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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 1900.

A CORRESPONDENT writing to the Ottawa Evening Journal on the 22nd ult., reproduced the following paragraph from the morning Government organ: "In the Senate yesterday, the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott alluded, in feeling terms, to the death of Senator Trudel. He was followed by Senators Belrose and Ross. Out of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate adjourned." Upon which he comments as follows: "It would seem from this that the only thing requisite to attain 'honor' in this country (the Dominion of Canada) is to be a servile follower of a certain old gentleman away off in Rome. Everyone knows that Senator Trudel was opposed to British rule and British sentiment in Canada, why then should a British parliament do his memory honor?—That's funny, isn't it? The correspondent gives the only answer possible, and then turns round and asks the question, why?"

THE jubilee of the penny postal system brings to mind many interesting recollections. It has accomplished a vast revolution in our social and commercial system, the effects of which can hardly be realized. To show with what suspicion the English people regard sudden changes, and how slow they are to adopt radical reforms, it might be mentioned that when this scheme was first suggested objection was raised that the penny postage would promote sedition and injure the commonwealth. We laugh at such ideas now, yet in those days men like Sir Robert Peel, the late Lord Derby, the late Lord Shaftesbury, and the late Duke of Wellington opposed the same.

THE penny postage scheme was adopted in 1839, but not until January 10th, 1840, were letters actually first carried for a penny. Previously the charges for letters to and from the provinces varied according to distance. For instance a letter from London to Leeds cost 10d. The large pile of buildings at St. Martins' le Grand, now comprises with those in course of erection, nearly a whole parish, but when first opened in 1829 they were of very small proportions being of the two storied style of the period. Certain departments have had to find accommodation elsewhere, the Parcel Post for example which is having an immense establishment erected on the site of Coldbath Field's Prison.

THE action of the Chester Board of Guardians in deciding to grant the paupers the use of knives and forks only on Christmas day is being adversely criticised, and the Local Government Board will probably take action in the matter. To compel a pauper to eat his food with his fingers is certainly reducing him to the level of the brute creation with a vengeance. The Chester Board of Guardians must be like those gentlemen whose doings were so truthfully told by Dickens with such beneficial effects. There is more need for work house reform yet however.

**S.O.E. GRAND LODGE.**

On Tuesday, the 11th inst., the Fifteenth Annual Session of the Supreme Grand Lodge of the Sons of England Benevolent Society will convene in the picturesque town of Port Hope, on the north shore of that beautiful lake, Ontario. The occasion will as usual, we hope, be a happy one, as it means an increasing enthusiasm of Englishmen in Canada for one another, mingled with that love and loyalty for Queen, country and institutions which have ever been characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon and a prime factor in assisting to make Britons happy and free men. Our society has also had the effect, aside from its beneficent purposes, of proving to the other nationalities in Canada, that the Englishman is here to help build in this country one of the most prosperous and happy nations the world has ever seen, to be fostered under those grand institutions and that flag which have made Mother England the foremost nation in the world. Stimulated and strengthened with sound British laws and an Open Bible—the secret of England's greatness—the Englishman in Canada will push onward and upward, and with a willing shoulder to the wheel, will help to develop in this fair Dominion a nationality that is a living and a progressive reality. Let us cultivate a broad feeling of mutual regard and love for one another and for those of other nationalities who are favorably disposed towards us, and the desired end will soon be attained. With this object in view, our annual sessions of Grand Lodge likewise revive old memories and teach us that here in Canada we are still partakers in the glories and traditions of the grand old British Empire. We venerate the Old Land, but we also love our fair, dear Canada—

"Fair Canada; loved Canada;  
My heart is wed to thee;  
Be thou the land of noble deeds,  
And Empire of the free."

But aside from the enthusiasm, social intercourse and the making of new and happy acquaintances, there is business, important legislation for the general welfare of our beloved order. This latter should be the chief aim of each and every delegate attending. See to it then, brethren, that the landmarks and safeguards of our happy institution be not disturbed—notably that clause requiring that every brother and a brother's wife profess the true religion, for God and for country.

Which is correct?—Appendix B for the year ending Feb. 1st, 1882, of the G. L. Reports, or appendix B for the year ending Dec. 31, 1884. According to the above there is doubt as to the exact dates of the institution of the first three lodges in Toronto, or in Canada, namely Albion No. 1, Middlesex No. 2, and Kent No. 3. Who can explain how this is thusly?

**THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.**

"A land of settled Government,  
A land of just and high renown,  
Where freedom broadens slowly down  
From precedent to precedent."

The history of England is, as a whole, creditable to the English people. A mixture of strong races produced a strong compound. Read the records and note in what manner the people made themselves felt—whether at Clarendon or Runnymede or in 1688—whenever their liberties were in question or their progress was hampered. The insular position of England and climatic conditions have beyond question strongly influenced the characteristics of the race. How long they will retain these characteristics under other skies, and to what extent they will change in climates so different in all respects from England's as India's and Australia's cannot even yet be positively determined. It may be that in a few generations Anglo-India may become as languid and effete as the Mexicans. We hope not, and there is a virility in the Anglo-Saxon blood which renders that hope a reasonable one. In North America, at all events, the climate ought not to be, and is not, unfavorable to the development of a hardy people. The French have certainly not deteriorated in Canada, and they had a bad start as compared with the English-Canadian. They were not so virile a race; neither had they the instincts of self-government nor of personal independence so strongly developed. Nor can they hope to acquire the full measure of these qualities so long as they continue to submit to the oppressions and exactions of the Roman Catholic church. In fact, the present position of the French-Canadian is not on a level with that of the English people even in Henry III's time. We quote TAINÉ: "At the beginning of the fourteenth century the ecclesiastical revenue was twelve times greater than the civil; about half the soil was in the

hands of the clergy, at the end of the century the commons declared that the taxes paid to the church were five times greater than the taxes paid to the crown; and some years afterwards (1404-1409) considering that the wealth of the clergy only served to keep them in idleness and luxury, they proposed to confiscate it for the public benefit—already the idea of the Reformation had forced itself upon them." Again: "The prelates were grievously oppressing the people by means of their privileges, ecclesiastical courts and tithes." How peculiarly this language applies to the state of things existing, to-day in the Province of Quebec. The tithe system is in full force; the church is exempt from taxation, the "ecclesiastical oppression" is there in every direction—in men's homes, in the schools, in the halls of legislation, in the very chambers of justice. Thousands upon thousands of these poor French Canadians silently depart—year by year for a land where the LAW, at any rate, does not sanction these iniquities. The Superior of the Sulpicians declares, in his order to rank third among the financial institutions of the world, "It is certainly the wealthiest of the religious orders in Canada, but his debts will not be long before they catch up. The latter have begun by extracting \$400,000, but we warn the habitant that that sum is but a flea-bite to what will be extracted from them directly and indirectly by that extremely religious confraternity. The money which in the English speaking provinces circulates in commerce, in the province of Quebec finds its way into the pockets of the black-robés, and although a great deal is said about their charity, it is doubtful if one per cent. is returned to the people under that head. Now, compare the action of the French and English under somewhat similar circumstances. The English agitated until the Clergy Reserves Act was passed; the French are passive under much greater burdens than those occasioned by the Clergy Reserves and are much less able to bear the strain. Were we right in our action or are they? There can hardly be a doubt upon the point. Is it not to us a remarkable fact—a fact without precedent even among the Latin races—that among the whole of the French-Canadians there is not to be found one man to champion the cause of his oppressed countrymen.

Meanwhile, although we are decidedly better off than our French-Canadian countrymen, we must not forget that there is much for us still to do—our own skirts are not too clean. We have allowed the Roman Catholic church to exploit our political systems and purchase our politicians. There are special privileges to be obliterated. Our cumbersome and expensive systems of legislation require to be simplified, and a greater economy in civil government is absolutely necessary. These are the urgent needs of the hour, and we sincerely trust that every Englishman in Canada is convinced in regard to them. If they are, there is hope for speedy reform, for with Englishmen action follows closely upon conviction.

**ENGLAND AND PORTUGAL.**

There could not possibly be a more pitiable spectacle than that presented by Portugal in regard to the dispute with England over the Shire question. The bellicose attitude of the bombastic little state is supremely ludicrous, when her insignificant position is considered. It reminds us of a cur snarling at the heels of a powerful and dignified mastiff. The bigger dog heads not the snapping of the cur but treats it with calm contempt until perhaps the mongrel may go too far, when the mastiff seizes it by the throat and ends its existence for ever. Were this the fifteenth century, the days when Portuguese chivalry was not an amply nothing, the bombastic demonstrations lately witnessed could be readily understood and might perhaps have some effect. But alas "the days of chivalry are past" and the Portuguese of today are a degenerate race, much given to vaunting, with however nothing to back it up. When we compare the Portugal of the past with the Portugal of today we recall Byron's lament over Greece.

Yes self abasement paves the way  
To villain bonds and despot sway.

In the Peninsular war when British soldiers had to expel the foreign invaders from Portugal and Spain we saw the stuff of which the modern Portuguese are made. In view of its craven part Portugal would do well to cease its display of braggadocio and trust the good sense of England not to intrude upon its just rights. In this case it would seem that if there has been any infringement of rights it has not been on England's part.

**ON SPELLING.**

A correspondent of the Wilts and Gloucester (Eng.) Standard says:—"I see that Mr. W. E. Norris, the popular novelist, complains that the American publishers who have reproduced his works have made him responsible for the American mode of spelling such words as theater, traveled (with one l), and son on. Well, traveled looks odd to our English eyes, but when one comes to the rights of it how did the second l ever get into traveller? Our rule is that the final consonant is doubled WHEN the accent is on the LAST syllable, not otherwise. But in "travel" the accent is on the a, therefore the final l should NOT be doubled. I remember some lines in the Guardian, many years ago, which put this very neatly:—

If traveler you'd rightly spell,  
The accent bids you use one l,  
It comes from tráv-el not tra-vél.  
With double l it rhymes with dweller,  
And tráv-elor becomes tra-véller,  
Witness repél which gives repéller."

**DR. LITLEDALE DEAD.**

Dr. Littledale's name has been a signal for controversy for a whole generation. He always loved a fight. One of the most eloquent defenders in the Press of the Ritualistic movement, a Radical High Churchman of very pronounced views, he was always courting a fray. His learning was wide though his conclusions were sometimes rash, and he was always a doughty champion of the cause which he undertook. One of the best of his books was that which examined the claims of Rome. It mightily pleased the extreme Protestant party, and nobody will forget the effect upon Dr. Littledale of a letter which advised him to read his own work in order to be secure against the wiles of the Jesuits. The writer of this invitation could not imagine that Dr. Littledale wrote his own book. There will be particular interest in Dr. Littledale's name for Ottawa readers on account of his having made some contribution to the controversy over the Jesuits Estates Act.

**CURRENT ENGLISH TOPICS.**

AT Forest Gate Industrial School, London, the other day a terrible fire occurred, when a dormitory was burnt out and 23 poor little lads lost their lives. The fire was due to the overheating of a stove pipe standing in the dormitory, but the absence of any apparent means of egress caused so many deaths. The door opening to the main building was locked from the outside, and the person who held the key was away on leave. The other door leading to the external dormitory staircase was also on the inside.

MR. C. B. BIRCH, M. A., has completed a fine statue of the Queen which Prince Albert Victor will shortly unveil in the dominion of His Highness the Maharana, Futch, Surgh, Oudepore, India. It is a magnificent piece of sculpture, nine feet high, standing on a pedestal of ten feet. The statue is of carrara marble.

THOMAS OLDAM BARLOW, R.A., one of the oldest and foremost engravers of our time is dead. He was a Lancashire man and was born in 1824. He was elected an associate of the Royal Academy in 1873 and a Royal Academician in 1881.

It is not often that the charge of reckless living is established against a clergyman, but in the Colchester Bankruptcy Court lately Rev. Wm. Gunter, Rector of Abberton, Essex, was brought to task on this account. It was stated that although this gentleman's stipend only amounted to £215, he had incurred during a year liabilities amounting to £728, his only asset being £180 worth of furniture, bought but not paid for during the year. His wine bill from May to October, amounted to £18, and his book debts for wine were considerable. He had recently bought a victoria, built a green house, and he had always kept a man and maid servant. His creditors accepted an offer of £100 a year, but passed a resolution adjudging the rev. gentleman a bankrupt.

Mr. Thos. Bright, younger, brother of the late Mr. John Bright is dead. Unlike his brother he never made himself very active in politics. He undertook the management of the firm of John Bright Bro., Rochdale, on Mr. John Bright's death became head of the firm. He was between 75 and 76 years of age.

Influenza is raging amongst the military at Aldershot. All the hospitals are occupied, and some of the barrack rooms are turned into sick wards. Horses of the Artillery and cavalry are also affected by the epidemic.

The errors into which the English papers often fall when telling of Canada or Canadian subjects are most laughable. The *Daily Telegraph* for instance refers to the adventures of a lad named, Alfred Gesling, who came with his parents to this country some months ago. Although only fourteen Alfred was sentimental enough to reflect the cynical philosopher's doctrine that "a man's fatherland is not where he is born, but where he is fed." Leaving the parental homestead, says the *Daily Telegraph*, "he tramped alone to Ontario, secured for himself a passage in the hold of a trading ship as a stowaway and was put ashore at Bristol, with little on his back, and nothing in his pockets." It would be interesting to know how Alfred accomplished this process of "tramping to Ontario" and how he succeeded in boarding a ship when he got there. Ontario is spoken of as some little town indged of a huge Province which could swallow up a great many England's in its depths.

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