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his basic teachings. Do the gospels written so long after his death do justice to his ministry. Just as with politics, discussions over religion frequently generate more heat than light, so what better opportunity to hear from the author, the true emphasis and meaning and how, if necessary, would that change, based on the changed world. I have a feeling that all that would have changed were the interpretations placed on his basically simply philosophy by successions of apostles, saints and churches.

Her Nibs, as you may know, is an English history buff. It never ceases to amaze me how she can remember the intricacies of royal marriages and the succession of Kings and Queens. After some thoughts her choice for a dinner guest was Elizabeth I. She thinks it would be very interesting to put her next to Margaret Thatcher and wait for the explosion.

It seems to me that some heaviness in conversation is great since it enables one to learn. But by and large after a meal of soup, salad, an entrée with assorted vegetables and dessert (oh of course you could have a fish course and a palate cleansing sorbet) accompanied by wine and a suitable liqueur with coffee, one is more inclined to want something light by way of conversation.

This leads to inclusion on my list of Stephen B. Leacock. He as, we know, was head of the Economics Department at McGill University and wrote several texts, i.e. Elements of Political Science, Practical Political Economy and the Economic Prosperity of the British Empire.

But I, as you probably do, remember him as one of Canada's leading humourists. I laughed through Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town I was there at The Sinking of the Mariposa Belle and huddled over the shoulder of the poor chap who was opening his first bank

account.

I think digestion would be aided immensely by an evening with him and one other American wit of whom Leacock wrote a biography - Mark Twain.

How wonderful to pen such gems as 'Adam and Eve had many advantages, but the principle one was that they escaped teething' or 'Reader, suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress, but I repeat myself' or 'Get your facts first and then you can distort them as much as you please and 'I believe that our Heavenly Father invented man because he was disappointed in the monkey!'

Its been fun considering a guest list. You may want to try it at your next dinner party and if you are so inclined share it with me. Its a subject I think I'll return to in the future.

On a serious note it seem to me that a sound ambition for anyone is to develop a level of skill and competence in one or more fields of general knowledge that would lead others to put you on their list of preferred dinner guests.

- John A. Jackson

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