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WHAT IS "A TRIMMER?"

Politically of course. A "trimmer" is a politician who is all things to all men; who promises everything he can promise during his election, and when once elected goes his own gait as it suits his convenience. He may be compared to a rubber ring. You can compress it when you will, you can expand it to its greatest length, but when you have done with it, it will resume its original proportions. Just so with the "trimmer." He has this same power of expansion and contraction on the hustings; but when once in the Legislature he resumes his original shape and becomes no more elastic until it suits him to be so. He loses the confidence of his friends and the respect of his foes; he ceases to become reliable, because he is a "trimmer." He would make his Orange constituents believe he was their best friend; he would go so far as to subscribe to an Orange Society. Yet, on the other hand he would tell his Roman Catholic supporters that he hates Orangemen and Orangeism with a holy zeal—and they out of admiration for his noble qualities will give him their votes and send him to Quebec to represent their opinions. And when he gets there he will flatter himself upon his "smartness." Briefly put, therefore, this "trimmer" becomes a political charlatan who plays fast and loose with the dexterity of a professional juggler—and he retires finally as an object at whom all honest men, of whatever opinion, point the finger of scorn. Such is a "trimmer."

Then we have the journalistic "trimmer," who in the supposed interest of Peace and Order, but really in the interest of Party, suppresses plain, outspoken opinion under the plea that it will inflame bigotry and bad blood. So this newspaper "trimmer" cuts down reports, and, in the hope of politically reconciling opposing factions, and bringing them eventually within his Party fold, strides the fence as an observer, not daring to express a straightforward opinion, and only launching out occasionally at some prominent civic functionary because he happens to be on the opposite side, while those of his own politics, who are equally inflammable, escape the sting of his indignant eloquence, simply because they are supposed to be the friends of his Party. He would seek a place in Parliament but although eminently calculated to rank far ahead of more fortunate candidates, he invariably fails because people don't know, to use a homely expression, "where to find him." Not having the courage to express his true convictions he remains in the slough of despond, because in his vain endeavour to please every body, he fails most lamentably in pleasing any body. Party is his God, and although he would persuade you that he is the true friend of free thought, free speech, and the personification of wisdom generally, he gropes on in the dark seeking to conciliate all, yet daring to offend none. This is his idea of progress and journalism, and this being his idea, he loses ground every day for want of pluck and plain speaking. In brief he has made the study of evasion so fine an art until anything like a fair report or square speaking upon any one thing relating to the interests of Montreal is not to be expected from him.

We would not compare him to the specimen already spoken of, but nevertheless he, too, is a "trimmer."

Now bring on that new daily of which we have heard as among the things that are to be, but under the supervision of whomsoever it is to be, cast "trimming" on one side if you wish for success. Let the people know "where to find you."

MONTREAL'S MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE FROM QUEBEC.

The political excitement at Quebec having all but subsided, the general public begin to lose that keen interest, which it showed three weeks ago, in the Provincial Legislature's proceedings. The newspaper correspondents at Quebec recognize the necessity therefore of giving racy dispatches as a substitute. In the *Herald* we read that "Mr. Tarte rose to pour out the vial" of his wrath upon the head of the Treasurer. When the cork was once "drawn from the vial, the contents seemed inexhaustible. For nearly four hours the member for Bonaventure harangued his unfortunate colleagues "and then suddenly subsided." The same authority also says that "Mr. Tarte is the Thibault of the Quebec district, and occupies about the same position in the public estimation, which describes amply enough what he would probably flatter himself is his character. Though as ridiculous as his Montreal prototype, he is not, however, so amusing." In referring to the debate on the Provincial Budget, it is said that "Mr. Chapleau incidentally mentioned his willingness to go on until morning, and then Mr. Loranger talked for a long two hours or more, travelling from the Dan of the District Magistracy to the Beersheba of the Railway Question." Truly they must have an amusing time of it at the Ancient Capital, while the newspaper correspondents show a commendable interest in the drug business and also a knowledge of Biblical history which speaks well for the future evangelization of the roaming Bedouins of the newspaper Press. The above extracts are from one side of the house, let us hope to see something of what is thought of the political tables reversed.

CONCERNING MONTREAL'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

The Local Magistrates' Court in Montreal or what is now better known as the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, over which His Honor C. J. COURSOI, Esq., so ably presides, comprises an organisation but little understood by the general citizens. At the regular meetings of the Quarter Sessions, the precise and obliging Mr. SCULLER, Clerk of the Peace, opens the proceedings by calling the roll; that is, he reads aloud the Commission of the Peace in which is the name of every Justice of the Peace in the City and district of Montreal. Each of these Local Magisterial luminaries is by a Provincial fiction supposed to be present and answer to his name, and he may then take his seat on the Bench! But from native modesty and perhaps consideration of their legal attainments as well as lack of sitting accommodation, the Justices have heretofore refrained from asserting these formal rights of their high Judicial positions. Such modesty however, will exist no more; as since the advent of the JOLY party into power, the Quebec *Official Gazette* has been creating new J. P.'s by the bushel and many of the new creations are going to see things done differently from the past. It was only last week that the *Witness* published a list of some thirty gentlemen recently appointed and who were subsequently at the Court House "duly qualified as Justices of the Peace," that is to say they took the necessary oath, got copies of Provincial statutes and blank forms for conducting trials, examination of witnesses and all the red tape paraphernalia of legal honors, with a copy of the Criminal Code and a Bible—both of which the new J. P.'s should be familiar with—especially the latter, if they ever expect to be a credit to the Commission of the Peace.

APPROACHING MEETING OF MAGISTRATES.

It is usual for the Local Magistrates to hold meetings when they may see fit, or deem it necessary to discuss matters affecting the present or future peace of their District and also to arrange minor details of the Commission. Some such meeting will, we hear, shortly be held in Montreal, but as there is no Court Room in this city or the Dominion large enough to accommodate the present number of Montreal's Justices of the Peace with Magisterial Arm Chairs, it is understood that the Drill Shed will be temporarily roofed over for the approaching meeting and a special Guard of Honor will be called out for the occasion. At this meeting which will be held under Proclamation, the Justices will have to arrange a great number of rules of procedure in official etiquette and the scale of precedence at Royal or Governor General Receptions, Corporation and City Banquets, State Ceremonies, and the style of dress to be worn by Justices in private and public life, and besides a hundred and one other details of law and dignity, altogether unknown to the uninitiated vulgar public. At the above meeting the first duty will be the nomination of a brother magistrate as CHAIRMAN of the Sessions; this is the highest post of honor the J. P.'s can confer and the fortunate one is thenceforth next in dignity to Judge COURSOI, and is looked up to as the future directing spirit of the entire Commission. For the Chairmanship, it is said, a young Magistrate but an old citizen is to receive the honor, and no doubt Montrealers will be surprised and pleased to hear that our worthy and highly esteemed fellow citizen—MARTIN TRACEY ESQ., J. P.—is to be selected as the magisterial standard bearer. His long and varied experience in the mercantile and other pursuits of Montreal has no doubt well qualified him for so high a position and his last year's Government service at the Canal must have been eminently useful in giving him a nice perception of the relative positions of Dominion and City rights. The roll of the Montreal Magistracy comprising as it does the names of dozens of the wealthiest and best known of our citizens will no doubt feel grateful to the Quebec Cabinet for adding to the Magistrates' Court so many new members as will permit of Martin Tracey Esq., J. P., being gazetted Chairman of the Commission of the Peace for the City and District of Montreal.

REFINED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

The Montreal Society for the Prevention and punishment of Cruelty to Animals, has, since its inception eight years ago, been blessed with the untold thanks of the dumb creatures generally, for its labors in their behalf. If the prayers of the poor lambs brought to the City slaughter houses and markets could be heard, Inspector Gailey's name would have a prominent place in the dying memories of many a steer and thoroughbred.

These reflections are forced upon the writer after witnessing the many attempts, which, in the past, have been made, not so much to evade the law, as to show that the law had no jurisdiction beyond the "galled" backs of donkeys, broken legged horses or the choking of market cattle. The Society's mission is a grand one. It is to grant relief from torture, unto all created dumb animals, in the Province of Quebec in particular. One of these attempts at hairsplitting to avoid the law is now before us in the case of the following recently published notice in the city press:

"STOLEN, on June 21st, a little Black Slut, with collar on; left four pups three days old. Any one returning to — Drummond street will be liberally rewarded."

What a sad story of woe these few lines reveal! Can any one with a spark of humanity, read the above, without feelings of pity and indignation rising up within them against so great an outrage?

Who does not feel for the poor deserted pups, who are thus ruthlessly thrown, by the abduction of their mother, upon the tender mercies of the world. This family of four who are at the time we write scarce a week old, will soon open their eyes for the first time—On what?—a barren and cheerless world, without father or mother to guide them in the path which their forefathers trod to reach their hope in life—a Corporation City Tax Medal. The greatest kindness that can be bestowed upon these four lone pups, even in "bringing them up by hand," cannot compensate them for a mother's tender love and training. In the meantime let us hope the Society will do its duty fearlessly, no matter who the guilty man may be. The wretch who deliberately stole away that nurturing mother from the bosom of her young and tender family may yet be given time to repent at leisure in some cheerless dungeon appropriate to the punishment of so horrible a crime.

A TWO THOUSAND DOLLAR BACHELOR.—For your information we may state that "Garden and Lawn Parties" are got up for really worthy and charitable purposes, wherein the ice cream and syrupy seductions make one feel how much one can stomach in a good cause. They are not, as you suppose the happy hunting grounds of anxious manmas and marriageable daughters, and if you do wear a No. 12 gaiter that fact does not prevent you joining in a game of croquet if you want to.