

CURRENT EVENTS.

THE OKA OUTRAGE.

IT is the boast of the Church of Rome that amid all the mutations of human history, it remains unchanged. Its character is the one thing in the world which successfully resists the transforming influences of time. However she may enlarge and modify her creed, the spirit by which she is animated is ever the same. She is just as uncompromising in her opposition to human liberty and progress as she was in mediæval times, and if she had but the power, she would soon make mankind feel that she is every whit as cruel now as she was then. The ruthless destruction of the little Methodist Church in which the Oka Indians worshipped God, shows but too plainly what that apostate Church is prepared to do if it had but the power. If she is not as drunk with the blood of the saints as she once was, it is not because there is less murder in her heart, but because a merciful providence has imposed upon her restraints in our day which did not exist formerly. It may be that as a just retribution for the truckling policy which Protestants, especially Protestant Governments, have adopted toward this heartless, anti-Christian system, it will again be permitted to regain something of its ancient power; and, if so, the world will soon learn, to its sorrow, that the Church of the Dark Ages is the Romish Church of to-day. If the Oka affair has the effect of opening the eyes of the Protestant people of this country to the unscrupulous character of this relic of ancient barbarity—this fossilized embodiment of the superstition, and the fierce and relentless despotism of the bloodiest period of human history, it may well reconcile us to inconvenience and loss inflicted upon the poor Indians. We are glad to learn that the Protestants of the Province of Quebec are thoroughly roused, and that the priests are not likely to have it all their own way. Men of means have espoused the cause of the persecuted Indians, and are determined to stand by them in their resistance of oppression. There can be no doubt that the seigniorship of the Lake of Two Mountains belongs to the Indians; that this was the original intention of the grant made by the crown of France; and that whatever change has since been made in the title, the intention of the Government was that the priests should simply hold them as trustees for the proper owners. The effort which is now being made to rob these poor people of their inheritance is, there can be no doubt, a most flagrant breach of trust, and strikingly illustrates the iniquitous character of the abominable system to which these men belong. It is evident that these people begin to feel that the adoption of these high-handed measures at Oka was a mistake; and they would gladly pay a handsome sum to shield themselves from the disagreeable consequences which they have the sagacity to perceive are likely to flow from their lawless conduct, but they are not yet willing to give the Indians peaceable possession of their property and let them alone. Till this is done there should be no compromise made with them, and the law should be permitted to take its course. We cannot close our eyes to the fact, however, that the friends of justice have an arduous task before them. The party which enters into a conflict with the Romish hierarchy, in Lower Canada, will have to fight against fearful odds. But if justice should not be done in the local Courts, there is a Supreme Court to which the matter will, doubtless, be carried; and even in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court