

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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WEDNESDAY... FEBRUARY 20, 1899

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

- WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20th, St. Mildred.
THURSDAY, Feb. 21st, St. Daniel.
FRIDAY, Feb. 22nd, St. Peter's Chair at Ashlock. Prayer of our Lord in the Garden.
SATURDAY, Feb. 23rd, St. Peter Damien.
SUNDAY, Feb. 24th, St. Agnes.
MONDAY, Feb. 25th, St. Felix.
TUESDAY, Feb. 26th, St. Ethelbert.

The Jesuits.

The articles we have reproduced from the Ontario papers and the opinions of leading Protestants in the same province, with reference to the Jesuits and the tardy act of justice lately performed by the Legislature of Quebec, have given our readers a fair idea of the spirit animating a section of the Protestant press and people. Since our last issue the discussion has gone on, losing nothing of its acerbity, but apparently unsuccessful in securing the object of its promoters—a war of race and religion. This week we give another lot of "elegant extracts," by which it will be seen that the men who have undertaken to get up a civil war have somewhat shifted their ground politically. The Toronto World, it will be observed, directly accuses the Liberals in Ontario and at Ottawa of giving "support and comfort" to Mr. Mercer, who passed the Jesuit bill. The object is quite apparent. The journalistic Macdonaldite is anxious to divert from the Federal government whatever odium may attach in Protestant minds to the refusal to disallow the Act. This display of the cloven hoof is both instructive and amusing. It is anxious to get up a civil war and send an army of Ontario Protestants to reconquer the people of Quebec, but it turns pale at the thought of endangering its friends at Ottawa. But the World has got hold of a weapon that cuts both ways. For every Protestant it may allocate from the Liberals it will designate two Catholics with the Tories, for it will not escape observation that the papers who howl the loudest against the Jesuits and "Romish aggression" are supporters of Sir John Macdonald.

Some of the articles on the Jesuits' Act have taken a wide range. The Society, its history, its alleged methods, and particularly its suppression in, and expulsion from, several countries, have been set before the public in the most lurid colors. We have, therefore, reproduced in this issue an able article giving a true account of the suppression of the Order and its subsequent restoration. The Society of Jesus needs no defenders or apologists. All it needs for its vindication is that the truth be told. The Jesuits have been truly described as men who leave home, country, wealth, and friends to preach the gospel to the savage, or to devote their lives to the advancement of science, art, or literature in the quiet and solitude of their monasteries. They take the lead in all the sciences, they study the Oriental languages, they produce great works on the Bible and on the monuments of tradition, and mathematics and astronomy have benefited much by them. The planetary movements of comets were first correctly explained by Graaf, a Jesuit. Roscovich, a Jesuit, discovered the sun's equator. The Jesuit Lana wrote the first book on aerial navigation, while the Jesuit Grimaldi discovered the inflection of light. In a word, the first works on jurisprudence, science, anatomy, algebra, and universal history were written by them. They have met on the broad field of science, history, art, religion, the most formidable enemies, and have always come off victorious. And now, spread over the globe, preaching the Gospel to the nations, they do not forget the study of every thing capable of benefiting the human race, and return from the uttermost bounds of the earth, adding their valuable treasures to the common fund of modern science. They have been treated like their Divine Master by impious kings, despotic and rotten governments, by conscienceless slanderers—with whose power, diplomacy, or cunning crime the Jesuits could have no share. The sanctity of their lives, the grandeur of the Catholic faith, and the fact that they taught the holiness of the moral law they enforced, have drawn upon them the odium of men of the opposite calibre, and that is only the same war cry that has been echoed all over the world against them. Their cause is the same as that of the crucified Nazarene. Their enemies are the same, and their treatment by the world is much the same, too. Calumniated, persecuted, crucified, and there they stand—stainless in their reputation, immovable in their constancy, glorious in their very

sorrow, the ecce homo of man's "inhumanity to man making countless thousands mourn." The Jesuits have been persecuted and hunted from almost every country, but that is a special glory of theirs, and the fulfillment of the words, "They shall persecute you."

Of such is the Order composed which is assailed by the Smiths and McLeans, the Hugheses and the Robertsons, from the hotbed of sectarian strife and bigotry—Toronto.

The efforts of these firebrands to turn this agitation to the advantage of the Tory party should warn Catholics of the danger of countenancing that party in any way. They tell us plainly that the Orange Association is a Tory machine, and the Catholic who is content to be wagged as a joint in the tail of that yellow dog has little to be proud of. It is satisfactory, however, to observe that the Protestant public is slow to take alarm at the incendiary appeals of the bigots. This Canada of ours is as much Catholic as it is Protestant. The rights of neither are in danger, and we are much mistaken if the enemies of public peace, who are now preaching a crusade against their Catholic fellow-countrymen, do not meet with a severe rebuke before the storm they are striving to raise will have subsided.

English Sympathy for Ireland.

In a recent letter to the New York World Mr. T. P. O'Connor makes some cheering remarks concerning the growth and spread of sympathy among the English masses for their Irish fellow-subjects. What he says may be taken as a gentle but not untimely rebuke to those Irishmen in America who, as he says, "have been talking strongly against the Parliamentary party and its entangling alliances with the Liberals." The great change that has come over the English people towards Ireland is shown in the great demand at English meetings for Irish speakers, "whose words are received more enthusiastically than those of any Englishman, with the exception of Mr. Gladstone and one or two others." As to the prospects of Home Rule, he says, it is making way every day and every hour, and a general election will unquestionably give a majority of Home Rulers. Liberals and Nationalists do not think that because they cannot get the government out of office they are not making progress. This very fact is one of the strongest testimonies of Home Rule progress. "It is the certainty," he writes, "that they would be beaten that keeps the Government from dreaming of an appeal to the country. If the Tories thought they would get a majority they would go to the country fast enough, for they are most anxious to have a homogeneous majority and be rid of their often painful servitude to the Liberal Unionists."

He does not think because the wren of O'Brien in Manchester, or of Sheehy in Glasgow, is not resented by riots and denounced by demonstrations that the people there are cold or indifferent. In concluding his letter he relates how English men and women come to his office every morning asking him if nothing can be done to turn this wicked Government out, and often the tears of indignation rise to their eyes as they speak. "I am not a sentimentalist in politics," he writes, "but any man would be touched who saw such evidence of hearty good will among Englishmen and Englishwomen as I have seen since the adoption of Home Rule by Mr. Gladstone. That good will has gone on steadily increasing, and will burst its banks when the general election comes. But you must accept certain disagreeable facts in political life. You can't shorten the term of Parliament any more than that of a President."

In these lines Mr. O'Connor has touched upon the great difference between the present and all former agitations for reform in the government of Ireland. To win the hearts of the English people is the sure and certain way to win victory for the Irish cause. This is the work to which Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Parnell and the Irish Parliamentary party have devoted themselves, and it is to thwart and render futile their noble, patriotic efforts that the Times, backed by the Tory government, have striven to associate them with crime and criminals.

But truth, justice, righteousness, must prevail over falsehood, injustice and fraud, and we, therefore, look forward to the not distant time when the masses of Englishmen will unite with the masses of Irishmen and Scotchmen in uprooting and destroying forever the baneful remnant of aristocratic feudalism, renegade Liberalism, racial hate and religious bigotry which is now making its last stand under Lord Salisbury. England will never rise to the full glory of her destiny as the mother of constitutional freedom till she gets rid of the cormorant class who have in every age and in every way resisted whatever has been proposed for the amelioration of the people.

The Government and the Farmers

Hard as the protective policy has borne on the farmers of Canada, there is every likelihood that it will bear still harder in the future. In the House of Commons last Thursday a resolution was submitted to allow a rebate on imported corn used by farmers in feeding cattle the same as allowed to distillers using that grain in making whiskey. Dr. Landerkio, who made the motion, pointed out that corn was as much a raw material of the cattle raiser as of the distiller. He regarded this rebate to distillers as one of the anomalies of the Government's fiscal policy. If they were not allowed this privilege they would be obliged to buy the Canadian farmers' corn, instead of using the American farmer's corn, which they imported duty free. As indicating the extent to which the Canadian cattle raiser was taxed he cited the fact that last year the amount of duty collected on corn was \$173,384.77, and on cornmeal \$28,827.78. Now, cattle were actually sent to the United

States to be fattened there and then exported to England. Last year 40,047 head of cattle were so sent to the United States. It is estimated that a ton of corn fed to cattle gives a manurial value of \$7.44. Hence he argued that we should buy our corn duty free, feed our cattle here, and save the manure as well as the profit that now goes to the American who fattens our cattle.

Ministers gave no indication of an intention to treat farmers' cattle on the same principle as distillers' whiskey. The same determination not to consider the interests of Agriculture was more strikingly displayed on the evening of the same day, when the government was sustained by a strict party vote in the refusal to remove the duty on fertilizers. During the debate Hon. Peter Mitchell made a powerful speech, showing how protection had robbed the people of the Maritime provinces without conferring any compensating advantage. Mr. Mitchell described how Sir John Macdonald had gradually led the country into protection. In 1878 he spoke of it as a lever for the securing of reciprocity. He promised not to tax food, and set the maximum of intended taxation at 25 per cent. It was by these promises that the speaker had been induced, free trader as he always was, to support Sir John Macdonald in that campaign, and that support lost him his election. Nobody dreamed then of duties of 45 per cent. on iron and 35 per cent. on agricultural implements. If the people of the country then had suspected any such intention, one of them at all events would never have helped to raise to power a man who secured that support by false pretences. He promised to bring the matter up again in such shape that the whole subject might be discussed after recess. Other speakers showed quite conclusively that the farmer was the only class who derived no benefit whatever from the protective policy.

But a still greater misfortune threatens the agricultural interests of Canada. The upper millstone of American retaliation is to be added to the nether of home taxation. Congressman C. S. Baker, of New York, has introduced in the House of Representatives a bill providing for a large increase in the duty on lumber and agricultural products from Canada, with the certainty of its passage. The Canadian export duty on logs and other raw timber is to be met by an import duty equal in amount, and all articles taxed by Canada on importation are to be taxed the same on entering the States. The direct blow at the Canadian farmer is contained in the following clause—

Sec. 4. That the following articles shall on importation into the United States be subject to the following rates of duty: Barley, 15 cents per bushel of 48 lbs.; eggs, 5 cents per dozen; hay, 25 per cent. ad valorem; straw, \$3.00 per ton of 2,000 lbs.; potatoes, 25 per bushel; fish, fresh, for immediate consumption, 1 cent per lb.; apples, dried, 2 cents per lb.; poultry and game of all kinds, 20 per cent. ad valorem.

Of late years, owing to the articles mentioned having been placed on the American free list, Canadian farmers have been able to dispose of them at good prices and in large quantities, and have made money in spite of protection on other things. This act will destroy that lucrative farm trade stone blow. Yet we cannot blame the Americans for thus retaliating, for, as the preamble of Mr. Baker's bill recites, the measure is designed to meet hostile Canadian legislation and the failure of the Dominion government to carry out the terms of the standing offer, embodied in the Customs Act. This offer is to the effect that whenever the United States places any article produced in Canada on the free list, Canada will do the same.

A more stupid, suicidal policy than that pursued by our government could not be imagined.

The Defence of Canada.

A writer under the nom de plume of "Verax," in the January number of Colburn's United Service Magazine, furnishes another instance of the great attention Canada is receiving just now from the maulers of public opinion in England. His article is entitled "The Defence of Canada." Starting with the presumption that "the misfortune of a war with the United States is at least possible," and that "providing against it will render it less, and not more probable," he goes on to estimate the fighting strength of Canada. Apparently impressed with the gravity of his "possible" campaign, in which, as he rightly says, a population of a little over 5,000,000, spread over a relatively narrow strip of country 3,700 miles in length, would be called upon to resist a nation of over 60,000,000, "Verax" proceeds to show what Canadians could do. At best it is but a pitiable exhibition of weakness, displayed with evident consciousness of how utterly indefensible Canadian territory would be before the forces which the United States could fling upon it along the whole extent of the frontier. After referring to "the inefficiency" of our volunteers, "as painfully evident in the North-West Rebellion," he goes on to say—

With regard to the fighting qualities of the Canadian soldiers, there is no reason to doubt that, when properly led by their officers, they would show the magnificent qualities already shown by the Anglo-Saxon and Gallic races on the European and American battlefields. But in the North-West Rebellion the few men sent into the field were badly led, except at Batoche, when, with a fine charge with the bayonet, the rebels were put to flight. In all the other fights, victory cannot be claimed by the Dominion troops. The results were rather repulsive than defeat, although in some cases the bands of discipline were so far relaxed that the men retreated as soldiers should not do. But the real cause was the ignorance of the subordinate officers, and the want of reliance on them felt by their men; and ignorance for which they are not to be blamed, for under the present system there is no way for them to be adequately enlightened. But the fact remains. The only men who really did anything towards leading men in the fighting in the North-West Rebel-

lion were those who had been in the Imperial service.

But, with all their defects, Canadian troops have a discipline of their own, based principally on anxiety to do the right thing, if they only knew what the right thing is. And herein lies the key to their inefficiency, which was so painfully evident, according to all accounts, in the North-West Rebellion. That campaign, so admirably designed and rapidly executed, that the Germans thought it worth while to send an officer out to Canada to study the details on the spot, was greatly endangered by the ignorance of the officers and troops as to what was expected of them. Lieutenant-General Sir F. Middleton had to manage every detail himself, and was overwhelmed with work; while a multitude of aspiring Napoleons, full of that dangerous thing—a little knowledge—were writing to the papers that everything was wrong; that the strategy was bad, &c., &c., and devising counter schemes, and disturbing the public mind. How well the campaign was devised was shown by the rebel collapse after one fight on a relatively large scale.

These defects in the morale of the Canadian militia the writer attributes to the men and officers not understanding the spirit of modern battle: "They have no means of learning it," he says; "they have no regulars among them." Another difficulty to be considered is one of which we have heard a good deal of late. It is thus stated—

"The population is formed of two distinct nationalities—the Anglo-Saxon and the French—the latter intensely Roman Catholic, and bent on keeping up a race feeling and repudiating all connection with their fellow Canadians of other blood. The general idea is that the French Canadians did not do their best in the North-West Rebellion; and we must remark that the half breeds had an immense body of sympathisers among French Canadians simply and purely because of race feeling, the half-breeds being of French and Indian descent."

Another melancholy admission of Canadian weakness in case of war with the United States is based on the fact that, "in the Dominion there are but too many who favor political connection with America, which cannot but effect the question of defence of Canada." Having thus shown what we may regard as the political sources of Canadian weakness, the writer proceeds to outline the military features of the situation. It is somewhat long, but it is worth the space. He writes—

Turning to the American side of the question, we find a nation, numbering at present about 60,000,000, who, in the Civil War ending in 1865, put 3,000,000 men in the field, when their population was smaller, and since those days railways have enormously multiplied.

The Americans maintain a standing army of 37,000 men, and have, besides these, a militia system somewhat analogous to that of Canada, but far more numerous and complete. They have besides large arsenals, gun, sword, and rifle factories, gunpowder manufactories, &c., which Canada does not possess, and by which they can arm an overwhelming force.

Let us for the moment assume that Canada could put in the field 150,000 men, which with say, 100,000 troops (50 from England, would make a total of 250,000 men. The frontier to be defended is a long one, though it would only include the four eastern provinces. It would be hopeless to attempt the defence of the country west of the great lakes. Unless we gave up the rich Niagara district, it would require at least 40,000 men. Montreal, the most exposed town, would require 50,000 men. Kingston, the key of the lake defence, is also on the west bank of Montreal, besides covering Ottawa, must have at least 20,000 men. Quebec would require 10,000 men; and Prescott, Halifax, and Vancouver the same number each. Kingston and Prescott, it need not be remembered, are important points, as they directly connect Ottawa, the seat of Government, and Halifax and Vancouver are naval stations of the greatest importance in a war against the United States. Kingston also protects the Rideau canal leading to Ottawa, and is the terminus of a railway line running north towards Ottawa.

We will suppose that these garrisons are taken from the Canadian Militia. Then this leaves only the troops that might be sent from England to take the field.

The above numbers are not at all exaggerated, for in the well-known defensive scheme drawn up in 1864 by a well-known and capable English officer, sent out to Canada for the purpose, it was considered that even when the Toronto district was prepared with field defences, it should have 50,000 men; and that Kingston, Montreal, and Quebec, with extensive permanent fortifications, should have, respectively, 20,000, 30,000, and 7,000 men, while Ottawa was to have 3,000. Thus, this scheme provides for 60,000 men for the defence of the Ottawa-Quebec-Montreal-Kingston district, a conjunction with permanent fortifications and a field force of 90,000 men; total, 140,000 men. This was recommended in the days when the communications leading to Canada were very poor to what they now are; when we did not know how the Americans could fight, or what armies they could raise, although it was more than recognized that Canada could scarcely be expected to muster a force at the outbreak of hostilities capable of withstanding in the open field that which the Americans could bring up.

The scheme of 1864 required a defensive force of 110,000 men with fortifications, exclusive of Halifax and Vancouver. The scheme in this paper supposes a defensive force of 130,000 men with no fortifications to speak of, also exclusive of Halifax and Vancouver, a difference which errs by being too small, so that the numbers given are by no means excessive, while the garrisons assumed for Halifax and Vancouver are far too small. From their importance they should have 30,000 men each, to stand a long siege.

The distances of the vital points in the United States from the frontier, and the immense difference between the number of troops that could be assembled and maintained on American and Canadian soils, would force the British troops into a strategic defensive attitude. Where would they be posted in Canada for this purpose?

With regard to this point, we must remark that from the railways skirting the frontier the troops will have to be somewhere near that frontier, while the long single railway lines parallel to the frontier are by no means a rapid, or safe, or certain means of transporting troops from point to point. The American troops, it should be remembered, have proved their capacity for rapid and far-reaching raids, destroying railways, &c. The two capitals of the Dominion being Ottawa and Montreal, it is evident that the defence will be mostly limited to the area between Kingston and Quebec, that is, along the line of the St. Lawrence. There is another reason for this, viz., that England, having presumably the command of the sea, will be able to maintain communication with Quebec, and a line of railway lines along the northern shore of the St. Lawrence to Montreal, and is more or less protected by it. Toronto,

333 miles west of Montreal (or 180 miles west of Kingston), and Halifax, 675 miles to the east of Quebec, are too far away to expect help from the King's arm. Montreal-Quebec district, which alone extends 345 miles from east to west, with Montreal exactly in the centre.

Again, casting a glance at the network of American railways, we will find that they are admirably adapted for offensive operations against Canada; while, offering no important railway parallel to and near the frontier, the destruction of which would affect the concentration of troops. The objectives for America are clearly marked—Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Prescott, Kingston, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. Halifax and Vancouver are certain to be most energetically attacked, for they will be the naval bases, besides Bermuda, from which England would carry on her naval attack on the American coasts and commerce. The American railway lines lead admirably for their purpose on to Quebec, Montreal, Prescott, Kingston, and Toronto. Albany and Bellow's Falls would be the bases of operations on the first four named towns, while the resources of the great western towns of Chicago, &c., can be easily concentrated at Detroit, and those of the eastern towns at Buffalo, for the invasion of the Niagara district and the surrounding of the Toronto force. Under these conditions it would seem preferable not to defend Toronto, but to carry the 40,000 men supposed to be told off to it into the Montreal district for a concentrated defence, where it can receive English assistance. This would raise the active field force to 140,000 men at that point.

Here, we may ask, have we an English commander who has had any experience in moving and feeding a force of more than one-sixth of such an one as this? and where are the arrangements to be made for the feeding and movement of such a force? The wheat supplies from the North-West would certainly be cut off, as also all the coal supplies, except those coming under convoy from England. The manufacturing and export trade on which the prosperity and life of the Dominion depends, would be almost annihilated. How long would the struggle last under these conditions? How long would it be before a starving population would cry for peace, even with the alternative of political junction with the United States?

America need not be in any hurry. She can play a waiting game. It would all be in her favour. A wealthy, self-contained country, of vast extent, and prepared for such sacrifices as she made in the four years' Civil War, cannot be easily attacked. The forces she could raise at the prospect of war would be sufficient to prevent the British force attempting a serious invasion to any distance into the country. The longer the United States played a waiting game the easier will the result be for her, for a poor country like Canada could not stand the strain; and farther, it must be considered that Canadians would not enter into the struggle with the same energy as the Americans. All that the Canadians would gain would be the continuance of the British connection, as to the value of which they are even now very much divided, while the American side could be aided with the determination of refusing defeat, and with the prospect and even, some may say, the certainty, of gaining Canada. With such conditions the result seems almost a foregone conclusion, especially as Americans have shown that they can fight heroically. Besides, the Irish element in America would only embitter the feeling, and confirm the American determination to win at all costs.

Then, again, between Kingston and Quebec there is nothing to prevent the American columns from reaching the southern bank of the St. Lawrence, and putting a complete stop to the river traffic, by destroying the canals and constructing batteries. The distance is too great between Kingston and Quebec to be absolutely protected by any force such as has been named, however much they may march and countermarch; for as one American column is threatened it can retire, while the others advance and compel the return of the British field force. The British ships might even have to fight their way to Quebec against both land batteries and gun-boats passed through the Richelieu canal from Lake Champlain into the St. Lawrence.

Another point is that the want of depth in the inhabited part of the Dominion is a serious disadvantage to the carrying out of a successful strategic defence. In the above remarks I have supposed the Canadian troops to be fully equipped and supplied, and to have a fair proportion of artillery and cavalry to the infantry. But this is only a supposition. The existing proportion of artillery is only 1-4 guns to 1,000 men, instead of the usual proportion of 3 to 4 guns per 1,000. The cavalry consists of 1 sabre to 17 bayonets instead of 1 to 6. And of engineers there are only 1 in 400 instead of 1 in 30. While transport and supply corps are entirely wanting, and every penny spent on the militia is grudged.

Naval operations on the Lakes would not lead to important results on either side. As to the state of the existing fortifications and their armaments, it is best to say nothing.

After this we are not surprised that the writer should come to the conclusion that "the land defence of Canada is impracticable." Therefore, in the event of war, "the best attack on America is a naval one, blockading her coasts and stopping her commerce." But this means the abandonment of Canada, for we may be sure that the first move of the Americans would be to occupy the leading points in the Dominion. The few men we could send against them would be swept away like chaff before the wind, though they would, in all probability, perish heroically.

But "Verax," after practically surrendering the country, suggests "the complete arming and fortifying of Halifax and Vancouver on a very large scale, and the maintenance within the Dominion of a force of 3,000 men to put down internal troubles, the balance of the militia estimates being spent in maintaining a force of cruisers to assist England on the sea in the event of any war."

This is indeed a very amusing bit of war literature. How, we would like to know, is Canada going to maintain a fleet when she cannot, by this writer's confession, hold her own soil? And what would be her object in keeping cruisers to assist England in any war, when they would be worthless to prevent her own conquest by the Americans in the only war she could have any interest in or reason to dread?

Referring to his estimate of 150,000 men, as the force Canada should put in the field, "Verax," on mature consideration, comes to the conclusion that it could not be done. "Even if the men could be got, there is no nucleus on which to form them, while for the existing forces there are no administrative services, transport, staff, &c." "These deficiencies alone," he says, "are almost suffi-

cient to show the unfeasibility of undertaking the land defence of Canada."

The possibilities of a surprise are next considered. The Americans having shown themselves specially ready in making rapid raids and quick improvised attacks, he believes Canada could be invaded and conquered before the British government could lift a finger to prevent it. The conclusion of the article is as follows—

We can now imagine what would be the effect of a sudden advance on Montreal, and on other places, of well organized hostile divisions of 10,000 men each. If they were placed on the frontier on the tenth day after declaration of war, they would, in two or three days after, only meet incompletely organized forces. Simultaneous operations at other parts of the frontier will suffice to keep the troops in those districts in their place, especially as they have no transport to move with. The Americans would certainly be able to cut the railway and water communications, and a complete synopsis of trade would soon produce the required result.

Then, if England ever considers a war with the United States necessary, and is prepared for the expenditure of blood and money, her best policy would be to concentrate the defence of Canada at Halifax and Vancouver, making at these two points strongly entrenched camps capable of holding many thousand men each, and complete in every respect to maintain a long and severe land attack. With these two naval bases, and with Bermuda, she could then proceed to harass, even put a stop to American commerce, and destroy her rich sea-port towns and harbours, a result which would soon bring about a decision of some kind or other.

By maintaining a fleet of cruisers, Canada can help England materially in this respect, in a war against any naval power; while the presence of a fleet in the Gulf is useless for any purpose whatever, except for a wanton sacrifice of life, if a land defence of Canada is attempted against a serious invasion from the United States.

It would be very beneficial to Canada in many respects to station, as of old, a few English battalions in the Dominion. In a military point of view they would form centres of a much wanted military instruction and spirit, while socially and commercially they would be heartily welcomed, and form a link of the greatest power in binding the Colony to the Mother Country, and so aid in binding the empire together more firmly. Their presence in the Dominion would tend to make people realise their connection with England, for they have nothing that does that now; while they could, in extreme emergencies, assist the permanent Colonial force proposed, in their duties. Other reasons could be added, but I would not care to state them publicly here, though they are probably essential for preserving the unity of the Dominion in future.

The moral to be drawn from all this elaboration of self-evident facts is that Canada is helplessly at the mercy of the United States, that she cannot defend herself nor look to England for help in case of invasion. The sooner, therefore, we abandon our war talk the better, set to work for the establishment of permanent friendly relations, and promote peace and union on the wise and patriotic lines of unrestricted reciprocity laid down by Mr. Laurier and the Liberal party, the sooner we will enjoy the blessings of permanent peace and prosperity.

When questioned in the House of Commons Sir John Macdonald denied that he knew the spy Le Caron or ever paid him money for secret service. Doubt has been cast upon the accuracy of Sir John's statement by Mr. Gilbert McMicken's remarks to the Winnipeg Free Press. McMicken was Sir John's chief intelligence officer at the time of the Fenian raids, and says that he has been acquainted with Le Caron since 1866 and last saw him in New York in 1885. He states that the proper name is Beach, that the family is a very respectable English one, and that the father occupied some public departmental position in England. The son spent some years in France, and while there took the name of Le Caron. The family, Mr. McMicken thinks, are still in the United States, where also Beach has a brother and a sister. He has also some relatives in Toronto, but he, himself, never lived in Canada. He practised his profession in the State of Illinois.

While the manufacturers are making strenuous efforts to defeat the Bill now before parliament for the suppression of "combine," the capital is crowded with delegations demanding more protection, and others seeking removal of duties that seriously hamper the business of the country. The huge system of fraud, carried on under the guise and pretence of protecting native industries, has really succeeded only in papering business and in making men look to the government, instead of to their own enterprise and the legitimate means of commerce, for success. The result is the wholesale demoralization of the country which must go on till the system breaks down and we return to common sense principles of a revenue tariff.

Beach alias LeCaron, is getting pretty well fixed in public estimation. In addition to facts already made known a correspondent at Washington has unearthed his army record in the War Department. From this it appears that he was a member of Company B, Anderson's Cavalry, of the Federal Army. This is the regiment which refused to go into action at the battle of Murrefreesboro'. For their cowardice and mutiny, Le Caron and over 500 others were arrested and put in the penitentiary and gaol and workhouse at Nashville. Opposite Le Caron's name in the war records are the suggestive words, "cowardice and mutiny."

MR. GREENE has been elected Mayor of Montreal by acclamation. His long experience as chairman of the finance committee, his well known energy and public spirit eminently fit him for the position, and the city is to be congratulated on securing the services of so able a gentleman as chief magistrate.

In France it may be truly said parliament is a mere shadow. Its institutions are only on their trial. The fall of the Floquet ministry is simply another triumph of faction over a weak combination.