

The Wayside Philosopher

ABRACADABRA.

All legal responsibility assumed by author.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY LOST.

Great men often err. Some of us small men can obtain a certain kind of comfort from this fact if we are of the nature that accepts such.

One of the latest illustrations of this mistake was Dr. Stewart's address before the Vancouver Canadian Club. A man of undeniable ability, qualified by descent education and wide acquaintanceship with world conditions, with a subject of primary importance, with an audience ready to listen and to learn, he turned what might have been a valuable lesson on the most important elements in our Canadian and Imperial life—the Scot—into a success of witty stories which, in the main, had only the quality of pleasing.

Perhaps the clan or family name was against him. The Stewarts made blunders much less serious than other royal families but made them under circumstances that caused them to be most costly to themselves. Despite sterling qualities that can never be forgotten they lost crowns and sometimes life itself. Dr. Stewart lost an opportunity of serving Britain and Canada. As a patriot who showed true Scottish devotion to duty in the recent war he will regret it more than we do when he realizes his missed opportunity.

OLD TRUTHS REINFORCED.

In sharp contrast was Mr. Davies' address to Vancouver Rotarians. In a brief review of Canadian matters as they stand he showed his appreciation of the strong and weak points in our present Canadian position and people. He had judged well the immense commercial possibilities that are open to our people but like every really true man he recognized that great resources do not make a great country. Greatness of character alone can do this.

In the closing part of an able and interesting address he impressed upon his audience the value of education and the supreme importance of our child life.

"Oh yes we all admit that," some one will say. Do we? Have a never-so-interesting speaker hold a meeting on the benefits of technical education or address us on howsoever vital an educational topic. Hold at the same time some meeting on harbour improvements or other well enough but not vital subject. Compare the attendances, the press notices, etc. and then ask yourselves Canadians in which we are more vitally interested—the commercial dollar-getting matters or that wealth which all the gold of the world cannot provide for any country.

Will the abundance of our natural resources with their outstanding money value corrupt us and cause us, having coined a curse from the golden arms of blessing, to stagger wealth-laden and money-blind into the decay that swept Rome and Greece from glorious vantage grounds into the list of ruined nations?

Would that it could be burned into Canadian hearts in undying words of fire that greatness lies not in the multitude and value of our possessions but in the extent of our capacity to be great. Happy the boy or girl, the man or woman, who learns that only in the cultivation of virtue comes real happiness. At peace with himself, or herself, such a person can see the most outstanding calamities befall one and, making sure alone that duty is always well and faithfully performed, be content—yea happy. When one has lifted oneself to the height where the sole duty is to guard against failure and selfishness in oneself, he can understand something of the great position taken by St. Paul, "I have learned in what ever position I am—therewith to be content."

EDUCATIONAL INTEREST.

Are we then to be really interested in education and our boys and girls? Are we going to leave them abler to be happy than we are? How many of us are planning to give them a start in life rather than to give them the ability to enjoy life? What outlook on life are we imparting? Are we stressing character or possessions, service giving or service getting? Richest treasures are in our hands to give a setting unto. Will they be pure when we have finished our labours, ready with light serene to shine in the ever increasing brilliance unto the perfect day, or tawdry tinselled things, whose chief value even to themselves, will be the trappings which surround them?

Will we hear Davies in a real sense? Shall we not gird our loins and battle to the utmost for a clean, healthy education based on a right estimate of values, temporal and eternal, and an open door thereto for every child?

Meanwhile hearty thanks to Mr. Davies.

PROHIBITION ECHOES.

Calgary's Chief of Police has been censured in some quarters for not "playing the game." On returning to Calgary from Vancouver he is reported to have said, "We bootleg by the bottle here, they do it by the case in Vancouver." The truth of his statement was not denied. He was criticized for commenting on Vancouver conditions. Juster criticism would have been against him for permitting bootlegging by the bottle in Calgary which he evidently admits, thereby admitting his own inefficiency.

As to Vancouver conditions, was he correct? Apparently those who criticise him, believe he was. Why then should he not state facts? Do his critics believe that inferentially he was saying that there was no excuse for such a condition in Vancouver? Well who on earth believes there is any excuse for such conditions prevailing here? Opinions may vary as to the validity of the different excuses made for Vancouver conditions or as to the blame-worthy ones. No excuse can be offered for the existence in Vancouver of such bootlegging as the courts have disclosed in the Plant, Canadian Pacific Wine Co. and other cases.

Anent this matter a further question arises. What of the Tulks? Have they been free of the sin of bootlegging? If not who has protected them and why?

The Attorney-General purposes to cope with city violations of Prohibition by taking over the police and centralizing police authority, municipal and otherwise in himself. Theoretically much can be said for this but is it the better way to handle this problem? Let us be frank with ourselves, those of us who are Prohibitionists, is the main trouble not this; we

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