

# The Seaview Gazette.

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## • Staff. •

MRS. J. J. B. FLINT, MAN. EDITOR.  
MISS EDITH P. JONES, ASSIST. EDITOR.  
MISS MARY A. HOLTON, BUS. MAN.

We are very pleased to have Mrs. W. H. Holden and her two little ones among us; but especially delighted to hear of their intention to stay with us from our Clan gathering.

At the meeting of the Belleville Members of the Clan Bancroft, for the purpose of talking over the Christmas re-union of 1893, we had the pleasure of seeing a member of the Clan from Toronto, in the person of Mrs. Gregg.

We regret to learn that Mr. W. W. Bourne and also Mr. George Holton, will be missing from our number at Christmas time as their short holidays will not allow them to come home for the festive season.

We the committees for the preparation of the re-union will also miss especially our commander in chief of last year from among us, Mr. Alexander Stead Burns.

We wish these absent ones a Merry Christmas where ever they may be and hope we shall have as pleasant memories of this year's jollification to tell them of, as we all have of the past years.

Mrs. Nathan Jones' condition continues very much as it has been for the past few months.

Stand, Ho!

"Heap on more wood,  
The wind is chill;

But let it whistle as it will,  
We'll keep our Christmas merry still."

There will be a mustering of the Clan in Belleville, Ont., Dec. 27th, 28th, and 29th. We hope there will be a hearty response to the call: those who accept will please inform our Business Manager, who will arrange billets.

## MONTREAL.

Mr. Arthur Holden is recovering from typhoid fever.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Burns, late of Texas, have taken up their residence in Montreal. Mr. Burns is in the service of the C. P. R.

## DETROIT.

While on their way home from the World's Fair Mr. and Mrs. J. Wanless, of Toronto, and also Mr. W. S. Holton, of Port Huron, called on Mrs. W. H. Holden at her residence 354 Meldrum Avenue.

## ANSWER.

F. H. Y. in the November Gazette asks in what way Hubert Bancroft is related to the late George Bancroft. The following extract from Hubert Bancroft's autobiography answers the question. In New York a few days later, I met George Bancroft, to whom by the way I am in no way related, who gave me a letter," etc. This of course deprives Mr. Hubert of the honor of being connected with our branch of the family.

W. F. J.

### ADMISSION TO THE IMPERIAL COMMONS.

Through the kindness of Honorable Edward Blake, who is still a loyal Canadian, both G. B. Burns, of Toronto, and your correspondent enjoyed the privilege of seats in the strangers gallery of the House of Commons on Thursday, August 24th. Trembling with excitement we hastened at the appointed hour towards the palace of Westminster where, after showing our tickets and signing our names and addresses in a ponderous volume, we were conducted to excellent seats by a pompous attendant.

Pomp in the Imperial House of Commons seems adjusted almost exactly in the inverse ratio to the importance of its weaver. The attendants assume dress suits with gold chains and large jewels; the sergeant-at-arms has a handsome uniform and a dress sword; Mr. Speaker is contented with a costume of black gown and white wig, while the Honorable W. E. Gladstone is dressed in the grey and armed with a news-

paper. I was specially interested in the questions with which the first order paper was crowded. I examined the interior of the famous legislative hall in which I was seated. The Commons Chamber is an oblong; of great length running east and west, and is surrounded by galleries on

On the east of the hall and immediately behind the speaker's chair is the press gallery, while beyond this is a sort of cage screened in by open lattice work, in which accommodation is offered for about fifty of the fair sex. The galleries on the north and south are reserved for members of the house, while the seats in the west gallery are for members' friends, with the exceptions of the first two front rows which are allotted, those on the left of the clock to visiting peers and those on the right to ambassadors and other distinguished visitors.

The members occupy benches on either side of the speaker; the Gladston-

ian party occupy the upper rows on the right (the front or treasury bench being reserved for members of the cabinet), while the Conservatives are appointed the upper rows on the left. Below the gangway or passage, which divides transversely the benches the Liberal Unionists and Irish Home Rule members are seated, the former being on the right and the latter on the left of the speaker.

As a legislative chamber St. Stephen's (as the House of Commons is called) is far from perfect, the combined space of the floor of the House and the side galleries seating only four hundred and thirty out of six hundred and seventy members, while the space devoted to visitors is very meagre. The benches are not nearly as comfortable as the arm-chairs of our Canadian legislators, and the members are provided with neither the convenient desks nor attentive little pages to which our representatives are accustomed.

Shortly before the questions were finished Mr. Gladstone entered to reply to a query of the opposition. His voice was perfectly clear and firm and he exhibited the calm confidence of long experience as he humorously referred to an official act performed by himself "only forty seven years ago." One is very much struck with the great accuracy and minute knowledge of the veteran statesman as well as by the marked respect with which he is universally treated.

The fact that the "Home Rule Bill" was to be the subject of discussion had secured a large attendance, one division showing the presence of three hundred and ten members, mostly from the Gladstonian and Conservative benches. The discussion was well sustained and the style of the speeches much better than I had been led to expect. The list of speakers included Gladstone, Balfour, Morley, Chamberland, Aequith, Matthews, and Blake, the last named being listened to with great attention.

Sir Edward Clark and Sir Charles Russel, solicitor general of the past and attorney general of the present administration were in the house, having but

recently returned from the Behring Sea arbitration in Paris.

Amongst the visitors present was Mr. A. P. Troop who owing to his official connection with the legislature of province, was granted a seat in the gallery for distinguished visitors.

Through the kindness of Sir Charles Tupper, G.B. Burns and your correspondent enjoyed a second evening in the house of commons where the naval estimates were under discussion and when we heard John Burns speak on behalf of the government dock yard employees.

J. A. D. BURNS.

## CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Perhaps some of the Clan may be interested in a short description of some old keyed and stringed instruments which were exhibited at the World's Fair, and from which the present piano has been evolved. When discovered they were in a delapidated condition, and have been repaired after centuries of quiet rest.

A Clavichord, made in the 15th century, reminds one of a toy piano, is without legs, and has but four and a half octaves of black naturals and white sharps. This instrument has more keys than strings, three tones being produced on each set of strings.

The Spinnet has from three and a half to five octaves and one string to each note. A double one has both instruments in the same case, but the left one is tuned an octave higher than the right, and when both are played at once they are taken from the case and placed upon a table. A painting on the lid represents a contest before the gods between Apollo and Marsyas, the former playing a viol and the latter a pipe. The Spinnet was the favorite instrument of Queen Elizabeth.

A harpsichord made in London in 1755 was owned by Napoleon Bonaparte and was purchased from descendants of Peregrine White, who was a passenger in the Mayflower. An-

other made in 1690 has for its most beautiful painting by the celebrated Dutch painter Van Kessel. The third had eight stops and two key boards with tortoise shell naturals and ivory sharps. This was considered to be an instrument of such extraordinary size it was deemed expedient to supply it with eight strong legs.

A hammerclaviere, the German name for piano forte, is essentially a dulcimer with a key board, but historically it replaced the clavichord and harpsichord, which are keyed instruments more akin to the harp than the dulcimer. One in the form of a lady's sewing table has been in the possession of the Princess of Turn and Taxis in Regensburg, Germany.

A grand piano with black naturals and white sharps, a knee pedal and one stop in front of the key board, was the property of Jos. Haydn, and was used by him in his birth house and later in his summer residence near Vienna.

Another had been used by Haydn and Mozart in playing duets.

A concert-grand, six and a half octaves with five pedals had been loaned to Beethoven during his summer retreat in Baden by the maker, Madame Streicher.

Any of the readers of the GAZETTE who would like to more fully understand the construction of these and other classical instruments can do so by supplying themselves with a book that is being prepared and published by M. Stewart, New Haven, Conn.

F.H.T.

A curious little article brought from the World's Fair by one of the Belleville relatives is an earthen ware vase on which grass can be grown. If seed be sprinkled on the outside of the vase and it be kept filled with water in a few weeks it will be covered with grass one and one half inches high. This was successfully tried after being brought from the Fair.

## NOTES FROM ENGLAND.

Continued from last issue.

and 40 shillings a ton for coal the Gas Light and Coke Company were getting their's for 9 shillings and 3 pence per ton. This artificial cheapness for monopolists, Thos. Hughes continued, was wrung out of the bones and sinews of the miners and no Christian conscience could approve of it. The railways and gas companies ought to relieve coal owners of their iniquitous contracts, which could only be enforced by the sacrifice of the miners.

If like Shylock these companies insisted on their pound of flesh the time would come when the State would take them over. This address or sermon by Thos. Hughes was delivered four days ago, and since then the mayors of six midland towns have attempted a scheme of mediation and compromise between the owners and men. This morning the news is that in many districts the men have taken in, and have the following day, the 22nd, 27th and 29th. There are, of course, some districts where the men are, but one may see...

Arrangements have already been made for the celebration of the Handel Triennial Festival at the Crystal Palace next June. The "Messiah" will be given on the 25th June, and the other dates are the 22nd, 27th and 29th.

A "pilgrimage" to Jerusalem is being arranged for by the Son of the Bishop of Worcester, it having been suggested at the Grindelwall Conference. The Bishops of Worcester, Archdeacon Farrar and Canon Tristram, of Durham are to be of the party, and the time is February and March.

England has had to acknowledge herself beaten and fairly beaten in the international yacht race between the "Vigilant" and "Valkyrie." She feels

that in the matter of sail boats the supremacy lies with America, but she finds consolation at the same time, in the fact that when the question is one of steamers Britannia still "rules the waves," the "Lucania" of the Cunard Line of steamers, a British Line, mark you, has just beaten all other boats in the ocean race, and thus England can afford to regard the result of the yacht race with calmness.

N. E. BURNS

## EDITORIAL.

Christmas will have come and gone before the next issue of our little monthly. It may seem rather premature, but we extend our heartiest and most affectionate greetings, to the members of the Clan; wishing each one the benedictions that come with this ho'y, beautiful, birthday. Nothing can exceed the anticipations of the young; but each succeeding year, our feelings change; and when we come to the afternoon of life the pleasures of the day become a memory, a happy dream of childhood, with father and mother, and all the children at home again. Now! the vacant chairs are seen so plainly, and the longing and loneliness becomes so intense; the pleasures associated with the season, are moments of exquisite pain, and the enjoyment, except in making others happy, seems doubtful. As our loved parents made our young lives so happy, we must do what we can for the children and try and have the Christmas festivities of 1893 as delightful a memory as those of 1892.

And never try to set aheid,

Wauld age grim and grey,

Upon a wee saft snawy nick—

No! let the bairnies play.

For, oh there's many a weary nicht

And many a waefu day

Before them, if God spare there lives—

Sae let the bairnies play."