

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY JULY 28, 1886

La Minerve makes a bitter complaint against Messrs. A. E. Poirier, K. E. Tremblay, Major Chagnon and E. Tremblay for daring to pronounce against the Federal Ministers and to fight against the Conservatives.

The Pall Mall Gazette, of London, publishes a few quotations from the Bible, contributed by a correspondent, and which are very happily made to apply to two of the worst foes of Gladstone in the Home Rule contest.

DURING a debate in the American House of Representatives at Washington, on an appropriation for experiments in gunnery, the Hon. Samuel J. Randall, leader of the Democratic majority, made a declaration which is of some interest to Canadians.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the Record, of Quebec, makes the following correction of a statement that was recently made in our Ottawa correspondence.

NOMINATION AT CHAMBLEY. The nominations for the County of Chambley took place at Longueuil on Friday, and proved a most exciting event.

Mr. Jodoin, a strong supporter of the present government. The meeting, which was a great success from a Nationalist point of view, was remarkably indicative that the feeling of the electors against the action of the Orange Tory ministry in the hanging of the Metis chief had by no means died out.

THE POLES SWELL THE CHORUS.

There is scarcely a civilized nation or people on the face of the earth that has not sent up to Heaven their vows and prayers for the liberation of Ireland.

The Michigan Catholic, commenting on a Polish demonstration in favor of Home Rule for Ireland, very properly remarks that "It was a kind and brotherly act of the Poles assembled in convention at Bay City last week to thank Gladstone in the name of the Poles of America for his efforts in behalf of Ireland."

A CANDIDATE'S CHARGES.

MR. CHAGNON, of Longueuil, has come out as a candidate in the Chambley election on the prudent ticket. He created quite a little breeze by his speech on Sunday last.

Mr. Chagnon declared his opposition to young girls being employed in the government buildings at Ottawa. He denounced the system used in engaging them, a system which, for the ministers, consisted less of assuring themselves of the aptitude and intellectual capacities of the girls than of their physical qualities and beauty.

Coming from a man who aspires to be a member of Parliament, these charges of misconduct, more or less veiled, against Ministers of the Crown, are too serious to be ignored or laughed out of Court.

THE RESULTS OF THE CONTEST.

Although the electoral battle in Great Britain has resulted in a defeat for Mr. Gladstone, it has not given any substantial victory to the opponents of Home Rule, because the ballot box has produced no party strong enough to form a government that can face Parliament and force its policy upon the House and the country.

The elections have, moreover, removed many illusions on both sides. Before the dissolution of the last Parliament the party prophets were sure either that Gladstone's prestige and the magic of his name would sweep the country and place him at the head of a triumphant and solid phalanx of Home Rulers, or that the cry raised by the Tories, "The Empire is in danger," would arouse the fanaticism of the British masses to such a pitch that all partizan ties and considerations would be cast aside, and the Tories victoriously returned to save the union and protect the integrity of the empire.

The prophets on both sides have been disappointed—there has been no success for Gladstone and there has been no crushing victory for Salisbury. The masses, or the working classes as a whole, have voted for Home Rule. Abstentions, instead of active opposition, was what stranded the Liberal party.

AT IT AGAIN.

In its issue of Wednesday the Montreal Daily Witness, referring to the Papal decoration accorded by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII,

to the Hon. Mr. Oulmet, General Superintendent of Education in this Province, produced the following editorial gem, which for balance and continuity has seldom been surpassed in its Rome-hating columns.

"A Commissioner of Education who has received a decoration from the Pope is a subject for suspicion in a country where progress is desired. It is to be hoped that Mr. Oulmet has not earned, and will not try to merit, this doubtful honor."

We could understand such language and sentiments coming from the lower depths of an Orange Lodge, but from a paper that pretends to honesty and liberality and intelligence, it is almost inexplicable.

Why, it is not so long ago since the Daily Witness published sensible articles on the policy of Leo XIII. and which it lauded to the skies, and now it lets some nincompoop make such an unwarrantable and insulting statement that "a Commissioner of Education who is decorated by Pope Leo XIII. is a subject for suspicion in a country where progress is desired."

Truly, "the only religious daily" is incorrigible. We have often thought that our labor to keep it in the path of fair play, truth and justice, when it deals with Catholic or Irish questions, was labor lost.

And what a *delicia* will go forth when we bring in our contemporary right side up! There will be deep and universal joy in the camp, and we will be none the less thankful when the job will be accomplished.

THE BOSTON PILOT AND THE FISHERMEN'S GRIEVANCE.

The American fishermen have, it appears, a new and, this time, a genuine grievance against the Canadian authorities. It is our esteemed contemporary, the Boston Pilot, that gives vent to it.

"Canadian ingenuity has discovered a new and valiant method of annoying our fishermen; it is the refusal of letters sent to them addressed at local post-offices. Nothing but wanton malice could make any civilized being prevent a poor sailor from getting the dearly prized and all too rare letter from his loved ones at home.

If the Canadian Postmaster-General and his officials are playing any such mean, dirty game, they ought to be sharply called to order. If we cannot fight our fishery battles without stooping to such contemptible and discreditable tactics as blockading the family correspondence of the American sailors, then Canada had better get rid of its seaboard and crawl up into the North-West altogether.

We can assure the Boston Pilot that the Canadian people are no party to this brutal interference with human and social rights, and that it has neither their sanction nor approval. Our American contemporary must not judge Canada by its present rulers.

CABINET AND CIVIL SERVICE IMMORALITY.

YESTERDAY we called attention to the very serious charges of immorality made by Mr. Chagnon, a Conservative candidate for Parliament, against the Cabinet Ministers and the female employes in the Parliament buildings at Ottawa.

Our contemporary vouches for the fact that "more than nine-tenths of the female employes of the civil service in this city are women and young ladies of pure, exemplary and moral lives, whose characters are beyond suspicion.

This is plain talking and carries all the more weight considering that it comes from an Opposition paper. Mr. Chagnon could not receive a contradiction more flat or direct, and unless he can bring substantial proof to support his charges, he will either have to particularize or withdraw them, for as they now stand the virtue of all the female employes is placed under suspicion.

But if the Free Press finds that it can safely and gallantly lift a degrading hand to protect the honor and the good name of the government female employes, it cannot see its way clear towards defending the names

and honor of the Cabinet Ministers from the terrible charges made by Mr. Chagnon. It, on the contrary, deems itself obliged to corroborate and emphasize them. Our contemporary makes no bones about the matter. It says:—"If there must be plain talking in this matter it may be as well to blurt it out now. It is not the morals of the female employes which are at fault, but the morals of the cabinet ministers. Mr. Chagnon admits that the danger to the women comes from the cabinet ministers, and he says the girls should be removed from the service. The reason is insufficient."

TURN THE RASCALS OUT.

The election contest in Chambley between Mr. Jodoin, who is both a Government employe and the Conservative candidate, and Mr. Prefontaine, who is the standard bearer of the National Liberal Party, is giving rise to some queer and remarkable developments.

"All men are not so immoral as Mr. Chagnon intimates the Tory cabinet ministers whom he wants to support in Parliament are; and the best thing to do as a remedy is to substitute moral men in their places."

"Because one or two women are accused of indiscretions with cabinet ministers, Mr. Chagnon wants the employment of female civil servants discontinued and abolished, but that of the immoral Cabinet Ministers continued. He might as well demand the abolition of matrimony because there are occasionally unfaithful husbands and wives."

"If there are one or two women whose relations with Cabinet ministers are as described by this Tory candidate for Parliament, let both the erring women and the licentious Cabinet ministers be dismissed from public service. There should be no code of morals demanded from women which is not equally obligatory upon men."

It is difficult to realize that our rulers are thus piling moral crimes of a heinous character upon their official misdeeds equally heinous in a political sense. But if we presume that the Free Press is standing on solid ground and knows what it is talking about when it enters an emphatic and indignant denial of the wholesale charges of immorality against the female employes, is our contemporary to be pooh-poohed and disbelieved when it undertakes the more distasteful and grave task of bringing home terrible crimes to men in high and responsible positions? Where is this going to end?

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

Our system of education is much in need of a thorough overhauling to put it in harmony with the increased demand for practical training. The efforts made by some of the educators to raise the standard of our schools in this line are hailed with genuine pleasure with those awake to the wants of the age.

We cannot repress a smile when, scanning the Bill of Supplies, we see the round, fat nugget handed over to the state officials known as the staff of our Normal schools, and compare them with the insignificant salaries paid to the teachers by the various bodies of school trustees.

The difference in remuneration cannot certainly be founded on the better grade of work done by a body of teachers in preference to that of an individual. Our State Normal schools are below the standard of work expected from such experienced institutions, for as Bishop Lafleche, in his pamphlet on the Normal schools, proves, the price paid for the training of our "Normalians" is simply exorbitant.

Too much money is lavished on classical colleges, normal schools, and blue books or reports, which give results that are as sterile as they are costly. To see the results of our actual school system, you have only to cast a glance on the catalogue of the present London exhibit. Theory abounds in as far as speech reports, school photographs and government blue books may go, but intelligent class-work, illustration of methods, systematic co-ordination of grades, are sought for in vain among the products of the one hundred and sixty odd schools where work now lies hidden in one of the corners of the Canadian pavillion.

The Government should give this question of practical school work its careful attention. Let it debar none, through narrow-mindedness or jealousy, from pushing forward in this vast field; whether it be cleric or layman, religious or secular, that puts his shoulder to the wheel, his efforts should be encouraged, means furnished to enable him to achieve success, and on this large platform no energy will be wasted in overcoming obstacles.

Large cities across the frontiers boast of their institutions wherein theory and practice go hand in hand. Young men after their daily task may devote therein some hours to perfect their knowledge in those studies most

useful in their calling, and this without any extra charges. Why have not Montreal, Quebec, and other centres of population, at least one of a kindred stamp? We cannot claim in this group any of our actual schools; so, not even that palatial residence that costs the poor tax-payer the bagatelle of a few ten thousands yearly.

A move in this direction will be duly appreciated by all thinking citizens who place the question of practical training foremost amongst those that interest the future of the country.

TURNING SAVAGES INTO ORANGEMEN.

The statesmanlike, humanitarian, philanthropic, Indian policy of Sir John Macdonald, whereby he proposes to transform the uncultured savage into a sound Orangeman and good Tory voter, has never been sufficiently admired. Some day, however, it will earn his memory with blessings.

It is a good thing to get the order organized in the territories so that the missionary efforts of the unpronounceable Dr. Orontigatka may result in saving the Indians all properly enrolled in the glorious phalanx of protestants against "Popery, brass money and wooden shoes."

When the national orators addressed the meeting their remarks were interrupted only by loud and frantic applause; but when the champions of *la corde* offended the national sentiment their voices were drowned in a mighty wave of popular indignation.

The current of public opinion could not be resisted, and the Tory managers have had in consequence to take in their sail and refrain from facing the hurricane that threatened to sweep them clean out of the county. They have accordingly and wisely decided to limit the area of their battlegrounds and not seek to meet too many of the electors at the time.

Today the city gives itself up to public rejoicing and festivity on the occasion of Cardinal Taschereau's visit to the metropolis to invest Archbishop Fabre with the pallium, the insignia of his exalted office. The day will be a memorable one in the annals of the Catholic Church in this Province, and it is meet that the clergy and laity of the archdiocese should mark the event by grand popular and religious demonstrations.

When it became a part of the Catholic archiepiscopal vestments it had, until recently, been a matter of conjecture. The finding of certain paintings in the subterranean Church of St. Clement, which is one of the most ancient and unaltered of the christian edifices of Rome, settled beyond any doubt that the pallium is equal in rank with any other garment worn by an archbishop so far as antiquity goes.

There is something utterly revolting and repugnant in this attempt of a Minister of the Crown, especially a French Canadian, to appeal to the prejudices and bigotry of a certain class of the population against his own people. How low must Mr. Chapleau have fallen when he seeks to turn race against race. It shows to what extremes men will go to retain the reins of power.

Fearing that this diabolical appeal to race prejudices would not have the desired effect, the Secretary of State supplemented it by an open and unblushing bribe to the electors. If he could not set race against race and thus secure the election of his candidate, the Minister could, at least, debauch the constituency and buy electoral support by promises of public improvements and by expenditure of public moneys.

"I know that your late member, Mr. Benoit, presented a petition some time ago from the municipality of this locality calling the attention of the Government to improvements which are absolutely needed and which the county had the right to ask from the Government. Due consideration had been promised by the Government, but the best evidence of all will be to lay before the Privy Council the experience of a minister who has seen the place with his own eyes. I was asked candidly this evening by one of your friends if the Government would really promise to do what the people here want. Life is too short to tell lies, and I answered him as candidly that I could not promise anything for the Government, but I will promise that I will remember what I have seen, that I will remember the wants of this county, and I shall urge them upon the Cabinet."

And Mr. Jodoin, the Tory candidate, added, that "if elected, I promise to take care that St. Lambert and other parts of the county along the river shore should receive a fair share from the Government in the matter of public improvements."

What plainer proof do the people of Canada want that Sir John Macdonald and his servile and corrupt followers intend to maintain themselves in power at the expense of the nation? The ministry and their candidate make the offers of purchase and they expect the electors to accept the terms and vote accordingly. Truly this is a shameful state of affairs, and one that can bode no good to the country. The electors should not shirk its duty, but should resolve at once to accomplish it. That duty is to turn the rascals out.

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When the person to be invested is not at Rome the pallium is sent by a trusty messenger, always an ecclesiastic, who for the time being is commissioned the Pope's Messenger and who is bound to be received as such wherever he may tarry; to receive all kinds of spiritual aid and comfort, and no one, under severe censure, is to hinder or delay him in his journey. He delivers the packet containing the pallium to the person designated by the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda to receive it, and to so on one else.