

The Toronto World.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 29, 1882.

"TOLD YOU SO."

The fiend in human shape who comforts an acquaintance who has fallen into trouble with the consoling remark "I told you so," is not generally a popular character; but is rather looked upon as a nuisance, or, at the best, as a person to be avoided.

In January last, when a portentous array of railway bills had been docketed to come before the local house, The World alone among all its contemporaries unearthed the fact that the people of Ontario had already given between twelve and fifteen million dollars to local roads, most of which had passed into the hands of the great companies.

The World has maintained that it was for the country's interest to keep the Great Western an independent road, and to extend its usefulness by giving it an eastern connection with Canadian seaports.

A gentleman who is known to be friendly to the Grand Trunk said yesterday he hoped the authorities of that road would use with judgment and consideration the vast additional power now in their hands along with the control of the Great Western.

By the country press, generally, The World was well sustained in the ground it took on the railway question; but the daily press was mostly hostile or apathetic.

Some of our contemporaries, perhaps, felt too proud to follow the lead which The World had struck out, though they could scarcely miss seeing that it was the right one for the country's interest.

The danger of placing too much dependence upon the testimony of so-called "experts" in handwriting is just now engaging the attention of the public and the press in New York.

A man recently convicted on such testimony and severely sentenced, is now very generally believed to be innocent, and redress of the great wrong done to him is called for.

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and evidently disguised, the basis of resemblance is not very plain. O'Brien is requested by the prosecution to criminate himself by making printed characters for the benefit of the jury, to establish his guilt, and he was sentenced to a fine of \$200 and a term of one year in the penitentiary.

The best part of the story yet remains. Since O'Brien was snugly locked up in prison, where circumstances beyond his control prevented him from writing letters, or at all events from getting them sent off without the knowledge of the prison authorities, the objectionable letters will continue coming to Judge Dailey's residence.

This fact appears to be conclusive in O'Brien's favor; and it is certainly very damaging to the "experts" upon whose testimony he was convicted. He is likely soon to be liberated, and may possibly bring an action for damages against some of the "experts" who have been misled.

There is indeed something more than a mere coincidence in the fact that the Grand Trunk and the Great Western are both now in the hands of the same management, and that the latter is now being extended to the eastward.

It is commonly heard, "If we separate from Britain, we should be in danger of being attacked by the States." If so, what is the use of inviting attack, perhaps the continuation of connection with Britain may, if not a very courageous, if not a very profitable, at least be a very prudent course.

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west through the whole American press. The riches of the soil, the millions of extending acre, the great population it is about to support, will all be expatiated upon from San Francisco to New Orleans.

There is no denying that, up to the present, the States, confident in their expanding strength, have viewed Canada's "flowing acres of snow" with the easy complacency of the peasant who observes a squirrel playing on the cage behind his back.

Now, I would like to place actual fact against supposition. The States have twice fought Britain. But they have never once conquered her, far less attacked her.

There are strong reasons, then, why America would be inclined to attempt by force to check the development of a great British nation—a part of Britain—on her border. But on the other hand, there is no reason why she should attack independent Canada.

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will prevent war. This has been said before every war we can remember, and they never prevented it. Then, the peaceful, quiet, fair-minded, respectable part of the American nation will not allow such a thing. The fact is, it gets at once out of their hands.

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