

THE TRUE WITNESS

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THE POST PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.

WEDNESDAY.....JUNE 20, 1888.

In Ireland the fight is for Home Rule; in England against Home Rule.

MATERIALS are being heaped together for a big political conflagration in England. The question is no longer how Ireland shall be governed, but how the empire can be preserved without Irish assistance.

THE resignation of the Hon. Hugh McKay from the Legislative Council, on account of feeble health, will be generally regretted, for his fitness for the position was recognized by all.

DEEP REGRET will be felt all over the world at the news of the probable death of the intrepid African explorer, Henry M. Stanley. Months ago he disappeared in the gloomy fastness of the dark continent on an expedition for the relief of Emin Bey.

BEYOND DOUBT the election in Ayr Burghs last Friday rings the death knell of the Conservative Government. There was not, perhaps, in Great Britain a constituency considered more safe for the Government than this.

THE success of the Dominion loan is largely to be attributed to the fiscal policy of Mr. Cochen, by which enormous sums of money have been made available for investment in securities other than those offered by the Imperial Government.

EVERWHERE in this issue we reproduce, by request, a letter which appeared in The Daily Witness of May 19th last. The writer hardly expected that that paper would insert a defence of Catholic principles against which it has been its mission to contend.

IN answer to the question of who should garrison Equatorial, the Imperial or Dominion Government, we should say the Dominion. It is an admitted fact that in case of England going to war Canada would have to take care of her own defences.

It must not be forgotten that Judge Wurtels, who inflicted so lenient a sentence on Osgrove and McCabe, who pleaded guilty at Aylmer of

misappropriating colonization money, was a member of the Government with whose connivance the fraud was committed. This fact Judge declared they were not morally guilty. Does he hold the bootlegger's maxim to be good in law, that "it is no sin to rob the Government"?

It is stated by the St. John Globe that a powerful lobby—composed of railway men, members of parliament of both parties, and other persons, Canadian and American—is at work to secure an act of incorporation for a railway from Lewis to connect with the International-Short Line—Railway at Cooksbridge.

ANARCHY is making steady progress in the United States, if we may believe the statements in an interesting article in the Chicago Herald from its New York correspondent. It appears that the centre of the movement has shifted from Chicago to New York, which city the writer describes as "the stronghold of Anarchy and Socialism" in America.

MR. BLAKELY HALL, in his cable letter to the Boston Herald, agrees with Mr. Davitt's estimate of the growth of public sentiment in England in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. He points out that the Tories began their parliament with a sweeping majority of 120 votes, and everyone spoke with bated breath of the Unionist strength.

By what process of ratiocination the Kazoot intellect has constructed its system of political contradictions it would be difficult to ascertain. Of course, it would be rank blasphemy to hint a system made to fit all possible exigencies is only the result of speculative exigency, without sequence of thought, and expressed in terms suitable to the foginess of the ideas.

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These have made confusion, worse confounded. Coercion in Ireland is the most dismal of failures. The Local Government Bill is a hideous muddle, the national defences are wretchedly neglected. From the obscure remoteness of the Duke of Cambridge down all the way through every branch of the army favoritism and corruption are rampant.

THE IRISH BOLT.

It seems that the Irish bolt from the Democratic party is assuming alarming proportions in the States. The Boston Pilot, which supports Mr. Cleveland, while regretting the defection of the Irish, gives reasons therefor, which, considering the situation, may be sufficiently weighty to carry New York for the Republicans.

It is also noted that the English Tory Government are now engaged in scabbing unprincipled men, chiefly of their own nationality, in America, to excite divisions among Americans of Irish and English extraction, as they excited hatred among their fathers in the old countries.

"Mr. Chamberlain, the bitterest enemy of Home Rule in England, after a residence of months in Washington, in daily intercourse with Secretaries Bayard and Sudoicot, declared in his own country on his return that every American of importance and education was against Home Rule."

"We believe, nay, we know, that the deductions drawn from these facts do injustice to Mr. Cleveland. But with the deepest wish for his successful re-election and belief in his fair and Democratic judgment, we think he ought to know precisely why he is to be opposed by more or less earnest Democratic Irish-Americans."

IS IT "NO IRISH NEED APPLY"?

Much as the Irish Catholics of this city and province desire to see the Government of Mr. Mercier given a fair chance of carrying out its policy, they do not see any good reason why their just demands should be ignored and their rights sacrificed in a vain endeavor to conciliate its implacable enemies.

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Indeed, we are astonished when we reflect on these things and recall Mr. Mercier's frequent declarations of friendship for his Irish supporters, that he has not hastened to make an appointment so eminently proper and necessary from all points of view.

THE EXODUS.

A Dorchester, N.B., correspondent of the St. John Messenger and Visitor, organ of the Baptists in the Maritime Provinces, incidentally gives startling testimony of the extent of the exodus from that part of the Dominion to the United States. He writes:—

Our prayer and conference meetings are generally interesting; but many are going away from this locality to the United States, which is weakening the church very much.

This is the country being depopulated under a government whose boasted policy was to keep Canadians at home. And while these people, who are admittedly among the best, most industrious of our population, are leaving the country evidently because the conditions of life are too hard, the rewards of labor too meagre, the struggle for existence altogether too severe, the Government is spending enormous sums annually to import the pauper offshoots of the Old Country.

THE TRUE INWARDNESS OF IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Imperial Federation is a scheme which can never be brought within the region of practical politics. The most that can be made of it, and perhaps all its advocates hope to make of it, is a sort of counter-irritant to Unrestricted Reciprocity—something that may be used to divide and distract the people of Canada, so as to put off or prevent too close association with the neighboring republic.

Divide and govern has ever been the policy of England. We have only to point to Ireland to show how disastrously successful it has been, and to India to show its wisdom in dealing with semi-barbarous peoples. But Canadians should be wiser than to permit themselves to be divided against themselves.

The action of Lansdowne in presenting the memorial of the Imperial Federationists of Canada to the government in England, and the unguarded talk of our present Governor-General shortly after his appointment are indications that the I. F. movement is prompted and patronized by the Tories of England, who hope to retain this country as a place of out-door relief for their aristocratic paupers.

The British Government recognizes in the growing unrest of the Canadian people a proof that the colonial status is becoming irksome, that they are outgrowing it, and that another change is impending. The natural, inevitable tendency is toward independence, but the ruling powers in England at present are aristocratic and anxious to perpetuate their ideas in America.

Were all the Colonies composed of homogeneous people, identical in their interests and united by common aspirations, there would be some hope of welding them into a confederation with the British Isles. But, when we reflect on the radical differences of races, the immense distances, the utter lack of any common basis of union, the absurdity of the scheme becomes too evident for discussion, except by

Utopians or those whose desire is to keep the Colonies in leading strings. Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax, whose name has come into prominence in this connection on account of a speech he made at a meeting of Imperial Federationists, produced an eloquent burst of silence when he opposed some of their pet ideas while supporting the general principle. He said he "hoped we will soon outgrow one of the remaining leading strings which tie us to our mother's apron, viz. the getting of a Governor-General from England."

But the I. F. had already stands condemned. The spirit of American progress is peaceful, industrial, commercial. It is totally at variance with the spirit of militarism now paralyzing Europe. The desire of Canadians is to be free from foreign entanglements and to have the right to pursue their destiny independent of Imperial or any other interference.

IRISH CATHOLIC REPRESENTATION.

In considering the claim of minorities in this Province to representation in the Legislature and in the Government, we always gave Mr. Mercier and the party of which he is the able and trusted leader full credit for entertaining a desire to do justice to the Irish Catholics. It would seem, however, as time advances that circumstances and influences have been too strong for the Premier, or else the desire with which we credited him has lost its fervency.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

A series of able articles, published in the North American Review, on "Possible Presidents," contains the best account of contemporary American politics anywhere obtainable. Since the June issue of that periodical, in which the articles referred to are continued, the presidential campaign has been opened by the nomination of Cleveland and Thurman by the St. Louis Democratic convention.

The question which will thus be presented to the people for solution may, as the Review observes, break up the solid South and the solid West. The immense surplus of its one hundred and fifty million arguments in favor of some policy that will prevent the useless accumulation of the people's money in the Treasury, and the people ought to settle by their votes whether they prefer to have cheaper imported goods and raw material, or cheaper whiskey, domestic wines and tobacco, with the privilege of conducting their business undisturbed by the supervision of government spies.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

All English correspondents of American papers agree that England is on the eve of experiencing one of those great popular uprisings against long standing abuses which break out occasionally in all countries and carry everything before them.

Just one hundred years have passed since the French Revolution, and it may be said that the wave of reaction against the terror of that time has spent its force, while the ground swell of Democracy is perceptibly rising. It has, however, none, or very little, of the fierceness, extravagance, utopianism, that characterized the revolution of last century. Chastened by experience, better instructed, having a clear idea of its purpose and a knowledge of the means it would employ, the Democracy is more evolutionary than revolutionary. Nevertheless a Government such as that of Lord Salisbury's is the very thing calculated to reverse the character of the reform movement in England.

Institutions dear to the Tory heart, is the decay of religious faith. The great body of English workmen can no longer be counted among professing Christians, and, having ceased to look beyond this world for happiness, they seek what they can get of it here and now. Moving on political lines almost parallel with these, but with different spirit and purpose, are the great middle classes in which the spirit of Puritanism, wiser and more gentle as becomes a more enlightened age than of old, is still strong. Prejudiced and perhaps stupid in some respects, these people are honest and believe in the orderly reform of abuses. Mr. Gladstone is their leader, for in him they see a living embodiment of the highest type of Englishman. He has carried them with him over to the cause of Home Rule.

But the cause of Home Rule has ceased to be distinctly Irish. Taking its rise like a riverlet among the hills of Ireland it has broadened and deepened till it has become a torrent which threatens all before it. The barriers which Toryism has raised against this rising tide serve at present as a dam, but they are all too feeble to offer effectual resistance and will only make the deluge more destructive when it comes.

To add to the perplexities of the situation comes the war scare. The army and navy are declared to be inefficient by the highest authorities, while jobbery, corruption and profligacy are found to have eaten into the heart of the service. How could it be otherwise with a nation so foolish as to commit the control of its highest interests to the hands of men who have nothing to recommend them but the accident of birth?

If sitting on the safety-valve will prevent an explosion, Salisbury is all right. But political and social forces can no more be deflected than those of mechanics. The oligarchy now governing England is not necessary for the preservation of the nation. Indeed it is becoming more evident day by day that the oligarchy must be got rid of if England is to be preserved. The Tory cry of "the nation in danger" is lost in the louder cry of "the country in danger," and, as the ministry has shown itself incapable of averting the lesser danger, how can it be expected to avert the greater? Clearly impossible!

To right the ship of state in the present tempest it is necessary to throw dead weight overboard, and the first thing to go by the plank is the Tory Government. If this be not done, it is easy to foresee what will happen. But go the Tory Government must, sooner or later. The longer it remains the worse it will be for the ship and for all hands.