

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1887

A significant indication of the drift of popular opinion is to be seen in the calculations made by the independent press on the result of the elections.

THE NEW CABINET.

Mr. Mercier has formed a strong and representative cabinet, and it must be confessed, has used the material at his disposal with admirable judgment.

THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT.

The defeat of the Local Administration on the election of a Speaker was only what was expected. It has been sufficiently clear for some time that Mr. Mercier has a small but compact majority, which will certainly not lose any of its cohesion in power when it has resisted all opposition.

A TRAITOR'S PLEA.

Mr. Curran's friends are appealing to the electors of Montreal Centre on a plea which shows to what an extremity they are reduced.

subserviently prostituting the franchise of a great constituency? Has it come to this that the people are to endow a man with power to sacrifice great principles for a government situation — to make their shoulders a stepladder by which men of mean ambition and obsequious talents may climb into office?

Electors of the Centre Division are actually asked to vote for Mr. Curran that he may be rewarded by the Ministry for having betrayed the great trust they reposed in him four years ago!

But if there be anyone inclined, through good nature, to put a gloss on Mr. Curran's conduct, let him reflect that by doing so he excuses what Irishmen and men of honor everywhere have always branded as the vilest development of political turpitude.

But the Irishmen of Montreal cannot condone Mr. Curran's betrayal of the cause of Home Rule without assuming and taking upon themselves a share of his guilt.

The intensity of political partisanship in this country has to some extent shielded Mr. Curran from feeling the full measure of disapprobation his recalcitrance merits.

TUPPER TO THE RESCUE.

The recall of Sir Charles Tupper, and his immediate acceptance of the nomination for the Commons in Cumberland, is proof of the extreme peril in which the Government is placed.

his old place and play second fiddle to Sir John. His recall is also an admission on the part of John that he feels himself no longer able to command the ship of state.

Sir Charles has started for Nova Scotia, where he will be able to turn the popular tide now running strongly against the Tories.

But the Great Stroller is a fighting man, and if his luxurious life in London has not made him lazy and flabby, he will make things lively.

A PARALYSED PARTY.

Parliament is dissolved, a general election will take place in four weeks, and look at the so-called Conservative party.

Honest Conservatives see that Macdonaldism has broken with the best traditions of their party, and by taking the word "Liberal" to its name has given a mongrel character to it.

doubtedly originated from the growing intellectual infirmities of the Premier. Stories that have been current for some time past have found expression in an Ottawa despatch to the Globe.

Outside ministerial circles the paralysis of the party is shown in the distraction of opposing factions that refuse to unite, and the contradictory attitude assumed by the Conservative newspapers.

Thus it is evident that the present ministry has become a governmental impossibility. A change is inevitable. Things cannot go on as they are going.

CANADIAN PARTIES AND HOME RULE.

Among the many great issues at stake in the present Federal contest not the least important is Home Rule.

There is no man in Canada so obtuse as not to know that the reason why Mr. Curran followed Mr. Costigan in opposition to Mr. Blake's resolution was because they feared it would be displeasing to their Orange colleagues in Parliament.

But Mr. Curran says Mr. Blake moved the resolution for political purposes. This is a contemptible excuse.

Ample time and numberless opportunities were given to bring the matter before parliament, but Mr. Costigan, Mr. Curran, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Coughlin, and the rest of them, were paralyzed with fear of their Orange masters and dare not move.

And they also pretend that because Lord Kimberley sent an impertinent reply to the resolutions of 1882 it would be *intra dig.* to repeat them in 1886.

The whole situation had changed from what it was in 1882. Home Rule was the great burning question.

THE DEBATE ON THE EDMUND'S BILL.

It is regrettable that the exigencies of faction in the neighboring Republic should cause its great Senate chamber to be made the arena of such an intemperate exhibition as was witnessed during the debate on the Edmund's bill.

An enthusiastic New Yorker is reported to have subscribed \$100 a few days ago "to be applied in any way that will secure Great Britain." This gentleman ought to have been here to-day to applaud Senators Ingalls and Frye.

Mr. Hoar let the cat out of the bag when he supported the measure because it will exclude Canadian fish.

This is all very well, no doubt, from the standpoint of petty partisan politics in view of the coming Presidential election.

had not accordingly, before the strict meaning of the treaty is made clear, if not by common sense, at least by arbitration, or mutual consent.

TREASON TO THE PEOPLE.

In Canada the sovereign power resides in the mass of the people. In its very nature that power is absolute, uncontrollable, arbitrary. It can be subjected to no restraints rightfully.

This is the crime of which the Federal Government stands guilty before the people of Canada!

The Government of Sir John Macdonald has also been guilty of treason to the people in the passing of the so-called Franchise Act.

A government that commits crimes like these against the people sows the seeds of revolution, and calls down upon its head the most determined vengeance of an outraged people.

Who can wonder at the reckless daring of the Booble Brigade in robbing the treasury, appropriating the public lands, squandering the savings of the people entrusted to the keeping, erecting monopolies and endowing themselves with valuable charters, when the fiction shows that all these rascalities were perpetrated with the sanction of a government guilty in the first place of the worst crimes that could be charged against it!