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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 20th, 1875.

### POLITICAL ABUSE.

The bane of Canadian politics is that they are personal. In the press and on the hustings it is not principles that are discussed so much as the career and character of public men. This feature infuses a certain vigor into every electoral campaign, but it also lowers debate to a degrading level of vulgarity. Strangers visiting us are apt to form a poor opinion of us from the dearth of principle which they must remark in our political dealings, and, unless we are much mistaken, a similar sentiment prevails among the better class of Canadians themselves. In the United States, the very revelry of abuse in which the organs of popular opinion habitually indulge has had the effect of driving nearly all the best men into retirement. They prefer the obscurity of private life, with its peace, to the glory of political honors with its counterpart of calumny. A few unconquerable spirits, born for strife, brave this penalty of greatness, but they are the privileged few and the majority who do not choose to imitate their example need not be taxed with lack of moral courage. Peace of mind and an unsullied name are worth more than any distinctions. Calumny has the quality of pitch. Some of it always sticks. The diatribe of pen and voice invariably goes farther and lasts longer than the reparation or apology.

Scripta manent: necesse vox missa reverti.

DR. TUPPER only very recently stated that the life of a public man must become intolerable if he is to be perpetually open to a repetition of charges which, though once made against him, have been officially disproven. When such an intrepid and indomitable spirit as that of the member for Cumberland quails under the sting, what must it be with those who have not his energy and prestige? Two years have passed and we have not heard the end of the Pacific Scandal. One year has passed and the Tanneries Land Swap is still fresh. Six months have passed and the Lachine Canal Job is doing valiant service. At that rate, we may make up our minds to hear of the Steel Rail Purchase and the Big Push Letter for many a moon to come. It is, of course, useless to moralize upon the subject. Obviously the public like to have such matters dished up for them, and the newspapers are nothing loath to supply the requisite condiment and sauce. It remains none the less true that the fact is a pitiable one and that the Canadian press is unwittingly demeaning the country by representing its public men in an unenviable moral light. Surely the example of the United States ought long ago to have made us sick of this system of unbridled abuse. Surely the example of England ought to entice us by its gentility, its moderation and its unswerving sense of dignity.

Even if it were true—which it is not—that there is no real difference of principle between the two great parties of the State, the circumstance would furnish no excuse for the indulgence of vulgar per-

sonalities. Some people are disposed to look down slightly upon the Quebec Legislature, but in the matter of courtesy and gentlemanly bearing between the members of opposing parties, it gives a brilliant example to all the Provinces of the Dominion.

MR. JOLY, even under the irritation of defeat, never forgets what is due to himself and his position, while the leaders on the other side always reciprocate his urbanity. Political competition is none the less keen in the ancient capital and we have yet to learn that the Quebec Legislature is not as effective as any other.

### SEA AND SHORE.

The American side-wheel steamer "Pacific" has foundered off the coast of California on her passage from Victoria to San Francisco, with, as it is believed, the loss of all on board but one sole survivor who escaped by means of a raft to the coast of Vancouver. The poor fellow was greatly confused in regard to the cause of the accident which most have ascribed to a sunken rock. The ship was of 800 tons—timber built—is described as a worthy ship, as vessels which meet disaster commonly are. Her unseaworthiness, in the true sense, was however proved by the rapidity with which she went down after being struck. There could have been no efficient compartments formed by bulkheads, and her sides must have been slight for a wooden ship, and, as is only common, not reinforced by metal sheathing of any resisting power. In the instance before us, the women seem to have been cared for and placed in the boats, but these were immediately capsized by the heavy sea that was running, some probably also in launching. All this is very miserable and unworthy of our boasted civilization. The ancients hugged the shore in their frail craft and slight knowledge of navigation. We dare everything and fail in proportion to our heedlessness. That ships can be rendered unsinkable, at any rate for a long interval from the moment of striking, is now sufficiently proved. Ocean waves should not be allowed to rule us, therefore, if there is any solid and united action possible amongst men. Energies multiply, and seek food in all shapes, useful and trifling—why not concentrate them a little here? We educate, and found Technical Colleges. Cannot the maritime interest claim a share in our studies? We ought to rule here—be it said with due reverence. There is a sub-ruling and a procreation with which Humanity has been distinctly invested by the Supreme Ruler, to whose name be all ascription of power and wisdom. We should use our commission, which speaks of replenishing and subduing. The treacherous sea should not be allowed to evade the injunction, and to sweep over all we hold precious—our accumulations for further service, and, dearer far, the human presences so enshrined in our affections. Humorist and Philosopher can see that we have grown strangely heedless of late—sacrificing safety to speed and to false economies. The people should see this, too. Created forces are wide and affluent, but also inexorable in application to our weak frames, and our material constructions are proving Towers of Babel to us. Mind, rightly directed, and guided to rational courses, is what must save us. There is no survival of the fittest here, unless the fantastic theorist shall argue that fitness is mere immunity, which we take leave to deny. Success is not the measure of fitness in material things—for the true fitness regards what is higher than success—namely truth—and so regarding, could not have sprung from matter. The aspiration that prevails at last, and on the great scale, has but a secondary reference to the material world, and is not of it. But, in actual fact, fit and unfit alike go down in pure heedlessness of law. There is no discrimination in great convulsions. But the faculties of man were not the less intended for adjustment to natural forces for withstanding disaster, and moulding a home in the passage to the better scene.

Without this higher view where should we be? In his most advanced type of civil power and intelligence, man should not be found recalcitrant to his high trust. The moral sense must be brought to assert itself.

### A BOLD PROPHECY.

Our readers will remember the circumstances attendant upon the passage of the Supreme Court Bill, at the last session of Parliament. One of those circumstances was very peculiar. The Bill was prepared in sub-committee by Mr. FOURNIER, then Minister of Justice, Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, MR. BLAKE and Mr. MOSS. On leaving their hands it received their full approval, as containing all the clauses which it was believed it ought to contain. On presentation to the House, it met with similar approval, from the Ministerialists because it was put forward by the Government, and from the Opposition because it was known to be, as has since been reliably ascertained, substantially the same Bill which Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD had drawn up with his own hand, some months prior to his resignation. Under these circumstances, it passed readily through its first and second readings and seemed destined to encounter no trouble. But on the third reading, a private member, Mr. IRVING, of Hamilton, moved that a clause be appended, distinctly providing that no appeal should be allowed from the Supreme Court of Canada to the Privy Council of Great Britain. It has been charged that Mr. IRVING did this through collusion with the Minister of Justice. We are not disposed to credit this, but at any rate, Mr. FOURNIER, and the other members of the Government, supported the amendment. The Opposition, headed by Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, opposed it with heat and great display of argument, and Sir JOHN then and there prophesied that that clause of the Bill would not be sanctioned by the Crown. The matter then dropped, and the measure was passed.

A few weeks ago, the members of the Supreme Bench were nominated, sworn in, and are now all in Ottawa making arrangements for the opening of the Court. These circumstances looked like proof that the Bill had been approved in England, but we ourselves at the time called attention to the fact that the Proclamation in the Official Gazette merely referred to the administration of the Court and not to its powers. We likewise gave prominence to a reply of Mr. LOWTHER, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the British House of Parliament, to the effect that the Appellate Clause of the Bill, was still under consideration. We concluded from these two incidents that we had not yet been deprived of the right of appeal to the foot of the Throne. In this view we are confirmed by what Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said in a speech delivered by him a few days ago at Toronto. He stated that, at the next session of our Parliament, the Appellate Clause would be excised, and not obscurely intimated that he had information to that effect. If such prove to be the case, we shall congratulate Sir JOHN both on his patriotic opposition to the clause and his statesmanly prophecy as to its ultimate fate. We do not want to see this judicial link to the Crown broken. Too many of our bonds of Union with the Mother Land are gone already. We wish to stand by the old connection as long and by as many ties as possible. The ultimate appeal to Her Majesty is a right and privilege. We desire to be deprived of neither.

### THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS.

The Select Committee named to enquire into the tenure of lands in the Magdalen Islands, and also upon the best means to be taken to improve the position of the residents of the Islands in relation to the tenure of lands, have just submitted their Report to the Legislative Assembly of Quebec. They have ascertained that there exist several kinds of leases in the Magdalen Islands. There are emphyteotic

and perpetual leases, for a period of fifty years, and a great number of leases for only ten years. The leases give no guarantee whatsoever to the occupants of lands, because it is stated therein that in default of payment, they will lose all their rights. It is therefore evident that they are in a very critical position, because the proprietor of the Islands can always resume these lands as soon as the occupants find it impossible to comply with the owner's conditions imposed upon them. The difficult position, in which the residents of the Magdalen Islands are placed, has always been a grave source of discontent amongst the population. This general discontent is principally due to the fact that the lessees have no prospect of ever becoming proprietors of the lands which they occupy. In certain cases also they pay a rent far too high, nay, even complain that the beaches are not gratuitously given them for fishing purposes. Such a state of things must lead to disastrous results and create an immense damage to the prosperity of the Islands. The population seeing no possibility of deriving any benefit from their labours, so as to enable them to improve their position by energetic and persevering work, become easily discouraged, and abandon the lands which they despair of ever holding as proprietors. A large number of the inhabitants also emigrated through this cause. From information received from persons, who have resided on these Islands for many years, hundreds of families have already left the Islands. This emigration continues and will certainly continue unless measures are taken to remedy the evils of which the population justly complain. The inhabitants of the Magdalen Islands will be only too happy to be enabled to enjoy the advantage of the Government system of the sale of lands. It should, however, not establish regulations respecting the cutting of timber, because it would be necessary to leave to the residents the advantage of the benefit of procuring timber for building purposes, fishing and for fire wood. They do not claim the privilege of selling the timber. The system of the tenure of lands, of which the population of the Magdalen Islands firstly complain, existed nearly for the same period in Prince Edward Island. It produced also bad results in that Province. The Local Government of the Islands appreciates the great necessity of relieving the population from the serious inconveniences of such a deplorable system of tenure of lands and is now occupied in effecting a change. The Committee appreciate how important it would be for the Province to encourage the working of the resources of the Magdalen Islands. They are inhabited by a population active, laborious, robust and desirous of deriving all the benefits of which a soil well adapted to cultivation offers them. There is already a considerable trade both of importation and exportation. The produce of the fisheries is already very considerable. The Committee consider it their duty to recommend the Government to take such measures as it shall deem necessary to acquire the rights of Admiral Coffin as proprietor of the Islands, in order to sell the lands to the residents, in the same manner as Crown Lands are sold to settlers in the Province of Quebec, excepting always that which relates to the cutting of timber.

### THE VICTORIAN EXHIBITION OF 1875.

They know how to do things with spirit in Australia. The intention of being fitly represented at the great American Centennial Fair of 1875, has led to a magnificent International Exhibition held at Melbourne in September of this year. Early in September, 1874, Commissioners were appointed to make preliminary inquiries, with the view of ascertaining whether united action should be taken by all the Australian Colonies, and they unanimously arrived at the conclusion that, to secure an effect creditable to the Colonies, they must act in concert, and that it was in-