

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1911

## The Evening Times and Star

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## SNOBS

It is notorious that when one falls among a strange community there are no infallible signs by which one may separate the elect from the throng. Women novelists especially, who are the most reckless class of snobs, delight in making the most outlandish circumstances. All sorts of sentimental people follow them in that idea, but it is the veriest nonsense. Blood and breeding will often tell in men as in horses, but the physical signs in men are by no means so certain. If you bring a man in utter rage into a drawing-room, you could of course tell whether he had accomplished manners or not, but if you saw him walk down the street you could only guess, and if it happened that he were a genius you would probably guess wrongly. Suppose one Frenchman is speaking excellent grammatical French, and sees no appreciable difference between the manners of a shop-walker and those of a marquis. Even the Canadian in England or the Englishman in Canada finds it impossible for a considerable time to place people by their accent or manner.

How terrible for the snob to contemplate that the superiority he adores is not as evident as the everlastingly hills and yet for some reason his snobbery is perfectly so. To be a gentleman is to be a compound of natural refinement and culture, with innumerable nuances of thought and feeling that cannot be analysed in a word or a work of art from the studio of nature. But snobbery is a science and most often a clumsy one and around its wretched victim it too often allows the scaffolding to stand which shows us how he was built up. A snob has the jeopardsy air of a house built on the edge of a precipice for insurance purposes. While he is standing he is the most prominent thing in the universe, but when he falls he disappears most completely. There is no sport in the world more fascinating or satisfying than the taming of a snob.

The poorer the people among whom one moves the worse are the snobs one encounters. Of all of them the frothy demagogue is often the worst. He is like a lion on the platform; he denounces privilege and praises the godlike virtues of the plain man; but let him meet the merry devils of finance and he is treated as an equal by them! The lion-soul dies out of him, he becomes craven and well fed—and he is not punished like the bad boy in the story. Snobbery is an economic asset when one knows how to use it properly, and it is a mistake to think that all snobs and snobbery are stupid.

Little snobs have bigger snobs upon their backs to bite 'em, and bigger snobs have other snobs, and so on, ad infinitum.

Intellectual snobs have written a good part of English literature. Often snobbery comes from genuine ambition and an imagination lifting itself out of its ordinary surroundings. It is defensive rather than offensive in its attitude, a shield rather than a sword, the attitude of those who know that although they have succeeded in climbing, yet . . . facile est descensus Averni. Men have raised themselves by sheer ability and adaptability to move among a class superior by birth to their own. Men have also raised themselves by mere wealth and economic opportunities to move in similar circumstances and, well, what can one say? It is then the devil dances, for he has the humor of an aristocrat.

Snobbery, ugly everywhere, is doubly ugly in a new country where qualities of personal achievement should count so much and another experiment in human society is possible. In an old country there is a great tradition of aims and graces for those of little faith to follow, and indeed all may follow them profitably. An ancient civilization must give us a life decorated and somewhat artificial. But it is otherwise with a new country. It should be determined above all to cultivate and admire the manly virtues, the real basis of true gentleness, and to evolve its own refinement and culture. It should have the manners of a robust and respectful but decidedly adventurous child.

Here in Canada neither hobbles skirts from England nor cuspidors from the United States are necessary to our social development. Travel leaves on every man who has employed it sanely, some trace of the civilization he has encountered. If he is a snob he will emphasize it, though a travelled man is rarely a snob. And new fashions he is likely to introduce will not be so noxious as those of the man whose wardrobe and mind are alike equipped only with the wisdom of far-off society newspapers. This latter, it is, who brings contempt on all good manners as being effeminate and apish, but one can really be a good democrat without giving up one's hands. Courtesy and politeness are largely matters of discipline. Democracy is a splendid political principle, but it will never succeed until it can manipulate a tea party as well as a ball.

Let us hope that the reports of grain crop conditions will speedily improve. The weather man seems to have served the prairie farmers an ill turn in the closing days of the thrashing season.

Just six weeks from today and then Christmas Day. Time to begin thinking of what to give him—or her.

In Montreal there is now talk of tunnelling below some of the principal streets to give an underground street railway service and relieve surface congestion. It is a good sign of vigorous growth.

The Boston Globe says:—"The Italian statement of what occurred in Tripoli proves again that war is what General Sherman said it was." China may well be called to the witness stand also.

A weather turmoil in the United States yesterday caused wreck of property and the loss of a score of lives. St. John has much to be thankful for in freedom from blizzard and tornado.

The common council is to deal with the new power proposition for St. John this evening. The subject is one of first importance, worthy of the calling of the special session to consider it.

Mr. X. W. Rowell, the new Liberal leader in Ontario, is now in the saddle. He was nominated on Saturday in Woodstock, Ont. The campaign for the Ontario legislature seats will be merely on this week.

## MONTREAL CONTRIBUTES TO KING EDWARD MEMORIAL

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy is Chairman of the Committee Collecting the Funds

Montreal, Nov. 12—Mayor Guerin has submitted a letter from Sir Thomas Shaughnessy to the board of control, asking \$5,000 from the city for the King Edward Memorial Fund. Sir Thomas wrote that he was appointed chairman of the committee to collect funds for a suitable monument to the late king, and to look after the performance of the work. So far the committee, he says, has collected \$90,000, and a few more thousands are expected from individuals. The proposition is to erect a statue in one of the public parks commensurate with the dignity and importance of Montreal.

The controllers have decided to recommend in the next budget that the sum asked for be paid to the committee in charge of the monument.

## WALL STREET NOTES OF TODAY

(By Direct Private Wires to J. C. Mackintosh & Co.)

New York, Nov. 13—Americans in London heavy, 14 to 18 off.

Bank statement shows banks gained \$4,338,750, making surplus now \$13,331,750. Secretary of Treasury MacVeagh endorses Aldrich Currency Plan, but says holding of shares in another bank by a bank which is a member of the National Reserve Association should be prohibited.

Criminal prosecution of Chicago packers begins in Chicago today before Judge Carpenter in U. S. District Court.

President Taft returns to Washington and will begin work on his annual message. He favors legislation specifying more speedy action on Sherman law.

Reported Attorney-General Wickesham has rejected International Harvester reorganization plan to avoid prosecution under Sherman law.

Twenty industrial declined 1.46; twenty active rails declined 1.28 per cent.

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## FOOTBALL HERO.

Erasmus was the huskiest of all the college team.

His kicking was a classic and his running was a scream.

The enemy all took flight, their terror ill concealed.

Where'er he grabbed the pigskin and went tearing down the field.

He was the very limit in the strenuous pastime.

To ask a man to tackle him was nothing but a crime.

He was the strongest man they'd had in twenty-seven years.

He always left the field bestrewn with arms and legs and cars.

His biceps were as hard as nails, he had a mighty chest.

Of all the athletes in the world he was one of the best.

His limbs were like the sturdy oak and he could grab a nute.

Right by the tail and swing him round and toss him o'er the school.

He could bend railroad steel right up by using his bare hands.

The muscles of his brawny arms were strong as iron bands.

He'd pull a tree up by roots and carry it away.

The grandstand would be crowded every time that he would play.

But, back home in vacation time, his strength just failed, I vow.

He was so weak he couldn't think of following the plow.

He couldn't hoe potatoes and he could not split the wood.

He simply seemed to pine away and dwindle as a rule.

Till in the fall when time came 'round again to go to school.

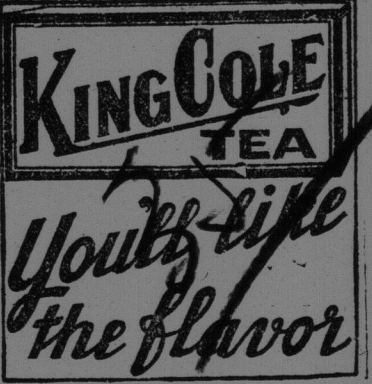
Then he'd recover suddenly and take an awful brace.

In feats of strength a deal depends upon the time and place.

—Brooklyn Eagle.

The boarding stables owned by F. Macriotti, in Hollis street, Halifax, were burned on Saturday and seventeen horses, the property of physicians and others in the city, perished. Among those who lost horses were Doctors Ross, Finn, McKay, Farrell, and Almon, while R. E. Finn, M. P. P., also lost one.

Peter Dechen, charged with complicity in the shooting of Israel Tremblay last May, who escaped from the police soon after his arrest, was found by the police on Friday last and placed in the Dalhousie jail.



## USELESS WAITING

(S. E. Kiser in Chicago Record-Herald.)

He has a longing to reach success. He wishes to be supreme. He worries because of his littleness. But he is inclined to dream.

He yearns to be "the talk of the town." To loom o'er the common crowd. He is longing for money and for renown. And for the right to be proud.

He wishes to reach success, to feel serene in a lofty seat— But he's waiting to go in an automobile That will take him up Easy street.

## IN LIGHTER VEIN



He—Why is it you're never married? She—You never asked me before.



"He's buying his auto on the instalment plan."

"Is he? Well, it's my opinion if he don't drive it more carefully they'll be taking him to the hospital on the same plan."



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