

Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1888

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DARBY McGOON ON THE BIBLE.

Here is what the late Thomas Darby McGoon once said about the Bible: "There is, always as a corrective to diseased imagination, the book of books itself—the Bible. I do not speak of its personal as a duty incumbent on all Christians—it is not my place to inculcate religious duties—but I speak of it here as a family book mainly; and I say that it is well for our new Dominion that within the reach of everyone who has learned to read lies this one book, the most and most unequalled as to matter, the cheapest of books as to cost, the most readable as to arrangement. If we wish our younger generation to catch the inspiration of the higher eloquence, where else will they find it? If we wish to teach them lessons of patriotism, can we show it to them under nobler forms than that of the maiden deliverer who smote the tyrant in the valley, or in the grief of Eneas as he poured the foreign king's wine at Susa, or in the sadness beyond the solace of song which bowed down the cities by the waters of Babylon? Every species of composition, and the highest kind of each species, is found in these wondrous two Testaments. We find the epic of Job, the tale of Ruth, the elegies of Jeremiah, the sermons of the greater and lesser prophets, the legislation of Moses, the parables of the Gospel, the travels of St. Paul, the first chapters of the history of the church. Not only as the spiritual corrective of all vicious reading, but as the highest of philosophical, the trust of philosophy, and the most eloquent utterances of human organs, the Bible should be read for the young and by the young at all convenient seasons.

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It was also amended by striking out all the following paragraphs: "And, further, that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may be pleased to exercise his prerogative and to suspend the said Robert Dunsen from holding and exercising the office of President of the Executive Council, until such 'Royal Commission' shall have determined whether the said Robert Dunsen is, or is not, guilty of the open and advised speaking with which he is charged." In fact anything that was really strong about it was carefully eliminated and a milk and water document consisting of a lot of "whereases" presented, winding up with the usual proposition that a "Royal Commission of Inquiry" be appointed. What finally is not evidence that it was intended by Mr. Humphreys, even if the motion was passed, that it should be sent to the impossible tribunal, which it could never possibly reach? To pass it was to virtually condemn Mr. Dunsen. The Government were determined, however, that the matter should not be buried and took the most reasonable and the most judicious way to bring it to a hearing by appointing a Select Committee of the House to deal with it. Mr. Beaven, in moving an amendment to this amendment, to the effect that a statute should be passed by which a Commissioner should be appointed to investigate the matter, he was showing an other lack of faith in the representatives of the people, and through them in the people themselves, also displayed an unpardonable want of knowledge of the practice usually followed in such cases. He condemned Mr. Humphreys' resolution as being impracticable and proposed one which, while not equally so, would delay to an indefinite period an enquiry. The Government offered to allow the Opposition three out of the six members of the committee in order to show that they were actuated purely by a desire to reach the truth in the whole affair. The government amendment was carried and the "alleged" true statements will be fully gone into if the Opposition do not foolishly throw obstacles in their way. In deciding to take no part in the deliberations of that committee the Opposition are displaying a cowardice which will be fully appreciated by the public. The government have voluntarily given Mr. Humphreys an opportunity to prove the truth of his allegations before a committee of his political friends and opponents equally divided, and his and his associates refuse to have anything to do with the inquiry. What ground have they for doing so? They may assert that the powerful majority on the government side of the House would not permit of their getting justice, but in a committee ready to examine witnesses under oath and if the charges against Mr. Dunsen were proved then it would manifestly be political suicide for the House to vote them down. Mr. Humphreys, having made the charges, it is eminently his place to prove them. He has placed Mr. Dunsen on the defensive, and when a case is made out it will be ample time for the President of the Council to move. Mr. Dunsen has instituted legal proceedings against the Vancouver News-Advertiser in this connection, and this is with the reason, it is reasonable to suppose, why this matter should be proceeded with at once. The Opposition well know that there is not an atom of truth in the allegations of the member for Comox, and it is very evident here no desire to see the fact proved. The Select Committee has, however, by the voice of the house formed; that it comprises all members of the government is due to the action of the Opposition entirely, and it is now in order for Mr. Humphreys to go before it, like a man, and back up his allegations by the oath of his witnesses. When that is done the evidence for the defence will be taken. In the event of Mr. Humphreys failing to perform his duty, it will then clearly be the business of the house to deal with him as he deserves.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The weighty Senator from Soda Creek is great on Latin. This must be taken as a "grain of salt." Comux?

The super-lazy Humphreys is a most faithful servant of "his Queen and country." Was he always such?

Mr. HUMPHREYS "look water" badly when he amended his resolution. It was tantamount to a withdrawal of his charges.

The leader of the Government made a rattling speech yesterday, in marked comparison with the halting effort of the leader of the Opposition.

Mr. BOLA was not in his seat in the House yesterday, not having arrived from New Westminster. He will be in his accustomed place to-day.

The petition of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway with reference to the extension of the line to Esquimalt, to connect with the American system of railways was presented yesterday.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was right in saying that his motion was "unprecedented." To use another of his sonorous phrases it was "extraordinary." The position he took was certainly a very "simple" one. The House so considered it.

The Government in allowing the Opposition an equal number of representatives on the committee of enquiry showed their disposition to have the matter fairly and fully examined. Such magnanimity is unusual in cases of this kind.

Mr. DUNSUN was quite right in characterizing the ally amendment and wordy talk of the leader of the Opposition as "bosh." A mere spectacle presented to the eyes of the honorable gentleman.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS put it very neatly when a jury of this province had an opportunity to give a verdict in reference to Mr. Dunsen's alleged utterances it would prove as complete a decision as could be given by any Dominion, Imperial or other Commission.

Mr. DUNSUN's calm and dignified denial of the charges alleged against him did him credit. He denounced the whole statement as "a tissue of falsehoods" and announced that when the libel case, instituted by him, came on in the courts he would bring forward complete proof of their falsity. He retired amid loud applause.

The proposition of the Hon. Mr. Davis to refer Mr. Humphreys' "high treason" resolution to a select committee of all fair-minded men. The Government have shown their determination to compel Mr. Humphreys to go on with the matter, which it is very generally believed he intended to burke.

The contention of certain members of the Opposition that the Legislature has no power to examine witnesses under oath in an enquiry is a childish and ignorant one. Such a course is pursued in every Legislature of the Dominion. The leader of the Opposition, who is always prating interminably of his ability, ought to know better.

This member for Comox made one of his most violent speeches yesterday in closing the debate. The Government are evidently desirous that he should give the widest possible latitude in order that he may stand exposed before the House for what he is. How those members of the Opposition who have a character at stake can consort with one who is guilty of such foul and disgusting language it is difficult to see.

BELIEFING MARKET and not PRISON is the place which T. B. Humphreys was born to grace. He made the most vituperative harangue in the House yesterday that we ever remember to have witnessed. A personality which has lost evidence a personality which has lost whatever slight particle of honor may have been attached to it. We say it, and we say it sincerely, that such an exhibition is only calculated to drag him lower in the eyes of the public than that which was possible, he has yet reached. The only

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