

1921

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Vice President and Brothers

Under, I am angry reading the go when one is subject to
 temporal tribulations, the company here present is a joyful one. ^{the}
~~Brother~~ ⁱⁿ of the Brothers assembled this evening as per ^{to the gathering}
 of ^{Says} ~~Moore~~ and Bob Trickey.

Potash, who was ^(Brock) elected 56 years ago, ~~is~~ ^{is} always
 faithful to the Society; Leaf also, who is 47 years of age in
 the reckoning of absolute Time. ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins}
 May and ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins}
 Macmillan service from the eighties and early nineties. Of these,
 however, whose age does not exceed 20 the per majority,
 are present.

Of those brothers who do not accept the criticism of the President,
 a considerable proportion have no truck at all with the ^{expenses} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins}
 of the Post Office. But I have received some letters from some
 who are not able to alter. I am glad to say ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins} ^{W. Dickins}
 to the first line for many years so far as I know, has found the
 President to his liking. He writes as follows:-

George O. Trevelyan, Jackson, Lee Ussher, Tennyson and others
^{only} are left from us by the infirmities of age. H. H. Turner
 is taking his daughter to the New College Hall. Wilson thinks
 that we ought to meet in 'a more sylvan retreat' but proposes the
 with us in spirit even in the Comptroller Room. Well, then,
 I am glad to say, is immensely better, & instructed by his
 doctor 'to avoid trials'. Several of the latter are abroad,
 (Brownie ^(now in India) Russell, ^{and} James Stockley, and Forster,
 including ^{with him} ~~including~~ ^{after his return} ~~before his return~~ ^{now} ~~now~~ ^{satisfactorily},
 Russell is not yet back from China. The doctor will tell you
 I know that although the rumors of his death had some foundation,
 in that he was seriously ill ^{but at one time than with him has}
 given up hope of his recovery, he is now ~~substantially~~ ^{now} ~~now~~ ^{satisfactorily}
 again. Therefor his sketch before his illness is follows:-

Forster has become Prime Minister of a native Indian State.
 James Stockley, who is ^{very} disinterested at the name
 of Professor Freud, ~~is~~ ^{now} ruled in most by Professor Freud, and
 fitted out with a more than ordinarily complete sex apparatus
 at the expense of the poor class of Vienna, writes as follows:-

Lyttelton Throckley, ^{who has been for some time} & / is hiding in Italy, having been summoned
to Windsor to receive the M.V.O. at the hands of the
^{he right back for the Dennis dispute is a fabrication} Monarch. / i. he is gratified at the news that the Prince
of Wales has called his name most often.

Lucus is treacherously absent, having spared the pitiful crew
to fall victim to the lasciviousness of pleasure. He has gone off with
a woman.

Now that the Society is on its feet again, it is however well
while to remember how great a debt it owes to Mr. [unclear] ^{as an activist},
survivor of 1913 who came up into evidence again after the war,
without him, if it is not profane to say so, I doubt if the Society
would have recovered. But no one can have been better than he
for enlightening the lamp. Now the Society lives again, - not yet
numerously but hot with a steady vitality. I must not take
the work out of the hands of the Vice-President and depend on
his proper ground. But the absence of young men and the
smallness of the Society in the early part of the year has led me
to be a much more frequent attendant on the meetings than is usual
with the President ~~in the first two terms of the year I missed very~~
~~few meetings;~~ so that I know at first hand the present state of
the Society.

One fact, which it may not occur to the V.P. to mention
but which may astonish some of the aged, is that there is at
this moment no activism in Trinity. Not only so, but
Moore is the junior aged in Ireland who plays at that College, -
though I ought to mention perhaps that it was from there that [unclear]
was stolen by a rival establishment.

The three letters dated since the last time are from Kipp,
Clare and St. John's. There was some amicable incident in the
course of explaining. It has been noted by immemorial custom in
the University professors do not keep the twelve o'clock note.

Vanity & Deceit of Men leads to Disillusion

Action of Cambridge to nowadays. After a visit to the outside world, I
find I approach not less - sort of purity which is to be found in Cambridge even ~~inhabitants~~

After a slight flicker towards interest in phenomenal events, the
Society has now again, if anything ever been ever, abdicated
itself from the outside world, and goes west.

The outside world has become to the young men, perhaps to
everyone, a sort of Typhonian, an undefended Typhonian, one
which it would be absurd to suppose that one could effect a
lifeman in anyway. The Typhonian is a fearsome and hateful
monster, which one does not meet so often as for which
~~one~~ ~~avoids~~ ~~not~~ eyes. We are back again in a Dark Age.

Dickinson makes himself invisible because he cannot see
his eyes. They are cheerful enough because he can see the dreary
Goggoles and ratlike licks looking at them. The Vic Brides
toys will profit a little; but the Society as a whole has withdrawn
itself into a maniacal seclusion, and except that they talk to me
about the best writers, are more or less like what the Society always was, that the
outside world is like what it used to be.

The Society has suffered certain losses by death. Arthur Sigerstede
who was elected in 1861 died last year. ~~60 or more years ago~~
J.E. Symes of the year 1870 died a few weeks ago. I do not
know if Pollock or Leaf knew him. He was, I think, the only
~~other~~ brother ever elected from Downing College. ~~He was a~~
University Extension lecturer in the early days of Extension lecturing;
he was ~~and~~ for 31 years, from 1881 to his retirement in 1912, ~~he was~~
connected with University College, Nottingham, first as Professor of
English literature and ~~afterwards~~ later as Principal. I never saw
him and did not know, ^{had} to whom to apply for personal or ~~which~~
collections.

Moulton, who was a ~~poor~~ contemporary of Pollock's, having been elected in 1867, died early this year. He was, in his way, a very eminent man, endowed with exceptional intellectual powers. The son of a dissenting minister he came up to St. John's in 1865, two or three years older than the ordinary freshman, and, as he himself put it in Who's Who, "entered for various Matric. Exams, and carried all before him". He was Senior Wrangler and First Smith's Prizeman in 1868, was elected a Fellow of Christ's and remained for a brief period an academic career. But other fields beckoned him and he became ~~too~~
^{He was one of the most brilliant} of these beginning in his late years. ~~The love of money~~
~~who have gone in for making money,~~
~~to have been a powerful ingredient in Moulton's composition,~~^{wrist} and his intellectual capacities were much in excess of those usually associated with the love of money.

I came across Moulton occasionally in his later days. The last time I saw him was in Paris during the Peace Conference. He had done war work for the Ministry of Munitions and still held a semi-official status; but he was also connected with the new British Dogs' Comstitution. The accumulated stocks of lame

dyes were thought at that time to menace British dye interests,
 and Moulton was visiting ^{the Gold Coast} to promote a scheme by which
 foreign dyes might be屏除屏除 and held off the market, to the
 advantage of the British dye interests, ^{but} at the expense of the
 British Treasury. I was at that time the representative of the
 Treasury, and he wished to see me for the undivided purpose
 of using his eminence of position to ^{influence} ~~persuade~~ me. Aware
 of his purpose I for some days refused to meet him. But
 persistence on his part at last made an interview unavoidable.
 The old man, then in his 75th year, a Lord of Appeal, with
 his great career behind him and substantial wealth at his command,
 a little paler and his slightly ~~too~~ heavy features a little
 grizzled, but with his intellect apparently undimmed, was not
 ashamed to employ that intellect once again ^(in a deuce) to impose sophistry
 on the junior Treasury official in front of him.

I have not recalled this episode ~~too~~ ^{too} often of course,
 with injurious intent toward the memory of a dead brother. Not
 only was Moulton a vicious man in his generation; but I
^{except}
~~believe that~~ he possessed many apostolic qualities. I have

upper

recalled it as the text of ~~poems of deep speech~~, (the better
this evening. It would be interesting to understand Montes, to
discern, and even to sympathise with, the Moods of native
and divine which had led him there. It was not a huff
act, but a stray out of a vitality which, still is the ruling of
his life, was overflowing. The old man was sensitive, capable of
understanding ~~feelings~~ and enjoyment, apprehensive of the shifting maelström
of the visible world. I fancy ^{(therefore,}) that, rightly judged, his act was
one of artistry, not of avance; and the impulse came, not
from greed, but from ^{the necessity} still to exercise a popular talent.

I thoughts of Volpone :-

Volp. Riches, the dumb god, that giv'st all men bairns,
That canst do nought, are yet mak'st men do all things;
The price of souls; even hell, with thee to boot,
Is made with heaven. Then art virtue, fame,
Honour, and all things else. Who can get thee,
He shall be noble, valiant, honest, wise —

Mos. And what he will, sir. Riches are in fortune
A great good the wisdom is in nature.

Volp. True, my beloved Mosca. Yet I glory

More in the coming possession of my wealth,

Than in the glad possession ---

There is no question which separates, more curiously than this one, a ^{part} of the world from the other, and more specially the young from the old. The old may have food and drink more than the young do; and they may lose the pleasure of the bed less, though this is disputed; they exchange philosophy for history, and do not ^{much care for} ~~see~~ things at a distance. But above all, most of them, not all, acquire new feelings towards money.

There is hardly a significant stage in life which may less than this let the active between. The baby in the cradle does not know it at all, the child very little, and the Vice-President hardly more. But there are very few ages in life whose emotions and affections it has never ~~entertained~~ entered. Strong feelings towards money are hateful in the young and not lovable anywhere. But they have not been well analyzed or well understood.

I am not going to enter on that analysis ^{now.} There are the obvious objects and advantages, — to eat better and lie better, to enjoy and exercise power, liberty and leisure. I leave

on one side the moral motives, and on another
in something ^{decidedly} different, — the ^{moralities} of Merton
and Volpone.

I imagine a man of great intellectual powers and with
objectivity of mind. In youth those powers will foster on
great topics and he will seek what there is to be found
in art, and science, and philosophy. After a time he will
have exhausted the task of exploring the achievements of others.
His curiosity will have been satisfied and he will have discovered,
or will think that he has discovered, that some of these pursuits
~~lead nowhere, - or to brick walls which were only built higher.)~~
~~that they~~ ^(What is to happen to him next?) He may
have some ~~powers~~ ^{gift} of creation or originality which will
occupy and satisfy his powers. ^(In this case, he is the happiest of men.) But equally he may lack
such power. What course will he take in ^{this} case? If his
vitality is a little weak, he may lay on one side such
awkward endowments, his grafts within his real powers,
and accept the humdrum life. ^{But suppose he is healthy} Then if he is not only objective,
but disinterested also, he may ~~adopt the life of the teacher~~
the young or visiting the ignorant. But suppose he is not,
~~but suppose~~ ^{(however,} his intellect is good, ~~considering~~ ^{considering} that both his powers of
creation fail, but his vitality strong.

in that spirit, disinterested, and has the option of the child
and the original genius, without this power of achievement,
what is he to do then? Experience of such men seems
to show that there are three pathways open to him. He
may become a pedant; he may play games; or he
may follow, in some shape or form, on some degree or
another, the career of Moulton. Would you have preferred
Moulton a pedant? Would you have had him spend

his declining years at the bridge table? In the stir and
bustle of the world, pitting his wits, at a price, against all
comers, on an honourable level ~~sometimes~~ of those
who employed ~~sometimes~~ of the other, him, exercising a variety
of conjuring gifts in ~~the~~^{the} guests of phenomenal
existence, where the brightest ~~being~~^{is} lightest, Mortality
(was the stipend in the plays of arms,
may have come, as near as he was capable, to the
is the agreement to support him in his
Satisfactions of the artist; and had ~~had~~ been most an apostle at least a
when Oddock elected him.

What are the motives which make men pursue difficult
 and often unprofitable, not necessary to earn their living?
 If we consider chiefly those I have been listing above, — persons of
 strong intellectual power and some objectivity of mind and
 interest, I think they are ^{pedantry} ~~creativity~~, ^{and} ~~idealism~~
 game-playing. We generally praise the first two and blame
 the last two. But is this quite fair? Pedantry and
 game-playing is what the legal profession of this class of
 persons consists. And I suppose ~~that~~ lots are disease. As
 they are symptoms of shortsightedness to the human drama.

This brings me to the Vice-President. The other better
 haven't yet reached the time of life when these hideous
 choices present themselves; — the question what is one to do
 with ones hands.

I give you the best of the present Society, who are ~~pure and~~
~~disinterested~~ now are leading ^{per} cities to pedantry or money
 making, whatever they may consist, coupling with it the
 name of Brattwax, the Vice President.