

The Daily Leader

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Moncton, N. B.

THE CURSE OF PARTY.

On Saturday afternoon, April 20th, Principal Grant attended a meeting of Patrons at Kingston, Ont., and made a short speech, during which he said he was completely sick of the slavery of people to party. He believed in party as an organization, as a means to an end, but when a man began to worship a party it was time for a change. It was idolatry pure and simple, and just as degrading as the heathens who worshiped idols, and to whom Christian nations were sending missionaries. Great good had come out of the Patron movement.—Exchange.

These are timely words and would be timely almost any time. Party feeling or party prejudice is a fundamental factor of much mischief that is done, of much wrong that is perpetrated. And not only is it so directly, but it is used sometimes as a shield for rascals who have committed gross crimes against their fellows. Party fidelity is necessary, but when party comes to be capable of being used as an organized force to undermine a man's business and destroy him financially, it has become a great social evil that demands the attention and the vigorous disclaimer of every patriotic citizen. It is well that people should differ in opinion in respect of ques-

tions of public policy; it is well that all who speak and act should speak and act vigorously in support or in defense of the policy their consciences approve, but it is not well that animosities should result, or that dishonesty should be practised or excused on any such grounds.

It is the duty of all men to be intelligent in respect of matters of public policy and it is equally their duty to act in accordance with conscientious judgment in regard thereto. It is to be feared that this is not always done. When, for instance, the policy of moderate protection was adopted by the leaders of the Conservative party, how quickly that policy was denounced by the Liberal leaders and how quickly the supporters of each party accepted the theories of the leaders—accepted them without study or careful thought, for no better reason and through no better influence than the confidence felt in the wisdom of the leaders. This absolutely controls the half informed or wholly uninformed mind and prejudices the well informed at the very outset of such enquiry. So strong is this tendency that it is hardly possible to imagine a policy or a movement that, if proposed by one party, would not be opposed by the other. This is all clearly wrong and clearly injurious to the best interests of the country, but it is the legitimate fruit of party feeling, cultivated by various agencies, but by none so effectively as the party press. It may be said, as a general truth, that the party proclivities of any man and his family may be determined by the character of the newspaper which he reads week by week or day by day. That he is uninformed or badly informed or prejudiced, would be an intimation that he would resent, yet it may be truthfully said that one of these reflections, in hundreds of cases, is inevitably just.

The inference from all this is that the family newspaper should not be a party organ or advocate—a view that intelligent public opinion will yet entertain and enforce. The best interests of the country require that in respect of allowable differences of opinion, the growing youth should be left unprejudiced, and so in a position to follow the dictates

of their own intellects and conscience, instead of those of another, even though that other be the most anxious of all people to give sound instruction—the father himself.

If there is aught of force in these observations it follows that the family educator, the preacher, teacher and newspaper, should be free from prejudice in respect of matters in regard to which differences of opinion is allowable and even beneficial.

The words of Rev. Mr. Grant are therefore timely, truthful and impressive and should command the acquiescence of all the people. When this is done, and as this is done, there will follow such a preference for truly independent papers, devoted to the every day interests of the people, that the desire will be respected and the character of the press correspondingly improved. Parties will still have their literature but it will not be supplied by the family newspaper.

THE LEADER desires to be a pioneer in this reform. The editor and the publisher and each man connected with it may have his own opinion as to the merits of the greater or smaller parties, but these opinions, however valuable to the holder, are not of great public importance and no effort will be made to convey a different impression.

That the people do want a truly independent, honest, reliable, unprejudiced conveyer of news is evidenced by the success of the one or two papers in Canada that have honestly adopted this rule and persevered in it. Our convictions of right in respect of the fundamental principles on which periodical literature should be based are happily encouraged by the marked success of two great leading newspapers in Canada—The Star and The Witness—and we therefore buckle on the armor, even if some discouragements appear, with reasonable prospect of reasonable success.

To secure a fair test of the sincerity and value of these propositions and promises, THE LEADER is offered at a remarkably low price—a price that ought to secure it a welcome place in thousands of families in the Maritime Provinces and that it will be faithful to its outlined course there is only this guarantee, that the management, well known to the public for many years, never yet failed in honest devotion to any interest he undertook to serve. If any one doubts this statement he is at liberty and even has our invitation to challenge it.

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And losses great fortunes are accumulated. A loss of a few dollars on a suit of clothing may seem a small thing to some men, but it is losses such as these that make many men poor. The man who, instead of dealing with us, goes elsewhere and gets poor, shabby goods and slipshod, careless work in the making-up of these goods, is likely to look poor and feel poor, too, before many years. Gentlemen, stop these little leaks by dealing only with our firm, and you will then be sure of having clothing that will look well, wear well and fit well.

Bishop

the Tailor

171 Main St. Moncton N. B.



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- 3 RING CLOSED CIRCUS.
- 50 CAGE MENAGERIES.
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- A HUGE AQUARIUM.
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