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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12.

## CURRENT COMMENT.

### Our Archbishop's Letter.

His Grace's letter to La Croix newspaper of Paris is a frank and independent statement of the present situation. He speaks of both parties in the tone of an impartial observer who seeks only that justice be done and is quite indifferent as to the persons by whom it will be done. The reasons given by the Archbishop for the Liberal victory are substantially those which we developed in our article, "Retrospect and Prospect," of July 1st. The Globe attempts to dismiss His Grace's opinion as if it were to have no weight, and speaks of clerical dictation having come to an end on the 23rd of June; but, in the first place, there is not the shadow of a dictatorial spirit in Mgr. Langevin's letter, and, in the second place, the Globe's smart phrase betrays a woeful ignorance of the Catholic people. We are not a headless mob ruled by the noisiest and most irresponsible of its members. We are essentially a living body in which equi-voque and guidance comes from the head and not from the inferior members. History proves that every movement in which even large numbers of the Catholic laity have cut themselves aloof from their pastors has ended in failure. To be sure this applies especially to matters of faith and morals strictly so-called, where separation from the one legitimate head issues, as Leo XIII says in his recent encyclical, "in a confused and perturbed multitude." But it applies none the less certainly to questions like that of Catholic education, in which religion and politics are closely interwoven. What, then—supposing such a lamentable contingency to arise—could "a confused and perturbed multitude" of rebellious Catholics do against the calm and undying protest of their ecclesiastical superiors? In Catholicism authority never dies, though its representatives may succeed each other for centuries in the glorious list of martyrs; and that authority, sure as it is to be followed by all true Catholics, will eventually bring about the legal restoration of our outraged rights.

### What We Claim.

We expect that the Hon. Prime Minister will be as good as his word and will, therefore, not give us less than what was contained in the Remedial Bill; nay, that, as he and his followers deemed it inoperative, they will add thereto the government grant. Now it will be remembered that the much abused Bill established a Board of Catholic Schools controlling teachers' certificates and all school text-books, provided for a Catholic Normal School, for Catholic school districts and Catholic inspectors, gave us the municipal taxes and allowed for reasonable exemptions. Let the Hon. Mr. Laurier add the legislative grant and the school difficulty will be settled in less than six months.

### What The Clergy Have Done.

L'Union Libérale, of Quebec, said lately that "those who call themselves the representatives of the Manitoba majority and who represent only the ecclesiastical institutions of St. Boniface, contribute nothing to the school taxes." Were this true in the sense that they paid no money down, it would, nevertheless, be a foolish and meaningless insult, since the ecclesiastical institutions of St. Boniface give all their time and labor gratuitously for educational purposes. But, even in the sense of money paid down, the assertion of the young and childish scribblers of the Union Libérale is absurdly false. The archiepiscopal corporation of St. Boniface—and it is this entity which is particularly aimed at by the slanderers—has spent about thirty-five thousand dollars of its own money for Catholic schools.

### Mistrans- lation.

The N. Y. Freeman's Journal, while praising the English translators of the latest Encyclical for the general "excellence and faithfulness of their work," ventures very properly we think, to criticize just three words of their translation. "We have no fear," says our distinguished contemporary, "of being considered hypercritical in thus picking out one minute phrase from the document, because in the first place there is not a single sentence in the Encyclical which is not important, and, in the second, this particular phrase was the only one upon which the non-Catholic press commented unfavorably."

When we read in the summary first furnished to the press that the Holy Father, in speaking of the Episcopal Order, not subject to and not obeying Peter, described it as "a lawless and disorderly crowd," we were disposed to believe that these words could hardly be an accurate translation of the Latin. The full official translation, however, did not vary from the summary, and we were obliged to wait for the original Latin to form a definite judgment. Now, what did His Holiness really say? His exact words are that the bishops who refuse to submit to Peter sink into a "multitudinem confusam ac perturbatam." We suggest that the English rendition of these words conveys an acerbity which they do not possess. In the first place, "crowd" with this particular context contains a suspicion of invective, which is not found in the word "multitude," the literal translation of "multitudinem." But this is not what we principally find fault with. The most serious mistranslation is that which make "confusam" mean "lawless." Bluntly, it means nothing of the kind. A "lawless" party is one not only destitute of, but opposed to, all law, and the Holy Father has not thus described the disobedient Hierarchy. What he has said of it is that it is a multitude in that state of confusion which results from the want of an authoritative leader—in other words, "confusam" simply means confused. Nor is "disorderly" a happy rendering of "perturbatam," which conveys the idea of the excited state of a "confused multitude," and which might be adequately translated "perturbed" or "disturbed." Perhaps "a confused and disturbed multitude" is not so attractive to the ear as "a lawless and disorderly crowd," but it is certainly very much nearer to the Pope's expression, it forms a better psychological sequence with the first part of the sentence, and it contains none of the asperity which is found in the official translation, and which we may be quite certain was far from the heart of the Pope who wrote the touching plea for Reunion.

### CATHOLIC BELGIUM.

That the Catholic Church is truly the Church of the people was never more clearly shewn than it has been in the elections recently held in Belgium. As a result of the efforts of the Catholic party a change in the electoral laws was made about four years ago by which almost manhood suffrage was inaugurated

in place of the very restricted franchise which previously existed. The first election under this new condition took place in 1894, with the result that the "Liberal" party was almost wiped out of existence, and the Catholics secured a majority of fifty-eighty in a house of one hundred and fifty-two members. Another election has recently been held in which the Catholics have increased their majority to seventy. The new chamber will comprise one hundred and eleven Catholics, twenty-nine socialists and eleven Liberals. Thriving little Belgium is an honor to the Catholic Church, and it is gratifying to have such a striking evidence that the sturdy mechanics and peasantry who have made it a veritable hive of industry are so true to their highest interests, and not to be led astray by those false teachers who find such pliable material amongst the working classes of many other much more pretentious and boastful countries.

### THE ENGLISH EDUCATION BILL.

As most of our readers are aware the English Education Bill, which passed its second reading by a tremendous majority, has been withdrawn. There is in this, however, nothing to cause regret or dismay amongst the friends of religious education, and judging from the way in which the withdrawal of the measure has been received by the Catholics of England we can see no real reason for the jubilation in which the advocates of secular education in this country have indulged over the death of the measure. We read that Cardinal Vaughan has declared that he is glad the bill has been withdrawn, and in all parts of England both laymen and ecclesiastics have with one voice declared that although intended to do justice to the voluntary schools the measure would never have satisfied the demands of those who rights it was meant to safeguard. As a matter of fact it seems that it was the number of amendments deemed necessary by the supporters of voluntary schools which rendered it quite impossible to pass the Bill through the committee stages and compelled the Government to drop it for this session, and it is important to bear in mind that when announcing their determination to withdraw it Mr. Balfour distinctly promised that at the next session a new bill will be introduced which will be more in accord with the necessities of the case, and, though consisting of only a few clauses, will place the voluntary schools of the country on exactly the same financial basis as the Board schools. This is a most satisfactory outlook, and it is consoling to find that the great statesmen of the mother country so thoroughly appreciate the value of religious education, and that in seeking to strengthen the lands of those engaged in the training of the young in denominational schools they are supported by an overwhelming majority of the electorate.

### THE IRISH RACE CONVENTION.

During the first days of September a convention is to be held in the city of Dublin which is likely to have an important effect on the future of the Irish national cause. Delegates representing the Irish Race will be present from all parts of the globe, and their main object will be to re-unite the divided sections of the Irish people, and heal up the sad divisions which have too long existed and which all friends of Ireland so greatly deplore. The first duty of Irish representatives in the Imperial House of Commons is, undoubtedly, to unite, and the first duty of the convention will be to demand and to labor that they be united. It is earnestly to be hoped that the leaders of the two factions will appreciate the gravity of the occasion, and will show a willingness to meet and form a platform broad enough to accommodate every true friend of justice to Ireland. It is truly said that the demand for Home Rule can never die until it is conceded, but for all that Home Rule is practically dead so long as the present unfortunate division exists amongst those who demand it. Victory can be achieved only by a united party presenting a solid front to the

enemy; and it may be taken for granted that the Irish people through their delegates at this convention will exert themselves to the utmost to induce their parliamentary representatives to forget the miserable and weakening disputes of the past few years, and with no uncertain sound they will declare that the man who will not loyally join in thus restoring the Irish question to its former commanding position is a traitor to the cause.

### THE GOVERNMENT ORGANS.

It seems to us that the Toronto Globe and many of the smaller fry amongst the Liberal papers are preparing for themselves a heap of trouble by the insanely bigoted and insulting tone they adopt whenever they speak of members of the Catholic Hierarchy or the probabilities regarding the settlement of the school question. They may rely upon it that the day will come when, in the interests of the party which they profess to serve, they will have to swallow many of the bitter things they are now vomiting forth, and they will then surely cut a sorry figure before the people of the country. It is all very well, for instance, for them to sneer as they do at the mandament of the Bishops, but they know very well that every Quebec supporter of Mr. Laurier was elected simply and solely because he accepted the conditions laid down by their Lordships and pledged himself to see that the rights of the Catholic minority of Manitoba would be restored in their fullness and entirety. There can be no doubt that these members will carry out their pledges and what then will be the position of the newspapers in question? The Globe and all those who follow in its wake may just as well make up their minds at once that the Manitoba school question will never be settled until full justice is done, and they may rest assured that it is essential to a settlement of the matter that the demands made by the Bishops for a complete restoration of the constitutional rights of the minority be granted.

### MANITOBA FRENCH LIBERALS.

The Nor-Wester on Saturday night gave to the public the particulars of a rumor which had been in circulation in the city for some days previously regarding the objects and intentions of the recently formed Manitoba French Liberal Association. The report ran that this organization had been effected for the purpose of assisting Mr. Laurier in finding a loophole out of the difficult task of satisfactorily settling the school question, and the gossips asserted that a deal had been entered into between the Dominion Premier, Mr. Greenway, and the members of the new association whereby Mr. Laurier would be relieved of an responsibility and the provincial government enabled to help their Dominion friends without going back on their previous record. In a word, it was said that Mr. Greenway would make an offer, practically the same as that made to the Dominion commissioners last spring, which, of course, would be rejected by the Catholic authorities, and then the members of the association were to come forward with the announcement that the proposal satisfied them, and that they were willing as Catholic laymen to accept it as a fair and reasonable compromise. Thus, it was alleged, would Mr. Laurier and Mr. Greenway be put in a position to wash their hands of the whole affair on the ground that the trouble is plainly not of the people but of the bishops and a universal cry would be raised against the hierarchy. We have neither time nor patience to consider this absurd rumor in all its branches, but we desire to say a word or two regarding it. We have no authority to speak for the members of the new association, and we have not interviewed any of those whose names have been given regarding the report, for we do not think there is any necessity to do so. We know many of them personally, and all of them by reputation, and their past action ever since the beginning of the school difficulty should be sufficient guarantee for any body that they would not be parties to any such conspiracy as that alleged. They are

all Catholics; they are men of honor and good standing in the community; they have for the past six years been fighting side by side with their fellow-religionists of all nationalities in the province to secure the restoration of Catholic schools; and they have to our knowledge consistently declared over and over again, that nothing will satisfy them or finally settle the question until the Catholics of this province have their full rights under the constitution. We are very much mistaken in them if they are of that class of men who for mere party considerations would be willing to stultify themselves in the eyes of the whole population of of Canada, and it seems to us too bad that because they have seen fit to form themselves into an association for the furtherance of those political principles of which they have been life long advocates street gossips should make them the victims of a rumor imputing to them motives and aims which, so far as we know and so far as their past record enables their fellow citizens to judge, they would scorn to entertain. From the inception of the agitation which led to the abolition of our schools down to this moment the Catholics of Manitoba have been a unit in the fight, and we see no reason to believe that there is going to be any defection from the ranks just now or any time in the future. Although we may not agree with their political views and aspirations we recognize as all must, that the French Liberals of Manitoba were perfectly within their rights in forming an association, and when they declared they have confidence in and will support Mr. Laurier, it may be taken for granted, that they do so because they are assured that the new Dominion Government will do their duty and redeem their ante-election pledges to restore separate schools to the Catholics of Manitoba.

### Matters Political.

Protests have been filed against the successful candidates in Winnipeg, Macdonald, Marquette, Lisgar and Selkirk. In the case of Lisgar disqualification of Mr. Richardson is asked for. In the east a very large number of protests have been entered, and should they all be successful almost a general election will be necessary to fill the vacant seats.

Sir Charles Tupper is evidently against giving the government factions and unreasonable opposition. His advice and counsel in this respect has borne fruit in the re-election of most of the ministers by acclamation.

Hon. Hugh John Macdonald has emphatically denied that there is any foundation for the rumor that he might be appointed leader of the Conservative party in place of Sir Charles Tupper. He reaffirms his loyalty to his present leader, who he declares is the only possible chieftain of the party, and says that Sir Charles will have no more zealous and devoted a follower than he will be. This was what we expected of Hugh John who would be the last man in the world to go back on his leader or try to supplant him, and who unquestionably has a great admiration for his present chief. There is no doubt either that Sir Charles is quite acceptable to the party as a whole, and they all hope that he may be long spared to act as their leader. Hugh John Macdonald may eventually be his successor, but it may be taken for granted he would never consent to be put in his place whilst the old war-horse is able and willing to carry on the fight.

The Canadian-Freeman for this week has an article on the Manitoba school question and declares that only a full measure of justice to the Catholic minority of Manitoba will be acceptable. This, the paper states, Mr. Laurier will surely give. We hope the Freeman's assertion in this respect will soon be verified, and whether it is or not we are glad to see that paper is getting back to the old, uncompromising and staunchly Catholic position it occupied before the commencement of the recent campaign.

Hon. T. M. Daly has written to a friend that he will resume the practice of his profession in Brandon. Many people will hope that the honorable gentleman may soon again enter political life. It is the fashion in some quarters to sneer at the work done by the Department of the Interior under his direction, but those who know, say that the