

inculcating true patriotism. It is well to remind ourselves that the patriotism we inculcate must be true. There is an article common in these days which has not the true ring. There is a wild and seasonless shouting for Queen and country which is empty and thawless as the east wind. There is another brand of patriotism which, while true so far as it goes, is light weight and short measure. It is not for me to speak lightly of the affair in South Africa, or in this presence to protest against the stampeding of Canadian opinion by the press, or to say that the men of the two contingents are not heroes beyond all who dwell in this Dominion. But this, I will say, even in the midst of our wild war talk and fevered militarism, that the enemies Canada has most to fear are not on the kopjes or veldt-side of South Africa, but in press, offices and counting houses and market-places or schools, in the committee meetings and in the Parliaments and in the places of kings in our own land. Canada's foes this day are they of her own household, and the truest patriotism is not that which revels in "killing Kruger with its mouth," but that which undertakes the much less romantic but infinitely more difficult task of killing those nearer enemies to honor, virtue and truth, into whose faces we look and find their faces our own. Oom Paul is playing the part of our best of friends, for he is doing something to save us from ourselves, from pride in mere bigness, from the swelling vanity of our "Growing Time," and from the dishonored grave into which selfishness and fatness and coarse materialism sinks men and nations. He is teaching us to know that we are Sons of the Blood, and to cherish steadily those nobler passions and to follow bravely those sterner ways by which Britain climbed and which alone make nations great.

It is because Canada is a democracy that the power and the peril of the press are so great. Demos is king in Canada, and because the press makes Demos do what little thinking he thinks he does, its opportunity is great and its responsibility heavy. The home and the school and the pulp't has each a large work to do if what is best and most worth while is to be saved from wreckage and corruption. But to none of these, in society constituted as it is now, is a power given greater or more far-reaching for weal or woe than is given to those of our number whose easily written words go out to the ends of the earth. Of the output of the newspaperman's office it is true that

Words are things, and a small drop of ink,
Falling, like dew, upon a thought, produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

Democracy has not proved itself a success in its one splendid experiment. Not because it is false in principle or impossible in practice, but because Demos was given the king's power without the kingly character. Democracy must fail where the people who have the power are not intelligent, truth-loving and free. At the present moment, American democracy is an uncertain experiment, and the wisest and bravest are fearful of its future.

The future of free representative government in Canada is, to a degree, in the hands of the Canadian press. With so wide a franchise as this country has, the problem of politics is hard of solution. With an electorate corruptible beyond what we care to confess, and means of corruption brought to perilous perfection, the call of Canada is loudest for men to fight against the foes of electoral purity, who have lifted up the heel against the very rights and privileges in the enjoyment of which they have been nursed. And to no Canadian is the call louder or more hopeful than to Canadian newspapermen.

III. IMPROVING THE CANADIAN PRESS.

Two or three things are worth remembering as essential to any increase in the educative power of the press.

First, let it be noted that the character of the press is a tolerably true reflection of the character of the people. It follows, therefore, that the newspapers will never be far in advance of the people in matters of taste. The English papers are confessedly superior in taste and trustworthiness to the American, because English culture is truer than American. It is true that a larger percentage of Americans can read, but, in the United States, education does not mean culture, and the power to read does not carry with it the taste to discriminate. A like danger threatens us in Canada. If merely utilitarian ideas dominate our education, and refinement of manners, love of truth and admiration of what is best are not inculcated, there will be raised up a generation without ideals, and in them the reckless, impudent, suggestive, lying journalism of the United States and its bad imitations in Canada will find responsive readers. There are newspapers whose tendency is distinctly down grade, and they are educating a constituency. And it is easy to educate in bad manners. In a world like this, public taste is easily depraved. Facile descensus Averni. And the descent to the hell of "yellow" journalism is broad and easily made. Whosoever, in home or school or church or State, stands in the way and turns again the currents of public thought and taste is a saviour of society whose hands should be made strong.

More than that. There will never come any large and permanent improvement in newspaper work until there come to newspapermen, a higher appreciation of their commanding function as educationists. It is true of all service, and emphatically of journalism, that the best work is done for the highest ends. No man can do his best who thinks only of money returns. No newspaper worker can write his best whose ideals are low and whose aims are sordid. A writer's best self is put into his work, not when he has in mind his rival across the way, but when there come up to view the wide circle of trusting readers, whose faces he has never seen, but to whom his words have become authority, who, in city and country, are made more intelligent, more independent, more helpful, more hopeful, by the brave true words he writes in the seclusion of the newspaper office. The man to whom it is given to advise, instruct, inspire an audience such as the least among us commands, and who plays at precedence with a competitor, or juggles with words as with meaningless things, or tampers with truth as with a thing of little worth, is a man lost to all sense of high appreciation and for him journalism is the meanest and most dangerous of trades. No such man is in our midst. Our temptation is to think too lightly and too meanly of the work into which we put the sweat of our brain and the passion of our heart, and sometimes the blood of our soul. It is a great, an awful work, and worthy of our best thought and noblest endeavor. We will improve it as we learn to appreciate it.

The President. "The address is in every way worthy of the subject, the man and the case. Mr. Pirie, who feels very deeply upon this subject, has kindly consented to enlarge upon 'Some Editorial Woes.'"

MR. PIRIE'S REMARKS.

"Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: At the request of a large number of friends, or rather of those who profess to be my friends, I have concluded not to read this paper. I may inform you that I have not treated the subject with that gravity which it demands; in fact, that I have treated it with specific levity instead of specific gravity. (Laughter.) I may say to you frankly I am not moved by any embarrassing motives. I am putting this paper up for sale by