

## MEDITATIONS OF A MUSE.

By Demosthenes.

### The Catharsis of Courage.

"Audaces fortuna juvat."

In the Civil Service of Canada just at this climacteric of its existence probably no virtue is more required than that mentioned in the heading of this humble disquisition.

If corruption in political life, in civil administration, and in the governance of our country generally are to be ousted from our midst, then courage of the highest order will be essential.

Courage on the part of many of the country's servants will no doubt be called for in the months to come, and it will be courage of the first water.

It will take courage to remain in honourable poverty when one sees others grow rich maybe by doubtful honesty.

It will take courage to say "No" when everybody else perchance says "Yes" on a question in which you may not see eye to eye with the crowd.

To do one's duty in silence and obscurity, perhaps, while others prosper, although neglecting obligations; to stand firmly erect while others fawn for praise or promotion; to stand alone; be out-voted; beaten; ridiculed; misjudged; these demand true courage.

Should custom dictate, or fashion demand conformity, it takes pluck to withstand and be ostracised.

Not to bend the knee to popular prejudice, but if duty asks it to espouse an unpopular cause,—this requires high courage.

It is easy to prevaricate and dodge an issue, but it requires a man to face the music and bear the responsibility of mistakes.

Look the world in the eyes. "Quit ye like men, be strong."

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