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AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH, 1885.

MEN, WOMEN, AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

I called attention a short time ago to the New York *Tablet's* description of Thomas Moore as the "prince of snobs and butt of lords." An energetic reply appears in the last number of the same paper over the signature of "Fieam O'Collan," and from it I cut the following paragraphs in which he refers to the popularity of the "Irish melodies:—

I have heard his "Harp that once through Tara's Halls" sung in an Indian wigwam in the Canadian backwoods. I have heard his "O! the Sigh Entrancing" sung around the camp-fires of the Army of the Cumberland, on the march, in bivouac, and on the eve of the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and many others, twenty years ago, when I kept step to the music of the Union.

Again, I was in Canada in 1866. On this occasion I had the honor of wearing the green of my native land, and as the stars of a summer night shone down on the Niagara River, the roar of its waters was drowned by the voices of the boys in green chorusing Moore's "Song of the Battle Eve." The inspiration it imparted to us caused the blood to flow in fiery volume through our veins, and when, on the morrow, we met the enemy, if we proved slouches, ask the "Queen's Own?"

Without raising here the question whether theatre-going is a legitimate recreation or not, there can be no doubt as to the bad influence of the stage when it is occupied with such abominable plays as have recently been put on the boards of the Grand Opera House. The man who is primarily, and clearly, and doubly responsible for such objectionable shows is Mayor Manning, who as Chief Magistrate, has charge of the public morals and as sole owner of the Opera House can exercise over it the most absolute control. The manager of the theatre is not a lessee, but a paid servant of the Mayor, and therefore the latter actually pockets the net proceeds of such intolerably impure and disgusting spectacles as have been seen in the Opera House over and over again. To such an extent has this practice been carried that no man can any longer venture to take his wife, or daughter, or sister, or any other respectable lady with him to see any play with the character of which he is not acquainted. To do so would be to take the risk of subjecting her to the worst kind of insult. There is no theatre in the city to act as a rival to the Grand Opera House, and therefore Mayor Manning cannot plead in extenuation even the wretched excuse that he is compelled to import such troupes as he has lately been engaging for the purpose of making his house pay. If this is done without his consent he had better see that a stop is put to it. If it is done with his approval the respectable people of Toronto should see that he is made to choose between the position of Chief Magistrate of the city on the one hand and that of owner and manager of a *demi-monde* theatre on the other.

I would like to add my protest—if it is not too late—to those already made against chartering a company to build a railway along the water edge, at the bottom of the Niagara gorge from Queenstown up to the falls. If there is to be a highway there at all it should be one along which the public can stroll without molestation by a toll collector or danger from a locomotive.

President Cleveland in his inaugural address had the good sense to indicate his opinion that a plainer style of living at Washington would comport better with democratic institutions. It was reported a short time ago that Senator Bavard was very reluctant to accept the position of Secretary of State on account of the great expense of official life. It is to be hoped that the new President will be able, with the co-operation of his Cabinet, to effect a decided improvement in social life. President Arthur's whole tendency was in the direction of profusion. He was an epicurean if not a sybarite in his tastes, and devoted himself so much to enjoyment that he has left little impression on the course of history by his accidental administration.

There seems to be a determination on the part of the Maritime Provinces members of the House of Commons to oppose to the bitter end any proposed addition to the duty on flour. On the other hand, the Ontario millers, whose establishments have been going idle, are equally determined to obtain some protection for their interests. It will soon be seen which of these influences is the stronger in swaying the Government and the House of Commons.

The conclusion of the West Northumberland Election case by the unseating of Mr. Guillett, brings into prominence one of the weaknesses of our present system of dealing with controverted cases. The acts which unseated Mr. Guillett were committed by one of his supporters whom the judges held to be an agent. It was not shown that his majority was won by bribery, but he lost his seat because of a few cases of votes affected by betting, of which, so far as the evidence shows, he was not even cognizant. An equally striking case was that of Mr. Phelps, the member for West Simcoe, in the Ontario Assembly. He was unseated because a tavern-keeper, within a mile of one polling-place, sold a glass of whiskey within polling hours, and because the same tavern-keeper was declared to be his agent on account of his being present at the public meeting which nominated Mr. Phelps. That one glass of whiskey cost the latter as much as \$3,000, an absurdly heavy penalty for an offence that was constructive as affecting him. To make matters worse, so far as our controverted elections' act is concerned, the courts trying petitions never go into a thorough investigation for the purpose of exposing corruption. As soon as they find enough to justify them in unseating the member elect they stop the inquest unless charges of personal corruption are pressed. What is wanted is (1) a law which will make the candidate responsible only for acts which he can reasonably be expected to control; (2) the infliction of a penalty of imprisonment without the option of a fine on every one who is convicted of giving a bribe; (3) disfranchisement for a term of years of both the giver and the taker of a bribe; (4) some means of thoroughly investigating the extent to which corruption is carried, and (5) the disfranchisement of constituencies for notorious corruption.

Some time ago a certain Col. Dawson, of Kentucky, put forward a claim for his deceased mother, that she was the real author of the beautiful hymn usually attributed to James Montgomery: "What is Prayer?" This claim, after being discussed pro and con in the literary papers was knocked out of court by Mr. John Hague, of Toronto, who in a letter to the *Chicago Current*, alleged that at a public meeting in England he had heard the hymn credited to Montgomery, in the poet's own presence, by Sir Roundell Palmer, editor of the "Book of Praise," in which the composition is attributed to the same author. To clinch the proof all that was needed was the recently published letter of one George Stevenson to the *North-western Christian Advocate*, in which he states that he received from Montgomery a copy of the hymn written by the poet's own hand and signed by him as its author. The sacred lyric referred to stands high in favor with all the churches and is to be found in many collections. ONLOOKER.