

## THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1885

SPEECHES by Her Majesty Queen Victoria are not worth listening to, so at least the Lords and Commons seem to say by their contempt of the royal utterances. The address from the throne at the prorogation of Parliament was read to exactly five sleepy lords in the Upper House, while, in the Commons there was barely a quorum present.

MICHAEL DAVITT, in a stirring address at Longford yesterday, declared his full adherence to and union with Mr. Parnell as the leader of the Irish people. He also stated that the National candidates under Mr. Parnell's leadership have his hearty and ready assistance in their canvass during the coming elections.

Who was it said Davitt was going to run a party and policy on his own hook and in opposition to Parnell?

THE Executive Committee of the Irish National League of America, composed of one representative from each State in the Union and from Canada, has assembled in Chicago to make preliminary arrangements for the holding of the next Convention. A cablegram was received from Mr. Parnell advising the committee to fix upon a date subsequent to the elections in England. It was consequently decided to hold the National Convention in January next, and Chicago was selected as the place of meeting. The exact date in January will be fixed by Mr. Parnell and Mr. Egan, President of the League.

WE are informed that three children, belonging to a poor man, are held in a Protestant institution in this city against the will of the father, who is a Catholic, and who desires to have them placed in a Catholic institution, where they will be enabled to attend the services of the Church in which they were baptized and practice the religion they profess. We hope the institution we have reference to will take the hint and deliver up the children without any further ado. The case is a clear one, and there should be no necessity for the poor man to appeal to the law to compel respect for his parental rights, or to secure protection for the religious freedom of his children.

MRS. PARNELL is, it appears, financially embarrassed, but not, as the papers some time ago tried to make out, in worse distress and want. President Cleveland, the day before he left Washington to attend General Grant's funeral, heard an appeal in behalf of her financial troubles, and kindly promised to give the matter his earliest attention. The President paid a high tribute to Mrs. Parnell's excellent qualities as a highly cultured and patriotic lady. It is likely that a bill will be introduced at the next session of Congress to pension Mrs. Parnell on account of the distinguished services of her illustrious father, Commodore Stewart—the "Old Ironsides" of the American navy.

WHEN the Pullman cars on the Intercolonial Railway were taken over by the Government two of the colored porters were dismissed. Because of this dismissal the Ottawa Free Press assures its readers that the Minister of Railways, Hon. John Henry Pope, intends to enforce the political principle "no negroes need apply," and says that "two white Tory wire pullers" have already been placed where the colored porters used to be. The Free Press calls this "a piece of race prejudice quite natural to a man of John Henry's stripe." Our contemporary doesn't mean what it says, for if it had been two white "Grit" wire pullers instead of two "Tories," who had been selected to fill the vacancies, there would have been no talk or accusation of race prejudice manufactured against the Minister.

THE branch of the Salvation Army in the city of Montreal has, for some time past, had its headquarters in the Mechanics' Hall on St. James street. The merchants and other residents in the vicinity have come to look upon the Salvationists as a very unpleasant nuisance. They complain that the male and female youths in red make night hideous with their shouting, yelling, and beating of drums and tambourines, and that occasionally

the Salvationists keep up their spiritual till the break of day, making sleep to those who live in the vicinity utterly impossible. The residents have embodied their grievances in a petition which they have laid at the feet of the Chief of Police with the humble but earnest request that he take action upon it and use his power to put down the disturbances. Montreal's experience of the Salvation Army was not destined to be any different from that of other towns where the Salvationists got a foothold. Their barracks or places of meeting develop into rendezvous for the dissolute of both sexes, especially the young. Their all-night meetings, with the lights put out, are characterized by scenes of revolting debauchery.

THE land thieves in the United States, native and foreign, are not hereafter to have the same license to rob as they have enjoyed in the past. The American people have felt the beneficial effects of the land agitation, which was started by the Land League, and are taking some interest in the public domain which, was fast slipping from the hands of the Government into the capacious and tightened grip of capitalists from abroad and at home. These gentlemen had come to look upon the public lands as their private property and as belonging to the man or company that could fence them in. During its last session the American Congress, under pressure of the Irish National League, passed a law ordering the removal of all wire fences erected on the public lands by native and foreign corporations which are found to have violated the provisions governing the purchase of the land. Congress foresees that the cattle corporations which have in their service an army of cow-boys would offer resistance, added a section to the act which provides, "That the President is hereby authorized to take such means as shall be necessary to remove and destroy any unlawful enclosure of any of said lands, and to employ such civil or military force as may be necessary for that purpose."

President Cleveland has thrown these land grabbers into great consternation by acting upon the provision and using the authority it gives him. As they have shown no disposition to go quietly, the President has decided to remove them forcibly. He has, in consequence, issued an order commanding the military authorities in the territories to remove by force all the fences erected in defiance of the law, and to restore the stolen lands to the public domain.

A few days ago we called attention to the fact that three children, Catholics, were retained in a Protestant institution of this city against the expressed will of the father, who desired to place them where the practice of their religion will not be interfered with. We also requested the institution to deliver up the children without making it necessary to have recourse to the law to have justice done in the matter. Since then the Matron of the institution has informed our reporter that as the children were sent there by order of the Recorder of Montreal, and as the institution is in receipt of a government grant, the children cannot be liberated without an order from the Recorder or the courts, as the institution is responsible for them. This explanation we consider satisfactory as far as the two oldest children are concerned, but what about the third child, four years old, which was not placed there by order of the courts? The institution in question has no hold, legal or otherwise, upon it. Now, as to the two eldest children, we would like to respectfully ask the Recorder on what grounds or on whose representations did he send two Catholic children to a Protestant institution, and why does he detain them there against the will of the father? Had not his Honor better give the case a few minutes of his time and consideration and try to repair the injustice done under his sanction? We hope to hear of an amicable settlement of the case without any unnecessary delay. There should be no trouble in vindicating or in having respect paid to the principle of religious freedom which is involved in the case.

## SERVILITY OF CANADIAN JOURNALISTS.

Mr. Phillip Thompson, himself one of the most honest and fearless journalists in Canada, publishes a letter in the Toronto World in which he reads the press of Ontario a severe but well deserved lesson for their beseness and servility in swelling the popular clamor for the blood of Riel. Seldom has the meanness of the average editor been made so apparent as on this Riel question. Mr. Thompson points out that the papers which are disposed to lean towards mercy do so in a sneaking, miserable, half-hearted fashion of advancing doubts on the legal or illegal features of the trial and suggesting the expediency of giving the prisoner the benefit. Hardly a paper, he says, "has ventured to come out boldly on the ground of principle and demand a commutation of the iniquitous sentence for the straightforward simple reason that the 'spirit of the age and humanity are opposed to putting any man to death for a mere political offence. One would think we were living in Russia or Austria from the tone of our time-serving and degenerate journalism—or at least that the blood-thirsty spirit of Family Compactism was still rampant."

This charge of servility and of the want of independent mind, thought and judgment, which Mr. Thompson brings against the press of Ontario, can, we are sorry to admit, also be brought home to many of our esteemed contemporaries in this Province of Quebec, both French and English. The vast majority of them do not want to see Riel hanged, but certain considerations prevent many of them from coming out with a bold and plain state-

ment to that effect. Mr. Thompson also strikes home when he adds:

"But if the ordinary editor is afraid to say that his soul is his own and to stand up for humanity and justice, what shall be said of our pretensions to literary culture, our little 'higher and nobler' literature? They assume to be men of liberal and progressive ideas, to be independent of partyism, to be altogether superior to popular clamor. Where do they stand? Has one of them from Prof. Goldwin Smith down dared to say a word against the contemplated judicial murder—to point to the enlightened precedent of the United States in their treatment of Jefferson Davis, to urge that clemency towards political offenders in England is now the rule? Not one. With such a spirit of cowardly recency—such a dread of saying anything that might render them unpopular, in the ascendant—what folly it is to expect a Canadian literature! Trucklers and popularity-hunters, men anxious about their 'social position' and afraid to stand up single-handed if necessary for the right, never produced a literature and never will."

## UNPUNISHED CRIMINALS.

WHAT is the matter with our machinery that it is unable to reach the worst and most dangerous class of criminals? A system of criminal justice that cannot strike at hideous offences committed in the open day, and before eyewitnesses, is indeed a cruel mockery. The community has just been forced to witness a miscarriage of justice which is a positive scandal and shame. Two little girls, aged seven and thirteen, while amusing themselves with their baby sister near the wheel house on Sunday last, were approached by a young man. He entered into conversation with the children and proceeded to perpetrate a crime for which lynching on the spot would have been none too hasty a punishment. The terrible screams of the child brought two men in the vicinity to the rescue. The ruffian, who was almost caught in the act of outraging his victim, made for the woods, but after a stern chase was captured and lodged in jail. He appeared before the Police Magistrate on Monday afternoon. His Honor heard the facts of the case, but as the father of the outraged child, for some reason or other, did not appear to prosecute, the prisoner was discharged and set at liberty.

This is a most unwarrantable and startling procedure, and one calculated to shamefully interfere with the ends of justice. What law makes it necessary that a crime against the public peace and safety should not be punished unless there is some third party to prosecute? Would it have been necessary for the father of the child to have prosecuted the prisoner if his crime had been one of murder instead of an indecent outrage? Certainly not! Then there is no reason why a private prosecution should be required before the machinery of the law could be set in motion against a brute, guilty of a blacker crime than murder. We hope that this case will have its effect upon the Government, and open its eyes to the necessity of appointing a public prosecutor, as is done in every centre of civilization, whose duty it would be to watch the commission of all crimes and bring the perpetrators before the bar of justice in case a private prosecutor failed to turn up.

## THE IMPERIAL CONNECTION.

The movement in favor of Canadian independence is spreading even in Ontario. It is beginning to dawn upon the popular mind that Canada will never amount to much until it can travel through life on its own responsibility. The imperial connection, tiny as it is, gives Canada a weak and unpopular name. The Toronto Mail, forgetting its patriotic outburst of a few years ago, that if Canada's prosperity was only to be secured by striking at the British connection, then it would be a case of "so much the worse for British connection," has switched off on to an anti-Canadian track, and is making futile attempts to circumscribe the destiny of the Dominion and to suppress its national instincts. But that it can effect much in this direction is evidently not very clear to itself. In speaking of the growth of the independent sentiment the Mail can oppose nothing stronger than to say that "a movement aiming at political changes of this most radical character cannot succeed in this generation, unless indeed our boasted attachment to the British Crown is a mere figment of after-dinner palaver."

We can assure our esteemed contemporary that outside the after-dinner palaver the Imperial connection has not much more of a basis to rest upon. Canadians are fast learning to be loyal first, last and always to Canadian institutions. Canada is becoming jealous of the allegiance of her sons, and will very soon want and exact a complete monopoly of our loyalty. The young men of Ontario are beginning to shape a party and formulate a policy on those lines, and they are meeting with encouraging support. The Woodstock Review, the editor of which is Mr. Pattullo, the esteemed and popular President of the Canadian Press Association in Ontario, urges them to hoist the national flag and to make Canadian independence the principal and leading plank in their platform. The Review says:—"There should also be a motion in favor of Canadian independence. It is our plain destiny, and we cannot avoid it if we would. Nothing we could urge before the people would be more acceptable than this, and justice to our country requires it. An enunciation of independence is more necessary now than at any other time. The advocates of colonialism and imperial baubles are moving among us. The attempt so far to get up a sentiment in favor of Imperial Federation is not promising; but if Canadians remain passive it may succeed."

And yet some after-dinner palaverers, a short time ago, told a gluttoned audience in London that there was not one man of note or prominence who would dare to advocate the national independence of Canada! Come!

let this Canada of ours ascend to its rightful position among the nations.

## AUSTRIA'S INSULT TO AN AMERICAN MINISTER.

The Austrian Government, after long threatening, has at last declined to receive Mr. Kelley as American Minister at Vienna. The Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs has intimated to the government at Washington that the main reason for refusing to receive Mr. Kelley was the religion of Mrs. Kelley, who was a Jewess. This action of Austria is likely to lead to some international unpleasantness. While President Cleveland and Secretary Bayard are ready to admit the right of a foreign government to object to an American representative on the general ground that the presence of somebody else would be more pleasing, they do not intend to accept the insulting excuse offered for the rejection of Mr. Kelley. They have resented with spirit and indignation the clownish conduct of the Austrians. To make the Jewish origin of an estimable lady, who is in every way fit to appear in any society or at any court, an excuse for declining to receive her husband as Minister, is as paltry and discreditable a piece of business as any Government could be guilty of; and when Secretary Bayard denounced it as the stupid and narrow-minded bigotry of the Austrian Foreign Office, he expressed a sentiment which will be heartily endorsed by the people. It is to be hoped that the American Government will see this matter and ascertain by what right a foreign power can attempt to dictate the qualifications of an American citizen to fill representative positions abroad. It ought to be impossible for any government to decline to receive as minister any citizen of the Republic on account of his race, his creed, or his color, and much less on account of the race, color or creed of his wife, grandmother, aunts or cousins. It is a matter of history that intense opposition was made to the proposal that the representatives of the United States should appear in the courtly dress worn by the ministers of other countries at the courts of Europe. It is also a matter of history how the firmness of the American Government prevailed. It refused to submit to foreign dictation about spangles and knee-breeches for its representatives. The question now is, will the United States do less for the freedom of conscience and for the equality of races and creeds than they did for court costumes? The action of Austria is a blow at the fundamental principles of the American constitution, for it amounts to an introduction of race and creed tests into American citizenship. If the United States government had exerted similar authority over the representatives of foreign powers at Washington, the majority of the diplomatic corps would have been rejected during the past two decades.

Englishmen and Germans, and others who were known to have sympathized with the Southern States in the late rebellion, were sent to Washington by their respective governments, and were received without comment, for the American Government had wisely decided to ignore the personal opinions and actions of these ministers and to look only to their conduct as foreign representatives, and to hold them responsible only for that. It would be well for other powers to adopt and follow that broad and sensible view. In the meantime diplomatic relations between Austria and the United States might well be suspended until the former has made proper apology and has been made to understand that an American citizen deemed worthy of such distinction as that conferred upon Mr. Kelley shall not be insulted with impunity.

## BRITISH DIPLOMACY EXPOSED.

The secrecy and mystery which have enshrouded the low and mean intrigue that was carried on by the late Liberal Government of England against the national and religious interests of Ireland at the Vatican have been rudely pierced by the worthy member for Mallow, Mr. William O'Brien, who deserves to be known as the Irish detective-in-chief of English crime, committed in or against Ireland.

George Errington, a Castle Catholic and a renegade Home Ruler, who was engaged by Mr. Gladstone to malign the Irish Nationalists in Rome with a view of getting the Vatican to antagonize Mr. Parnell and the national movement, was the central figure of that intrigue. Not satisfied with trying to spoil the political prospects of his country, this base deceiver had the audacity to attempt to bring about the downfall of the illustrious Dr. Walsh, and to defeat the designs of the Church in Ireland, with respect to the Archbishopric of See of Dublin. Notwithstanding the denials and equivocations of Mr. Gladstone on the floor of the House that Mr. Errington represented no body but himself, had no instructions from his government, and was acting on his own responsibility, we are enabled, by the unearthing of documentary proof to the contrary, to see how a Prime Minister or Great Britain is not deterred by any sense of shame, honor or decency from telling barefaced lies in answer to questions put by popular representatives in Parliament. We are, moreover, enabled to ascertain the true character of Errington's mission and of his disreputable transactions. A letter written during the progress of the negotiations by Errington himself to Lord Granville, the English Foreign Secretary of State, is the foundation for this arraignment of British diplomacy. The letter affords evidence of the designs of the Foreign Office, which is all the more incontestable inasmuch as it was penned in all the candor of confidential communication and under a guarantee of absolute secrecy. An illustration of the

diabolical methods adopted to bribe the Vatican, and as a document destined to be historic, we quote the letter itself:

"HOUSE OF COMMONS, Friday, May 15.  
"DEAR LORD GRANVILLE—  
"The Dublin Archbishop (Mgr.) has been still undecided. I must continue to keep the Vatican in good humor about you, and keep up communication with them generally as much as possible."

"I am almost ashamed to trouble you again when you are so busy, but perhaps on Monday you would allow me to show you the letter I propose to write."

"This premature report about Dr. Moran will cause increased pressure to be put on the Pope and create many fresh difficulties. The matter must therefore be most carefully watched, so that the strong pressure I can still command may be used at the right moment, and not too soon or unnecessarily (for too much pressure is quite as dangerous as too little). To effect this constant communication with Rome is necessary. I am, dear Lord Granville, faithfully yours,  
"G. ERRINGTON."

The reading of that letter cannot but create a feeling of disgust at the intrigue, and of contempt for the parties to it. Seldom has a grosser insult been offered to the Holy Father. Errington tells an English minister that in connection with the exercise of one of his highest and most sacred functions the Pope must be "kept in good humor," that is, amused, duped and fooled into the interests, not of religion, but of England, are advanced and secured. Errington assures Lord Granville that he has "strong pressure" which "at the right moment" he will use to accomplish the object in view. In plain terms this means that Leo XIII. could be bribed into compliance with English wishes and bargained with in the most sacred concerns of religion. Mr. Errington (a loyal Catholic) must entertain a very bitter contempt for the Papacy and its advisers to write of them in that fashion. A dishonest and treacherous prospect of establishing an English Embassy at the Vatican was held out to the Pope as the reward for throwing Dr. Walsh overboard, while for doing the dirty work of England Errington was to receive a title. Events have shown that the agent and his employers were woefully mistaken in their insulting suppositions that the Supreme Pontiff of Christendom could be fooled, imposed upon, or influenced by unworthy motives in the discharge of his sacred functions. Notwithstanding the impotency and failure of his diplomatic efforts, Mr. George Errington was smiled upon by Mr. Gladstone, who, on going out of office, recommended the Queen to confer a baronetcy upon the sneak, which, of course, Her Majesty did with pleasure. There is one satisfaction to be got out of the issue of the disreputable affair, and it is that we will hear no more of secret English embassies to the Vatican.

## ASSAILING THE G. T. R. ON PUBLIC GROUNDS.

Everybody knows the good terms on which the Montreal Herald is with the Canadian Pacific Railway company, and the ill-will it bears the Grand Trunk railway. Our contemporary, notwithstanding, is ready to stand up and protest, first, that it has nothing to do with the rivalry which exists between the two companies; second, that it does not desire to be known as the special champion and mouthpiece of the Pacific railway; and thirdly, that it has not and does not assail the Grand Trunk except upon public grounds, and only when the public interest calls for it.

The facts cannot be reconciled with these protests. No other agency has been so effective in creating bitter rivalry between the Pacific and Grand Trunk as the Herald. When a person desires not to be known, he does not take every means at his command to reveal his character; but this is exactly what our contemporary has done and does. It does not desire to be known as the special champion and mouthpiece of the Pacific company, and still it every column is branded with the letters C.P.R. The Herald next protests that it does not assail the Grand Trunk except upon public grounds. Why, not later than in the same issue this morning we find our contemporary jumping on the back of the Grand Trunk management and charging it with terrible dereliction in its duty toward the public, and with being guilty of criminal negligence in permitting a state of filthiness to exist in and around the Bonaventure depot. A Herald reporter was sent to explore "the depot for the purpose of ascertaining the facts as they exist for the readers of that paper." What do you imagine was his discovery? After a heavy rainstorm he actually noticed "the whole building to be pervaded by a cold, damp atmosphere." The fact of it being cold in these dog days makes it a most acceptable atmosphere, while the fact of it being damp was only the result of the wet weather and should not be made to tell against the railway management. But the serious side of the Herald's report is where it intimates that "an examination of the premises shows there is a cause for not only this but for the stench which arises from beneath the floor, the only wonder being that it is not worse than it is."

The Herald explorer says that there is a cause for this cold damp atmosphere which he discovered after a lengthy examination, but which he failed to communicate to anxious readers. There was also a stench for which there was a cause, but what the cause was he did not feel inclined to tell, only to assure the public that it was a wonder it was not worse.

The Herald investigator also found the "floor of the structure to be simply a raised platform standing on posts." What would our contemporary have the floor? A dilapidated plank hanging in the air? The next charge is that the "earth is damp, and even wet in places." We suppose the Herald would want the G. T. R. to run hot air pipes through the ground to dry it. But the gem of the disclosures is when the Herald says that

"underneath the flooring there are to be found a mass of decaying refuse, consisting of old bits of coal and wood, with here and there pieces of old cloth, bunches of paper and cotton and dead grass."

If the Grand Trunk never had anything worse than old bits of coal or wood or pieces of old cloth thrown here and there, or paper and dead grass to constitute what is so fiercely called a "decaying mass of refuse," the G.T.R. company might congratulate itself upon the healthy and cleanly condition of its property.

Of course the Herald considers "that investigation" into the sanitary condition of the depot to have been highly intelligent and impartial, and to furnish sufficient public grounds upon which to assail the Grand Trunk. We have never heard of anyone casting up old bits of coal and wood, or even dead grass, as creating a state of filthiness dangerous to public health, but the Herald does not hesitate to say that their hidden presence under the floor of the depot shows that the Grand Trunk management has been terribly derelict in its duty toward the public and even guilty of criminal negligence.

## PERE ANDRE TELLS THE STORY OF THE REBELLION.

The Rev. Pere Andre, Superior of the Oblate Fathers in the North-West Territories, has addressed an open letter to Mr. Lemieux, senior counsel for Riel, which is destined to become a document of the highest historical importance, and to exercise a powerful influence on public opinion in favor of the half-breeds. This zealous missionary, who has for years moved among the people of the North-West, and who is intimately acquainted with the country and its wants, discusses the causes and results of the late rebellion in a pointed and fearless manner. He goes directly to the root of the evil and he lets in a flood of light, revealing a situation full of misery and suffering, caused by misrule and depredation. He says the plague of the North-West is the abnormal system of government to which the country is subjected. To this system of centralization at Ottawa must be attributed all the heavy misfortunes of the past, and, if not abolished, greater ones may be expected in the future. It is that system, exclaims Pere Andre, that caused the rebellion. If there had been a responsible government with authority and power to remedy the grievances of the half-breeds, there would have been no rebellion. This is the position which THE POST has taken all along in discussing the troubles, and it is a satisfaction to have the corroboration of such an unimpeachable authority. After enumerating the claims of the half-breeds, which he characterizes as clear and reasonable, and stating that all their representations to Ottawa were ignored and not acted upon, Pere Andre distinctly and emphatically declares that the rôle played by Riel in the revolt was forced upon him. He says: "It can, in all truth, be stated, and the affirmations of the government will not 'destroy this fact, that it is the guilty negligence of the government which brought Riel into the country. The half-breeds, exasperated at seeing themselves despised and at being unable to obtain the slightest justice, thought the only means left to them to secure the rights which they demanded was to send for Riel. He, in their opinion, was the only man capable of bringing the authorities at Ottawa to reason. Riel came, and we know the ruin which he has gathered about him, but the Government can well say mea culpa for their delay in taking measures which would have preserved the peace of the country."

Having thus dwelt upon the causes that led to the rebellion, and having touched upon the character of the rôle played by Riel in it, the reverend missionary proceeds to review a few of the circumstances and results which mark its close. He continues: "To-day the Government glories in its victory, and applauds itself as if it had won a great triumph in beating the half-breeds. Riel is condemned; the principal half-breeds are in iron, and, in its enthusiasm, Parliament votes \$20,000 to General Middleton, 'so proud of his success and of the volunteers. We are glad, like the rest of the nation, that this rebellion is ended; we strenuously opposed it, foreseeing all the misfortunes it would entail. But I must say, at the risk of shocking many whom I love and esteem, that Gen. Middleton's army dishonored themselves by the shameful pillage which they committed, notwithstanding the General's proclamation to the contrary. I do not speak from hearsay, but from positive facts. I have several times inspected the district around Datoche, and I can affirm that for a distance of twenty-five miles all the houses on the south bank of the Saskatchewan were sacked and plundered and over twenty of them burned and razed to the ground. That region, previously so flourishing, now offers a picture of the most depressing desolation and distress horrible to behold. The volunteers pillaged the inhabitants of all they had in the way of horses, goods, and clothes, leaving them only what they had on their backs. The General was humane and kind, but he assisted impassively at all the pillaging around him, despite his proclamations. Indeed, as if to encourage the others, he himself appropriated a fine horse and vehicle belonging to one Manuel Cham-pagne, which he made a present of to Thomas Ibouti. These are facts of which I am certain, and the Militia Minister may affect ignorance as much as he pleases; they are not the less real and true. The result of all this is that our poor half-breeds are in a state of extraordinary distress and misery. I regret that General Middleton did not complete his work, and that he did not add massacre, as by doing he would have at least spared us