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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Sursum Corda. The decisive moment is at hand. In another week the die will be cast, the irresponsible multitude will have exercised, for weal or woe, that redoubtable power of voting which its flatterers call an inherent right. The destinies of our fair Dominion just now hinge upon the pivotality of Winnipeg; and who knows how many fluctuating wills may, by leaning one way or the other, determine the direction in which that pivot shall turn? In view of this uncertainty—for though our prospects are undoubtedly bright, the issue of an election in which such forces of mind and passion are opposed must be an uncertainty—would it not be well for those of our readers whose faith in God is strong to lift up their hearts to Him and pray that he may illumine the intellects and strengthen the wills of those waverers on whose votes, by a strange irony of universal suffrage, rests the result of the struggle?

The Cloud Of Witnesses. What the voters need is rather honesty of purpose, righteous will-power than enlightenment. Except for the wilfully blind the amount of light focussed upon the School Question in the last six years is quite overwhelming. The contrast between the impenetrable fog of passion and prejudice on the one side and the ever-growing radiance of fresh and fresh illumination on the other reminds us of the darkness that might have been felt with the hands in the land of Egypt as contrasted with the lights that played around the children of Israel in their dwellings. From the first the Catholic point of view has been stated over and over again with irresistible cogency and clearness not only by our clergy and laity but especially by a host of sincere Protestants. For more than three years Mr. Luxton in the Free Press wielded his trenchant pen in our defence, producing a series of articles which constitute a veritable arsenal of arguments for Catholic schools from a common sense Protestant standpoint. Hon. Senator Bernier, in the Upper House, gave utterance to several exhaustive and eloquent statements of our case; so did Mr. LaRiviere and many other Catholic members, each viewing the question from his individual point of view and all agreeing in the manifest justice of our cause; but here we are especially concerned with our non-Catholic champions, such as the Hon. David Mills and the Hon. James Fisher. The former rivets our rights to the bed-rock of the Constitution, the latter politely yet potently expostulates with his leader, Mr. Laurier, and points out how impregnable is our position. Greatest of all, however, and practically invincible is our resourceful counsel Mr. John S. Ewart. Not content with his unanswerable and unanswered volume on the Manitoba School Question, he is ever on the breach, hurling back with terrific force the missiles of the enemy,

whether that enemy be a chivalrous knight-errant like Mr. Pedley or an orotund swaggerer like Mr. Wade. He is the only man that ever succeeded in silencing the irrepressible Dr. Bryce. And now, as his letter in this issue shows, he has driven the Rev. Joseph Hogg into a very tight corner. Fancy a respectable clergyman waiting more than a fortnight before replying to an honest, straightforward challenge from Mr. Ewart, and then not attempting to support a single one of his own statements, nor to deny a single one of Mr. Ewart's, but flying off to something else and finally adding two further statements that are ludicrously false. That's what comes of clinging desperately to a bad cause, for which there has never yet appeared the ghost of a rational argument, nothing but appeals to ignorance, bigotry and passion.

Catholic World. One of the best things in this June number is "A Saint," the apparently true story of an act of delicate forbearance and triumphant mercy done by a monk of our own time. The tale is told by one who, if he ever becomes thoroughly converted, will have to disown many of his past writings. H. M. Sweeney is at her best in "Subject to change." "Montmartre and the Sacred Heart," by Rev. John M. Kiely, chats summarily of the Basilica, Blessed Margaret Mary, and of the doctrinal basis of devotion to the Sacred Heart. As Loyola and his first companions laid the foundation of the Society of Jesus on the very spot where the great Byzantine basilica stands to-day, we are treated to a very good portrait of St. Ignatius. Walter Lecky replies with admirable frankness and point to Mr. Henry Childs Merwin's recent strictures on the Irish in America Life. Speaking of the occasional and unimportant faults on which Mr. Merwin unduly enlarges, Mr. Lecky says it is "ignoring the beauty of Apollo to scan a wart on his toe."

TRUST THE TRUSTWORTHY.

Before the next issue of the Review goes to press the electorate of the Dominion will irrevocably decide which of the two great political parties shall be entrusted with the government of the country for the next five years, and we feel, therefore, that it is our bounden duty, as the organ of the persecuted Catholic minority of Manitoba, to address to our readers our final word of counsel and appeal, so that whatever the result may be we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we have been true to the trust reposed in us and have done all we possibly could for the great and holy cause we have so much at heart.

We start out with the assumption that throughout the country there are multitudes of Catholics who are eager to help the Manitoba minority in their educational struggle, but there are some, no doubt, who are at a loss to know how their support can best be given under the circumstances. We would respectfully refer them to the recent pastoral letter of their Lordships the Archbishops and Bishops of Quebec whose eminently practical suggestions, if properly understood, can leave no one in doubt as to how he may promote the cause. It may be said that our battle, which has been raging for six long years, has now reached its most acute phase, and every friend of Catholic education and Catholic rights who desires to be accounted a good and true soldier, should endeavor, regardless of all other considerations, to do his part well and manfully. Candidates seeking the support of the electorate should be made to understand how strong is the feeling amongst Catholic citizens that the rights of which the minority in Manitoba have been deprived should be immediately restored to them; that fair play is all that is demanded, but that a full measure of fair-play will be insisted on. In a word, we would say, let every Catholic when casting his ballot at the coming election remember first and before everything

else that he is a Catholic, and let him prove himself to be a Catholic generously and energetically, not only as a mere professor of the faith by words, but as one who is ready to act, and willing to sacrifice all other considerations when the interests of his religion and the rights of his co-religionists are at stake.

This being the undoubted duty of the Catholic electors of the Dominion we trust it may not be considered out of place on our part if we take the liberty of offering a few suggestions as to how that duty may best be fulfilled, and the cause of Catholic education in Manitoba best promoted. We would say, then, that each voter will have to consider the claims of the candidates appealing for his support from two standpoints—first of all looking into his personal qualifications, his promises and his past record, and secondly considering him as a representative of one of the great parties each of which has also a record and is making promises for the future. With regard to the candidates personally we can, of course, only speak in general terms, but we do say most emphatically that those who were members of the late house and opposed the passage of the Remedial Bill must, notwithstanding any fine promises they may make, be looked upon with the very gravest suspicion as men who once had a chance of assisting in rendering us substantial justice, but who for party considerations basely betrayed us into the hands of our enemies. But of the two great parties and the two great leaders we may speak more definitely and to the point. As we have often said before when the last judgment of the Privy Council was given we felt assured that our period of persecution was virtually at an end, for it seemed to us that should Mr. Laurier's Manitoba friends, the Greenway Government, remain obdurate and refuse to obey the judgment, the Dominion Parliament would with alacrity and practical unanimity proceed to exercise the power vested in them under the constitution and give us relief. The Dominion Government promptly took the preliminary steps and plainly showed they were determined to face their responsibility, and notwithstanding the abominable agitation which was at once set on foot throughout the country by those men who are hostile to everything Catholic and continually make war against us, we did not feel in the least alarmed, for we believed that when the measure would be brought in it would receive the support not only of Government members, but also of every Catholic in the house regardless of party affiliations and likewise the support of many other Liberals who are not Catholics. Bitter then was our disappointment when the event proved that the very man who should have been our warmest friend adopted a role which filled our worst enemies with the greatest glee. We say that when the Hon. Mr. Laurier moved the six months' hoist he deliberately attempted to kill a bill which would have given us a fair and just school law, and when he failed in this he went from one infamy to another by conspiring with the P. P. A. members, the McCarthyites and the rest of our sworn foes to so obstruct the measure that it could not become the law of the land. This is the record of the Laurier party on the Manitoba school question in the last parliament, and what is their position before the people of the country to-day? In Quebec, it is true, Mr. Laurier is promising that if returned to power he will bring in and pass a more stringent measure of relief than that proposed by the government, but in making such a promise he is wilfully trying to deceive the people, inasmuch as he is perfectly aware that he could not under the constitution do any such thing. In Ontario he has persuaded Sir Oliver Mowat to lend him his name and although Sir Oliver has done this in only a half-hearted-way, it is the strongest card Mr. Laurier has played, and would undoubtedly help him to win the game if its effect had not been entirely neutralized by the placing in the field in the Province of Manitoba, as the two leading Laurier candidates, Mr. Dalton Mc-

Carthy and Mr. Joseph Martin, who are plainly in the confidence of their chief-tain and who never lose an opportunity of enlogising him for the liberality of his views, his sympathy with Protestant ideas, and his determination not to force on the people of this province a system of schools which although wanted by the Catholics will, they say, never be voluntarily given by the Protestant majority. This is the whole status of the Laurier party on the Manitoba school question, and we simply ask our readers to compare it with the manly, straightforward course of the Government at the last session, and their open and unqualified announcements in Manitoba as well as in Quebec regarding the future. Having done this, every Catholic will, we feel certain, be forced to the same conclusion as that which we have reached: viz., that Mr. Laurier and his motley following are, looked at from any point of view, not to be trusted, and that both the past and the present furnishes abundant evidence that the best and wisest course to adopt is to entrust the present government with the settlement of the matter.

In the name therefore of the persecuted Catholics of Manitoba, in the name of the outraged constitution of the Dominion, we solemnly ask our readers to seriously ponder on what we have here and elsewhere written, and giving their confidence to those who have once proved themselves our friends, say to those weak-kneed politicians who have already once betrayed us, and shown themselves to be our treacherous enemies and the tools of the Manitoba Government in their defiance of the Privy Council: "We cannot trust you, your past record is against you, and we should not be worthy of the traditions of our fathers in the faith, who in days of persecution replied with heroic simplicity even in the presence of death, 'I am a Christian, I am a Catholic, if we allowed any paltry party consideration or temporal good to induce us to leave our Manitoba brethren to your tender mercies.'"

UNWORTHY OF CONFIDENCE.

Mr. Joseph Martin is, as we have often pointed out, Mr. Laurier's trusted lieutenant in this country. Passing one of his committee rooms a few evenings ago we caught a few sentences of a speech he was delivering before an audience of a couple of hundred men and boys there assembled who evidently thoroughly appreciated his denunciations of Sir Charles Tupper whom he described as the champion of the Roman Catholics, and who loudly cheered his allusions to the Hon. Mr. Laurier, whom he referred to as the bold defender of Protestant ascendancy in Manitoba and the sole hope of those who are opposed to the encroachments of the insidious church of Rome. There may be some of our readers who will still find it hard to believe that Mr. Martin can have any claim to speak authoritatively of his leader's views and inmost sentiments, but they will do well to bear in mind that from the day when Mr. Laurier ostentatiously introduced Mr. Martin to the House of Commons as member for this City, these two politicians have been on terms of the greatest intimacy, and when speaking here in 1894 Mr. Laurier pointedly declared that Winnipeg's representative was his personal and valued friend, and that he felt honored in having such an able, devoted, and reliable lieutenant. In addition to this Mr. Martin is to-day endorsed by the Liberal press of the Dominion, it is said that he will have a seat in the cabinet Mr. Laurier is to form, and only last week an open letter was addressed to the people of Winnipeg by the Editor of the Globe urging them to return to Ottawa this pillar of the party. This, being the case we once again ask our Eastern readers what confidence can they place in Mr. Laurier, and what do they think the Catholics of Manitoba may hope for if he comes to power and forms a cabinet out of such material as Mr. Joseph Martin, taking into consideration at the same time the claims of

his other friend and Manitoba candidate—Dalton McCarthy. Reflection on such points as these have forced us to the conclusion, and we say it with regret, that the once great and respected Liberal Party has by its present alliances forfeited all claim to confidence, and if there is one section of the community more than another which must look upon it with the gravest suspicion it surely is the Catholic electors who have so much at stake in the election which is to be decided next week. From their point of view the Liberal Party is, to say the least, most unfortunate in its plan of campaign, in the combinations it has formed, and, above all, in its leader, who has, certainly, in this crisis not developed those strong points which his friends looked for and which are absolutely indispensable in a statesman who aspires to govern a great country like the Dominion of Canada. That exceedingly well-informed English journal "The Liverpool Catholic Times," which has so nobly battled for Home Rule and for Catholic educational rights in England, says in its last issue to hand speaking of the Canadian elections:—

"The Liberal organs affect to be highly indignant because their Leader, Mr. Laurier, has been called 'a rationalistic Catholic' by one of the Bishops. But his attitude on the Education Question has most decidedly laid him open to the charge of want of fidelity towards the Church. The reform which the Catholics demand in Manitoba is not a mere question of politics; it is simply a question of remedying injustice. Mr. Laurier however knowing the strength of Protestant bigotry, resolved to pander to it in the hope of securing a majority at the elections. We are inclined to think that he will find himself misled by his calculations."

So think we, too. The people of Canada as a whole will have no use for a man who is willing for his own selfish reasons to forget his duty to his country and his religion, and to unite with those who in order to barass and oppress a loyal and law-abiding minority, have deliberately defied Her Majesty's Privy Council. Such perfidy as Mr. Laurier has been guilty of is too transparent to deceive any but those who are wilfully blind, and we have every confidence therefore that on the 23rd June Mr. Laurier and his dear friend and ally, Joseph Martin, will receive such a lesson from the electors that their fate will for many a long day stand as a warning to those in the public life of Canada who may be tempted to make a political football of the Constitution of the country and the sacred rights of the people. Let every Catholic elector do his part in making the lesson as complete and effective as possible by strenuously opposing Laurierism and the Laurier candidates, and by doing their best to secure the return of members who follow the lead of Sir Charles Tupper—a statesman who has the desire and the will to see the provisions of the constitution enforced to their very letter and who stands before Canada to-day as one who will face any risk rather than shirk his responsibilities or desert the oppressed.

THE ISSUE IS CLEAR.

The promise of Sir Oliver Mowat to go into the Liberal ministry at Ottawa which Mr. Laurier will form, if returned to power, was intended to reassure those electors whom the Liberal leader's course on the Remedial Bill had disgusted. Considering, however, that Mr. Laurier's following includes Mr. Dalton McCarthy and Mr. Joseph Martin, whose claims he would also have to consider in forming a cabinet, the taking in of Sir Oliver Mowat will not, we believe, be sufficient to reassure those Liberals of Ontario who believe in Remedial Legislation as a sure cure for the evil condition of things in this Province and who have lost confidence in Mr. Laurier. When such men as Messrs. Taillon and Angers are prepared to stand or fall by the honesty of the Conservative party in this matter the elector who can still doubt must be a very stubborn