

THE TRUE WITNESS
IS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
The Post Printing & Publishing Co.
AT THEIR OFFICES:
761 CRAIG ST., Montreal, Canada.
Subscription, per annum.....\$1.50
paid strictly in advance.

TO ADVERTISERS.
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WEDNESDAY.....AUGUST 12, 1885

The foreign trade of Canada during the past fiscal year has been unusually weak and restricted. Its value has fallen short of that of 1883-4 by more than thirty-five million dollars. The value of the imports was \$112,731,114 for the year ended June 30th, while our exports only reached a value of \$89,305,882, showing a balance of trade against Canada of over twenty-three million dollars. This result is ample evidence that Canada is in need of agencies abroad to push and facilitate the sale of our industrial and agricultural products in foreign markets.

The appointment of Mr. Thomas White, M.P., to a position in the Dominion Cabinet, has given general satisfaction to all parties. His political opponents could not refuse to recognize his ability and the merits which entitle him to the honor. Mr. White took the oath of office this morning in Toronto, where the Governor-General had gone on official business. The new minister will take his place at the head of the Department of the Interior, which has assumed an unusual prominence and importance in the administration of the public affairs of the Dominion.

LIMERICK has won the day. Lord Carnarvon, the new Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, has withdrawn Spencer's proclamation against the city of the violated treaty which had been issued because of its refusal to pay the extra tax assessed against it on account of extra police employed to suppress the liberties of the citizens. The municipal council stoutly refused to pay the tax and defied the Government to enforce its collection. The administration has bowed to their defiance and has now requested an amicable interview to settle the dispute. Score another for Limerick.

The consular service of the United States has, for the last three years, paid into the treasury an annual average surplus of about \$500,000 after all expenses connected with the service were paid. And the expense of maintaining a Canadian consular service is one of the arguments against the independence of Canada. As it is, we have to spend five or six hundred thousand dollars a year on emigration agencies for an exceedingly poor return. If we had a consular service and a nation's name, instead of emigration agents and a colonial title, we would not be under the necessity of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to bribe a few immigrants into this country.

The Irish members claim to have secured proof of the implication of high Government officials in the case of the woman Jeffries, the notorious procuress, and are making strenuous efforts to draw the attention of the House of Commons to the facts. Notwithstanding the well-founded opinion which exists in every circle that there was a miscarriage of justice, the Speaker of the House chokes off every member who attempts to bring up the matter. The truth cannot, however, be much longer suppressed, and justice will be made to overtake the criminals.

CARDINAL MANNING, who is one of the best authorities on the social and religious questions of the day, says that the unity of the Catholic Church throughout the world was never more marked than now, while other religions are continually splitting up. Speaking of the condition of religion in England, His Eminence said that, there, rival teachers whittled away the outlines of the truths they undertook to teach. Moral and religious truths, confided to the tender mercies of "private judgments," got to be exceedingly hard to resist the whitening process, especially when there are elastic consciences back of the private judgments.

OUR esteemed contemporary *La Presse* has a mystery which it would like to have cleared up. Lord Melgund, private secretary of the Governor-General, and during the North-West troubles chief of Gen. Middleton's staff, was present with the forces on the afternoon

of the 8th of June at the battle of "Batoche." In the evening of the same day he left for Ottawa. The following day he was at Humboldt, 40 miles from Batoche, where he appeared to be greatly excited, and was telling right and left to everyone that wanted to listen to him that Gen. Middleton was hemmed in by the rebels. Since then Lord Melgund has not been seen in or out of the ranks. He passed two days at Ottawa, and stealthily hid himself off to England.

The question is now asked: What could have been the motives for his abrupt departure?

A JOKE AND AN UPJOAR.

The following incident will show how sensitive the popular feeling is over the fate of Louis Riel. At one of the public places of amusement last evening an innocent actress ventured to crack a joke at the expense of the half-breed leader. She said there was a striking resemblance between Riel and a picture, for, like it, he was doomed to be hung. The joke acted like a bombshell. Instead of tickling the fancy and touching the risibilities of the audience, it created a tremendous uproar, which lasted several minutes. The audience, which was mainly composed of English speaking people, divided itself into two unequal camps; the smaller section applauding the sentiment of the actress, but the larger hooting and hissing long and loud enough to raise the roof. Popular indignation was never more spontaneous, and its expression never more emphatic and instructive. If the mere suggestion of a joking fashion of hanging Riel has such an effect on a mixed audience, where but very few of Riel's active friends and admirers were present, what will not be the effect of an actual execution upon the country, where more than half the population are opposed to the death sentence? The actress's joke and the reception it met with are straws which show quite plainly what way the wind blows. Take heed and don't hang Riel!

THE MASS MEETING.

PROBABLY the most imposing and largest demonstration ever witnessed in the metropolis of the Dominion was the mass meeting of citizens held yesterday afternoon on the Champ de Mars to protest against the trial of Louis Riel and to denounce the verdict and the sentence which condemned the prisoner to death. While the proceedings lasted fully twenty thousand people put in an appearance. Although there was perfect stillness in the vast and serried assemblage, the voices of the speakers could scarcely reach half of the eager listeners. There was no political or partisan aspect given to the meeting. There was unanimity and determination in the demand that Riel's life be spared. The popular feeling was in no way excited and no attempt was made by the speakers to arouse any unnecessary indignation. All the points against the trial and verdict were coolly discussed and argued. The judgment more than the sentiment of the meeting was appealed to, and it was only when the speakers made their points that cheers and bravos rang out from the attentive multitude. The resolutions presented for adoption covered the case with equal mildness and thoroughness, and met with a reception which plainly indicated that their object had the hearty approval of the immense assemblage and that the hanging of Riel would not be a desirable climax to the half-breed revolt.

ERRINGTON AND GLADSTONE EXPOSED.

MORE of Mr. Gladstone's double-dealing and treachery was exposed in the English House of Commons, last night. Mr. William O'Brien, who unearthed the abominations of Dublin Castle, and tore the veil off the crimes of Earl Spencer and his minions, has also been the successful investigator into the machinations of the late Liberal Government. Mr. O'Brien was enabled to tell Parliament that he had obtained *prima facie* evidence of the hypocrisy of Mr. Gladstone in the matter of England's relations with the Vatican concerning the Irish question. He also furnished proof of the hidden and unvarnished role played by the government's go-betweens, the notorious backstairs Errington, notwithstanding that the late Premier had on frequent occasions positively assured the House that Mr. Errington was at Rome in no official capacity. How reliable and how much truth were in Mr. Gladstone's assurance may be gathered from the exposure made by Mr. O'Brien. The keen and indefatigable member for Mallow read from letters and documents in Errington's own handwriting which showed that the veiled envoy had been authorized by the Liberal Government to offer certain conditions to the Vatican for the appointment of a prelate acceptable to that Government to the Archbishopric of Dublin as successor to the late Cardinal McCabe. These promises, it was evident, Mr. O'Brien said, were never meant to be performed, and the whole thing was a miserable, unworthy intrigue.

As was properly and forcibly emphasized, the whole affair was an insult to the Papacy, and was a proof of what disreputable means the English Government will use in its attempts to defeat Irish interests and to what unfairness and humiliating pettiness it will stoop to conquer a people that it is unable to govern justly or wisely.

DECEIVED BY A PETITION.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has just been made the victim of a base deception by his own party friends, which will have for effect to destroy the usefulness of petitions that are got up in behalf of office seekers. An important judgeship was vacant, and it was the duty of the President to name the candidate to fill it. A large number of names were submitted as being capable and worthy to fill the position. One of the applicants was

more highly recommended than the rest, and his endorsement for the vacant judgeship was so unusually large and honorable that the President had no hesitation in making the appointment in preference to all others. What was not his amazement and his indignation when, a few days after, he received a letter from one of the most prominent signers of the petition that the country had read the announcement of the said appointment with astonishment and regret, if not pain; and that none were more astonished than those who had signed the petition. The President was coolly informed that not one upon the petition would have appointed the highly recommended applicant, had they the appointing power, for he was not qualified morally or professionally and was scarcely a lawyer at all, while the position required a good lawyer. The men of prominence, of weight and character who signed the petition for this unfit candidate did so simply because they hated to refuse, and hoped that it would result in nothing. Now they skulk from the responsibility of their own act in recommending the man, and attempt to put the responsibility of a bad appointment upon the President. The latter has naturally resented such unpardonable conduct in spirited and indignant terms. He has stigmatized the deception practiced upon him in a stinging and none too severe answer. The President tells the writer that his action and that of his fellow-signers of the petition is an unpardonable crime, and says that "to be betrayed by those who ought to be worthy of implicit trust is atrocious," and that "such treason to the people and the party ought to be punished by imprisonment." Grover Cleveland will henceforth have not much use or respect for influential and honorable petitions, which he has now ample reason to consider as nothing but "lying and treacherous representations."

FOREIGN PRISON GATES OPEN INTO CANADA.

Pauper immigration is bad, but the importation of criminals is worse. Canadian hospitality and Canadian acres may be very large and open to a good many classes of people, but neither one nor the other are wide enough to receive the refuse of European prison life. When it gets down to that, it is about time to put one's foot down too. The arrest of a couple of these immigrant thieves and dissolute women, who hire out as domestic servants, has thrown some light on the manner by which they arrive in Canada. They had no hesitation in giving the police a history of their past career. It appears there is a charitable institution in London, said to be much in favor of the good ladies of that city, and called by the touching name of "Prison Gate Mission Emigration Society." The particular mission of this particular society is apparently to stand at the prison gate and scoop in all the human wrecks for emigration to Canada. The two girls who were arrested for the crime of robbery say they had been sent out here by these charitable prison gate dames with a large number of other abandoned females who had undergone sentences for criminal offences on the other side. As soon as they land, they begin their old life, but fill new jails. We think that the Minister of Agriculture, who is supposed to look after immigration matters, might send his card with an expression of thanks to those Prison Gate Emigration Ladies and courteously inform them of the safe arrival of their latest addition to the Canadian population, but at the same time a polite request to keep their harlots and thieves at home for the future. We would also draw the attention of the minister to the protest of the police magistrate, Mr. Dugas, against this brazen introduction of foreign criminals into our midst. His Honor said that "the ladies in the Old Country might consider that they were doing a charitable thing to send women such as this over to Canada to add to the number of our own criminals, but to him the charity was not to the women or Canada, but to the old countries, which were thus relieved of their worst burdens. It was an outrage that criminals and abandoned women should be allowed to come here at all, and if they were to be sent out here something would have to be done to stop this form of charity."

THE RISE OF THE ENGLISH WORKING CLASSES.

THE important result of the Franchise and Redistribution measures, by which some two millions of votes have been added to the electorate of Great Britain, and which will come into practical operation in November next, will be a radical change in the composition of the House of Commons. The workingman is going to become a more prominent and especially a more numerous element on the floor of the House and in the councils of the nation. Out of the 650 members of Parliament there are at present only two recognized labor representatives, one being paid £500 and the other £250 a year by trades union organizations. As both have shown themselves competent to look after the interests of labor, the working classes have determined to strengthen their hands by adding largely to their number. Many of the constituencies will cease to select their representatives from the aristocracy and rich middle class. Servility to so-called social superiors is giving way to a due recognition of the dignity and merits of labor. The knights of labor have too long loved and served the men who possessed a handle to their names. In his funeral oration on General Grant at Westminster Abbey, Canon Farrar touched upon the relations which have existed between poorly paid labor and titled idleness. His remarks, hinting at the new order of things that is coming to the front in England, are pointed, and show that the social revolution is steadily developing and is commanding the attention and approbation of serious men. Canon Farrar said: "If the men who know

General Grant—obscure, silent, unprosperous, unambitious—had said, 'if any one had predicted that he would become President and one of the foremost men of the day, the prophecy would have seemed extravagantly ridiculous. But such careers are the glory of the American Continent; they show that the people have a sovereign insight into intrinsic force. If Rome told with pride that her Dictator came from the plough tail, America may record the answer of the President, who, when asked what would be his coat-of-arms, answered proudly, 'mindful of his early struggles, a pair of shirt-sleeves.' The answer showed a noble sense of the dignity of labor, a noble superiority to the vanities of feudalism, a strong conviction that men should be honored simply as men, not according to the accident of birth."

The increased political power bestowed on the working classes will help to effect this change and to level the barriers between the classes, while the agitation of questions affecting aristocratic interests and the frequent collisions between capital and labor will strongly tend to disrupt the cloud which has kept the lower in subjection to the upper classes. The great obstacle to difficulty in the way of British workmen being represented in Parliament by men from their ranks is the expense of living in London during the session and the absence of a salary for parliamentary services. How to raise funds for the payment of labor candidates is consequently the question which is now engaging the attention of the masses. The trades throughout the country are devising schemes to raise money and there is every prospect of the operatives being fairly equipped for the next election. The present trade depression it is true has crippled the financial resources of the workmen and their unions, but notwithstanding great zeal and activity are being shown to make the movement cover a wide area, and it may be safely assumed that in all the industrial centres adequate funds will be collected. Besides, the candidates, not directly connected with trade societies but prepared to support the labor platform, will be very numerous, for the voting power of the workmen is immense, and the movement for raising funds to enable men of their own class to sit in Parliament is significant of what they are bound to accomplish.

THE GAME OF "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" PLAYED OUT.

The eagerness with which rumors imputing to Michael Davitt dissatisfaction with Mr. Parnell and his Parliamentary programme are seized by the enemies of the Irish cause leads them into very strange and false positions. Thus we find the cable correspondent making statements about the discord that is alleged to exist between the two leaders, which are self-destructive, and which show the bad faith of the writer. In the same paragraph we are told, first, that branches of the League will "oppose in the general election Parnell's carpet-bag candidates and vote for the candidates of Davitt's party," and secondly, we are informed that Davitt, while addressing league meetings in Ireland yesterday, condemned the land purchase bill and "advised the Irish to wait for Mr. Parnell to take the initiative." That does not look like a mutinous assertion of his opinions on the part of Mr. Davitt. It is, on the contrary, a clear proof of his loyal submission to the guidance of a leader who has the confidence of the nation, and whose sagacity has been amply attested by success both in and out of the British House of Commons. This game of trying to paralyze the energies of the Irish National Party by fomenting discord and disunion upon it will not work. It is too old and weak a manoeuvre to defeat the inevitable granting of home rule. The day has come when the Irish party can take their seats in the House and watch in the capacity of unconcerned umpires, the English factions cut one another. The "divide and conquer" business has changed hands, and in the present crisis Ireland is enabled to play precisely the same game of dividing and conquering English parties—fostering their rivalries and profiting by their divisions—that England played amongst contending Irish factions for many a long and bitter age. A parliamentary correspondent, writing of this change of scene in the drama of Anglo-Irish politics, says it is celestial balm for all the contumely the Irish party endured for years at the hands of allied Whig and Tory Concorionists to see them now plunge their venomous weapons into one another, and to know that the apple of discord between them is recrimination as to which of them is ready to go furthest to conciliate Irish support. Only to think that, both those furious English factions, agreed in nothing now except homage to the power of the Irish Party, were but two years ago leaping at the throats of that party with the full conviction that they would some day be hanged in a row as assassins!

It is consequently a loss of time and a waste of energy for those English writers and press correspondents to manufacture sensational items of disunion and discord in the National ranks, which do not exist except in their fertile imaginations. There is but the one party in Ireland, and that is the one led by Mr. Parnell and upheld by the people. It is idle to try and make Michael Davitt appear in the ignominious role of a disturber and a factionist. No Irishman has, by his sacrifices, his labors and his character, a firmer hold upon the sympathy, respect and affection of his countrymen than has the founder of the Land League, and no Irishman would be more ready to suppress a revolt in the national ranks than Michael Davitt. As the *New York Sun* justly remarks: "to him, as to all other far-seeing promoters of the agitation for self-government, it is clear that the radical and lasting cure of the social inequalities and

hardships growing out of the old land system—like the redress of many other injustices and injuries resulting from Ireland's subjection to alien rulers—must be left to an Irish Parliament, chosen by the whole body of the people, and clothed with plenary powers of local legislation. Nor can it be less patent to Mr. Davitt that the extorting of concessions which would give Ireland the same measure of independence that is enjoyed by the State of New York, is incomparably the most difficult achievement ever attempted by the leader of a weak minority in the British House of Commons. The revival of the Irish Parliament of 1782, which Mr. Parnell has proclaimed the irreducible minimum of Nationalist demands, is not merely the fundamental condition of all trenchant and durable improvement in Ireland's situation. It is an innovation so repugnant to English feeling and opinion that only a compact and thoroughly concordant party, comprising at least three-fourths of the country's representatives in the Imperial legislature, has the faintest chance of bringing it about."

THE RIEL TRIAL AND VERDICT IMPUGNED.

To hang Riel would be the gravest political blunder that the Government could commit, for it is a question if the Confederation could stand the strain of his execution. The country was united in putting the rebellion down, but it is far from being unanimous in the desire to send the rebel leader to the gallows. It is not so much a question of satisfying or defeating the ends of justice which divides the people of the Dominion into two camps—the one favoring, the other opposing, the carrying out of the sentence of death. If it were, the country would be able to stand the consequences, whether Riel was hung or not. But such, unfortunately, is not the cause of the division. It is a question of race hatred on the one hand and of race sympathy on the other.

Those who cry out the loudest for the blood of Riel are those who are loudest in praise of the government and of the court for having proved Jackson to be insane, and not responsible for the part he played in the rebellion. Jackson was Riel's private secretary, but in the eyes of the majority of the people his English nationality is what secured for him official and judicial protection, and saved him from a death sentence. It is not possible to persuade anyone that if Jackson was a French half-breed there would have been so much anxiety and eagerness displayed by the very prosecution to accept and even help to prove the plea of insanity. It is not the Canadian national sentiment that is against Riel, it is the Orange, and what may happen to be bigoted in the Protestant, feeling of the country. It is not so much punishment for his share in the late revolt that is wanted by these classes as satisfaction and revenge for the killing of Scott, a brother Orangeman, in the rebellion of 1870.

On the other hand, we have a large section of the country in sympathy with Riel, not because he was a rebel, but because he was upholding the rights of a race that were flagrantly outraged. A point has been tried to be made against Riel because he had no personal grievances. The fact that he had none we consider to be in his favor, for it proves his disinterestedness and his self-sacrifice. The one great and important consideration which should not be lost sight of in that Riel did not enter or get up the rebellion of his own free will or through wanton malice, but that he was forced into it by the people, who had no hope for redress but through him.

Now, as to the merits of the trial, the opinion is fast spreading, and as more light is being let in, it is strengthening, that Riel's trial was nothing better than a one act farce. The defence was smothered, and the prisoner was at the mercy of the Court all through. The idea of a petty, unpracticed J. P. in the North-West wilds presiding over a trial of that nature will be something for history and posterity to admire and talk about. Another outrageous feature of the trial was the half jury, and packed at that, like those under Dublin Castle rule where the nationality and religion of the prisoner must not be reflected in the jury box. All the circumstances attending the trial go to prove that a verdict was to be obtained by hook or crook. One of the professional gentlemen engaged to defend Riel, and who has just returned from Regina, was interviewed by the reporter of an evening contemporary last evening, and he does not hesitate to denounce the trial as a fraud. Mr. Lemieux, the senior counsel for the prisoner, tells the people of Canada that Riel has been found guilty by unfair means. These are his own words:—

"I do not consider the trial fair one. I think it was a preconceived idea that Riel was to be found guilty. Several of the jury said they had made up their minds before they had heard the evidence, and I have positive proof that some of them even went so far as to lay wagers that Riel would be hung. The jury, as well as the judge, were prejudiced against the prisoner."

In face of this charge it would not only be a blunder, but it would be a crime to hang Riel. The death penalty inflicted on the half-breed chief while the administration of justice is under such a cloud would stir the country to its depths and awaken a spirit of anger that would be difficult to appease.

If the jury or the Judge were prejudiced against the prisoner, then the country wants to know it, or to have the charge fully and honestly disproved, before Riel's execution takes place. What is the world going to think, and say of Canadian justice when it learns that men are put on a jury who are prepared before the evidence is heard to find a verdict of guilty,

and who actually lay wagers that the prisoner will be hung? This is a blot on Canada's name which must be wiped out swiftly and thoroughly. There is more than the life of an individual at stake now; there is the honor of the Dominion and its reputation for justice in question! It will not do to sacrifice these for the pleasure it will give certain factions to see Riel hanged at all hazard and at all cost.

THE FRENCH VISITORS.

The Rev. Curé Labelle, the indefatigable apostle of colonization, is about to return from France with a number of distinguished citizens of the French Republic. Among the names of the visitors are some of the most prominent and influential men of the political, scientific and commercial world. The object of their visit is to study Canada, become acquainted with its people, and examine into its resources and decide for themselves whether the Dominion offers a fair field for financial and industrial enterprise and immigration. Coming for such a purpose it is only right that these gentlemen should be made the honored guests of the Canadian people, and that every courtesy should be extended to them. We are pleased to see that our City Fathers have with credit and untaken the first step in this direction. At their meeting yesterday a special committee was appointed to make arrangements for the reception and the entertainment of the visitors. Ald. Grenier has seldom made more happy remarks in making his motion for the appointment of the committee. He alluded to the fact that last year the City Council had contributed generously and willingly to the entertainment of the members of the Science Association. On the present occasion the Council would be asked to extend its patronage from the sciences to the commercial interests and material welfare of the country. Ald. Grenier trusted that the proposal would meet with the hearty approval of all the members. He paid a neat compliment to the reverend and zealous promoter of this visit of eminent statesmen, economists, financiers and manufacturers from France to our shores, in the interests of our national progress and development. The worthy alderman said:—"We have made much demonstration for General Middleton and his brave soldiers on their return from the North. West from the defence of their country, but I maintain that in the person of the Rev. Curé Labelle we have a Canadian general equally as great in his own way. The curé has been a great general in his own sphere of colonization, and we all know that we are indebted to him in a great measure for the fact that the North Shore Railway is now complete, and I am satisfied that we are all aware of what the country owes to Curé Labelle and how he deserves our recognition."

The Council, with unanimity, instructed the special committee to expend whatever was necessary for the proper reception of the visitors, and to make their sojourn in the metropolis as pleasant and as useful as possible. The more they will see of the country the better. What Canada wants is to have its climatic advantages, its mineral and agricultural resources, its political institutions, its educational establishments, in fact every prominent feature of our Canadian civilization, more fully advertised in the future than they have been in the past, by authorities whom the people of Europe can look upon as impartial, competent and reliable, and not given to the devices and deceptions of paid immigration sharks. If we can manage to impress our visitors favorably in this respect, it will undoubtedly give an impetus to healthy immigration to Canada, and will advance the cause of Canadian colonization and agriculture.

A GEM FROM THE DAILY WITNESS.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Daily Witness*, actually wants to know if "Mr. Parnell is really going to give the subscribers to his funds a statement of what he is trying to gain for Ireland." One must be very stupid or censure ignorant to put such a question. The idea of a public journal, that undertakes to instruct the masses, asking at this hour of the day, if Mr. Parnell is really going to give a statement of what he is trying to gain for Ireland, is too ridiculous for anything. The pious daily must be getting more hebdomadous every day. It even avows its powerlessness "to imagine" that the Irish leader will make any such statement. We would be lawfully sorry for its want of imagination in this matter, if in other things it did not let its imagination take very crooked flights. But what kills the "only religious daily" altogether is the fact that neither the subscribers nor the promoters of subscriptions "want any such statement." Isn't that a pity? Truly, the subscribers and promoters must be ungrateful people not to please the *Daily Witness* by assisting it to compel Mr. Parnell to make that much desired statement. The pious daily gives a peculiar reason for this apathy on their part. It says that the statement "would take from their oratory all its cloud-glorified vagueness, and from their vistas all the glamor of infinity." If the agricultural editor had produced that sentiment we would have no hesitation in calling it a "daisy." Just imagine what "cloud-ported vagueness" is and you will have an idea of the loss the oratory of the subscribers and promoters would have to suffer if Mr. Parnell made the statement the *Witness* wants. "Cloud-glorified vagueness" seeking an exit from oratory is quite an aesthetic combination of words, and beats Oscar Wilde's best compliments from his upper lip. But what homage can we pay to the other and better half of the literary gem, viz., "And from their vistas all the glamor of