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THE LIBERALS OF LONDON.

The Liberals of this city, as a body, are decent, upright citizens, who want pure elections, and would rather lose by fair means than win by foul means. They have no desire to conceal or extenuate offenses committed in the name of the Liberal party. They wish to see their party purged of corruption, the unclean members of their political household utterly cast out. They are not averse to the fiercest light being thrown upon the last or any election in this city, or any methods practiced by professing Liberals. Although the present belated inquiry is irregular and illegal, no attempt has been made to stop it on technical grounds. The highest interests of the Liberal party in London and elsewhere will be served by an honest and thorough exposure of wrongdoing. All that decent Liberals ask is that investigation shall be honest and sincere.

The legal machinery in this Province is in the hands of one party, and Liberals feel and believe that it is being manipulated solely with a view to the advantage of that party, and with no regard for the higher interests of public and political morality which Liberals and Conservatives should cherish in common. It is only too clear that the party in power is prostituting the administration of justice by gratuitous attempts to blacken the reputation of innocent men, because they are prominent in the Liberal councils. The sweat-box and other modes of terrorizing witnesses have been freely employed, and there has been an absolute contempt of the forms of law by attorneys who have virtually taken the law into their own hands.

This is not an isolated case of injustice to the Liberals of London, but one of many. The dice has been loaded against them for 30 years. During all that time they have had to ceaselessly fight against fraud, bribery, perjury, debauchery and the whole brood of electoral wrongs, and a journalistic thuggism without a parallel in any community in this country. No methods have been too devious and underhand, no weapon too foul, for the destruction of the Liberal cause in this one-time stronghold of Toryism. Is it any wonder that Liberals burn with a sense of resentment when they think of the injuries they have had to endure, of their long uphill fight against unscrupulous foes, and then are forced to listen to the pharisees proclaim that all the evil is to be found in the Liberal ranks?

IS THE WORLD BECOMING VULGAR?

Sir William Blake Richmond, a celebrated British academician, complains of the increasing "vulgarization" of the world. He asserts, before a London audience, is becoming vulgarly superficial. His taste is declining, his creative genius is departing. Commerce unloads upon him its flood of undesirable and unlovely objects. He fails to wear tasteful clothes and personally becomes an uninteresting object. As he grows more democratic he loses all desire for individual advancement. He is adding nothing to literature, nothing to art. He is a creature of little thought with a smattering of scattered knowledge and a profound indifference to all that goes to make the world beautiful. Perhaps, says the sorrowful academician, all this vulgarization is the result of our popular education, which stupefies the popular mind with heterogeneous knowledge.

Is not Sir William himself taking a superficial view? "Every ship is romantic except that we sail in." The past is always picturesque. We see it through the haze of history and the medium of the imagination. It is dressed up for us by literature and art. We think of the plumed and armored knights such as gallop through the pages of the Waverley novels; the resplendent costumes of the beaux and belles of yore, not forgetting George the Fourth's pink coat upon which Thackeray descants; the cathedrals and castles, the pageantry and chivalry of feudal times; the works of the old masters. We are apt to get the idea that the color and music are fading out of life. But is it not true that the glamour of the past is largely due to the barbaric extremes of wealth and poverty, and the rigid separation of classes, which are melt-

ing away in an age of triumphant democracy? We see only one side of the picture, the pomp and splendor of the ruling and privileged caste, but not the misery of the common people, the sordid and ignorance and vulgarity in which most of them were submerged. Even in the course of a century there has been a tremendous uplift in comfort, morality, humanity and all that makes for enlightenment and happiness.

One is inclined to inquire whether Sir William Richmond has ever read Lecky's "History of European Morals" or other works which deal with the social conditions of the past. The people of today are better clothed, better fed, better housed than their progenitors. As for the esthetic side of life, they are being surrounded as never before by objects of art and beauty, and with opportunities for self-improvement. Free libraries are being showered upon them; pictures and statues are assembled for them in public galleries; they hear the noblest music; they have free schools; they may travel and see the world as their ancestors could not. These are not agencies that are making for the vulgarization, but for culture and refinement. The life of the average man today is richer and fuller and deeper than the life of the average man at any period in the world's history. Better his mind should be "stuffed with heterogeneous knowledge" than remain a blank. There is no reason for Sir William Richmond's pessimism or why his artistic soul should writhe when he looks around him. "The good old times" are a delusion.

The Hon. Walter Scott was dragged into the London election inquiry without a particle of justification. The main object of the procedure is to throw mud at shining marks in the Liberal party.

Some Canadian newspapers are talking as though every citizen of London has his palm out during elections. Happily, the advice of the London Free Press is not generally followed here.

The London Free Press should be hailed before Magistrate Denison for inciting to bribery in the Hyman-Gray election. What does the Attorney-General think about it?

Mr. Girldstone, of Bristol, England, a big shipping man, censures the Dominion Government for not spending more money on the harbor facilities at Montreal. Ye gods! The whole Tory press has been abusing the Government for spending so much.

Newfoundland is perhaps unwisely petulant in refusing courtesies to an American ship; but it is nothing to the selfish stupidity of the United States in alienating the friendship of the island colony. The United States might have had the bulk of the colony's trade, to the exclusion of Canada, but for the narrow protectionist views of the Senate. Newfoundland, like Canada, is now so prosperous that she can afford to snap her finger at her big neighbor. Her destiny is with the Dominion, not the republic.

WHAT LABOR'S M. P.'S COST.

[The Spectator.]

An interesting official statement is made with regard to the finances of the Labor party in Thursday's papers. Each of the 29 M. P.'s qualified to receive benefits from the parliamentary fund is paid £200 a year, and this, with other necessary expenses—percentage of returning officers' fees, salary of a clerk to the whips, etc., and percentage to general fund—bring the total expenditure to £6,290 per annum. Last year's income being only £4,000, the executive announce that they will propose at the next annual conference that payments to the parliamentary fund of the Labor representation committee should be raised from a penny to two pence per member per annum. With an income of £8,000 a margin of £1,500 would be left to meet the further charges of maintenance and returning officers' fees anticipated from the increased representation of labor in Parliament.

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENTS.

[The Forum.]

Today Harvard's endowment amounts to \$18,000,000, that of Chicago \$20,000,000, and that of Leland Stanford to possibly twice as much. The annual budgets of at least four of our American universities have passed the million dollar mark, and the annual expenditure of a dozen others amounts to half that sum.

WHAT TIPPING COSTS KING.

[New York Press.]

King Edward disburses a good deal of money in tips every year. Each visit to one of his subjects costs him from \$1,000 to \$3,000. At shooting parties the game beaters get \$15 each and the gamekeepers \$25 to \$50 each. When he goes abroad he does still better. On the occasion of his recent visit to the Kaiser he gave away nearly \$10,000 in this way. When the Czar visited England he left behind a check for \$15,000 to be distributed among servants who attended him.

COLOR OF THE BRIDE'S GOWN.

[Church Ecclesiastic.]

It is interesting to note that the choice of white for wedding dresses is comparatively a modern fashion. The Roman brides were yellow, and in the most eastern countries pink is the bridal color. During the middle ages the resplendent brides wore crimson, and most of our Plantagenet and Tudor queens were married in this vivid hue, which is still popular in parts of Brittany, where the bride is usually dressed in crimson brocade. It was Mary Stuart who first changed

the color of bridal garments. At her marriage with Francis II. of France, in 1553—which took place not before the altar but before the great doors of Notre Dame—she was gowned in white brocade, with a train of pale blue Persian velvet six yards in length. This innovation caused quite a stir in the fashionable world at that time. It was not, however, till quite the end of the seventeenth century that pure white—the color hitherto worn by royal French widows—became popular for bridal garments in England.

RIDING ASTRIDE.

[London Cable to New York American.]

Riding horseback astride for women has become so much the rage in high society here now that even His Highness Sayaji Rao III, the Gaekwar of Baroda, who recently toured the United States, has ordered a divided skirt for his daughter, the Princess Indira. This order has been given to a fashionable Regent street habit maker.

For the last five years efforts have been made to introduce the divided skirt for women and the mode of riding astride. But, while many women struck out in that direction, it never became "the style" until quite recently, when Lady Castlereagh was seen in Hyde Park astride a horse and in divided skirts. Since that time it has been quite the thing, and now nearly all women are beginning to adopt it. Among others of the nobility who have taken up the mode are Lady Constance Stewart Richardson and the Duchess of Westminster.

The new style of riding has been attacked in the London press, and the press generally, except of course in the fashionable papers, which chronicle only that which society decries.

Riding masters have expressed their disapproval of the new style of horsemanship. They say that the side saddle is not only the safest style of riding, but also the easiest and most comfortable. They point out that the pommels are constructed in such a way that unless a woman faints or absolutely loses all her nerve she cannot fall off.

FORBIDDEN TO EAT IT.

[Boston Herald.]

It happened in a crowded street car. The noted Rabbi Hirsch had arisen to give his seat to a young woman, but before she could take it a burly young fellow slid into it.

The rabbi looked meaningfully at him and, after an uncomfortable silence the young fellow blurted out: "Well, what're you glarin' at me for? Want to eat me, eh?"

"No," calmly replied the rabbi; "I am forbidden to eat you—I am a Jew."

FLOWERS OF SPEECH.

[Pall Mall Gazette.]

At an education meeting the other day a zealous orator reproved his fellow churchmen for having so long been content to "take the crumbs from the dissenters' table lying down."

In a lecture on Oliver Cromwell occurs the statement that "his little finger lay more heavily on the people than the King's crown."

A correspondent of a religious journal, criticising a gross misstatement, insists on the necessity of "promptly nailing all similar lies to the mast."

A session or two ago an Irish Liberal was reported to have said in the House of Commons that by "letting in the thin end of the wedge of land national-ism the Government were laying on all sides seeds of disease which would in the future bring down the whole edifice upon their heads."

NEWFOUNDLAND'S BETRAYAL.

[Toronto Globe.]

That Newfoundland is discontented and indignant over the terms of the modus vivendi gives grounds for the fear that colonial interests have been sacrificed to international amity. The interests of the colony should be the ruling consideration in all such negotiations and arrangements. Newfoundland has nothing to give away, and nothing to barter that the United States cannot afford to pay for. Friendship, like gold, may be bought too dear.

PURIFIED MENU.

[Brooklyn Life.]

Guest—Waiter, look here; I don't want the bill served with each course. Bring it when I've finished.

Waiter—Beg pardon, sir, but those are not bills, sir; those are certificates the law requires, sir, so you may be sure you are eating exactly what you ordered, sir.

NOT A NEW THING.

[Montreal Herald.]

Hon. George Useless Foster, the gentleman with the vaseline nose, is developing a hot box in his testimony before the insurance commission.

THEY WILL NOT.

[Winnipeg Free Press.]

It is not likely that the people of Canada will be in a hurry to put their trust funds in George E. Foster's care.

THE LAST QUEST.

[La Societapensier.]

In the Legend house there was a great dinner. After a while the maid was called, and the mistress said: "Serve the dinner; there is no one else to come except a relation of little importance."

Five minutes afterwards the maid announced in a loud tone:

"The relation of little importance!"

OUT OF DANGER.

[Woman's Home Companion.]

Dr. Whipple, long Bishop of Minnesota, was about to hold religious services near an Indian village in one of the Western States, and before going to the place of the clergical asked the chief who was his host whether it was safe for him to leave his effects unguarded in the lodge.

"Plenty safe," grunted the red man. "No white man in a hundred miles from here."

BULLS OF STATESMEN.

[Westminster Gazette.]

In his speech at Hawick the other day Lord Rosebery made this remark: "As a well-known statesman said on a famous occasion, 'I hear a smile.'" According to the Edinburgh Dispatch, the form was somewhat different from that which Lord Rosebery gave to it. Mr. Gladstone was addressing the House, probably on the Irish question, away back in the eighties. An observation of the right honorable gentleman tickled the fancy of Mr.

Laibouchere. "The honorable gentleman smiles," said the G. O. M. "No," said Mr. Laibouchere, shortly. "I heard him do it," said Mr. Gladstone promptly, and then the whole House was heard to smile. It was in the same debate that an impassioned Irish member declared: "The Government is taking a leap in the dark, compared with which all previous leaps are a mere flea bite," and when the uproar had subsided, Mr. Laibouchere interposed to say that what the honorable member meant to say was a "mere flea leap." Lord Rosebery himself, according to our contemporary, is not above an occasional lapse into a bull. They tell of a recent occasion when he declared that spade-work was necessary lest the wave be lost in space, but doubtless Lord Rosebery would have put it more neatly than that. Mr. Gladstone once declared that "we must not take our stand on the shifting sands of schemes that are hatched from day to day." 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