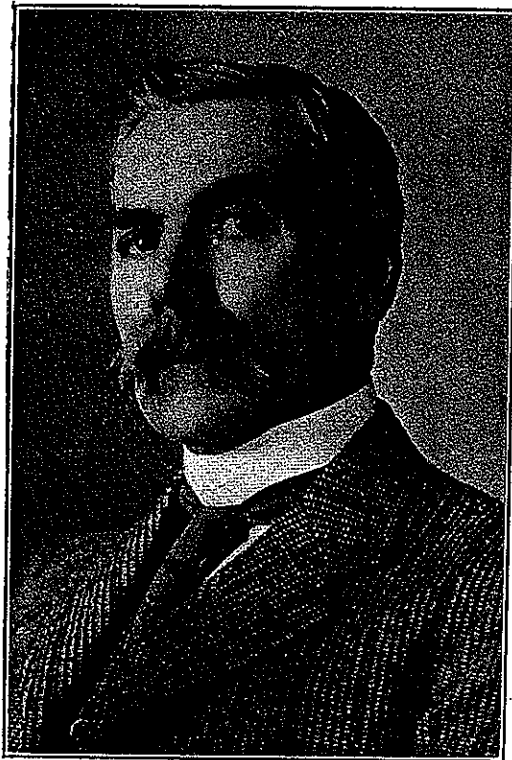


A. O. GRAYDON.

By N. P. Graydon.



In 1849, Simpson Hackett Graydon, M.A., of Trinity University, Dublin, Ireland, came to Canada and settled about three miles from London. He was educated for ecclesiastical work in the Anglican Church, but subsequently qualified for the practice of the law. He occupied the magistrate's chair in London in 1869 and 1870, and practised as a lawyer in London until his death in 1883.

Aquilla Ormsby Graydon was born when his father resided outside the city in the Township of London, on July 7, 1857. He obtained his education in London at the grammar school conducted by Rev.

Benjamin Brayly. He then entered the Merchants Bank as clerk, where he remained about two years, 1871 and 1872. From 1873 to 1876 he was employed with the late Wm. Hendry as Paymaster, in construction work on the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway, now C.P.R., from Toronto to Owen Sound.

He then entered the office of the late Wm. Robinson, City Engineer, 1857-1878, and his partner, Thos. H. Tracy, and qualified as a land surveyor on July 8, 1880. He practised his profession of land surveying and engineering in London until 1887, when he was appointed assistant City Engineer to Mr. Tracy. When the latter resigned and removed to Vancouver, Mr. Graydon was appointed City Engineer, which position he held until 1910.

He was unmarried and resided at Connemara, the home of his stepmother, Mrs. Margaret Graydon, his sister, Miss Selina O. Graydon, and his brothers, N. Parke, A. H. Marshall and G. W. Graydon. Another sister, Mrs. R. W. Toulmin, lives at Brooklin; a brother, W. P. Graydon, is connected with the Sao Paulo Light

& Power Company in Brazil, and another brother, S. H. Graydon, lives at Chicago.

At heart a son of Erin, Mr. Graydon was an active member of the Irish Benevolent Society. He also belonged to different orders of the Masonic fraternity and to several prominent social clubs.

His death occurred at London on February 28, 1913. His stepmother died on June 7th, 1916, and his brother, W. P. Graydon, died on August 17, 1919.

The following extract is from his obituary notice: "Mr. Graydon retired from the position of city engineer in 1910. He had been connected with the department 23 years, and was one of London's most prominent citizens. Since retiring from his civic duties he had been forced into almost complete retirement from business because of ill health, but had lately been feeling much better and had accepted a degree of private practice, to which he was devoting a portion of his time, when stricken with his fatal illness. His knowledge of civil engineering was extensive and he was frequently called upon in consultation work by various municipalities. He stood high in his profession. Many times since his retirement from the position of city engineer his advice had been sought by the department and freely given. He was generous always, always the same genial, big-hearted, broad-minded "Bob" Graydon, secretly devoting the greater portion of his salary to benevolent purposes, systematically and in the most kindly manner caring for those whose needs were brought to his attention, engaged in charitable work of the widest scope and yet so unostentatiously that even his most intimate acquaintances knew little of it."