

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1885

FOREIGN TRADE in the United States has taken a decidedly favorable turn. The imports are decreasing, while the exports are on the increase.

HON. PATRICK A. COLLINS, who is one of the most prominent and influential citizens of the American Republic and a member of Congress for Boston, is meeting with special and marked honors at the hands of the Irish people.

JOHN BRIGHT'S speech at the Spencer banquet, as promised, was made the subject of criticism in the House of Commons last evening.

THE decay in the population of Ireland is assuming startling proportions. The nation is being steadily bled to death. The general quarterly return estimates the actual population of Ireland to have sunk to 4,924,342.

THE Conservative party in the British House of Commons is becoming quite liberal. The Tory government has given no point blank refusal to the requests of the Irish party, as their Liberal predecessors used to do.

DURING the visit of the Hon. Patrick A. Collins, of Boston, to the Irish National League offices in Dublin, the American statesman said that he was astounded and jubilant over the remarkable stride the National League movement had made during the last five years.

am aware of the fact," said Mr. Collins, "that Mr. Parnell will require a large sum of money to hold together the eighty members whom he expects to have in the next Parliament and that very little help can be hoped for from Ireland at present, but I know whereof I speak when I say that Irish America will respond nobly when called upon to aid Mr. Parnell to sustain his party in the position suitable for members of Parliament.

A NOTABLE conversion has taken place in Paris. Leo Taxil, who has been for a number of years the fiercest and most uncompromising enemy of religion and of the Catholic Church, has at last laid down his arms. He has just sought for readmission to the Church and has made a complete retraction of all the infamous lies and obscene stories published in the pernicious works of which he is the author, notably "Les Amours de Pie IX," "Les Calotins," etc.

Everybody knows that the Ancient Capital of this province is not altogether void of objects of special interest, but few are aware that among these we have such things as "faithful vassals of ecclesiasticism at Quebec."

SOME remarkably inconsistent and illogical comments are being made on the Riel verdict. For instance, our evening contemporary, the Daily Star, while protesting that the blood of Riel's fellow prisoners at Regina is not wanted, says:—

THE people of Canada can afford to be merciful with those who were fighting for their rights against what they held to be oppression, however inexorable they may be in their demands for the punishment of the man who led his home in Montana to lead his simple kinsmen astray.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. It is now definitely settled that Mr. Thomas White, M.P., will enter the Dominion Cabinet, and it is only a question of a few days when his ministerial portfolio will be handed to him.

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at the head of the Department of the Interior. Heavier responsibility attaches to this position at the present juncture than at any other time. The North-West and the Department of the Interior have not been on the best of terms and their relations were rather severely strained during the late rebellion. The Montreal Herald makes a remarkable admission in this connection, at a rather late hour of the day. It says:— "The Department of the Interior has been notoriously mismanaged, and now that the war is over we can frankly state 'what we would not do during its continuance, viz., that it has been the cause, or, at least, the pretext—with much cause—for such—for the troubles in the North-West.' Under these circumstances, it is plain that a man of too much intelligence and firmness, and with a will and capacity to discharge the duties of the office, cannot be placed at the helm of the department.

IT TOLD THE TRUTH.

THE verdict of the committee appointed to inquire into the terrible charges of unseemly crimes, laid at the door of high class society in England, by the Pall Mall Gazette, is to the effect that the Gazette told the truth and nothing but the truth. The committee's report of their investigation is unanimous and is signed by the five members thereof, viz., Cardinal Manning, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and Messrs. Morley, M.P., and Reid. The report concludes that "after carefully sifting the evidence of witnesses and the materials before us, without guaranteeing the accuracy of every particular, we are satisfied 'that on the whole the statements of the Pall Mall Gazette are substantially true.'"

NO PUNISHMENT FOR TITLED CRIMINALS.

THE English Parliament has, by an official vote, refused to take the necessary measures to put a stop to the revolting vices of the titled and aristocratic classes. The House rejected the amendment to the Criminal Bill which provided for the flogging of persons convicted of outraging little children. The House also declined to raise the age of a girl, at which she could be legally ruined, to eighteen years. Crimes for which the death penalty would not be too severe are made light of by this enlightened and virtuous legislature. Why should the whip be employed for the punishment of abominations practised on the children by the British aristocracy and royalty? The unrestrained debaucheries of the "upper classes" of England must not be too violently interfered with and they must not be punished in any adequate manner.

SOCIETY, as at present organized in Great Britain, makes such crimes as exposed by the Pall Mall Gazette the natural outcome of its own inequalities. The titled and aristocratic libertines will continue to make sport of the poor, and as Parliament has just demonstrated, no effective precaution will be taken to prevent a repetition of the heinous crimes, nor will means be employed to visit with condign retribution the execrable authors of past or future enormities.

THAT DEMAND AND THREAT.

THE Daily Witness, through one of "its own correspondents," notified the Federal Government that the English population of the North-West would not tolerate the appointment of a French-Canadian to the office of Lieutenant-Governor. It said that as bad as Dewdney was, he would be preferable to a Frenchman. For arrogance and impertinence the Witness production could not be surpassed. One would imagine from its vulgar tone that the whole lot, or at least the vast majority of the settlers in the North-West were fresh out from old England, and that no attention or respect was to be paid to the feelings of the settlers of other nationalities. These latter were to be completely ignored in the matter

of leading appointments, or otherwise the English settlers would have a rebellion of their own. How far the Witness was justified in advancing these absurd and unpatriotic pretensions and in making its silly and disloyal threat to rebel against the Federal Government, if a French-Canadian were appointed, may be seen on examining the numerical standing of the settlers according to nationality. The last census of 1881 shows that the population of the Northwest was divided as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Nationality and Population. English: 1,374; French: 2,896; Scotch: 1,217; Indians: 49,472; Others: 1,487.

Thus the French outnumber the English and Scotch combined by 305 souls, while the Indians are more likely to form an alliance with the sympathetic Frenchman than with the calculating Englishman. Even in many of the centres of population throughout the territories the French are largely in the majority, as the following table will show:—

Table with 3 columns: Settlement, English, French. Cumberland-Sud: 37, 30; Qu'Appelle: 52, 474; Montague du Bois: 73, 275; Prince Albert: 528, 825; Battleford: 194, 474; Edmonton: 210, 480; Rivière de l'Arc: 180, 100.

In four of these settlements the Scotch number 61 at Cumberland, 49 at Qu'Appelle, 61 at Prince Albert and 106 at Battleford. With the Scotch added to the English, the French would be in a minority of 354 at Prince Albert and 66 at Cumberland, but they would hold the majority at Qu'Appelle by 323, at Montague du Bois by 153, at Edmonton by 250, and at Battleford by 275. In face of these figures the Daily Witness makes a big blunder in demanding that the French Canadians be ignored and that only an Englishman be given the power to govern the country.

LOUIS RIEL FOUND GUILTY.

THE jury of six Englishmen selected to try Louis Riel at Regina, in the North-West, on the charge of high treason, has found the prisoner guilty. The verdict was returned with a recommendation to mercy. The presiding magistrate, Mr. Richardson, proceeded at once to pronounce the sentence of death upon Riel, who received it with remarkable calmness and composure. The magistrate fixed the date of the hanging on the 18th of September next. He intimated to the prisoner, notwithstanding the jury's recommendation to mercy, that no prospect of a reprieve or of interference by the Government could be held out on his behalf. The doomed man silently retired from the dock to his cell, there to await the final act in his much checkered career.

There can be no question that Riel was guilty of a crime against the constitutional laws of the country in taking up arms and waging war against the legally constituted authorities. But it may be asked if he was not forced into the commission of that crime by events and circumstances over which he had no control? Or rather, was he not forced into rebellion by events and circumstances against which the half breeds found it necessary to protect themselves? Guilt is to be measured not alone by the nature of the act or crime but also by its prime object and aim. Now, no one will assert that the half breeds under Riel took up arms and rebelled against the authorities for the simple purpose of violating the laws of the country or for the mere pleasure of rebellion. Their prime object and aim was not to destroy the Confederation; it was, on the contrary, to seek protection against alleged wrongdoers. The disruption of the Union, if they succeeded, would simply have been an unavoidable consequential result. Consequently the half-breeds and their leaders cannot be termed, in the vulgar and unavailing sense of the word, common traitors. Their crime, as history will record it, consists in their failure to attain their object. If success had attended their efforts, laudation instead of condemnation would be the order of the day, and the North-West would have produced another Washington to be honored and remembered. As it is, and as La Minerve suggests, Riel has but duplicated the rôle of the immortal Emmet. A rebel to-day, a patriot to-morrow. It is questionable if Riel's blood will do the Confederation any good. What would the United States be to-day if General Lee or Jeff. Davis had been strung to a sour apple tree? Certainly not the peaceful, contented and united republic it is to-day. If the North acted wisely in acting generously towards the South, why not let the Dominion follow the example, and reap the same fruits of peace, harmony and contentment.

A FREE PRESS ATTACK ANSWERED.

THE Ottawa Citizen has given its neighbor, the Free Press, a sound and well-deserved drubbing for an offensive attack the latter made on Mr. Parnell and the Irish party. The Free Press, which would like to see a division in the Irish ranks, based a hypocritical eulogy of Michael Davitt on the unfounded rumor that he had joined hands with the Radicals against the policy of Mr. Parnell, and extolled the former at the expense of the latter. In the eyes of the Free Press the Irish leader was a fraud and a humbug and it announced the early setting of his sun and the rising of that of Mr. Davitt. It imagined it had crushed Mr. Parnell when it wrote that "he always was a Tory before he became a profession a Home Ruler. His instincts are Tory—he belongs to that party by birth and tradition—and by interest as a land owner—and as such he and his candi-

dates will be treated by the British Liberal party." All pure rot and fudge! Parnell a Tory? Our Ottawa confere must have some queer, original drama. By birth and tradition Parnell belongs to the National party, and no other; by his intelligence and his heart he leads it; by his patriotism he has made it supreme in Parliament and in the country.

The Ottawa Citizen recalls an episode in the erratic career of the Free Press which shows that journal to be anything but honest and sincere. The Citizen says: "The time was when the Free Press thought Mr. Parnell sufficiently revolutionary to cause it to denounce the movement of which he is the leader as 'communistic.' When he crossed the Atlantic to collect subscriptions in aid of the funds of the Land League, the Free Press said of him: 'He left the field of danger, as others have done before him, to start on a fresh enterprise, where he could at least count on personal safety, and where he might do something in the way of raising further subscriptions—not to enable the down-trodden to pay their rents, but to continue the work of the Land League, which is intent on despoiling the owners of the soil for the benefit of those who cultivate it—or rather who wish to own it before they cultivate it.' The sober people of the United States have no sympathy with revolutionists—still less with those of the communistic order. They will put their shoulders to the wheel if necessary to relieve distress, from whatever cause it may arise, but they will not subscribe to support an incendiary propaganda like that led by Mr. Parnell." To-day the Free Press describes Mr. Parnell as a Tory, and, disgusted with his alleged Toryism, it announces its admiration of Mr. Davitt, whose views are far in advance of those held by Mr. Parnell when he visited the United States in the interests of the funds of the Land League, at which time our contemporary held him up to public gaze as the leader of an incendiary communistic movement.

PRIEST, PRESIDENT, AND ARCH-BISHOP.

A very interesting event has just taken place in Rome. An ex-President of a Republic has been appointed and consecrated Archbishop of the capital of the country over which he ruled for three years. Rev. Father Ferdinand Arthur Merino was sent by the Republic of San Domingo as envoy extraordinary to France to carry through negotiations affecting French residents in San Domingo. During his stay in Paris Father Merino received a call from the Pope to visit the Eternal City. He was notified of his appointment to the archiepiscopal see of San Domingo and was consecrated in Rome the other day by Cardinal Parocchi. Many members of the diplomatic body were present at the ceremony, as Father Merino had on several occasions represented his country in the different states of Europe. The new archbishop was born in San Domingo in 1833. He studied at the ecclesiastical seminary of the diocese, and was afterward professor of philosophy and vice-rector and finally rector of the seminary. He was ordained priest in 1858 by Archbishop Portes. In 1859 he was elected vicar-apostolic by the Holy See. From 1880 to 1882 he was president of the republic. He commands a great deal of respect both for his theological and scientific works. A hermeneutic work of his on the Scriptures is yet in the hands of the clergy of the republic, and his learned geographical and ethnographical work on the Dominican republic is used in the government schools. Father Merino has also contributed for a long time to many European and American papers, and the largest professional school in the island was established by him.

While still a simple priest, and after the stormy times and bloody revolution of 1870, he was elected President of the Dominican Republic by almost a unanimous vote of the citizens. The reign of President Merino was one of absence of political divisions. Discontent and dissension ceased and an era of progress and peace was inaugurated. The priest watched over the commerce and all the material interests of his people, and when necessary provided successfully for their defence against the invader. The burden of taxation was so lightened that his subjects after three years of his rule had little or no taxes to pay. The clergy met with no special favors, their only privilege being the absence of persecution and encouragement in their mission of education and civilization. Peace and plenty filled the territory of San Domingo, which is two-thirds that of France in extent. When he was elected, the Republic imported its sugar, now the export of that commodity reaches over \$400,000, which is an indication of its material prosperity, and of the happy change in its trade relations with other countries. It was the priest President who began the construction of the first railway, organized the telegraph system and introduced the telephone. In fact, the Republic owes its prosperous and peaceful condition to the disinterestedness, virtue and enterprise of the priest who governed it during the years 1880-'81 and '82. It would be well for many another country, besides San Domingo, if they had rulers as honest, enlightened and energetic as the ecclesiastical President Merino.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

LORD Randolph Churchill does not intend to be squelched out of political life or to be hindered in his aim at political leadership, either by friend or foe. The savage and insolent attack of that sedate Tory organ, the London Standard, did not disturb Randolph's equanimity any more than if he was standing under a shower of abuse from some acknowledged and open enemy in the ranks of the Whigs. In fact, Lord Randolph is said to have conspicuously held his seat in the

House, preserving an air of aggressive confidence amounting to defiance of the Standard's wrathful onslaught. So far from damaging him in the eyes of the people, this abuse by the decayed section of the Tory body will only tend to enlarge his influence with the masses, to create sympathy for his progressive programme, and to secure a support which cannot be ignored and will make him a prominent figure in the world of English politics. His great orime in the eyes of the "narrow-minded, illiberal and bigoted classes, both on the Conservative and Liberal sides, is his pronounced advocacy of the Irish cause. He was the wheel within his party that forcibly ran the Tories off the track of coercion. It was he who joined hands with the Parnellites and drove the shuffling Liberals from power. It was he who could not stomach the foul administration of Earl Spencer and forced the Ministry to repudiate the policy and the acts of its predecessor, an unknown feat in parliamentary history. Finally he has succeeded in making his party commit itself to the principle of self-government for Ireland. Lord Randolph may be ridiculed, abused, and termed "an overgrown school boy;" but the fact remains that the foregoing are pretty big achievements, and the man that accomplished them does not belong to the common every day class of "overgrown schoolboys." Our morning contemporary, the Gazette, viewing Lord Randolph's course from a party standpoint, says "it is simply the recognition in the Irish party of a political force that requires to be conciliated, to be controlled, and controlled to ensure Conservative success at the general elections, and of reasonableness in the demand for home rule for Ireland. Lord Randolph has not the deep-seated prejudice of older statesmen and politicians in both parties against granting Ireland self-government, and he is, therefore, able to appreciate the justice of such a measure, and understand the danger of longer withholding it. The dose may be a bitter one to British Tories, but sooner or later it must be taken, and the sooner the better for the perpetuation of the Government. Parnell will enter the next Parliament with eighty followers; he will in all probability hold the balance of power, and to deny longer home rule to Ireland will be to create a coalition of the Irish and the Radicals infinitely more dangerous to the good government of the kingdom than any alliance between the Parnellites and the Conservatives. These things Lord Randolph sees, he has got the ear of the people, and is steadily growing in influence and intellect, and whether they like it or not the Tory party must follow him or lose office."

This fair estimate of the relations between Lord Randolph and his party, but the idea of controlling the Irish party in any shape or form, has not, we think, ever entered his head. He may conciliate them, but control, never. If there is any controlling to be done, it will be rather by Mr. Parnell and his party than by any English statesman no matter what side. Lord Randolph is too shrewd and too close an observer of passing events not to see that all efforts in that direction must fail. The Irish party must remain unfettered and independent until home rule is an accomplished fact.

A NOTABLE DECLARATION BY GLADSTONE'S SON.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone has just cast a bombshell into the world of English politics. Addressing a public meeting at Leeds last week, Mr. Gladstone ventured a declaration upon the Irish question, which is as startling in its frankness as it is remarkable for its comprehensiveness. No English statesman of any weight or prominence has taken such a broad and radical view of the political situation between the two countries as the son of the ex-Premier has done. All the more importance and significance are to be attached to the declaration, as it is admitted more or less openly to reflect the views of the late Prime Minister. Instead of being angry with Mr. Parnell and the Irish party in ousting his father's Government, Mr. Gladstone almost confessed that the retaliation of the Irish members on the Liberal party was deserved and justified. They had the interests of their country to serve and protect, and they were perfectly right in accomplishing their object by any political combination that would be favorable to them. Mr. Gladstone blamed neither Mr. Parnell nor his followers, but only cursed the luck of the Liberals in fighting for the accursed cause of landlordism, officialism, and Orangism in Ireland. The Liberal party in the future would have no more of them and would not invite opportunities to be strangled on their account. Mr. Gladstone went so far as to call the anti-national classes in Ireland traitors to the party that befriended them in the time of need. For his own part he always held and said that it was no good to half-trust the Irish people, and that the proper policy was to throw to the winds all coercive legislation, at the same time for England to prove its trust of the Irish people by allowing them to manage their own affairs, by giving to them what really would be a free and constitutional government. This statement of Mr. Gladstone was cheered to the echo by his Leeds audience.

We now quote verbatim the most important passage of this notable speech and commend it to the attention of all those who imagine that Mr. Parnell's strategy in the fustle of Commons lacked wisdom, and of those who assert that Mr. Parnell does not represent the full and true feeling of Ireland. Mr. Gladstone said:—"But the Tories now had chosen for good or evil, with the Irish landlords consenting, to rely upon Mr. Parnell for the preservation of law and order and for personal security in Ireland. But Irish landlords, Irish officials, and Irishmen must rely upon