

The Rockwood Review.

VOL. 4

KINGSTON, MAY 1ST, 1897.

No. 3.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Rockwood Bicycle Club had an enthusiastic representative at the Annual Meeting of the C. W. A., in the shape of Dr. Forster, who went west, flying Rockwood and Chatham colors, intertwined like the rose and the briar, from the grave of Lord Lovell and his Nancy Bell. If we could manage it, our representative would be elected President, for his enthusiasm can not be equalled, much less surpassed.

Dr. Sidney Gould, Dr. Jock Harty and Mr. J. Gage are congratulated on their recent successes. We wonder how Dr. Sidney Gould will be rendered in Persian, and Dr. Gould no doubt wonders how he will render Persian.

Again the thanks of the community are due to Mr. Robt. Harvey, who, assisted by Lieut. March as Choir leader, gave the citizens of Kingston a magnificent musical treat, in St. George's Cathedral, on Easter Sunday. Under such guidance musical culture is rapidly advancing in Kingston, and the audiences and congregations demand a higher class of music than a few years since, when "Hail Smiling Morn" bellowed out at 100 lbs. steam pressure, was the stock in trade of most choirs. There may be some who object to the musical advance, and who cannot yet appreciate the higher culture, but they must inevitably give way before the better things to come. In the meanwhile all right minded people, and these comprise about nine hundred and ninety-nine in every thousand, are deeply grateful to those who are doing so much to add to our culture and refinement.

If Basket Ball is to be played regularly, stand-up collars must be done away with, or an extra laundry maid employed.

Mr. Robt. Christie, Inspector of Asylums, and Mr. Kivas Tully, Prov. Architect of Public Works, visited Rockwood Hospital officially on April 21st.

White-winged Crossbills prove agreeable songsters in captivity.

Mr. Wm. Cochrane has become an expert in the poultry business, and purchased no less than three fine cocks last month. He states that although one of these belonged to a "game" variety, the fact has no sporting significance.

Our popular Mr. Dehaney is Captain of the newly organized Granite Baseball Club.

Mrs. Forster and Miss Peirce are taking an active part in the Queen's Fair, to be held in aid of the Gymnasium Fund.

Mr. C. Y. Ford, of Boston, called on his old friends in Kingston a few days since.

Hepaticas were in bloom about the sixth or seventh of April. This is very early.

Mr. Beaupre reports Wild Geese scarce this spring, most of the flocks going north very early. Bluebills are numerous.

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On the afternoon of Saturday, April 10, at exactly 3.47 as recorded in the official minutes of Rockwood, the acting Storekeepers, (there are two of them), acting Assistant's Assistant rushed wildly into the office of the Chief Attendant, and asked if he smelled anything like ham frying. The Chief said he did, but considered it nothing unusual in an institution so arranged that in any part of the centre building the whole bill of fare can be diag-nosed long before it comes on the table. The young man replied that he thought this was a mistake, and asked the Chief to fill in a requisition to put a fire out. The Chief replied that such a course might be necessary in some institutions, but he did not think it was required here, but he would look it up. He turned up back file No. 20,683 which gave a rule, "When a fire is discovered put it out without reference to anyone." The Assistant Engineer, several Stokers, the whole of the numerous Storekeeping Staff, &c., &c., were lined up in the back yard, and armed with the modern combination Seltzer water and Siphon fire Extinguisher, while the Carpenter's assistant carried a sledge. At the word of command the well disciplined brigade rushed forward and surrounded the building where the fire was supposed to be. The Chief applied his eye to a knot hole, and at a glance took in the whole situation. In stentorian voice he ordered the young Carpenter to rend the padlock on the door into a thousand pieces. This was done, and as the door opened the young Assistants' Assistant rushed into the building regardless of danger, and in a moment staggered out again with an inanimate object in his arms. "Saved, saved," he gasped, and fell fainting on the ground. The fire was soon extinguished by the Seltzer Brigade, and an examination of the inanimate object proved it to be a juicy ham that was being smoked in a temporary smoke

house. The young man is doing well, the ham is well done, the damage by fire will not be charged to the Government Insurance Fund. Such satisfactory fire brigade practice has not been held since the days of a former Engineer, who succeeded in getting the Brigade to the stables, on a false alarm, in thirty-seven seconds, and escaped being extinguished himself by covering the return distance in ten seconds.

Mr. John McManus, our veteran Storekeeper, has passed through a very serious illness. Early in April he had an attack of erysipelas, followed by blood poisoning. For several days his life was despaired of, and his many friends at Rockwood were in great anxiety. Fortunately Mr. McM. has weathered the storm, and will soon be back at his old post, and will receive a warm greeting.

Mr. Wm. Shea has made his debut in a new act, and now poses as a "Wizard of the North." On April 13th he gave a capital sleight of hand performance in the Amusement Hall, and proved himself an adept in the art where "the quickness of the hand deceives the eye."

Mr. Woods, the latest addition to the Staff, is an excellent comedian and a good singer.

Sam Skinner is kept busy twitting several young people who are said to be on the brink of matrimony. In such case Sam is simply unique.

The Iris and Viola have been taken out of winter quarters, and the annual voting for the captaincy of the Iris will take place in a day or so. A compromise is suggested, viz. two captains- Davidson for gybes, and Shea for navigation.

Mr. Watson has reappeared as an elocutionist, and has been enthusiastically received.

Mr. A. Cameron, of Portsmouth, has recovered from a severe attack of lagrippe.

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The question whether Chipmonks hibernate has never been satisfactorily settled, although much evidence pro and con has been offered. The fact that these little animals stow away immense quantities of food during the fall, would seem to indicate that they are very much awake nearly all winter although seldom seen. The writer who has observed animals and birds all his life, never saw a chipmonk in mid-winter until this year; but this season Mr. Stripes was very much in evidence at different parts of our grounds early in February, the mild winter evidently tempting him to come out of his hole. This goes to prove that the chipmonk does not hibernate. The red Squirrel is active all winter.

Mr. Hugh Walkem, new goatee and all, has been transferred to the head office of the Bank of B. N. A. in Montreal. We shall miss Hugh, as he was one of the most popular of the Kingston boys, and an enthusiast in anything he undertook. We congratulate him on his promotion.

Bluebirds were very plentiful during the season of migration. At one time it looked as if the "hat bird craze" would cause the extermination of these exquisite birds, but they are evidently on the increase again.

Miss Elsie Lockie left for Toronto early in April, after a six weeks visit at Rockwood House.

C. M. Clarke will ride in local bicycle races, and will use a "Perfect" racer.

Capt. Craig will be missed by the patrons of the Richelieu Steamers. He was the most popular captain on the route, a favorite with all, but the particular pet of the unmarried ladies. He will not be lost to Kingstonians though, and as Captain of the Paul Smith will have ample opportunity to give full swing to his social accomplishments. A successful season Captain.

The Pierrepont made a very early start this year, crossing to Garden Island with little difficulty on April 1st.

Where has the Game Warden been all spring? Irresponsible boys by the dozen have carried on a cruel warfare against every living thing in field and marsh, and young men have slaughtered wild ducks without restraint. Sport at any time is cruel, but in proper season has something to be said in its favor—in spring it is not only cruel but inexcusable, as the birds are just commencing the breeding season. The argument that if we do not shoot the ducks the Americans will, because they allow spring shooting, is too paltry to consider. As a matter of fact the Americans have long ago spoiled their hunting territories by their wanton destruction of game, and we should be warned by their failure to appreciate the gifts of nature.

Mr. John Shea is a very promising artist, and when it is remarked that he is absolutely without training, his results are remarkable. His last effort is his best, as it embodies more originality than his preceding pictures. The subject is called "A Modern Strad," and the likeness of a well known amateur violin maker is excellent. The Luthier is engaged in making a violin, and the surroundings are well done and in proper keeping with the rest of the picture.

Mr. Albert Shannon secured many excellent snap shots of local ice yachts during the races. He has kindly placed the negatives at the disposal of Rockwood Hospital, and a unique set of lantern slides is being made from them. As the Kingston boats are beautifully finished they make fine pictures.

The Cinematograph people might get excellent subjects for pictures at an iceboat "start" or a hockey match.

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Mr. William Hamilton has organized a Rockwood Basket Ball Club. If a ball is not secured soon, it is said there will be a head in the basket.

The Granite Football Club is becoming enthusiastic very early in the season, and is preparing for a vigorous campaign next autumn, when a determined effort will be made to retain the Junion Championship, as well as to capture the Intermediate Cup. The boys do not like begging for funds, and in September will give a grand Minstrel Show, in which the very best talent will take part.

Swallows broke the record this year, and for the first time that we can remember came in March. Large numbers were seen by Mr. Beaupre on March the 31st, and they have been quite common ever since. Frogs were in "full song" on April the 5th, and birds generally seem to be ten days ahead of time. Whether they will prove good prophets remains to be seen, but as a general rule birds are good judges of weather.

Mr. John Shea has become the happy possessor of a wheel, and when he goes abroad is "Monarch" of all he surveys. Mr. Stoneness has also got a "wheel," while our genial Secretary is looking for a mount. At night he dreams of Columbia, Victor or Remington—by day he is torn by conflicting emotions labelled Brantford, Cleveland or the Potter Special.

In view of the fact that the prize fight between Corbett and Fitzsimmons was universally condemned, it is somewhat surprising to find out how well posted every one was in regard to it. Can it be that hypocrisy is one of the failings of the age?

The ice broke up on April 3rd, and although it did not move out then, navigation was practically opened.

The new law regarding political civil servants is causing quite a stir among aspiring municipal Solons. We expected our Thomas to rise high in the ranks of Aldermen—never mind Thomas there is consolation left for you, and some other fellow will be made happy. While the new rule will give comfort to the majority of civil servants who are quite ready and willing—aye eager to eschew politics—the great question has been asked, where does the rule commence, where does it end? Does it include Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers who really are members of the Civil Service? The conundrum will be an excellent one for the Granite Football Minstrel Troupe to solve. Some civil servants are very sorry that the "Gamey" law did not pass. Civil servants, as a matter of fact, should not exist either for or by politics. There is a good time coming some years hence.

April 1st developed a number of jokers, and the wise men who were caught by clever juveniles early in the morning, wreaked their vengeance later on in the day, on unsuspecting seniors. A well known comedian is writing a topical song on his experiences during April the first. It is devoted to Mr. Wm. Shea, and is to be called "Pull out that Sliver and ease my Aching Hand."

Mr. Painter and Mr. Woods are the latest additions to the Rockwood Staff. At the time of writing the particulars of their welcome by the members of the Ancient Order of Initiators has not been received, but we have no doubt the young men were pleasantly received and entertained by the profound body.

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GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

KINGSTON EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

(CONTINUED.)

After the launch, the Frontenac was towed to Kingston, and on May 23rd, 1817, left Kirby's Wharf for the Dock at Point Frederick, where a suction pipe was to be put in her. Through some unexplained accident, one of her wheels was considerably damaged, "notwithstanding which, however, she moved with majestic grandeur against a strong head wind." On the 30th of May, she left Kingston Harbor for the purpose of taking in wood at the Bay of Quinte. "A fresh breeze was blowing into the harbor, against which she proceeded swiftly and steadily, to the admiration of a great number of spectators." In an advertisement dated 20th June, we learn that the Frontenac, "having completed her second trip across Lake Ontario, will in future leave the ports named, as follows: Kingston for York, on Sunday, 22nd June; York for Queenston on Tuesday 24th; Queenston for York on Thursday, and York for Kingston, on Friday 27th." Her further trips were to be made in similar fashion, the days of departure being changed from time to time. The rates of passage were quoted in Halifax currency, but for convenience may be stated in dollars. From Kingston to Ernestown the fare was \$2; to Newcastle \$7; to York and Niagara \$12; from Kingston to Prescott \$6; from Kingston to Burlington \$14; from Prescott to York and Niagara \$16; and to Burlington and Hamilton \$18. From York to Niagara there was a charge of \$1. Children under three years were charged half price; above three and under ten, two thirds. Passengers were allowed 60 lbs. baggage, and gentlemen's servants were not allowed to eat or sleep in the cabin. "Steerage passengers will pay 15s. (\$3), and may either bring their own provi-

sions or be furnished by the Steward. Freight will be carried at customary rates, and for parcels gold must be paid on delivery." The charges were not heavy when the comforts are considered, and as the bulk of travellers were doubtless officials, the rates would not be regarded as burdensome. The enterprise was so successful that, ere the close of 1817, machinery arrived from England to be used in a second steamboat then under construction at Ernestown, and which was intended to ply upon the Bay of Quinte and the River St. Lawrence. In March, 1818, appeared an advertisement which declared that it would soon commence running on Bay and River between Prescott and the Carrying Place at the head of the Bay. This boat was launched on April 22nd, and was named the "Charlotte." Most of her machinery was on board, and she was soon fitted and placed upon the route for which she was specially built. Said the editor, in noticing the new boat, which was towed to Kingston to be completed: "In the opinion of good judges, the construction of this elegant Boat does honor to the master builder, Mr. Henry Gildersleeve, who was an assistant builder of the Frontenac." On Sunday, April 19th, 1818, the Frontenac resumed her trips on Lake Ontario, to York and Niagara, and her season was a prosperous one. Local items were not a strong feature in the newspapers of those days, but amongst them was one of May 19th which told how "we received yesterday, by the Steamboat, Niagara newspapers up to the 14th inst.; and among the passengers of the steamboat Frontenac yesterday was Chief Justice Powell and Robert Gourlay." And how "the Stage between Prescott and Kingston is discontinued." And the writer adds that this "would be the more to be regretted had not the new Steamboat Charlotte now commenced running up and down the River;

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so that travellers on this route may be accommodated with a safe and agreeable passage by water, instead of the former carriage by land."

Jumping from 1818 to 1824, we learn that the "Dalhousie," A. McDonnell, master, which had been commenced in 1819, had been placed on the Prescott route, and would stop on her passage to and from Kingston for half an hour at Brockville and Gananoque, "but passengers must be punctual, as the Boat carries the Mail, and she cannot be delayed by any one." The "Charlotte," H. Gildersleeve, master, was plying between Kingston and the Carrying Place, head of Bay of Quinte. She started on her trip up the Bay every Monday morning, stopping at Bath, Adolphustown, Hallowell and Belleville. She left the Carrying Place at noon on Tuesday, reaching Kingston on Wednesday afternoon. Her second trip landed her in Kingston on Friday evening. On Saturday she ran down the river to Brockville, and left Prescott in return on Sunday, "immediately after the arrival of the Montreal Stage." Passengers for Belleville leaving Montreal by Saturday's Stage arrived by this Boat on Monday evening. This was expeditious work, when compared with the old stage-line experiences.

For fuller particulars of early steamboat navigation, we must look beyond the pages of the newspapers under notice, and in Canniff, McMullen and Robertson's "Landmarks" much interesting information may be found.

Having seen something of the enterprise which distinguished the people of Kingston in the first quarter of the century, let us lift the curtain, and take a peep at the amusements which brightened their spare moments, and made life better worth living. To do this, we are driven once more to a perusal of the advertisements that told so much of the early history of the most important town on Lake

Ontario.

As an illustration of the overpowering and intoxicating pleasure, now and then, and surely at rare intervals, experienced by the good people of the embryo city, it may be well to tell how, in the fateful month of June, 1815, a Mr. Stewart gave an exhibition of horsemanship of the most astonishing character, putting the strangest ways of Buffalo Bill and the Cowboy of to-day into sombre shade, and acting as an advance courier of all the Barnum and Bailey combinations, and other greatest shows on earth which have set the juvenile Kingstonians wild in these latter days. In a quarter column advertisement, and with a profusion of capital letters, he told the Ladies and Gentlemen of Kingston and vicinity, that no exertions on his part should be wanting to render the entertainment highly gratifying and amusing. And those exertions must have been marvellous, for with consummate skill which eschewed the old fashioned plan of taking them, as conjurors and other light-fingered gentlemen do, from the pockets of the audience, he picked up several Handkerchiefs and a Watch from the ground, without dismounting from his horse, which rushed along wildly at full speed; and danced a Hornpipe on horseback while the maddened animal still cavorted around the ring. And this was not all. He actually stood on the furious steed, with his toe in his hand, in the attitude of the Flying Mercury, and not content with that, "jumped the whip backwards and forwards through his knees"—a most astonishing exhibition—and did feats of Still Vaulting, Tumbling, &c., and "a variety of other tricks too numerous to particularize." And then he jumped the Boards backwards, while his faithful courser was in wild career, and in a number of other different attitudes displayed his agility. Tickets were to be had at J. Bennett's Inn, and the performance

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began at five o'clock precisely—a strong proof of the truly good habits of the primitive Kingstonians. Can it be possible that such a thrilling episode in the early history of the Town received no single line of description in the Home News of the "Gazette?"

It was not to a travelling Barnum, however, that the Kingstonian was wholly indebted for his fun. Messrs. Bradbury and Rogers, predecessors of Artemus Ward, arrived in the following week—long before the news of Waterloo—and informed the ladies and gentlemen, of course, that they had opened an elegant Museum at Mr. Oliver Thibido's Hotel, which fascinating exhibition was to have its doors thrown open at 8 o'clock a. m. till 9 p. m., but would positively be removed on the following Monday. Tickets were 2s. 6d., children half-price. Amongst other wonders, they had a superior organ, playing a variety of music, accompanied by sixteen small figures, performing upon a chime of bells; and a number of superior wax figures "better wrought, and more elegantly clad than any that has ever been exhibited in the country."

The officers of the Military and Navy, however, were the great promoters of hilarity, and in Field and Theatre catered to the pleasures of Society. In 1815, they established the first October Race Meeting, and liberal were the prizes, and fairly numerous the entries for the various events. The Wellington Stakes of 70 guineas each, 1½ mile heats; the Claret Stakes; the Waterloo Stakes; the Garrison Stakes, and several Matches, furnished an excellent programme.

The Theatrical Season opened in January, 1816, and the first performance was the Tragedy of "Douglas," followed by the roaring farce of "The Weather Cock."

Tickets for Boxes were 6s. 3d., and Pit 5s., and could be obtained at the Brigade Major's office only, while no money was taken at the

door. As a proof of the steady habits of the worthy citizens, it may be added that the doors were opened at six, and that the curtain rose at half past six. On 7th February were given the admired Comedy, "Speed the Plough," and a Farce entitled "The Tooth Ache." The popularity of these entertainments, and the small size of the Theatre, may be gathered from the fact that an announcement had to be made, again and again, that persons holding tickets for the previous performance and who could not get in, were entitled to gain admission at the coming entertainment.

The Repertoire of these willing Thespians was extensive. It included The Review, or Wags of Windsor; the Jew; the Weathercock; the Heir at Law; the Boarding House; Cure of the Heart Ache; Love a la Mode; Education; the Farce of Animal Magnetism; the West Indian; the Road to Ruin; the Upholsterer; Turn Out; Love laughs at Locksmiths; the Wheel of Fortune, and some repetitions. The season closed on the 24th of June, and reopened on the following October. On the 29th February, 1816, there was a special Performance "for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans of the Brave Men who fell at the Glorious Battle of Waterloo," when was given the much admired Comedy of "John Bull, or an Englishman's Friend," to which was added the Musical Farce of "The Poor Soldier."

Admittance to the Boxes was two dollars and a half and to the Pit one dollar. Tickets were obtained at John McAuley's and the Post Office. Prices afterwards fell to one dollar for Boxes and a half-dollar for Pit, with John McAuley as agent. In summer the Curtain rose at seven o'clock.

From the list of plays, and the frequency of their performance, it may readily be seen that Kingston was better off, from a theatrical standpoint, eighty years ago than

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it is to-day, and that the gentlemen of leisure, who had already defended Canada were, equally ready to amuse Canadian citizens.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

MR. WILLIAM YATES.

The readers of the REVIEW who have been accustomed to look with interest for the contributions of its Hatchley correspondent, whose portrait accompanies this number, will doubtless be gratified to learn something more as to the personality of the writer.

Mr. William Yates was born in Staffordshire, England, in January of the year 1824. As to the outward circumstances of birth, parentage, and educational and social advantages, his career does not differ from that of hundreds of other young men, born in the humbler walks of life, and early inured to the necessity of labour for daily bread, a struggle which at three score and ten he is still cheerfully and stoutly maintaining. The point of difference between him and that vast army of wage-earners, who are annually leaving Great Britain in the hope of mending their fortunes in this western world, is one of intellectual diversity only, but it constitutes as wide a divergence as the broad Atlantic which rolls between the old world and the new.

For one year of his infantile life, from the age of five to six, he was sent to a dame's school, which seems to have been conducted much after the modern Kindergarten methods, the influence of which in determining the bent of his young ideas continued after a subsequent and less salutary experience in one of the National Schools. Here he was taught the rudiments of English, reading, writing and arithmetic, and little else, enforced with much harshness, in company with over two hundred other boys, mostly the children of laborers and factory

operatives, of whom he naively relates that "many of them entered the army in India and Afghanistan, became burglars and criminals, and a number were deported to Australian wilds for riotous conduct."

Later on he joined a mutual improvement club, composed of boys like himself at a Mechanics Institute, where at a night school of one evening in each week, drawing, music, the French language and rhetoric were alternately taught by competent instructors.

In the meantime he had been apprenticed to the cooper trade, a business which along with farming and horticulture he still continues in his hale old age in western Ontario.

Having served his apprenticeship, at the age of nineteen he sailed for New York, where he landed in June 1843, coming from thence to Toronto, removing to Niagara District in the following year, and afterwards to Brant County where the greater part of his life has been passed.

So far there are few salient points in his history for the journalist or the biographer to note, which differ in any way from the common lot of humble adventurers from Europe to America. But out of the hundreds of English lads emigrating to Canada about the same time with himself, on this one only nature had conferred the seeing eye and the hearing ear, and the mind inquisitive and alert to discover her mysteriously guarded secrets.

The woods and fields, the swamps and bye paths which became the arena of his daily labours, were to him the open book in which he found a constantly increasing treasure of learning, occupation and delight. The housekeeping and daily living of birds and squirrels, and all the small denizens of forest and field and stream, which elude the unlooking and indifferent observer, the habits and habitue of insects and plants, of the native trees and undergrowth of our fine

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Canadian woods, and all the wonderful and beautiful growing and leafage and colour which belongs to the successive seasons attracted and repaid his loving investigation, and opened for him a thousand avenues of escape from all that makes the drudgery and servility of toil.

Mr. Yates writes of his early days as follows:—

[The first impulse to take note of the Kaleidoscopic phenomena of Nature was given by my Father, who had a limited knowledge of technical botany as to be seen in the fields, and a small but well stocked flower garden; he was also very much addicted to country walks in the pathways through the English fields, on which occasions some of his children always accompanied him, and books explanatory of the Linnean and other floral classifications were borrowed for my use. The Kindergarten ladies tried to teach in the kindest manner the task to read, to observe, and then to reflect, but the general tendency of the instruction at the so called National School went very little farther than to let one know the three Rules, and was repellant to independent and discursive thought; but the Kindergarten teachers did their best to enkindle in the minds of the very tender charges, pure neophytes, a genuine thirst for knowledge. But perhaps the real Alma Mater for a number of youths in their advanced teens, were the mutual improvement classes, or night schools, at a Mechanics Institution at Hante, or rather Shelton, for two towns are now combined as Shelton Hanley, with ready access to a library of standard works to the number of about 4,000 volumes, amongst whom I happened to be a co-worker. And though the time at command to these participants was far too limited to get farther than the threshold of the secluded studies, some acquirements were secured that left permanent benefits or marks on the

characters of the pupils.

The amount of actual knowledge or scholarship that a school teacher can impart, has always seemed to me of less consequence than the opportunity he may have of infusing a thirst or relish for progressive culture. In some the desire for wisdom seems innate, in others only latent, and if the teacher or guide can stimulate and strengthen this principle, he is a big success.

I think the most character forming works I ever met with were in the following rotation: The Literary Essays of Wm. E. Channing, (in particular the Essay on Self Culture), the more polemical treatises were less appreciated; next the Pastoral Poetry of Wordsworth, then Cowper's effusions, also those of A. Pope, whose "Windsor Forest" was in high esteem; Carlyle's Miscellanies came to hand after the above, also Tennyson's. But in riper years the greatest mental enlightenment and elevation was conferred by the perusal of Emerson's sublime ideas on Philosophy, Ethics and Song. Dana's "Two years before the Mast" was chiefly of interest to one who was about to make his first acquaintance with the mysteries and dangers of an ocean voyage, when Æolus was the main flower relied on, and dread and uncertainty of a transatlantic passage had not been minimized by the steam Leviathans that now a days "Chimney and Furnace the Deep."]

In the solitude of his cooper shop, surrounded by the implements of his trade, and in the resinous atmosphere of the various woods peculiar to that handicraft, he found and still finds time for reading the best books, and has gathered about him a choice collection of those which have been most helpful to him, and which have in a lifetime of "plain living" conduced to much "high thinking."

Natural history, philosophy and poetry are his favorites among these, and apt quotations from them

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are often to be found pointing a moral, or quaintly adorning some of his natural history notes.

Of modern philosophers and poets perhaps Emerson occupies the chief place in his regard, and he seems to have absorbed much of the high and serene teaching of that great and genial nature into his own living and being. In his habit of almost microscopical observation he is not unlike Thoreau, but not like that solitary and moody philosopher a recluse from human society, and a shunner of his kind. Unlike him also in regard to the accuracy of his observations, which are not less influenced by a poetic fancy, while subjected to a closer analysis and a more accurate scientific judgment, and so of a more real value to the general reader and the student.

The literary style of his writing betrays a more intimate acquaintance with the best authors of the early part of the century than the society and conversation of his contemporaries. It has a quaint diction and literary flavour of its own which is not its least attraction. The greater part of these essays on the fauna and flora and the birds of Ontario are yet unpublished, though some of them have been printed in the transactions of the Hamilton Historical and Natural History Society of which he is a member, and have procured for him an honorable recognition among scientists in England, as the discoverer of several rare and curious native plants hitherto believed to be unknown in Canada.

The completed volume when published, and let us hope it may be soon, cannot fail to be most fascinating reading, and should preserve to future years the name and labors of William Yates, the Canadian farmer and naturalist.

Though chiefly occupied with studies of birds and plants, his investigations and experiments in other branches of science have not been without interesting and valuable results, especially in photo-

graphy. As a matter of fact he was the experimenter who produced the first X ray picture ever seen in Canada, long before the discovery of the new photography, although no one at the time understood the significance and the importance to science of the discovery.

One summer afternoon he was engaged in photographing a scene near a railway track. A violent thunderstorm was approaching, and just before the exposure of the plate several men on a trolley passed by; presumably at the instant a discharge of lightning took place. Afterwards the plate was exposed, and strange to relate a perfect picture of the figures on the trolley was seen in the view which showed clearly through them.

Personally he is well known and much beloved in that part of Ontario where he resides. His conversation is accompanied with a kindly humour and a friendly sincerity and directness which make his own frank delight in an appreciative auditor a kind of contagion, which imbues the listener with some of his enthusiasm, as he narrates in quaint phraseology the toils and triumphs of the explorer in his own especial field.

His keen observant eyes can still smile tolerant of human foibles and weaknesses, and his ruddy English face crowned with its silver locks, is like a sound and well ripened winter pippin, which has gathered its wholesome colour and quality from late autumn sunshine and frosts.

The readers of the REVIEW unite in wishing him many years still of serene philosophical living, observation and study.

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BALD EAGLE.

HALIAETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS.

The Bald Eagle inhabits North America, ranging south into Mexico, as well as in the northeastern part of Siberia. It occurs along the Arctic Ocean as a summer resident only, though in the greater part of Alaska and southward it is found throughout the year, merely wandering whenever food becomes scarce. It breeds in suitable localities through its range.

The favorite food of the Bald Eagle is fish, and when this vertebrate can be procured the bird will touch little else. Of the hundreds of these Eagles which the writer has watched, none were observed ever to touch anything except fish or offal picked up from rivers or along their shores. What proportion of the fish consumed is taken from the Osprey is hard to estimate, but the number must be very great.

Speaking of the food of the Bald Eagle in Alaska, Mr. E. W. Nelson says: "In summer they feed upon fish and the numerous wild-fowl which breed among these islands. In winter they feed upon Ptarmigan and the sea-fowl which reside there during this season. When at the salmon run, in Sanborn Harbor, Nagai, Mr. Dall saw seventeen eagles within 100 yards. During winter he found many eagles dead, but they were too fat to have starved, and he was unable to account for the mystery." (Report Nat. Hist., Collections in Alaska, 1887, p. 144.)

Mr. J. E. West mentions a neighbor who, while watching for geese on the river opposite Wilkinsons Point, near the mouth of Neuces River, North Carolina, saw an eagle having something in its talons and flying across the river in his direction. As the river at this point is five miles wide, the bird was evidently becoming very tired and kept flying lower and lower, but finally alighted on the shore within twenty steps of the gunner, who

shot it. The object it carried was a little live lamb which was unhurt. (IBID., vol. iv, 1875, p. 166.) This note shows to what a great distance an Eagle is capable of carrying a burden fully equal to its own weight.

Along the coast of the South Atlantic States and on the lower Mississippi, this Eagle appears to feed more on waterfowl than in any other section of the country. The following note from Mr. Wm. Brewster refers to the vicinity of Cobbs Island, Virginia: "In the winter the Eagles are much more numerous than at any other time of the year, and my informant has, on several occasions, seen as many as eight at once. At this season the neighboring bays and creeks swarm with Wild-fowl, and upon these the Eagles principally live. He has never known them to catch fish of any kind, although they not unfrequently rob the Fish-Hawk. Geese and Brant form their favorite food, and the address displayed in their capture is very remarkable. The poor victim has apparently not the slightest chance for escape. The Eagle's flight, ordinarily slow and somewhat heavy, becomes in the excitement of pursuit exceedingly swift and graceful, and the fugitive is quickly overtaken. When close upon its quarry the Eagle suddenly sweeps beneath it, and, turning back downwards, thrusts its powerful talons up into its breast. A Brant or Duck is carried off bodily to the nearest marsh or sand-bar, but a Canada Goose is too heavy to be thus easily disposed of. The two great birds fall together to the water beneath, while the Eagle literally tows his prize along the surface until the shore is reached. In this way one has been known to drag a large Goose for nearly half a mile." (Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, vol. v, 1880, pp. 57-58.)

Mr. Charles F. Batchelder, quoting Mr. John W. Baker, mentions an Eagle on the St. Johns River, Florida, which for a period of four

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