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## A Reminiscence of '37.

The recent Political Union meeting at Woodstock turned out very like one of WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE'S gatherings, held in September, 1837, on his own personal requisition for "expressing sympathy with MR. SPEAKER PAPINEAU—condemning the conduct of SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD" and other statements equally silly. The meeting was intended for the benefit of the inhabitants of the township of Trafalgar, County of Halton, but turned out a remarkable surprise for the agitator, who had expected to carry everything his own way; on the very first question,—the appointment of a chairman,—MACKENZIE found himself in a hopeless minority, and, with his usual characteristics, promptly withdrew, followed by his adherents; they formed themselves into a grievance society, and agreed to all the doleful propositions the unhealthy state of their minds could suggest. The original meeting promptly proceeded to pass a series of resolutions, strongly condemning MACKENZIE, PAPINEAU *et al*, and reiterating their own adherence to constitutional government. Two of these resolutions are refreshing reading now-a-days. One was:

"That we not only acknowledge with gratitude the benefits derived from the enjoyment of the British Constitution, but feel it to be our imperative duty faithfully and lawfully to support and protect the same."

The other reads:

"That in the present circumstances of undue agitation and excitement, produced in this peaceable Province by disappointed individuals, place-seekers, it becomes us as loyal subjects humbly to assure Her Majesty's Government that it may rely on our fidelity to the Crown and affectionate attachment to the connection subsisting between this Province and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland."

We fancy that there is scarcely a town in Canada where—if the residents were good enough to allow such a disturbing faction to hold a meeting at all—the experience of MR. SOLOMON WHITE and his followers would not be equally disheartening to their zealous souls.

## Our Anniversaries.

A marked feature of the year now closing has been the amount of interest shown in matters of commemoration of notable occurrences in our history. The most appropriate methods of celebrating such events as the founding of Montreal, the settlement of the Eastern Townships, the official establishment of Upper Canada as a separate province, and its first session of Parliament, have been carefully considered by committees from the localities interested; and it is quite in order to expect that their labours will result in such attractive and becoming displays, as to materially influence Canadian patriotism and promote interest in Canadian history. Such celebrations when under the management of those who are personally vividly interested in the subject, cannot fail to have an extremely good effect on the general public. Men who think little or nothing of these things have the event brought prominently before them in the daily newspapers, in current conversation, and in the display which makes the anniversary a day of special note. Both old and young cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that Canada has a history of which at least some men think worthy of honour.

## A Southern Precedent.

To the Americans much praise is due for the good example they have set us in this matter. From the year 1875 down to a few years ago, they have omitted no opportunity of impressing on their people by spectacular display, the details of many of the most prominent events which had occurred a hundred years before in the great national crisis of the Revolution. The vivid display of the commemorative ceremonies—the massing of troops—music from the best military bands—the gathering of prominent men from all parts of the Republic—the speeches and banquets which followed—all joined in stamping indelibly on almost every citizen the fact that national life was a real thing, and that the history of his country meant something and its events deserved recognition. The same observance in Canada will be followed with a like result. A long time will elapse before we can celebrate our centenaries of Detroit, of Queenston Heights, of Lundy's Lane, Niagara and Chateauguay; but the no less honourable and more civilizing events of 1642 and 1792 can be and should be as brilliantly commemorated as will be the anniversaries of Canada's great war twenty years from now.

## What is Sedition?

Thanks to one of our petty Provincial Governments, things have become rather mixed. In the West a new Solomon has arisen, who by the good nature or *laissez faire* disposition of the people, has been permitted to openly preach sedition and wave a foreign flag in the face of the good yeomen of Western Ontario, without his being tied neck and crop and dumped into the nearest horse-pond. In the East, we see the most prominent and respectable journalists of the district arrested for honest criticism of the doings of a very shady lot of politicians, who, by pandering to the race and religious prejudices of an excitable people, have been elected to represent 'the Government' of the Province. When it is remembered that the doings of this same "Government" were publicly exposed before a committee of the Senate of Canada and again before a Royal Commission of Judges, it seems an anomaly that the leader of such a ministry should have the power of invoking the

Queen's name for the arrest of men who were proving his utter unfitness to serve her in any capacity whatsoever, much less as a First Minister. By most persons, not lawyers, sedition is thought to be an offence against the Sovereign, not against the gentry who are so often cliqued into power in a provincial campaign.

## Literary and Personal Notes.

Mr. Andrew Lang has had the temerity to bring out another book in spite of the wordy onslaught made on him by a would-be-great critic, Mr. Harte of the *New England Magazine*. The work is a pleasing little volume entitled "Angling Sketches."

We learn that Mr. Hunter Duvar, the well known *littérateur* of Prince Edward Island, is preparing, at the suggestion of Messrs. Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., of London, "A popular treatise on Early Archaeology, Stone, Bronze, Iron, etc.," with illustrations drawn by the author.

Mr. W. C. Bowles, Clerk of Votes and Proceedings in the House of Commons, has just completed a general index to the journals of the House and to the sessional papers for the past thirteen years. The work has been one of great magnitude, and has involved much labour. Now that it is finished it will be invaluable to all who have to do with Parliament, whether statesman or journalist.

Miss Mamie Dickens, who was always known as the favourite daughter of Charles Dickens, has written, for the Christmas number of *The Ladies' Home Journal*, her first story. It is a semi-ghost tale of the romance of an old English manor. Miss Dicken's only piece of literary work previous to this story was the editing of her father's letters for publication. She is said to possess true literary talent.

Mr. C. W. Whitney, whose weekly page of sporting notes is a most attractive feature of *Harper's Weekly*, was burnt in effigy by the students of Cornell University last week, their tender sensibilities having been hurt by some honest criticism Mr. Whitney recently expressed of their football team. Students as a rule are not particularly thin-skinned, but the Cornell atmosphere must have a marked tendency to reduce the epidermis of those who inhale it.

I spent a long evening in Leigh Hunt's library at Kensington. The goodly-sized cup of tea with which I was regaled soon disappeared; but Hunt showed a Johnsonian thirst. He indulged in what Hazlitt calls "libations of tea." Every half-hour or so his servant-maid entered with a fresh cup, which she exchanged for his empty one, and this continued from about six o'clock until after ten, when I left. The cup that innocently cheers was thus scarcely ever absent from his hand, and in this way he sat and conversed, or rather rambled on in a rich and sparkling monologue, to which it was a rare treat for me to listen.—*Looking Backward*, by James Hedderwick.

The retirement of Mr. J. Macdonald Oxley from the Marine Department to enter upon a private business career is an event of some interest to literary people in general, as well as to his friends. J. Macdonald Oxley, B.A., LL.B., is, as a recent description well says, one of the brightest young writers now before the public, one who has accomplished a high share in giving Canadian literature a standing, one of the most voluminous and successful authors in the Dominion, and one who is par excellence a writer for the youth of the country. He was born at Halifax, where he was given an education that seems to have eminently fitted him to take a prominent position among our native writers. He graduated in 1874 from Dalhousie University, and in 1878 from the University of Halifax, when he was admitted to the Bar. He contributed to the Halifax press, and soon became one of the leading members of the staff of the *Morning Herald*. In 1883 he was appointed to a position in the Marine Department, Ottawa, which he has just resigned. Since his appointment Mr. Oxley has certainly employed his leisure hours to good advantage, for he has shown himself to be a most industrious writer, and perhaps there is no one in Canada who contributes to more periodicals, besides bringing out an occasional book.—*Ottawa Journal*.