

PUT OUT OF DOORS.

"They (the Bleus) are in duty bound to force the leader of the Opposition to speak out plainly on the issue upon which their movement is based. It will be easier for him to say 'yes' or 'no' than for them to stultify themselves by voting for the motion which they condemned last year. However, this is a matter wholly of their own concern. They no longer belong to the Conservative party." We take the above from the *Toronto Mail*; and if it is not a direct reading out of the party for the Bleus, we do not know what reading out is. It is plain that neither the *Mail* nor Sir John Macdonald hopes for victory in the present House of Commons;—they are after the general election. Some people, even Conservatives, object to this plain speaking by the *Mail*, but the course of that newspaper has been consistent upon this question of race and revenge, and we also deem it to be admirable. When the French first began to curse and threaten, the *Mail* in calm, firm language advised them to ponder well the situation; and to beware of taking a step that they could not retrace. It assured them that government was prepared to treat them, and always had so treated them as it had acted towards the English people; but it maintained, and it then struck the key note of the sentiment of this country, that the execution never would allow race to overawe the constitution, and trample upon the law. Then followed the well-remembered warning or threat, whichever it be called, that if the French party persisted in its blind, passionate course, and set itself into hostility with the English people, that the wreck of its fortunes would be swift, complete, and irremediable.

To us this is not a party question at all, so far as English people are concerned; and we discuss it from what we deem to be high and equitable national grounds.

Well;—the French have persisted in taking the step against which they were warned; they have conspired against the executive; they have burnt ministers in effigy, and they have turned their province into a bedlam of hate against the administration of the law, and against the British Constitution. It is right, therefore, that they should be read out of the party, as it was right that their typical hero should dangle from a gallows to expiate his crimes of ruin, and tumult, and murder. They have challenged the consequences; now let them take the consequences. The *Mail* seems anxious to get utterly rid of them. So is TRUTH.

The one lamentable feature in the wretched business is that good Frenchmen have to take the consequences with the bad ones. The minority has set itself against the great British strength and spirit of the country, and when it comes out of the struggle it can only hope to find itself in the place that always belongs to a feeble minority with nothing but insolence and treason on its side. If the French had any grievance of race; suppose we had forbidden the official use of French in the courts of law and in the legislature, or disallowed their code, or carried out the suggestions of that high-minded statesman, Lord Durham, respecting Quebec, then indeed, although we were opposed to them we might have some feeling of sympathy for them in their ohivalkic struggle. But they have no claim now upon the sympathy of man or woman. Their race furnished to us a traitor, demagogue and murderer; he once overran the land with terror, and stained the plains with human blood. He escaped the law; and in due season comes insolently forward to break it again, believing in his heart, which is our solemn opinion, that the same powerful French

influence that saved him before, must save him again. We can imagine him quieting his apprehensions with the thought that the executive would not dare to provoke the hostility of Quebec. And now that hostility is rampant, and has pronounced itself in the Parliament of Canada. Quebec must face English Canada at the coming election upon these questions: Is a criminal of the most dangerous kind, because a Frenchman, to stand beyond the pale of the law? Is the French as a race in this country to be permitted to set aside the English constitution whenever their fanaticism deems that it should be set aside?

The Hon. Mr. Bellerose, a leading Bleu senator, has sounded the Riel tocsin in the Senate; and with clumsy, and transparent ingenuity points out that the revolt of the French Conservatives occurred, not because the executive allowed the law to take its course with respect to Riel, but because Sir John Macdonald is at his heart in favor of a legislative union; because he has been persistently making inroads upon the rights of the provinces, upon Quebec among the number; and lastly that the Government itself, by its incompetency, beget the rebellion in the North-West, and were therefore responsible for all the woeful occurrences there. Had Mr. Bellerose not talked the rubbish about legislative union, his remarks would escape the imputation which we have made. As to the responsibility of the Government for the uprising, there is, unfortunately, but too much evidence that North-West affairs were heedlessly and wickedly managed. It is rather a sad commentary upon the administrators of government at Ottawa that a revolt like this should have broken out in the only part of the country enjoying "paternal" government. That is to say, the Ottawa Government, not municipal government, or a provincial executive, rules upon the scene of the late insurrection. No one supposes that if there had been municipal government, and provincial government, in its thorough representative form, that the bloody page of 1885 would have been added to our history.

This view of the matter, which view we regret is the only possible one to take, lays the whole terrible affair at the door of the Administration. Had the Bleus taken a stand against the Government upon its conduct in the way mentioned, and not trailed the corpse of their insolent and ambitious fanatic upon the scenes, they would have found every Reformer in the country at their side, and every honest man from the Conservative party.

But they have not done this. They have made the Regina scaffold the issue; and upon that scaffold they must stand. They have left the Conservative party because Government permitted the law to take its course: they must now stay out of that party and pick up such fellowship as is willing to enter into a league so dishonorable and revolting.

THE NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The new Minister of Justice, the Hon. Mr. Thompson, has made his debut as a parliamentarian. We quoted a short time ago a declaration from a Reformer, "We beside the Minister of Justice when Mr. Blake gets his hands upon him." Already the Minister of Justice and the leader of the Opposition have had their rencontre; and it seems to us, decidedly, as if Mr. Blake had the best of it. The *affaire de resistance* was brief, but it taught the Hon. Mr. Thompson the lesson that he must not make loose statements when there sits in a bench facing him a critic so formidable and so wide-awake as the Hon. Edward Blake. Mr. Thompson enjoys the repute of being

conspicuous for ability in his generation; but his experience, hitherto, has been confined to Nova Scotia, in which field his career was a brilliant but an exceedingly brief one. In Nova Scotia, as in every other Province, there are some politicians of a very wretched stripe; and for a man to tower up among these as towers a church steeple from the midst of a mass of squalid hovels, is not much proof, it is not a proof, of a greatness that will tower in the wider world where there are conspicuous and brilliant rivals. Sir John admitted Mr. Thompson to the Cabinet purely upon the recommendations of his Nova Scotia supporters; and Mr. Stairs, the influential and very excellent representative of Halifax, was the gentleman who took the first step in the movement. The seduction of a judge is not a very nice task; but Mr. Stairs believed the act to be in the interests of efficient government and of the people of the Dominion. Nay, more than this;—Sir John had never met Mr. Thompson till he was introduced to that gentleman last year, when he came to take the Privy Councillor's oath. On the whole, therefore, the Minister of Justice is an untried man; he has so far won no laurels of distinction, and may, measured against the ablest members of the House of Commons, prove only an ideal type of mediocrity. He begins with considerable airs, we have been informed; he has not learned to lay aside the dignified condescending way of the judge towards a junior pettifogger, when addressing such men even as Mr. Blake. This will not do. There is no resemblance whatever between the atmosphere of the bench, where everything is pure and honest, and according to the law of duty, and the atmosphere about a band of politicians who will, and do, sacrifice all those things to personal and party interest, and whose entire methods and motives are not higher than those of a gang of gamblers seated at a table and playing for high stakes. Mr. Thompson may learn a few lessons from Sir John. That successful gentleman once said that he would "Slap the jaws" of the Hon. Mr. Mowat, "quicker than he—would scorch a feather." Mr. Thompson will have to learn to talk this way, and learn to be able to call his opponents liars, before he can be successful, and a la mode as a politician.

The profits to Mrs. Grant, wife of the late president, upon the "Memoirs" recently published by Webster and Sons, reach the enormous sum of \$250,000, all of which was paid to the widow by one cheque. No other book that has ever been published, within a few days after publication has brought such an enormous return as this to the author. Mark Twain in reality is the publisher of the book; and the greater portion of his wealth is said to have been staked in the enterprise. Mr. Webster, the publisher referred to, is his nephew.

Prussia's latest benevolent undertaking is the persecution of a Polish poet Kvaszaki, who is in feeble health; but whose return to prison on the first of May has been ordered. But what punishment has the Canadian authorities in store for our spring poets? Skulking around nearly every newspaper office from this out we may expect to see a wretch or two preparing to afflict the editor with a spring poem.

The British Government has telegraphed to Lord Dufferin to annex Burmah.

The building "boom" has "struck" the Eternal City on the banks of the Tiber. Building speculators swarm there, and their operations will include the demolition of some of these old works of architecture

which have stood so long the glory of the world, and a theme for historians, poets, painters, artists and everyone else with reverence for departed greatness. The German press has raised its voice loudest against the proposed iconoclasm and desecration; but the speculators, unheeding, are making ready their chisels and tools to begin the work of destruction and profanation.

We have not heard much yet from the new Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Hon. George Foster. But he goes to the Department at an important time. It is doubtful if he can, even through the agency of Mr. Willmot, of Newcastle, and all his subordinate officials, put and maintain fishes in waters where fishes never swarmed before; but he can afford a salutary measure of protection to some of our most important food fishes. Despite all the regulations there are along all our Canadian salmon streams, bands of poachers who put stop nets in the river at the spawning time and spear parent salmon by the light of torches upon the spawning beds. This matter may be posh-pooched but all the same the salmon-catch is falling off year by year, and in many of our Canadian streams the salmon has been entirely exterminated. Where the new Minister can best use his authority, however, is with respect to the lobster. This fish, more than all others, stands in danger of speedy extinction. It comes to spawn in the summer season to plateaux or beds around our coasts, over which are only a few feet of water, and among these very plateaux do men and women carry on fishing, picking up or catching in traps the females as well as the male fish. The result of such indiscriminate fishing is that the lobster catch around our entire coast has fallen off, and in many parts of the Baie des Chaleurs and the coast adjacent the fish has been entirely exterminated. We have some personal knowledge of this matter or we should not write about it in this positive strain; indeed the writer has spent some weeks upon portions of the Quebec coast where at one time the lobster fishery flourished, but where now not so much as a fish of that kind is ever seen. We pay a large salary to the head of a Department; we give him an enormous staff of clerks, and invest him with an amazing official paraphernalia;—we do not do all this that he may pull disreputable party wires, but that he may devote his time and his zeal and his brains to the interests committed to his charge. It is the duty of the Hon. Mr. Foster to look into the matters that we have pointed out. The disappearance of a great food fish, like the lobster, is of more importance to this country than if an earthquake were to come and swallow up the House of Commons, Ministry and all.

An early dissolution of the British Parliament is upon the boards.

Governments, as Mr. Goldwin Smith says in the *Week*, generally look about them for a scapegoat when their own acts have been either misdirected or incompetent, and he further asserts that in their censure of Col. Henderson, chief of the London police, they are only endeavoring to cover an indefensible line of policy of their own. The Colonel has resigned, and he is to be knighted, that being the way that British statesmen have of doing things. The misdoing laid at the door of Col. Henderson is that he was not prepared to strike at the rioters when they arose in London; but the truth is that the politicians had been pondering to the mob and the chief of police found his arm paralyzed.