
Phrenological Soundings

OF M.P.Ps.

The Hon. C. W. Ross, Minister of Education.
J. W. McLaughlin, Esq.

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No. XII.

THE HON. C. W. ROSS, *Minister of Education.*

The Hon. C. W. Ross is a man of an energetic temperament, but his natural activity of mind, if it be uncontrolled, and not counterbalanced by bodily exercise, will soon entail a condition of biliousness and indigestion, which in its turn will be apt to tell prejudicially on his temper, so that they who are within the immediate range of his influence will probably follow the example of certain children who always avoided their father on boiled-beef-days. He is of a keen and aggressive disposition, is resolute and self-reliant, is a logical reasoner, and will become a good speaker; is self-controlled, but is apt to be eager and enthusiastic. Although he thoroughly appreciates fun, he will be serious when necessary. He is kindly and sympathetic, is a good judge of character, remembers faces easily, and experiences no difficulty in mastering details. The educational career of the hon. gentleman will have afforded ample opportunities for him to manifest his sympathy with children in the exercise of patience, and the firmness which he would at the same time display, will account for the success which characterised his labours in that direction. He will be decided and persistent, but, unlike the majority of men, will be able to assign a reason for his convictions; he will be kind to subordinates, and on that account is preeminently qualified to rule. He is decidedly reverential and cherishes what many Canadians may possibly regard as the delusion—that there is no country equal to his own. As the hon. gentleman is highly imitative, and will adopt any plan that he perceives will be advantageous to the community, the best advice we have to tender him is that he should acquaint himself with the science of phrenology, which—considering the bearing of the science on the adaptability of children to study of all kinds, and to the various vocations of life—would be the means of conferring an inestimable benefit as widely as his influence may extend. With such natural qualifications for the responsible position he occupies, the Government, the Province, and himself are to be

congratulated on the circumstance of such a gentleman as he having been selected to discharge the functions of Minister of Education.

No. XIII.

J. W. McLAUGHLIN, ESQ.

The member for the West Riding of Durham is one of the eight gentlemen who may be regarded as being detached by the medical profession to do garrison-duty in their interest, in the House. Inasmuch as the profession is indebted solely to the ignorance and credulity of the community for its existence, it is of the more importance to it that a suitably equipped garrison should be maintained on constant guard. Into the qualification of the members of this garrison for the discharge of their high function, it becomes our province to enquire. Dr. McLaughlin is a graduate of the institution which his neighbor Hardy ignorantly described as "The University," by which designation the Hon. gentleman intended to indicate University College.*

There is, or was, an educational institution in England, of which it is to be regretted that Dr. McL. is not a graduate; that institution bears, or bore, the title of a village school; the dame who governed the institution was wont to indicate that her charge for "manners" was "twopence exte." We have ventured to infer that the Dr. is not a graduate of the latter institution, inasmuch as he thought fit to tear up and cast on the floor, the first batch of the "phrenological soundings" immediately on their being handed to him; dreadful to relate, he also denounced the science of phrenology as a humbug, and *terrified* the writer by informing him that he was prepared to "stand by" that conclusion. In view, therefore, of the doctor's putative advantages as a graduate of University College, and of his disadvantages as having failed to pay his "twopence exte" at the English dame's school, we will proceed to take the soundings of this distinguished agnostic, and will cherish the hope that the plummet may bring up enough to convince him that the functions of the human head occupy a not unimportant relation to the frame. Welcome upon self reliance and determination immediately on reaching the outer surface of our subject, and we recognize the necessity of these qualities, with the addition of a not too scrupulous sensitiveness, for anyone who would force his way into Parliament. Impulsive and excitable as is this gentleman, keen and at the same time combative, he will be prone to explode with slight provocation. His patriotism however is such, that whenever he may explode, we trust it will be in a southerly direction. He is energetic and active, and discerns intuitively; happily he is not imitative, hence we trust that in

his professional capacity, he will shun the old wives' fables which have cost such countless human lives. We gladly recognize that beneath the upper stratum of the hon. member's weaknesses, there lies a layer of human kindness, which will necessarily yield to its possessor some measure of reciprocity so long as his tenure of life may endure.

*That it is foolhardy of Mr. Hardy to pose as a public speaker, no one who is adequately educated, will have the hardihood to deny. In the brief portion of the budget speech delivered by him on the afternoon of the 28th ult., he committed at least five gross blunders. He echoed the traditional error (which we may safely affirm occurs in no other part of the world) connected with the designation *Education Department*, where the word *Educational* is imperatively necessary. He spoke of the *late* Minister of Education, when he intended to indicate the *former* Minister; he used the word *less* in connection with the number of school-readers, when he meant *fewer*, and he repeated the blunder of his advisory board who, in a formal document, spoke of *two first*, when they intended to designate *the former two*. The inflated bombast which characterised the deliverance of the above-cited blunders, rendered them ludicrous in the extreme.

TRUTH IN A NUTSHELL.

That trio of faculties which nestle in the nutshell of Ontario's Premier—caution, secretiveness, and love of approbation—suffice to account for the delay which has prevented "the wisdom of Parliament" relinquishing the rabbit-warren which now accommodates it, and betaking itself to suitable buildings. The phrenological conformation of the leader of the Opposition warrants us in affirming that if he had changed places with the prime minister twelve years ago, we should have been contemplating the excellences of the buildings at the present time. We make this observation without being wicked enough to suggest that Mr. Meredith should crack the premier's nut.