

The Gleaner.

ALAN H. CROCKETT - EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1888.

THE COURT SUSTAINS ITSELF.

The Court, consisting of the Chief Justice, Justice Palmer, King and Deane, judgment this morning on the application for discharge of Mr. Hawke, refusing the discharge. No clear authority or precedent was cited by the Court for the Sheriff of Westmorland bringing the defendant on attachment through several counties, but the Court held he might do so. As the conflict between the Court itself and Mr. Hawke, and the judges are not men, it was perhaps natural to expect that if only a decision was wanted to make the law to support the case they would speedily furnish the decision. It will be impossible for the judges to satisfy public opinion that their proceedings are entirely regular, according to precedent and prudent or even well-grounded public policy. The public have no sympathy with law of any kind that makes any man or men judge where they are themselves concerned, at least unnecessarily so, and in this case there was no necessity, as proceedings by indictment were open to the judge who was offended. Mr. Hawke is made to suffer, being now in the jail, but we will wait with interest future developments, and in the meantime sympathize with him as with a victim.

Mr. Hawke is advised that though there may be great doubt about his right to appeal to the Supreme Court in this matter, he may, by an action against the sheriff of Westmorland, obtain the opinion of the highest court in the land on the legality of the decision of to-day. We hope he will bring such an action and try the question out, and only regret that necessarily there will be great delay in reaching a final decision. It is due to Judge King to say that he expressed doubts about the validity of detaining Mr. Hawke in custody after what took place at Fredericton Junction, but his doubts were not strong enough to induce him to dissent from the judgment of the Court.

DISFRANCHISING YOUNG CAN.

The announcement in the dominion parliament on Thursday that the government did not intend to authorize a revision this year of the federal voters' lists will surprise the country. What are the facts underlying this great wrong? Here are lists which were prepared in the fall of 1886, under circumstances which show that in many constituencies the lists were loaded in the interests of the conservative party. At the rate of their collection was shown at the polls to be favorable to the conservative party, and consequently they are retained in existence by the dominant political party in gross violation of the principle upon which the lists were prepared—viz. subject to annual revision. The present expression of opinion at the polls on federal and Scott Act elections is largely that of the country as it was in 1886. In Scott Act elections—which are the most frequent at present—the temperance party have been unfairly put to great expense in guarding against the impersonation of the large list of dead or absentees. This, however, is not all. The continuation of these old lists for federal and Scott Act elections disfranchises all the young men who, otherwise qualified to vote, have reached their majority since 1886. In this respect the federal government manifests a mistrust of the young men of the country, which augurs hopelessly for the future of the liberal party.

THE LESSONS OF A LIFE.

The philosophical turn of the new Emperor of Germany's mind is shown by the pregnant axiom penned by him when lying sick unto death. The dying Emperor, whose spirit had been subdued by years of experience and chastened by the sufferings and deep sorrow endured in later days, wrote on a slip of paper to his impetuous son and heir apparent—whom his fiery martial spirit is feared will plunge Europe into war—these words so full of suggestive teachings:—"Learn to suffer without complaining; that is the single thing I can teach you." If this golden rule of resignation were applied generally in all walks of life and in all ranks of society, how vastly different would be this world as an abiding place. Human experience teaches that after all it is the small ills and grievances of humanity which cause the greatest outcry; but it is the intense sorrow that leaves the soul deep in its mourning; that dulls the heart by the severity of its poignant pain; that shuts out the sunshine from a human life, and that forces many a truly noble spirit to mourn alone in the obscurity of complete domestic retirement or shattered hopes and blighted aspirations. How often it is seen that the hysterical or ostentatious grief at a domestic calamity gives place sooner than anticipated to seeming forgetfulness of the lost one. The deepest mourning grief does not necessarily denote the longest period of mourning. It is the heart which learns to suffer without complaining that usually feels the keenest sorrow.

"Learn to suffer without complaining; that is the single thing I can teach you." Such are the fruits of a sovereign's experience. The end of all teaching and observation. Who can fail to recognize the importance of the lesson. The new German Emperor is, on his death-bed, showing his to be a truly noble character. Resignation is the one word which expresses the lesson affirmed by the Emperor Frederick. Sorrow and affliction chasteneth! They are the mysterious dispensations which often serve to bring out whatever nobleness permeates the human character. Christ, who offered the noblest type of character for human guidance, was never so noble as when suffering with a heaven-brought spirit of resignation and patience and a divine spirit of forgiveness. He learned to suffer in his human character without complaining, and accepted the agonies of the crucifixion with a spirit of resignation to the Father's will born of deep love for humanity.

As Christianity, in its ethical side, furnishes the best obtainable rule of life for man's guidance, so too does Christ's character present the grandest model for our imitation as illustrating the beauty of the axiom written by the dying Emperor, "Learn to suffer without complaining." Suffering and sorrow often bring men and women to recognize the importance of humanity and the fleeting nature of mundane possessions; by actually drawing us nearer to God in our lives though the shadow of death may be afar. Another lesson taught by the axiom which suggested these thoughts is that, after all, men and women, in struggling for the prizes and pleasures of this world, forget that it is only an abiding place in which the perfections of our spirit are to be developed for a hereafter. Humanity too often forgets in this bustling age with its rapid living, that there is something to live for after all besides money getting and political warfare.

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