of cross streets and parallel lines, thus increasing the avenues of trade, and facilitating communication.

Renfrew although still wearing the napkins of villagehood has a population closely bordering on 3,000; but I am pleased to learn that steps are being taken which will secure for it ere long, its fitting place in the brotherhood of Canadian towns. It will then be entitled to a Mayor, besides a number of smaller decorations, none of which can materially injure its health or retard its growth.

Nearly thirty years have passed since I first became acquainted with Renfrew, and with a goodly portion of the people; and I candidly confess that looking back through that comparatively long vista, there is not a little that will cause painful reflections. Irishmen were numerous in the world of Commerce in Renfrew at that period of which I write. The leading hotel in the place was kept, and respectably kept, by Patrick Kelly, a man who was known and esteemed for his many qualities of head and heart, by every individual in the Valley of the Bonnechere from the Ottawa River to the crags and creeks and romantic lakes of Nipissing. Felix Devine was as wealthy as he was a respected merchant; John and Patrick Devine were extensive hardware dealers; Mr. Tierney was equal to any demand made upon him for dry goods; J. K. Gorman could then, as I am pleased to say he can to day, metamorphose the beggar into a lady or gentleman; the McNamara Bros. were prominent figures in trade, as were also the Enright; Michael Fitzmaurice neither drank it nor sold it, but in the simple days of which I am writing, "pegged" away at his anvil, causing showers of sparks to fly in every direction, which represented so much honestly earned gold. Tobias Stafford was then a prominent business man, as I am glad to say he is so still. But I must close the list which, did I desire, could be carried on to greater lengths. "Where are these now?" I will be asked. Well, echo answers "where." Many of them having closed long and honorable lives are now enjoying that sleep which knows no waking; others, inspired by ambition, have gone forth to subdue fresh fields; whilst a remnant, but thank God a good remnant, still remains.

The large business founded by Messrs. John and Patrick Devine is still successfully carried on by their nephew—Mr. M. Devine, a gentleman who in every sense appears equal to the task of keeping up his end of the bar.

Mr. Michael Fitzmaurice, having struck the iron while it was hot, has discarded the anvil and embarked in a new enterprise.

Mr. J. K. Gorman can be seen at the old stand, at all reasonable, and sometimes at very unreasonable hours. This gentleman is, I believe, the only Irish Catholic who sells a yard of in the flourishing village of Renfrew, largely composed of Catholics and surrounded by a farming community of which adherents of the Catholic faith are also a large proportion. One would think that, surrounded by such favourable circumstances, our friend "J. K." would be reveling in prosperity, but he does not revel any too much.

I am far from inculcating the advisability of adopting a policy so anti-social as that of exclusive dealing; but I have witnessed with pain, not alone in Renfrew but in many another place, similarly circumstanced, Irishmen carry their spirit of false tolerance and false liberality to the extent of building up, with their custom, an enemy to both their creed and their nationality, whilst they rarely ever darkened the door of a struggling co-religionist. Let me say here that such a spirit is neither creditable to their patriotism, to their intelligence, nor even to their liberality.

In boots and shoes and all that appertains to the good understanding of the people of Renfrew, I would say, even if it were my last word, that Messrs. J. Finer and Wm. Egan have "waxed" their competitors in prices and by universal consent they are now recognized as sole leaders in the lines to which they are tacked.

The people of Renfrew, as a rule, are not litigiously inclined, but when ever they feel that way, they rush to the office of Mr. J. W. McGarry, a young gentleman who, a couple of years ago, opened a law office here. Mr. McGarry comes of a highly talented family, well known in the County of Lanark; is able, talented and industrious himself; and as he has recently left the "Venerable Brotherhood of Bachelors" and settled down to a quiet life, and to the observance of the commandments, there are good grounds for the feeling so widely entertained here, that he will be heard from later on.

Travelling through the streets of Renfrew one is struck with nothing more than with the healthy appearance presented by everybody. A medical man would starve in such a place, yet Dr. Galligan enjoys a splendid practice, which is not confined to the village alone, but in critical cases, extends as far west as the townships of Brougham, Bagot, Brudenell, Haggarty, Algoma.

In ecclesiastical and educational matters the progress of Renfrew has been very gratifying. I remember attending church here a little over twenty years ago, the particular time being Christmas night and the service being the grand solemn Midnight Mass. My lamented friend, Patrick Devine, escorted me up the creaking stairs leading to a most treacherous looking gallery. "Do you think there is any danger Pat?" said I as soon as I was seated and looked around at the immense crowd. "Danger of what?" said he. "That this old gallery would break down," I tremblingly answered. "Tut man," said he, "don't be alarmed. If we fall we'll be found below."

The Rev. Father Rougier who was the first resident pastor was, I believe the celebrant on this occasion. Many years before Renfrew became the home of a priest it was visited at intervals by missionaries chief amongst whom was Father John McNulty

## THE NEW STORE.

## FACTS

"The Price Always the Magnet."

We make the lowest prices. This is the secret of our wonderful success. The crowds that filled our establishment during the past week exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Again we will demonstrate that when it comes to **Genuine Bargains** we acknowledge no competition. Step by step we are justly earning our claim as the **Champion Bargain Givers of Toronto**. It is a great claim to make, but we are going to back it up. We want your trade, and will offer to-morrow such a magnitude of special and extraordinary values as to completely eclipse any sale yet announced this season, and arouse still greater enthusiasm. The prices quoted below must and will do their own advertising:

## Special Values in Silks.

Beautiful Colored Silks, evening shades, Surahs, 15c.	Beautiful Shades of Changeable Satin, 25c.
Beautiful Evening Shades Colored Satin, 25c.	22 inch Faille Francaise (warranted), 49c.
22-inch Heavy Satin Rhodams, 94c.	22-inch Heavy Gros Grains (warr'd) 49c.

## Black Silks.

22-in. Armure Royal, (warranted), was \$1.25—79c.	22-in. Satin Duchesse, (warranted), was \$1.20—79c.
22-in. Peau de Soie, (warranted), was \$1.30—79c.	

## Special Values in Black Dress Goods.

30-inch All-wool Serges, 12½c.	46-inch All-wool Henriettas, 25c.
36-inch Black Cashmeres, 15c.	44-inch All-wool Brocade Novelty, 25c.
40-inch Storm Serges, all-wool, 19c.	42-inch All-wool Venetian, 50c.
40 in. Heavy Style Boucle Novelty, 19c.	42-inch All-wool Camel's Hair, 50c.

## Special Values in Colored Dress Goods.

36-inch All-wool Serge, all colors, 12½c.	44-inch All-wool Brocade Novelty, 25c.
40-inch Storm Serges, all wool, 19c.	42-inch All-wool Venetian, 50c.
40-inch Heavy Styles Boucle Novelty, 19c.	42-inch All-wool Camel's Hair, 50c.
46-inch All-wool Henriettas, 25c.	54 inch Tweed Suiting, all-wool; regular price, \$1.25, 75c.

## Special Values in Blankets—We are going to sell over a thousand pairs of Blankets this week.

10½ All-wool White Blankets, \$2.25.	10½ All-wool white, heavy and soft, \$3.
11½ All-wool Grey Blankets, \$2.25.	11½ All-wool White Blankets, \$3.50.

## Special Values in Underwear.

Ladies' fine Egyptian Fleeced Vests and Drawers, 37½c.	We proclaim without fear of contradiction that we are showing the lowest and best values in Children's Underwear ever shown in Toronto from 10c up to \$1.
Ladies' Half Wool Vests and Drawers, 49c.	
Ladies' All-wool Richelieu, ribbed, 75c.	

## Special Values in Hosiery.

Ladies' Seamlers all wool Black Hose, 19c.	Ladies' Ribbed All-wool Hose, 35c.
Ladies' All-wool, double toes, spliced heel and ankles, worth 50c, for 25c.	Ladies' Extra Heavy Ribbed All-wool Hose, value, 75c, 50c.

## A Few Extra Specials for To-Morrow.

50 pieces of No. 9, 12, 16, Gros Grain Ribbons, worth 10c, for 3c.	30 pieces Fine Jet Trimmings, worth 10c, for 3c.
50 pieces of All-wool Insertion Dress Trimmings, worth 10c, for 3c.	Black Bourdon Lace, worth 25c, for 3c.
50 dozen Ladies' Printed Hemstitched Handkerchiefs, worth 10c, for 3c.	100 dozen Fine Cut Jet Trimmings, worth \$1, for 25c.

## Special Values in our 5c and 10c Departments.

## C. S. HERBERT,

219-221 Yonge Street, Corner Shuter.

whose name has already appeared in these letters and which may occur again in future ones.

The present handsome stone Church was erected during the incumbency of Rev. Father Rougier and presents a most happy contrast to that which I have been describing above.

Rev. P. T. Ryan is the present pastor of Renfrew. Father Ryan is a young man, indeed boyish in appearance, but the phrase "Old head on young shoulders" never had a more thorough application than when used in connection with the talented young priest who now wisely and ably rules the Parish of Renfrew.

Turning westward I visit in succession Opeongo, Ashdod, Mount St. Patrick and Shamrock, but as this communication has already exceeded reasonable limits, I must reserve a description of these places for another time.

"RAMBLER."

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