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WHALE FISHING.

SOME FACTS REGARDING AN ALMOST FORGOTTEN ST. JOHN INDUSTRY.

The Mechanics' Whale Fishing Company—An Anecdote of Dr. Gesner.

There are very many who are tolerably conversant with St. John and the history of its industries, who are wholly unaware of the fact that about 50 years ago a large amount of capital was invested here in the whale fishery, which for several years was prosecuted with a good deal of vigor and varying success.

It is not many years since such bones have been used as gate posts in the neighborhood of the city. The sword fish and other sea monsters, captured by the crews of the company, contributed to the adornment of the counting room and library of not a few of the city's magnates forty years ago.

No doubt many of the mothers and grandmothers of today remember the elaborately carved corset boards of whalebone which were brought home by the sailors of the fleet. They were then much worn by the belles of the city, and their possession shewed the gallant young whalers often secured for them the entrance into the houses from which they would otherwise have been excluded; and, it is said, in more cases than one, resulted in kindling the tender passion and marriage.

While the whalers were in the Southern sea, the natives of New Zealand were employed as harpooners, and sometimes they accompanied the vessels to St. John, where their singular appearance attracted much attention, and was the occasion of considerable comment.

Once, while a whaler was lying in the harbor, a whale was seen spouting in the vicinity of Shag Rock. A crew at once started in pursuit and succeeded in capturing the animal. It was beached where the Ballast wharf has since been built, on a Saturday evening, and afterwards exhibited to the curious, admission to the enclosure by which it was surrounded being fixed at sixpence. At the time some wit composed a rhyme which was sung by the street gamins, and began with the lines:

Billy Blubber bought a whale, He got it on a Sunday, Covered it over with a sail, To show it on a Monday.

Aside from the fleet of the Mechanics' Whale Fishing Co., several other vessels were fitted out in St. John and were engaged in the fishery at the same time.

WOMAN.

A LADY WRITER COMPARES THE FAIR SEX WITH MAN.

In a Few Points Relating to the Mental and Emotional Qualities.

With respect to the matter of determining the claim, which men or women have to superior excellence, when we are led into the generally established opinion that, in strength of mind, as well as of body, men are greatly superior to women, we do not take into consideration, that women are allotted certain endowments by nature, which will be as difficult for men to acquire, as it would be for women to acquire those peculiarly adapted to them.

And though observation and reflection make it evident that the powers of reasoning and abstraction are the prerogatives of men, yet "Presence of mind, penetration and quickness of perception are the sciences of women; ability to avail themselves of these is their talent." Though man will reason better than woman regarding the human heart, yet she will read better than they the hearts of men.

Some writers maintain that the peculiarities in the female character, are not so much owing to organization as to the results of education, and the general usages of life, then, again, however, while the girls of the nineteenth century are almost universally enjoying equal privileges, with their brothers in education, business, and also, to a certain extent, in field sports, the following questions are being continually asked, not only by very able writers, but also by those whom we meet in every-day life.

"Are the girls of the present day, showing traces of a mind in more abundant measure than their parents? Are their aims higher? Are their manners gentler and more refined? And until the results from education shall have been ascertained, we cannot fully decide from which source mental differences arise."

Meanwhile, it is my opinion that women fall more often from want of determination to overcome every obstacle than to any inferiority in intellect, and this theory is still further strengthened when I read of Harriet Martineau, that she wrote articles not as a woman but as an editor, and Mrs. Somerville studied astronomy, not as a woman but as a scholar, that the richest part of George Eliot's life was quite a secret to herself until she reached middle age, that she did not begin to write until the whole range of the best literature both ancient and modern was hers, and moreover, that "her greatest glory lay in her true womanhood," she was also an accomplished housewife, her experience ranging from the management of a dairy farm to that of a crowded drawing-room.

It is a matter of frequent remark, however, that though the paths of art have always been open to women, yet in creative thought, they have been inferior to man save in fiction, for allowing that there have been some who have developed high artistic faculty, yet what woman ever painted like Leonardo da Vinci and what woman has written like Shakespeare and Milton, or what woman has been as original as Homer and Virgil, or what woman has been as original as Homer and Virgil, or what woman has been as original as Homer and Virgil.

Madame de Staël says, that "Love is the history of woman's life; it is an episode in man's nevertheless, there have been many noteworthy instances where men have loved just as purely and devotedly as women, still however, in respect to constancy and fidelity in either sex there are various opinions from high authorities. Hence Biogues said, "Trust not to a woman, not even if she were dying." And Virgil, "Woman is always inconstant and fickle." But perhaps, the most correct views of the question might be gathered, from wharfer, Moore says, "Is not that I expect to find A more devoted, fond and true one, With rosy cheek or ruddy mine, Enough for me that she's a new one."

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

A Resume of The Year's Work—Some of The Library's Needs.

The annual report of the commissioners of the Free Public Library has been published. It shows that the library is steadily growing in popularity and usefulness. The great want of the commissioners is money. The common council contributes the paltry sum of \$1,000 a year to the support of the library, and the ladies' committee look after the salary of the librarian. This sum, it need not be said, is entirely inadequate to the support of the institution—that is to support it as it should be supported. The actual running expenses of the library, exclusive of the salary of the librarian, seem to be about \$500, and it is difficult to see how this amount can be much reduced.

The only regret they have to express is the limited scope of the library under their charge. In an interview with a committee of your honorable board it was clearly shown that they were only able to throw open its doors for three days in the week and were obliged to restrict the cards of admission to the privileges of the library to one member in each family. The demand for books and cards has increased year after year and is still increasing, and it should, if possible, be satisfied.

Under these circumstances (and as no part of the Annual Report has been received, or is likely to be received for some time) they deem it to be their duty to call the attention of your honorable board to the subject. At present an assessment of \$1,000 per annum is levied for the maintenance of the library, which would be increased to \$2,000 if the library were to be supplied for a long time to come, it could be open every day, and in a very few years every citizen could secure it with pride as an ornament and credit to the city.

According to the report 2,300 cards entitling persons to have books from the library have been issued—an addition of 225 over last year. The total number of books loaned to these 2,300 families during the twelve months was 19,284. As there are less than 6,000 books in the library it would seem that each book has been issued three times over.

The library is so small that it is almost impossible to get a really popular work without months or weeks of waiting. The commissioners have so little money at their disposal that they cannot keep pace with modern thought by placing on the shelves of the library the new works as they appear. To make the library what it should be would require at the very least an immediate expenditure of \$3,000.

The city could not spend a few of its surplus dollars in any better cause than assisting the Free Public Library and wealthy citizens would do well to aid in stocking its shelves with healthy literature—books that men and women might read and draw inspiration from. It would prove a paying investment.

Charles Watts, of Toronto, who delivered two or three lectures in the City Hall a year or two since, will revisit the city next autumn.

REMOVING THE DEAD.

SOME OLD BURIAL GROUNDS THAT SHOULD BE CLOSED.

An Investigation of the Carleton Cemetery Demanded Without Delay.

The recent developments regarding the management of the Carleton church yard calls for speedy and thorough investigation. Judging from the published reports and the statements of individuals this grave yard has been filled for years. Still the grave digger has been allowed to open new graves. This he admits. One of the trustees also admits to that to some extent this sort of thing has been allowed to go on with at least his sanction if not with the sanction of the remaining trustees.

The Carleton Burial Ground is not the only one in this city where the removal of bodies has been permitted. Within a short radius of St. John there are several small burial grounds controlled by different denominations. Most of these places of the dead have been open for many years. In the majority of them the lots have all been disposed of. In some, more than a few single graves still remain. None of them are well kept. Where it would be an injustice to the owners of lots not already filled to close up these ground the laws should be so amended as to prevent the further sale of lots or graves and to prohibit burials in any but undisturbed lots, and in these only under proper provisions.

In each instance the burial grounds may now be said to be within the city limits. Of course it is not pretended that the city is solidly built around any of the old burial grounds, but it is beyond question that in the case of two of the burial grounds the city is gradually extending beyond them. Therefore as a sanitary measure alone the burial grounds should be closed up and further burials refused, and in these only under proper provisions.

To return to the Carleton burial ground. The time has certainly come for prompt and decisive action. The man McFriedrick should certainly be made suffer for the reckless manner in which he removed the dead. The man who has no respect for the remains of his fellow than to dig them up in mid-winter and throw the bones and coffins to bleach in a snow bank, is unworthy to be the custodian of burial grounds, and should be brought to book for his actions. Most likely the remains removed are those of friendless persons, but the bones of the poor are as sacred to their living friends as are those of the rich.

We repeat the management of the Carleton cemetery requires the fullest enquiry by the proper authorities. There is a heavy penalty for persons who disturb the remains of the dead. And if it is shown that in this cemetery the bodies have been dug up this buried souls to gain, then the law officers of the crown should take such action as will bring each and every of the offenders to justice.

The latest of the publications of Wm. Bryce, of Toronto, are Dr. Gleason's stories, by B. L. Farjeon, and Eve, by S. Baring Gould. Mr. Farjeon's stories are always entertaining and are marked by an individuality as distinct as that by which the novels of Dickens are distinguished. Everyone who has read "Blade of Grass" will be eager to peruse the history of Dr. Glenn's Daughter.

Eve is a novel of wider scope; all of its characters are well painted, its incidents are full of interest, and the author's knowledge of the passions by which men and women are influenced in their every day lives, is manifested on every page.

CANADIAN PATRIOTISM.

An Excellent Address by Mr. George V. McInerney at Memramcook.

At the commencement exercises of Memramcook college, Mr. George V. McInerney, of Kent, delivered an address which is worthy of preservation, and unfortunately this cannot be said of all college orations. In one part of his address, Mr. McInerney referred to Canada, its attractions, resources and history. Closing his remarks on this branch of his subject he spoke as follows:—

"What, you ask me, is the patriot's task in Canada? A fitting and a moulding of the greatest races the world has ever seen. In many a sweeping valley dwell, side by side, the peasant who secretly treasures the traditions of Normanly and Bretagne, and the yeoman who stores his mind with the rich remembrance of Bunyvede. Beneath the crumbling walls of Annapolis and Beauséjour dwell in peace and comfort and security, the children of the Loyalists and the descendants of the exiles of Grand-Pre. On the banks of the St. Lawrence and the St. John, within sound of the myotic Atlantic, and on the vast stretches of our western prairies, the rose, the shamrock, the thistle and the lily spring from the same soil. The races they represent have more than once united to beat back the tide of war. Waterloo, Aguirre, Bannockburn and Cressy were forgotten, when the spirits of Almas, Inkermann, Balaklava and Sebastopol joined in fight, for the same cause, and the nations were united in the spirit of the French enthusiasm, English discipline, Highland daring nor Celtic ardor alone, smote and humbled the mistaken valor of Montenegro. The united force of all nerved the one arm, pulled in the one heart, fired the same spirit, struck the same blow. In peace as well as in war, we should appreciate the saving truth of the maxim—'Union is strength.'"

Neither should we forget that, as there are various races, there are also various religions in Canada, and that one of the greatest social dangers of the country is bigotry; "the common cry of ours whose breath is like the reek of the rotten fan." It is the duty of every citizen to manacle class contentions and put gyres on the spirit of intolerance.

The greatest danger we have to fear in Canada is a war of races and this war can only be avoided by religious tolerance. Wherever the British flag—the glorious old Union Jack flutters there is liberty of conscience for all. It is the insignia of freedom, of civil and religious liberty. In some parts of the vast empire over which Great Britain holds sway there is a state church, but beyond the dress which it receives from the treasury of the country it has no power over the consciences of the people. They may worship God or Brahma; they may believe in a literal hell or decline altogether to receive the doctrines of future punishment. There is no country in the world where there is such religious freedom as in Canada. No state church is tolerated. None ever will be. Attempts have been made in the past to enrich the coffers of the church at the expense of those of the state. That day has passed. The church must support itself and if it cannot do this must pass out of existence. Church and state in Canada have been forever separated and the man or church attempting to force them again is an enemy of his country; he would be guilty of treason to our constitution and should meet the fate of all traitors. There is room in Canada for all sects and creeds. All have equal rights. They may worship God in any manner they choose, provided always they do not make themselves a nuisance to their neighbors.

Prince Henry of Russia was the first German prince who ever sailed round the world.

John Bright announces his belief that Shakespeare didn't write the plays credited to him.

Ouida has become extremely religious and will stop writing lurid love stories.

Mrs. Catherine T. Simonds has completed fifty years as a Boston school teacher.

Andrew Lang, the English balladist, makes part of his income by writing verses for a soap manufacturer.

After the death of the editor his widow edited the first newspaper published in America.

Elizabeth Mallet established in London in 1702 the first daily newspaper printed in the world.

John Strange Winter, the author of "Roodle's Baby," is a handsome young matron with dark eyes and a sweet smile.

The tugboat owners have formed a union within the last few days, and now they have to take turns in towing in and out of the harbor, unless specially engaged to do a certain work for the merchants.

Citizen George Francis Train has been heard from. He is soon to start on a lecturing tour of the world. Success friend citizen.

Mrs. E. M. Vinal, of Orono, Me. has found on one of her apple trees a full blown and apparently perfect white rose blossom. Superstition points to this somewhat peculiar freak of nature as a forerunner of death or calamity, but sensible people will assign a more reasonable cause when either misfortune visits a household.