Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/455746220/
The Ottawa Citizen (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada) · Sat, May 3, 1924 · Page 17
Downloaded on Dec 11, 2025

OLD-TIME STUFF

REMINISCENCES OF THE OTTAWA OF EARLIER DAYS.
Personages, Scenes and Incidents Recalled for Evening Citizen Readers

BYTOWN HAD DRUGSTORE EARLY IN THIRTIES; HENRY BISHOPRICK WAS MAN OF DISTINCTION; BUILT PIONEER CONCRETE HOUSE ABOUT 1864

Early Days of the Glebe Recalled by Dr. H. E. Marshall. Electoral Corruption of Good Old Days. Civil Service Corruption of 1877. Doctors' Fees in Bytown Days. Warm Election of '57 and Other Things of Interest.

The Old Time Stuff on April 7 completed a year of publication. From the outset the feature proved a marked success. Its popularity with Citizen readers grew steadily. During the year the department recalled to its readers many interesting bits of local history which had been lost to memory. It also investigated and established dates and incidents. Many hitherto unknown facts in connection with the early history of Bytown were ascertained and added to the known events.

During the year a history of the city has been gradually built up. The story of the city and its people, which has been told has not been in chronological order, it is true, but it has been none the less interesting because of that fact. It was not the intention of the Old Time Stuff to present a stiff history in proper chronological order, but to give the details in an informal, readable manner. The idea was not only to add to the sum of Ottawa's historical knowledge but to entertain. The department believes it has succeeded in its aim.

Best Yet to Come.

Many stories of people and things have yet to be told. In fact, many of the best stories—the most important stories—have not yet been touched. It is hoped that the Old Time Stuff instead of declining in interest, will grow more valuable, more entertaining, as time progresses.

The present series of articles is especially timely at the present, as in 1926 the city will have reached the one hundredth anniversary of its founding.

An Appreciated Gift.

In the presentation of its stories the Old Time Stuff has been materially assisted by readers who have loaned old scrap books, old directories and other documentary matter. A few days ago Mr. M. J. Gorman, barrister, made the O.T.S. a very valuable gift of a complete set of Ottawa directories dating back to the early eighties. This gift is much appreciated by the O.T.S. Mr. Gorman, in presenting the directories, said he was greatly pleased with the work the department is doing and thought the directories might help.

The O.T.S. is open to receive either loans or contributions of old newspapers, documents, scrap books, or other things which throw a light on to the life of the people of Bytown or the early Ottawa. These will be taken care of and promptly returned. The O.T.S. will also be glad to hear from any readers whose family histories contain events of historical interest.

OTTAWA'S FIRST DRUGGIST CAME IN THE THIRTIES.

Bytown boasted a drug store as early as the thirties. The exact date of its establishment cannot be ascertained with any degree of satisfaction, but it is pretty safe to say that Henry Bishoprick opened a drug store here as early as 1834 or 1835. Henry Bishoprick was a son of Mark Bishoprick the elder, who came to Bytown from Yorkshire, England, in 1829 and who was one of the earliest of the close-in farmers. Mark Bishoprick the pioneer had a farm which was located in the area between Bank and Elgin streets and Laurier avenue and Gladstone avenue. Mr. Bishoprick rented the land from Col. By and other owners. He lived at first in a log house located about where O'Connor street and Gloucester street now join. Mr. Bishoprick lived here till the year 1877, when, at the advanced age of 85, he met with a fatal accident while driving a team of horses out the Bank street road. The horses bolted and threw Mr. Bishoprick on to the hard clay road. He was badly injured and died some weeks later.

A Chain of Stores.

But we are getting away from the story of Henry Bishoprick and the first drug store. To continue, let it be told that Henry Bishoprick was a man of marked attainments and enterprise. The Ottawa store was only one of a chain of five or six stores, most of which were located in the United States. It is not clear whether Henry Bishoprick came to Ottawa with the family, or whether he had gone from England direct to the United States. In any event it is known that he was a chemist of some note. His education had been received in England. He patented a baking powder and put on the market several healing salves. He was evidently a wide-awake business man, as it is known that he took stock in, and made money from, the marketing of a number of patents apart from his own.

Long Team Drives.

Those who knew him tell that he was a man of great energy. He spent much of his time in the early days travelling between Ottawa and New York, where he had a big store. All his travelling was done by team and buggy or team and sleigh. While he was away from Ottawa the store here was looked after by George Bishoprick, a cousin.

It is not definitely known where Mr. Bishoprick's first store was located, but in the year 1841 he had his store on Rideau street. It was called the "Medical Hall."

Store to Boast About.

In the Bytown Packet of October, 1841, there is found a half column advertisement, which indicates that at that period the "Medical Hall" was a really up-to-date drug store, handling much the same class of goods as the drug stores of today handle. Mr. Bishoprick evidently felt that he had a pretty nice store as his advertisement claimed that he had "a complete assortment not to be surpassed in the province as to quality."

In addition to filling doctor's prescriptions he carried (this was in 1841, mind) plated ware, dressing cases, musical boxes, china vases, papier mache tea boards, chessmen, card cases, Reeve's water colors, &c.

Old Time Remedies.

The "Medical Hall" also carried a "full stock of the best British patent medicine," including opodeldoc, spike oil, Godfrey's cordial, essence of peppermint, Cooper's pills, syrup of horehound, Winer's vermifuge, etc., "at Montreal prices." (These were some of the favorite remedies of our grandparents.)

Mr. Bishoprick further sold fox and wolf poison (indicating that wolves still hung around here), oils, paints and turpentine, pocket cutlery of all sorts, tortoise shell combs and macassar oil. Special space was given in the advertisement to the merits of Butchart's Restorative Balsam, an alleged sure remedy for cholera and all sorts of stomach trouble. This was a Scotch remedy.

Built Cement House.

Mr. Bishoprick appears to have left Ottawa for a time, but in 1864 or 1865 he returned and opened a store on Laurier avenue (Maria street), near Bank. About the same time he erected on the south side of Laurier avenue, east of Bank, the first concrete block house ever erected here. It appears that concrete block houses were becoming quite popular on the other side of the border. Mr. Bishoprick, it is told, had erected no less than seven such houses in New York, Cincinatti, and other U.S. cities. How they worked out is not known, but the Ottawa house was not a success. It appears that Mr. Bishoprick gave out the contract and then went away.

Ice Cracked Cellar.

It is alleged that during his absence the cement mixture was not made as per directions, and the blocks therefore later became brittle. In the winter (the house was not quite ready for occupation) the water burst in the cellar, froze and cracked the foundations badly. Owing to this trouble, Mr. Bishoprick did not move in. In process of time the cement block house gradually went to pieces and by 1887 was so badly gone that the city ordered it pulled down. Henry left Ottawa permanently about 1870. He died in Cincinatti and was buried there in the family vault.

Bishoprick Story.

And now to get back to Mark Bishoprick the pioneer. When Mark came to Ottawa from his Yorkshire home, he brought with him a goodly sized family. One son, Mark Bishoprick, Jr., died a few years ago at the advanced age of 95. He was well known here for years as a carriage maker. The other sons left Ottawa and died abroad and today all of the original Bishoprick family are dead. But a daughter of a second marriage is still alive and living in Ottawa in the person of Mrs. W. H. Marshall, of 58 Ralph street. Mrs. Marshall, whose Christian name is Alice, was the only child of the second marriage.

Another Phase of Story.

The marriage of Alice Bishoprick in 1867 to W. H. Marshall opens up another bit of Ottawa history and recalls the population influx that followed the coming of the provincial government here in 1865. W. H. Marshall, prior to 1865, had lived in Quebec city. He was an expert cabinet maker and upholsterer. When the upholstering of the Senate and House of Commons chambers began there came to Ottawa the cream of the upholsterers of the Ancient Capital. Among those who were given charge of the upholstering of the new buildings were W. H. Marshall, Bob Harris, Thos. Campbell, and Sam Skinner. When the work was completed all four men stayed here and later went into business for themselves and prospered. Bob Harris and Tom Campbell went into partnership. For years they occupied a store on the corner of O'Connor and Queen streets. Later they moved to Sussex street. Mr. Marshall opened a shop about 1870 on Laurier avenue, just east of Bank street, and was located there till he retired. He is still hale and hearty. He lives with his son, Dr. H. E. Marshall, at 58 Ralph street.

The Marshall Family.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have brought up a family of six sons, all of whom are well known in Ottawa. They are Dr. H. E. Marshall, V.S., Dr. C. A. Marshall, D.D.S., A. G. Marshall, E. W. Marshall, H. D. Marshall and Clarence Marshall. A daughter, Miss Berth Marshall, died a few years ago at the age of 24.

Has Seen Glebe Grow.

Mr. Marshall moved from Laurier avenue to the Glebe in 1882. The Glebe was a pretty sparsely settled place when he migrated there 42 years ago. Among the 1884 residents of the west side of Bank street that he remembers were: Edward Ackroyd, corset manufacturer; Ralph McMorran, father of Mr. R. M. McMorran, Mutchmore street (his house was one of the earliest); Capt. R. C. W. McCuaig, who owned the land now embraced in Capital Park on Ella street; Alex. McLean, of McLean, Roger and Co., who built the house on Bank street now occupied by the Holiness College; Hon. Charles Mackintosh, proprietor of The Citizen, who then lived in the stone building now occupied by the Protestant Old Men's Home; Michael O'Neill, father of Michael and Thos. O'Neill, who lived off Mutchmore street; Hon. Wm. McDougall, whose house was on Bank street, on land taken for the exhibition ground (this house was used for many years as an office for the exhibition); a Mr. Brecken, a government official, whose brick house at the corner of Bank and Centre streets was later bought by Mr. R. W. Gibson (this house is now occupied by James Devitt, superintendent of the exhibition), and last, though not least, ex-Ald. W. E. Brown, whose home on Centre street was a landmark.

Chiefly Market Gardeners.

Forty years ago the east side of Bank street on the Glebe was chiefly occupied by market gardeners, the Grieves, the Dewars, the McGregors, and others. Mr. John Bush, of Bush, Bonbright and Co., piano dealers, had a house at the corner of Howick Place (then Ann street) and Mutchmore. Dr. John MacMillan, principal of the collegiate, also lived in that locality—on Centre street, corner of Ann street.

The Toll Gates.

Dr. H. E. Marshall recalls the toll gate which was so prominent on Bank street when, as a boy, he moved to the Glebe. This toll gate was located at the corner of Bank and Centre streets. The gatekeeper was John Munroe. Up to about 1892 the gate was still in existence, but was then operated by a daughter of Mr. Munroe, Miss Clarissa Munroe. When the toll gate was abolished, the toll house was bought by ex-Ald. W. E. Brown and it is now on his property on Centre street.

Mr. Marshall remembers the trouble Mr. Munroe used to have with toll dodgers, who made a practice of crossing the twing bridge over the canal and then cutting across the open field and passing behind what is now the Old Men's Home, hitting Bank street north of the toll gate. Mr. Munroe would try to block this road by rolling big boulders across it, but the toll dodgers would move them away as soon as his back was turned. There were few fences then, and people could cross the fields pretty much as they liked.

* * *

Mr. Henry Bishoprick, of the Bishoprick Wallboard Company, is a grandson, and Mrs. William Sales, 464 Gladstone avenue, is a daughter of Mark Bishoprick, Jr.

ELECTORAL CORRUPTION IN THE "GOOD OLD DAYS."

In these days of comparative election purity, the jokeful query is often heard at election times, "How much did you get for your vote?"

It is possible that money actually passes from candidates' agents direct to voters even in these enlightened times, but the evidence goes to show that when the candidate parts with his money it seldom passes through more than the hands of a few of the higher ups. There will be remembered in this connection the celebrated exposures made some years ago by Mr. Dalby (formerly of the Montreal Star) as to the disposition of campaign funds in Quebec provincial elections. Briefly stated, Mr. Dalby charged that half the funds remained in the hands of the first recipient, a quarter in the hands of the next, and so on in descending ratio till the poor voter was just about left out in the cold.

Proof Of Delivery.

But sixty or seventy years or more ago things were done differently. Then the money to be expended was honestly passed out by the agents and the unintelligent voter received his due. This of course was in the days of open voting and when it could be known whether the voter had delivered the goods according to promise. In those days the figure paid the ordinary voter was two dollars per.

If all that one reads and hears is true, election corruption in the fifties and sixties must have been pretty bad. Here is what the upright editor of the Ottawa Tribune had to say on the subject in 1859:

Hot Arraignment.

". . . The fact is that the more we have of civilization, so called, the less we have of honesty. The honest actions of our forefathers are looked upon with the utmost contempt by the barroom politicians of our streets and lanes. The modern politician, no matter how great or good or talented, is nothing in the eyes of the multitude, without money.

"The people regard political and civic contests nowadays just as the farmers regard periodical fairs and the buyers are the candidates of the time."

Now read this hot stuff:

"A man nowadays to succeed in any parliamentary or civic election must be prepared to buy three-fourths of the town, city or county for which he may run. Of course this is not a newly discovered fact. It is an old-standing evil.

Electors Corrupt?

"It has now got to be an accepted fact that none but a man of money can represent this city (Ottawa) as mayor or as member of Parliament. . . .

"There is no honest principle apparent among the majority of the electors of Ottawa. They are all, Catholic and Protestant alike, tainted with corruption."

And so the attack continued at some length. Let us all hope that the good editor had a fit of indigestion the day he wrote that editorial. Otherwise what he wrote is a sad commentary on the "good old days" of the sixties.

HOW THE DOCTORS CHARGED IN 1820.

In the possession of Mr. John I. MacCraken is an old note book which used to belong to his grandfather, Dr. Stewart, who as told last week was one of the earliest of the Bytown physicians. The book evidently first came into use in the year 1811 when the British were in Portugal, for the leather cover bears the inscription in ink, "General Orders, Lisbon, 1811." At that period Dr. Stewart was a surgeon in the 37th regiment of the line. Many pages of the book have been torn out and whatever originally appertained to the Portugal campaign has been eliminated.

There are, however, left in the book a few interesting entries which had been made by Dr. Stewart while the regiment was quartered in Montreal, in 1814, and also after he had taken up medical practice about 1822, after the regiment had been disbanded.

The diary recorded the following list of fees, which he (Dr. Stewart) or possibly the doctors of the period generally, charged patients. There is nothing to show when Dr. Stewart started to practice. It is known that he went to Richmond about 1822, began to practice there, and later moved to Bytown and practiced in the village, being one of the earliest of the medical arrivals. It is possible that Dr. Stewart may have practiced in Montreal after the disbandment of the 37th regiment there. In any event the schedule of charges gives an idea of what the patients of a hundred years ago, either in Richmond or Montreal or somewhere else, had to pay (there was no Bytown in 1822).

	£	s	d
Amputating leg or arm	5	0	0
do finger or toe	1	0	0
Removing tumor with knife.	1	0	0
Opening an abscess	0	1	3
Bleeding (old time stuff)	0	1	3
Extracting a tooth	0	1	3
Curing decayed tooth	0	2	6
Advice without medicine	0	5	0
Stopping on the road to give advice	0	2	6
Setting a fracture	2	10	0

SPECIAL DISCOUNT TO THE STOCKHOLDERS.

Back in the fifties (though it may surprise some people to learn the fact) there was a gas company in Ottawa. As a matter of fact the company, which was known as the Consumers, was the predecessor of the Ottawa Gas Company. From a report of the annual meeting of this company, held April 13, 1859, we learn that the number of customers at that time was but 252, though the directors seemed proud of the fact. During that year 52 of the number had been added.

The company, which was then in its infancy, seemed to have had trouble to raise capital, as the report stated that during the year the stock had been reduced 66 shares, that many shares having been cancelled, not being paid up. The paid up shares at the time of the meeting numbered one thousand and one and these shares represented five thousand and five pounds of capital.

It is interesting to learn, however, that despite all initial difficulties the company that year made a net profit of £388, about two thousand dollars, and the directors were able to declare a dividend of 8 per cent.

But the company required more money for extensions, as it wished to extend its pipes to the mills at the Chaudiere. In order to encourage the public to invest in stock, it was decided to allow a special discount to users of gas who were also shareholders, the discount to be graded according to the number of shares held. Here is the scale of discounts agreed on:

5 per cent to holders of £10.
6 per cent to holders of £25.
10 per cent to holders of £100.
12½ per cent to holders of £200.
15 per cent to holders of £300.
18 per cent to holders of £400.
20 per cent to holders of £500.
22½ per cent to holders of £750.
25 per cent to holders of £1,000.

The election of new directors took place, the following being elected, with the number of votes shown opposite their names: P. P. Harris 600, J. Dyke 587, E. Griffin 554, J. Skead 547, Saml. Howell 545, H. J. Friel 509, C. McDonell 485, J. M. Currier 445, N. S. Blaisdell 437. There were scattering votes for A. McIntosh, A. Scott, J. Fitzgibbon, Philip Thompson, J. Perry, J. Peacock, Robt. Skead, E. Varin, A. M. Dole, T. McKay, R. Lees, Jas. Porter.

A WARM ELECTION IN THE YEAR 1857.

In the year 1857 there took place in Ottawa county a very warm election in which Henry J. Friel of Ottawa opposed D. E. Papineau (nominally) of Papineauville. Both were Liberals and both Roman Catholics. But strange to say, though Mr. Friel was known to be a very broad-minded Catholic, with an Ottawa record for religious liberality, and though Mr. Papineau was only 20 years removed from the rebellion of '37, the Orangemen and the Protestants generally of Ottawa county backed Mr. Papineau, who won by 269 majority. The Aylmer Times, which was generally regarded as an Orange publication, strongly supported Mr. Papineau and declared that the Roman Catholic clergy were backing Mr. Friel. The Times declared that Mr. Papineau "had pledged himself to principles and measures which Protestants could support."

The Union, Mr. Friel's organ, declared a double game had been played by Mr. Papineau and his followers. It stated that while Mr. Papineau pretended to be the friend of the Protestant minority his followers had secretly inflamed the French vote with assurances that the election of Mr. Papineau would mean a renewal of the rebellion of '37. At the same time Mr. Friel was represented to the French as being pro-Protestant, a Tory and even an Orangeman. It was also, it is alleged, told that if Mr. Friel were elected, Lower Canada money would be used for Upper Canada improvements. To the Protestants, it was alleged, Mr. Friel was reported as being engaged in a plot to wipe the Orange lodges out of Ottawa county.

After the election Mr. Friel's organ declared that Mr. Friel's defeat was really a moral victory. "During his canvass," the Union asserted, "he sought to awaken no prejudices, either religious, political or personal. . . . His principles were endorsed even by those most strongly opposed to him. The only thing against him was non-residency." The Union claimed that Mr. Papineau owed his victory partly to illegal votes. It stated that in the parish of St. Angelique the majority for Mr. Papineau outnumbered by half all the actual voters in the place, which if true certainly showed that Mr. Papineau's workers were not to say the least inactive.

ABOUT THE OLD HORSE CAR LINE.

In an article written in 1902 Mrs. Roper presented some interesting facts about the old horse car line, or as it was officially known, the Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company. Old timers, and even semi-old-timers, will have lively recollections of the old horse cars, but to the newer generations, the facts as narrated by Mrs. Roper will be both new and interesting. She wrote:

"As external transportation facilities have enormously increased within the past twenty years, so has there been an equally marked improvement in internal means of transport. Previous to 1870, unless you had a horse of your own, you either had to hire a cab or walk, and, indeed, though the first horse-cars commenced to run on the first of June in that year, under the management of the Ottawa City Passenger Railway Company, they were, while no doubt a boon to many, patronized by comparatively few people, the number carried during the first twelve months being only 273,000. The route was from the Suspension bridge at the Chaudiere to New Edinburgh. In the summer there was a horse tram service which was fairly satisfactory, though there were no conductors as a rule, and it used to be amusing to watch the driver, as soon as he had the car fairly full, hand the reins to the nearest passenger and start off on his rounds to collect the fares. Passengers were supposed to put their fares in a box behind the driver, but they could not always be trusted to do this.

Trip to Remember.

In the winter the cars were on bob-sleighs, but in the spring they were upon wheels, and no one who has seen them will ever forget those cars making their way along Sparks street, with the snow three to six feet deep—now climbing up one pitch hole, now going down hill into the next one, then at an angle of forty-five degrees on one set of wheels, then at the same angle on the other set. I never knew who were bold enough to use those cars in the spring, but it always seemed to me that a passenger from the Chaudiere to New Edinburgh ran more chances of sea-sickness than one making an ordinary voyage across the Atlantic. This service continued until 1891, the length of track being something over four miles, the number of cars in use about ten, number of horses, 25, and of employes, 15. In 1891, however, the present Electric Street Railway Company commenced operations and carried in its first eleven months 1,520,400 passengers, as against 575,000 carried in the preceding year by the horse-car company."

HOME AFTER "FIXING UP EUROPE"

The reparations committee snapped aboard the liner Leviathan on their return to America. Left to right: Owen B. Young, General Charles G. Dawes and Henry M. Robinson.

A CIVIL SERVICE COMPLAINT IN 1877.

There has been handed to the O.T.S. a pamphlet written in 1877 by an anonymous civil servant. The pamphlet was published by E. A. Perry, book-seller, 97 Sparks street. It was entitled "The Speech from the Throne, as it should be from a civil servant's point of view—fourth session, 3rd Parliament." The gentleman who loaned the document to the O.T.S. said that the pamphlet had a great vogue with the civil servants of the day. Naturally, the author did not court publicity. So that what follows may be better understood by the civil servants of today and the public generally, it may be explained that the year 1877, when the pamphlet was issued, was the last year of the Alexander Mackenzie administration (Liberal). The period between 1874, when Mr. Mackenzie assumed power, and 1878, when he was defeated by Sir John Macdonald, were very lean years in the country and Mr. Mackenzie had sat very tightly on the money chest. The document purported to be the speech as presented to Parliament by Lord Dufferin, the then Governor General. The signature read "D—ff—r—n." The supposed speech, which would take up about a column and a half of newspaper space, read in part as follows:

"Our trade and industries I grieve to hear
Have not been as they ought this bygone year.
We hear of business failures far and wide
And tales of sore distress on every side.
'Tis true, 'tis pity and pity 'tis, 'tis true,
And some there are who say—believe it too,
That while the Rouges reign, things must look blue.
They may be right—'tis not for me to say,
Your duty is to drive the clouds away,
With patient diligence to find the cause,
And then by wise and well considered laws,
Bring back as in the happy days of yore,
Peace and prosperity to every door—
Which done—may hard times come no more.
* * *
"Talking of hard times though, I cannot pass
I silence that maligned, long suffering class
The civil service by: for many years
They've poured their sorrows into 'dead men's ears'
Year in and year out—but ah, without avail,
A sound arises, very like a wail.
For sessions past their fond appeals you've heard,
And now, heart sick, at last, with hope deferred,
They wait in sadness, with uplifted eye;
Then oh ye legislators, hear their cry,
And Lord forbid that I should ever say
You serve your country merely for the pay.
Banish the thought! But perhaps you may recall
A certain session when you one and all
Concluded that the simple cost of living
Had so increased that what you then were giving—
Or rather what you got—would never do
For men e'en though abstemious as you—
How sixty, forty, twenty-eight per cent
Were added with unanimous consent
To yours—to ministers' or their vices' pay—
But the poor rank and file, ah! where were they?
Alas that they who made no vain pretence
To be above such sordid things as pence,
Who work so faithfully from 9 to 4
To keep the wolf—starvation—from the door,
They who most wanted help, if truth be told,
Should be left out to shiver in the cold.
Then list to what your governor has to say:
You must see justice done—and right away."

GEORGE H. WILSON.

OLD BOOK'S SURE CURE FOR PUBLIC ILLS

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

The International Sunday School Lesson for May 11 is, "Jehovah's Victory Over Baal." — I. Kings 14:21—15:24; 22; II. Kings 11 and 12.

Upside down! Wrongside out! Hindside foremost!—How shall we find words to characterize the clumsy and pathetic present-day efforts at reform in public life and in religion? The day's spectacle would call for scorn, did it not demand tears. In a time of urgent need, the forces that are the world's hope seem guilty of the gravest blundering. Does history mean nothing to them? Have they studied psychology in vain? Is the clear example and teaching of the Bible out of date? For we have gone altogether the wrong way about righting the day's wrongs.

Across the centuries comes a story—a vivid and melodramatic tale of murder and intrigue and revolution; of woman's ambition foiled by woman's devotion—which cries aloud the message for the times. There is really nothing new about it: it merely echoes the wisdom and practice of the ages in confronting crises; but it embodies the sound principles which our day most needs to learn, namely, THE WRONG IS TO BE OVERTHROWN BY THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE RIGHT.

To Scold or to Supplant?

Scolding is the reformer's weakness. The iteration of "Don't!" is the chief blunder of parents and preachers and pedagogues. All of us know better. It is not negations, but affirmations, that accomplish results. We may find fault and fling condemnations about until we have soured all the milk of sympathy in our own souls, and have become censorious and futile Pharisees; but we shall never effect any real reforms in the community, in the nation and in the world until we have learned that the only successful way to drive out usurpers is to crown the real king.

That is the way Solomon was placed on David's throne. That is the way the boy king Joash ended his grandmother Athaliah's lawless tyranny, as told in the present lesson. That is the way Christ has come to sovereignty in the lives of men. Only a new and better and genuine allegiance can break the power of false rule over character.

"Crown the true king!" is the lesson of this lesson. Put life's sovereignty where it belongs. Prove what Dr. Chalmers called "The expulsive power of a new affection." Henry Drummond beautifully works out the spiritual law in his great little book, "The Changed Life," which every teacher of this lesson should read. A new loyalty will break old tyrannies. Instead of railing at wrongs, let us put the coronet on character. Give us a revival of positive religion, to supplant our footless jeremiads against irreligion and immorality. The joyous, enthusiastic enthronement of Christ in our public life would drive out political misdeeds more quickly and thoroughly than all legislative investigations and judicial prosecutions. And a sincere passion for Christ would preclude most of the ill-natured theological controversy of our day.

The Tale of a Tigress.

But to the story itself. The lesson episode, first in a series upon the history of Judah, the southern kingdom, is more sensational than the average movie. It begins back in Samaria, the capital of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, wicked monarchs of the northern kingdom. One hot day last summer, I climbed the hill of Samaria, to visit the excavated ruins of Ahab's palace; one of the few uncovered remains of the Hebrew monarchies. It seemed a far cry from the cruelty and splendor of Ahab's court to the patient villagers who, at the time of my visit, were threshing wheat, Oriental fashion, by the tread of oxen, on the very precincts of the palace.

Statecraft of the sort that has messed up Europe caused Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, to become the wife of Joram (or Jehoram), king of Judah. That put the Baal-worshipping daughter of Jezebel, who "took after" her mother in ambition, craftiness and bloodthirstiness into power at Jerusalem; for Jezebel and her daughter were stronger personalities than their husbands and sons. At the death of her young son, Ahaziah, who had reigned over Judah only one year, this fierce and inhuman tigress, Athaliah — what dreadful effects even social ambition has upon a woman's character!—tried to exterminate the whole royal line, so that she herself might reign in undisputed power. Assassination has always been a favorite form of Oriental politics, especially in court circles.

A Woman to the Rescue.

Woman's wit matched woman's wickedness, in this case; for King Ahaziah's sister, Jehosheba, was as cunning as his mother, Athaliah. She rescued from the slaughter of the princess, Joash, the infant son of the king; and concealed the fact that she had done so. For a period of six years, with the connivance of the priests of Jehovah, who regarded Athaliah as the worst enemy of the true worship, the baby king was kept hidden in the temple at Jerusalem. Many musings concerning a later Boy King in the Temple, and concerning the place of the child in the church, will suggest themselves here.

When the boy was seven years old, it seemed to the priestly party, led by Jehoida, that the time was ripe to break the dread power of this heathen queen by producing the true heir to the throne. All the old memories and loyalties and precedents were to be summoned to the service of the restoration of right. The plot was successfully matured; the trusted temple police and the Cretan mercenaries—the Cherethites or Carites, successors of the bodyguard of King David—were set in array in the temple area.

"God Save The King!"

Then, with careful observance of ancient state, the boy king was brought forth and the crown was put upon his anointed head, and all the coronation ritual was fulfilled; while the delirious people, who had no love for the murderess upon the throne, clapped their hands and shouted, "God save the king!"

It is a great day for the people when righteousness and lawful authority are established in the land. The false queen's worst offence had not been the murders she had committed, but the wrong that had been done to the nation, and to the peace and religion of the public.

"Treason! Treason!" cried Athaliah from the palace, when she heard the uproar and learned for the first time what was going forward. But she had no right to the great words of law since she herself was the traitor. This misuse of the slogans of liberty by representatives of tyranny should never mislead anybody. What Athaliah called "treason" was really loyalty to the lawful king. Swiftly she was carried outside the precincts of the temple, to a traitor's death. She who had succeeded for a season by the sword, perished suddenly by the sword. The true king had come to his own; and so effected the end of the usurper.

A Threefold Cord.

"Good" people who ignore politics will find scant comfort in reading these Old Testament lessons; for citizenship and religion were indistinguishable in Israel. The slacker in the state was thereby disloyal to Jehovah; and I cannot see that the case is very different now. If all the citizens of today were really to "get religion," the shocking proportion of absentees from the voting booth would be reduced to almost nothing. A Christian really has no more religion than he expresses at the ballot box. Anybody who thinks himself or herself "too good to meddle in politics" has mistaken utterly the quality involved; it is not goodness that constrains him, but cowardice, or lack of clear thinking and intelligent Christianity.

Immediately upon the success of the revolution which gave Joash his rightful throne, there was effected a "tripartite agreement," as the lingo of the diplomats has it, between Jehovah, the king of Judah and the people, that Judah would thenceforth be Jehovah's nation. This threefold cord was strengthened subsequently by a supplemental covenant between king and people.

After thus establishing a rightful king and the true worship, the nation set itself to wipe out Baalism and all its traces. Reform came in its true place, which is after the regnancy of right. Because the true had been enthroned, the false was overthrown. Set up the real sovereignties if you would drive out all pretenders and usurpers. That is the only true reform which exalts into first place the master-purposes of religion and righteousness; all necessary cleaning up and casting out will follow this. Crown the king and so rout all traitors!

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.

He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.—Confucius.

* * *

Turn your sorrows outward into currents of sympathy and deeds of kindness, andy they will become a stream of blessing.—Cuyler.

* * *

Poor, sad Humanity—
Through all the dust and heat
Turns back with bleeding feet
By the weary road it came
Unto the simple thought
By the great Master taught,
And that remaineth still.—
Not he that repeated the Name,
But he that doeth the Will.
—Longfellow.

* * *

Where anxiety begins, faith ends; and where faith begins, anxiety ends. —George Muller.

* * *

Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.—I. Cor. 10:12.

* * *

A garden is a lovesome thing,
God wot!
Rose plot,
Fringed pool,
Fern'd grot—
The veriest school
Of peace; and yet the fool
Contends that God is not—
Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?
Nay, but I have a sign;
'Tis very sure God walks in mine.
—Thomas Edward Brown.

* * *

We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.—Brother Lawrence.

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR COUNTRY

CANADA'S BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Q.—What were Canada's building activities in 1923 valued at?

A.—Canada's building activities in 1923 in the chief cities alone represented a value of $345,000,000, an increase of $30,000,000 in a year.

MODISH MITZI — —By Jay V. Jay.

"She must have ripped her skirt," thinks Dad of Polly's new dress. Ought he to tell her? He'll ask Mitzi.

Adelaide, too! How careless modern girls are about their mending! And where is Mitzi? She ought to tell them about it.

And, by George, here's Mitzi sliding out of her clothes! Dad inquires about it and is told that—

It is impossible to keep the "wrap-around" skirt wrapped around. The only thing one can do is to buy a slip the color of the skirt and let 'er flop.

Copyright © 2025 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.