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[FOR THE CRITIC.]

AT SUNSET.

The waning sun in a golden glow,
Sinks to his mighty rest,
While over our heads a cawing crow,
Hooteth her way to her nest.

Over the hills a purple haze,
A gleam of gold on the sea—
Over the fields are sunny ways,
But a shadow twist you and me.

Hand in hand while the sunlight dies
And lingeringly fades away—
Wistfully eyes gaze into eyes,
So sadly, the brown and the grey.

Still lies the shadow betwixt us two
Dear, must it ever so lie?
But the shade for me, and the sun for you,
Heart of my heart good bye!

ROBIN ADAIR.

IN THE LOBBY.

"Master, Master! news, old news, and such news
As you never heard of!"

—Turning of the Shrew.

Parliament has at last achieved the feat of doing something during the first week of a session. Only three sittings of the present one had occurred before the address from the throne had been debated, an amendment to the government's reply voted down, the reply passed and the main estimates for the new fiscal year brought down. This is a most welcome reform of a very lazy habit our legislators had acquired, and as I remember THE CRITIC some two years ago commented upon it and urged the house to "Shake off dull sloth and early rise." I think you should consider your deliverance one of the factors that have contributed to bring about this satisfactory state of things.

Although it is a matter for congratulation that the government has disposed of an amount of work in three days which has ordinarily of late required three weeks to accomplish, the end of the session is not yet. There are "multitudinous seas" of verbiage to be crossed before the desired haven of prorogation is reached.

It cannot be gain-said that Mr. Dalton McCarthy is the personage of the House of Commons in whom the greatest interest concentrates in these the early days of the session. Ever since his break with his old chieftain, the late Sir John Macdonald, on the now historical Jesuits' Estate question, Mr. McCarthy has been impinged on the political camera in more or less dramatic colors. It was the bold stand he then took with his twelve followers—the 'Devil's Thirteen' as they were spitefully called by the minions of the Jesuits—that endeared him to the hearts of the Orangemen of Ontario and gave rise to the Equal Rights party, a party which at first promised to make an important chapter in Canadian history, but which died of inanition in a few months, because its founder either lacked the zeal or the sagacity to convince dispassionate and unbogoted minds that there was reason for its existence. Opportunities offered themselves a time and again for him to demonstrate to the electorate of his native province that if they wished to stem the tide of French aggression at Ottawa it was to be done in the most effectual way by swelling the ranks of the new party. He let these opportunities slip by unheeded, and except one or two obviously half-hearted speeches in the parliamentary recess of 1890, he did nothing at all towards vitalizing the movement or bringing it into the domain of practical politics. It was Mr. McCarthy's fatal instability that killed the Equal Rights propaganda, and which I venture to say will always prevent him from becoming a leader of men. Like a child with a new toy, he starts out with great vigor, an élan in advocating a policy which attracts him for the moment, but just so soon as he succeeds in making a few people believe there is something in what he has propounded, so surely does he relax his advocacy of the measure and allow his previous labors to go for naught. Witness his vacillation in dealing with the dual language and separate schools questions in the North-West Territories. With regard to the former he has indisputably laid himself open to the charge of insincerity, in that after having introduced in a past session a bill at variance with the government's policy in the matter, he deliberately absented himself from the house when his bill came up for final discussion. Again, what could be more impolitic than his admission at Stayner last week as to his real reason for leaving the Conservative party? Let us take his own words for it:

"It is not so much a matter of policy, gentlemen, which has driven me out of the ranks. It is, gentlemen, because as a man of honor with regard to all those circumstances that I cannot do otherwise than pack up. I am not worthy of being consulted. It is one of the taunts against me, 'We have formed an administration without consulting D'Alton McCarthy.'"

Is this the utterance of a statesman?

Mr. McCarthy has not deigned to honor the House with his presence so far this session, and the galleries are all agog to see him on his famous "cross-bench." Undoubtedly a great deal of interest is manifested in him, but it is such interest as Englishmen accord to Lord "Rindy" and Mr. Labouchere.

Sir John Thompson has had his first caucus with his followers. It is said about the house that the meeting was on the whole satisfactory, but there is no doubt an element of disquietude amongst the ministerialists. Colonel O'Brien did not attend the caucus, nor did Michael Adams, Chesley, Davin or Sir Hector Laugwin. Sir Hector harbors revengeful feelings

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