

COMMUNICATIONS.

FROM A QUEEN'S MAN IN THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editor of the Journal :

WE discover in reading the editorials in the last JOURNAL, and in reading also the *Quarterly* and many of the other Canadian publications, that the prevailing idea seems to be that the unfortunate dwellers on this side of the line are nothing but "white trash" with low ideals and sordid aims.

We do not profess to know what the standard of judgment may be, but we are inclined to think that in many cases it is mainly imagination, and a sort of vague impression that since we are not Britishers or worshipers of all that is English "don't you know," we must be mere worthless cumberers of the "ground."

We are quite willing to admit that as a people, the people of the United States have their faults, but when as a people we are broadly accused of following low ideals we think it would be quite appropriate to give the grounds of the judgment.

If the whole fault lies in the so-called fact that we worship the almighty dollar, and that mere material and external prosperity is the "be-all and the end-all" of our existence, we would like to call your attention to one or two observations.

During my very pleasant sojourn of seven or eight years in Canada, the fact was pointed out to me with untold pride not only once, but dozens of times, that next to the Bank of England, which was the mightiest moneyed institution in the world, the Bank of Montreal took its rank. The fact that the Canadian Pacific was the best equipped and the most modern transcontinental road, I was never allowed to forget, and was often told that though there were no men in Canada so immensely rich as some of the American multimillionaires, there was still a solid backbone of wealth that gave unassailable stability to the whole country.

While we admit these contentions as being facts, we submit that the way in which they were reiterated gave us to believe that other people than those of the U.S. took a pride in material prosperity, and if this constitutes the low ideal of which we have heard, the charge may cover more ground than we would like to admit.

But all else aside, permit me to say that if the judgment with regard to our position and aims is based upon any or all of the three following considerations, we are not surprised that it should be made. When you take into consideration our congressional debates, our daily press and our municipal government, we admit that you or any observer has a perfect right to draw the strictest inferences. We as a

people, I can assure you, are by no means proud of our achievements in any one of these lines. And it is unfortunate, but it is true, that these are the most conspicuous features in our institutions to the casual observer, and righteous disgust at them is liable to conceal all the merits that may exist in other more substantial and more representative lines.

But even when these three elements in our national life are made the basis on which the criticism of our whole existence and ideals is placed, we would urge that there are extenuating circumstances, even here. It will be admitted that in a democracy, where the worst element has as powerful a voice in public matters as the best, it is just in these three particular lines that the evil effects of the system will be most conspicuous. The best men, even the representative men of our country, never see the inside of our congressional halls, and we resent it, if as a people we have to be judged by that standard. Developments of later years, I am sure, would cause even Canadians to hesitate to judge their whole country by the men who rule in its politics.

As to the newspapers of our country, they too, to a large extent, pander to the appetite of the masses, and while we have newspapers that are pure and as uplifting in their tendencies as any published anywhere, these are not the papers which reach the outside world. Such papers as the *Philadelphia Ledger* and the *New York Tribune*, are completely buried under the evil glitter of such sheets as the *World*.

As to municipal governments much the same conditions exist as have already been noted in regard to our congress. It is the "boss," the "heeler," and the newly "naturalized" citizen who run things in civic politics, and here, as elsewhere, the men who are the sinew of the country refuse to come to the front.

Permit me in conclusion to state that a people whose beginnings were laid on religious toleration and the law of God, whose sole aim has ever been and now is, to furnish a refuge to the down-trodden, the poor and the oppressed of all the earth, whose greatest problems have always been how to assimilate and regenerate these foreign hordes, who spent millions of money and hundreds of thousands of lives to preserve the institutions of popular government and personal freedom, whose wealthy men have within the past thirty-five years given as many millions to education alone, not to mention other charities and benevolences, and whose Protestant population of persons over fifteen years of age can number two out of every five as actual communicants of the church of God; a country with such a record as this and with such an aim before it, can hardly with