



# TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES.—17TH YEAR.

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## It Might Have Been.

For all sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these: "It might have been."

When the awards are distributed in our Bible Competition, which closes on the 30th inst., and when your neighbor has received one of the magnificent gifts, you, if you have not competed, will sadly wall, "It might have been." You have still another opportunity. Enter now. \$1.18 will secure you TRUTH, the best family paper on the continent, for three months, together with a half-dozen silver plated teaspoons and the possibility of procuring one of the larger rewards.

### "TRUTH'S" WEEKLY BUDGET.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the exertions we have put forth to furnish them with a high class, and well-stocked weekly magazine. In every one of the many departments in TRUTH the highest care has been exercised in selection, and this we have succeeded in doing only after considerable cost. Once more we beg to call attention to the large quantity of original matter that we print this week. In addition to two serial stories which have been written for our columns by Dora Russell and Edmund Collins, we print a careful, searching and well-written paper entitled "Woman's Suffrage" from the pen of A. R. Carman, B. A. This is now one of the most interesting of public questions, and we commend Mr. Carman's views of it to our readers. Mr. E. R. Biggar of Montreal, writes a most graphic paper, entitled "Pastoral England." His sympathies are very broad, and the reader can see that he touches the scenes delineated with a loving pen. An interesting paper from the pen of Charles D. Osgood, Toronto, is "Society; What is It?" which is a thorough and able contribution, and a difficult query well answered. The base ball season is examined from the humorous standpoint by our artist; and we think that the spectacle, or rather series of spectacles, that he presents of a field after a contest should be studied by all lovers of the game. In the departments of selected matter will be found much that is interesting and instructive.

### THE DEFEAT OF MR. GLADSTONE'S BILL.

As might have been expected the House of Commons has rejected Mr. Gladstone's measure for granting a separate parliament to Ireland. It does not seem to us from what we have read of the speeches delivered during the last hours of the debate, that a majority of the House are opposed to granting a measure of local jurisdiction to Ireland; they object to a scheme which they believe would be the next thing to an actual separation of Ireland from Great Britain.

We believe, notwithstanding our admiration of Mr. Gladstone, and our wish that the Irish people should have the right upon

their own soil, to legislate respecting domestic affairs, that the House of Commons did wisely in rejecting the Home Rule bill. We know from our experience of mixed Government that Mr. Gladstone's measure never could be made to work;—it had in its vitals the germs of discord and of disaster.

We believe that the British Parliament is this day prepared to grant to Ireland a system of government similar to that enjoyed by one of our Provinces in the Confederation; and we notice that some of the newspapers in England that are believed to speak for Mr. Chamberlain are calling upon statesmen to get their heads together and discuss a system giving to England, to Wales, to Ireland, and to Scotland, each, a Domestic Parliament. The Imperial Commons would under such a scheme retain its present functions, minus the control of roads, and docks, and bridges, and the thousand and one paltry local things that never should be taken into the supreme legislature.

Now, if Mr. Chamberlain really wishes to do a substantial good, and to win for himself a sure place in the confidence of the British nation he will draw up such a scheme as we have referred to. That England can return to coercion, to the bayonet and the dungeon, as the only method of dealing with Ireland, is entirely out of the question. A few Tories such as Mr. Goldwin Smith has become, favour coercion, but the great bulk of the people do not desire a policy of terror. A scheme conferring some form of government upon Ireland is therefore the great work of the day. The man who can propound a scheme suitable, enduring, and practicable, and one that will satisfy the Irish people while guaranteeing the integrity of the Empire, must earn the approbation of posterity. It is a great pity that the grand central figure of the movement, the originator of the idea of Home Rule, Mr. Gladstone, should have fallen so short when he came to fill in the details of his measure. We had the model in Canada, but it would be a dignitatem for an Imperial statesman to look to the colonies for an example. But, if they are to succeed in their plan they will be obliged to do so, and that fact the present writer has boldly stated in the columns of the London Times.

As for Mr. Goschen, he is eloquent, but is a most hopeless fossil, utterly out of sympathy with the spirit of the age, fully fifty years behind the time. The stuff he talked about the rights of minorities would not be deemed worthy of answer by a ward politician in one of our Canadian Provinces.

### THE QUESTION OF OUR FISHERIES.

All sorts of rumours are afloat respecting the question of our fisheries; and the newspaper reporters have recently been startling their readers by the details of a personal crusade upon our Canadian fleet of armed schooners, by Gloucester fishermen. These bellicose gentlemen are said to have pledged themselves to take the law into their own

hands and defend their property and business by force of arms, unless the Government speedily does something for their protection. Seventy-five sail it was said had banded together at Block Island, and at Vinegar Haven over 100 sail organized. They proposed if the Government dally too long, to arm and drive off all Canadian vessels on the high seas and destroy their fish. They have detectives in the Provinces to notify them when fish are to be shipped by rail, and means will be taken to stop their importation. Many fishermen are Knights of Labour, and it is further reported that the Knights will have a hand in the matter. Said one of the men:

"We will carry six-pounders and some schooners can carry as high as an eighteen-pounder. We will fish on the high seas, keeping three miles from the shore, but we propose to protect our rights and will get mackerel. We will blow their cutters out of the water." Already fishermen are said to have sent in orders for guns and ammunition. The despatches from the Provinces bearing on the expulsion of American fishing vessels from waters within three miles of a line drawn from headland to headland caused consternation in Gloucester. Fishermen say this construction of the treaty will cut off their mackerel fishery. They threaten to take the law into their own hands unless the Government does something to help them. Said one fisherman:—"Where is the American squadron, when the whole British North American squadron is in and about Provincial waters? If the Americans are to be shut out from headland to headland in many cases it will cut off the whole mackerel fishery." We venture to give it as our opinion that all this fleet, as well as all the speeches, originated in the fertile brain of the ubiquitous correspondent. We may rest pretty well assured that our coastal officers will do their duty, and that no vessel will be permitted to violate the treaty terms before the eyes of the vindicators of our laws. The more serious matter is how is the question to be finally disposed of? We may be quite certain that colonial affairs will have little attention while the great question of managing Ireland fills the mind of the British nation. But supposing that the Imperial Government could be induced to move in this matter, let us see what we have to expect. Our readers have not all, perhaps, in mind the fact that in 1871 Canada was engaged seizing American fishing vessels just as she is doing now, for infringing the stipulations of the treaty of 1818 by purchasing bait in Canadian ports. Correspondence was opened between the Colonial office and the Canadian Government; and Lord Kimberley, Secretary of State for the colonies wrote to the Governor General in these terms:

"The exclusion of American fishermen from resorting to Canadian ports except for the purpose of shelter and of repairing damages therein, purchasing wood, and of obtaining water, might be warranted by the letter of the treaty of 1818; and

terms of the Imperial Act, 59 Geo. III, cap. 29; but Her Majesty's Government feel bound to state that it seems to them an extreme measure inconsistent with the general policy of the Empire, and they are disposed to concede this point to the United States Government, under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent smuggling, and to guard against any substantial invasion of the exclusive rights of fishing which may be reserved to British subjects."

He afterwards wrote: I think it right, however, to add that the responsibility of determining what is the true construction of a treaty made by Her Majesty's Government, and that the degree which this country would make itself a party to the strict enforcement of treaty rights may depend not only on the literal construction of the treaty, but on the moderation and reasonableness with which those rights are asserted.

One or two disagreeable truths are made manifest by this correspondence: We see there quite plainly that Lord Kimberley, speaking for Great Britain, seems more anxious to preserve a harmonious state of feeling with the United States, than to accord us the specific treaty stipulations. The use of our bait, or the raiding of our fishing waters would not be a shilling out of the pocket of Great Britain; therefore we hear this cool talk about "moderation" and "reasonableness." The specific terms of a treaty deliberately made seemed to Her Majesty's Government, according to Lord Kimberley, to be an "extreme measure," and one "inconsistent with the policy of the empire." Generosity is all very well so long as it is not at the expense of another; and the language we have quoted harmonizes well with the spirit that prevailed when the greater portion of the Province of New Brunswick was so outrageously ceded to the State of Maine. It is not at all unlikely, therefore, that when the present question of the fisheries comes up for settlement, that the view put forth by British statesmen will pretty closely resemble that enunciated by the Earl of Kimberley.

The Vatican has been pleased to confer on Monsignor Tascheroni the distinguished ecclesiastical title of Cardinal. This is the first Cardinal that Canada, or any colony of the British Empire so far as we can remember, has been given; and was an honour, and the appointment of the important must be regarded as a Tiber. Natural jubilation among the matter dignitaries ing Canada eyes...