

Press and Pulpit

Discussion of Their Relations at the Alumni Conference at Queen's University, Kingston.

At the recent Annual Conference of the Alumni of Queen's, Kingston, an address was given by Mr. John Cameron, of The London Advertiser, on "The relation of the pulpit to political and social life, and to the press as the principal exponent of modern life."

Rev. Mr. Hossack, of Toronto, dealt mainly with the first part of the subject. At the conclusion of both addresses a stirring discussion followed, which was participated in by Principal Grant, Prof. Short and others, and also by Rev. Dr. Milligan, of Toronto, from the chair. Mr. Cameron spoke as follows:

The section of this large subject that most naturally appeals to me is the relation of the pulpit to the press. I may say at the start that the relation of the two powers should be that of FRIENDLINESS AND CO-OPERATION.

I am sorry, however, to say this is not always the case and my opinion of the fault lies often with the pulpit than the press. Personally, I am the more free to "speak out in meeting" because, on the average, during a somewhat lengthened career in journalism, I have been more often in accord than out of accord with the pulpit. If, therefore, for the purposes of this discussion, I speak without reserve of the attitude often assumed by the pulpit towards the press it is from no feeling of hostility, but rather in the hope that plain speaking may help to better understanding.

The preacher and journalist have much in common. The preacher, if a true shepherd, and not an hireling, is anxious to promote in individual hearts the reign of the higher law, and in the state the righteousness that exalteth a nation. The journalist who takes the right view desires the same things. I have heard an occasional journalist speak of the function of publisher or editor as simply that of purveyor, with no option but to serve up whatever a majority might be likely to relish, irrespective of moral quality; and this is the ground that if he did not do so, someone else would. Such doctrine is destructive of the man with his high principle. Even the making of a fair of boots cannot be divorced from moral obligation.

The pulpit is a august institution. Previous to the introduction of printing it did much of the thinking for the people. It does it still. I cannot say whether the golden age of the pulpit is past, or whether its influence and glory are to find their climax in some day yet distant. To not say the influence of the pulpit as declined, I only say the influence of the newspaper, whether for good or evil, has advanced, and is advancing. The newspaper is read everywhere. It reaches those who listen to preachers; it reaches also those who do not. The pulpit finds its special opportunity one day in the week; the daily newspaper six days out of seven. It has been estimated that the annual issue of United States and Canadian newspapers and publications, other than books, would be equal to over 1,000 SQUARE MILES OF WHITE PAPER SURFACE.

every year. But on inquiry, 1,000 miles of what sort of paper? I reply, unhesitatingly, the larger portion of the matter printed, wholesome. Take an ordinary issue of the average newspaper of Great Britain, the United States or Canada; judge for yourself how much is wholesome, how much stimulative in the right directions; how much restful as recreative; how little really objectionable. No doubt, were a destructive critic to go over the six issues of the best daily newspaper ever issued, he could cut out this and that, and something which "never would be missed." But let the destructive critic apply the same process to a preacher's two sermons every week. Would there be no diminution in his that quarter also?

From the pulpit he hears talk of newspaper sensationalism. There may be such a thing, here, as indeed, those who consider contagious, and that it may have been caught from some of the pulpits of the day. What after all, is meant by "sensationalism?" Some preachers and some newspapers are spoked as sensational, when they are simply not dull. There will be

DULLNESS ENOUGH IN THE WORD

without setting it as a cardinal virtue. It ought to be possible, alike to pulpit and press, to be interesting without being irrelevant or monotonous. There is, I maintain, a kind of sensationalism observable in some journals of the large United States cities, and still too common in Great Britain, consisting, for example, of detailed reports of divorce cases, and the like. Such reports, a disgrace to journalism, and serve good purpose. Happily, on that score, there is not much, though perhaps somewhat, to complain of in the press of Canada. It may be well to be watchful.

I do not know what objectors include as "sensational," ordinary reports of criminal trial. But, as Judge Armour recently remarked, there is much to be said in favor of their being moderately and anxiously reported. If it be true, as sometimes alleged, that a few emyo rascals are thus made acquainted with the methods of clever criminals, also are the public, who henceforth know what to watch and prevent, in one way or another, either thro' preliminary incarceration in jail, through publicity, the criminal does escape punishment; so that defect of making public the facts usually deterred. Trials should be reported

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in such fashion as to make the criminal a hero, to excite imitation, or spread halo over evil doings. But incidental revelations of evils from which parents must guard those under their charge, as these revelations grow naturally out of the news of the day, are often a needed warning. Take, for instance, assaults on children, confidence games, and the like. The Bible keeps nothing back.

The other day a distinguished and deservedly esteemed clergyman, visiting Toronto, the Rev. Chas. M. Sheldon, author of "In His Steps" spoke of his dream that some day there might be

AN IDEAL DAILY NEWSPAPER. He would have some millionaire rise up and give a million dollars to found a great Christian daily newspaper. He would get the best and brightest newspaper men in the whole country to write and run it. The defect in Mr. Sheldon's ideal is that its outlines are too vague. He does not tell us among whom he expects his publication to circulate. He does not indicate whether or not it is to be distributed gratuitously; nor does he indicate any method of compelling its perusal, even if gratuitously distributed. If his view is to have his ideal paper edited by a committee, what premium would have to be paid to guarantee unanimity of view among the editors? If he were editor-in-chief, in what respect would he differ from other editors-in-chief who have the final say? If edited by committee, we will suppose the question of smoking comes up, or of inserting advertisements relating to tobacco. Sub-editor A proposes a sweeping censure, whereupon sub-editor B reminds him that the Bishop of Toronto is a smoker, who does not propose to give it up, and who even quotes Spurgeon in corroboration. That is merely one illustration. Another might be if a "Constant Reader" raised the question of the righteousness of economic conditions that rendered it possible for any man under the sun to amass a fortune of \$200,000,000. Would the millionaire-owner veto all discussion of his own wealth? Mr. Sheldon's ideal appears to be that some Rockefeller-endowed, supernaturally-edited newspaper should pound away brilliantly every day through the year, except Sunday, with a certain moral programme. But, after all, the plank of this programme would simply be the opinions entertained on various subjects by Mr. Sheldon, or whoever else was editor; and probably no one of these opinions is without newspaper advocacy already. I am afraid Mr. Sheldon is of that class who think the world can be quickly revolutionized if you adopt this or that new specific—start a Salvation Army, get a millionaire to start a brand-new style of daily paper, or what not. There is doubtless a good fight constantly in progress throughout the world and throughout the ages, but there can be no uniformity of battle-method. "God fulfills himself in many ways." I would like anyone to think I am in opposition to the experiment of a millionaire-endowed, ideal daily newspaper. My query is this: If no one expects an immediately ideal earth—and if no one expects an immediately ideal pulpit—why should any one expect an immediately ideal press? One of Mr. Sheldon's favorite inquiries is, What would Christ do with the earth? He would Christ do with the newspaper? Christ? The question is suggestive and stimulating, but not so easily answered. A newspaper is supposed to be a

DAILY HISTORICAL MIRROR OF THE TIMES, and presumably the first merit to be demanded would be that it be a correct mirror. What style of newspaper would "Christ publish or edit?" is an inquiry not more easily answered than the query. Which of the various denominations into which Christendom is divided would Christ consider most to his mind? Mr. Sheldon is in the habit of right in longuing publicly for the time when a daily newspaper would be issued, every line of which would have a distinctly moral purpose—a sort of daily tract, so to speak. Well, there is no law, other than the law of finance, to prevent my eminent clerical friend from establishing just such a daily newspaper; but there would be the same need and the same demand as ever for the ordinary newspaper. Our amiable friend seems to forget that much of the contents of a newspaper are neither moral, nor immoral, but non-moral.

Another thing, I am sure that publishers generally do not make money in any but honest fashion. It is a fact, perhaps, not so widely known as in justice to newspapers it ought to be, namely, that there are few publishers in Canada who do not every year refuse advertisements which they consider objectionable to the extent of hundreds and thousands of dollars per annum. Can it be said, when we consider the nature of many of the methods employed to raise money for churches, that the business managers of churches are more careful as to the sources of their revenues?

The press has reason to complain that it is

FREQUENTLY RECEIVES SCANT JUSTICE

from the pulpit—I would not say intentionally. For example, I have known ministers, when objecting to something in one newspaper, to reflect without discrimination on the press as a whole, which is manifestly unfair. Then I once heard a minister from the pulpit assa newspapers for sometimes omitting the names of drunks from police reports. That same minister—a worthy man, too—a fortnight after, with amusing inconsistency, came in to beg omission of a drunk's name, in order, as he said, to give the poor fellow another chance.

Then I have heard ministers bandy thoughtlessly from the pulpit such jocularities as that you cannot believe everything you read in the newspapers. In like manner, one might say the jocularities that one cannot believe everything one hears from the pulpit, or that other jocularities that nothing cures a minister's deafness like a call to a higher salary, illustrated by the story of the clergyman who was offered a better position, and whose young daughter, being asked what the decision would be, replied, "Well, I don't know. All I can say is that papa is in the study praying for guidance, and mamma is upstairs packing the trunks." In either case, it is a class of jocularities that might well be relegated to oblivion. When one considers the pressure under which the daily newspaper is necessarily produced, it is surprising how few the mistakes of fact, how great the average of ac-

curacy. I venture this assertion, that in every well-conducted newspaper the average inaccuracies, as compared with that which is accurate, would be small indeed. I must admit that reporters are not always fortunate in the condensation of sermons. Many of the phrases employed are theologically technical; in some cases outworn. St. Augustine himself might find his words in the report of a sermon. I would cover a barn door. If I were a preacher, I would always be glad to furnish the reporter when requested, with a suitable brief condensation of my sermon.

The newspaper is important as the PRINCIPAL BOND OF DEMOCRATIC UNITY

in the community. Nothing unites a community like a common public opinion, a common fund of information. The newspaper is read in common by rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, and unlearned and the perfect man in the street. The importance of this common bond of democratic unity may appear more clearly as years go by. The democracy proposes to run the government, and it is rather important to have it suited with what is right and what is wise. Mr. Kidd, in his recent book on the subject of evolution, points out that no democracy of any kind can be maintained unless the masses are brought into recognizable comparison with the democracies of the modern English-speaking world. The latter, with the political equality of the franchise in their hands, are now pressing forward the betterment of their condition along the line of social equality, i. e., a fairer distribution of necessities and leisure. And modern democracy has the advantage of being informed of events throughout the world, and that this is so it owes to the modern newspaper.

The pulpit often brings charges against the press of political partiality, and the strife of contending voices, of arriving at the truth. Well, the activity of the Atlantic is better than the peace of the stagnant pond. Active-minded people need the stirring of the feelings, and these outlets are afforded by election contests and political discussions. Journalists espouse the side to which they lean, but they do not divide any more than the people as a whole. If I honestly looked at the different points of view, I am not aware that it would be best for the body politic were there only one political party. The body religious is divided up, and the religious partyism, Protestantism and Roman Catholicism, and Judaism, and Greek-Churchism, with Protestantism subdivided again into various sections. Whatever differences there are politically, they are prevented one from looking at the doings of the opposite party quite as complacently as at his own—appear to be difficulties that are universal in application and fundamental in human nature. The common pulpit, looking at the religiously colored historical parties, and look at the magnificent statesmen produced. Surely Calvinists should be able to see that this has been, not of chance, but of design. The common pulpit explanation, that the divisions of the body politic grow out of

"PURE CUSSEDNESS," does not go deeply enough. I prefer to believe that they grow out of some deeply philosophical law, some fundamental necessity of society and of human nature. Then I have heard talk about misreporting, political opposition, and the like. But no reputable newspaper would now-a-days think of misreporting a religious or political gathering with which it was not in accord; though it might, in its political opposition, give the chief prominence to its own speakers and its own meetings. Nor does any respectable journal hesitate to make a correction when it has fallen into error.

I sometimes criticise the pulpit, I am no unfriendly critic. Deeply important and worthy to be upheld must be the work of those who have to do with character-building and its consequences. Without the Scriptures, and without the pulpit, society would soon sink into license, recklessness, and insecurity, as is shown by the practical heathenism into which new mining and other settlements fall when without pulpit and press may best co-operate to advance the interests of society during the coming 20th century. A beginning of operations in what is best in the other. A good deal might be done incidentally by the formation of small discussion-clubs, the membership partly clerical and partly lay, in private homes, among the most clubbable of men. There are hundreds of clerical clubs, or associa-

A GOLDEN DISCOVERY. The famous Klondike region is not all gold. Hundreds of prospectors drop and die of

hunger and fatigue without ever finding the precious metal. Often the most precious things of life are found only after infinite exertion and discouraging search. Many a man and woman looking vainly for health almost drops by the wayside before the golden means of relief is at last discovered.

"About twelve years ago," says O. Copenhagen, "I was suddenly taken with a pain in the pit of my stomach which was so violent I could not walk straight. It would grow more severe until it caused waterbrash and vomiting of a slimy yellow matter. I consulted a physician and he told me to take food and drink, and treated me for about six months with but little benefit. I still get getting so weak I could scarcely get on my feet."

"I then tried another physician and he told me my liver was out of order and that I had indigestion. He gave me a treatment and I felt better but only for a short time. I then tried another one who said I had chronic indigestion, ulceration of the lining of the stomach, torpid liver and kidney affection. He treated me for more than a year and I felt much better but it did not last."

"I then took several widely advertised patent medicines, but received no more than temporary relief while using. I then tried Pierce's medicine, using it as directed. Medical Discovery, and the Pleasant Pellets, and in two months I was feeling better than I had for years before. I can truly say Dr. Pierce's medicines did me more good than any I had ever taken."

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THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

How the British Have Had to Bear It in Uganda.

Desperate Fighting for Months—Terrible Hardships.

A British parliamentary paper has been issued, bringing the official account of recent events in the Uganda Protectorate up to September last. A detailed report from Major Macdonald, R.E., forwarded by Mr. Berkeley from Kampala on May 30, 1898, gives the history of the campaign during the preceding seven months, and shows only too clearly how severe was the struggle and how heavy were the losses incurred for the maintenance of imperial authority. Major Macdonald states:

"These operations have involved five engagements, in which we lost over 10 per cent of the number engaged. In the first engagement, and 35 skirmishes, in which loss of life occurred, and until almost the close of the operations the odds were on the side of the enemy. Fortunately our enemies were widely separated, and did not all rise together or combine their efforts, and an opportunity was thus afforded for beating them in detail. But the work and strain on both men and officers was necessarily exceptionally severe, more especially as the latter could realize that if certain not improbable contingencies amongst the enemy were effected our position would be practically hopeless during the earlier half of the struggle."

"The operations themselves covered a great extent of country; from the north to the borders of Toru was a stretch of 250 miles of longitude, while from the south of Buddu to Shull was 230 miles of latitude. The total area of the country actually operated in amounted to close on 40,000 square miles. Considering that at the commencement of the operations under my command the forces at my disposal consisted of 17 regulars and some 340 Swahilis, and that even at the close of the operations the total only amounted to 2,000, including all classes, it will be evident that the work was exceptionally heavy and involved much arduous marching."

"Another feature of these operations is the great distance which the reinforcements had to march to get to the seat of war, and their very creditable rate of march, considering the difficulties of the road and of the extemporized transport service."

"It must be remembered that the military operations frequently required prolonged movements in very unhealthy country, and that the operations were continued till the end of the rainy season. The work of active service necessarily made it impossible for the officers and men to take all the precautions which they might have done during peace, and the cheerful and willing spirit displayed by all ranks during these trying circumstances is deserving of great praise. Amidst adverse climatic conditions, with unaccustomed, monotonous diet, and with the water generally indifferent, positively bad, the work was carried out with unflinching zeal and thoroughness."

Major Macdonald, after commending warmly the efficiency of the transport, commissariat, and medical departments, in spite of the exceptional difficulties with which they had to contend, pays a warm tribute to the laymen and missionaries who "rendered very great service by accompanying the columns as interpreters and undoubtedly contributed to the success of the operations." One of the missionaries, Mr. Pilkington, was killed in the fighting line, and Major Macdonald describes his death as "a terrible loss for Uganda, where his many admirable qualities had greatly endeared him to all, and given him influence with the natives second to that of no other missionary."

Of the loyal Waganda and Wasoga, Major Macdonald expresses a high opinion. The report closes with a heavy list of casualties—viz., 280 killed and 655 wounded during the seven months' fighting, the losses in action of regular troops and Europeans amounting to 31 killed and 53 wounded. The losses of the Sudanese mutineers and their allies are estimated at altogether 1,900. Dispatches from Major Martyn and Lieut.-Col. Broome describe the further fighting at Jeruba, near Mruil, on Aug. 4 last, and in the subsequent pursuit of the mutineers on the right bank of the Nile to Foweira. The correspondence closely displays the cheerful and gallant spirit of the troops, and the attention to the conspicuous gallantry displayed by Lieut. Wake, East Africa Rifles, under great physical disabilities.

A TIP FOR CHOATE

Why Shouldn't His Salary Be Increased in Token of Anglo-American Friendship?

[From the London Chronicle.] The appointment of Mr. Joseph H. Choate as United States ambassador to the court of St. James' is now definitely announced. He is not so well known on this side of the Atlantic as some of his predecessors who bore the name of Lowell, Lincoln, Bayard, and Hay. On the other hand, he has a great lawyer's record in his own country, and he combines political integrity and personal distinction as notably as any former ambassador of the great republic. It is accepted doctrine in the United States that the minister to Great Britain shall be a man of some private means, since the remuneration is but \$17,500, whereas our ambassador at Washington has nearly double that amount, or \$35,000 a year. Even this sum is small in comparison with posts of infinitely less importance. Sir H. Drummond Wolff gets \$25,000 even at Madrid; Rome is \$27,000, or less by a thousand for Sir Philip Currie than his former post at Constantinople, which is worth \$28,000. That sum again is, absolutely, enough. \$200 a year more than our ambassador gets at St. Petersburg. The ambassadors in Berlin and Vienna have \$28,000 a year, and the prize of the diplomatic profession is Paris, which is now paid \$29,000.

It must strike anybody that, considering an American trade, and above all, the imperial responsibility specially attaching to our representative at Washington, the United States should not be ranked in the matter of pay be-

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Many authorities maintain that consumption is not an hereditary disease, but it is universally admitted that the tendency to consumption is inherited.

Weak lungs, narrow chests and low vitality are in many cases family characteristics, and sooner or later the dread destroyer usually appears. Marriage among such people should not be permitted. The tendency toward consumption may be overcome in youth or early manhood and womanhood. Proper care, proper diet and proper exercise, together with Shiloh's Consumption Cure, will conquer the handicaps of heredity, and make anybody equal to the responsibilities and joys of life.

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low Rome, St. Petersburg, Berlin, Vienna, and Constantinople! It would be an open sign and seal of the virtual alliance of the Anglo-Saxon race if, when Sir Julian Pauncefote retires in April, the embassy at Washington should be raised to the first rank, and put on a par with that of Paris, or at the very least of Berlin and Vienna. The compliment would be felt from Maine to California, and from Lake Superior to the Mexican border. And the compliment would represent a fact—a serious fact—that in the future we must look for the closest sympathy not in Europe, but in America, and that no less than our very best man (not our best) should speak for us in the mighty state which Washington founded and Lincoln ruled.

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