
Phrenological Soundings

OF M.P.Ps.

By the Editor of "The Critic."

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No. IX.

THE HON. C. CLARKE,

THE SPEAKER.

The deductions arising from a phrenological "sounding" (on the assumption of phrenology relating to matters of fact) necessarily coincide with men's experience; hence when one drops one's plummet on a prominent person, it follows that one indicates much which has been already recognized. And inasmuch as the countenance is so often a mirror of the mind, it is hardly possible to dis sever the science of phrenology from what we will term the kindred science of physiognomy. Neither can we suppose that they who so constantly behold the kindly countenance of Ontario's Speaker will be inclined to cavil at a passing reference to it, beaming as it does through the official gravity of His Honor's visage, while he serenely endures the blatantries and bad English of either side the House. Great force of character is united, in the person of His Honor, with a fine physical organization, so that if aroused (which as Speaker, we must presume he never will be) he would show himself forcible and severe. There is however not a head among the chosen eighty-eight so likely to keep cool, and to take things quietly as is that of the elected of the Assembly. This head discloses not merely breadth of intellect, but that aptitude for finance and business detail which has served as stepping-stone to its possessor's present position. The Honorable gentleman is probably somewhat too sensitive not to be practically reminded that "uneasy lies the head that wears a"—Speaker's hat, but he has been sufficiently disciplined in the school of culture to veil his emotions with small effort. It is satisfactory to be able to observe that Mr. Speaker's personal sensitiveness will not prevent his being considerate of the feelings of others. As his industry enables him to gather and *hive* facts with facility, we could hardly desire a more effectual illustration of the value of that education which a man may obtain for the love of it, in contrast with that over-estimated cram accruing from a College career. The constructive ability of the

5. honorable gentleman will enable him to unite his words and sentences skilfully—to speak to the point, though he will not necessarily be fluent. His love of harmony will involve his frequently being disquieted by the discord which is wont to prevail in the forensic sphere over which he presides. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker is so constituted as not only to appreciate (in common with ordinary mortals) what are known as the good things of this life, but thoroughly enjoys fun and can ascend (so to speak) from that to whatever is beautiful and sublime. It is not a little gratifying to be able to add that the honorable gentleman's cranium furnishes decided evidence of his being patriotic, and being likely to be resolute in the defence of home, country, and friends.

No. X.

THE HON. C. F. FRASER.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Public Works is one of those exceptional men, whose mental characteristics more than counterbalance his physical; were it not so—did the Commissioner's bodily frame, and the hinder part of his head correspond with his intellectual faculties, there would be nothing to prevent his being the foremost statesman in the Dominion. He possesses considerable power of analysis, which enables him to detect flaws in logic, and his command of language invests him with readiness of retort; his sarcasm will cut like a two-edged sword and he is witty at will, for his faculty of mirthfulness is large, but the ardent activity of his temperament will lead him to overtax his strength. A little daily wood-sawing would be more beneficial to him than doctors are likely to be. The Hon. gentleman possesses sufficient secretiveness and caution to render him equal to the need of a Cabinet Minister in these respects. He will be firm, and difficult to convince, and the independence of his character will be controlled only by the faculty of veneration, which in his case is large. He will be decided in regard to his religious tendencies, and as steadfast therein as he is decided.

No. XI.

H. E. CLARKE, ESQ.

The autumn of life has so far shorn the member for Western Toronto of the crown of advanced age that the phrenologist would indeed be at fault who did not correctly delineate him.— In proceeding so to do, we are reminded of that lack of practical philosophy on our part, which obtains its reward by means of

flattery. Possibly the mildest form in which one can enunciate the truth in any particular case, is by observing that but for such faculties as self-esteem, and love of approbation, we should find ourselves bereft of Members of Parliament, and in view of so direful a calamity, it may be permissible to suggest that while life is enjoyed by the gentleman above named, a catastrophe of that character is unlikely to overtake us. It must be a source of ceaseless satisfaction to a gentleman sufficiently fortified with self-esteem that his sentiments with regard to spheres of knowledge beyond his own range, should correspond with the opinions said to have been entertained by a certain fox with regard to distant grapes. We incline to the belief that Mr. Clarke and the fox will at least share these sentiments in common, but at this juncture we gladly take leave of all points of comparison between the two. The honorable member is firm, positive, and determined, and he is unlikely to be oppressed by the consciousness that men exist whose opinions differ from his own. He is indebted to his organ of acquisitiveness for having prevented any neglect on his part, of the claims of Number One. He is fairly patriotic, and the men are few who would be disposed to censure him for preferring the claims of his home to those of his country. His pugnacity is such as, if all the M. P. Ps. were phrenologists, would induce them to maintain a respectful distance from him; but his faculty of friendship is so fully developed that such phrenological members would elect to ensure his friendship rather than his hostility. Mr. C.'s organ of continuity is comparatively small, hence impatience will be apt to manifest itself, in his case, not unaccompanied by characteristic severity. We don't suppose it is necessary to tell him that his intellectual faculties, and especially his perceptive are good; he is therefore a keen observer, and will acquire knowledge more effectually than will a candidate at a competitive examination, but it does not follow that the acquisition of knowledge will enable him to use it for reasoning purposes. His personal aims will render him cautious and secretive, and will cause him to suppress emotion, to be grave and quiet while all around him are in a state of effervescence. Toronto's Western member will not be very fluent, as his organ of language is not large; neither is he likely to be credulous, for a similar reason; his faculty of veneration is well developed, which serves to account for his sitting among the reverential. We are glad to be able to add that his hold on life, *if not relaxed by professional assistance*, gives promise of length of days, and we trust, of public usefulness, to the gentleman who contrived to oust the representative of wage-earners in the campaign which resulted in his occupying his seat in the House.