

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Estate of Isaac Murray—Alex Malloy
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The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Oct. 8, '85

THE NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The Ottawa Cabinet has recently been reconstructed. The changes made in the distribution of portfolios are unimportant except in one particular. We refer to the selection of Mr. Thompson as Minister of Justice. This gentleman had been, up to the time of his new appointment, a Nova Scotian judge. In other words he has stepped down from the bench into the arena of politics.

There are few who give attention to Canadian political literature but remember the lashing bestowed by the *Toronto Mail* and other Conservative organs on the Liberal party when Hon. Oliver Mowat took a similar step. Then we were told in language at once scornful and scathing that public intelligence was insulted, justice was degraded, and an irreparable injury was inflicted on the purity and integrity of the bench. But now we hear not a murmur of opposition to John Macdonald's perfect imitation of the tactics of his foes. It would seem as if it was altogether a question of whose ox is gored. Mr. Mowat's re-entry into public life was bad, thoroughly bad, Mr. Thompson's is good, thoroughly good. Little wonder is there that consistency is held to be a jewel.

It is hardly necessary to say that, where faction reigns supreme, consistency cannot enter. The arguments of partizanship are entirely dependent on the attitude of the rival parties. The merits of a question, its bearing on the public weal, go for nothing. The one point is to gain and keep office with all its emoluments, and to crush in the dust all who withstand its success. The consequences of this line of procedure are sometimes very embarrassing. The desire to smite is not unfrequently rendered impossible to be gratified by a memory inconveniently tenacious of words uttered in times gone by. Yet the genuine party organ is nothing if not protean. The exigencies of faction require it to be ready and able to make the swiftest and sharpest of turns. It must be prepared to declare right to-day what yesterday it pronounced wrong. The sins of its own party must be ignored, denied, or at most viewed through the large end of the telescope. For who knows not that a very slight violation of these rules might deflect the stream of government patronage?

For ourselves, we hold that Mr. Thompson's renunciation of the ermine for the scarcely clean habiliments of public office to be a grave and threatening mistake. By no possible ingenuity, or love of party, can we view Mr. Mowat's action in any other light. It is patent to us that the Canadian Judiciary already stands in imminent peril. The two cases just referred to, joined to the last appointment made by the Government, are more than sufficient to justify our alarm. And this alarm becomes all the greater from the consideration that to the mad rage and violence of faction nothing is of so little moment as the great bulwarks of public morality.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL.

In the *York Herald* of last week appeared a letter on our High School, signed, "An Interested Villager." The writer begins by stating that he has obtained facts which he thinks would not be out of place to mention. We intend to offer no criticism of those so called facts, because the report of the Head Master (which may be read in our reprint of the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Trustees) is a full and satisfactory answer. We are not even disposed to find fault with our contemporary for publishing this letter, because the editor of a paper is, as a rule, forced to believe in the good faith of a correspondent, unless he is in possession of fair and sufficient reasons for believing the contrary.

We cannot, however, take a lenient view of "An Interested Villager." We do not dispute his right to make use of the press as a vehicle for conveying his grievance to the public. But, before making such grave

charges as are contained in his letter, the very least that he ought to have done was to obtain incontrovertible evidence of their truth. This was an easy matter. The school registers are the property of the Board, they are always accessible to the public, and any one who had taken the trouble to consult those registers would not have penned such a communication, much less have sent it forth to the world. The writer's intentions may have been good, but assuredly in this case his zeal outran his discretion. In a matter whose treatment demanded the utmost care and circumspection, he has allowed himself to be led greatly astray. We can only hope that the publicity which will be given to the answer, will in some degree prove an antidote to the harm which may have been done by the letter.

VACCINATION.

Smallpox continues to rage in Montreal with unabated violence. The death rate is increasing rather than diminishing. Yet vaccination has for some time been compulsory, and those who profess to have no faith in this treatment as a prophylactic jubilantly proclaim the vindication of their contention. This is, of course, absurd. The great remedy of Jenner was adopted only after the filthy disease had secured a giant hold on the ill-fated city's population. No one ever claimed that vaccine is powerful for the expulsion of the contagion, but only for its prevention. Could everybody in Montreal be vaccinated in a moment, there would still be many cases of smallpox.

In the face of such well-authenticated data, it seems almost incredible that there should be men whose pretensions to knowledge are not baseless who hold the great Englishman's discovery to be a curse much less a blessing. Such is the fact, however. In Montreal, the opponents of vaccination have an organ, called the *Anti-Vaccinator*, and its editor is a doctor of medicine. If such a publication could give rise to other feelings than sorrow and indignation, it certainly would be mirth at the wonderful deductions which may be made from statistics. Our readers will better understand us when we tell them that *Anti-Vaccinator* proves that death from smallpox is in direct proportion to the spread of the custom of vaccination.

A HARD AGE.

This is emphatically the iron age. All our activity, mental and physical, bears the impress of the hard and harsh metal which is at once the substance and emblem of the progress made in the nineteenth century. And as we grow strong in the material, in the spiritual we grow weak. Sentiment is only a luxury, patriotism is only sentiment, easily and often wisely dispensed with. The victorious man is he who conquers (which properly means, acquires) wealth. The great thinker is he who succeeds, or professes to succeed, in eliminating the very suspicion of what is not patent to the senses. To make a road solid, smooth, strong and swift, to fortune, such is the ambition of the day.

So long as this is the fashionable goal, it is useless to inquire concerning the satisfaction of those who reach it. Experience may teach, but it seldom exercises much effect on folly become epidemic. A prevailing madness resembles a fever which must be allowed to take its course. Even if it could be forcibly arrested, it would be with great danger to the afflicted. So the mad race must continue. What is to be done, then, by those who do not, and cannot believe, that iron is the 'open sesame' to genuine happiness. We know not, unless it be to sit still and watch the whirling crowds. For this, and only this, Carlyle held Emerson to be the one wise American.

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