

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

Hon. Joseph Chamberlain on Their Funny and Beneficial Characteristics.

The right Hon. J. Chamberlain presided recently at the jubilee celebration dinner of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society of which institution he is this year the president. In the course of his address Mr. Chamberlain says: Mr. Buckle, in the encyclopedia of information which he called the 'Introduction to a History,' tells us that debating societies did not come into existence until the latter half of the last century. Those, however, that were formed at the time and for a long time subsequently seemed to have been very sickly plants, and to have had but a brief existence. Our own local historians have unearthed the records of one which was established in Birmingham in 1774, which held its meeting at a public house called the "Red Lion in the Bullring," where they discussed such subjects as— which of the four cardinal virtues is the greatest? (laughter), and whether open reproof or private admonition tends most to the reformation of vice? (Laughter.) These questions they debated in symposia, to which admittance was free to ladies, and obtainable by gentlemen at the price of 6d. (Laughter.) But, notwithstanding the facility of admission and the elevating and inspiring character of the topics that were treated, this and another society, founded about the same time, both died in their childhood. Then a new institution of the same character was founded in 1789, at the commencement of those events which, as we know, resulted in the French Revolution. It had a much wider range of subjects, and it appears to have treated them with a freedom which was unknown in the case of the earlier societies. But on the fatal day, on October 15, 1792, which was the month before the September massacres and about two months before the execution of Louis XVI., this society chose as the subject for discussion "Whether Brutus was justified in killing Caesar?" (Laughter.) The effect was disastrous. It has only been paralleled, I believe, in the proceedings which, as we know from an American poet, took place upon the Stanislaus because, although there was a classical disguise, the modern application of the problem was too evident, and accordingly the magistrates had to interfere in order to prevent a breach of peace. (Laughter.) I believe that that was the last of the debating societies in Birmingham until the year 1846, when the Edgbaston Society and the Birmingham Society were both founded. They maintained a separate existence till 1855, when they joined forces and constituted the present society. (Cheers.) I may add, in order to complete this retrospect, that my own connection began with the Edgbaston Society, in the year 1854, and that I ceased to take any active part in 1863, when I last had the honor of being your president. A long time has elapsed since that period of youthful activity, and youthful aspirations, but I can say my memory is still fresh as ever of the leading incidents of my association with the society. When in common with friends and fellow-debaters, many of whom I rejoice once more to see around me, and with some other whom, alas! I can only remember with affectionate regret, when, I say, we 'surveyed mankind from China to Peru' (laughter) and settled questions offhand without a moment's hesitation which might have puzzled and might have baffled Milton's Conclave of the Grand Infernal Peers where they 'could find no end in wandering mazes lost.' (Laughter.) We, at least the older ones at the top of the board, will never again attain to the certainties of those earlier years. (Laughter and cheers.) Then we declared war without the slightest regard to the concert of Europe. (Laughter.) We could do so in safety, for we made peace on our own terms. (Renewed laughter.) We dismissed ministers without consulting the House of Commons. (Laughter.) We passed measures which unaccountably up to the present time even have not received the assent of the legislature. (Laughter.) And we were prepared at a moment's notice to pronounce on the merits of any individual, however eminent and to discuss the truth of any doctrine, however abstruse. (Laughter.) Was there, can there have been at this time about us anything of the presumption of youth? (Laughter.) I know not; but I do honestly believe that at any rate we had some of its virtues and some of its charms. (Hear, hear.) The debates in my time were conducted with courtesy and toleration. They were distinguished by freshness and generosity, and a true spirit of patriotism, and they were animated also by the Liberalism which is not political, but which is founded on a genuine abhorrence and indignation at wrong, and perhaps by a certain inexperience as to the difficulties in addressing it. We were rather a Radical body then. (Laughter.) I think that that is the experience of most similar societies. (Laughter.) We are hon-tonight with the company of the President of those illustrious societies, the Oxford and Cambridge Universities. (Hear, hear.) I do not know what is going on there now, but I do remember how Thackeray describes the experienced Pendenis at Oxford, where he was a striking light of the union, and when

the undergraduates of his time were distinguished by a certain truculent Liberalism, especially those of them who were scions of the aristocracy; and Thackeray relates how Pendenis made extraordinary success on one occasion, after vowing that he would himself cut off Charles the first's head with his own right hand if that unfortunate monarch were found in the room (laughter), and if Cromwell had no other executioner handy. (Laughter.) Indeed the prevalent liberalism of our time occasionally landed us in difficulties, since we could not always find a sufficiency of sneakers to defend more moderate opinions; and I remember on one occasion when we were unable to agree as to the disposal of a surplus of £7 odd which the treasurer expectedly disclosed to us, and when we unanimously approved the suggestion of the honorary secretary which was that we should buy a Tory with it. (Loud laughter.) Looking back I wondered whether the speeches that were then delivered were really the masterpieces that I thought them then, and I am still inclined to believe they were. I intend to cherish the allusion, even if reason is opposed to it, and therefore I say to you that I am convinced that no speeches have ever been made before or since that excelled the orations of the leaders of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society of my time. Speeches which came back to me are faint, perhaps, in consequence of the turmoil of the years that have passed, but they were speeches which I still maintain were models of argument, and monuments of eloquence. (Cheers.) Alas! I cannot recall them to speak for themselves, but if there are any sceptics, any unfriendly critics, who will tell you that my recollection betrays me, and in fact we were only a lot of bumptious youths, who spoke of things we did not know and decided questions that we did not understand, who will tell you—and I have heard of such men—that those early exercises promoted a superficial knowledge and an ill considered judgment, and that they did not tend to manliness of character, then I console myself with this fact, that cannot be denied, that no man who in that day made any reputation in our society has failed to maintain it in after life, and that, as you have been reminded by the Lord Mayor himself, there are not many citizens who have since distinguished themselves in connection with our town who did not serve an apprenticeship first in our society. (Cheers.) My Lord Mayor and gentlemen, you will have seen from what I have already said that I am a believer in the uses and the advantages of debating societies. I shall not dwell upon the friendships that they cement, upon the sympathies that they create by the discovery of common interests and common tastes, but I am myself convinced that they tend to promote a spirit of enquiry amongst their members, that they widen for them the bounds of knowledge, that they quicken and broaden their intellectual activity and that they cultivate that gift of clear expression which in our democratic and representative system is a necessary force, a potent influence for progress. (Cheers.)

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Sweetheart Abbey.

Few people know the origin of the name Dolce Cor, or Sweetheart Abbey in Scotland. It is a rather curious story of a woman's love and affection, says the Pittsburg Dispatch. When John Baliol, lord of Barnard Castle, died, his widow caused his heart to be embalmed and enclosed in an ivory casket richly enamelled with silver. Forever after when Lady Devorgilla ate her meals the casket was on the table beside her, and when she was buried, according to her own direction, near the altar in New Abbey—which she herself had founded in Galloway—the casket containing her husband's heart was placed on her bosom. From this incident Sweetheart Abbey derives its name.

Marry This Girl Quick.

I saw in your paper that a 13 year old boy made \$1.25 the first hour he worked selling the perfection Metal Tip Lampwick. I ordered a sample and went to work and the first week I cleared \$10, the second week I cleared \$15. I expect to run up to \$25 a week in the near future, as the Perfection Metal Tip Lampwick makes such a beautiful white light and does away with smoky chimneys and bad odor and saves oil, it is easy to sell. If you wish to try it send 13 two cent stamps to Miss A.M. Fritz, Station A, St. Louis, Mo., and she will send you sample outfit. This is a good way to make money around home. MISS TINA W.

Wife (drearily): "Ah me, the days of chivalry are past!" Husband: "What's the matter now?" Wife: "Sir Walter Raleigh laid his cloak on the ground for Queen Elizabeth to walk over, but you get mad simply because poor, dear mother sat down on your hat."

You don't know

where you got that cold. Do you know where you can get the cure for it? Every drug store keeps Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. It cures coughs and colds.

How Plimsoll Saved The Tars.

It was after a long fight continued over many years, that Mr. Plimsoll convinced the House of Commons that there sailed out of British ports on British ships men who were doomed to shipwreck and death. Lieutenant John M. Ellicott, United States navy, describing what is the Plimsoll measure in St. Nicholas for November, tells how it was finally carried:

At last Plimsoll got a vague sort of an act passed, giving the board of trade power to survey ships going to sea, and to stop those which seemed to be unseaworthy. This was in 1873, and during the first nine months of the act 286 vessels were surveyed, and 256 of them found unseaworthy. At least one in every ten was found to be so dangerously overloaded as to be in almost a sinking condition before leaving the dock. Of course, this opened the eyes of the board of trade and of parliament, and Plimsoll's mark became an established feature on British seagoing ships, but its establishment was fought against by ship owners, inch by inch. It was nicknamed the "pancake," and ridiculed and treated with contempt in every way. Some ship owners put the mark on their smoke stacks in defiance and derision. Plimsoll held to his idea, however, even getting himself suspended from the House of Commons one day for being too blunt and violent in his plain talk upon the subject. The result was "the merchant shipping act of 1876," making the Plimsoll mark compulsory on all British seagoing vessels, and requiring its position to be fixed, not by the ship owners, but by the board of trade.

Ayer's Pills, being composed of the essential virtues of the best vegetable aperients, without any of the woody or fibrous material whatever, is the reason why they are so much more effective and valuable than any other cathartics. The best family physic.

An honest man who stood upon the ragged edge of death, but was convinced of the truth.

Calais, Me., May 13, 1896. John Boyd, mason, 61 years old, says: "Last Spring I was very sick and miserable, had no appetite, could not sleep nights, began to think my time had come, and that I was to join the great majority. I walked around the streets feeling entirely used up, was good for nothing, could not do a minute's work, until like a drowning man gasping for straws, concluded to try Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla, and began using it, as directed; it began to help me from the first trial. After using three bottles, my old-fashioned good health returned to me, and have been well and strong ever since. I cannot express in language the great worth of this wonderful medicine and what I think of it." Yours truly, JOHN BOYD.

HELP CAME AT LAST.

I have been a hard working man doing general work. Over one year ago I suffered a severe attack of LaGrippe. It left me in a helpless condition. I suffered with severe pains in my back and could not do any work. I was advised to try Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla. I used five bottles, and it is marvelous how quick it cured me. That is over two years ago, and my health since that time has never been better. LINDSAY SCOTT. Calais, Me., Jan., 1896.

PRINCETON, May 23d.

THOMSON SARSAPARILLA CO.: Having the LaGrippe last winter, I was left near spring in very bad shape. I was all run down and I began to think I would never get any strength. F. H. Hall, of Calais, called at my place and advised me to take Thomson's Sarsaparilla. He said he would send three bottles if I would take them, and after taking two bottles I began to gain strength. I then took two more, and I must say of all the different kinds of medicines I have taken, it is with me one of the best. And I will say that I thank Mr. Hall and the Thomson Sarsaparilla Co. for what it has done for me. C. A. ROBBINS.

Given up in despair to die.

PATRICK MYERS, of Calais, Me., says: I was troubled with eruptions on the face and body, causing at times a burning and itching sensation which was almost unendurable; could do no work. I tried to get help from a number of our physicians, and paid them hundreds of dollars, which proved hopeless, was confined to my bed. I gave up entirely to despair. I was advised to try Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla, and I used eight bottles which entirely cured me. It purified my blood, restored my appetite, made me feel like a new man. Today am about my work, not forgetting to speak great words of praise for the above medicine.

Weak, Nervous, Sleepless, Tired and Run Down.

Nothing is so common today as the complaint of weak nerves. Read the testimony of MR. H. W. EATON, of Calais, Me.: My nerves were so unstrung that it was a burden for me to do any business, and sleep was out of the question, also had considerable difficulty with my stomach. I tried Dr. Thomson's Sarsaparilla, and it proved a blessing to me. I think everything of it, it is a great medicine, and it is a pleasure for me to recommend it.

There are numberless people who do not call themselves sick, yet who are not well. They feel weak, nervous, languid and tired. They have lost their vim, power of endurance and ambition to work. Most people have these feelings in the spring, because at this season the blood is impure, the nerves weakened, and the liver, kidney and bowels inactive.

Prepared by the

Doctor Thomson Medicine Co., Calais Me., and St. Stephen, N. B.

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Ladies' Button Boots, That were \$2.00, now at \$1.25. And Boots that were \$1.35 now for \$1.00. Gents' Shoes of all kinds,

Down to Rock Bottom Prices. We have the Finest Line of goods for Winter that we have ever had. Call and get **BARGAINS.**

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—Twenty-one homely "horse sense" prohibitions against foot-ruining folly, bound into a little volume which tells how to care for tired feet, sore feet, tender feet. How to prevent, and cure corns and distorted feet; also pointers on shoe purchasing, which are worth six dollars to any man whose footwear hurts or tires him.

Any full grown man, or woman, who asks for a copy, or sends a stamp to get it by mail, can have one free while they last, from—

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J. FRED. DICKINSON,

Corner of Main and Connell Streets.

Do you intend purchasing A Pung this season?

If so it will be in your own interest to inspect our stock before purchasing, as we have the best assortment in the county, and the prices are in keeping with the times. Sleights, Pungs and Sleds Repaired and Painted at Short Notice and at Lowest Prices. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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For sale by all Grocers throughout Carleton Co.

Buy It! Try It! It's Good!

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TO BE LET.

That pleasantly situated tenement on Park street, in Wellington Ward, now occupied by Fraser Grant. Possession given Nov. 1st. R. K. JONES.