

HOME JOURNAL

Life, Literature and Education

IN THE WORLD OF LITERATURE AND ART.

Mr. Wylie Grier, the Toronto artist, is painting a three-quarter length portrait of Chief Justice Sir William Mulock, to be placed in Osgoode Hall.

Mr. S. McAllister, for forty-eight years a teacher in Toronto public schools, has retired from active work.

The next election of candidates for the Rhodes scholarships for Alberta and Saskatchewan will take place in January, 1907.

The Carnegie public library at Winnipeg will hereafter be open to the public on Sunday afternoon and evenings both summer and winter.

The death is announced of Gilbert Foster, R. B. A., the well-known Yorkshire artist, at the age of fifty-one. He was just nineteen when his first picture was hung in the Royal Academy.

The "Memoirs of the Late Chancellor Prince von Hohenlohe," the publication of which in Germany has called down the wrath of the Kaiser and exposed the lives of many well-known Germans to the light of day, will be translated and published in America at an early date.

A story which will form a very attractive feature of the Christmas season of books in Western Canada, is "Aweena" by Mrs. Kate Simpson Hayes. It is a story of the Hudson Bay Company and the Indians of the early days. The little book—for the story is not long—is bound in leather, tied with Shaganappi, and illustrated by a Canadian artist.

The dramatic power of W. A. Fraser's work, has been recognized by Daniel Frohman the great theatre manager of New York. Mr. Frohman has asked Mr. Fraser to dramatize one of his racing stories for use on the stage in 1907. The author is working on this arrangement of his story at his home in Georgetown, Ontario. Mr. Fraser has also brought out "Thirteen Men," a new book of short stories.

J. A. MacDonald, who was editor of the *Westminster Magazine* when Rev. C. W. Gordon submitted his first story, gives the following interesting account of how the now famous author received his non de plume:

"We had decided upon a name for the story, but not for the man who wrote it. The manuscript reached me just in time for the issue for January, 1897. It would not do to give the author's name, for the text of the tale might be regarded by some as out of keeping with the conventions of the clerical profession. What name shall it be? was the question sent to Winnipeg. At the last moment a telegram came, 'Sign sketch Connor.' Connor? That would not do. That would betray the fact of a mask. He must have a proper name. But why Connor? Perhaps the operator made a mistake. Should it be Connor? More likely. But he must be given a Christian name, even though he consorts with heathen of various types. What shall we christen this newborn Canadian litterateur? 'Frank'? 'Chris'? 'Fred'? No, none of these would suit. Here it is: 'Ralph,' 'Ralph Connor'! And it was so. Without his knowledge or consent, he was introduced to the world with that new-coined name, to make or mar. When he got his copy of the *Westminster* in Winnipeg that week, he turned to page 14, and saw the cross-page heading, 'Tales from the Selkirk. By Ralph Connor.'"

A CHANCE FOR YOUNG MEN.

"We most need men who cannot be bought; who put character above everything; who possess opinions and a will; who will not lose their individuality in a crowd, or think anything profitable that is dishonest; who will make no compromise with questionable things; whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires; who will sacrifice private interests to public good; who are not afraid of failure, and who will not have one brand of honesty for business purposes and another for private life."

TREAT BOTH BRIBE GIVER AND TAKER AS CRIMINALS.

If candidates for Parliament, or the men who supply the money in order to corrupt the electorate, got a little time in jail it would go a long way in stamping out fraud. Until the people of this country take a serious view of electoral corruption and treat scoundrels of this class in the same manner as thieves and cut-throats are dealt with there is not much room to hope for a speedy improvement.—*Orangeville Sun*.

[We would say "Amen!" emphatically to this if our brother editor would include the bribe taker as well as the bribe giver; the old English adage, the receiver is as bad as the thief, is correct in principle, both parties act as they do because of the vicious practice of trying to obtain or get something for nothing.—Ed.]

WRECKERS OF BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES OR SOCIETIES SHOULD BE JAILED.

The first thing demanded, deliberately and sternly demanded, is the immediate arrest, trial, and punishment of the man or men involved in the ruin of the Ontario Bank. There must be no winking at crime. The public mind in Canada at this moment is in no mood for fine hair-splitting about procedure or superfine consideration for personal feelings. If a general manager or any other high official has betrayed his trust and gambled with the funds of the bank he must be treated as an unfaithful clerk or teller would be treated, even more sternly, for his wider experience and larger trust make his the guiltier crime.—*The Globe*.

[Justice of the evenhanded sort is not the kind that is handed out nowadays as frequently as it should be, the thief of a pound of butter or a few sticks of wood gets the sentence the bank wrecker or user of trust funds unlawfully should get; while the latter are not forced to make restoration neither are they punished. We are not pessimistic. Times are changing, people are becoming more and more intelligent, which condition tends to more independence of thought and action, and criminals will be hunted, captured and punished in higher as in lower circles despite the powerful efforts of politicians everywhere to defeat justice.—Ed.]

GOOD ADVICE

Archdeacon Madden, Liverpool, speaking on a man's religion, emphasised the importance of reading good literature. There was too much of the tit-bit literature read to-day. If men read good, pure books a great deal of the atheism that prevailed to-day would not hold water. What England wanted to-day was not cleverness but character. We heard about the genius of the German workman, and the skill of the artisan of America, but English workmen need not fear either, if they were true to the tradition of English workmen—honest work out of honest character at an honest price.

SCIENCE VERSUS CLASSICS.

Professor Vincent, professor of physiology in the University of Manitoba, gave a public address in the lecture theatre at the opening of the classes in science; the professor said in part as follows:

"Notwithstanding its admitted advantages, in a purely literary training, we are apt to miss through sheer lack of scientific knowledge, one of the elements of perfect culture—the sympathetic appreciation of nature as in detail a rationally ordered and consistent system. We may often note an excessive emphasis upon the psychological with an undue sub-ordination or even depreciation of the physical and the physiological factors—an attitude implied in the distinction I once heard between the 'humanities' and the 'bestialities.' In my school days science was always scornfully called 'stinks' and no self-respecting boy was expected to have any dealings with it.

"Get rid of the ancient superstition that purely literary pursuits are necessarily on a higher plane than scientific. It is a hoary tradition particularly unworthy of credence in a new country. Do not be afraid of the word 'materialistic.' Our bodies, food, clothing, dwellings, the air we breathe, are 'material' and deserve not less, but infinitely more attention than has ever yet been bestowed upon them.

"I would go still further. A man who knows no science has no right to call himself an educated man. He may know the literature of the Greeks, Romans, Hebrews, or Chinese, he may be able to wander in imagination through the streets of Athens in her glory, he may picture by his reading in history the growth of modern Europe from the ruins of the ancient civilizations, he may be able to translate Shakespeare into elegant Greek verse or Burke into powerful Ciceronian Latin, but if he does not know, for example, that a candle is not consumed when it burns, or has no grasp of the law of the conservation of energy, that man is an utter ignoramus. He lives in a world as foggy and unreal as that of the monks of the middle ages. To sum up this part of our subject, an educated man must not only know books, he must know things, and in order to aid in the establishment of a proper balance of culture, I would propose that for people who are going to be scientific there need be no science at school, or at any rate that the systematic study of science could be more safely omitted than any other part of the curriculum, but science should form an important element in the training of clergymen, lawyers, schoolmasters, and generally of all bookish persons."

MOULDING A NATIONAL SPIRIT.

Mr. W. Frank Hatheway of St. John's N.B., has written a book of essays of which "Canadian Nationality" is the subject of one and "The Cry of Labor" the title of another. These two essays are considered the strongest in the volume, although we are decidedly partial to the one on "Simplicity and Greatness". We, along with reviewers for other journals, have read the book and hasten to record our appreciation of its style. Its metaphors and allegories are particularly apt and alluring even when placed in cold type.

The object of the author is to stimulate in the public an appreciation of Canadian natural beauties, to develop a national spirit and to enhance the dignity of labor. The essays as published hold the attention of the reader but as their style lends itself particularly to the gifts of an orator we imagine they would be doubly pleasing if presented from a platform. The frequent references to historical incidents to illustrate and illumine present conditions stamp the author as one who has read widely and studied deeply. Every Canadian who feels concerned in the development of a broad intelligent nation, and even those who are indifferent should read the essays for their inspiration. The "Canadian Nationality" is neatly bound, and is published by the Wm. Briggs Co. Toronto.