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## OUR MONTREAL LETTER.

DEAR EDITOR,—Should you get a hint that my articles are but serving to tire your patient readers, as not worth the valuable space which they occupy, just turn them down and it will be an easy matter to find something worthy of a substitute.

In talking I wish to ramble politically somewhat, which I pray you will overlook.

In rummaging around our ancestral garret, hunting up records of our forefathers, we find they are of Scotch and German descent, English by adoption, and, later, Canadians at heart, of the U. E. loyalist type. We find that they have been quiet, inoffensive, peaceful, law-abiding people, and, up to the present their record for honesty has been good. For the honesty of the present generation, I don't know that I dare say very much. I dare not boast of my own as I am too well known by your readers. I would not care to have a public examination regarding it, for fear I might be arrested. Probably the best demonstration which I can give is that I still have my liberty.

But, be this as it may when I look upon the calouses on their old rheumatic fingers, which bespeak no lie in telling of honest toil, and gaze upon the sun-burnt hands and deeply furrowed brows of my stock, knowing that what they possess (tho' somewhat limited) they obtained by hard work and honesty, it causes me to be especially proud of them, and endows me with courage to work and with a will.

There have been no cats-paws nor political heelers among them. When it came their time to vote it did not require a pair of whippers in to get them to the polling booth. No, they went and voted like men, on one side or the other and said nothing about it, considered it but their duty, seeking no emoluments, and expecting no favors from the unfortunate member that represented them in the house of Commons. If there is anything in this world to be proud of it is this. Political honesty is the top rung in the ladder of purification. If a man be honest, politically, rarely will you find him crooked in every-day affairs. In this regard Canada has been specially favored. She has had many honest politicians, great and good men of both political parties. True, there have been some scoundrels, but there are black sheep in every important assembly.

When I tire of every-day reading of this and that, and my mind becomes heavy and my thoughts are sluggish, I resort to the history of Canada and the biography of its makers and it fills me with new life, fans up the dying spark of patriotism, and leaves a flame of love for my native land with a longing desire to do something to help on the good work which those great men have established. Let every Canadian put his shoulder to the wheel. All that is required of us is this. Let us be men worthy of our country.

When I read the history of those exemplary leaders, from pioneer days on up to the present, and contemplate their trials and vicissitudes and look upon the fruits of their labors, I can say with all truthfulness that no land has been blessed by greater than those. Let us dwell for a little upon the early lives of these men. Space will not permit of me going into detail concerning them, suggest that all read them. You will be fully paid. You will find that the most of them went out from the little log cabin door, bare-footed many of them, coarsely clad, well but coarsely fed, with but the frail rudiments of an education, battling with the ups and downs of a primitive country, treading the thorny path of censure and envy with lacerated feet, facing the bitter storms of disappointment, but finally climbing Parliament Hill and pushing in through the doors of the House of Commons, and through the corridors to the Legislative Assembly hall, and there making the room ring with their porridge-fed oratory, there establishing the rights which have won the esteem and admiration of their fellow country men, and made Canada what she is to-day—a pattern for the civilized world. Often as I stroll through Windsor Park and look upon the monument of Sir John A. McDonald, I think, if it

would be paying any more reverence to this illustrious Canadian, I would willingly do flattery as I pass. My only regret is that there are not more memorials erected to our worthy men.

Here let me ask, who is going to take the place of our leaders? They are all well advanced in years, it will not be long before their day of usefulness will have gone by. What kind of material is in our young men? What is their aim? What are those college youths that swagger and strut up the streets, yelling "Rah, Rah!" I'll tell you, the majority of them are a lot of cigar-saturated, cake-fed duds; there is not one in one thousand that will ever be capable of filling the worthy place of our present statesmen. They will get through the college all right, no doubt, with the help of a slaving, poor old father and mother at home on the farm, eating salt pork and Johnny cake, milking cows and lugging whey, saving up and sending the proceeds of their labors to Augustus Aristotle who is at college fumigating the streets with tobacco, soaking in booze, dining on roast turkey with mint sauce, sobering up on Tabasco salad, and shouting "Rah, Rah, Rah!" to see him in the city, you would be led to think that his generation were not of the working kind. But he hollers "Rah" and gets through college, and gets his initial degree with as many letters attached to his name as there would be to the name of a South African village—and what does it all amount to? I have often wondered what became of them all. Scores are being turned out every year, and we do not hear tell of one in a hundred. They must go West. There is no honor or connected with the letters to a student, name if they have been placed there by the sweat of a toiling father and mother, neither is there any in the future for such a milkop weakling. The dear old parents die of hard work and the dear boy who has hollered "Rah" and got his degree is left upon his own resources, and he is a dismal failure. About the only thing that will help him out is gall and pull. For such as he, the pull was created, and where you find the like unto him in office you will find he got there by "pull." Many will say, "why, he has a superior education." No, he is not educated, he has not the rudiments of a practical education, degree and all, and had he not been brought up on a farm he could not tell whether a self-binder was for gathering apples or splitting rails. Let me give an illustration of how well those college students are educated. Not long ago I had the good fortune, or misfortune, rather, to get acquainted with a graduate of one of our musical colleges. He had more diplomas than you could pack in a cracker box. Thinking to get some needed information, I asked him a question regarding synecopated notes. Consider my surprise when he told me he never heard of them, but asked me if "I was not mistaken in the term." "No," and pointing out to him what I meant he said he did not know anything about them. Then I was glad I had no initial college degree, because if there is any excuse for being ignorant I had the advantage of him.

Do not think by this prattle that I am averse to a college education or our grand and noble colleges. Far from it. I would gladly pay double my school-tax for the establishing of free schools. There is nothing on this earth which could be bestowed on a young man like an education. It is a legacy of the first degree. Were I at this age offered \$10,000 in gold or a first-class college education, believe me, I would give the learning a great preference. Where we toddled up to get the A. B. C. rudiments of our very limited knowledge, above the poor of the old school, were engraved these words: "Knowledge is power." Never was there a sentence which contained so much truth. Knowledge is power indeed.

The men who made Canada have made themselves, and that is the foundation of her greatness. Students, Canada needs your help. Get your education as soon as you can, but work for it. Don't let someone else bear your burden in the heat of the day, take it upon your own self, it will give you muscle which will stand you in good stead for the coming years. Get ready, I say, as quickly as you can, then throw aside the four inch collar, take off your coat and go out to the world and say, "Here am I, what will thou have me to do?" You will find plenty to do. This world is one continuous work shop, and do not be easily discouraged nor faint-hearted. Read the lives of Canada's greatest men. One of the most brilliant men that Canada has ever known rang the bell and swept the floor of the college to get his education. The Hon. C. F. Fraser, a name teeming with principles of right and justice, trod the streets of Brockville a bare-footed news boy, but arose to the exalted position of Minister of Public Works of the banner province of Ontario, and but for his early decease, which ends every onward and upward march with men, this exemplary man would have attained the highest position which Canada can give to her subjects. There are hundreds of other such instances in the lives of our history-makers—read them.

In conclusion, let me say to you, work constantly. Some one has said, "There is nothing succeeds like success." That is no good. There is nothing succeeds like work. Some people quote "Pray without ceasing." If that will

accomplish great things, work without ceasing will accomplish as much.  
CRAWF C. SLACK.

## CANADA'S DREAM.

"Nestling at the feet of her majestic mother, Canada will with confidence and hope dream her dream and forebode her destiny—a dream of ever broadening harvests, multiplying towns and villages, and expanding pastures; of constitutional self government, and of a confederated Empire; of page after page of honorable history added as her contribution to the annals of the Mother Country, and to the glories of the British Race; of a perpetuation for all time upon this continent of that temperate and well balanced system of government which combines in one mighty whole, as the eternal possession of all Britons, the brilliant history and traditions of the past, with the freest and most untrammelled liberty for the future."—Lord Dufferin.

## WEEDS ON THE FARM.

In welcoming the excursionists from Bruce at the O. A. C., Principal Mills seized upon the occasion to put in a few well-spoken words on weeds. "I am sorry," he said, "to acknowledge that almost at the college gates, between these grounds and the city of Guelph—you will find too many of these pests of Agriculture. It was not so fifteen years ago, and the change is due to the change in farmers. Down between Brampton and Toronto it is even worse. There you will find great fields that are one mass of yellow, due to prevalence of mustard. There has been issued from the college a bulletin dealing with all the most important weeds of the Province, and how to deal with them. But after all I have read on this subject, I have come to this conclusion: That the matter of first importance is to get our young men to realize the fact that it is a disgrace to have a dirty farm, and then to create in them a determination to take off their coats and go to work and not rest until every weed is destroyed. You may theorize until you are grey-headed and meantime your farm will get dirtier all the time. The thing is to go to work and rid your farm of a nuisance and a disgrace. Prof. Lochhead of the college, whose work covers this department will be glad to give you any assistance in combating the evil if you write and ask him."

## TOLL-ROAD TEST CASE.

Wherever a toll-road exists the question arises as to the liability of a traveller to pay toll when he does not pass through a gate. A decision in this matter is shortly to be given by the Justice of the Peace Simpson of Cataract. The matter came up in the form of a summons served upon B. Wartman for refusing to pay toll. Mr. Wartman who lives on the Bath road between Nos. 1 and 2 toll-gates, traveled west along the Bath road as far as the road to Westbrook road goes, which crosses the Bath road. No. 2 toll-gate is on the west side of this crossing, and the road company had placed a check gate on the east side so as to compel all persons who came down that road and passed up the Westbrook road, to pay toll. Mr. Wartman paid going out, but refused to pay returning, claiming that the statute did not authorize the imposition of toll.

Mr. Wartman's counsel claimed that as long as a person did not pass through the gate, he was not bound to pay toll at the check gate; that the statute required a check to be given him to pass through the main gate, and that when he did not intend to pass through the toll-gate, he was not bound to pay; that in fact he had the right to pass from one toll-gate to another without paying, as long as he did not pass through either. The statute being much involved, the magistrate reserved his decision. The case was forced as a test.

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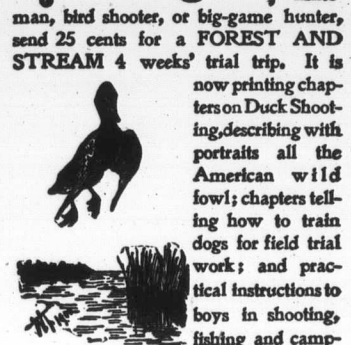
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