

Great men make countries; great men preserve countries. Washington made the Great Republic; Lincoln and Grant preserved the Union. Partizans unmake countries. What a mistake the States would have made to have surrendered up the Mississippi and the Great West. They have outgrown the wildest imagination. And we will make as fatal a mistake as that would have been if we are untrue to the great principle of Confederation. The American Constitution almost failed of being realized. Ours is a splendid fact inherited from our fathers. Let us adhere to it, it is the promise of a magnificent future, which the progress of the States justifies. Our National University has nothing to do with politics, but it should inculcate a respect for, and knowledge of our Constitution. It is childish to say that we should be as great and populous as the United States. There were many difficulties which turned the immigration southwards. These difficulties have been largely overcome. From the Atlantic to the Pacific our country lies easily accessible to colonization. We are entering on our era of national expansion. If we grow more slowly than the United States, we shall have a better assimilation, a stronger consolidation, a truer nationality. Dollars and cents are not the greatness of a nation. A nation that takes wealth as an ideal is no more excusable than an individual. The highest expression of nationality is its poetry, and in a true manhood it is bound to win in the struggle with the pocket-book. Take care of the citizen and the state will take care of itself. Every province must work out its own regeneration and, in a spirit of sacrifice, the great confederation. To us who are Canadians by birth and affection, it is the germ of our nationality, and without a nationality we would lose one of the greatest motives of development. We are a party that is ever growing and ever spreading over our great North-West, and that is bound to knit all the great provinces together. Our spirit, our sympathy, our individuality, our love of country must prevail. What is built slowly and surely endures. Our hope is not in vain glory, in boastful flattery, in selfishness, it is rather in simplicity, strength, energy, patience. Our fathers chose the rougher road to be Canadians, and shall we desert the smoother road? We have a great inheritance. Our development is simply a matter of patience, energy and universal sacrifice.

PHILLIPS STEWART.

A FRAGMENT.

Must not Time's wings be weary?
Speeding so noiselessly on, ever on,
Flying thus swiftly, unheeding,
Eyes that shine now, become eyes that then shone,
All that is now, becomes that, long since gone.

Wings that are dark, here, in shadow,
Change there, to gold, in an infinite light:
Men count these waves of her pinions,
Calling each beat of her wings, day and night,
Rushing with her, till they fall, in her flight.

When shall this journey be ended?
When shall life's myst'ry be unveiled and fled?
With the last death-stricken flutter,
With the first droop of her heaven-poised head,
When in Eternity's arms, Time lies dead.

E. A. D.

INTELLECTUAL DESPOTISM.

One of the most popular political fallacies, not alone of our own day, but peculiar to the non autocratic nations of all ages, whether considered by their upholders and subjects as nominal, virtual or both, is the trite but truthless phrase: "The people rule."
Certain it is that in commonwealths, and limited monarchies the people elect the main political body, the Parliament, the Assembly, Congress, by whatever title that body be designated; but, in any case, is the election one of free-will, untrammelled by any nefarious influences? Most emphatically, no. In our own country, as in every other that is at all similarly governed, it is the politicians in power who rule.

When the Prime Minister is a man pre-eminent in dominion over men, enabled by his personal magnetism or other occult authority to sway and bend his colleagues at his will, behold a despotism. When the Premier is not such a man, when he is not possessed of any distinctive personality which might raise him above the mean of the men who are his said subordinates in the Cabinet, we have an oligarchy.

Power pretentledly lies in the hands of the many; but who are the real manipulators of the coveted treasure? The predominant political few. By their eloquence, by their affability, by their personal attraction, by their bribes; in short, by their cunning cultivation of popularity by any and by every means, they toss the feather-fickle masses whichever way the wind of their own especial fortune blows.

Words and wealth are the sinews of political warfare. These weapons of conviction and purchase are all-powerful in skilful hands. The man who will not use them will not rule, in our present state of civilization. This is evidenced in Canada. The ex-leader of the Opposition would not adopt and employ the methods of his tactician adversary, and he accordingly failed of success.

But this is not saying that the people *should* rule. "The people," as we ordinarily understand the term, denotes the lower classes, which are necessary to all well-founded constitutions, which are, in fact, the pillar upon which every state rests. Now, though this function which they exercise is essentially and assuredly important and noble, it does not follow that it should give them the prerogative of government. Should the foot rule the head, or the hand the heart? Should the body sway the indwelling soul? Should the unlearned and unthinking majority dominate the intelligent and educated minority?

Despotism of superiority of wisdom is a natural and universal law. To cite the highest example within the reach of human comprehension, man's idea of the ruling force of the universe, be it personal or casual, is despotic. It is alone (in man's conception), all-ordering while all-pervading. But what is the nature of this force which controls the whole of the existent world? According to the conception of the generality of intelligent men it is a dominant mind, reigning by virtue of its supreme wisdom. Here, then, we have, in the loftiest rule we can imagine, an intellectual despotism. Descending to the other extreme, wherever we find signs of organization among the animals, they are always in a despotic form. Among gregarious birds and beasts, in their migratory and predatory excursions, there is usually a chosen leader selected from the herd or flock for his recognized superior sagacity. Man alone deviates from this general law. Human despots reign not always by virtue of their wisdom and generous love for their people.

Patriotism and wisdom are the true qualifications for a ruler. The man who is possessed, in the highest relative degree, alike of this sublime passion, and of this sublime quality is alone fitted to be the leader of his nation. His wisdom will enable him to foresee what is best for his country; his patriotism will render him zealous to carry it into execution.

A modern novelist puts the question of suffrage strongly: "Liberty given to the selfish and grovelling mob to govern the select body of thinkers, is an oppression and a tyranny. It is a mistake altogether, and operates to the disadvantage and degradation of society. We might as well permit the votes of children in the nursery to be given in the selection of those who are to govern them for their good, as to give the privilege of voting for the statesmen and legislators who are to govern a great nation, to the hewers of wood and drawers of water, who have not an idea in their heads unconnected with their vulgarest physical necessities." But how, then, shall the selection of the fittest to rule and the determination of qualification be accomplished? Popular education is, we think, the primary remedy. When knowledge shall have become more generally diffused, the privilege of election will be justly general, and, the people being hoodwinked no more by demagogic flattery, perfect government will be no longer a mere Utopian dream, but an attainable and welcome reality.

FREDERICK DAVIDSON.