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## THE TIMES.

The *London Evening Herald* speaks with so much fairness and justice toward myself; with so much knowledge and appreciation of the manner in which the *Globe* is conducted, as to its editorials, and with so severe a censure upon its writers, who indulge in violent and vulgar personalities that I find pleasure in quoting here, at the same time commending it to the attention and careful consideration of the Hon. Mr. Brown and Mr. Thomas White, M.P.:—

“With Mr. Bray’s political opinions we have very little sympathy, but we recognize the sterling honesty of the man, and no one who reads the *SPECTATOR* can close his eyes to his ability. Although but a comparatively short time in Canada, he has laboured hard to become acquainted with our institutions, and any opinions he may advance upon them are entitled to far more consideration than those of the semi-pauper scribblers that are yearly imported to do the heavy editorial work of the *Globe*. The life of a *Globe* editor is very short, rarely exceeding three years, when he discovers that neither the salary nor the sentiments are Canadian. Many of the best Conservative editors in Canada were Reformers imported from the Old Country by the *Globe* at a starvation salary, and after a short experience in that office shook the dust of the party from their feet and became staunch Conservatives. We question to-day whether there is a single native born Canadian on the editorial staff of the *Globe*, and the chances are that the man who writes the last article came out on the last steamer. And yet he assumes to dictate to Canada, with the air of a Jupiter Tonans, on every question affecting the interests of the country. As we have already said, our political opinions and those of the *MONTREAL SPECTATOR* do not always coincide, but we have so far been able to give a reason for not agreeing with its opinions without descending to vulgar abuse, and we sincerely regret that Conservative journals should open their columns to personal attacks upon its editor. We do not think any of our readers will question our loyalty. We are for British connection first, last and all the time, and being so we would have no hesitation in belonging to the society for free discussion which Mr. Bray has organized in Montreal. It would indeed be a poor loyalty that would not be able to produce satisfactory grounds for its existence. If Mr. Bray’s society develops into an annexation organization, we will only be able to account for it by the presence and ability of the Hon. Messrs. Huntington, Laflamme, and Penny. In such a case, we would recommend Mr. Bray to take Horace Greeley’s advice and come west, when he will find that such an association will develop quite a different sentiment.”

For my own part, I believe that the Society which has been honoured by the abundant abuse of the *Globe* will develop into nothing like an “Annexation organization,” for only a few members of it appear to have such ideas matured and ready for public utterance. The situation seems to be pretty much as Mr. McMaster put it: We are passing through a transition period, and what the end will be no one can precisely tell. There is a feeling of dissatisfaction abroad, and the question is, what we ought to do? Is it a settled and determined British connexion, with even still closer relations of friendliness? or is it that we must make our political position as free as we have made our commercial considerations? Meantime, the opposition the press has offered to the Political Economy Society has called attention to it, and aroused a sense of justice in the public on its behalf, and assured it a long lease of life.

Mr. Bouthillier has declined any further connection with the Political Economy Society because, as he says: “The gentleman

who explained the programme of studies spoke to us of Confederation, of Independence, of Imperial Federation, of Legislation, of Annexation, and indeed of everything except Political Economy.” Now Mr. Bouthillier ought to have had the frankness to acknowledge that those subjects were only mentioned as matters for discussion—and before saying that everything was spoken of *except* political economy he should make an effort to inform himself as to what the words “political economy” are generally held to imply. Let me commend to his consideration the article on “Political Economy” to be found in another part of this issue of the *SPECTATOR*.

SIR,—I would be thankful if you would afford me some information. On the one hand, it is well enough known about town that the formation of the Political Economy Club was heralded by its chief promoter as the beginning of an annexation movement. On the other hand, all the public utterances of its members, and all articles in the *SPECTATOR* alluding to it, have represented the object sought by its organization as being only the promotion of free discussion. I, and I dare say many others, would like to know if this change of guise is the result of a real change of purpose; or is it only because there is not enough manliness among all its officers and members to show their true colours? I would like to take the liberty of advising you to give a fair statement of the facts before charging Canadians with being afraid of free discussion. We are perfectly ready to discuss any question we consider worth our while, but when a man, or set of men, comes to us skulking behind a mask, it is our first impulse (I think that I may speak for my countrymen in this) to tear it off and see what sort of thing is really behind.

I am yours very truly, R. C. Lyman.

Really R. C. Lyman might accept the statements which have been made as to the objects of the Political Economy Society. However, and whatsoever way it may have been “heralded by its chief promoter,” since “all the public utterances of its members have represented the object sought by its organization as being only the promotion of free discussion,” R. C. Lyman may depend upon it that the men who have made these utterances are not very likely to do much “skulking behind a mask.” R. C. Lyman will not have occasion “to tear” anything, so far as I can see, for the object of the Society has been correctly stated over and over again. Once, and for all, we mean what we say, free discussion on all topics which are of interest to us.

The Ontario Legislature has commenced its session quietly, and gives promise of going through it in the same manner. The tremendous majority Mr. Mowat commands ensures him an easy task in the conduct of the Government, for Mr. Meredith will hardly venture upon hard fighting with so small an army at command. All the more reason is there for a judicious carefulness on the part of the local Premier. The strength of his position should tell against recklessness and for thoughtful statesmanship. Ontario is in circumstances of great prosperity, and has every prospect of a magnificent future; but much will depend upon the use that is made of present good fortune. Mr. Mowat proposes some good and useful work, and some that is neither good nor useful. Looking at the whole situation one is led to enquire: What is the need for keeping so many gentlemen away from their homes and their business to watch a dozen of their number go through the simple programme which has been prepared? It would be just as well to release the majority of the members—and, perhaps, on that condition they would gladly hand back a part of the indemnity.

The new Parliament House is to be built after all, at least, the Lieutenant-Governor is made to say that it will, and Mr. Mowat has a majority he can probably rely upon. But it is a pity that the taxpayers of Ontario should have such an increase to the burden they have to carry. Surely the buildings at present occupied are good