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Whitewashing Objectionables.

And so, in our little private lives we do a good deal of whitewashing of objectionable folk to ourselves when we look at others and in talking to our friends. It is better than using the scraper and the speculum of acrid criticism. We know that there are incrustations, perhaps of prejudice, but we try to get at "something decent about the fellow, anyhow." Good for us! Good for our times! It may be said to be a mawkish kind of sentiment, but it is not. It is the cleanest kind of hedonism. It is to be seen in a good many kinds of places, and it is of comparatively recent growth. It is not a half century old. Only the other day there appeared in a Montreal newspaper a paragraph reproduced from the same paper of thirty years ago, in which it was stated that in the inquiry into the burning of the City Hall at Quebec, the local correspondent of a Toronto Liberal journal had sent a despatch stating that it was rumored that the fire had been started by "Tory politicians who were carousing in the building." The correspondent in his evidence frankly acknowledged that he did not believe the tale himself, but that he had wired it because it would make political capital; to use his own words. Rake the whole of Canada and you would not find to-day a correspondent who would do that sort of thing, or who, doing it, could hold his position on any decent newspaper, says The Toronto News. The truth is that men are becoming more decent. There are yellow dogs, it is true, and black ones, too, but we try to make the best of them. Perhaps we shall succeed. If we do not, we feel better than if we had kicked them.

A Political Dramatist.

Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy, who scored a great success as a dramatist with his "If I were King," has devoted his energies so exclusively to the stage during recent years, says an English exchange, that his political career of a decade seems a long time ago, although he is still in years a comparatively young man, and in appearance an absolute youth. He had only recently emerged from his legal minority when he joined his father in the House of Commons. Although he spoke but seldom, he wrote a good deal at Westminster. He also engaged in controversy, and crossed swords with the late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy over the delicate question as to whether the escape of John Mitchell from his island prison of Tasmania was honorable or otherwise. Mitchell and Duffy, fellow-leaders of the '48 rebellion in Ireland, subsequently became violent opponents and made furious literary assaults upon each other. Mr. McCarthy championed the integrity of Mitchell. It was as the writer of a political light comedy, "The Candidate," in which Sir Charles Wyndham made a notable hit, that Mr. McCarthy made his debut as a dramatist.

An Australian Author.

The Rev. Dr. Fitchett, who has just retired from the presidency of the United Methodist Church of Australia, is the author of several popular books on British battles on land and sea, as well as editor of The Australian Review of Reviews. But he has never shouldered a gun himself. His successor in the presidential chair, the Rev. E. S. Bickford, can make that boast. A native of Devonshire, and educated at Blundell's Grammar School, he joined the local volunteers, and actually started to fight under Garibaldi for the liberation of Italy, but was overtaken and dissuaded by relatives. He has labored as a Methodist minister in various parts of Australia since 1867. Apparently, the Methodists of the Commonwealth like to have as their presidents ministers who do not disguise their affection for military renown and Imperial greatness.

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