

reluctantly condone these offences, were they as they are not, merely the faults of human irresolution and human aberration. But they are most frequently the conscience offerings of the high party devotee upon the alter of modern political partyism. Thus, in the discharge of an office of a most exalted position of citizenship, in performance of the functions of a most sacred appointment of state, we continually observe political nurslings, who regard duty to the exigencies of party as primarily important, and concern in the measure itself quite subordinate.

The cardinal vices which, to-day, tarnish the reputation of the once noblest of vocations have been acquired wholly through repeated occurrences of party rapacity and party cupidity. Within the past two decades, with but few exceptions, the most notable examples of public injustice and public oppression are traceable rather to party zeal than to defective legislative sagacity. And in Canada to a greater extent than elsewhere within British dependencies can be discerned the domination of this illusive party influence. If, for example, we turn to the British Parliament, where partyism had its birth, and wherein have been discussed the most momentous subjects that ever engaged the human mind, where, upon broad lines of intelligent and honorable procedure, the possible virtues of partyism have been most freely exercised and enjoyed, we find that during a whole session of her national deliberations, unless in bills of a private character, strictly party divisions have been unknown. If, during periods of incessant national activity, a salutary and harmonious spirit has so characterized transactions of such vital import, why has party in our land acquired the haughty dignity and sacredness of caste?

In Canada a so-called loyalty is the recognized standard, not of political, but of party fidelity, and, in political circles, possibly no word in the English vocabulary has suffered greater perversion of meaning, or acquired a more idiomatic reputation than this word "loyalty." In the profession of politics it has about become the monopoly of one party, and with a certain class, during an election campaign, its constant