

# The Free Press, LONDON, ONT.

Monday, December 30, 1889.

## MR. W. R. MEREDITH'S REPLY.

It was very proper for Mr. W. R. Meredith to take the Archbishop of Kingston, James Vincent Cleary, to task for denouncing the members of the Equal Rights Association as "ferocious bigots." This calling of names is always objectionable, but more especially when coming from the Archbishop's chair. And if these who do not occupy a similarly exalted position were to confound to follow the example of his "Grace" of Kingston, what might be said of him? Said, for example, of his conduct, when in the pulpit here some few months ago, when members of the congregation, not to say the clergy themselves, who were present hung the head in shame at his coarse and vulgar diatribes. And as Mr. Meredith points out, it is the same ecclesiastic who did not hesitate to asperse the moral character of the girls and young women of Ontario in a foul and shameful libel on them. Indeed, Archbishop Cleary is about the last man that can afford to call names. If all public teachers were to imitate the license and impertinent liberty he has thought fit to indulge in towards Protestants, mud throwing would be a settled institution in this country. Indeed, the time may come when the prerogative of these "petticoated gentlemen"—as the *Globe* in its better days once called them—may be roughly called in question, and their sinister encroachments upon the Public schools of Ontario receive a setback which would astonish them. The Protestant majority in this province have for years past regarded the stealthy advances they have made in this direction with uneasiness, but for the sake of peace they have been allowed to pass. But if the conduct and language of the fiery Kingston ecclesiastic is to be made a standard with him and his fellows they may suffer a rude awakening some day. Though warmly approving of what Mr. Meredith did say on the matter of Separate schools in the course of his powerful speech in the Opera House here on Monday week, many of his friends think that he did not go far enough, and that the entire suppression of Separate schools is called for in the general public interest. If anything would give point to such opinions it would be just such language, such conduct as that which the unscrupulous ecclesiastic of Kingston is a party to. To leave the education of any portion of the youth in such hands strikes one as a baleful proceeding.

## THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

In the circular letter which Mr. Wiman is sending out with his 30,000 pamphlets on commercial union, he makes this statement:—

"There is great significance in the fact that the Liberal party in Canada, now in opposition to the Tory Government, has adopted as the sole and only plank in its platform, Closer Relations with the United States. Inasmuch as this party, though in opposition, represents a majority of voters, and as a general election must be held within a short time, it is important to understand the conditions that prevail, with a view to affording encouragement to a movement that may have a very important influence upon the future of so large a portion of the continent."

It is quite true that great significance is to be attached to the policy which the Liberal party leaders have adopted, but the main thing to be considered is the extent to which the rank and file will adopt the platform in question. A month ago we ventured the prediction that commercial union would be dropped by the Liberal press, and the indications of fulfillment are already visible. At all events a decided lull in the agitation is observed. If we be right in the inference that the fad is being slowly smothered, we believe the reason to lie in the cold reception which it has received. It is quite true that some forty Farmers' Institutes passed resolutions of the stereotyped character, expressing confidence in the efficacy of commercial union to promote their interests as agriculturists. This fact turned the heads of many, who fancied they saw a means of consolidating the rural vote of Canada on the side of the Liberal party; but of all the facts which may be regarded as significant, this is the most significant:—That from the early part of 1887 down to the present time, very little has been heard at farmers' meetings respecting commercial union. The resolutions in question were passed without serious or careful discussion, and were wholly a tentative expression of opinion. That is, the farmers who passed them merely did so in order to see what would come of the matter. The agitation never took hold of the people. There has been no evidence of popular concern in the scheme, such as was manifested when the National Policy was brought forward by the Conservatives in 1877. The Liberal press has done its best to arouse general interest, but to no avail; and the press, keenly sensitive as to what is acceptable, is showing unmistakable evidences of giving up. It is a cheerless task to keep presenting matter which is palpably unwelcome.

Mr. Wiman, however, regards this as a movement which may have a very important influence upon the future of so large a portion of the continent, and he will be very much disappointed if our estimate of its feeble lasting powers should be sustained. That is something which a man of great wealth may easily survive; but it will nevertheless be quite a blow to his ambition. Just how the movement is expected to influence our future, we have on previous

occasions pointed out. Commercial union is held up before Americans as something superior to annexation, inasmuch as it will afford all the material advantages of the greater scheme while presenting fewer difficulties in the way. Are our national aspirations to be slowly crushed, however? Is absorption the fate of Canada? There are a few reasons which might be advanced to show that the United States and Canada will ultimately be drawn together; but the preponderance of argument is against such a proposition. The man who carefully looks into the trend of things, of commerce and material interests will see that an exalted future lies before us. It matters little that immigration has fallen off somewhat during the year now about closed; there were special causes for that. Before five years are over we shall see a volume of immigration flowing into Canada and peopling our fertile plains, far beyond anything which has ever been seen in the past. We will continue on our present basis. It is a good basis, and well enough should be let alone. We are doing very well. The signs are hopeful and full of rich promise. To disturb relations which augur so encouragingly is unwise, and it is quite in harmony with our estimate of the popular judgment that commercial union should already be in its decay. The future of Canada lies in another and a vastly better direction.

## STRIKING TESTIMONY.

A Michigan farmer, writing to the *Orillia Packet*, makes some statements which are suggestive in view of the allurement held out by the leaders of the Commercial Union fad, who seek to delude Canadian farmers with the idea that agriculture is more progressive and prosperous on the other side of the lines than on this. He says, for instance, that although many Canadians are settled in Michigan and farm to better advantage than their neighbors, who are native to the soil, this class of immigration there "has entirely ceased since the opening up of the North-west of Canada." It is a fact also that many of the Canadian farmers who sought to better their condition in Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa have been convinced of their error, and moved on to the North-west as opening up a still surer prospect. Some reasons for this have been the extinction of the lumber trade in once promising localities, making poor markets for farm products, and the appearance last season of an unknown insect, which came in myriads, blackening the straw of the wheat and oats. Added to this the beetle and the drought made the potato crop light. The writer says, "Some lost all, vegetables and roots, too; pastures dried up, old meadows not worth cutting." He goes on to illustrate the condition of the average Michigan farmer by a simple account of revenue and expenditure on a forty acre farm. The receipts he sets down at \$279, and expenditure \$458, showing a ruinous loss. The cost of farm machinery is put down at a much higher rate than that prevailing in Canada. As an instance, it is stated that a threshing machine and engine, which could be purchased here for \$1,200, costs there \$1,500; a certain threshing that can be bought in Canada for \$400, in Michigan costs \$650. In conclusion the writer of the letter in question says:—"The American (U.S.) farmer is no better off than the Canadian farmer. I might honestly say not so well off. Take following prices in our villages for farm produce:—Wheat, 65c. to 75c. per bushel—average crop, 15 bushels per acre; oats, average crop, 20 bushels per acre, 25c. per bushel; peas, average crop, 20 bushels per acre, 41c. per bushel; beef, almost unsaleable, at 2c. per pound, live weight. Canada seems to me large enough and fertile enough for her people. The people of this country think themselves the first people in our world. All honor to them for the thought. Would it not be better for Canada if her people thought the same of themselves?" Such testimony as this should set our farmers a-thinking.

## CURRENT TOPICS.

There will be no ice palace at St. Paul this year, for lack of material. The carnival of last year was abandoned for the same reason, and it is said no further attempts will be made there in the future to build palaces of ice.

December, says the *New York Press*, will be noted in the future as the funny month, in which a man went swimming in New York Bay on Christmas day, in which a Brooklyn boarding house served dinner on the roof, and when the day after Christmas enjoyed a thunder storm.

Manitoulin Island is described in a letter to the *Jarvis Record* as "a land of peace and plenty." The writer says:—"We thrashed at one barn 1,029 bushels of grain, 450 bushels of which is peas grown from 25 bushels of seed. We have another barn yet to thrash, which will likely add 250 bushels more of fall and spring wheat."

Toronto *Telegram*:—The *Globe* is to be congratulated on the retirement of J. D. Edgar from his directorate. The member for West Ontario was anything but a source of strength to the *Grit* journal. In fact it was his influence that the public scribe the innumerable changes of front of the party organ on almost every political question of importance.

Photography has attained a recognized position in medicine. There are amateur photographers on the staff of nearly every hospital, and the extensions now being carried on at the English Royal College of Surgeons comprehend a "photograph room." Before long the surgeon will

think no more about carrying his camera than he does now of carrying his stethoscope.

The *Vancouver World* publishes an interesting account of the mode of life of five hundred persons, residents of that city, who reside along the water front in floating cabins, built upon scows or floats, eight by ten feet, or some of them a little larger; and who eke out a living as best they can by picking up odd jobs and by the hotsam and jetsam of the moment.

There is a plant in New Granada known as the "ink plant," the juice of which serves, without the least preparation, as ink. The writing at first appears red, but in a few hours assumes a deep black hue. Several sheets of manuscript, written with this natural ink, became soaked with sea water on their journey to Europe, but when dried the writing was found to be still perfectly clear.

Cingol is a new English out-of-door game for ladies. It is played with grace, hoops and sticks and two nets eight feet high and ten feet square. It is proposed to make it rival and rule our tennis, if possible, as it exercises both arms, both shoulders, both hands and the whole body in the running and turning necessary to catch the hoops before they reach the goal or nets.

Cable despatches from Europe show that the influenza epidemic there prevalent is fraught with great danger. In its primary form it may not be fatal, save when the victim of its attack is already in a greatly weakened state of health. But so acute is influenza and so debilitating, both in its nervous and catarrhal effects, that it speedily renders the patient susceptible to bronchitis and pneumonia. It is about time for people to do more than joke about the epidemic, and to take extra precautions against its insidious infection.

## KNUCKLED DOWN AGAIN.

HOW SEPARATE SCHOOLS ARE CONDUCTED IN ESSEX.

**State of Affairs at Windsor and Belle River.—How About the Nuns—The French Language, Images, and Crucifixes—Interview Between Minister Ross and Archbishop Walsh, as Related by Dean Wagner—The Minister Caves in.**

From the Toronto Mail's Correspondent.

Windsor, Dec. 26.—The Separate School Trustees have been trying to override the law in Essex county, but up to the present they have been checkmated in every move. Nearly thirty years ago a Separate school was established in Essex, and among the first teachers was a nun from the St. Mary's Convent. In a few years another nun was engaged, and about five years ago a third one was allowed to teach. A very large percentage of Windsor's population is Roman Catholic, and as a consequence the school attendance is very large. This year the building of an addition to the school necessitated the removal of another teacher. The School Board is composed of five Catholics and seven Protestants, and the above matter was referred to a committee, of which ex-Mayor Coventry was chairman. The committee recommended the appointment of a Miss Shimmers, a Roman Catholic, who has been teaching in the Sixth Ward, and who has every qualification for the vacancy. As soon as the report was read, a howl went up from the Roman Catholic members because another nun was not appointed. The meeting was a stormy one, and the report of the committee was carried. But the Roman Catholic members did not intend to let the matter rest, and a special meeting was therefore called. Trustee Bourke, who leads the Catholic wing, ranted on the oppression of things if their claim was not allowed. Dr. Coventry produced the law, which stated that all Separate school teachers shall have certificates, yet not one of the nuns had the necessary document, though they had been teaching for years, thanks to the tolerance of the Protestant members of the board. The motion to appoint another nun was lost, and Secretary Bartlett was authorized to write the Minister of Education asking if permission was ever granted to nuns to teach who had not the proper qualifications. The Catholic members admit that the nuns have no right to teach. A number of prominent Catholics are overjoyed at the action of the board, because they, though powerless to say anything, are opposed to nuns teaching, and thereby shutting out worthy Catholic teachers who live at Windsor, and have worked hard to secure certificates.

But it is not alone in Windsor that the Roman Catholics are trying to override the law. Some twelve miles east of Windsor is the little village of Belle River, where a Miss Healy, a duly qualified teacher, has presided over the Public schools for years. Not a fault could be found with her in any manner, yet the school trustees have discharged her, and brought a couple of nuns, who have no certificates, to take Miss Healy's place. The small handful of Protestants have made a kick, but as the board is entirely French, they will not alter their decision.

In proof of the charge that the Roman Catholics have a hold on the Mowat Administration, I will relate the following conversation that took place in the Essex County Bank on Saturday last between Rev. Dean Wagner and Dr. Coventry. The dean was trying to induce the latter to allow the other nun to teach, but the doctor said the request was illegal and could not be entertained. "But," replied the local head of the Catholic Church, "we have the ear of the Minister of Education, and will get it. A few weeks ago," continued Father Wagner, "his Grace Archbishop Walsh met Mr. Ross on the train, and the latter remarked that there were certain pictures hanging up in some schools in North Essex that would have to be removed. 'Well, Mr. Ross,' replied the Archbishop, 'those pictures were placed there for a certain purpose, and they shall remain.' Mr. Ross then decided, like Dr. Coventry's coon, to come down, and told the Archbishop that, all right, they would not be disturbed."

This is a true story, as told by Dean Wagner, and shows that Mr. Ross is not his own master.

But it is not only in Windsor or Belle River that the despotism of the Roman Catholic school trustees can be seen. The images and crucifixes that were removed from school houses just before the visit of Mr. Ross' whitewashing commission have been placed in their former positions, and the French language reigns supreme. The school law, if there be any, is flagrantly

abused in North Essex, and Protestants are wondering what will be the end.

From the Detroit Free Press, 27th.

The Board of Education held a special meeting last night that for brevity discounts any previous meeting in the history of the Board. Just exactly seven minutes after Secretary Bartlett had finished reading the minutes of the previous meeting the Board adjourned. The only thing done was the report of the committee on teachers, which was referred back to them at the previous meeting. They recommended that they could not change their former report, but that if Miss Lun was not properly qualified then no advertise for another teacher. They also decided that all teachers not at present qualified should secure the proper qualifications within the next year, or their places would be filled by others. The report was adopted.

Secretary Bartlett last week wrote to Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, asking him if there was a law allowing nuns, who had not qualified, to teach in the Separate schools. Yesterday he received an answer from Mr. Marling, one of the heads of the Educational Department, stating that there was not, and that every teacher must have proper qualifications.

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Railway P. O. Mails for all Places East of London.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 30
Eastern States.	5 11	1 19	12 30	8 00	1 30
New York, etc. (Thro Bag)	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Albany, etc. (Thro Bag)	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
G. T. R. East of Toronto, Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Rail- way P. O.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Ottawa	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Montreal	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Kingston	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
For Toronto	5 11	1 19	12 30	8 00	1 30
For Hamilton	5 11	1 19	12 30	8 00	1 30
For Guelph	5 11	1 19	12 30	8 00	1 30
<b>G. W. R. Going West—Main Line.</b>					
Thro Bag—Bellefleur, Glencoe	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Wilton Grove P. O. Mails for all Places West of London.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Erle & Huron	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—Detroit, Western States.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—Winnipeg	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—Chatham	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Blenheim	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
St. Marys	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Newbury	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Windsor	5 11	1 19	12 30	8 00	1 30
Thro Bag—Sarnia	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—Petrolia, Watford and Wyoming.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—P. O. Mails for all Places West of London.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
<b>Canada S. R. L. &amp; P. S. &amp; St. Clair Br. Mails.</b>					
Glennville	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Wilton Grove P. O. Mails for all Places West of London.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Loop Line Railway	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Canada Southern East of St. Thomas.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Albany, etc. (Thro Bag)	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
C. S. R. West of St. Thomas, Essex Centre, Windsor, etc.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Amherstburg	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
St. Clair Branch Ry. P. O. Mails	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Port Stanley	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Port Dover & L. H. Mails.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
London, Huron & Bruce—All places along line and Seaforth.	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Kincardine & Lucknow	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Alisa Craig	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
London, Huron & Bruce only to Centralia, Denfield, Crediton, Hensall, Lucas, Exeter, Clinton, Blyth, Wingham, Luck- now and Kincardine	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
W. G. & B. South Extension	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
B. L. H. West of Stratford	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
B. L. H. East of Stratford	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
G. T. R. West of Stratford	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
G. T. R. Stratford and Toronto	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Georgetown	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—Stratford	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—Godolphin	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
—Mitchell and Seaforth	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Belton, Thorndale, (daily) St. Ives, Cherry Grove, Plover Mills, Wellburn (Tuesday and Friday)	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
St. Paul's Station	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—The Grove and Wyton Station	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15
Thro Bag—Parkhill	5 00	1 10	12 30	8 00	1 15