

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—Grandma's letter reminds me of an incident in my early experience of life in Halifax. The worthy woman with whom I lodged, on my mentioning the name of some charming people I had met, said "they are not society folks. The Uniackes, the Ritchies, the Almons, the Pryors, they are good old families, the rest are 'upstarts.'" That was twenty-five years ago, and I have been trying ever since to find out what the difference is between "Society" and "the upstart."

After a time it became clear to me that all the upper seats in the synagogues were occupied by "society." St. Paul's and St. Luke's Churches half-way down the middle aisle—that was the second land mark for a bewildered foreigner. I presume the same rule held good in other churches.

The sons of Earls (or was it the Earls themselves?) ceased to come out to refine and govern us, and not having that standard of comparison, I never could see any difference between the Halifax families, to justify their classification, save this,—*money!*

An "Aide de Camp," and we all know an "Aide de Camp" to a General must be a discriminating person, confidentially told me the same.

At one time I thought it might be having an ancestor buried under St. Paul's Church. That fact was dwelt upon by a clever and reverend preacher of those days (twenty-five years ago.)

"We who have relatives lying within the Sacred Walls" he used to say with an awesome tone. But that is a fearsome distinction. The good old families who "withdrew," went to England to spend their money, or, not having any money, withdrew from a game which can not be played *without* money. There are representatives of all the "good old families" I ever heard of still "enter-taining," and that means being "in society" in Halifax.

All the people who are able to do anything to advance society life, "pure and simple" have made money in good honest trade.

Halifax has reason to be proud of her merchants, the best type of gentleman we have here.

As for the professional people, Heaven help them! Unless they go into politics they haven't any money, and are too busy making two ends meet, to do anything but skirmish on the outskirts of "society." It does seem mean to be jealous of the people who are fortunate enough to be able to do all the nice things we would all like to do if we could. Society which is good enough for Prince George, cannot be very hopelessly vulgarized.

If I were a Nova Scotian, I should be very proud of clever, refined, fellow-countrymen and women, and not hanker after the flesh pots of Egypt in the shape of Earls.

FOREIGNER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:

I can see quite plainly by your remarks last week that you think "Grandma" an old idiot, though you are of course too polite to say so. The idea of anyone talking such rubbish in a colony! Why, the only virtue a new country has is that people are supposed to rank according to their deserts and not according to their names, and the amount of money their fathers have left them. It would be much better for all of us if those who have plenty of money and nothing to do but loaf, and profess to look down on those who work, would emigrate to the old country at once, and leave those who made the city and still keep it going to amuse themselves in their own way. Loafers have no place in a new country, and are *not* looked upon with feelings of awe and veneration as they are in the old country. The young aristocrat

who comes out with his old-country ideas about "those-aw-vulgar shop-keepers," is more than likely to get promptly snubbed in the first store he enters.

Talk about grocers' and brewers' wives and daughters, indeed! There are plenty of brewers' wives in the world who would not dream of asking persons of "Grandma's" standing to their *select* parties, though she might perhaps, by a little manoeuvring, be admitted to visiting terms. "Grandma's" allusion is very ill-natured and spiteful, as we have so few society ladies in Halifax to whom it could apply, and those are just the very ones that entertain most generously. I hope these ladies won't be upset by these nasty remarks; I feel quite sure that "Grandma" was so bitterly disappointed at not getting a card for a certain very successful dance given not very many months ago, that she has never got over her feelings of pique, and takes the first good chance of letting off steam.

I hope *Morris Granville* will give her what she deserves.

Ever yours,

NOUVEAU RICHE

To "Grandma,"

DEAR MADAME.—I was flattered to receive your kind note, meant to put me right as to the reason why Society in Halifax was such a peculiar mixture of trade and military, and the almost entire absence of professional classes. I am afraid, my dear madame, that you did not do it. In the days of which you speak, the professional classes certainly were the leaders of society, but their position was due to their official position entirely. But the large business men of that day were also in the best of society, and at the very head of it. For considering the size of the town, in those days the choice must have been limited. The reason why parvenues have sprung up is due to the fact that colonial families, no matter where, rarely last more than two generations at the most. This, I think, arises from the fact that what may be a large estate during the life time of the head of it, when broken up and divided amongst two, three or perhaps as many as seven or eight heirs, becomes lost entirely and filters away. To have permanent colonial families it would be necessary to have primogeniture.

Now, as you dear madame know, there are very few representatives of these old official or business families in Halifax at the present day. Many have returned to England and many have died out. Some remain, and nearly all those who remain are unfortunately in such circumstances as prevent them entering into a society that requires a certain amount of expenditure. We see this even in families of more recent date than that to which you refer and we will see it even to the end of the chapter, while things are as they are.

When we lost our status as a crown colony, we lost many things which we never can regain, and I know, my dear madame, that the political posts in those days were very well worth having—in many ways. And the people could afford to live in better style and spend more money, simply because they had it.

Now, madame, I hope you will modify your views as to society in Halifax, for I can assure you that it compares very favorably with other towns of its size both in England and America. The people are not uncultivated and are not purse-proud, simply because they are not rich.

With best wishes, my dear madame,

I remain Yours truly,

MORRIS GRANVILLE.

A. & W. MACKINLAY,

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