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IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE.

THE CHOICE OF A RECTOR DEVELOPS MUCH TROUBLE.

The Meeting of Voters was a Stormy one and was Conducted on the Lines of a Political Campaign—Cause of the Trouble—High vs. Low Church.

Since the death of the Venerable Archdeacon Brigstocke which occurred on March 3rd last, the troubles of Trinity church have been many. It has been known throughout the city that the church was divided against itself, and that there were numerous factions, every one of which was firmly convinced that its own particular side of the question was the only correct one, and which if followed would bring the church to its former state of prosperity and peace.

The most potent of these influences had to do with high and low churchism and it was on this rock that the congregation seems to have come to grief or at least to have become involved in troubles which threaten to be most serious and to interfere materially with the peace and harmony of the church.

The question of High vs Low church is now attracting world wide attention and the English churches have for some time experienced an upheaval which can be traced distinctly to the disquieting phases of this much vexed question. More than one congregation so divided has had its very existence threatened by the rending of its adherents, and it is with the greatest difficulty that the slightest semblance to harmony has been restored. It is not surprising then that the discussion has at last invaded St. John and good old Trinity has been the first to smart under its influences.

While the effect of the ritualistic question has been felt in all the local churches of the episcopal denomination yet any serious difference did not arise until the Trinity rectorship came to be considered.

The Episcopal church allows the congregation of any vacant charge six months time in which to choose a rector. If it fail to come to any agreement in that time the bishop of the diocese makes an appointment which must be satisfactory to the congregation.

The six months allowed Trinity have not yet expired, so the bishop's services have not yet been called into requisition. The congregation has had the choice of a successor of the late Archdeacon Brigstocke under serious consideration for the last two months. A committee was appointed to take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy and the meeting of the congregation was called for Tuesday evening this week to hear the committee's report and to take action on it.

It was decided that only pew holders in good standing would be allowed to vote and this led to the committal by some of the church authorities of deeds which can hardly be reconciled to the idea of purity which is supposed to be one of the principal tenets of religion. Before the meeting the high and low church parties organized for the campaign with as much heat as though the future of a government or great political party hung in the balance. It would have been much better had they not done so, for deals followed in the wake of organization and the proceedings that resulted were undignified and of a nature that the smallest country chapel should be heartily ashamed of.

A few instances of the great zeal of the more ardent supporters of the respective parties may be cited.

In one instance a pew holder who is well off in this world's goods purchased nine vacant pews and presented them to as many friends and employes on condition that they attend the meeting and vote as he directed.

Another pew holder had forfeited his right to vote by allowing his pew rent to remain unpaid. He surrendered his pew which was at once taken up by his son who paid one month's rent and was placed on the voters list. The father was then given another pew on condition that he and his son vote a certain way.

Other instances may be mentioned but these cited are sufficient to show the chaotic state of mind of Trinity's congregation.

When the meeting opened Tuesday evening Mr. C. F. Kinnear took the chair and after prayer by Rev. Mr. Dickinson the object of the meeting was stated and the committee was asked to report. Mr. J. A. McAvity then said that the names chosen had narrowed down

to two—Rev. J. C. Farthing of Woodstock Ont., and Rev. J. A. Richardson of Winnipeg. Both gentlemen were well fitted for the charge. Letters were then read testifying to the ability and sterling qualities of each of the candidates. No fault was found with the qualifications of either candidate and were it not for the fact that they occupied different sides of the church question all would have been well. As it was the meeting was nothing but a battle between the two factions and a very hot battle at that. After Reverends Farthing and Richardson had both been nominated and the meeting proceeded to election the fun began.

The names of the pewholders were called and as each name was announced that person voted. The first few voters cast their ballots amid a silence broken only by the voice of the clerk as he slowly called out other names.

All of a sudden there was a halt in the proceedings and each man eyed his neighbor as if half ashamed of what had just taken place—a voter had been challenged—a campaign dodge pure and simple introduced into a church election. The challenged one could not satisfy the chairman so he was turned down. Two or three others were also turned down because they were not baptized.

After some discussion as to the rights and wrongs of the chairman's action it was decided to recall those who had been rejected and permit them to vote. This was agreed to and the vote gave Mr. Richardson a majority of two the figures being Richardson 44, Farthing 42. The second ballot resulted in Richardson 46, Farthing 38 and the third gave Mr. Richardson 46 and Mr. Farthing 37.

Another ballot was taken and although only 83 persons voted it was found that an extra ballot had by accident or design found its way into the ballot box. Of course it must have been an accident for ballot box stuffing would hardly be resorted to by the good church members. At any rate the troublesome ballot was there and it had the effect of making the whole ballot void. The ballot was taken over again and resulted in 44 for Mr. Richardson and 39 for Mr. Farthing.

It is necessary in order to extend a call to a pastor for an Episcopal church that he have two thirds of the congregation in his favor which in Tuesday's meeting would mean over 55 votes. As neither party would give or take, it was impossible to secure the requisite number for either candidate so it was decided to adjourn the meeting until July 11th, when inquiries could be made as to the high or low church proclivities of both men. In the mean time Trinity is being supplied by Rev. Mr. Dickinson and it is now probable that on account of the stormy character of their recent meeting that his supply will be continued for some time as it is not at all probable that either Mr. Farthing or Mr. Richardson will allow their names to be again to be placed in nomination.

Indeed the average Churchman does not see how they can consistently do any thing else. It is just possible however that the two parties may compromise on a third gentleman whose name has not yet been made public and who is not a very ardent devotee of either side preferring rather to do his duty as he sees it than to take any active part in the debate of vexed ecclesiastical questions which have already sorely tried the minds of the best minds in the Episcopal clergy or laity. Meanwhile Trinity's congregation is in a state of ferment and even the chimera have been so shocked at the turn affair have taken that they maintain a dignified silence and their merry peal has not been heard once this week.

Niobe's Success.

The return engagement of the W. S. Harkins company began on Thursday evening when Niobe, one of the prettiest and most laughable pieces in the company's repertoire was presented to a large and representative audience. In the role of Niobe, the beautiful statue which under electrical influence becomes a living creature, Miss Mabel Eaton was seen at her best, her stately statuesque beauty being enhanced by her Grecian draperies. She was quite perfect in the part, and the warm welcome she received upon her first appearance was convincing proof of the place she holds in the hearts of St. John theatre goers. Mr. Farnum too was at his best and his thoroughly natural, easy manner made the character of Cornelius Griffin one of the most pronounced

successes of the performance. Mr. McWade, Miss Stillman, Miss Williams and the others in the caste were equally good. Niobe will be repeated this afternoon, and tonight those who are anxious to know What Happened to Jones, Broadhurst's best comedy may learn of his funny predicaments. For the holiday there is an especially rich treat in store Brown's in Town being the matinee bill, and The Wrong Mr. Wright getting all his troubles straightened out in the evening. Both are excruciatingly funny plays, and will crowd the opera house to overflowing.

A LOTBARIO WHO SKIPPED.

He had Arranged to be Married But Did not Stay for the Ceremony.

There is one barber missing from town. His name is Harry Peck and his native place is Digby, Nova Scotia. Harry came across the bay two years ago and there were good grounds then for supposing that he suited his own convenience and disappointed a lady friend when he left the place so suddenly. A warrant was spoken of and some said it was served here but on the wrong man. However, Harry escaped the results of his Digby attachment and folly and began to make friends in St. John. He was a likeable fellow, a good steady workman and it is not surprising that in a short time a young woman began to prefer his society. She was just as popular with Harry as he was with her and they made arrangements to set up house-keeping together. That was some weeks ago. A flat was rented from a Mrs. Watson and the young woman began to select her furniture and other necessities.

Monday morning Harry did not show up at his place of employment and it was only through information from his room mate that it was understood that he had taken the steamer for somewhere. He paid his board bill to date and departed.

The night before he had spent with his sweetheart and her friends knew that their plans were nearing completion on Monday when she told them. It was only through a cautious inquiry made by his prospective landlady as to her future tenant that this report spread of his departure for as soon as she heard it from his surprised employer she went direct to his fiancée and told her. There was consternation then because deception had followed love and the flight of the young man leaves the girl in a pitiful plight indeed.

WANTED THE GALLERY CLEARED.

Spectators in a Church That Were Controlled by the Rector.

A little incident that happened in connection with a recent wedding has created considerable talk around town and much speculation has been indulged in as to what will be the outcome of the whole business. Although the marriage took place in a well known church at about noon hour a large number of people gathered to see two popular young people united in the holy bonds of matrimony.

It seems that the rector had given instructions that no person should be allowed in the gallery and to prevent anyone invading that portion of the church the entrance was roped off. In spite of that obstruction however, when the hour of the ceremony arrived the gallery was well filled with people who wished to see it performed.

The rector refused to proceed until the gallery was cleared, and this not proving an easy task, he started to accomplish it himself. There was one lady however up there who had very strong ideas as to her rights, who sat in her own pew and who did not propose to vacate it because the rector requested her to do so. So she remained. She was obstinate and so was he and the result was that it was not until a policeman was sent for, that, preferring not to make a scene in the church, she left the gallery. Then the service went on as usual. There is a statement to the effect that the lady will not permit the matter to end without inquiring into the authority of the rector. But this is hardly probable.

Out Earlier Than Usual.

Owing to Dominion Day falling on Saturday the publication day of PROGRESS this paper is printed somewhat earlier than usual this week and sold on the streets of this city Friday afternoon and evening in order that readers who go out of town for the holiday may procure a copy.

Umbrellas Made, Re-covered, Repaired
Ducat, 17 Waterloo.

HOW TO SPEND THE DAY.

VARIOUS PLANS IN MANY QUARTERS FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY.

Excursions out of Town and Excursions Into Town—Sports on Lily Lake—Base Ball Grounds and Theatres Centres of Enjoyment—Horse Races at St. Stephen.

It is seldom that Dominion day comes on Saturday but when it does it seems as if all the people made additional preparations to observe it. In some respect the day has not the same advantages as one in the middle of the week because so many things are usually crowded into the last day of the week that it is a difficult matter to make it a holiday.

Still it would seem that the people are prepared to do it this year if one may judge from the events that are scheduled to take place. As a general rule the stores will close though it may be noted that Recorder Skinner says the city has no right to close the country market. Grocery stores are not likely to get much rest because no matter how much fun is going on their patrons must eat and there are many purchases that cannot be made Friday for Sunday.

There are many indications that the number of people going out of town will be unusually large. It is seldom that there is an opportunity to get two days together in the country and very many will embrace the opportunity of the brief holiday. All the boats run excursions on the river. The Weston starts from Fredericton comes to St. John and then returns to the capital the same evening. This will give the celestials a chance to spend the day on the river and those in St. John who take a similar trip can board the Victoria in the morning at Indiantown and go to Fredericton and return. The Clifton too is bent upon an excursion and will give a chance to any who are looking up the Kennebecasis for pleasure and recreation.

The railways have made special rates and they have been well advertised and excursions out of town are almost too numerous to mention. These things, however, did not deter the Polymorphians and the members of the Neptune rowing club from having attractions in the city and judging from the programme that they have outlined the water sports will be as interesting as they are novel. Their idea was to counteract the craze to leave the town on that day and to provide some sport that would draw people to the town. So their programme covers not only the afternoon but the evening when with the aid of electric light there will be Sports on the Athletic grounds at the Marsh bridge.

During the day the principal attraction for many ball cranks will be the games between the Roses and Alerts. The rivalry between these teams is getting keener as the weeks pass and the number of games in the series that have been played larger. A new pitcher has come to town for the Alerts and the followers of that team are confident that he will assist them to win the series. Perhaps there are some patrons of the game who will regret the necessity of hiring an outside man—a professional as they term him—but they have only to recall a few years ago when there was not one but many professionals on the two teams then fighting for supremacy.

Ladies and children who do not want to walk to the park and see the sports and who don't care for the ball games can spend the afternoon in the opera house when the Harkins company will give a matinee as well as an evening performance. Holiday performances are always an attraction in St. John even when they are given on Saturday and with so good a company as Mr. Harkins has these should prove no exception to the rule.

Border enterprise will take away some people because the only horse races within easy reach are to be held there. Special Blend and another good one represents Mr. Willis' stable and they are an attraction anywhere. Mr. Fowler sends one and there are plenty of good ones from elsewhere. Special Blend nearly came to grief a few days ago having hurt himself in his stall, but by means of careful treatment he improved so that his owner took the risk of sending him to the track, though whether he will be able to start or not is not known yet. The purses are large and the two meetings on Saturday and Tuesday will practically open the racing season in the Maritime provinces. A good many horsemen will go to the border to watch the exciting events.

HIS LIGHT SENTENCE.

Grover who Murdered McLean Got Ten Days.

Is the taking of a human life ever justifiable? Evidently there are some people who think, so and, despite all law to the contrary, are prepared to stand by their principles.

If twelve good men and true had not unanimously agreed that Alred Grover of York county was thoroughly justified in killing McLean the former would now be a condemned murderer awaiting the final act in a tragedy, instead of serving a ten days sentence for manslaughter.

It will be remembered that after a night of wild orgie and debauching in the Grover household at Stanley, Grover claimed to have found McLean in his wife's room—occupying the same bed in fact—in a fit of rage he stabbed him to death.

When the request was held the jury returned the verdict of "death by stabbing" omitting the name of the man who was known to have used his knife with such deadly effect. The trial came to a close this week in Fredericton, and during its progress evoked a deep interest in the capital and vicinity. On the closing day, Tuesday, an immense throng of people were on hand when the court opened and throughout the day it was densely packed.

When the after dinner session opened Judge Vanwart delivered his charge to the Jury. After referring to the charge against the prisoner he said that, the latter stood before them in law innocent of the crime charged against him. The taking of life is held prima facie to be murder, but there are cases under which it can be reduced from murder to manslaughter. After quoting the law on the subject, his honor said that it seemed to him that there could be no doubt, in fact it was admitted, that McLean lost his life at Grover's hands on the morning of May 19. It was claimed by Grover that he killed McLean under circumstances that did not make it murder. He was not going to express any opinion on the view or tell them who they were or were not to believe. If they believe the evidence of Grover that he found McLean in bed with his wife and killed him in the heat of passion it was for them to say if that was not sufficient provocation, and whether or not the passions of Grover had time to cool down. The attorney general held that the prisoners passions did have time to cool down, but the jury must remember that all men were not alike, and it was for them to decide whether or not the contention of the crown was correct. He reminded the jury that they were to judge the case only by so much evidence as they believed. His honor then referred briefly to the evidence given by James Humble and Dr. Moore and Major Howe regarding certain statements made by the prisoner on the morning after the tragedy as particularly deserving of their careful attention. He pointed out to the jury the great responsibility that rested upon their shoulders, and urged them to lay aside all sympathies. The verdict may not meet with the approval of everybody but if it commended itself to their conscience and they had discharged their duty fairly and honestly they need not care for public criticism. He explained that under the indictment they could find the prisoner guilty of either murder or manslaughter, but if they fail to find him guilty or murder it would seem to be their duty to return a verdict of manslaughter. He spoke for about twenty minutes with the utmost impartiality.

A little after half past two the jury returned and during their absence Mr. Gregory, Grover's lawyer, informed the attorney general that should the case go against his client he intended to appeal. There was however no necessity of this for when the jury returned the foreman announced that though they acquitted the prisoner on murder they found him guilty of manslaughter.

Mr. Gregory, on being asked if he had reason to offer why sentence should not be passed, addressed the court briefly. He said that he had visited the prisoner's wife shortly after the tragedy and found her in a very repentant mood and willing to assume all responsibility for the affair. She had mortgaged her farm to provide the means for Grover's defence. Mr. Gregory in conclusion expressed the hope that his honor would deal as leniently as possible with the prisoner.

His honor, after addressing Grover at (CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.)