The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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WATER SUPPLY

The city of Victoria has a clear field before it in regard to water supply. It can now go where it will. The legislature has invested it with very large powers indeed. The next thing to be considered is as to what ought to be done. We submit that there ought not to be any delay about taking action of some kind. The city is growing very rapidly. It is likely to grow more rapidly. If any one doubts this, let him take a look around town and see for himself what building has been done and what is now being carried on. Let him reflect that the great growth now in evidence is not the result of any boom, but is due to normal causes, and then let him reflect upon what is likely to happen when Island development has fairly begun, and he will realize that we will have a big city here almost before we are ready to supply the people with the needs of an up-to-date town. Of these the chief is water. Therefore we take the position that the city authorities ought to begin forthwith to make their plans for the future.

We suggest that before any action is taken the citizens should be put in possession of all the facts, which ought to be known before a decision is reached. Among these facts are the following:

The cost of a supply from Sooke Lake up to the capacity of the Esquimalt watershed.

The cost of a supply from Sooke Lake in units of 5,000,000 gallons each.

The cost of the Esquimalt Water Works.

The cost of bringing the Goldstream water to the city in units of 5,000,000 gallons each.

The amount of power that can be developed from Sooke.

The amount of power that can be developed from Goldstream.

The probable revenue from each of these sources.

With these facts before them the municipal authorities would be able to place before the citizens a definite proposition showing the relative advantages of the two sources of supply, and would be in a position to recommend that plan which is found to be the best from a business point of view.

The attitude of the Colonist on this subject is what it always has been. We would like to see the city in control of the water supply of the whole districts in which it is situated; but at the same time we desire to see the best possible business arrangement being reached. We hope the City Council will see its way clear to make the investigation suggested above, and pending action that regard, we feel that further discussion of the question might as well be left in abeyance, unless there is what we regard as unreasonable delay.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The St. John Telegraph says that if there is not a revolution in the City Hall of that city there will be a revival of the demand for the government of the municipality by a commission, and that "it will undoubtedly command formidable support." Government by commission has been tried in Des Moines and Galveston, and ex-President Eliot, of Harvard, who has investigated conditions in those cities, says their business "is run as a private business would be run." We quote from our contemporary:

And what Galveston has done the people of northern cities are competent to do if they will. The city of Houston, starting to apply business principles to city affairs three years later than Galveston, already is contemplating notable results. In four years of business administration a floating debt of $400,000 has been paid, a sinking fund has been created for the bonded debt of the city, $7,000,000 out of current revenues has been invested in permanent improvements, the waterworks system has been bought by the municipality and placed on a paying basis, and the city has been made more attractive and profitable for business enterprise. Des Moines (Iowa) has a similar record of business success. In two months the Massachusetts city of Haverhill has found business methods in municipal affairs possible and profitable.

In Galveston President Eliot found a representative type of business men serving the city. The other cities referred to have found it possible to secure the services of their most representative citizens for the administration of municipal business. The characteristic complaint of cities under the old political system of administration, the Boston Herald says, in discussing Dr. Eliot's report, is that desirable men will not become candidates for public office. "The contrasting experience of Galveston, Houston, Des Moines and Haverhill suggests that the fault is not with men who shrink from public service, but with the environment of public service which forces self-respecting men to avoid it. British and European cities find the best administrative talent responsive to their call for public service. In the earlier history of American cities municipal service was regarded as an honor for any citizen. The presence of the political boss and the service of desirable citizens are incompatible. In admitting the boss American cities have driven desirable citizens out of public service. Galveston has found a way to call them back. And in so doing she has, as President Eliot says, given to the country a most valuable lesson in municipal science.

A VERY POOR REASON

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has set right a mistake into which his colleague Mr. Murphy fell a few days ago. Mr. J. D. Taylor asked if any action had been taken on a resolution forwarded from the Legislature of the province on the subject of immigration from the Orient, and was told that no such resolution had been received. Inquiry from the provincial government showed that it had been sent through the regular channel and that its receipt had been acknowledged. Here was a clear issue in fact, although we suppose that every one expected some reasonable explanation would be forthcoming. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made one, and it is to the effect that the resolution was received before Mr. Murphy entered the government. This is an explanation which does not explain anything, although no one would be so absurd as to suggest that Mr. Murphy would have intended wilfully to mislead Mr. Taylor and the House. Surprise can hardly be suppressed that the Department of State should not have known what was upon its own files. No one would expect that, when a new minister takes office, he forthwith automatically becomes informed of everything which transpired in the time of his predecessor; but it would not be unreasonable to think that the permanent heads of a Department would keep track of things. That Mr. Murphy should have been put in the humiliating position of having made an incorrect statement to Parliament is to be regretted. We suppose it is because there is an official element at Ottawa which looks upon British Columbia as more or less of a nuisance anyhow.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the resolution had been received, that nothing had been done about it and nothing is going to be done about it. This statement has the merit of definiteness. The reasons for it are not so satisfactory. The Prime Minister said that nothing would be done because the subject matter of the resolution is one within the powers of Parliament. This seems like a very extraordinary reason to give. The resolution was sent to the government for no other reason than because the subject matter of it was within the jurisdiction of the federal government and not within that of the local authorities. The Prime Minister's first reason is not different in substance from telling the provincial legislature to mind its own business. We are not concerned with the other reasons given, which were to the effect that efficient action had already been taken before the resolution was received, but we are much concerned that the Prime Minister of Canada should in his place in the House of Commons give out such a statement as that above commented upon. Are we to understand that the provincial legislatures have no right to ask the Dominion government to take action upon any question with which they may think their province is specially concerned? One of the fundamental principles of the British Constitution is that the right of petition shall never be taken away; but now we are told by the Prime Minister, referring to the resolution of the legislature, which was in the form of a petition: "No action has been taken upon this petition and none will be taken. The reasons for this course are: First, because this is a matter with which this parliament has power to deal." It would have been useful if the Prime Minister, for future reference, had been kind enough to tell the House upon what classes of subjects the provincial legislature may approach the Dominion government. If they may not approach that august body on questions within the jurisdiction of Parliament, why should they do so at all? To do so upon questions within the jurisdiction of the local legislatures would clearly be absurd. The only other class of subjects that we can think of are academic propositions in ethics, arithmetic or natural science. Speaking with the utmost seriousness, we can only regard this statement of the Prime Minister as one that never ought to have been made, and as wholly out of keeping with his reputation as a statesman.

SEEING STRAIGHT.

Our Eastern contemporaries are at last beginning to see straight on the Oriental question. We have already referred to some observations that have been made by certain of them, and hereunder is an editorial from the Toronto Star:

There are nearly 40,000 Orientals in British Columbia, over 17,000 of these being Chinese, nearly 16,000 Japanese, and the balance Hindus. As the total population of the province is only a little over 200,000, this means that nearly one-fifth of the whole are of the yellow races.

It is not surprising that the whites of the Pacific Province view the situation with alarm. That situation is serious enough to demand attention not only on the Pacific Coast but in all Canada. When we have constantly before our eyes the object lesson presented by the Southern States as to what a race problem really is we shall be blind, indeed, if we permit the yellow menace in the West to become as grave as the black menace in the South is now.

We have always thought that the attitude of Eastern people on this question arose out of a misunderstanding of it, and that when they began to realize what it means they would see the reasonableness of the position taken by the people of British Columbia. Even the Prime Minister will begin to understand better the opinions of the people of this province in which he told us he did not share.

The Tokio correspondent of the London Standard devotes nearly a column in that paper to the discussion of one phase of this question, namely the emigration of the Japanese, and as the matter has an intense interest here we quote freely from what he says:

Since the stricter enforcement of regulations against Oriental emigration to Canada and the United States, the problem of providing a convenient and profitable outlet for her ever-increasing population has been seriously occupying the attention of Japan.

With agrarian and industrial possibilities at home already taxed to their utmost, and every available opportunity for relief quickly seized and exploited, vent had to be found for the half million which each year adds to the population of the empire. Not only were all avenues of exit westward cut off, but many of the Japanese already disposed of in that direction were evincing a desire to leave American and Canadian territory for the more congenial atmosphere of their homeland.

During the past twelve months no fewer than 8257 of these discontented fortune-seekers decided that conditions in Japan were preferable to life abroad. Of these, 3983 arrived from Hawaii, 4053 from the United States proper, and 221 from Canada. The government were naturally put to the necessity of doing something to relieve the situation, but the persistent efforts of the authorities to divert the attention of intending emigrants from America and Canada to Sakhalin, Hokkaido, Manchuria, and Korea have, on the whole, led to nothing satisfactory. None of these places affords the quick financial returns which alone can induce the Japanese to leave his native soil.

In this respect there is no comparison between any territory within Japan's own jurisdiction and the opportunities offered in the West. Sakhalin is regarded by the average Japanese as a dreary, uninhabitable region where the Russians sent convicts for punishment, where the virgin forest has yet to be cleared before the land will yield its increase; a place whose only attraction is for loggers and fishermen.

The fact is the Japanese laborer is not attracted from home by any hopes of settling permanently in a foreign country. His absorbing ambition is to save a certain sum of money with the utmost possible expedition with a view of returning to the country where he finds most pleasure and profit in spending it. He is haunted by none of the fears that deter the Chinese immigrant from bringing his savings home to run the risk of being robbed of them by rapacious officials. The Japanese who can save £600, may return to live a life of retirement and ease for the rest of his days in his native land.

Being convinced as to the hopelessness of settling the immigration difficulty by depending on inducements held out by the regions under her own control, Japan has recently been using the united endeavors of her immigration companies toward opening a field of settlement in South America. Feeling herself in this respect to be in much the same position as Germany, Japan naturally looks for possibilities in the same direction. Brazil and Chile are the principal points of destination.

It cannot be said, however, that Japan has as yet become assured of the success of her project. Most of the Japanese laborers sent to South America during the past year have been despatched under contract between the prospective employers and the immigration companies; and it is noticeable that misunderstandings and difficulties as to contracts and conditions have tended to diminish enthusiasm in this direction.

As some outlet must be found for the overflowing population, the Japanese government continues to encourage emigration to South America, and to facilitate it has liberally subsidised a line of steamships between Japan and South American ports.

OUR MINERAL RESOURCES

A day or two ago we referred to the remarkable development of Canadian mining as shown by official reports. We have before us today the Montreal Star's report of the annual banquet of the Canadian Mining Institute. The report begins with the following interesting summary:

Optimistic views as to the future mineral output of Canada were indulged in last night at the banquet which always marks the close of the annual session of the Canadian Mining Institute, and it was given to be understood that the strides which the Dominion has made in the past in the way of mining development was but a fraction of what will be the case in the comparatively near future, when Canada becomes one of the greatest mineral producing countries in the world.

The Governor-General, whose interest in the material prosperity of the country is as marked as was that of Lord Dufferin in our political welfare, made what must have been, judging from the brief synopsis published, a very hopeful speech. He said he anticipated as great an increase in the importance of mining during the next twenty years as had marked it in the past twenty. While saying that he sympathized more with agriculture than with any other industry "he admitted that no interest was more important to a nation than that of mining, which gave increased demand for labor, commercial activity and railway traffic." His Excellency expressed the opinion that the visit of the mining engineers from Europe last year would be productive of great good. Mr. Templeman, who also spoke, expressed the belief that the Department of Mines would do as much good for the special business under its supervision as the Department of Agriculture had for farming, which was very great indeed. "It seemed to him, judging from the development of the last five or ten years of only half the northern portion of Ontario and Quebec, that the next decade would enormously exceed anything in the past." Mr. Goodeve also spoke, dealing with the other industries which can be ranked with mining in importance.

School books supplied the government of Saskatchewan are, it appears, made in New York. This may be pleasing to the free trade wing of the Liberal party but it will prove the reverse of palatable to the majority of Canadians.

AN ADMIRABLE SUGGESTION.

An admirable suggestion was made at the Board of Trade yesterday by Mr. Wallace. It was that Victoria should make a specialty of its flowers at the Alaska-Yukon Exposition. He proposed that the city should have a tent on the Exposition grounds for the display of flowers, and said that several of our best gardens would be placed at the disposal of the city in order that the exhibition should be of the best possible character. He enlarged upon the beauty of our sweet peas, and proposed that these should be sent over at the rate of 10,000 a day and be given away in neat glass holders to ladies. He also suggested that a special display of cactus dahlias should be made. He told the Board that for the product of sweet peas and cactus dahlias Victoria is first and all other places on the coast nowhere. This is a very attractive suggestion. A question arises as to whether or not a building would be needed. We do not know if the Exposition authorities will permit the erection of tents. Possibly a place could be found in the Canadian Building for such a purpose, but this is a matter that can be discussed with Col. Hutchison, the Canadian Commissioner, when he comes to Victoria, which will be in the course of a few days. In the meanwhile it may be said of the suggestion that it is exceedingly attractive and that the resultant advertisement to the city would be greater than anything else that could easily be devised, and far beyond comparison with what could be procured in any other way for the same expense. The Board of trade could not, of course, deal with the matter, and referred it to the Victoria branch of the Island Development League. We commend it to the favorable consideration of that body and also to the City Council when they come to consider how much money they will expend this year in advertising the city.

A CANADIAN AVIATOR.

Mr. Fielding told Colonel Hughes in Parliament yesterday that the government has called the attention of the Imperial authorities to the splendid work done at Baddeck by that brilliant young Canadian, Mr. Douglas McCurdy, who has achieved the conquest of the air in a manner which places him in the front rank of aviators. Victorians feel a very great interest in the doings of Mr. McCurdy, because his father is one of our best known citizens, and all Canadians will be gratified if the Imperial government can see its way clear to taking up the young inventor and securing the benefit of his services for his own country. It may be mentioned that the young man's experiments have been conducted with the financial assistance of Dr. Graham Bell, also a Canadian, who was obliged to look to the United States for a field for the exercise of his genius, and who had the honor of a place in nearly every one of the lists sent into the New York Herald as containing the names of the ten most distinguished American citizens. Dr. Bell's fame has therefore been lost to Canada, and we hope that it will be found possible to keep his young comrade in aerial experiment as a citizen of the British Empire, and that his talent may be utilized first of all by the country to which he yet owes allegiance.

PORT DEVELOPMENT

The Colonist has from time to time dwelt upon the necessity of taking steps to provide for greater harbor accommodation at Victoria than is now available. In so doing it has been careful to make plain that it was in no way reflecting upon the facilities which have already been provided, which are fully equal to the present requirements of the port. We have been looking to the future, and have been influenced by the consideration that there are certain facilities which private enterprise cannot be expected to supply. When a man has to put his hand into his own pocket and pay for a work in the public interest, he must always take the question of profit into account, unless he is acting in a purely charitable spirit, and this is not the frame of mind with which people usually approach the construction of wharves and docks. If they put in their money, they want to see some reasonable prospect of getting some immediate return. In passing we may say that the enterprise shown by Mr. R. P. Rithet in the construction of the Outer Wharves was of the most foresighted and public spirited kind; but then Mr. Rithet is in all things foresighted and public spirited. His splendid optimism in regard to Victoria in connection with Island development and transcontinental railway connection has been an inspiration to every one who has worked in this behalf. But this is a digression. What we wish to say is that, undertakings whose magnitude must be out of all proportion to present requirements, and are taken in hand solely in view of the developments of the future, are matters which the state ought to concern itself with. We refer to this subject at this time, only for the purpose of keeping it before the people and to introduce the following interesting extract from the Monetary Times:

Port development in Canada is of vast importance to the growth of Canadian commerce. Money expended upon the improvement of facilities may well be spent with one eye upon the far future. The penny-wise-and-pound-foolish policy was not framed for Canadian port improvement. Halifax and St. John have good reasons for putting their maritime houses in the best possible shape. Prince Rupert will likely become a history-making port on the American Pacific coast while the harboring at Vancouver and Victoria of vessels which have danced in the Far Eastern seas, is an event, and will be a greater one. It will send British Columbia's blood coursing through commercial arteries. Signs are not lacking that the world's biggest steamship companies are likely to shave the equipments of their regular routes, the shavings to be cast, in the shape of first the smaller vessels, on to Canada's Atlantic seaway. With the recognition of our undeveloped resources and an appreciation of neglected possibilities for increased trade with other countries, the steamship links will increase. Montreal must necessarily figure in this commercial growth. The first ship on the new Canada Line will probably leave Rotterdam for Montreal in April. Three steamers have been drawn from the services of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the Holland-American Line, the Hamburg-American Line, the North German-Lloyd, the Austro-Americani and others. That is only the beginning. Meanwhile, port development should be printed in big type on the commercial slate.

The retail dealers of the city think that established firms should have a larger measure of protection from Chinese hawkers, and therefore will petition that the license fee for the latter shall be raised. We are in hearty sympathy with this movement. The fewer Orientals there are in this city engaged in competition with white traders the better.

A very lively interest is just now being manifested in the question of Canada's participation in the work of naval defence. We had the following interesting press despatch from Toronto yesterday, which is worthy of more than passing interest, as it makes allusion to the question of Oriental immigration: "His Honor Judge Barron, of Stratford, addressed the Empire club at luncheon yesterday of the duty of Canada to contribute towards the defence of the empire. Canada, he said, was in need of naval defence owing to her coasts, and should have her own fleet and fly her own flag. He was of opinion that the restrictive laws this country has framed to limit an influx from the Orient would be worthless save for the navy of Great Britain."

CHEMIST

PERFECT TONIC BITTERS

A valuable remedy that should be taken at this time of the year. It contains cascara, burdock and celery; combines tonic and appetitizing virtues, yet stirs up the liver and purifies the blood. $1 per bottle at this store.

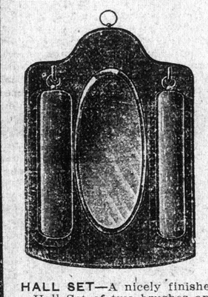
Cyrus H. Bowes
Government St., Near Yates

A Few 'Little Priced' Things

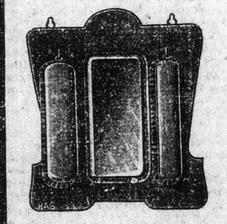
From a Big Lot of New Arrivals Just Marked

YESTERDAY SAW US BUSY marking a host of new arrivals for the first floor counters — a list of useful and little priced things specially desirable for the home, a lot of articles many people are not aware we handle.

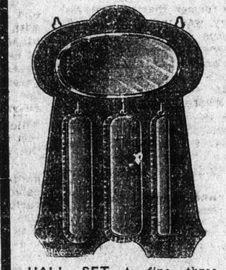
We are illustrating a few of these new articles. We have many other new things to show you — kindred lines which space limitations prevent illustrating here. We want you to come in and let us show you these. You'll be surprised at the variety of this stock of ours and pleased, too, at the little prices you'll find on these excellent articles. First Floor.



HALL SET—A nicely finished Hall Set of two brushes and oval bevel mirror. A serviceable style. Priced at, each $2.75



HALL SET—This is a very fine set. Neat design and finely finished. Has two fine quality brushes and bevel mirror. Price,.... $4.00



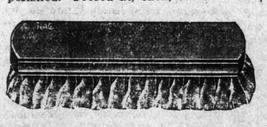
HALL SET—A fine three-brush set and oval mirror. Good design and finished in best possible manner. Are priced at, each..... $5.50

HAND MIRRORS—We have just received a fine line of Hand Mirrors. Mirror plates are oval, bevel and of finest quality. Backs highly polished. Priced at..... $1.50

BREAD PLATES—In wood Bread Plates we have several neat designs. Have them in great variety of prices, ranging from as low as, each..... 25¢

BUTTER PLATES—In wood Butter Plates with china or glass centres, we have many pretty styles. We have a line of souvenir plates with Parliament Building centres. Prices start at, each... 35¢

CLOTHES BRUSHES—We have a fine line of moderately priced Clothes Brushes. These Brushes are British made and are of very fine quality. The backs are of selected wood and highly polished. Priced at, each, 75c and.. 50¢

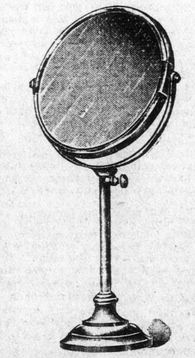


SHOE POLISHERS—Here is a fine Shoe Polisher. Made of chamois skin. An excellent polisher. Priced at, each.... 25¢

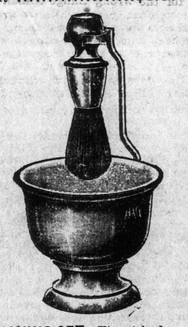
TUMBLER BRUSHES — A good line of Brushes at 40¢

COVERED FLASKS—Leather and plated. At, each, $1.00 and..... 75¢

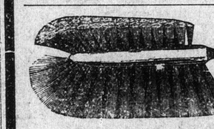
SHAVING SET—This is a convenient set. Fine quality badger brush, nice bowl and packed in special case. Are priced at, each..... $1.00



SHAVING MIRROR—Here is a useful article for the man who shaves himself. The magnifying mirror style. Adjustable in height. Priced at $5.00



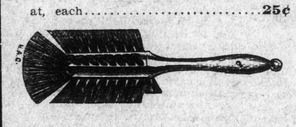
SHAVING SET—Finest badger hair brush with porcelaine lined bowl. Holder for the brush. Neat and compact set. Priced at..... $1.00



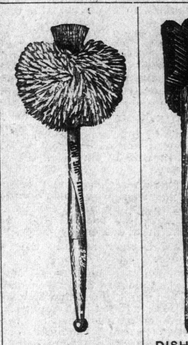
DOUBLE BANNISTER BRUSH—We have several fine values in these double Banisters—hair one side and fibre on the other. See these new ones at 75c and ..... 60¢

HAIR BANNISTERS—We have several styles in these. Price range is very complete. Same as illustration at 60c and ..... 25¢

HAIR BANNISTERS—We have specially good value in these. A most useful article around the home. See this style at, each..... 25¢



SAUCEPAN BRUSH—Here is something every housekeeper can use to advantage. Well and strongly made, and priced at, each ..... 25¢



JUG MOPS—A little priced article, but very useful. Price, each, 20¢

DISH WASHERS —Here is something that'll save your hands. The price ..... 20¢

CAKE STAND—Fine design in Metal Cake Stand. Finished in antique copper. Splendid value at..... $3.00

THE "FIRST" FURNITURE STORE OF THE "LAST" WEST—ESTAB. 1862

HOMES HOTELS CLUBS BOATS

Weiler Bros

CHURCHES SCHOOLS STORES OFFICES

SHOWROOMS: GOVERNMENT ST., VICTORIA, B. C. FACTORY: HUMBOLDT ST.

REPUTATION AND CH

"My reputation is what men sa
acter is what I am." So said The
essay on "The Problem of Life,"
to be the development of charact
between character and reputation
ought not to be lost sight of. It t
individual man is not confined t
if when the door at the end of hi
is opened and he steps out into t
beyond, he takes with him the qua
developed here, character is of im
importance than reputation, for
that the latter can follow him
which we call death. To a certain
tation is not of his own making. W
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but according to our knowledge o
would be likely to act or be influe
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be willing to do as he is doing wit
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we know that what he is doing wo
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been full of kindness and possess
refused to think evil of others. An
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and the seen with demi-gods. We
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could see; and ever since their
long before, humans have been
gods. They are made out of re
reputations may or may not be a
the character of the persons to w
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reputation, but he made a great
Latin poet wrote:

"The evil that men do lives
The good is often interred

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to remember them; while we are
good acts and soon forget them. I
has been said that we cannot wh
reputations, for these depend ver
manner in which our acts are un
The development of character
matter. This is wholly depender
Someone has written:

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Self-respect is a priceless possess
should say that the preservation o
be our chief aim, he would not be
our ideals would advance with o
to them. Perfection must always
we can always advance towards i
the heights of nobility of chara
broadens. As one who, emergin
at the base of a mountain peak an
sees his horizon growing wider
length the summit being reached
only by his powers of vision, so
wards the development of charac
to day how much more it means.
to reach the pinnacle of our asp
finite Good as it really is, but the
the expanding outlook as we asc
live in the lower shadows canno
It is unfortunately not always
careful to build up our character
tions may be trusted to take car
jealousy and malice rarely find di
the motives inspiring our action
proposition it is true that a man
reflection of his character. If the
it, something corresponding to th
discovered in the latter on care
is not always true, because, as w
our reputations are what others
the thoughts and utterances of o
control. Yet in the end character
utation, if it is of the kind that
that if we value popular appla
honest approval of ourselves, w
gain that if we deal with real
to ourselves. But at the best
ephemeral. An accident may d
find ourselves compelled to bes
for the wrongs of others becaus
ideals prevents us from laying bla
Character, if it is built upon a g
far as can be judged by our f
If the individuality of man exte
it is an achievement worthy of
character which, when it drops
tion as the Veil is lifted, can s
ashamed in the Presence beyond

PHILIPP

No matter how our sympat
by the story of the murder o
fact cannot be disguised that P
of the Democratic party in Ro
ous crime was committed as a
reform. The deeds of men in
judged by the standards which
Was a reformer, but unfortun
history of Rome the people w
with their chains to appreciate
free. That he felt compelled t
order to prevent the establis
shows to how low a plane popu