



INTERIOR OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WOODSTOCK, ONT.



TORONTO, September 25, 1891.

The second drive of the newly inaugurated weekly turnout of the fashionables of Toronto took place to-day. The fine band of the Royal Grenadiers was stationed in the park, and some addition to the usual seating was made, so that pedestrians might enjoy a stroll and lounge, meet their friends, enjoy the sight of the really handsome equipages and riding horses that the city can boast, as much as possible realizing the idea of the famous London Rotten Row, *Anglice* for *Route du Roi*. As we have no traditions to govern us in the choice of a name for this new kind of entertainment, may we not very properly call it "The Queen's Drive," seeing that it's *locale* is the Queen's Park. Nearly four hundred equipages and riders graced the first turn-out, which took place last week, a very respectable showing.

The University extension scheme has found a strong supporter in Mr. Wm. Houston, our Legislative Librarian, and the author of "Documents Relating to the Government of Upper Canada." Mr. Houston's sympathies are always wide awake on behalf of the extension of the higher education, and his aid in the matter of the opening of University College to women is yet held in just regard; there is no doubt, therefore, that he will not let a scheme that has been of much benefit to the people in England fail here for want of working up. Of course other ladies and gentlemen will be interested in the scheme, but I have heard no names at present.

There is a lady, Miss Florence Balgarnie, on this side the water, from England, who acted as secretary of the Scarborough University Extension Society, and was a member of the Scarborough School Board, and who, therefore, has had valuable experience in these matters, and would, I am sure, be a valuable aid to the furtherance of the scheme for University extension. Miss Balgarnie was sent by the British Women's Temperance League (an older and equally important society than our W. C. T. U.) and the Women's Trades Union Association, and was qualified also to represent thirteen other societies of England, where she is well-

known and most acceptable to the highest audiences in the metropolis. She has also represented certain of the above societies in France, and was tendered a reception by the Minister Yves Guyot, where she shamed the Parisians by addressing them in their own tongue. Miss Balgarnie will be in Buffalo early in November, and as I have the honour to count her as a friend I may be pardoned for giving the name of her agent in America for her public work, Mrs. Claude Quigley Murphy, of the *Toledo Daily Commercial*, Toledo, Ohio.

\* \* \*

What does she look like? is a question that is quite fair when one is talking about a public speaker. Miss Balgarnie is tall, fair, handsome, refined, cultivated and highly educated, and charms her audiences as much by her manner as her matter. *La Citoyenne*, August, 1889, Paris, gave a verbatim report of Miss Balgarnie's address delivered in French before the International Congress, and the *Rappel* reviewed the same address fully. This speaks highly for Miss Balgarnie's command of the French tongue, and should be her passport through all our provinces.

\* \* \*

The ceremony of the re-interment of the bodies, or, rather, the bones, of the soldiers found in the burial trench recently on the field of the battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814, will take place with military honours on the 17th October. A detachment of the men then in camp at Niagara will be present, and Major-General Herbert will take part in the ceremony if possible. The few relics found (buttons, a bit of an officer's coat flap, etc.) will be laid on the bier and afterwards taken charge of by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society.

\* \* \*

The question of a Government grant for an historical publication fund for Ontario is being agitated in the proper circles. Captain Cruikshank, the author of several valuable historical pamphlets published by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, the Canadian Institute and other bodies, says, in a letter to the L. L. H. S.: "I hope your efforts in the Publication Fund will be successful. The Michigan Pioneer Society have just published two volumes, 8vo., of more than 700 pages each, entirely made up of documents obtained from Ottawa. Wisconsin and Illinois have published others from the same source, and it is a great pity that Canada, especially Ontario, should not properly appreciate the value of the documents she possesses."

\* \* \*

The Rev. J. G. Murray, of Grimsby, writes me that at present the young men of that neighbourhood do not respond

as readily as might be wished to the desire of himself and Mr. Nelles to revive the historical society that existed in that pretty little place under the name of the Grimsby Loyal Canadian Society some years ago. It is known that certain relics of the war of 1812 are in possession of old residents of that neighbourhood, a neighbourhood where U.E.L. names abound still, and it would certainly add to the interest of the lives of the present generation if they would set themselves to record the records of a glorious past in which the men and women of their own blood fought a good fight for king and country, the brilliancy of which reflects on themselves if they will only remove the tarnish that at present obscures it.

\* \* \*

A literary friend of keen critical judgment and refined taste says of *Le Chien d'Or*, which she has lately read for the first time, "I am astonished at the genius it shows. Is it not strange that a writer with such a vivid power of presenting his facts and giving life to the scenes and characters he portrays \* \* should never have written another novel \* \* I certainly never expected to find such a flow of imagination, such rich and appropriate imagery, such vitality and passion as *Le Chien d'Or* displays, and all in the fetters of an historical novel. If it could have been condensed I think it would have been more effective. But such a group of pictures required a large canvas, and it seems to me that the descriptions of life in New France with which it is filled—of seigneurs and bourgeois, priests and soldiers, nuns and fine ladies, life in the manor-house and among the habitants, in the tavern and the palace, deserves to be called the prose epic of French Canada."

\* \* \*

If I do not mistake Mr. Kirby's temperament, the above criticism coming from so able a source will be like oil poured upon many wounds in connection with his *chef d'œuvre*; and it is a criticism with which every reader of cultivation and judgment cannot fail to agree most sympathetically.

\* \* \*

I am writing this letter with the Centric pen, sold by Messrs. Hart & Co., of this city, and beg to recommend it cordially for ease and fluency to all writers. I may add, however, for the benefit of the makers, that if the holder were of a finer quality, finished in cork or rubber instead of metal, and the slit for the pen made a little tighter, my pen wobbling until tightened with a bit of paper, nothing would be left to desire. I have used the No. 61, small series, for a week, a longer period than I have had any pen last, with strong ink, for a year or two.

S. A. CURZON.