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Presbyterianism and Parliament Leadership

(J. E. B. McCready in Charlottetown Guardian)

It is reported that Hon. Mr. Bracken, the new Progressive Premier of Manitoba, when called upon recently to form a new Administration brought together as his colleagues in office a company of seven or eight other honourable gentlemen all of whom are, like himself, Presbyterians in their religious faith. The fact, if such it be is a rather striking one and quite naturally suggests further inquiry as to other past and present developments along the same lines.

Last December the two old political parties in Queen's County were called upon to each select two candidates to contest the federal election then pending. They each chose two Presbyterian elders as their standard-bearers. Perhaps it was only a coincidence that at the same time our Province had at its head a Presbyterian as Lieutenant Governor and another Presbyterian presiding over our highest court as Chief Justice. Was it also merely a coincidence that Premier Bell is set down in the Parliamentary Guide as "a Liberal and Presbyterian, while the learned King's Counsel who leads the Opposition also comes within the same denominational category?

Of the editors in the offices of the chief press organs and exponents of public opinion in this Province even a freelance like myself may not

speak except at his peril further than to say that they seem to agree much better in matters of faith than in politics. On the one side we have a Conservative Guardian supporting Presbyterians leaders of the Opposition here and at Ottawa and on the other side we have a Liberal Patriot leading its assistance to Presbyterian Premiers here and at Ottawa. Thus the balance is kept and the leadership of both parties is in safe hands.

Canada's first Premier was a Scotsman by birth, Sir John Macdonald, had as his first chief political opponent, Alexander Mackenzie, who also had his birth in the Land o' the Heather. Now after more than half a century, two Presbyterians lead the two old parties in federal affairs at Ottawa. The like ambition to lead and the like independence of thought and opinion prompt the Scotch Presbyterians to differ and to oppose each other as in the olden time. So apparently the country is secure against otherwise possible predominance.

So long as Scot is opposed to Scot in politics and Presbyterian to Presbyterian in like fashion, nobody need be alarmed. Even the aspirant for eldership in the kirk who has no better qualification for the coveted place than that "he can just object" has a certain value if only to show that there are two sides to every question and that no place either in the church or the state need be kept vacant or the state need ants to fill it.

City Gets Autumn Color From Country

(New York Sun.)

It has long been understood that the farmers send their best products to the people in the cities. At this season of year it seems that all the best in the way of country beauties is also taken from native haunts to adorn mantelpieces or hall nooks or the dining table here, where apartment and office buildings tower toward the skies and the simple life is only read about.

But the glorious gifts of fall are not sent to the city. They are carried in. Every one seems to be either running back to the country for a last week-end or just returning from a long vacation. All these returning ones carry something lovely in color and form, something breathing in the big outdoors.

Red and lavender, yellow and brown, the colors stream by in the railroad stations as the passengers file off the trains in from Jersey and

Pennsylvania and upper New York State.

There one carries a great sheaf of maple and oak leaves, the tawney amber and scarlet making an attractive splash of color in the drab station. Velvety dahlias, varying in size and shade, are carried by children and grown ups. And every dozen persons or so bring in sprigs of bitter sweet—orange and red and green—with its shining berries and its twining stems, that has been pulled from stone wall or wooden fence along the roadside to come to the city in the fall. Bunches of pale immortelles, fragile in appearance, but sturdy enough, are among the gleanings of the city folks' harvest.

But not only on trains running in from flatlands and hilly places come the fruits and flowers. Every other automobile, dusty from long riding, is crowded with autumn gifts.

And with all we bring, how little it really is—one pod of silvery white milk-weed, while millions of them are bursting in the meadows—a little box of bunch berries, while the Adirondack woods are carpeted with them.

Still, somehow or other, that little bit that we climbed or trudged to get serves to keep the beautiful picture of the whole before us. As we glance up at the leaves, stiff and straight in the long, narrow vase, or at the bitter sweet, curling and crinkling over the bookshelf edge, we see again wide spaces, paths covered over, autumn sunlight on hill and hedge, and mountain lakes reflecting reds and bronzes.

TO GET AND HOLD HUSBAND

(Chicago American.)

Here, summarized, are Mrs. Roberta Menges' views of matrimony:

"Wifely extravagance is merely self-defense. Why? Because with all the amateur 'vamps' that are running about these days the woman who helps her husband save money is merely laying up a bankroll for another woman to spend.

"For every woman who loses her husband because she is at fault there are a thousand who lose their husbands because the men themselves are at fault.

"It takes a year to discover what a man really is; and the woman who can get on with a man for a year can find him compatible forever.

"There is a man, the right man, too for every woman. If she puts herself out a little she can get two.

"Girls, go out and be seen if you want husbands.

"Wives, always smile, if you die doing it.

"Never complain; don't get him jealous or he will get tired and quit.

"If your husband is flirting a little pretend not to know about it: Why look for trouble?

"Men always come home—if they love you in the beginning they will love you in the end."

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