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AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH, 1885.

MEN, WOMEN, AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, during its recent session, passed a bill greatly extending the political franchise. This measure was so mutilated by the Legislative Council that it was abandoned by the Government, and it failed to become law. The experience of Ontario shows clearly that the second chamber in New Brunswick is worse than useless. During the late session of the Ontario Legislature a bill, extending the franchise to almost a manhood basis, was passed easily and quickly, and, as there was no second chamber to obstruct, the measure became law as a matter of course. Seeing that the New Brunswick Council will not vote its own abolition, the Assembly should take the position assumed a few years ago by that of Nova Scotia. Both parties having pledged themselves to work for the abolition of the Council, none have been appointed as members of the latter body who will not give a pledge to vote for its extinction.

A short time ago there was a very interesting debate in the House of Lords on Sunday observance. Lord Thurlow moved a resolution endorsing an expression of opinion by a majority of the trustees of the British Museum, in favor of opening the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, on Sunday afternoons. The chief plea urged in support of this resolution was that the opening of the Museum would afford the working-classes of London "opportunities of instruction, recreation and enjoyment," and promote their "health, happiness, morality and sobriety." The resolution was supported in the debate that followed by Lord Bramwell, Lord Mount Temple, Earl Cowper and Earl Granville, and was opposed by the late Lord Cairns, the Earl of Harrowly, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Denbigh, and the Duke of Argyll. The House divided on the motion, 64 to 64, and Lord Chancellor Selborne declared it lost. An amendment, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury had given notice, but which was in his absence moved by Lord Cairns, was then unanimously agreed to, the recommendation being that the museum, adequately lighted by electricity, should be thrown open every evening except Sundays. There was in the debate the usual objection to puritanical views of Sunday observance, but the sense of the British Parliament, in both Houses, is still in favor of a somewhat rigorous Sunday law.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland is causing the Nationalists or Parnellites a good deal of annoyance. The visitors have never done anything to merit insult, and the Irish people are not likely to insult them. Moreover they are both popular with the common people in England, and the indications are that they will be no less popular with the masses in Ireland. Mr. Healy, a prominent follower of Mr. Parnell, in a recent public address, advised the Prince to visit the slums of Dublin, instead of the Castle, if he wished to learn the condition of the Irish people. Whether, as the result of this advice or not, the Prince has actually visited the slums, taken the poor people by the hand, denounced their dwellings as unfit to be the abode of human beings, and expressed his sympathy with them in their wretchedness. Of course, he was well received, and the accounts sent abroad of the visit to the poor, and the interest he takes in them, will help to secure for him a warm reception elsewhere in spite of the efforts of the Nationalists. There was no reason why they should have attempted to discount the popularity of the Prince and Princess, and having made the attempt they will suffer if it fails.

If the action of the Prince in Dublin was intended as a turning of the tables on Mr. Healy, it was a clever manoeuvre, but there is no reason to suppose that it was not more than that. Of late years, in England, the Prince has been widely interested in measures to improve the condition of the poor, and has in other ways manifested democratic tendencies to an unexpected extent. Not long ago an article appeared in a London weekly paper, which has a large circulation among the masses, giving an account of the Prince's political and social opinions. It was generally believed then that the article was inspired by him, and the current allegations to that effect were never contradicted. If the paper spoke correctly of him, his aim is to become a popular king of a democratic nation—one who will make it his study to improve the condition of the common people with whom he is not afraid to mingle, as he did the other day with the poor in Dublin. There is in this direction a fine field of usefulness before him if only he persists in cultivating it.

The publication of elaborate reports on forestry last year and this year by R. W. Phipps, has done much to popularize the subject and bring its importance home to the farmers. What is wanted now is actual tree-planting, and for this purpose what can be better than an "arbor day?" Let the people in a locality gather together and devote a single day to planting trees on the highways, school-grounds, market squares, and other spaces devoted to public uses. Make the day a holiday in the place, and let the planting of the trees be associated with pleasant recollections of neighborly intercourse. Abundance of young trees—maple, elm, beech, basswood, oak, etc.—can still be obtained, and the younger they are the better. Select the best specimens, by all means, but do plant crooked trees rather than none. A crooked tree, if transplanted young enough, will soon straighten up in the open and become a thing of beauty. If the pupils of our public schools were taught to plant young trees about their grounds they would learn usefulness in forestry while doing something to make their localities more attractive. Very little attention during the first year after good planting will make sure of the future of a native tree, the chief thing being to keep the surface of the ground stirred occasionally in order that the air and moisture may be able to penetrate to the roots.

Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the Southern Confederacy, sent a sympathetic letter the other day to General Grant, the commander-in-chief of the Union forces which broke that confederacy up. The message was to a man on his death-bed from one who can have at most but a few years to live. It may be regarded as one of many indications that the chasm between North and South has been finally bridged over, and is an agreeable offset to what has been called the "waving of the bloody shirt" by Northern politicians.

The same impression is given by the selection of prominent ex-rebels for high federal positions by President Cleveland, and the ready confirmation of their nominations by a Republican Senate. Amongst others who have been thus honored is General Johnston, a distinguished Southern commander during the civil war. He has been made United States Com-