

THE TRUE WITNESS
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
The Post Printing & Publishing Co.,
AT THEIR OFFICES:
61 CRAIG ST., Montreal, Canada.

Subscription, per annum.....\$1.50
If paid strictly in advance.....\$1.00

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WEDNESDAY.....SEPTEMBER 1, 1886

The city of Quebec is to be congratulated on the completion of the graving dock and the opening under such pleasing circumstances. The Titania incident is creditable to the determination and enterprise of one of the Quebec firms, and we feel sure that all the country will echo the hope that the new dock will tend to the business prosperity of the city and its restoration to the commercial position it is entitled to.

A new terror is in store for the people of the United States. Had they anticipated what is to come they would probably never have exercised all the powers of their diplomacy on behalf of Cutting, the editor who was recently arrested in Mexico. Cutting, now that he is at liberty, has announced his intention of proceeding north to lecture. Perhaps, however, the Americans are getting used to this kind of infliction.

The practice of taking up ocean steamers for war purposes, as is now the custom in England, is evidently a good one, but it is by no means economical. A recent return made in that country shows the money paid the various lines for the use of their crack steamers during the war preparations not long since. The Canucks seem to have got enormous rates. For the ill-fated Oregon £32,000 was paid, and one vessel cost as much as £53,000. The Vancouver was a costly addition to the flotilla, which in all swallowed up £1,150,000.

The editor of the New York Sun is not in a good temper with things in general and the public men of the United States in particular. He needs a liver pad. According to his view of affairs, there are now no public men in the States worth their salt. They are merely corrupt pigmies, and the last of the giants died in the person of Mr. Tilden. The Sun says they have only to be seen to show how small they are. But, after all, this is an old complaint with the discontented. Did not the Chancellor Oxensterna make some remark as to the little wisdom by which the affairs of the world are governed?

MR. OLIPHANT gives a very pleasing sketch in the current Blackwood of the making of the treaty of 1854 in the States by Lord Elgin. The various little diplomatic stratagems, social and otherwise, which were resorted to, are described in a graphic and entertaining manner, and the peculiar features of political life prevailing at Washington at the time are brought forcibly before the reader. But, after all, the treaty was a very commonplace piece of diplomatic fusion. Its results and its facts go far to prove that true which Lord Beaconsfield puts in the mouth of one of his characters in Endymion: "All diplomacy since the Treaty of Utrecht seems to me to be fiddle faddle, and the country rewarded the great man who made that treaty by an attainder."

THE Hon. John Fitzgerald received a tremendous reception on his return to Lincoln in acknowledgment of the honor conferred on him at the Irish League Convention. He was met by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Governor Dawes, Supreme Judge Dawes, Supreme Judge Cobb, Mr. J. R. Clark, and many others. A grand parade followed, and short speeches of congratulation and compliment were made by a number of gentlemen. Mr. Fitzgerald said: "My friends, I need not tell you that I am no talker. I went to Chicago for my country's cause, and as a citizen of the United States. I did not go there in search of the honor which has been conferred upon me, but since I am the recipient I will do what I can as an humble follower of my master, Charles Stewart Parnell. I thank you all, my friends, for this demonstration of your good will, and be assured this occasion I can never forget."

CERTAIN papers in England are said, according to the cable news, to be chuckling over the inheritance of confusion bequeathed to the Salisbury Government by Gladstone in the East. This is illogical. No ministry of whatever shape, color or tactics could take office for a single week in England without knowing the danger of that old volcano breaking out. The Eastern question has been on the tapis rather too long and every foreign minister knows that it is a bete noir with which he must deal in some form or other sooner or later. The worst thing that Gladstone has bequeathed as a political legacy to his successors is the Irish question. And it is in fact no bequest at all, but something that the opposite party has flished from that Statesman, one as a matter of policy he would rather have preserved in his own hands. If the Salisbury-Churchill-Beach-Buller combination find that they have tumbled into a morass they have only themselves to blame. They had better have left the work begun by the late Premier to be finished by him.

Blaine, of Maine, has recently been touching on the question of prohibition. It is clear that the aspect in that State has fallen into the position of a mere political plank, and that the moral subject of the case is absolutely nil. The noted Republican leader and his friends have declared war on the prohibitionists, and will fight them in and out of session "so long as they refuse to ally themselves with the Republican party and march under the Bodwell banner." Whether, if they did this, Blaine and his followers would then advocate the cause with as much vehemence as they now oppose it we are not told. Certainly the question of prohibition, as seen in Maine, is not a pleasing one, and it is to be hoped that we in Canada are not destined to see the question grow into a matter of politics. But there are zealots who are clearly endeavoring, in parts of the country, to make it so.

MR. BLAINE is making the most of the fishery question in the interests of his party. But he has added practically nothing to the controversy, and has merely dealt with it on the most approved stump methods. The headland theory still remains in dispute. We note with some surprise that a very respectable New York paper revives an old doctrine invented by an ingenious person at the time the Americans purchased Alaska, to the effect that a line drawn from a headland on that coast to one on the American shores south would necessitate the same interpretation as that put by Great Britain on the treaty of 1818. This would, it was pretended, prevent the English fishing inside three miles of that line. Abundant as the proposition was it found supporters at the time and is now again dragged out. But it is a game two could play at. A line drawn from Cape Race to, say, St. Helena would be about as sensible and demand the same observance as the suggested boundary on the Western Coast.

NOVA SCOTIA has always played rather an eccentric part in its relation to Confederation. Her Legislature was the first to make a vote in favor of Confederation. Then the province declared against it, and in 1866 returned a House 31 to 19 in favor, and her first confederated legislature was 19 years to 18 years. The recent elections have gone against Confederation. Now the province is exercised over the proposed secession of Cape Breton, and the Government organs are evidently in a difficult position in consequence. It is clear that the withdrawal of Cape Breton would be a very serious blow to the province. But the government organs find themselves unable to flatly oppose the movement without being inconsistent. But they do the best to minimize the subject, and the Herald is doing so remarkably. "The issue should be plainly put, and the voice of the people should have paramount weight. The separation can be endured with great composure by Nova Scotia."

Whatever advances medical science may have made of late years it is clear that eradication of disease is not a part of its achievements. New disorders are arising every day and one of a parasitic character called La Perleche has recently sprung into existence in France. It has its origin in unclean water and attacks the lips. Of 5,500 children examined 512 were found suffering from the disease, which is a terribly contagious one. A new type of poisoning has just been discovered, one that will at least not cause the heart of the youth of small means who is afflicted with one or more sweethearts of large appetites to mourn. This disease arises from tyrotoxin. It is not generally known that we eat tyrotoxin in ice cream, yet though apparently pleasant and alluring to the taste, ice cream conceals this fearful thing in its bowl. The French medical authorities have long suspected something of the kind, but they described the evil as "Vanillism." The results of tyrotoxin have been dealt with at great length by some American scientists and the results of their observations are very alarming.

THE following is a gem from the report of a Mr. Harper, a luminary of the Freemasons: "Another sign of the times which we deplore is the opening up of some of our more solemn ceremonies to the gaze of the profane world. Under Massachusetts we have related how the General Grand High Priest of the United States not only constituted and consecrated a chapter, but also installed its officers before a mixed assembly of Masons and profanes. That was not a solitary example, for we have encountered in other places the public installation of officers. Not only in the chapter, but even in the lodge, this unfortunate innovation is being practised, and an institution whose genius is to celebrate its ceremonies and mysteries within tiled doors is made to

contribute to the entertainment of a curious public. This is awful! But we are inclined to think that if the ridiculous mummeries were seen more than they are it would do much to kill Freemasonry. What is not ridiculous in the institution seems superlatively ridiculous and if report be true, the ridiculous element is stronger in the orders of the United States than in any other country. The mock Templars and the Knights of St. John, which are witnessed there, are a sight to make Christians sad at witnessing such a travesty.

THE PARLIAMENTARY FUND. The Hoffman House Parliamentary Fund meetings in New York have shown clearly that the interest taken in the promotion of Home Rule in Ireland is in no degree upon the wane. So zealous have the friends of Ireland been that the committee has been in some degree embarrassed as to the proper course to pursue with the large sum at its disposal. At a meeting of the committee the other day Messrs. Eugene Kelly and Miles O'Brien arrived at the conclusion that it would be best to retain the money now in hand, \$73,363, until Mr. Parnell calls for it. It has therefore been deposited in the Bank of New York, where it will earn interest at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent.

ELECTRIC LIGHT. An eminent German oculist has just made the startling announcement that in another century people will be half blind, and this owing to the use of the electric light. He says that since the streets and buildings have used the system the demands on the profession of which he is a member have greatly increased, but, he adds, the disorders produced upon the optic nerves and retina by the electric light are of a character practically incurable. There can be no doubt that the present system of lighting is unsatisfactory, and most people have found it painful. It is strange how very little advancement has been made in the art of electric lighting. Since Mr. Starr first brought out his invention in 1846, the matter has been practically stationary, all the adaptations being more or less a variation of a very old and scientifically self-evident effect. This seems to bear out the truth of Faraday's theory, that knowledge of electricity was so far in its infancy that it would be a long while before satisfactory results were obtained in this connection. But it is time some one invented a means of utilizing electricity for lighting purposes different to the very unsatisfactory, and if the German doctor tells the truth, dangerous method now in vogue.

THE HOME RULE DEBATE. The debate in the House of Commons has added nothing in the way of fact to the situation, and it would, perhaps, be better if the discussion were shortened and the division taken, so that the exact powers of parties could be seen. No amount of debating can now have any effect. The position is so clear that it needs no further explanation, nor is a protracted debate likely to win a vote or in any way influence the Government. There are other contingencies that may do so, and probably will. Very significant is the statement made in the Liverpool Post to the effect "that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chief secretary for Ireland, regards his task in Ireland with serious misgivings, and has become less sanguine about the success of any Irish policy based on 'firmness and decision.'" The magnificent statement of Mr. Gladstone also is good presage of the not far distant result of the agitation. "The enthusiasm of the British friends of the Home Rule idea is an incentive to me to never be beaten in it, but to continue the struggle for the happiness of Ireland. Although there may have been prejudice between Great Britain and Ireland, the fact that in the recent electoral contest 1,400,000 Englishmen and Scotchmen polled votes in behalf of Ireland shows that that prejudice is fast disappearing. Let men consult any book or nation in the world, and they will not find one which does not say that the relations between England and Ireland under the union have been miserable for Ireland and dishonorable for England. If the country desires to redeem her honor and enable her Parliament to attend to its pressing business of imperial legislation, the Irish question must be settled."

A BAD DEPARTURE. The Dominion Alliance is, no doubt, a very well-intentioned body, and it was, no doubt, quite right of the Government to ask for any suggestions it might like to make touching the present position of the law governing licenses. The nine suggestions they have embodied in their statement are, for the most part, harmless and contain nothing particularly original. It is not easy to see what purpose is to be served by the applicant advertising his intentions, and the proposition that the Ontario custom of closing taverns at seven o'clock on Saturday is decidedly undesirable. It is well known that the custom is practically useless and is provocative of a great deal of Sunday trading. The Alliance also proposes to create a permissive power to electoral sub-divisions. But the Alliance goes further and in this step makes the question a political one and has drafted a "proposed pledge" which it will hold before candidates as a sort of threat. It commits the candidate to the principles of the Alliance, and forces him to promise very sweeping support to the principle of total prohibition. This is most pernicious. If there happens to be any temperance vote in a locality it will produce hypocrisy, that worst evil in politics, and put a candidate in danger. We see the results of making the question of prohibition a political one in the neighboring republic and the evils consequent on it are peculiarly manifest just at present. The result is by no means encouraging.

LIBEL. The law of libel is obtaining reasonable shape probably more slowly than any other. It seems still surrounded by fog, and a newspaper is open to annoyance by blackmailers on all sorts of petty pretences. The following words of Lord Chief Justice Coleridge in a libel suit a few days ago seems to indicate a correct grasp of the position of a paper in relation to its duties and its clients. On a motion for an injunction to restrain a paper from publishing certain matter exposing an alleged evil, the judge said:—"If anything like that stated in the alleged libel be true, the person who exposes such a system and such a mischief does a great public service, and I cannot for a moment hesitate in saying that the subject matter which constitutes the writing about it is a privileged communication. . . . Whether it was written with a view to the public service or from private malice, I, sitting here, who, of course, have no means of knowing, give no opinion; but it is quite plain that the subject and the occasion being privileged—and whatever doubts have recently been thrown on the law of libel on this point I do not share—it is quite clear that the onus of proving malice rests on the plaintiff; and once it is granted that the occasion is privileged the onus is on the plaintiff to show that the privilege has been exceeded, and that it was made a cloak for private malice." This is certainly a reasonable view, and if it is accepted as a principle we should hear less of libel suits and threats of them in connection with journalism.

THE IRISH FUND. The Toronto Globe objects to Dukes on principle, and has a high opinion of Mr. Labouchere, who, like Thackeray's bargee, "likes wopping a lord." That eccentric journalist recently had something to say in the House of Commons in England touching the interference of members of the House of Lords with the recent elections. Strictly this interference is in direct violation of the unwritten but very strong rights of the Commons, and although Mr. Labouchere did not advance anything very original, he was for once correct. It makes a difference whose ox is gored, and once when a Bishop was put on the election committee of Mr. Gladstone, the other party made a terrible ado and insisted on the very principle referred to in the present case, although as a matter of fact the Anglican Bishops are not peers, but only commoners, sitting by summons, as one of three estates of the realm, in the Upper House. The present question arose out of a remark made upon the contributions sent to affect the elections from this side of the Atlantic. Apart from the aspect of the case as viewed through the formal spectacles of diplomacy, there is a side to it which is fitly described in the following words from our Toronto contemporary:—"There can be no shame in the old mother receiving what her exiled children send, and their contributions are more than a credit, they are a glory to Irish-Americans. To any fair-thinking man there has seldom been a finer spectacle in the world's history than that of a multitude of poor laboring men and servant girls giving great sums year after year to advance the cause of the country which many of them have left and many others never seen. They have escaped from the trouble, they have no direct interest to serve by their giving. These are from pure love for the old storied land and the kinsfolk never to be seen again. Englishmen used to admire the picturesque Italians and Poles who plodded abroad against the foreign rulers of their countries, but failed to see how admirable is the steadfast struggle of generous exiles against English oppression. But long after the bones of Irish American Pat, and Mick, and Peggy, and Kathleen have been laid away, English history and song will celebrate their devotion."

STREET ARCHITECTURE. The present has been said to be a new golden age of public architecture. If our cities are not to be changed like Rome of former days from brick to marble, at least brick is becoming so manipulated as to be, in many cases, more effective than marble. Small cities in Canada, which a few years ago were a collection of dilapidated rookeries, now boast of custom houses, post offices and warehouses that are ornamental, while the larger ones see great blocks of architectural pretension rising at almost every vacant lot. This is especially noticeable in Montreal. But there is something omitted. There is no order or method governing this enterprising spirit, and the result is that extreme irregularity is being produced, and at the same time the effect of much good building skill lost. Here may be seen a building of gothic cast, next to it some architect, or probably builder who liked the design, has a stunted nondescript building, while a door or two further on some huge structure in the carpenter's classic style rears its head. And so the incongruity proceeds. There should be some public supervision over these matters, and while not necessarily demanding that the streets should look as though they were cast in a mould, symmetry and not confusion should be demanded. Something in this direction was accomplished by M. Hausman, that Prefect of the Seine who did so much to make Paris the fairest city on the earth's surface. We are of opinion that the city should have an expert or a committee of two or three architects of note to direct this. No building should go up without the plan being first approved, and immediately a street has been started or had an architectural impression stamped upon it it should be maintained in the principle features and no defacing irregularity avoided. We are, however, not alone in this need. Some attention has recently been called to the irregularity of buildings in New York. In that city, in many minds, it has seemed to be a principle that given a

vacant lot, an architect and man and material, the essential elements of building end, and the rest matters little. One result of this carelessness is seen in that architect scandal, the New York Produce Exchange. A building of exquisite beauty has been dovetailed in between two commonplace structures. The site has been so admirably chosen on a street about fifteen feet wide that passers by on the opposite side actually cannot see the sky line of the building, owing to its great height. Thus, one of the most beautiful structures in New York is lost, as far as its ornamental qualities are concerned. This has caused the agitation in favor of greater care in such matters to which we have alluded.

FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

The superior wisdom of His Holiness in standing fast in the position he has assumed in relation to the French authorities and their Chinese policy is shown by later news. As the preposterous claims of the DeFreycinet Ministry are not accepted at the Vatican, and treated with the indifference they deserve, it appears that a policy of persecution is threatened, and pains and penalties are dangled in the eyes of the ecclesiastical authorities in order to remind them of what they may expect in consequence. Disestablishment and disendowment are threatened, and the ministry refers with a sort of gleeful anticipation to the abolition of the Concordat. It is unhappily true that there is a large section of the French community deeply dyed in the vile principles that are sapping what is best and purest in European morals and society, and against which the Pope has to contend in the interest of religion. But it is a satisfactory fact that the evil has not yet leavened the entire mass, and there is reason to hope that the heart of France is still true to the faith. But that is probably powerless to do more in the present perilous moment than to offer a moral opposition to the proposed outrage. In this, perhaps, lies a great and strong safeguard. The tendency of the anti-Church party in France is more than to be merely opposed to it. Its tendency is to be brutal and oppressive, and evidence of this is not wanting. It is doubtful whether any treatment of the kind, and such as the instincts of the radical party would desire to see accomplished, dare be attempted. Germany has given a living example to France that persecution and coercive measures in connection with the affairs of the Church do not bring forth any fruit save a triumph for the persecuted. France herself has been taught the lesson and ought to have derived some benefit from it.

THE N.Y. "HERALD" AND THE FISHERIES.

The New York Herald thinks that, in view of the results, there has been more fuss made over the fishery question than the results seem to justify. It points out that only two vessels have been seized for buying bait, and that it seems clear that they did buy bait, and so violated the treaty. Two vessels were taken for buying coal or porpoising to do so, and five others were detained for violation of customs duties. The Herald has not maintained a uniform attitude in connection with the fishery question, but it is something new to have a frank confession that the treaty has been violated, and that the only complaint against Canada is that she has been "discourteous and unfriendly," and that the fines imposed on American fishermen are "excessive." But is the Herald correct when it says that the "headland" theory has not been insisted on by the Canadians save in one case, and that it is understood that Mr. Bayard's main contention with the British government is on the question. If the Canadian government has not asserted the headland question it has been derelict in its duty and has been guilty of tacitly accepting the American pretension which is not tenable. The terms of the treaty are sufficiently clear to make any prevarication impossible if the Marine and Fishery people stand firmly by it. And it is only by firmness that a new treaty of that comprehensive character the advance of time has rendered necessary will be obtained from the neighboring Republic. There is a high order of statesmanship at work at Washington, but the influences which have the fatal power of thwarting it are not such as will be affected by the courtesies of diplomacy.

THE ASPECTS OF THE CASE.

The appearance of Mr. Gladstone's promised pamphlet at the present juncture is opportune, and it will, no doubt, as has been anticipated, have a marked effect on public sentiment. It is true that there is already evidenced a striking change in the opinion of the British people on the Irish question. In fact, it seems more like a sudden national conversion than anything else, and the process of mental transmutation increases rather than decreases in speed. Mr. Gladstone has not failed to note that ever since the recent elections the public feeling on the subject has taken a further stride in the right direction, and he points out that nothing is now heard of "the Hottentots and no more of the famous twenty years during which parliament was to grant special powers for firm government in Ireland, and at the end of which time, in a larger or less degree, the coercive laws might be repealed and measures of local self-government be entertained. . . . Look at the question which way we will. The cause of Irish self-government lives and moves and can hardly fail to receive more life, more propulsion from the hands of those who have been the successful opponents in one of its particular forms. It will arise as a wounded warrior sometimes arises on the field of battle and stabs to the heart some soldier of the victorious army who had been exulting

ing over him. . . . Even in the case of England, what we have is not a refusal, but only a slower acknowledgment. . . . All the currents of the political atmosphere as between the two islands have been cleansed and sweetened. For Ireland now knows what she never knew before, that even under her defeat a deep rift of division runs all through the English nation in her favor; that there is not in the land a parish or a village where there are not hearts beating in unison with her heart—where there are not minds earnestly bent on the acknowledgement and permanent establishment of her claims to national existence." This is an eloquent and truthful description of the present position of affairs, and Mr. Gladstone evidently knows and feels that, whether he returns to power or not, whether the task of placing the capstone on the great temple of Irish freedom be for him or some one else, the work is practically already done. And he may well be proud of the consciousness that he has been the English minister who has alone led the people of his country into the right path, and taught them the lesson that they owed justice and reparation of centuries of wrong doing to Ireland.

The division in the House of Commons last night on the amendment moved by Mr. Parnell is also significant in consequence of the numbers who abstained from voting. The figures stood 304 ayes to 181 yeas—a vote of 485, no fewer than 185 members being absent. The close of the discussion was instructive. Nothing could have been more brilliant than the scathing piece of oratory aimed at the traitor Chamberlain by Mr. Sexton, nor more logical and conclusive than the portions designed to show the weak and contradictory position the Government finds itself compelled to occupy. Altogether the position is as satisfactory as immediate circumstances will permit, and Irishmen have only to deplore delay and not defeat.

AN INSOLENT EMISSARY.

The announcement is made that Orange Grand Master Kane sails to-day on the Circean for this city, "to refute the slanders of the National League," and to perform certain other high and mighty acts. We are of opinion that Mr. Kane will find on his arrival here that he is only beating the air. We in this province are fully sensible of the position of Orangemen, their spirit and their intentions. In Ontario, its stronghold, the people are becoming too intelligent to tolerate the institution much longer, and it is regarded as an evil and pernicious nuisance by all thinking persons. As a matter of fact, the magnitude of the order is vastly overrated, although, unfortunately, it is too evident just at present that as a clique directed by wire pullers, often as ignorant as the members, it is able to accomplish much mischief. A person has only to watch an average Orange procession on the 12th of July to see, from the type of humanity which takes part in it to how low a level the order has sunk. The same may be said, to some extent, of the order in Ireland. A high authority, Mr. Peter McCorry, has recently stated that the order does not number in its ranks more than half, if so many, as is attributed to it. It has been alleged, for instance, by Mr. Labouchere, that there are sixty thousand of the fanatics in Ireland. Mr. McCorry's computation pulls the number down very considerably, though unhappily not as low as could be wished. Mr. McCorry makes his calculation as follows:—

"There are nine counties in Ulster: Donegal, Londonderry, Antrim, Tyrone, Armagh, Down, Monaghan, Fermanagh and Cavan, with a total population of about 1,750,000. In the northwestern parts of the two of the most populous counties the number of non-Catholics is above that of Catholics. I refer to Down and Antrim. But Donegal is preponderantly Catholic by nearly 150,000; the exact figures are 149,005. Derry, Tyrone and Armagh are about evenly divided, with a slight preponderance in favor of Protestants, while Monaghan has a Catholic population of 75,029 against 26,957. Fermanagh 47,228 against 37,405, and Cavan 104,328 Catholics against 24,679. Down is about half Catholic and half Protestant, while the Catholics in Antrim, of which county Belfast is the capital, are only a little over one-third the non-Catholic population. The Catholic population of Belfast is close on 100,000, and they could sweep the entire Orange faction in that town into the sea, and would but for two causes: first, the strong opposition of the Catholic bishop and clergy to the manner of violence, even when acting on the defensive; and, second, to the practice of Nationalist opinion, which wisely seeks for forbearance at all cost and sacrifice just now, and there are hundreds of places in Down, Antrim, Armagh and Tyrone where the Catholics are few and scattered. The lives of these people would not be worth one day's purchase if the 'brother' in Belfast were beaten. The Orangemen in Belfast have been often beaten, and it was the poor Catholics in the above-named counties that suffered in return."

This is no doubt the true position, and while the evil spirit and devilish designs of the order are not changed, it is hardly right, and certainly undesirable, to elevate it to a position of importance to which it is not entitled. The order is indeed pestilential, but here in Canada the members are individually, for the most part, contemptible, being ignorant, and lacking all social position. And there is another gratifying fact that is not to be lost sight of: It appears the Orange Young Britons do not swell the ranks of the order. A "grand prelate" or some other official of the conspiracy recently deplored the fact that the youthful members of the boys' lodges do not remain in the Order. We presume the common schools effect this salutary result.

Dr. Kane will find that he has come to a poor suit over which to cast his blustering oratory. He will find the intentions and objects of the Order well understood. When he comes we hope he will repeat, for the edification of his hearers, the statement of Lord Gosford, the Protestant Lord Lieutenant of