

## "THE TRUE WITNESS"

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1885

The cable announces that the English Parliament will be dissolved on the 15th of next month.

A resolution of the Local Board of Health in proposing to close the churches was, as it deserved to be, roundly denounced from all the Catholic pulpits yesterday.

The smallpox did not claim as many victims last week as it did in the previous weeks. In fact the decrease in the death rate from the epidemic was marked, and would seem to indicate a turn in the tide. According to the statistics the exact decrease is placed at seventy one, forty for the city and thirty-one for the outlying municipalities.

BATTLES are by no means a unit on the question of Imperial Federation. Sir Charles Dike, in a speech last evening, said that the Liberal party were opposed to it on grounds of impracticability. While the Liberals were in favor of unity between the colonies and England, they did not agree with the principle of federation, which, as Sir Charles intimated, would be altogether unworkable.

A DISPATCH from St. John's, Newfoundland, brings the sad intelligence of a great calamity and distress which have fallen on the unfortunate inhabitants of Labrador. A fearful storm swept along the coast on the 10th inst., wrecking some light vessels and destroying the lives of seventy persons. Two thousand persons are said to be in a very destitute condition.

The committee which stated that the commission will be appointed within the next few days to report on the mental condition of Mr. E. J. Ryan, the prisoner's counsel, was before the Cabinet council yesterday and submitted a very non-committal petition urging the appointment of a commission. The Government gave no sign of the course they intended to pursue on the question, but the fact of its asking for further affidavits and medical evidence is significant.

THE IRISH LANDLORDS are becoming more tractable and are beginning to appreciate the wisdom of the old saying, that "half a loaf is better than none." After considering the gloomy aspects of the situation, they came to the conclusion that a remission of 20 per cent on all over the rents should be granted. The landlords have come to realize that, when the prices of cereals and other farm products are thirty and forty per cent lower than usual, the value of land should be brought down to their level.

THE ELECTION of Mr. Charles A. Everett for the constituency in St. John city is a remarkable victory for the Conservative party. The constituency was a Liberal stronghold, the late Hon. Isaac Burpee having carried it at the last general elections by a majority of 534 over his opponent, who is to-day the successful candidate. Mr. Everett's majority over Mr. A. Lead, the Liberal standard-bearer, is placed at 364, the total vote on each side being 2,964 to 2,600. This result shows a gain of almost 900 votes for the Conservatives, which is a rather striking change in the popular feeling.

A Winnipeg paper of bad repute published a letter alleged to have been written by Sir John Macdonald, and in which the Premier was made to utter some very bitter and silly things on the Irish and French Canadian questions. The letter has gone the rounds of the press, and has found its way into the European papers. No authoritative contradiction of the "quand" was ever made, or if there was a contradiction very little publicity was given to it. The Gazette of this morning publishes the following news of the disgraceful incident:

The following telegram from the *Thirteenth* correspondent of the *London Times* appeared in that journal on the 6th inst.:

rebellion if it is the English-speaking people of the Dominion must meet them in arms. If there must be a war of races no time could be better than the present."

It is scarcely necessary to say that there is not a word of truth in the statement that Sir John Macdonald wrote such a letter. It was manufactured by an unscrupulous newspaper, and the wonder is that any paper of standing should have been gulled into its publication. Its Englishmen reading it innocently and assuming it to be genuine, must entertain an extraordinary and by no means complimentary opinion of the relationship between the two races in Canada, an opinion wholly unwarranted by the facts.

## THE MASS MEETING.

The mass meeting, held in Northmeier's Hall last evening, under the auspices of the Irish National League, gave the movement for a Parliamentary Fund a decided impetus. The meeting itself was a success in every respect. The gathering displayed unusual spirit and enthusiasm; the speeches in support of the resolutions were eloquent and inspiring, and the voluntary contributions at the close of the proceedings came in with a rush and a degree of generosity which were surprising and which have seldom been witnessed in this city. This is all the more remarkable from the fact that times in Montreal are far from being flourishing and prosperous, and that so many calls of charity are steadily made on the pockets of pretty much the same people. Another happy feature of the meeting was the presence of representatives of the clergy on the platform, and their earnest appeals to all Irish Canadians to support the National League and its leader, Charles Stuart Parnell. The reverend speakers closed their addresses with handsome contributions to the fund. In fact every encouragement was given to the good work, and it now remains with the thousands of Irish citizens, who were not present, to come forward and supplement the noble and generous action of last night's gathering.

## NOT TO BE CLOSED.

The Central Board of Health dealt with the monstrous proposition in society suggested by one of the Civic Board in the only way it could. The resolution was, upon its face, a outrageous one that the wonder is that the Board should have received it at all. We have already referred to the consequences of carrying out, if it could have been carried out—the suggestion embodied in the resolution. It was one that would have had to be pushed to its logical conclusion, because it stood it either went much too far or not far enough. It involved a homeopathic dose of misery and civic confusion which would have necessarily been followed by a pallor. For it is obvious that the mere closing the doors of churches, schools and theatres, while stores, factories, &c., were open and general traffic in full force, would have been worse than useless, so far as the intended purpose was concerned, while the demoralizing effect would not have been much less than the more complete measure of shutting up everything in general and hanging crapes on the city gates. The proposition was illogical and mischievous and has of course not been without the effect of increasing in outside and foreign eyes the idea that prevails of the horrible sanitary state of Montreal. The American papers have duly noted the incident and not failed to base sinister speculations and arguments upon it. It is to be regretted that the Central Board of Health did not, in addition to rejecting the motion, make some remarks in condemnation of the act of the body below in passing it. But, of course, it has no alternative but to act as it did. The action which the Central Board of Health constituted gives no such powers as were implied by the resolutions.

## THE MARQUIS ROTTEN EGGED.

The free and intelligent electors of England are inclined to be very energetic and vigorous in their demonstrations of disapproval of parliamentary candidates whose political views do not happen to coincide with their own. It is only the other day that Joe Chamberlain and his residence escaped annihilation at the hands of an indignant mob by the timely interference of the police.

On Saturday it was the turn of the Queen's son-in-law to be maltreated and disgraced by the free and intelligent electors of his constituency in Hampshire. The Marquis of Lorne received no protection from his title or position, and was made the target of rotten eggs as if he were nothing better than an odious political hummer. The electors jumped to the platform and smashed his head down over his eyes. Frightened out of his wits, the noble lord ran for dear life through the streets in a drenching rain to the railway station, and started by express for London. We would have expected more from an ex-Governor-General of Canada. The Marquis should have stood his ground like a man and showed that, if reason and argument had no attraction for the free and intelligent electors, he could oppose pluck and courage to their violence and rotten eggs, and shame them into a more considerate and humane frame of mind and course of action.

If this little scene had occurred in Limerick or any other Irish constituency we would never hear the end of the brutality, the ignorance, cowardice, etc., etc., of the Irish. The magistrates of the town would place the district under martial law, Dublin Castle would dispatch buckshot and dragoons to the scene, and a Cabinet Council would be called to discuss the pressing necessity of renewing the Coercion Act. But the thing happened in England, you know, and what is a black crime in Ireland is only a mere peccadillo, a common every day affair across the channel.

## AN UNFORTUNATE APPOINTMENT.

Secretary Bayard, of the United States Government, has not been very happy in his

selection of men to fill diplomatic positions in foreign countries. When Mr. Keiley was named as Minister to Italy, the Italian Government objected to him on account of a speech delivered in 1870, in which the new Minister had denounced the taking of Rome and the Papal territory by Victor Emmanuel as a shameful robbery. The American Government admitted the validity of the Italian complaint against Mr. Keiley and his name was withdrawn. A rank infidel and declared enemy of the Papacy in the person of one Stallo was then chosen to represent the Republic at the Italian court. But if Mr. Keiley was considered unfit to represent his country because he had, fifteen years ago, expressed an opinion adverse to the political claims of the Italian king, what are we to think of the appointment of the Rev. Dr. J. L. M. Curry, of Richmond, Va., a Baptist minister, to fill the position of ambassador at the Court of Spain? If we are to judge this Dr. Curry by his public pronouncements, he is without exception the most rabid and bigoted Catholic hater in America. He had been sent to convert Rome to Baptism and failed, and on his return home he informed a Baptist conference that the Catholic religion was "worse than cannibalism." The following is one of the "mild" passages of his speech:

"Talk of infidelity! There is something worse, more difficult to overcome (that is Roman Catholicism), than even cannibalism. The difficulty in Italy of converting Roman Catholics to Christianity, and disincorporating the Catholic Church there, is even greater than were those in the South Sea Islands or in China. Romanism has been incorporated into the very life of the people of Europe, and has been a corroding cancer, eating the public conscience and emasculating everything like spiritual life. Romanism in this country, as modified by our free institutions, or retaining itself from policy, can form no conception of what evil its blighting influences are in Europe. The same power that converted heathen England and heathen America to Christianity can convert pagan Asia and Africa; but pagan Rome it never will or can convert."

And it is a man holding such abominable opinions and feelings against the Catholic Church that is selected by Secretary Bayard and appointed by President Cleveland to represent the republic at the court of a Catholic nation. It is scarcely credible that the character of the man was known to the President, as he surely would never have honored such a rancorous bigot, and especially he would not have insulted a Catholic power by asking it to receive such a foul hater of its religion.

## WANTING THE METROPOLIS TO CLOSE UP.

Montreal is asked to hang up the sign "Closed for repairs." Did anyone ever hear of such an outrageous proposal as to turn the whole blessed town into a living tomb?

What has come over the enterprising members of the Health Committee, that they should seek to control the freedom of action of over three hundred thousand people? Are they idiots, or do they take the people for fools? We utterly fail to understand how any body of sensible men could have been induced to give their countenance for one moment to the project of self-extinction, as it is set forth and developed in the following resolution:

"That to ensure the best results for the rescue now being employed for the restoration of the city's health, it is the opinion of this Board that all places of amusement on the Island of Montreal, including theatres, roller skating rinks, etc., and all places of public worship, such as churches, Sunday schools and places for prayer meetings, should be closed temporarily for a period of one month, and congregations of people in public squares prohibited, and that the Central Board of Health be requested to frame regulations at its meeting to day to carry out this view."

But why stop at Sunday schools and churches? Are not the public markets, the grocery stores, the dry goods shops, the factories, the railway depots, more dangerous centres from which to spread the infection?

If Sunday schools are to be closed, why should not the day schools be brought within the excommunicated territory? Children that attend Sunday school are a great deal cleaner and wear fresher clothes than during the rest of the week.

If it is a source of danger for people to meet and pray in church for an hour or less, it ought to be at least equally dangerous for several hundred heads to pass ten and twelve hours in the circumscribed atmosphere of a tobacco factory or a cotton mill.

And are our health document signers ready to propose the shutting down of our industrial and labor giving centres? Are they ready to tell the community that people cannot congregate in the railway depots to travel where they please, or in the markets to buy the necessities of life?

The project is too ridiculous to be seriously thought of. It is not only damned by its inconsistency, but it is rendered vain by its unworkable character. Keep at sensible work, and eschew all foolish proposals as well as vain endeavors. Make vaccination universal and isolate the patients, but please don't try to put the whole island of Montreal into a cage.

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

It is perfectly clear that, in its criticism of the sanitary position of the city, the *Herald* has no desire to be honest or correct. Nothing comes amiss to it for misrepresentation. This morning we see it has caught at a translated remark of Bishop Fabre and inserted it to suit its purpose. It says:

"Bishop Fabre, in the course of his remarks in Notre Dame Cathedral, on Thursday, said: 'I once saw a difference from coming to church at those who move in the city to those who move in the country.'"

It is, perhaps, not necessary to point out to the *Herald* that Notre Dame is not a "cathedral," but the slip is interesting as a link in the chain of error the *Herald* delights to forge. It is clear that matter relating to the Church, Faith and Morals are matters beyond the depth of our mischievous and

malevolent contemporary. And, if it was not that its comment on the above paragraph bears a tone and character tending to seriously mislead ordinary readers, its remarks might be permitted to pass without notice. It, however, implies that Bishop Fabre has been guilty of an equivocation in the matter at issue, and that he has left the door open for all who wish to frequent the churches as usual. The *Herald* must be aware that Bishop Fabre has done nothing of the kind. Apart from the circumstance that the word "dispense" has a meaning which is understood by the members of the church, and which alone would have been apparently prohibitory, His Lordship, as a matter of fact, used, in the French language which he spoke, expressions implying "absolute prohibition" from attendance at church. These are the original words the Bishop used:

"Il faut absolument que les personnes qui ont de la plecte dans leur maison s'abstiennent de venir à l'église; Sa Grandeur le leur répète."

And be it remembered that in uttering this strict prohibition His Lordship only repeated what he and his clergy had enjoined on the faithful weeks and months ago. The *Herald* was aware of this, but it suited the blue-nose, anti-French organ to ignore the truth, so as to make room for more of its silly insinuations.

## THE POPULATION DECREASING.

The Registrar General for Ireland has just issued the detailed report of births, deaths and marriages for the year 1884. It shows that the marriages registered in Ireland during the past year number 22,585, the births 118,875, and the deaths 57,154. The report adds, that "both absolutely and in proportion to the estimated population, the births and deaths are under the average for the preceding ten years; the marriages show a slight increase, but the number is below the average." It is significant, as demonstrating the absurdity of the charge brought against Irishmen, that they rush into matrimony while very young, regardless of their own future and the lot of wives and families, that the "percentage of persons married in Ireland under age is very far below the corresponding rates in England and Scotland. The highest proportion of husbands (2.94 per cent.) married under age was in the province of Ulster, where also there was the highest proportion of wives not of full age. In all, of 22,585 men married during the year, only 548 were under 21. The birth rate in proportion to the population was 24 per thousand, rather more than a third less than the rate in England, and considerably under the excessively low average for Ireland during the previous ten years.

The explanation of this fact, which cannot be regarded without uneasiness, is that the proportion of married women to the population in Ireland is far less than in England; in fact, the Irish are now so situated that they cannot afford to marry until comparatively late in life, or not at all. Of the 118,875 children born, 61,152 were boys and 57,723 girls—being nearly 105 of the former to 100 of the latter. The Registrar General pitifully remarks that—"It is unnecessary to say that these results compare very unfavorably with the returns for most other countries. It is noteworthy that the proportion of illegitimate children in Ulster is more than 4 per cent. of the total number born, or nearly double what it is in Leinster and Munster, and more than five times the proportion for Connaught." The recorded natural increase of population, or excess of births over deaths, was 31,731, the loss by emigration amounting to 75,983; there would thus appear to have been a decrease of 44,142 in the population during the year, but against a portion of this decrease there is a set-off in immigration, of which no official record has been kept. The estimated population in the middle of the year was 4,962,563.

## THE SCOTTISH LAND LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

LITTLE has been heard, so far, of the Scottish Land League of America, but the noble and useful work it has set itself to accomplish will bring it into prominence and give it an honorable place among the philanthropic institutions in this free and generous land. The Scottish League has its headquarters at Chicago, and like the Irish Land League has for object the amelioration of the tenant's condition, and the overthrow of the power, abuses and tyranny of landlordism. In the month of August last the Scotch League sent the Rev. Duncan Macgregor to Scotland to study the condition of the crofters and make a report thereon. He has just returned from his mission and has given a pitiful account of the sufferings endured by the people in the Highlands of Scotland. He travelled through all sections of the country, and addressed some fifty meetings. He found the people wretchedly poor, bitterly opposed to landlordism, and drifting fast toward irreligion and disloyalty. Many of them are so poor that they cannot buy oatmeal and have to live on wholks; which they pick up on the sea shore. They hate the deer as much as they do the landlords. There are two million acres of deer forest in Scotland, and the deer are so well protected that hitherto a crofter has ventured to kill one of them, even though his crop may have been utterly destroyed by one of his landlord's cots.

There are cases in which the crofters and their wives have remained on guard on alternate nights for the purpose of driving off the deer from their little crops. Their patience has been worn out, and now they have sworn to kill every deer they can come across. If they stick to this determination there certainly will be much trouble in the coming winter. The Rev. Mr. Macgregor also avers that the crofters are in danger of becoming

disloyal to the Queen. Her Majesty, they say, pretends to sympathize with them, but they do not see any fruits of it. Their families are starving, and empty stomachs are not much of a foundation for loyalty. The Scotch clergy neither help nor hinder the poor people, so that their position is fast becoming desperate. According to Mr. Macgregor's testimony, the crofters are roused now, and are determined to stand no more crushing exactions and evictions. They will not use violence, but will rely on passive resistance. If they are sentenced to prison they will not go, but will compel the authorities to carry them there. They have clearer views on the land question than any other people in Great Britain and go to the root of the matter in their fiery Gaelic speeches. Thousands of them attended a conference in Skye recently, and remained for seven hours under pouring rain listening to the various speakers. Their favorite cry is "Down with the landlords and down with the deer!" They say openly that they will not vote for any one who does not promise to advocate their cause.

The Rev. Mr. Macgregor says the agitation he has inaugurated will be carried on, and that the people are destined to make good headway. Those in charge of the movement will receive every financial assistance from the Scottish Land League in America. Crofters, whose friends are in prison or who have been ill-used themselves, will also receive money from the League. We wish every success and prosperity to the Scottish Land League of America.

## A BURDEN ON THE ENGLISH PEOPLE.

Another distinguished clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. Mr. Haweis, is on a visit to America to lecture in different parts of the country. He arrived in Montreal yesterday and was interviewed by a *Gazette* reporter on what is rapidly becoming a burning question in England and Scotland—the Disestablishment of the Church. When Archdeacon Farrar was here a few weeks ago he expressed very strong and decided objections to the scheme of wiping out all State relations with the Established Church. Mr. Haweis has ventured to explain the position assumed by Archdeacon Farrar by saying that his objection to disestablishment was "very natural for a man who will probably be a dean or a bishop." A bishopric is worth from twenty-five to seventy-five thousand dollars a year—which is not to be sneezed at. Although Mr. Haweis is in no hurry to see the church disestablished, he would not deprecate the event, as he considers the present system to be most vicious and to lead to grave and intolerable abuses.

The Church of England is undergoing a process of disintegration, brought on by its own inherent weakness. The robes and luxury of its church livings, which have been its backbone and its mainstay since the days of Elizabeth, are now the cause of that weakness and danger with which it is threatened. The crying injustice of contributing to the maintenance of a clergy, which the masses of the people disown, cannot much longer be inflicted on the people. After long and laborious efforts, after centuries of agitation and various kinds of pressure, the Irish people succeeded in ridding themselves of the burden of supporting the Church of England. The English people are awakening to the fact that it would be well to follow the Irish example and cease contributing by taxation to the enormous salaries of Episcopal ecclesiastics who are too often the ineffectual favorites of the politicians of the day or, as the Rev. Mr. Haweis says, "the fossils of the family." The rev. gentleman says that "to judge by the signs of the times the Church of England as an established church should have gone long ago. That it has kept its position and its connection with the state has been in spite of the wisdom of its clergy—not in consequence—The clergy of the Church of England have done their best to wreck the established church."

This is a very serious judgment to pass upon one's own Church and hierarchy; but there are, beyond doubt, ample grounds for it; and it could not well be otherwise under the kind of state administration that has prevailed. There is altogether too much of the people's money at the command and service of the ministers of the church. The exposures lately made in London, and other parts of England, show that some of the highest members of this pet church were involved in the mire of scandal, and even the immediate connection of representative ecclesiastics, supplied with church revenue, were enabled, at the people's expense, to practice their nefarious work of darkness. In order to form an idea of the expense of the Established Church, we give below a brief list of some of the salaries paid to its ministers out of the public treasury:

Archbishop of Canterbury.....\$75,000  
" York.....50,000  
Bishop of Durham.....30,000  
" Winchester.....30,000  
" Ely.....27,000  
" Wells and Bath.....25,000  
" Exeter.....25,000  
" Lincoln.....25,000  
" Oxford.....25,000  
" Rochester.....25,000  
" Salisbury.....25,000  
" Gloucester.....25,000  
" Bristol.....25,000

houses for the accommodation of those pet dignitaries, and one may form an estimate of the burden imposed on the English people to support the Established Church.

## THE WITNESS ON MICHAEL DAVITT.

MICHAEL DAVITT stands almost alone among the Irish Land Leaguers and Home Rulers, as a man of pure and honest principles, who, having arrived at what he conceives to be the true theories of what Ireland's needs are, has never swerved from the most emphatic belief in these opinions, no matter whether they were popular or not. Nothing could prove the integrity and independence of the man more than his present opposition to the Parnellite platform of complete legislative independence for Ireland and a protective tariff. *—Montreal Daily Witness, October 28rd.*

Nothing would give the only religious daily greater pleasure than to see a spit in the ranks of the Irish people and their leaders. The miserable hopes of damnation, and its ill towards the Irish people, fortunately do not count for much in the guidance of their affairs. The *Witness* maliciously tries to make out that Michael Davitt is almost the only man of pure and honest principles. And why? Because, in its evil mind, he is opposed to the Parnellite platform of complete legislative independence for Ireland, and a protective tariff.

Of course Davitt would be an unprincipled rascal if our contemporary considered him to be in harmony with the Parnellite platform. His "pure and honest principles" would be so much demagogism. But the *Daily Witness*, to make its point, deliberately falsified the facts of the case. For in the first place Mr. Davitt is not opposed to Mr. Parnell's platform; secondly, that platform is not one of complete legislative independence, and thirdly, a protective tariff forms no plank in it.

Davitt has publicly and formally endorsed the platform of Mr. Parnell, so much so that the Father of the Land League is working energetically for the return of the Parnellite candidates. Davitt is at one with Mr. Parnell in the fight against landlordism and Castle Rule; he is at one with him in the use of Parliamentary and constitutional weapons to compel the British Government to yield Ireland her rights, and if, in the long run, these weapons prove of no avail we have no doubt he will be at one with the Irish leader in the selection of more effective ones. Davitt is finally at one with Parnell on the great issue of the campaign—the legislative independence of Ireland. This ought to be sufficient to prove to the *Witness* that it has founded "its praise" of Davitt on a monstrous falsehood.

The *Witness* next represents Mr. Parnell as advocating "complete legislative independence," which means separation. We cannot understand how any journal, with the slightest pretence to honesty and fair play, can, in the light of day and in face of every evidence, be guilty of such unfair and reprehensible efforts to damage a public man. Mr. Parnell has simply demanded the legislative independence of his country, or, as an illustration of his idea, the restoration of Grattan's Parliament. So that what is not in his platform one can scarcely be said to be opposed to it, and Davitt is not the man to waste his time opposing this air.

Finally, the *Witness* gives as another reason of Davitt's alleged opposition, that a protective tariff forms a plank in the Parnellite platform. This is not true. Mr. Parnell's personal feeling is in favor of a protective tariff, but that is far from being what it constitutes a portion of the national demands. If the Irish people want a protective tariff it is not from the British Government, but they will ask it, they will apply for it in their own Parliament. A protective tariff would be a superfluous embodiment in the national platform at the present time. Consequently Mr. Davitt cannot be opposed to Mr. Parnell for this reason, as the *Witness* lately alleges.

But why should not Davitt and Parnell, or any other Irishman, differ on such questions, which are only of local interest. Here in Canada we are all agreed on the question of self-government for the Dominion, but he would be an ass and an idiot who would find fault with the Canadian people for being divided on the question of a tariff, a commercial treaty, prohibition, the franchise, or any other local issue, and he would be a greater ass who would condemn the individual with all the virtues, all the purity and honesty of principle in the land, simply because he opposed protection, prohibition, or any other iltion. And we are sorry to say that such is exactly the position of the *Montreal Daily Witness*.

## IMPUGNING ANDREW JOHNSON'S LOYALTY TO THE REPUBLIC.

Quite a discussion has sprung up in the press of the United States over certain revelations of treasonable intrigue and of attempted revolution by the late Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's successor in the White House. These revelations are published to the world without the slightest corroborative evidence and without any documentary proof. The Hon. Chauncy M. Depew, Colonel Fred. Grant and General Sherman are the leading spirits in this crusade against the memory of the dead President.

The burden of their story, which, by the way, is not entirely new, is to the effect that President Johnson planned to set aside the provisional governments in the Southern States during the early period of reconstruction; to invite these States and their people, by an executive proclamation, to elect senators and representatives; to combine with these members of the Thirty-ninth Congress on whose co-operation he thought he counted a number sufficient to make a quorum with the men from the South and to expel the loyal majority of that Congress from the Capital and install this revolutionary body in its place.

President Johnson then sought the assistance of General Grant to execute this scheme