

THOMAS CHANDLER HALIBURTON

Said Time to Canada,
"Have you a deathless one?"
"Why, yes," said Canada,
"Here's Haliburton."

A country as young as Canada has few writers of time-tested fame. Books may receive enthusiastic praise for a year, or a decade, or a lifetime; but will the praise outlive the author? How many lauded today will be forgotten tomorrow? How many who bask in the beams of fame while they live, will be remembered a century after? Only time can tell.

Of one, at least, time has already told. A hundred years and more have rolled by since Haliburton captivated the reading public of the time with the sayings and doings of his lusty Clockmaker. That was in 1835-1836. Almost at once Sam Slick became an international figure, and his vitality has not abated.

Though some of Haliburton's best writing is in The Old Judge collection of essays, his fame rests on the Sam Slick books. Sam, with his shrewd wisdom and Yankee ways, was new in literature; he was a veritable creation and won his author the title of "Father of American Humor". The Old Judge speaks rather in the urbane style of the eighteenth century essayists Haliburton must have read when he trod the storied halls of King's College in Windsor.

Haliburton wrote from life. The people he met and the experiences he had when he practised Law in Annapolis, when he rode on horseback or drove by stage coach on his Circuit of the Court of Common Pleas; his social intercourse as master of "Clifton" and Judge of the Supreme Court; the beauty of the spreading countryside and its possibilities of development -- all furnished him with material that his quick mind transmuted to literature. He was particularly responsive to the varying aspects of nature and painted word pictures of forgotten scenes that bring the past vividly alive. One of these evokes from ruins Prince's Lodge, the Duke of Kent's residence near Halifax, in the heyday of its beauty.

"Clifton" the house Haliburton built for himself in Windsor, had a much happier fate. Safeguarded from ruin, it stands in dignified eminence amid its well-kept setting. Its rooms are rich in the original furniture and in period pieces; from its walls Haliburton's handsome aristocratic face looks down on the many from far and near who visit his home as a place of literary pilgrimage.

SISTER MAURA

Note:

The Convention Committee has planned an all day motor trip to the lovely Annapolis Valley on Wednesday, June 27th. There will be a luncheon at Acadia University in Wolfville, a visit to Grand Pre and Blomidon, and tea at "Clifton" Haliburton's home.