

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1886

The religious riots in India are a very serious matter for the English Government. In its interference, and it must interfere, one side or the other must be put down, and consequent ill-feeling engendered.

THE HON. MR. FLYNN.

We are glad to see that the Hon. Mr. Flynn has been re-elected by acclamation. To have put that gentleman to the trouble of contesting the seat would certainly have been lost labor on the part of the Opposition.

THE U. S. MARRIAGE LAWS.

It is no doubt, in a moral sense, a step in the right direction for the United States to take action in relation to the Mormon blot on their social escutcheon, and the report of the Utah commission may on general grounds be considered satisfactory.

strict, uniform throughout the States, and under the control of the Federal government alone. This is a step in the right direction, and, until the true view of the matrimonial tie is seen by the people, and this of course out of the Church is not to be expected, in a general sense as good a one as can be taken.

EAST INDIAN GRAIN.

The wheat trade of the great West is at present in a very critical position, and the immediate prospects seem to be that the European market will become less and less open to American traders.

A PROSPECTIVE KINGDOM.

The determination of Austria, as expressed by the Hungarian Minister Tisza, has, combined with certain moral influences exercised in other quarters, caused Russia to assume a different tone and a different attitude.

MR. MACKENZIE IN EAST YORK.

It would be only a graceful act on the part of the Conservatives of the East Riding of York, Ont., to permit Mr. Mackenzie to be elected by acclamation. In ill health, and surrounded by circumstances which should commend him to the sympathies of the opposition party, this course would meet the endorsement of the better type of Conservatives.

Premier are generally discovered for the victims by some one else, and we are inclined to think the East York affair is one of them.

HOME RULE AND NEW ZEALAND.

It would be interesting to know what Mr. Goldwin Smith thinks of the opinion of New Zealand views on Home Rule. In Canada he is convinced, by the grace of the Castigan amendment to the Blake resolution, that no Home-Rule sentiment exists and that Canadians are all Unionists.

KAWAN, Auckland, New Zealand.

My DEAR SIR,—At the time you were so pressed with difficulties in the House of Commons regarding your Irish policy I was anxious that you should be gladdened by knowing with what eagerness we looked upon the struggle now in progress.

G. GRET.

21 Carlton House-terrace, S.W., Sept. 20, 1886. My DEAR SIR,—I have received the gratifying testimonial in regard to Irish policy from the members of the Assembly of New Zealand (nearly fifty in number) which you have so good as to send me.

POLITICAL TINKERS AT WORK.

The Daily News, of London, is a Government paper, and, consequently, like many Opposition journals nearer home than Europe, not unfrequently discusses learnedly and as with authority concerning administrative measures.

THE PARNELL APPEAL.

Thanks to the manner in which trivial and worthless trash is sent by the yard over the wires by the Associated Press, the proceedings in a small meeting of a New York ward branch of the Land League have been magnified into an event of importance and a "revolt against Parnell" in the press of the continent.

such meetings as took place at the Hoffman House to welcome Mr. Justin McCarthy, and with such representatives Mr. Parnell and his friends need not fear the result of any appeal he may make for assistance.

No friend of Ireland will fail to heed the circular letter addressed by President Fitzgerald to the numerous branches of the Irish-American National League on behalf of the new fund intended to relieve evicted tenants during the approaching winter.

This is no ordinary charity, which involves in its broad issues not only the mitigation of suffering and sorrow, but the political destiny of a whole people. The pecuniary aid now asked for will not merely shield a multitude of homeless human beings from cold and hunger, but it will avert resentful and desperate reprisals which might inflict a deadly injury upon the Home Rule cause.

These are sterling words, and as long as the views of the Irish in the United States are as described in them, Mr. Parnell and the friends of old Erin need have no fear.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Mr. John Fitzgerald, the new president of the Irish Land League, has issued a circular to the officers and members with reference to the recent letter of Mr. Parnell. He alludes to the meeting of the convention at Chicago and his own election in graceful terms, and concludes as follows:—

In the accomplishment of this labor of love and duty your officers rely on the patriotic spirit of the members, and their loyalty to those whom they have called to manage the affairs of the League until the next convention. It is admitted that the numerical strength in the house of Commons of the Irish parliamentary party is largely due to the untiring efforts of the general and the large amount of money transmitted at opportune times by you reverend and distinguished treasurer for the parliamentary fund.

Until recently the sad story of Ireland was only known to her sons; now it is uppermost in the minds of all Christendom. The outspoken sympathy and the aid which we have shown in the struggle for home and liberty. Hence Lord Salisbury and his government will soon discover that they can neither starve, exterminate, nor subdue by coercion, the Irish people.

I therefore appeal to every man and woman with Irish blood coursing in their veins to aid in resisting this inhuman brutality. Let every branch of the League at once start a fund, and send the contributions to the national treasurer, Rev. Charles O'Reilly, Detroit, Mich. Branches should be started in every town and village in the country; in the workshops and on the railroad. Rich and poor should unite in this humane and patriotic work.

Organization is necessary to resist organized tyranny. Let the twenty millions of the scattered Irish race, whose hearts beat true to Erin and liberty, unite under the leadership of Charles Stewart Parnell in the Irish National League. Present a united and determined front to that Government whose Queen only a few days ago intimated that she would defend the crown and throne would defend home rule in Bulgaria, while denying home rule to Ireland, and while she is content with appointing a "commission of enquiry" into the system of Irish landlord robbery. Let the good work commence at once. State delegates should lose no time in organizing their several States, while municipal councilors and branch officers should be starting in their efforts to increase the roll of membership. Secretaries of branches will please notify the national secretary, John P. Sutton, Lincoln, Neb., of all remittances to the national treasurer, and all changes in branch officers.

I remain, Yours faithfully, JOHN FITZGERALD, President Irish National League of America.

THE MAIL AND ITS POLICY.

The conversation or treachery of the Mail newspaper, as its recent change of front is variously styled, is yet to some extent the subject of comment. There is still only one point in the controversy on which unanimity seems to exist. People seem generally of the opinion that whether the change be sincere and real, or whether it be only a political dodge, it does not much matter. The officer who in the presence of an enemy wavers in his allegiance to the cause he has espoused is not likely to be the recipient of much confidence afterwards from friend or foe.

But this being the "silly season" the action of the Conservative organ is still material, albeit somewhat stale, for the indulgence of very varied and ingenious speculation in certain quarters. The "pious Witness" sees in the Mail, since its "wheel about and jump Jim Crow performance, a "most marked improvement." But its conclusions are to some extent hardly complimentary. In the difference between the present and the past editorials in the Mail the pious journal sees a change from a hard drinker to one who has taken the pledge and is keeping it. This is seen in the language and the opinions of the organ in question. We are told that "its language before its conversion was exactly similar to that of Lord Randolph Churchill—slangy, abusive and full of fancy phrases of a jangling, alliterative character, intended to tickle the ear. Its judgments on many questions were those of a class who attend professional pugilistic encounters and cock-fights. The change is radical, completely so. Its language, though not stiff, is good, and is free from all catch-penny phrases." So much for the Witness, and we trust the Mail will feel the full force of the compliment paid it. Then individuals find the Mail's change a mark for their little speculative shafts. We read an effusion signed "Native," in a contemporary, which is calculated to make one shudder. He is one who evidently "dreams dreams and sees visions." According to his fine frenzy, the "flop" of the Mail is going to raise such a spirit of opposition to the Catholic Church and Quebec that Confederation is going to be smashed, and he talks quite easily and flippantly of annexation of Quebec to the States as an outcome of the position of affairs. We are told by this alarmist in his "horrible tale" that "many influential persons here (Toronto) declare that they are prepared to accept any political consequence rather than continue in harmonious relations with the Quebec establishment. I am told on excellent authority that one of the three Presbyterian clergymen who have recently given public approval to the Mail does not hesitate to say that he wishes annexation to be brought about, in order that the French-Canadians and their Church may be swamped."

It is true that ignorant bigots of a type of fanaticism equal to this are doubtless to be found, but until the "influential persons" have the courage to come out and show their long ears for the edification of the public, we decline to believe in their existence apart from the imagination of the writer.

The imaginative critics may rest in peace. The course of the Mail is not going to produce any great effect on the country, either of a positive or negative kind. All the effect will be on the paper itself, and that not of a beneficial character. The general public is not likely to be led or guided by what they may happen to read in print in a paper whose elasticity of principle has just been so abundantly evidenced. It is to such papers as the Mail is due the fact that public faith in journalism as a trustworthy channel of thought or guidance is waning so fast. The public has recently been reminded that the late Dr. Rush left his great literary endowment of the Philadelphia Library on the express understanding that none of it was to be spent on newspapers which he styled "teachers of disjointed thinking." And the same reminder tells us that "the age of newspapers is nearly over; the people are fast losing their reliance on them at least for opinions." This is a pessimistic view, but who can wonder at it if the people see the integrity of the press exhibited after the manner of the Mail. But the strife and confusion threatened for its own ends, whatever they may be or by whomsoever promoted, will not come. The good sense of the people will not tolerate it and will promptly make short work of whatever incendiary may turn the machine.

THE "MAIL" AND QUEBEC.

The abominable attacks of the Mail on this Province have not passed unchallenged by Mr. Matthew Ryan, well known in this city, but now of Winnipeg. He especially lays bare the hollowness and untruth of the assertion that the Province is backward and lacks enterprise, and that all its evils are due to the "burden of the tithes." It is refreshing to turn to Mr. Ryan's letter, his writing of what he knows and understands, after the bigoted tirade of ignorant abuse indulged in by the Mail. Mr. Ryan very aptly quotes from public documents, which should open the eyes of the Ontario critics as to the position of Quebec, a speech of the Hon. Robert Baldwin in Parliament, and refers to it as follows:—

"Lord Sydenham's recommendation of the Union of 1840 was based upon the fact that the funds of Lower Canada were necessary to wipe off the debt of Upper Canada. It could not be denied," continued the speaker, "that at that time Upper Canada was substantially bankrupt, her debentures in the London market were as low as 80 per cent., and as for obtaining a loan upon the guarantee of Upper Canada the thing was preposterous; the only possible way to obtain a loan was upon the assurance of a Union with the Lower Province." (Mirror of Parliament, 11th May, 1846.) In the course of the debate during which the above was spoken, Mr. Draper, then Attorney General for Upper Canada, and the Conservative leader, also spoke thus:—

"He must say that so far as regards the Union, that up to the year 1838 he was opposed to it; but when he saw Upper Canada perishing by slow degrees he became a convert in 1839 and advocated the Union of the two Provinces." Mr. Ryan then refers to a speech of Sir Etienne Taché. That eminent statesman put the case in a nutshell. "The question then is," says the Doctor, "does Lower Canada, in proportion to its population, furnish its share of exportations; and if the produce of its agriculture and its industry is equal to that of Upper Canada? As the honorable member for Peterborough

has upon all occasions shown himself the Coriphæus of pretensions the most exorbitant on the part of the members from Upper Canada, I am anxious to throw down the gauntlet, and trust he will take it up. Now I am ready to prove to him that the country he represents does not export more than mine; that the agricultural produce in his county (regard being had to population) is not greater than that of the county I represent. That he, in his family, does not consume or use a greater quantity of British manufactures upon which duty is paid than I make use of in my family. I am ready with the census in my hand to show that there are as many horses, oxen, cows, pigs and other domestic animals in my county as in his. I am ready, whenever he wishes it, to prove that in the houses of Canadians in the rural districts, if we have not always as the articles of luxury as in the same class in Ontario, we have a great number of useful articles which are more or less of British manufacture, which have paid duty, and consequently contribute to the revenues of the country; and, further, that there is a far greater consumption of wines and other liquors upon which heavy duties are paid in Lower than in Upper Canada, and that in this respect we pay more to the revenue than Upper Canada. I will also tell the honorable gentleman for Peterborough that I am ready to name appraisers to establish what I have advanced, and that I am ready to give security by which I will be bound to pay all the expenses of such an appraisal if the honorable member will determine the position of the member and leave the matter to arbitrators and appraisers. The honorable member has here an opportunity of proving the great superiority of Upper over Lower Canada which he has had taste so often to boast of. I will say, also, that there is not a single member representing Lower Canada who is not disposed to do as much as I propose towards the representation of any other county in Upper Canada. With the gravest face and most assured tone the honorable member for Peterborough has said, "who loads your fifteen or sixteen hundred ships which annually come up the St. Lawrence? If it is not the inhabitants of Upper Canada?" To answer four counties in 1845 for more than one hundred and eighty ships of the value of £140,000. The Counties of Bonaventure, Gaspé, Rimouski and Saguenay can show this, not from calculations of mine, but from official returns, which can be produced at any time."

THE APPEAL FOR AID.

It is to be hoped that in the interests of Home Rule the appeal of Mr. Parnell will be answered liberally by the Irish on this continent. Unless the unfortunate tenantry, who are now in such imminent peril of being gripped by the relentless hand of the landlords, are given substantial aid it is not to be expected—for flesh and blood after all is human—that there will not be witnessed acts of violence calculated to strengthen the position of those who oppose the demands of Ireland for her right measure of freedom. That the pound of flesh will be rigidly demanded is beyond question, although the chief organ of the Conservatives in England recently very truly said that "the landlord who at this crisis presses a legal claim in a way that the conscience of honest and humane men would condemn, is a traitor to his fellows." It seems there are many such traitors, and the present ones are not to be deterred from wringing what they can from the unfortunate people over whose heads the spectre of eviction is hovering. In order, therefore, to prevent the sufferers being goaded to a justifiable fury they must be substantially aided. So much depends on peace and order that it may safely be said if it is not witnessed this winter the growing sympathies of the English people for the principle of Home Rule will be deadened, and the hopes of attaining that object shattered for years. As the Freeman in a recent issue said editorially:—"The keynote of the attitude which the people are advised to take up is a rigid adherence to the law—a rigid abstention from all illegality, avoidance of all outrage, united action within, not without the bounds of the law. Not only this, but Mr. Dillon is careful to advise tenants who seek to induce their landlords to give them statements in consequence of the depression of the times only to demand a reasonable and fair reduction—such a reduction as can be defended publicly. In fact, the whole principle of the action of the League may be stated to be the application of the fully recognized and legalized principles of trades' unions to the circumstances of those whose means of livelihood is hard. The tenants of an estate legally, peacefully, openly acting together, are, we take it, as much entitled to ask for fair reduction of rent as a body of artisans are entitled to ask for reduction of the hours of labor or for increased remuneration. True, if the landlord be not paid his full legal demand, he has a legal right to evict. No one has, we understand, advised resistance to the legal process, if it be enforced. We certainly have never advised it." But this position cannot be sustained by the poor tenants aided. The maintenance of such a satisfactory order of things as the Freeman advocates is certainly necessary and desirable, but it cannot be maintained without that assistance for which Mr. Parnell has so vigorously appealed, and Mr. Fitzgerald endorsed so heartily. The urgency is immediate, and we hope the response will be prompt.

IRISH HOME RULE AND ANTI-EVICTION FUND.

COLLECTED BY P. FLANNERY, BATHURST, N. B. Rev. John Carter, \$2; Rev. Wm. Varrily, \$2; K. J. Burns, \$2; T. F. Keay, \$5; F. J. McManus, \$1; A. Macpherson, \$1; Rev. Father Dickson, \$5; Patrick Flannery, \$1; John O'Neil, \$1; John O'Neil, \$1; Rev. Thomas F. Barry, V.G., \$2; Mrs. Patrick Flannery, \$2—Total, \$24.

A FRENCH SENSATION.

PARIS, Oct. 11.—The Nouvelle France publishes a sensational letter from General Dax, President of Mexico, to the effect that during the late attempt to establish an empire in Mexico, Marshal Bazaine, through a third party, offered to place in his hands the town of Maximilian; Marquez, Miroujon, and others, if he accepted certain proposals, which Dax rejected because he deemed it dishonorable