

Being aware, as I modestly flatter myself, of the various passions and interests which move men, I perceived that the whole trouble arose, as all other defects in human affairs do, from the want of an ideal system of government, which would mould all men's hearts and minds after the same high pattern. But, not wishing to publish my secret, and having myself no special turn for discourse of this kind, though being very curious to observe what might be the conclusion of these views, I set myself to practice a diligent attention to my friend's words, using only those arts which are employed, as in Plato's ingenious dialogues, to keep the ball of speculation rolling or give it a new turn.

"But in the present evil posture of affairs," said I, "what could it avail were the editors to set down in their newspapers only those commonplace and everyday sides of things which compose the very social atmosphere in which we all live, and what would become of the politicians were they to tell the truth?"

"I grant indeed," said he, "that with no further insight than these sort of persons at present display, the editor who furnished nothing but the outside view of everyday matters would make but a poor figure in his calling and speedily come into a bankrupt state, while the politician who told the truth about the arts which he practices, and the state into which the country is fallen through their means, would soon be fain to win charity from the benevolent. These sort of men, instead of seeking to lead those who have regard for them to a higher and clearer notion of the duties and relations of life, are continually employed in seeking out their weaknesses and trafficking on them. They are able flatterers, and use all diligence in devising and laying snares for their favour and assistance."

"Possibly," I said, "few men are able to exert the many noble and useful qualities required to move the people to take an interest in the deeper meaning of their affairs, and to relish the records of a calm and ordinary life."

"The difficulty," he replied, "proceeds not so much from the lack of parts as from the direction in which they are employed. The lights on the national coach are mainly in the rear of the vehicle, kept well trimmed by the laborious industry of the historians, and illuminating as well as may be the road we have come; but few and indifferently trimmed are the lights which discover to us the road over which we are passing. I have frequently observed that men, being diverted with their own immediate affairs, give attention beyond these only to the unusual and marvellous happenings of life. Thus they commonly get interested in the true nature of their surroundings only after they have passed them and they have in turn taken on a cast of the marvellous. This is the cause that a foreigner can usually tell us more that a

is truly worth preserving about the usual conduct of our social life than one who is native to the country."

"Without doubt," I ventured to remark, "this proceeds from the greater familiarity with our own affairs which breeds little interest in them."

"True enough," said he, "but familiarity is no ensign or mark of knowledge; indeed it is commonly the most sacred and impenetrable shrine of ignorance anywhere to be discovered. The man who cannot set himself, his household, or his country at arm's length, and admit each to judgment, along with others of the same order, on the ground of merit alone, has not escaped from the tyranny of the first law of nature. That which closely affects him he cannot see in its true dimensions and proper perspective."

"Must, then, the law of self-preservation be looked on as repealed," said I, thinking to trap him; for in truth he is mostly a mighty advocate of self-dependence.

"Oh, no!" he replied, "Dame Nature has looked too well to that in the training school of life which she has kept through all the past ages. Yet she teaches only by rote and uses the birch prodigiously, hence I name her method old-fashioned and tyrannical for those who are capable of passing into a higher form, as should be the case with all men who boast themselves civilized. The old lesson will not be forgotten, but new ones have now to be learned. One of those most needed at this stage in our advancement, is that of looking at things from the universal point of view, or as the judicious Spinoza was wont to express it *sub specie aeternitatis*. Then perchance our own little round of life, though none the less dear to us, would no longer be so all-inclusive as to remain itself unknown."

"Your idea has a tolerable air of truth about it," I remarked, while helping him into his coat, "yet after all it is but a fragment compared with a complete philosophic scheme such as, if once set in motion among men, would command their regard and admiration and deliver them speedily and handsomely by destroying the root of every social distemper."

This he answered only with that incredulous smile which he takes on when I chance to hit upon this matter, little suspecting as he does who is to be pitied in the case.

GABRIEL DILETTANTE.

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An Association football club has been organized having on its membership roll nearly every Medical. Mr. McMannus was chosen captain and, assisted by an able committee, intends putting a team on the field that will surprise the Kingstons and the Arts men.

Amphitheatre—History of the patient: The man on the table, John Thomas, is a cobbler by birth, a Canadian by trade.