

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1891.

THEY DON'T GET ENOUGH.

PREMIER FIELDING AND MR. CAHAN TALK.

A Halifax Man's Idea of How the Social System of the Province Might be Improved—Public Officials as Leaders of Society—Tradesmen Not in Favor.

HALIFAX, N. S., Nov. 21.—The question, "Is civilization a failure?" was more forcibly presented to me than ever before the other evening, when I had the good fortune to meet, at his own residence, one of the greatest of Nova Scotia thinkers. We were both seated in his handsome library, facing the chief obligation of the anti-tobacco association, when my learned entertainer said: "St. John PROGRESS is doing much to reform abuses, but it is capable of doing much more."

"In what particular respect?" "Both as regards the social and educational systems of the lower provinces. It is true that the people of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island pay too much attention to politics; but it is the systems I have named rather than politics that are retarding our growth in point of numbers and importance. The official classes are in nearly every case the leaders of society. Many of them are neither noted for their capability of paying their bills, nor for having due regard for the greatest of private virtues. Nevertheless they are society leaders, and hundreds of well-bred men and women not only tolerate them, but seem to consider it an honor to mingle in their society. These self-constituted leaders are the persons who decide who shall constitute 'society.' Unless in very exceptional cases people in trade are tabooed from the charmed circle, and the thought that a mechanic or a farmer should be admitted into 'society' is simply too horrid for a moment's serious consideration by the leaders! It is most amusing to notice some poor little woman who had come to town without perhaps a second decent change of dress to her back, struggle for social recognition. Finally she gets it! She is tolerated in society! Her head becomes turned, and neither she or her husband is able to do other than merely recognize the friends they were both glad to know a little before; and if any of the leaders are about they (the little woman and her husband) are not even able to coldly recognize their former friends. Poor things! how little they know what a laughing stock they are making of themselves."

"But you would not consider the actions of this occasional little woman of sufficient importance to commence a tirade against the present social system, would you?"

"No; I only mentioned that to show how people who might be respected and esteemed among their own friends, will sacrifice such friends for the pretended friendship of the 'tone' of a village, town or city. If such 'tone' were left to themselves, general society would not suffer, but as they are the persons who are permitted to say who shall be worthy of social recognition the effect on society is very bad. The whole tendency of the social system of the lower provinces, where all decent men and women should be on equal footing, is to teach that labor of all kinds is demoralizing. The result is that thousands of our young men and women are growing up in idleness, or getting pitched into the professions, when most of them should be on the farm or at some useful trade."

"How would you remedy all this?" "By having brains and decency constitute the chief qualities for admission into society. Take the city of Halifax for instance: what a splendid society could be formed among the clergy, medical men, lawyers, journalists, college professors, commercial men of all kinds and those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. Suppose the leaders of such society were to meet occasionally and prepare papers on the dignity of labor, the farmer's place in society and kindred subjects the effect would be most beneficial. The bone and sinew of the country would be encouraged to stay at home rather than to leave our shores as has been the case for many years, and our population would increase rapidly rather than be on the standstill or show a falling off, as is the case in many sections of the lower provinces. Such teaching would be in the country's best interest, which is certainly not the case in the teachings of most of the higher educational institutions of our provinces. You may think this a very radical doctrine, but I will prove it. Let us suppose that you and myself have been general traders. Our wives and ourselves have lived very quietly and we have made some money. We send our boys away to college. They meet there the sons of some gentlemen and more boys, the sons of men and women who owe their industry to everything they have in the world. There is a great deal of pretense carried on in such educational institutions. Every boy wants his classmate to feel that he comes from as good a family as ever lived in his locality. The family at home sometimes pinch themselves so that the boy at college may have a flush of money. Finally he graduates. In nine cases out of ten he returns home to enter a profession. He has no ideas in common with his old school mates—the boys with whom he wrestled and ran races before he went to college. The chances are ten to one that he becomes a failure, while if his training had been of the proper kind he might have made a first-class tradesman, blacksmith or farmer. The same idea might be applied to the daughters of pretty well-to-do farmers. They are sent to lady

colleges, and it often happens that too many of them soon learn to regard farming as low and mean. They no longer think well of the farmers' boys with whom they were in love before leaving for these institutions of higher education. They finish their education, but how many of them become the happy wives of farmers? Scores of them become dissatisfied with their homes and drift away to the United States, where they work in factories, or earn their livings in ways perhaps less honorable. The whole social and educational systems of the provinces need reformation; and, as I have said, here is a great field for PROGRESS."

PROGRESS' comparison of salaries paid the members of the New Brunswick local government with those paid the local ministers of the crown in Nova Scotia causes considerable talk here. The consensus of opinion is that the New Brunswick salaries are ridiculously low. On this point the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition of this province, with whom I sought interviews are agreed.

Premier Fielding said: "PROGRESS might have gone further and compared the salaries paid the members of the New Brunswick government with the salaries of cabinet ministers in the other provinces, besides Nova Scotia. Ontario pays Premier Mowatt \$5,000 a year, and six other ministers \$4,000 each. In Quebec Premier Mercier is paid \$5,000, and the other five members get \$4,000 each. In Manitoba the leader of the government receives \$4,000 a year, and the other four cabinet members get \$3,000 each; and in British Columbia the four government members receive \$3,000 each. The question of government salaries in New Brunswick is one that I have frequently discussed with members of your legislature—both government supporters and members of the opposition. The general opinion expressed by these gentlemen has always been that the salaries in New Brunswick were altogether too small, but no one seemed willing to take the responsibility of moving in the matter. The question might be easily settled by an understanding between the two political parties as to what are fair salaries under the circumstances; and that understanding should be carried out in such a manner that neither party would attempt to make political capital out of it. No doubt even the present salaries seem large in the eyes of many good people whose circumstances in life are such that their needs are small. When we think how many thousands of our people are living comfortably and happily on a few hundred dollars a year it is not surprising that many persons do not understand properly a question such as this. They do not understand the large expenditure which necessarily attaches to the life of every man employed in public affairs. Only those who have had the experience can fully appreciate it. I do not know how it is in New Brunswick but in Nova Scotia, with very rare exceptions, the men most prominently engaged in politics have found the emoluments of their office entirely inadequate to the burdens imposed on them, and have grown poorer rather than richer. These things are being better understood, however, from time to time. If leading public men would put aside partisanship and jealousy and state what they know to be the simple truth in such matters you would speedily have more respectable salaries paid your New Brunswick government members. The question should not be considered with regard to the individuals at present in power, but only with regard to the office."

"When the salaries were increased in Nova Scotia was it through such an understanding by both sides as you suggest?" "No; there was no understanding with the opposition, nor did the government in reality initiate the matter. What happened was this: On one occasion when a meeting of our legislative supporters had been summoned for other business an intimation was given me that they wished to discuss some matters in the absence of members of the government. When the ministers entered the meeting some time later they were informed that the matter of departmental salaries had been considered, and that it had been resolved to ask the government to introduce a measure to increase them. The government, of course, in all financial matters must accept responsibility, but the change was really brought about in the way I have mentioned. It would be better in matters of this kind, I grant, to have an understanding between the two political parties but there were reasons which I need not enter upon now why such an understanding was not sought here."

Premier Fielding closed with the statement that previous to 1885 the attorney-general of Nova Scotia received fees on mining leases. These fees are now paid into the public treasury and the apparent increase in the salary of the attorney-general here was more nominal than real.

Mr. Cahan, leader of the local opposition in Nova Scotia, expressed himself as follows: "In view of the financial condition of the Nova Scotia treasury, and the necessity alleged for diminishing the grants to other important services, I felt it my duty to oppose the increase of salary to members of our local government last session. But all must certainly admit that according to your statement the salaries of members of the New Brunswick legislature are too low to offer sufficient inducement to able men to give their time to the public service. Hon. Mr. Blair should certainly receive a much larger salary than he does at present. Of course you know that I differ from his views on many questions of public policy, especially in relation to the federal affairs of Canada; but all recognize him as an able party leader and as one of the recognized leaders of your provincial bar. The comparison you make in the salaries paid to the members of the two governments is all the more favorable to Attorney General

Blair in view of the fact that by personally and efficiently conducting the criminal prosecutions in your province he saves the provincial treasury many thousands of dollars, keeps the conduct of these prosecutions out of the hands of less competent appointees of the government, and preserves the proper executive responsibility for the due enforcement of the criminal law. When in opposition I do not know how far the members of the present New Brunswick government compromised their position. In this province Premier Fielding in his capacity as a journalist, made most extravagant denunciations of the local members who accepted the \$400 indemnity, and made that the subject of off repeated attacks upon the Holmes-Thompson administration of which the present minister of justice was then attorney-general. When Mr. Fielding himself got into office he soon discovered from personal experience how utterly unwarranted were his own attacks upon his predecessor in office, and under his administration two or three increases have been made in his own salary, while the sessional indemnity has been increased to \$500. I trust that Premier Blair is not embarrassed by a like unfortunate expression of views when he was in opposition." M. McDADE.

BILLY FLORENCE AS A JOKER.

Some of the Pranks that He and Sothern Delighted to Practise.

Actors have been severely criticised for apertence in shop talk and a carrying of the mannerisms and affectations of the stage into everyday life. Indeed this seems to be a characteristic of most actors beyond the people of any other profession or trade. It was a lack of this characteristic that was always remarked first by those who met Mr. Florence. He never indulged in shop talk. His manners were free from any suggestion of the stage, even of his own particular parts, which in themselves had less staginess than is often seen.

Mr. Florence impressed those who met him socially as a man whose remarkable natural ability had been developed by observation and experience rather than by study. His address was simple, cordial, and brusquely courteous.

He was best known off the stage as a practical joker. Not that he bore about any of those mechanical contrivances with which a certain low order of being regales itself. He relied for his success upon his cleverness entirely. And it is not recorded that he ever made an enemy by a practical joke. This love of practical joking made him and Dundreary Sothern friends until the end of Sothern's life. They were continually playing jokes each upon the other, and whichever way the joke went it was appreciated. Larry Jerome, Sothern, and Florence were a famous trio of jokers in New York ten years ago.

Florence had a great habit of promising a man a fish or some game when he was about starting on a hunting or fishing trip. Day after day would pass and the game would not be forthcoming. But almost every day a letter or telegram would come, saying that Florence had not forgotten, that Florence was just about sending the game, that there was no cause for worry, as a fine fish or deer was on its way to the express office. At first this solicitude would cause courteous letters and telegrams in return; as the delay got longer the victim would get impatient, and would finally be literally haunted by huge fishes or deer, "with the compliments of W. J. Florence." Then some fine day, when it was least expected, the fish or deer would come.

Through Sothern, Florence came to know the Duke of Beaufort, and they were excellent friends. Beaufort came to this country and was at the Gilsey House a good while. Florence enlivened his stay by several jokes, which were the talk of the town at the time. He told the duke that he was not looking well, "You need violent exercise," said he. "Now, I was troubled as you are. I used to strip to my underclothing, and, taking a heavy chair in my hands, would run about my rooms, raising and lowering the chair a hundred times without stopping. It had a grand effect."

Florence insisted upon this for several days, and got the duke into a mind for trying it. One afternoon, when several eminent persons were going to call on the duke, Florence persuaded him to try the great remedy. The duke undressed, and, seizing a great chair, he elevated it above his head and began racing around the room. He was soon in a fine sweat, with his eyes bulging, his face red, and his veins standing out. Florence went to the office, and when the eminent and dignified persons arrived, he said to one of them he knew: "Going up to see his grace?" "Yes," said the man.

"Well," said Florence, "I've been up to see him, and I'm afraid he's touched in the head. He is leaping about his room, making strange noises and breaking the furniture. Come up and see. I think he ought to be restrained. His family ought to be told."

The eminent and dignified personages accompanied Florence, and, peeping through a crack in the door, saw an apparent maniac dashing round and round, with staring eyes, and flushed face. Then Florence shut the door, and took them away to tell what he had seen, beginning: "It's very sad about his grace," until an expression was general that the Duke of Beaufort had gone mad. A few days later Florence hid the duke's clothing, and poked his head in at the door and said: "Hurry out, the hotel is afire!" The duke presently appeared in the hotel office in a night-gown, slippers, and a tall hat, thus confirming the unfavorable impression of his intellects.

Sothern and Florence took the greatest liberties with each other. Each was continually on the lookout, as the telegraph and the mails gave opportunities when they were not in the same town. Some time in the seventies both were playing in St. Louis. Sothern was giving Dundreary, of course, and Florence and his wife were playing *The Mighty Dollar*. At the end of the first act of *The Mighty*

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Dollar Florence leaped into a cab and was hurried to the theatre where Sothern was playing. Sothern was on and was reading Sam's letter. All at once he was amazed and confounded by Bardwell Slope hurrying down the aisle, climbing over the footlights, and grasping him by the hand. There was awful confusion, and the curtain had to be rung down.

In the last act of *The Mighty Dollar* that same evening Mrs. Florence, giving one of those wonderful homilies, was suddenly interrupted by Sothern in *Dundreary* costume entering from the wings.

"Excuse me," he hisped, as he walked toward the footlights. "I just wanted to read a letter from my brother Sam."

Sothern gave a dinner to Florence at a London club and invited him for half an hour later than any of the other guests. He said to his guests, who were eminent men in literature and politics and in the nobility: "When Florence comes, suppose you all get under the table? He'll think his lateness has caused you to leave." So when Florence was announced all except Sothern got under the table, and the tablecloth hid them from sight. As Florence entered he saw Sothern alone and said:

"Has nobody come yet?" "Oh, yes," said Sothern in a loud voice. "They've all come. And as soon as you were announced they hid under the table, though why the devil they did it I can't imagine." One by one the guests crawled out, looking red and ashamed.

Florence and Sothern combined to make a practical joke, which has been told as the best they ever did. They gave a dinner to Adelaide Neilson's husband, Charles Lee, at the Fifth Avenue hotel. Lee was a soft-spoken, duds Englishman, with vague and terrible ideas of American civilization. They assured him that the guests would be types of America's best society. All the guests were introduced to Mr. Lee under false names. For instance, Dan Bryant was called William Cullen Bryant, and Nelse Seymour figured as "that eminent statesman, Horatio Seymour."

The dinner was calm enough until the coffee was brought. Then Bryant and Seymour got into a quarrel, which increased rapidly in loudness and volume. Finally, the lie was passed. They drew each a huge revolver and began firing rapidly each at the other across the table. The other guests at first tried to pacify them, then joined in the quarrel, drew pistols, and began firing. Mr. Lee kept his seat for a while, but soon darted under the table, which place he was with difficulty persuaded to leave.—N. Y. Sun.

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AN OLD TEA LEGEND.

The Origin of the Herb as it is Told by the Japanese.

According to a Japanese legend the origin of tea is thus traced: An Indian prince, named Darma, of a holy and religious character, visited China in the year 516 A. D. for the purpose of instructing the Celestials in the duties of religion. He led a most abstemious life and denied himself all rest or relaxation of body and mind. At last tired nature rebelled against such treatment, and, thoroughly exhausted, the prince fell asleep. When he awoke he was so mortified at his weakness that, in order to purify himself of what he considered an unpardonable sin, he cut off his eyebrows, considering them the instruments of his crime.

They fell upon the ground and each individual hair became transformed into a shrub, which eventually came to be known by the name of tea. Prior to that time it had been unknown, but Darma quickly discovered the agreeable property of its leaves, which endowed his mind with fresh powers to master obtrusive religious principles, and prevented sleep from closing his eyes at opportune moments. He recommended its virtues to his disciples, who, in turn, sang its praises to all whom they met. In a very short time its use became general throughout the celestial kingdom, from which it gradually extended to all parts of the earth. Darma's memory is perpetuated in Chinese and Japanese drawings by the representation of a rude figure of an old man standing in the water with a reed under his feet, and one of his eyebrows sprouting out into a tea leaf.

In connection with the introduction of tea into England a very amusing story is told of a certain titled woman who had been presented with a pound of the finest green tea. She had no idea of its proper preparation and consequently boiled the entire quantity and served it up with melted butter as an accompaniment to a roast of beef. She was not pleased with its appearance and gravely informed her guests that, although it had been cooked for several hours, it was simply impossible "to make those foreign greens tender."

OPINION FOR SMOKERS.

Virtue of the Ash on a Cigar—A Neglected Wood—The Ten-Center.

"Few people know how to smoke a cigar properly," said a tobaccoist. "In fact, few people know anything at all about a cigar. Many imagine that in order to obtain all the flavor of a good cigar it is necessary to keep the tip absolutely free from ashes. As a result they snap the cigar with their finger until the wrapper is broken and their Habana is useless. They destroy their cigar in the attempt to remove the very thing that preserves its flavor."

"Again, it is the popular belief that a cigar partly smoked and then allowed to go out is worthless. But the contrary is

the case. A good cigar is made still better if the smoker lights it, consumes it partly, and after expelling all smoke from the weed permits it to go out. Try it and see. I do not say that this holds good with poor cigars, or with a good cigar unless you force the smoke out of it, but do as I say and you will see that it adds to the pleasure of your smoke.

"Not one man out of a hundred can tell a good cigar. Why, men come in here and buy twenty-five cent cigars who can not distinguish between what they buy and a five cent cigar, so far as the quality goes. A man's taste must be educated in this as in everything else. He must be taught to tell a good cigar from a bad one. Some men have smoked such rank cigars for years that now they can not taste a cigar unless it is the blackest, strongest and sharpest on the market. The stronger the cigar the more likely is it to be of inferior quality."

"Lastly, never by a ten cent cigar. Let it be a five or fifteen or over, but never a ten cent one. Why? Because the ten cent cigar is made of the leavings of the higher priced cigars, and for that reason is inferior to them. A good five cent cigar is made of first class second grade tobacco, which makes a better smoke than second class first grade tobacco, or the ten cent cigar."

Before the Altar.

Where any question exists as to which side of the church the families of the participants in a wedding should occupy, the custom is for the bridegroom's family and friends to the right of the middle aisle, while those of the bride sit on the left. The bridegroom does not pay for anything connected with the wedding unless he should choose to send bouquets to the bridesmaids, and, of course, to the bride, and presents and boutonnières to his best man and the ushers. A widow removes her first wedding ring at her second marriage and does not assume it again. The engagement ring is taken from the third finger of the left hand and worn afterward as a guard to the wedding ring. It is not considered good taste to cut the finger out of the glove for assuming the ring. No matter how beautiful may be the orange blossoms on your wedding gown they can never be worn but once; usually the modiste arranges clusters of roses to take the place of the blossoms, and the roses are put on as soon as the wedding dress is taken off. All these seem little things, but they have their absolute significance, and a bright woman does not wish to show to the world at large her ignorance of their symbolism.

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