

# The Seaview Gazette.

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## • Staff. •

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## EDITORIAL.

I was hoping the second birthday number of our little bond of family affection would be a brilliant one, full of enthusiastic cheer and good wishes for the year upon which we are just entering; in fact so ambitious had I grown for my darling, that I imagined an extra way sheet would be required to contain the views of many of the heretofore silent members of the clan; and then, with a degree of fear, I thought of the possible necessity of lopping off, or condensing prolific communications in order to get them in. The day for going to press has come, and behold! collapse. Dear clansmen the time has come to say good bye editorially. I have enjoyed the work exceedingly; will miss the pleasant business chats with the faithful members of the staff who have been most efficient and sympathetic. I thank them, and all others who have helped us. I sincerely hope our publication will not be allowed to die. From the first number it has been in our home a most welcome harbinger of family news, in fact it is the only medium through which we hear of many of the scattered, busy members of our clan. We must hold up the hands of the incoming staff, even if they be

not our ideals of literary or business people; and by our contributions and encouragement raise the publication to our standard. I hope no one will refer to my way of editing a paper. It is now too late to say even a word of encouragement, so with the announcement of my death, editorially, I will add "no flowers."

## DIED.

On Friday, June 15th, 1894, at  
Crows, Hon. Wm. Flint, aged 89 years.

The first number of the GAZETTE, written in Toronto, June, 1892, contained 1741 words (besides headings, etc.) The second printed number Sept., 1893, contained 2371 words (with same exceptions.) No. 5 had 2300 words. The subscription for printed edition is double the written, but we have much more matter, and the pleasure in reading the printed one is worth the difference, so I think.

We clip the following item from one of our Boston contemporaries:

Calvary Methodist Episcopal church, at Seventh Avenue and One hundred and twenty-ninth street, this city, the largest Protestant church in this city, Rev. Dr. A. B. Kending, D.D., has dispensed with its quartette choir, and has introduced congregational singing, which is led by a single soprano voice assisted by a co netist. Between seven and eight hundred people attend the Wednesday evening prayer meeting in the church, and the Sunday evening congregations average two thousand three hundred.

## CANADA'S NEAL DOW.

## SENATOR BILLA FLINT DIES AT HIS POST.

## THE LAST PUBLIC LETTER OF THE TEMPERANCE PIONEER.

Hon. Billa Flint, of Belleville, Ont., who died at Ottawa on Friday last, has been, for nearly seventy years, one of the foremost temperance advocates of Canada. He was born less than a year after America's great apostle of prohibition, Gen. Neal Dow, and it is not inappropriate to style him the Neal Dow of Canada. Although on the verge of ninety years he was at his post at the capital attending to his parliamentary duties, and died in his room at the Grand Union Hotel, which had been his home during the session for many years.

His death was announced in the senate by Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, the Government leader, who displayed a degree of emotion which did credit to his heart. He recalled the fact that over 60 years ago Mr. Flint was superintendent of the school he attended. Mr. Bowell pronounced deceased a benefactor to everybody except himself. Senator Scott also paid a tribute to the stirring worth of a man who always regarded everything from the standpoint of religion and morality. The *Templar* cannot miss the opportunity of objecting to Senator Bowell's doctrine, that a man can be "a benefactor to everyone but himself." When Billa Flint was doing good to others he was enriching his own heart and soul and life, far beyond the gains of lands or stocks or title deeds. He laid up treasures not for moth and rust to corrupt, but for eternity. His wisdom was greater than the worldlings, for instead of leaving his riches behind forever, he has entered now upon their eternal enjoyment.

The funeral took place in Belleville this week. He was born Feb. 9, 1805; died June 15, 1894.

The *Templar* is highly favored in the possession of what is no doubt the last public document written by Mr. Flint. We have been gathering together photographs and data of Canadian temperance pioneers, and fortunately received from Hon. Billa Flint, a valuable manuscript, in his own hand writing, which at this time will greatly interest our readers. In reply to our letter of enquiry he wrote:

As regards myself on the morning of the 19th of June, 1827, in the City Hotel, in the City of Quebec, I made up my mind from that day to use no more intoxicating drinks, and since have been a total abstainer.

The first society formed on the abstinence pledge was at Montreal in July 1827, by the Rev. Mr. Christmas, pastor of the American Presbyterian Church, and succeeded very well. The first in Upper Canada was in Brockville in September or October, 1827. The Rev. Messrs. Christmas and Amble attended at the Court House and gave addresses on the subject and offered the pledge. L. Houghton, S. Skinner and myself took the pledge. No others would join our ranks for some time, when we got A. Skinner and J. Richards to join us. In the spring of 1828, an election coming on that year, they both withdrew, as they differed in politics, in order to treat their friends, which left us standing as at first. I removed to Belleville July 19, 1829.

On opening my store on the 10th of August my first customer had a pail and wanted a quart of whisky. I told him I did not sell liquor; he began to swear; I handed him a tract. "The Swearer's Tract." He threw it on the floor, cursed me, and left. In after years he gave up the drink, became a converted man, and passed away.

In December, 1829, we formed the first society in Belleville, on the old Pledge, numbering 47 members, 19 of

whom were young men. In less than three months 18 of them professed conversion and joined the church—one went back. We went on and prospered until we numbered 1,400 in town and country. One old lady told me she was sorry that her husband had joined us, as he had been sick ever since, for he only could use liquor in case of sickness. It was more than a year before we allowed ladies to join us in the good work. We continued to prosper till in 1835 Rev. Charles Jones came and lectured on Total Abstinence from Spirituous Liquors, Wine, Beer and Fermented Cider. A society was formed, and all who wished to join left the old society, but myself. Dr. Holden became the president of the new society; I remained the president of the old one, but joined the new one also, and went on hand in hand doing all the good we could in both societies, until the Sons of Temperance started, when both the other societies gradually faded away. I never connected myself with the Sons or any other order that came up, but went as the fish said, "on my own hook," when he bit off the line.

I, however, did join the Alliance, but finding the cause was being made a political horse, I withdrew from it; but still, at the age of 90 less a few months, I work for prohibition. Much more might be mentioned, but I will close with two offers made me. Having occasion to go through the bar-room of a hotel, the owner offered me a \$50 bill if I would take a glass of any kind of liquor. I said what for? He said it would do him so much good to tell of it. I said, "if I was mean enough to take your money and drink, I would be mean enough to tell a lie on you, and I wou'd be believed twice as quickly as you would." The other, a saloon-keeper, would say, as I was passing his door, "Flint, come in and take something. I know you drink." He often repeated it. But one day he had three customers, and as I was passing he repeated his call, "Flint, come in and take something. I know you drink. I

said "I don't care if I do," and walked in and up to the bar. He went behind and said, "What will you have?" I said, "Whatever you give me I will take." He set down a decanter of brandy and a cut glass tumbler, and said, "Help yourself." I said "No, but whatever you give me I will take." He poured out two-thirds of a tumbler of brandy and handed it to me. I went to the door and pitched the brandy in the street and put the tumbler in my pocket, and, thanking him, told him I would call again when he had any more to give away. He never molested me afterwards, but I kept the tumbler.

I have boarded in the Grand Union at Ottawa 25 sessions. The first session I went into the bar-room to get a drink of water; three young men came in cursing and swearing and called for whiskey. I left and have never been inside of it since. I would go a mile for a drink of water before I would be seen inside that bar-room.

I founded the village of Bridgewater and for 36 years kept out the sale of liquor. My losses in business have caused me to sell out and now for two years they have had a house licensed to make drunkards. The village of Flinton, also started by me, has no house for the sale of liquors; but it is sold outside the village on other land than mine. This I cannot prevent. The village of Bancroft, some 56 miles north, started by me some 14 years ago, is a thriving place. There has been one tavern the last two years, but outside of the proper limits as laid out by me. I could write much more on this subject, but I finish, wishing and praying for the success of our noble cause.

You ask respecting my public life. Well, I will begin by going back to the revolutionary times. Before the war of 1812 the Indians helped the Canadians much, but all but ruined the settlers south of the St. Lawrence and the lakes. I well remember hearing of it at the time.

When the war of 1812 ended, when they had ten or twelve times more population than Canada, yet we beat them 35 times in 56 battles; they won 20 and one was a draw game. I used to hear all about it, as all the war stores passed my father's, 7 miles back of Brockville, on the way from Prescott to Kingston, the front routes being mostly woods, liable to ambush by the Yankees. As the teams and troops all stopped at a house close to my father's, I had a grand opportunity to hear news by officers and men.

After peace was proclaimed my father moved his store to Brockville, and about three weeks before I was 11 years old, he took me into the store, where I remained until March, 1829, when I left him, and on the 19th of July arrived in Belleville.

In 1835, Belleville had a Board of Police, five in number. I was appointed President of the Board, and in August of the same year, Justice of the Peace, by which means I soon brought the roughs to order, which was much needed. If fined, lightly, but charged no costs for my services, but only for the constable. In 1837 I was out, but was elected in 1838, and remained some years, until the town was incorporated, and we had a mayor and council. I was reeve of the town three years; then I went to Elgin, where I was reeve for 21 years, but took no pay from the township for my services, but from the County Council I took pay as a Councillor, same as others.

In the rebellion of 1837 and '38 I was made commissary to provide for the volunteers, from 800 to 1,000 men, to find barracks, bedding and food for.

I pass on to December, 1847, when I ran for Parliament against the late Edwin Murney and won the election for Hastings by 27 votes; in 1851 Mr. Murney defeated me by 27 majority; in 1854 the county was divided into north and south. I ran for the south against the late Judge Wallbridge and beat him by 36 majority. Mr. Murney

ran for the Trent division and was elected. At the end of my time in '58 I retired and Mr. Wallbridge was elected over Benj. Davy by 596 majority.

In 1861 I ran against P. M. General Smith for Trent division, Mr. Murney having deceased, leaving a vacancy of two years. I was beaten by 293 majority. Smith not being able to qualify retired after the session. In the election of 1862 I ran against Mr. Grover and beat him by 701 majority, having a majority at every poll. In 1863 I ran again and was elected by acclamation, and sat in the Legislative Council until it was done away with, at Confederation, when I was appointed Senator and remain such at present, having only been absent one session. If all be well, I expect to be in Ottawa this session to attend to my duties. I think this is all you require to have on the subject.

When printed, please send me a copy as I have kept all that I have written for the press for over 50 years.

Yours, etc.,

[The Templar.] BILLA FLINT

#### MONTREAL.

Miss Sarah Holden, with Miss Plim-soll, an artist friend, sailed by the Lake Ontario on June 13th for the purpose of studying another year in Paris.

#### DÉTROIT.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Holden and family have removed to their summer home "Homarden" on Hickory Island and are enjoying the breezes of Lake Erie.

#### NOTE.

Will those readers of the GAZETTE who have not sent in their subscription and intend doing so, please forward them as soon as possible, or assist editor.

## BELLEVILLE ITEMS.

Mrs. J. E. Harrison, of Bridgewater, has been visiting relatives in town for some time.

Mr. J. C. Holden, of Montreal, was in the city attending Uncle Flint's funeral.

Mrs. Nathan Jones was strong enough to take a trip to Kingston, by water, a few days ago, accompanied by her daughter and grand-daughter.

Masters Harold Holton and Arthur Jones have succeeded in passing for high-first book.

Mr. W. E. Holton is home again after several months absence.

Mrs. L. W. Yeomans has given an evening "At Home" in honor of the board of Albert College trustees. The rooms were most tastefully decorated with ferns and daisies, and the large number of guests spent an enjoyable evening.

Mr. E. W. Holton was one of the couriers who carried the packet in the recent relay race between Sarnia and Montreal.

Another member of the clan, Mr. P. C. Jones, has been seized with the bicycle craze and now possesses a fine Whitworth, which he rides most gracefully.

It is expected that about 250 bicyclists will pass through Belleville on June 30th en route for Montreal.

Master Alfred Holton has, on the eve of his seventeenth birthday, succeeded in obtaining his diplomas in commercial work and stenography. He is now going out camping for a few weeks, after which he will be ready for office work. We hope he will succeed in obtaining a good position.

## LATEST MONTREAL ITEMS.

Dr. Gregg, of Toronto, honored and delighted his Montreal relations with a visit of four days on his way home from the meeting of the Assembly in St. John. The visit was altogether too short.

Mrs. I. C. Holden, of Belleville, after Ella, left on June 27th, for Caledonia Springs, where they spend two weeks.

Mrs. Robert Burns, Jr., sails by the Lake Winnipeg (Beaver Line) on July 4th to pay a visit to relatives in Belfast, London and Dundee.

Mr. J. C. Holden left on the 28th for Baldwinsville, N.Y., to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law, Mr. Isaac Baldwin.

Arthur Holden is spending the summer at a quiet spot on Lake St. Francis, where he will revel in his books.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

Congratulations are being offered to our former co-laborer, Miss Tella Mackay on her approaching marriage with Mr. Andrew Forster.

By the time the great Handel festival will have been celebrated at the Crystal Palace. It is one of the most important musical events in Britain and the result of a life time to all who are permitted to hear it. In anticipation of this festival your correspondent, J. A. Burns, recently made a pilgrimage to Halle, the birth place of the immortal composer, and visited both his house and the monuments erected to his memory.

Miss Mary Burns recently attended the National Convention of the Y.P.S.C.E., which was held in Spurgeon's Tabernacle. It was a great success. The Tabernacle (which has a capacity of over six thousand) being crowded, and many people refused entrance on account of the crush.

Nothing gives your British and continental readers of the GAZETTE more pleasure than to meet with and entertain their fellow-clansmen from Canada and United States. They take this opportunity, however, of suggesting that intending visitors will be so kind as to make some announcement of their plans in order that suitable arrangements may be made for the reception of members of the honorable the clan.

## CLAN BANCROFT AND THE GOVERNOR

The Clan Bancroft truly did itself honour by Lord Aberdeen's visit to Belleville, the home of such a large portion of its members. The clan rallied and proved itself a loyal body to Queen and country. One member, Mr. Ritchie, opened his home and received in a right royal manner His Excellency the Governor General; another, Mr. J. J. B. Flint, marshalled the procession along our broad and shady streets; one of the group of representatives of Albert College chosen to present to His Excellency an address from that institution was Mr. L. W. Yeomans; two of our clan's lady members, Mrs. J. J. B. Flint and Mrs. L. W. Yeomans were among those selected to welcome Lord Aberdeen at the Hospital and Home for the Friendless; while little Miss Ethel Mac Jones will tell you with a toss of her pretty auburn curls and the sweetest of smiles that, after His Excellency had received from her hand the school children's bouquet, it was not only with words of thanks but with a kiss that he greeted her.

INDEX FOR VOL. 2 SEAVIEW GAZETTE  
CONTENTS.

Across to the Pacific Coast, Nos. 3 and 4, Lucy L. Holton.  
An Eventful Voyage to South America, No. 11, A. G. Troop.  
A Kind Word of Greeting, No. 4, Elizabeth Burns.  
An Interesting Item Concerning the Holdens, No. 2, R. C. Holden.  
Autobiography of Hon. Billa Flint, No. 12.  
Autographs & autograph letters, No. 11 Edith H. Mackay.  
A visit to the Imperial Commons, No. 5, J. A. S. Burns.  
Bancroft Clan (genealogy), No. 8, E. J. F.  
Boston, Nos. 6, 7, Carrie Kendig Kellogg.  
Clan Bancroft and the Governor, No. 12, Edith Jones.  
Classical Instruments, No. 5, F. H. Y.

Convention (C.E.), No. 1, Mary Holton.

Four Authors that a Bancroft should read, No. 6, L. W. Yeomans.

Holton Branch of Clan Bancroft, No. 10  
How Church Organs are Built, No. 8, Charles H. Nutter.

My First Year in Belleville, No. 10, Wm. Gregg.

Notes from England, Nos. 4, 5, N. E. Burns.

On the Coast of Maine, No. 2, Ella E. Holden.

Ottawa, No. 4, Alfred Gregg.

Our Wedding Trip, No. 6, Billa Flint.  
Poem, No. 10, J. A. S. B.

Prohibition Convention, No. 8, M. Holden.

School Days, Nos. 7, 8, E. J. F.

Tabulated Chart of Clan, No. 8, W. H. Holden.

The Holden Family, No. 3, W. H. Holden.

Westward Ho! No. 9, E. J. F.

World's Fair, No. 2, John J. B. Flint

Xmas of 1893, No. 6, John J. B. Flint.

Answers to Questions, No. 5.

Births, Nos. 1, 6.

Bus. Man., Nos. 7, 12.

Congratulations, Nos. 2, 4, 11.

Deaths, Nos. 2, 12.

Editorials, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12.

## Items—

Belleville, Nos. 1-12.

British and Foreign, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12.

Boston, Nos. 1, 4, 7.

Dakota, No. 9.

Detroit, Nos. 1, 5, 8, 12.

Halifax, Nos. 8, 10.

Montreal, Nos. 2, 5, 6, 9, 12.

Ottawa.

St. John, N.B., No. 2.

Texas.

Toronto, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11

Jokes, Nos. 1, 2.

Marriages, Nos. 2, 8, 11.

Questions, Nos. 1, 4.

Remarks and Clippings, Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12.