

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE.

On Saturday next, Queen Victoria will have completed the sixty-fifth year of her life, and nearly the forty-seventh year of her reign. Her accession was hailed with joyous acclamations, and those cheers of welcome will, on her approaching birth-day, be repeated with tenfold heartiness and vigor, for her popularity has steadily increased ever since she grasped the sceptre of the mightiest kingdom which the world has ever seen.

On the roll of England's coverings may be counted princes far abler, far more accomplished, but no one who has so completely filled the ideal of a perfect constitutional ruler, not one who has had her country's interests so close at heart. A fickle and unthinking people bestows frequently on its head, epithets often misleading, often unjust. But in Victoria, constancy in striving for the good of her subjects, has begotten constancy in their love, and a justice to all, open and bright as the sun, has compelled an equal justice in their respect and opinions.

It is always suspicious when a ruler is popular at home, but unpopular abroad, for then we may not unnaturally expect to find that domestic prosperity is due to foreign injustice. It is still more suspicious when a ruler is unpopular at home, and in favor abroad, for then domestic discontent is probably due to an iniquitous surrender of just rights and just privileges to foreign encroachments. But when at home and abroad there is but one opinion and but one estimate of a ruler's conduct, and when that opinion and that estimate are supremely in favor of that ruler, a monarch's highest aspirations may fairly be said to be realized. Such is Queen Victoria's proud and happy position to-day, and the reasons are not far to be sought.

She is, and has ever shown herself to be, a genuine woman in the highest, best acceptance of that word. Splendid abilities and brilliant accomplishments, in truth; she has not, but, in compensation, she has a moral character adorned with the fairest attributes of humanity. A temper, at once gentle and even, a heart replete with goodness, a candid knowledge of her own incapacities, and consequent yielding to the advice of wiser heads—such are some of her most prominent traits. A queen every inch of her, not only through descent from a long line of ancestors, but also through innate nobility of mind, she presents to-day the spectacle, unique among the crowned heads, of a sovereign equally beloved by the highest and by the lowest of her subjects. In her case, at least, the praise bestowed upon her is not forced and meaningless lip-praise, but a heart-felt and conscientious tribute to a good queen, a good wife, and a good mother.

There is no idea more erroneous than that the character of a child mainly depends on the training he receives at school. Without doubt, he obtains much, and in some cases, all of his moral instruction in the Day school and in the Sunday school, but the hours spent there form but a very small fraction of the time in which he either practices or rejects, as may be, the lessons given him. Home, emphatically Home, is the place where he gradually but surely develops that bent, those habits which are to be his for life. If, then, parents are disappointed in their children, it would be well for them to seek carefully the cause and place and time of what they deplore; when these are ascertained, they will be in a position to check faults and to guide conduct. Trite and old as may be the advice, we do not hesitate to give it again. If you would have your children act in conformity with your wishes, keep them off the streets after dark. Nightly the streets of our Village are crowded with boys and girls; eight o'clock, nine o'clock, yes, and sometimes even an hour later finds them still out. Young and innocent, they fail to perceive the many snares that often entrap the most wary. If, then, habits of profanity, and others still more destructive in children some day, suddenly surprise and dismay parents, they ought not to be astonished. Such habits are not contracted, or, at least, are not fixed

by practice, in schools; in only a small degree, comparatively speaking, are they acquired beneath the light of the sun. Night is the time when, without restraint of any kind, they grow and wax and multiply until their discovery leads only to another still more dreadful discovery—powerlessness to check and outroot them.

The three judges who are to constitute the Royal Commission to investigate the conspiracy case, have been appointed by the Ontario Government, and as they are all men of ability, it is to be hoped the disputed case will ere long get a thorough sitting. Judge Proudfoot, from the High Court, has been named, a gentleman having the full confidence of the public for his intelligence and honesty, while his two colleagues, Judge Sinkler, of Welland County, and Judge Scott of the County of Peel are worthy of the same confidence.

It is to be feared that, when the case comes up in the Criminal court, there will be so much shuffling, and so many legal technicalities raised by the lawyers, that it will be hard to get at the true state of affairs, but there will not be the same opportunities for chicanery before the Royal Commission, and there is every reason to think that they will perform their responsible duty, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.

On Tuesday evening, the people of Toronto had the pleasure of listening to a two hours' speech, delivered in the Grand Opera House by Sir Richard Cartwright, on the financial position of Canada. With the exception of the *Mail*, the Toronto papers state the attendance was unusually large, the auditorium and the dress circle being densely packed, the latter principally with ladies, while the upper gallery was well filled with Liberals of the city together with a goodly number of conservatives. The speaker rapidly reviewed the financial legislation of last session, and spoke briefly but emphatically on the folly of taxing the people of the Dominion to the extent of half a million a year, for the purpose of bringing immigrants here, many of whom must eventually become a burden on public charity. The speech throughout is well worthy of perusal, and we recommend all thoughtful persons to read it carefully.

Preliminary proceedings in the case against Bunting, Meek, Wilkinson, & Kirkland for attempted bribery of members of the Ontario Legislature were taken before the Court of Queen's bench on Monday last.

SCOTT ACT.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:

By the action of the late delegate meeting held at Richmond Hill, forming itself into an association for the purpose of submitting the Scott Act to the Electors of the County of York for its adoption, I deem it not out of place to say a few words as a party interested. It may be said by the action just taken that the Bugle Note has been sounded, calling all temperance workers and those interested or in sympathy with the movement, into action. Everything has a beginning. Having thus made a commencement, the next step proposed is to hold meetings in each municipality for discussing the subject as to the desirability of submitting it, and the probability of success. Therefore, in accordance with this object in view, hand-bills are to be, if not already put in circulation, calling a Mass Meeting of the ratepayers and all friends of temperance, to be held in the Town Hall Vaughan, on Thursday the 29th inst., at two o'clock p. m. F. S. Spence Esq., Secretary of the Dominion Alliance may be expected to address the meeting, or in his absence some one competent to deal with the question, also I may say by others. As much depends upon the interest manifested at these preliminary meetings, it is desirable that the Township be well represented, as the expression of opinion to be gained therefrom, will materially aid the Central Committee which meets at Aurora on Wednesday, June 5th, at 10 a. m., in their decision, which, I suppose, will be final whether submitting or not.

The question of Prohibition is one of vital importance, and is being discussed in all quarters of the Dominion, and may be considered one of the most interesting questions of the day. The temperance people have in the Scott Act what they have long contended for, although circumscribed it may be. Yet when it is proposed to group several counties together, that objection is materially lessened, but it is not my purpose in this letter to discuss the matter, but through your columns, simply to bring the matter more prominently before the public in order to secure a large turn-out.

Yours truly,
J. P. RUPERT,
Pres., pro tem, Tp. Vaughan.
Maple, May 20th, 1884.

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