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IMPRESSIONS OF A STRANGER

Things As They Appear to a New Arrival.
—Some Suggestions by the Way.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:
Sir,—As a stranger, and as one who
has, as it were, recently "pitched his
tent" on the hill, will you allow me
space in your valuable paper for a few
comments and suggestions on and
about things I have noticed in the vil-
lage since coming here, which, I believe
will not be out of place.
Richmond Hill, to my mind, is a very
pretty village, and could not be more
pleasantly situated than it is,—with
beautiful and magnificent country
around it, and right close to Canada's
Queen city. The splendid order in
which things are maintained or kept in
the village is noticeable, some of which
I have referred to further on, while in
others improvement is needed.
In taking a walk round recently, it
occurred to me that while the streets
are kept in fairly good condition, there
is vast room for improvement of the
same. Clean streets, with weeds re-
moved from the sides, make a village
look attractive always, and the cost of
cleaning them and keeping them thus
is very little, as compared with the
benefit derived from a healthy stand-
point by its citizens. Some one has
said that the following two rules ob-
served in a village make it complete,
namely:—Remove weeds from streets,
and prevent the throwing of waste
paper and other material on the public
sidewalks and paths. 2nd:—Remove
boys and young men from the street
corners who indulge in profanity and
passing remarks, and keep public prop-
erty clear. One injures a village from
a healthy point of view, and the other
from a moral point of view. Should
these rules be observed here, citizens
would be appreciative.

Another thing, Mr. Editor, that has
struck me to be lacking here, is a few
more industries. Older residents, per-
haps, will say that Richmond Hill is a
quiet village, and they wish it kept so,
—not pestered, as it were, all the while
with factory whistles and the noise of
machinery. Industries are the life of
a community, and a source of prosper-
ity, therefore, Richmond Hill having
facilities for shipping both by steam
and electricity—two fine roads—should
get in line and endeavor to secure some
large manufacturing concern, which
will, as I have said, add life and pros-
perity to the place. What a fine thing
it would be, if, on approaching the vil-
lage by the Metropolitan or C. N. O.
railways, you could cast your eye on a
large factory in full operation, employ-
ing from 100 to 200 men. The mer-
chants of the village have had oppo-
sition by being so near Toronto, but I
believe if a large factory was located
here, employing the above number, it
would mean money for them. These
men earning their money here would
doubtless spend it here, at least a large
percentage of them would. From this
standpoint and numerous others which
have confronted other places, factories
would be a benefit here. The Council
should consider this proposition, which
need not be a dream, but a reality, if
the right methods are taken.

Since coming here, it has more than
once occurred to me from what I have
seen, that there is need of some place
where the young men of the village
can spend their evenings to advantage,
instead of having to congregate in
groups in the public highways, or sit
in seats on other people's property.
To this end the writer would suggest
that seats be procured and placed in
the park now owned by the village,
and I have reason to believe that if
this was done, the park would be well
patronized. What better thing can a
village have to its credit than a fine
park? The village of Port Dover, near
Hamilton, was a few years ago given
the present of a site for a public park
by one of its leading citizens, and now,
through the strenuous efforts of inter-
ested citizens, combined with the co-
operation of the council, the village is
possessed of a beautiful park—one to
be justly proud of—and none better in
the neighboring city of Hamilton.
Then provision should be made for the
winter evenings also. To meet this
requirement, I believe a reading room,
run in connection with the public lib-
rary, is a good thing for a place of this
size. In this room should be found all
the Toronto daily papers, and some of
the leading American, Canadian and
English magazines, and this place to
be open every evening. In every place
of over 500 there is to be found a class
of young men who have difficulty in
spending their evenings profitably,
especially where there is no night
school or branch of the Y.M.C.A., and
during the past two years in which
this matter has been receiving greater
attention than ever by many towns
and villages, many have established a
reading and amusement room in con-
nection with their libraries. This mat-
ter should be given the consideration
of the citizens of the village.
That Richmond Hill has four of the
finest churches to be found in any vil-
lage of a similar size in York and On-

tario counties, is a fact beyond dis-
pute, and is about the first thing I
noticed when I came. Other visitors
or strangers who come here, I am told,
have the same fact impressed upon
them from personal observation. The
Methodist Church, especially, is a very
handsome structure, both in exterior
and interior, for a place of this size,
and the congregations who by their
untiring efforts have built and repaired
it have every reason to be proud of the
structure. The Presbyterian, English
and Roman Catholic churches are also
unusually fine buildings. With such
fine churches, one would naturally ex-
pect that the enthusiasm in religious
work would be great, and that the
character of the people of the commu-
nity in which they are situated would
be truly a moral one.

The schools here are also away ahead
of many larger towns, the new High
School being an exceedingly handsome
building. The educational opportuni-
ties afforded here for those who attend
the schools are excellent, and should
be taken advantage of by those who
have the privilege of doing so. All
thinking men agree that education
plays a very important part in the life
of a community or nation, and the mod-
ern conception of education is that it
should not only train the intellectual
facilities of children, develop independ-
ence of thought and action, but fit
them to be citizens that will be able to
take their share in the social, civil and
commercial affairs of their country.
Therefore, I believe the ratepayers and
citizens have done a wise thing in pro-
viding the village with such fine
schools, whereby a first-class education
can be obtained.

And now, with clean kept streets,
handsome churches, good educational
facilities, and more industries, Rich-
mond Hill would certainly loom up in
the eyes of the people of the Province
of Ontario as an ideal village in which
to reside. The churches and schools
are here, also the streets, and industries
can be secured, along with anything
else which might be desirable for the
village to obtain, if the citizens will
interest themselves in them, and join
as workers together for the common
good.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your
valuable space, I am, sir,
Respectfully yours,
A STRANGER.

The footprints of Dyspepsia have
been directly traced to the Stomach
nerves. When these "inside nerves"
fail, indigestion and stomach distress
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**THE DELINEATOR FOR SEP-
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When a magazine finds some one
who can testify to an experience that
is really novel, it accomplishes what
is almost impossible in this day of
strenuous living and much writing.
In its September number, The Delineator
presents an article by Alma V.
Lafferty, the only woman member of
the Colorado Legislature. "Being a
Woman Legislator" is a frank confes-
sion of the difficulties encountered and
obstacles overcome. Mrs. Lafferty
tells what she accomplished and she
does not omit to record her failures.
What she says will be read with spe-
cial interest to all who are interested in
social reforms. Another remarkable
feature of this number of The Delineator
is a symposium on "What My
Children Mean to Me" by Madame
Schumann-Heink, the famous singer;
Mrs. Harold McCormick, daughter of
John D. Rockefeller; and Mrs. Freder-
ick Schoff, who has been long iden-
tified with the Congress of Mothers.
"Cold Iron," the first of the new
series of short stories by Rudyard
Kipling, leads the fiction for the
month. It is beautifully illustrated by
Frank Craig and Frederick Dove
Steele. "Jock," by J. J. Bell, is an-
other short story of exquisite quality.
"The Power and the Glory," the serial
by Grace MacGowan Cook, develops
into one of the most human of recent
novels. Of course, the fall fashions
are reviewed comprehensively; the
pages of illustration in color are es-
pecially attractive. "The Commer-
cial Value of Clothes" by Clara E. Sim-
cox tells the business woman many
important facts about personality.
Edmond La Fontaine describes the
costumes that he sees on the Rue de
la Paix at Trouville, and Helen Berke-
ley-Loyd reviews the modes enter-
tainingly.
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No. 2 On the Heart No. 5 For Men
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