

THE TRUE WITNESS
AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1891.

NOTICE.

This Office is closed for business on all Catholic Holy Days of Obligation.

"LITERARY mislefactor" is an appropriate name for those who translate or write the demoralizing publications which are now so widely circulated and lead to so much evil, crime and misery. We have but to travel a little to see that the worst kind of French novel is freely circulated on the cars, and is often purchased by those innocent of the purpose of the book. A notorious novel, so bad that it is suppressed in France, may be bought on the trains in the United States, and here in this city we are, in some quarters, not far behind this terrible state of affairs. It is no wonder that the priests of the Church are commencing to raise their voices against the evil. But something more than warning is needed.

The wild schemes of annexation, and middlemeness in connection with the affairs of other small countries on the part of the present United States Government are alike proofs of inherent weakness. Mr. Blaine is clearly endeavoring to dazzle his country in the Napoleonic style with external matters, seemingly forgetting that he has ample enough at home to keep his hands fully occupied. His recent connivance with those who have tried to harass Canada is a case in point, but by this time he no doubt knows that he and his friends have committed an error. Latest plotting seems to be in the direction of Cuba. Mr. Blaine is playing with fire. The deadliest enemy of the States could not wish them worse than to see Cuba annexed, and would hope to see Hayti speedily follow. With two such dragons' eggs swallowed the result would soon be seen. But it seems that neither Spain nor Cuba are prepared to tolerate any such proceeding.

THE editorial writers on the United States papers have been so puzzled, and their ideas so mixed and muddled by the rhodomontades of Sir R. Cartwright, Mr. Wimond and their missionary band, as to make some of their productions on the subject of trade relations with Canada, rather comical reading. They however seem to arrive at this conclusion: that reciprocity without annexation cannot be obtained and secondly that it is not worth having anyway. At the same time a Minneapolis paper while maintaining this view states "that the announcement of the conclusion of a reciprocity agreement between the United States and Brazil is the highest achievement and signal triumph of the policy of Mr. Blaine." We are told that the imports from Brazil to the United States in 1890 amounted to \$50,318,756, and the exports to \$11,902. Canadian imports from the United States, however, were, in 1889, \$56,368, and her exports thereto, \$3,522,404. Reciprocity with her, is no good, but a "triumph" with Brazil. The Minneapolis paper is illogical.

It is estimated that during the last nine months of the past year Great Britain imported from the United States products amounting in aggregate value to over fifty millions sterling, or two hundred and fifty million dollars. The total imports of Great Britain from all countries during the same period was three hundred million pounds sterling. The United States, it appears, supplied Great Britain with one-sixth of its total imports, nearly all of which was food stuffs. Should the restriction imposed on American cattle for sanitary reasons be removed, the volume of trade would largely increase. The figures given shows the extent to which the United States depend on English customers, and how much they would suffer were those English customers to adopt the American idea of government trade interference. England may not revert to taxing food imports, but there are other ways by which she can regulate her supplies. India, Africa, Australia, and this Dominion are entering into keen competition with the United States as food furnishers in the British market, and it is quite likely that these countries will be able to get the better of the Americans.

on account of being able to produce cheaper. Already the cost of producing breadstuffs, pork, beef, etc., in the United States is having a serious effect on their foreign trade, owing to the greater cheapness with which other countries can lay down the same articles. In the long run all countries will have to adopt the British idea of making the cost of living cheap at home in order to control trade abroad.

A CLAUSE was inserted in the terms of sale at auction of timber limits in Ontario, which requires that all timber cut on said limits shall be manufactured in Ontario. This will prove a more effective bar to the export of logs to the United States than the export duty was. It is said that the Quebec government, and probably the government of New Brunswick, will adopt the same policy, in order to prevent the wholesale slashing of the forests which would surely follow the free admission of American lumber. Some one has raised the constitutional question as to the power of provincial governments to impose this restriction, inasmuch as it interferes indirectly with the right of the Dominion government to regulate matters of trade and commerce. But, as the control of Crown lands and their forests are vested in the provinces, the regulation seems within provincial rights.

No part of the federal compact was more seriously studied than that which related to the exercise of the veto. The impressive example of the United States was then fresh in the minds of the framers of our constitution and they sought to avoid the rock on which the republic split. But, with all their care and wisdom, they did not find the true solution of the difficulty. In arming the federal government with the veto power they did not, of course, anticipate the difficulties that have arisen from the extension of the Dominion and the growth of conditions consequent thereon. But it is now quite plain to all judicial minds that the limits of the exercise of this power need to be defined. It has really become an embarrassment which federal ministers would be glad to avoid. One of the most disturbing questions likely to arise at the coming session of parliament will be with reference to this question. The Manitoba School Act and the Dual Language question in the same province, are certain to be brought up. These are matters, however, which neither party can afford to play with. If the doctrine of Provincial Rights, as laid down by the Liberals, is to be maintained that party cannot go back on its record and demand the exercise of the veto. On the general question, it may be observed that the reference of matters of law and jurisdiction could be more satisfactorily referred to a competent judicial authority, such as the Supreme Court of Canada, than as now, left subject to the Governor-General's veto.

In "Ivanhoe," Sir Arthur Sullivan has really succeeded in producing an English Grand Opera that will take rank with similar works by the great masters, the first will mark an epoch in musical annals. Down to the present time no English composer has given the world grand opera. Balfe's are the only English operas, and, like Sir Arthur Sullivan, was an Irishman. Though the English are rich in the possession of an unexcelled drama and manifest in their patronage of music, they have still to acquire a really national opera. The reports of the first presentation of "Ivanhoe" are too uncritical to form an opinion upon. They indicate, however, that the music has caught the popular taste. It certainly had the advantage of being interpreted by having opera singers, all the accessories of a first class orchestra and the most splendid of London Theatres. In "The Yeoman of the Guard," Sir Arthur Sullivan showed there was a possibility of his soaring into grand opera. Indeed, his productions indicate successive advances in the direction of the point which he has apparently achieved in "Ivanhoe." England has no national music. What she claims as such are merely adaptations. We are glad to learn that steps have been taken in the direction of producing this new opera in the United States and Canada.

A VAIN MINISTER.

There is a pride which goeth before a fall, according to the proverb, and it looks very much as though Mr. Mercier is becoming more and more inflated with a pride which presages his not far distant downfall. An accident, as everybody knows, made him, and the rocket, though it goes up in a streak of brilliance, comes down always in the dungy form of a blackened stick. Mr. Mercier's best friends agree that nothing could be in worse taste than some of his later utterances. We pass, for a moment, his great breach of faith towards the Irish race and the persistent manner in which he refuses to grant justice to our people and give them representation in the provincial administration, a representation to which they are so clearly entitled. We shall, however, meet Mr. Mercier at Phillips on that score. But for arro-

gance, windy vanity, and bombastic tyranny, command us to some of the provincial premier's latest sayings. We have before us a handsomely bound volume inclosing the documents connected with the settlement of the Jesuits Estates difficulty. This commonplace bit of political fustian, which might have been settled long ago without offence to any one, on the lines proposed in Mr. Chapleau's memorandum, is now described by the provincial premier as the "grandest work of the entire world" (la plus grande œuvre du monde entier).

Next we have the premier gravely announcing in the columns of a city paper, which, by the way, he once denounced on the floor of the Assembly, as the very embodiment of all literary and journalistic vice, that he is anxious not to hurt the feelings of the Holy Father by reference to matters connected with the recent general elections. "He," so forth! Can any Catholic imagine the Sovereign Pontiff, bowed down with age and persecution, imprisoned in the Vatican and his rights swept away, being troubled about the *courtoisie* of a clique of provincial political heelers. Again: "If the Holy Father consults me," says Mr. Mercier! Political impertinence goes a great way, but seldom further than this. Mr. Mercier has, it appears, fallen out with some of his friends. He scorns the base degrees by which he did ascend. The "Nationalists" who roughed the slippery ladder on which he climbed to legislative power are now to be cast aside. Their usefulness is gone so far as Mr. Mercier is concerned, and the Nationalist organ, *La Justice*, is to be smashed. Mr. Pelletier is to be kicked out. The Nationalists will certainly find few friends. Their old political friends whom they betrayed will have none of them, and their punishment is well deserved, though it does not speak much for Mr. Mercier's notions of gratitude that they should now be cast aside. But we warn the premier not to allow his self-satisfied egotism to get the better of his discretion. His creators can unmak him, as they doubtless will, and the province happily return to the position it always occupied until an unfortunate occurrence enabled a few political adventurers to disturb its equanimity.

BREAKERS AHEAD.

Premier Mercier has gone to Europe with his treasurer to negotiate the new ten million dollar loan. It is generally surmised that he will succeed in getting the money, but at a very high rate of interest. On the other hand, everybody knows he will have no difficulty in getting rid of it when it comes into the Provincial coffers. The truth is, the greater part of it is mortgaged already. So long as the money lasts all will be well and go merrily, but the day is not far off when the people of the province will be called upon to pay the interest, and then—well, to use a very common expression, look out for squalls. Before leaving the Premier appears to have made up his mind that the time had arrived when the Castors should be made to feel that he is the ruler of the Queen's house. He, therefore, issued an edict that *La Justice* should be suppressed. Mr. Mercier got into power on the shoulders of the Castors; the Liberals never had the confidence of any but a weak minority of the people of the province of Quebec; he now spurns the friends that assisted him into office, and the rupture that will mark an epoch in musical annals. Down to the present time no English composer has given the world grand opera. Balfe's are the only English operas, and, like Sir Arthur Sullivan, was an Irishman. Though the English are rich in the possession of an unexcelled drama and manifest in their patronage of music, they have still to acquire a really national opera. The reports of the first presentation of "Ivanhoe" are too uncritical to form an opinion upon. They indicate, however, that the music has caught the popular taste. It certainly had the advantage of being interpreted by having opera singers, all the accessories of a first class orchestra and the most splendid of London Theatres. In "The Yeoman of the Guard," Sir Arthur Sullivan showed there was a possibility of his soaring into grand opera. Indeed, his productions indicate successive advances in the direction of the point which he has apparently achieved in "Ivanhoe." England has no national music. What she claims as such are merely adaptations. We are glad to learn that steps have been taken in the direction of producing this new opera in the United States and Canada.

A WARNING.

L'Etendard is on the warpath. After enumerating the grievances of its friends against the Mercier Government, it closes a fierce article in the following words:—

"In spite of their faults public opinion might yet pardon them if they come back at once to the paths of duty and honor. We hope that this supreme appeal will be heard, but if it is not the retribution will be as terrible as it will be prompt, far away above the interests of Ministers and their blind partisans we place the interests of the Province of Quebec. *Salus populi suprema lex.*"

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DIFFICULTY.

Those who followed the discussion, and examined the pros and cons connected with the boundary dispute, will remember that the famous treaty of Utrecht played no unimportant part in the controversy. That document was, as most people know, negotiated between Queen Anne and Louis the Fourteenth under date 31st March and 11th day of April, old and new styles, 1713. It was written in Latin and English and the differences in consequence very easily caused a great deal of animated correspondence between the plenipotentiaries. Boilbroke charged De Tocsey with splitting hairs in connection with the relative meaning of the Latin and the English, and called upon him to be more of the diplomatist than the grammarian. If, then, there was

necessarily be either correct or just. Then measures must promptly be taken to arrange a very material change of conditions with France. Meantime the Newfoundlanders had better be calm. A season or two more can make little difference, and the noisy demonstrations for local factional purposes will in no way advance their interests.

A PROTESTANT TRIBUTE.

In contradistinction to the bigotry, fanaticism and intolerance of certain secular daily newspapers, it is pleasant to find an occasional honest, candid and generous tribute from a Protestant pen to the zeal and piety of Catholics and their clergy. Such a tribute we find in the New York Press and Knickerbocker of a recent date.

Describing editorially a Jesuit mission at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in New York, held during the early part of the present month, the writer tells how "thousands of the faithful from all the city parishes and nearby communities filled and emptied the vast cathedral at intervals from five o'clock in the morning until ten or eleven at night."

The scene was described as an extraordinary one and deeply impressive even to non-Catholics. Comparing it with the spectacle to be seen at Moody and Sankey revivals, the writer says:—"These ascetic black-robed Jesuits are not given to the sort of fervid ranting that often draws the multitude, actuated, perhaps, by motives of curiosity rather than devotion. Entering the church, you find an immense assembly kneeling in rapt and silent prayer; here and there you notice a confessional with the inscription over the door, 'Father —— S.J.' and about this you observe the worshippers seem, perhaps, a shade more intent in their devotions, for here is being enacted the most excited and difficult triumph of faith; at the grand main altar, a Jesuit father is saying the Mass, his solemn voice, low-toned yet clear, distinctly audible in that reverent stillness; everywhere is manifest the intensely religious character of the service and nothing meets the eye or ear to distract that perfect spiritual communion."

Alien although he be to faith and dole, the writer then goes on to give his reflections on the solemn scene. "What," he asks, "keeps these people for hours in wearisome—even painful penitence? penitential yet serene of face, and many of them wearing the look of those who have received the palm and crown? What induces that delicate, intellectual priest to remain for hours at a time in the breathless confessional, inviting physical prostration, disease, perhaps, death? He is there now at mid-day, will be there till late to-night, and before the dawn to-morrow you shall find him at his place again, reconciling souls to God in the way of his faith. Skepticism vanishes before such a sacrifice. You may doubt as you will, out of doors, but here the pervading spirit and sanctity extinguish all feelings save that of hushed awe and something almost akin to reverence. This changes to a concentration of keen and critical interest when one of the fathers ascends into the pulpit, and the congregation addresses itself with evident expectation to the impassive face, which is soon to lighten and glow with the fire of religious ardor. If you have heard Jesuit preachers before, it will but enhance your anticipation of this sermon, exhortation. If you, being a non-Catholic, have never heard one, and recognize the name of Jesuit as but a synonym of fanaticism and craft, then it is well that you are here, for this discourse shall be a revelation to you."

The description of the sermon which follows is apart from the subject treated, an admirable piece of literary composition. "The father begins," we are told, "quiet and low his first utterances, for the cumulative, culminating effect, unconscious or premeditated, is the distinguishing feature of these sermons, designed to awaken the spiritual, religious sense of the people: to recall the recreant to grace, to further purify and exalt the piety of the devout. Perhaps the theme is that most solemn and sublime of all themes—the redemption of man. You have heard of the learning and eloquence of the Jesuits and you formulate all your little critical and rhetorical ordinances and prepare to attack and appraise rather than to listen, as this multitude will listen, to the very word of life. But the author has scarcely passed the threshold of his discourse, ere you are conscious of an absorbing, eager interest in which rhetoric and criticism are forgotten. From Bethlehem and the Star, you are led to Nazareth and look with new and purer vision upon that divine life, from the contemplation of which we ordinarily shrink, conscious of our unworthiness. So through the whole pathetic, sacred history the preacher leads you till, with heart bated, yet swollen with an emotion that is almost agony, you are prostrated in the presence of that infinite Passion. Your tears mingle with those awful tears of the weeping God in Gethsemane. You witness the anguish, divine yet human, of that Sufferer of Calvary, and when the exquisite sorrow and indignation evoked by the preacher's burning words, seem almost

to "whisper the o'er-fraught heart and bid it break," the blessed appeal, "Father, forgive them!" comes like a ray of healing light out of that lurid hill of death, relieves the tension of grief, and opens wide the flood-gates of soul."

It would be hard to convey in language a more impressive sense of the soul-touching power of a perfect preacher, than is here given. In conclusion the writer, as if unable to repress his enthusiasm, gives vent to this apostrophe:

"Oh, soldier of Pampeluna, greatest of earthly conquerors art thou and thy conquests the most enduring! Still do thy black-robed legions fight with unequalled zeal and fire and eloquence, and the victory is ever their own!"

THE CENSUS.

The arrangements for the taking of the census of Canada are now about complete, the Commissioners for the Electoral districts have been named, and in a few days the enumerators will be at work. This is a most important matter, otherwise the Government, authorized by Parliament, would not undertake it at such vast expense as it must entail.

The census in a great measure will be ascertained the progress made by the country during the past ten years. It is essential that our people should make a good showing in the returns. Very few are ignorant of the nature of the census, but some may not properly estimate the necessity of giving full returns to the enumerators. It must be remembered that for all practical purposes the figures of the census will be used for ten years to come. We believe the Irish Catholics in Canada have gained ground in numbers and all that gives influence during the last decade. Those numbers should appear in the census returns. No doubt the Bishops will as usual point out how important it is to make true returns, in order that our value in the community may not be underestimated, but we have thought it well to give this word of warning.

A GRAND RECEPTION.

To be tendered next Monday Evening in St. Ann's Hall to the Two Most Popular Irishmen of Montreal.

The St. Ann's Hall has been the scene of many popular gatherings and rejoicings during the quarter of a century of its existence, but on Easter Monday evening there will be enacted within its walls a scene which, it is predicted, will put all its past experiences into the shade. The citizens of St. Ann's Ward, in recognition of the valuable services rendered, and in celebration of the great victory which both gentlemen have recently achieved, have resolved to tender a grand reception on that evening to His Worship Mayor McShane and to J. J. Curran, Esq., Q.C., M.P. Although arrayed on different sides in the battle of Canadian politics, both gentlemen stand on a common platform of Union when the interests of their fellow-countrymen are in question, and this fact will, no doubt, tend to make next Monday evening's event an enthusiastic success. Our Irish-Canadian fellow-citizens in the Irish Ward, *par excellence*, of this city, may be relied upon to give their trusted representatives a rousing Irish "Cæd Mille foilte." Immediately after the reception the St. Ann's Young Men's Society will repeat, by special request, the entertainment given by them with such success on St. Patrick's Night, and present the three-act Irish drama entitled "The Plan of Campaign."

A HIT FOR FARMERS.

Mr. D. Plewes of Brantford writes as follows to the *Empire*:—Since writing about opening up a market for goose wheat I have had some conversation with two wheat exporters in Toronto, viz., Mr. Carruthers, of Norris & Carruthers, and Mr. Baird, of Crane & Baird, and they, too, have been seeking an outlet for this grade of wheat, as they saw the farmers could so easily turn their attention to growing it instead of so much barley (and all the same good barley can be grown will produce this variety of wheat in abundance). Those exporters assure me in a large actual shipment that there is a large market for this wheat in Europe, especially in Belgium and Germany, and that in future they will be able to buy for export any quantity our farmers may grow now that this grade of wheat has been fairly introduced there. And they (the exporters) desire me to say that, if you will circulate paper to the farmers of Ontario that in future the farmer may depend on from within 15 to 20 cents per bushel at present the value of this wheat is \$2 cents per bushel and over, according to location for freight. I think just at this juncture, when our barley market has been disturbed by the American McKinley bill, this opening up of a market for grain of spring wheat easily produced in any part of Ontario is very opportune, and I would advise the farmers to crop with barley, taking particular care to have seed free from any other grain or seeds. Any amount of this wheat for seed can be obtained at Hamilton, Toronto, Brantford, Bolton and Oshawa.

A HERO'S DEATH.

WATKINSON, March 23.—General Joseph E. Johnston, the famous Confederate leader, died shortly after 11 o'clock on Saturday night at his residence on Connecticut avenue. The General had been suffering for three weeks with an affection of the heart, aggravated by a cold he caught soon after General Sherman's funeral in New York. His physician had been trying to keep his strength up for some days, but his advanced age gave little hope of his recovery from the beginning of his illness. General Johnston was the last, save General Beauregard, of the six full Generals of the Confederacy.