

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"History," said Brown, "repeats itself I remember the potato famine in Scotland when I was a young man, and I remember a Church of England bishop saying it was because the Methodists were spreading! And the Methodists said it was because the Calvinists were on the increase! Did ever anyone hear such blasphemy? There was no famine in Scotland. The potatoes all went bad, it's true; but there were heaps of wheat, barley, rye, oats and corn, and thousands of sheep and cattle. It was a famine of money, not a famine of food. The reason that people were dying of want there was because the food was all on one side and the mouths on the other. I saw at that time cartloads of food taken past the poor starving wretches who were dying for want of it! but it belonged to the men who owned the land, not to those whose labor had produced it. If, instead of praying for relief, the people had sent a deputation to heaven to ask why they were starving people down there, Providence would have said to them, 'Is there no land there, is it all used up?' 'Plenty land, Lord.' 'Is there no seed there, then?' 'Plenty seed, Lord.' 'Won't the land produce anything now, then?' 'Oh, yes, it will produce abundantly!' What then would have been the answer of Providence? Wouldn't the Lord have said, 'I have given you land and seed, and sunshine and rain, and power to labor; go and produce food, and make a fair distribution of it.' And if the famine stricken people of Ireland would send a deputation to Him now, this would be about the kind of answer they would receive. The reason the poor of Ireland are dying in workhouses or emigrating by the thousand is because the land, their inheritance from God, is denied them."

"What a lot of talk there is about this Irish question, anyway," said Sharkey, "when its settlement is so very simple. Let the people of Ireland take possession of the land of Ireland by taxing it to its full rental value, and there'll be no Irish question at all. Abolish landlordism, and it don't matter a rap whether the Irish people are governed by an Irish parliament sitting in Dublin or an English one sitting in Westminster; but retain landlordism, and in spite of the Irish parliament, the Irish people will not be any better off than they are now. The only difference will be that in that case they would be robbed by consent of their own government, whereas now they are at the mercy of an English one."

"Some people say that the Irish get married too soon and have large families," said Garlick, "and that that is the reason of Irish distress. Others say that it's because all their rich men go to foreign countries and spend their money there instead of spending it at home, and still others say that it's because of their religion. Now, if Catholicism causes the distress in Ireland, what causes it in Presbyterian Skye? The truth is that the men of Ireland and of Skye have both allowed a few people to monopolize their land, and the consequence is that all the rest are dependent upon their will and pleasure for permission to live. If a man has rightfully become possessed of money, be it much or little, he has a perfect right to spend it when, and where, and how he likes, because it is honestly acquired property. Consequently I would never prevent Irish landlords going to London or Paris to live, but they should take with them only what belonged to them, and not the rent from the land, because that belonged to the people of Ireland who created the value of that land. As to early marriage and large families the Irishman simply follows a law of nature. English oppression and persecution have not yet succeeded in inculcating him with the doctrines of Malthus and the criminal practice of his followers in using what they call 'checks' upon population, and it is well that it is so. Nature wisely supplies two hands for every mouth she creates, and these two hands, if applied and allowed to labor on opportunities provided by nature, can at all times produce enough and to spare to keep the possessor of hands and mouth, not only in comfort, but luxury. The trouble is not that there are too many people in Ireland, but that the natural opportunities of Ireland are owned by a few. The ownership of opportunities such as land, mines, water power, etc., gives the owners the power to take from those who must use these opportunities to live, everything they produce, excepting enough to keep the producer alive. And it is because the owners of Irish natural opportunities have always insisted upon taking all they could, that hunger and famine stalk through the land. The remedy then don't consist in checking the increase of population, but in freeing natural opportunities. To make myself clearly understood by you, let me put the question this way: Supposing that the population of Ireland was one hundred, and that Brown and I owned all the land

of Ireland and took in rent everything these hundred people produced, except enough to enable them to live. It clearly wouldn't mend matters if fifty or even ninety-nine of the hundred were killed off, because Brown and I would still have the power to rob the remaining fifty or the remaining one as much as we robbed the hundred. But, if these hundred men turned round to Brown and me and said: 'See here, we hold that the land of Ireland belongs to all of us as much as it does to you fellers, and we also know that the fact of our living here and using it gives it a certain value. So far, you two fellers have appropriated this value to your own use, but as this value is created by us collectively, we propose that in future it shall belong to all of us. We don't want to make you disgorge what you have robbed us of, because we feel kind of guilty in the matter ourselves in allowing you to do it, seeing that we were in the majority, but we propose to put an end to your nice little game of growing rich and living in luxury at the expense of other people. You can use as much of this land as you like by paying its full rental value into the common treasury, but under no consideration will we ever again allow you or anyone else to own a single square inch of ground.' If the hundred did this the question would be settled at once, and the Malthusian, who went among them advocating the use of 'preventive' and 'positive' checks to population as a sure and speedy cure against poverty, would stand a good chance of getting lynched. I believe that the Irish, the same as any other nation, should have power to administer their own affairs, but I contend that unless they abolish landlordism, Home Rule will not benefit the common people at all."

"That you ain't got the power to shape the destiny of Ireland or any other country. Your reform looks very much like robbery; you'd confiscate the land and use it for the common good without as much as asking the owners of it 'by your leave!'" "I'd confiscate no man's land," said Phil, "but I'd insist that the full rental value of it be paid into the public treasury. Another thing I believe, and I am prepared to defend the stand I take, that no man or set of men according to moral and divine law has a right to the exclusive ownership of land. As well might the descendants of Captain Kydd or Ronaldini claim the right to rob and steal and murder by land and sea, as the present landowners claim the right to continue robbing us because we allowed their forefathers to do so. Rent of land is robbery."

"If you appropriate the full rental value of the land," said Sinnett, "you take all the value there is to it; and do you think it fair to do that without giving the landowner compensation?"

"Why should I give him compensation," said Phil. "With as much right could the descendants of Jesse James claim compensation because society insists that they must not continue to rob people as their father did. All land was originally stolen just as African territory is being stolen today, and the robbers either gave it to their heirs or else sold it to those who own it now. Land is held by individuals because it carries with it a revenue called rent, but it is held at the risk of the owners. No Government recognizes absolute ownership of land, taking any or all land for its use whenever or wherever it chooses without consulting the whim or wish of the so-called owner; as yet, governments allow landholders to levy a blackmail on landusers in the shape of rent, but a government must eventually arise which will give all men an equal right in the land by diverting rent into the public treasury instead of now into the pockets of individuals, and it won't compensate landholders either."

"It's a good job," said Sinnett to Phil,

BILL BLADES.



When you want a nice TIE or COLLAR don't forget that we are STILL ALIVE physically and morally to the wants of our patrons.

A. DEMERS,  
338 St. James Street.

No More Misrepresentation!

ALL OUR GOODS SOLD ON THEIR MERITS.

Select Your Furniture from the Largest Stock in Canada.



FEE & MARTIN,  
Palace Furniture Store,

357 to 367 ST. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL.

CLENDINNENG'S  
LEADER.

BEST COOK STOVE MADE

ON SALE AT

524 CRAIG STREET,  
319 ST. JAMES STREET,  
1417 ST. CATHERINE STREET,  
2495 NOTRE DAME, Cor ST. MARTIN ST  
Cor. WILLIAM & INSPECTOR STREETS

Wm. Clendinneng & Son,  
MONTREAL.

A GREAT CLEARANCE CLOTHING SALE!

AT LAST. Our New Sidewalk is Finished, and the

IMPERIAL CLOTHING HOUSE

is again crowded from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. with customers attending the Great Cheap Sale of OVERCOATS, Etc. Owing to delay in laying the New Sidewalk, which has prevented Cases upon Cases from entering our Stores, with Thousands of OVERCOATS for

MEN, YOUTHS, BOYS AND CHILDREN.

These OVERCOATS must be sacrificed to make room for our Large Stock of WINTER SUITS, which we cannot half unpack until at least two-thirds of these OVERCOATS are sold.

THE IMPERIAL CLOTHING HOUSE

is acknowledged to be, although the youngest, the LEADING and CHEAPEST Clothing Firm in Montreal, our Mottoes being: "SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS," "NO CREDIT HERE," "TERMS STRICTLY CASH." All Our Goods Marked in Plain Figures. Note the following prices:

Men's Worsted Overcoats, Raised Diagonals,	\$5.00,	Worth \$10.50
"    "    "    Cut	5.25,	"    11.50
"    Canadian Frieze Overcoats, Pure Wool Superfine	5.25,	"    10.50
"    "    "    All Wool Guaranteed	3.90,	"    8.00

Our Children's Plush Overcoats, in Divers Colors, from \$2.00 to \$5.00 are marvels and would be good value as charged elsewhere for \$9.00 and \$10.00. Men's, Youths' and Boys' Suits at correspondingly low prices. Eaton Suit \$4.90, nothing in the West to beat it. A Large Assortment of Pure Woollen Underclothing marked 2 1/2 per cent. above Mills' quotations. 1,000 dozen Seamless All-wool Aberdeen Socks at 15 Cents, commonly sold at 30 Cents, for this Great Sale only. Call Early and Quickly, to get a Good Choice, as this Great Sale—if the crowds still continue to come—will soon be over at the

NEAR CRAIG ST.  
NEW SIDE,  
NEW STORE.  
NEW SIDEWALK.  
NEW STOCK.

IMPERIAL CLOTHING HOUSE,  
22, 24, 26 & 28 ST. LAWRENCE MAIN STREET.

Take note of Address and beware of Imitation of Our Firm's Nom de Plume—IMPERIAL.