STINSON JARVIS: A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY

"... it is to be hoped that among the thousands of forgotten or overlooked books many more of significant worth may be found to exist than Canadians at present may expect."

"The extreme difficulty of discovering enough biographical or other information about authors of limited production or small reputation ... can be appreciated only when it is experienced."

--R. E. Watters,

Check List of Canadian Literature, pp. vii, viii.

There are still many English-Canadian authors of the nineteenth century who remain in utter oblivion. To be totally forgotten, such authors should by rights have turned out productions of unrivalled mediocrity, but investigation suggests that many of their books are far from mediocre, and are of great historical and sociological interest besides.

Certainly this is the case with Thomas Stinson Jarvis (1854-1926), Toronto-born author of six books, several short stories, and numerous essays and articles. Although much of Jarvis's work is of high calibre and remains eminently readable, very little material by or about him is accessible to the student of Canadian literature in English.

Jarvis is briefly but favourably mentioned in Carl F. Klinck's *Literary History of Canada* (1965), by S. Ross Beharriell, who drew his factual information from an article in Henry J. Morgan's *Canadian Men and Women of the Time* (1898); this article Jarvis himself had largely written. Also based entirely on the same article are the short accounts in Archibald MacMurchy, *Handbook of Canadian Literature* (1906), W. S. Wallace, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (1926), and V. B. Rhodenizer, *Canadian Literature in English* (1965). O. F. Adams, *Dictionary of American Authors*, 4th ed. (1901), Horning and Burpee, *Bibliography of Canadian Fiction* (1904), W. S. Wallace, *Dictionary of North American Authors* (1951), and R. E. Watters, *Check List of Canadian Literature* (1959), give little on Jarvis besides his name and the titles of some of his books.

The genealogical works by George Jarvis *et al.*, *The Jarvis Family* (1879), and E. M. Chadwick, *Ontarian Families* (1894), also list Stinson Jarvis, and biographical accounts, in the composition of which Jarvis probably had a hand, are found in two periodicals, *Leslie's Weekly* (1893) and *Arena* (1893).

The total amount of information yielded by these sources is not very great. Except for the half page in Klinck, there is no objective criticism, while only Morgan and the *Arena* account give any significant biographical material. None of these articles provides more than the most rudimentary bibliography of Jarvis's writings.

It is hoped that the present bio-bibliography will remedy this situation. The biographical information presented here is more complete than any previously available, and the bibliography lists all of Jarvis's known books and periodical contributions together for the first time. Since hardly any of Jarvis's magazine and newspaper writings are indexed anywhere, it is impossible to know what would constitute a complete list; however, the present list is as exhaustive as possible, and can reactivate a large amount of previously obscure source material.

The Jarvis family is a large and historically important one, and Thomas Stinson Jarvis possessed a family pride as great as that of the noblest of old-country noblemen. Unavoidably this coloured his views and helped determine his interests.

The branch of the family to which Stinson Jarvis belonged boasts a curious set of loyalties. In 1656 Stephen Jarvis, an English lawyer, settled at Huntington, Long Island, a settlement founded three years earlier by Englishmen who came either from Massachusetts or Connecticut. The family had been English for generations, but the name goes back ultimately to the Norman French, Gervais. Aside from their being of long-established British stock, the early date of Stephen Jarvis's arrival in the colonies assured that the Jarvises would come to be known as one of the oldest families of the United States. But Jarvis is also one of the oldest and most important of Canadian families: the American Revolution forced some of its members to migrate to Canada at a time when the settlement of this country was just beginning.

With such a background there was some justification for Stinson Jarvis to consider himself at various times an Englishman, an American, or a Canadian. Particularly after his emigration to the United States he can be observed in all three roles, depending upon what he is writing about and whom he is writing to. His attitude, which neatly resolved any apparent contradictions, seems to have been that Canadians and even Yankees are simply two varieties of Englishman.

The family produced many eminent scholars, lawyers, churchmen, and public servants. Bishop Abraham Jarvis (1739-1813) was the second bishop of Connecticut, and the first Anglican bishop consecrated in America. His son, the Rev. Samuel Farmar Jarvis (1786-1851), was minister of Trinity Church, New Haven. A great scholar and literary man, he received a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1819, and after an extended period of study in Europe was appointed professor of oriental literature at Trinity College, Hartford, in 1835. Especially noted as a church historian, he wrote a *Chronological Introduction to the History of the Church* (1845).

John Jarvis (1753-1824) was a scholar and poet who served in the British army during the Revolution. Afterwards he went to Nova Scotia, but was allowed after three years, by edict of President Washington, to return to his home at Norwalk, Connecticut. Samuel Peters Jarvis (1792-1857) studied law at Cornwall, Ontario, and practised for many years; afterwards he was Secretary of the Province of Upper Canada, and held other government appointments. As an officer he saw action in the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837-38. The Rev William Jarvis (1796-1871) was a well-known Connecticut churchman, and George Oglevie Jarvis (1795-1875) was a famous surgeon and scholar of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Colonel Stephen Jarvis (1756-1840), of Danbury, Connecticut, the son of Stephen Jarvis and Rachel Starr, fought bravely in the American Revolution, but on the "wrong side." As a reward for courage he was given a commission in the South Carolina Dragoons, in which regiment he remained until the end of the war, retiring as lieutenant. Upon returning home to Danbury, he found the prejudice against him as a Loyalist so strong that he feared for his life, and decided to leave the country for good. He first settled at Fredericton, New Brunswick, but in 1809 removed permanently to York, Upper Canada – present-day Toronto. Later Col Jarvis served as Adjutant-General of Militia, Registrar of Deeds for the Home District, and Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. The memoirs of Colonel Jarvis, although never intended for publication, make interesting reading.¹

The Colonel's eldest son by his wife Amelia Glover (1756-1819) was Frederick Starr Jarvis (1786-1852). An officer in the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837-38, Frederick, like his father, held the post of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to the Legislative Assembly.

His wife, Susan Merigold, bore him several children, including Stephen Maule Jarvis (1822-1902), the father of Stinson Jarvis. Stephen Maule, born on November 2 or 22, 1822, their third son, became a lawyer in Toronto. On September 10, 1850, he married Mary Stinson, daughter of Thomas Stinson, the richest man in Hamilton, Ontario.²

The Stinson lineage meant as much to Stinson Jarvis as did that of the paternal family. His mother's family played an important part in his own life, and he seems to have been a frequent visitor to the Hamilton homestead; his uncle Harry Stinson, just six years his senior, became his closest friend.

After the failure of the first Stuart uprising in 1715, James Stephenson, a young man of 31, fled Scotland for Dublin, Ireland. Informed on by the English, he and his wife went further inland, assuming the name of Stinson, a shortened form of Stephenson. They finally settled at Drum, County Monaghan. This James Stinson had three children, of whom Thomas married Harriet Argue, of a Huguenot refugee family. Their son Thomas (1752-1814) had three sons and three daughters by Elizabeth Devlin of Clones. County Monaghan, lying between

the loyal North and the insurgent South, was in the thick of the turmoil. When their sister Mary died shortly before her wedding day, the Stinson brothers, Thomas, Ebenezer, and John, sold everything from the farm and bought passage to America for themselves and their mother.

The Stinsons first settled at Lockport, New York, but found neither the place nor the people to their liking. Crossing the border to Canada, they settled for a short time at Thirty-Mile Creek, Clinton Township, on the Niagara Peninsula, east of Grimsby. About 1820, however, they moved to the community of Hamilton, where the three brothers, in partnership, soon became very successful general merchants.

In 1826 Thomas Stinson married Margaret Zimmerman (1807-1882), of Beamsville, Ontario, elder daughter of James Zimmerman. The Zimmermans had come to Pennsylvania from Holland in 1670 with followers of William Penn, and were among the strict Protestants and Quakers who crossed to Canada about 1790.³

The Stinsons of Jarvis's time were an extraordinary family, characterized by energy, intelligence, and a flamboyant recklessness which often brought tragedy. Margaret Stinson, the matriarch, lived to bury her husband, her son-in-law, and six of her nine children.

Margaret Isabella Maule Jarvis, the first child of Stephen Maule Jarvis and Mary Stinson, was born on January 28, 1851, four and a half months after the marriage. Thomas Stinson Jarvis, the second, was born in Toronto on May 31, 1854. Stephen Jarvis White Jarvis was born on May 3, 1861; Mary Catherine Jarvis, born in February, 1863, died on July 31 at the age of five months; and Edward Robinson Jarvis was born on February 28, 1873.

The Jarvis family was at the axis of Toronto society, and probably did all the things that society people do when they are under no financial pressure. In one of his writings Jarvis refers to his "omnivorous reading" as a child, and his winning of Classical prizes at school.⁴ Writing of a visit made when he was five years old, Jarvis could recall his uncle Francis Stinson of Hamilton "cleaning his gun in the shade near the kennels with a lot of hunting dogs around him on the grass." He remembered "the kitchen tables covered with game," and "being shown his yacht."⁵ Elsewhere Jarvis mentions that he was captain of two cricket teams at school, held the bowling prize for two years, and went "fox hunting twice a week at the meets of the 13th Hussars."⁶

In September, 1863, at the age of nine, Jarvis was enrolled at Upper Canada College, Toronto. He was attending Trinity College School at Weston in 1865,⁷ but U.C.C. was the school from which he was graduated. Speaking of his school days Jarvis places emphasis on the deliberate cultivation of both the mental and physical spheres of activity, as if the two were quite contradictory.

Stephen Maule Jarvis seems to have been an important influence on his son, who mentions his father frequently. Thus in 1871, after his graduation from

U.C.C., the reason Jarvis “was sent away for a year’s travel” was that his father judged this to be “more profitable than a University course.”⁸ At this time the family was living at 224 Wellington Street West, Toronto⁹ – probably the “Bertie Cottage” named in the preface to Jarvis’s first book.¹⁰ Stephen Maule Jarvis was practising law in partnership with his first cousin Salter Mountain Jarvis (1844-1892); their offices were at 22 King Street East.¹¹ A few sentences in one of his books gives a brief glimpse of Jarvis’s home as it was at about this time.¹²

The first part of Jarvis’s tour abroad was spent in Europe, and after passing the winter in Italy – “two months’ study of Rome”¹³ – he went on to visit the Holy Land, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. The actual dates of this trip are not known with certainty because various sources cite them differently; but it was probably immediately after his graduation, that is, in 1871-72.¹⁴

For the next few years Jarvis seems to have led the life of a young gentleman of leisure, for although officially admitted to Osgoode Hall, Toronto, as a law student, in the Easter Term of 1871,¹⁵ he did not actually start the law course, by his own statement, until 1875.¹⁶

It is hard to say precisely what he was doing during these years, but certainly he spent a good deal of time yachting. He did not have his own yacht, but his uncle Harry Stinson did, and Jarvis got quite a bit of sailing experience on board the *Brunette*. This sloop, sailing under the colours of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, was one of the fastest boats on Lake Ontario at the time.

The eighteen-year-old Jarvis was aboard on September 5, 1872, two days before the Prince of Wales Regatta at Toronto. For three days the yacht had been stuck in the harbour at Charlotte, New York (since 1916 part of Rochester), unable to cross the lake because of high winds and a rough sea. But Harry Stinson was “crazy to get back in time for the race,”¹⁷ and accepted the offer of a tow line from Captain Estes, of the big side-wheel Mail Line steamer *Abyssinian*. The fact that the *Brunette* had been built for the express purpose of winning this race makes Stinson’s anxiety understandable. Once the boats set out, the darkness and howling winds prevented any communication. The storm grew worse, and by evening the *Brunette* had lost most of her rigging and was rapidly taking on water. Making it into Toronto harbour by the barest margin, the *Brunette* was of course too badly damaged to compete in the regatta; those who had been on board were thankful just to be alive.¹⁸

Another incident connected with yachting is recounted in *The Ascent of Life*:

“In October of (I think) 1875, I was sailing a small yacht to Hamilton, Canada, and at sundown fell asleep on the deck. About nine o’clock I suddenly awoke, trembling in an unexplained fright. The yacht lay in a dead calm, the night was pitch-dark and the lamps were not lit. I found that my friends, who at that time were novices at yachting, had not reduced canvas, and I hurriedly lowered the

large racing topsail to the deck. As soon as this was done, the worst squall I ever experienced struck us from ahead. Luckily we were able to lower our other canvas before complete capsize, and the boat lived through the night. If the squall had caught us with the topsail up – if I had slept one minute longer – nothing could have saved us. The ‘Sphinx,’ another yacht of the same size as mine, which in another part of the lake was proceeding to the same race, met a different fate, and three of my acquaintances died of exhaustion after clinging to her upturned side for several days.”¹⁹

Jarvis was wrong about the date; this mishap actually occurred on the night of October 3, 1873. Two men, Morgan and Groves, were lost. A few days later, Jarvis had sent the following letter to the Editor of the *Toronto Globe*:

“SIR, – Permit me the use of your columns to refer to the late melancholy accident to the Sphinx.

There seems to be a mistaken impression prevalent in regard to the conduct of the yacht *Water Kelpie* on that night. It is rumoured that she started with the Sphinx, and left her in her distress.

In justice to the crew and myself, I desire to state that the *Water Kelpie* left Toronto about ten hours before the Sphinx, and I did not know that the owners had any intention of taking her to Hamilton for the race.

At nine o’clock on Friday evening, when the squall struck us, we were above Bronte; and the Sphinx being capsized off Port Credit, there was therefore a distance of about twenty miles between us. We made the Hamilton Piers about five o’clock on Saturday morning, and did not hear that the Sphinx was missing until we returned to Toronto on Monday.

Yours obediently,
T. S. Jarvis

Toronto, Oct. 6, 1873”²⁰

It was about this period, too, that Jarvis first became interested in hypnotism and psychic phenomena. Two boyhood experiences which Jarvis regarded as psychic, or extra-sensory, are given in the appendix to *The Ascent of Life*.²¹ A number of his early experiments, interesting, if inconclusive, are detailed in the same work. He had wanted to publish these at the time, Jarvis wrote years later, but had not been “exceedingly brave over it,” largely because most of his subjects were “ladies of refinement and social position,”²² and hypnotism was not then regarded as an acceptable pastime for such ladies.

Jarvis may have worked for a time as a clerk at Stinson’s Bank in Hamilton. While there is no proof of this, his portrayal of the social sub-class of bank-clerks (who, in Victorian Canada, generally had backgrounds similar to his own) points to first-hand knowledge. Harry Stinson, probably the model for Geoffrey Hamp-

stead in Jarvis's novel of that name, was a bank clerk, undoubtedly the "prince of bank clerks," as one reviewer characterized Hampstead.²³

Other events dating from this period are the birth of a brother, Edward Robinson Jarvis, on February 28, 1873, and the marriage of his sister Margaret to Benjamin Read Clarkson, a Toronto shipping merchant, on December 3, 1873.²⁴ A strange story involving the fate of one of Clarkson's ships in 1877 is told in *The Ascent of Life*.²⁵

Stinson Jarvis's first book, *Letters from East Longitudes*, a description of his travels through the Near East, appeared in May, 1875. It was published by James Campbell and Son, Toronto, who advertised that they were "prepared to furnish estimates to authors for publication of their MSS ... the facilities possessed by James Campbell and Son ... and their lengthened experience warrant them in undertaking the publication of any work submitted to them, and in offering their services to authors who desire to publish on their own account."²⁶

While on the tour Jarvis had utilized almost every spare moment to prepare lengthy letters home. Upon his return he compiled these into a narrative which abounds with contrived wit, snips of Latin and Greek, allusions to mythology and literature – hallmarks of the bright student trying to impress his readers – as well as excellent descriptive writing. The book is a real period piece; it is the Grand Tour as seen through the eyes of a spirited young British colonial. The strange customs and marvellous sights of the Near East are detailed with that air of condescension so typical of the British traveller of that period when Britain ruled half the world.

The author himself was obviously pleased with his work, and particularly with the fact that the Earl of Dufferin (1826-1902), then Governor-General of Canada, had shown him "a good deal of favour,"²⁷ allowing his name to appear in the dedication "in humble appreciation of his distinguished abilities as a statesman, a scholar, and a yachtsman." The title of Jarvis's book is in fact a play on that of Dufferin's yachting classic *Letters from High Latitudes* (1857), an immensely popular book of the period.

Both the *Toronto Globe* and the *Canadian Monthly* found merit in *Letters from East Longitudes*, and urged the young writer to continue his literary endeavours. However, they criticized what they deemed improprieties in Jarvis's treatment of such serious topics as would naturally arise on a tour of the Holy Land. But this could be forgiven the author on account of his youth. The *Canadian Monthly* writes:

"... our Canadian tourist bears himself well; and if his animal spirits too often break out incongruously, and to the hindrance of our enjoyment of his book, we are sure to respond to his hearty enthusiasm, and to appreciate the cheerfulness and *bonhomie* ..." ²⁸

From 1875 to 1879 Jarvis studied law at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and was articled to Sir Oliver Mowat (1820-1903), the Premier of Ontario. When called to the bar in the Easter Term of 1879 he passed second of forty candidates.²⁹

Jarvis was a member of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club of Toronto. It is said that he was given command of numerous boats in the annual R.C.Y.C. and international regattas, and that he was a particular favourite of Arthur Radcliffe Boswell (1838-1925), Commodore of the R.C.Y.C., who preferred him to a professional.³⁰ In an 1892 article Jarvis writes that he and Lord Dufferin many times engaged in single-handed yacht competitions;³¹ such contests may have taken place in the seventies.

Harry Stinson, who meanwhile had risen from clerk to manager of Stinson's Bank, died suddenly on October 28, 1877; certainly this was a blow to Jarvis. His favourite uncle had been suffering from "congestion of the brain" for two or three days, but as he had been out on the day of his death, no one had foreseen the result. Stinson was twenty-nine years of age.³² A vivid description of his death is found in Jarvis's story "The Pride of Margaret Alleyne," where Sidney Alleyne is in fact Harry Stinson.³³

Three sonnets published by Jarvis in the *Canadian Monthly* for December, 1877, are of considerable interest. Except for some incidental verses in *Geoffrey Hampstead*, a scrap of verse in the style of W. S. Gilbert,³⁴ and an 1892 satire in the poetical manner of Kipling,³⁵ Jarvis was to publish no other poetry. This is perhaps not unfortunate, for though his ear is good and his poems scan perfectly, they are highly derivative and lacking in spontaneity.

About 1880 Jarvis set up legal practice in the town of Niagara Falls, Ontario. On May 27, 1881, he married Anne Louise (Annie) Croft, at the Church of the Redeemer, Toronto; the Rev Septimus Jones officiated. Annie was the second child of Prof Henry Holmes Croft (1820-1883), a well-known chemist born in London, England. He held the chair of Chemistry and Experimental Philosophy at King's College (later the University of Toronto) from 1842 to 1880, when ill health forced his resignation. His wife Mary-Anne was a member of the prominent Shaw family of Ontario.

Between 1880 and 1883 Stinson Jarvis "made some name for himself in regard to certain important extradition cases in which he was counsel; "these cases, Jarvis adds, "were fully reported at the time."³⁶ The only important extradition case during this period was that of William A. Hall in the summer of 1882, but Jarvis's name is not found in this connection. No other extradition case of the time can be considered "important." One might venture a guess that the only place Jarvis's cases were "fully reported" was in the records of the courts in which they were tried, although nothing even of this nature has been found.

Be that as it may, a number of other cases in which Jarvis was counsel have come to light. In the High Court of Ontario at Welland he represented Annie,

Mary Jane, Nellie, and Elizabeth Kerr, all minors, in a damage suit against the Canada Southern Railway Company; the writ was issued August 28, 1882. He represented Edna C. Fairbanks in a suit against Havins J. Crysler; the writ was issued December 2, 1884. He was also counsel for Thomas W. Read in an accounts case against Elisha Joseph Fessenden; the writ was issued December 29, 1885. In the Common Pleas Division, Toronto, Jarvis represented the defendants in *Queen v. John Goodman and E. W. Wilson*, tried March 9, 1883; Jarvis lost this case through what seems to have been a legal blunder.

Niagara Falls is located in Welland County. In the County Court at Welland Jarvis was counsel for landlords in two cases against tenants: *Orrimul B. Scott v. Higb Oeer* [sic], which commenced September 24, 1882, and *Thomas Goodes v. Mrs X. Ferguson*, which commenced in April, 1883.³⁷

"His chief successes," states one source, "were in the criminal courts."³⁸ Elsewhere Jarvis mentions his "addresses to imaginary juries and judges" which were "even more rapidly delivered in my sleep than they were in court."³⁹

Whether or not Jarvis's reputation in extradition matters was high, his connections such as Sir Oliver Mowat, certainly were, and in October, 1883, he was appointed by the Government of the Dominion of Canada to act judicially in extradition matters in the Province of Ontario. The Canadian Extradition Act of April 28, 1877, which makes provision for the extradition of fugitive criminals, defines the instances in which extradition proceedings may be instituted against an individual, and lays down proper procedure in such instances, also authorizes the appointment of special extradition judges. The Act states that from time to time "commissioners who will act judicially in extradition matters" may be appointed in any province or territory. For the purposes of the Act, every appointee has all the powers and jurisdiction of any judge or magistrate in that particular province or territory.⁴⁰ The document recording Jarvis's appointment to such duties in Ontario, by a committee of the Privy Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, is dated October 13, and was approved two days later.

Presumably Jarvis held this appointment for the remaining eight years of his residence in Canada, although none of his specific activities in this capacity have been discovered. The significant extradition cases in Ontario during this period – that of Francis Baum (February, 1885), and John H. W. Cadby (March, 1886), both forgers who were extradited to the U.S. – were not tried by Jarvis.

Jarvis maintained his legal practice during this time. He continues to be cited as a barrister in the *Canadian Law List*, and we learn that "he was twice sent to England to arrange settlement of estates for clients in America."⁴¹ There is some indication that he moved from Niagara Falls back to Toronto in the late eighties.⁴²

Geoffrey Hampstead, Stinson Jarvis's first novel, was published on August 16, 1890, by D. Appleton and Company, New York, as no. 57 of the "Town and

Country Library." An identical Canadian edition, also labelled "Appleton's Town and Country Library" was brought out shortly thereafter by the National Publishing Company, Toronto. This was the second and last time a book by Jarvis would be published in Canada.

The novel was priced at fifty cents in a paper-covered edition. The \$1.00 cloth edition does not seem to have been available until some time in 1893, when new cloth editions of many other books in the Town and Country Library were also being offered for the first time.

The only known advertisement for *Geoffrey Hampstead* appears on the front page of the *Literary World* for August 16, 1890:

A NOVEL OF OUT-DOOR LIFE
In Town and Country Library.
GEOFFREY HAMPSTEAD.
BY A NEW CANADIAN WRITER,
THOMAS STINSON JARVIS.
12mo, paper cover, 50 cents.
A novel with a plot which holds the reader's
interest. Every lover of out-door life will wel-
come the graphic sketches of games at Toronto,
and yachting adventures on Lake Ontario and
the St. Lawrence.
D. APPLETON & Co., Pub'rs,
1, 3, and 5 Bond Street, New York.

Appleton's "set notice," or press release, runs:

"The new Canadian novelist, Mr. Thomas Stinson Jarvis, whose novel 'Geoffrey Hampstead,' is published by D. Appleton & Co., is a barrister by profession and a resident of Toronto. This is practically Mr. Jarvis's first important literary work, although some years ago he published a small volume, 'Travels in Syria' [*sic*]. After the reign of the dialect story, a change to Northern scenes and Canadian life will not be unwelcome to novel readers, and there is competent testimony to the effect that this new novelist shows exceptional power, and that his novel is certain to hold the interest of his readers."⁴³

"This was the most widely reviewed and praised novel of its year in this country," claimed the New York *Leslie's Weekly*,⁴⁴ and the statement is echoed in the Morgan-Jarvis article. However, although best-seller lists were not kept in those days, quite enough is known of the United States literary scene in 1890 to discredit this preposterous statement. That the book received 163 reviews, as Jarvis claims,⁴⁵ may well be true. The great majority of these were undoubtedly in American newspapers; at the time, there were only nine cities in Canada with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

The reviews which have been found are generally favourable. A writer for the New Haven *Morning News* gave *Geoffrey Hampstead* a particularly fair and perceptive reading:

“A book of rare fascination. The reader is carried along by the brilliance of the descriptions, the piquancy and repartee so admirably displayed in the dialogues, the variety and marked personality of the different characters until, when the end is reached, one feels as if awakened from some dream, and not altogether a pleasant one either. The author endows his hero with every gift within the power of nature to bestow ... there is yet a leaven of wickedness within him which proves his ruin. It is not pleasant to witness the fall of so perfect a creation, and yet this fall is held over the head of the reader like the sword of Damocles from the opening chapter, for his moral delinquencies are not veiled from the start. But his end is so ignominious that the poetic equilibrium of the work is disturbed. The heroine, too, is a goddess in her way, but she is human enough to enlist our sympathy. Nor is the interest confined to a single couple, for Geoffrey’s chum Jack and his fiancée, Nina, divide the honors with the principal actors. The scene is laid in Toronto, Canada, and a yachting excursion on Lake Ontario ... gives rise to infinite and unique episodes. There are occasional speculative conversations which one feels inclined to skip so as to resume the thread of the story, but they are never tiresome, and one regrets them when the end is reached.”⁴⁵

A letter in the Toronto *Globe* from the important Canadian writer Edward William Thomson, who was then chief editorial writer of that paper, pays warm tribute to Jarvis’s new novel:

“To the Editor of The Globe:
Sir:

The *Globe* has not yet, I think, given more than a cursory notice to ‘Geoffrey Hampstead,’ a novel by Mr. T. S. Jarvis, published by the National Publishing Co., and now for sale at Toronto bookstores. No doubt the book must quickly make its way, both here and abroad, for a more interesting, strong, honestly written and skilfully constructed story is not likely to appear soon. One may hope, for their own sakes, that the countrymen of Mr. Jarvis will not wait till they find him acclaimed in England and the States before substantially testifying to the force of his work. They who delay making its acquaintance will be sorry to be late at the feast, and to have lost the pleasure, to which I am now liberally treating myself, of advising all the people they can get at to read a capital story. Because the applause of readers is the due of such a writer as Mr. Jarvis, and because I am grateful to the author for four hours of keen enjoyment, I venture to send you this.

“Also, it seems to me that our journals have not yet quite recognized the merit and significance of ‘Geoffrey Hampstead.’ I take it to prove that the country has

now a novelist who, if he goes on and produces a considerable body of such fiction as that with which he has begun, will take high rank by reason of his astonishingly brilliant and accurate descriptive work, his well-knit plot, and his convincing presentation of the terrible as well as the cheerful in human nature. In painting truly various features of the social life with which his own is commingled, such a writer will interest the outer world and increase among Canadians that peculiar consciousness of community or national being, the confirmation of which is a glory of literature. Of course no lover of good fiction is going to read a novel because someone tells him it's a patriotic duty, or by way of 'encouraging native talent' or improving his Canadianism. That sort of mawkish twaddle has not been employed anywhere that I have seen on behalf of 'Geoffrey Hampstead.' So much the better. Readers who may have been gulled into trying to read rubbish, because it was recommended as 'Canadian,' will be the more likely to plunge into Mr. Jarvis' book because they find it travelling on its merits as a tale. What the judicious novel reader looks and pays for is interest, pleasure, excitement, and it is because 'Geoffrey Hampstead' fills the bill with straightforward, legitimate, natural 'attractions' – no clap-trap or cant in the whole admirably original performance – that one delighted reader intrudes here, in the hope to hasten a little the advent of a new edition.

Toronto, September 20.

E. W. Thomson⁴⁷

Geoffrey Hampstead originated "during leisure moments"⁴⁸ – "it was written for amusement during odd hours"⁴⁹ away from Jarvis's law practice. He naturally drew upon his knowledge of crime and criminals, but the book is more than just a crime story. It also amply displays Jarvis's wide familiarity with yachting, banking, psychology, and heredity (the latter two quite different in the nineteenth century from the modern disciplines). Perhaps most significant of all, Jarvis has left us a colourful and convincing portrait of Toronto life in the eighties.

"Success suggested that works of fancy were really pleasanter than addressing juries,"⁵⁰ and Jarvis decided, as did so many Canadian authors before and after him, to move to New York to write professionally. "We are not surprised," wrote the *Arena* a few years later, "that Stinson Jarvis abandoned the more lucrative practice of the law for the life of letters. We believe it was his duty to make this venture, and that to hold secreted in his own brain such a sequence of ideas ... would be a wrong to others as well as to himself."⁵¹ Perhaps so; at any rate, nearly all his published work would be produced during his thirteen years' residence in New York.

Jarvis emigrated to the United States in the first half of 1891,⁵² and the earliest known fruit of his new career appeared in October in *Leslie's Weekly*, a magazine with which he would be connected for many years. The article is nominally about a Philadelphia cricket match, but Jarvis devotes much space to two of his

favourite subjects: the differences between the Americans and the English, and the strong attraction which the latter hold for American ladies. The tone of the piece is very British.

The earliest articles are often signed "Thomas S. Jarvis" or "Thomas Stinson Jarvis." (His first book bore the former name, his second, the latter.) As far as can be determined, "Stinson Jarvis" was first used in a *Leslie's* article, "The Steam Yacht 'Conqueror,'" in March, 1892, but it was not until June that Jarvis dispensed entirely with the longer forms of his name, and he does not seem to have ever used them again. To his friends and relatives, he was "Tom"; this is how his cousin addresses him in a true account of a youthful yachting experience.⁵³

For a time Jarvis was "Aquatics" editor for a paper called *Sport, Music and Drama* (through a series of title and editorial changes eventually to become the famous *Vanity Fair*), contributing seven yachting articles between February and April, 1892. He may also have done work for *Sport* between July and December, 1891; unfortunately this is not now ascertainable, as no copy of Volume v can be located. After April he was replaced by Capt Ahmed J. Kenealy (1854-19-), another yachting journalist. In July, however, Jarvis did make one last contribution - another rare attempt at poetry, or at least verse, entitled "A Cry of Victory - How I Beat the *Vamoose*." This lampoons the book publisher George Munro (1825-1896), owner of the *Norwood*, a famous yacht. Although the race between the *Norwood* and the *Vamoose* of William Randolph Hearst (1869-1947) had been long discussed, it had yet to be run; Jarvis suggests that this "dream match" is a publicity ploy and not really worth waiting for.

Jarvis's earliest contributions to *Leslie's Weekly* were also mainly yachting articles. One exception is the short story "The Pride of Margaret Alleyne; or, Glimpses at a New England Family," printed in November, 1892. This appears to be an essay in fictional character-study, but is actually far more. The Alleynes of the story are the Stinsons of Hamilton in thin disguise. The "Margaret Alleyne" of the title is Jarvis's grandmother, Margaret Zimmerman Stinson (1807-1882), and the story may have been written in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of her death. The "old-fashioned stone house" is Homestead, "a large, handsome stone house ... in beautiful grounds on the east side of Queen Street North."⁵⁴ "Herbert," who dies in England, is Thomas Brock Stinson (1836-1856), Jarvis's uncle. "Ebenezer" is Ebenezer Stinson (1827-1855), another uncle. "Harold," who in a fit of anger with his father shoots himself through the heart, is Francis Stinson (1838-1860). "Thomas Alleyne" is the patriarch of the family, Thomas Stinson (1798-1864). "Marcellus" is John Stinson (1829-1865); "Millicent" is Jane Anna (Jennie) Stinson (1834-1899), and "Millicent's husband," who is condemned to be hanged for shooting "a well-known bully out West" is Peter Preston Wintermute (1832-1877), who did in fact shoot Gen Edwin S. McCook, Secretary of the Dakota Territory, in Yankton, on the night of September 11,

1873.⁵⁵ "Junius Alleyne of Chicago" is James Stinson (1828-1917), who made a fortune in real estate in Chicago and other cities of the midwest. The last "tragedy," which is given fuller treatment than the others, is the one which affected Jarvis most. "Sidney" is of course Harry Argue Stinson (1848-1877), Jarvis's "lifelong friend."⁵⁶

Full of revealing details too numerous to be discussed here, "The Pride of Margaret Alleyne" offers insights of a kind which only a personal account can provide, and is a significant addition to our knowledge of this important Hamilton family.

Another early non-yachting article is "A Foreigner's View of the World's Fair," a rather empty panegyric of the Chicago exposition, in which, for effect, Jarvis again insists on adopting the *persona* of an Englishman.

In April, 1892, at a time when the United States was just beginning to build up her navy in preparation for such *coups de théâtre* as the Spanish-American War, there appeared a lengthy and fascinating account of "The Brooklyn Navy Yard" by Stinson Jarvis, with illustrations by A. B. Schultz. This was the feature story in *Leslie's Popular Monthly*, which was at this date no longer connected with *Leslie's Weekly*. A single contribution to *Century*, an essay on "Female Humorists and American Humor," published in November, 1892, gives some of the views on women which Jarvis was to repeat many times in later writings.

Four adventure anecdotes appeared in *Sports Afield* in late 1892 and early 1893: "How Batty Saved the Yacht," relies perhaps too much on the reader's knowledge of sailing technicalities to be really effective;⁵⁷ "A New York Yacht Race," is a fuller description of the contest reported earlier in *Leslie's Weekly*, ("The Atlantic Yacht Club and Larchmont Regattas"), and in which he himself participated.⁵⁸ The third and best of these stories is "The Fate of the Smuggler 'Irex.'" This is an exciting tale of pursuit; the title is ironic, for in this tale the *Irex* eludes capture. The narrator insists, however, that she did eventually meet her fate – but that, of course, is another story. This favourite dodge of yarn-spinning is most effective here. "A Curious Escape from a Birch-Bark Death Trap" shows how the capsizing of a canoe can put a duck-hunter in a very difficult situation; this is probably taken from a true experience.

Although later he was to write much drama criticism, Jarvis continued to contribute occasional yachting articles to *Leslie's Weekly* through 1899. Whether dealing with yachting science, rules, history, humour, gossip, or social aspects, Jarvis's columns almost inevitably provide the layman with entertaining glimpses of the yachting *mystique*. There is no doubt that Jarvis sincerely loved the "sport of millionaires." But he also loved the millionaires themselves, and yachting offered a means of maintaining frequent contact and convivial relations with them. One special feather in Jarvis's cap was the commendatory letter which *Leslie's* received from Lord Dunraven,⁵⁹ after printing Jarvis's extremely favourable comments on the famous sportsman.⁶⁰

In addition, Jarvis was Yachting Editor of the New York *Tribune*; the extent to which he contributed to the New York *World* is less clear. It is difficult to discover precisely when Jarvis joined the *Tribune* because that paper did not use by-lines on articles by staff members. An obituary of Jarvis in the Los Angeles *Times* states that he edited the *Tribune* yachting section for thirteen years, which would mean that he began virtually upon arrival in New York. As most of the yachting items in the *Tribune* were quite restricted in scope, offering no opportunity for the columnist to show peculiarities of style, determination through stylistic analysis is impossible.

There is some evidence that the yachting editorship was set up in 1893, although Jarvis may well have worked for the paper in a lesser capacity during the two previous years. In 1891, all yachting articles are listed in the *Tribune* index under the heading "Regattas." Few in number, they represent nothing but simple news reports of the various club regattas. The listing for 1892 is similar. The 1893 articles, however, are listed under "Yachting," and there is a significant increase in their number; also, for the first time, there are yachting editorials.

The Balboa (California) *Times* obituary of Jarvis refers to his connection with the New York *World*, but the extent of this connection is not ascertainable. Known to be by Jarvis, however, are two unsigned columns in the *World*, published on February 25 and 27, 1896.⁶¹

Edward W. Thomson, from whom Jarvis had received such hearty praise in the pages of the Toronto *Globe*, had himself since emigrated to the United States, where he became an editor for the popular *Youth's Companion* of Boston. In an advertisement in the *Companion* for November 10, 1892, Stinson Jarvis is among those listed as contributors of stories for the coming year 1893.

In all, Jarvis published six stories in Thomson's magazine between 1893 and 1900. A good yarn is always worth retelling, and "A Bad Night on a Yacht," published in two instalments in November and December, 1893, is just another version (less fictionalized) of the storm sequence in *Geoffrey Hampstead*, which was itself taken from the experience on Harry Stinson's *Brunette* in September, 1872. "Sailing the 'Nameless'" is another tale of smuggling on the Great Lakes, published in two parts in June, 1894. Creating well-sustained excitement, Jarvis follows the *Nameless* as she attempts to elude the U.S. Coast Guard, only to be swept over Niagara Falls. "Voyage of the 'Mohican,'" published in August, 1895, tells of a capsizing and near-impossible rescue. "A Mystery of the Sea" (October, 1895) describes the finding of a 'ghost ship.' "Skys'ls on the Skiffs" (July, 1896) is about a contest between home-made boats in Toronto harbour; if this is a true story, as it seems, then it must have occurred about 1874. The title of the autobiographical "A Narrow Escape while Ice-Boating" (November, 1900), is self-explanatory.

Jarvis's second novel, a sequel to *Geoffrey Hampstead*, is entitled *Doctor Perdue*. The Chicago firm of Laird and Lee had initiated a new series of paper-

covered novels, As an incentive to both writers and readers, a prize was offered for each manuscript chosen for publication. "Laird and Lee's Prize Novels," priced at fifty cents, were to be issued quarterly; subscriptions could be taken out.

The first of these books was *Cortlandt Laster, Capitalist* (later re-titled *The American Duchess*), by Harley Deene. Jarvis's *Doctor Perdue* was the second. Although it bears the date November 1892 on the spine, and 1892 on the title-page, *Doctor Perdue* was not actually published until February 11, 1893. Possibly subscribers to the series received it earlier.

On its wrapper the book bears the caption, "This novel has been awarded the \$1,000.00 Cash Prize offered by Laird and Lee for the best original American novel submitted to them between May 2 and September 30, 1892." Supposedly more than six hundred writers had entered this competition.⁶²

In general the press did not find *Doctor Perdue* as attractive as its predecessor. It is even more a psychological novel, although perhaps some of the character-drawing is too dependent on the exigencies of the plot; for the most part, however, his analysis is convincingly done. In this book we learn that Geoffrey Hampstead did not die in the falls of Niagara, but escaped, like Sherlock Holmes a few years later, to assume a new identity. Going to Paris to study medicine, Hampstead emerges as Doctor Perdue, quickly making a name as a great surgeon.

A fairly accurate idea of *Doctor Perdue* is given by the *Chicago Journal*:

"It has a certain charm and freshness, and yet, when one comes to analyze the characters, one wonders wherein the charm lies. There isn't a bit of mystery, no wildly rapturous love-making, no hidden will, not even a murder. There's a famous physician who in the most matter-of-fact fashion weds one of the most cool-blooded, absolutely correct women of the world ... a woman whose heart is touched but little when she finds that her husband was previously betrothed to and still loves her own best woman friend. Father Ward, a ritualistic Anglican priest, is a character that is strongly portrayed, and as one of a class growing larger every day, is well worth some study. The descriptions of life on a yachting trip are realistic and picturesque."⁶³

An advertisement for *Doctor Perdue* in the 1894 *Publishers' Trade Annual* describes it as

DOCTOR PERDUE, By STINSON JARVIS

A masterly tale of yachting adventures, written by the talented author that of highly successful novel, "GEOFFREY HEMPSTEAD." Clark Russell, at his best, has never proved more enthralling, and the study of characters in "DR. PERDUE" is of a much higher order than that of any type introduced in Mr. Russell's famous novels.

Of the Author's efforts the Newspapers say:

NEW YORK SUN:—"Full of narrative emphasis and tragic force."
BOSTON BEACON:—"It is a long time since publishers have given us anything half so good."
CHICAGO JOURNAL:—"A new novel, by a new novelist, written in the breezy old style of Dickens."

Another advertisement appeared in *Publisher's Weekly* for February 11, 1893.

Doctor Perdue is a subtle book; its points are made quietly, and can easily be missed by reviewers who have no time to give a paper-covered novel a careful reading. Indeed some critics were rather annoyed. "The story is in no way better than the cheapest and most indifferent kinds of English novels," wrote the *Chicago Times*; and the New Orleans *Picayune* felt that "The characters are caricatures, and action is strained and improbable, the style is hard and bald, and there is no decent motif to the story ..." But surely this harshness is unwarranted.

The book continued in print through 1902, by which time it was selling for 25 cents in Laird and Lee's "Pastime Series."⁶⁴

A new phase in Jarvis's literary career began in March, 1894, when he appeared in print for the first time as a drama critic for *Leslie's Weekly*, with a portrait of Ellen Terry. Most of his reviews were in the "Our Players" column, to which he was by no means the only contributor: Harry P. Mawson, himself author of at least sixteen plays, and brother of the actor Edward P. Mawson, wrote more reviews than Jarvis; and Henry Tyrrell (1865-1933), Kate Jordan (1861 or 2-1926) and Lyster Sandford each did quite a few. It appears, however, that Jarvis was not only a contributor, but actually the dramatic editor – at least this is what he styles himself in a June 11, 1894 postcard.⁶⁵ There are no columns by Jarvis after February, 1895; he may have spent all his time in purely editorial work. (He was still yachting editor of the New York *Tribune* as well.) After 1896, particularly, a change in format made a dramatic editor *per se* more necessary. No longer were regular reviews done; instead, theatre news consisted mainly of photographs. The accompanying text was never more than a few paragraphs in length. Because of the nature of this writing, it is of no special interest even if it could be shown that Jarvis did it.

The writers Jarvis admired most were George Eliot, Thackeray, and Balzac in prose fiction; Tennyson and Edward Arnold in poetry; and Henry Arthur Jones, Sydney Grundy, and Arthur Wing Pinero in drama. He considered Abbé Prévost, Byron, Zola, Maupassant and Sardou inferior, and was an opponent of the aesthetic movement in general; Beardsley horrified him.

Art for art's sake was anathema. Jarvis felt that art must teach ideals, and that like mankind itself, it is evolutionary, ever moving towards higher stages. Sex, especially, belonged to the lower grades of life. Yet Jarvis was broad-minded enough to allow a good deal of leeway, realizing that not all men are at the same level:

"... while we personally may from an artistic standpoint object very strongly to the undraped woman, we still can realize how often she may divert others from criminal and insane impulses."⁶⁶

Jarvis was also very much interested in the Woman Question, and held the "new woman" to be inevitable, especially in the light of evolutionary findings.

As drama critic for *Leslie's Weekly*, Jarvis covered everything from variety shows to opera and the "new theatre." Because of *Leslie's* heterogeneous readership, he occasionally had to descend from his own customary "high level of existence" to portray some of the more mundane aspects of life, both on the stage and off. In his descriptions of the variety theatre (in "Relaxation Rest-Cure"), the spectators at the Larchmont Regatta ("Yacht-Racing"), the seaside ("Within Sound of the Sea"), and the sidewalk tamale-vendors ("Tamale! Tamale! Hot Tamale!"), Jarvis gives superb prose-snapshots of scenes in and around New York City. Colour and *éclat* are his strong points, and these short articles provide excellent documentation of everyday life in the great city at the close of the century. The ephemera of newspapers and weeklies can often give more of an intuitive understanding of a past age than a whole stack of text-books.

Since his student days, Jarvis had been interested in psychic phenomena. Not only had he read widely, but he had conducted various experiments involving hypnosis, mostly during the 1870s. Finally he compiled his observations and speculations into a book, *The Ascent of Life*. In December, 1893, readers of the *Arena* prospectus were treated to an unusual six-page advertisement for the work, which was to be published in six monthly instalments between December, 1893, and May, 1894.

The Boston periodical *Arena* was a dignified and respected magazine of what would today be called the social sciences: history, philosophy, sociology, politics, religion, and psychology, including psychic sciences of varying degrees of validity.

The Ascent of Life was brought out by the Arena Publishing Company in book form later in the year, apparently on October 27, 1894.⁶⁷ The book is dedicated to Ellen Terry; as can be seen from his article on the great actress in *Leslie's* for March 29, 1894, she exemplified for Jarvis the highest type of woman, in an evolutionary sense.

Jarvis's book was not very widely reviewed, and what critical reaction there was seems to have been less than enthusiastic. While the *Montreal Gazette* found it interesting, the *Toronto Globe* and the *New York Sun* tore it to pieces.

To Jarvis, *The Ascent of Life* was a work of science; regarded as such, it is almost worthless. As a piece of speculative philosophy, however, it is a remarkably interesting book, and its subjectivity and friendly tone only enhance it. The ideas themselves are not strikingly original: except for the view that hypnosis reveals the future evolution of the human mind, Jarvis's philosophy is mainly a compound of Charles Darwin, A. R. Wallace, E. H. Haeckel, T. H. Huxley, Herbert Spencer, and Max Mueller, all of whom he mentions in the work.

To anyone interested in Jarvis, *The Ascent of Life* is of special significance, not because it is his greatest work (although he seemed to think it was), but because it is the key to all the others. The evolutionary motif in *Geoffrey Hampstead*, the character of Father Ward in *Doctor Perdue*, the analysis of marital love in *She*

Lived in New York – virtually all of his themes, in fact – are found in raw form in *The Ascent of Life*. The book, incidentally, received the endorsement of the American Theosophical Society of New York.

Jarvis spent the second half of 1894 in Europe. It is not clear whether the primary motivation for the trip was business or pleasure. An advertisement running in *Leslie's Weekly*, beginning on June 30, 1894, reads:

“In view of the great interest felt in this country in the coming international yacht races ... *Leslie's Weekly* has sent abroad its special photographer, Mr. Hemment, who will follow the Vigilant in all her races ...”

Jarvis, too, went to England at the end of June,⁶⁸ sending back two articles on the races. But since he did not return until December,⁶⁹ the trip was probably more of a vacation than anything else. Not only *The Ascent of Life* was published while he was in Europe; another book, *She Lived in New York*, appeared on December 1.

She Lived in New York, Jarvis's final novel, is the story of Estelle Crosby, a young and beautiful woman trapped in an unhappy marriage, who yields to temptation and is destroyed. Although the best, this is the least known of Jarvis's little-known novels. Probably this is due to the peculiar circumstances of its publication. The book, selling for 50 cents in paper covers, was brought out by the Judge Publishing Company, whose subsidiary, the Arkell Weekly Company, published *Leslie's Weekly*. Judge had issued a short-lived series of seven novels in 1888-89, but never again published anything that could be called literature, with the single exception of Jarvis's novel. Without the benefit of an established promotional machine, *She Lived in New York* was lost in the avalanche of Christmas books. It must have received very few reviews; none have yet been found.⁷⁰ Not one advertisement for the book ever appeared in *Judge* magazine itself, and it is therefore unlikely that any advertisements appeared elsewhere. It was not until April 20, 1895, that the book was announced to the trade in *Publishers' Weekly*.⁷¹

Jarvis wrote this book partially as a novelistic illustration of the ideas found in *The Ascent of Life*, as he explains in the brief preface dated July, 1894. There is also the vague suggestion⁷² that the book was in some sense inspired by the novel *Miss Brown* by Vernon Lee (pen-name of Violet Paget, 1856-1935), a malicious and spiteful attack on the leaders of the aesthetic movement. But although *She Lived in New York* also attacks the movement, Jarvis's style is reasoned and devoid of real venom.

While in Europe Jarvis sent home an amusing testimonial letter for Williams' Shaving Soap, used in an advertisement in *Judge*.⁷³ More important, he is said to have met some of the intellectual lights of Paris and London.⁷⁴ Unfortunately we are not told who these might have been. It seems clear, however, that he either met or corresponded with Henry Arthur Jones.⁷⁵ He returned to the United States in December.

During 1894-95 Jarvis carried on a brief correspondence with Henry J. Morgan (1842-1913), a Canadian, who wanted an entry on Jarvis for his reference book, *Canadian Men and Women of the Time*. Three carelessly and hastily written letters are known to be extant.⁷⁶

Probably attached to the third letter, or at any rate dating from about the same time, is a fragment of autobiography similar to what was actually printed in Morgan's book, as far as it goes, although there is more detail in the manuscript. The entry for Jarvis turns out to be one of the longest in the book.

How short-lived Jarvis's fame was to be is symbolized by the fact that when a second edition of Morgan's work was issued in 1912, the Jarvis article was cut to less than one-tenth its original length!

After *The Ascent of Life*, Jarvis contributed five additional articles to the *Arena* between 1895 and 1898, most of them in a similar vein. During 1896 Jarvis had three articles published in *Rudder*, a yachting magazine. "International Yachting from a Belligerent [*sic*] Standpoint" humourously suggests that sport can sublimate international hostilities; "The Ketch" is a not-too-accurate etymological study, by which the origins of this type of boat are supposedly traced; and "On the Great Lakes" is a very good history of yachting on the lakes, a still-under-rated phase of the sport.

In March of 1899, after an absence of four years, Jarvis's name was once again seen in *Leslie's Weekly*, under a short article. Entitled "The Sport of the Merciless Sea," it is a description of an unusual shipwreck, discovered on November 28, 1898, at Scituate, Mass., in which the pilot-boat *Columbia* had run aground during a storm and had demolished a house on shore.

Jarvis continued to write for *Leslie's*. In the fall of 1899 he did a number of articles on the America's Cup race, both before and after it had been run. "Why I fear the *Shamrock*" bears the caption: "A well-known yachting expert thinks America may lose the International Cup, and he tells why he thinks so." The article concludes: "Mr. Jarvis is the conscientious yachting expert of the New York *Tribune*, and his opinion will be read with no little interest." (Incidentally, the *Shamrock* lost.)

On October 28, 1899, *Leslie's Weekly* carried a column, "The Drama in New York," signed "Jason" – an appropriate pen-name, since it is a portmanteau of "Stinson Jarvis." A short time before, *Leslie's* had reverted to a regular drama column after having printed very little theatre material of any kind during 1898. This Jason column was the first to carry a signature.

During the next four years, over one hundred articles by Jason were to be printed. The style of Jarvis's earlier drama columns had been very literary, sometimes to the point of awkwardness. But the new Jason forgoes subtlety and judges on narrowly moralistic grounds; the best play is one which provides good, clean entertainment for the whole family. As this was precisely the aesthetic

criterion of the great majority of his readers, it is not surprising that Jason's column became a regular feature.

This was hack-work, and probably Jarvis himself so regarded it. Most of the reviews are perfunctory, and many of the productions noticed are comic opera, vaudeville, or variety acts of no artistic pretensions. Few of the columns have much intrinsic interest.

Jarvis's comments on *Sapho* and the attendant scandal, in "'Sapho' Not Worth Seeing" (March 3, 1900), and "Talk about the Drama" (March 10, 1900), are an exception. The circumstances of this famous broil were such as to spark even the dullest columnist. *Sapho* was written by Alphonse Daudet (1840-1897) in 1884, but it was not until 1900 that a stage version by Clyde Fitch (1865-1909) opened in New York. Olga Nethersole (1870-1951) portrayed Fanny Legrand, the "Sapho" of the title. *Sapho* is just another French love story, but since "*c'est la vie*" is the only moral, it infuriated those guardians of public welfare, the critics.⁷⁷ To the Victorian American mind it was not so much Daudet who was at fault; what else could one expect from a Frenchman? Nor was it the director, or the male lead, but the leading lady herself. A self-righteous campaign to have the play banned culminated in the prosecution of Miss Nethersole, initiated by a reporter for the N.Y. *Times*, on the charge of creating a public nuisance. She was acquitted, and performance of the play resumed, but the incident remains an ugly mark in the history of the American theatre.

Jason repeatedly observed that the play was "no worse than *Camille*," but objected to the suggestive advertisements which stirred up so much interest in the first place, and blamed Miss Nethersole for having allowed them to appear.

"The Perils of Oriental Journalism," a humorous little filler printed in June, 1901, is signed "Stinson Jarvis," and seems to be the last article in *Leslie's* to bear that name. Jason, however, continued somewhat longer, though with diminishing frequency. The last Jason column appeared on October 22, 1903.

In either 1903 or 1904 Jarvis left New York for good, to settle in Southern California. Although he did not entirely cease writing after this date, the move did represent a retirement from professional life. He made his home at first in Los Angeles, which at that time had a population of only about 100,000. A mailing address dating from 1912 is given as Box 116, Station C, North Angeles, California; certainly, Los Angeles is meant.⁷⁸ In the early 1900s Station C was located at Arcadia and Main Streets in the downtown district of Los Angeles. Whether Jarvis actually lived near there is not known.

In 1906 Jarvis made a substantial magazine contribution, but it was not his own writing. The memoirs of his great-grandfather, Colonel Stephen Jarvis, appeared in four instalments in the *Canadian Magazine*, under the title "Reminiscences of a Loyalist." Jarvis's editing of these memoirs entailed one large cut and the inser-

tion of numerous footnotes, most of which are simply explanatory. In a few of these, however, Jarvis brings in some of his own recollections. As early as 1893 he had been thinking of bringing this manuscript to light in the form of a historical novel, but this project did not materialize.⁷⁹

Frank A. Garbutt (1869-1947) was one of Jarvis's friends in California. Garbutt, a resident of Los Angeles since 1882, was an all-round sportsman, an early auto and aviation enthusiast, and founder of the California Yacht Club in 1922. During the winter of 1908 Jarvis went with Garbutt on a cruise to Baja California and the islands off its coast. The following year, Jarvis published an illuminating account of their experiences in this little-known part of the world: "Cruising in Out of the Way Waters" was the first of three articles in *Yachting* magazine. "The Oil-Burning Steam Yacht Companero" (February, 1910), is a description of a new luxury yacht built in Southern California. "Pulled Through" (November, 1911) is yet another telling of the near-fatal yachting adventure on Lake Ontario in 1872. This time Jarvis emphasizes the technical aspects of the story – precisely what happened to the yacht, and why.

In 1913 and 1914 a very curious series of articles by Jarvis appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*. "Homer's History of Britain" (January, 1913), "The Statesmanship of Religion" (August), "Record Showing British Origin of the Aztecs" (October), and "The Original Heaven and Hell" (January, 1914), are all excerpts from something called *The Jarvis Letters*. This was evidently a complete or well-advanced manuscript, since two of the articles are taken from "Chapter xiv."

It seems an unlikely work to appear in a newspaper. Jarvis tells of a 13,000-year-old Druid priesthood which supposedly originated and controlled the civilizations and religions of the world, including those of the Americas. The articles are nearly unreadable, based on almost totally fallacious reasoning and overloaded with lists of words in various languages which are claimed to be related. Most of the etymologies are absurd, and the conclusion that the Druids constructed these languages with built-in clues that would be recognized by educated men of some future generation is, to say the least, a *non sequitur*.

The cataclysm of the World War spurred Jarvis to rewrite *The Jarvis Papers*. The new work, *The Price of Peace*, is described on the Library of Congress printed card as "An attempt to show, by reference to the teachings of the Druids, the influence of mistaken religious beliefs in the bringing on of war and the menace to peace involved in the subjugation of nations to the rule of kings and priests."

In 1921, Jarvis took the manuscript to J. F. Rowny, a publisher. A contemporary advertisement describes the J. F. Rowny Press as "Printers and publishers of books on psychology, mysticism, occultism, metaphysics, divine science, and other new age literature." Some representative titles found in their 1922 catalogue are *Experimental Psychology – a Treatise on the Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Soul*, by Almo de Monco, M.D.; *Wine for the Soul – in Prose and Verse*, by

Margaret Olive Jordan; and *Practical Healing*, by Fenwicke Lindsay Holmes. The firm continues to print material of this nature today.

Mr Rowny, now of Santa Barbara, California, recalls that he first met Jarvis through the late Dr Hazeldine⁸⁰ of Los Angeles, "evidently an old friend of his."⁸¹ Rowny describes Jarvis as a "Gibraltar-like" character, and continues, "Not only was he a barrister or judge in Canada, but evidently a life-long student of archaeology. He travelled in many parts of the world to substantiate his claims about the ancient Druids, their religion, arts, and sciences."⁸²

The Price of Peace was published in 1921, probably in September;⁸³ it was not announced in *Publishers' Weekly* until August 5, 1922. It was distributed by A. M. Scott and Company, Los Angeles; Andrew McKay Scott was Jarvis's son-in-law.

Up to this point, little mention has been made of Jarvis's immediate family. In fact, relatively little information is available. It is known, though, that his father, Stephen Maule Jarvis, died in Toronto on March 17, 1902, and that his mother, Mary Stinson Jarvis, died in 1916.

Jarvis had married Annie Croft in 1881. What became of her is not known, but at the time of his death Jarvis was married to a woman named Emily, described as "a prominent Balboa clubwoman."⁸⁴ Jarvis had moved to Balboa, a yachting resort in Orange County, about sixty miles south of Los Angeles, in 1921.

He was the father of three children: Ruth, Edward Peters, and Stephen Maule Jarvis, probably in that order. But who their mother was, or when and where they were born, cannot be stated with any certainty. J. F. Rowny mentions that in the early twenties Jarvis was living in Balboa with his wife and two children. Ruth was probably already married to Andrew M. Scott, and if the two boys were still living at home, they probably were not much over twenty. An 1894 genealogical account⁸⁵ mentions no children and no second marriage.

Rowny says that the Scotts eventually moved East, and Miss Julia Jarvis of Toronto recalls corresponding some years ago with an elderly Mrs A. M. Scott living in Connecticut. Stephen and Edward continued to live in Los Angeles; the former either died or left the area in the 40s or 50s, and the latter, who was married and had children, seems to have died in Los Angeles about 1962. An Edward P. Jarvis, Jr, today lives in Corona del Mar, adjacent to Balboa.

On Thursday, December 31, 1925, Jarvis went to Los Angeles to visit his daughter, who lived at 1811 West 5th Street. Shortly after his arrival he became seriously ill, and died on Saturday, January 2, 1926.⁸⁶ He was 71 years of age.

Funeral services were held on Monday, January 4, at the Little Church of the Flowers, Los Angeles, at one p.m. A death notice printed in the Los Angeles *Times* of the preceding day had carried the postscript, "Toronto, Can.; New York City and Boston papers please copy." It was a genteel, but useless gesture. Those cities had forgotten him.

It is interesting to speculate on Jarvis's meteoric plummet to obscurity. Jarvis had at one time been something of a celebrity, at least in Canada. But his leaving this country brought about his effacement here within a short time. It could hardly have been otherwise: by 1894, after a scant three years in the U.S., he had written his last book (except for the much later *Price of Peace*). Once out of Canada he was not prolific enough to maintain his reputation.

More to the point, Jarvis had never emphasized his Canadian identity. He preferred to be known as an Englishman; though *Geoffrey Hampstead* is very much a *Canadian* novel, this is due more to Jarvis's ability for local colour and vivid character portrayal than to any deliberate nationalism.

As for his place in the history of American literature, there is hardly any indication that he was ever considered an American writer. The one exception is his inclusion in Adams's *Dictionary of American Authors* (4th ed., 1904). Even if one regards him as such, his contribution to American literature would amount only to some four books, nine stories, a number of essays, and assorted ephemera.

In English-Canadian literature, however, Jarvis is a proverbial "big fish in a small pool." This small Canadian pool has its own unique qualities, and Jarvis's significance is therefore real. As one of Canada's most talented writers of the nineties, he deserves rescue from the neglect into which he has fallen.

Notes

In order to avoid constant repetition, most citations are coded directly to the bibliography. Thus (B.1.d) would be found in section B (works dealing with Stinson Jarvis), subsection 1 (primary biographical sources), subsection d, Jarvis *et al.*, *The Jarvis Family*, etc.

- 1 The most complete history of the Jarvis family is (B.1.d).
- 2 (A.4.a).
- 3 (C.5).
- 4 (B.1.e)
- 5 (A.2.f.7).
- 6 (B.1.e).
- 7 (A.2.a.1), p. 744.
- 8 (B.1.g).
- 9 (C.4), p. 804.
- 10 (A.2.n.1), p. 623. It would seem that this had always been Stinson Jarvis's home. In a story so thinly fictionalized that the protagonists' names are left unchanged, Jarvis states that he had seen the Toronto lighthouse from his bedroom window every night for the past twenty years.

- 11 (C.4), p. 804.
- 12 (A.2.a.1), pp. 19-20.
- 13 (B.1.g).
- 14 Whenever it was, the tour extended from one calendar year into the next, since he passed the winter in Europe and then went on. Jarvis himself, through Morgan, says that he left Canada at the age of seventeen, that is, in 1871-72. (B.1.j) states that Jarvis left at eighteen; this would be 1872-73. Thus he would have to have been in Europe in the fall of 1872 - but he is known to have been in Canada then. According to (B.1.d) the tour was made in 1873-74, when Jarvis was nineteen and twenty. This is discredited by (B.1.g) and (B.1.j), both of which state that *Letters from East Longitudes*, an account of the trip, was written before he was twenty. (B.1.k) specifically says he wrote the book at nineteen. There is no reason to give especial credence to (B.1.d) on this point; the compilers do not seem to have been particularly close to Jarvis's immediate family. Therefore it is most likely that the tour was indeed made in 1871-72.
- 15 According to the Rolls of the Law Society of Upper Canada.
- 16 (B.1.g)
- 17 (A.2.m.3), p. 372.
- 18 Jarvis used this tale at least three times in his writings: (A.1.b), pp. 192-206; (A.2.n.1); and (A.2.m.3).
- 19 (A.2.a.1), p. 737.
- 20 (A.3.a).
- 21 (A.2.a.1), 744-5.
- 22 *Ibid.*, 7.
- 23 (B.3.b.8).
- 24 (B.1.c).
- 25 (A.2.a.1), pp. 23-4.
- 26 (A.1.a), advertising pages at the back.
- 27 (B.1.g).
- 28 (B.3.a.1).
- 29 (B.1.g).
- 30 *Ibid.*
- 31 (A.2.i.6).
- 32 *Toronto Globe*, (October 30, 1877), p. 4, col. 2.
- 33 (A.2.f.7).
- 34 (A.2.i.7).
- 35 (A.2.i.8).
- 36 (B.1.g).
- 37 Information from the Deputy Clerk of the County Court, Welland, Ontario.
- 38 (B.1.g).
- 39 (A.2.a.1), p. 25.

- 40 (C.1).
- 41 (B.1.g).
- 42 He is cited in the *Canadian Law List* of 1891 as a barrister in Toronto; in the press release for *Geoffrey Hampstead* (1890) he is described as "a resident of Toronto."
- 43 This can be found in whole or in part in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, August 16, 1890; *Chicago Times*, *ibid.*; *Detroit Tribune*, *ibid.*; *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 17, 1890; and many other papers.
- 44 (B.1.0).
- 45 (B.1.g).
- 46 (B.3.b.7).
- 47 (B.1.m).
- 48 (B.1.0).
- 49 (B.1.g).
- 50 (B.1.g).
- 51 (B.1.j).
- 52 In (A.2.a.1), pp. 17, 20, he mentions performing an experiment in New York in June, 1891.
- 53 (A.2.n.1).
- 54 (C.5).
- 55 A very detailed account of this famous episode in South Dakota history may be found in George W. Kingsbury, *History of Dakota Territory* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1915), I, pp. 718-43; others are Howard R. Lamar, *Dakota Territory, 1861-1889*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1956), pp. 141-42; Edna L. Waldo, *Dakota* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1936), pp. 406-10; and J. P. Wintermute, *The Wintermute Family History* (Delaware, Ohio: 1900), pp. 282-83.
- 56 (A.2.a.1), p. 20.
- 57 It may, however, be a true story, in which case "Paulus Aemilius Irving," or "Batty," as he is called, is probably Aemilius Jarvis (1860-1940), a cousin, a well-known yachtsman and financier.
- 58 In the first of these he was on J. Rogers Maxwell's *Shamrock*, and in the second, W. Gould Brokaw's *Viator*.
- 59 (C.3).
- 60 (A.2.f.12).
- 61 These two articles are cited in (A.2.h.3). The heading in the *Tribune* index for 1896 and 1897 was changed from "Yachting" to "Sports," sub-heading "Yachting." If the change indicates the reversion of yachting material to the office of the Sports Editor, it may mean that Jarvis left the *Tribune* for those two years – possibly to work for the *World*. In 1898 the heading was changed back to "Yachting," and it remained so – it is known from references in (B.1.g) and (A.2.f.40) that Jarvis was with the *Tribune* later on.

- 62 (B.1.b) and (B.1.ℓ).
 63 (B.3.c.3).
 64 *American Catalogue - Books in Print*, 1902. *Geoffrey Hampstead* was also available as late as 1902.
 65 (A.3.b).
 66 (A.2.f.29).
 67 Listed "received" by the *Toronto Globe* on October 27, 1894, but not announced in *Publishers' Weekly* until December 22.
 68 He was witness to an event which occurred at Glasgow on July 5, according to (B.2.f.24).
 69 *She Lived in New York* was published on December 1 "from Europe" (A.1.g) - but Jarvis was back to review a play (B.2.f.28) before the end of the month.
 70 Reviews are known to have been solicited, however: the book was listed "received" by the *N.Y. Tribune*, December 1, 1894; the *N.Y. Herald*, December 3, 1894; and the *Nation*, December 6, 1894.
 71 For additional background on the Judge Publishing Company, see (C.6).
 72 (A.2.a.5), p. 814.
 73 (A.2.d.1).
 74 (B.1.g).
 75 Less than two months after his return, writing about Jones's *The Case of Rebellious Susan* in (A.2.f.37), Jarvis uses the phrase, "I have it direct from the author."
 76 (A.3.b,c,d).
 LETTER

345 West 34th St.
 New York - 13 Mch - 94

Dear Mr. Morgan

I enclose to you the notes previously referred to, and also a copy of *Arena* (Dec 93) in the prospectus of wh. you will find (at the back) a re-print of the *Arena's* record of my work, &c-

I shall be glad to hear from you as to how far the enclosed notes can be used by you, and if you care to read a copy of the Boston work I shall be happy to send it to you -

Yours very sincerely
 Stinson Jarvis

Henry J. Morgan esq
 Ottawa -

P.S. [written on the back of the envelope] I have not been able as yet to get back from the *Arena* the reviews referred to, so cannot at present forward the duplicates of those quoted from note-book.

POSTCARD

I think you wrote me before about supplying material for biography. I cannot remember whether I sent it. Perhaps you will kindly write as to this?

Address: Stinson Jarvis
Dramatic Editor -
Leslies Ild Weekly
New York City

11 - June - 94:

LETTER

345 West 34th St
New York - 10 Mch: 95 -

Dear Mr Morgan

Thanks for your letter and the mention of the work by Chadwick which my father is looking up for me in Toronto. [B.1.c]

I have written to Boston to recover some reviews and other printed material left with the Arena Magazine when this publication produced an account of my life & works - but I fear these are hopelessly mislaid. I can however send you what the Arena issued, which to some extent copied the previous account printed by "Leslie's Weekly" of New York. I am arranging some short extracts from these, as a form of suggestion, if I may speak of it as such, to you - and possibly to save you trouble.

As to your query as to other Canadians living in U.S. I beg to say that my good friend E. W. Thomson, formerly editor of *The Globe* (though a conservative in every instinct) and now one of the editors of "The Youths Companion", Boston - He is son, or grandson, of old Colonel Thomson of Toronto & is one of the old stock. He is the best literary critic that Canada ever possessed [Morgan quotes this line in his article on Thomson] and you should by all means have him in - address him, "Editorial Room 10, "The Youths Companion", Boston, Mass." - You can tell Thomson that I said it was his *duty* to be in your book.

Yours very sincerely,
Stinson Jarvis

H. L. Morgan Esq -

- 77 See in particular the virulent review by William Winter (1836-1917) in the N.Y. *Tribune* (February 6, 1900), p. 6, col. 6, a classic piece of invective.
- 78 Mr W. C. Potter of the U.S. Post Office at Los Angeles points out that the name is etymologically senseless, and that no such place ever existed as a postal or administrative entity.
- 79 (B.1.j), p. xxxii.

- 80 Of Dr Norton F. W. Hazeldine (1856-19-) J. F. Rowny says, "He was a retired M.D., a scientist and an advanced mystic of the Sufi Order. In his boyhood he lived in India, while in later years he made his home in Morocco. Following that period he came to the United States as a teacher and lecturer. Surviving him were his wife and two children." Dr Hazeldine published two books in Los Angeles, both in 1908: *Therapeutic Dietetics, or, the Science of Health Foods and their Medicinal Values*; and *Sufism of the Rubáiyát*.
- 81 Letter, June 23, 1967, in my possession.
- 82 *Ibid.*, July 5, 1967.
- 83 The copyright affidavit is dated September 6, 1921.
- 84 (B.1.f).
- 85 (B.1.c).
- 86 Most sources give January 1, but contemporary newspaper accounts (B.1.f), (B.1.k), say he died on Saturday, which was January 2.

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- e *She Lived in New York; a novel*. New York: Judge Publishing Co., 1894. 304 pp.
- f *The Price of Peace*. Los Angeles: J. F. Rowny Press, 1921. viii, 9-126 pp., plates.

2 Contributions to periodicals and newspapers, in the following order:

- a *Arena*, Boston
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- c *Century*, New York
- d *Judge*, New York

- e *Leslie's Popular Monthly*, New York
- f *Leslie's Weekly*, New York
- g *Leslie's Weekly*, under the pseudonym "Jason"
- h *Rudder*, New York
- i *Sport, Music and Drama*, New York
- j *Sports Afield*, Denver
- k *Times*, Los Angeles
- l *World*, New York
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