

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY . . . . . DECEMBER 16, 1885

A DESPATCH to L'Evenement, of Quebec, says that it has been ascertained from a source which cannot be questioned that Archbishop Taché, of St. Boniface, sent the following telegram on Nov. 29th to La Minerve, of Montreal:—

"Stop making use of my name to defend the Government. They are responsible for the blood spilt and for the rebellion. They have hanged a madman."

ADVICES from the various parts of Ireland state that hundreds of Irish landlords are in the deepest distress, and that some of the smaller land holders are on the verge of starvation, owing to their not having received their rents for some time past. It is estimated that not £5,000 in rents have been paid in the agricultural districts since the beginning of November.

And the "only religious daily" says "Irishmen have no idea of what they want!"

HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIII. calls on Catholic men everywhere to take part in public affairs, and even in states where the spirit of the government is antagonistic to the Church, tells them they should not shrink from doing their duty to the commonwealth. He reminds them that the early Christians were not indifferent to public affairs, and quotes that well known saying of Tertullian: "We are of yesterday, and we fill your everything, cities, islands, castles, municipalities, councils, the very camps, the rank and file of the army, the officer's palaces, the senate, the forum."

LEO XIII. says all forms of government are lawful, so long as they contain nothing repugnant to Catholic doctrine, and they are able, if wisely and justly managed, to preserve the State in best condition. So goes the winds of the oft-repeated assertion that the Church favors monarchy and encourages despotism. Some of our contemporaries, which have strange notions about the despotic and autocratic aims of the Church would do well to give this subject a little serious thought.

MR. PARNELL will occupy a more powerful position in the new House of Commons than any other individual member or leader of a party. Yet, says the Toronto Globe, no one seems to suppose that he will be offered a seat in the Cabinet. No one can give any reason but one why he should not be called to the honor and responsibility of administering Irish affairs—he represents Ireland. Yet there are people who pretend to believe that the English treat the Irish as they do the Scotch—like brothers and equals.

The idiot who is engaged by the Montreal Daily Witness to enlighten its readers on the Irish question, thus discusses the situation:—

"The Irishmen who have voted at Mr. Parnell's bidding have little or no idea of what they want. Celts live upon grievances rather than on well deserved wants. They did not vote for any particular policy, although Mr. Parnell did at last convince them of a cry, namely, Gratton's Parliament, by which, Irishman like, he meant a parliament entirely different from Gratton's. They simply voted for Mr. Parnell, and for Mr. Parnell they will vote as long as he is the leader of the opposition to existing rule, and until he is superseded by some more extreme liberator, who will rise to denounce Mr. Parnell as a Saxon tyrant.

If Irishmen have no idea of what they want, they have a pretty fair idea of where the writer of the above extract and those like him ought to be; and we would urge upon the committee who have the building of a Protestant insane asylum on hand to hurry up with the realization of the project. Newspaper offices are no place for lunatics.

HERE is a choice specimen from a Western paper commenting upon the fact that Mr. David Mills has stated that he cannot understand how an insane man could lead a revolt.

Mr. Mills refers to Lord George Gordon and the Chartists riots. The commentator proceeds:—"The learned philosopher of Southwell in his sympathy for rebellion, rapine, and murder, evidently overlooks the fact that Gordon was executed for the part he took as leader of the Chartists; but there was no plea of insanity urged in his case. It would have made no difference if there had been." The learned commentator seems to forget, first, that Lord George Gordon was not a Chartist but a "No-Popery" fanatic; that his riots were in the last century, but died, as alleged, a respectable circumcised Jew, as far as "conforming" could make him one. It will be news for the Chartists of 1848 to learn that they were treated as insane.

TWO "GAZETTE" LIES NAILED AGAIN.

One of the pronounced characteristics of the Montreal Gazette is that when it utters a lie it sticks to it. Day after day it has repeated with increasing recklessness that the political movement against the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald is conducted by "blatant demagogues who have been engaged for three weeks past in stirring up race prejudices and race animosities."

The Gazette knows this to be a lie, but "political exigencies" demand that it be shoved, bon gré mal gré, down the throats of its readers, and especially that it be accepted by the little puppy Tory organs throughout the country as the keynote of the situation. The Gazette has the effrontery to apply the term "blatant demagogues" to such men as Messrs. Coursol, M.P., Desjardins, M.P., Girouard, M.P., Bergeron, M.P., &c., &c., Hon. Messrs. Beaubien, Laurier, Langelier, de Labryère, Garneau, Mercier; Senators Bellerose, Armand, Pelletier, Bailjargon and dozens of others who are at the head of the movement. A journal that endorses and justifies the outrageous threats of the Toronto Mail to reconquer this Province and smash the confederation had better keep quiet on the question of demagogism. Another lie of the Montreal Gazette, which takes the place of its morning prayers, runs as follows. It says:—

What has been objected to is the avowal of the promoters of the National party that Riel should not have been punished because French blood coursed in his veins, and the resolve to condemn the Government because it has not arrested the execution of the law upon a French half-breed.

"The promoters of the National Party" do not avow that Riel should not have been punished because French blood coursed in his veins, but they do charge that Riel was sent to the scaffold because of his nationality and creed, as is most clearly proved by the escape of Jackson, who was the brains of the rebellion. The Government is not condemned because it did not arrest the execution of the law upon a French half-breed, but the Government is condemned because it stretched the law, ignored an essential portion of the verdict, deceived the representatives of the people, defied public opinion, yielded to sectarian and sectional influences, and sought to make a scapegoat of a political prisoner for all its criminal maladministration of the affairs of the North-West. That is why Sir John and his colleagues are condemned, and the Gazette knows it, but "political exigencies" oppose a frank admission of the fact.

THE LATE MR. VANDERBILT.

The sudden death of Mr. Wm. H. Vanderbilt is an event that will cause a shock both in social and commercial circles of the United States and Europe. As a social event it will be a blow, for it is needless to say that the deceased was known well and favorably in nearly every walk of life. Although not a man of the highest culture or education, and of rather rugged manners, he was not by any means of the purse proud order, and a slightly unapproachable manner exhibited by him was due rather to his business habits and a sense of the importance of time than to anything else. But whether in his own rooms, or in the stables among the horses he loved so well, he was alike cordial and genial to those with whom he came in contact. His charities were large, and distributed often in such a manner that his right hand did not know what his left did. He also was in the habit of giving in a formal manner to charities through a Moravian clergyman who acted as a chaplain and almoner. But Mr. Vanderbilt, like all persons whose wealth is a "public secret," was the victim of professional beggars from all parts of the world. Not a mail was received without a sheaf of begging letters, and these were always handed to the gentleman referred to. In the majority of cases a reply was sent, but the merits of the solicitation was left to the discretion of the almoner, a man of much judgment in human nature, and who seldom erred in his reports. In a social sense Mr. Vanderbilt's death will be a loss, for although a certain class of people in American society affected to look down upon the family as parvenus, the palace on Fifth Avenue was one of the institutions of the fashionable world, and a person not having the entré was hardly deemed in society. But more immediately this sudden death will seriously affect the commercial world. The Vanderbilt stocks are too important marketable commodities not to be seriously disturbed by the sad event. The great master financier being gone, the position of the securities are no longer the same. His retirement from the management of these was periodically reported, but business circles knew perfectly well that this was more nominal than real.

Mr. Vanderbilt's life has been wrapt up in business almost from the cradle, although at the outset of his career it was never thought he would attain any business position. His father, the old "Commodore," deemed him dull and unequal to business tasks. In fact

his father designed him to be a farmer, which for a time he was, and a successful one. Mr. Vanderbilt is said to have in later years expressed himself as deeming this part of his life the happiest. Whatever he learned in the direction of "relaxation" outside the business routine of his daily existence,—love of the beauties of nature and a liking for horses, dogs and live stock—he learned then. But the old Commodore did not find his other sons so able in business matters as he expected, and William H. Vanderbilt was called from his ploughshare. His business advance was very rapid, and a slight training he had received in an office stood him in good stead. He was appointed receiver of the Staten Island Railway, a moribund institution, which he soon re-established on a sound basis. Next he became vice-president of the New York and Harlem Railway, and then the New York & Hudson, and then, step by step, he became the railway king of the continent. The wealth possessed by the deceased is, of course, only a matter of public speculation, and much of it is of a character liable to serious fluctuations. It must necessarily be that much of it is worthless, now that his own personal direction is gone, so great a power was his name on the stock market. It has been said that he was the richest man in the world, but this is probably the inflated language of a stock market, where inflation is a dangerous element. Mr. Vanderbilt's death will have a potent effect on the railway stock market, but not the same effect the demise of a Rothschild has on the money markets of the world. The deceased was not an old man, he having reached the age of 65 only.

MR. GIROUARD'S LETTER.

We publish in another column a remarkable letter from the pen of Mr. Girouard, Q.C., member for Jacques Cartier. Mr. Girouard has been one of the strongest supporters of Sir John Macdonald and his Government in this Province, and was always close to the Cabinet. The letter from Mr. Girouard is an answer to Sir Alexander Campbell's one-sided "Memorandum" on the Riel case. The Gazette calls it a "Plea for Riel," forgetting that lawyers of the Girouard stamp don't plead for dead men.

The paper is no plea for Riel, but it is a powerful and unanswerable indictment of the Government's conduct in the matter of Riel's execution. The effectiveness of the letter may be judged, and will be admitted, from the fact that the Gazette tries to make out that Mr. Girouard "begs the question altogether" and "hangs his argument either upon quibbles or upon wholly extraneous considerations." Mr. Girouard, it is needless to say, had no begging to do, nor quibbles to use, to prove the iniquity and cruelty of the Government in its dealings with the unfortunate half-breed leader. Sir Alexander Campbell is asked why the Cabinet omitted to consider and weigh the fact of General Middleton's written request to Louis Riel to surrender to the Canadian authorities?

Were they afraid that the consideration of Riel's act in surrendering would lead to a conclusion which would forbid capital punishment? The Gazette, with its usual perversity, asserts "that every avenue of escape had been closed to Riel," and his surrender did not entitle him to any degree of clemency. That is simply a deliberate falsehood uttered to save the honor of the Ministry. Every avenue of escape was not closed, and Riel, if he had desired, could have taken the same route across the border as did Gabriel Dumont and Dumas. In any case, suppose the Gazette statement was true, viz.—that all avenues of escape were closed,—that would and should not exempt the Government from honoring its word and treating its prisoner according to the code of civilization.

The Gazette, with contemptible bad faith, says "the circumstances attending Riel's capture are made by Mr. Girouard a mitigation of his offence."

It is inconceivable how a public journal can thus misrepresent and falsify the arguments of an adversary in so glaring a manner. Mr. Girouard attempted no mitigation of Riel's offence by calling attention to the circumstances of his surrender, but he charged Sir Alexander Campbell and his colleagues with criminal negligence in omitting to discuss the said circumstances and to give them their due weight in the settlement of Riel's fate. They were an argument against Riel's execution and not in favor of his offence. And that is why Mr. Girouard condemns "cruelty unprecedented among civilized nations" the execution of one who surrendered under such circumstances. But that was not the greatest omission.

Mr. Girouard, whose ability, learning and sound judgment as a lawyer can not be questioned, is of the opinion which THE POST so repeatedly urged upon the Government, that in carrying out the verdict the recommendation to mercy should not have been ignored, for the recommendation to mercy was as an "essential part" of the verdict as the word "guilty" itself.

The Gazette says that this recommendation to mercy and the respite were questions solely of propriety, did not affect the principle of the case and had no bearing upon the culpability of the condemned man. Questions of propriety indeed! But even if they did not affect "the principle of the case," they affected the principles upon which capital punishment is meted out to a prisoner, both the law and humanity are there to prove it; and if "these questions of alleged propriety" had no bearing upon the culpability of the condemned man, they had a mighty strong bearing upon the dishonor and the cruelty of his execution. As Mr. Girouard has put it, "the jury said 'The culprit's life should be spared, and the Government hangs him.' Can a single case be found in a country under the rule of English criminal law

"where a political offender, recommended to mercy by the jury, has been executed?"

Mr. Girouard then proceeds to deal with the false charges brought against Riel. He denies and disproves the charges that Riel was a bad man, more disposed to sell than to defend his countrymen, or that he incited the Indians to massacres. But admitting for a moment the truth of all this, does it, asks Mr. Girouard, constitute a sufficient reason for setting aside the verdict of the jury, who must be taken to have considered all the circumstances of the case in arriving at their decision.

The question of the Scott execution, which has been so persistently flung in Riel's face, even by members of the Cabinet, such as Mr. Chapleau, is fully entered into and discussed by Mr. Girouard. The history of the Red River war is briefly retold, and attention is called to the address to the Governor General, moved for by Hon. Mr. Chapleau in 1875 in the Quebec Legislature, condemning the action taken by the Mackenzie Government against Riel, and claiming that the shooting of Scott was not murder, but an "act proceeding from the authority of the Government created during the movement," for which Riel was not personally responsible. Mr. Girouard also exposes and condemns the conduct pursued by the Government on the question of a commission to establish Riel's sanity or insanity. He concludes his forcible arraignment of the Ministry by saying "that history will perhaps say that Riel has been executed for a crime which he did not commit, and that we have been guilty of a judicial murder."

"THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER," BY VERA.

"The Doctor's Daughter" is from the gifted pen of a young and promising authoress, who is not only an ornament to society at the Dominion capital, but who has already made her mark in the world of Canadian literature. Vera's maiden effort, "Honor Edgeworth," was most favorably received by the public, and won the warmest praise of the critics. "The Doctor's Daughter," like its predecessor, will be able to stand on its merits, and will add greatly to the rising reputation of the novelist.

It is a society novel and portrays with marked sureness of touch and firmness of style certain phases of society life at the Capital. The heroine of the novel, Amelia Hampden, tells her own story, sketching an eventful life from her birth to her marriage. The personages are ably and artfully drawn. The adventures and incidents are skillfully developed and connected. The heroine is no ideal character possessing charms and accomplishments which exist only in the imagination. The authoress has drawn her characters from life, paints them in their ordinary and consequently true colors. Extravagance in the conduct of her personages is eschewed, and the result is a most realistic study of social life. This is beyond doubt one of the chief merits of the novel. As the Citizen justly remarks, it is this fidelity to nature which constitutes the principal charm of the work and leads the fair-minded reader to overlook those defects which time and a wider experience alone can remedy. "Vera" looks for materials, not in the social circles of the old world, but finds them at her own door and among her every-day acquaintances. It is this effort at originality—this determination to avoid the beaten tracks of literature and to mark a path for herself, that most strongly commends "Vera's" writings to the public, and must inevitably ensure for her writings a constantly increasing popularity.

We regret to see that a Montreal evening contemporary has pushed its unfairness so far as to attempt to throw discredit on the talented authoress and her production, without in the least showing where either were at fault. Perhaps the tone of the novel is too pure, moral and religious to please its rotheistic tastes. Besides the marked literary merits of her productions as regards plot, portraiture and style, the works of Vera offer evidence of surprisingly deep reflection on the social conditions of the time, and shows that the authoress has an intimate acquaintance with the great questions which occupy the public mind and agitate the world.

It is gratifying to find a young lady devoting her leisure to the pursuit of literature, and consecrating her abilities to an effort to bring about social reformation and raise the tone of society. Vera deserves the thanks and warm appreciation of the Canadian public for these promising products of her literary labors. Altogether "The Doctor's Daughter" is a work that is pleasingly and creditably racy of the soil, and which paves the way for greater achievements in the world of literature. We wish the charming and gifted writer every success, and bespeak for her an ever-increasing circle of patronage.

ARCHBISHOP TACHÉ'S MANIFESTO ON THE SITUATION.

The most competent and reliable authority in the Dominion on the affairs of the North-West Territories is admittedly Archbishop Taché of St. Boniface. His advice and counsel have been frequently solicited by the legislators of the country; but unfortunately, in the greatest of our national crises, the Executive, in that hour of madness which precedes destruction, turned a deaf ear, not only to the prudent counsel, but to the most urgent prayers of the venerable Archbishop to deal generously and justly by the half-breed and Indian population of the North-West. His Grace bewailed the folly of the Government in silence and made neither his grief nor his dissatisfaction known to the world. Even the exciting events of the past two or three months could not force him to break that silence which shielded a set of guilty officials and administrators. But when the organs of the Govern-

ment and its reckless partisans sought to make capital out of that silence, to put unholy and unauthorized utterances into the mouth of the Archbishop, then his Grace, revolting at the idea of being made the apologist and defender of an unworthy administration, and of being made the accuser and an instrument of punishment against the oppressed half-breeds and their leaders, refused to longer continue the silent tool of such an iniquitous game. Justice and truth were being too violently outraged, and the great Archbishop of St. Boniface sent the following message thundering over the wires to La Minerve, the personal organ of the Hon. Mr. Chapleau, Secretary of State, and official organ of the Government:—

"Stop making use of my name to defend the Government. They are responsible for the blood spilt and for the rebellion. They have hanged a madman."

That imperative order was sent on the 28th November last.

To-day His Grace supplements it with an exhaustive and significant manifesto on the situation.

It is true that the Archbishop does not tell us anything new in the way of unjust dealing and oppression practiced in the North-West which we did not know before; but the value of the manifesto consists in its being an overwhelming corroboration of all the charges brought against the Government for its maladministration of the North-West. It is a crushing arraignment of the whole policy which has prevailed in the territories. We invite the special and serious attention of our readers to this solemn utterance of Archbishop Taché. To-day we publish a few of the more striking passages as telegraphed to the Gazette. When we receive it by mail we will publish the document in extenso.

In his manifesto, published in the North-West Review, after alluding to the reasons which caused him to maintain silence to the present time, and to the evils of the rebellion and the possibility of its recurrence, Archbishop Taché beseeches all serious men, who have at heart the happiness and prosperity of our dear Canada, to reflect on the causes which have occasioned our misfortunes. Minds too superficial, alas, are too interested to take a serious and impartial view of our difficulties, consider that they have accomplished their duties as citizens by exclaiming, "Riel is the cause of all the harm. It was he who did all. He has paid for it. The country is safe now." This explanation is so unreasonable that if it were accepted we might expect new disturbances in the near future. It is deceiving one's self or striving to deceive others to throw on one man the causes of the misfortunes which all deplore. In my estimation the responsibility of our disasters and our shame is attributable to several sources. They rest not only on the active agents of the rebellion and the administrators succeeding in turn in the government of the country but also on many other parties. The people of Canada and their rulers, while negotiating for

THE ACQUISITION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

considered but the extent and riches of the vast domain of which they were taking possession. They did not comprehend the situation because they knew little or nothing of what they needed to know. This first cause of the difficulties naturally combines with the second ones I have just suggested. Of the different men in office, no doubt, it is but justice to say that many of these men were qualified for the functions, more or less important, to which they were appointed, but, alas, not so in all cases. Even important posts were assigned to men totally unqualified for the position, in my humble opinion. This will be unavoidable as long as all appointments are based exclusively on political motives. While selecting undeserved men, others, perfectly apt, have been dismissed or left aside, because, five, ten or fifteen years before they were political opponents. It is supposed that there is no need to be particular for a new country and especially among Indians. This is an erroneous opinion. More sense, tact and ability are needed in a new country where everything has to be organized than in a populous city, where a public official may be tolerated to a certain degree, even should he turn out a dolt or a fool. His betters make up for the inconveniences which occur. Were he alone in the desert or prairie it is quite a different thing. The incapacity of an employe is so much more apparent because he is alone. There is not the slightest doubt that if the Northwest is to be properly governed it is necessary to be very particular in the choice of men for various services. An indispensable qualification is to be civil and sympathetic with the natives and settlers, as a kind heart, a gentle word, suffice to prevent or quell dissatisfaction. Another cause of the difficulties came from the discontent of new settlers themselves. The Government, colonization societies and others have published pamphlets more or less exact on the country and its advantages. The unfortunate boom also got a footing in the North-West, and,

ENTICED BY ITS ALLUREMENTS.

many people came. The country was not prepared to receive them in such numbers at the time. Fatigue, loneliness, exclusion and disappointment followed as a result of too hasty immigration and then began the series of reversions for which it was sought to make the Government responsible. Hence a natural tendency to general dissatisfaction. Then came the early frosts. Oh, what harm those frosts have done to the Government and the governed! People acted as if they considered the authorities responsible for them. Indignation arose, but no revolt against authority was intended. There was no wish of shedding blood, but a stronger desire to have the shedding of crowns from the public treasury. It was not considered in solving the wind that they would reap the whirlwind. This is so true that not a few settlers say: "After all, we have gained by it. Something of the kind is wanted once in ten years. We were ruined, but business is reviving." Now there is every reason to hope confidence will be restored, and that if the early frosts do not prove severe settlers will enjoy the prosperity they had expected. He then alludes to the good qualities of the Metis and to the sympathy between them and the Indians, saying the former controlled the latter by their peaceful attitude. For instance, this very day there are newspapers which would very much make the venerable Bishop Grandin, his devoted missionaries and myself responsible for what the Metis have suffered. These ridiculous and false assertions do more harm than good to those who they are intended to serve and are injurious to the interests of the country. The next deals with the Indians, referring to their claims upon the consideration of the Government and the importance of making good appointments. He says: "Surely no one will accuse me of lacking patriotism and

justice when I say I deeply regret that certain officials have not been deserving of the confidence I am so pleased to see enjoyed by others in charge of the Indian Department, who certainly merit such confidence to a high degree. Without flattery I say this, that there are in this department, as well as in the others, honorable, devoted and intelligent men, who do the best they can amid innumerable difficulties. It is not fair to throw on the Metis all the blame of the Indian uprising. Their mutual alliance is natural and will develop without a special effort on my part. I promised to tell the truth, and now

I REACH THE MOST DELICATE POINT

of the question of the troubles, to speak of the man who was the most prominent feature, and on whom, it is said, concentrated the whole situation. Riel was chosen by the Metis their leader, who went for him to a strange land. They believed that Riel being one of themselves, who had suffered with and for them, would embrace their cause with greater zeal. Riel came to Batouche, and encouraged by one side, pressed on the other, he fancied that a feeling of unanimity existed between every section of the population. Being convinced that success must follow, he began an agitation, always dangerous, still more so amidst a population more inclined to act than anxious to talk. Credit was given to the rumor that instead of granting their rights the authorities were sending irons for their leader and shot for those who would protect him. This produced the result that might be expected. What is but too true is that noble lives were sacrificed. Misery and desolation now reign where flourishing establishments lately stood, respectable men endure imprisonment in the midst of crimes in common with Riel was executed at Regina on the 16th November. Public opinion is divided on the last event and the dividing became embittered. In general the English press approves the execution, while the French press condemns it as useless cruelty. To both sides there are exceptions. I regret exceedingly that men from whom better might be expected should so far have forgotten themselves as to attempt to lay the responsibility of this extreme measure on the very parties least capable of advising it. The missionaries suffered, but the missionaries never cried for vengeance. I had many reasons to study the dispositions of my unfortunate proteges in the minutest details, to see what could have led him to the deplorable path followed for many years. I am convinced that while endowed with brilliant qualities of mind and heart the unfortunate leader of the Metis was a prey to "magnum animi theomania," which explain his way of acting until his last moments. Notwithstanding I will not utter a word insulting those who acted contrary to my convictions.

Just a word more, before taking leave of you, which I am sure will meet your sympathies as it does mine. We cannot bring the dead to life, but we may possibly give liberty to the prisoner. Let us ask forgiveness for all the political prisoners. Let us ask forgiveness for the Metis which the insurrection led to the penitentiary, to prison and to exile. Let us ask forgiveness for the poor Indians who took part in the insurrection without steeping their hands in the blood of their victims by murder or assassination. I think I may be sure that this act of clemency, far from provoking a divergence of opinion, would meet the assent of sensible men of all nationalities and creeds.

THE WORLD MIXED.

THE Toronto World is getting things badly mixed up. It says that last week THE POST was whooping it up for Mr. Edgar without regard to consequences, and that this week we spurn and jeer at the gentleman.

We have no remembrance of either whooping it up for Mr. Edgar or jeering at him. We don't go into either line of business, and we think THE WORLD must have had the wrong post in its mind's eye. We might as well finish off our Western conferees, as we have him under our thumb. THE WORLD is still vexed over the Cabinet Minister's wife's "stop the paper" episode, and apparently refuses to be enlightened on the subject. It says:—

"THE MONTREAL POST intimates that the lady represented as 'stopping her paper' was not the wife of a Roman Catholic cabinet minister. All the less reason, then, for making such an ado about the matter. Surely a Protestant lady may be permitted to withdraw her subscription from a Catholic paper that has accused her husband of a base act without being held up to public reprobation."

THE World has no authority from us to say that the lady who "stopped the paper" was not the wife of a Catholic minister no more than it had in a previous issue to assert that the lady was not the wife of a Protestant minister. There is one piece of advice we would give gratuitously to our Western conferees, and it is not to open his mouth until he knows whereof he speaks.

THE ORGANS' FALSE NOTE.

YESTERDAY the Ministerial organs announced in flaring type and ringing terms that the political movement against Sir John's Government had met with a very marked rebuff in the counties of Beauce and Temisconata. "The agitators were killed and the agitation was dead" made up the Ministerial chorus. The fact is that the telegraph wires were made to lie most furiously in favor of the Government. Instead of there being a funeral over the collapse of the movement at Beauce and Temisconata, as alleged, there was another solid six inch nail driven into the coffin of the Government. A special despatch from Quebec to the Witness is the earliest contradiction of the base attempt of the Ministerial organs to deceive the public. The despatch says:—

"The reports published by the Chronicle and other Ministerial papers respecting the recent Riel meetings in Temisconata and Beauce are now conclusively shown to have been deliberate falsehoods from beginning to end. Far from being repulsed in these counties, the agitation has taken a firm hold there. In Temisconata the meeting was not in favor of Dr. Grandin, M.P., for the county, but wholly against him, and the resolutions proposed by a speaker from the Central Government in Quebec, denouncing the French Canadian Ministers, were not repulsed by others of an inoffensive character, but unanimously adopted without changing a single word. The alleged resolutions adopted at the Beauce meeting under the presidency of Senator Bolduc, were not adopted by the regular meeting, but by a small organized group of the Liniere-Taschereau partisans, who sought to disturb and break it up; but failing in that went and held a meeting o