

PROGRESS.

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SOME KNOTTY QUERIES.

ASKED BY A CHURCHMAN LAST WEEK.

Answered by a Church of England Clergyman who Speaks by the Book—They will Probably Surprise Some People and Interest Many Others.

The assertion is made that the Rev. Finlay Alexander, whose expressed doubts in the belief of which he was an exponent, led to his suspension by the bishop, has been convinced that he was wrong, and that he will return again to the church and the ministry.

Progress tried to trace the rumor to a reliable source, but the friends of the reverend gentleman were exceedingly reticent. Those who were in a position to know the facts would say nothing and others were so evasive that the only conclusion was that they had heard the same story but did not know how true it was.

This much is certain. Mr. Alexander came to this city for a few weeks to study and to make up his mind in one direction or the other. He has returned to Fredericton and it is said that his mind is made up.

The story that the matter is viewed in Fredericton is interesting, inasmuch as the people there are more concerned over the move than members of the church are in any other section. Some of Mr. Alexander's good friends attribute his action to ill-health and to the effect that his arguments and doubts had upon his mind. Naturally of a dreamy disposition, it is said that, of late, this trait has been more marked than usual—so much so, in fact, as to give rise to the belief that a long rest and relief from work and worry, are what is most necessary for him.

In connection with this matter the questions asked by a churchman in the last issue of Progress have excited considerable attention. The questions are repeated in the following letter from the Rev. A. A. Slipper of Harcourt who answers them "by the book." Mr. Slipper's letter is the more interesting since he represents the "high" section of the Church of England and the replies he gives to "Churchman's" queries may be a surprise to a good many people.

In answer to the questions asked by "Churchman" in last week's Progress, I shall be glad if you will kindly publish the following extracts from the prayer book, and Canon C. of the Church of England:

1. "Does the Church of England ordain men to the priesthood of the Church of God?"

(a) When the day appointed by the Bishop is come, after morning prayer is ended, there shall be a sermon or exhortation, declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted priests; how necessary that order is in the Church of Christ, etc."

(b) "Reverend Father in God, I present unto you these persons present, to be admitted to the order of priesthood."

(c) "Good people, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, to receive this day unto the holy office of Priesthood."

(d) "Do you think in your heart, that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the order of this Church of England, to the order and Ministry of Priesthood?"

(e) "..... the bishop with the Priests present shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receiveth the order of Priesthood: the Receivers humbly kneeling upon their knees, and the Bishop saying,"

(f) "Receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands," etc. (Extracts from the form and manner of ordering of priests). The form of extract (f) in the prayer book of 1545, was, "Receive the Holy Ghost, whose sins thou dost forgive," etc. It was altered to its present form in 1662.

2. "Does she declare that when her priests forgive sins, they are forgiven?"

"Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven;" (extract from the form and manner of ordering of priests.)

3. "Does she recommend confession in the case of those who stay away from Holy Communion on account of a diabolical conscience?"

And because it is requisite that no man should come to the Holy Communion, but with a full trust in God's mercy, and with a quiet conscience; therefore if there be any of you, who by this means cannot quiet his own conscience herein, but requireth further comfort or counsel, let him come to me, or to some other discreet and learned minister of God's Word, and open his grief; that by the ministry of God's Holy Word, he may receive the benefit of absolution, together with ghostly counsel and advice, &c. (Extract from Exhortation in Communion service.)

4. "Does she, in the case of a sick person, order him to be moved to make a special confession of his sins, if he feels his conscience troubled with any weighty matter?"

"Here shall the sick person be moved to make a special confession of his sins, if he feels his conscience troubled with any weighty matter. After which confession

the priest shall absolve him (if he humbly and heartily desire it) after this sort."

"Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to His church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in Him, of His great mercy forgive thee thine offences. And by His authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." (Extract from the "order for the visitation of the sick.")

5. "Does she declare that excommunicate persons are to be regarded as heathens and publicans, until they be openly reconciled by penance?"

"That person which by open denunciation of the church is rightly cut off from the unity of the church, and excommunicated, ought to be taken of the whole multitude of the faithful, as an heathen and publican, until he be openly reconciled by penance, and received into the church by a judge that hath authority thereunto." (XXXIII Article of Religion.)

"Does she in case any man confesses his secret and hidden sins, straitly charge and admonish the priest who hears the confession, never to reveal and make known what has been committed to his trust and secrecy?"

"Provided all things, That if any man confess his secret and hidden sins to the minister, for the unburdening of his conscience, and to receive spiritual consolation and ease of mind from him; we do not in any way bind the said minister by this our constitution, but do straitly charge and admonish him, that he do not at any time reveal and make known to any person whatsoever any crime or offence so committed to his trust and secrecy, (except they be such crimes as by the laws of this realm his own life may be called into question for concealing the same,) under pain of irregularity." (Extract from Canon 113 of the Constitution and Canons Ecclesiastical of the Church of England.)

THE QUARTERING QUESTION.

Should Clergymen at Conferences be Entertained by the People?

There were few if any murders in this city when three hundred visiting clergymen were distributed among the people for eight or ten days. The people seemed glad to see them and to entertain them. It is quite true that in a few cases there seemed to be a lack of thought on the part of the visitors who, invited themselves, seemed to think that a welcome would be extended to their wife and daughter, or daughters, as the case might be. Temporary inconvenience was consequently experienced in some families but even that was made light of. Those who held strong views upon the question of "quartering clergymen" were none the less ready to do their share.

There was a report current that one cleric was rather fastidious about the accommodation, preferring being boarded at a hotel to a private house, and another of a somewhat contrary notion credits a well known Canadian minister with entertaining himself and insisting on paying his own bill.

There were about as many Methodist clergymen in Toronto a few days ago and they found entertainment in the usual way which led Saturday Night of that city, a newspaper similar to Progress, to discuss the question rather sharply: "There is no reason in the world why a family should have a clergyman thrust upon them for three or four days or a week, thereby disturbing all their domestic arrangements. None except the very well-to-do keep a spare bedroom in the old-fashioned way, and in the majority of homes the entrance of a stranger means sleeping two or three in a bed and much extra work for the solitary servant, or for the mother of a family if no servant be employed. When preachers travel they ought to stay in hotels the same as other people, not only because it prevents families from being inconvenienced, but for the purpose of seeing another side of life. The advantage derived from this sort of thing is the widening of the preacher, and if he makes a good impression on the hotelkeeper it means the changing of that person's view that the clergymen are a lot of narrow-minded and intrusive spongers who do not know what the interior of a hotel is like. One of the good results of a preacher coming in contact with the public and sinner was found in the announcement made by a reverend gentleman who had been unable to find lodging in any of the homes of the elect, that the hotelkeeper on discovering that he had entertained a gentleman of the cloth refused to accept any payment."

A Lecture on Memory.

Professor Loissette, memory educator, of New York and London, will deliver a free lecture on "Assimilative Memory" at Centenary Church Hall next Tuesday evening. Professor Loissette comes to this city highly recommended by such men as Dr. J. M. Buckley, Editor of "The Christian Advocate," Daniel Greenleaf Thompson, the distinguished psychologist, Stewart Ross, editor and critic, Henry Guy Carlton and others. The lecture having for its object the "indication of the memory" will doubtless be attended by large numbers for whom the subject will have a personal interest.

SCRAP IN THE CUSTOMS.

TWO APPRAISERS VALUE THE STRENGTH OF ONE ANOTHER.

No Record on the Books—The Salary of Bishop Courtney in Arrears—An Incident at the Windsor College Ball—The Swell has Disappeared.

HALIFAX, June 28.—The customs appraiser's office in this city is marred by men of sharp tempers, to characterize their disposition with the mildest term. The head man is David Blackwood, who does not make himself particularly agreeable to business men, but decidedly the reverse. Then comes R. N. Beckwith. He, poor man, has a bad temper which gets him into trouble. Another official in the office is Frank O'Connor. Whether he has a bad temper is not so well known, but that he is a more powerful man physically than Beckwith, an incident that took place the other day clearly shows.

O'Connor was down stairs at work when Beckwith was on an upper floor. The latter had two porters engaged under his direction opening up goods; O'Connor had no such assistance. He decided he ought to have help to the extent of one porter, and he went upstairs and made a demand in accordance with what he considered his rights. Beckwith gruffly repudiated the claim of his junior. One thing led to another till the two men found themselves in a "clinch," with an open hatchway dangerously near. The progress of the two men, locked in fierce embrace, fortunately was away from the direction of the hatchway. Every inch they moved was an advantage for O'Connor. He forced back Beckwith, and came out of the melee decidedly a victor. Collector Harrington was formally acquainted with the little trouble by O'Connor, who also considered himself the aggrieved party, and also made a request that his wrongs be righted and his imperious senior curbed. The result is that now Beckwith is limited to one porter and O'Connor has the other. So the matter was not without result, nor can it be said to have been a draw. More obliging and more peaceable men in the customs appraiser's office at Halifax would be a boon to the business public. No fact could be better established.

He Has Gone for Good.

HALIFAX, June 28.—A count would show one less well young man in Halifax today than he was a few days ago. George McLaughlin is not now a resident of this city, a fact which the proprietress of the fashionable Hillside hall and a host of other creditors are lamenting with tears. Several weeks ago the Echo published a list of the well-dressed young men of Halifax and Mr. McLaughlin's name was one of the most prominent. Special prominence was given to him and J. W. S. Grant, of the Union bank, as well attired single men, coupling their names with two married men of pleasing apparel, H. B. Clarke and Guy Hart. A man who received so great distinction should have been more careful because it might not be so easy to attain the top of the ladder in another town. Mr. McLaughlin cut a big swell for a clerk in a gentleman's furnishing establishment; he kept a horse and carriage which was recently sold to a city doctor. He spent money on all sides and enjoyed many luxuries—for which he never paid. The inevitable result now appears, and the young man absconded leaving many sad creditors who have nothing to show for their accounts beyond a mere capias.

After Magistrate Motton.

HALIFAX, June 28.—At last the first step has been taken to secure a change in the stipendiary magistrate's court. The council of the bar society held a meeting at which it was resolved to memorialize Premier Fielding that the present incumbent, owing to mental trouble caused by disease, is no longer able to perform his duties, and that his farther continuance in the office is a serious menace to the interests of justice. The memorial has been forwarded to the premier and he now has what he says he was waiting for, formal notice that there is anything wrong in the city police court. There will be some difficulty in filling the position, not because there are too many applicants, but because there are so few of the right stamp who will take it. The names of John T. Ross, F. T. Congdon, and George H. Fielding are mentioned; either of the two first named would suit admirably, but it is said would not accept. Mr. Fielding is the premier's brother.

He is Not Afraid of Talk.

HALIFAX, June 28.—A prominent hotel proprietor whose house stands next in importance to the Halifax or Queen, and which probably pays better than either of them, was married in Boston on Tuesday. He has been a widower for a year or less, and the object of his affections is one of his waitresses whom the proprietor sent to Boston some months ago to be educated in anticipation of her becoming his wife. The happy event has now taken place and the groom is receiving the congratulations of many friends. These congratulations are none the less sincere and hearty because the head waitress has left the hotel, saying she could not bring herself to remain there longer with a former subordinate, the proprietor's wife.

Some New Bank Managers.

The news of the changes in the managers of the Bank of Nova Scotia occasioned considerable surprise in several towns in New Brunswick—Fredericton, Woodstock and St. John. The first and last change managers, Mr. T. B. Blair of Fredericton coming to this city and Mr. Sanderson, the manager here, going to Woodstock. Those who envy a banker and think he has the softest snop on earth would perhaps be willing to accept something less uncertain in its location just about the time when the notice to "move on" came along. Mr. Sanderson's pretty home on the outskirts of the city, made beautiful by his efforts is one of the things he will have to regret in leaving a city where he has made many acquaintances and friends. With Mr. T. B. Blair it is coming home, for St. John stands in that relation to him. His record as a banker has been good and the business of the institution is not likely to decrease in this city under his management. Mr. Staver takes the Fredericton agency coming from Kingston, Jamaica, to do so.

A College Ball Incident.

HALIFAX, June 28.—The students ball at Windsor last week was the social event of the year. It was rendered more attractive yet on an account of a number of militia officers and ladies who were present from Halifax. An echo of the ball was heard this week in the office of the Eastern assurance company, of this city, when one of the clerks who had been at the ball, received a box containing a score or more of old programme pencils. They were from a clerk in the bank of British North America, who is an officer in the 66th P. L. F., and the recipient is a son of a prominent ecclesiastic in Halifax and an officer in the H. G. A. The incident which led up to the

POINTS FOR THE PICNIC.

THE OUTING OF PROGRESS AND ITS MANY FRIENDS.

The time the Boat will Start. Provided there is no Hurricane—The time to Start Again and when the Party will Leave for Home—Other Notes of Interest.

Barring a hurricane Progress Picnic starts, Monday.

The good steamer Aberdeen will leave her wharf at Indiantown at 8.30 o'clock on her first trip and everybody who wants to spend a long and pleasant day in the country should be on board.

Newsboys will go in the first boat and it may be said for them and for Progress that they will not make such a noise as most people associate with newsboys. They are going for a good time and no gags will be carried but they can be orderly and will be kept within bounds. It is probable that there will be between one and two hundred of them. And even then all of the newsboys will not go, though the great majority will.

They will be entertained by Progress and The Record. The employees of these newspapers share the same fate but there the hospitality of the publishers naturally ends. Nothing would be pleasanter than to see everybody to whom complimentary tickets are issued, enjoying the hospitality of the publishers on the grounds, but the committee in charge of the provision department made a vigorous protest against such a move, therefore the courtesies have been limited to transportation.

There should be nothing impossible about getting plenty to eat, however, with such a good hotel as "the Cedars" within a stone's throw and with abundance of refreshments for sale on the grounds.

"The Cedars" is about 20 miles from St. John, just opposite Oak Point and one of the prettiest beaches of the St. John river. The grove from which the place takes its name is extensive and the country in the vicinity charming. There are no regular picnic grounds; everything is new.

If the day is calm the Aberdeen will ground right at the picnic beach and put everybody on shore as conveniently as if she were tied to the wharf a few hundred yards below.

The boat will start upon its second trip at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. This hour is named because the sail will be long and pleasant and additional time will be afforded every one by leaving so early.

The first boat will leave on the return trip probably about 5.30 o'clock and about four hours later will return for the remainder of the party.

It possible, arrangements will be made for dancing upon the return trip.

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Even if They Do Ask Questions and Are Strange to the Country.

That there are large numbers of Englishmen who, never having seen any part of America, are ignorant of the habits and customs that prevail in this country, is not to be wondered at, when it is remembered that opportunity for acquiring this knowledge is not within the reach of all. Indeed, in cities where this ignorance should not be found, it is oftentimes quite as dense as among the masses. Ever since America became the resort of the daring traveller, the adventurer, the hunter for big game, and others influenced by an annual bid, it may be, Englishmen have been represented in America in some form or other. These are not so ubiquitous as the Irish, but they are seen pretty nearly everywhere on the globe. In their wanderings some of them have reached the aspiring city of St. John. Specimens can be seen on our streets any day. The trade mark, as it were, is so distinctly paraded by them the observer cannot make a mistake. Trousers creased (because Wales once wore his creased, don't ye know, dear boy), trousers turned up around the bottom (because it is foggy in London) though not a cloud is visible in our sky; a large stick, generally out of proportion to the size of the owner's body, a sort of Bill Sykes club; a high collar, suggesting, if not indicating a corresponding brevity of garment in the opposite direction, a small effeminate face visible above the collar, the whole topped off with a natty stiff hat, gives the reader a description of one species. There are other and different types of Englishmen among us, well built, athletic, manly and manly looking men, whom it is a pleasure to see on our streets as they swing along at a four-mile gait taking a constitutional. There are others again—good fellows, too—but either very unpolished or unconvincing comedians, because they have lived both in the United States and elsewhere in Canada, and their peculiarities cannot be attributed entirely to ignorance of the customs of the country. Their remarks and acts are very odd, and in some respects exorcistically funny.

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at the lively gait noticeable in respect to these vehicles. As they passed down Brusels street our English friend observed a number of vacant houses and wanted to know why they were unoccupied, saying, "They would not be kept that way at home." His city companion explained that at one period shipbuilding had been carried on near there, and the houses were the houses of the carpenters and others employed about the shipyards. He was silent if not satisfied.

The Marsh Creek was the next feature of the landscape that caught his notice, and he wanted to know "if it was navigable and how far?" When answered in the negative he asked "why they didn't put it out of that?" His friend was somewhat puzzled just then as he had not the least idea where they could "put it."

They reached the cemetery at last, and our English friend was willing to admit the beauty and good taste visible on all sides. At one lot a number of people who had relatives sleeping there, excited this visitor's curiosity so that he must read the name on the monument. After successfully deciphering it, he said, in a voice audible to all around and with an indescribable shrug, "I would not like to carry around a name like that," and confidentially told his friend he believed "people in this country make funerals occasions for jollification." The wanderings of the pair through the cemetery were continued, and the city man pointed out the monuments of several of the men prominent in days past, and who had died full of years, and he almost went into convulsions when his English friend, looking at him with open-eyed and open-mouthed wonder for a moment in all seriousness, said, "you must be a very old man."

The climax was reached though when the city man suggested a "bug." His friend was filled with consternation and crying out "A bug!" "A bug!" turned and twisted himself into every possible shape in the endeavor to see where it was, and was only restored to equanimity when the St. John man explained that "bug" was the name given to the conveyance that brought them there.

They then sought the coach, but on the way a well developed specimen of the two-year-old mosquito, evidently desirous of impressing this visit on our English friend, stung him sharply on the cheek, whereupon, the stranger naturally resenting the insult, struck at the mosquito—only to miss him, of course—so violently that he almost knocked himself down and dislodged his pince-nez which flew so far in the force of the blow, a thorough search lasting upwards of half an hour failed to reveal it, and our friend was obliged to return to the city in a rather forlorn condition. It is pleasant to be able to record the fact that the caretaker at the cemetery has found the missing article.