

The True Witness.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

A very sugry feeling is rapidly manifesting itself in England on account of the aggressions and monstrous pretensions of the Federal authorities; and unless these aggressions are discontinued, and these pretensions abandoned, it is greatly to be feared that war before long will be the result.

There is but one simple rule with respect to the rights of neutrals, which consistently with a due regard to its honor and its interests, the British Government can recognise; and that is, that a neutral ship, engaged in a bona fide voyage from one neutral port to another neutral port, has the right to carry any cargo her owners please to put on board of her, without molestation from either of the belligerents.

But whilst Federal cruisers have been seizing British ships bound to Mexican ports, it seems that Mr. Adams, the Minister of the Yankee Government in London, takes it upon himself to grant licenses to other vessels bound to the same ports, to carry arms and munitions of war for the use of the Mexicans in their war with France.

In the same way they have two rules, two sets of weights, and measures with respect to the building of ships by neutrals for the use of belligerents: one of which they insist upon applying to their neighbors, the other to themselves, with one of which they buy, selling with the other.

What we claim in this case, therefore, is by no means follows we can be asked to concede when we are neutral and Great Britain belligerent. In other words; we have a right to require that Great Britain shall prevent the building of rebel ships in her dockyards, and we are not bound by that precedent, if we choose hereafter to build ships for a nation friendly to us, and at war with Great Britain.

When such claims are coolly put forward by the Yankee press, and effect is given to them by the action of the Yankee cruisers, it would seem as if war were inevitable. Either these claims must be abandoned, or hostilities must ensue, for it is impossible that any nation, however weak, should submit to them without a struggle.

The intelligence from Europe is very meagre. We gather however from the last mails that the Poles still hold out; and it is added that, if Russia do not accede to the terms proposed in the joint note of the three Powers in behalf of Poland, Napoleon is prepared to draw the sword. In England the chief topic of conversation is the American war, and the complication in which that war may involve Great Britain.

is not sufficient legal evidence against her, to authorise her detention; we learn also that effectual measures are to be adopted to put an end to recruiting in Ireland for the rank of the Federal army. The reports of the state of the growing crops in Ireland are very satisfactory.

The army of the Potomac, under General Hooker, having crossed the Rappahannock river in two divisions, one above and the other below Fredericksburg, a series of severe battles commenced on Saturday last. The Confederates, whose communications with Richmond were threatened by General Hooker's movements, concentrated on their left: at a place called Chancellorsville, and there the main struggle took place.

The telegrams we receive are however all made up to suit the Northern palate. Slight advantages are magnified into decisive victories, and severe repulses are glossed over. It leaks out, in spite of their precautions, that on Saturday the Yankees were well thrashed by the brave Confederates under General Lee, with the loss of 14 guns, and that one division of the invading army was driven off the field in confusion.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.—The great party battle of the session commenced on Friday evening, when Mr. J. A. McDonald brought forward his motion of "Want of Confidence" in the present Ministry. Since then, the time of the Legislative Assembly has been occupied with the debate upon this motion, which still continues, and may be protracted to the very end of the week.

City subscribers changing their residence are requested to leave instructions for the delivery of their papers, at this office.

LIGHT READING.—We know no literature so light, so utterly destitute of stamina or nutritious matter, as that which evangelical papers are continually publishing in their columns, with reference to their "Foreign and Domestic Missions." Ice cream to a starving man would be a substantial dish in comparison with the frothy unsatisfying stuff which our contemporaries aforesaid are in the habit of dishing up for their respective readers.

We have got a lot of this "Religious Intelligence" before us, and we look upon it, we confess, with some such kind of melancholy curiosity as that with which a medical student may be supposed to regard a well developed tumor, or any other abnormal and revolting form of human disease. As he takes a pleasure in the dissecting room, and rejoices in the bottled specimens of morbid preparations which surround him, so can we take a certain strange delight in the moral and mental deformities with which the columns of journals such as the Montreal Witness and the Toronto Christian Guardian present us.

evangelical press. What do the young men of the Protestant world for the most part go to Meeting for? Is it not to fall in with the girls, to see them home or "hum" after evening exercises, and then to poke fun at the preacher? They know what a humbug the whole evangelical concern is, and that it is only valuable or worth patronising as the provoker of mirth.

For after all this is the burden of the songs of our Zion—"give, give, give;" and it is partly perhaps the difficulty that the Missionaries encounter when endeavoring to explain what has become of the large sums of money placed at their disposal, that renders their Reports so vague and unsatisfactory, not to say bewildering.

MISSIONS IN INDIA.—The general aspect of the Missionary work in India awakens at the present time, large expectations in the minds of those who are best qualified to form an opinion upon the subject. A missionary writes from Calcutta—"I cannot but express the conviction, which I share, I believe, with almost all missionaries, that vast changes are gradually but surely working themselves out in this land.

What there is in the actual aspect of Protestant Missionary work in India to awaken feelings either of gratitude, or of cheerful anticipation, we as Christians are at a loss to perceive.—There are but "few conversions;" we are told;—and there is a vast amount of scepticism, "settled in nothing but unsettledness."

Another promising "Mission Field" at the present moment is the Italian Peninsula. There the philosophical and religious principles of '89 are making considerable progress amongst the demoralised populations of the large towns; and a few lewd priests, of the Achilli, the Gavazzi, and the Chiniquy stripe, occasionally gladden the hearts of the faithful by their open profligacy, by their contempt for the sanctity of an oath, and the precepts of the Sixth Commandment.

The Home Mission "Reports" are those however in which the greatest amount of namby-pamby is to be found, and upon the composition of these the Missionaries expend their highest powers of twaddle. Here are some specimens selected at random from the Methodist organ from which we have above quoted:—"I have preached the Gospel!"—writes one Methodist

Missionary—to many Roman Catholics as well as Protestants, and believe good was done. All these shanties were visited by Priests this winter, but their adherents have said they would rather bear us, because they could understand what said."

Mark, how by way of giving a seasoning to the above, an emphasis in the form of Italics is laid on the word "Priests," as if these were a kind of monsters—and their visits to their own flocks a sin. It is a consolation however that the superior natural endowments and intellectual acquirements of the Methodist Missionaries always suffice to silence and put to flight the emissaries of the Man of Sin.

"We have had considerable spiritual prosperity during the year. Our missionary meetings have been spirited and good. Our tea-meetings on the various missions have been very successful."

Are "tea-meetings" Scriptural? are they then the divinely appointed means for "spreading the Gospel? Do they confer grace, and are they supposed to supersede or take the place of the Eucharistic banquet? Reader, have you ever seen an evangelical "tea-meeting" with its mountains of buttered toast? for buttered toast is deemed a powerful instrument of conversion.

Here is another specimen, taken from the Montreal Witness of Saturday last, which in its turn quotes an evangelical journal of New York. The writer is a Rev. Theodore L. Cugley, and he is describing an inquiry meeting at which he had presided:—"It was held in a large private house which had been thronged that night with a prayer meeting of unusual fervor and earnestness.

The rest is blasphemous, and we need not repeat it; or tell how one young woman burst into tears, and could not be put together again for ever so long—how another went home in "strong despair;" and a bombazine gown—how a young lawyer "who had been running away from the meetings for a fortnight to escape the Spirit," was "cut down" and fell into violent convulsions "crying for mercy."

Seldom do these reports deal in facts and figures; but as an exception we find one missionary reporting the conversion of 15 head of children, who "have professed to find peace in believing;" and of whom "some have been made subjects of converting grace."

But as a general rule, and when the conversion of a Papist, or a controversial triumph over a "Romish priest" is announced, we are never allowed to be witnesses of the process, or to obtain a glimpse of the arguments by which the emissary of the Man of Sin was confounded. This reticence is to say the least, prudent on the part of our evangelical friends; but it is one of the causes of the general insipidity of their narratives.

ORANGEISM IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.—We learn from the Vindicator that the Legislature of P. E. Island has passed a Bill to incorporate the Orange Society and that the Lieut.-Governor has given his assent thereto. Great excitement prevails, and meetings are being held to prepare petitions to the Queen praying Her Majesty to disallow the Bill when laid before her for the Royal approval.

EMIGRATION.—We have received the Second Report of the Committee on Immigration and Colonization, printed by order of the Legislative Assembly, and signed by the Chairman, Mr. Archibald McKellan. The Committee contents itself for the present with recapitulating some foregoing recommendations, and making the following suggestions:—

(1). That an Emigrant Map of Canada, showing the settled, partially settled, and wholly unsettled portions of the country, ought to be at once prepared under the supervision of the proper Department, and every means taken to ensure its being generally circulated throughout the British Islands, Germany, and the Northern countries of Europe.

(II).—That Township or District Maps be distributed gratuitously, or at a nominal price, to immigrants or native settlers, thus teaching them, through the eye, the situation and boundaries of their future property; and for this purpose that copies of such Maps should be placed on board the Canadian Line of steamers, and other emigrant passenger vessels; also in the possession of the local Clergy, Crown Land Agents, Colonization Road Agents, and Emigration Agents.

(III).—That an Agent be appointed for New York and Portland, during the emigration season.

(IV).—That an Agent be appointed to reside in England, with large powers, and corresponding rank, who might in other respects also be found useful as a Representative of the Province.

The recommendations of the Committee seem good in their way; but it must be remembered that little can be done by mere legislation to attract emigrants from Europe to Canada, and to retain them here after they have arrived. These things are determined not by legislation, not by Reports of Special Committees, not even by the representations of Emigration Agents, but simply by the natural and material advantages of the Province. "Good wine" says the old adage "needs no bush." A country which holds out many and great material advantages to the immigrant; which is blessed with a mild climate and fertile soil; where labor is constantly in demand, and the rates of wages are high and steady, will never experience any difficulty in obtaining hundreds and thousands to till its waste lands, to break up its virgin soil, and to develop its resources. On the other hand, it is in vain to puff up a country which is wanting in any of these natural advantages; whose climate is severe and unpropitious, whose soil refuses readily to yield up its treasures to the husbandman, and where the labor market is periodically crowded or overstocked.

When the stream of emigration slackens, or when it is diverted to other shores than ours—we may be certain of two things. First, that the pressure upon the means of subsistence in the mother country, has relaxed; and secondly, that we no longer hold out such material advantages to the settler as do those other countries towards which the stream of emigration directs itself. It is the custom we know, always to attribute every thing to the action of Government; to say "Oh! if the Government would but do this, or had not done that—we should be receiving immigrants in shoals, and from all quarters."

Widely spread however as is this belief, we look upon it as a delusion, and a most singular delusion. It is the pressure upon the means of subsistence at home which compels men to emigrate; their destination, or future site is determined for them—(1) by the respective natural and material advantages of the several countries open to colonisation—and (2) by the cost of voyage. Not one in a thousand or a million bothers his head about the action of the Government, or is influenced by the Reports of Blue Books. If, for instance, a larger number of the emigrants from the British Islands prefer the United States to Canada as their future home, it is because the climate of the latter is colder, its winters shorter and less severe, and the price of labor—before the war at least—higher and steadier. To these causes, and not to any remissness on the part of our rulers, do we attribute the fact, that the United States receive annually more immigrants from Europe than do the Provinces of British North America; and in the same manner, and for the same reason, the latter attract more of the annual immigration than do the countries lying further North, in the vicinity of Hudson's Bay, and the Arctic Sea. No legislation, however bad, will deter people from emigrating to a country which possesses certain natural advantages; and no legislation,