

SHERMAN GODFREY BIRD

Sherman Godfrey Bird, who was a descendant of clerical ancestors, was a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, and was born in 1837. He was a son of the Reverend Godfrey Bird and Sarah Jane, nee Edwards. His grandparents were the



Reverend Godfrey Bird, rector of Little Waltham, and Susannah, nee Greaves, Essex, England. He was born at Great Wigborough Rectory, near Colchester, in Essex, on the 20th November. He was educated at Winchester, and obtained his commission in the Royal Engineers, serving a year or two later in the first China war under General Sir Hope Grant, when Peking was occupied and the emperor's summer palace looted. Afterwards he held a Royal Engineer's appointment in Hong Kong, and married Amy Laura Amoui, by whom he had four sons and four daughters.

The eldest, James Godfrey, was born in 1861, and died in 1920. The names of the others are: Edith Agnes, Toronto; Caroline Clara, The Court, Guildford, England; Ruth Emily, Barrie, Ont.; Ernest Herbert, Victoria, B.C.; Helen Elizabeth (Mrs. Gillett), Montreal; Eustace Godfrey, A.R.I.B.A., Toronto; Charles Harold, M.D., etc., Gananoque, Ont.

As Mr. Bird's R.E. duties in Hong Kong did not provide a sufficiency for his energies, he took up private work as an architect, and joined a tea firm, with interests in the Island of Formosa and Amoy, and laid the foundation of a business that is still thriving in younger Bird's hands. When the limit of the five years' R.E. appointment was nearly up, he made appli-

cation for its extension to the authorities in England, but was refused, so he resigned his commission and remained in China, soon to be joined by a younger brother, Southby Godfrey Bird, who had been studying engineering and architecture in England with that in view.

In 1867, Sherman G. Bird returned to England, his health broken down, and he was hopeful that a long sea voyage would benefit him, and also hoped to be able to find suitable employment and a home in England. The voyage round the Cape in a sailing ship restored his health, but the work he hoped for was not to be found, so after two years' holiday, he decided to take his family to Canada. In Barrie, Ontario, he soon found surroundings to his liking. The town being prettily situated, the bay with its delightful boating, the people kind and sociable, and, moreover, surveying and architectural services much in demand—thanks to Mr. Maurice Gaviller, who took him into partnership, his introduction thus being assured. Several buildings in the town and neighborhood remain as memorials to him—notably the Roman Catholic church, with its graceful spire.

It was from the roof of this church, when it was building, that he fell and broke his arm, and possibly injured himself internally, as it was not very long after that he died from the effects of exposure to severe weather while surveying in the winter time, he having qualified as a Land Surveyor on October 12th, 1872.

He died on the 27th January, 1873, at the age of 35 years.