



Life, Literature and Education.

[Contributions on all subjects of popular interest are always welcome in this Department.]

PEOPLE, BOOKS, AND DOINGS.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier will attend Toronto Exhibition.

A tombstone, to be erected in Bath (England) cemetery to the memory of an engine-driver who was an ardent geologist, is to be composed of fossils he collected in his rambles.

R. V. Bellamy, of Edmonton, the first of the Canadian Rhodes scholars to return home, has graduated from Oxford. He will probably enter newspaper work in Canada.

Experiments with seagulls have been going on in France for some time, with a view to ascertaining how far it would be practicable to substitute them for pigeons in war time. It is said that, as a result, the authorities are very favorably impressed with the superiority of the seagull, and that, if a sufficient number can be trained, they will probably be employed in place of pigeons. That seagulls are much harder birds, as well as considerably more gifted with intelligence, is undeniable, and both these qualities are of the utmost importance when feathered messengers are employed in war time. A pigeon is easily blown away in a storm, whereas the gull is quite indifferent to the weather.

It is said an unpublished manuscript of a story by Charlotte Brontë is in existence, and may be published in the immediate future.

The competitors in the Pekin-to-Paris (10,000 miles) motor race have covered the most difficult part of the race. Prince Borghese is in the lead.

Sir William Ramsay, the eminent English scientist, has, by his experiments with radium emanations, succeeded in degrading copper to lithium. The discovery is regarded as marking an epoch in chemical science, as further developments along the same line may show that gold and all similar metals exhibiting high atomic weights are really complex, and may be resolved or similarly "degraded" into other substances.

A glass vessel of beautiful workmanship, and apparently of great antiquity, has been discovered near Glastonbury Abbey, England, and is now in possession of Prof. William Crookes. Its discoverers believe it to be the cup upon which the legend of the Holy Grail was founded. The Holy Grail was the cup from which Christ is reputed to have drunk at the last supper, and was, according to British tradition, brought to England by Joseph of Arimathea, after the crucifixion. In the words of Tennyson:

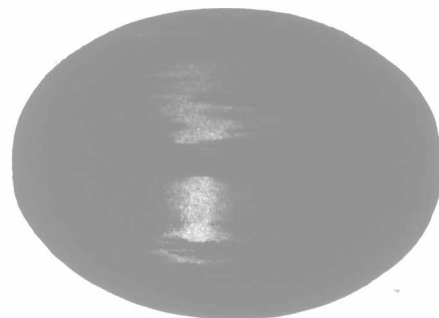
To whom the monk: "The Holy Grail—
I trust
We are green in Heaven's eyes; but here
too much
We moulder—as to things without I
mean—
Yet one of your own knights, a guest of
ours,

Told us of this in our refectory,
But spake with such a sadness, and so
low,
We heard not half of what he said. What
is it?
The phantom of a cup that comes and
goes?"

"Nay, monk! What phantom?"
answered Percivale.

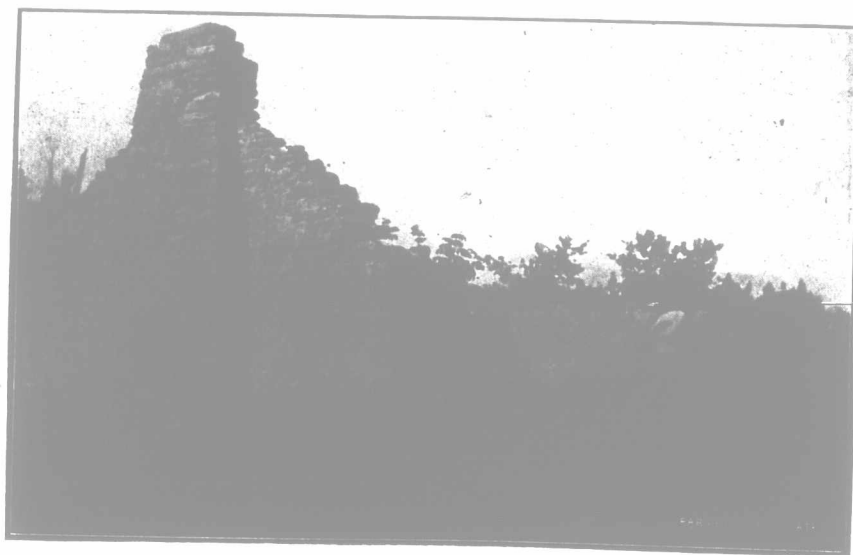
"The cup, the cup itself, from which
our Lord
Drank at the last sad supper with His
own.

This, from the blessed land of Aromat—
After the day of darkness, when the dead



Sunset on Lake Huron.

Went wandering o'er Moriah—the good
saint,
Arimathæan Joseph, journeying brought
To Glastonbury, where the winter thorn
Blossoms at Christmas, mindful of our
Lord.
And there awhile it abode; and if a man
Could touch or see it, he was heal'd at
once
By faith of all his ills. But then the
times
Grew to such evil that the holy cup
Was caught away to Heaven, and dis-
appear'd."
—The Holy Grail, in Idylls of the King.



The Ruin, Gagheto Island.

Mr. D. W. Hamilton, ex-principal of the Consolidated School at Kingston, N. B., from which he has but recently severed his connection to take the position of Inspector of Seed Plots, in New Brunswick, has written us regarding that institution as follows:

"The Kingston Consolidated School has been a great educational success. It has attracted the attention of educators in the United States, and is also well known in the British

Isles. It steadily but surely won over each doubting Thomas in the school sections which have enjoyed its privileges; and when the three years under the Macdonald Fund were over, and the people had to decide whether or not to continue the school, in six of the seven districts there was an unanimous vote in favor of the school, and in the seventh district a large majority. The rate of taxation will only be one dollar on one hundred, a very low rate, considering the great educational advantages enjoyed by the people of those sections.

"During the three years the school has been in operation, the school-garden work has been successfully carried on. The pupils' and experimental plots have occupied one-half acre, and another half-acre was planted with fruit trees. The garden work has interested all the children, and has been a source of educational and financial profit. Last year it was successfully demonstrated that the garden could be made self-sustaining. The pupils supplied seeds and fertilizers for their own plots, did all the work of cultivation, and in the autumn sold what had been grown. It was shown that a school garden can be successfully conducted without one cent of cost to the district after the initial expenditure.

"The Kingston Consolidated School has prepared pupils for University Matriculation and Normal School Entrance examinations. This year about fifteen boys and girls will enter the Macdonald College for courses in Agriculture and Household Science. The fact that so many of the pupils have decided to take courses in Agriculture or in Household Science shows that the hopes of the founders of the school are being

Such a place as above described can be found off the west coast of the Bruce peninsula, among the Gagheto or Fishing Islands. Gagheto (pronounced gee-gee-to) is from the Ojibway word geego, meaning "fish." From Chief's Point to Red Bay the contour of the shore is a crescent. Across the lake, between the horns, stretches a chain of islands, bearing such names as Whitefish, Lonely, Cigar, Whiskey, Cranberry, Smokehouse, Jack-fish, Squaw, Frog, The Rowdies, Snake, and Main Station.

On the low, sandy shore at Oliphant, a stone "dock" has been built to extend out into deep water for the convenience of the small craft used by the summer visitors. On the islands facing the mainland, and at intervals along the shore, small cottages nestle among the trees. Between the chain of wooded islands and the shore lies a sheltered channel of shallow water. When the islands were first used for fishing, this passage could be used by vessels of large size, but year by year the ever-shifting sand has gradually filled it up. It is now possible to wade across at some points to the nearer islands. Opposite Frog and Cranberry this lagoon-like passage narrows to the width of a few rods, and receives the name of "The Gut."

The islands are covered by a thick growth of cedar, hemlock, balsam, birch and tamarack. Many years ago nearly all the islands were swept by fire, which destroyed the large trees and burned up the vegetable mold. Squaw Island seems to have escaped, as it is yet covered with fine timber. Whitefish, too, was fortunate. While the large trees on Whitefish have been removed by lumbermen, the second-growth timber is quite large, due to the deep, rich soil, which is very productive. When wooed by the collector's spade, the soil produces things of early planting, such as Indian pipes, flint arrowheads, and broken pieces of ornamental pottery. Whitefish Island constitutes a natural harbor of refuge for distressed vessels, on account of the deep water around the island. For several years the present owner lived on the island, and made a very hospitable host for the storm-driven mariners "whom fate compelled to make their home ashore" for a few days, while the angry waves pounded on their rocky shelter. On the side next the open lake the rocks go sheer down, with water sixteen fathoms deep. During violent western storms that drive across a hundred miles of open water, the waves rise to a tremendous height, and break on the shore with such terrific force that the whole island trembles. The roar is awful, and even on the mainland, nearly two miles distant, the sound is like the booming of artillery. Some miles out in the lake is a long reef, running north and south, which is thought to be the oil-bearing rock connecting the oil fields in the County of Lambton and the Manitoulin Island.

Passing up through the Gut, inside the islands, one comes to Main Station, the largest island of the group. On the upper end stands a massive ruin of gray limestone. This is a prominent feature of the landscape, and can be seen for miles. There is deep water up to the foot of the rocky shore, which has been

realized—that the Macdonald Country High School would inspire its pupils with a love for country pursuits and life in the country."

THE GAGHETO RUIN.

By L. J. Gilleland, Ayton, Ont.

"A summer by the still waters of some quiet river, or by some yellow wrist in your hand and count her ocean pulses." Holmes