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As several of the members of the OTTAWA PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY, which forms the subject of a double page engraving to be published in the

Canadian Illustrated News

of the 31st instant, have sent us orders varying from 25 to 100 copies of that issue, and as probably each member will want some copies, we beg that those who have not yet ordered any will kindly do so at once. They may otherwise be disappointed, as the edition is limited to the absolute demand.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, July 24th, 1875.

CONTESTED ELECTIONS.

The remark has been made that the contestation of elections, both Federal and Provincial, is being overdone. The new Act has certainly awakened an extreme sensibility on the part of defeated candidates in the cause of purity and honesty, but so long as the trials of elections continue to reveal the turpitudes of bribery and corruption which have been witnessed in almost every instance, there is scant fear of the Act being abused. A rigid application of the law, once or twice in the same constituency, will be almost certain to secure an honorable exercise of the ballot for several years to come. In Ontario, where the political feeling is always very keen, this will be specially the case, and hence no reasonable fault can be found with the frequent enforcement of the Act.

There are, however, individual features of these contestations, which call for comment. The first is the delays through which they are allowed to drag, resulting in two or three notable instances, in a positive public injustice. When the trial of elections was withdrawn from Parliamentary Committees and transferred to the Courts, it was predicted that, falling into the hands of lawyers, they would, in time, become as unsatisfactory as before. These predictions have in part been fulfilled. The reproach, however, applies to Quebec, not to Ontario. In the latter Province, the trials have been conducted as fairly and as alertly as they would have been in England. When the cause failed of proof, charges have been honorably withdrawn by petitioner's counsel. When the trial went against respondent, it has been pushed forward sharply and rapidly even to disqualification. But in Quebec, all the quibbles of the law have been employed, all the intrigues of pettifoggers have been used, to check the trial even in its initial stages. We need mention no names, as they are on the lips of all our readers, and in alluding to them it is quite unnecessary to disclaim any partisanship, because high-minded men of both parties have united in condemning such practices.

These recalcitrant candidates make the grave mistake of regarding their electoral mandate as a personal possession. It is, on the contrary, public property, the special behest of their constituents. The question is not whether the individuals A or B should have a seat in Parliament, but whether that seat is occupied by the elected of the people, by the man who has a majority of the unbought votes of the division.

It follows from this elementary view that not only should contested elections not be allowed to suffer any unnecessary delay, but that they should be tried and decided, as far as possible, before the meeting of Parliament or the Legislature. The law should be so framed and enforced that no man shall seat in either of these bodies, unless his right to his seat is proven beyond cavil. If his seat is not contested, the returning officer's certificate is sufficient credential. If his seat has been contested, he should have, in addition, the certificate of the Court. It is a farce, and in some cases it may prove an outrage, that a man should sit through Parliament, draw his sessional allowance, and turn out afterwards not to be the legal representative of his people. We had a case of the kind last year. Within a month after the adjournment, a member came down to Toronto and was unseated.

These delays are the fault either of the law or of the lawyers. If the first, let the law be amended. If the latter, let these lawyers be frowned down by public opinion. No lawyer has a right to deprive a constituency of the privilege of knowing who is or who is not its lawful representative.

We have on a previous occasion alluded to another hitch in the law. The uncredited agents found guilty of bribery or corruption, in any degree, should be punished by fine or imprisonment. The law is properly stringent in that it holds a candidate responsible, to the extent of the voiding of his election, for every act of his agents, but it is not equitable that he alone should be made to suffer for distinct acts of corruption, committed without his knowledge. If the disgraceful proceedings of the preceding Chambly election had been properly punished, we should not have to assist at the contestation which is at present going on before the Court.

UNITED EMPIRE.

Two public speeches, deriving importance from the high standing of the speakers, have been made within the past few weeks. The first was that of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, at the laying of the corner stone of the United Empire Club building, Toronto. The second was that of Lord DUFFERIN, at a banquet recently offered him by the Canadian Club, in London. Sir JOHN eschewed party politics altogether and devoted his whole address to the inculcation of a thoroughly British spirit, as distinct from the idea of Annexation on the one hand, or any scheme of premature Independence on the other. He declared in earnest and solemn language that now, more than ever, the necessity existed in Canada of fostering a thorough social, commercial and political alliance with the Mother Country, and of tightening the links of an United Empire. These utterances require no comment. They have found an echo in the breasts of the vast majority of the Canadian people. The *Globe* which, unfortunately, harbors a personal animosity against the greatest of our statesmen, even now that he is fallen, had not a word to say against the speech, though it ridiculed and abused Sir JOHN himself.

The London address of Lord DUFFERIN was an echo of that which he delivered in Toronto, last autumn. Its most salient phrase was that a desire to maintain their connection with Britain is "the prevailing passion of Canadians." These words have been received with gratitude throughout the Dominion as the authoritative expression of the truth. Among all our numerous exchanges, we have not read one word of disapprobation or dissent. Some leading papers, it is true, were significantly silent, but, as if to make up for their deficiency, the American press seems to have taken an unusual interest in the speech, and to have been quite outspoken in regard to it. Some of their remarks are striking and ought to be set before our readers. The *Chicago Tribune* says: "His Lordship's statement is scarcely sustained by the recent movement to es-

tablish a Supreme Court of last appeal in Canada, and cut off the judicial intervention of England's high authority. It is also antagonized by the tendency of the Canadian people to adopt a general policy of Home Rule, and to build it under the model of American institutions. In the formation of separate States under the Dominion, their representation in their Senate, the adoption of the American denomination for money, a partial imitation of our judicial system, and the assimilation of manifold characteristics of the United States, the Canadians scarcely bear out Lord DUFFERIN's assertion that the fate of Canada is 'unalterably fixed' as a part and parcel of the British Empire." The *Buffalo Daily Courier* says: "We doubt very much that Lord DUFFERIN has correctly understood and presented the feelings of the Canadians... but we do not think that their destiny is unalterably fixed, either in the one or the other direction. We do not believe that the permanent existence of two different federal systems on this continent, which are separated neither geographically nor by language, race, political customs, nor the essential features of their institutions, but only by an artificial line, would be in the interest of the one or the other." The *Boston Advertiser* speaks with an air of such personal authority and assurance that we copy its remarks almost entire, italicizing the last lines, to which we particularly call the attention of our readers. "If Lord DUFFERIN would imitate the example of good old HAROUN AL RASCHID and take evening walks *incognito* among the people over whom he rules as viceroy, he might discover that he had himself overstated the 'depth and universality of the desire of Canadians to maintain intact their connection with England.' The existence of a 'prevailing passion' of loyalty to the mother country is something about which a ruler sent from that country might easily be deceived. Men who have learned to be polite do not manifest a wish for a change of relations which has in it nothing of hostility to the existing Government, by showing disrespect for the Governor-General. The men who surround Lord DUFFERIN are likely to be strongly in favor of the British connection. Others are likely to absent themselves from receptions and public demonstrations. So it happens that unless the Governor-General seeks out the people who do not flock to see him, and unless he chances to meet and question men bold enough to tell him an unwelcome truth in regard to their own sentiments, he is extremely liable to be deceived and to infer the non-existence of a feeling which may nevertheless be strong. On the other hand, it is to be said that the existence of this feeling is a matter of observation; and the positive testimony of a respectable American, observing carefully and reporting truly what is to be seen and heard from the lips of Canadians, outweighs the negative testimony of anybody else, even though he be the Governor-General. Such testimony we have had, direct, positive and conclusive. Moreover, we have our own personal observation, which we at least deem to be as valuable as Lord Dufferin's, to the extent that we must believe what we have heard in preference to what he has not heard. And we venture to say that, if Great Britain or the leaders of Canada are basing any political movements on the non-existence of a desire for independence or for union with this country, they make a grievous mistake."

Our space, in the present issue, will not allow us to enter fully into the discussion provoked by these extracts from leading American papers. We shall return to the theme next week. Suffice it to say that we are prepared to recognize, what our Canadian journals affect to ignore, or judge it impolitic to express, that there exists in Canada an Anti-British party, a portion of which, especially in French Lower Canada, favors Annexation, while another portion champions the idea of Independence. We shall go further and assert that, all things considered, there are and can be only two parties in the Do-

minion, one such as we have described, the other unalterably attached to British connection and an United Empire.

THE O'CONNELL MONUMENT.

Ottawa is certainly taking precedence of Montreal and Toronto in its enthusiasm for the proper celebration of the O'CONNELL Centennial. The Secretary of the Ottawa sub-committee, Mr. C. J. HIGGINS, is working with vast activity, and receiving encouragement from all parts of the Dominion. He communicates to us a suggestion from Hon. Senator HOWLAN, of Prince Edward Island, which we recommend to the attention of our Irish readers and friends. Mr. HOWLAN declares that he will be glad to assist in the work of the Centennial by every means in his power. He prefers a statue of O'CONNELL, however, to any other form of memorial, and suggests that the committee should procure estimates for that purpose. He believes that an oil painting would be too tame for the great Liberator, who loved the clear blue of the canopy of heaven as the only covering to the great tent from which he made his able addresses resound to the further ends of the earth. The Irishmen of the Dominion owe it to themselves that a model should ever be present at the Capital, which would inspire themselves and their children with that lofty patriotism which so distinguished O'CONNELL.

Notwithstanding certain statements of newspapers, there are no recent developments of a diplomatic character concerning the affairs of Cuba, and nothing whatever to give the least color of truth to the rumor that England and Germany are co-operating with the United States in pressing upon the Spanish Government the policy of abandoning the West India possessions, with a view either to their division among the three powers named, or their organization into a republic, under the protectorate—expressed or implied—of said powers. The knowledge of such co-operation, it is said in Washington official circles, is confined exclusively to private parties and to the press that gives it publicity, nor has Great Britain or Germany ever hinted at a co-operation of the three powers for the purpose mentioned. On the contrary, both Great Britain and Germany have been remarkably careful not to offend the tender sensibilities of the United States, the latter having on repeated occasions declared its immoveable adherence to the Monroe doctrine, which both Great Britain and Germany have officially said they will respect.

The Labour Bills just passed in the British House of Commons, by large majorities, are based upon a new principle of justice which commend them to the attention of our own readers. The main object of these Bills is to place contracts between employers and workmen on the same footing as all other contracts, and to deal with breaches of them, not as criminal offences, but as offences against the civil law. A Bill passed in 1867 made the breach of contract by a master a civil offence, but, on the part of a servant, treated it as a criminal act. The present Government have decided upon making no distinction between master and servant, employer and employee, but to consider breaches of contract on the part of either as merely civil offences. This is a great step in advance, and must affect similar cases of legislation throughout the British Colonies.

The French Assembly, without debate, has resolved to pass to a second reading the bill relating to the election of Senators. The Public Powers Bill was finally passed by a vote of 530 yeas to 30 nays. A resolution was adopted to discuss the Budget, and then adjourn till November 30. This course was declared urgent by a vote of 356 yeas to 319 nays. A motion,