

# Northwest Review.

"AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM."

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b. Whitsun Week.  
c. The third week in September.  
d. The third week in Advent.  
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Yes, clean yer house, an' clean yer shed  
An' clean yer barn in every part;  
But brush the cobwebs from yer head  
An' sweep the snow bank from yer heart,  
Jes' when spring cleanin' comes aroun'  
Bring forth the duster an' the broom,  
But rake yer foggy notions down  
An' sweep yer daisy soul of gloom.

Sweepol' ideas out with the dust  
An' dress yer soul in newer style,  
Scrape from yer min'tis wortout crust  
An' dump it in the rubbish pile.  
Sweep out the lates that burn an' smart,  
Bring in the new tones serene an' pure.  
Aroun' the hearstone of the heart  
Place modern styles of furniture.

Clean out yer morrl cubby holes,  
Sweep out the dirt, scrape off the scum;  
'Tis cleanin' time for healthy souls;  
Git up the dust! The spring breeze come!  
Clean out the corners of the brain,  
Bear down the scrubbin' brush and soap,  
An' dump of fear into the rain,  
An' dust a cozy chair for Hope.

Clean out the brain's deep rubbish hole.  
Sweep every cranny great an' small,  
An' in the front room of the soul,  
Hang portier pictures on the wall.  
Scrub up the winders of the mind,  
Clean up an' let the spring beging;  
Swing open wide the dusty blind  
An' let the May sunshine in.

Plant flowers in the soul's front yard,  
Set out new shade an' blossom trees,  
An' let the soul once froze an' hard  
Sprout crocuses of new ideas.  
Yes, clean yer house an' clean yer shed,  
An' clean yer barn in evry part;  
But brush the cobwebs from yer head  
An' sweep the snow bank from yer heart!

—[Sam Walter Foss.]

## "MAIL" ATTACKS ON MR. COSTIGAN.

False Charges of Treachery—What the Record Says.

The Ottawa Citizen says—It would seem from its recent utterances, that the Toronto Mail has received a special mission to drive Mr. Costigan from the cabinet. That journal's antipathy to the Secretary of State has long been notorious, yet it is largely a matter of speculation whether the Mail's virulence is to be understood as directed personally against Mr. Costigan or only incidentally as against an Irishman and a Catholic.

The Mail's objection to Mr. Costigan is one of treason to his colleagues—a charge sufficiently serious, if true, to necessitate not only his withdrawal from the Cabinet, but his retirement from public life and from the society of all honorable men. But the weak point in the "Mail's" impeachment is its untruthfulness for indeed that journal has deliberately repeated charges against Mr. Costigan, which it has known for years to be utterly unfounded.

Our readers are aware of the delicate position of a Cabinet Minister. On all questions of public policy, the Cabinet is a unit, and if a Minister is unable to agree with his colleagues, his duty is to resign. But his reasons for resignation can be revealed only by permission of the Governor General, so that unless this is obtained, his lips are sealed, while his motives are liable to misconception at the hands of unscrupulous men, whose conception of character is cramped by their moral obliquity. Sometimes it occurs that, after a Minister has tendered his resignation, explanations take place and the resignation is withdrawn; in which case the Minister's difficulty is enhanced, for not only is he compelled to silence, but the field is enlarged for men of vivid imagination and lax moral sense, to exercise their talents.

It was in such a position Mr. Costigan found himself during the session of 1884. For reasons which, though never officially announced, were an open secret at the capital at least, Mr. Costigan placed his resignation as a Minister in the hands of Sir John Macdonald. He had then for two years occupied a seat in the Cabinet, and was recognized as he still is, as the representative of the Irish Catholics of Canada. Rightly or wrongly, he conceived that they were not being treated with the same impartiality as other elements of the population and that they did not enjoy a proportionate measure of the benefits and privileges in the bestowal of the government. Impressed with this belief and unwilling to lay himself open to the charge of being bribed by office to perpetuate a state of affairs abhorrent to any high-minded man, Mr. Costigan sacrificed position, emolument, and comfort to what he considered to be his duty, and resigned his portfolio and seat in the Cabinet. What the nature of the negotiations which resulted in the withdrawal of his resignation within twenty-four hours was, we do not know any more than does the "Mail," and it is absurd to indulge in speculation. This, however, is the true story of Mr. Costigan's resignation, and the account of it fabricated by the "Mail" is wholly illusory.

Speaking in Kingston, a fortnight ago, Mr. Costigan referred to the incident of 1884; but unfortunately he was reported as having placed the date at the time of the Pacific scandal in 1873. Mr. Costigan was then a private member of the House and, so far from having any

misunderstanding with Sir John Macdonald, followed his illustrious leader into opposition, when it was open to him, had he desired, to have joined with the deserters and gone over to the enemy's camp.

It is true that Mr. Costigan's resignation was tendered at the time that the loan to the Canadian Pacific Railway was under discussion. It is also true that Mr. Costigan agreed to the government's policy of granting the loan, but it is absolutely false, as stated by the "Mail," that "he rose in the House to make a speech against the loan to which in his Ministerial capacity, he had given his approval." When Mr. Costigan rose that morning it was half-past one o'clock; he was suffering from a severe hoarseness which rendered his voice almost inaudible. He moved the adjournment of the debate. Sir John Macdonald objected, but Mr. Costigan persisted, pleading that, in the state of his voice, he would prefer not to be forced to speak, but that if he must speak he would do so. Sir John then gave way and the House adjourned. What Mr. Costigan would have said, as he frequently informed his friends, would have been to declare his purpose, notwithstanding his altered relations to the Ministry, to support the loan to which he had assented at the council board. Sir John Macdonald subsequently stated to the House that Mr. Costigan's resignation was dated the 18th February, was received by him on the 19th and withdrawn on the 19th. When Mr. Costigan rose to speak it was in the early morning of the 19th and his resignation had probably been in Sir John's hands for twelve hours.

Neither is there a spark of truth in the "Mail's" statement that Mr. Costigan seized upon the dissatisfaction of the French supporters of the Government 'as his cue to strike for the other side and to be among the first to make peace with the Liberals." On the contrary, during the whole period that the French members were in consultation, Mr. Costigan studiously avoided their company, although he had always been on terms of the closest intimacy with them, and he even refrained from entering their committee room—No. 8—where he was always welcome, lest, as a member of the government, he might embarrass them by his presence.

The "Mail" goes on to say that "the Blues counted noses and found that their voting power, with that of the Liberals added, fell short of the figure necessary to a Government defeat; whereupon they resolved to stand by the Cabinet and await results." So far from this version being correct, the fact is that had noses been counted that night, a majority of the House would have been found ready to vote against the Government, as no settlement of the Quebec claims had, up to that time, been arrived at. Indeed, many friends of the Ministry subsequently admitted that it was a fortunate circumstance that Mr. Costigan's motion of adjournment prevailed, since before the debate was resumed, the difficulty with the Quebec supporters had been arranged, and the resolution granting the loan was finally passed by a majority of 70.

The "Mail" is certainly drawing copiously on its imagination when it depicts Mr. Costigan going to Sir John Macdonald and begging forgiveness and the return of his resignation. The idea is too puerile and silly for a moment's serious consideration. Mr. Costigan, it is well known, is neither beggar nor sycophant; while Sir John Macdonald's most rabid enemies never accused him of being a simpleton; for who else would have admitted to his councils a man of such character as the "Mail" ascribes to Mr. Costigan, or have taken back into his favour a traitor who had tried to stab him in the dark.

If corroborative testimony be desired as to the accuracy of our relation of Mr. Costigan's resignation, abundance of it is at hand. Referring thereto, in his place in the House of Commons, Sir John Macdonald said:—"I will also say in reference to my colleague who was alluded to in that article (Mail, 20th Feb., 1884), that his conduct is unexceptional in every possible way. He is now my colleague, sir, and I hope will long remain so, and I would say, as his offer of resignation has been alluded to in the press, it has been from personal motives altogether, not in the most remote degree connected with the resolutions before the House (C. P. R. loan). I regretted very much that he did so, and almost refused to present his proffer of his resignation to the Governor General; and after explanations between him and myself, he has withdrawn his resignation, and he stands a member of the Government as he has done ever

since he has joined it." (Hansard, 1884 Vol. 1, page 457.)

Speaking a few days later, Sir John repeated in almost the same words, the explanation we just quoted, and added: "My hon. friend, (Mr. Costigan) withdrew his resignation for reasons which I have given and which are of no interest to anybody in the world, and can have no political significance and can be of no constitutional significance. My hon. friend withdrew his resignation. I was very glad of it, and I hope he may long remain my colleague." (Hansard, 1884, Vol. 1, page 525.)

Notwithstanding that Sir John Macdonald, the chief of the party, of which the "Mail" was then a leading organ, made and reiterated this explanation, within a day or two of Mr. Costigan's resignation, that journal has the shameless dishonesty, nine years afterwards when it imagines that public recollection is fading, to repeat the false and slanderous charge against the Secretary of State, that he tried to betray his colleagues. We submit that no stronger vindication can be demanded by the public than Mr. Costigan received from Sir John Macdonald.

Referring to Mr. Costigan's speech and vote in the Clarke Wallace affair, the "Mail" denounces them as discreditable, and charges the Secretary of State with having broken away from the Cabinet decision, and with having again thrust his knife into his colleagues. What does the "Mail" know about Cabinet decisions, and what right has it to assume that any policy whatever was adopted in council? The only means the public have of judging of the attitude of the Government on any question is by the utterances of the Ministers. Now the Canadian government has no policy on the question of Home Rule for Ireland, and as the members of the Cabinet have a perfect right to hold what opinions they please on the subject, and to express them in public, they are at liberty also to signify their approval or disapproval of one another's views, if occasion demands, and their doing so need involve no breach or strain of the links which bind them together as members of the Cabinet charged with the care of Canadian affairs.

Speaking of Mr. Dawson's motion of censure, Mr. Foster said:—"In this case what my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) said was his own opinion; he stated it not in his public capacity, but in a private capacity. He did not bind the government—he could not do it. It is not a matter of policy with reference to the government, and the government does not hold itself bound to these utterances, or responsible for them in the least degree." (Hansard, 1893, Revised Edition, page 2727.)

In the Senate, the leader of that body, Mr. Bowell, said:—"The government have no official knowledge of the language used by Mr. Wallace more than the gentleman (Mr. Power) has; neither do they hold themselves responsible for language which may be used outside of the house in connection with the political affairs of the Empire generally." (Senate Hansard, 21st March, 1893, page 7.) Mr. Costigan, following Mr. Foster, said that, while he agreed with him in repudiating Mr. Wallace's utterances, he went a little further, and refused to assume the responsibility for them which he considered he would be doing, did he vote against the amendment. It is difficult to understand how Mr. Costigan can be justly chargeable with "breaking away from a Cabinet decision," or "trusting his knife into the Government," by merely recording his dissent from and disapproval of views expressed by a Controller (who is not a member of the Cabinet) in his private capacity—views which as stated by Mr. Foster, did not bind the government, and for which they disclaimed all responsibility.

The "Mail" can do Mr. Costigan no harm among his friends; yet as he is a public man, and the property of the country at large, it is necessary that the charges which that journal has made against the Secretary of State, should be refuted and their slanderous nature exposed. The best answer to the "Mail's" accusations of treachery, is to be found in Sir John Macdonald's explanations to parliament, which we have quoted at length, as well as in the fact that it was at Sir John's urgent request, Mr. Costigan withdrew his resignation in 1884, and remained a member of Sir John's Cabinet until that statesman's death seven years later—in the additional fact that when Sir John Abbott formed his ministry, Mr. Costigan was asked to retain his portfolio; and that when Sir John Thompson succeeded Sir John Abbott, he was again invited to a seat in the Cabinet, without Mr. Costigan having sought the position on either occasion.