

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Change—P G Savage
Change—J M Hamilton
Change—I Crosby
Music Lessons—Miss Bailey

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, March 26, '85

DEPUTY-REEVESHIP.

In the Parkdale Times of March 20th, we are credited with the following extraordinary paragraph:—

"The nomination for 2nd Deputy-Reeve in place of Mr. Daniel Reaman, deceased, took place on Monday, 16th inst., at the Town Hall. Several gentlemen were nominated, but they all retired in favor of Mr. Isaac Reaman, second son of the late Deputy-Reeve, who was elected by acclamation. We understand that the proper notice was not given by the returning officer, not one half of the rate-payers knowing anything about it. If it had been more generally known a different man would in all probability have been chosen, and one more entitled to the honor. As it is there is quite a feeling abroad concerning the matter."

Not one word of the above ever appeared in our columns, and not one word or line which could possibly be twisted even into a semblance of it. Indeed, we have no reason to think so meanly of our contemporary as not to believe that through some typo's error the paragraph in question was inadvertently supposed to be part and parcel of our obituary notice of the late Daniel Reaman. We now ask the Parkdale Times to set us right before the public.

THE C. P. R.

There is a dire perplexity at Ottawa. It is a case of *would like but afraid*. The C. P. R. cormorants have asked Sir John Macdonald for more money, but even he is afraid to comply. The exact nature of this last request is unknown. The Toronto Mail and the Montreal Gazette, the great Conservative party organs of West and East respectively, differ widely in their statements of details. But both Gazette and Mail openly advocate another 'come down,' both are striving to prepare the country for it and neither of those papers ever urges a political move which is not initiated at Ottawa. We have not the suspicion of a doubt that more money will be given, that Sir John dares even to contemplate a refusal. But in the face of our exploded N. P., of an enormously increased Public Debt, of commercial stagnation and positive distress, he knows and feels that to reach the side of his one-time friends, his present masters, he must cross a dangerous chasm on a single spear. Little wonder that he is slow to move, little wonder that he picks his steps cautiously. The cause of astonishment is that a great and intelligent people has allowed itself so to be duped by this boundless lover of power that the very thought of still deeper subjection to a Railroad monopoly is possible.

Yes, the Syndicate will receive fresh assistance. And what will be the result? Bah! "After me the deluge," says the Chieftain. It would be well, however, to give the Chieftain a plunge in that tremendous downpour which he regards so philosophically because he thinks that it will not occur in his day. He did get a dip which would have proved of incalculable benefit to him had not an easy and credulous electorate been seduced by the ever pleasant cry of better times. We are not vindictive, but we shall never cease to pray that he who is so cynically bringing on the hurly-burly may be in the thick of it, when it bursts forth in our midst.

INDEPENDENCE.

The Independence cry is still kept up, but mainly as a meaningless shout. The truth is that those who really are in favor of the separation of Canada from the Mother Country are very loath to give their reasons for the wish that is in them. They consist of two classes, one animated by a deep and unreasoning hatred of monarchical government, the other actuated by the sordid and shameless belief that love of country and every other ennobling sentiment should be subordinate to commercial prosperity. It is within the possible that, at a critical period in the history of a country, such a hatred and such a belief might precipitate a ruinous change which would in all likelihood be described by its advocates as a triumph of man the Reformer. But such meaningless dislocation and unjoined somersaulting are opposed to the very essence

of every true and lasting reform, which is not only to hasten slowly, but to give up the old for the new only when the advantage of the latter over the former becomes manifest to an overwhelming majority.

What principle of liberty which is not license does Canada lack today? In what single particular does this Dominion suffer from the grasp of oppression? If the bonds which connect us with the British Empire were at once snapped, where-in would we be gainers? Surely not in the exchange of our executive, in its nature far removed from party fury, party greed and party injustice, for the sickening, demoralizing presidential campaign such as we know it in the United States. We trust that we are open to conviction, and if any person will point out to us one decided advantage of government which the neighboring Republic possesses over our own, we are both ready and willing to reconsider our whole ground of contention. For let it be clearly understood that Independence means either the establishment of a Canadian republic similar to that which is now seething and bubbling to the south of us, or else it means instant annexation, which is by all odds most probable.

Those who are pleased and enticed by this Independence cry will do well to remember that systems of government are not to be put on or off as are coats of different styles. The polity which is not the natural outgrowth of a people working out its true scheme of happiness has always proved, and will always prove as useless to right wrongs as a change of sky to regenerate hearts.

THE SALVATION ARMY.

We intimated last week that the Salvation Army was about to hold a series of meetings in our village. It is true, certain of its officers were here negotiating for the Temperance Hall, but whether they will accept the terms on which the building has been offered them, remains to be seen. Should they feel disposed to turn their tactics, and lay siege to some of our neighboring villages where the Sabbath is not so strictly observed, and where the Gospel is not preached from so many pulpits, their usefulness might be more tangibly felt. No doubt, wherever they unfold the banner of the Cross, much apparent good will manifest itself, and many persons, especially those in the lowest grades of society, will be induced to join their ranks and lead holier lives.

But whilst all this may be granted, it is certainly not untrue that a reaction, slow but sure, is setting in against this enthusiastic class of people in many places, and thoughtful christians are wondering if the good influences exerted on the one hand are not more than counterbalanced by the bad influences on the other. The eccentricities of the officers and members, the flippant expressions, and the levity in which the attributes of the Deity are used, have been tolerated by many good church members on the ground that a class would be reached who could not be induced to attend ordinary church service. It seems a pity, however, that such methods have to be resorted to in order to attain the end, as in many cases it is difficult to tell whether the expressions used are to be taken as sacred or blasphemous.

As to the sincerity of the greater part of the members of the small detachments few have any doubt, but many are beginning to question the honesty of those who have charge of the treasury. Certainly those who have no other means of earning a livelihood and who spend their time in the cause must be paid for their services, but when it is learned that men are actually accumulating wealth, it is enough to make people wonder if all is for the cause of God.

One of the most repulsive features of the Army is the manner in which the money is collected, the rule being to exact a fee at the door, the same as any minstrel troupe or travelling show. That they are an injury to the various churches and Sabbath Schools is a positive certainty, as divine service is often disturbed by their shouting and singing on the public streets, and it is no discredit to superintendents and Sabbath School teachers to know that many of their children are drawn away by the novelty and excitement of the tambourine and drum.

However, if their convictions lead them to put in an appearance here, we hope and trust our villagers will extend to them every courtesy due to religious bodies, and in the end, good may be done.

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