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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Published Daily (founded 1847) 54.00 per year (delivered) in advance 60 per year (mailed, in advance, in Canada, and \$3.50 for U. S. A. A. A. Hazlett, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor. SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1920 OUR CHARACTERISTICS.

The intelligence of an individual, a community or a nation is judged not by occasional spasmodic outbursts either of virtue or vice but by the general characteristics, the tastes, the amusements, the pleasures. The person who takes pleasure in the sufferings of fellow-creatures, be they brute or human, is but little removed from the savage; the community or the nation of which this is the dominant characteristic is in the same category.

The person who derives his or her chief delight from low amusement, from selfish satisfaction, is essentially vulgar and ignorant; where this is generally true of the community or the nation it indicates, to put it mildly, a low order of intelligence. And so, communities, as well as individuals, are judged by their habit of thought as indicated by their general relation to the things that really matter, the things that build up character, that are the measure of the progress from primitive savagery to Twentieth Century enlightenment.

It will be found a wholesome exercise to occasionally "examine ourselves" as to the tendency of our tastes, to ascertain if we can, whether as individuals or communities we are drifting downward or struggling upward. It will be observed the drift is always downward, the struggle always upward. How is it with us in our various communities in this highly favored province of Prince Edward Island? In material things we are exceptionally favored; we are burdened neither with poverty nor riches; in the struggle for existence we have so far conquered that we have some leisure for the enjoyment of spare hours. How do we employ these hours? "Look around," Physical pleasure unstinted; amusement which gratifies only, at least, our curiosity or our animalism, these we have in abundance. As to intellectual pleasures, the pursuit of happiness along the higher levels, it must be admitted we fall short. Witness the half filled auditorium that greets the lecturer who comes to us with a wholesome message and the crowded house that welcomes the comic show, the ball game, the horse race; witness the class of books that are in greatest demand in our book-stores and our libraries—the trashy novel, while books of real literary merit, books on science, history, biography and the big world movements are ignored except by the few.

Let us, as individuals and communities, look carefully into our relation to these, into our tendencies, into our habits and resolve that if we are drifting, either as individuals or communities, we shall make the necessary corrections.

"ET TU BRUTE!"

Even the Watchman, once a faithful watchman on the tower of Liberalism, which stood by the party through shade and sunshine, through joy and sorrow; which erstwhile was wont to cast its mantle of charity over the party's sins of omission and commission, has had more of present day Liberalism than it can stand for and, in its last issue, has read them a lecture which is tantamount to a severance of diplomatic relations.

The session was lengthened the Watchman says, for the purpose of killing time and making an excuse for the extra \$300 indemnity. It likens the Liberal party to a pioneer steamboat described by Abram Lincoln; when the whistle blew the propeller stopped as there was not enough steam to run both. The Liberal whistle certainly blew loud and long and continuously and the propeller could have done in three weeks what it took seven to do if the whistle had been choked off. The Watchman protests vigorously against "such drafts on the treasury without first submitting them to the public during an election campaign."

This was the unpardonable crime of the Liberal party, that it not only made this draft upon the treasury without submitting the question to the people but made it against the unequivocal promises of the Liberal candidates; that every thing it did since assuming power was in direct contradiction of its pre-election promises. No government has a right to seek election upon a certain policy and, when elected, adopt a directly opposite policy. If, as they claim, they found it necessary to change their policy then they should have resigned and consulted their constituents. This is what the people will hold them responsible for.

SOME DISASTERS

"Disaster has overtaken thousands of war marriages," says a London paper. "Cold official figures show that 1918, the most recent year recorded, was the most prolific season in divorces for half a century. This is one of the remarkable facts contained in the annual report of the Registrar-General. Another is that though there were only 554 divorces between 1876 and 1880, those in 1918 totalled 2,222. Figures rose steadily every year until the war, when a sudden jump from 1,154 cases in 1913 to 1,712 in 1914 took place. There was considerable fluctuation in the number of persons divorced during the war period, and it is a striking commentary on the unsettled state of society that there were 800 fewer in 1917 than in 1918.

CURRENT COMMENT

The chameleon can not change its colors more quickly than the Liberal can change either his policy or his view point. This fact is true of every feature of their existence. That which today seems to them beautiful and rich in hue, tomorrow they discover is wilted and dry, ready to be cast into the furnace. When their mainland press wish to belittle Union Government they find means to discover the old line Conservatives to be of stable and sound origin and, "under no obligation weighty enough to require the sacrifice of the cardinal principle for which it has always stood, and for which it still stands." The Moncton Transcript, surely a disinterested adviser, suggests that there is "a new need for the active assertion of a party whose policy... will benefit and foster the agricultural, the mining, the manufacturing and other interests of the Dominion." Then in the same breath, inspired by the fear that Union Government might be submerged by this great party with its marvellous past record, it suddenly discovers that the existence of "magic in the name Conservative," and that "the prosperity of Canada depends upon Conservative rule; is flatly contradicted by history." How happy would those of the Transcript stamp be if Conservative and Union could only be separated.

The Patriot is again masquerading in the garb of a moralist, after exhausting its supply of superlative adjectives and applying the ugliest names it could ferret out of heathenism to defame Current Comment, it serves up a mess of sentiment almost fit for the gods. It says surely the Guardian must admit that the people of this province had a perfect right, if they were so inclined, to turn out the Conservatives and elect Liberals in its stead. They most certainly had, and the whole public will rejoice if the Patriot and the Government will only recognize this right of the people, and extend to them the opportunity to exercise this right for which the Liberal combination well knows the electors are most earnestly craving. It further suggests that,—"It was the voice of the people, that elected the Liberal Government to office." This is not ethically correct. The technically their votes produced that result. But their votes were recorded for a Government entirely different in character to the one they got.

Then the evening organ says,—"The Government ACCEPTED THE MANDATE OF THE PEOPLE." Yes it did, AND THEN TORE IT TO PIECES AND CAST IT INTO A BURNING FIERY FURNACE, HEATED SEVEN TIMES HOTTER THAN IT WAS WONT TO BE HEATED, and yet out of which it will emerge as did the Hebrew faithfuls, when its would-be destroyers, like the Babylonian tyrant, will be sent to graze like cattle under the canopy of Heaven. Then in the immodest strain it asserts that,—"Public opinion in every representative forming the Government RULES IN THIS COUNTRY." What part has public opinion been allowed to play in their spurious programme? They say, "Four years soon pass and if the government has done anything wrong they will meet their punishment in due time at the polls." Do they imagine that for four long years the people of this province will tolerate to live under a political combination who attained to power by systematic deception, and who when in office betrayed every trust reposed in them?

Courage is a grand quality when

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

BROTHERS ALL What might be done if men were wise. What glorious deeds my suffering brother Would they unite In love and right And cease their scorn of one another. Oppressions heart might be imbued With kindling drops of loving kindness And knowledge pour From shore to shore Light on the eyes of mental blindness. All slavery, warfare, lies, and moneys, All vice and crime might die together And wine and corn To each man born Be free as warmth in summer weather. The meanest wretch that ever trod The deepest sunk in sin and sorrow Might stand erect in self respect And share the teeming world to-morrow.

It is exercised in the school of right. It is a sign of manly nobility when a political party faces the unpopular end of an issue to redeem its reputation and honour as Union Government has done in conscription, luxury taxation, and other war measures, denounced as drastic. It would have been courageous of our Liberal party to have gone to the people with the simple truth, as Hon. A. E. Arsenault did, and then accept their honestly given verdict. After attaining the purse strings of government, when they discovered, as they say they did, that their promises were impossible of fulfilment, they could still have exhibited a sufficient degree of courage to accept their friends advice and "throw up the sponge," leaving the affairs of the country to be administered by those whose promises were not made to be broken. It would even now indicate a latent courage for them, knowing that they are no longer wanted by the country, to give the people an opportunity of choosing a government of their own.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

JUNE

The soft, sweet voices of rare June Unite to sing a joyous tune Of fragrant flowers, And greening bowers, In rime and rune, To sound the glories of the year's high-noon.

The skies spread o'er us smilingly, The laughing breezes full of glee, Gleam with perfume From bud and bloom, And snowy tree, Prank gaily over meadow, hill and sea.

Life comes into its perfect day Athrill with love, and light, and play, And everywhere The world seems fair Beneath the sway Of this, the joyous daughter of the May.

Recent letters from Rev. Dr. Fullerton, at present undergoing treatment in Montreal, convey the gratifying news that he is steadily and rapidly regaining his health. He expects to occupy his own pulpit in St. James' Church on Sunday the 20th inst. His many friends not only in the city but throughout the Province will be pleased to learn of this and a glad and warm welcome awaits him when he returns home.

The marriage is taking place on June 9, at the residence of the bride's brother, Mr. George Irving, at Summit, N.J., of Miss Edith Irving, to Captain Hammond Johnson, M. C.

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Haszard of Montreal are being cordially welcomed home. They are the guests of Mr. Justice and Mrs. Haszard.

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Mr. Cuthbert Simpson, who had been in the office of Deacon took place in St. Paul's Cathedral, London last week.

Genuine sympathy is being extended to Mrs. Morton, of Halifax, on her sad and sudden bereavement.

The King's Birthday was generally observed as a half holiday, many citizens enjoying a few hours fishing, others going on picnics and drives through the rural districts.

The 35th annual meeting of the W. M. S. of the Methodist church brought upwards of 150 visitors to the city this week and the meetings in the Heart Memorial Hall were, both inspiring and encouraging. The ladies got through a lot of business and arranged each session so wisely that a dull minute ensued. To individually mention the speakers is unnecessary but interest centered especial-

Continued on Page Two

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