

57 years public service, distributed under the reign of four Sovereigns. Upon his retirement he selected Brockville as his place of residence, where he lived admired and respected by all who knew him, and quietly passed away on the 11th of March last, aged eighty-five.

#### BROCKVILLE NOVELTY WORKS.

These extensive works have lately been brought very prominently before the notice of the general public, from the fact of the proprietor, Mr. James Smart, having received the Cross of the Legion of Honour from the French Government, in token of their appreciation of the splendid display of manufactures of iron, &c., made by him at the Paris Exposition. The articles exhibited were so varied, so uniformly excellent, and so tastefully displayed, that they excited general remark and astonished in no small degree those dwellers outside the Dominion who had been accustomed to regard Canada as a semi-civilized region somewhere near the Arctic circle. The bestowal of the Cross in question is an unusual honour in such cases, and it can only be accepted by British subjects with the special sanction of the Imperial Government. The late Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Waddington, sent the following note in transmitting the Cross:

"Paris, Oct. 31, 1878.

"Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that Marshal MacMahon, President of the Republic, having appreciated the merit of the articles you have sent to the World's Exposition at Paris, desires, at my recommendation and that of my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, to give you a special proof of his good will by conferring upon you the Cross of Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honour. Accept, sir, the assurance of my most especial consideration.

"WASHINGTON."

The engraving herewith gives a good idea of the extent of the Works, which are centrally situated, with an excellent water front, and cover about two acres. The articles manufactured number over three hundred varieties, and include, among others, Builders', Carriage-makers', Cabinet-makers', Blacksmiths', and general household goods, iron, brass, and electroplated. Among special lines may be mentioned stoves of all kinds, copying presses, scales, ornamental railings, and lawn mowers. The Prince of Wales has one of the latter—a magnificently finished machine, shown at Paris, and presented to the Prince by Mr. Smart at the close of the exhibition. During the period of depression the number of hands employed at these Works has been materially reduced—a vast stock of goods being on hand, and the American makers underselling wherever they could, even at a loss, in the hope of eventually securing the Canadian market. With the new tariff—if the duties are strictly enforced, and care is taken to prevent false entries—there is no doubt that the full complement of workmen will be required. The Works are large enough to afford employment to three hundred, when the demand warrants such an increase.

Mr. James Smart was born in Scotland, came to Brockville in 1841, went into business as a tanner at Sarnia shortly after; the late Premier, Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, being one of the masons engaged in the building of the tannery. Subsequently Mr. Smart abandoned the tanning business, and returned to Brockville, where he began the manufacture of weighing machines, having secured a contract from the Grand Trunk Railway Co. From this the present extensive works have grown. Mr. Smart sent a fine assortment of goods to the Australia Exhibition, and in many other ways has shown himself to be as patriotic as he is enterprising.

#### MASS'S BROADCAST SEED-SOWER, &c.

This very efficient and ingenious implement is manufactured by J. W. Mann & Co., at the Leeds Agricultural Works, Brockville. It is a machine which can be used either as a broadcast sower or as a root and corn drill. The change can be made in one minute, and long and critical trials have demonstrated that in either form it is simply without a single drawback. The engravings give an idea of the general appearance of the machine. In changing the root drill for the broadcast sower it is only necessary to remove the seed-box and shoe from the machine, and attach the long broadcast box. In either case there is a very ingenious eccentric attachment which works the seed shifter, rendering a clogging of the holes impossible. The broadcast sower is a box four inches deep by twelve feet long, covered by a hinged lid having a zinc bottom perforated with sets of small holes, which are opened in whole or part, as required, by a shifting slide perforated with large holes, so constructed that it can be regulated to sow the number of pounds required, varying from two to thirty pounds per acre. A boy fifteen years old can propel the machine with ease, and sow twenty-five acres per day. It has not only the advantage of sowing very quickly and at any time, but there is a positive saving of seed of at least 4 lbs. per acre, and the land much better seeded than by hand. It often happens that hired help are inexperienced in sowing, and consequently great loss is incurred. This is impossible in the use of the Seeder, as it must sow as it moves, the number of pounds per acre to which it is adjusted.

The Root and Corn Drill is one of the simplest in construction made; it will sow perfect all

kinds of seeds to be put in drills. The shoe is made so that it can be set to run any depth, which is very important, as onion seed does not require to be sown as deep as mangold wurtzels or corn.

The manufacturers are in receipt of most satisfactory testimonials from hundreds of farmers as to the uniform excellence of the work performed by this machine, and wherever exhibited the highest honours have been always awarded. Besides numerous county show prizes, it has been awarded first prizes at London, Hamilton, Guelph, Kingston, Belleville, Ogdensburg, Toronto, and at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. The machine is strongly made and nicely finished. It costs but \$25, complete.

(To be continued.)

#### LORD NELSON AT QUEBEC IN 1782.

"C'est l'amour qui fait le tour de la ronde."

By the author of "Quebec Past and Present."

A grave historian, Dr. Henry Miles, in a paper replete with antiquarian lore, contributed to the March number of *Belford's Magazine*, has made many a very creditable attempt to supply some of the links in the chain of evidence, connecting the naval hero, Nelson, with an *affaire de coeur*, at Quebec, in 1782. Was the heroine Miss Prentice, Miss Cooper or Miss Simpson? Such was the inquiry he has tried to answer chiefly by the light of an unpublished correspondence, found among the papers of the late James Thompson, a volunteer under Wolfe, who lived to 1839.

Dr. Miles is quite right when he says that the local history of the Capital of Canada furnished not even an allusion to the visits of England's most renowned sea captain to our port in 1782. Possibly a few more items on this subject may not be unacceptable to the reader. In 1865, whilst perusing Robert Southey's *Life of Lord Nelson*, our attention was attracted by a passage alluding to a romantic attachment formed by him at Quebec, and which if yielded to, might have had an important bearing on his after-life. No lady's name was given. Who was the charmer?

Smith's *History of Canada*, the old *Quebec Gazette*, the *Quebec Herald* (1789-93), contemporary memoirs were ransacked; all in vain. Our venerable friends the historians (Garnier and Ferland, Mr. DeGaspé, the Nestors in Quebec society, were closely catechised. None could tell who was the incomparable Helen who very high snatched the susceptible Horatio from Emma Hamilton and Westminster Abbey. Some had faint reminiscences of having heard in their youth aged folks speak of a Quebec beauty who by her human face divine used to "bewitch the sons of men." It was not, it could not be, the lovely and refined Mrs. De Léry, *née* Marie Louise Magdeleine de Brouge, who on presentation at Court in 1762 to the youthful Sovereign of England, a gallant ancestor of our Prince of Wales, had caused the young monarch to exclaim: "Truly, if such are all the ladies of Canada, I have indeed made a conquest."

There were also some lingering memories of the fascinating but frail Mrs. Hughes Penn, after whom that dissipated rake, Bigot, lost his head—an Aspasie very graphically delineated by the author of the novel "Le Chien d'Or." Death had closed her career long before 1782, by cancer in the face, says the novelist Marquette. An interval of several decades in the city annals brought us down to that vision of female loveliness, the queenly Madame J. A. Panet, the spouse of the first Speaker of the Canadian Commons, at Quebec, in 1792, ten years after Nelson's departure from our port. None of those heroines supplied the missing link and Nelson's Juliet of 1782 remained to all enquirers a sphinx, an impenetrable mystery, defying the penetration of historians, antiquarians, clairvoyants and seers. The grave inquiry possibly to this day would have remained unsolved, but for an accidental question put by us about in 1865, to a well-informed old friend, alas! no more—the late Lt.-Colonel John Sewell, who in 1812 was a lieutenant in the 49th Foot, commanded by Colonel, afterwards General Isaac Brock, the hero of the Queenston Heights. Lieut.-Col. Sewell, though much advanced in years in 1865, with his retentive memory, was indeed a likely person to supply information on the part of his native city, many incidents of which were noted in the diary he had kept. Col. Sewell immediately replied that on his arrival in Quebec, at the beginning of the century, he had heard tell of Nelson's love affair from a connection of his family, the Hon. Wm. Smith, who had settled with his father, the Hon. Wm. Smith, Chief

"At Quebec Nelson became acquainted with Alexander Davidson, by whose interference he was prevented from making what would have been called an unpleasant marriage. The *Albemarle* was about to leave the station, her captain had taken leave of his friends, and was gone down the river to the place of anchorage, when the next morning as Davidson was walking on the beach, to his surprise he saw Nelson coming back in his boat. Upon inquiring the cause of his reappearance, Nelson took his arm, to walk towards the town, and told him he found it utterly impossible to leave Quebec without again seeing the woman whose society had contributed so much to his happiness there, and offering her his hand. "If you do," said his friend, "your utter ruin must inevitably follow." "Then let it follow," cried Nelson, "for I am resolved to do it." "And I," replied Davidson, "am resolved you shall not." Nelson, however, upon this occasion was less resolute than his friend, and suffered himself to be led back to his boat." (*Life of Lord Nelson* by Robert Southey, L.L.D.)

Justice in Quebec, in 1786, for years after the visit of Nelson to our port. Hon. Mr. Smith by his high standing in the fashionable world of Quebec, his family *entourage*, was more likely than any to get to the full particulars of any local incident bearing on such a celebrated character as Nelson.

Col. Sewell, from what he had heard from Hon. Wm. Smith, pointed out the stately house known as FREE MASON'S HALL, as the spot more intimately associated with the romantic adventures of the victor at Trafalgar and Aboukir.

Varied were the legends about the origin and antiquity of the large three storied stone mansion which the French inhabitants, down to the time of its destruction in 1871, persistently called "Le Chien d'Or," connecting it with Philibert's duel. After being used for various purposes, a hostelry, a place of worship, a printing office, an auctioneer's mart, in the day of Mr. Futvoye, it was purchased by Government from the heirs of the millionaire Geo. Poser, for \$16,000. On its site and on that of the adjoining house (Mussion's drug store) now stands the new City Post Office. In the wall over the entrance, surmounted by the bust of Champlain, may yet be seen (thanks to Hon. H. L. Langevin, then Minister of Public Works), the mysterious golden dog, gnawing his bone as he did more than a hundred years ago, and the no less mysterious inscription:

"Je suis un Chien Qui Rouge L'Or  
en le rongant je prends mon repos  
un temps viendra qui n'est pas venu  
que je mordrai qui m'aura mordu."  
1736.

This inscription with a slight variations and the Golden Dog had greeted the astonished gaze of the British squadrons when they invested the surrendered city on the 18th September, 1759. Capt. John Knox, of the 43rd, an eye witness, notes the fact at page 149 of his journal of the siege, vol. ii.

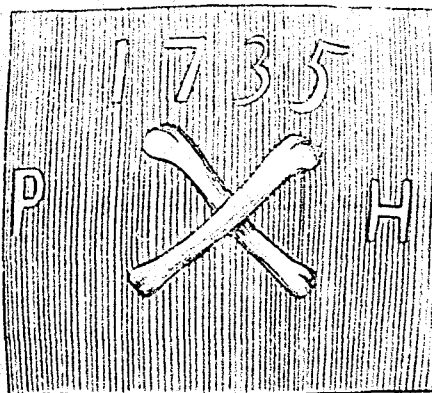
The history, as well as the many legends of this quaint old castle, have been chronicled in detail in the *Maple Leaves* for 1873.

One of Gen. Wolfe's Provost Marshals, Miles Prentice, a Free Mason high in the craft, for many years inhabited the house, which was then and later on styled FREE MASON'S HALL. Miles Prentice was a man of substance and note in Quebec, even after his active disciplinary functions ceased. He it was who was charged with the delicate mission of placing under arrest and in durance vile, in the cells of the old Recollet Monastery (destroyed by fire in September, 1796), which stood on the ground on which, in 1804, was erected the Anglican Church, the arch agitator Du Robert. Miles Prentice was the father of a handsome daughter who was subsequently married to a high official in New Brunswick, Surveyor-General Springle. Mrs. Prentice ended her days in the Thompson homestead, in St. Ursule street, Quebec, in the year 1792. Miles Prentice had

"In demolishing, in 1871, the foundations of the stately old house, said to be the first built of stone in Quebec, a lead plate was found adhering to the corner stone, with the following inscription:

Nicolas Jarry  
Dit Pibber  
M'a Posé le 26 Aout  
1735.

This corner-stone is quite singular. Under the date 1735 can be seen the two capital letters, P. and H., separated by a Greek or St. Andrew's Cross, deeply engraved in the stone and coloured red, thus:



The Golden Dog inscription is followed by the date 1736, under which are traces of letters, forming an inscription, which are obliterated and could not be connected so as to make any meaning.

"On the right of the descent, leading to the lower town, stands a stately old house, said to be the first built of stone in this city (Quebec), and over the front door of it is engraved a dog, gnawing a large fleshy bone, which he has got under and between his fore feet, with the following whimsical inscription:

"Je suis le chien qui rouge l'or.  
Sans en perdre un seul morceau:  
Le temps viendra, qui n'est pas venu,  
Je mordrai celui qui m'aura mordu."

The true meaning of this device I never could learn, though I made all possible inquiries, without being gratified with the least possible information respecting its allusion. I have been informed that the first proprietor of the house had been a man of great natural abilities, and possessed a plentiful fortune, which he, after many disappointments and losses in trade, had scraped together by means of the most indefatigable industry. Now, whether the foregoing device had any reference to these particulars of his own private affairs, or that we may rather suppose the bone with flesh on it to resemble Canada, and the dog, an emblem of fidelity, to represent the French settled there, as if determined faithfully to defend the colony for their King and country against the savage natives, who may perhaps be alluded to by the two last lines of the inscription, I will not take it on me to determine, but submit it to the penetrating capacity of the curious reader." (*Knox's Journal*, vol. ii, p. 149-50.) The "penetrating" capacity of the curious reader "has not yet, after a lapse of more than a century succeeded to "penetrate" the mystery.

also two nieces of the name of Cowper, the eldest of whom was married, on the 6th Dec., 1780, at Free Mason's Hall, to Mr. James Thompson, a volunteer in Fraser's Highlanders, in 1780, subsequently promoted to the office of Overseer of Military Works. There was also present at the wedding a Mr. Simpson, a cousin of the bridegroom—Saunders Simpson, a Provost Marshal in Wolfe's army at Louisbourg—Quebec, &c. According to an entry in the diary of Deputy-Commissary-General Thompson, son of James Thompson aforesaid, Saunders Simpson was the cousin of James Thompson, the husband of Miles Prentice's niece. Provost-Marshal Simpson seems to have met very good company at the stately Free Mason's Hall, on that auspicious 6th Dec., 1780, viz., Mr. John Collins, Deputy-Surveyor-General, Captain Twiss, Roy. Eng., afterwards General Twiss, the same who, in 1793, superintended the rebuilding of the citadel on Cape Diamond. Far from there being in the associations of Free Mason's Hall anything to render it unacceptable to military or naval officers in 1782—much earlier than 1775 military men lodged there. Old James Thompson notes in his diary that here lodged, when he came to Quebec on business (and he had often come, it seems), Brigadier-General Montgomery, and that it was Mrs. Prentice who, after the discovery of his body in the snow at Près-de-Ville, on that stormy 31st Dec., 1775, recognized him by "a scar on his cheek, supposed to be a sabre cut." Nor is there anything in history or anywhere else, that we know of, to discredit the statement handed down to us from Hon. W. Smith, through Lieut.-Col. Sewell, that young Captain Nelson met his goddess and was victimized by the "fat boy with the arrows," under the roof of a mansion frequented not only by military men, but also visited by the father of the girl, whose beauty had produced such an impression on him. Free Mason's Hall, in 1782, we take to have been as familiar to travellers of note, as the Windsor or the Russell House is now to visitors and distinguished strangers at Montreal or Quebec. We repeat that we find nothing in history or tradition to bear out the hypothesis that Miss Simpson either visited or not Nelson, at the house of Alexander Davidson, with whom Nelson was on friendly terms, at Quebec, in 1782, but we have old Thompson's written testimony to establish that Provost-Marshal Simpson, her father, had visited, the abode of Provost-Marshal Miles Prentice, having attended, there, on 6th December, 1780, the wedding of Prentice's niece, who married Simpson's cousin. Lieut.-Col. Sewell, in repeating the story handed down to him by Hon. W. Smith, distinctly connected the name of Nelson's *inamorata* with the well-remembered dwelling of the Prentices; it is, therefore, not unnatural to infer that she knew and visited the young ladies hailing from Free Mason's Hall, where her father had attended the wedding-party. The tradition embodied in print by us in 1867, pointing out Nelson's fair friend as being either a daughter or niece of Miles Prentice, after subsequent research, seemed to us, on that point, not proven, and in a little volume, "The Tourist's Note Book," printed 1st July, 1876, we for the first time suggested it might be Miss Simpson.

What we had put forth hypothetically in print, in 1876, had acquired the character of historical truth long before the appearance of Dr. Miles' interesting sketch in "Belford," hence why a passage of that sketch requires rectification.

Doctor Miles certainly labours under an error, a very unintentional one, probably, in assuming that we unwittingly misled the distinguished guests, whom Lord Dufferin had invited us to meet, at a breakfast party on the Citadel, Quebec, the day before his departure. In relating the Nelson anecdote, no other name was suggested but that of Miss Simpson. It was no "exploded doctrine" which was promulgated, but historical truth.

"The subject," says Dr. Miles, "of the great Admiral's love affair at Quebec, when he visited it in the capacity of Captain of a British frigate in 1782, naturally interests naval officers, whom duty, even in those days, brings to the harbour, whenever it is broached as a topic of conversation. We have a notable illustration of this in what occurred the other day. Just before the departure of our late popular Governor-General, the British war vessels "Hellerophon" and "Sirius," lying in port, the captains and some other officers of these vessels were entertained at breakfast by His Excellency, at the Citadel. The conversation turned on former visits of Commanders of ships of war, when Nelson's name being brought up, the Earl remarked that Mr. Le Moine, author of the "Maple Leaves," "Album du Touriste," &c., was able to afford them some information about him, as he had published something on the subject. Mr. Le Moine happened to be present, and, at His Excellency's request, rehearsed the whole of what he had related in the works cited above, much to the satisfaction of his hearers. Mr. Le Moine's account of the affair, however, as it is based on the now exploded doctrine that the heroine was one of the nieces of Mrs. Miles Prentice, was not, as has been shown in the foregoing article, the correct one, however gratifying to the distinguished listeners to its recital on that occasion."—*Belford's Magazine*, March, 1879.

—§ Very Rev. Deau Stanley, Lady Dufferin's brother and sister, Capt. Sullivan and Harris, R.N. Mrs. James Thompson Harrower and others.

#### NOTICE TO LADIES.

The undersigned begs respectfully to inform the ladies of the city and country that they will find at his Retail Store, 196 St. Lawrence Main Street, the choicest assortment of Ostrich and Vulture Feathers, of all shades; also, Feathers of all descriptions repaired with the greatest care. Feathers dyed as per sample, on shortest delay. Gloves cleaned and dyed black only. J. H. LEAN & CO. Works: 547 Craig St.