

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1886

PARTY fidelity in organs of this or that faction, is sometimes very decided and very unscrupulous, but for an example of touching fidelity commend us to the Pulkaski Citizens, which says: "We would swallow three dozen rotten eggs or kiss a skunk three times a day, if the party platform demanded it."

THE Home Rule principle is rapidly extending in Scotland. The ball set rolling by Ireland will not meet with much opposition there, and for example has proved very contagious. The Burghs have all declared in favor of representative local government or local measure.

SOME of our American contemporaries are just now rather tickled at the application of the term "Alsatia" being applied by some one to Canada in view of the number of criminals who make it their sanctuary. Our American friends fail to take notice of the fact that the fault is all their own.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to complain of a yard in rear of St. Antoine street, opposite Inspector street, that smells from an accumulation of oyster shells, stable refuse, etc., etc. We can only tell our correspondent that we are not the scavengers of the city, and his proper course would be to go to the city authorities.

THE reports indicate that trouble from the anarchist is brooding over Chicago. The "reds" have taken the position of a political party and instituted a "ticket" which is to be used in the coming election of judges.

"The disciples of dynamite are scathed, not killed. They propose to make at the polls this fall a manifestation of their strength. Spies, old-time organ is abusive and threatening, and yet when men sympathize with the Haymarket assassins and would snatch them from the gallows tender the distinguished honor of their support to two judges upon the Superior bench, one of whom ought now to be sitting in the Criminal court, these men accept with thanks! The blood of the Haymarket victims cries out against this trifling. It is an insult to good citizenship."

TORONTO has, by the death of the late Mr. F. C. Capreol, lost one of her most energetic citizens. Notwithstanding his great age he has, up to the last, worked to the utmost on behalf of the interests of Toronto, though his efforts have not of late been seconded further than by a sort of respectful sentiment.

in the way of its execution. In all probability the Huron and Ontario ship canal will now never be constructed.

THE Boston Post indulges in a sneer at Canada, intended to be scathingly bitter. With reference to the flag incident on board the Grimes it says: "The Canadians may perhaps plead in excuse for their insult to the American flag that they have no conception of the patriotic and sentimental value of a flag. They get their own flag, as well as their patriotism, at second-hand."

THE discovery of certain Know-Nothing lodges at Chicago reminded the American public recently that the old spirit is not wholly extinct in many quarters. How bitter the feeling still is in the bosoms of a great number of American citizens is perhaps not as generally known as it ought to be. It may be that the spirit is less demonstrative than it would otherwise be if it was not a fact that "Know-Nothingism" is generally deemed a thing more worthy of scorn than admiration when publicly spoken of.

THE Ontario Government has announced that it intends to have only Credit Valley or Canadian stone for the new Legislative buildings, and that no American stone is to be imported by the architect, Mr. Waite, of Buffalo, whose instincts and interests lead him to Connecticut Valley granite.

SOME French savants in Paris have made the discovery that France is going rapidly down hill intellectually, socially and physically. They have also discovered the cause. It is not one of home production either, and consequently the country is not, we presume, to be held directly responsible for the extraordinary political instability and periodical frenzies which seem to afflict the nation.

WHILE the Mail is indulging in wild tirades concerning the backwardness and inferiority of the Province of Quebec—all on account of tithes and church—it is a little amusing to read the accounts of the expedition of Col. Ravenshill and Phillips, the Imperial officers recently in the country to examine the horse supply and the country. Ontario is prominently, in its own estimation, an agricultural country, and its farmers would no doubt listen with great scorn to any suggestion of equality with Quebec in that respect.

suitable, four hundred, were rejected. Now we find that the general result in Quebec was different, and that at Sherbrooke alone the officers found a marked improvement. The advance in this respect is proceeding rapidly, and at Quebec private enterprise on the part of an enthusiastic lover of horses bids fair to have a marked influence on the stock of the district. The Government stand now to be established will have a tremendous influence, if the farmers avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the excellent institution in question. Whatever Ontario may have done for agriculture, it has never acted in the praiseworthy manner of Quebec in this respect. Ontario had better drop bragging or it may find itself in the position of braggarts in general. We trust, however, that our farmers will not be slow to see the opportunity that lies before them.

MONTREAL CENTRE.

As between the candidates nominated for this division, THE POST has long since expressed its preference. THE POST is not a party paper, and no one certainly can accuse it of partisan predilection for the Conservative party. But, as we pointed out in a previous article, in choosing a representative the electors have something more to decide than a mere party question,—they have also to choose one who will express their views, advocate their interests, honestly and effectively. That Mr. Doherty both can and will do this, no one who knows him can doubt, and that his talents and the influence they will give him in the Legislature will enable him to do so with more marked results than either of his adversaries is equally unquestionable.

MEMORIAL TO JOSEPH BRANT.

THE unveiling of the statue of Theyendanegea (Joseph Brant) at Brantford on the seventy-sixth anniversary of a battle of Queenston was an event creditable to the nation. In his own way the famous Indian chief had as much influence in framing the destinies of the country as many whose names are better remembered by students of history.

"Eucommium on the prowess of Col de Salaberry and his countrymen is probably well founded. It is true that a few hundred of them worsted an army of between four and five thousand American regulars, whom Gen. Hampton had been for some time assiduously preparing for active service; and the bubble of Canadian conquest burst and evaporated, if not forever, at any rate for that war."

Referring to these two great events the Toronto Globe very happily says:—"It is fitting that these events should be remembered by Young Canada to-day, when a foul attempt is being made to excite the hatred of the descendants of Queenston against the descendants of the heroes of Chateaugay. Canada was saved to the crown and to Canadians as much by one victory as by the other. Both were gained from the same enemy, into whose hands the breeders of race-hatred would, if they could, undoubtedly thrust the fragments of the Confederation they have undertaken to smash."

THE ELECTIONS.

THE elections yesterday appear to establish the fact very clearly that for some time at least the government of the Province will be in the hands of the Liberal party. It is clear that the leaders of the Opposition have not unfairly gauged the feeling and sense of the electors, and one of those waves of national sentiment have swept political power into the lap of the Liberal party. The change has been marked and decisive. Few probably ever expected so great a transformation yesterday morning.

candidates. The result leaves no doubt as to the constitutional course to be followed by the administration. The immediate line to be followed of course varies, and this will, no doubt, be decided on at an early session of the council. But the electors will soon have to put to a practical test the hopes they have tried, and it is only to be hoped that the choice they have made will be found of benefit to the province. The new Administration will, apparently, have a good working majority, but not a cumbersome one, and this is a very desirable feature. The Opposition will be a strong and influential one, and after the long tenure of office held by them will, doubtless, do its best to watch and criticize the new Administration.

THE NEXT STEP.

THE very animated comments of the organs of the victorious party in the recent election are hardly consistent with the magnitude of the victory they claim. Exultation, when it passes from the domain of the dignified to that of the hysterical, is calculated rather to weaken than strengthen a cause. Granting the defeat of the Government, so far as a numerical majority for the Opposition is concerned, there is practically an end of the matter. The practice that is always followed under British constitutional use is invaluable and well enough known. There can be no divergence from it. But there is more than one way of reaching that practice, and the way is very properly governed by circumstances. The strict usage, according to precedent, is for the defeated Government to meet Parliament, and it may readily be seen that there are many reasons which make this course desirable. Strictly speaking, and according to the letter and spirit of our constitution, the Government ought to do this, as it is to Parliament alone the Government is responsible, and to deal with the people merely at the polls might cause serious misconceptions and confusion if the principle were once admitted. This was pointed out by the highest constitutional writers when Lord Beaconsfield set the example of resigning after a general election without meeting Parliament, an example since followed by his opponent. But in such cases the election has shown that an overwhelming majority has been cast in opposition to the ministry. But in no case is the practice either necessary or desirable. That the real defeat of the Government should be made apparent on the question of the Speakership is a formal and unquestionable method. In the present case it would be, we should imagine, in view of the elements of dispute which have entered into the election, the most satisfactory to both parties.

AN ANGRY MINISTER.

IT has often been said that while democracy and democratic principles are those of the lip in the United States, an overweening love of aristocratic associations is the dominating sentiment of the ordinary American. Extremes always do meet, and the avidity with which the events of "high life" in the old world, whether creditable or the reverse, are studied, may be seen by a reference to any ordinary American society paper. An amusing example of this tendency is seen in some recent letters written to the New York Sun by General Bideau, the same we believe who styles himself, or was styled, "equerry in waiting" to General Grant, when that warrior made his noted tour of the world. The letters of General Bideau reek with dukes, marquises, earls, and even people of higher degree. They lead to the conclusion that General Bideau never encountered anything higher than a flunkey in the ranks of commonality, and the sketches are correspondingly tinged. But the general style of the letter is so very suggestive of "Jeames," and they are so full of inaccuracies and absurdities, that the suspicion arises that they must largely have been inspired in the circles of "high life below stairs" rather than above. And now American high life is being exercised over the quarrel between Mr. Thorndyke Rice, the editor of the North American Review, and Mr. Phelps. Following the instinct which leads Americans to seek a presentation at Court when they go to London, the "literary fellow" made a requisition on the American Minister for presentation, in the usual way. But no. Mr. Phelps remembered something, and, instead of merely refusing or finding an excuse, unwisely proceeded to explain to Mr. Rice why he would not present him. Mr. Rice had committed the offence of criticizing the course of Mr. Bayard, the present Secretary of State, in a very hostile tone. Furthermore, with a very lively correspondence ensued, and some pen-lashing was administered to Mr. Phelps, who certainly acted in a very unusual manner. But the course pursued by that gentleman was but the natural outcome of the system which enables him to hold the position. He is the representative of the government and not of the people, and governs himself in relation to his masters accordingly. But the society papers are indignant. If Mr. Bayard's act is a correct precedent, it may lead to the establishment of a very unpleasant canon of censorship with reference to presentations in general, and this a society largely made of shoddy does not relish.

THE FEALES BRIDGE AFFAIR.

THE narrative of an encounter between Moonlighters and police, telegraphed to the press recently from England, seems to wear a very different aspect when the authenticated reports are read. The original tale was so the effect that three policemen engaged six Moonlighters near Feales Bridge. The police were reported to have heard men passing their "protection bill," saying something about "Mangan's" house. Mangan being a "policeman and farmer" had been by the Government

jumped at the conclusion that Mangan's band was to be attacked, and the police taking a short cut across some fields, reached the band sooner than the intended visitors and occupied the premises. Very soon a number of persons were heard approaching, the front door was knocked at and a shot fired. The constables then went out by the back door and found themselves face to face with six men. These they advised to surrender but the reply was a volley, which the officers returned. "A fierce fire was kept up for some minutes," and in the middle of the fusillade one "of the alleged moonlighters" was seen to fall and another to come to his aid, when Constable Power rushed in and captured both, the others scattering and getting away. The wounded man, a plasterer named Richard Mahony, and the other person arrested, a laborer named Griffin, were promptly conveyed to the station. No arms were found on them." This is the police story, and on the strength of it the sensational despatches were founded. But there happens as usual in such cases to be another side to the shield, and Mangan, at whose house the affair took place, tells another tale. He states that on the night in question three men knocked at his door and asked for some beer, which he declined to give. The people remained at his door for some time. In a few minutes he heard firing, which continued for some time, and on his concluding an order was given to "open in the Queen's name." This he did, and the police came in bringing two men. Mangan denies point blank that the police were ever in his house before their encounter, and holds to the opinion that the "moonlighters" were merely some young fellows out for a lark, and who wanted beer and nothing more. One of the ferocious prisoners was drunk when captured. Here is a great discrepancy between the two stories and the matter seems to have fizzled down to very small proportions. But it is by such tales and such exaggerations fostered by the police that the interests of Irish society suffer.

A USELESS COMMISSION.

IT is very doubtful whether commissions of inquiry ever accomplish any good purpose. Volumes of evidence are taken at great expense, many sessions are held and much money is spent. Then an owlish report is issued, containing solemn platitudes which most people know all about, then the report goes to the waste paper baskets, and the mountain in labor is silent again. Such a conclusion can be read in the melancholy gloom of countless Blue Books issued from Ottawa, which have cost tens of thousands of dollars for the sole benefit of paper makers and Government printers. A case in point is that of the recent Chinese Commission. A pleasant jaunt was given to some Government hacks, and a voluminous report and testimony printed conveying positively no information that could not as well have been obtained from books in the Ottawa library, and the testimony of the British Columbia members of Parliament. This report is one example out of many. It is not difficult, therefore, to anticipate that the labor commission, proposed to be appointed by the Government, will be of equal value. What use will there be in appointing one or two Government harpies, in need of a remunerative job, to obtain statistics which can be read any day in the week in various quarters? We are told that the commission is to gather material on which to found legislation in the direction of benefiting the "workingman." This is certainly beginning at the wrong end of the stick. If a patient is sick it is not usual to enquire into the rise, progress and present position of disease in order to decide what is the matter. The patient himself generally settles that question, and the physician acts accordingly. The only necessary course to pursue in the present instance is for Labor to decide for itself what it wants in the direction of special legislation. This could far better be accomplished by the Labor organizations themselves drafting a bill containing such conditions as they think in their interest and submitting it to Parliament. Then a special committee of the two Houses could examine it and those interested be heard. This would accomplish all necessary, and we think better than a costly commission, which would learn very little and only cause delay. Boards, commissions and committees are too often, as Jeremy Bentham once said, "only fit to make sermons of." There is no doubt that the proposition to suddenly exhibit a lively interest in the condition of the "workingman" is a political inspiration in view of the general elections now impending. We would advise the labor interest not to take any "note at a date" in consideration of electoral support, and as a commission of enquiry would prevent anything in the direction of legislation for some time to come, it would be better, if it is needed immediately, to follow the course we have suggested.

THE EVENTS OF THE TIMES.

WHENVER governments have become incontinent, forgot their duties, and seek to retain their power by evil methods, and the people do not rise up and remove them, calamity and disaster are sure to follow. We may trace the history of all nations of which we have any knowledge, from the Jews to the Blues, working on a great moral law. Time and again we may see how people have been punished, and when the punishment went unheeded, they were finally put out of existence amid the crash of their falling homes, amid flame and blood. Sometimes the very soil where they dwelt was turned into a desert and given over to the occupancy of wild animals. Let no man be so wise as to think that the punishments are over. See what a terrible punishment fell on the Americans for the sin of slavery!

THE FISHERIES.

AN interview with the warlike Senator Frye seems to claim that, while our fishermen do not make Canadian fish and do not want to fish inside the three-mile line, what they do want is to trade, and to do this without submitting themselves to the Canadian customs regulations. Of course our fishermen are not so foolish as Mr. Frye thinks. "What they really want is a higher duty on Canadian fish, which means a higher duty on the fish of the United States," says Mr. Frye. "The fish of the United States are sold at a higher price than the fish of the United States."

THE PROPOSED TREATY.

IN a recent letter from London, William Henry Herbert says:—"The premature evaluation of a portion of the British press over the new extradition treaty as preliminary to the operation of America against the dynamite section of the Nationalists invites attention here to the curious fact that the draft of the treaty was signed almost immediately after the defeat in Parliament of Mr. Gladstone."

CONSERVATIVE TARIFFS.

THE mills of God grind slowly; They grind exceeding small; With patience He stands waiting, With exactness He stands all. Still continue to make efforts to belittle the merits of the Liberal victory. They try to say that the Nationalists will not support Mercier. It does seem very odd that they should imagine gentlemen will support a government which they have denounced, and in opposition to which they were elected. The fact of the matter is, the Tories are dazed, stupefied, rendered almost imbecile by the disaster which has come upon them. They are so completely out, they have been punished for their sin, that they do not accept the chastisement as a coming spirit of meekness. They may prepare still deeper humiliations, still heavier punishment.

people engaged in our fisheries.—N. Y. Herald. Mr. Grant Adams, the scientific writer, has been telling the British public a few wholesome truths concerning the impotent protests of the Orangemen against Irish Home Rule. "There are Orangemen, no doubt," he says, "who are Irish, but the majority of the English-speaking Irish are not. There are Irish Catholics and Scotch Protestants and their descendants, and so it may be said of the Scotch, who are as much for Home Rule as they are in Scotland. The Scotch race seems to have gone in for Home Rule."—Mirror.

A SALUBRITY WARNING. We warn our readers to put no faith in the miscellaneous cablegrams which are beginning to come from Ireland. The devil is loose in the midst of his chosen sons, the landlords, landlords to hoodwink the American people. Several journals, however, have secured the services of Nationalist writers, and only what they write can be depended on as a truthful view of the situation. We shall promptly place our heel upon the cowardly-seeming cablegram which usually have earmarks of fraud which are familiar with them can easily detect.—Catholic Mirror. HAS MR. CAPPEL BEEN SLANDERED? The avidity with which the daily press of the city seizes every occasion of publishing filthy, false and malicious fabrications about Catholic priests is a disgrace to the profession of journalism. Let some low, vile, cunning, gutter-snipe hand in a piece of "copy" assailing the character of a priest, and it is floated over as if it were obtained from a reliable source. Possibly he obtained it from a victim of this honor, distinguished bearing, a priest of exalted and incorruptible morals. The creature gazed in this foul work are not fit to be named if it were found, and if the truth were one of lies which in his regard was made up by work of his own hand, the method of repaying the benefactions which he received from Monsignor Capel's hand.—Catholic Herald.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 16.—There is nothing but weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth in the Tory party here. They feel that the country has gone against them and the fate of the Dominion Government already practically decided.

They hope, however, to avert disaster by appealing to Ontario and the other provinces to sustain them in their fight against what they now call "French Domination," but which was termed "Enlightened Patriotism" so long as it was supporting the Macdonald party. They also expect to attract to them all those who will not

under any circumstances. We have some of that class at Ottawa who always resist the nomination of an Irish Catholic for the Ontario Assembly, and seek his defeat by bringing out a man of their own. This ultra-Protestant party is principally composed of Tory Orangemen and a few Scotch Reformers. But even should the Government secure the adherence of these rather bigoted persons, their strength would be offset by the loss of the Irish and French, who have hitherto supported the Macdonalds. And, as it now is, so is it all over.

It must also be considered that the Dominion Ministry have to face the hostility of the local governments of Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Province of Quebec. The only Dominion electors at one, before the election, office are transferred to the Opposition in Quebec. In this way he could secure whatever support a government might bring on to power after a disastrous defeat could afford him. Small as that must necessarily be, it is

After the result in Quebec it is by no means improbable, as I have mentioned in a former letter, that a Bleu boat may take place about the next session be held. For these reasons I expect to see the writs for a general election for the Dominion issued almost immediately. I may also observe that election excitement, which kept up, as they would surely be for several months longer, until the elections deferred, are injurious to all sorts of business, and business men everywhere want to have them terminated as soon as possible.

MACDONALDISM IS DEAD as a door nail and should be buried with all decent despatch.

Of course the Liberal-Nationalists are highly jubilant. The elections of Thursday clearly indicate a Liberal sweep in Eastern Ontario, despite the very earnest and constant efforts made in the hope of "living the Greys" vote against the Tories. But there is a deeper significance to the great change that has taken place in Canadian public opinion. It is not a mere party triumph, great as that may be in the estimation of party politicians. The Liberal-Nationalist party in Canada proceed from like causes to their victory, led to the overthrow of the Republican party in the United States. A gentleman from New York, who is a constant traveller and keen observer, informs me that had Cleveland been defeated by a small majority there would have been a fearful outbreak in all the large cities of the Union. The people had become thoroughly disgusted with the reality that disgraced every part of the administration.

TURN THE RASCALS OUT! was a cry that came from the hearts of the people, and they were determined that it should be obeyed. Had the Republican succeeded by their usual arts in securing a continuance of power, a revolution was almost certain. The same feeling exists in Canada to-day, and will have the same result. The change must come from causes beyond the reach of politicians, if we cannot fail to recognize the hand of Providence in the events of the times.

Whenever governments have become incontinent, forgot their duties, and seek to retain their power by evil methods, and the people do not rise up and remove them, calamity and disaster are sure to follow. We may trace the history of all nations of which we have any knowledge, from the Jews to the Blues, working on a great moral law. Time and again we may see how people have been punished, and when the punishment went unheeded, they were finally put out of existence amid the crash of their falling homes, amid flame and blood. Sometimes the very soil where they dwelt was turned into a desert and given over to the occupancy of wild animals. Let no man be so wise as to think that the punishments are over. See what a terrible punishment fell on the Americans for the sin of slavery!

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