

ANARCHY AND DYNAMITE.

The June number of the *American Magazine*, besides the general excellence of its other contents, is rendered specially interesting by the conclusion of "My Dream of Anarchy and Dynamite." No doubt, Colonel Chesnoy's famous "Battle of Dorking" set the fashion of this kind of tale of prophetic warning; but however that may be, the form is an excellent medium for the conveyance of a serious purpose. The story, if it may be called one, is written by an officer—presumably a general officer—of the United States army, whose pen is said to be a weapon as facile to his hand as his sword. It is a well-written presentment of what might happen if the plots and plans of foreign Anarchist dynamiters are not counteracted and guarded against betimes. It describes the ruin of New York; the defeat, first of her civic forces, then of those of the Union, by the skilful use of dynamite; with the pillage of banks and of the mansions of the wealthy, and all the horrors and outrages attendant on victorious mob-rule. Of course, there is an ultimate defeat of the Communists, promoted by the dissensions which naturally arise amongst themselves, notably the license taken by the worst characters, and most worthless workers, under a system in which all share alike.

The Chicago experiences convince us that the idea, though at first glance extravagant, is not so entirely visionary, and the story brings out in strong relief the salient fact that the propaganda of anarchism is entirely due to the European immigration of restless and bloodthirsty fanatics. Though the enormous wealth of American millionaires is becoming more obnoxious to the masses than even that of aristocracy in Europe, the Anarchist idea is not one which commends itself to the native-born American.

Two salutary lessons are inculcated by the "Dream." One is the expediency of placing the manufacture, sale, and possession of dynamite under the strictest legal supervision. The other is the exposition, and setting in its true light, of the diabolical doctrine that political ends are a sanction to crime.

We, in happier Canada, are apt to think ourselves but little concerned, but it may be worth our while to consider whether we do not palter more than we ought to do, with the idea of this tremendous iniquity.

THE "WILD NORTH LAND."

The worthlessness and want of every sort of capability of the Dominion, and the hopelessness of making anything out of the resources she is sometimes allowed to possess, have been so unceasingly dinned into the ears of Canadians by the pessimist annexationists, that—as we have been told the population of every country are "principally fools"—it does not cause much surprise that numbers should be persuaded they are living under conditions of utter blankness.

But let us fancy for a moment that the possession of Canada could be offered to Germany or France, and contrast the quick appreciation of either of those powers of her magnificent extent and illimitable resources, with our own blindness to the goodly heritage that has fallen to our lot among the nations, and the apathy and thanklessness with which we regard conditions in which we are more favored by Providence than almost any country in the world.

The blessings of peace, plenty, and an almost boundless space for the expansion of our population in our own territories and under our own flag, we seem to accept with a graceless and surly reluctance discreditable alike to our heads and hearts.

We may not, however, after all, be wholly given over to a reprobate stupidity and churlishness; and if there be any better hope in us, it is yet possible that the information which has been made public by Dr. Schultz's committee on the extent and capabilities of the great Mackenzie Basin may stir up in us a conviction that we possess within our own borders to the most generous extent the potentialities of a mighty nation.

When Colonel (then Lieutenant) Butler visited the Peace River district in 1870, it was in the dead of winter, and his "Wild North Land" could not give us facts, from observation, of its summer capabilities. It was, however, accompanied by a map in which it was noticeable that the isothermal line of Kingston bent itself to the northward so far as to intersect Dunvegan on the Peace River. From what Butler gathered, however, it was inferred that there might be a large wheat-growing district even in those high latitudes, and it now appears, from the report of the committee, that there is an area of 316,000 square miles on which cereal may be raised. The barley area is set down at 407,000, and that grain is said to ripen at the mouth of the Great Bear River, in latitude 65. Potatoes have been successfully grown at Fort Good Hope, on the Arctic circle, and the area capable of producing them has been set down as 650,000 square miles.

There is an immense stretch of river navigation broken only in two places; salmon are abundant in the rivers discharging themselves into Hudson's Bay; there is a distinct, but valuable species in the Mackenzie; and capelin and rock cod are found on the coasts of Hudson's Bay.

The country has extensive areas of forest trees, suited to all purposes of house and ship-building, some of which attain an enormous size.

Coal, lignite, silver, copper, iron, graphite, ochre, brick and pottery clay, gypsum, lime, sandstone, sand for glass, asphaltum, salt, and sulphur, are distributed over various portions of the vast region, and there are extensive deposits of petroleum.

It is a fact within our own knowledge that the wild fruits of the N. W. in the already partially settled districts further south are superior to those of old Canada. We have seen wild gooseberries and black currants in the neighborhood of Fort Pelly, which might have been taken for cultivated garden fruit, while the cranberries are magnificent in size, quality and profusion.

It appears that these and many others—strawberries, blueberries, Indian pear, etc.—lose nothing in these higher latitudes; it is even probable that they are still finer. Of course, as in the more southerly N. W., there are dangers to cultivation from frosts early and late, but there are also compensatory conditions, such as the more rapid ripening of grains, vegetables, etc., in the summer as the Arctic region is approached, and some stress is laid on the effects of settlement and tillage in modifying climate.

The fur-bearing animals are as yet abundant, the fur sales in London still amounting to several millions of dollars annually.

Here, then, is an empire in itself, producing every necessary and very many luxuries of life, open to Canadian enterprise, which has only to go forth and possess it as soon as railway communication is opened up, and that, no doubt, we shall not wait for very long.

It has been the fashion of the discontented to assume that the N. W. was of no account or interest to the Maritime Provinces, but we do not, of late, hear quite so much of that sort of talk; the fact is, that the number of successful settlers from the N. W. who have made their mark in the various regions of the N. W. has made it inconvenient to the anti-nationalists to continue their insistence on that misrepresentation.

Let us hope that we are awaking to a better appreciation of our enormous national blessings and advantages.

THE POPE AND THE LEAGUE.

A great meeting of Irish Nationalists has been held in Chicago, which has clothed in the usual vague and lofty language a protest against the action of the church. Archbishop Walsh's endeavor to throw a glamour round his submission is still more distinctly marked by the turgid and inflated style which seems to possess peculiar attractions for Frenchmen and Irishmen whenever they find it necessary to justify doubtful courses.

The Archbishop, indeed, needs all the misty eloquence he can bring to bear, as he wishes it to be understood that a most determined effort was made to bring the National League under the unfavorable judgment of the Pontiff, a position proved to be a false one, but which may be partly foisted on the ignorant under cover of a cloud of declamatory dust.

Mr. Parnell's evolutions under the pressure of a force which even he can not ignore, or afford to quarrel with, are still more instructive and peculiar. The Plan of Campaign was officially proclaimed as the policy of the National League in the columns of *United Ireland*, a paper of which Mr. Parnell is the chief proprietor. Mr. Parnell's health has always prevented him from either accepting or denouncing it on his own account, but it was entirely endorsed by his lieutenants in his absence.

No one in his senses, in fact, doubts the actual complicity of the whole party in Parliament with the Plan, and consequently with the crime and cruelty resulting from it. One must, therefore, admire Mr. Parnell's audacity when he now coolly asserts that "the Irish Parliamentary party and the National League have never had anything to do with the Plan of Campaign, and that if it (the Plan) should now be defeated by the spiritual power of Rome and the temporal power of England, it will not be a defeat of the National League."

Well and good; a National League, innocent of the practices condemned by the Pope, would be a National League with which the English Government would not, and, indeed, could not, possibly interfere.

The plain facts which remain conspicuous through the glamor and mist thrown around them, are that murder, outrage, plunder and social persecution, were the weapons of the Plan, and it is vain to try to separate the Plan from the League.

The Vatican position that it interferes not at all with politics, but only with immoral means, is unassailable, and the strength of it lies in the facts which have been well set forth in these words:—"The Pope has made no pronouncement upon new doctrine, and has extracted no new thing from the deposits of truth in the keeping of his Church. He has merely investigated circumstances fully known to the Irish Bishops, has judged them in the light of universal and elementary morality, and has come to a decision which approves itself to the conscience of the world."

That His Holiness has caused a thorough investigation to be made is most significant, and there cannot be a shadow of a doubt that his humane and righteous judgment will redound in history to the credit of the church, and stand as another title to the respect of posterity for the personal memory of the Pontiff.

The misprint of "Manitoba" for "Muskoka" crept into a Note in our issue of last week, in connection with the name of Lt.-Col. O'Brien, which reminds us that there is sometimes a laugh at the number of Canadian "Colonels." Yet we are not quite down to the level of the "Kentucky mind," illustrated by the younster, who, being told that Adam had no other name, suggested that Eve might have called him "Colonel." As a matter of fact, allowing for a few changes from time to time, the Canadian Militia List shows:

	Active.	Retired.
Colonels.....	4	3
Lt.-Colonels	165	176
Total		348

Formerly, a Major of five years standing got his Lt.-Colonelcy as a matter of routine, but this privilege having been rightly abolished for some years, the list is decreasing in numbers as officers die off. We are hereby reminded to impress upon the Minister of Militia that the D. A. G.'s, being the virtual general officers commanding districts, ought to have at least the rank of full Colonel. The list, as it stands, is incongruous.