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An Unworthy Campaign.

Fair criticism of those charged with the administration of the Government of the country, and of the public acts of the elected representatives of the people cannot reasonably be objected to. We presume that Parliament is called together not only to make laws but to permit of the members holding a reasonable inquest into any act of the administration that they see fit to challenge. That is what we understand by responsible government, and we know of no reason why the best results should not be the outcome of Parliamentary inquiry and discussion so conducted. But criticism should certainly be carried on within the bounds of fairness. If it is not, then, instead of Parliamentary discussion being a benefit to the public, it is calculated to result in injury, by a lowering of the public tone.

Insinuations against ministers of the crown, for example, and against members of Parliament, who differ from them, such as are frequently resorted to by members of the Opposition in the Dominion House of Commons, are unworthy of any man desirous of maintaining a reputation for love of fair play or good sense. Vexed charges of dishonesty, of breach of trust, or of what is known as "graft," or the obtaining of money by dishonorable means, should certainly not be lightly made by anyone under the privilege of Parliament. And they should be credited by no one unless the man who makes them has the courage to follow up his accusations by such action as will rid Parliament of the guilty person.

That men like Mr. Bennett and Mr. Foster, keep maligning their fellow-members, and representing honest business transactions as offenses against the state, certainly supplies no evidence that the members assailed have done wrong. And if the steps provided by Parliament for honorable and fair men, when they deem it their duty to accuse their neighbors, are not taken by either Mr. Bennett or Mr. Foster, those of us who are prepared to consider these matters with an open mind can only reach the conclusion that the accusers have no case.

Whatever may be their motive, the Opposition suspicion-mongers have certainly shown themselves to be without the firmness or the courage of members of a free Parliament, and in so far as they have dealt in insinuation and innuendo, in order to damage the characters of their neighbors and if possible make political capital, they have shown themselves to be very small men.

Another Educational War in Great Britain.

Already the ecclesiastics in Great Britain are sounding the war trumpet over the new educational bill. The Anglican bishops have summoned their cohorts to fight the measure, and the Roman Catholic hierarchy will shortly meet to devise means of opposing it also.

Under the act of 1903, some 14,000 voluntary schools—i. e. schools supported by private subscription, under religious auspices—were taken over by the state. The managers agreed to provide and maintain the buildings, but the salaries and all educational expenses, under the act, were paid out of public funds. The schools, however, continued to be controlled by the churches which formerly supported them, and the teaching staffs remained under religious tests, though the pupils were not obliged to receive religious instruction. The great majority of these voluntary schools were formerly maintained by the Church of England, and when they became a public charge, the Nonconformists organized the "passive resistance" movement, thousands of them being held to court for refusing to pay taxes for the upkeep of what they called church schools.

The new bill, introduced by Mr. Birrell, is the offspring of Nonconformist agitation. It is a long step in the direction of the secularization of the school system. The state will not provide religious instruction in any school, nor will any religious test be applied in the selection of teachers. Religious teaching of the nature desired by parents may be given, however, during certain hours, and free of cost to the funds, by clergymen or others, not teachers, selected for the purpose.

The Church of England, with its thousands of schools, managed by Church of England teachers, will not submit to be deprived of its control without a struggle. The Roman Catholic Church, which does not recognize a separation between religion and education, will naturally oppose any measure which impairs this principle. The

Nonconformists will welcome the bill, because it relieves them of taxation for Church of England schools. Altogether there are the elements of a tremendous controversy, one which touches the religious conscience of millions of people.

St. John, N. B., has a police magistrate who is resolved to try drastic measures with habitual drunkards. He announces that in future these offenders will be sent to jail for six months at hard labor. The Sun thinks such punishment will be salutary, as the hard labor will brace up the prisoner and make him able to resist temptation when he regains his liberty. It all depends on what the "hard labor" is. Certainly hard labor, as imposed in most jails in this province will not do very much to set up any prisoner, either bodily or mentally. There is need of devising some kind of employment at which such men can be put, but it is not now to be found in the average jail. The British system of sending such unfortunates to an inebriate home with farm attached, where treatment and healthful living will be jointly turned to account, is the better one.

There is probably more than may at first appear in the statement of the Hamilton Herald, that poor writing in the public schools is not the fault of the system so much as the lack of systematic instruction. Is not the dictation craze, resulting in the pupils being compelled to write fast before they have learned to write a good round hand, responsible for much of the bad writing? In former times, when far more good writers were found out of the schools than now, the dominie made it a primary rule that the pupil write every letter deliberately, plainly and as near as possible perfectly, like the copy. Speed was kept in the background till thorough training in the formation of characters was attended to. Let the writing teacher have as his motto, "Go slow at first."

Modernized Spelling.

Andrew Carnegie has contributed to the spelling reform movement thereby assuring it of success.—News Item. 2 late I morn the daz I spent, not wryly, but 2 wet, When but a jung and guileless yuth, in 4 skoolboys of the modern tym by learned men I bid 2 spel the English langwidj like good old Josh Billings did. My dymmar 4 throne asyd, and I just fed around Bes I start to rite a wurd, and spel it by the sound. And yet I sunnow do not think that this new-fashyned woldyng 4 quite a littil while; 4 when a parson wunc has lurned it's pritty safe 2 bet. Will livky b an awful lot uv trouble 2 les. 4 instanc, the wun's skolarship is refiged 4 ad aft, Still Edw 4-3-3 komynyz 2 spel graft. A wrier need not stop to think about hizz spelling long. No mater how he spels a wurd, just so he spells it rong. Tomso, ryzs and the rest ait yused 2 taze him owt. He jus ruzs it up of the reel without the sillest dunt. And yet, altho I must confess the system 4 a pritty fine, I don't think that Dede and Plat kan lurn to spel rezine.

Then back to Noah Webster and the good old-fashioned days. When one must learn to spell one a dozen different ways. If "right" or "write" or "rite" is right, the learning may come slow. We surely get our money's worth in knowing that we know.

The \$12 a Week English M. P.

[Springfield (Mass.) Republican.] While the senate is becoming as sensitive as a sore toe over the accusations of subservience to plutocracy hurled against everyone will have to admit that in membership it cannot compare with the British House of Commons for downright proximity to the lowest levels of the wage-earning population. The House of Commons is cited because, in power, it corresponds to our senate; indeed, it is the more powerful of the two bodies. During the recent Commons debate on the question of paying salaries to its members, it was developed just how poor was the member of the House who had the smallest income. The person to claim the honored role was John Ward, laborite. Mr. Ward is a member of Parliament, yet he earns only \$12 a week when at his trade, and on that sum he has to maintain a wife, four children and an aged mother. When, in addition, he has to serve as a legislator for the British Empire, without pay, he wants to know how people suppose the thing can be done, unless a man gets help from some source. Mr. Ward's case undoubtedly was influential in determining the House to pay its members as soon as money can be obtained. To Americans the case possesses picturesque significance, because a \$12-a-week senator, or congressman even, with a wife, four children and aged mother to support, has passed beyond the range of their experience.

Good Friday, or Victory Through Tragedy.

Saddest page in human story Was the day when Jesus died, When—nailed to His cross so gory—At Golgotha crucified. He was wound in linen grave clothes To a triumph ride the world to save) Was embalmed with myrrh and aloes, Laid in saintly Joseph's grave. Through a tragedy of sorrow, And a death of grief and pain; He shall flourish on the morrow, And God's just decrees maintain. Death and tomb enthroned before Cannot cast dark shadows now; For their triumph ride the way, Glory crowns the Victor's brow. So, through sorrow, grief and sadness, Dull Golgotha beams with gladness, Calvary teaches Death shall die. Thus Good Friday's gloomy dawn For a triumph ride the way, And a glorious Easter morn Halls Christ's resurrection day. GEO. W. ARMSTRONG, London, Ont.

Not a Darned Fool.

[Cleveland Plaindealer.] Years ago, when telephones were still a novelty, a farmer from the outskirts of Manchester, N. H., came to town one day and called on a lawyer friend of his named Stiles. Senator Henry E. Burnham, whom he supplied with butter, and who had had a telephone recently put in his office. "Need any butter this morning?" asked the farmer. "Well, I don't know," answered the lawyer. "Wait a minute. I'll ask my wife about it." After speaking through the phone, he went on: "No, my wife says no." The farmer's face was a study for a moment. Then he broke out with: "Look a-here, Mr. Lawyer, I may be a 'rube' and have my whiskers full of hay and hayseed, but I'm not such a darned fool as to believe that your wife is in that box!"

The Green Church Far Away.

[Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander.] This gifted woman wrote many beautiful hymns. She intended them for the use of little children, but some of them have become popular with grown-ups. Alexander was born in County Wick, Ireland, in 1818; she married Dr. William Alexander, Baptist minister, who died Oct. 12, 1886, at Londonderry. Besides her hymns she wrote a number of poems, the best known of them all being "The Burial of Moses."

There is a green hill far away, Without a city wall, Where the dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all. We may not know, we cannot tell What pains he had to bear; We believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven, He died to make us good, That we might go up to heaven, Saved by His precious blood. There was no other good enough To buy the price of our redemption, He only could unlock the gate Of heaven, and let us in.

Making Bees.

[Springfield Republican.] Folks who keep bees will be interested in the fact that the parcels post agreement between the United States and Norway has been amended so that live bees may be sent between the two countries by mail. The sale of queen bees begins in the spring, and the nearest arrangement will make it possible to import them from Norway at the regular rate for merchandise, one cent an ounce.

An Accommodating Wooer.

[Magendorfer Blotter.] Her Father—"The fact is that I cannot give my daughter a dowry just at present. The Suitor—"That's all right; I can love her for herself alone in the meantime.

Dainty Little Maiden.

[Sam Kiser.] A dainty maiden smiles at me As if she had me stay, And from my mind put worldly things A little while away. Her cheeks are red, her eyes are bright, Her soft hair hangs in ringlets down, Thank heaven for the pure delight Her staidness beauty brings. I hear her laughter and forget That we and sin remain, That men engage in bickerings And fret and fight for gain. Because she smiles so sweet to me, Thank heaven for her purity, And for the joy she brings.

A New Associate Editor.

[Chicago Record-Herald.] The editor of the Doniphan County (Kansas), Hustler was married recently, and the following report of the wedding was published on the first page of his paper: EDITH AND I ARE MARRIED. Rev. Byers Pronounced the Life Sentence Wednesday.

Miss Edith Randolph and Mr. Harry Muller were united in bonds of holy matrimony at the home of the bride's parents at Leona, at 8 o'clock Wednesday evening, March 14, 1906. Rev. Byers, of Severance, performed an "Impressive" ring ceremony, and Mrs. Rose Lynch played a pretty wedding march on the organ. The bride wore a sea-a-nuff-dress of French lawn, at least that's what they said it was. The groom (that means "we") wore the customary black-hand-me-down, and was about scared to death. Miss Randolph is a peach, most of her beauty is natural and she looks good to us. After the ceremony a beautiful three-course supper was served to the large number of guests. The decorations, consisting of festooning and white bells, were very pretty. Many handsome presents were received, and we can assure you that they are highly appreciated. The new Mr. and Mrs. Muller (if you please), will make their home at the Muller shanty, where our friends and enemies will be welcomed. BY ONE WHO WAS THERE.

What Have You Done Today.

[Technical World Magazine.] We shall do much in the years to come, But what have we done today? We shall give our souls in a princely sum, But what did we give today? We shall lift the heart and dry the tear; We shall plant a hope in the place of fear; We shall speak the words of love and cheer, But what did we speak today? We shall be so kind in the after-while; But what have we been today? We shall bring to each lonely life a smile, But what have we brought today? We shall give to truth a grander birth; We shall feed the hungry souls of earth; But this is the thing our hearts must ask: What have we done today?

The Great Trek.

[Calgary Herald.] No statement has been made in Calgary more significant of the extent of American emigration than that made yesterday by Mr. T. L. Belsaker, of the Calgary Colonization Company. Minnesota and North Dakota have appropriated funds to establish immigration bureaus with a view to checking the movement to western Canada.

The railroads are obtruding difficulties, and the American public generally is alive to the loss they have already sustained in the outflow to Canada. And still they come. The Dominion Government, to refer again to Mr. Belsaker's statement, is scarcely equipped at the North Portal boundary to cope with the immense flood of population that is pouring over the line. It does not seem unreasonable for a government to retain its own flesh and blood within the boundaries. But unless the United States can offer inducements that are as tangible and as real as we are holding out to the American people today, she will find the strong good sense and business instinct of the western farmer does not respect national boundaries, where there are free lands and dollars on the other side. Perhaps the immediate cause of the emigration from North Dakota and Minnesota is the influx into these states from Iowa and Illinois of wealthy farmers who find the land in the boundary states as productive as decidedly lower. They are ready to buy the land at a high figure, and the Dakota farmer moves out with good Illinois bank notes in his pocket to buy the land in the north. This is confirmed by the testimony of many of the newcomers, and seems a reasonable explanation of the large number of immigrants passing through North Portal.

CANADIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

The plea made by Earl Grey, the governor-general of Canada, for lasting relations of friendship between his Dominion and the United States is one which will meet with a cordial response from the great majority of American citizens. In many ways it has been a peculiar history which has marked the attitude of the two countries toward one another since the old days when each was a colony of Great Britain.

There is chance for endless speculation about what might have happened on this continent if some little things had been changed. The discontented colonies south of the St. Lawrence, even with the distrust of the northern folk because of the religious fear, hoped that all the British possessions on the continent might join the revolt against the mother country. That failed, the war of 1812 found the hope revived of a conquest of Canada, a conquest free from bloodshed because of the advantages believed attendant upon union. When that hope was lost the desire did not perish, for, again and again, in the course of the years, the suggestion has found many warm advocates, that steps be taken to secure the union of the two countries. Even now the devotees of the doctrine of manifest destiny feel certain that the day of union is bound to come in the not-distant future.

But with that idea dismissed it seems clear that two countries, in such close geographical connection, should maintain the most friendly and pacific relationship. In a large part of the boundary an imaginary line alone separates one from the other. Across the line roads and railways run, the ties of kinship are stretched and common language speaks. The interchanging movement of population has attracted attention for many years. The strong ties of kinship and the desire to undertake business responsibilities until, in most of the large cities, Canadian clubs have been formed to perpetuate the memories of the Dominion. Earl Grey, in his New York address, made the statement that there are 2,870,000 people of Canadian birth or descent in the United States now. A tide has been flowing in the other direction, too, large numbers of American citizens having transferred their residence to the northern country. These they have proved better citizens because of the experience in the United States and they have been cordially welcomed as desirable additions to the population.

When these mutual relationships are considered and the common questions of inter-relationship are considered, it seems to be every reason for the existence of a bond of uncommon international strength between the two countries. If there ever was a chance for a better relationship, it is now, and while that oft-suggested idea for international unity may be visionary, there ought to be no hesitation on the part of those who live on either side of the line to advance every proposition which looks toward the maintenance of the most friendly feeling, the honest respect for frank differences of opinion on public questions, and the just recognition of legitimate rights. As a result of the present movement of unity of purpose and endeavor where common continental interests are concerned.

POEMS THAT LIVE

Death of Ophelia. [William Shakespeare.] [From "Hamlet," Act IV, Scene 7.] Queen—One was doth tread upon another's heels: So fast they follow: Your sister's drowned, Laertes. Laertes—Drown'd? O, where? Queen—There is a willow grows about the brook, That shows his hoar leaves in the grassy stream; There with fantastic fancies did she seek Crowns, and tresses, with a long and long purple, The herald shepherds gave a grosser name, But her cold maid's do dead men's fingers call them: There on the pendant boughs her coronet Clambers to hang, an envious silver broke; When down her weedy trophies, and herself, Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes Are scabb'd like, while she bora her up; Which time, she chaunted snatches of old tunes, As if incapable of her own distress, Or like a creature in labour; 'Till that her garments, heavy with their drink, Pul'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay, Her eyes did start, and she was drown'd: Queen—Drown'd, drown'd?

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