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THE ELECTIONS.

We announced last week the general result of the Dominion elections which took place on the 23rd ult. In this issue we give full particulars. As the Liberals have been sustained by the popular vote, as a matter of course Mr. Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, will be called upon to form a Reform Government.

With the many complications, and the unusual number of third and fourth party men who offered themselves as candidates, it might easily have happened that no one party would have gained a majority, in which case it might have been necessary to make new combinations in order that a Government may be formed, but as the Liberals have a clear majority of fourteen over all other parties combined, such combinations may not be necessary. The total majority against the Government is 38. By provinces, Ontario furnishes a majority of 9 against the Government, Quebec 25, Prince Edward Island 1, the North-West Territories 4, and British Columbia 2. New Brunswick gives a majority of 2 to the Government, and Manitoba 1. Nova Scotia is evenly divided. There will be in the new House 113 Liberals, 87 Conservatives and 12 Independents. Probably some of the Independents will support the new Government, thus increasing its majority.

Of the Independents 4 are Patrons, 3 McCarthyites, counting as two the two constituencies for which Mr. McCarthy was returned; the other 5 are not easily classified, except that Mr. John Ross Robertson was elected for Toronto East by the combined vote of the Liberals and the McCarthyites on an anti Remedial platform, and Mr. Clark Wallace, for West York, as an anti-Remedial Conservative, renouncing the Government. He was elected by a similar combination to that which supported Mr. Robertson.

A notable feature of the result is the complete collapse of the McCarthyite party. A grand flourish was made during the campaign, with the boast that Mr. McCarthy would at least have the balance of power in the new House, and with that purpose in view he made a stumping tour through Ontario, and it was proclaimed that he would have 31 candidates in the field acknowledging his leadership. In fact, between his own followers and the P. P. A. candidates, who may be counted with them, he had 10 in the field, but from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island only three succeeded in gaining seats. Colonel O'Brien, of Muskoka, is among the slain, having been beaten by the regular Conservative nominee, Mr. McCormick. Five McCarthyites or P. P. A. men, at least, lost their deposits owing to the insignificant vote they received, as the law in such cases regards their candidature as factious. Even in West Toronto, Mr. Hunter, the McCarthyite candidate, was at the foot of the poll, though he ran in conjunction with and had the support of the Liberal candidate in the same constituency, Mr. W. T. R. Preston. It is satisfactory to know that Ontario has thus decisively rendered its verdict of condemnation against fanaticism and discord, founded on a religious and race cry. It is only in Ontario and Manitoba that such an issue was raised at all, but it has been so sternly condemned by the electorate that we may hope we have heard the last of it.

It is true that the Manitoba school question took a prominent place among the issues at stake during the contest, but it cannot be said that remedial legislation has been condemned, for notwithstanding that the Liberals as a party opposed the Government Remedial Bill, they stand pledged to grant full relief to the Catholic minority in Manitoba, if on investigation it be found that their grievances are real, and that the Manitoba Government persist in refusing redress. It is be-

lieved, indeed, that now that the Liberals have triumphed, Mr. Greenway's Government will itself grant the desired relief. This would be the most satisfactory solution of the trouble, and Mr. Greenway has left a door open whereby he may take this course, as he has himself said that if an investigation shows that a grievance exists, he is willing to remedy it. He will now have an opportunity to prove his sincerity.

Mr. Laurier has already announced that Sir Oliver Mowat will be one of the commissioners who will be appointed to investigate. In our view the matter lies on the surface, and there is little to investigate. It is evident to all that the Catholics of Manitoba have been deprived of rights which were conferred upon all denominations by the legislation of 1870, and which thereby became guaranteed to them under the constitution, even if it were true, as some assert, that the real bill of rights demanded by Manitoba when it became part of the Dominion was silent regarding Separate schools, and it is otherwise certain, as Sir Donald Smith has said, that the Dominion authorities in promising that the Dominion would respect the rights and privileges of the old settlers, implied that their educational rights would not be interfered with. We say, therefore, that very little, if any, investigation is required; but if there must be an investigation we are quite satisfied that Sir Oliver should be one of the commissioners. We believe he will be guided by a spirit of justice and fair dealing in the investigation, the more especially as he knows the working of the Ontario school laws, and can attest their efficiency and that they inflict no injustice on Protestants, but on the other hand contribute towards the peace and harmony of the country by the satisfaction they give to Catholics.

Many Ontario journals, particularly the *Globe*, proclaim that the result of the elections, especially in Quebec, is a triumph of popular liberty against clerical influence, and speak of it as an open defiance to the mandement issued by the united episcopate of that province. We think that this is an unfair representation of the case.

It is true that the Bishops of Quebec laid it down as a duty for Catholics to support candidates pledged to remedial legislation, but it is a strained interpretation to assert that this meant they should necessarily support the Conservative candidates. In regard to this they left their flocks to draw their own conclusions. The mandement should be taken in accordance with what it says, and not according to an imaginary sense which its words do not convey. The Bishops, no doubt, knew the full force of their words, and as they made it evident that they had the courage of their convictions, we may conclude that what they omitted to say they omitted purposely, and that they had no intention to bind the electors to support one party rather than the other where both candidates were in favor of remedial legislation, which was the case in nearly all the Quebec constituencies.

Mr. Laurier is the first French-Canadian to obtain the Premiership of Canada under Confederation. This may have had some slight influence with French-Canadians who supported him, just as the same fact undoubtedly influenced many English Protestants to oppose him; but we do not think it had the weight in the scale attributed to it by the *Toronto Mail and Empire*, apparently for the purpose of raising anew a race and religion issue to prejudice Ontario. The Province of Quebec has been a Reform Province before now, and it had a Reform majority at the last election. It is in the nature of things that the strength of political parties should fluctuate, and it is not at all extraordinary that Quebec should be subject to this general law. There is no need to account for the facts by attributing them to causes which have never had such results in the past.

The constitutional guarantees should be kept, whether Manitoba be pleased or not; nevertheless, the results of the election show that the people of that Province are not so unreasonably obstinate in maintaining Mr. Greenway's injustice as they have hitherto been represented to be. Manitoba has returned four supporters of the Government, pledged to support the Remedial Bill, against two Liberals and Mr. Dalton McCarthy. This certainly does not indicate any so very strong feeling in the Province against remedying the Catholic grievances as we have been told exists. We are glad that such is the case, for it gives hope of a more

peaceful solution of the problem than we expected.

That this view of the situation is correct is borne out by what Mr. Greenway's organ, the *Winnipeg Tribune*, has to say on the subject. The *Tribune* says editorially:

"Had the Tupper Government been sustained at the polls last Tuesday Manitoba would have had Separate schools thrust upon her, no matter how she might have sought to protest. Indeed, it would serve her people right if Mr. Laurier were to introduce a measure providing for Separate schools in this Province. What are eastern political authorities to take from the verdict in Manitoba if it is not that the people here are indifferent and care so little about the protection of their National schools that they even voted for candidates pledged to support Remedial legislation? In view of the result of the polling throughout the Province the people would have little cause to complain if Mr. Laurier were to force Separate schools; why should she not have them? The issue was made so clear during the campaign that a wayfarer, though a fool, could not err therein. It was pointed out upon every platform that a vote for the Government candidate meant a vote for Separate schools, while a vote for the Liberal candidate meant a vote for National schools."

This journal proceeds to explain, as a matter of course, that there were circumstances which prevented the Province from pronouncing a strong opinion—corruption, bribery, and the presence of a third party in the field; but the fact remains that it did not so pronounce, and we may fairly infer that Mr. Greenway's obstinacy, and not any strong determination of the people of the province, is the obstacle to a just settlement. The *Toronto Globe* remarks on the situation: "Manitoba has now said by her vote that she cared very little whether her assailants or her defenders won the battle."

Mr. Greenway was interviewed by a *Globe* reporter, and he expressed substantially the same opinion, thus:

"I am highly pleased with the general result throughout the Dominion," but "with regard to Manitoba, you can easily understand how entirely disgusted and disappointed I am. My disgust and disappointment are to some extent mitigated when I observe the influences that were brought to bear to defeat the Liberal candidates."

The fact remains that Manitoba has voted to sustain Remedial legislation.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Notwithstanding the stubbornness with which Premier Greenway has refused to concede the rights of Catholics to Separate schools in Manitoba, it would be a mistake to suppose that the Protestants of that Province are a unit in opposition to a satisfactory settlement of the school question.

The result of the elections in that Province is proof sufficient of our position. The returns show the election of three Conservatives, pledged to support the Remedial Bill of the Dominion Government, three Liberals, and Mr. Dalton McCarthy, of his own party. The Liberals would, of course, oppose the Remedial Bill, as such is the Liberal policy announced by Mr. Laurier, but we cannot say that they will be irreconcilably opposed to an amicable settlement of the question. Mr. Dalton McCarthy alone occupies the position of an irreconcilable. Admitting, however, for the sake of argument, that all the Liberals would support Mr. Greenway in his doggedness, there are still only four to three in favor of Mr. Greenway's position, so that the seven votes of Manitoba in the new House of Parliament would be as nearly a tie as the division of seven men can be. This does not prove that the Protestants of Manitoba are so fanatical as Messrs. Greenway and Sifton have endeavored to make them. It is an additional proof of this that in Winnipeg, the capital of the Province, Mr. Joseph Martin, the father of the iniquitous school bill of 1890, has been defeated by Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, the latter proclaiming his intention to support the Remedial Bill.

We have another evidence of this in the sentiments expressed by the Anglican Archbishop of Rupert's Land at the diocesan synod held in Winnipeg last week. The Archbishop in his address spoke distinctly in favor of religious teaching in the schools, and declared confidently that there is little doubt that, in accordance with the very general desire manifested by the people throughout the Dominion, some concession will be made to Catholics enabling them to have religious teaching. He said:

"The importance of religious instruction in the education of the young is so supreme both for their own future welfare and for the best interests of the commonwealth, that I feel obliged to say a word on the subject. Whether

we look at the attitude of the leaders of the political parties or at the feeling of so large a portion of the population of the Dominion, it seems likely that some concession will be made to the desire of the Roman Catholic residents of our province that they should have religious instruction for their children given by teachers of their own. There are some who, for whatever reasons, seem anxious for the secularizing of the schools. There are many others who fondly imagine that there is in this an easy way out of the difficulty of the situation. If the arrangement would not be satisfactory to all, it is said it would at least be fair, as all would be in the same circumstances. But would it be fair? Is it not rather extraordinary that thoughtful people can hold such an opinion in the face of facts recognizable throughout the world?"

It may be presumed that Dr. Machray speaks the sentiments of Church of England people generally, for the United Church of the whole Dominion at its general synod passed resolutions declaring in favor of the same doctrine, the necessity of religious teaching in the schools. There are, therefore, two important religious bodies in Manitoba, constituting together a little over one-third of the population of the Province, openly supporting a Separate School system. Surely these constitute a body sufficiently numerous to demand in justice that their conscientious convictions be respected. No majority has the right to ride roughshod over the conscientious convictions of the minority.

There are others besides those of the Church of England who have the same general conviction on this subject, though undoubtedly many of these, against their conviction, oppose Separate schools through hatred, and merely for the purpose of thwarting Catholics. If, however, we reckon together the Catholics and Anglicans of the Dominion alone we shall have nearly 55 per cent. of the total population decidedly in favor of religious teaching in the schools. To this we should add the whole Protestant population of the Province of Quebec not included in the above estimate, but who are undoubtedly in favor of retaining the Separate school system of that Province, and who regard the Separate school clauses of the Confederation Act as their Magna Charta of liberties. Thus we shall have over 59 per cent. of the total population favorable to religious teaching in the schools, and to the constitutional guarantees for the preservation of minority rights.

There are, besides, thousands of honorable and fair-minded Protestants who will not combine in any attempt to force a purely secular system of education on those who are conscientiously opposed to it. We are therefore justified in believing that in the new Parliament, as in the old one, there will be a good majority in favor of the restoration of Catholic rights in Manitoba — by conciliatory methods, it may be — but if conciliation fail, we do not doubt that the new Parliament will exercise its powers contained in the Constitution to restore the rights of which the minority have been unjustly deprived.

In the face of these facts how empty is the boast of Mr. Dalton McCarthy, which he made in several speeches during the election campaign, that he will inaugurate a movement for the repeal of the constitutional guarantees on the subject of education. If he could succeed in attaining his object, it would be the tyranny of a minority over the majority of the population, but there is not the least fear that the majority will tamely allow such a thing to take place.

EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland is a country which very much resembles Canada in regard to the relative proportion of the Catholic and Protestant populations. Education is compulsory, and the people are well educated, though there is a great diversity in the opportunities of the people to support good schools and to send their children to them. The people of Switzerland are among the most liberty-loving of the world, and education is encouraged among them to a remarkable degree; but with the diversity of climate and means of travelling from locality to locality, there is the greatest difference imaginable between the opportunities of education in one canton and another. Some of the cantons are situated in populous fertile valleys, and in others on sparsely settled snow-capped mountains. It is stated in a report of the British legation at Berne which has just been issued that there is a gratuitous distribution of food and clothing to poor children who have long journeys to make, especially to those who travel so far to school that

it is impossible for them to go home for dinner.

Where the population is mixed, Catholic and Protestant, there are facilities for the instruction of the children in their respective creeds, there being either a teacher to give the necessary instruction, or a time set apart when the pastors of the children may give the instruction themselves or by proxy.

Throughout Switzerland, whether the cantons be Catholic or Protestant, there is complete religious toleration, and the utmost good feeling prevails among the people of the two religions. This state of affairs is not attained by any attempt at disfranchisement of a portion of the population, but by mutual toleration. In educational matters there is perfect freedom for all denominations to give instruction to their own children in accordance with their religious convictions, and this is the secret of the prosperity of the country, though it does not stand in the front rank as a warlike power controlling the continent.

Switzerland is an example which Canadians might well consider when questions of religion arise in politics. Such questions are not made political issues in Switzerland now, though once in a while such issues have been raised without contributing to the peace or prosperity of the country.

ELECTION LITERATURE.

There will now be placed on the shelves of "Old Curiosity Shops" great bundles of election literature. The writers or compilers of most of it will after a time endeavor to forget their unlovely work, and seek a place once more among decent and manly men. These characterless pamphlets or "roorbackists" were very much to the fore during the heat of the contest. They were dealing in "Pointers," and were ready to sell their wares to the highest bidder. With them truth and decency counted for nothing.

One of the most scurrilous productions of this kind appeared in West Toronto. It purported to contain extracts from the *Orange Sentinel*, and was circulated the evening before the contest, in Catholic houses. Productions of a similar kind were scattered broadcast in Western Ontario. The dodge was to influence either Catholic or Protestant voters as the case may be. The *Orange* contingent would issue a no Popery production for circulation, of course "private and confidential," amongst the brethren. Their opponents, on obtaining a copy, would straightway put to press a second edition, for circulation amongst Catholics.

Both parties in the contest have many offences of this kind to answer for. It is a disreputable business, and we trust it will not be resorted to at future elections.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Those who are desirous of securing a copy of the History of the Sorbonne and its associations (see the CATHOLIC RECORD for May 9, 1896,) will greatly oblige by sending in their order at once, as the publisher is anxious to print sufficient copies to cope with the demand. The price to non-subscribers is £1 1s. Address: J. A. Randolph, 2 Halsey street, Cadogan Square, London, S. W., England.

It is a pleasure to note that Mr. Martin, the author of the Manitoba school law, has been defeated in Winnipeg. It will prove a valuable lesson to all who parade an arrogant bigotry as patriotism. Mr. Martin's seat has been given to a man who will be a better member in every regard — a man who will reflect credit on his constituents. Mr. Martin's course had a contrary effect; and the punishment he received at the hands of the electorate was richly deserved. As an offset to this agreeable feature of the contest, it is to be regretted that Mr. Robertson has been elected in Toronto. He will be no acquisition to the House from any point of view. Ferocious bigotry was about his only recommendation. And Toronto is about the only place in the Dominion where such a man could have been elected.

The Court of Appeal has reversed Judge Lynch's decision, by which the Rev. Father Gill, *curé* of Granby, P. Q., was condemned to imprisonment for contempt of court in refusing to answer questions respecting what passed between him and one of his penitents at confession. Father Gill was sued for \$117.50 damages on the charge that he had induced a boy named Charles Bernier to leave plaintiff's employment. Being summoned as a witness the priest declared that he had no communication

with the boy except at confession, and claimed that his communications were privileged, refusing to answer questions whereby he would be required to disclose what was told him in confession. Judge Lynch insisted upon his answering the questions, and Father Gill appealed. The Court of Appeal has unanimously sustained the priest.

The elections have been a surprise to a large number of the people of Ontario. The Catholic vote is something that troubles many of our Protestant friends very much indeed, but for the life of us we cannot understand the reason why. Some of our separated brethren imagine that the Catholic vote is a purchasable commodity, or something that may be made to swing about like a ferry-boat from one side to another. True the Catholic people know when they are insulted and wronged, and in such cases it is only reasonable to expect that they will resent such insult and such wrong at the polls. But on the questions of public policy—where the common good of the country is concerned—Catholics will be found divided. As a rule, however, they act conscientiously and give support to men and measures which they think will be for the advantage of the country. The peculiar feature of the present condition of affairs is to find those who a few weeks ago expressed great love for Catholics now turning their backs upon them, and declaring that they are not what they thought they were. The political press of Ontario is, perhaps, more slavishly attached to party than the press of any other country. They seem to be the chattels of the political wigwag to which they belong. The *Mail*, which during the past few months threw a wet blanket upon its anti-Catholic record, is now showing its true nature, and is once again disposed to fling its poisoned fang at the Catholic Church and the Catholic people, because Sir Charles Tupper was not successful in the campaign. Nor have we words of admiration for the course of the *Globe*. During the contest it approached very nearly to the point of renewing its youth. Indeed it may be said that the majority for Mr. Laurier would have been larger were it not for the unfriendly and unfair course of the *Globe* in regard to Catholic educational rights in Manitoba.

CATHOLIC PRESS.

Pope Leo has contributed \$5,000 towards the erection of a Catholic church in London. This princely gift on the part of His Holiness is an evidence of his love for the Church in England, and will help to arouse the interest and quicken the zeal of the Catholics of that country in the construction of a temple of worship, rivaling in grandeur those superb monuments which have come down from the ages of Faith.—*New World*.

The citizens of St. Louis got a good object lesson on religious toleration out of the cyclone. We venture to assert that any man who would to day propose to break into a Catholic convent, hospital or asylum would have prompt notice served upon him to quit the city. An A. P. A. rant or "escape" who would undertake to malign the Catholic priests or nuns of St. Louis would quickly discover that he had gone to the wrong place.—*Standard and Times*.

The Italians who are pouring into this country are not leaving their own country at the desire of the Pope nor coming hither at the request of Catholic Americans. The truth is that they are driven from home by want, oppressed by taxation by the anti-Catholic government which overthrew the temporal power of the Papacy amid the plaudits of our Protestant neighbors and which for a quarter of a century has been misruling and impoverishing Italy. The allies in principle of those who here oppose that immigration are abroad responsible for it.—*Catholic Columbian*.

"A Catholic priest has evolved 'fifty good reasons' why the Bible 'cannot be the rule of faith for Protestants.' Nevertheless, the Bible is the rule of faith for Protestants. The priest might make his reasons five hundred or five thousand instead of fifty, and it would not alter the fact."—*Independent*. True, absolutely true, is the last sentence, but the middle one is not. How can the Bible be the rule of faith for several hundred different and conflicting sects, conflicting even on interpretation of the Bible, and for many, many thousands of individual Protestants who do not accept the teachings of the sects to which they nominally belong? Again, it is out of Protestantism that all the jarring theories of "the higher criticism" have sprung. The Bible the rule of faith for Protestants, forsooth!—*Catholic Standard and Times*.

There is no question that the blind, unreasoning hatred of Catholicity that formerly flourished among our separated brethren, and, to a great extent, dominated their "religious" views, is gradually dissolving under the whole-

some influence of improved of the spirit and teaching. It could scarcely be other acquaintance with the daily life of the Church in reality, dispel the absurd fantasies so long and to be replaced by the conceptions and ideas of the Church. As Archbishop well said, we could not honest judgment of Protestants failed to abominate the Church. Nor would they our respect if they did their attitude with enlighten Catholic Universe.

Horace Greeley in one moments said that "of all the most dangerous are com- cates"; and we are some tempted to substitute "for graduates." In the something startling at con- some of these learned m- make fools of themselves. "Dr." Nash, President "University," held Washington, and Lincoln young bachelors of art a- limited! To associate Cromwell the murderer, tyrant, who prayed by God, with the names of and Lincoln is an act against history and an the feelings of America. Nash ought to have w- astounding performance the names of Benedict I- Iscariot, and the Emperer Maria.

That most amiable ego- Angell, Esq., of Boston answers three questions fully characteristic way- will you please tell me you belong to? What you belong to, and who rich or poor? Answers claim to belong to all good member of the Friends "goes so far a- fighting quaker." See political party. It is re- the battle of New Orleans low was seen a long dist- American line blazing long rifle at somebody- and corporal's guard w- interview him. The w- what regiment do you b- regiment. What army? No army. Well, fighting for? Fighting hook. Well, that is ab- tion in regard to politi- sometimes we vote for a- sometimes we are in- that we don't vote to- Third, In regard to wh- rich or poor, we an- Sometimes our income- expenses — sometimes them — but we have al- thus far to pay every b- come due and hope du- remainder of our life to be- same. May the Angel- Animals live long and- longing, as we hope, to- one true Church and lab- ice, peace and mercy a- and States, men and be- Review.

[The corporal referred have been a McCarthyite]

The most thorough-g- visits Rome to-day in- and sees with clearer e- predecessors of even- past. He no longer p- present incumbent of St- will of a certainty be- much to rejoice his successes of an infid- which does its best to co- to desecrate the Lord's d- drill and other pursui- malice prepenes against "H. A. B.," for exam- the current Congrega- ready to assert that l- losing its hold on the- tates; but admits that- that is susceptible of- interpretation. Of co- realize how the offic- offer up the Mass with- absorption in it, wheth- by one person or by- but that is because- not the slightest con- the Mass is in the spir- Church. He has also- old leaven to intimat- formance of the mere- religion satisfies the It- seems to exempt him f- tions of natural hono- ness; and that, howe- also fail to square- practice, at least that- teaching is correct. I- ignorance of Catholicit- this, and "H. A. B." a- Catholic catechism in- to find out how far he- Christian charity, and- tion is incumbent on hi- thoughtlessly borne- However "H. A. B."- strictures on the Chur-

Yet even with all this by- one must acknowledge the- Roman Catholic Church- serving Christianity, in- ples to the praise of Chr- the attention of the wor- Jesus in objective form- that religion a divine v- throughout the long y- earthly rulers and of int- would have perished utte-

There is the divine safeguarding of Ch- There was but One Ch- and, Rome from the- Peter has steadfastly inheritance.—Boston