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During the summer months THE SPECTATOR will be delivered free to Subscribers residing in the country, if the address be sent to the Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

THE TIMES.

The political campaign has begun in good earnest, and our M.P.'s and those who aspire after that honour are all lashing themselves into a very fury of patriotic zeal. Montreal promises to be the scene of much fighting. Mr. Devlin thinks he can do better as an independent candidate, that is, pledged to no party, but only looking after the best interests of—Mr. Devlin. Probably the disappointment of not being made a Senator during the last session of Parliament has had something to do with this. Mr. B. Lyman promises Montreal that, if taken as a candidate, he too will be independent—pledged to nothing but a discriminative tariff, which shall be a kind of protection. Mr. Lyman can speak with authority on this question of free trade—for in a branch of business he himself was made to suffer from having no protection. Of the two independents one may be trusted to act out his promises, and that one is not Mr. B. Devlin.

Of the party-men spoken of on the Conservative side, Mr. M. H. Gault and Mr. Thos. White seem to be most in favour. They both should be in the House. Mr. Gault would do credit to any constituency, being a man of education, of business qualities, and possessing a name for honourable dealing. Mr. White is unquestionably a man of power to change—and has exercised it many times—is a party man—a politician—but he is a man of considerable ability—has a full understanding of Canadian politics—and is a good speaker withal. The House would be the better for his knowledge, and its speaking power would be increased—sometimes in breadth, and always in length. It is to be hoped that Mr. White will find a constituency willing to elect him, that the country may reward him after his long and weary wanderings. But perhaps he had better try his fortunes somewhere out of Montreal. There is plenty of time for the constituencies to make choice of their representatives—for the elections will not be until November—possibly not until December. In the opinion of many of the Liberal party Mr. Mackenzie should have made his appeal to the country immediately after the elections for the Province of Quebec. But Mr. Mackenzie thought otherwise, deciding to wait until the crops are gathered in and the farmers have leisure to vote. Whether he was well advised is a matter for doubt, for the Quebec elections were something of a triumph for the Liberal party—but Mr. Mackenzie is sure of the farmers, and perhaps after all he was right to wait.

We have never flaunted our journalistic honours, in the face of the public, and although many kind and encouraging letters have been sent by men whose good word we valued, none of them have been published. But for once we must run up our flag, for a good word has come from a man whose commendation any journal extant would be glad to get. Here it is:—

“The Grange, Toronto, July 17, 1878.

“The Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR,

“DEAR SIR,—I enclose \$2 as my subscription to your journal. Allow me at the same time to express the pleasure with which I have been reading you, and my satisfaction at finding that independent journalism still lives and makes way in Canada, in spite of the efforts which have been made to put it down.

“Yours faithfully,

“GOLDWIN SMITH.”

In England they are making an effort to mitigate somewhat, if not to cure, the great evil of drunkenness. The temperance advocates have done good work by the way of moral suasion; but nearly all the attempts to put down drunkenness by legislation have signally failed. The Permissive Bill will never pass the House of Commons, and compulsory temperance will never be forced on the people. But the Habitual Drunkards Bill is a just and good measure. There is no compulsion to be used; but retreats, or houses of refuge, are to be provided by private means, into which drunkards may go to find freedom from temptation. Drunkards are to be allowed to sign away their liberty for a period of twelve months; that is to say, habitual drunkards are to voluntarily place themselves under one year's restraint. When once they have signed the request for admission to the refuge

they cannot cancel it again, or leave the asylum provided for them. Once in they will not be permitted to go out again until the full term has expired, and that is the only compulsion about it. The advocates of compulsory reform have done a good thing in the way of legislation, while the advocates of individual freedom have maintained every one of their principles. It is a matter of great interest that the experiment of compulsory legislation in favour of sobriety will be fairly tried in its simplest and most reasonable form.

There seems to be a very general feeling of uneasiness among the British politicians. At first they were all dazzled by the magnificent *coup* of the great Earl. But they have rubbed their eyes, and got accustomed to the glare of light, and are beginning to doubt the wisdom of all that has been done. In truth, they are beginning to question whether they have substantial reason for all this congratulation and glorying. They remember all the fine things that used to be said about “maintaining the integrity of the Turkish Empire,” and now Turkey is sliced up, England coming in for a big share of the spoil. They remember the promises that were made to Greece, and now, all of them are broken. They remember that Bessarabia was in no case to pass into the keeping of Russia; but, Russia has got Bessarabia, also Batoum. There is rejoicing over the acquisition of Cyprus, but it was managed in a very questionable way. For England had insisted on a pledge from Russia that there were no secret articles attached to the Treaty of San Stefano, and that the whole treaty should be submitted to the Congress. But, at the very time when those demands were made, England had negotiated a treaty with Turkey, and allowed the Congress to discuss the Eastern settlement without any knowledge of that treaty. Such is political morality according to the Gospel of the Earl of Beaconsfield.

And then—to those of us who have been taught to believe in government by Parliament, and not in personal government—it is difficult to understand that England has undertaken the Protectorate of Asia Minor without the matter ever having been so much as discussed in Parliament. Here is the fact, that enormous liabilities have been undertaken without the previous assent of the national representatives. This is a new point of departure in the history of British politics, and if it is not personal government, what in the name of all Parliaments is it?

The Earl of Beaconsfield will, doubtless, make his appeal to the country soon, and ask for its judgment on his late achievements at Berlin; and although it is more than likely that the Conservatives will carry a majority of the votes, it is certain that they are a demoralized party. For some time past the Cabinet has been divided—how divided we only got to know when Lord Derby left it. Now, the Lords Derby and Salisbury are at daggers drawn. In the House of Commons Sir Stafford Northcote has failed as a leader, and there is no other to take his place. The Earl must soon cease from his place, and now that Lord Derby is gone, only the Marquis of Salisbury is left, and the Marquis would be acceptable to but a small body of the Tories. So the Conservative party—as it seems—has got near to the end of the day of its power. There will be rejoicing among all Liberals—and probably in the heart of the great Earl himself, for he will be sure that the Conservatives have got to know the need of him.

And now that the Berlin Congress has signed its Treaty and gone home, we can look at the result and see what has come of it all as to profit and loss. England has gained Cyprus, an island containing some 3,600 square miles, remarkable for archæological treasures, but having immense possibilities for commerce, and giving to Great Britain the control of the Mediterranean. But the price paid for this is beyond the power of calculation. England has pledged herself to protect the Mohammedan power; she has become responsible to all Europe for the good government of Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine. And what is more, she has undertaken to administer good government through men of their own kin and religion. That is to say—England is to transform the Turk into a just man and make him do justly—the Bashi-Bazouk will be fierce no longer—and honesty and brotherly love will reign supreme. How that is to be done is not quite clear. We know what England has acquired—but the cost of it has not been told. The only thing she is sure of having gained is—another Duke.