

AN APPEAL TO PREJUDICE.

Mr. Laurier has for the last two or three years been giving the Liberal party of the Dominion lessons in the art of political dodging, and some of its members take kindly to the instruction. The Toronto Globe, particularly, has advanced far enough to take a degree in the new school. The leading article in its issue of the 15th is in Laurier's best style. That article is on "Manitoba and the Bye-elections." In it the Globe, while it does its best to create a prejudice against the Government, studiously refrains from pronouncing a single opinion on the merits of the question which it discusses. It does not even venture directly to condemn the course which the Government is pursuing with respect to the Manitoba schools. It takes the term "coercion" as its text, and throughout the article rings the changes upon that word, which it most dishonestly drags into the discussion. It appeals to the prejudices, and practices upon the ignorance, of its readers; but it never by any chance addresses them as reasonable and intelligent men and women. It, for instance, quotes the following passage from the speech which the Minister of Finance lately delivered in London, Ont., not to prove that the policy of the Government is unsound or unconstitutional, but to create the impression that their object is to "coerce" Manitoba:

"In short, the Conservative Government and the party which is keeping them in power to-day believe that even-handed justice must be done; that the compact of Confederation must be carried out. They believe this should be done by the Government and Legislature of Manitoba itself, and they spare no pains and take all opportunities to induce the Manitoba Legislature to right the wrongs which are complained of so far as they reasonably should be righted. But this Government goes further, and plainly states—and I want you to think of it calmly and fairly in the light of the constitution—that if in the end the minority has a grievance which is not remedied by the power that can best remedy it, namely, the Manitoba Legislature, that it is the duty of the Conservative Government to take all reasonable and proper methods to have that wrong righted and that grievance remedied themselves."

Can any honest and sensible man say that coercion is foreshadowed in this plain statement clothed in language studiously moderate? When it is remembered that the Constitution of Manitoba extends to the denunciation of the right to appeal to the Governor-General in Council, and points out the course which the Government must pursue if the decision of the Governor-General in Council is not duly executed, is it right or reasonable or fair to reproach the Dominion Government with "coercion" when it pursues with the utmost exactitude the course indicated by the constitution? There is really nothing that can be called "coercion" in the matter. The course which the Government is pursuing in the Manitoba business is precisely the course which Mr. Laurier himself would be compelled to pursue if he were in power. He would first give the Government of Manitoba every opportunity to redress the grievance of the minority, and if they refused to take any step in that direction he would have to submit the matter to Parliament. The only alternative to this course would be to treat the appeal of the Manitoba minority with contempt and to refuse those who compose it the redress to which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has declared they are entitled. But "coercion," as the Globe well knows, has an unpleasant sound, and it uses it improperly and unjustly for no other purpose than to prejudice the electors of the Ontario constituencies against the Government. This may be good policy from a Grit point of view, but if that is the case all that we have to say is that the Grits are both dishonest and short-sighted. They hope to get into power by and by. If they succeed they will have to deal with this Manitoba school question. If Mr. Laurier's word is worth anything he will endeavor to perform the promises he has made his Quebec compatriots. In fact he will be forced to make the attempt. But as soon as he does he will find that his own double-dealing and the deceptive and unscrupulous tactics of his Ontario supporters will impede and embarrass him to such an extent as to make success impossible.

DIVIDED LIBERALS.

We have seen that the proprietor of La Patrie takes exception to the political company which Mr. Laurier keeps. No man is in a better position to form a true estimate of the character of Mr. Laurier's Quebec lieutenants than Mr. Beauregard. He knows all about them, and he has the courage to tell the world what he thinks of them. We see that another Montreal journal protests against Mr. Laurier accepting another Quebec Liberal as a political associate and collaborator. The Montreal Witness is well acquainted with the antecedents of Mr. James McShane, who is spoken of as the Liberal candidate for Montreal Centre. We were under the impression that he was sure of the nomination. This is how the Witness speaks of Mr. McShane's proposed candidature:

"If the Liberal party puts forward Mr. McShane, we can only hope it will be beaten in that constituency. The Liberal party has far more dangerous men than Mr. McShane hanging to its skirts, and Mr. McShane is so openly bad, so innocently bad, so one might say, for he has never appeared to know the difference between right and wrong, that people are inclined to condone his notorious misdeeds in view of those of worse men who know better how to cover their tracks. But Mr. McShane is one of the kind of politicians who not only discredit the party under whose banners they fight, but distinctly lower its moral standing. To

condone notorious wrong is a more palpable and brazen thing than to ignore evil that is suspected but not proved. If the Liberal party puts up as its best man one whom even Mr. Mercier could not stand, it will certainly deserve defeat at the hands of its own truest adherents. He who wishes best for a party would rather see it remain in Opposition than see it reach power composed of and possibly dependent upon bad elements.

It has been observed that the Witness is always ready to strain a point rather several points in favor of the Liberal party, though Jimmy McShane is more than it can stomach. But there is no indication that Mr. Laurier is troubled with any such squeamishness. He not only tolerates but takes to his bosom Mr. Tarte and others of the Mercier gang, and there is no whisper that he will refuse to accept "the People's Jimmy" if the Liberals of Montreal choose him to contest Montreal Centre. It is more than likely that he will be their choice, for he is a past master in the art of getting votes, and this qualification among the Liberals of Montreal covers a multitude of political sins. It may be safely inferred from the way La Patrie and the Witness speak of men high in the councils of the Liberal party in Quebec that that party is not by any means a happy or a united family. On the contrary it is safe to say that there are bitter feuds among them and that nothing but the cohesive force of public plunder could induce them to act cordially together.

OATMEAL.

The value of oatmeal as food for old and young, rich and poor, sick and well, has long been admitted. The virtue of porridge as a regular article of diet is attested by nearly everyone who has used it, and gruel from time immemorial has been prescribed for those who are ailing. It is not so many years ago that the use of oatmeal as food was almost wholly confined to the Scotch. The people of that country were loud in their praises of the wholesomeness and the nutritive qualities of "parritch" and oatcake, but the English and men of other nationalities listened to the laudation of oatmeal with a sceptical smile. It, however, found its way to southern tables; first those of the nurseries and afterwards the children of large growth acquired a taste for "Scott's wholesome food." After a while the Americans, who are more than ordinarily fastidious as to what they eat, learned to like porridge and now "oatmeal" is an indispensable item on every hotel bill of fare from Ottawa to New Orleans. It goes without saying that a large proportion of the population of Canada took to oatmeal as a duck takes to water. Being of Scotch and Irish descent, they inherited a taste for porridge and "suirabon," and the taste for this wholesome food soon extended to Canadians of every nationality and of every class. Porridge is now found, not only on the table of the farmer and other inhabitants of the rural districts, but it is a highly esteemed article of food in the cities and towns, being used in the family of the merchant and the professional man as well as in that of the mechanic and the laborer.

One advantage of oatmeal is that the love of it grows with the use of it. Those who do not care about oatmeal when they first taste it acquire a liking for it, and those who use it in their childhood and youth retain their partiality for it through the whole of their lives. The Scotch are as fond of porridge as they were a hundred years ago, and point to the men who are reared on oatmeal with as much pride as they did when a loyal Scot snubbed that crabbled old critic Dr. Johnson by a retort which is as fresh and as applicable to-day as it was on the day it was made.

There have of late years been many improvements in the manufacture of oatmeal. The machinery of the oat-mill, like the machinery of all other manufacturing concerns, has been changed so as to produce better results, and the various grades of oatmeal and "groats" are to-day greatly superior to corresponding grades of even ten years ago. And, we may add, in no part of the world is better oatmeal made than in the province of British Columbia. The British Columbia housekeeper, therefore, in purchasing home-manufactured oatmeal will not have to put up with an inferior article for the sake of encouraging a home industry. She will find that the home-made article is in every respect as good as any that is imported, and in fact superior to very much that comes here highly recommended.

SCATHING CRITICISM.

President Schurman, of Cornell University, addressing the Board of Trustees on Wednesday last, thus referred to football: "If the game cannot be redeemed from brutality and trickery, from mean insinuation and vulgar brava, from the crying but nameless evils of which as a vast public spectacle and commercial speculation it has been the occasion, it is certainly better that it should go and never return to plague us."

What President Schurman said about football in New York State applies with great force and pertinence to lacrosse in British Columbia. The sooner the players make up their minds to play like gentlemen and true sportsmen the better both for themselves and the interests of the game. There are some lacrosse players who seem bent on forcing the respectable part of the public to come to the conclusion that lacrosse is a game which no manly man or honorable sportsman can play. They show by their conduct that they consider it softness and weakness to deal with a rival player fairly. They are bound to win the game by hook or by crook, and to take an unfair advantage of an opponent as often as he gives them a chance. Such men will, sooner or later, accomplish the end at which they are apparently aiming. They will bring lacrosse into discredit, so that before long it will be nothing better than an excuse for gambling,

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and young men who have any regard for their reputations will give it a wide berth. This is a consummation greatly to be deprecated, for lacrosse is a noble game when it is properly played.

A SIGNAL DEFEAT.

The women of Massachusetts had a fine chance on the 5th of the present month to assert their right to have a voice in the government of the State. The matter of woman suffrage was referred to the whole electorate and to the women as well. All that was required of them was to register some time previous to election day. The number of women entitled to register in the State of Massachusetts was about 573,000. Of this great number only 30,000 presented themselves for registration. This of itself shows that the women of that State are not by any means desirous of taking a part in the management of public affairs. Where only one woman out of nineteen who were considered eligible availed herself of the privilege of becoming a voter, it cannot be said that the women of Massachusetts are pining for political privileges.

As might be expected from the figures we have quoted, at the close of the election it was found that a very large majority of the electorate, even with the reinforcement of 30,000 lady voters, were opposed to extending the franchise to women. The proposal to give the women the privilege of voting was rejected by a majority of three to one. A different result might have been expected in the State of Massachusetts, the home of so many of the advocates of women's rights.

Even of the women who registered, not many more than one half went to the polls. We have seen that only one in nineteen women registered, but it is estimated that only one in thirty-two voted. The total number of women on the register in Boston was 11,803; of these it is said less than 5,000 voted. The vote polled in Boston was 68,904; of these 22,035 were for woman suffrage, and 41,069 against. This was about the proportion in all the large cities of the State. In New Bedford 328 women

registered and only 159 voted, and woman suffrage was defeated two to one. In the rural districts the vote against woman suffrage was proportionately larger. "Oddly enough," says the Oregonian, "the opposition included within its ranks the two extremes of Massachusetts political society. At one end were found the saloon keepers and at the other end college professors." The ladies who believe in woman suffrage will most likely declare that the referendum is not a fair way of testing public opinion on an important measure, and in this we cordially agree with them.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS.

In a letter to the Toronto Telegram Goldwin Smith says: "These annual elections of municipal officers are, like some other things in our municipal system, a legacy from the middle ages, and are more suited to the primitive government of those times than to the scientific administration of a great city at the present day. Besides, a city in the middle ages, I take it, was really in the hands of its leading men, who would keep their power whatever the nominal term of their offices might be." Annual municipal elections like a great many other changes which radicals of a former generation regarded as reforms, have proved the reverse. What the managers of a city's affairs need to enable them to do their work as all efficiently as possible, and this they can never acquire under the annual election system, for a city councillor can hardly get time to post himself in the routine work of his office when he is displaced by some ambitious aspirant for civic honors who has contrived to get into the good graces of the electors. This latter in his turn is most probably bounced before he has acquired the experience necessary to make him of any value as a councillor.

Ten Years for Arson.

MONTREAL, Nov. 22.—John Haynes, who on Saturday told the story of firing the premises of Boyd, Gillies & Co., in Montreal, has been sentenced by Judge Weyland to ten years in the penitentiary.

VICIOUS BOYS IN SCHOOL.

TO THE EDITOR:—I am sorry that the stimulus I used in my last letter are open to misapprehension. Similes are not arguments and are very vulnerable. When I likened vicious boys in schools to vicious men in drawing rooms the meaning I intended to convey was that so long as a vicious man or boy keeps the seamy side of his character hidden from innocent girls with whom he converses, the latter cannot be hurt by his conversation. The thoughts of his heart need not be bad, but so long as he does not reveal them in word or deed, so long, I repeat, as they are not apparent, they are not hurtful. A poisonous gas is known by its effect. But a vicious man does not exhale wickedness. He can only be dangerous by word or action. And here I should beg leave to point out that in my last letter I only supposed, for the sake of argument, the existence of vicious boys in the High school. I know of none. I also assumed the misnomer of the poor newspaper boys, though, personally, I know nothing against them.

Again, with respect to the "customary white gloves," I think, with due deference, that the parallel drawn by me was fair. I say that, in the absence of proof to the contrary, we must assume innocence in the schools. Is it within the bounds of possibility that boys can speak or act rudely to girls without at least the mothers of the latter hearing of such things? And are all the mothers in the "conspiracy of silence"? Parents, I grant, would not willingly publish anything that would bring their little daughters' names into public discussion, but information given to the principals of a school would be imparted in confidence, which confidence would assuredly be respected. The fact remains that neither parents nor children make complaints, nor do the former remove their girls from the schools. Why?

Permit me to point out to the Bishop of Columbia that the onus of the proof against the schools lies on him. Formal charges will have to be made and proved. The principals must know the extent of the evil—if evil there is. Let us by all means get at the truth, for which I can assure His Lordship I am striving as well as he. I have certainly no desire to see "wholesome whitewashing." But I can state with confidence what right-thinking men and women in this community will not tolerate, and that is wholesale blackening.

EDWARD B. PAUL, Principal of High School.

HALIFAX, Nov. 23.—This Dominion liner Labrador brought 450 British soldiers for this station, who arrived early this morning.

FRUIT-GROWERS.

WESTMINSTER, Nov. 23.—(Special)—The quarterly meeting of the Horticultural and Fruit Growers' Association took place yesterday at New Westminster. Most of the time of the meeting was taken up by informal discussion. The question of co-operation was thoroughly debated. It was thought an advantage had been gained, but disastrous results had followed the ridiculous competition of co-operative organizations in this province. The result of exhaustive comments led to the unanimous endorsement of the following suggestion: "That Messrs. T. Cunningham, G. W. Henry, E. Hutcheson, H. Kipp and R. W. Palmer be appointed a committee to draw up a tangible scheme for forming a co-operative society for the entire province and to report at the annual meeting on January 30 next." Nearly 250 tons of fruit, valued at \$10,364, were shipped out of the Chilliwack valley alone during the past season. Next season the markets of the Northwest, Kootenay, Cariboo and Australia will be canvassed with selected fruit.

DIocese of Westminster.

WESTMINSTER, Nov. 23.—(Special)—The Bishop of New Westminster has appointed an examining chaplain in the person of Rev. R. Small, M.A., of Lytton, B.C.

In his charge to the Synod, the Bishop strongly advised co-operation with other Christian bodies in the province with a view to immediate broad and unsectarian religious teaching into the public schools, which are now wholly secular. At the subsequent meeting of the Synod it was decided by resolution to establish a diocesan endowment fund for missionary work in the rural and mine districts of the province; to establish a clergy superannuation and widows and orphans' fund, and to appoint a committee to meet other Christian bodies in conference, with a view to introducing religious teaching into the public schools.

The executive had submitted to it by the Synod a large amount of delegated work, including the taking of measures to liquidate a debt of \$5,100 due from the diocese to the representatives of the late Bishop Shillito. Bishop Darr created an excellent impression upon the laity and clergy assembled, displaying great ability, tact and general courtesy. The proposal to appoint a conductor Bishop has been abandoned for the present.