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OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

THE DEATH OF MR. ODGEN.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—George Odgen has been much honoured in his death and burial by almost all ranks and conditions of men. The deceased has been a foremost advocate of the rights of working men, and in the carrying out of his convictions has labored hard and suffered much. It is now generally conceded that on the whole, his efforts have been beneficial, and good fruit remains. The Trades Council which now represents a very large constituency and wields an immense amount of power, was one of his masterly plans, and it has rendered him fitting honour since his death. Some members of Parliament have eulogised his self-denying labors, his unflinching bravery and long continued struggles to secure some needed reforms in the position of the working classes. He has died a poor man, and now an effort is being made to provide for his family. It is asserted that a little of the high eulogy and practical sympathy which is now evinced, would have been highly acceptable to Mr. Odgen in the later years of his life.

THE EASTERN QUESTION

still draws to itself, a very large amount of interest. Its great issues are yet unsettled. The vast armies of Russia are yet massed close to the frontier lines of Turkey, and are with difficulty held in check. Every act of diplomacy is being tried. The latest intelligence is to the effect that England and Russia are drawing much nearer in opinion, that the final proposals of Russia are on the main such as England will accept, and that Turkey will be compelled to accept and carry out the enforced reforms. Mr. Gladstone yet devotes a great amount of attention to this question. He is a great terror to the Government officials who have to answer his direct and searching questions in the House of Commons. His last pamphlet upon the subject bears the somewhat sensational title of

LESSONS IN MASSACRE

which is a terrible indictment of the Turkish government. He refers to the official falsehoods, the sham enquiries, the rewards heaped upon the principal actors in the deeds of dark iniquity, and the absolute indifference to the claims of justice. He proved that the present, the Christian populations are insulted and oppressed, are trodden under foot and have no security against attacks as cruel, and outrages as abominable as were suffered last year. Mr. Gladstone urges that the powers of Europe must compel Turkey at once and for ever to abandon its wretched policy, and say to the Porte in language which cannot be misunderstood, "You shall not do it again."

THE WORK OF PARLIAMENT

during the past fortnight does not amount to much. A few measures of great importance have been introduced, discussed, and thrown out. They were not Government measures, and had not the remotest chance of success. A new Licensing Bill for Scotland, and Mr. Chamberlain's measure for regulation of the drink traffic in England by placing it under the control of Municipal Councils, have shared this fate. The Sunday Closing Bill for Ireland is in the hands of a select committee, and every possible attempt is being made to defeat the measure, although the main principle of the Bill has been twice affirmed by large majorities. So slowly are great reforms carried by the Parliament of to-day.

THE BURIALS BILL

introduced by the Government in the House of Lords was awaited with great curiosity, but not with much hopefulness. It is a poor unsatisfactory affair. Provision is proposed to be made for

the further closing of the old graveyards, and for the acquisition of new cemeteries, consecrated in part, purchased at public expense and under municipal control, but the only concession made for the interment of Non-conformists in the graves of their ancestors, and in the churchyards of the parishes in which they dwell, is that contemptible one of

A SILENT FUNERAL

without hymn or prayer, or even the service of the church, unless it be read by an Episcopalian clergyman. This will not be accepted, and in fact it is no concession, for they cannot even now prevent a silent funeral if the friends of the deceased insist upon the absence of the minister.

THE WEATHER

is colder than in the middle of winter. High and cold winds prevail, and the rapid vegetation of February has been checked. We have neither snow or frost, but it has not been at all a healthy season. There has been a wide prevalence of fever, and other sicknesses, and many desired a little more of the severity of the winter of the olden time. "B."

March 19, 1877.

THE OKA INDIANS AVENGED.

Public sentiment in Montreal is at white heat upon the subject of civil rights. An Alliance was formed of Evangelical men eighteen months ago, with a view to rectifying the wrongs of the Red Men. At a meeting in Mechanics Hall last week the constitution of the Alliance was changed to cover the interests of civil rights generally. It was a great meeting. We make room for two of the speeches:—

Rev. J. F. STEVENSON, L.L.B., seconded the resolution and spoke as follows: In seconding this resolution he was going back to the position he first assumed, having been one of those who had said, "Make your basis broader." He did not want any alliance to defend his Protestantism. Since Luther, those baby days of reform, Protestantism had grown up to be a giant power, and now was able to defend itself. When it should not be able to do that, he would think it had lost its vitality and ought to be taken up to the Mount Royal Cemetery, and there consigned "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust." For another reason he maintained the rightness of this change of name; they were going from time to time to appeal to the law, and he had a strong prejudice against appealing to the law for the defence of his religious faith. The whole nature of things was fighting on the side of that which was truth. The years go, and what was once unknown and unthought of, the bounds of a little, narrow sect, is a universal opinion; all men know it, and all men love it. Whatever he religious truth, that was its destiny. He revered the truth of his religion so devoutly that he would refuse to go to law, and ask, "Please defend the truth," for he knew there was a higher Defender. He had a good deal of respect for the institution of the land he was living in and some considerable respect for the Province of Quebec; with as much respect as he could at the courts of law; with as much respect as he could whip up at the Legislature of Quebec (laughter), but it did look to him as if there was something strangely incongruous in the beautiful form of truth in this beauteous Province of Quebec, if they had to go to the Legislature to defend her. (Applause and laughter.) It did seem strange that Truth should have to put her head inside the Legislative Assembly and say, "Please defend me." He would sooner cover up her fair robes and say

"GENTLEMEN, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS and I will mind mine." (Applause.) He thought she was capable of doing that, (applause), and therefore, for his part, he declined to be a party to such a provision. He would do it to maintain his civil rights, for they were proper questions for the law to defend the rights of every subject. (Applause.) The courts were created for the purpose of defending the civil rights of the people, and the Legislature at Quebec was there for that purpose, and when he wanted his rights protected he would go to them and demand them, and if he could not get them there he would go to the Federal Parliament, and if not there he would go across the water to

THE PRIVY COUNCIL

(Tremendous applause)—They who had given the rights before, he believed would do so again. He was not going to say a single unkind word of the Roman Catholic Church; as a church it had just as much right to existence and protection as his own. If any man went and pulled down some little Catholic Church, he would get upon that platform, and protest against such an act, as he had done before. There was always danger of people forgetting the limits to their rights, and so forgetting other people's rights. He would say to his Roman Catholic brethren that they are not one bit worse off than other churches would be in similar circumstances; if the Protestant was in a large majority there would be just as much necessity for guarding against the oppression of the minority. They had to watch lest the great majority should tyrannize over the rights of the population in this Province. Proceeding to the question of what was the right relation between the religious and the civil power, the speaker supposed that would be shown by development. The business of religion was to make men good according to one's best idea of goodness. So far as they did that, every wise man, the country, the Government would be on their side; but he wanted religion to mind its own business! Then he wanted the civil power to mind its own business. What was its business? To protect the religious freedom of the people. They were being banded together irrespective of creed, to do a right thing, a Christian thing—and an orthodox thing, it came to that. In the progress of society, Church and State had got to be separated and kept separate. The Civil Rights Alliance meant this: that Government should mind its own business, and the Church mind its own business. Again, he advocated this change of name because he wanted to see this Alliance have a basis of unity. He would here give his hearers a bit of social science with regard to all people thinking alike. We must think for ourselves if we think at all. Let us remember that after all we are nearer together than we think we are. Let us think together. He thanked God he believed a great deal that Roman Catholics believed. He believed in many of her greatest, grandest doctrines, in the same God and the same Christ, &c. Let us have an Alliance that would do for all of us. Should we not take the right stand—that

THOUGHT SHOULD BE FREE AS THE AIR?

That whatever was found to be true and right should be protected. He stood there to advocate that great cause for which Alfred fought long ago (applause), for which the mighty genius of Edward laboured; for which good Queen Elizabeth fought—(loud applause)—and for which noble Scotchmen and brave English fought; that great cause which beats at the heart of mighty statements of our own day; which has made sacred the name of Robert Peel—(applause)—which burned in the heart of Daniel O'Connell, which was winged in the words of William Ewart Gladstone and John Bright over the globe—(great cheering)—the cause of every man's right; the cause of freedom of conscience; the cause of liberty to be guided by God's sacred Spirit and helped onward and upward by His blessed truth. The reverend gentleman resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged applause.

REV. LEONARD GAETZ

seconded the resolution, reading his speech, although he said he would not be allowed to read his sermons. He was frequently impelled by the loud cheering of the audience to raise his precious voice above the noise in a way which hardly any other speaker could do. He said that the circumstances which led to the organization of this Alliance are too well known to the people of Montreal to need any elucidation. The experience of years and the previous speeches of this evening are sufficient to enlighten any one who wants to be enlightened. It was not any one act of outrage, as some suppose, which called this organization into being. (Loud applause.) It was rather the steady aggressions of a powerful and intolerant hierarchy upon the rights and liberties of the citizens of this Province (tremendous cheering), culminating in the

RUETHLESS DESTRUCTION OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCH at Oka, an act of vandalism which awoke the indignation of the country and called for united action. (Renewed cheering.) It is true, no churches have been pulled down lately, and are not likely to be for some years (laughter). We have forgiven Adam's delinquency in Eden, and have come to the conclusion that men are not condemned because Adam ate the forbidden fruit, but because they eat it (hear, hear, and applause) themselves with such a marvellous relish. You cannot have failed to perceive gentlemen, that the sundry inconveniences and wrongs which have been

PERPLEXING A SMALL AND LONG-SUFFERING MINORITY

in this Province for years, became so rigorous and oppressive upon the proclamation of the notorious Vatican decrees, enforced as they are by the pastorals of the bishops, that every liberty-loving subject becomes justly alarmed. (Applause.) The Syllabus of Rome is a

NERCIOUS THUMB-SCREW WITH SIX POINTS OF PRESSURE,

bearing directly upon politic law, and commerce, faith, education and the public press; and at every turn of that relentless screw the dear liberties of the British subject suffered, and are suffering to-day

in this Province. (Applause.) There are only three things to be done—either to leave the country, to stay as slaves, or defend our civil rights. (Applause.) Indeed, there has been for years past an undisguised assumption that this Province of Quebec belongs to the Pope. (No, no!)

THE THUMB-SCREW OF THE SYLLABUS is manipulated from that standpoint, and we are frequently reminded that if the arrangements are not satisfactory, we may have leave of absence for an indefinite period (laughter and applause); but in the first place this Province don't belong to the Pope (applause) and in the second place we are not going to leave until we get ready. (Tremendous cheering.) This Province,

THANK HEAVEN BELONGS TO QUEEN VICTORIA.

God bless her (applause again and again repeated), and we mean to stay round home, and strive to see fair play for all the family, whether Catholic or Protestant, Jew or Gentile, Churchman or non-conformist, infidel or Christian.—"Equal rights and fair play for one and all," is our motto. (Loud applause.)

THE SPIRIT OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS—

DOWN WITH DESPOTISM. (Loud applause.) Three hundred years ago, in Holland, about one million people stood for freedom in opposition to the mightiest empire of that age, whose banners the Pope had blessed. William, the Prince of Orange, was the champion of the righteous cause. (Tremendous cheering.) If a strong constitution has to do with life or organizations, as with the life of men, then there is a good old age for the "Civil Rights Alliance." "The constitutional resistance of the efforts of any organization to violate the principles of civil liberty." Sir, if ever there was a throne on earth before the face of which every law-abiding subject stood free and equal, that throne is the throne of Britain. (Cheers.) If ever there was a charter which secured equal rights to men of all nationalities and creeds, it is the grand Magna Charta, the terror of tyrants, but the admiration of the pure and free. (Applause.) "The protection of persons whose rights of citizenship may be infringed by ecclesiastical agency." It has been the

PRIDE AND GLORY OF BRITAIN.

to shelter the helpless refugee under the shadow of the Lion. (Applause.) Napoleon rested in safety; and if Pio Nono had found it necessary to flee from the shelter of the Vatican, beneath the shadow of Victoria's throne he would have rested as safely as helpless infancy in the lap of a devoted mother, and no ruthless hand would have dared to touch a hair of the old man's head. (Tremendous cheering.) Before the God of heaven and the laws of this land all men are free and equal. (Applause.) Why, then, should British law be used to interfere with the citizen in the conveyance of his property to whomsoever he will, on whatever terms may be suitable to himself. Why should the laws of Britain be abused to compel titles from the poor unwilling Catholic citizen, unless there be an established Church of Rome in this country? (That's so.) If there be such an establishment foisted in this country

DOWN WITH IT.

Why should Papal law, Protestant law, violate the sanctity of British law? DOWN WITH ALL ESTABLISHED RELIGION whether Church of England, Church of Scotland or Church of Rome. (Applause.) Let all men stand in the eye of the law where they stand in the eye of God, on the footing of religious equality. (Applause.) May Heaven bless the "Civil Rights Alliance." The reverend gentleman resumed his seat amid prolonged cheering.

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METHODIST MATTERS.

Services were held in the Methodist and Episcopal Churches of Fairville on Good Friday. In the former place of worship, Rev. Mr. Phinney officiated, preaching an effective sermon from 13th chapter of St. John and 30th verse:—"It is finished." In the latter church Rev. Mr. Dowling preached an able sermon to a large congregation.—News.

THE CENTRAL BAZAAR.

The ladies of the Centenary Church opened their bazaar yesterday afternoon. The disagreeable state of the weather prevented a large attendance, but the receipts were very good. Considering that only five weeks were spent in preparation the display of fancy and useful articles were exceedingly good, showing that the ladies must have worked with untiring industry. Some of the articles were very much admired. A pair of screens, imitations of Chinese work exhibited at the Centennial, attracted much attention, but did not find purchasers. They are very cheap at the price asked for them, \$15 each. The bazaar will be open again this evening, and the ladies expect their friends to attend and buy up the rest of the goods.—News, Tuesday.

PRESENTATION AT GAGETOWN.

On Thursday evening, the 29th ult., the Rev. J. N. Parker, Methodist clergyman at Gagetown, was presented with a purse of \$35 and a number of useful articles. The presentation was made at the parsonage. Sheriff Palmer, acting as spokesman for the congregation, referred in glowing terms to the mutual feeling of love that had grown up between pastor and people during his three years ministry at this station; and on behalf of the Methodists of Gagetown expressed regret that the tie would soon be severed. Rev. Mr. Parker made an appropriate reply, thanking his friends for the substantial token of their regard, and for their many kindly acts and expressions.—Telegraph.

CHEVERE.

Revival meetings have been held in connection with the different churches.—Rev. George Weathers, pastor of the Baptist Church, Rev. G. F. Day, pastor of the Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian minister, held special services in the Hall during the week of prayer—and now it is announced that a Plymouth brother is coming, while we are waiting, only waiting.—Services are being held at Brookville by elders William Miller and J. D. Sturgiss.

ATHENÆUM LECTURES.

If upon the analogy of "readable," we may be permitted to coin a word (and *lectum est egerudere verbum*), we should say that one of the most "hearable" lectures to which we have ever listened was delivered at the Court House on Monday evening. The lecturer was R. E. Holloway, Esq., B. A., the learned Principal of the Wesleyan Academy. His subject as announced was "What men are made of, with a few specimens from the workshop," and under the covering of this title he treated his hearers to a little anthropology, a little organic chemistry, a little physiology, and a great deal of the most delightful mélange of humorous, moralising and quaint reflections upon the human frame, and especially, 'the human face divine.' The lecture fairly sparkled—nay, scorched and scintillated—with quaint conceits of quiet humor which were evidently drawn from a deep and prolific vein.

MR. HOLLOWAY.

Mr. Holloway, be it known, does not try to be a 'funny man.' There is no coarseness, no broad farce, about his humor. It more resembles the kindly cynicism of Thackeray, or the quaintness of Charles Lamb. The lecture as a whole was genial and eloquent, combining much scientific information with a scholarly refinement which did not lack appreciation. We should be sorry to miss any of Mr. Holloway's future essays at the instruction and amusement of our lecture-going public.—St. John's, Nfld., Advocate.

THE METHODISTS OF THIS CITY.

are making arrangements for holding a grand Bazaar in July next. From what we hear of the preparations being made, this will no doubt be a first-class Bazaar.—Argus, Charlottetown.

YOUNG MEN'S WESLEYAN INSTITUTE HALIFAX.—The Annual meeting was held last Tuesday, when the following were elected officers for the ensuing year:—Wm. Crowe, President, (re-elected); E. B. Sutcliffe, James Morrow, (re-elected) Vice-Presidents; A. J. Bell, Secretary; Jno. Hills, Assistant Secretary; Jno. McInnis, Treasurer. Committee—W. B. McNutt, Chas. Bell, E. P. Adams, D. C. Palmer.

The Tea Meeting at Pleasant Valley was quite a success. Everything was done to make the visitors comfortable and happy. The following ladies provided "tables"—which were loaded with every delicacy that could be desired, viz: Mrs. John Bentley, of Margate, Mrs. James Murray, Mrs. Pound, Sen., Mrs. John Weeks, Mrs. Henry Weeks, and Mrs. Magford, of Pleasant Valley. Too much praise cannot be given to the ladies for their efforts in making this, the first tea-meeting in that neighborhood, a success. The Rev. Mr. Lathern's Lecture in the evening was very highly appreciated for which he was heartily thanked. Mr. C. P. Fletcher cheered and delighted the gathering with his splendid efforts on the organ. Proceeds \$63.—Com. to *Summerside* (P. E. I. Journal).

Notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, the Tea Meeting in the Basement of the Methodist Church, on Wednesday evening, was largely attended. The room in which the entertainment was held is one admirably suited for the purpose, and with its tasty and elaborate decorations of evergreens, flags, mottoes and engravings, presented on the evening referred to as attractive an appearance as ever witnessed in a public hall in Woodstock—perhaps in the Province. The tables were well supplied and well patronized; the singing was excellent; the receipts more than anticipated; the whole affair a decided success and creditable in the extreme to the ladies having it in charge.—Woodstock Sentinel.

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