

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Change—Steele Bros. & Co.
Proclamation—G. Trevelyan.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, April 14, '87

TEMPERANCE IN SCHOOLS.

It is well for the world that in the midst of political excitement and treuzy there are men who, without withdrawing from the all prevailing 'fight,' nevertheless find time for the consideration of those great moral subjects that public men of all parties either disdain or refuse to touch. Leaving the general for the particular, we say that Canada is fortunate in possessing citizens whose philanthropy is so pure and disinterested that neither calumny nor threats no financial loss can force them to give up the struggle for the reformation of dominant abuses. These social reformers deserve the greater praise because in a worldly point of view their reward is nothing. For all their efforts and sacrifices they receive no return, except the promise of Him who seeth in secret. This indeed, is reward enough, but it is one for which thanks are due to God, not to man.

In some cases, social reformers have, humanly speaking, small cause for rejoicing. Their best and noblest endeavors are frustrated by the greed and lust of a pleasure-loving world. In other cases, success beyond expectation has crowned their strivings. Within the memory of men still living, great and beneficial changes have been worked in men's lives and manners. In the drinking habits of Canada, for example, the change bids fair to become a revolution. Indulgence in strong waters has ceased to become an unchallenged custom. Where whiskey was once regarded as a necessary and natural adjunct, it is now regarded as something low and debasing. If it is not entirely banished, it is relegated to privacy and darkness as a thing of shame. Men no longer boast of the number of bottles that they can empty, but, on the contrary, rather seek to conceal the fact that they touch bottles at all.

Whatever may be the theoretical merits of the Temperance question, what ought to be our practice, admits of no doubt. The wine of scripture may or may not have been fermented. There is no such doubt about the common effects of dram-taking. Consequently we are morally bound to do all in our power to check a habit, which, in not one case in a hundred, is unattended with harm. Strong in this belief, we cannot but hail with satisfaction the movement to instil into our children such principles and truths as will tend to make them shun and even abhor that which has caused so much woe. The introduction of instruction on matters pertaining to Temperance should receive the praise of all. Even those who are engaged in the liquor-traffic can seldom endure the thought of their children's indulging. In every way possible, therefore, the young should be led to regard with fear and aversion the common enemy of all. Such lessons cannot be begun at an age too early. Nay, it is absolutely incumbent on parents to so act that whatever may prove the fate of their children, no excuse for a terrible habit will be found in home and school influence and teaching.

HON. MR. CHAPLEAU.

We have no love for the Hon. Mr. Chapleau. Our dislike is not the fruit of partizanship. Indeed, we entertain towards the Secretary of State precisely the same feelings as we do to more than one man within our own ranks. We refer to those practical politicians who systematically support and use party for self and mainly for self alone. Unfortunately, in Canada, that selfishness is not the desire of fame, that last infirmity of noble mind, but the altogether base infirmity of ignoble mind, greed of gold. In this respect, Mr. Chapleau has been a great sinner, if even a hundredth-part of the charges made against him be true. The friend of Senecal and Danserau, his name is irrevocably connected with some of the darkest episodes of Quebec's dark political history.

Yet we cannot withhold from Mr. Chapleau our admiration for his courageous attitude on the Riel question. Here, indeed, he acted the part of a man, and of a very brave man. It is always easy to be firm even to boldness when one's enemies are guided by decorum and

rely on arguments aided by sarcasm and other rhetorical tropes. But when the mob begins to roar, and when that mob has the power of making or unmaking one in the professions of his choice, the case is altered. Then naught avails but courage of a high and uncommon type.

This courage was Mr. Chapleau's throughout the Riel conflagration. In the teeth of his French countrymen, he boldly proclaimed the justice of the Regina sentence. He did not hesitate to confront these grim monsters, bigotry, prejudice and nativism, nor to describe them in fitting words. And here Mr. Chapleau presented a marked contrast to Sir Hector Langevin. While the Minister of Public Works skulked and evaded, Mr. Chapleau faced the storm.

Nor was his bravery unrewarded. Men naturally respect courage. Mr. Chapleau carried his division of Quebec with scarcely a single loss in the recent Dominion Elections, while Sir Hector lost all but one of the seats entrusted to him, and escaped, if indeed, he has escaped, defeat himself by only a hair's breadth.

It was to be expected, therefore, that at the great banquet tendered to Mr. Chapleau in Montreal, on the night of the 11th inst., he would be found repeating and glorying in his words uttered when the Riel tempest was at its height. Again we say that we do not love the Secretary of State, but we certainly admire and respect a brave man.

THE YORK HERALD AND THE SCHOOL TEACHERS.

We have at all times studiously endeavored to avoid meddling with our contemporary, the *York Herald*, or its correspondents. Time and again have our articles been ridiculed, but for the sake of living in peace with our neighbors we have refrained from entering into a controversy. There is a limit, however, beyond which patience ceases to be a virtue. In its last issue it accuses THE LIBERAL of giving taffy to the school teachers of the village, and asks us not to "try to curry favor too much." It almost looks absurd to make the denial, but we must tell our friend over the way that he accuses us wrongfully, as in the issue of our paper of which he speaks—March 31st—we did not even mention the teachers. It is true a correspondent over the signature of "Patience" shows by quotations from the *Herald* that the editor is continually finding fault with them, and asks the reason, but why it is saddled on us we are at a loss to know. We repeat that we knew nothing of it till the article was handed in for publication. In our opinion it would have been better had he answered the letter, giving reasons for his fault-finding. With regard to our currying favor with the instructors of the young, all we have to say is that when we have ever had occasion to speak of them, one and all, the reference could not be otherwise than in the most praiseworthy manner.

We would suggest to the *Herald* that in future when it has a complaint to make against any one teacher, the name of that particular individual be given so that the blame, if any, may rest on the proper shoulders, and not on those who may be ignorant of what has taken place till they read it in the paper.

PARTY GONE MAD.

The Toronto Mail felicitously describes the action of the East York Conservative Association in expelling certain members for supporting Hon. Mr. Mackenzie in the late contest, as 'establishing an N. P. for the manufacture of opponents.' In that act of expulsion we have zeal outriding prudence with a vengeance. But prudence was not alone left behind. Common decency itself was distanced. Had Mr. Mackenzie's opponent been a Conservative of good report, we should have even considered the E. Y. C. A. as transgressing the limits of wisdom. But when that opponent was who he was, the reading out of the members must be regarded as monstrous. No party can dispense with the rudimentary principles of shame and decency. Still less can a party afford to glory in what is unanimously pronounced unclean. For to do either is to make of party a Moloch who will speedily consume all that makes life good and sweet.

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