

the disease is approaching a crisis when it must either subside or destroy its victim. We trust for the benefit of all parties that the former may be the result. We hope we may be allowed without being thought disloyal to Ontario, or indifferent to the liberty of the press, to advance the opinion that in the matter of the late libel suit, in which the editor of the *News* was charged with defaming the officers and men of the 65th regiment, of Montreal, the former gentleman is far from being blameless. Those who read the article in the *News* will remember that it was most infamous—an article which even if true should never have been published. Cowardice, brutality, drunkenness, filthiness of the most abominable description, were all attributed to the men of the 65th as natural characteristics, regarded by both officers and men as matters of course, to be expected every day and all the time. If it was a gross libel, and there is no trustworthy evidence to the contrary, who can blame the Colonel and Major of the regiment for desiring to punish those who were instrumental in holding them and their soldiers up to the scorn and derision of their fellow-countrymen as cowards and filthy persons, who disgraced by their beastly actions the uniform they wore? The people of Toronto should remember this before judging too harshly the citizens of their sister city of Montreal. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the promoters of the action against Mr. Shephard made a grave mistake when they insisted on opposing a change of venue in the case. It is a most absurd thing, to our thinking, that a citizen of Toronto, for an offence committed in Toronto, can be dragged away a distance of three hundred miles to stand his trial simply because his accusers are residents of a city at that distance. If Mr. Shephard had robbed or murdered in Toronto a man from Montreal he would have been tried in Toronto, and it seems to us the height of nonsense that because he committed a newspaper article instead of a murder a different procedure should rule. Then the assault on Mr. Shephard as he left the court room after receiving the sentence and fulfilling the requirements of the law, cannot be denounced in language too strong. But we must remember that the attack was not in any way instigated or encouraged by Major Dugas of the 65th, the prosecutor. A hot-headed lieutenant, named Normandeau, whose brains are probably none too weighty, was the offender and prime mover in the affair, and his action was promptly repudiated and atoned for as far

as possible by Major Dugas and other gentlemen present. These things, however, have to some extent elevated the editor of the *News* to the dignity of a martyr, and have added weight to his otherwise harmless diatribes against French Canadians. We have no wish to do the editor of the *News* an injustice. He may be quite honest in his opinion that the Province of Quebec is occupied by an inferior race of people who are filled with a violent hatred of Ontario and everything English, and if he thinks so perhaps he has a right to say so. If he thinks they are cowardly, unclean, ignorant, no doubt he has a right to let the world know it in proper terms. The proverb of the "foul bird" to the contrary notwithstanding. But we would suggest to him that he set himself to learn more about their history and present condition before he condemns and reviles with such unmeasured scorn. We are no apologists for ignorance or vice where it exists, and no doubt Quebec has its share. But we believe the French Canadian people as a whole to be an honest law-abiding people. In learning, in polite literature, in arts, in sciences, the better classes have no reason to fear comparison with the same class in Ontario or any other country, and while we cannot deny that the ties which bind them to the land of their forefathers are still strong, (who shall upbraid them for it) we also believe that they are loyal to the throne of Britain and to the Confederation. Instead of endeavoring to sow the seeds of discord let the press of Canada, both French and English, try to make the people better acquainted with each other so that each may profit by what he finds in his neighbor worthy of emulation. Let Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen, who love the memory of the old land, remember that Frenchmen, too, have had a parentage; an ancestry not unworthy; traditions not to be forgotten—memories to be revered as noble as any that history records. Let us not deny them the right to hold these memories sacred, but let us rather esteem them the more that holding them so they can still bear true allegiance to our common country and our Queen. And in forming our judgment of any people let us not be so unwise, so unjust as to single out the worst and the lowest and speak of a whole province as bad and low.

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 VETERANS.

MR. MYRON JOHNSON.

FOR so quiet a man as Mr. Johnston is, his selection of a birthday was somewhat singular. We are all aware that March is the rudest and most boisterous