

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**

Court of Revision—M. Teffy.  
T. Eaton & Co.—Toronto.  
Licensed Auctioneers & Pedlars—J. K. Macdonald

**The Liberal.**

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, May 8, '84

**DOES IT PAY ?**

In a former article which appeared in the columns of the LIBERAL we discussed, under the above title, the question when should a boy or girl begin to study the so-called higher branches of education. The gist of that article was that the education of Canadian youth should be purely English until the age of fourteen or fifteen, and that even within this boundary, it should be further limited to subjects that bear immediately on the daily affairs of life before anything else is attempted. We admit that this is a purely utilitarian view of the matter, but we contend that it is the only beneficial and safe view for the vast majority of school children. And here let us remark that no subject of vital importance has been more thickly surrounded with dreams and visionary schemes than that of the education of the masses. Eminent writers on education have foretold the near approach of the day when every man, woman and child shall be possessed of vast knowledge and graced with exquisite culture, and these same persons have assured us that our own Province of Ontario will be the first to give to the world the magnificent spectacle of a nation of scholars. Assuredly, at first sight, the prophecy has a noble sound, and holds forth an enchanting prospect. But, fortunately or unfortunately, the wish is father to the thought, and we do not hesitate to say that the wish is just as foolish as the thought is absurd, and will be realized only when all geese shall become swans, and every donkey a fleet and high-spirited charger.

The great aim of education should be to make us all that we are capable of becoming, not to clothe us in flaunting rags and shreds of that which can be only a fungus—growth of affectation as ridiculous as useless. Let us illustrate by a single example. No one will deny that the acquisition of a foreign language is very desirable. But this acquisition is the fruit only of long years of patient and hard study, and above all, of talents of a peculiar and rare kind. Now it is notorious that not one in five hundred who study French, for instance, even acquire more than a smattering of the grammar, and a limited acquaintance with one or two works in that language. In this estimate, we are rather above than below the mark. When it is further considered that no foreign language is ever learned as well or under such favorable circumstances as one's mother tongue, is it at all likely that a young Canadian who has not read Shakespeare and Macaulay will ever wade painfully through a French tragic writer such as Racine, or a French historian such as Guizot? Any adequate knowledge of French, usually considered a comparatively easy language, can not be obtained under five years of incessant study, and is seldom obtained in a period twice as long.

We do not enter into the question of the benefit, derived even from a smattering, in the way of mental discipline, for we have no faith in it. What sort of mind-training is that which enables a boy to conjugate a Latin verb or to construe elegantly a Latin sentence, but leaves him helplessly stranded when a plain English letter is to be written?

Let us be honest in this matter. Let us carefully distinguish between a mere fleeting whim and a really

solid desire. Our genuine desires are presentiments of the powers within us, but unless they manifest themselves by arduous labor, coupled with undoubted taste, they are as dead and unsubstantial as faith without works.

**PROTECTION.**

Evidently the sentiments of Americans are rapidly undergoing a great change on the tariff question. The revenue of that country annually far exceeds its expenditure. In fact, so great is the surplus that it has actually become a nuisance, and it is felt even by advocates of high protective duties that something should be done in the matter. But the mighty manufacturing corporations, possessed as they are of apparently boundless strength in the lobby, are unwilling that their hot-house industries should be touched, and accordingly the only reduction that has been made in the revenue has been effected in the inland department, the duties on whiskey and tobacco being lowered. This seems to have been the last straw. Massachusetts is up in arms, and even Ohio, the chief among protectionist states, has begun to growl its discontent. Truly, "Dear the necessities of life, cheap the destroyers of life," is a motto well calculated to astonish and dismay. Without pretending to say how close the connection between such a trade policy and the morals of a state, we would incidentally observe that already the murder-rate in the United States is the highest in the world, being about four times greater than that of Great Britain, and six times greater than that of Canada. This is a bad pre-eminence, and it threatens to become still worse should the above motto be acted upon.

As to, the party or parties connected recently with the placing of the cartridges containing dynamite under the parliament buildings in Toronto, everything seems mysterious, and no person has as yet advanced any good reason for the attempt to blow up the old structure, although many theories have been brought forward. Every effort is being made to sift the to the bottom and bring the guilty parties to justice. The Ontario Government has offered a reward of \$1000, and it is hoped that disclosures may soon be made, as it would be gratifying to know the true inwardness of the conspiracy.

Sir Charles Tupper has at last been led to see the awkward position in which he has been placed for some time, in holding the double office of High Commissioner to England, as well as a seat in Parliament, consequently he has resigned the latter, and purposes starting for England on the 24th of the present month. Sir Charles has occupied a prominent position in the Conservative ranks for a number of years and by his retirement, the party is losing one of its best stump-orators, whose name has been inseparably associated with the Canada Pacific Railway.

No other preparation so concentrates and combines blood-purifying, vitalizing, enriching and invigorating qualities as Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Quality should be considered when making comparisons.

**COURT OF REVISION  
MUNICIPALITY**

**RICHMOND HILL !**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, to all whom it may concern, that the first sitting of the Court of Revision, for the Village of Richmond Hill, will be held in the Council Chamber, on

Friday, May 30th, 1884,

At 2 p. m., to hear and determine on appeals against the Assessment Roll for the current year, of which all persons interested are requested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

M. TEEFY, CLERK.  
Clerk's Office, Richmond Hill, 7th May, 1884.

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