

THE TRUE WITNESS... THE POST PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.

761 CRAIG ST., Montreal, Canada.

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WEDNESDAY... DECEMBER 23, 1885

We devote considerable space this week to a reproduction of the manifesto issued by Archbishop Taché...

Some of the lordly snobs who have been elected to the British Parliament have been taunting the Irish party...

The "value of human testimony" has long been a matter of doubt, and has been so written on by sceptical and cynical critics.

Over in Montreal several members of a social club who wished to rid themselves of the presence of other members...

Our esteemed contemporary, La Presse, contains in its issue of last evening a singularly able and correct review of the political situation in Great Britain and Ireland.

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them a salutary lesson of what union can do even when five million are threatened with extermination or annihilation by thirty million.

LET TRUTH PREVAIL AND JUSTICE BE DONE.

OUR esteemed contemporary the Montreal Herald, after reading the Gazette's two column article on Archbishop Taché's letter, to which we referred yesterday, could not repress its just indignation at the dishonest and treacherous use made of His Grace's utterances by the Government organ for party purposes.

We can vouch for the truth and correctness of the charges thus brought by the Herald against its morning contemporary. Notwithstanding the solemn protest of Mgr. Taché against the unwarranted and disloyal use of the names of Fathers André and Fourmond, and also of His Lordship Bishop Grandin, by the Government organs and attorneys, to make out a case of "selfishness" against Louis Riel, the Gazette holds up Father André as an accusing witness against the victim of Regias.

Let the Canadian people ponder well these unjoined words of the Archbishop, and see what justification the partisans of a guilty government can plead in misrepresenting the sentiments and views of the noble and self-sacrificing missionaries, to create religious and national prejudice against a man who is no longer alive to defend himself, and to bring odium and dishonor on the name of the dead chief of the half breeds.

But where the Gazette mingles effrontery with dishonesty is where it asserts that the Archbishop had no sympathy with Riel, and that His Grace did not question Riel's sense of the responsibility of his conduct, thus leaving its readers under the impression that Mgr. Taché did not believe the Métis had grievances, and that he concurred in the execution of their leader.

And further on, when dealing directly with the person of Riel, the Archbishop repudiates distinctly and emphatically the sentiments attributed to him by such papers as the Gazette. His Grace says: "For my part, an observation of twenty years' duration has led me to convictions diametrically opposed to those which are invoked. The natural consequences of my convictions on the sad subject were rejected, and the hope I had entertained of the end vanished."

SETTING THE WORLD RIGHT.

We had no idea that there was so much of the bad egg about the Toronto World. A bad egg passes as good until it is hit and cracked, then rushes forth an odor which at once destroys one's faith in its purity.

business to bolster up its false position, and that reiterates a lie to give it a semblance of truth, is not a paper entitled to indulge in the use of such vigorous epithets as "blackguardly" to describe the attitude of any of its contemporaries.

It is always a matter of much repugnance to us to have to enter into a discussion with a writer who is incapable of using the language of a gentleman, and to whose pen truth is a stranger.

But, as in love, one must often stoop to conquer, so in journalism one must often get down to a contemporary's level to serve the public interest and the cause of truth. The World's trouble originated from two distinct events, viz.: Mr. J. D. Edgar's visit to Montreal, and the Cabinet Minister's wife's letter to "stop the paper."

This retort courteous evidently did not please the World, for in its last issue it is out in an abusive article which is no more truthful than its predecessors. It alleges that "The Post editorially praised Mr. Edgar for the action he had taken in the Riel matter, and that we extolled him for having abandoned the Orange lodge."

As a matter of fact, we neither endorsed Mr. Edgar's action in the Riel question, nor did we extol him for his abandonment of the unholy ways of Orangism. Consequently the World does not tell the truth. Our want of mention of Mr. Edgar was, however, not due to any opposition to his line of conduct on either question. On the contrary, now that the occasion offers to say it, we consider that Mr. Edgar's views and sentiments on the Northwest troubles are honorable to him as a loyal citizen and a true Canadian.

Now, as to Mr. Edgar's abandonment of Orangism. Twenty-five years ago, at the age of 19, Mr. Edgar was proposed as a member of an Orange lodge. He attended two meetings at the time, and has had no sort of connection with the Orange order since.

For that action THE POST, in common with every true lover of Canada, does extol Mr. Edgar. As soon as he saw and understood the unholy aims of Orangism, he did not hesitate a moment, but cast aside the demon of strife and discord.

Perhaps the World cannot say as much, and that is why this public denunciation of Orangism puts it in such bad humor. The World has been so hard pressed that it has taken one of our articles, satirizing the political efforts of poets, to prove that we disapproved of Mr. Edgar's political course.

Thereupon, in its next issue, our confrere asserted that THE POST said it was the wife of a Protestant Cabinet Minister. We again reminded the World that we did not say it was the wife of a Catholic Minister.

insurance to the contrary, that we did not receive a letter from the wife of a Cabinet Minister "to stop the paper," then our answer is briefly that it lies—under a mistake.

GLADSTONE AND HOME RULE.

THERE is no astonishment in the ranks of the Irish party at Mr. Gladstone's present solicitude to settle the Irish question. It has long been an acknowledged fact that the ex-premier yearned to undo the nefarious work of Pitt, and to pose as the one British statesman in almost a century who was capable of grappling with the stupendous problem. His vast ambition, fired by the splendor of the work, has made him desire to round off his public career with the settlement of a question which has ever been a source of trouble and weakness to the Empire.

Events have already justified Mr. Parnell's forecast. The proofs are now plain that Gladstone has definitely decided not only to deal with the question of Home Rule, but to grant Ireland her National Parliament.

THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT.

THE Gazette and other Government organs have been endeavoring to show that Mgr. Taché was opposed to and condemned the political movement which has in view the punishment of Sir John Macdonald and his Government for their maladministration of the affairs of the North-West. But on this, as on every other point, these party organs have unblushingly misrepresented the views of the Archbishop, and made their readers believe exactly the reverse of what His Grace has written.

"I will not dissemble that the pain I have experienced since the beginning of our troubles, instead of being relieved, was greatly increased during the last three weeks. I am not making allusion to a movement which would be only political and kept within its limits, already so broad of the constitution. Let those who have a vote to give, whether in parliament or on the hustings, weigh all according to their inmost conscience, and in the balance of their love of country, and then let them vote according to their convictions; such is their right and their duty."

Let those who have a vote to give, whether in Parliament or at the polls, vote according to their convictions—such is their right and their duty. That is all we ask. And it is simply to establish that right and to secure the performance of that duty, of which His Grace speaks, that the political movement, which gives the Gazette, Mail and other party organs so much displeasure, has been inaugurated and sustained by the people.

PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

One of Sir John A. Macdonald's most cherished objects and his favorite policy have been to limit and curtail the legislative rights of the Provinces. He has always sought to centralize authority at Ottawa. The governments of the Provinces have had no more insidious and persistent enemy than the Federal Premier. He has time and again originated or fathered legislation which was calculated to put the brakes on the powers of the Provinces.

AN END TO THEIR RULE AND RUIN.

The so-called "Loyalists" and the Orange Tories are the same all the world over. As long as they hold the reins of power, their loyalty is shovelled into everybody's face, but if any movement is made to oust them out of office they kick like mules and will either "smash confederation" or declare civil war.

like the Mail and the Gazette here, the effrontery to threaten civil war if Home Rule is granted to Ireland. It declares that "if the demands of the Parnellites are granted, and any such scheme of Home Rule is attempted as Gladstone has been credited with contemplating, civil war would not be unlikely to follow."

The loyalty of the Daily Express was all solid enough as long as an insignificant minority ruled the destinies of the country, but to talk of giving the government of the country into the hands of the great bulk of the people would be too rude a shock for its loyalty. But, thank God, the Irish people are bent on one achievement, and that is to no longer permit the Orange faction either to rule or to ruin in Ireland.

THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT AGAINST "THE POST."

The North-West millstone, which is around the neck of the Dominion Government, is dragging them down lower and lower. They first tried to prop themselves up with that Terrebonne letter from Hon. Mr. Chapleau, the Secretary of State; but it proved a feeble instrument, and was a totally inadequate barrier to stay the tide of popular indignation and resist the great national appeal.

Having exhausted what might be termed "fair means" of defence, they have taken to dark and foul means to avert the chastisement which the people have in store for them. This time it is the Minister of Inland Revenue, the Hon. John Costigan, who is acting as the tool of the Ministry.

We are free to admit, however, that the circular in itself is not of a very dangerous composition, but it serves to illustrate the desperate straits to which the Government is reduced, and the contemptible efforts of which they are capable to win a little sympathy.

We have before us a number of copies of a "confidential" circular which Mr. Costigan is sending by the thousand all over the country at the public expense. The object of the circular is to try and counteract the influence of THE POST in the country, and to treacherously injure an opponent who is fighting the Government in open day and on an open field.

If THE POST was of no account, why take all this trouble to injure it? The fact of the matter is THE POST is a power in the land, and is the most faithful and fearless echo of the public sentiment on public questions. The government know it, and it is that power they wish to undermine and that echo they wish to destroy.

NOT IN HARMONY WITH THE MAJORITY.

Mr. W. J. WATTS, member for Drummond and Arthabaska in the Legislative Assembly, at Quebec, has forwarded his resignation to the Speaker. The despatch which announces this resignation adds that Mr. Watts has taken this step owing to the agitation against the government of Sir John Macdonald and to the fact that his views on the matter are not in sympathy with those of the majority of his constituents.

The people know who are their friends and who are their enemies. The people will cease to stand by THE POST when we cease to stand by justice and right.

A man who has covert recourse to calumny to injure an opponent, and is afraid to meet him in the light of day is generally put down as a contemptible sneak and a cowardly villain. But what shall we say, what shall the world say of the government of a great country, of Ministers of the British Crown, who do not hesitate to play the same debasing and miserable role to win a point against a public journal which has the courage to charge them with their misdeeds and to urge the people to drive them from place and power, and put an end to their maladministration of public affairs.

We will just reproduce the two extracts which our mighty Canadian Government, through the instrumentality of Hon. John Costigan, have taken from the Toronto World, which we have already convicted of falsehood, and from the Ottawa Citizen, which writes to government order, and which they have sent broadcast over the land:

AN UN-IRISH ATTACK.

The Montreal Post complains bitterly because the wife of one of the Catholic Ministers has withdrawn her subscription to that paper. Such action may appear petulant and undignified, but it is quite competent for subscribers to take it. Mr. Blake, it will be remembered, told "stop my paper" a few months ago. As the Post is trying to win Rielite supporters it must expect to lose the anti-Rielites. It has been generally understood that a prominent characteristic of the Irish race was the defence which those of the male sex paid to women. Indeed Irish gallantry is proverbial; but these appear to be degenerate days, and the Montreal Post seems to have sunk below the water-mark of even ordinary respectability. That journal pretends to represent the Irish Catholic element in Montreal. Whether it does or does not, we do not care to concern ourselves; but one thing we do know: the article which

appeared in a recent issue over the heading "A Cabinet Minister's wife says: 'stop the Post,'" has given much offence to readers of the Post in this city. The organ has not the courage to name the Cabinet Minister's wife who took the trouble to write to it to have it "stopped." For our part, we do not believe any Cabinet Minister's wife penned the prohibitory document. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that if THE POST received such a letter, it was a fraud and a forgery—one of the numerous frauds perpetrated on the public by Riel's Rouge friends. The criticisms of THE POST are remarkable only for their ineffable manness, and were evidently inspired by a malicious desire to make political capital at the expense of decency and of that regard for women which influences the actions of a newspaper supposed to be respectable and reputable.

The World and Citizen have already been brought to their senses since the above was written. There was nothing very formidable in their tirades, but it was the best the Government could select to use against us. Mr. Costigan has got some of his brother Ministers to translate the above extracts into French, so that the World and the Citizen are made to talk French to our French Canadian fellow-citizens. Already a number of French Canadian clergymen have forwarded to the anti-Post documents thus sent to them from Ottawa, and bearing Mr. Costigan's signature. They are disgusted with the tactics of the Ministry, and one parish priest had so little respect for the Ministerial circular that he tore it up and sent on the pieces just to show what he thought of it.

THE MANITOBA FARMERS.

If the farmers of Manitoba are to be believed, the condition of the brby province is far from being satisfactory. At the annual convention of the Farmers' Union, held in Winnipeg last Friday, a resolution was unanimously adopted setting forth the fact that the best interests of the province and the people were to a great extent made subservient to the exigencies of political parties; also, that the future progress of the country is very seriously interfered with by the same exigencies, especially the partisan nature of the local houses; that the Province of Manitoba continues to feel the heavy pressure of the of the present high tariff, and in the opinion of the convention there should be a large reduction in the duties, especially on agricultural implements and building material.

These are serious complaints to be made by the men who have the greatest stake in the country, and who are removed from political and partisan strife. The fact that not a voice was raised against the passage of such a resolution is also significant, and adds to the weight and importance of the condemnation passed upon the system under which the farmers labor to such disadvantage.

ATTACK ON REV. FATHER COFFEY.

A remarkable and significant coincidence with respect to Mr. Patrick Boyle's recent visit to Ottawa is the complete volte face of the Toronto Irish Canadian on the movement to defeat Sir John Macdonald's Government for the maladministration of the North-West affairs. After the commission of the political crime at Regina the Irish Canadian was among the foremost to denounce the demon of Orangism which had dictated the Government's line of conduct. It exhorted every honest elector in the country to cast their vote against any and all supporters of the Orange Tory Administration. The people of Canada had hoped the Irish Canadian would continue to act on its first inspirations, which were manly, independent and patriotic, and would fight a noble fight to the end. But the atmosphere of Ottawa had a most injurious and depressing effect. From being a stalwart and honest champion of right and justice for all classes of the community, the Irish Canadian suddenly fell back and became the unnatural echo of the Government which it had so loudly and vigorously condemned. One of its first utterances after its "change of front" was an article in which abuse and slander of the vilest stamp were heaped upon the Rev. Father Coffey, the editor of the London Catholic Record. We quote it for the edification of our readers as "a specimen of the zeal" exhibited by the new political and partisan convert. Speaking, however, of a change of front,