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THE TIMES.

The Marquis of Lorne must be sure by this time that he and his royal wife are heartily welcome among us, and that he will enter upon his office of Governor-General with every disposition on the part of the Government and the people to make his residence in Canada a pleasure and an honour to himself and to the country. That will be accomplished if the Marquis can be induced to abstain from forming an exaggerated notion of his functions as the Governor-General of Canada. The English papers speak of it as "no common responsibility," as an "important and onerous post," and generally seem to imagine that only a heaven-born genius, or its equivalent, English royalty, can hope to achieve success. It is quite true that the Governor-General is the representative of the Queen, but so in a measure is the Union Jack that floats at the mast-head of an English merchant ship; and the Governor-General is rather the medium of communication between the Colonial and the Imperial Governments than the representative of either. The greatest work he has to do is just to let politics alone—to suggest nothing, to attempt nothing, but look on and approve while our politicians play out their party games.

The real work expected of the Governor-General is outside of politics, and in its way important. First, it consists of paying visits and making speeches in answer to addresses from municipal corporations and public institutions. The Marquis of Lorne can hardly do better than read one of the books just published giving the speeches of the Earl of Dufferin, who was a master of the art. He will find that not much need be said at a time, but it must be often repeated with an occasional change in the phraseology, and it must be set to the key *Gloria in Excelsis Populo*. Second, it consists in entertaining. In this, too, the Earl of Dufferin was an adept, and was splendidly seconded by the Countess. The right people were always invited at the right time. But the Marquis starts with an advantage on his side; the fact that his wife is the daughter of the Queen will be a powerful aid to him. The people are intensely loyal, and they will gather round the Princess Louise with an instinct and desire to receive her recognition and to give her back their devotion. But the task will be no easy one. How and when to issue invitations to dinner, when to give a ball, with whom to dance, with whom to talk three minutes, and with whom to talk ten minutes, are mere detail of social life, but upon the judiciousness with which this is carried out will depend the popularity of the new Governor-General and the Princess Louise.

The citizens of Toronto are bestirring themselves vigorously in the matter of their taxation. By a turn of grim humour they compelled the Mayor to call a meeting, attend the same, and occupy the chair while irate citizens entered their complaints. Items of needless expenditure were enumerated, and not vindicated or denied except in two cases—the Mayor protested that he gave away his salary and \$1,000 besides, in charity. I may say that in the paper forwarded to me by post the word *false* is written after the Mayor's statement. The horse-hire for the City Engineer was justified by Col. Denison on the ground that the Engineer had to superintend 140 miles of road—but the Colonel forgot to explain what "looking after the road" meant, or how often the distance had to be traversed. But Alderman Ball seemed to have some peculiar ideas with regard to public companies and the law as it stands related to them. In answer to a question the Alderman stated that the Street Railway Company was obliged in law to keep the road good between the tracks and eighteen inches on each side, and yet the Corporation was not able to insist upon the fulfilment of this obligation. I should lay the blame for that on the shoulders of incompetent

or corrupt Aldermen and not on the law. We ought to insist on more strictness and good faith in dealing with the Street Railway Companies; they have a large monopoly which is only of advantage to those who travel in them. To those who are under the necessity of driving through the city they are an unmitigated nuisance. If they are necessary, the evil should be reduced to a minimum by having the rails laid on a level with the macadam; and the groove in the rails is made so small that the flange of the wheel only can go in, so the railway is an inconvenience to carriages.

I have received the following letter anent some remarks of mine last week on the Rev. Mr. Craig's historical readings:—

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—Those who heard the *whole* of the address—from a partial report of which you make a quotation—would understand that I could not mean that of two institutions whose existence began at precisely the same time, one was older than the other. I was expressing my opinion—I suppose I have a right to hold an opinion on the matter—that the Church of England has a history as old as that of the Church of Rome. If in doing this I made a slip of the tongue, I am very glad to admit it. If my reading of ecclesiastical history leads me to believe that a church was founded in Britain in the time of the Apostles, is it so very illogical to say that it might be older than another church also founded in the time of the Apostles? This "time" covers many years. The Church of Jerusalem and the Church of Corinth existed in the time of the Apostles. But the Church of Jerusalem was older than the Church of Corinth.

If you who are so severely logical had thought of this you might have saved yourself the trouble of writing a not very witty paragraph for your paper.

Yours, &c.,

WM. CRAIG.

Montreal, Nov. 25, 1878.

There was confessedly a slip of the tongue on the part of the speaker, and then the report in the paper was "partial," and I had only what was left after that double disaster to base a word or two of inquiry upon. Inquiry it was, and not an attempt to be witty. And the gentleman is quite right: "the time of the Apostles covers many years," and if it can be established, as I believe it can, that the Church was founded in Britain some two or three years before it was founded in Rome, a great and grave question will be settled, and a great good will be accomplished. Thousands of people have believed that the Church of Rome is the oldest Christian Church, and therefore the right and only Christian Church; disprove that, and what a shaking there will be and a coming down of proud pretenders.

The Montreal *Evening Post* is anxious to discuss the questions of "Home Rule" and "Obstruction" with me; but I must decline the challenge. I am a busy man and cannot afford time to engage in light and profitless amusements.

But I would suggest a good work for the Editor of the *Post*, who seems anxious to live on good terms with his neighbours and to put down our ecclesiastical bitternesses; let him curb the fiery eloquence of some of the Irish clergy, notably the Rev. Mr. Graham, whose lecture on the Irish famine bristled with disloyalty and threats of future revenge.

Political morality is of a peculiar type in Canada. The *Herald* has lately been putting on the airs of good living, but the last few days it has suddenly lowered the standard. I quite agree with all it says about the injustice of Mr. Buckingham's dismissal by the new Government, but its loud threat of reprisals when it may have the power is most iniquitous. When wrong is done let us not threaten that we will add black to black and glory in it.

I was confirmed in my use of the modest first personal pronoun when this humble despatch appeared as a telegram from Halifax reporting the movements of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise:—

"To LIEUT.-COL. STEVENSON:

"We shall reach Montreal at 11.30 on Friday. The ball will take place that evening, and the party will leave for Ottawa on Monday morning.

"C. J. BRYDGES.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, for Children Teething, and all Infantile Diseases.