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THE CASE OF "HOLY ANN."

There crop up from time to time curious instances of persons, with religious zeal and faith which apparently transform them into beings who live in regions very close to the supernatural. The traditions of the church are filled with these instances. Many of them—the incredulous would say all—are so entwined with fable that it is difficult to say how much of wheat and how much of chaff are in the narratives. Many miracles are recorded. The higher critics tell us that all miracles are impossible. With that we shall not deal.

Among the most common form of miracle recorded is one associated with the revelations which come through the seeing of visions and the hearing of voices. Whether these have been genuine revelations or are simply the result of an overstrained nervous organization it is impossible to say. That in many cases they were genuine so far as the belief of the individual affected is concerned need not be doubted. Joan of Arc, the most notable example of this, was a real, historical character. That she was genuinely impressed with the divine nature of her mission is beyond question. Her heroic exploits and wonderful success were the result of inspiration. If she were under a delusion it was a very real one in her case, in which there was absolutely no room for doubt. If Joan of Arc never had visions and there was no supernatural background at all, she was nevertheless a heroine and a good woman, who acted under a stimulus as effective as though it had proceeded from a divine source.

The Lourdes as a Mecca for religious pilgrims is the outcome of a revelation of the Virgin Mary, said to have been made to two little girls about the middle of the last century. There is no reason to doubt that these little girls believed what they professed to have seen and heard to be genuine. There may have been many such things fraudulent, but there are also many bona fide cases—that is to say, bona fide at least so far as the imagination of the persons who have had these revelations went. There are many persons who have absolute belief in prayer—persons of great faith. One of these was the late Dr. Barnardo, of whose career wonderful instances of answers to prayer are recorded. Christian annals teem with them. How they are to be accounted for is to be settled by the scientist and the Christian between them.

The Toronto Daily Star states that "Holy Ann," nearly one hundred years old, is dying at her home at 211 Ontario street. "Holy Ann" is a well known character in Eastern Methodist circles. The Bible, which she knows practically by heart, is the only book she can read. Her name is Miss Ann Preston, for she never wed, and up to a few days ago was in possession of all her faculties. Her faith in the Bible is absolute and her reliance on the guidance of the Holy Spirit is complete. She was notable for good works and prayerfulness. Though she lived in an age which does not believe in miracles, there are incidents in her career which illustrate the simple faith—if not the credulousness—of many in matters of religion. A pamphlet recently published in all seriousness relates the following concerning her:

"Many years ago she was a servant on a farm in Ontario, and in some way one of her legs became very sore, and while under the doctor's treatment he said she must have a fresh-laid egg every day, and no other kind of meat. It was at a season when hens were not laying much, and she asked Father how to get the fresh egg. That day a hen walked into the kitchen and deliberately went upstairs to Ann's little bedchamber, and in a box by her bed laid the egg.

"When Ann saw the hen go upstairs she said, 'Father, what does this mean?' and He said, 'Let the hen alone; she is going to lay the egg for you.'

"Then Ann said 'Please, Father, don't let her cackle after the egg is laid, for it will make the matter too public and be a source of annoyance to the family.'

"Sure enough the hen, after laying the egg, quietly went downstairs and out into the yard. Each day at about that hour that hen would come and quietly deposit an egg in the box by Ann's bed without cackling."

Another story is equally marvelous. The well on the farm on which Ann was a servant went dry and she had to carry the water from a spring some distance from the house. The children said to her, 'I thought your Father gave you everything you need; why don't He put water in the well?'

"That night," the pamphlet says, "she talked with Him, telling Him, 'Father, if you will put water in the well, the dear children will be strengthened in faith.' He assured her He would. So next morning Ann went to the well with her two pails, let one down (it worked with a windlass) and brought it up full, and from that on had all the water she needed."

The book is filled with many such stories, all of which, it says, are vouched for by witnesses.

JUDGES AND THE INVESTIGATION

The Times of Friday in the very poorest taste imaginable states that none of the judges of the supreme court in British Columbia can be induced to take the enquiry ordered by the provincial government with reference to the Pendray lots, and for the reason that the affairs involved were of too shady a nature for them to touch. It is evidently the intention, as the charges to be investigated were originated in a spirit of calumny and political malice that they shall be followed up in the same malevolent disposition.

It has been common in the past for judges to act upon commissions of enquiry in British Columbia as in other provinces, but of late the practice has not been encouraged by the Dominion government, and its attitude has amounted to an absolute prohibition. The whole question was brought up in parliament during the present session and all doubt has been removed as to the position which judges should assume. In fact, it is practically regulated by statute.

We are not in a position to state what has actually occurred in the present instance, but we have no hesitation in assuming that the judges, when asked to hold the investigation declined for the reason that law and judicial ethics prevent their acting in the desired capacity. Unfortunately, the government cannot very well, out of consideration for the judges and in compliances with well understood ethics, disclose correspondence with members of the judiciary or drag their names into a political controversy. Conscious of these facts and aware of the nature of the just recent discussion in parliament we are, nevertheless, asked to believe that the reasons are such as to be prejudicial to the government—a miserable exhibition of boorishness and untruthfulness. The readers of the Times are possessed of sufficient fair-play to resent its systematic efforts to misrepresent and libel its opponents.

SCHOOL AND HEALTH.

Now that school has broken up throughout the country, it is worth while, thinks the Montreal Gazette, to consider the figures given in the North American Review by Dr. George Woodruff Johnston with reference to the health of school children in the United States. During the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June, 1903, there were in the United States 22,655,001 children, of from 5 to 18 years, of whom 18,187,918 were enrolled in public or private schools or colleges, or in special institutions of a more or less educational character. In other words, says Dr. Johnston, more than 22 per cent. of the entire people of the United States were at school or college—the cost being $251,457,625 or $3.15 per capita of the population. Dr. Johnston, having put the question whether this large sum is spent wisely, says that it would be easier, according to a distinguished authority, to estimate the losses by hog-cholera or cattle-plague than to determine the number of children who succumb to school diseases. Still, by comparing results obtained in Europe with the results of scattered and inconclusive inquiries at home, he tries to obtain answers to the question. After a glance at the methods of investigation—none of which seemed to be thorough—Dr. Johnston discovered the following percentages of morbidity (morbid quality—disease—sickness) among school-boys: In Great Britain, 20; in Denmark, 29; in Germany, 30; in Copenhagen, 31; in Sweden, 37; among school-girls: In Great Britain, 16; in Copenhagen, 30; in Denmark, 41; in Lausanne, 43; in Germany, 50, and in Stockholm, 62—thus showing an average morbidity for boys of 29 and for girls of 42 per cent. Among the chronic conditions of which the sum total of ill-health was made up are mentioned anemia, chlorosis, lack of appetite, indigestion, impaired nutrition, headache, neuralgia, chest pains, palpitation, nose bleed, lateral curvature of the spine and near-sight. What is especially noteworthy is that the amount and degree of ill-health increased in direct proportion to the number of work hours and to the increased burden of studies, as progress was made upward from grade to grade. Where pupils worked more than the average number of hours, and in schools (as at Stockholm) where the standard was exceptionally high, the average morbidity was exceeded by from 3 to 10 per cent. It is this fact which explains the disparity in the statistics of countries otherwise so nearly alike as Sweden and Denmark—a greater number of working hours being requisite in Sweden at the time when the inquiries were made.

A like relation between the general health and the amount of study, calculated by hours, was found to prevail in the United States. The affections already indicated—being states due to fatigue when pushed to the pathological extreme—have appeared so regularly in the same conditions that they have been called school diseases. The over-worked scholar, especially in the higher school grades, is of weaker fibre and less balanced nervous system than other young people who are not subjected to such a strain. An association of collegiate women, desirous of proving that this was not the case, were reluctantly obliged to admit that while, of 705 girl graduates of America's foremost female and co-educational colleges, 19.6 per cent. suffered deterioration of health during their student days of the same age had a like misfortune during the period of their greatest activity. The important fact, however, is not the relative aspect of the condition complained of but the condition itself.

Dr. Johnston then selects headaches as the most typical of all school diseases the world over, and grouping data obtained from France, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Russia, he makes it clear that from 40 to 50 per cent. of all school children suffer from this malady. It is, he adds, usually frontal, commonly habitual, and afflicts girls more than boys. It may be due to various causes, but what he lays stress on is that the number of sufferers increases step by step and grade by grade with advancement through the school. It is also noticed that the headache of school-girls begins with the term, grows more frequent and intense as it progresses, then disappears in the holidays, to run the same course over again—the total result being progressive deterioration.

We need not go further with Dr. Johnston in his investigation concludes the Gazette. What interests us is to know whether similar conditions produce like evil results in Canada. Most of us would be inclined to take an optimistic view, judging from the generality of school-boys and school-girls that we see at this time of the year. The prospect of the holiday season may, it is true, work a transformation. In any case, the subject is one that deserves careful attention. Dr. Johnston deprecates, as a remedy, "the almost professional athleticism which is now in vogue," and in which he sees only one form of fatigue substituted for another no less injurious. What he recommends is "a completer comprehension of the school child as a young animal at work and play, and a rational adaptation of work and play to his capacities and needs." Dr. Johnston does not mean that the moral, spiritual and esthetic powers are to be neglected, but that the health is to be rationally considered.

EXECUTIVE SECRETS.

The Nelson News continues foolishly in making the statement that the chief commissioner of lands and works admitted in his evidence in the Kaien island investigation having discussed "executive secrets" with Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. The News knows perfectly well that revealing the secrets of the executive is a violation of the oath of office, and would be visited with dismissal from office. Even if Mr. Green were guilty of the offence no one would seriously imagine that he would admit it. There is nothing in the evidence or outside of it to show that he made such an admission, of that he had anything of the nature to admit, and the News is absolutely unable to quote from the evidence of the investigation language in support of the statement, which is one that was manufactured holus bolus by the Vancouver World. What service can be rendered by the repetition of these fables is inexplicable. One is not surprised at the Vancouver World, because it is so recklessly sensational as to be almost irresponsible, but the News has some reputation to maintain, and one expects better things of it.

AN IMPORTANT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

The work of the session of the United States congress that has just been brought to a close is the most important performed in years. Many matters of vital concern have had the attention of the legislators, and the session is no less important for the number and importance of measures passed upon than for the care which has been exercised in the framing of ever detail. Those which stand out most prominently in respect to the greatness of the issues involved, and the wideness of the interests affected, are as follows:

The freight regulation bill was passed in response to a large popular demand. It is to some extent experimental legislation, and expert opinion seriously differs as to its wisdom. It is, however, intended to remedy obvious evils in connection with the carrying trade, and if it be not successful it may suggest a more practical solution of the problem.

The packing house inspection bill comes as the result of recent revelations with the nature of which all our readers are familiar. Its success in reaching the root of the evil at which it is aimed, of course, depends upon the honesty of its administration. The United States does not lack for good laws, but for the effective enforcement of them, in too many instances.

The pure food bill is generally designed to place all foods under federal inspection. This is the outcome of the agitation against adulteration. If properly carried out it ought to work a revolution in the character of food products.

The removal of the inland revenue tax on denaturized alcohol, industrially is the most important measure of the session. It is quite impossible to realize just what it means to the whole country, and especially to the farmer. It is a measure in itself calculated to remove the incubus of the Standard Oil Company and regulate its operations. In it the people have a weapon against the fuel and oil trusts, as well as an agent for utilizing their natural products to the fullest extent.

The measure of the greatest national importance is that providing for the construction of the Panama canal with locks instead of at sea level. This means at least the pushing ahead of the work. President Roosevelt has issued the order to get in and "dig," and it is evidently his intention that this great enterprise shall peculiarly belong to his administration and mark it out historically. It will probably come to be regarded as a mistake that the sea level was not adopted instead of the locks, and that ultimate cheapness and speed of navigation have been sacrificed for a saving in the initial expenditure.

Alaska, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says, was given a delegate in congress at this session, a measure of delayed justice which paves the way for the creation in the future of a real territorial government. Oklahoma will become a state, with Indian Territory annexed to it; and Arizona and New Mexico may likewise come into the Union together as one state, if they elect to do so.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The result of the elections in Nova Scotia did not surprise any person. In fact, it is rather surprising to most persons that the Liberal-Conservatives did so well. There has been but one Conservative administration in Nova Scotia since Confederation, and then only for a short time. There were only two members of the opposition elected in the last legislature, whereas in the federal house the province is not represented by a single Conservative. The electorate has been stalled so long that it is difficult to effect any change, certainly not on lines that suggest sound politics. The Mail and Empire, in dealing with the result, says that in the contest just closed, the Conservatives were faced by a practically perfect machine, and with direct appeals to self-interest. "Vote for the Musquodobolt Railway!" was the Murray cry in certain portions of the province; while like offers of railroads, highways and public works were presented elsewhere. Along with these material arguments were propositions to the electors in reference to the provincial subsidy. It was alleged that the annual grant from the Dominion, an increase of which had been long promised, would certainly be augmented this time, provided a government helpful to the Ottawa men in the next federal contest were returned. Such an increase in the subsidy would enable the local politicians to spend more freely and thus to provide railways and roads with greater liberality.

The forces against the splendid body of Conservatives who took the field under Mr. Tanner were too strong, adds our contemporary. It was supposed, and, indeed, stated by the government, that no opposition member could possibly be elected. Mr. Tanner and his friends were to be wiped out, and the government was to have the legislature all to itself. While the expectation that the Conservatives would not win has been sustained, the idea that they would fail to secure an election anywhere has been proven to be fallacious. The party has carried more seats than it formerly held, and its vote throughout the province has been very good indeed. In view of the situation, which is abnormal, the Conservatives can be said to have done well, and to have earned congratulations. They had, and still have, enormous influences against them, and the labor of putting an end to graft is by no means trifling. But they are growing in strength, and the future is bright. They have but to look at the experience of the Ontario Conservatives to realize that work for their country conscientiously done will certainly bring its reward.

SPELLING REFORM.

Millionaire Carnegie has included spelling reform among his numerous other ambitious projects. How he will succeed remains to be seen. That he should succeed in some reasonable degree is sincerely to be hoped. The Spaniards have an absolutely phonetic system of spelling, and it is the easiest of all languages, except one of the artificial languages, like Esperanto, to acquire. It has lost nothing of its beauty by having been reformed, and is still a musical and expressive language. The English, though perhaps the most widely spoken language, and though even more capable than the Greek of expressing a variety of shades of meaning, is full of anomalies in its mechanical structure. Its orthography is bewildering to the foreigner, and more or less burdensome to the native-born. These anomalies have been the subject of many amusing stories, one of which is in circulation. Needless to say it is an adaptation of "old one," but is highly illustrative of our spelling carried to what might be termed its logical conclusion.

"I am not a spelling reformer," said Senator Lougheed, of Calgary, "but a friend of mine named Turner nearly made one of me once.

"Turner and I were traveling together. We came to a certain hotel, and there, to my amazement, the man registered:

"'H. C. Phthologyyrrh.'

"'What is the matter with you?' I exclaimed. 'Why do you adopt that remarkable alias? Have you committed some crime?'

"'No, indeed,' said Turner.

"'Then why don't you register your own name?' said I.

"'That is my own name,' he answered. 'Phthologyrrh—Turner. That's my name.'

"'Well,' I said, 'I can't see how you make "Turner" out of "Phthologyrrh." What is your object, anyway, in using such a peculiar spelling?'

"'Oh,' said my friend, 'when I used to register plain "Turner" I attracted no attention. Now, though, my name excites a great deal of wondering comment. People study it. They ask one another what my nationality can be. Even now, you will notice, there is a little crowd buzzing over the register. "Phthologyrrh" is good English spelling for "Turner," too. In the "phth" there is the sound of "t," as in "phthisis." In the "olo" there is the sound of "ur," as in "colonel." The "gy" is "n," as in "gnat." Finally, in the "yrrh," there is the sound of "er," as in myrrh." There you have it, Phthologyrrh—Turner.'"

THE DISCOVERER OF KICKING HORSE PASS.

Toronto Mail and Empire.

At Laggan, near the entrance of the Kicking Horse Pass, has just been erected a monument to Sir James Hector, the discoverer of that gap in the Rocky mountains. It is the offering of geographers, geologists and other men of science in Canada and the United States, to whose contributions have been added those of men connected with the railway for which that pass affords a route. Standing at the opening of the defile he was the first to thread, and within sight of travelers on the passing trains of the C. P. R., the monument is located exactly where it ought to be, and is said to be in every way suitable. It is described as a beautiful and enduring product of the stone-worker's art. The material out of which it is made is a large-grain granite hewn from quarries in the Cascades range, a stone which the cutters and polishers can fashion to their taste, but which time and weather can scarcely crumble.

It is unusual to pay such a mark of honor to a distinguished man in his lifetime, but there was a particular reason for not waiting until Sir James Hector should pass away. He was in Canada three years ago, and, strange to say, the region which had been the scene of his hardships and achievements of nearly half a century earlier became a place of affliction for him. His son Douglas, a young man of 26, who had come with him on this visit, fell ill and died in the hospital at Revelstoke. It was a heavy blow. To this trip the aged explorer had no doubt looked forward with keen happiness. A swift and pleasant railway journey with his son across the continent he had painfully traversed twenty years before that son was born, and before the building of that railway was begun, must have promised rare enjoyment. The natural grief he would in any case have felt at the loss of his son must have been intensified by the circumstances. This bereavement was made the occasion for the rearing of the monument, which stands to the memory of the son as well as of the father. It is a token both of gratitude for Sir James Hector's services and of sympathy in his sorrow.

The Palliser Expedition

Nowhere is there a better account of Sir James Hector's services than in "The Selkirk Range," a book published by the department of the interior, the author being Mr. A. O. Wheeler, F.R.G.S., topographer of the department. In that valuable work is given the story of the Palliser expedition, sent out to British North America in 1857 to make a study of the interior and to report as to the advisableness of building a transcontinental railway through British territory. The geologist of the party was Dr. Hector, now Sir James Hector, who in after years and until quite recently was head of the geological survey of New Zealand. The field was of the party, which was acting under royal commission, covered a period of three years and extended over a great stretch of country, including most of the present Dominion south of the Arctic slope, and between the Great Lakes and the Pacific ocean. Capt. Palliser's map was the first detailed one that was ever prepared of any part of the Rocky mountains. It is interesting to recall that in his report of 1860 Capt. Palliser disapproved the idea of a transcontinental railway. He said in part: "I therefore cannot recommend the Imperial government to countenance or lend support to any scheme for constructing, or, it may be said, forcing a thoroughfare by this line of route, either by land or water, as there would be no immediate advantage commensurate with the required sacrifice of capital; nor can I advise such heavy expenditure as would necessarily attend the construction of an exclusively British line of road between Canada and Red River Settlement." Canada, of course, at that time was made up of what are today the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

Kicking Horse Pass

Capt. Palliser was a topographer, not a statesman. He could not look a half century into the future to see the political map that has been made there on the basis of his physiographic map. Less than half a generation after he wrote, the construction of the C. P. R. was in progress, and its lines cover largely the course swept by the Palliser commission's investigations. In one important respect it seemed destined to follow a route the Palliser expedition had not explored. From both sides construction was directed towards the Yellow Head Pass. In 1880 the project of the road was transferred by the government to the present Canadian Pacific Railway company, and the Kicking Horse Pass was eventually selected. Twenty-two years before (1858) Dr. Hector had discovered it. Unlike most of the mountain ways, it seems to have been unknown to the Indians. Ascending the Bow river to a point near Castle mountain, he reached the headwaters of the Vermillion, which he traced to its confluence with the Kootenay. The latter he ascended to the divide between it and the Beaverfoot, down which he came to its junction with the Kicking Horse river. Near that point Dr. Hector was kicked by one of the pack horses and laid up a day. The incident gave its name to the stream up which he made his way back over the summit of the main chain, thereby becoming the discoverer of the pass now called by the same name as the river, though it is also known as the Hector Pass, as one of the peaks of the Rockies is known as Hector mountain. The explorer would have rested longer to recover from the effects of the horse kick, but that he and his party were on the point of starvation. Game was scarce, or it kept to the higher altitudes, whither the party had not time to follow it.

THE WEST AND IRRIGATION.

Oregon state is waking up to the fact that it has not been treated fairly in respect to the fund of the United States from which payment is made for the irrigation projects of the federal government, notwithstanding that Oregon pays more into the fund than any other of the states. Washington state was in somewhat the same position a short time ago, but agitation brought recognition from the reclamation service. There is a similarity in the political situation of the Pacific coast states of the American republic with the province of British Columbia in respect to their relations to the central authority. This was clearly shown in the aids to navigation, at the time of the Valencia disaster, when attention was called to the great disparity in the appropriations and the provision made for the safety of navigation generally on the Pacific coast as compared with the Atlantic coast, where nearness to the seat of government and political pull enable the eastern coast to derive many advantages unknown in the West.

Irrigation is another subject which illustrates the difference of treatment. Immense sums are being spent in the west middle states, throughout the arid region, for the reclamation of large areas of sandy desert, which when watered artificially are capable of development. A conspicuous example of the possibilities of such land when treated with water is to be found in Utah, in the very heart of the arid region, in which the Mormons, under the leadership of Brigham Young, carried out one of the most successful systems of colonization under most adverse conditions to be found in the whole world; and if the Mormons contributed nothing else to the sum of civilization their example in this one particular has been of untold advantage to the United States. The federal government has been devoting its attention largely to the central area and has neglected the two states referred to. Washington by vigorous agitation has been brought actively within the operations of the irrigation bureau, and as a consequence some of the finest land in the interior will be made available for settlement. Oregon will no doubt be successful. It, too, has large reserves of arid land that will be immensely productive when reclaimed by irrigation.

We have previously referred to the analogy which exists in the natural conditions of the country north and south of the boundary line. It suggests a similar policy on the part of the Canadian government. We are finding, however, the same political difficulty in this as in many other matters, that of causing the authorities at Ottawa to recognize the special problems of this country. Some time ago, Hon. Sidney Fisher, minister of agriculture, announced his intention as part of the policy of the government to consider the question of irrigation in the middle west, or prairie country. What has been done by the C. P. R. company in its extensive irrigation enterprise in Alberta is a demonstration of the benefits to be derived from such undertakings; but we have heard nothing in respect to any project being in contemplation for British Columbia, in which the dry belt is much dryer than in the Northwest and the needs of irrigation more constant and pressing. There are years in the Northwest, sometimes several in succession, in which there is plenty of rain for all purposes. This is rarely if ever the case in the dry belt of the interior of this province. The Dominion government owns a good deal of this kind of land in the railway belt, but on general principles there are no reasons why it should confine itself to its own lands. All the lands in the United States affected by the irrigation schemes is within the jurisdiction of the states. Much of the land in the provinces in the middle west of Canada is or will have been alienated from the federal crown before any extensive irrigation project can be brought into effect.

We are surprised that the inland representatives of British Columbia in the House of Commons have not pressed this matter on the attention of the government before this. Washington only succeeded in having its claims recognized by vigorous kicking, and Oregon can only succeed by following the example of Washington. The people of British Columbia should benefit by the same example.

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