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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1919.

A DISAPPOINTED ADMIRAL.

From the time of his brilliant victory at Manila down to the date of his return to the United States Admiral Dewey was the idol of his countrymen and countrywomen. He was received with every mark of honor which an admiring and grateful nation could bestow. Some forty three thousand of his ardent admirers subscribed and paid sufficient money to purchase a costly furnished residence on a fashionable avenue in Washington and presented him with the title deeds. And the gallant Admiral, amid all this enthusiastic devotion of his countrymen, took to himself a fair and wealthy bride. So far all went merry as a marriage bell.

Within a few days after came a note of discord. It was whispered that Admiral Dewey proposed to bestow the house upon his wife. At first every one seemed to be incredulous. Could it be that he was in such haste to part with the nation's gift? But the rumor persisted and gained credence. Then the donors of the residence began to protest. They wrote him letters which could not have formed pleasant reading. Some of them added a point blank question to their protest—Did he really intend to deed away the house? No answer was returned to these inquiries but the deed was promptly executed and placed on record.

Then the storm broke out afresh, but instead of the protests being addressed to Admiral Dewey they were forced into the newspapers. That deed became a matter for national discussion and remonstrance. It was denounced as a hasty, ill considered, ungrateful and foolish act. It was said that Admiral Dewey had disappointed his friends and admirers and had diverted their gift in a way they had not though possible; that they had not given a residence for Mrs. Dewey, for whom they cared little, but to the Hero of Manila for whom they cared much; that Mrs. Dewey, having her own private fortune could well afford to wait to receive the house by will if she survived her husband; that the house was intended as a Dewey house to be transmitted from sire to son, and much more of the same sort.

Indignation took the place of admiration in a considerable section of the public mind. The national hero for the moment fell from his lofty pedestal. The lustre of his laurels faded as if nipped by an untimely frost. The possibility of his nomination for the Presidency, being triumphantly elected and occupying the White House faded out like an extinguished meteor. It seemed that with that hurriedly executed title deed had gone at once his glory and his hopes. And he was publicly notified through the newspapers that the Dewey Arch, proudest material symbol of his triumph and the nation's regard, should no longer bear his name, but should pass into the future as a tribute to the navy and not to him.

At this stage the scene was again quickly transformed. A third deed was executed, this time by Mrs. Dewey to George E. Dewey, son of the Admiral by a former marriage. With this transfer comes the seemingly authorized announcement that it is but a part of the original plan. Successive transfers were to show the love and good feeling all around—the nation's affection for its hero, the hero's affection for his wife, the wife's affection for the stepson. This may all be true, but the revelation comes too late and the nation's confidence in Dewey's level-headedness has received a shock from which it may not recover. It would have been wiser had the Admiral not been in such haste to part with the gift house. Yet we cannot think it will affect the verdict of history upon Dewey's achievements as an naval commander, or his high character as a man.

The unfortunate incident, and the suddenly changed attitude of so many ardent admirers is keenly felt by the Admiral, who is quoted as saying—
"I would not have believed it possible that the American people, who have so recently received me as a hero, should now turn upon me with columns of abuse. I was told I was a hero; that I could have anything I desired. I asked nothing except that I be permitted to conduct my personal and domestic affairs as I saw fit. This one simple privilege seems to be denied me."

The Toronto Star laments that relief has already been called for on account of the families of some members of the Canadian Contingent. In Montreal it is said also that ten families

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Erysipelas Sores—"After scarlet fever a running sore was left on my nose. Took Hood's Sarsaparilla and it cured me. My brother was also relieved by it of erysipelas in his face." ELLA COVREK, Burden, N. B.

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are left dependent upon charity, because the bread-winners have gone to the front. It seems that it is not only in the regular army but among the volunteers as well that the absent mindedness exists of which Kipling has sung. We have not yet heard that any of the P. E. I. men have left families that are in need, though such may possibly be the case.

Sir Charles Tupper has no hesitation about taking part in a provincial election contest. He is working diligently against the Greenway Government in Manitoba and has announced his intention to keep up the fight till polling day. THE GUARDIAN does not take much stock in the theory that what is right for the Leader of the Opposition in this matter is wrong for a Cabinet Minister. The leaders and lieutenants of both Federal parties may safely be accorded equal rights as to meddling in provincial politics.

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The equal of this department is not to be found on P. E. Island. With Miss Mutch at the head we can guarantee perfect satisfaction. It is quite an Encyclopedia of information on all the coming weddings. Why? Because here the wedding hats are made.

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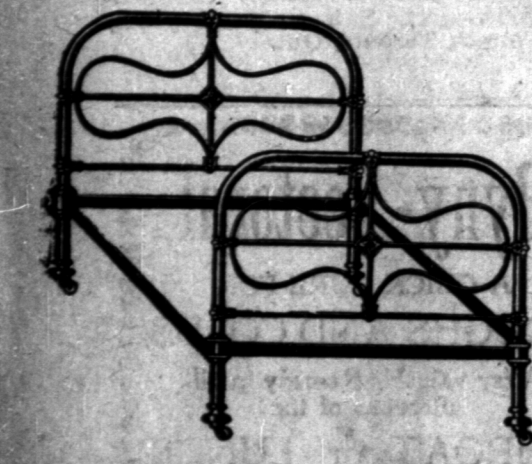
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