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Our Ottawa Letter.

One of the most serious things with
which the Liberal party is threatened is
the division of its ranks by the Patron
influence. In my last letter I pointed
out what it had done in North Ontario,
where, by supporting the Patron candi-
date and splitting up the vote, the Lib-
eral farmers had insured the election of
an extreme Conservative protectionist.
Now, is that what you want?

Have not the Liberals and the Patrons
the same object in view? Are we not
fighting to the one end? Then why
should that object and end be defeated
by ourselves, and our enemy's victory
made secure by our own stubbornness.

THE PATRON PLATFORM.

1. Maintenance of British connection.
2. The reservation of the public lands for the actual settler.
3. Purity of administration and absolute independence of parliament.
4. Rigid economy in every department of the public service.
5. Simplification of the laws and a general reduction in the machinery of government.
6. The abolition of the senate.
7. A system of civil service reform that will give each county power to appoint or elect all county officials paid by them, except county judges.
8. Tariff for revenue only, and so adjusted as to fall as far as possible upon the luxuries and not upon the necessities of life.
9. Reciprocal trade on fair and equitable terms between Canada and the world.
10. Effectual legislation that will protect labor from those combines and monopolies which unduly enhance the price of the articles produced by such combinations or monopolies.
11. Prohibition of the bonusing of rail-ways by government grants as contrary to public interests.
12. Conformity of electoral districts to county boundaries, as constituted for municipal purposes, as far as the principle of representation by population will allow.
13. Preparation of the Dominion and Provincial voters' lists by the municipal officers.

The Liberals in and out of parliament have favored every plank in this platform except clauses 6 and 11, that is an issue in federal politics. As regards clause 6 they are in favor of senate reform.

Read what Mr. Arthur Pringle, one of the best known Patron workers, had to say regarding the possibility of a clashing of forces. Mr. Pringle said:—"A few blunders at the beginning of our career would be difficult to recover from. One such blunder would be to quarrel with our friends, who, though not exactly of our household, know that in union there is strength, and in the presence of the determined and unscrupulous enemy we shall need all our strength. That enemy would rejoice at our folly." The folly that Mr. Pringle anticipated developed itself in the North Ontario election and our enemies are rejoicing over the result. They are rejoicing over our blunders.

So far the only good the Patron order has done is to emphasize the necessity for giving effect to a platform laid down by Liberals and Patrons and to bring into prominence a few individuals who are profiting by the movement. But while the Patrons espouse the same principles as the Liberal party, their action has made more remote the possibility of effect being given to those principles.

As regards the Patron organization I have a word further to say; a word of caution to our active working farmers. By active working farmers I mean those farmers who till the soil and who by the sweat of their brow in the field earn their daily bread. Not the farmer who deserts his farm and becomes a Patron for revenue purposes; who expects to earn a living and win political notoriety, not behind the plow, but behind the pen and on the hustings.

What I wish to caution our farmers against is in being misguided by these men who are politicians first and farmers afterwards, whose only chance of gaining political notoriety lies in the support and encouragement you actual or active farmers give them.

Think this over and see if you do not agree with me. Do you not think you were ill advised in placing a Patron candidate in the field in North Ontario to split up the vote and make sure the return of the government candidate.

But what is this new move we read of on the part of the Patrons? The day after the election in North Ontario, when the mischief they had done there to the cause of tariff reform and economical government became apparent, the Grand Board of the Patrons of Industry met in Toronto and passed the following resolution:—"That the Patron constitution be so amended as to admit all classes and professions who believe in the necessity for the existence of an independent party in the country to

save the Dominion from the fate which hangs over it, of having its life crushed out between the upper and nether millstones of machine partyism, and to abolish all passwords, signs and pledges beyond the acceptance of our platform and principles as being more fully in the interest of the people than the principles and platform of any other existing party."

Now what does that mean? Does it mean that the farmers have lost confidence in the movement, or rather in the men who are directing it, and that to hold office they must look in other quarters for recruits. Does it mean that the farmers are beginning to see that a few politicians have been seeking to gain notoriety and a living at their expense.

There are no doubt a few worthy farmers at the head of the order, but there are many in the order who have transferred their ambition from the direction of the farm towards the legislature.

One thing is apparent and that is that the executive or grand board have become alarmed at their declining influence and at the certainty of losing their grip upon our agricultural classes, and thus they seek to retrieve lost ground and retain office by admitting all classes and professions to the order.

Thomas De Quincey—His Life and Works.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

In reading the works of De Quincey, one of the first things that impresses us is the "extreme multifariousness of his knowledge." He had a "prodigious memory," an inexhaustible fertility of topics, and wonderful powers of conversation. All these served him most advantageously in his writings, but here shines out above all conspicuously and amazingly the retentive capacity of his memory. In some of his papers he took most of his materials second hand from the German. His digressions, quotations, notes and allusions would sufficiently convince the most skeptical of the immense and eccentric range of his reading, and at the same time of the stick-to-a-tiveness of the man's mind. Besides these qualities he was a close observer of human character, and he noted and remembered characteristic peculiarities and expressions of feeling with "Boswellian minuteness." In the course of his travels he met persons of all ranks and conditions, and all shades of beliefs and opinions, and he scarcely mentioned a name without giving some characteristic particulars of the person.

In addition to his marvellous memory, De Quincey possessed another great intellectual force—the power of keen analogy or the detection of hidden resemblances. This was with him a most remarkable endowment, indeed, as was evidenced in his writings in several ways—in the quotations and allusions that reveal his wide knowledge of books and of men. His multitudinous illustrations and the metaphorical cast of his language are obvious signs of the activity of his analogical faculty in a no less striking degree. Nothing can be more exquisite than his subtlety in discriminating wherein things agree and where they differ. Nothing can be more charming to the lover of intellectual subtlety than the deliberate and cool arrays of argument which he can advance in support of a favorite theory. This is most cleverly evidenced in his attempt to whitewash the character of Judas Iscariot. His dexterity in adducing and urging circumstances favorable to his opinions, and in undermining everything that seems to militate against them, gives to the reader an idea of "elaborate ingenuity" not to be obtained, perhaps, from either Macaulay, or Carlyle, or any of our more modern writers.

In De Quincey's writings we not only find profound erudition, intellectual subtlety and marvellous powers of expression, but we also find poetical genius and passionate imagination! He may be called an arid philosopher—a modern Duns Scotus or Thomas Aquinas—for he read "German metaphysics, the Latin schoolmen, thauaturgic Platonists and religious Mystics" with avidity. But he tells us in his confessions that at one time he read and studied our own literature so voluminously and so ravenously that a "tremendous grip" was taken on his entire sensibilities. He read and re-read with the utmost delight the sublimer and more passionate poets—"the grand lamentations of Samson Agonistes, or the great harmonies of his Satanic Majesty's speeches in Milton's 'Paradise Regained.'"

In fact De Quincey was what he called himself a Eudamionist or Hedonist—a pleasure-seeker. But we may limit our definition, and say that he was not a seeker of pleasure in a general way—for his enjoyment did not depend upon a flow of animal spirits—his pleasures were not boisterous—but rather, a seeker of intellectual pleasure. He was, therefore, rather an epicurean than an Hedonist, for during a very considerable part of his time he was "rapt in his favorite studies,

in works of analytic understanding, of history and of imagination."

His pleasures, as before stated, were not boisterous—he had not the constitution for hearty enjoyment of life. In his boyhood he was very shy—he styles himself "the shiest of children"—and he was naturally pensive and despondent. He was passionately fond of peace, and during his father's illness and his dying hours, his son, Thomas, was in constant attendance—because of his "repose of manners." He had a "perfect craze" for being ignored, and always endeavored to hide his accomplishments from the curiosity of strangers rather than exhibit them. This shyness and timidity were his companions throughout his life. He was often sought after and "lionised," but he rather avoided than courted society. He humorously tells us how he was horrified at a party in London when he saw a large company of guests filing in one after the other, and conceived from their deportment that they had come to do honor to the opium-eater. Mr. De Quincey would almost seem to have been unnatural in this respect, for the generality of men court popularity and notoriety. When the great literary character, Hall Caine, comes to Canada, Montreal, Toronto and other cities vie with each other in the excellence and sumptuousness of their "banquets." When the great Liberal leader—Mr. Laurier—goes to Woodstock he must be "banquetted." When Mr. N. Clarke Wallace goes to Toronto Junction he must be given a "reception." When the honorable the Canadian Premier goes to Winnipeg the citizens form processions, make speeches, read addresses of welcome, and do him honor! Perhaps, all things are good and true and necessary; and we may venture to say that, perhaps, they are the outcome, both of the feelings of gratitude and veneration and admiration, which seem to be fundamental principles in our humanity. It may be *apropos* for us to postulate the fact also that all those banquets, ovals, processions, addresses of welcome, the freedom of cities, and congratulatory speeches, find in those whom they are intended to honor and make popular, similar fundamental principles of appreciation and receptivity. But in the case of De Quincey, in this respect, at least, he was strikingly individual and strikingly unnatural.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

PERSONALS.

Mr. C. McLean goes to-day to Bradford to take a position in a tailoring establishment.

Mr. A. Mason, of Toronto, is visiting his cousin, Miss Jennie Palmer.

Aurora Banner.—Miss Elliott, of Richmond Hill, spent Sunday in town, the guest of Miss Cora Snowden.

Mr. W. E. Brown, High School Assistant, is spending his Xmas vacation at his home in St. John's West.

Mr. M. Palmer, barrister, of Grand Rapids, Mich., spent a couple of days last week with his sister, Mrs. (Dr.) Langstaff.

Weston Times.—Mr. Ellston, of Richmond Hill, was in the village over night, on Friday, and called in to see us. He looked as jolly as ever.

Mr. D. Lynett a few days ago received a telegram stating that his brother-in-law, Mr. John Thornton, proprietor of the Queen's Hotel, Orillia, had suddenly died.

We are pleased to observe by last Saturday's dailies that Mr. Albert S. Savage has successfully passed the Qualifying Examination in connection with the Civil Service.

Mr. F. H. Kirkpatrick, who has just returned from a session of the Normal School, Ottawa, was in the village a couple of days last week. He will resume duties here as Principal of the Public School on the 6th of January.

Mr. Geo. Coombs, of Bradford, who filled the position of Principal of the Public School here during the absence of Mr. Kirkpatrick to the Normal School, with so much satisfaction to the Board of Education and the section generally, has been engaged to teach the Downsview Public School for 1896. He will commence duties on the 3rd prox.

MARRIAGES

DENTON—VAUGHN—On the 18th of Dec., 1895, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. Dr. Mills, Miss Minnie Bernella Denton, of Webb's Mills, New York, and Mr. Chas. Vaughn, of Elmira, New York.

MCNAB—AGAR—At the Parsonage, on Tuesday, 24th inst., by Rev. J. Vickery, Mr. Simon McNab, of the township of Whitechurch, to Miss Alice Agar, of the township of Markham.

DEATHS

MCCONAGHY—On December 22nd, at Richmond Hill, Isabella Jane, beloved daughter of F. McConaghy, aged 20 years 4 months 23 days.

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