

The Advertiser

Founded by John Cameron in 1863.

THE DAILY ADVERTISER.

Daily, by mail, per year (\$ to 12 pages).....\$4 00
 Daily, by mail, for three months.....1 00
 All subscriptions payable in advance.

IN LONDON:

Morning or Evening Editions (delivered), 10 cents per week.

THE WESTERN ADVERTISER.

Published twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, in eight-page form, making sixteen pages each week, in addition to Wives and Daughters, which consists of sixteen pages, and is mailed monthly without extra cost to WESTERN ADVERTISER subscribers only.

By mail, per year.....\$1 00
 For each six months.....50

WIVES AND DAUGHTERS.

Monthly (sixteen pages), per year.....50

JOHN CAMERON, President and Manager.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Made known on application at office. Address all communications to

ADVERTISER PRINTING COY.,
 LONDON, - - CANADA.

BRANCH OFFICES:

Toronto—C. Rowland Orr, 11 King street west.
 Montreal and Maritime Provinces—A. McIlm & Co., Montreal, Que.

NOTICE.

Subscribers contemplating spending holidays at a distance can have THE ADVERTISER sent to any address in Canada or the United States, free of postage, at the rate of 35 cents per month. Under the Dominion postal arrangements of July 1, however, each copy of THE ADVERTISER for Great Britain will hereafter require prepayment of postage by the publishers by 1 cent stamp.

God's in His heaven,
 All's right with the world.

—(Browns.)

London, Tuesday, Sept. 1.

A LONDON PREACHER AND THE CAUSES OF PRESENT-DAY CORRUPTION.

Last night, in the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Rev. W. J. Clark, in an able sermon, referred at length to the terrible prevalence of political corruption in the Dominion, which has become the talk of the civilized world.

It is a good thing when ministers of the gospel have the courage to discuss great moral issues before their hearers, even though congregations and newspaper molders of public opinion may not always be ready to agree with the views enunciated in their entirety. To have any great question presented to the intelligent consideration of churchgoers in the light of Christian principles must always be a great aid to attaining needed reform.

Mr. Clark does not rail indiscriminately at political parties, no better arrangement for the management of public affairs having so far been discovered. But he holds that party government is not an ideal system, and hopes that some improved method may yet be discovered. He affirms, however, that the extreme partisanship which prevails is the main source of the evils of public life. A party is apt to shield its friends when they are in the wrong and to magnify the shortcomings of its opponents. Thus the improvement of public morals is thwarted, and the public conscience blunted.

This arraignment of partisanship is to a considerable extent deserved. It seldom happens that one political party can become entirely corrupt, but it cannot be denied that the toleration and defense of corruption in a party must have a most prejudicial effect upon the practically neutral voters in the community and to a certain extent upon the party in opposition to it. But that both of the great political parties have been and are equally corrupt, as some have contended, is too sweeping an assertion. The man who wishes to test this view can find the strongest and most conclusive proof in the records of Parliament. Ten years ago Hon. Edward Blake and his Liberal followers introduced legislation that would have had the effect of preventing the corruption of Ministers and members of Parliament by the agency of favor-seeking contractors, but the party in power, at the bidding of its leader, voted down the proposition. The evil growing, the legislation was offered again and again in recent years, and as often rejected. Not till the long, carefully concealed corruption was laid bare this summer was the righteousness of the view that Ministers should not accept honorariums from contractors agreed to by both parties.

Mr. Clark is correct in holding as he does that parties as yet cannot be dispensed with. If the Church wants to set a good example to the State in non-partisanship let it proceed to abolish its denominationalism which is simply partisanship in religion.

There is one most fertile source of political corruption and demoralization of the preachers have as yet not taken cognizance. The moral evils that grow out of the "protective" system cannot be denied. The manufacturers who enjoy monopolies, or who are averse to depending on their own resources for a living, as the large majority of us have to do, are not contented with acquiring a plant. They would not consider their outfit complete till they had purchased the Government of the day. These men hold to the view that the higher the tax imposed on imports corresponding to their products the greater will be their gains, and they do not scruple to share their profits with the Government, which, in turn, devotes the money to buttressing itself in office. Sir John Macdonald, in a spirit of bravado, at times let slip the truth regarding these immoral transactions, as, for example, when he called the proprietor

of manufacturing monopolies together at Toronto, and informed them that they must come to his rescue with a huge subscription for political purposes. He put it to these beneficiaries of the high tax system that the boys under the tree would be most ungrateful if they forgot the man who shook down the nuts.

On the confession of the father of the system, therefore, the principle of "protection" is a natural source of corruption. The clergy could well consider this aspect of the question philosophically. They need have no difficulty in finding examples of how the temptations held out by the men greedy for office warped the judgments of those likely to be benefited by the policy of high taxation. The Gurneys and the Stewarts, of Hamilton, Bell, of Guelph, Massey, of Toronto, and others that could be named, were Liberals up to the time that the N.P. was introduced. They had made plenty of money under the lower revenue tariff. They had no fault to find with the general principles of the Liberals, and in later years they supported the Liberal party on Provincial issues. But the tempter came with his proposition that they should be given profits at the expense of their fellow-citizens, and they surrendered. The higher influences of patriotism were not brought to bear on these men. The promise to rule righteously was not what they expected as a return for their support. They were and are respectable men, but the appeal to their love of gain made them ready to condone wrong-doing in public life and to contribute money for its perpetuation. What stronger proof of the demoralizing effects of selling legislative favors could be adduced?

ONE VIEW OF THE COST.

Brantford, in one important respect, is in the same position as London with regard to the Grand Trunk car shops. If the shops are not concentrated here, 200 men and their families, now employed in London, will have to go elsewhere. If they are not concentrated in Brantford, 200 men and their families will have to leave that city and come here, for the choice seems to be narrowed down to one of the two places. The resolution arrived at by the Stratford authorities confirms this view. Where the shops are concentrated, an addition of at least 1,000 to the population will be assured. Brantford's bid is, in some respects, a liberal one, but it would be much stronger if the city occupied as good a position as does London. The payment of \$41.66 per family in the population is a large sum for Brantford to be willing to pay. It is nearly three times as large as the citizens of London will be called upon to provide for if the bonus bylaw is carried. In London, we would have a largely increased revenue from the taxation of the new works; Brantford offers freedom from taxes for ten years.

NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICAL REPORTS.

It is sometimes stated that newspapers give biased reports of political meetings. No respectable newspaper ever intentionally distorts an opponent's meeting. It is not regarded as a method which justifies itself from either a moral or a business standpoint.

Out of the hundreds of newspapers in Ontario, we do not know of half a dozen which are deliberately unfair in reporting meetings with which they are not in sympathy. Political newspapers, however, do frequently give most room to reports of meetings on their own side, but even this often arises from necessary considerations of space. There are few papers which, like the London Times, have the space or the resources to practically publish verbatim every important speech on both sides.

It might be argued that if a newspaper cannot find space for full reports of both Liberal and Conservative meetings, it would be better to give equal, well-condensed reports of both. There is merit in the suggestion.

As for the ADVERTISER, this thoroughly independent journal owes its success largely to its persistent habit of giving all the news of the day, political and general, in an impartial spirit, and what in this regard it has been in the past it purposes to be in the future, only more so.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE Governor-General is still absent fishing. When a number of bills were given the royal assent recently Mr. Justice Strong officiated. If the Governor-General is not needed at Ottawa when grave questions of state are daily brought up when is he required?

HON. DAVID MILLS told Parliament that in no country of the world is coal so plentiful and so dear as in the Northwest. The trouble is that a subservient Parliamentary majority has given railway and land monopolies practical license to do as they please with this great bounty of nature. Dire experience teaches the necessity of a speedy change in both men and measures.

AS THOS. McCREERY, the missing M. P., had a protest lodged against his election in Quebec West, he cannot resign his seat, and the Speaker of the House of Commons was in error when he hurriedly issued his warrant for a new election. This will be the report of the sub-committee of the Privileges and Elections Committee appointed to consider the point. The warrant will likely be withdrawn and McCreery's case will be further dealt with by the House.

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

If Parliament cannot secure an ordinarily honest administration of public affairs, and its supreme committee, the Ministry, feels compelled to appoint a royal commission to attempt this, Parliament had better place the Government of Canada in commission at once and then efface itself entirely.

FATHER WILLIAM'S REMARKS.

"You are old, Father William," the young man said.
 "The few locks that are left you are gray."
 "Where's your beard?" said he, "the top of your head."
 "And have it more out of your way?"
 "Just the thing!" Father William exclaimed, "and now take
 My advice: Get some sort of machine
 That will give your thick locks to your lip and
 thus make
 A mustache that can really be seen."

Last night I was overtaken on the street by a Conservative friend, who invited me up to his place to get some fruit. "There's nothing like sitting under your own vine and fig tree," said he. "People who buy their fruit down street don't know what a pleasure it is to watch your own plums and pears getting bigger and softer, and brighter-colored, and more like honey every day. Why, it's enough to sweeten the temper even of a Grit that's forever making a fuss about nothing, just to look at 'em."

"Go slow, my son," said I. "Tisn't in the nature of a Grit to make a fuss about nothing."
 "Oh, isn't it?" said he. "Well, look at the have been making over the Liberal papers in Ottawa." He went on to expose the foolishness of such journals in full, and I could not but notice that the words "trifling irregularities" formed the mainstay of his argument. As we turned the corner of the street near his house a group of boys suddenly emerged from the shadow and rushed wildly past us.
 "Here we are!" exclaimed my companion cheerily. "And now I can promise you a treat. Plums dead ripe and pears that will fall without shaking. 'Hullo, what's this?' "This" turned out to be three or four trees, torn and broken and stripped of their fruit. Not a plum or pear remained—"nothing but leaves." The owner raved and stormed, and vowed seven different kinds of revenge. His language was so strong that it cast a blight over the injured trees, and made them look worse than before. I requested him not to make such a fuss about nothing.
 "Nothing," he retorted. "Do you call it nothing to be robbed in this outrageous way? The young demons. (Demons was not the word he used, but it amounts to the same thing.) I call it plain, downright stealing! I don't know what you call it."
 "Trifling irregularities," my son, I responded, soothingly. "Mere trifling irregularities."

I am not addicted to milk as a beverage, but I am often surprised at the indifference to its quality manifested by the people who are. Much indignation is shown at the mention of chalk in this connection, though chalk is not a particularly hurtful article of food, and the addition of pure water to the contents of the dairyman's can never produced disease in his victims. But there are other dangers of which too little is said. Cows are not always in a state of health, and every degree of impurity in their system is faithfully recorded in the milk. At its best a cow is living an unnatural life, for it is certainly not in nature with nature that one of the domestic animals should be selected and set apart as a permanent wet nurse for the human race. Then it is often over-driven by careless boys, expensed by harking dogs, or kept in an unclean stable. But the evil effects of these things are not considered so long as milk is guiltless of water. If a man must drink milk he should make a point of becoming personally acquainted with the cow that produces it.

"Harnessing the rain cloud," of which we read a great deal nowadays, would be a fine scheme, providing it took kindly to harness and could be made to "whirl" by a good hard pull on the lines. At present the rain cloud is evidently under the impression that this is November instead of August, and it is overworking itself accordingly. What is needed is a strong harness with a whip kept in pretty active use during the June drought, and a reliable curb rein for haying and harvest. When showers can be produced at will to meet the popular demand we may expect to find such paragraphs in the papers as this: "We are surprised that our esteemed contemporary should advocate a rain storm between the hours of 7 and 9:30 a. m. every Sabbath, on the ground that it would enhance the sweetness of Sunday morning snoozing. 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