

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 1910.

DR ANDREW MacPHAIL'S ESSAYS IN FALLACY.

The essays are four in number, entitled respectively The American Woman, The Psychology of the Suffragette, The Fallacy in Education and the Fallacy in Theology. A prefatory note tells that the essays "are addressed immediately to the woman, the professor and the theologian—three persons who have much in common the one with the other."

The concluding remark here is not likely to be accepted as either true or flattering by all the persons addressed. But the bold and sometimes cynical author has evidently not sought specially to please either of them.

The American Woman has sat for a rather unflattering portrait in Dr MacPhail's studio. She will declare it to be a caricature, and yet must be compelled to recognise some distorted features of resemblance to the original. But she will not have it framed for her boudoir. There is a variety of the American woman which the portrait aptly presents, but one may question whether it is typical. There is something very noble in the best type of American womanhood; we would all like to be judged at our best.

Dr MacPhail has not so judged the American woman. His analysis of her is rather too copiously tinged with cynicism and sarcasm. The Suffragette will hardly be better pleased than the American Woman. If the one has sat for an unflattering portrait the other has been metaphorically taken to the dissecting room and psychologically carved to pieces. The author shows little mercy for the woman who desires to vote. Space will only permit us to quote a brief closing passage of the essay which runs thus: "The mind of the suffragette appears to possess a peculiar aptitude for that absurdity which makes a man impatient and finally contemptuous of all femininity, and resolute to adhere to his own ideal. She emancipates herself when she becomes an object of aversion."

The Fallacy in Education as Dr MacPhail sees it is this: "that the information which the child acquires must have in itself some utility apart from the educational value which lies in its acquirement." It will take a lot of exposition and argument to remove this fallacy, if such it is, from the public mind and we do not find Dr MacPhail's argument quite conclusive. The apprentice learning the blacksmith trade finds in the process healthful exercise, hardens his muscles and ac-

quires manual dexterity, all of which have utility apart from the educational value which lies in the acquirement of the trade. A child may learn much at school which will be useful of itself apart from the mental training which is the better part, but not the whole of the benefit received.

It is however in what the author has to say upon The Fallacy in Theology which will jar the most discordantly upon the ears attuned to orthodoxy in this most orthodox Province of the world. But the shock will be less than it would have been had his book been launched a quarter of a century ago, and his arraignment of some cherished beliefs may seem quite old-fashioned and harmless a quarter century in the future. But we must leave him to the theologians, warning any of them who may feel tempted to break a lance in defence of his faith with the essayist that he will meet in Dr MacPhail one who has in mind and memory more sacred texts and a closer knowledge of the Bible from the initial verse of Genesis to the last in Revelations than abides under the cranium of the average church elder.

And still we think each of the classes for whom Dr MacPhail has written his book would do well to read, mark and inwardly digest the portion of pabulum, socialistic, psychological, philosophical and theological which the learned doctor has prescribed for them—the American woman, the suffragist, the professor and the theologian alike. There was once a theory—perhaps that too was a fallacy—that bitter medicines were the most effectual. So it may be with medicines for the mind and soul of the individual and for society at large.

It is often interesting and worth while to try and see ourselves and our cherished beliefs as we and they appear to others. Dr MacPhail's Essays in Fallacy may serve this purpose. The subjects treated are mainly of high import to the race and the age in which we live. The essays are the product of a trained, original and exceedingly vigorous mind, apparently restless, plentifully endowed with the instinct of attack, but something lacking in the philosophic calm which best befits the discussion of lofty themes. The volume has attracted attention and has been reviewed with marked favor by capable critics on both sides of the Atlantic.

The work is on sale at \$1.50 and may be had from our local booksellers, or from the Renouf Publishing Company, Montreal.

SIR WILFRID AT PRINCE RUPERT
Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a sort of triumphal entry into the town of Prince Rupert on Saturday last. He had gone up the coast by steamer and he was met on the way, ten miles from the terminal city by a flotilla of steamers, fishing boats and launches, all gallily bedecked with flags, Indian bands to the number of five discoursed music at the landing, where the militia were marshalled to escort the Premier to the Provincial Government building.

The new city did itself proud in the way of triumphal arches, four of which spanned the line of march. One had been erected by the Corporation, one by the citizens, another by the French Canadians and the fourth by the Indians. Over the platform from which the Premier was to speak was the legend, "We welcome Can-

ada's greatest man to Canada's newest city." The city's address was engraved on a highly ornamental square of tanned moose-hide, which Sir Wilfrid promised to hang in his parlor at Ottawa. The Daughters of the Empire presented a volume of beautiful local views. The French Canadians expressed their desire to man the new Canadian navy. The Indian address was burned upon a canoe paddle, suggestive of the advance from the canoe to the Transcontinental Railway!

All of this seems to have been quite pretty, appropriate and effective. And as such it appealed to the Premier's imagination and greatly pleased him. "I trust this will not be my last visit to Prince Rupert," he said. "By the grace of God and

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the will of the people, I hope to see the completion of the dream of my life and travel from Halifax to Prince Rupert on the inauguration of the railway, about three years hence."

THE TRIALS OF A DUKE.

Tennyson sang of "the cares that yoke with empire." Scarcely less are the cares that attend upon vast wealth. Take the case of the Duke of Devonshire for instance. Under Lloyd George's land tax bill a schedule must be filled out by the owner giving a valuation of each tract, piece or parcel of land in his possession. The Duke has received his official schedules in blank, 20,000 in number, each containing fifty questions to be answered.

Only thirty days time is allowed in which to furnish the million answers. If only four words or figures should be required on an average, the total would run up to four million words, the equivalent of 160 novels of 25,000 words each. Such is the task that Lloyd George has imposed upon the Duke of Devonshire in the hot weather of midsummer, and upon other Dukes and men of great landed possessions in proportion. Who would be a Duke under such a Chancellor? There is evidently a mighty shaking among the dry bones of aristocracy in the Old Land these days.

A London newspaper which gives some attention to dress fashions, hints that the hobble skirt is shortly to be succeeded by a return of the ermine, in vogue fifty years ago. Thus one new terror succeeds another.

Mr Bourassa in a recent address laid down the two propositions that Canada is not a nation, and that "conditions today in Canada make for annexation rather than for imperial federation." It is true that imperial federation is not anticipated by the Canadian people with any great measure of enthusiasm. It is doubly true that annexation is repellant to the popular mind in Canada. Mr Bourassa is quite out of line with Canadian sentiment. And Canada is more properly described as a nation than as either a colony or a dominion.

Our representatives in Parliament, with commendable foresight have arranged with the Department of Trade and Commerce for direct transportation from Charlottetown to Manchester during the coming autumn. Three large steamships will call here, the Manchester Shipper about Sept. 27, the Manchester Trader about October 25 and the Manchester Spinner about November 26. This will give an excellent opportunity for our producers and shippers to effect a direct trade with the British market. Experience has proved, however, that much preliminary work is necessary to gather cargoes and reap the full benefits of such an opportunity. It is hoped that this will be looked after. A Pickard & Co are the agents here for this service.

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