The Scrap Bag

Coffee, cake and Emerson, for lovers of the New England philosopher were provided by the ladies of "the London Reading Club" the other afternoon, and somewhere about 4 o'clock the rooms of the conveniently-situated Woman's Art Club were all a-buzz with a bevy of fair dames and damsels, who laughed and chattered or nibbled at macaroon till the ring of a manly foot-step was heard upon the stairs outside, when everybody hushed down, for we none of us wished to be suspected of not "yearning for the cosmic thrill," besides, Prof. Sykes, of the Western University, is a person who is accustomed to be listened to when he has anything to say.

The lecturer's paper on Emerson as an essayist and poet was opened with remarks to the effect that as blusterers over the border are mildly threatening to engage us in an embroglio, it might be well to consider a man who is the heart and core of the true New England conscience. Then followed a light, bright sketch of Boston's beloved and only "Ralph Waldo," the stock from which he was sprung, and his early training, with later deviations from the accepted beliefs of orthodox Christianity, and then came the consideration of the real man himself and his work as a teacher, philosopher, poet and litterateur. Prof. Sykes made it quite clear to his audience that the delicate flowers of appreciation for an illustrious member of the "saving remnant" will not take root or find nourishment in the rocky soil of Philistinism. Emerson is not going to bring happiness to the slave of creed, and the custom-bound and tradition-fettered votary of form and dogma. The friend of Whitman and Carlyle must fill with puny rage, the weakling still struggling with the teething process of the soul.

There was a great deal more, all ably and concisely expressed; but I do want to ask those three woman who came squeaking in at different intervals through the lecture, what they meant? I dont suppose there was a woman there that afternoon who would not a great deal rather have had you miss a hundred lectures on Emerson, rather than that Prof. Sykes' interesting essay should be disturbed by you squeaking boots. Get through your shopping earlier next time.

Blandina's nice; Blandina's fat;
Joyous, and sane, and sound and sweet,
And handsome, too, and all else that
In persons of her age is meet.
Behold Blandina!
She's alive, and testifies
With all the emphasis that lies
In busy hands and dancing eyes
That's life's a prize—
That all the mischief that provokes
Doubt in the matter lies in folks,
And that, provided folks are fit,
Life's not a failure; not a bit.

Blandina loves a picture book,
Blandina dearly loves a boy;
She loves her dinner, loves the cook,
Her nurse, her doll, her brother's toy;
And best of all, she loves a joke,
And laughs at it,
And laughing as it testifies
With all the emphasis that lies
In joyous tones and beaming eyes,
That life's a prize—
That all the mischief that provokes
Doubt in the matter lies in folks,
And that, provided folks are fit,
Life's not a failure; not a bit.

—Edward S. Martin, in the December Scribner's.

Teach the children that it is bad taste for them to tell all they learn of the neighbors' domestic arrangements through playing with the neighbor's children.

Do not marry until you can support a wife.

"What means this W. C. T. U.,
Which makes such constant fuss?"
The maiden frowned. "I thought you knew
That 'Whisky Can't Touch Us!' "

To enjoy love and mince pie you must have confidence.

"Yes," said a Boston woman, "I keep a girl a while to rest my body, and then I go without a while to rest my mind."

If in this world you wish to win
And rise above the common chump,
Take off your coat, and pitch right in;
Don't wait, lay hold, hang on and hump.

Don't wait until the iron's hot,
But make it hot by muscle;
Don't envy what some men have got;
Take off your coat and hustle.

DAILY HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

We cannot arrest sunsets, nor carve mountains, but we may turn every home, if we choose, into a picture which shall be no counterfeit, but the true and perfect image of a life indeed. —John Ruskin.

BREAKFAST—Oranges. Oatmeal. Graham Muffins. Hash. Boiled Eggs. Stewed Apples. Coffee.
DINNER—Tomato Soup. Celery. Boiled Corned Beef. Turnips. Potatoes. Jelly White Bread. Squash Pie. Cheese.
SUPPER—Bread and Butter. Cold Meat. Canned Berries. Cake. Tea.

POTATO CHOWDER.

Peel and slice one dozen medium potatoes. Put a heaping tablespoon of butter and a quart of hot water in a saucepan; a scant teaspoon of salt; add the potatoes, cook slowly half an hour; then add a pint of milk: let boil, season if not to taste; serve hot.

Of turquoise blue figured silk. Corsage of velvet in a darker shade; the front has a V-shaped piece of blue silk inserted, trimmed with plaited crepe lisse, with heading of fine lace. Puff sleeves to elbow, finishd with plaited crepe lisse and

shirred at shoulder. Belt of satin ribbon, with silver buckle. Skirt flaring, with full plaits in back.

JEWELRY NOVELTIES.

Both bracelets and earrings are to have their day again. The reappearance of the bracelet is marked by a new design in gold about half an inch wide which closes with a peculiar clasp and may be worn over the glove. Semi-precious stones, such as the amtheyst set with pearls are on the high road to favor. Emeralds are constantly increasing in value owing to the supply becoming less.

One little fad in umbrellas in both Paris and Berlin is a very slender handle set in silver or carved ivory. Some very graceful shapes are in silver gilt enameled tops The forget-me-not is a very favorite design, and the color of the enamel matches the silk as in the Dresden handles of last year.

Chatelaines are more popular in Paris than ever. Scissors, purses, bon bon boxes, whistles, etc., in gold constitute a distinct part of the toilette.

A jeweler who is a very large buyer for the South, showed a rabbit's foot set in gold, which constituted the charm to his wife's watch chain, and said that in the South he could not get enough to supply the stores, so general is the superstitition in regard to their bringing good luck. No Southern boy goes into a game of craps without his rabbit's foot in his pocket. It must be the left hind foot and properly the rabbit should be shot at moonlight while jumping over a grave. Apropos of superstitions, he said the opal is their best selling stone taking the year together.

This jeweler, who is a large manufacturer, has many interesting experiences in getting his designs. He spends a part of every year on the continent, and gets his designs chiefly from the display in the shop windows, which contain the whole stock in trade. When something rare strikes his fancy out comes his little sketch book and down it goes before the sometimes irate proprietor can utter a protest.

Every year he goes through the same amusing pantomine with a certain famed jeweler in Switzerland. The American knows not a word of German or French, and the Swiss not a word of English. The American always wires ahead the hour of his arrival. A table is spread with the samples of jewels, at which they both sit down. The Swiss writes down the price of an article, and at the first mentioned price, the American always throws up both hands in horror and nearly falls off his chair. A price somewhat lower is offered and his hands do not go up quite so high, and he doesn't fall quite so near the floor. This sort of thing is continued until a price is offered at which the American feels justified in indulging in a wan smile and the bargain is closed. This little exercise has to be gone through with for the purchase of every article every year.

A Remedy for a Cold.

At the beginning of a cold it is very good to put the feet in a capsicum foot-bath, wetting the head and face well with cold water. At the end of ten minutes rub the knees down with cold water, and dry thoroughly. A housekeeper can easily prepare this tincture of capsicum herself. To one quart of vinegar add one quarter of a pound of red pepper; boil slowly for fifteen minutes, and bottle for use. Add two teaspoonfuls to one bath.

When there is danger of a cold settling on the lungs make a lotion of one part peppermint oil and two parts of kerosene oil. Paint the parts where the pain is located with this lotion. Lay a fold of flannel over and apply a hot-water bag for ten or fifteen minutes. This remedy is especially good for pain in the back of the head and neck, soreness and tightness of the chest between the shoulders.

Care of Shoes When Wet.

A woman dislikes to get her new shoes wet, because it injures them; but, with care, the wetting will not hurt them much. As soon as the wet shoes can be removed, rub them well with a soft cloth, to get some of the dampness out, and remove all the mud, then rub them with a cloth saturated with kerosene or vaseline. Get as much of the oil into them as possible, and stuff the shoes into shape, setting them aside for a few hours. Another application of oil and rubbing will remove all stiffness, and the shoes will be in order when wanted.

Gores for Crepon.

All crepon skirts should be cut with gores instead of after the circular pattern. If this is done there is not nearly so much danger of their becoming a shapeless mass. An indication of trimming makes a gored skirt a thing of beauty. The effect is exquisite if a narrow jeweled galloon outlines each gore. Jet defining the gores gives a stylish touch to a crepon skirt and a narrow spangled trimming also looks particularly well.

Household Economy.

The latest fad in household economy of time and patience, and one that does not appeal in vain to the appreciation of home esthetes, is a triangular and concave wedge of nickel, fitting into the corners of the stairsteps. These do not tarnish and require no rubbing.

Significant Words.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross on the Manitoba Question.

The Best Means of Doing Justice to All Parties.

Ontario's Example Should Be Followed.

How Sir Oliver Mowat Avoided Trouble With the Sister Province.

Shall It Be Mr. Bowell and Coercion or Mr. Laurier and Conciliation?

Montreal, Dec. 23.—On all hands, the speeches of Hon. Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario, delivered here last Thursday evening, are commended as pre-eminent expositions of the best policy by which to govern Canada. The silver-tongued son of Middlesex dealt with the great increase in the public debt and taxation of the Dominion, and stated that while raw materials should be free, or taxed low, the reduction of taxation on finished products should not be precipitate, but would be undertaken in a statesmanlike manner. On the

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION,

Mr. Ross made one of the ablest addresses yet delivered on the subject. He claimed for the minority in Manitoba the right to denominational schools, and even though the Manitoba School Act of 1890 had been declared constitutional by the British Privy Council, he still held that the Catholics had a right to the buildings they had erected, and their teachers should not be disqualified in the eyes of the law. These were vested rights, and vested rights had always been respected in Canada. Under the circumstances, the minority had a right to appeal, and to have their appeal calmly and in a conciliatory way considered by the Ottawa authorities. did the men in power so deal with it? Mr. Ross replied:

With a haste, not to say precipitancy, which wanted the calmness of mature deliberation, a remedial order was passed by the Dominion Government, couched in peremptory terms, asking Manitoba practically to restore the denominational schools which had been abolished by the act of 1890. Now, you will allow me to say, and I say it with all respect to the Government at Ottawa, that I believe this remedial order was a mistake, that it was premature, that it was impolitic, and if pressed in the present tone and temper of the country will produce an irritated condition of the public mind which will not subside for many years. (Hear, hear.) If I were a Roman Catholic as I am not and understanding the question as I do, I would not ask for remedial legislation. Why? Suppose the 20,000 Roman Catholics of Manitoba get eparate chools by the legislation of the Dominion Parliament, how will their schools be regarded by the people of Manitoba? If they were considered objectionable when they existed under Provincial legislation, they will be a thousand times more objectionable under Dominion legislation, and thy may depend upon it, for it is human nature, that in countless ways they will be subjected to attacks which may in certain respects neutralize the comforts and the anticipated advantages of separate schoos. (Applause.)

A PREMATURE ORDER.

Then in the future, as is most probable, should any change be required in the law respecting separate schools, how are these changes to be effected? The Manitoba Legislature cannot alter the law in respect to a single jot or tittle. Any alterations deemed necessary must be made by the House of Commons, and its power to amend even its own laws in a matter of this kind is questioned by the best legal authorities. To my mind remedial legislation by the Dominion Government is a poor substitute for legislation by the Province, and if I were a Roman Catholic and had the choice of taking remedial legislation from the Dominion Government now and remedial legislation from the Manitoba Legislature, even if I had to wait some time for it, I would wait, holding my constitutional rights in reserve until public opinion had an opportunity of reconsidering the situation in the light of judgment of the Privy Council. (Applause.)

I said the remedial order was premature. I take the ground without any hesitation whatever that the Dominion Parliament has power to legislate with regard to education in this particular case. I take that ground because I understand the constitution to mean that, and the Privy Council declared that it does mean that. I believe our system of confederation will succeed only by observing the constitution to the very letter and accepting all its obligations whether we like them or not, without evasion or contention. But while the Dominion Government had the right to issue a remedial order, the time at which such order should be issued is a matter of judgment and policy. I think they acted hastily. I think a broader statesmanship would have given Manitoba some time to consider the situation, would have given the people of Manitoba, irrespective of creed, time to view the question from every standpoint, and if they then declined it would be time enough for the Dominion Government to enforce the constitutional obligations with which it was entrusted.

CONCILIATION NEEDED.

What has been the effect of this hasty action on the part of the Government? Just what might have been expected—Manitoba has resented interference. And so on one side the cry has gone up, all over the Dominion, pass the remedial order, and on the other side, let there be no coercion. To my mind the question has completely outgrown the constitutional principle involved, and as it now stands it is of overwhelming importance, of greater importance than any question with which we have been confronted since confederation, and if I had a voice in the House of Commons I would implore my fellow-members to hasten slowly.

Let us see what is the issue and who are the contending parties. On the one side is the Dominion Government representing the political force of five millions of people; and on the other side a member of the family—a sister Province, one of the smallest at that—representing the political force of 160,000, are about engaging in a very unseemly family quarrel.

How should family quarrels be settled? I put it to you as a matter of experience. Is it not by conciliation? What does history say on this point? When we had our difficulty with Nova Scotia, as far back as '67, because of her objection to confederation, were orders issued to Nova Scotia that unless she entered confederation within 48 hours she would be swept into the sea or out adrift from the Dominion? Not at all. Her objections were considered, her complaints were listened to and her grievances to a certain extent removed, and the very leader of the opposing forces—the Hon. Joseph Howe—received into the Government. That was practical politics. That was the statesmanship of Sir John Macdonald 25 years ago. Who would say that in the light of history the proper thing was not done? (Applause.)

Again, when British Columbia was in a state of rebellion, during the Mackenzie Administration because the Canada Pacific Railway was not being constructed as fast as the British Columbians desired, how did Mr. Mackenzie act in the matter? Were their remonstrances treated with contempt? By no means. Mr. Edgar was sent in the first place to see if any rearrangements of the terms could be arrived at that would be satisfactory. Later, Lord Dufferin, then Governor-General, paid a special visit to the Province for the express purpose of bringing about a better state of public opinion. Conciliation, deliberation was the statesmanship practiced by the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, all honor to his noble memory. (Much applause.)

THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

Another instance, and one in which Manitoba was specially concerned. You remember the quarrel over the boundaries between the Government of Ontario and the Government of Manitoba. You remember how by an act passed at Ottawa in 1881 the Government of Manitoba considered itself authorized to exercise jurisdiction over certain portions of the territory in which Ontario had appointed officers of justice and was administering the laws of the Province of Ontario. You will perhaps remember that during a local election the political strife became so keen that officers of Manitoba interfered with the officers of Ontario, both presuming to exercise jurisdiction in the same constituency. The Manitoba Government sent down the Winnipeg Field Battery to keep the peace, and the Ontario Government swore in special constables to restrain the warlike purposes of the officers of the Manitoba Government. This was in 1883; I remember it well. During the greater part of the strife, Sir Oliver Mowat was absent in England; he returned in the autumn. He was informed of what was done in his absence. To all appearance Manitoba and Ontario, sister provinces lying side by side, were entering upon an unfriendly and unsisterly quarrel. Both as to money and men and the right of prior possession, Ontario occupied the strongest position. How did Sir Oliver treat this question? Did he issue a remedial order warning Manitoba to keep out of his Ontario preserves? Yes, he did issue a remedial order, let me read it:

Toronto, Nov. 21, 1883.

To the Hon. Attorney-General Miller, Winnipeg, Man.:

What is the use of Manitoba and Ontario quarreling? I wish you would meet me here to try our hands at an arrangement.

That was Sir Oliver Mowat's remedial order. How was it received by the Manitoba authorities?

Winnipeg, Nov. 21, 1883.

To the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier of Ontario:

Attorney-General not here. Will see him. In meantime rely on very best co-operation in carrying out so reasonable a suggestion.

(Signed) C. P. BROWN.
Comm of Public Works.

That is how the order was received. In a few days Attorney-General Miller came down to Toronto and agreed with Sir Oliver on a case to be submitted to the Privy Council, and from that deal till now Ontario and Manitoba have never failed to show "how good and how pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Thank God, the view of able, broad-minded statesmen has not yet become wholly extinct, although somewhat rare, in Dominion politics just now. (Applause.)

SIR OLIVER'S METHOD.

"History is philosophy teaching by experience," says Carlyle. "What is the use of Manitoba and Ontario quarrelling. I wish you would meet me here and try our hands at an arrangement," said Sir Oliver Mowat, the leader of the Liberal party in Ontario. What does the leader of the Liberal party in the Dominion say? Has he not on every platform of Canada reiterated the same sentiment? His message, conveyed through the press, from one end of Canada to another, is, "What is the use of Manitoba and the Dominion quarrelling? I wish you would appoint a commission to try our hands at an arrangement." That is his message, and if you have any doubts as to what the result shall be; if you doubt the well-known proverb that "history repeats itself," let your fears be calmed when I state: That Manitoba's reply to the remedial order invited this course, in the hope that it might effect a solution to the difficulty. The words used are:

"We believe that when the remedial order was made there was not available then to your Excellency in Council full and accurate information as to the working of the former system of schools.

"We also believe that there was lacking the means of forming a correct judgment as to the effect upon the Province of change in the direction indicated in the order.

"Being impressed with this view we respectfully submit that it is not yet too late to make a full and deliberate investigation of the whole subject. Should such a course be adopted, we shall cheerfully assist in affording the most complete information available. An investigation of such a kind would furnish a substantial basis of fact upon which conclusions could be formed with a reasonable degree of certainty."

Mr. Martin, in a letter to the public press, written during the last session of Parliament, said: "Everybody wishes that a solution of the question may be found without any coercion on the part of the Dominion Parliament."

That the rights of the minority will be treated with the utmost respect by the Liberal party is shown by their treatment of the Roman Catholic seperate schools in the Province of Ontario, and the question therefore which the electors have to settle very speedily is shall we have a commission, then an inquiry, then a settlement, peaceful, permanent, and satisfactory, or shall we have remedial legislation, then a disruption of the friendly relations which exist and should exist between Protestants and Catholics, then the majority of the people of Manitoba coerced to accept a school system which their Legislature rejected, and then the whole fabric of confederation riven and shaken to its very foundations. The choice is simply Sir Mackenzie Bowell and coercion, or Mr. Laurier and conciliation. (Applause.)

A COMMISSION SUGGESTED.

Why should there be any objection to a commission? A commission is not a new thing in the history of Canada. It was only the other day that appointments were made by the Dominion Government to a commission to consider the waterways lying between Canada and the United States. There is a commission now in session endeavoring to settle the accounts between Ontario and Quebec. We had a commission on the labor question, on prohibition, on the boundaries between Canada and the United Stotes, on the western and northern boundaries of Ontario. We had a commission to settle the value of our Canadian fisheries. We had a commission to settle the claims between Great Britain and the United States, which sat in Geneva, and considered what was known as the Alabama claims. And was it not last year that the late Sir John Thompson and Sir Hibbert Tupper won for themselves and their country much honor, one as a commissioner and the other as the representative of the Canadian Government, in connection with the rights of sealers in the Bering Sea. Now, if the Provinces have issued commissions in great matters of state, if it is not beneath the dignity of Great Britain and the United States and imperial Russia to settle international affairs involving millions of money and the consideration of important questions of international law, surely the Dominion Government can afford, without any loss of dignity, to refer the matter in dispute with Manitoba to a commission composed of the best men in the Dominion, not for the purpose simply of settling the law, for the Privy Council has declared what the law is, but of finding some way whereby the grievances recognized by the Privy Council may be removed without impairing the integrity of the School Act of 1890. This is the only practicable and statesmanlike solution of the difficulty, the only solution which will prevent future complications and remove the question for ever as it should be removed from the arena of Dominion politics. (Great Applause.)

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