

with him almost unanimously. I declined the honor, however, and Mr. McIntosh was appointed.

He did not marry one of "Davy's daughters," and therefore the social balance of the district was not disturbed.

Jim McCafferty soon ceased to visit Miss Crandall the elder. I jokingly enquired the cause of his unfaithfulness some time afterwards, when he very confidentially informed me "that he had raly gone to see her at first supposin' the family to be well larned, but findin' at the school meetin' that her sister couldn't spell, he had tested his lady love in 'rithmetic and had found her terribly ignorant. Man dear," said he, "I asked her 'if a herrin' and a half cost three-half-pence, how many could I get for seven-pence?' and she couldn't answer me. I couldn't demean the McCafferty's by marryin' a woman like that."

## Discussion of Great Questions

OF INTEREST TO ALL CLASSES AND CREEDS.

READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY.

SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED—OPINIONS OF PROMINENT MEN—A NEW DEPARTURE IN CANADIAN JOURNALISM.



**T**HE growing demand from all quarters for the discussion and, as far as possible, settlement of important and vital questions of social, moral, religious, and political interest has made it imperative that some paper of wide circulation open its columns for ex-

pressions of opinion from men and women of experience and judgment to the end that the masses of our population may be better able to come to correct conclusions regarding them.

To meet this demand THE SATURDAY LEDGER has started the ball rolling by submitting as the first of a quite lengthy series of subjects for discussion the question, "Can a Man be a Successful Politician and a Sincere Christian?" This controversy has been opened up by interviews by a LEDGER representative with a number of prominent citizens, as well as by letters received from well-known men in different walks of life. Hon. Oliver Mowat, Rev. G. M. Milligan, Mr. Robert McLean, Dr. Alexander Sutherland, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Ex-Mayor Howland, Archbishop Walsh, Mr. Henry O'Brien, Stapleton Caldecott, Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, Rev. Dr. Briggs, Methodist Book Steward, Rev. T. W. Jeffery, and Rev. Hugh Johnston have all contributed in some form to the discussion, anyone of whose opinions is well worth the price of a year's subscription. It may be fairly claimed, we think, that, considering the fact that only three issues of the LEDGER have contained any reference to this important topic, great interest has thus far been developed, and arguing from this fact there is no doubt whatever that before the lapse of many weeks there will be very wide-spread interest if, indeed, not great excitement aroused. A few sentences taken from some of the letters will show the scope and character of the discussion.

One says: "A man who takes no interest in politics—renders no service to his country—is a social nobody and deserves not the name of Christian."

Another writes as follows: "The question for a sincere Christian to settle with himself, if he thinks that he is called to go into politics, is this: Do I believe that the majority of my countrymen will approve of a righteous course in their representative? If he answers that in the affirmative, his course is clear; if he answers it in the negative, he had better stay outside and do his best to improve his countrymen in his private capacity."

The views of another are thus forcibly put: "No government will ever be placed on a secure basis until politicians are converted into Christians. Christianity is sound. Politics is rotten to the core. God is the Father of one; the devil of the other. They are diametrically opposed. Christianity is embodied self-negation. Politics is embodied selfishness. 'No man can serve two masters.'"

Yet another opinion: "It is increasingly seen that every problem that faces humanity must be faced at the polls; that every subject that touches the general welfare must be grappled with in the legislature; that there is no more stupendous folly on earth nowadays than to suppose that politics can give any moral question the slip."

And still another: "It is difficult to be a good Christian in any calling. A man can be a Christian and be anything not inherently evil, such as stealing and falsehood. It is harder to be a Republican in the United States now than thirty years ago, and be at the same time a Christian; such is the policy of greed, of pelf, and power."

The last our space will permit: "Whether successful or not in the ordinary sense of that word, a man may well serve his country in political life and be a thorough Christian. Every citizen who is a Christian should take an interest in politics, that is, in the government of the country, and no Christian man should have any doubt as to whether he should bring his Christianity to bear upon political duty as well as on social and business relations."

For the interviews and letters in full send for back and future numbers of THE SATURDAY LEDGER, which may be had at the publication office, number 10 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

You cannot send a friend a more tangible proof of your regard than ordering a copy of THE SATURDAY LEDGER to be mailed every week throughout the year. Try it.

## A Great Newspaper.

During the past few months there has been a great and very satisfactory increase in the circulation of *The Mail*, as well as in the volume of the advertising business. The growth for years has been steady, but recently it has become rapid.



THE MAIL BUILDING.

There is now no doubt that the Canadian people, intelligent and well-informed as they generally are, highly appreciate an enterprising and thoroughly independent newspaper. The day of the thorough-going party organ—the narrow and vituperative defender of mere party interests—has passed away, never to return. Appeals may be made to the cupidity of interested individuals, and money may be subscribed for the establishment and maintenance of organs, but such enterprises are inherently rotten, and in the nature of things cannot succeed. Journals so maintained are properly regarded by the public as the mere hirelings of interested combinations, and are, therefore, without readers and without influence. Not even the most prodigal expenditure of hoards or benevolence, or of the assessments levied on coerced office-holders, can render them directly or indirectly profitable; they must die, because they have been conceived in selfishness and are a daily insult to the intelligence of an enlightened community. *The Mail*, unallied to any political party, is free and independent, and can, therefore, freely and forcibly discuss every public question without the slightest concern as to how publication of the facts may affect the fame and fortunes of any politician. The only object it has in view is the public welfare, and of this fact *The Mail's* many thousand readers are perfectly well aware. The public are with *The Mail* and *The Mail* is with the public every time.

We give this information regarding *The Mail's* general health, strength and popularity, believing that it will be welcome to our readers, who constitute the great bulk of the intelligence and patriotism of the entire Dominion.—*The Toronto Mail*.



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