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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 11th March, 1876.

#### NO PROTECTION.

The excitement which prevailed in political circles a few days ago as to the disarrangement which the question of the Tariff was likely to produce in the Ministerial ranks has subsided. It is now understood that the Government will not yield to the Protectionists, and that it will be supported by a compact majority. It will lose on this question a number of votes and notably those of the Montreal members. But the Maritime Province representatives, and these are backed up by those from agricultural constituencies in Ontario, will not support a Protectionist policy. They would vote the Government out rather than do so. It is perfectly understood in political circles that the attitude of these members has decided the question. There was a likelihood that the Government would yield to some extent to the very urgent demands of their Protectionist friends; and it is this fact which brought out the strong views of the members we have referred to. There may yet, as we write these lines, be some modification of the sugar duties, so as to enable refining to take place, and at the same time promote trade with the West Indies; and this is a consummation most earnestly to be desired; as is also an adjustment of the tea duties so as to enable importation to be made from the place of growth. But any hope of general protection to the manufacturers of this country may be given up in the temper of the present House of Commons. No Government could carry it. MR. MACKENZIE'S could not; and it is the strongest combination which could be made in this House. There may and will be further long debates; but the life is a good deal taken out of it by the knowledge of the facts as respects the vote.

There was a sharp little struggle on Thursday night on the French *Hunsford* question; and the Government only got a majority of 30. This is *per se* sufficiently large. But, in the great strength of the present Ministry, it is a new sensation.

#### OFFICIAL CORRUPTION.

The case of the United States Secretary of War would be startling, if it were an individual instance of corruption, but it becomes positively alarming when we reflect that this is only one revelation in a system of rottenness which is gnawing at the vitals of American institutions. A Mr. MARSH, of New York city, appeared before a Congressional Committee of investigation into the expenditure of the War Department, and testified that he had procured of General BELKNAP, Secretary of War, a contract for certain post traderships at Fort Sill and other points in the south-west, for which he paid the wife of the Secretary \$10,000 cash, and continued to pay, as long as he retained the same, \$6,000 per annum. He also testified to other frauds and corrupt acts on

the part of the Secretary, and produced records as evidence to substantiate every fact stated by him. He was subjected to a thorough examination but was not shaken in a single point. BELKNAP was then summoned before the Committee, the testimony was submitted to him, and he was asked what he had to say. He was stricken with shame, confessed the truth of the charges, and pleaded for delay and an opportunity to resign, the delay being to shield his wife. He immediately tendered his resignation which, of course, was accepted by the President. So great was the consternation produced in Washington by the event that a resolution was without delay passed in the House of Representatives to impeach the Secretary for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The present Congress has a large Democratic majority hostile to the Administration, but it is only fair to say that hitherto they have made no unfair use of their power. The opportunity, however, offered by this BELKNAP scandal will give the Democrats a splendid chance to begin the work of thorough investigation into the official corruption which reigns at Washington. The example of the Tammany Trials is there to show that only the first step is needed to bring the whole fabric to the ground, and we shall be much mistaken if it be not found that Tammany was innocence itself as compared with the stupendous iniquity of Washington. The Whiskey Trials at St. Louis have partially lifted the veil over the proceedings of the Interior Department. The War Department now comes in for its share of examination. This will doubtless lead to further inquiries into the Navy Department about which we have heard so much of late. If the Democrats are wise they will not lose this opportunity of thoroughly exposing the gigantic and systematic frauds of their adversaries, and if they manage well they will need no other cry to go before the Presidential election next autumn than that of administrative reform.

#### EXIT DON CARLOS.

The Carlist war is ended at last. DON CARLOS himself has crossed into France and proceeded at once to England, that chosen refuge of all the victims of fortune. Of the troops of the Pretender, some have passed the French border where they were at once interned, and others, throwing aside their arms, have dispersed quietly to their homes. KING ALFONSO has returned to Madrid which he entered in triumph. There have been official rejoicings all over Spain. Proclamations relating to the new order of things have been duly published.

The plan of the last campaign against DON CARLOS was devised with true military foresight and executed with creditable military spirit. General QUESADA and LOMA boldly entered into Biscay and the west of Guipuzcoa, in order to cut off the retreat to the north from the Carlist army of Navarre. QUESADA crossed the sierras which divide Alava from Biscay, marched through the Durango valley, and taking the city of that name, occupied one half of Biscay. LOMA started from Bilbao, swept the left bank of the Nervion, took possession of Valmaseda and Orduna, and joining the army of QUESADA, the two Generals drove the Carlists from the northern frontier of Navarre, thus cutting off their retreat from the sea. While these operations were going on in the north, PRIMO DE RIVERA, in Navarre itself, captured the fort of Santa Barbara de Oteiza, while MORIONES in the east, and MARTINEZ CAMPOS near the French frontier, effectually closed the outlets from those quarters. It was a case of complete surrounding and proved eminently successful. The Carlists held out well, but they had to bow to the inevitable as represented by superior number, more effectual war material and able strategy.

We are informed that an official Carlist document has been published in Paris, stating that DON CARLOS has not relinquished his claim to the throne of Spain. He declares that he was not vanquished, but entered France voluntarily. He gave

up his arms neither to France nor to the Alfonsists, but voluntarily laid them down after an heroic struggle, thus completely reserving the future which belongs to him. This is amusing. If DON CARLOS was not vanquished, why did he abandon the "heroic struggle?" If he entered France voluntarily, must we infer that he gave up the contest before there was need of doing so? He did not deliver his arms to France, for the excellent reason that he came into France unarmed, but even then there were conditions attached to his remaining in France, one of which was that he should not reside in the southern departments. Had the French border not been so convenient for escape, DON CARLOS would have been obliged to surrender his sword to the Alfonsists. In military parlance, his retreat into France was a flight. He abandoned his army and gave up the war. Of this DON CARLOS need not be ashamed. As many a greater and better man before him, he has been obliged, after a valiant struggle, to bend before circumstances which he could not possibly control.

#### THE PROTECTION OF MAJORITIES.

Three weeks have now elapsed since the elections for the French Senate were concluded, and it is, therefore, too late to enter into full explanations upon the general result. It will suffice to remind our readers that the extremists of both sides—the Radical Left and the Irreconcilable Right—have been totally defeated, and that the large majority of the French Senate will be composed of Moderate or Conservative Republicans. But there is another point connected with these elections which contains a valuable lesson for ourselves. It is the wisdom which the French display in choosing their best representative men in all the walks of life for seats in their Legislative Assemblies. In Canada, we are gradually imitating the American practice of having our public men residents of the county, district or division which they are called upon to represent. The evil of this system is that our legislative halls contain a number of men who are not fit for the responsible duties which devolve upon them. In the United States the evil has become so glaring that it is constantly referred to in books and newspapers. MR. JOSIAH PHILLIPS QUINCY, a Boston writer, has thought the matter to be of so much importance that he has written a book about it. He declares that what representative institutions want is not so much the Representation of Minorities, on which so much learning has been expended, as the Protection of Majorities. He insists that common people want the ablest men they can find to represent them. If they have a suit in court they seek for a lawyer of ten times their capacity to represent them and their cause. They employ the best physicians to represent them at the sick-bed of their loved ones. A century ago there were as many dull old farmers as we can find to-day, but they chose JEFFERSON, LEE, HENRY, JOHN and SAMUEL ADAMS, JAY, FRANKLIN, and others to represent them; and LORD CHATHAM said the Continental Congress was unsurpassed by any body in solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity, and wisdom of conclusion. The majority were represented there. They are represented in the trustees of libraries and often in the school boards. But the caucus prevents their representation in the large concerns of the State and nation, and how to get rid of that iniquity is one of the pressing questions of present politics. MR. QUINCY insists that the Protection of Majorities is the reform of reforms, and that the State should see that her voters are permitted to avail themselves of the natural leadership of the enlightened and human, and are not bought and sold and bargained for by the cunning and adroit. There is a great deal of sound sense in these ideas, and they are worthy of consideration. We have many able men in our Federal and Provincial Parliaments, but no one will deny that those bodies are far from representing the whole talent, culture, experience and social influence of the country.

Our latest intelligence from the East confirms the report of the subjugation of Khokand by Russia. This leaves a distance of only 225 miles between the British and Russian frontiers in Central Asia. The fact is very significant and puts a new meaning on the late invasion of Khiva. It gives additional importance as well to the Prince of Wales' visit to India. An act of Parliament will be introduced this session investing the Queen with the official title of Empress of India, and it may be expected that the new title will entail a new policy under the new Governor-General, Lord Lytton. The situation certainly seems to need it.

#### OPERA BOUFFE.

Sitting at the Theatre Royal, the other night, between two acts of *Orphée aux Enfers*, (we were sitting on chairs, but between two acts), a humorous friend of ours, whom we consider the best informed dramatic critic on the press of this city, remarked to us that he had finally made up his mind as to the intrinsic impossibility of fully rendering Opera Bouffe into English. The thing is an essentially French flower, he declared, which could not be transplanted out of France without losing, in whole or in part, both its color and its perfume. You cannot put Hamlet into French, he said, unless by leaving Hamlet out, as is virtually done in *Ambroise Thomas'* score, and you cannot put *La Grande Duchesse* or *La Fille de Madame Angot* into English without shearing the first of half the deviltry which is the very breath of her nostrils, or deodorizing the garlic which necessarily clings to the short skirts of the latter. We fear our friend was right. We have tried for several years back to force ourselves into the belief that we could have the genuine Opera Bouffe in English, just as we have had such light operas as *Martha* and *Fra Diavolo*, or grand operas like *Il Trovatore* and *Ernani*, interpreted by the Richings, Kellogg and Holman companies. But we now believe the feat to be simply impossible. Some two years ago, we had here the *Aimée* troupe in *Madame Angot*. *Aimée* is not much of a singer; indeed, there was not a true singer in her whole cast and yet the success was phenomenal. A little later *Soldene* came on in the same opera, with a company not inferior. In fact, as a vocalist *Soldene* was superior to *Aimée*, and her rollicking acting pretty much on the same model, but the result was far less satisfactory. We signalize *La Fille de Madame Angot*, because we regard it as the best opera bouffe of the day, both in the rich originality of its music, and the representative character of its acting parts.

It does not follow from this, however, that we would discourage the production of English Opera Bouffe. By no means. Besides the principle that we should always thankfully take what we can get, we believe that the degree of disparity between the French and the English can be greatly modified by judicious selection, careful acting and good singing. We would go further, and say that we have a Canadian company of our own, combining many of the elements necessary to the very creditable presentation of Opera Bouffe. That company is known in every city of the Dominion, where it is always well received and where, we think, a still finer field of success is open before it. The country ought to be prepared for an operatic troupe of its own, and we are of opinion that Montreal would be its fitting headquarters. Let a decent Opera House be built here—we learn that no less than two projects are on the carpet—let it be provided with proper scenic appointments, let Mr. George Holman fully organize his company, let him lease this theatre, and we venture to predict that he would achieve both an artistic and pecuniary success. The example of the Academy of Music is there to show what a fine theatre and judicious management can accomplish. Montreal is ripe for an Opera House and would support a good troupe. MR. HOLMAN might play light comic and buffo opera here during the winter season, and visit the principal cities of the Dominion during the recess. As we have said, he has the makings of a strong company in his own hands. He himself is an old, experienced and respected manager. MR. HOLMAN is unrivalled as a musical trainer. MR. BARTON is an elegant musician, a good comic actor, and an excellent stage manager. The present writer had frequent occasion, three years ago, in the columns of another paper, to record his opinion of Miss Sallie Holman. Her voice is mellow, melodious and true. Even when tired or ill, we have never heard her travel out of the register. And her voice is as sound to-day as it was three years ago. This amiable artist has always been a favorite, and if she would only correct some little eccentricities or negligences of style and acting into which she has allowed herself to lapse, we should ask for no better leader of the company than our little Canadian *prima donna*. As a buffo singer and actor, we should have to travel some miles before finding the superior of Mr. Ryse. He is the second pillar of the troupe. In more serious parts, such as *Count Arnim* or *Count Rodolfo*, he is rather cold in his vocalism and angular in his gestures, but in heavy comic parts, as *Mourzourk*, *Boum*, *Andreas*, *Dulcamara* and *Larivaudière*, he is excellent. He has a thunderous basso, rich, round and resonant, especially in the lower notes. MR.