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The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, April, 24 '84

Partisan Government.

They who of late have been so hotly denouncing as the source of all our evils politic the fierce strife of parties ought to specify the means of putting an end to it. Proverbially, it is easier to pull down than to build up, and of the many journals the columns of which are filled with bitter invective against what they are pleased to call faction-fights, with a single exception, not one has proposed not only a better system, but even any other system at all. This exception is *The Week* of Toronto. And what do our readers suppose is our sovereign remedy? Here it is:—The members of the Legislature are to be elected solely on grounds of personal fitness; from the men thus chosen a cabinet is to be formed by vote of the members themselves; this cabinet is to continue in office only one year, or at most two years. Mr. Goldwin Smith, a man of world-wide fame, is the leading spirit of this paper, and the plan is his. So much for theoretical politicians. To show at once how such a scheme would work, we have only to point to the United States where almost exactly it is followed. Political morality in Canada may, indeed, be low, but, it goes without saying that we have not fallen into such guilty depths as our cousins across the line.

A little consideration will show that the great mistake here made lies, in the first place, in assuming that men are other than they are, and, in the second place, that some eighty or ninety men would certainly resist temptations to which the great body of electors falls victims. What guarantee is there that in one case out of twenty the more worthy candidate would be returned? Who now needs to be told how helpless electors are in the wire-pulling of the caucus? Who, moreover, does not see that busy brains would form a dozen cabinets, and that then intrigue and almost certainly bribery would, after all, decide who should hold the reins of Government.

The truth is that we have as good a government as we deserve, for we made it, and we alone can unmake it. As we condoned the Pacific Scandal, let us not foolishly be astonished at the granting of better terms to the C. P. R., at the game of grab played by the French conservatives, at the attempt made to emasculate the Scott Act, at the whitewashing of that greedy pike Tupper, at the Section B. job, in fact at anything that is, or may be done. Sir John McDonald, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Hector Langevin have done nothing but what the people allowed them and enabled them to do.

Canadians have good reason to be proud of the Hon. Edward Blake. Reformer or Conservative, all must admire the man who has the courage of his convictions. Intellectually, he is without a peer in the House of Commons; he is not simply the greatest orator there, he is the only orator there. During the session that has just closed, he delivered three speeches which will form a monument in the history of our country; the first, on the C. P. R. resolutions, the second, on the Orange question, and the third, on the Provincial Railway subsidy bill. Magnificent both in matter and manner, they carried conviction to all, and that they were not immediately followed by victory is but another proof of Lord Macaulay's assertion that the greatest speeches even made in parliament have never been known to change a member's vote. Fortunately they have a much wider arena in which to work than

the floor of the House of Commons, and we do not require to play the prophetic role in order to persuade that their efforts will be found most potent in the next election.

Had one any doubts as to the consideration in which Mr. Blake ought to be held, a daily perusal of the columns of the *Mail* would soon remove them. According to this magnanimous and veracious sheet, Mr. Blake is a pompous know-nothing, a political failure, a narrow-minded tenth-rate lawyer &c., &c. Is it not very singular that at least three columns of the *Mail* daily are devoted to such an insignificant person? If he be a nonentity, why bother with him? A certain great thinker and poet was wont to say that if a man had any doubts on any point in the government of a country, let him find out what they do in Sicily, and then do the very opposite, and he could not go astray. So, too, if you would rightly know the character of any man in Canada, read what the *Mail* says of him, and then—but a word to the wise is sufficient.

We never think of the *Mail*, but a word, now of doubtful import, occurs to us—Culture. This word has become fashionable, and woe to it on that very account. The *Mail* is a journal of Culture, or, at least, says that it is. Here, then, is a vocabulary of words (taken from one article of Saturday's issue) for the cultured: false, offensive, ill-bred, soot, malignant, dishonest, glaring misstatements, inexcusable imputations, distorts, falsifies, &c. Greasy and disgusting should be added to make a complete list. So much for the *Mail's* culture. Why is one person pronounced cultured, and another not? Why, we again ask? We have met, in our day, with both men and women who really were cultured in the best sense of that word, but we never met one who spoke of his culture, or who sneered, or tried to sneer at its want in others. "The healthy know not of their health," a saying of the most comprehensive kind. In the mouths of many, culture means one of two things, either the possession of more money than one's neighbor, or else the affectation of tastes and knowledge which they do not possess, cannot possess, have not even a genuine desire to possess.

We wonder do many persons reflect that all they are, and all they ever will be, is in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred determined by the time they are twenty-five years old. Habits, modes of thinking, powers of action are by this age as hard and rigid as iron, and any great continuous change of life becomes well nigh impossible. The worst feature of this is that, with steadily declining strength to act differently, the power of forming resolutions, and alas! of breaking them, as steadily increases. Surely, but imperceptibly, a great change takes place; we cease to strive after reformation, and guilty, perhaps with a fleeting regret, we acquiesce completely in what we are. Hence such meagre results from high aspiring hopes. He who would reach a certain goal must start early on the journey, and every day must make an advance towards it. Otherwise the very idea of the goal will pass from heart and head. It is sad to gaze on a wrecked life, it is infinitely sadder to know that the victim does not even realize that his life is wrecked.

Mr. Henry Marshall, Reeve of Dunn, writes: "Some time ago I got a bottle of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery from Mr. Harrison, and I consider it the very best medicine extant for Dyspepsia." This medicine is making marvellous cures in Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, &c., in purifying the blood and restoring manhood to full vigor.

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