Charlottetown Fifty Years Ago
By E. L. M.
(Elizabeth L. MacDonald)

The Prince Edward Island Magazine
Charlottetown
1901

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ELM’s charm is augmented by a sharp eye and deep recollection of people, places and events she witnessed in her youth. The various articles are an invaluable source of information to social and architectural historians documenting life in the city of Charlottetown just before Confederation. The nine articles were printed in the *Prince Edward Island Magazine* in a series called “Charlottetown Fifty years Ago” by E.L.M. – Elizabeth L. MacDonald (1835-1901 in the following issues:

- Vol. II, No. 8 – October 1900
- Vol. II, No. 9 – November 1900
- Vol. II, No. 10 – December 1900
- Vol. II, No. 11 – January 1901
- Vol. II, No. 12 – February 1901
- Vol. III, No. 1 – March 1901
- Vol. III, No. 2 – April 1901
- Vol. III, No. 3 – May 1901
- Vol. III, No. 4 – June 1901

She died before she could complete the series, and we are left to wonder what treasures of information were lost in this sad event.

Cover illustration detail of a watercolour of Queen’s Square by George Hubbard, circa 1849. PEIMHF Collection.
ELIZABETH L. MACDONALD

E.L.M. was born at Cardigan River on 11 May, 1835, the daughter of Thomas Owen and Ann Campbell. She was baptized at St. John’s Church at Belfast. She married Hon. Senator A. A. Macdonald, of Charlottetown. She died 12 July 1901 and was buried in the St. Peter’s Road Anglican Cemetery.

Newspaper References

The Patriot
13 July 1901, PP. 1,3,4
15 July 1901, p. 8
18 July 1901, P. 3

The Herald
17 July 1901, P. 3

The Guardian
13 July 1901, p. 4
Charlottetown Fifty Years Ago
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Section 1 - Vol. II, No. 8 – October 1900

It is said that when people grow old their thoughts revert to the days of their childhood; and, as Charlottetown at the present time is different to what it was fifty-six years ago, our recollection of it may be interesting to some of the young people of to-day.

Charlottetown, as we first remember it in 1844, or about that time, was a garrisoned town – or we might call it so – for then we had a company of soldiers, with their captain, one or two lieutenants, an ensign, a doctor, a commissary, and an ordinance store keeper. The barracks were two long, low buildings, situated on the ground reaching south from the jail square, Sydney Street to Water Street, including Union Street westwardly to the water. All along that part now called the Esplanade and the lower corner of Water Street was The Battery, of nine guns. Earth works were thrown up six
or eight feet high all around, on the bank, or water front, and any one passing along the shore could see the muzzles of the cannon pointing towards the harbour. The soldiers’ quarters backed on and closed up the end of Dorchester, King and part of Water Streets. The ordnance and noncommissioned officers building reached from Water Street northwardly toward Sydney St. The whole of the land was surrounded by a high, pointed picket fence. There was a large double gate opening on the jail square and a sentry marched backwards and forwards continually. Some of the houses in which the officers lived are still standing, Commissary Lamont and Captain ________ resided in the houses now owned by Mrs. J. D. Mason on the west part of Richmond Street, and Doctor Poole lived at Frogmore, on the corner of Rochford and Euston Streets.

Charlottetown at that time, although the dwellings and places of business were very scattered, seemed of more importance than now. A number of retired naval and military officers, also English, Scotch and Irish families were settled here; some were comparatively wealthy, others had good positions under the English government, and there were also many descendants of the old Loyalists, who came to this Island from the United States many years before. The poor were more industrious than they are now, and it was an unusual thing to see a corner loafer or a tipsy idler on the street. Those who seemed to have little to do were the soldiers who always walked about in twos, dressed in their trim uniforms and looking as if their buckles and buttons had just been polished and their white belts and gloves newly pipeclayed.

Government House, at that time, was not exactly as it is now. The main building was, but there was no verandah then, and the portico was supported by four handsome round pillars, standing on stone supports and reaching above the second story. There was sufficient room for a horse and carriage to drive or stand underneath, as the carriage drive passed along close by the front door and underneath the portico. [Editorial note: These remarks have caused a great deal of confusion among architectural historians. Exhaustive research has shown that Government House – if this is what she is referring to – had a veranda from the start. Perhaps she is referring to Holland Grove, rented by various Governors as a temporary residence.] Any stranger coming in the harbour could see at once that it was a building of some importance. General Edmund Fanning, the second English Governor of this Island knowing the necessity there was for a proper residence for the Lieutenant Governor, granted one hundred acres of land to
the Governor General for all time, on which a suitable residence should be erected. The present Government House was built on this land about 1830 or ’31 [1834]. Governor Ready, the then governor, planned it after one he had lived in at Barbadoes, and helped to superintend the building (so we have been told.) When the house was completed, in 1834, furniture, and everything necessary to make it comfortable and fit for the residence of His Excellency, was sent from England at the expense of the British Government, fuel and light were provided, the Governor's salary paid, also that of his private secretary, the orderly and one or two servants of minor importance. The Aides de Camp were chosen from the Military, a position much thought of. A sentry marched backwards and forwards before the front door and another at the lodge gate. No one dare enter the grounds without permission, or so it appeared to us children, for if by any chance we went as far as the Governor's Bridge we did not dare cross it for fear we should be bayoneted by that formidable-looking soldier.

This drawing by Santagnello, made perhaps in the early 1850’s, shows the configuration of the entrance at that time. ELM would have been familiar with this landscape.

His Excellency, Sir Henry Vere Huntley, was the Lieutenant Governor from 1841 to 1847, appointed by the English Government, or by the Queen, as it is generally stated. He, being the Queen's representative, kept up the state his position required. Every year on the Queen's birthday he held a levee at Government House. The Bishop, Chief Justice, Premier, the Military and Naval Officers, and some other officials, had the privilege of
the entree, and stood with the Governor whilst he received all those who were presented to him. Generally a large number of gentlemen attended the levee and it was looked upon as the proper thing to do on the Queen's birthday. There was always a state dinner or ball at Government House in the evening.

BEALES’S CORNER, NORTH SIDE QUEEN’S SQUARE
From a photo taken fifty years ago.

The 24th Of May was always proclaimed a holiday; everyone who had or could borrow a flag hoisted it, and a salute of twenty one guns was fired at the Battery at twelve o'clock, midday. If the weather was warm enough there were picnics and drives in the country and everyone was bent on enjoyment. The Queen's coronation day, June 28th, was another public holiday, with very much the same program.
Sir H. V. Huntley was a fine-looking old man, with ruddy complexion and white hair. One amusement he took great interest in was the Tandem...
Club, as it was called, and in winter he was often seen driving his pair of horses at the head of a procession of sleighs driven tandem by the officers and young men of the town. The bright trappings of the horses, the merry jingle of the sleigh-bells, and the bright colouring of the ladies' costumes, along with the comfortable sleigh-robcs, made a pretty picture to be remembered. Some would say Sir Henry was eccentric, perhaps he was. One rather amusing incident is told of him. When he came to this Island he brought a very handsome landau with him. When winter came, finding the coachhouse too small for his carriage, he had the wheels taken off and the carriage, wheels and all, put into one of the recesses of the large hall at Government House, where it remained till the next spring.

The second Gulnare was built in the summer of 1845. She was a two top sail schooner launched from a shipyard on the shore, between Prince and Great George Streets; her tonnage was 170 tons burthen. It was considered a grand sight to see a ship launched and crowds flocked to see and to be seen. Many ladies came out in their pretty summer toilets. All were interested in the Gulnare, or appeared to be, and each one stood watching for the moment she should begin to move, and particularly to see the bottle of wine broken upon her bow and to hear her name given. It was generally a lady's privilege to christen a ship.

The naval officers in Charlottetown at that time were Captain Bayfield, Commander Bedford, Lieutenant Orlebar, Mr. Forbes, master, and Dr. Kelley, who were all Royal Navy Officers. The sailing captain was named Mavor. In the autumn of '44 Captain Bedford returned to England with his family. Captain Orlebar took his place, and Lieutenant Hancock came to this Island. He and Dr. Kelley were unmarried, the older officers were married. Captain Bayfield took the house on the corner of Euston and Queen Streets, which had been occupied by the Countess of Westmoreland, and her daughter Lady Jane Georgiana Fane, both of whom had returned to England. The Countess, being a landed proprietor, had been living here to look after her estate. Captain Orlebar lived in the house on Kent Street, owned by the late Henry Palmer, Esq., near the present City Building. He afterwards moved to the house on Prince Street now occupied by Mr. John Higgins.
Captain Bayfield, oil painting. Source unknown.

Early watercolour, perhaps 1840-50, of Euston Street looking to the intersection with Queen Street and showing the Countess of Westmoreland’s house where Bayfield lived for a time. The Kirk of Saint James can be seen in the background.
The Court House/Legislative building designed by John Plaw and built in 1811 is what ELM refers to as the Provincial Building. Original 1864 photo in Gillingwater Collection.

The opening of Parliament was a very grand function. The Lieutenant Governor, dressed in his military uniform, with his outriders, aides-de-camp and secretary, the officers from the garrison and the naval officers all in full uniform, preceded by the sergeant-at-arms, drove from Government House to the Parliament Building, where the soldiers from the barracks were drawn up in line. The booming of cannon announced His Excellency's arrival, and crowds lined the streets to see the show. The Provincial Building was rather unpretentious. Its arched windows and doors were the only indications of its importance. It was a wooden building about fifty-five feet long, and about thirty-five in width, situated on Queen Square at the north side of the present market house, and about thirty feet in from Queen and Grafton Streets. This building was divided into two rooms, the Council Chamber and Assembly Room, with a hall about eight feet in width between them, and an ante-room off each chamber. Over the hall were the galleries for each House, and as they were small, few people could be admitted to the opening. This building was afterwards used for post office, court house and police court. It was eventually moved to Euston street and made into tenements. The other
buildings on Queen Square were the round market house, St. Paul’s church and St. Paul’s Sunday and week-day school. The fire engine house, as represented in the late Mrs. Bayfield’s drawing, was not built then. In the May of ‘43 the corner stone of the present provincial building was laid, and by the next spring the stone work had risen only to the lower window ledges, the portico was not the same as now, the heavy stone work and arches were not there, but there were four handsome round pillars on each side, front and back; they were then only half way up, apparently they are the same pillars that are now on the balcony. The building was finished with only the portico, but changed some years after, which improved its appearance very much.

ELM is not at her best describing architectural details. As first planned, Province House was not to have porticoes but a simple yet impressively articulated front. Colossal Tuscan Doric pilasters supported the pediment and were in turn supported by podia on the ground floor. A pair of attached Greek Doric columns, typical of the Greek Revival Style then in fashion, flanked the door. Drawing by D. Webber done for C.W.J. Eliot.
This detail, from a painting attributed to Fanny Bayfield, shows yet another phase of the evolution of Province House that ELM would have seen. It was decided that the frontispiece as designed was too plain and so the architect Isaac Smith was asked to design a second-floor Ionic portico resting on a massive base which we can see has already been built. It obscures the fine Greek Doric doorway. Later the portico would be added to give the building its present form. Painting PEIMHF.

There had been a few brick houses built in Charlottetown previous to this time, but nothing so grand as a stone building had before been contemplated. The stone had to be brought from Nova Scotia and also the stone cutters and builder. Many watched it with pleasure, and at last when the stone work of the Provincial Building was completed, the ground was levelled off by a gang of criminals who were brought every day from the jail, chained to the cart they hauled along. But the most dreadful part to us was a woman who was chained to the cart. She carried a broom. The men not only leveled off the ground, but broke up the useless stone and spread it all around the building. Criminals had in the same way to keep the streets in order, and it was a much harder lesson to them and greater example to others than their punishment is now.
SOUTH SIDE OF QUEEN SQUARE
Known in days gone by as “Cheapside.” From an old photograph.

Detail of a watercolour by George Hubbard of Queen Square painted about 1849-50, at the time that ELM was a girl. The excitement and confusion on market day she describes in the following paragraph is well illustrated. PEIMHF
Isaac Smith completed John Plaw’s Market House in 1823. This circa 1860 photo from the Provincial Archives shows the elegant building in relation to other structures on Queen’s Square.

Everyone who has seen views of Charlottetown in the olden time, has noticed the round market house. It was situated on the north side and close to the present post office. The roof of the building was carried on fully seven or eight feet beyond the main wall all around, and supported every ten feet or so by posts. Around the main wall and fastened to it by hinges were flaps about two feet broad, which could be raised and made into tables, supported by iron or wooden supports. Sometimes when the tables inside the market house were all in use some of the country people were obliged to exhibit their goods, such as butter, eggs, homespun country socks, etc., on the outside tables. Hucksters always used them for their gingerbread dogs and hens, beer and candy, and as the roof formed a verandah, any one sitting by those tables was protected from the sun or rain. Every year, late in September, a fair was held on the square round about the market house; then it was that the people from the country made a greater effort. Many from far and near came to town, bringing their fat cattle, horses, pigs, etc. Every available space inside and outside of the building was taken up. As there
were no posts or fences to tie the animals to, owners of stock had to tie them to carts. Everything was primitive in those days, but Fair-day was a gala day for the hucksters. Everyone who could provide a semblance of a tent, even four posts stuck in the ground and covered with patchwork quilts, old sails or something of like nature, brought there her beer, cakes, apples and plums, for the refreshment of the hungry people. Places of entertainment and “good stabling” were few and far between, and as Charlottetown has always been famed for its mud, Queen Square on Fair-day was ankle deep. The streets in spring and autumn were something like the square, there were no sidewalks then nor for many years after; all had to walk in the middle of the street, both in summer and winter. Ladies wore trained dresses on the street for it was the fashion, and considered graceful, but the mud was destructive and many handsome dresses were destroyed. If persons attempted to walk close by the houses or shops, they were liable at any moment to pop into an open cellar hatch or go through a broken one, and in winter the snow banks were not cleared away excepting from the doors, so you may be sure the walking was dangerous. Children were often run over and badly injured by horses and sleighs, and as country people with their loads very rarely used sleigh bells, a law had to be passed insisting that every one who drove a horse and sleigh through the town must have a bell attached to the horse or sleigh. In spring and autumn our streets were very much cut up and muddy, and often a lady was seen standing on one foot trying to extricate her rubber shoe from the mud; a few years later -- when the American rubber boot was worn it often shared the same fate. The only good promenade we had was the Queen's wharf and ladies were often seen taking a constitutional there in the early morning.
The churches in 1844 were St. Paul’s, St. Dunstan’s, the Kirk, (St. James) the Methodist Meeting House and the Baptist Chapel. The old St. Dunstan’s which has so recently been pulled down, was then only a frame. The first Roman Catholic Church was found too small to hold its increasing members, and it was thought advisable to build a much larger place of worship. The small church was moved back, and a new one erected on the same site, corner of Great George and Dorchester Streets. Many people thought the new chapel (as it was generally called) altogether too large, and that they would never have a congregation large enough to fill it. The corner stone was laid in 1843, and we have been told the first funeral in the new church after it was opened, was that of the Hon. John Small Macdonald, who died in 1849. The priest was Father Malachias Reynolds, lately from Ireland,
and had his nephew, John Kenny, B. A., living with him. The Roman Catholic Bishop, Right Rev. Bernard D. MacDonald, lived at Rustico.

Watercolour detail of the Kirk of St. James taken from a painting attributed to Fanny Bayfield of Keswick House circa 1855. PEIMHF

St. James Church, better known as the Kirk and latterly as St. James’ Hall, was, as many remember, on the corner of Pownal and Fitzroy Streets, where the present St. James now stands. The pastor, Rev. Mr. McIntyre, had returned to Scotland, and as the Presbyterians were without a minister for a while, they had to go to other churches. Quite a number took sittings in St. Paul’s, which was then a new church, as it had been built only a few rears before. The first St. Paul’s, we have been told, was on Queen Square, opposite the Brown Block, and in about fifty yards from the street. It was pulled down about ‘41 or ‘42. The clergyman who preceded the Rev. Mr. MacIntyre in St. James Church was the Rev. Mr. MacIntosh. His residence was on Queen Street, between Kent and Fitzroy. He was a very tall man and always put on his gown and bands before leaving home for service in the Kirk. He had an old servant maid who, along with other duties kept his clothes brushed and in order. At one time Mr. Macintosh had leave of absence for a while, and a very short man was sent to relieve him; old Betty the maid was very indignant that this short man should come, “he would
wear out all the maister's gown trapesing along the street wi' it trailing aifter him.”

Drawing made by Mrs. Mary Hebbes of St. Paul’s church. Mrs. Hebbes lived in Charlottetown from 1841-48 and this could be the only picture of the new St. Paul’s before it was made larger by the addition of a fourth bay, as described below. This drawing, once in the possession of Lt. Gov. Joseph Bernard, was published in the January 8, 1947 edition of the Guardian. Its location is now unknown. Mrs. Hebbes’ was more a finishing school for young ladies; she taught French, drawing, vocal and instrumental music, also English in its various branches. School hours were from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. every day. On Saturdays there was a half holiday. Mrs. Hebbes was an English lady, and had lived a good deal in Paris. Her terms for English alone were thirty shillings or five dollars a quarter; the same for each subject in other branches excepting when all were taken, then there was a slight reduction. Fifteen shillings (Island currency) a quarter was the usual price for young children.

The new St. Paul's, as we have called it, was altogether too small for all who wanted pews, and shortly afterwards about twenty feet in length was added to it at the east end. We remember St. Paul's before it was lengthened and the people who went there, the three decker pulpit-clerk's desk, reading desk and pulpit -- one towering above the other, the pulpit on a level with the gallery, and each one having handsome crimson silk velvet hangings and cushions trimmed with fringe and tassels. The communion table also covered with the same coloured velvet and an I. H. S. with rays round it,
worked in gold on the front of the draping, stood at the back of the pulpit and close to the east wall, with the communion rail all round the front of it. These handsome pulpit hangings were presented to St. Paul's Church by the Countess of Westmoreland. She also gave handsome pulpit hangings to the Kirk, and an altar frontal to the Roman Catholic Church. The monuments to the memory of General Fanning who was Governor of P. E. Island for eighteen years, and of Governor Sir Arteas [Areatas] William Young, who died at Government House in 1835, were placed on the east end wall, one on each side. Governor Young was buried under the church. The choir was in the gallery at the west end, directly opposite the pulpit. The late William Cundall, Esq., was choir master and leader, and Wm. Lobban organist. St. Paul's Church had the only pipe organ then in Charlottetown and we may say on this Island. It was a fairly good instrument and was built by the late Watson Duchemin, grandfather of the present Duchemin Bros. He built it at his factory near his residence, corner Prince and Sydney Streets. This organ was afterwards sent to Georgetown and was used in Trinity Church there for some years. The soldiers’ seats were on each side of the choir, and the tramp, tramp they made marching up the stairs and into their pews could be heard all through the church.

Detail from an 1849 watercolour of Queen’s Square by William Hubbard showing the newly built Province House, Saint Paul’s Church and the elementary or “Infant’s School” on the right. PEIMHF.
The late William Cundall, Esq., was also superintendent in the Sunday school held in St. Paul’s schoolroom every Sunday at ten a.m. and at 2 p.m. He and Commissary Lamont were the first to institute the Friday evening services in St. Paul’s schoolroom, which were continued for many years. Captain Orlebar and Lieut. Hancock took great interest in the Sunday School and taught classes in it during the winter months. They also had Bible classes one afternoon each week for young girls. The late much-beloved Rev. Dr. Jenkins was priest incumbent of St. Paul’s. The services were at eleven a.m. and three p.m. every Sunday, Christmas, New Year’s Day, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The services on Easter Sunday were especially bright, the customary opening psalm, (the old Hundredth) was given up for that morning and “I will arise” took its place. The Jubilate was sung as an anthem. Chanting was not approved of, and a few years afterwards when the choir attempted to chant the Venite some of the congregation sat down to show their disapproval. The same thing occurred each time chanting was attempted till at last it had to be discontinued, and a few years later if anything was said or done displeasing to any person in the congregation, he shewed his displeasure by walking noisily out of the church.

Isaac Smith’s Methodist Chapel in its final stage. The growing popularity of Methodism was such that the chapel required two extensions to house increasing congregations and activities in the community. It was built in 1835, enlarged by 30 feet in 1837 and a wing, at right angles to the main church added in 1847. Ink drawing by C.B. Chappell, 1902. Trinity United Church Archives.
The Methodist Chapel was a square wooden building with upper and lower windows. It was situated on the corner of Richmond and Prince Streets. There was nothing very prepossessing in its appearance, but it was nicely finished inside and furnished with most comfortable pews, (not like the prisoners box kind that were in St. Paul's.) There was a gallery all round the four sides, the pulpit stood at one side of the centre part and was handsomely built of mahogany, standing on four carved pillars; the Communion table was directly under the pulpit on a raised oval-shaped floor with a low railing all round it at which forty to fifty people could kneel at one time. The choir was in the gallery directly behind the pulpit; the late James Moore, (grandfather of Colonel Moore) wife and family, also the Duchemin family sang in the choir, and as the singing was very good, and the evening service at six-thirty, many Kirk people and some from St. Paul’s were often seen going to the Methodist Chapel, particularly on summer evenings, the heat being too great for them to attend afternoon service in St. Paul’s. Some time toward the end of the forties the afternoon service at St. Paul’s was given up in summer and the seven p.m. service commenced.

Watercolour by Robert Harris showing the newly-constructed brick church towering over the old Smith chapel. The Methodists were very brave, overcoming their phobia of anything “Papist” to build in the Gothic Revival style. They comforted themselves with the knowledge that the new church was in the Protestant Tudor adaptation of Gothic Revival! 1864. CCAG.
Some time in the forties a company of Highland soldiers, Captain Rollo commanding, came to Charlottetown. They were part of the Forty-Second regiment stationed at Halifax. On Sundays they all turned out in their kilts, and we remember seeing a large number of them marching to the Methodist Chapel and thought how strange it was to see such heavy looking hats upon their heads, and so little upon their lower limbs, but for all that they looked very handsome, and it was our first introduction to the kilts. On week days they wore the trews of dark Forty-Second plaid.

Sketch of the first Baptist church. From the *Prince Edward Island Magazine*.

After the Methodist brick church was built the old one was sold, hauled down Prince St., and placed on the north corner of Prince and King Streets and is now a double tenement. The only other church in 1844 was the Baptist chapel. It was a plain, unpretending building with two arched windows on each side, and was situated at the head of Prince and facing on Euston Street. The congregation was small and not wealthy. Rev. S. T. Rand was their pastor. About 1850 they moved their chapel down Prince to Great George and placed it on the east side Great George Street between Dorchester and King, and a flag with Bethel on it was hoisted over it.

In all that has been written about the public buildings there has been no notice taken of the Post Office. The Post Office of 1844 is still in existence, on the south side of Water Street on the Peake property, between Queen and Pownal Streets, directly back of Carvell Bros.’ store. It was afterwards used as a tobacco factory by the Messrs Lowden Bros., Hickey and Stewart, and JT. B. Riley, whose sign still ornaments the building. The
west end of the building with a door and two windows was the Post Office. It was divided into two rooms, front and back, with a narrow passage between them. The front room was the Post Office, the back one the Post Master General’s private office. A hall or passage ran directly through the building from front to back, in which was the wicket or delivery from the Post Office. A letter and paper drop were outside. The late Thomas Owen Esq., Senior, was Post Master General, and George W. Owen, his son, cleric. He went to California in the Fannie in ‘49, and now resides in New Zealand. There were no postage stamps in those days, nor for many a day after. All the letters had to be weighed and the price marked on each; ninepence and a shilling sterling, were the usual prices for English letters and they were often addressed to P. E. I. via Quebec, or Montreal. Letters were supposed to be paid for when mailed or taken from the post office, but many preferred having them charged. There was quite a book-keeping system kept up and bills for letters sent out and collected every three months. Some parties neglected to pay their bills, but the money had to be forthcoming, no matter who paid, and the poor P. M. G. had often to pay up for those in default at the end of the quarter, and trust to the honesty of those parties to get his money back. Mails and passengers from the provinces came once a week in a packet or schooner, that is if the wind suited, and once a month from England in summer; and as there were many English, Irish and Scotch families here at that time, the enquiry often was “when are we to have an English mail?” A lady now living in Charlottetown who came to this Island in ‘43, tells that when her father brought his large family and five servants from England to live here in P. E.I., they came to Halifax in one of the Cunard steamers, and on their arrival made inquiries as to when they should leave for P. H. Island. They were told the stage coach from Halifax to Pictou left on Sunday afternoon. Her father demurred as he had never travelled on Sunday, but was told if he did not go on that day he would have to wait a week in Pictou, and must go on Sunday to be in time for the steamer Pocahontis which left Pictou for Charlottetown every Wednesday that summer. The Pocahontis was thought to be quite a wonder and every one was talking about her, but the text year all mails and passengers had to come by the packet again. It is told of an Islander who went to New Brunswick to be married, that on returning to this Island with his bride, they had to come by schooner to Summerside; the weather was very stormy with contrary winds, and the food bad, or not suited to refined or delicate tastes, so their only alternative was to make their meals on the bride's cake, which the bride was bringing with her. As far as we can remember there were only three wharves, Queen’s Wharf at the end of Queen St., Peake’s Wharf on the west
side of Queen’s, and Tremaines, or the Ferry Wharf on the east side of Queen's. All the wharves were much shorter than now; Tremaine's was only a few blocks or piles long, quite long enough for the sail and team boats that crossed to Southport. A sail boat crossed on Mondays and a teamboat the other days of the week. The team-boat was run by two or sometimes three horses. There was a large wheel in the middle of the boat, (just such a one as is used in a tannery to grind bark) to which the horses were attached; the horses going round and round in a circle, turned the wheel and propelled the boat. Passengers came from the Southport side and returned again about four times a day, twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon. A story is told of a middle-aged lady who came across the ferry to do some shopping in town. She had not taken it into consideration that the tide was falling when she left home; it was one of the sailboat days. and when she got to Charlottetown side the tide was low, and she being very stout and heavy, could not climb the wharf, neither could her friends lift her tip, so she had to remain in the boat for some hours, until the tide fell lower and rose again sufficiently high for her to reach a proper stepping-place. That was one of the inconveniences of long ago.
Section 3 – Vol. II, No. 10 – December 1900

To acquire any kind of an education, even the preliminary part, fifty to sixty years ago, was very different from what it is now. There were then no free or Government schools; parents had to pay for the tuition of their own children, and in most cases where “there was little to earn, and many to keep” they found it a difficult matter. The children of the very poor had to grow up without education. Some of those who were well off had a tutor or governess. A few of the young men who desired a classical education were sent to the English Church clergymen through the country, -- Rev. Charles Lloyd, of Milton; Rev. E. Panter, of Georgetown; and Rev. A. V. G. Wiggins, of St. Eleanors; to prepare them for Windsor or Edinburgh. The Roman Catholics had their college at St. Andrew's, where their young men were educated. The Central Academy (afterwards Prince of Wales College) was the high school for boys. Mr. Brown, father of Alexander and A.L. Brown, Esquires, was head master, but being in ill health, it was thought advisable to send to England for a teacher. E. R. Humphreys, Esq., came, and took charge in the autumn of 1844. Mr. Brown died in the early summer of 1845. There were two other teachers in the Academy, John Kenny, Esq., and Mr. Arbuckle. Mr. Kenny was a well-educated man, thoroughly Irish, and very peculiar in his way of speaking to the boys in his class: one of his favorite names for a stupid boy was: “you stult you.” He pronounced it stoolt -- and if a boy gave a wrong answer to any questions asked him in his lessons, he would say: “you are not within the bray of an ass of it.” If we remember rightly Mr. Kenny returned to Ireland after a year or two, and Mr. John LePage became one of the teachers. Mr. Humphreys was head master for a few years, then left for some part of the United States, and the late William Cundall, Esq., took his place. Mr. Humphreys' wife died shortly after they came to this Island and in the spring of 1846 he married Miss Margaret MacNutt of Darnley, sister of the Hon. Peter MacNutt, of Malpeque. The school next in order was the National School, built on part of the Academy grounds facing on Kent Street. It was afterwards enlarged and became the Normal and of late years the Model School. Mr. John Nelis was teacher in the National School in 1844. Both boys and girls attended. He also taught French in the Central Academy. He was an old man, had come from England in the early part of the century to Princetown or Malpeque. Some of the Charlottetown boys of that time were sent there to school to him. The late John and Ralph Brecken, Esq.’s., father and uncle of F. de St. Croix Brecken, Esq.; Daniel Hodgson, Esq., and some of the Macgowan family
were pupils of his. Ancient history to us in our young days, but we give it as we were told it.

The Central Academy, renamed Prince of Wales College after the visit of the Prince in 1860. It was designed by Isaac Smith in 1832. Photo: R. Porter Collection.

The lady teachers we remember best were the Misses Cameron, the Misses Yates, Mrs. MacCormack and Mrs. Hebbes. The Misses Cameron and the Misses Yates taught the primary classes, Mrs. MacCormack taught music as well as English. Mrs. Hebbes' was more a finishing school for young ladies; she taught French, drawing, vocal and instrumental music, also English in its various branches. School hours were from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. every day. On Saturdays there was a half holiday. Mrs. Hebbes was an English lady, and had lived a good deal in Paris, France. Her terms for English alone were thirty shillings or five dollars a quarter; the same for each subject in other branches excepting when all were taken, then there was a slight reduction. Fifteen shillings (Island currency) a quarter was the usual price for young children.

There were a few other schools in the town which some of the poorer children attended. The late Edward Roche taught in one of them. He was a good mathematician and a successful teacher and until a few years ago was one of the examiners at St. Dunstan's College and Queen Square School.
About the time the new St. Paul's Church was built it was decided to build the Infant School, now called St. Paul's Schoolroom. The building was then only one third the size it is now. Captain Orlebar's idea was that a school for poor children such as he had seen in England would succeed well in Charlottetown. Any child from six or seven to twelve years old should be taught reading, writing, arithmetic, singing, and the girls in addition some kind of sewing or simple fancy work. The older ones learned drawing in pencil. All the children were taught scripture lessons. Pictures and scripture mottoes were hung on the walls and everything in the school made attractive. A teacher and his wife were sent for. Mr. and Mrs. George Hubbard with their son and daughter came from England, and took charge.
They were paid a salary by the S. P. G. and all that was required to be paid by each child was a penny a week. The children were taught to march, and sing while marching; their songs were always patriotic such as Rule Britannia, God Save The Queen, etc. One very favorite song was, - -

Hurrah! Hurrah for England, her woods and valleys green!
Hurrah for good old England, Hurrah for England’s Queen.
Good ships be on her waters, firm friends upon her shores
Peace, peace within her borders, and plenty in her stores.

Right joyously we're singing, we're glad to make it known,
We love the land we live in and our Queen upon her throne.
Then Hurrah for Merry England, and may we still be seen
True to our own dear country, and loyal to our Queen.

In this way the children were taught loyalty. They were thoroughly British, “For God and country” was their motto. They knew little of the United States or Upper and Lower Canada; they were Colonials, and all P. E. Islanders spoke of the British Isles as home or the Old Country. This infant school was kept up until the free school system began.

Christmas was a grand time for the children. A few days before Christmas the school was decorated with spruce, pictures, and flowers made by the pupils. An examination was held to which the parents and all who took an interest in the school were invited. Each child was given a prize and in the evening a sumptuous tea was provided for the children of the infant and Sunday Schools, to which all classes and creeds sat down -- the boys at one long table, the girls at another.

In the Autumn of 1845 Mr. Hubbard was asked to open a class for paying pupils every afternoon from three to six, which he did. Whether the venture was disappointing or the long hours of teaching too arduous for him the afternoon class was not continued after that winter. Of those who went to that class we may say “Some are married, some are dead,” and others, taking the advice given by St. Paul, have remained single. There are two names we shall mention: the late Lieut. Edward Carey, R. N., who died when a young man – he was a nephew of the late Admiral Orlebar; another who is now living is Sir William C. McDonald, Glenaladale, one of Montreal's millionaires but at that time of Charlottetown.
Children of to-day have no idea of, neither do they appreciate the advantages they have over those which their parents and grandparents enjoyed. Now they progress and grade from one room into another, until finally, they pass through college and are ready to take up a profession. In the forties we had to be content with a few school books and if we were left long enough at school to go through them we might consider ourselves very fortunate. A boy, generally speaking, was expected to go to work at the age of thirteen, and support himself. Girls usually remained a longer time at school, probably until they were fifteen; then they were supposed to have learned enough and must remain at home and take up the work of assisting the mother in the housekeeping, and so prepare themselves for houses of their own.
Looking back after so many years recalls to our mind the Fanning garden. It was a lovely spot. The whole block between Great George and Prince Streets, on which the Y. M. C. A. and Zion Church now stand, belonged to Mrs. and Miss Fanning. The greater part of the ground was a well-kept garden, with fruit and ornamental trees. Their dwelling was a two story house, with a large porch in front, reaching to the second story. It was on the corner of Great George and Sydney Streets, facing on Sydney Street, and stood in about eight or ten feet from the corner, with a low railing around it. Shrubs and flowers were placed inside the railing. The stable was on the corner where the Bank of Nova Scotia now stands. Everything about the house and grounds was beautifully kept, and the perfume from the shrubs and fruit trees was delightful. The ladies, Mrs. and Miss Fanning, were often seen walking in the garden or sitting in the arbor at the lower part, just where the Lyceum now stands, and we have been told that the General's greatest enjoyment in his later years was to sit and read in that arbor. Not any of those fine old trees are now standing. There was one in the late Dr. MacLeod's grounds until the summer of 1898, whose large trunk and gnarled branches showed its antiquity; but it, too, is gone, and there is nothing now remaining of the lovely old garden.
We have heard the late Judge Young say he brought the first willow trees to Charlottetown. Be that as it may, we remember a large willow at the north-east corner of the Fanning garden; it branched far into Richmond Street. The ground was often very wet under it. That tree was the first one removed after the garden was divided into lots; and the first house built on the old garden site was erected upon that corner.

In the summer of 1847 the Fanning house was destroyed by fire. It was in the morning: we saw the smoke curling around the large chimney before the fire broke through the roof, or the alarm was given. To show how far apart the houses were at that time, any one standing at the north-east corner of King Square could see the roof of the Fanning house. Mrs. Fanning, if we remember, had died a year or two before; and Miss Fanning was living alone. Captain and Mrs. Cumberland lived at Warren Farm, across the Harbour. Miss Fanning had her men- and women-servants, her horses and carriage, and kept up a good deal of state. She was in her private sitting room that morning, writing for the English mail, when the alarm of fire was given; and it was with difficulty she could be persuaded to leave the house. Jewell, her waiting maid, was not in attendance as usual. Miss Fanning called and asked for her several times. Some one, not understanding, spoke unkindly to her, and told her she should be thankful to escape with her life, instead of wanting her jewels. Strange to say, when everything had been, as was supposed, removed from the house; the late John Col. Macdonald, going in happened to notice a door in the pannelled wall under the staircase. He broke it open and there discovered and saved the plate chest, with all the family silver and other valuables.

Miss Fanning, with her sister, Mrs. Cumberland, and Capt. Cumberland, left for England soon after the house was burned. The stable, in its coat of lavender paint, stood as a monument for many rears after. The Fannings had land in other parts of the town; they owned a large piece on the corner of Prince and Fitzroy streets, where the Baptist Church stands. They had fully quarter of that block. It was called Miss Fanning's field. Sometime in the seventies it was claimed by a descendant of General Fanning's living in the United States, and sold by him. That property which is now the Kensington shooting range and exhibition grounds belonged to the Fannings; it had in the forties pretty groves and stumps of trees through it, and being situated on the river side was a favorite resort for picnic parties and pedestrians. The Methodists held their annual Sunday School teas there; it was a pretty sight to see the children walking in procession from their
meeting house along Prince and Kent Streets on to Kensington and watch them winding through the trees, with their banners and flags flying, to the place where the tables were spread with a sumptuous tea of which they partook when their games were ended. People of other denominations often went to those teas; it cost very little and was a pleasant way of spending a midsummer afternoon.

Directly across Great George Street from the Fanning house and stables was a fenced-in piece of grass known as Mr. Brenan’s field. As the ground was unoccupied it was made a receptacle for old boots, tin cans, etc., probably used to throw at the ancestors of the cats of Charlottetown, so well described in the first number of the PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAGAZINE. Some years later St. Patrick’s Hall, now Queen Square public school was built upon that ground.

As we are endeavouring to describe the surroundings of Queen Square in 1841 (our early school days) we must say the illustrations given in the October number of the PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAGAZINE, of 1900, showing Cheapside, is not quite as it was then, for next to Mr. Brenan’s field was a large and handsome brick residence owned and occupied by the late
John Morris, Esq. It was similar in appearance to the Peake house on Water Street. As bricks were not so easily obtained as now, and brick houses were few, Mr. Morris was generally named John Brick Morris to distinguish him from another John Morris who had lived in town. Mrs. Morris was an invalid, always poorly, but for all that she lived past the allotted time and saw many of her children carried away to their last resting place. The Morris’ family moved from their house, and the Hon. Small Macdonald took it and there Mr. Macdonald died in 1849 as we have before stated.

Adjoining the Morris’ brick house was a two story building, probably built for a store; a Mr. Clark had his shop there. Then came the Cameron property, on which was Mr. Cameron's house and warehouse or stable with a large yard between, there was a nice garden at the back. Gardens were necessary in the long ago for each one had to grow his own vegetables or do without, as only potatoes and turnips were brought to market. Mrs. Cameron had a shop in the west side of her house to which her son attended. Her husband, the late Ewen Cameron, Sr., had been drowned a few years previously when bathing in this harbour.

The large three story building, as shown in the engraving, was not there, but instead a vacant piece of ground, which had either been fenced in, or the fence taken away, for the posts were standing, and they were useful for any one to tie his horse to whilst he was attending to his business in town. Next this came a small two-story house, in which a cooper, named Kelly, lived. Hoops and barrel staves were numerous about his house and in the vacant lot, and did not at all add to the appearance or tidiness of the place.

And now we come to the corner known, by even the oldest inhabitant, as “Stamper’s Corner,” a name which never should have been taken from it, for by changing it to Prowse’ Building it loses its identity, and we lose one of the old landmarks of the town. Prowse’s Building is grander, and more ponderous; but it will never appeal to the hearts of the old people as Stamper's Corner does. There we bought our school books and stationery, our toys and our valentines.
Mr. Stamper was a particularly neat and gentlemanly little Englishman; he was always obliging, had a nicely-kept bookstore, and, as he usually kept the latest English and Colonial newspapers and periodicals his shop was a favorite resort for the young, and, we may say, some of the older men too, who would meet there to discuss the latest war and society news, talk politics or gossip, criticize the passers by, and sometimes indulge in a little scandal.

Mr. Stamper’s small yard and neat little stable were between his house and Kelly’s, and opened on Richmond Street or Queen Square. In 1845 he had his stable changed into a shop; it was small, but large enough for a Mrs. Forsythe and her daughter, who came here from Halifax and started a fancy-work store, where she sold all colours and shades of Berlin wool; canvas and patterns for working covers for cushions, chairs and ottomans, and making slippers. She also sold other materials for fancy work, and, as she was well patronized by the ladies she made a comfortable living.
Section 5 - Vol. 2, No. 12, February 1901

The large, three-storied building shown in the illustration of Cheapside (published in a former number) was built about 1849. There were two fine shops in it, much larger and brighter than any others in Charlottetown at that time. It was owned by a Mr. Wilson who came here from England.

After Mr. Wilson had been here for a short while he decided to make this Island his home; and bought Warblington, the property and residence of the late Hon. George R. Goodman of H. M. C., (on Ellens Creek – part of the North River.) He (Mr. Wilson) was a widower, and married a younger daughter of the late Thomas Pethick, Esq.; then returned to England and brought out his family, with their governess. They lived at Warblington for a few years, and eventually returned to England, where his widow and son now reside.

Soon after the three-storied building was finished, Mr. Jardine McLean, of Halifax, brother of the late J. S. MacLean, President of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Halifax, opened a grocery store in one of the shops. Every
one was astonished. The idea of any one, in his senses, thinking he could make a, living by selling groceries alone! All the other merchants had general stores. Many were curious to know how he would succeed; and went into his store, not to buy, but just to see, and were so pleased with the appearance of everything, and the freshness of his goods that he: soon got up a fairly brisk trade for Charlottetown. We think he must have been disappointed, for he did not remain longer than a year or two; and the next heard of him was from California, -- the place so many were rushing to at that time.

As it is not our intention to describe anything later than the early fifties, we shall say, en passant, that about the time Mr. MacLean left this Island the late William Brown, Esq., by the assistance of his elder brother. John, who had a tea plantation in Bombay, bought the large building; went into partnership with the late Charles McNutt Esq., of Malpeque, and started a general store under the name of McNutt & Brown, -- which continued until Mr. McNutt’s death. The Browns kept up the business there till February, 1884, when the Brown and Cameron buildings, also some others were destroyed by fire.

In the old photograph of Cheapside we find Mrs. Forsythe's shop is gone, and a much larger house is in its stead. It is the store and dwelling of James Miner Harris, auctioneer and commission merchant.

There were three other auctioneers, William Gardiner, Albert H. Yates, and William Lobban. Each had his auction mart in other parts of the town. Gardiner sold furniture, etc., on Queen Square, on market days -- Wednesdays and Saturdays. We have forgotten at what date the change was made in the market days; but they were changed for the convenience of the country people, (women especially,) who wished another day rather than Saturday, as getting home late interfered with their Sunday observances.

On the west side of Queen Square, where there is now a succession of handsome, three-storied brick shops, there were, in 1844, only three houses; or to speak more correctly, two houses and a stable. On the corner where the London House stands, was the residence of the late Mrs. Davies. Her son, now Hon. Benjamin Davies, had his store on the corner of Queen and Richmond Streets, -- opening on Richmond. The shop where the Beer Bros. did Business for so many years is on the Davies land and belonged to Hon. Benjamin Davies, who built it, and did business there.
All along, from the Davies property to the corner of Grafton Street, was the land of the late Charles Stewart, Esq. The Stewart house, which was in some distance from Queen Street, was about where the rear part of Mr. L. W. Watson’s drug store is; it was a one-storey house (if I remember rightly) raised quite high from the ground and there were seven or eight steps to the front door, -- over which was a look-out, supported by pillars. They must have had a fine orchard, judging from the number of fruit trees, of different kinds that could be seen over the high board fence, which extended from the Davies property to the Stewart house. Round about the house were willow and other trees, and a low railing separated the front garden from the street. Three old ladies lived there, Miss Nelly, Miss Mary and Miss Margaret Stewart; very dignified and aristocratic in appearance. The Stewart stable was on the corner of Queen and Grafton Streets, where the Medical Hall stands. Stables were very much in evidence round about Queen Square in the old days, and prominent corners and sites seemed to be the favorite places to build them. Many people said that the land, on which the Stewart house and
yard stood, had been an old French burying ground; and we have often heard of the pranks the ghosts played in the Stewart House, by appearing to the inmates at night, swishing past them, upsetting their beds or pulling the bed clothes off them.

Some time in 1845, we think it was, the Misses Stewart sold part of their land, adjoining the Davies property, to the late Doctor Hobkirk; who built a handsome dwelling on it, and lived there for some years. In the early fifties Doctor Hobkirk sold his house and land to the late Mr. Heard, who built a large brick store and did business there. He eventually moved his house back and built another store, the one in which Moore & McLeod now are.

We are afraid this description of the surroundings of Queen Square is very uninteresting, but as we have been asked to give it we shall try with the assistance of the frontispiece in the Prince Edward Magazine for June, 1900, to describe the north side, or Sunnyside as it is now called.
We have often heard it said ‘the nearer the Church the further from God,’ and so it appears; for from our earliest recollection there has been a tavern quite near to St. Paul’s Church, just as there is now. We should like to be able to describe the people who kept it, -- both husband and wife were very much alike, short and stout. They always reminded us of the description given of Santa Claus, and their house was very much after the same pattern.
Section 6 – Vol. III, No. 1 – March 1901

The Apothecaries Hall nowadays is the same old building of the early 40’s. It appeared to us an old place at that time. The drugstore was always on the corner of Queen and Grafton Streets. The late Thomas DesBrisay, Esq., son of the Rev. Theo. DesBrisay, was the proprietor. He and his son, Theophilus, usually dispensed medicines, and often gave both medicines and advice gratis to the poor. The store was a great rendezvous for the young men of that time, as drug stores generally are. The main building has had many changes since then. There were no other stores in it, and it did not extend quite as far along Grafton Street, as shown in the illustration published in a former number. In 1844 it was the residence of the late Mr. Solomon DesBrisay, another son of the old parson, as the Rev Theophilus DesBrisay was usually called.

Mr. Solomon DesBrisay had three sons, Theophilus, Alexander (Eck) and Aretas. There were four daughters. Mrs Archibald Ramsay, now of Summerside, is one of them. The family moved to Bathurst N.B., where some of those who are living still reside. Theophilus, the eldest son, was drowned in one of the docks in Liverpool (England) many years ago.

The house situated end towards the square on Grafton Street belonged to a man named Hart; he was a tanner and had one of the numerous tanneries in town, which, although unseen, were always known to be near. We remember his three daughters, particularly handsome girls, and can still see them in imagination as we met them on their way to church on Sundays.

Next is order comes the residence of a Mr. Macdonnel. We had an idea he was a saddler, but have been told he was a carpenter, and that his father came to Charlottetown from the United States to build the barracks for the military. He must have liked this Island for he took up his residence here. He had a fine orchard at the back of his house, which was often visited by the boys in the fruit season, much to the annoyance of the owner.

A Mr. Roome lived in the fourth house, if we remember rightly. He kept a crockeryware store, but we have lost sight of him, and understand he left this Island many years ago.
The next house was occupied by J. Williams, as the sign over the shop door shows. He bought and sold country produce, and seemed always busy. He must have been in the employ of the late James Peake, Esq., senior, for he was generally known as “Peake’s Red Williams.” His wife was a daughter of Mr. Chappel, postmaster, and had, previous to 1842, held the responsible position of postmistress.

And now we come to the Trenaman watchmaking and jewelry store. Mr. Trenaman was a thorough Englishman, and much respected. His jewelry and silverware were always reliable, although the articles were not numerous. We remember some handsome bracelets and rings bought there. He had a large family of sons and handsome daughters, one of whom -- a young girl of eighteen -- in some unfortunate way, punctured her thumb with a carving fork, and in consequence died of lockjaw.

Adjoining Mr. Trenaman’s store was the late Mr. Robert Weeks’ shoe shop, and under the same roof lived a Mr. Pickard: we forget what business he followed, but think he was a saddler.

At the corner of Great George and Grafton Streets there was, fifty years ago, a low, two-storied house, which was owned, and had been occupied by Mr. Solomon DesBrisay. As the land was very low and boggy at that corner, one would imagine the house was sinking into the ground, for the front door was rather below the level of the street. The house, in 1844, was occupied by the late Hon. J. S. Macdonald: afterwards by a Mr. Koughan. About 1850 Hon. Patrick Walker bought the house and land, and did business on that corner for many years. Between the corner house and Mr. Pickard's was Mr. DesBrisay's stable, another one by which Queen Square was ornamented. About 1845 or '46 the late Mr. J. B. Cox, who came to this Island from Newfoundland, bought the piece of land on which was the DesBrisay stable, and built a good house and store on it. Mr. Cox afterwards lived at Morell, and died there. He was father of Mr. Bannerman Cox, proprietor of the Seaview Hotel, Souris.

Right across Great George Street from Walker's corner, as it was called for many years, was Smardon's corner. His building was a two-storied one. Mr. Smardon was a saddler. He sold his property sometime toward the end of the forties to Mr. Beales, and then left the Island with his wife and son. Mr. Beales still holds the corner, and it now takes his name.
Along a little farther east from Smardon’s corner was the Faught property, a long one-storied range with dwelling and shop attached. Mr. Faught was a shoemaker, an Englishman and a man much respected. One of his daughters married the late Mr. William Boyle, tanner and currier. And now we come to the little round tavern keeper who was mentioned in the February Prince Edward Island Magazine.

A want very much felt in Charlottetown in the early forties was a public hall, or lecture room. The meetings of the Mechanics Institute which had been organized in 1836 by the late Judge Young during the governorship of Sir Charles Fitzroy, and patronized by the Governor and Lady Mary, were held at the National School House every Wednesday evening during the autumn and winter months. Of course, if the Governor patronized it, the Institute was of importance and fashionable, and all the ‘elite’ of the town must patronize it, too; but in forty-five, or about that time, it seems the Institute had not been as well attended as formerly; that of course, caused great dissatisfaction among the promoters, and in 1846 a great effort was made to bring it to its original standing. Season tickets were sold, lectures were advertised a month ahead, and their subjects given. We remember some of the names of the lecturers, -- Mr. Charles Young, Mr. Porteous, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. T. Heath Haviland, Jr., besides others. One who made his maiden speech in the debate which followed one of the lectures, was our well-known townsman, Mr. J. P. Tanton. He was then a very young man, but took his part well in the debate, as did others.

Mr. Humphreys gave a course of twelve lectures on English History every Friday evening during the winter of forty-six. The first lectures were given in the National Schoolhouse, on Kent Street East, but as it was so far from the centre of the town Mr. Humphreys continued them in the old court house or Provincial Building, near the Apothecaries Hall.

Lady Mary Fitzroy was the first to establish the “Ladies’ Benevolent Society,” and had a sewing society in connection with it. meeting at Government House. Each lady belonging to the society paid an annual subscription of five shillings. Many of the gentlemen of the town, headed by the Governor also made donations. After Lady Mary Fitzroy left this island, Lady Huntley was patroness, as was each succeeding governor’s wife, whilst the society lasted. All denominations were represented, and all took great interest in it. We had heard of bazaars in connection with the Ladies’ Benevolent Society in 1838, and in 1840, and in 1846 we remember being at
a Bazaar which was held in the old Court House. The fancy articles were exhibited for sale in the House of Assembly room, and the cake and refreshments in the Council chamber. We copy from an old paper of Feb. 3rd, 1846, “that the bazaar began at 12 o’clock sharp, that Sir H. V. Huntley and Lady Huntley were there nearly all day, and were considerable purchasers. The visitors and purchasers were numerous as the result indicates. Indeed the Court House was crowded to excess throughout the day. The articles exhibited for sale did great credit to the skill and taste, as well as the kind feelings of the ladies of Charlottetown and vicinity, of whose labours we have every reason to be proud, and for which the indigent poor have every reason to be grateful. The sum realized was £100.”

The “Castalia,” detail from the painting by George Hubbard of Pownal Wharf, 1849. PEIMHF.
In Lady Mary Fitzroy’s time it was found very difficult to get a room sufficiently large in which to hold a bazaar, and for want of a better place the ladies of the society decided to have their sale in the old “Castalia.” Many would ask what, and where, was the old “Castalia.” She was a ship belonging to the late Mr. Peake, and was built in 1835. She sailed between Plymouth (England) and Charlottetown until 1838, when she was driven on shore outside of Bedeque (now Summerside) harbor during a heavy gale. As she was condemned, part of her cargo was, through the winter, taken out, but towards spring, during another heavy gale, the ice was driven off shore and took the ship with it. After being adrift in the ice for some time she was eventually brought into Charlottetown harbour, the remainder of the cargo discharged, and the vessel put upon the shore. A trench was dug near Mr. Peake’s breastwork, and the “Castalia,” placed in it. A roof was put on her and she was used for a warehouse and rigging loft. In the spring of 1840 the Ladies’ Benevolent Society held their bazaar in the upper part, or on the deck we presume it should be called. Stalls were formed of canvas, and the whole ship decorated inside with flags. We have been informed that this sale was most successful. Lady Mary started the first bazaar in Charlottetown, in 1838. She was an energetic woman, and took great interest in the young people, ladies particularly, and was never happier than when having some amusement at Government House and bringing young people together. It was said she followed in the footsteps of her mother, the Duchess of Richmond, who was said to be the greatest matchmaker of her time, and at whose house, on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo.

“There was a sound of revelry by night
And Belgium’s capital had gathered then
Her beauty and her chivalry.”

During the time Sir Charles and Lady Mary Fitzroy were in Charlottetown, Miss Fitzroy, their daughter, was married to the Honorable Keith Stewart, Captain of H. M. S. Rose. Rather an interesting story is told of the marriage, which took place in the “Auld Kirk.” Many people were there, of course, not only inside the Kirk to witness the ceremony, but outside to see the happy pair and guests drive off. It was noticed a number of sailors from H. M. S. Rose were there, and directly the bride and bridegroom appeared and entered the carriage, the sailors, who were all barefooted, rushed to the carriage, unharnessed and took out the horses, and before the last of the guests had left the church, the carriage, with its distinguished
occupants, was disappearing around the corner of Kent and Pownal Streets, or its way to Government House, carried off by the sailors.
As it may be of interest to the readers of THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAGAZINE we shall give the names of those ladies who were members and contributed five shillings a year to the Ladies’ Benevolent Society in 1845, and in that way they can form an idea who the people of Charlottetown were at that time: --

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lady Huntley</th>
<th>Mrs. J. D. Haszard</th>
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<td>Mrs. Anwyl</td>
<td>Mrs. Heard</td>
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<td>Miss. Anwyl</td>
<td>Mrs. R. Hutchinson</td>
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<td>Miss. Abbott</td>
<td>Mrs. J. N. Harris</td>
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<td>Mrs. John Brecken</td>
<td>Miss Haviland</td>
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<td>Mrs. Ralph Brecken</td>
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<td>Mrs. Beete</td>
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<td>Mrs. Ball</td>
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<td>Mrs. Brenan</td>
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<td>Mrs. Broderick</td>
<td>Miss. T. Johnston</td>
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<td>Mrs. J. Bremner</td>
<td>Mrs. Irving</td>
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<td>Mrs. Charles Binns</td>
<td>Mrs. R. Longworth</td>
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<td>Mrs. Beer</td>
<td>Mrs. F. Longworth &quot;</td>
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<td>Mrs. Cumberland</td>
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<td>Mrs. J. S. Dealey</td>
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<td>Mrs. B. Davies</td>
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<td>Mrs. John Davis</td>
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<td>Mrs. De St. Croix</td>
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<td>Mrs. Dalrymple</td>
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<td>Mrs. Thos. Dawson</td>
<td>Mrs. McDonell</td>
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<td>Mrs. Fanning</td>
<td>Miss Catherine McDonell</td>
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<td>Mrs. Fellows</td>
<td>Miss. McGowan</td>
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<td>Mrs. G. M. Goodman</td>
<td>Mrs. J. S. Macdonald</td>
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<td>Miss Goodman</td>
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<td>Mrs. L. W. Gall</td>
<td>Mrs. Joseph McDonald</td>
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<td>Mrs. Gaffney</td>
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<td>Mrs. Gates</td>
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<td>Miss Gray</td>
<td>Mrs. Milner</td>
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<td>Mrs. Hensley</td>
<td>Mrs. Morpeth</td>
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Mrs. McKinnon
Mrs. McGill
Mrs. McCann
Mrs. J. W. Morrison
Mrs. W. Nelson
Mrs. Nash
Mrs. Orlebar
Mrs. Owen
Mrs. Peters
Mrs. Peake
Mrs. Poole
Mrs. Purdie
Miss Palmer
Mrs. Reddin
Mrs. Swabey
Mrs. W. Stewart
Mrs. Charles Young
Mrs. Strong

Mrs. Stamper
Mrs. J. Spencer Smith
Mrs. Isaac Smith
Mrs. Henry Smith
Miss Stewart
Mrs. J. T. Thomas
Mrs. Treneman
Mrs. Dr. Tremaine
Mrs. C Tanton, senior
Lady Wood
Mrs. David Wilson
Mrs. Charles Welsh
Mrs. Weymouth
Mrs Wright
Mrs. Geo. Wright
Mrs. Chas. Wright
Mrs. Nathan Wright
Mrs. James Watts

The following persons also gave donations to the society to aid in relieving the poor.

£  s.  d.
His Excellency 3 1 3
Lady Huntley 1 0 0
Captain Bayfield, R. N. 2 0 0
Mrs Bayfield 1 0 0
Mrs Barrow 0 5 0
Major Beete 1 5 0
Mr. Birnie 1 0 0
Mrs. Barnstead 0 2 3
Major Cumberland 1 0 0
H. Cooper 0 3 9
Mrs Caffray 0 2 0
Mrs Cummings 0 1 6
Mrs. Carroll 0 0 9
Dr. De St. Croix 0 5 0
Mr. Duncan 0 10 0
Miss Fanning 3 0 0
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<td>Mrs. Finlayson</td>
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<td>Captain Frankland</td>
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<td>Hon. G. R. Goodman</td>
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<td>Hon. T. H. Haviland</td>
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<td>Mrs. Hensley</td>
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<td>The Misses Hensley</td>
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<td>Mrs. J. M. Holl</td>
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<td>Mrs Hawkins</td>
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<td>Lieut. Hancock, R. N.</td>
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<td>Additional</td>
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<td>The Chief Justice</td>
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<td>Mrs. Jarvis</td>
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<td>Rev. Dr. Jenkins</td>
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<td>Dr. Kelley, R. N.</td>
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<td>Rev. Mr. Knox</td>
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<td>Colonel Lane</td>
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<td>Mrs. MacDonald</td>
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<td>Mr. J. Duff McDonald</td>
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<td>Mr. Macgowan</td>
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<td>Mr. McKenzie</td>
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<td>Mr. W. Pope</td>
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<td>Miss Pethic</td>
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Mrs Peake 0 10 0
Mrs. Purdie 0 5 3
Mrs. Pearse 0 0 9
Rev. Mr. Reynolds 0 15 0
Captain Swabey 1 0 0
Mrs. Swabey 1 0 0
Mrs. J. T. Thomas 0 5 0
Mrs. H. Webster 0 4 6
Mrs. Wood 0 3 0
Miss Wood 0 6 0
Mr. P Walker 0 6 0
Hon C. Young 1 0 0
The little Duchemin 0 18 0

Bazaar
Mr. J. T. Haszard, 3 0 0
amount for Printing
in the year 1844 & 1845

As there are many names on the foregoing list that have quite disappeared from Charlottetown we shall try- to give an idea of whom some of the people were: --

Mrs. and Miss Anwyl were daughter and grand-daughter of Judge and Mrs. Barrow.

Miss Abbot was an English lady, and governess to the family of Hon. T. H. Haviland, senior.

Mrs. Beete, wife of Major Beete.

Mrs. Cumberland and Lady Wood, daughters of General Fanning.

Mr. J. Sydney Dealey was a land agent, and lived at and owned Sidmount, now the property of Hon. F. Peters.

Mrs. De St. Croix, daughter of Rev. Theo. DesBrisay, and wife of Dr. St. Croix, usually named.

Mrs. Dalrymple, wife of Dr. Dalrymple, Chemist and Druggist.

Mrs. Fellows, mother of James J. Fellows of Hyphosphite fame. Mr. Fellows kept the principal hotel in town.

Mrs. Goodman, wife of Mr. G. R. Goodman, Comptroller of Customs.

Mrs. L. W. Gall, sister of William Cundall, Esq.

Miss Gray, sister of Colonel Gray. I

Mrs. Hensley, wife of Captain Hensley, R. N.

Mrs. R. Hutchinson, wife of the first Mayor of Charlottetown.

Miss Hodgson, sister of Sir Robert Hodgson.

Mrs. Jarvis, wife of the Chief Justice, and sister of Col. Grey.

Mrs. and Miss S. Johnston, sister and daughter of the late Attorney General Johnston.

Mrs. Heard, Charlottetown's English milliner.

Mrs. Lane, wife of Colonel Lane and daughter of Governor Smith.

Mrs. Lamont, wife of Commissary Lamont.

Mrs. Mellish, daughter of Sir Samuel Cunard, sister of Mrs. Peters, and wife of Captain Mellish of the Garrison. Mrs. Nash, whose husband was Ordinance Store Keeper.

Mrs. Poole, whose husband was Doctor in the Garrison.

Mrs. Morpeth and Mrs. Forgan, daughters of Attorney General Johnston.

Mrs. Swabey, wife of Colonel Swabey.

Mrs. F. L. Lydiard, whose husband, a merchant of Charlottetown, was one of the survivors of the Fairy Queen disaster.
Mrs. Orlebar, wife of Commander Orlebar, R. N., of the Surveying
Ship Gulnare.

Lieutenant Hancock, R. N., (afterwards took the name of Liebenrood),
of S. S. Gulnare.

Mr. Binnie, father of the first Mrs. R. B. Stewart, Strathgartney.

Mrs. Grubb, mother of Mrs. T. H. Haviland.

Mrs. W. Stewart, of Glen Stewart.

Mrs. J. T. Thomas, wife of one of the principal merchants.

Mrs. Barnstead, whose husband was one of the bakers of town.

Miss Pethick, afterwards Mrs. William Walsh.

Of all the names in this list only three are now living as far as we
know; Mrs. Charles Binns, Miss Catherine Macdonnell, and Miss Palmer,
who is now the widow of Rev. Dr. R. T. Roache, of Trenton. N. J., and
mother of Rev. Hibbert Roache of Long Branch, and who, we have been
informed, was one of Miss Fitzroy's bridesmaids.

We are sorry we should have been misinformed as to the church in
which Miss Fitzroy was married, and are much obliged to an elderly lady for
the correction and information that the marriage took place at St. Paul’s
Church. We have heard of many interesting circumstances that happened in
the ‘30’s, but think that probably it would be better to keep to our own
recollections, which only extend as far back as ‘44 or ‘45.
The late W. R. Watson, Esq., chemist and druggist, used to say that when he cattle to Charlottetown, in 1843, Queen Street was overgrown with grass, and had only a cart track through the centre of it. That probably was the case, but, as we remember it a year or two later, it was not quite so bad as that. The streets leading in from St. Peter’s and Malpeque roads to the market, and the lower part of Queen Street to the wharves, being travelled on, were more like thoroughfares; all the others looked like country lanes and made good pasturage for the pigs and cows that were allowed to roam about at their own sweet will -- much to the terror and annoyance of ladies and children.

Map of Charlottetown by Abiezer Rowe Barnstaple, September 1841. Although not perfectly accurate (he compressed the whole Fanningbank estate to less than half its size because he ran out of paper) it shows us the boundaries of E. L. M.’s world. LAC.

Hogreeves were often appointed from among the young gentlemen, and their duties were to have the pigs and cows taken to the pound on the outskirts of the town. One thing we remember was the appointment of a young law student, who was afterwards a prominent lawyer in Charlottetown, to the position of hogreeve. Probably the event would have escaped our memory if we had not heard a young lady say of him: “I am
glad so-and-so has something to do, -- it will keep him from gossiping at the Apothecaries Hall or Stamper's Corner.”

As there were no city fathers at that time the improvement of the streets was left very much to nature -- the sides of the streets and squares were not levelled for many years after; and it was an amusement to us, with other children, to jump from hillock to hillock, in King's Square and play hide and seek through the small spruce bushes then allowed to grow in and about Hillsborough Square.

The condition of the streets and squares in 1844 recalls to our mind the improving or cutting down that part of Euston Street called Gallows Hill.

All along the east side of Great George Street, where Euston Street crosses it, the ground rose abruptly, extending through the greater part of Holland Grove, as it was then called, across Euston Street and along the entrance to the Malpeque Road, any one remembering some of the old cottages on the east side Malpeque Road could see they were built on a slight elevation -- for steps were cut in the hill side up to the front doors.

Detail of an anonymous map of Charlottetown, c1810, showing the location of the gallows. PARO
The house built by the late Mr. John Heartz, and the one adjoining it were decidedly on the hill side; the lower front parts of brick were high enough for shops, but the brick ends were lost in the hill and that part built of wood, or house proper, opened from the back on the high ground. We well remember hearing that Gallows Hill was being cut down and that a coffin and human bones had been disturbed. Children of course delight in anything unusual [sic], and the more horrible it is the more interesting to them, -- for then they can dilate (with wide-open eyes) on the terrible things they have seen or heard. We, having heard of this wonderful find, went, after school hours, with some of our companions, to see the dreadful sight. One boy, -- more venturesome than the rest of us, -- went to where there was a group of men standing, (evidently recalling old times) and returned, bringing with him two small bones, which, after showing us he deposited in his pocket as a souvenir of his courage and of our inquisitiveness. On making inquiries why any person should have been buried there we were told that years ago any person stealing, or setting fire to any house or property, was sentenced to be hanged, and burned [buried] under the gallows. The remains found were evidently those of a man, who, on the evidence of his own son, was convicted of the crime of theft and arson; hanged there, and buried under the gallows.

S. W. Martin (attr.) Holland Grove. Oil painting, circa 1840. CCAG.
On the west side of Great George Street, the land was low and boggy, with occasional dry ground extending from Grafton Street past Kent, and Fitzroy to Euston or the middle of the block, out through what is now called Chestnut Street. The high ground of Holland Grove was a lovely spot, thickly wooded with forest and ornamental trees. A large and quaint-looking house, with an observatory on the top, showing above the trees, was situated on the centre or highest part of the ground; it had been built and occupied by the first Colonel Holland; was Government House for a short time, and in 1844 was occupied by John Grubb, Esq., who had come to Charlottetown from England a few years previously.

Detail of the Holland Grove part of town from Wright’s 1833 map, with various features identified.

This belt of trees from Holland Grove continued on both sides of Euston Street or Gallows Hill, northwardly away across the Malpeque Road, past where the Woolen Mills have stood and extended on the lower Malpeque Road. This Spring Park property belonged at that time, we have
understood, to the family of old Colonel Grey. It was a very favorite resort in summer for both young and old; for through those grounds were many pretty walks, and in it a lovely, limpid spring rose, which meandered and rippled its way through the trees on and on, till it lost itself in the Governor’s Pond. How changed it all is now, -- has the hand of man been an improvement on the works of God?
And what are we to remember this time, what is there interesting to record, Is it the appearance Charlottetown presented to a stranger coming up the harbour, and what we imagine some of the many immigrants coming here from Scotland and Ireland in the early forties, and later on, thought of it? Some probably would see it very flat and unattractive, others look upon it as well protected from the encroachment of any enemy, and others again would think it a comparatively busy place; that is if its numerous shipyards, with generally two or three vessels under construction, were any indication, and would decide there was plenty work for all who were able or willing to do it.

The Douse shipyard being on the Douse property near the west end of Richmond Street was the first to meet the eye, as it showed up from the harbour, and there Mr. Douse built several vessels.
The next to be seen was close by where the Steam Navigation Wharf now is, and where the second Gulnare was built in 1845 by Peake & Duncan. The first Gulnare was built in Quebec and came to Charlottetown in 1841, the same year that Captain Bayfield, Commander Bedford, Lieutenant Orlebar, and the other officers of the surveying staff came to take up their residence here. The second Gulnare not being quite up to their expectation, they had the third one built in Quebec. She proving a failure, the late Mr. Robert Longworth undertook to, build the fourth. All were topsail schooners, and we understand the fourth Gulnare was more satisfactory. After that they had their first steamer, the Margareta Stephenson, built by and belonging to a firm in Quebec by the name of Stephenson.

Further along and almost directly below where the Duncan House stands, was the Duncan shipyard, where the ring of the workman’s hammer was constantly heard, and where the largest ship ever built on this Island, registering 1791 tons, was launched in the year 1858, by the firm of Duncan, Mason & Co., and named “Ethel” after Mr. Duncan’s only child.

Mr. Heard’s shipyard was about where the railway yard is, only nearer where the railway wharf is built. On the shore not far from the Kensington shooting range of to-day was McGill’s shipyard, where there appeared to be always a vessel on the stocks. Some of the old ship-builders used to say, that ship-building was like making patchwork quilts, that when one was finished there was almost enough material left to make another, and in that way they were induced to go on building. But the wooden ships of P. F. Island are almost amongst the things of the past and it is only now and again we hear of a ship being built.

On part of Kensington the land was very low and wet, caused by a stream running in from beyond the St. Peter’s Road. The way to the McGill shipyard was along the shore and as the outlet from the stream to the Hillsborough River was wide, a bridge was built over it. On the north side of the bridge was a floodgate, or sluice, and as the water rose quite high, it caused a whirlpool. It was a great amusement to many of us children, to throw chips or sticks into the water, as far from the eddy as possible, and watch them drawn in, and, after whirling round a while, disappear into the vortex. The current was very strong there and the danger often was of ourselves going over and sharing the same fate as the chips we had thrown in, but the strong railing of the bridge was a safe guard.
About fifty yards beyond the bridge and standing upon the rising ground was an object of great interest to all. A large vat had been built for the purpose of rendering oil from seals, brought in by the Island sealing vessels. Whose venture it was or whether it was successful we do not know but there it stood for many years. In appearance that vat reminded us of a huge square cup and saucer standing fully twenty feet high and about a foot up from the ground.

Ships with immigrants came to this port every two or three years, fifty to sixty years ago. The “Margaret Pollock” of St. John, New Brunswick, brought a large number of passengers at different times. In May 1841, she arrived from Belfast, Ireland, with six hundred and thirty-five passengers on board; twenty-six died before they reached here. Later on she brought a great many Scotch immigrants. One ship, we remember very well, was the “Lady Constable.” She arrived here on the 21st of May, 1847, and had four hundred and forty passengers. When they were out some days, ship fever of a very malignant type broke out among them. Twenty-five of their number died before they reached this harbour, eight others died soon after coming into port, or within a few days. Of course the arrival of this ship caused great consternation to the people of Charlottetown. What was to be done with the ill and dying unfortunates so unexpectedly thrown upon their hands: a place of shelter must be provided for them. Some suggested the Marine Hospital at the end of the Brighton Road, and on the furthermost part of the Government House farm, (now Victoria Park) but that was not allowed. After a day or two an isolated house was found situated on one of two vacant blocks between Hillsborough and Weymouth Streets, near Water and some distance back of where the Notre Dame Convent is. The yellow flag flying over this unfinished house made it look very dismal, but a more dismal sight was the many rough-board coffins of all sizes, carried past on a truck to the R. C. cemetery on St. Peter's Road, (then a new burying ground) and to know that each one contained a victim of the dread disease. We remember counting eight coffins at one time, probably those held the people who died whilst the ship was in Quarantine. We have also counted three and four each day, and sometimes one and two twice a day as long as the fever lasted, but eventually the “plague was stayed,” and those who survived were allowed to go at liberty. When it was found there were too many patients for this temporary hospital some were sent to the Lunatic Asylum at Brighton, where they were kept all summer and where a number of them died. The only Charlottetonian we remember contracting typhus (or emigrant fever as it was called) was Mr. A. H. Yates, Auctioneer; he was very ill, and it was
impossible to get any one to nurse him, all were so terrified. At last they succeeded in getting one of the immigrants, a widow whose husband had died of fever. Many of the women who came in the “Lady Constable” hired in town and made good servants.

One we remember, a fine-looking woman who was only twenty-one and had lost her husband and child, was a very reliable servant, but was always sad. Her mistress had great pity for her, knowing her sorrow, and would often go and talk to her. Generally she found Mary working as busily as she could at whatever she was doing, the tears streaming down her face, and singing one of the songs of her country. When asked how it was she was shedding tears when she was singing, her reply was, “I am sad, sad when I sing, and when I laugh the loudest, my heart is sorriest, sometimes when I think that those I loved best, and left home and country for, are now lying in the cold churchyard I feel my heart will break.” Mary was only one of a number who felt just as unhappy as she, but after five or six years when time, the great healer of sorrow, had dried away her tears, she comforted herself by taking another husband and they together made a comfortable home.

E. L. M.
Death of “E. L. M.”
(Vol. 3, No. 5 -- July 1901)

For the first time since the establishment of this MAGAZINE, we are called upon to announce the death of a contributor, and to testify as far as the words at our poor command will allow, to the worth of a most estimable and well-beloved woman. To many of our readers, who have been interested in the articles on Charlottetown Fifty Years Ago, that have been appearing for some months past, in these pages, the identity of the writer-- E. L. M. -- may have been known. But it was not known by all that the initials were those of Elizabeth L. Macdonald, the wife of Hon. Senator A. A. Macdonald, of Charlottetown.

Of the fact that Mrs. Macdonald's contributions were looked forward to each month with eager interest, and treasured because of their references to old associations, we have ample proofs. Letters from subscribers, near and far, have many times alluded to the pleasure that was derived from recalling the old times written about by E. L. M.

The majority of our readers will, we feel sure, mourn her death. By the editor of this 'MAGAZINE, her loss is keenly felt; her interest in the publication was sincere and sympathetic; and her assistance, so generously given, was of great value.