

Irish people when the sword failed to do its work. Is the British Government a paternal despotism? Could it have prevented the Irish from turning away from the more laborious kinds of husbandry to cultivate a tuber which, though raised with little trouble, is liable to disease? Could it have prevented, or can it prevent, the Irish peasant from marrying before he is twenty and having a family which his little holding cannot possibly maintain? Is it more to blame for the redundancy of population and the consequent pressure on subsistence in the case of Ireland than the Canadian Government is in the case of Quebec, which is always overflowing, and if it were, like Ireland, an island distant from receptacles of emigration, would become the scene of similar overcrowding and distress. Both in Ireland and in Quebec the Church, for reasons of her own, encourages early and, in an economical point of view, improvident marriages, the inevitable results of which, especially on a poor soil, are over-population and dearth. Those who lay everything that is amiss in Ireland to the charge of the British Government, forget that in matters most essential to the formation not only of his character but of his industrial habits, the Irish peasant is under the government of the priest. If morality or sound policy requires Great Britain to part with Ireland, in heaven's name let the thing be done; but let not this great question, on the right decision of which depends the happiness of both nations alike, be decided by the wretched exigencies of faction or by the malignant fictions of demagogues on the stump.

"A VETERAN Orangeman" who replies to us in the *Sentinel* is a little forgetful of good manners, but he does us the service of distinctly confirming our main position. He lays it down expressly that a true Canadian Orangeman must be a Conservative. In other words Orangeism has become a donkey-engine of Toryism. It goes to the polls hand in hand with the religious power against which William of Orange fought, in order to keep a Tory Government in place. "A Veteran Orangeman" thinks it high presumption on the part of the uninitiated to write upon a subject connected with the mysteries of the Orange Constitution. But Orangeism has a history as well as a Constitution, and the readers of that history may be permitted to say that it was not in defence of Toryism that the founders of Orangeism conquered at Newton Butler and closed the gates of Derry. Their cause in those days was that of Protestantism and Liberty; and if the Order will be true to that cause it may yet have a glorious part to play. But to wear the livery of a political faction and gather up the crumbs of patronage which fall under the party table is not a glorious part. To prove that Orangeism is confined to British Territory, and that any one who settles in the United States ceases to be a worthy member of the Order, "A Veteran Orangeman" quotes from the Constitution. But what does the Constitution say? "The Association is general, not confined to any particular place, person or nation, but extends itself wherever a loyal Protestant Briton is to be found to the remotest corner of the globe, for the establishment of the Protestant faith and British liberty to the remotest ages of posterity." The writer of this may not have contemplated Lodges in the United States, but the spirit of the passage is surely in favour of extension. In the same way when it is said that the light of Orangeism is to be poured not on one part only of the ample circumference of the British Dominions, but simultaneously on every portion, we should say that the expression "British Dominions" was used inclusively, not exclusively; meaning that Orangeism was to spread over the whole of the British Dominions, not that it was to spread no further. It is very certain that the championship of Protestantism and Liberty by William of Orange knew no such geographical limitation. The dislike which "A Veteran Orangeman" evidently feels for the Whig friends of William does not appear to be qualified by any strong affection for the Deliverer himself; and it may safely be said that if William were here he would not be found marching to the polls with the French Catholics of Quebec. If an "altar" is essential as well as a throne it is difficult to see how Orangeism can find a home in Canada, where no altar is recognized since the State Church has ceased to exist. A proclamation that every Orangeman is bound by his oath to be a Conservative seems at all events not very politic, since he who avows himself a political bondsman can make no terms for his support.

A CONSTITUTIONAL King, who reigns but does not govern, is the device adopted by most European nations for the purpose of smoothing the great political transition and making the Monarchical system slide easily into the Democratic. But to play the part of a Constitutional King a special temperament is required. Any ambition or much intellect is fatal. The First Bonaparte bluntly declined to be a porker fattened on five millions of francs a year. Charles X. totally failed in the part, and Louis Philippe, in spite of all the advantages of his revolutionary training, never thoroughly succeeded.

Even William IV. of England, though finely formed by Nature for nonentity, committed an act of personal government by turning out a Whig Ministry when it had a majority in Parliament. A woman does best; all that she covets as a rule is a voice in appointments, that she may make her soldier-boy Commander-in-Chief when he is not fit to command a regiment. The King of Denmark is evidently unable to enter into the part at all: he wants not only to reign but to govern and even to levy taxes by Royal decree. The consequence is that he has come very near to losing his crown, and has been saved, it appears, only by the suicidal violence of the extreme opposition, and the act of a political maniac, who has caused a reaction by attempting to murder the Prime Minister. It is reassuring to see that murder is still somewhat at a discount. Denmark is in a constant state of political turmoil, the source of which, as well as the prevalence of crime in the kingdom, is to a great extent economical distress. The fact is that the country is the seaboard of Germany, cut off commercially as well as politically from the mainland and starved by its isolation. What it really wants is union with the Germanic league, which would give it commercial prosperity without extinguishing its self-government. To this the commercial classes are probably not averse, while by the Royal family the change, with the peace and security which it would bring them, would most likely be welcomed. But the small landowners, who form the bulk of the electors, appear to be strongly anti-German. Some day Denmark will be drawn—as she was very near being drawn in 1872—into a quarrel as the dwarf ally of France or some other great enemy of Germany, and then the end will come.

It seems that the Methodist Church both in England and Canada is determined to identify itself with Mr. Stead and the revelations of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. That which mainly gives the revelations their vogue, and makes them fruitful of capital to the social demagogue, is the class feeling to which they appeal, as alleged disclosures of the vices of the rich; and to pander to such a feeling can hardly be called Christian work. There are evil men in all classes, and wealth affords special facilities for the gratification of lust; but the notion that the courageous hand of the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* has lifted a veil which covers the boundless debaucheries of a whole section of the community, welcome as it may be to social malignity, is so far utterly unsupported by the facts. Mr. Stead has threatened disclosures involving a number of men of wealth and rank; but he has not yet ventured to make good his threat, and all that we know is that he found it necessary to bolster up his general indictment by manufacturing evidence in a way which brought him within the peril of the criminal law. The House of Lords is the special organ of wealth and rank; yet the House of Lords, instead of seeking to stifle inquiry, voluntarily instituted it, and passed a bill for the amendment of the law, the course of which, like those of a hundred other bills, was arrested in the House of Commons by the blockade of Obstruction. That there was a desire in high quarters to shield aristocratic crime is an allegation of which no sort of proof has yet been offered. The lives of the British gentry may not be very useful nor their tastes very refined; but, as a rule, the class is rather remarkably free from filthy vices. Manly sports and exercises seem to act as physical antidotes to lust; and in rural England, though the opportunities of the young squires may be supposed to be great, cases of seduction are extremely rare. We have already cited the testimony of Mrs. Jeune, who reports, as the result of a most extensive experience among fallen women, that in the vast majority of cases the seducers belong to the same class with the victims. Ministers of religion sometimes fall; and if in every case suspicion were allowed to run riot, we might become sceptical as to the genuineness even of clerical virtue. That concealment of crime is criminal we are all agreed in thinking, though some of us may doubt the wholesomeness of gross pictures of brothel life and practices as mental food for boys and girls. But we are all, it is to be hoped, equally agreed in thinking that when hideous charges are brought either against individuals or against classes common morality enjoins the most careful precision of statement and the most rigorous adherence to proved facts. Vague imputations, sinister whisperings and half-veiled libel are things which every Christian Church as well as every healthy conscience must condemn. The magistrate who committed Mr. Stead for abduction and criminal assault is denounced as a minister of iniquity because he refused to admit the plea of motive. Motives may be pleaded to Heaven: before a human tribunal men must prove the legality of their actions. No regular reader of the *Pall Mall Gazette* can have doubted that sensationalism was its game; nor can any construction but one be put upon the exultation with which the editor blazoned the immense circulation of his scandals and the translation of them into the language of countries in which, as the evil is not alleged to exist, they can serve no purpose but the gratification of a