

AN ODD MIXTURE. The Opposition newspapers are twitting the Government party with being divided, but why do they not look at home? A very short survey of the Opposition shows that it is split up into cliques and factions that can never even by the cohesive power of public plunder be made to coalesce.

Mr. Monet was the other day compelled to declare himself in favor of remedial legislation. Mr. Laurier is pledged up to the hilt to "restore" to the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba their separate schools. Then we have Oppositionists in Ontario, British Columbia and elsewhere who are opposed to interference with the Manitoba school legislation to any extent or on any pretence whatever.

There are also Oppositionists who are uncompromising protectionists. Clarke Wallace and Mr. McNeill are of this school. Wallace has, it appears, begun to kick already, for he is reported to have said lately, "Don't be afraid of the National Policy. It will come out all right at the next election. The Liberals will not get into power. We, who take a strong stand against the Government on the coercion of Manitoba, will be back in great force, and we are not free traders nor tariff reformers."

We need not inform our readers that there is a considerable section of the Opposition who are fanatical free traders. They hate protection with a deadly hatred and it would not be hard to convince them that the National Policy is an invention of the Evil One himself, and that it has done nothing but harm to the Dominion since it was established. It will, we think, be more than Mr. Laurier can do to unite firmly and permanently the protectionists of the Opposition with the free traders.

The Patrons of Industry are, we see, counted in among the opponents of the Government. They differ materially from both the free traders and the protectionists. Their organization has been formed specially to protect the interests of the farmer. They, it appears, want to have the farmer protected by the Government, but they are opposed to its extending protection to any manufacturing industry.

The A. P. A. is a religio-political organization, the object of which is to protect Protestantism from Roman Catholic aggression. Although the A. P. A. has been denounced by the Toronto Globe in the most contemptuous terms, it, too, is said to be opposed to the Government. Here we have an Opposition composed of heterogeneous and even antagonistic elements. A cordial union between these elements, either before the election or after the election, is simply an impossibility.

We have not included in our catalogue of the component parts of the Opposition the trimmers or the walters upon Providence—the men who are in doubt as to which side they will take until they are able to form, as they consider, a correct opinion as to the party which is going to win. When they come to a decision on that point they will magnanimously throw their weight on the winning side. Until then they cannot be counted with either the Government or the Opposition. Unfortunately these gentlemen often make miscalculations, and, when the election is over, instead of finding themselves among the victors they discover to their intense chagrin that they have thrown their votes away on the defeated party.

This trifling circumstance, however, does not prevent a good many of them, in these days of secret voting, joining the victorious crowd and hurrahing among the most demonstrative for the men they voted against.

A survey of the field makes it clear then that the Opposition is very far indeed from being one and undivided. If there are differences among the Conservatives they are few and unimportant compared with the diversities both of principle and opinion that are rampant among their opponents.

THE BRITISH SPIRIT. The enemies of Great Britain were a short time ago in great glee because, as they thought, the whole world was in league against her. She had not, they declared, a single friend among the nations of the earth. Some of them went so far as to declare that this was a judgment against her for her selfishness and her greed.

When her enemies were loudest in their triumph and most virulent in their scoffing the trouble in South Africa arose, and Germany showed a disposition to take part with the Transvaal against England. Were the British cowed by the threatening attitude of the

most powerful nation of Europe? Did they deprecate the anger of Germany and withdraw any of their claims to sovereignty in South Africa. They did the very reverse. They soon gave the Emperor of Germany and those who counted upon his active interference in the affairs of South Africa to understand that they were prepared to maintain to the utmost their rights. When President Kruger, relying upon the assistance of Germany, made preparations to repudiate the suzerainty of Great Britain he was told in very plain terms that he would be required to carry out the terms of the Treaty of London. The Times, which on most important occasions faithfully expresses the opinions and the feelings of the British nation, assumed a firm and an independent attitude that must have convinced both the President of the Transvaal Republic and the Emperor of Germany that it was not in this South African business to be either trifled with or bullied. This is part of what the Times said:

The arming of the Dutch Republics is unquestionably a very grave act. Preparations, we are told, are being made in the Orange Free State as well as in the Transvaal, and it would be fatuous to neglect what is at the contingent object with which they are undertaken. While they are being carried on, the President is protracting the negotiations with a dexterity in the art of procrastination which is almost without parallel in the annals of the statesmen of the Sublime Porte.

The Germans of the Transvaal and the Hollanders, in their own way and with their own ends, are exerting themselves to defeat the prospect of a friendly settlement. They know that a good understanding between the two races would be fatal to the lucrative monopolies and privileges they enjoy. They know that they could not compete with England upon equal terms, and accordingly they are eager to deprive her of fair play by any means and at any cost to the country they profess to defend.

There is reason to hope that, if the emissaries who are said to have been sent out by the extreme Boer party at Pretoria carry their researches far enough and faithfully report results, they will be obliged to disappoint the expectations of their employers. These agents, we are assured, have preached to the men of Dutch blood that their future depends on the discomfiture of the English. But within the British colonies at all events, and, as we are pleased to believe, far beyond their borders, the emissaries will find that the ablest, the best educated, and the most upright of their countrymen have formed a juster estimate of the future of South Africa. They do not believe that the welfare of the Boer depends upon the subjection of the Englishman. They know that to expel the English from the land they have held for a hundred years is impossible, and they do not wish that it should be otherwise. If they have seen something of England's power, they have had experience of the uses to which she puts it, and they have enjoyed under it a freedom wider far than the freedom of the Dutch Republics.

Mr. Chamberlain at a complimentary dinner given him at the Constitutional Club was equally independent and equally explicit, as will be seen from the following extract from the Times report of his speech:

Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to deal at length with the question of South Africa, and said that there was no objection about the policy of the government. There were two governing factors in connection with South Africa. The first was that Great Britain had been and must continue to be the paramount power, and at all costs and risks would resist any foreign interference. In the second place there was the fact that the English and Dutch had to live together in South Africa. At present the Dutch were in a majority, and it was the duty of every statesman and well-wisher of South Africa to do all in his power to maintain amicable relations between the two races. Nevertheless, as the paramount power, we could not be indifferent to a state of things which involved injustice to our own subjects and danger to the peace of South Africa. He had a confident hope that they would be able in no long time to restore the former situation in the Transvaal, and have the sympathy and support of the majority of the Dutch population in South Africa in pressing for redress of the grievances of the Uitlanders. He would exercise all the resources of persuasion, argument and negotiation to that end.

Those who believed that the people of Great Britain would be dismayed at finding they were alone in the world, that they would have to take their own part against powerful nations without the prospect of help from any quarter, found that they had grievously miscalculated. They saw that the spirit of the British people rose when they contemplated the difficulties of their position, and that they were fully determined to defend what they believed to be the right no matter how great the odds against them. Their determined attitude had its effect. It was found that they had attached too much importance to the Emperor of Germany's hasty expression of sympathy with the President of the Transvaal Republic. And Mr. Kruger and his Government saw that it would be bad policy to deal harshly with the Uitlander reformers. Appearances now indicate that South Africa will in a short time be perfectly tranquil and that the Uitlanders will in the near future be in a better position than they have ever occupied since their settlement in the Transvaal.

A QUEER CERTIFICATE. Here is the certificate of character which the Montreal Witness gives one of Mr. Laurier's lieutenants, and one whom he had the other day strongly recommended to the electors of Montreal:

The Liberal party has far more dangerous men than Mr. McShane hanging to its skirts, and Mr. McShane is so openly bad, so innocently bad, as one might say—for he has never appeared to know the difference between right and wrong—that people are inclined to condone his notorious misdeeds.

NOT AN ANSWER. The Times tries to make its readers believe that Sir Donald Smith said that Mr. Laurier has been as "frank, open and honest in his political utterances" as Sir Charles Tupper. Sir Donald Smith said nothing of the kind. He was, in fact, never asked to institute such a comparison. He merely said that he considered Mr. Laurier an honorable man who was as anxious as anybody that the school question should be settled, and who would have been only too willing to help the commissioners when they went to Winnipeg. This was Sir Donald's opinion. He may have been right or he may have been, as we believe he was, altogether too charitable in his judgment of Mr. Laurier. What we asked for was a statement as to a matter of fact. "Can," we said, "any man in Canada, whether he is Conservative or Liberal, Protestant or Catholic, with truth and sincerity say that the Hon. Mr. Laurier is equally frank, open and honest in his utterances on political questions?" (as Sir Charles Tupper). Mr. Laurier's utterances on political questions are on record. Anyone who understands English or French, who reads them carefully and intelligently, will be able to say whether he has in those utterances been frank, open and honest. Where is Mr. Laurier's manifesto? Where can we find a simple, clear and unambiguous statement of his political belief and intentions? He has said a very great deal and his utterances are variously interpreted by his followers. The Quebec Grits say they mean one thing and the Ontario Grits declare they mean another; but Mr. Laurier takes very good care not to tell them what he really did mean. An address to the electors of the Dominion would, if it were honestly worded, clear up all misunderstandings, but we hear nothing of such an address.

GRIT PURITY. The Grits would have the country believe that they are the purest and most disinterested patriots alive. The editor of La Patrie, a life-long Liberal, did not believe this when he declared, that the crew that were around Mr. Laurier had smelled the steam from the soup pot at Ottawa and were eager to get at its contents. And the Hon. Alexander MacKenzie had found out the true spirit of Gritism when he complained that "Friends expect to be benefited by offices they are unfit for, by contracts they are not entitled to, by advances not earned."

"Enemies ally themselves with friends and push the friends to the front. Some attempt to storm the office, and some dig trenches at a distance, and approach in regular siege form. I feel like the besieged, lying on my arms day and night. I have offered at least twenty parliamentary friends by my defence of the citadel."

The jury that compelled Mr. Pacaud, an ardent Grit and one of Mr. Laurier's intimates, to disgorge \$100,000 of the public money which he had wrongfully obtained, saw how the Quebec Grits made ducks and drakes of money voted by the Legislature when they got the chance.

THE GLOBE'S TESTIMONY. Here is what the Toronto Globe said about the Mercier gang, all of whom are friends and supporters of Mr. Laurier: "Mr. Mercier's colleagues refuse to appear in Ottawa because 'the Federal parliament has no right to hold an investigation into a provincial affair.' But this is not a provincial affair. The Federal parliament has voted bonuses to the amount of \$820,000 to the Baie des Chaleurs road, of which \$225,000 has actually been paid. Assuming that they cannot successfully contradict Armstrong's confession and the very damning testimony of the bank managers—one of whom refused to cash the letter of credit on the ground that as \$100,000 of the proceeds were to be given to Pacaud the transaction was an illegitimate one on its face—it follows that Pacaud, Armstrong, Langelier and Robidoux, obtained money under false pretences from the province for the benefit of Pacaud. Lieutenant-Governor Armstrong, who on the advice of his Ministers signed the order-in-council under which the letter of credit was issued, will no doubt take action. But apart from anything which he may see fit to do, the fact remains that these four persons have committed a criminal offence, and we see no reason why they should not be arrested and clapped in gaol."

PERSISTENT LYING. One of the Smart Ales of the Grit party in the Grit Weekly says: "This deliberate denial of cabinet rank to Mr. Prior places him in a very peculiar position as regards his constituents." Mr. Prior has been accorded "cabinet rank," he has taken his seat in the cabinet and he has exercised the powers of a cabinet minister. His right to the position has not been questioned in the House of Commons or out of it by any public man who has a reputation to lose. Irresponsible scribblers who believe that persistence in lying will serve an election purpose deny that Col. Prior is a cabinet minister, but men who respect themselves, and desire others to respect their word, whether written or spoken, would scorn to attempt to take advantage of electors whose knowledge of political affairs is limited, by making a statement as impudent as it is false. When the electors of Victoria see that Col. Prior's cabinet rank has been recognized by men of both parties in the House of Commons during a long session in which the debates were more than ordinarily bitter, they must see that the

men in Victoria who declare that he is not a cabinet minister are saying what they know to be false, are doing what they can to deceive them. We cannot imagine that the smart Ales of the Grit Weekly and the Grit Weekly are so densely ignorant and so ineffectually stupid as not to know that when they assert that Col. Prior has been denied cabinet rank they are deliberately, and with intent to deceive, saying what is utterly false. They may, perhaps, believe that lying about a political matter is part of their smartness.

A QUEBEC UTTERANCE. It has become very apparent that Mr. Laurier's double dealing on the school question will before long be completely exposed. His pledge to "restore" separate schools to Manitoba, made in Montreal, is on record, and he gave, in the House of Commons, on the 14th of April last, what must have been his reason for making that pledge. This is what he said, taken from Hansard, page 6379:

"Sir, we have in this very matter an example of hasty and ill-considered legislation. When the Manitoba act was considered in this House of Commons, it was a matter of history that the intention of the Legislature was to put the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba on exactly the same footing as the Roman Catholic minority in Ontario and the Protestant minority in Quebec, that is to say, that which separate schools would be beyond the reach of the Legislature of Manitoba, that they would be in such a position that the Legislature of Manitoba would not touch their schools than the Legislature of Ontario can touch the separate schools of that province, or than the Legislature of Quebec could touch the separate schools in that province. Therefore, through hasty legislation, through ill-considered legislation, through undigested legislation such as we have to-day, the intention of the Parliament was not carried out, with the result that the minority have been deprived of their schools. Is not that the case? The Minister of Finance has admitted that such was the intention of a former Parliament, but the intention of Parliament was not carried out. The Privy Council by its judgment in the Barrett case decided that the Legislature of Manitoba could deal with this question, whereas the intention of Parliament here was that it should not deal with this question."

It will be remembered that Mr. Laurier condemned the remedial bill as a "half-hearted measure," consequently the bill which he will introduce will be wholehearted from his point of view, and therefore more favorable to the minority than the one which the obstructionist minority strangled. But Mr. Laurier proposes to accomplish his end, namely, the restoration of separate schools to the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba, by conciliatory means. Our readers are in a position to judge of the likelihood of the majority in Manitoba ever voluntarily agreeing to a proposal made by Mr. Laurier, or anyone else, to restore the separate schools which were abolished by the Act of 1890. Their refusal would of course make remedial legislation for Mr. Laurier a necessity, for without such legislation it would be impossible to fulfil the solemn promise he made to the electors of the province of Quebec.

THE PREMIER IN WINNIPEG. Our readers have no doubt noticed that Sir Charles Tupper spoke as plainly and as emphatically on the school question in Winnipeg as he did in Ottawa. He did not beat about the bush or hide his meaning in a cloud of words. He did not leave the least room for anyone, friend or opponent, to misunderstand or misinterpret him. He told the Winnipeg audience what he believed to be the truth, not waiting apparently to consider whether it was palatable or unpalatable to those who heard him. Sir Charles has always the courage of his opinions. And it is evident that his honesty and his pluck were noticed and admired. Our Winnipeg correspondent tells us that the Premier's speech was well received, and that yesterday large numbers of his admirers and supporters called upon him, no doubt to express their approval of what he had said the evening before. It is significant that the Premier's first campaign address was delivered in the city in which it is supposed that the opposition to his policy is most intense and most bitter. It is not without reason that Sir Charles has been called the War Horse of Cumberland. He is indeed a statesman whose courage and whose energy are unbounded.

A COMPARISON. The Grit papers seem to think that Mr. Laurier has made a great advance towards the settlement of the Manitoba school question when he declared his intention of sending Sir Oliver Mowat to Winnipeg to negotiate with the Government of that province. But a man who knows a great deal more about Manitoba than Sir Oliver does, and who occupies a higher place in the regard of its inhabitants than Ontario's Premier, Sir Donald A. Smith, was sent as a peace commissioner to Winnipeg, but the Manitoba Government would not accede to the terms he offered. What reason is there to believe that Sir Oliver Mowat will be more successful? None whatever.

BISHOP OF NIAGARA. HAMILTON, May 8.—Tuesday next the Synod of Niagara will meet at Christ Church cathedral to elect a bishop to succeed Bishop Hamilton. There is promise of an interesting time in making the choice.

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