

# Chronicles of Canada.

## CHAPTER I.

1.—In the nineteenth year of the Reign of Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Colonies and Provinces appertaining thereunto, a certain man, whose name was HEMAN NEHUSHTAN, came from the ancient Kingdom of Scotland to dwell in the land of Canada.

2.—And he took up his abode in a city on the sea shore of Ontario, commonly called the Western City of the Lake.

3.—And he came near and spake unto the Chief Priests and the Elders of the City, and said unto them, that he had come from the School of the Prophets in the Ancient Kingdom; And, furthermore, he said, I am of the House of Levi—put me, I pray thee, in one of the Priest's offices, that I may eat a piece of bread; but his cloak and his parchments he had forgotten in Auld Reekie.

4.—Now there is, as thou goest Southward by the Border of Lake Ontario—a Country inhabited by a people who were brought over the great blue Sea, from the Land of Cakes; And when they had driven out the Cherokeees, and the Pienkeshaws and the Kickapoos, and the Mohawkites, and the other Heathen Nations that dwelt in the land, fleets of Ships came to them by the Lake, laden with Salt for themselves, and their servants, and their cattle, and their wives, and their little ones; And that Country is called the Country of *Saltships* unto this day.

5.—And the people of that Country were become rich and increased in goods, and had gold and silver, and houses and barns, and flocks and herds, and their barns were filled with wheat and corn, and their ale presses stored with the first fruits of the Barley; but they had no man to minister unto them in the Priest's office.

6.—Now, when HEMAN NEHUSHTAN had sojourned in the Western City of the Lake twenty and two days, he departed thence and came to the Country of *Saltships*.

7th.—And he arrayed himself in goodly raiment, and presented himself before the Elders and Chief Captains, and heads of families in that country, and made obeisance, and spake smooth words unto them, and said that he was from the School of the Prophets, on the other side of the blue sea, and being of

the House of Levi, he had come unto *them*, because they had no man to kindle fire upon their altars (but he told them not that the cloak and the parchments had been forgotten).

8.—And the people of the Country heard him gladly, and received him into their houses, and they brought unto him meat offerings, and drink offerings, and gave *him* also of their gold and silver, and wheaten flour, and sweet cakes, and pumpkin pies, and Cobourg whisky in abundance.

9.—And he went *in* and *out* before the people, and ate and drank with them such things as were set before him, asking no questions for conscience sake; And he took unto himself a wife from among the daughters of the land, and he burned incense upon their altar, and taught in their Synagogues every Sabbath Day; And this he did continually, for about the space of one whole year.

## CHAP. II.

1.—After these things it came to pass, that certain men came from the other side of the blue sea, who spread abroad throughout all the land, that HEMAN NEHUSHTAN was a false prophet, and had not been sent; that the priestly robe in which he was now attired was a Babylonish garment; that his garments had been confiscated in the Ancient Kingdom, and that the cloak he had worn had become filthy with all uncleanness; And the people of *Saltships* pondered these sayings in their hearts.

2.—Moreover, HEMAN NEHUSHTAN did that which was evil, and walked not in the good old ways, but made unto himself Idols of silver and of gold, and dealt treacherously with the people, and devoured their offerings in his own house, and scornfully entreated those who had done him good; neither did he teach in the Synagogues, nor minister to edification as aforetime, but followed after vain imaginations, and behaved himself unseemly in the sight of the heathen.

3.—And after many days the Elders, and heads of the people came and spake unto the Chief Priests and Elders of the Western City of the Lake, of all the evils which HEMAN NEHUSHTAN had done, and they wrote in a great scroll all that he had done, and how he had dealt treacherously, and had forsaken the old paths, and all his abominations which he had wrought, and his making of lies which he had made; And they laid the Scroll which they had written before the Chief Priests and the Elders.

4.—And they suborned true witnesses who witnessed against him all the things which were written in the Scroll, the

which, when the Chief Priests and Elders had taken knowledge of, they saw that it was not meet that he should longer continue to fill the Priest's Office in that country.

5.—Nevertheless, HEMAN NEHUSHTAN was not at all ashamed, neither did he blush at any of the things which were witnessed against him, but set them at naught and desired that the matters should be brought before the Priests and the Elders of the Province, at the yearly convocation.

### CHAP. III.

1.—And it came to pass in the four and twentieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, in the fifth month, and the eight and twentieth day of the month, that the Priests and the Elders came together to the chief City of the Province to the yearly convocation.

2.—And a certain man of renown, who could speak with divers tongues, and was skilled in all the learning of the Egyptians, and in all the wisdoms of the Eastern Nations, even this man of renown was High Priest that same year, and Charles Stanley, of Monck, was Governor of the Provinces, and Abraham, the son of Lincoln, was President of the States.

3.—And certain men of Belial gathered themselves together from all the region round about, from the Forest of Arthur, Eastward as thou goest by Markham, and Peterboro', and Osnabruck, and Whitby, even to the great River St. Lawrence; and they came and spake privily in the ears of the High Priest, saying:

4.—We know that thou art a man of wisdom and understanding, and that thou wilt be to us a Gamaliel, and much good will be done by sitting at thy feet in the school of the Prophets, and thy presence in the High Priest's office we accept at this time with all thankfulness, and that we be not further tedious unto thee, we pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words touching our brother in the country of Saltships.

5.—Forasmuch as the Chief Priests and the Elders of the Western City of the Lake, have stripped him of his upper garments; and have discovered his nakedness in the sight of all people, and have threatened to break his staff of bread; may it seem good unto thee that we should cast a mantle over our brother's nakedness, and also save him in the priestly office, that he may have bread to eat and raiment to put on.

6.—And the High Priest answered and said unto the men of Belial (but he wist not that they were men of Belial), Ye know that I am a stranger, having sojourned among you only these few days, ye yourselves know what is your custom in like cases; go in peace, therefore, and do in the matter whatsoever seemeth good in thine own eyes.

7.—And it came to pass when the judgment was set, and the matter of HEMAN NEHUSHTAN brought before the High Priest, and them that sat in judgment with him, that the Chief Scribe read all the great scroll which had been written; and all the witnessing which had been witnessed; and when he had made an end of reading all the words which were written, HEMAN NEHUSHTAN opened his mouth and spake for upwards of one hour.

8.—And he spake in Latin, and in English, and in Scotch, and in Billingsgate; and he spake of Greece, and Rome, and Scotland, and many other places; and he spake of Wars and Rebellions, and of Bonds and Divorcements, and of breaking doors, and of preparing food for stoves with axes, and spilling whisky with a KNEE (bowed), and many other things; but of the parchments, or the polluted mantle, or of all his abominations which he had wrought, or of the lies which he had made, or of any of the things which were written in the great scroll, he spake not a word.

9.—Nevertheless, when he had made an end of speaking, all the people who were stirred up by the men of Belial, shouted with a great shout, and they smote on the ground with staves, and they would have cut the scroll with penknives and put it in the fire upon the hearth; but the pens in those days were all made of iron, so there was no penknife to be found, and because it was the hot season, there was no fire upon the hearth, wherefore the great scroll and all the writings which were written remain unto this day.

10.—And the great Convocation approved of all the evil HEMAN NEHUSHTAN had done, and they said not that he should repent; save only that \* they separated him from the Assembly of the Chief Priests and Elders of the Western City of the Lake, that they might be no longer vexed from day to day with his filthy conversation.

11.—Moreover, they cared not that he had not taught in the Synagogue, nor kindled fire upon the altar in the Country of the Saltships for the space of fifty and four weeks, neither did they enjoin him to minister therein any more.

12.—And they ordained him a place in the house of Bel, that he might fulfil the desires of his own heart, and they appointed a Herald to go before him to the house of Bel, and the people of the Country of the Saltships were left as sheep having no shepherd, and the wolves, and the sheriffs, and the bailiffs laid hold of their substance.

12.—But their desolation then came to them—the vision of a voice, and the voice said “Cry!” And the people said “What shall we cry?” And the voice said “Take up the words of the Prophet Jeremiah and cry—Wee be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture. \* \* \* Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them; behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings saith the Lord.”

\* Witness 1st paragraph, 230th page, 2nd column *Presbyterian*, published at Montreal, Aug., 1862.