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CIVIC NOTABILITIES

PHRENOLOGICALLY SOUNDED.

No. I—The Hon. Chief Justice Hagarty.

No. II—John Baxter, Esq., J.P.

—ALSO—

An Ode, responsive to "The World"

Edited by David Edwards.

Sold at No. 12 Queen Street West, and by all Booksellers.

Price, in Single Sheets, Five Cents.

Phrenological Soundings of M.P.Ps.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

APRIL, 1884.

Civic Notabilities, Phrenologically Sounded.

NO. I.

THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE HAGARTY.

One cannot but reflect, when bringing the science of phrenology to bear on an occupant of a judicial bench, that if the judge had acquainted himself with the science, his decisions would approach more nearly to the infallible than they are likely to do, apart from the possession of phrenological knowledge. It may also be permissible to observe that one of the last thoughts likely to occur to the judicial mind is, that a gentleman of the jury should occupy himself with taking the phrenological "sounding" of the judge so soon as he might find himself in court. That such has been the case however in the present instance, may be affirmed for the behoof "all whom these presents may concern;" the result is subjoined, and indicates that His Lordship's perceptive faculties are good; his reflective faculties, which will lead him to connect cause and effect are likewise good, as is his power of comparison; he is also active, and excitable—too much so to be able to take things coolly and consequently too much so for his own ease; he is kindly disposed, but not less positive on that account; his lack of mirthfulness will render him generally "grave as a judge," but it will not prevent his indulging in hits occasionally. He would be less sensitive if his "love of approbation" were smaller; his tendency is towards impetuosity, and it will be well for counsel not to weary him with diatribes, but he will nevertheless endeavor to be just; it is a satisfaction to be able to affirm that he is not contaminated by the prevalent greed for gold; on the contrary, he is of a generous disposition. Chief Justice Hagarty (in common probably with most of the judges) is far more worthy of confidence than are ordinary juries; he is not credulous, he possesses the capacity to accumulate facts, and therefore to remember cases and precedents; he is a lover of order, and will take care to enforce it; this may be said to involve system and punctuality; he will be "rough on" rascals, he will present cases tersely and fairly, and be highly indignant when the "palladium of our liberty" renders a stupid verdict. If we were interested in a case requiring discernment, we should desire that Chief Justice Hagarty should adjudicate thereon; if, on the contrary, we happened to be committed to a blackmailing enterprise, we should elect to be tried by a jury. His Lordship is decidedly patriotic; is sufficiently like ordinary mortals to be a great lover of home and children; he possesses the self-reliance

which will lead him to sustain the dignity of his office ; he also possesses that attribute of greatness—kindness to subordinates, accompanied however by strictness ; he is a good judge of character, and perhaps may be surprised to be told that he remembers faces, more easily than names. As it is not our province to extenuate, it is to be hoped he will exercise his forbearance if we add that his principal failing—lack of patience—is largely attributable to so simple a cause as lack of that “bodily exercise” which “profiteth little.” In view of the above “sounding,” it has been satisfactory to learn that the majority of the jury at the recent Assizes have expressed their appreciation of the kindness and consideration of the Chief Justice, in his demeanor towards themselves.

No. II.

JOHN BAXTER, ESQ., J.P.

Much envy, it is to be feared, will be excited in the minds of the fair, when they perceive how history and science unite to clasp the above-named ex-alderman in their embrace. History records that “by trimming his sails, to favoring gales, he has been wont to catch the tide of popular opinion at the flood, and—good Methodist as he is on Sundays—has realized the advantage to himself of those institutions which never fail to enrich versatility of genius when allied to versatility of principle.” Science declares that his perceptive and reasoning faculties are good ; this, in result, will involve the acquisition of knowledge ; she *whispers* that he is possessed of abundant secretiveness and would not experience much difficulty in conducting operations which are sometimes characterized as scheming ; science also intimates that this gentleman is cautious, and being telescopic in his vision, will perceive danger a long way ahead ; that he is a believer in that “good old plan”—

“That he should take who has the power,
And he should keep who can.”

She also discloses the fact that this gentleman (who doubtless carries enough of the alderman about him to be perpetually “worthy”)—that this gentleman would find it possible, in view of “favoring gales” to shift his base of operations. His numerous friends, who necessarily wish him length of days, will rejoice to learn that there is no danger of his dying for his country ; if however the interest of a certain Justice of the Peace were in jeopardy, there is the strongest probability of his proving valiant in fight. We incline to the belief that when science suggests that, among the weaknesses of this “worthy” is that of admira-

tion for the feebleness, she indicates that she herself has, at one time been repulsed by him.

Men are prone to be censorious with regard to the crooked ways of the devout ; they have not learned to balance faculties, and are therefore unaware that a man may be diligent in pursuit of a mill-track round of mummery, may raise his "Ebenezers" to the disturbance of the rafters in the roof, and yet entertain such erroneous ideas of a balance between a neighbour and himself, as to be always astray in his own interest. Such men, without looking far, may find the faculty of veneration quite undisturbed by the lack in the neighbouring faculty of conscientiousness ; they will please to regard these remarks as parenthetical. To return to the august subject of the present "sounding," it may be said to be a matter of congratulation to the community in which this gentleman administers justice, that he is not deficient in self-esteem, and that he is so little affected by the opinion of his neighbours as to be comparable to those natives of the Nile whose hide, at the present time, finds favor in the shoe-trade ; other qualifications for the bench are indicated by this gentleman's memory for faces and events, by his being a good judge of character, and by his being kindly disposed in cases wherein kindness entails no cost. Nature has endowed him with conversational power, with musical taste, and with a high appreciation of the use of other *forks* than that employed in music ; she also renders him a lover of home and children, and sufficiently tenacious of the attractions of this sublunary sphere, to be content for the present with *singing* of "one more river to cross," and to wait for its realization.

A RESPONSIVE ODE,

Written in reference to a defamatory paragraph which appeared in the *World* of the 24th of March, relating to a request made by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to the editor of the "Phrenological Soundings of M.P.Ps."

Dogs will bark
And asses bray ;
Every cur must have its day,
Even the *World* of yesterday ;
Wont as it is to go astray—
Less eager for truth than is it for pay.
What but a grunt from swine expect ?
From Scotia the dialect,
The treachery and disrespect,
Fruit of early and late neglect—
Even its diction incorrect !
Alas ! alas ! for such chronic defect !—D.E.