

LAURIER'S LIFE AND PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF CANADA

The First Volume of Mr. J. S. Willison's History Issued. The Fight for Freedom Waged Against Ultramontanes in Quebec the Central Theme in the Work—Leading Figures in the Political Arena.

The first volume of "Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal Party," by Mr. J. S. Willison, has been issued from the publishing house of G. N. Morang & Co. The book is a singularly fine example of the publisher's art. Paper, printing and binding are of the best that have been issued in Canada. The first volume brings the story of Sir Wilfrid's life down to the important subject of the relations of the church and state, relations which have exercised so powerful an influence on the history of Canada. The book is not written in the ordinary biographical form. It opens with a brilliant sketch of the early growth of the Liberal party in Canada, with graphic pictures of the great leaders who laid its foundation. The sources are given as the eager enthusiasm and the heroic purpose of William Lyon Mackenzie, the fiery genius and fervent radicalism of Fitzpatrick, the sane counsels and more responsible statesmanship of John A. Macdonald and Lafontaine, the reforming and splendid optimism of George Brown, the intellectual dominance of Edward Blake, the constitutional presence of Oliver Mowat, the sympathetic and sagacious nationalism of Wilfrid Laurier, the zeal for reform and prudence in days of stress and storm of Alexander Maclean.

WM. LYON MACKENZIE.
Speaking of the rebellion of 1837, Mr. Willison says: "It may be that Mackenzie was impetuous and turbulent, but the rebellion of 1837 was at best a pitiful expression of the discontent which the greed and the oppression of the Family Compact had developed. Too much has been said of the rash counsels and unhappy adventures of Mackenzie, and too little of the crying grievances which an ineffectual and autocratic executive would not redress, and of the privileges they were resolved to maintain. It is in this fashion that the decisive blow has been dealt to tyranny and privilege all down the splendid centuries of British history; and if in the story of Liberalism in all countries there are wild and sanguinary chapters, it is because only in that way could popular government be established and perpetuated. In the green days of his strength, and through the hard season of conflict, Mackenzie bore himself bravely, readily and resolutely. Then came the rash advocacy of constitutional changes, which alienated public sympathy and discredited the cause of the reformers, heart-breaking days of exile, sordid and abortive efforts in vain, and impracticable causes, and at last return in shattered health to the land he had loved and served so well, but which in the meantime had outgrown the temper of revolt and had not passed into the mood of patriots."

BROWN AND MACDONALD.
George Brown he says in part: "George Brown loved to seal sturdy deeds. He loved to fight hand to hand and face to face. He had no room for the defensive, and cared nothing for power except to achieve reform, and nothing for place, except as a point of advantage from which to strike abuses and ameliorate satisfactory conditions. If not the chief architect, he was at least the chief commissioner of confederation. Sir John Macdonald, on the other hand, was rather the political beneficiary of the labors of the men who had made confederation a dominant issue before the reluctant hands of the movement. He was sympathetic at heart, he was in touch with the British North American League, which organized in 1849 to resist the annexationists, he gave nominal assent to the arguments of academic unionists and the Cartier-Macdonald government of 1858 feebly countenanced the project, but, like many another politician, he preferred to govern under established conditions rather than risk the loss of office by the premature adoption of a revolutionary policy, while in view of his Quebec allegiance there was clear political gain in retaining the Brown school of Federalism. Wary as always, adroit, unscrupulous and sagacious, he did not desert the child until it was well grown, and he then bulked larger at the side than the men who had nursed it from infancy. At least four great measures are inseparably associated with the name of George Brown: (1) The abolition of the clergy reserves; (2) Representation by population; (3) The confederation of the Canadian provinces, and (4) the incorporation of the Northwest territories into the new commonwealth."

In the chapter dealing with Sir Wilfrid's early life occurs this passage: "In so far as Mr. Laurier resembles inherited qualities, we may

look for scientific and mathematical susceptibilities from the father and for grace and art from the mother. Both parents had the gracious manner and wholesome simplicity of character which so beautifully distinguish the best stock of the rural parishes of Quebec. The marks of a happy childhood, the look that is caught at a mother's knee, never quite pass from the human face, and the face of Mr. Laurier in his softer moods suggests that the home in which he was reared was a centre of all the domestic affections and of all the sweet courtesies of sympathetic family intercourse. He still makes an annual pilgrimage to the old home at St. Lin, and cherishes an unflinching affection for the aged stepmother. He has never neglected the frequent visits in which she delights, and which are among his chief pleasures. He has likewise manifested an abiding interest in the fortunes of his half-brothers, and altogether has shown an admirable sense of the obligations and a keen appreciation of the intimacies of family relationship."

Sir Wilfrid as a schoolboy is said to have been a leader among his fellow students, and to have excelled in debate and controversy. As an illustration of his inclinations for law and oratory it is said that he was more than once punished for going without permission to hear cases argued in the village court-house or to listen to the orators at some political meeting. In tracing the premier's remarkable career, Mr. Willison quotes from many of his speeches, and it is interesting to observe, even in the earliest of them, the same strength, moderation, justness and nationalism that have won for him the admiration of the empire.

CHURCH AND STATE.
In entering upon the consideration of the momentous question of the relations of church and state, speaking of the clerical opposition to Liberalism which had caused Mr. Laurier's defeat in Drummond and Arthabaska, Mr. Willison says: "It may be that the clergy misconceived the aims and misunderstood the spirit of the Liberal party, and did not for sinister purposes maintain a deliberate alliance with the Conservative politicians. The assertion of the supremacy of the state in civil affairs is an essential feature of Liberal policy. But Liberalism is equally bound to practice religious tolerance, to respect all honest phases of religious opinion, and to afford equal protection to all forms of religious faith. The Liberal party of Canada has never sought to proscribe the Roman Catholic religion, to makequisition into its forms and ceremonies, to restrict in any measure the propagation of its tenets or force it into any subordinate relationship to the great Protestant denominations. Aside from its assertion of the supremacy of the state in public affairs, the Liberal party has had no quarrel with the Catholic ecclesiastics, and has never flinched from the duty of defence and protest when their legitimate interests were threatened or their admitted rights imperilled. But from 1870 to 1880 Ultramontanism had a formidable ascendancy in Lower Canada and as a necessary consequence of the very spirit and constitution of the Liberal party it had to wage a mighty battle for existence against its powerful ecclesiastical opponents."

Some clerical utterances quoted by Mr. Willison to illustrate the extreme opposition of the church to Liberalism are very striking. One priest in supporting the candidature of Mr. Hector L. Langevin, the Conservative candidate in Charlevoix, denounced Catholic Liberals as "ravening wolves who come to raise a disturbance in the flock, who come to tell you that the pope, the bishops and the clergy have nothing to do with politics. Beware of their perverse teaching. They want to seclude the priests in the church and the vestry in order to succeed better in their un-Christian work, which is to scatter and divide the flock of Jesus Christ." He said to his people: "You greatly need to open your eyes, my brethren, on the abyss of evils into which the partisans of Catholic Liberalism would throw you." They should listen to the salutary teachings of their bishops in their pastoral letters upon the tendencies of the self-styled Catholic Liberal party. They should not allow themselves to be fascinated by the deceitful words of "the serpent Catholic Liberal." They knew in what manner the serpent found its way into the terrestrial paradise. In the same manner Catholic Liberalism wished

to find its way into the paradise of the church to lead its children to fall. "Be firm, my brethren. Our bishops tell us that it is no longer permitted to be conscientiously a Catholic Liberal; be careful never to taste the fruit of the tree Catholic Liberal." They were adjured to pay no attention to those priests who said the clergy were mistaken and were going too far. These were not their legitimate pastors. He knew that such letters were circulated, purporting to have been written by priests in Quebec, but he called that not only untrue, but also improper and unbecoming influence. "Beware," he said, "of these false prophets who wish to bring disunion between you and your legitimate pastors. Do not listen to their falsehoods and their calumnies. Obey the vicar of Jesus Christ condemning Catholic Liberalism." Another priest warned his parishioners that to vote for a Liberal was to set out on the road to hell.

The last chapter, which deals with the rebellion of 1885, contains passages from Sir Wilfrid's speech in reply to Sir John Macdonald. The speech Mr. Willison describes as a conspicuous and characteristic example of his oratory. One of the quotations reads: "This I say, and I say it coming from a province where less than fifty years ago every man of the race to which I belong was a rebel, and where today every man of that race is a true and loyal subject, free and as loyal as any that breathes—I say, give these men justice, give them freedom, give them their rights, treat them as for the last forty years you have treated the people of Lower Canada, and by-and-by throughout these territories you will have contentment, peace and harmony where today discord, hatred and war are ruining the land."

During a debate on the same subject in the session of 1886 Sir Wilfrid delivered a speech which Mr. Willison says "made a deep impression on parliament and the country. Five ministers, who combatted his arguments and rejected his conclusions bore tribute to the charm, the eloquence, the dignity and the power

of the address." Hon. Edward Blake described it as the finest parliamentary speech ever pronounced in the parliament of Canada since confederation. During this address Mr. Laurier told the house that he could not look upon Riel as a hero. "At his worst he was a fit subject for an asylum; at his best he was a religious and political monomaniac." He quoted freely from notable historical examples to prove the unwisdom of political executions, urged the speedy release of rebels still confined in the northwest prisons, insisted that the substantial reforms conceded by the government were ample vindication of Riel and his associates, and declared, "Their country has conquered with their martyrdom, and if we look at that one fact alone there was cause sufficient, independent of all others, to extend mercy to the one who is dead and to those who live."—Toronto Globe.

A Terrible Charge
Monticello, N.Y., March 5.—Peter Yerkins, the uncle of Mrs. Kate Taylor, who is now awaiting trial here for the murder of her husband, was arraigned today for a preliminary hearing, charged with complicity in the murder in having instigated the woman to commit the crime. Mrs. Taylor was arrested on information given by Yerkins, who informed the authorities that his niece had confessed to him that on the night of January 26th she had shot her husband, and had then chopped up the body and buried it in the kitchen stove. The woman's fourteen-year-old daughter, Ida Delay, witnessed the murder, and testified against her mother after the arrest. Yesterday the daughter, who since the murder has been living with her uncle, James Taylor of Kiamasha lake, told him that Yerkins had persuaded her mother to kill her husband. On this information Yerkins was arrested. In her testimony at the hearing today the girl said, "Last September mamma and I went to see Peter Yerkins, and mamma and he had a long conversation. I only heard a part of what they said, but I heard him say to her, 'If you will kill Taylor and get him out of the way I will buy the Benson farm and give you the deed and I will come and live with you. Be sure and make a clean job of it.' Yerkins was committed to jail for further examination.

"Don't you wish you had a million dollars so that you could put on a Shakespearean play in accordance with your ideals?"
"No," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes, "I wish I had a million dollars so that I wouldn't have to put on Shakespeare at all."

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Bible School Lesson for Apr. 19

Title—The law of love. Romans 13:7-14.
Golden text—Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:10.
Christianity recognizes the duties of citizenship, and in no way interferes with the established social order, except where that order is based upon pure assumption, or in any way infringes upon human rights. "Render therefore to all their dues" exhorts to reverence for properly constituted authority. The Christian should give ready obedience to law and ordinance. He should pay his taxes and customs duties and be faithful to all his duties as a citizen.

"Owe no man anything" if literally carried out would produce a moral revolution. In any case if followed it would inspire industry, frugality and economy, and would put a period to the vices and unlawful desires which now prompt men to contract debts, in most cases without any reasonable expectation of being able to meet them.

"But to love one another." Love is a debt which can never be discharged. We should feel that we owe this to all men, and though by acts of kindness we may be constantly discharging it, yet we should feel that it can never be fully met while there is opportunity to do good.—Barnes.
"Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." These words follow a summing up of that part of the Ten Commandments which enforces our duty to our fellows. "Love would seem to do good, of course it would prevent all dishonesty and crime towards others. It would prompt to justice, truth and benevolence. If this law were engraven on every man's heart, and practiced in his life, what a change would it immediately produce in society. If all men would at once abandon that which is fitted to work ill to others, what an influence would it have on the business and commercial affairs of men. How many plans of fraud and dishonesty would be at once arrested. How many schemes would it crush. It would silence the voice of the slanderer. It would stay the plans of the seducer and the adulterer; it would put an end to cheating, and fraud, and all schemes of dishonest gain. The gambler desires the property of his neighbor and thus works ill to him. And there are many employments all whose tendency is to work ill to a neighbor. This is prominently true of the traffic in strong drink. It cannot do him good, and the almost uniform result is to deprive him of his property, health, reputation, peace, and domestic comfort. He that sells his neighbor liquor is knowing what must be the result of it, is not pursuing a business which works no ill to him and love to that neighbor would

prompt him to abandon it."—Barnes.
"And that knowing the time." We can here do no better than to quote Dr. Taylor's excellent paraphrase of this and the following verses: "All the duties of a virtuous and holy life we should the more carefully and zealously perform, considering the nature and shortness of the present season of life; which will convince us that it is now high time to rouse and shake off sleep, and apply, with vigilance and vigor, to the duties of our Christian life; for that eternal salvation which is the object of our Christian faith and hope, is every day nearer to us than when we first entered into the profession of Christianity."
"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ." Make Christ our pattern and guide. Imitate His example, obey His precepts and become like Him.

For the Navy
London, March 4.—The British naval estimates for 1903 were issued this evening for an expenditure of \$179,184,250, an increase of \$16,019,000, of which amount \$11,180,000 will be devoted to ship building and repair. The maintenance estimates provide for 127,100 officers and men, an increase of 4,600 officers and men. The total expenditure for ship building, repairs and maintenance is \$89,103,600. The new construction includes three battleships, four armored cruisers, three protected cruisers, to be used as scouts, 15 torpedo boat destroyers, submarine torpedo boats, two coast guard cruisers, a gunboat and an admiralty yacht.

In an explanatory statement which accompanies the estimates, Lord Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, announces the formation of a new squadron to be known as the South Atlantic Squadron. It will serve on the coast of Africa and along the southeast coast of America, with base at Gibraltar and Sierra Leone.

Boxer Activity
Pekin, March 10.—Yuan Shi Kai, the former governor of Chih-li province, having been informed the Boxer organization was resuming activity in the eastern part of the province, dispatched troops, who discovered that members of the society, well armed, were drilling at night in a town a hundred miles east of Pekin. The Boxers were dispersed after a dozen of them and several soldiers had been killed. Yuan Shi Kai ordered the prisoners to be beheaded and their heads displayed in public, and issued a proclamation imposing the death penalty on members of the organization.

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Sensational Charges

Vienna, March 20.—Sensational charges against Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who is an Austrian Field Marshal, and husband of the Princess Louise of Belgium, eldest daughter of King Leopold, were made today during the debate on the army bill in the Reichsrath by Hier Dasyński, the Polish leader. The latter denounced the Prince as a criminal, and, referring to the imprisonment of the former Lieutenant of Hussars, Mattasich, who eloped with the Princess Louise of Coburg several years ago, and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment in December last for forging the signature of Princess Stephanie, (Countess of Louisa), asserted that while in prison, Mattasich drew up a formal accusation, charging Prince Philip with forcing the Princess Louise, who was confined in an asylum for the insane, near Dresden, some time after her elopement, to encourage the advances of the late Baron Hirsch, and with compelling her to ask the Baron for money.

Murderer in Jail

Lincoln, Neb., March 20.—A special to the Star from Fremont, Neb., says: "A man who gives the name of John Bennett and who asserts he is the murderer of Nora Fuller, a girl who was killed at San Francisco over a year ago, surrendered to Sheriff Bauman here and is being held. The man appeared at the jail door last night and begged the sheriff to imprison him, saying the face of the dead girl haunted him. The prisoner is about 40 years of age and well-dressed. He is good looking, wears a stubby black mustache and weighs about 135 pounds. To the sheriff, to whom he confessed the crime, Bennett said that he formerly was a lawyer, but that he had done nothing since the murder. Bennett in his confession said he choked the girl to death at a house at 1121 Walnut street, San Francisco. He would not tell why he committed the crime, but said after he was done he left the city hastily. He was placed in a cell and during the night raved like a wild man. At one time he addressed a fancied jury. This morning the prisoner was much more quiet. He will be held for investigation."

The costless man throws a careless stare.
Round the waist of the hatless girl,
As over the dustless and mudless road.
In a horseless carriage they whirl,
Although for lunch his coinless purse
For them affords no means.
Save a tasteless meal of homestead food
By the side of stringless beans,
Yet he lights a mirthless cigarette
And laughs a mirthless laugh,
While her father tries to call her back
By wireless telegraph.
—Chicago Inter Ocean

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