

# Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, FEB 21, 1903.

## CALENDAR FOR NEXT WEEK.

### FEBRUARY.

- 22—Quinquagesima Sunday.
- 23—Monday—St. Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor.
- 24—Shrove Tuesday—St. Matthias, Apostle.
- 25—Ash Wednesday—Beginning of the Lenten fast. Day of fast and abstinence. Henceforth till Easter on all week days all those who are not exempt or dispensed should fast, and even those who are not obliged to fast should abstain from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent.  
Cortona, Penitent.
- 26—Thursday—St. Margaret of
- 27—Friday—The Crown of Thorns.
- 28—Saturday—The Chair of St. Peter at Antioch (transferred from the 22nd inst.)

## AN INSTRUCTIVE PARALLEL.

The Alaskan boundary question has drawn from our intelligent contemporary, the Free Press, of this city, some expressions of opinion which it is just now interesting to compare with similar utterances from another and very different source. The Free Press aims at representing the prevalent trend of English-speaking Liberals throughout the Dominion, and cannot therefore be suspected of disloyalty when it voices the sentiments of the party at present in power. In its issue of the 13th inst., the Free Press devoted its leading article to the "Alaskan Boundary," and, after stating the fact that the United States Senate has passed the treaty providing for the adjudication of the dispute by a court of judges equally divided between nominees of the United States and British Governments, our daily contemporary went on to remark:

It is but the simple truth to say that the people of Canada regard this method of settling the vexed question as one which is very likely to result disastrously to their interests. The Canadian Government fought valiantly four years ago for the reference of the case to an international arbitral tribunal. Canada would have presented her case before such a body with confidence that justice would be done; the decision, whatever it might be, would be, would have been accepted without heart burning. That the United States proposition as to the composition of the court has been accepted may well be attributed to the undue complaisance of the British Government.

It will be observed that this categorical reference to disastrous results and the "undue complaisance of the British government" is represented as the simply truthful opinion of "the people of Canada." And we believe this representation to be correct. The mass of the Canadian people feel that their loyalty is due first of all to their native land.

The opposite view of the question is then given by the Free Press in this way:

The United States newspapers with a few exceptions appear to regard the dispute as virtually settled in their favor. They assume that the United States members of the court will stand by the American contention through thick and thin, thereby making it certain that at the worst things will remain as they are, with the United States in possession; but great hopes are entertained that the member of the court representing the British Government will "throw down" the Canadian case in the time-honored manner and thus enable the Americans to score a victory. The court, in short, in their opinion, is to be judicial only in name; in reality it is to be a political body which is to reach a political, not a judicial, decision. If this theory be justified by developments the chief factor in bringing about the judgment, will be, not the legal strength of Canada's case, but the exigencies of Imperial politics. Confronted with the choice of being unpopular in Canada or in the United States, the British Government, judging by the past, will have no scruples about sacrificing the interests of its own people.

"Throwing down the Canadian case in the time-honored manner," "the exigencies of Imperial politics," "the British Government, judging by the past, will have no scruples about sacrificing the interests of its own people"; these are strong words, and yet, curiously enough, they are fully justified by the facts recited by Mr. Henri Bourassa in his pamphlet on "The French Canadian in the British Empire." This brilliant essayist, of whose profound philosophic insight we have lately quoted several instances, tersely sums up the French Canadian's attitude toward Imperialism: "By the motherland he feels that he has done his full duty; by the Empire he does not feel that he has any duty to perform. . . because he has a notion that any favor received would have to be compensated by at least an equal favor given." But even that equality does not exist; in point of fact, he gets less than he has given.

"He is told," said Mr. Bourassa, "that Canada has the free use of British diplomacy, and that such an advantage calls for sacrifices on her part when Britain is in distress. But considered in the light of past events, British diplomacy has, on the contrary, cost a good deal to Canada. So far the foreign relations of Canada, through British mediation, have been almost exclusively confined to America. That the influence and prestige of Great Britain were of great benefit to Canada in her relations with the United States is hardly conspicuous in the various Anglo-American treaties and conventions in which Canadian interests are concerned." Although this is more delicately and less bluntly put than the Free Press's plain talk about sacrificing Canadian interests to the exigencies of Imperial politics, Mr. Bourassa has not escaped the charge of disloyalty on this score. But he meets his critics with undeniable facts.

"Not only did the American Republic secure the settlement of nearly all her claims according to her pretensions, but Canadian rights have been sacrificed by British plenipotentiaries in compensation for misdeeds or blunders of the British Government.

"In the Treaty of 1842, whereby the northern frontiers of the State of Maine were delimited, a large portion of Canadian territory was abandoned to the Americans by Lord Ashburton, who jocosely observed that he did not care for a few degrees of latitude more or less. Later on, the Oregon boundaries were also fixed in a way which Canada claimed was unjust to her, although it must be admitted that this time the Americans endeavored to get more than they actually secured. Not later than last year the Clayton-Bulwer treaty was denounced without any settlement of the Alaskan boundary being reached. Canada had no right under that treaty; but she

always claimed that the anxiety of the United States for its removal offered a most propitious occasion for a fair application in her favor of the famous Monroe doctrine, so dear to Americans. Great Britain waiving her rights in a treaty dealing with questions of a purely American nature—in the geographical sense—Canada rightly expected that this abandonment should be compensated by the settlement of another exclusively American problem. This view was strongly urged by the Canadian authorities upon the Home Government; it has even been stated that this was one of the primary conditions of the unfruitful negotiations carried on at Quebec and Washington in 1898-1899, under the presidency of Lord Herschel, but evidently all in vain.

"In fact, the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 stands as the only convention entered into by Great Britain and the United States in which Canada stood at an advantage. But when the Secession War came, Great Britain gave to the slave-owning States a half-hearted moral support, too weak to turn the tide of fortune on their side, but strong enough to raise the ire of the victorious Government. Canada paid the price of revenge. Not only was the treaty of 1854 denounced, never to be renewed, but in the Washington Treaty of 1871 Canadian fisheries were made accessible to the Americans at a time when they were most profitable, in order to reconcile the United States and pay for the protection offered by Great Britain to privateers of the Southern States. True, Canada was awarded a money compensation; but the United States was none the less given a valuable privilege within the limits of Canadian territory, and one upon which the Canadian Government had always relied to procure trade reciprocity with the Americans. This unfair transaction was strenuously opposed by Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, who acted on that occasion as one of the British plenipotentiaries. He went the length of threatening either to resign or to withhold the sanction of the Canadian Parliament from the treaty. At last he gave way under the pressure of his colleagues, Lord de Grey, Sir Stafford Northcote, and Sir Edward Thornton, who convinced him that Canadian rights had to be sacrificed for the sake of Imperial interests."

After this clear statement of historical facts we may now safely conclude with a further quotation from the Free Press article on the Alaskan Boundary.

A recent cartoon in the Toronto Telegram represents pretty accurately the feeling of Canadians on this point. John Bull is shown in conversation with Johnny Canuck. "Your H'uncle Sammy and I," John Bull is saying, "are going to talk over that little dispute of yours and—er—you might just turn that picture to the wall and keep yourself in the background as much as possible." The picture to be turned to the wall is "What we Have We'll Hold." In his recent Contemporary Review article Thomas Hodgkins, Canadian jurist, declared: "The diplomatic disasters through which Canada has lost some of the best agricultural portions of her original heritage explain why Canadians now look with intense anxiety for the just settlement of the Alaska boundary controversy; for, as has been said by Sir Charles Dilke in his 'Problems of Greater Britain,' 'It is a fact that British diplomacy has cost Canada dear.'" These expressions of Canadian sentiment indicate that there are good grounds for the confident belief of the Americans that they will get judgment in favor of their contention.

Canadians will not endure as patiently as in former days the sacrifice of their interests on the altar of Imperial expediency. If the proceedings before the court show our case to be not well founded in law we shall accept, without question, an adverse finding. On the other hand if the Canadian case is well established, we shall expect a decision in our favor. It

would be most improper for the United States jurists to go into court with their minds closed to evidence and arguments; they ought to be prepared themselves to render a decision in favor of Canada should the evidence warrant it. But if they propose, in the event of the Canadian case proving the strongest, to refuse stubbornly to abandon the United States contention, we certainly shall expect the British representative to support his Canadian colleagues in resisting them. In that event there will be a deadlock; and we do not see how it will then be possible for the United States to refuse to agree to the calling in of an umpire. But should Canada have the best of the evidence and argument, and yet lose the case because the British representative prefers sacrificing her rights to offending the United States, there will be a protest from this country that will be heard very distinctly in Downing street. It is all very well for Great Britain to cultivate friendly relations with the United States; but the friendliness of the United States, which would be at best a rather doubtful quantity, would be dearly earned if it involved a demonstration to Canada that her rights were regarded merely as pawns in the Imperial game.

## FATHER GIROUX'S FEAST.

Unable to present their best wishes to Father Giroux of St. Anne on Sunday the 8th inst., which was the feast of his patron saint, Raymond, several of his clerical friends called on him the following Tuesday. The good old priest was almost taken by surprise, although he had had some inkling of what was coming when the Archbishop visited him on that previous Sunday; but Father Giroux soon recovered his usual smiling serenity and welcomed his guests with truly fraternal cordiality. A number of carriages had conveyed the visitors from the railway station to the priest's house and the drivers and witnesses of those carriages soon spread the news so effectually through the quiet village that in the evening the convent hall was thronged with an eager and attentive audience to listen to a repetition of the "Adopted Child," which was rendered with quite as much zest as on the first occasion, described by another correspondent elsewhere in this issue, and was attended with great success. The young girls took their parts so naturally and in so vivacious a way that one almost forgot they were not professionals. The drama represents natural virtue, impersonated by a woman of the world, pitted against supernatural or truly Christian virtue practised by an old Irish servant girl. The success of this play, which drew tears from many persons in the audience, proves that the usual scheme of vice against virtue is not necessary to excite dramatic interest. Here we have only one kind of virtue against another, and yet the result is positively thrilling. On the one hand we have human glory compassed by human power, the human heart yearning for its natural good, the bank-note; on the other, we have the Christian mind and heart rising above and despising gold and its allurements.

The entertainment opened with a piano overture, well played by Misses A. and A. Dupuis, N. Marchand, E. Degagner. Then came a glee song by all the pupils, "Voeux de Bonheur." This was followed by a charming dialogue between little tots, "L'Ange et les Fleurs." "Kitty's Bath" was an amusing English dialogue between the Misses Downard, A. Landry, A. Dupuis, V. Nolin, E. Mercier and M. Rowan. There were two piano pieces, one by the Misses B. Labossiere, A. Dupuis and N. Maurice, the other by the Misses M. Chabot, R. A. Equilbey, A. Dupuis, A. Depatis, B. Lacroix; both of these instrumental numbers showed excellent training. "Le Petit Muet qui parle" was feelingly recited by Miss A. Magnan. Here is the cast of the three-act French drama, "L'Enfant Adoptive."

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