
Phrenological Soundings

OF M.P.Ps.

By the Editor of "The Critic."

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Phrenological Soundings of M. P. P.

No. I.

THE HON. OLIVER MOWAT, Q.C.

They who cast a plummet from the reporters' gallery will hardly prepare themselves for deep sea soundings, still less for the unfathomable. In striking the rock styled "Oliver" however, it must be confessed they will have come across a singular freak of nature, not unmarred by art; they will have stricken a good sized head, and if they happen to be interested in the protectorate of Oliver, they will rejoice to recognize the evidence that head affords of redundant vitality; they will not fail to perceive a deficiency in the faculty of individuality, which must necessarily result in lack of the power of observation, and consequently in lack of readiness. His secretiveness renders him too reticent to be a fluent speaker. His combativeness and destructiveness would prepare any phrenologist for such flourishes of his trumpet as—"I may remind the hon. gentleman that he is powerless here." He possesses a good memory for events, and can consequently master details without difficulty. Inasmuch as he appreciates wit, and his faculty of friendship is large, he not only secures friends, but retains them; the smallness of his individuality accounts for his having addressed Mr. Speaker as "My Lord," and must entail the inconvenience of his frequently passing his friends without recognition. His fully developed organ of approbateness renders him highly sensitive. It is to be feared that principle and expediency have many a struggle within the breast of Oliver, and sad to confess, the indications are such as to lead to the conclusion that the weaker is wont to go to the wall. As a public speaker, he can scarcely fail to be involved in his sentences, albeit he must have a good memory for words. His love of home and country are such as will result in his being loved in his home, and by his country, so that, take him all in all, we are inclined to say, "Long live Oliver the Second."

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W. R. MEREDITH, Esq., Q.C.

That proportion of body to brain which is necessary to the healthy action of each portion of the frame is well sustained in the person of the gentleman who is the subject of the present "sounding." Painstaking and persistency are clearly indicated by the conformation of his cranium; he is moderately keen, but somewhat deficient in breadth and power. His love of his home and his children is more marked than is his patriotism. His large veneration however will render him eminently loyal to the powers that be; the same faculty will lead him to revere elderly persons and such as, according to his estimate, are great. This gentleman's organization, though it may be described as strong, is not of a character to involve either delicacy or great mental power. His combativeness is in excess of his destructiveness, hence his pugnacity will stop short of crushing. While he will pay proper attention to one thing at a time, it is easy for him to pass from the consideration of one subject to another. As one recognizes that one can rely on his promise, one is apt to draw contrasts between himself and certain "gentlemen opposite." Being kindly and sympathetic in his disposition, he enjoys the unique privilege of enlisting the sympathy of others. He can scarcely fail to be a good judge of character. As he possesses fair reasoning faculties (somewhat marred in their exercise by a disposition to be prosy), it can hardly be said that "the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition" has not floated into a suitable sphere.

THE HON. T. B. PARDEE.

The Hon. Mr. Pardee is a man of more active temperament than is the Attorney General. His head, though smaller, is of better quality; the hinder part of his head is comparatively small; his patriotism and friendship therefore will be less characteristic of him, than will his love of children. Firmness and determination are marked features of his character, and independence (as might be expected) accompanies these qualities. He is not oppressed with sensitiveness. The hon. gentleman will not be easily imposed on, as the faculty which results in credulity is small. He is not imitative and as a consequence, he will transact business, etc., after a fashion of his own. He possesses a good

frontal brain, which involves his being a logical reasoner, but is somewhat lacking in force as an opponent. He is a more keen observer than is his chief. Being rather defective in his recollection of events, he is unable to master details with advantage.

No. IV.

THE HON. ALEXANDER MORRIS.

The quality of mere sharpness—that species of sharpness, which results in self-enrichment, when unaccompanied by that breadth of the reasoning faculties which is needed for statesmanship, will never make a successful politician, even though self-confidence may contribute to supply the deficiency above indicated. Lack of the mechanical faculty likewise, in the case of the gentleman whose “sounding” we are at present taking, will prevent his speeches being well dovetailed. Though pugnaciously disposed, he is lacking in force, and as this lack will be apt to recoil on himself, it may be expected to entail fits of indigestion and irritability. His physical bile will therefore render him mentally bitter. The hon. gentleman so far resembles his leader as to entertain great veneration for the exalted. He is not credulous—is too keen-witted so to be. As his memory for events, and small details is not good, he will necessarily experience the inconvenience of these defects.

The course which two of the Cabinet Ministers have pursued in relation to the Editor of THE CRITIC has necessitated the temporary suspension of that journal. The Editor has therefore decided to publish a series of “PHRENOLOGICAL SOUNDINGS OF M. P. PS.,” in the interval which will elapse prior to the re-appearance of THE CRITIC.