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## TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

The Hon. Sir Dominick Daly for Twenty-Six Years Provincial Secretary of Canada—An Irish Catholic Without Political Passion—Member of a Distinguished Calway Family—Represented the County of Megantic in Lower Canada—Stood by Lord Metcalfe when He Had His Trouble with the Reform Party, in the Early Forties—Was Afterwards Appointed to Various Governments by the Imperial Government.

I have this week a more than difficult task to perform, as I desire to present your readers with a sketch of the career of a distinguished Irish Catholic statesman, who for more than twenty-six years filled a position of honor and trust in the public affairs of Canada, and afterwards filled more exalted offices at the disposal of the Imperial Government. He is harder to write about because he is harder to understand, and I was always on the opposite side from him in our political discussions; and those discussions were often acrimonious and unparading. The gentleman I have reference to was the Hon. Dominick Daly. Hon. Francis Hincks was a very able man, but a very pugnacious one and a hard hitter, and he deserved hard names and got them from his enemies. Mr. Daly, however, was a totally different kind of man and received different kinds of names, such as "the everlasting Secretary," "the Lilly of the Valley," "the Vicar of Bray," etc.

One of the circumstances I wonder at is that there are so few "Lives" of our public men written and published. I do not know any "Lives" of Baldwin, Sullivan, Lafontaine, Daly, Rolph and other men, who so conspicuously figured in the constructive period of our political institutions. I have found a "Life" of Mr. Daly, which would inform me when Mr. Daly came to Canada or under what circumstances. It is surmised, however, that he came here as Secretary to one of the Governors, and was found so useful that he was soon given a position of prominence. The time must have been towards the end of the thirties of the century before the present.

Sir Dominick Daly was the third son of Dominick Daly, Esq., by the sister of the first Lord Walsworth, and brother of Malachy Daly, Esq., a banker in Paris. He was born in Galway, Ireland, in the disastrous year of 1798, and married in 1826, the second daughter of Col. Ralph Gore, of Barrowmount, County of Kilkenny. He passed the usual examination, we are told, and was called to the bar, but did not practise for any length of time. When he came to Canada he settled in Quebec, and soon became Provincial Secretary for Lower Canada, for at that time French-Canadians were not permitted to govern their own country. At the time of the Union in 1841 he was appointed Provincial Secretary for the two Provinces.

Those men who filled the offices under Lord Sydenham and afterwards along with Mr. Daly, were the following: Robert Baldwin, Attorney-General West; L. H. Lafontaine, Attorney-General East; James E. Small, Solicitor-General West; J. H. Dunn, Receiver-General; Francis Hincks, Inspector-General; A. N. Morin, Commissioner of Crown Lands; Robert B. Sullivan, President of the Council; Dominick Daly, Secretary of the Province; H. H. Killaly, President of Board of Works; Malcolm Cameron, Commissioner of Customs; Thomas Parke, Surveyor-General. Every one of those gentlemen I have a recollection of excepting the last one, Mr. Parke. I think all were in the following administrations under Sir Charles Bagot, and until they resigned, under Lord Metcalfe.

That was the day when Irish political sagacity was valued, for five members of that Cabinet were Irish

if we are to include Mr. Baldwin, who was born here. They were Messrs. Baldwin, Sullivan, Hincks, Daly, Killaly. Four of them belonged to Cork families, or were born in the County of Cork. Baldwin received his "liberal" rudiments from his father, who was a native of Cork County, and advocated liberal principles before his distinguished son came to Canada. To what race, however, the Dalys belong it is hard to determine, because they were prominent at a time of the Crusades. An Irish scholar, however, tells me the Dalys of the County of Cork were originally O'Balvins and Fitzgeralds. Hincks' biographers claim for his family an English origin; however that may be, I know not; but he and his brothers, who were educators, were very learned men. I used to hear it said that when Hincks was employed in a bank here before he entered politics, he could add up four columns of figures at one time! Killaly was a Corkonian, too, but from what precise locality I know not, but before I get through I may ascertain. He did not mingle much in political controversies, but was a valued head of a department, and that was the time when some of our canals were being built. He was an exceedingly eccentric man in dress and was sometimes considered worth caricaturing. There were but three French-Canadians in that Cabinet—Lafontaine, Morin and Aylwin, and they were splendid representative men. Malcolm Cameron was the only Scotchman in that Cabinet. I do not know the nationality of Messrs. Small, Dunn and Parke, but they may have been English, and most likely they were. At any rate they had their residences here; and the old home of Mr. Small, down at the corner of King and Ontario streets, is yet standing.

John William Kaye, the biographer of Lord Metcalfe, wrote of this Cabinet, which was so obnoxious to Lord Metcalfe, as follows: "There were indeed," he admitted, "able and honest men in the administration, but for the most part they were not moderate. They held extreme opinions; they were men of intractable tempers; they were principally Irishmen, Frenchmen, or men of American stock. The one British element in the Executive Council was comparatively small." Small was a man of some talent, but Dunn was not, but he stood for advanced principles. Aylwin was the best debater in the Assembly, for Sullivan had his seat in the Council, where he was the foremost man. The most strenuous of Hincks' opponents admitted his fitness for the position he held, but Lord Metcalfe's biographer states that he was vehement and unscrupulous, and "had a tongue which cut like a sword, and no discretion to keep it in order."

Mr. Daly, it was said, was peculiarly acceptable to Lord Metcalfe; but no matter who went and no matter who came, Mr. Daly was sure to continue holding his office, and was, therefore, it has been said by Mr. Baldwin himself, "The everlasting Secretary."

Mr. Lafontaine, the French leader, was admittedly a man of great abilities, and the biographer already referred to, sized him up by saying, "All his better qualities were natural to him, while his worse qualities were the growth of circumstances, which cradling him and his people in wrong had made him misanthropic and suspicious, a just and honorable man; his motives worthy and he warmly attached to his country; enjoying a high position rather by the force of his moral than his intellectual qualities; trusted and respected rather than admired; occupying as a leader of a united party a large space in the eyes of the public."

"A far abler and more energetic man" in Mr. Kaye's eyes, "was Mr. Baldwin, on whose mind the lessons he had learned from his father, were deeply impressed by the atrocious

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misgovernment of his native land, and the exclusiveness of a dominant faction. He was thoroughly in earnest, thoroughly conscientious, but to the last degree uncompromising and intolerant." This, of course, means that Baldwin was sincere and determined, like a man with a mission to accomplish, a success to achieve.

When Lord Metcalfe's Government resigned, that is the Reform part of it, it was different from that given in the foregoing list. Daly went in with them in that Government, but he declined to go out. Another French leader, a Mr. Viger, a very prominent man in his day, and a Mr. Wakefield, full of hope, gathered around Daly to form a new administration and one more suitable to the Governor's views.

On the 2nd of December, 1844, however, the House of Assembly, which held a large majority of Reformers, passed a vote of confidence in the retired members of the Ministry. The immediate cause of retirement was the Governor's persistence in making appointments without consulting his Cabinet. This action of the House was in accordance with a set of resolutions adopted in 1841, to which Lord Sydenham, then the Governor, had subscribed. After a long delay of months, Mr. Daly succeeded in forming a new Cabinet, not with himself at its head, but Mr. William Henry Draper, the smoothest Conservative leader of the country ever had excepting John A. Macdonald, and he too had his nicknames, "Sweet William" and others. But Mr. Daly continued to be the Secretary.

Mr. Daly represented a Lower Canadian constituency in Parliament, and it never failed to return him in the course of his many years. Indeed it has been said that the electors had a sincere affection for their Irish member, and there is no doubt but what he had much influence in the councils of the country. At first he was a member of the Board of Works as well as Provincial Secretary, and a seat in the Executive Council. The latter he held until 1846, but the former he continued to hold until 1848, taking an active part in most important affairs and continued representing Megantic County in Parliament until 1851, when he went to Europe.

Kaye, the biographer of Lord Elgin, gave this sketch of him: "Mr. Daly was the Secretary of State or, Provincial Secretary of Lower Canada. He was an Irishman and a Roman Catholic, but although for the latter reason his sympathies were strongly with the French people, or had been as long as they were oppressed by the dominant race, his feelings, the growth of education and early association, were of a conservative or aristocratic cast. All of Metcalfe's informants represented him to be a man of high honor and integrity; of polished manners and courteous address; a good specimen of an Irish gentleman. He was possessed of judgment and prudence, tact and discretion; in short, a man to be trusted. In 1851 he was appointed Governor of the Island of Tobago. In 1854 he was knighted and transferred to Prince Edward Island, of which he was Governor till 1869. In 1871 he was appointed Governor of Australia.

I do not think that Mr. Daly was

## ENGLAND'S PREMIER

And His Former Close Connection With the Irish National Party—Justin McCarthy's Splendid Picture of the British Premier

My first acquaintance with Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, who recently became Prime Minister of King Edward VII., was made in the earliest days of my experience as a member of the House of Commons. The Fourth party, as it was called, had just been formed under the inspiration of the late Randolph Churchill. The Fourth Party was a new political enterprise. The House of Commons up to that time contained three regular and recognized political parties—the supporters of the Government, the supporters of the Opposition, and the members of the Irish Nationalist Party, of whom I was one. Lord Randolph Churchill created a Fourth party, the business of which was to act independently alike of the Government, the Opposition, and the Irish Nationalists. At the time when I entered Parliament the Conservatives were in power, and Conservative benches occupied the Treasury Benches. The members of Lord Randolph's party were all Conservatives so far as general political principles were concerned, but Lord Randolph's idea was to lead a number of followers who should be prepared and ready to speak and vote against any Government proposal which they believed to be too conservative, or not conservative enough; to support the Liberal Opposition in the rare cases when they thought the Opposition was in the right; and to support the Irish Nationalists when they believed that these were unfairly dealt with, or when they believed, which happened much more frequently, that to support the Irishmen would be an annoyance to the party in power.

The Fourth Party was made up of numbers exactly corresponding with the title which had been given to it. Four men, including the leader, constituted the whole strength of this little army. These men were Lord Randolph Churchill, Arthur J. Balfour, John Gorst (now Sir John Gorst), and Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, who has during more recent years withdrawn altogether from parliamentary life and given himself up to diplomacy, in which he has won much honorable distinction. Sir John Gorst has recently held office in the Government, and is believed to have given and felt little satisfaction in his official career. He is a man of great ability, and acquisitions, but these have been somewhat thrown away in the business of administration.

The Fourth Party certainly did much to make the House of Commons a lively place. Its members were always in attendance—the whole four of them—and no one ever knew where, metaphorically, to place them. They professed and made manifest open scorn for the conventionalities of party life, and the parliamentary whips never knew when they could be regarded as supporters or opponents. They were all effective debaters, all regarded with sarcasm and invective, all sworn foes to dullness and routine, all delighting in an opportunity for obstructing and bewildering the party which happened to be in power. The members of the Fourth Party had each of them a distinct individuality although they invariably acted together and were never separated in the division lobbies. A member of the House of Commons likened them once in a speech to D'Artagnan and his Three Musketeers, as pictured in the immortal pages of the elder Dumas. John Gorst he described as Porthos, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff as Athos, and Arthur Balfour as the sleek and subtle Aramis. When I entered Parliament I was brought much into companionship with the members of this interesting Fourth Party. One reason for this habit of intercourse was that we sat very near to one another on the benches of the House. The members of the Irish Nationalist Party then, as now, alighted, no matter what Government happened to be in power, for the principle of the Irish Nationalists is to regard themselves as in perpetual opposition to every Government so long as Ireland is deprived of her own national legislature. Soon after I entered the House a Liberal Government was the result of a general election, and the Fourth Party, as habitually Conservative, sat on the Opposite benches. The Fourth Party gave frequent support to the Irish Nationalists in their endeavors to resist and obstruct Government measures, and we therefore came into habitual intercourse, and even comradeship, with Lord Randolph Churchill and his small band of followers.

Arthur Balfour bore little resemblance, in appearance, in manners, in debating qualities, and apparently in mould of intellect, to any of the three men with whom he was then constantly allied. He was tall, slender, pale, graceful, with something of an

almost feminine attractiveness in his bearing, although he was as ready, resolute, and stubborn a fighter as any one of his companions in arms. He had the appearance and the ways of a thoughtful student and scholar, and one would have associated him rather with a college library or a professor's chair than with the rough and boisterous way of the House of Commons. He seemed to have come from another world of thought and feeling into that eager, vehement, and sometimes rather uproarious political assembly. Unlike his uncle, Lord Salisbury, he was known to enjoy social life, but he was especially given to that select order of aesthetic social life which was "sickly o'er with the pale cast of thought," a form of life which was rather fashionable in society just then. But it must have been clear even to the most superficial observer that he had a decided gift of parliamentary capacity. He was a fluent and ready speaker and could bear an effective part in any debate at a moment's notice, but he never declaimed, never indulged in any flight of eloquence, and seldom raised his clear and musical voice much above the conversational pitch. His choice of language was always happy and telling, and he often expressed himself in characteristic phrases which lived in the memory of the practical and familiar quotation. He had won some distinction as a writer by his "Defense of Philosophic Doubt," a volume of "Essays and Addresses," and more lately by his work entitled "The Foundations of Belief." The first and last of these books were inspired by a graceful and easy skepticism which had in it nothing particularly destructive to the faith of any believer, but aimed only at the not difficult task of proving that a doubting ingenuity can raise curious cavils from the practical and argumentative point of view against one creed as well as against another. The world did not take these skeptical ventures very seriously, and they were for the most part regarded as the attempts of a clever young man to show how much more clever he was than the ordinary run of believing mortals. Balfour's style was clear and vigorous, and people read the essays because of the writer's growing ingenuity in raising curious cavils from the practical and argumentative point of view against one creed as well as against another. The world did not take these skeptical ventures very seriously, and they were for the most part regarded as the attempts of a clever young man to show how much more clever he was than the ordinary run of believing mortals. Balfour's style was clear and vigorous, and people read the essays because of the writer's growing ingenuity in raising curious cavils from the practical and argumentative point of view against one creed as well as against another. The world did not take these skeptical ventures very seriously, and they were for the most part regarded as the attempts of a clever young man to show how much more clever he was than the ordinary run of believing mortals.

Arthur Balfour took a conspicuous part in the attack made upon the Liberal Government in 1882 on the subject of the once famous Kilmainham Treaty. The action which he took in this instance was avowedly inspired by a desire to embarrass and oppose the Government because of the compromise into which it had endeavored to enter with Charles Stewart Parnell for some terms of agreement as to the manner in which legislation in Ireland ought to be administered. The full history of what was called the Kilmainham Treaty has not, so far as I know, been ever correctly given to the public, and it is not necessary, when surveying the political career of Mr. Balfour, to enter into any lengthened explanation on the subject. Mr. Parnell was in prison at the time when the arrangement was begun, and those who were in his confidence were well aware that he was becoming greatly alarmed as to the state of Ireland under the rule of the late W. E. Forster, who was then Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, and under whose operations leading Irishmen were thrown into prison on no definite charge, but because their general conduct left them open in the mind of the Chief Secretary to the suspicion that their public agitation was likely to bring about a rebellious movement. Parnell began to fear that the state of the country would become worse and worse if every popular movement were to be forcibly repressed at the time when the leaders in whom the Irish people had full confidence were kept in prison and their guidance, control and authority withdrawn from the work of pacification. The proposed arrangement, whether begun by Mr. Parnell himself or suggested to him by members of his own party or the English Radical Party, was simply an understanding that if the leading Irishmen were allowed to return to their public work the country might at least be kept in peace while English Liberalism was devising some measures for the better government of Ireland. The arrangement was in every sense creditable alike to Parnell and to the English Liberals who were anxious to co-operate with him on such a purpose. But it led to

most feminine attractiveness in his bearing, although he was as ready, resolute, and stubborn a fighter as any one of his companions in arms. He had the appearance and the ways of a thoughtful student and scholar, and one would have associated him rather with a college library or a professor's chair than with the rough and boisterous way of the House of Commons. He seemed to have come from another world of thought and feeling into that eager, vehement, and sometimes rather uproarious political assembly. Unlike his uncle, Lord Salisbury, he was known to enjoy social life, but he was especially given to that select order of aesthetic social life which was "sickly o'er with the pale cast of thought," a form of life which was rather fashionable in society just then. But it must have been clear even to the most superficial observer that he had a decided gift of parliamentary capacity. He was a fluent and ready speaker and could bear an effective part in any debate at a moment's notice, but he never declaimed, never indulged in any flight of eloquence, and seldom raised his clear and musical voice much above the conversational pitch. His choice of language was always happy and telling, and he often expressed himself in characteristic phrases which lived in the memory of the practical and familiar quotation. He had won some distinction as a writer by his "Defense of Philosophic Doubt," a volume of "Essays and Addresses," and more lately by his work entitled "The Foundations of Belief." The first and last of these books were inspired by a graceful and easy skepticism which had in it nothing particularly destructive to the faith of any believer, but aimed only at the not difficult task of proving that a doubting ingenuity can raise curious cavils from the practical and argumentative point of view against one creed as well as against another. The world did not take these skeptical ventures very seriously, and they were for the most part regarded as the attempts of a clever young man to show how much more clever he was than the ordinary run of believing mortals. Balfour's style was clear and vigorous, and people read the essays because of the writer's growing ingenuity in raising curious cavils from the practical and argumentative point of view against one creed as well as against another. The world did not take these skeptical ventures very seriously, and they were for the most part regarded as the attempts of a clever young man to show how much more clever he was than the ordinary run of believing mortals.

## COMMUNICATION

To the Editor Catholic Register:

Dear Sir,—I read with pleasure your strong editorials re report circulated by The Globe of your city, that the Hon. Minister of Justice was on the eve of resigning, and naming his successor in the Cabinet without any mention or regard to the important element which the Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick so fittingly represents.

The whole tenor of the Globe's remarks asent Mr. Fitzpatrick's retirement and especially the naming of his successor, are, to say the least, an insult to Irish Catholics and will be considered as such. I am sure the Minister of Justice has too much stamina to allow this ousting process by The Globe.

It is regrettable that since the Autonomy Bill was placed before the country a veiled desire to force the Minister of Justice's retirement has been noticeable with The Globe. Does this paper, with a view to please a few disappointed politicians, desire the downfall of the Laurier Government? If their animus is against Sir Wilfrid Laurier, let them come out boldly, but stabbing him in the back is not consistent with a paper which has done yeoman's service in the past.

The writer has had occasion to meet and speak to quite a number of leading Conservatives, and what is their united opinion re The Globe's action,—that the forcing out of the Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick means the complete disintegration of the Liberal Government as presently constituted. Let every well-wisher of Sir Wilfrid Laurier take a practical hint from the apparent joy which Conservative papers take from The Globe's new role.

The Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick is today the acknowledged leader of the Irish Catholics in Canada, Conservative and Liberal; their accredited representative in the councils of the Dominion Government. Hands off, is the advice tendered in good faith by a life-long Liberal. Do not, no matter how high the prompter, the Globe, tamper with this Minister, as he stands on the top rung in the estimation of the whole undivided element which he so ably represents. Any meddling of above nature would be looked upon by Irish Catholics as an infringement of their rights and unfortunately would be visited on the Liberal Government and that quickly, provided The Globe's methods bore fruit.

Bismark, in his retreat, made the now historic remark (he was no fool)—beware of a united minority backed by a strong parliamentary leader. But even this strong, united and firm support from his (Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick's) co-religionists, represents only in a limited manner the hold which the Minister of Justice has on this Dominion. The vast majority of Canadians of every creed, class and race, admire and appreciate his strong personality, great administrative talent, and put the highest value on his broad-mindedness and great love for this Canada of ours. His retirement would be a loss to the country.

Whenever the Hon. Minister wishes to retire for personal or family reasons, this is his indisputable right, but it must be of his own free will and only when he so desires.

Will you kindly, Mr. Editor, give space to these hurried remarks, which are written for the good of our common country. I am, dear Sir, Yours truly,

W. H. SHAW, CANADIAN.  
 Montreal, Aug. 10, 1905.

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