

good. General inspection is a gift, and a client who isn't sure he has it is well advised not to venture too freely on his own works.

The nicety and fastidiousness which were so characteristic of Sir William led to one amusing inconsistency of view, which his frankness saved from a harsher designation. "Do you smoke?" he would ask, and on receiving an affirmative answer would add, "But you don't chew, I hope; that's a filthy and disgusting habit!" all oblivious of the *raison d'etre* of the foundations of his fortune.

Sir William took some pains to make it clear that he was no believer in the efficacy of prayer, objectively or subjectively. But he had an abounding faith in the efficacy of work as a double blessing, and his conception of work had something of the busy industry and single purpose of the beaver about it. On ultimate analysis, he was the kind of man (and the world would be none the worse of more of them) who subscribes to the maxim "Work is worship" and is prone to adopt the bee or the ant as his totem. He also believed in the reward of labour, which he found quite comfortable, with the principle of neither asking nor giving quarter, and with the conviction that this made for integrity. It is on record that a British firm which provided some heavy experimental machinery for McGill came out very badly on the deal, but stood by its agreements and completed the installation in style. Sir William (afterwards hearing) of the transaction, not only insisted on paying the full costs, but a reasonable profit over and above.