

The Charlottetown Guardian

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UNFATHOMABLE GERMANISM

An American exchange makes an interesting though unsuccessful attempt at fathoming the unfathomable abyss of German hypocrisy. It admits that hypocrisy, as an art is not monopolized by any country, yet its particular manifestations are often so essentially national that we have no difficulty in recognizing more or less well defined types as proper to the genius of several nations. Sometimes it is not easy to determine precisely what it is that imparts the national stamp, even when the national character is clearly felt. What, for instance, is there that is so peculiar and unmistakable in the German type? We recognize it at once; as, for instance, when the Kaiser's imperial heart began to bleed for innocent Belgium, when the German Foreign Office hastened after the Lusitania massacre to send to the United States "its heartfelt sympathy for the loss of American lives," when the whole German nation and all loyal German-Americans, declared their love and pity for poor, misguided France. In these and a hundred similar instances we are all conscious of some quality characteristically and inevitably German, and yet we might find it difficult to tell exactly what that quality is.

For a really inimitable example of the same national form of smooth dissimulation the exchange cites a printed document picked up by an American lady in the town of Montbeliard, a few miles from Belfort. It was dropped there by a German balloon and is by way of an appeal and apology to the good people of France. It is dated from Berlin and begins with a sorrowful recapitulation of the injuries suffered by innocent persons in several towns of Germany as a consequence of French air raids. The Germans, in the innocence of their hearts, were, as it appears, unable at first to believe that the French Government could be guilty of such acts of barbarity; they "thought that your airmen might possibly have been mistaken in the execution of their orders." The proclamation is quoted as follows:

"Frenchmen! Your airmen were not mistaken! An accident has acquainted us with the origin of these crimes! We know today, beyond all manner of doubt, that they were committed at the express order of your government."

"It is your President Poincare himself who suggested this order, and he is not ashamed to have incited his ear to the base prompting of the English."

"The English know quite as well as you and we that the French people is weary of the blood sacrifice this war has cost it. That is why some means must be sought to create new anger and hatred against Germany."

"Could a better way be found than to cause your open towns to be bombarded by German airmen? Well, then, in order to bring about this event the English conceived the diabolical project of causing the bombardment of Karlsruhe and other peaceful places, far removed from the field of military operations. President Poincare, who is today the slave of England, and who will fall as soon as your flags have been furlled, made himself the conscienceless agent of this deed."

"There is the plan as it was conceived, and don't forget that it is an English plan!"

"Germany makes war on the French armies, not on the civil population, the women and the children. She hopes that this explanation will suffice to prevent French squadrons from engaging in any more barbarous attacks of this kind. In case of further offenses Germany will be obliged to take similar measures in self-defence."

"But then you will know, Frenchmen, that this slave of England, Monsieur Poincare, will be answerable for the blood of the innocent victims, and that it is English barbarism that has forced us to bring destruction and mourning to your towns far removed from the front."

It is difficult to say why this amazing appeal is so unmistakably German. Perhaps it is a certain grossness that gives the national hall-mark to its absurdity—that, combined with a certain whining sycophancy. But whatever it may be the document is a thoroughly typical product of the great nation of age-lasts. It could only have been made in Germany.

EPIGRAMS OF LLOYD GEORGE

Premier Lloyd-George's Guildhall speech, his best in many respects since the attainment of his present high office, makes it pertinent to inquire, says a contemporary, into the relationship between the mastery of epigrammatic speech and statesmanship. Do they make statesmen of the lords of epigram, or does the epigram in its highest form derive its power from the fact that it is used by the great of the earth to give expression to the most significant truth?

Present-day England is full of epigrammatists. It is the most popular literary pastime. From Shakespeare to Shaw and Chesterton, English literature has derived a flavour all its own from an opulence of epigram. But the same is true of British statesmanship.

unless we shall find that whereas Shaw and Chesterton try to give a thought additional force by expressing it epigrammatically, statesmen give the well-turned phrase intrinsic value by making it the currency of momentous truth. Thus anyone might have said that the Allies are fighting for restitution, reparation and guarantees without exciting attention, but when the phrase was formulated by Premier Asquith, repeated by Bonar Law and polished by Lloyd-George it became the fighting slogan of ten nations.

Lloyd-George, lacking the finish of Asquith, nevertheless is gifted with that power of imagery which arrests attention and compels admiration. It may not be a recent acquisition, but since becoming Premier the little Welsh attorney has become a veritable mine for striking off the dominant thought of a nation and a cause. "Swashbuckling through the streets of Europe," betters any characterization or caricature of Prussian militarism yet produced.

In his more recent speech, that launching a new British loan, at the Guildhall, on January 11, the new Prime Minister coined the following, among others: The Kaiser "would drug those whom he could no longer drag"; the Temple of Peace, when rebuilt, must rest "on the rock of vindicated justice"; "If victory were difficult, defeat was impossible"; Great Britain "like a great tower in the deep"; "The Old Country is the best investment in the world"; "We are a nation that has been taking exercise"; "The Prussian menace was a running mortgage which detracted from the value of our national security." A statesman does not in one speech give posterity his full quota of maxims epitomizing the events of his era, or characterizing them, but it must be said that Lloyd-George already has made a most liberal contribution to that fund of epigram that must eventually become invaluable to the historians of this war. Many of these phrases will outlive the memory and the record of great battles.

"O CANADA"

A well-known war correspondent, was some time ago stated to have spoken of "O Canada" as a dirge-like composition. As he has made no correction or explanation he still rests under this stigma. Some report of it has reached the front, and a Canadian soldier has written home a letter on the subject, part of which appears in the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. He says: "If Arthur Stringer could stand beside the 'Road to Glory—and Berlin,' upon which troops march to the Somme, and hear company after company stumbling by in the darkness to the lilt of 'O Canada,' while the whole country is a mass of flashes and the thunder of the guns keeps the ground all a-tremble, and every one of those half-seen figures grotesquely burdened with their overland kit is just, as every boy, thinking of the morning and of the home he'll probably never again see: then I think Arthur Stringer would forget that 'dirge' stuff."

To this might be added the remark of a well-known lady who recently returned from England leaving two sons and one daughter at the front:—"It was such an inspiring thing to see our fine young Canadian soldiers marching to the point of embarkation for France singing our own hymn 'O Canada.' I never before quite realized the beauty, the grandeur, the dignity, the seriousness of that essentially patriotic hymn of praise."

THE KAISER AND "THE BEAST"

In Moscow the prophets have been busy with the fate of the Kaiser. They quote Revelation xiii., 5, which deals with the beast with seven heads and ten horns which rose from the depths of the sea:

"There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."

Another quotation is from Revelation, xiii., 18: "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man and his number is 666."

Taking the lunar month, which consists of 28 days, and multiplying this figure by 42, we get the number 1,176. Dividing this by thirty, the number of days in the calendar month, the resulting figure of 39—or three years, three months and six days. This period is believed to represent the time to be covered by the war which will thus end, according to the Moscow prophets, on 6 November, 1917.

The year of Wilhelm's birth is 1859, and the number of days in the period quoted above (three years three months and six days) is 1,193. Subtracting 1,193 from the year of the birth of Wilhelm the result is 666—the number of the beast.

NOTES

There is no more pregnant sentence in the British Premier's recent speech than this: "Let us proclaim a national Lent during the war." Lloyd-George showed himself not only a master of rhetoric but a master craftsman in the art of appeal when he uttered these words. Coming from the mouth of a man who but a few short years ago was a thorn in the flesh of the established church, it must have startled those who heard it.

Every self-governing British Dominion, says the London Times, exercises, in some form or another, the right of deciding who shall or shall not live and acquire property within its borders. There is discrimination, and very proper discrimination, even against British subjects, as is seen by the disabilities imposed upon Indians in South Africa, Australia and British Columbia. In certain of the protected states of India and Africa even Englishmen may not acquire real property.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

At the opening of the Dominion Parliament this week the attendance of ladies from out of town was not as large as formerly owing to the fact that no general invitations were issued as there are no adequate accommodations in the National Museum when Parliament is held. There is to be no drawing room this year nor will their Excellencies hold the usual state dinner and reception.

Their Excellencies the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire entertained last Saturday afternoon at the first of a series of week-end skating parties to be held during January and February. The Duke and Duchess received their guests near the entrance of the tea room and were attended by Captain Kenyon-Slaney, A. D. C., and Captain Mackintosh, A. D. C. A large number of guests were present, many of whom skated on the outdoor rink. Refreshments were served at a long buffet in the tea room and a band played delightful music. Their excellencies' daughters, Lady Maud, Lady Blanche, Lady Rachel and Lady Anne, and their son Lord Charles Cavendish, mingled with the skaters on the ice. Later in the afternoon the duke also joined the skaters. Other members of the vice-regal household present were Colonel the Honorable Harold and Lady Violet Henderson, Miss Elsie Saunders, Lord Richard Nevill and Captain the Honorable Rupert and Lady Gwendolen Guinness.

A daintily arranged Patriotic tea at the Davies Hotel was an attraction this week, which proved quite agreeable to the many ladies present and resulted quite profitably for patriotic purposes.

Mrs. (Senator) McLean of Souris left this week on a visit to Ottawa before going South to spend several weeks in a warmer climate.

Mrs. (Judge) Stewart was hostess at a most enjoyable four table bridge on Monday evening in honor of her sister Mrs. Jones of Moncton.

Mrs. D. R. McLennan was hostess for the afternoon Bridge Club on Thursday at her pretty home on Prince Street.

Mr. L. B. Jebson of the Bank of Nova Scotia said farewell to his many friends here this week before leaving for Jasper Ont., to which city he has been transferred.

Miss Mary Goff who has been spending the holidays in Ottawa, returned to Toronto University to resume her studies.

On Thursday evening Mrs. W. H. Pethick entertained the members of the Bridge Club at a delightful game party in her home on Easton Street, serving dainty refreshments during an intermission for social intercourse.

Mr. and Mrs. John Richards were in Halifax this week and are leaving shortly on a trip to England.

Mrs. N. McKay and her son Norman, who spent the Christmas season in Halifax with Dr. McKay, have returned to Cambridge where Mr. McKay is continuing his studies.

Senator P. C. Murphy will return to Ottawa early next week from Tigard and will stay at the Chateau Laurier.

Hon. Mudroch McKinnon has returned from an official trip to Ottawa.

Premier Mathieson, Hon. A. E. Arsenault and Mr. Donald Nicholson M. P., went up to Ottawa this week. The two former are expected home Wednesday.

H. R. H., the Princess Patricia, opened the club at Urbridge for the benefit of the Canadian wounded at Hillingdon House hospital last week. She declared it was doubly pleasing to perform this ceremony, being so interested in all Canadian soldiers. At the hospital, where she conversed freely with the patients, a guard of honor was composed of the men from her regiment, the Princess Patricia's.

Miss Penelope Davies of New York, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Davies of Edmonton is expected in Ottawa shortly and while there will be the guest of Major and Mrs. J. F. Cunningham. Miss Davies is a mezzo-soprano of note and while in Charlottetown was a general favorite in social and musical circles, being soloist in St. James Church for some months.

Mrs. (Rev.) H. J. Fraser of Truro, formerly of Summerside was at home to her friends on Thursday afternoon and evening of this week when a large number of ladies called to welcome her to the social and church life of their city.

Miss Amy Byrne returned this week to Halifax to resume her studies at Mt. St. Vincent after a delightful holiday with her parents Mr. and Mrs. John Byrne.

Skating is the most popular pastime under present weather conditions and is being generally indulged in.

An English paper received this week contains the notice of the death of Lieutenant Eric Skeppington Poole, a son of a former resident of Halifax, Henry S. Poole, and nephew of Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. B. Hamilton-Gray, of the Royal Canadian Regiment. The notice is as follows:—"On the field of honor, 'Somewhere in France,' on the 15th of December, 1916, Lieutenant Eric Skeppington Poole, youngest son of Henry S. Poole, Esq., D. M., of Guildford, England, late of Halifax, Nova Scotia grandson of the late Colonel the Hon. John Hamilton-Gray, C. M. G., 7th Dragoon Guards." Mrs. Grady and Miss Grady are expected next week from Summerside to join Supt. Grady, making their home here for the future.

The ladies have invaded the Curling Club and several very interesting games have been indulged in this week several new members trying the stone for the first time and doing exceptionally good work. Needless to say the gentlemen are on the ice early and late in anticipation of visiting Curlers.

An interesting revival, especially in (Continued on page five.)

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS. Furnished by W. S. Louison.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT. It has long been the fashion, in so-called Christian lands, to pray for Pagan countries. In these days the reverse is taking place. The Northwestern Christian Advocate says: "Buddhists in China are praying for the people afflicted by war in Europe. A proclamation printed on a large poster was found posted on one of the great Buddhist temples of China, 'the Pagoda of the seven Towers,' proclaiming seven days of fasting and prayer for the cessation of noise of arms and battle in Europe, and for those who have succumbed to wounds that they may obtain a new life by a happy transmigration in a purified and sanctified earth. 'The European War,' so runs the proclamation, 'lasts long; many soldiers have been slain, with no hope of seeing the cessation of those feelings of hostility which are setting the nations against each other.'"

There are lots of things we cannot understand, in this life of change and chance.

Can we, whose souls are lighted, With wisdom from on high, Can we to men benighted, The lamp of life deny? Salvation, O salvation! The joyful sound proclaim, Till each remotest nation Has learnt Messiah's name.

Typewriter Speed Secrets Told by the Mistress of the Keys HOW TO MAKE YOUR MACHINE SING AT THE RATE OF ELEVEN STROKES A SECOND OR 137 PERFECT WORDS A MINUTE—A PANDORA BOX OF GOOD ADVICE TO THE FRATERNITY OF FLYING FINGERS. STORY NINE.

To the world at large many words of admonition, have been written in regard to the care of the eyes, but to no one class is such advice more important than to the typist fraternity. If in your work you are called upon to constantly operate a typewriter, you must lay down certain rules for the eyes and follow them. This is because in typing they are under constant strain and unless you look after them carefully you will find your vision growing dimmer.

KEEPING YOUR EYES "YOUNG." With reasonable care your eyes will always remain "young." Let me give you a few suggestions that will help to preserve the great gift of good eyesight. You must, of course, be careful to have the correct light on your copy and machine the same as when you read a book. This is over the shoulder nearest the copy so that you will have no trouble in reading the print or inserting the paper. Perhaps you are one of the fortunate ones who have eyes which can be used continually under strain without the help of glasses, but even if thus blessed, you will probably need glasses for this work and should occasionally have your eyes examined by a good oculist.

USING GLASSES FOR WORK. My claim is this: You cannot operate the typewriter in correct position unless you sit straight. In doing so your eyes are much farther from the printed page than they would ordinarily be if you were reading a book. Therefore, glasses are necessary to reduce this distance. Everyone has their own opinion as to the constant use of glasses when not working. I find them necessary at all times as a result of my seven years' practice, but there is no question that they should be worn when you are operating the machine. So important are your eyes to you that I suggest great care be taken in getting glasses properly adjusted. I am not in favor of trusting this to the eyeglass seller who charges nothing for an examination and gives you glasses after a simple "try out" of the visions. I believe that one should go to the best eye specialists and thus be assured that the vision of the printed page at least two feet distant, from the eyes will be just right.

And, girls, get sensible glasses if you are to use them in the office. I approve of the new fashioned kind—large lenses with rims and with at-

PLACING THE COPY HOLDER. The copy-holder, (I will tell you later how to make one) should be placed on the left side of your typewriter: if your machine has a right hand carriage return and on the right side if you use the return with the left hand. You will instantly see the reasonableness of this suggestion, as nothing could disconcert the eyes more than the arm and hand passing over the copy every time a new line is begun.

SCANNING THE PAGE. As one of the most important things in connection with operating the typewriter is scanning the page, a suggestion which all ambitious typists should adopt is to become expert sight readers. In speed work it is impossible to be successful unless the word, phrase or line is read at a glance. You ought not to be compelled to give any study to the words themselves, should know the fingering combination of any word instantly, as you must know the combinations of short-hand characters without analyzing their outlines, if you are to be a speed operator. who, these days, is a prize in any office. Therefore, as I have once before recommended, read and copy from newspapers and good books to improve your shorthand as well as typing.

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