

TO OUR PATRONS.

THE TRUE WITNESS

WILL BE SENT

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THE TRUE WITNESS is undoubtedly the cheapest and best weekly paper published in Canada, and should be in every Catholic household. We trust our agents, readers and friends will interest themselves in spreading the circulation of a paper calculated to edify and instruct, affording pure, pleasant and entertaining reading. Our patrons can see us in advancing the circulation of this paper by their subscription, and we shall be pleased to apply, to send them copies for free distribution amongst those who are likely to subscribe.

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WEDNESDAY.....DECEMBER 1, 1886

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We are now sending out our subscription accounts to subscribers to THE POST and TRUE WITNESS, and we earnestly trust that our patrons receiving these accounts will make it a point to pay off their indebtedness at an early date. The TRUE WITNESS is an exceedingly cheap paper. The subscription rate when paid in advance, being only ONE DOLLAR. The amount due by each is accordingly very small, but the aggregate of these trifling sums reaches a figure far up in the thousands, and these thousands are absolutely required to give each reader a bright, live, instructive, and an entertaining newspaper, such as the TRUE WITNESS is to-day.

The Toronto School Board has given evidence of its Orange proclivities and narrow sectarian spirit in rather a peculiar manner. It has on its staff a certain school inspector, by name Hughes, who is also afflicted with the gift of the gab. Under pretence of holding a special meeting to enquire into the conduct of the outhouses of a certain school, a resolution was passed, giving this gentleman leave to stomp the province during the election contest and prate on the subject of "separate schools." This is a phase of the Protestant cry, and it is to be hoped the Catholic electors will not fail to take note of it. The "separate schools must go," howl the Orangemen. Mr. Hughes aspires to the position of Minister of Education in the Cabinet, which, in fancy, is to take the place of that Mr. Mowat. We have little doubt that the attempt to gain that elevation on the rungs of the ladder of bigotry will miserably fail. Just at present the feeling in favor of separate schools is growing in some of the Protestant communities, and after all they are a logical sequence of the position of national affairs.

Some of the Ontario Conservative papers have been indulging in mysterious hints as to another "descent from the bench" of a judge to take part in politics. Of course the report indicated Chief Justice Cameron. There is, certainly, no doubt that the elevation to the judiciary of that eminent lawyer was a great loss to the Conservatives of Ontario. Without reproach, and a man of sterling integrity, politically, to an obstinate degree in fact—he was a tower of strength to his party. But he would no more think of leaving the bench to return to politics than he would of doing so to keep a saloon. He holds views on the subject which would cause him to regard such a descent as a personal degradation, as well as one to the judicial office. That being so, the report has been officially contradicted. But, in order to be consistent, the Conservative press had to cast about for another judge, and found Mr. Rose, a prominent Methodist and temperance advocate. Poor Cameron! We are pleased to learn that the rumor is also denied, and that Judge Rose has repudiated the story. The Conservatives are evidently hard up for men and measures. They seem to be leaning on a broken reed when they look to the bench for aid in their need.

SPEAK NOW!

It is time Mr. Meredith declared himself in relation to the platform laid down by THE MAIL. He has made several speeches in public since it was published, yet he has not stated whether he accepts it or not as a fair exposition of his policy. THE MAIL supports him and his party, therefore we must accept what it says as authoritative till he declares himself one way or the other. He cannot hope to take advantage of whatever good may come to him from the views expressed by the organ, and escape whatever evil they may possess in other directions. We want a plain, explicit statement on this point, and that without delay. THE POST has a large constituency in Ontario who look to it for candid exposition of the merits of parties in the provincial contest now progressing.

THE MAIL is distinctly opposed to Mr. Mowat on the ground of his alleged friendship for Catholics. It is equally distinct in its support of Mr. Meredith. This of itself is sufficient to decide our course in relation to parties, but we would like to hear from Mr. Meredith himself. Let him SPEAK NOW!

REJECTED ADDRESSES.

The MAIL appears to imagine that it has made a big point by publishing the subjoined letters:—

"LONDON, Dec. 9, 1883.

"DEAR MR. — I venture to drop you a line in support of Hon. G. W. Ross, the new Minister of Education. Please say a good word for him to all our friends.

"Subjoiner you will find a copy of Archbishop Lynch's letter in support, which you may read to all in your own diocese.

"JOHN COFFEY, Priest,

"Editor Catholic Record.

"It would be a severe blow to the Catholics to lose the Mowat Government, that has done all in its power for us. I hope the Catholics of West Middlesex will see to their own interest and return Mr. Rose to the Cabinet.

"Toronto, Dec. 5, 1883."

We are glad to know that Father Coffey and His Grace the Archbishop supported Mr. Rose. They couldn't support a better man. But will THE MAIL publish the following letter?

(Letter from Sir John Macdonald to the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ontario.)

"Toronto, June 24, 1882. (Private and confidential.) My dear Lord, — Mr. O'Donoghue has been in Toronto on account of the appointment that his views are extreme as to the Irish question. This might destroy his future, and it has, therefore, been arranged between the Hon. F. Smith and O'Donoghue that the former is to represent the Catholics in the Cabinet, while O'Donoghue is to be the Secretary.

"I have written to Mr. O'Donoghue in the Ministry when they think the time is opportune. Those two gentlemen are in perfect accord, and desire that I should explain to your Lordship the nature of their agreement, which, of course, MUST BE KEPT A PROFOUND SECRET. AT THE END. I have, my dear Lord, faithfully yours,

"JOHN A. MACDONALD."

Can these be considered rejected addresses? Sir John Macdonald used to humbug the Bishops. Compare the straight-forward letters of the two ecclesiastics above with the evasion of the Tory leader. Let honest men, Tory or Liberal, Protestant or Catholic, read and say to himself which is the better.

"Of so such lessons why forget The nobler and the nobler one."

A DARK OUTLOOK.

Corcoran is the cry. The word seems to have gone out that all the forces of the British Government are to be put in motion for the suppression of anything bearing the semblance of a national sentiment or national aspirations in Ireland. National meetings are proclaimed, and Mr. Dillon has been selected as the victim upon whose head punishment is to fall for having advised tenants not to pay their rents, but rather to put themselves to be evicted. We hear further that the Government has resolved to suppress all anti-union and "illegal" organizations, to curtail the freedom of the press, to enforce the laws governing the collection of debts, to proclaim all meetings called for the purpose of discussing the present questions which are now agitating the very heart of Ireland, and, furthermore, to arrest the most prominent movers in the political crusade in progress.

This is a fascinating programme indeed, and if it means that this is a type of the twenty years of firm government which Lord Salisbury seems to think necessary for Ireland, it is not difficult to anticipate what will result from twenty months application of the principle.

But, truly, it is hard to understand how intelligent men can think that such a course of governmental action will pacify Ireland. They must know that she has already had the political thumb-screws on until she has shed tears of blood, and with what result? Such a result as makes all the world look at her with amazement. What the British authorities expect to gain by more coercion is hard indeed to imagine. It should, in all reason be evident enough to the authorities that there is a spirit aroused in Irish breasts. That spirit has manifested itself with a strength, we should imagine, enough to convince the most dull, that does not denote much probability of an easy suppression. The mere formalities of the National League may perhaps be suppressed, but what will that avail; or the curtailment of speech, the right of meeting and the liberty of the press, so long as the spirit remains. We defy the Government or any half dozen of them, with the plenitude of Imperial strength at their backs, to suppress that. Then what are all the governmental acts of coercion but a useless irritation, the effects of which must, in the long run, be more disastrous to England than to Ireland. It must be apparent to the most casual observer that every attempt at coercion—and we were reminded last night by Mr. Davitt that there have been 34 such attempts during the past 30 years—has resulted in only one thing. It has signally failed in its object, and has produced effects the reverse of those aimed at.

And yet they come with more! In spite of the appeals for justice, in spite of the virtual concession of that justice by half England here and all Scotland and Wales, we find the Imperial Government prepared with nothing but tyranny, coercion and force. The result is not hard to foresee. The gleam of light which seemed to be darting from the dark clouds is lately passing away, and the hopes which all good and true men, the world over, were indulging in, must for the moment be shattered.

For the moment. Yes, only for the moment. This will be the last coercion which the British Government will ever venture upon. So fierce will be the storm which they have sown, so mighty the tempest of anger and opposition that Government will find it has stirred up throughout the world, that the weapons designed for Ireland's heart will prove impotent for harm save to the authors of the outrages.

Each year makes the opposition to such tactics the stronger. Each year makes the means of opposition the stronger. But those whom the gods wish to destroy they first

make mad. If the British Government is determined to rush on to its fate it will not be Ireland's fault.

THE DEMONSTRATION.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Goldwin Smith and those whom he has been misleading in England were not present last night in the streets of Montreal. No stronger or more emphatic denial of the statements made by Mr. Smith to the effect that the people of Canada are indifferent to the Home Rule issue could have been given than was given by the magnificent demonstration in honor of Mr. Michael Davitt.

Mr. Smith has undertaken to constitute himself representative of the people of Canada, therein outdoing the new historic three of Tooley street; for they were at least three, while the eccentric and uncertain ex-professor of history is only one. In the exercise of his self-appointed function he has misrepresented Canada and her people concerning their views on Irish affairs. It is true that he was aided in this by the monstrous course pursued in Parliament by certain persons who ought to have set a good example of a bad example. But how little their conduct reflected the feelings and sentiment of the people of Canada has been abundantly proved. We need only cite the miserable failure of the mission of the two "loyal" emissaries who lately visited Canada. This failure was a more than significant fact. The reception of Mr. Justin McCarthy was another, and now we have the climax capped by the demonstration in honor of Mr. Davitt. We repeat that we wish Mr. Goldwin Smith and his friends had been here to see for themselves. Could they but witness a few such examples of spontaneous and genuine enthusiasm over the cause of Ireland, there can be little doubt their delusions would be rudely dispelled. It can hardly be now logically contended that Canada is indifferent to the Irish National question when we are told by the leader of one of the greatest phases of that question that Montreal has presented "the largest Home Rule demonstration on this side of the Atlantic since Gladstone himself became a convert to the principle of Home Rule."

This is high testimony indeed, and we feel sure Mr. Davitt must have been deeply gratified and surprised at the remarkable sympathy exhibited by our French Canadian countrymen on this remarkable occasion. The thanks of all Irishmen are due them, and their generous conduct will not soon be forgotten. And yet, perhaps, it is only natural that they should feel deeply in this matter. They, too, have passed through the fire, and half a century ago were obtaining by their blood the liberty which Ireland is now seeking. No wonder the theory of Home Rule finds such ardent support in Canada.

A BLUE LOOKOUT.

There is little to gratify and less to edify in the attitude of the so-called Conservative party of Canada. While the leaders are travelling about the country disposing of fine phrases, disunion, disorganization, squabbling and recrimination mark the proceedings of their followers in almost every constituency. At the same time the chief organ, truly oblivious of the practical issues of the day, is working might and main to stir up a war between Catholics and Protestants, English and French speaking Canadians.

It is a good thing that Mr. Mowat dissolved the Ontario House before the necessities of the Tory press had time to set the woods on fire. Had they been permitted to continue their work they might have fanned the flames of religious bigotry and race animosity into a general conflagration.

A small fire can be controlled at the start. This has been met with courage and it is with all who value the peace and prosperity of the country to lend their assistance to stamp it out. That the big majority of the people of Ontario will do so on the 28th December there can be no reasonable doubt. That the lines on which Sir John Macdonald projected his election campaign have been turned completely is now evident. The sudden return to Ottawa indicates a change of front, and people are now looking with more curiosity than anxiety to see what Sir John will do under circumstances which he can no longer control. He can bring on an election in twenty days at any time. He cannot pretend that he can defeat Mr. Mowat. Should he bring on the federal elections at the same time as those in Ontario to be held, he can only muddle and distract the electorate inasmuch as the constituencies are not the same, neither is the franchise. He stands to lose more than he can hope to gain by that move, because the Liberal organization is superior to his throughout the province and he would have to fight all along the line when it is well known he cannot hold his own in one province between the Atlantic and Manitoba. To wait until after the Ontario elections and then dissolve would be to court disaster. Perhaps, like a certain people of old, the Lord has hardened the Tories' hearts and they will march out and give battle that they may be cut off forever. It looks like it.

Of course he may adopt a Fabian policy, meet Parliament and let the Boodle Brigade have the \$4,000 each, for which they are howling. In that case he will do exactly as Mr. Blake would desire. View the situation as we may, there appears no hope for the Tories. There may be a chance of Manitoba going Tory again, and Sir John may be waiting to make all he can of such a result. But Manitoba would, in that event, have little influence on the older and more populous provinces. Whereas, should it go Liberal, it will add another wave to the swelling tide of Opposition victories. Quebec, too, must soon be decided. The

Local Legislature meets there about the time of the Ontario elections. There is another cause of distraction. Indeed all appearances foreshadow a very dull and bitterly cold winter for the Tories.

MOKE CHESTNUTS.

The Tory party is constantly proving its right to the designation of the Chestnuts. In Quebec it is endeavoring to hang on to power by offering seductions to a judge to descend from the bench to take command of its disorganized and defeated government. In Ontario, if the report that has reached us be correct, the Chestnuts are striving to induce Judge Rose to resign his seat on the bench and take charge of the local opposition, with a view to defeating Mr. Mowat.

This is certainly the most extraordinary proposition that has yet been made. It transcends belief that a judge of the Superior Court would accept any inducement to become leader of that most forlorn of all forlorn hopes, the Ontario Tory Chestnut Opposition.

The bare mention of such a proposition shows to what desperate lengths the Macdonaldites are driven. Judge Rose is a leading Methodist, and they think that, since they have been unable to detach the Presbyterians from Mr. Mowat, they might make a successful diversion with the Methodists.

Mr. Meredith is an Irishman, of the Church of the Unfriendly Formation. He has occupied the unenviable position of a champion for the man who did all in his power to curtail the prerogatives and plunder the resources of the province. His conduct in this respect has made him so unpopular, despite his good qualities, that he cannot hope for victory. Therefore, he stands in the paradoxical position of having destroyed his own usefulness by having been too faithful to his party. It cannot add to his feelings of gratification for Mr. Meredith to contemplate political extinction under conditions so exasperating to a man's natural vanity. Woolsey's address to Cromwell may be very pathetic, but it is mighty poor consolation. Had Mr. Meredith served his province as faithfully as he served his party he would not now have to contemplate the sort of dirty kick out suggested by the mention of Judge Rose as a new leader for his beloved chestnuts!

But we do not believe that the plan of bringing a judge to lead a beaten and discredited faction will succeed in Ontario any more than in Quebec. We do not think there is a judge who is capable of conduct that would ruin him in public estimation. Were there a reasonable hope of success, or were the Government a budding institution, we could understand a young, ambitious, patriotic judge entering into a conflict of the kind. But the actual situation is the very reverse of this, and, therefore, we cannot imagine Judge Rose, or any other man in his position, being so lost to a sense of the proprieties, so blind to the inevitable, as to take a step that would be sure to bring upon him humiliation and ridicule.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

Catholics must feel themselves under a deep obligation to THE MAIL for its wholly gratuitous, though, perhaps, not quite disinterested exertions to rescue them from ecclesiastical tyranny in matters pertaining to the separate schools and education generally. The purity of its motives, however, would be more apparent were it not for the efforts it makes at the same time to impress upon Protestants the idea that the Catholic hierarchy is covertly asserting the public schools and unduly interfering with Protestant education. This is where the cloven hoof appears and excites the suspicion that the solicitude of the Tory organ is not so much for Catholic education as it is for the purpose of rousing opposition among Protestants to Mr. Mowat, who, it alleges, has been a tool in the hands of Archbishop Lynch.

But the threat contained in Monday's MAIL ought to open the eyes of all to the folly and danger of the attempt that paper is making to precipitate religious rancor into the present political contest. It is cautiously worded, but its meaning is unmistakable. Under certain circumstances, we are given to understand the State would be justified in sweeping away the whole system of separate schools.

Is a democratic country like ours the one to be supreme, but it is nevertheless governed by considerations of policy. It may be able and have the power to do as it wills, but the question arises, would it be wise to do so?

In the matter of separate schools the government of the province has no power to alter a fundamental provision established by the constitution. The existence of the dissenting Protestant schools of Quebec is bound up with that of the Separate schools of Ontario. An act of the Imperial Parliament would be necessary to sweep them away; but we are quite convinced that the minority in Quebec would resist such legislation even more stoutly than the minority in Ontario. This is not a question for local politicians to decide, nor is it purely a religious one. It is a question that touches the foundations of confederation and cannot be disturbed, Catholics and Protestants being alike interested in the maintenance of its integrity.

It is open to question whether the state has any right to interfere in educational matters at all. But, since it has assumed the right, we must take care that abuse does not follow the assumption.

But granting, for the sake of argument, that the separate school system were abolished in order, as THE MAIL contends, to place all denominations on an equal footing, what would be the result? Would the position be improved? By no means. But it would be made in-

initely worse, and Protestants would cry out first and loudest for a return to the old system. And they would have the best reason for doing so, because, while the Catholic clergy are keenly watchful of the schools, the Protestant ministry is not. So there would be a general outcry against priestly interference with education, and peace would never be restored till the separate system was re-established.

Doubtless there are many ways in which the separate schools could be improved. We do not wish to conceal the fact that there are Catholics in every community dissatisfied with the separate schools of their neighborhood. This cannot be helped. The schools are the best possible according to the amount of support they obtain. It is the fault of Catholics themselves if their schools are not as good as the public schools. To say that the priests exert themselves to keep the people in ignorance is absurd. The Church could not stand three generations were such a policy allowed. Her children must go out into the world for a livelihood the same as others. Their educational equipment may seem poor to THE MAIL, but a glance around its own sanctum will establish the fact that in journalism at any rate men educated under Catholic auspices can hold their own among the ablest and best educated Protestants in the country.

But, to come down to plain facts, THE MAIL is fishing in troubled waters for Protestant votes to upset the Ontario Government, and all its ravings about Catholic aggression are prompted solely by the desire to win over some portion of the hitherto hostile to Toryism Protestant electorate. The object is as mean as the course taken to gain it is detestable.

RETURNING TO THEIR FIRST LOVE.

A noteworthy feature in the political reformation now going on is the return of so many old time Reformers to their first love in politics. The more prominent of these are Hon. William Macdougall, Hon. Peter Mitchell and Hon. John O'Donoghue. These gentlemen may be taken as the representatives of large, separate and important elements in the political life of the country. Mr. Macdougall is a historical figure whose proper place is in the party where his principles were nourished, his activities developed, and where his great powers can only find their proper exercise. He embodies the Canada First man, and has kept touch with the young men of the times. Mr. Mitchell is a Liberal in the broadest, highest sense of the word. He also keeps touch with the rising generation. Upright, fearless, full of humanity; he is, perhaps, the most honorable of politicians. We can only say "Thou art Peter," and all who know him will justify the application of the words. Mr. O'Donoghue returns to his first love a sadder and a wiser man. He has passed through the fires of persecution on both sides and come out unscathed. He has discovered and exposed the falsehood and treachery of the Tory Mephistophiles who would betray him to damnation, and stands to-day vital in heart and sentiment with his people on the side of liberty and justice. As it is with these three gentlemen, so it is throughout the dominion. Everywhere old time Reformers are flocking to the standard and marching with old friends and new allies to sure and certain victory.

There could be no more cheering sign of the times, no better proof of the goodness of the Liberal cause and the genius of Mr. Blake as a leader, than this reunion of long parted friends. It is an augury of future success in pursuit of a noble purpose and a sure indication of the downfall of the baleful tyranny of Macdonaldism.

CANADIAN NATIONAL POLICY.

The day of judgment is nearer than ever it was before. A glimmering of this truth is beginning to dawn upon the consciences of the leaders of the Conservative party. But, like all sinners, they continue in their evil courses from force of habit. They are terrified in the presence of impending judgment, are willing to repent, but the seeds of repentance have perished in fires of sin, and they appeal to supernatural convulsions to hide them from the judge. In their case the judge that is coming in wrath assumes the form of an enraged people; and to escape the vengeance of the spirit of civil strife and of damnation. But the skies will not fall, and the mountains forsake their eternal foundations; Protestants will not take up arms against their Catholic fellow-countrymen, nor will the peace-loving Presbyterians enlist in a new crusade under the banner of the Boodle Brigade.

When Sir John Macdonald was restored to power in 1873, he knew no more than that he does now the true meaning of the National Policy cry. Had the position of parties at that time been reversed, it is safe to say that a truer and infinitely better National Policy than what he formulated would have been the result. He rose to power on the surface of a wave, but he did not understand the forces which set the wave in motion. He took all the credit to himself. But the wave has passed on, leaving him stranded on a reef out of sight of land. He mistook the reef for the shore and met betake himself to the meditations of the maroon.

The Canadian idea of a National Policy springs from a sentiment which Sir John Macdonald with his cabinet of heads of factions are incapable of understanding. And, if they could understand it, they would be equally incapable of putting it into practical operation. According to the best of his mind Sir John took the most cordial view of a National Policy. He discounted it for so much cash, and

"[The base Indian, threw away a pearl
Higher than all his tribe.]"

Independent selfishness is a Canadian

characteristic, but it is not confined to trade and commerce alone. It permeates the being of Canada in its height and depth, its length and breadth. It is almost religiously loyal constitutional institutions, and aims at the realization of the highest type of political maladjustment. Canadian Toryism, being exotic, has never appreciated this feeling, never could understand it; hence those historical ebullitions of disloyalty which always distinguish Toryism in opposition.

The Canadian spirit which declared that "if the National Policy endangered British connection so much the worse for British connection," although uttered by his own organ, Sir John and his Tory associates never assimilated the thought it expressed. The instinct of Canada First is in the Liberal party to-day as it was the vital principle of the old Reform party, as opposed to fawning street and family corruption. Suppressed under George Brown and Alexander MacKenzie, it found temporary refuge in the enemy's camp, but it never assumed the Tory uniform. On the contrary, Sir John adopted its battle cry, and marched to victory under its banner. But he forgot in office the lessons learned in opposition, and if he finds the genius of Canada arrayed with Edward Blake, and against him to-day, it is because he has been untrue and incapable of following its behests.

The profundity of Sir John Macdonald's error is beyond measurement, save that we know it cannot be retrieved. He is like a man who has lost his way in a subterranean cavern; every step he takes leads him in a greater darkness, more appalling dangers. Or, like the treasure seeker in the fable, the mountain has closed behind him and he cannot utter the magic words by which alone it can be reopened. Busting the granite walls with pangs, he shouts himself hoarse, using all the cries he could summon to his aid as spells of potent power. "Bottle!" he cried, and Lewis sent a glacier over his cavern. "No Irish need apply!" he shouted, and Megantic came down with an avalanche. "Justice!" he roared and Chambly bombarded the cave with a mountain of mud. "No Popery!" he yelled and Hamilton snowed him under. "Down with the French!" he screamed, and the rocks of Quebec moved against the cave of the modern Aullumite.

There is no response in Canadian hearts to appeals from hypocrisy to justice. The immigration which made such possible generations past has ceased long ago. Canada has changed for the better since that time, and seeks a higher destiny than can be won by bloody wars in a faction fight. Protestantism may be in danger, but Protestants don't believe the man who says so, because he never observed the awful fate that befell the habitants of Quebec refused to elect his candidates. The Irish may be a bad lot, too. He has "no confidence in the breed," but true Canadians, believing in justice to all men, are not prepared to ostracize the Irish to please the Tories.

The Canadian idea of a national policy is the exact reverse of what the Macdonaldites are now advocating. It is indifferent to religious creed. It desires a free, prosperous, happy country, growing in greatness every day. He who would divide Canadians with racial animosities and religious bigotry is an enemy to the national policy of Canada. It believes in Canada for Canadians without regard to religion or extract. It seeks to guarantee the freedom and secure the freedom of all, and refuses to recognize, much less assist a party that would plunge the country into strife and civil discord sooner than relax its grip on the flesh pots of office.

The symptoms of a genuine and invisible humanity exist in the social world of Canada, although unheeded by politicians. Its attractions and assimilations are no Miltonic fables, no dancing flames or luminous bubbles on the magic cauldron into which Sir John Macdonald, in his character as a political conjuror, may fling the toads, serpents, bats and scorpions of bigotry and hatred to give potency to his election ball-broth. We live in a sober-minded, practical, business age. And he who would win our confidence must at least respect Canadian intelligence and sympathies with Canadian ideals.

CONNECTION.—The first line in Mr. Fraser's Summer Walks should read as follows:—"Walk about Zion, tell the towers thereof, mark ye all her bulwarks," &c.

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

PARIS, Nov. 27.—In the Chamber of Deputies to-day M. Rochin moved the rejection of the sum asked for to maintain the embassy at the Vatican. M. De Freycinet opposed the motion, dwelling upon the practical usefulness of the embassy. France, he said, having a concordat with the Vatican by which she was charged with the protection of Catholic missions in the East, which were rendering important services to the country, could not afford to dispense with the embassy. The sum asked was granted, the vote standing 291 against 255. The members of the extreme left hailed the narrowness of the majority with applause. M. De Laforcade moved to suppress the credits for extraordinary missions entrusted to members of the chamber. M. De Freycinet explained that the money was asked for in conformity with law and precedents. He considered that the amendment partook of the nature of censure. The amendment was rejected by 313 to 158. After seventeen votes had been taken on amendments the foreign budget was passed without opposition.

WEDDING BELLS.

Merrickville was last week the scene of a very fashionable wedding, the contracting parties being Mr. Daniel J. McKeown, agent for the C.P.R., and Perth Bay, son of the Patriotic McKeown, and Miss Alice, second daughter of Mr. James Brennan. The sacred knot was knotted by the Rev. Father Kelly, in St. Ann's Church, of Merrickville. After partaking breakfast at the residence of the bride's father, the happy couple left for the wedding, their honeymoon, accompanied by the bridesmaids and congratulatory of their numerous friends.