

strenuous application to the daily round of toil may beget sordidness, and in their patriarchal life engender in the heads of families a certain patriarchal domination.

Their polity begot a strong individualism; each person interpreted Bible truth for himself or herself, and in the walk of life they followed they were not trained to subordinate the non-essentials to the broader and more important interests of life. Each congregation being a law unto itself (as there was no central authority), the natural tendency was to divide up into factions. No other religious body has been divided into so many factions as the Mennonite body. The cause for this is to be found in part in their congregational form of church government, and in part in the spirit and character of the people, and in the strong individualism engendered in them.

By the people among whom they dwell they are respected as an industrious, frugal, honest and religious people. They take life seriously, and cling strongly to their convictions.

They stand for the complete separation of Church and State. Principally and especially they stand for peace. Lowell expresses their ideas on the subject of war in the lines.:

"Ez fer war—I call it murder.
Thar ye hev it plain and flat.
I don't want to go no fuder
Then my Testyment fer that."