

RIOT AND ANARCHY.

Two of the Chicago Anarchists have had their sentences commuted to penal servitude for life. One supreme desperado blew himself pretty well to pieces with some sort of bomb, and the remaining four have been "well and truly" hanged, with the usual epilogue of disgusting sensational accounts of the execution.

The evident connivance of the gaol staff at the admission of means of self-destruction is a remarkable example of the laxity of discipline, or perhaps the free interpretation of duty, permissible to American public functionaries, and is as curious to those accustomed to the methods of English jurisprudence as are the almost endless delays and countless appeals, as in the extraordinary case of Guiteau, admissible in American criminal processes.

The stern preparations made for any possible attempt to interfere with the ultimate action of the law, however, are in accord with the theory now pretty well understood, that, however patiently tolerant the American people may be of the most tedious and hopeless efforts to open to the malefactor the smallest loophole of escape, there is no playing with American sentences when finally declared irrevocable.

Of a piece with this determination, which is a national characteristic, is the prompt resolution with which American authority deals with dangerous assemblages. English vacillation and irresolution in the presence of the bugbear of the right of unrestricted meeting for political discussion, might take a leaf out of the American book.

The weak concession of a prescriptive right to embarrass the traffic and paralyze the business of some of the most important thoroughfares of the greatest metropolis in the world, by the allowance of political meetings in Hyde Park, and more especially in Trafalgar Square, has at last aroused the British, or at all events, the London taxpayer, to protest. The protest has been taken up by the press, and notably by Mr. Punch, whose dictum, when seriously given on a serious subject, always carries weight.

It is notorious that the mobs collected in the name of the "Unemployed" or other aggrieved bodies, are always swamped by the rascaldom of London, who, if London mobs were not proverbially cowardly and incapable of organization, would do incalculable mischief.

Mr. Punch therefore calls for a bill to "Regulate Processions and Out-of-Door Meetings." "Let it," he says, "be a liberal measure, in the true sense of liberal: that is, showing due consideration for everybody," let certain places be allotted to them for airing their grievances, and let each of these places be at least four miles distant from Charing Cross.

This is common sense, and, at a time when the forces of rowdyism are in every country organizing against those of order, it is well that every country should consider the question, and be prepared to sanction measures of restraint.

Canada has, happily, been hitherto fairly free from distractions of this nature.

THE CONFERENCE AT QUEBEC.

With the exception of the representatives of Manitoba, the delegates attending the Inter Provincial Conference at Quebec, were all attached to that political party in Canada known as Liberals; hence the resolutions adopted by the Conference are likely to meet with more or less vigorous opposition from all the party journals supporting the Government. But the public are not inclined to take a partizan view of the proceedings, and therefore we may naturally conclude that the resolutions adopted by the Conference will be subjected to a fair and intelligent criticism, and their feasibility judged of from a stand-point independent of party. In our judgment the two resolutions in which the people of Canada will be the most interested are those dealing with the composition of the Senate, and the financial arrangements between the Federal and Provincial Governments. As at present constituted, the Canadian Senate is, barring the House of Lords, one of the most unrepresentative legislative bodies in the world, and saving as a shelving place for decrepid politicians, it serves no good purpose. Instead of proving itself capable of unbiased and independent judgment, it has from the first borne the strong stamp of party, and so far as we can see, no reform is likely to take place so long as vacancies in it are filled exclusively by the appointees of the Government in power. At the present time the Liberal-Conservative majority is abnormal, and evidently the Premier recognized this fact, otherwise he would not have appointed Mr. John MacDonald of Toronto, a staunch Liberal, to the seat made vacant by the death of Senator MacMaster. We do not believe that the partizan character of the Senate would have been one whit better had the Liberals been in power for a lengthened term of years instead of the Conservatives; and believing this we are more than ever convinced that a reformed Senate is one of the most important questions to be considered by the electors throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion. The method suggested by the Quebec Conference of having one-half of the Senators from each Province appointed by the Federal Government for a limited term of years, and having the remaining seats filled by the nominees of the respective Provincial Governments, would, in our judgment, be a great step in advance over the present plan of nomination for life by the Dominion Government, and, although it may seem somewhat presumptuous for members of Provincial Executives to recommend changes in the Constitution of the Federal Parliament, yet, after all, if these changes are in the interests of the people, and would be advantageous to the country, it matters little who originated the proposal, provided it take definite shape and be ultimately carried into effect. We have already expressed our belief that the appropriations and subsidies granted by the Dominion Parliament to the Province of Nova Scotia are quite inadequate to provide for the efficient

management of the local services under the control of the Provincial Administration.

On a future occasion we shall take an opportunity to give our views upon the financial changes recommended by the Quebec Conference. Meanwhile we advise our readers to carefully study the twenty-two resolutions which have been endorsed by the Provincial Delegates, a summary of which will be found in another column.

RACE ANTAGONISMS.

For the third time a jury has been unable to find a verdict in the case of Le Sieur, arraigned for stealing Post Office money. It is affirmed that this repeated and continued failure of justice is entirely due to race prejudices, and there is no reason to doubt the correctness of the imputation. The English portion of the jury was, it is said, for conviction, but the French portion refused its concurrence. It is a very disgraceful episode. There are some particular tendencies of human nature which stand pre-eminent as contributors to the mass of human crime, cruelty and misery, which "has been since the world begun." Religious intolerance and its outcome, persecution, bids high for the first position, but race animosity takes perhaps a wider range, for its effects go back to the earliest times of which we have any record, and it doubtless overshadowed with its baleful and gloomy wings that far away prehistorical past at which we have only lately been able to hazard faint, though not altogether uncertain guesses, through the science of philology. It is true that race antipathies have often gained an added force and bitterness from difference of religion, and, indeed, this factor is not absent in the case we are considering. But in the old times there were long-continued race wars and hatreds with which religion had little or nothing to do. The ancients were not much given to proselytism, and even Nebuchadnezzar's reputed attempt was but spasmodic.

Be this as it may, we find in race enmities a scourge of war, and the oppression of the conquered, which has never ceased in one shape or other from castigating the earth. Jew and Egyptian, Canaanite, Assyrian, Samaritan, Roman and Carthaginian, Roman and Jew, Turk and Slav, Frenchman and Englishman, Celt and Saxon, all have contributed to deluge the world with blood, and to keep alive in it "envy, hatred, malice and all uncharitableness."

A few years ago self-complacent humanity of the higher sort began to extend the application of those principles of brotherly love, or at least tolerance, which we were briefly taught by Him who "spake as never man spake," and whose teaching was expanded by Paul in the noblest chapter of his epistles, from individuals to nations, and those of us who have had some experience of life have no difficulty in recalling a somewhat definite anticipation of an age of inter-national brotherhood.

The Crimean War was the first rude shock to the dream of peace; but even the tremendous conflicts which have since succeeded each other with such startling rapidity, are as nothing in detriment to morality, to the singular resuscitations of ethnic antipathies which have more particularly marred the historical record of the last decade.

Not a little of the innate antagonism of Teuton and Latinised Celt enters into the present relations of England and France, but the cases which most painfully concern us are those of Ireland and of the French-Canadian element of Canada. Where distrust manifests itself between foreign nations there is unquestionably a degree of difference of responsibility in disfavor of those who are distinctly and patently restless, jealous, and aggressive, and unhappily, but little appeal seems to lie to national honor, dignity or forbearance.

The worst feature of the evil, which seems of late to have assumed the form of a virulent epidemic, is that those who give themselves up to it seem to consider race partizanship a release from the common obligations of morality, justice, and Christianity itself.

German national zealots coolly murder an offending French gentleman, and wound others. Irish moonlighters kill persons who resist the dictation of the League, persecute and insult their families, mutilate innocent beasts, and destroy property and blow up with dynamite persons quite unconcerned with their grievances; and French-Canadians outrage well-meaning religionists, enact tyrannical municipal laws to the detriment, and with a view to the expulsion of their English-speaking fellow subjects, and, as we see in the case which led to our remarks, pervert the course of justice in favor of a criminal, simply because he is a co-nationalist. The case of Riel was also one in point.

With foreign countries it is difficult to deal. It will probably be long before the spirit of morality, by its own power, so pervades a whole nation as to compel it into paths of peace and righteousness.

But can nothing be done where there is rising discord between different races inhabiting one country, and who are equally its citizens and its subjects? Is it altogether impossible to propagate the doctrine that, as persons and families of different beliefs, habits, manners, and idiosyncracies manage to avoid mutual exasperation in moving together in one body politic, may often pull together with reciprocal good will in many good works and for many good ends, so there is no real reason, (for the race is but an enlarged individual,) why two races, which have both their good points, should not dwell together side by side, respecting each other's peculiarities, and in the exercise of mutual charity and courtesy.

Where one race is aggressive the difficulty is doubtless enhanced, and there is an influence operating which we will not enter upon here. But it appears to us that all the highest and best of the Press in both the great nationalities of Canada should unite in a strenuous and persistent effort to enlarge men's minds, ennoble their conceptions of civil duty, and inculcate that higher morality which will surely in the long run bear the worthy fruits of Christian principle and self-restraint.