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THE TIMES.

The Dominion House of Commons has had a week of comparative quiet; the complaint lodged by Sir John A. Macdonald that certain of the civil servants had been allowed to absent themselves from duty in order to do some electioneering work in the Province of Quebec raised the only capful of wind that has blown. The Government denied the impeachment, and in the usual way made counter charges which were most effective. Mr. Blake's speech on the rioting at Montreal was for the most part calm, judicial and statesman-like. He was guilty of something very like exaggeration when he said that a reign of terror exists in Montreal—for that is not so—but his appeal to one body of his fellow-countrymen—the Catholics—to be regardful to the rights, under the law of the other, and to the other side—the Orangemen—to remember the prejudices and feelings and temperament of the other should be heard and heeded. His proposal to pass an Act made up of the Public Works Act, and the Irish Act to be put in force in Montreal at the discretion of the Governor-in-Council is not likely to work much good.

The elections for the Province have been made, and the result is a surprise to all parties. The most sanguine of the Liberals looked for a majority of only two or three to start with, which number could be increased by the judicious use of half-a-dozen cheques. But here is a majority large enough for all purposes of working the political affairs of the Province. The Conservatives chose their ground and have been beaten on it. They challenged a vote on the act of the Lieut-Governor in dismissing his Cabinet commanding a majority in the House. The voters have said he was right. They made it a party question, insisting that it must and should have direct reference to the opposing camps at Ottawa. The answer is before us. Of course, the Conservatives will accept it in that light and read it in that way. They made great efforts and have lost the day. Had they kept Dominion politics out of it, the result would not have told so crushingly against them. But these things we learn as the result of the elections: There is a public opinion in the Province: the people will not be led by a few; and the Protestants hold the balance of power. Mr. Thomas White gave a gold medal to the Christian Brothers' School; Mr. Ogilvie, the late M. P. P., sat on a lottery committee for the Nuns; Mr. Baker, ex-Solicitor-General, gave a lot of land at Sweetsburg for the Catholics to build a church upon, refusing, as he had a right to do, to give an alms of the same description to the Methodists. But all that magnificent generosity has been wasted, and now the poor leaders of the party find their heart slung at half-mast to flutter in the breeze of a Liberal triumph. Life is full of disappointments.

Rowdyism has got it all its own way in the city of Montreal. Nearly every night some one falls a victim. Peaceful inhabitants must walk the streets after dark at peril of their lives. Even women are not safe. In spite of appeals from this quarter and that, the Corporation makes no move to protect the lives and property of the people. Is it incompetence or indifference? One or the other it must be. Aldermen say, What can we do? It would be easy and right to answer:—Gentlemen, you ought to know what to do; your function is to protect life and property and see to the general good government of the city. But as the Aldermen confess their inability to grapple with this difficulty, we will offer a few suggestions. First of all, instead of cutting down the pay of the police, increase the number of them and pay them well; let them be armed, and let some of them be mounted. Then, swear in a lot of special constables; all the respectable men of the city would respond—those who did not would lay themselves open to suspicion, and might be watched. Also, put some

restriction upon the sale of firearms in the city; deal with them as poison is dealt with among the druggists, so that the purchaser may be known and traced. That would at least have some moral influence as a deterrent. Then, let punishment be meted out unsparingly. If a pistol be found on a rowdy, let him have twelve months in prison. If he be found guilty of shooting with intent to murder, or anything less, let him have the cat-o'-nine tails before he goes to the penitentiary. That was the only way the authorities could stamp out the brutal use of the clog over in Lancashire awhile ago. They put on the lash, and it had a wonderfully reformatory effect. This, or something as efficient, must be resorted to in the city of Montreal. It has come to this: that both Catholics and Protestants have lost control of their rowdies. The Corporation must take it in hand.

The Home Rule party in the British House of Commons is in great disorder and disorganization. It looks like the beginning of the end. At one time it was a compact, and not unreasonable band, having a well-defined object and an able leader. But the obstructive policy pursued by some of its members toward the close of the last session brought it into something worse than disrepute. Mr. Butt protested that he would not be associated with such irregular members as Mr. Parnell and Mr. Biggar, and although they were applauded by some portion of their constituencies it was evident that, as a whole, the Irish people did not approve of their foolish doings. The Irish do not wish to see their representatives degenerate into a mere rabble. And that they were likely to do if they followed the disorderly course upon which they had entered. No reform was promised, and a few days ago Mr. Butt formally retired from the position he had held as their leader. And now some of the Home Rulers seem to have discarded all notions of even ordinary decency. The Earl of Leitrim was murdered in Donegal, and the Government proclaimed a barony, so as to close in all possible avenues by which the assassins might try to escape. This course was condemned by Mr. O'Donnell in a violent speech, in which he made a savage attack upon the character of the dead Earl, contending that the murder was not an agrarian outrage, but had been prompted by revenge for foul private wrongs. Such a thing is, happily, of rare occurrence in the House of Commons. British sentiment protects the dead, and every effort was made to stop the slanderous and unmanly speech. But all that could be done was to exclude strangers and reporters. So Mr. O'Donnell said his say, and, as it appears, broke up the Home Rule party. For many of them, being gentlemen, will resent this, and it remains to be seen whether the next general election will reunite them.

The situation in the East, as to the war, remains unchanged, only that the points at issue are being a little more clearly defined. As it appears now, Russia declares that certain portions of the Treaty of St. Stefano shall be introduced into the Congress for discussion, while England demands that the whole Treaty shall be submitted for correction or approval. Prince Bismarck has ceased all active interference, but Austria continues watchful, while Roumania makes manifest her wrath against what she considers the deception practised upon her by her late ally in taking Bessarabia. Internally Russia is in a state of ferment. Had the war with Turkey been, as it was expected it would be, a military promenade, the Russians might have been disposed to submit the whole Eastern question to a Congress. But the promenade came nigh to a tragic end; Russia had to make great efforts to conquer her foe, which effort say many of the people give her the right to play a prominent part in the settlement of the question, and to obtain some fitting compensation for the vast material outlay in men and money to which she has been put. But England bates none of her claims. The war spirit gets fiercer. The army is found to be more efficient than even the most sanguine could have hoped, while India promises to make large and valuable accessions. The Mussulmans will go to war *con amore*, for they will import religious animosity into the conflict. But all told we may still hope for peace. Diplomacy has not yet exhausted all its resources. Bismarck returns to Berlin and may again try to play the part of pacificator; there is a strong anti-war party in England who believe that no British interest in the East can justify such a gigantic, and in every material way, disastrous war between England and Russia. There is ground for hope that it may yet be peace and not war.