

The True Witness

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Subscribers, when writing to this office, will kindly date their letters from the postoffice at which they receive the TRUE WITNESS, and thereby save us much time and trouble in attending to their correspondence.

The Irish Borough Franchise.

On Friday night in the British House of Commons Mr. Meldon's motion in favor of assimilating the Borough Franchise in Ireland with that of Great Britain was defeated by 187 to 55.

The Plague.

A New York contemporary has raised the question: "Has the plague reached Nova Scotia?" We do not know whether this was intended for a joke or not, but we think our contemporary is a little too sensational this time.

"Subsidized."

The Mail venates the Reformers because the "Independence of Parliament was prostituted to the use of contracting members, presided over by a Speaker who was subsidized."

The Lieutenant-Governor.

It looks as if the French Conservative members of Parliament were determined to oust the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec. The ominous rumors we have heard from time to time have been followed by ominous actions, and now we see that a caucus yesterday afternoon in Ottawa, and that the Letellier question was discussed.

The Impertinence of the Press.

We are not surprised at people talking about the "impertinence of the Press." A gallant soldier in South Africa with a small command is left to face a force of armed warriors twenty times outnumbering his own.

resistance. A short account of the disaster is sent to England, and a frank and soldierly admission of the defeat is made. "Forthwith the jockdaws of the press shut 'Imbecille, imbecille,' and without trial, without being heard, without particulars, without anything but journalistic impertinence, a brave and stern soldier, a man who has won his spurs, and who has hitherto worn them with honor, is cried down by some miserable quill driver who 'knows no more about 'setting a squadron in the field' than we do about the direct sea route to the North Pole."

The Zulu War.

The Zulus have brought a terrible chastisement on themselves. Into the merits of the war in Kafirria we do not intend to enter. Who is right or who is wrong is not now the question of the hour.

Afghanistan.

The war in Afghanistan is not yet over. Our forces are falling back from Candahar; it is denied that civil strife prevails in Cabul, and Yakoub Khan is said to be collecting his forces, which are reported to be gaining confidence.

Wine Is True?

The lumbermen had a meeting in Ottawa the other day, a telegraphic summary of the meeting was sent to the papers, and in that summary it appeared as if the lumbermen were against Protection. Now, however, another report comes to hand, and this morning's Gazette contradicts the report that appeared in the same paper yesterday, for we learn that the meeting was in favor of Protection and not against it.

Representation of Minorities.

The Americans are making an effort to bring about the representation of minorities. England has done something in that respect, and now the people of the United States are attempting something in the same line. It is an odd fact that when the Conservative were returned to power at the last election in England there were more Liberal votes polled over Great Britain and Ireland than there were Conservative votes, and yet the Liberals were defeated.

House of Commons. In England the system is, in a three-cornered constituency, that there should be two representatives for the majority and one for the minority. This is fair. It gives the minority a chance of being heard. It does not stifle the voice of those out of power, as is done in countries where the representation of minorities is not law.

Promotion by Influence.

The English people made a great fuss about Promotion by Purchase in the army. The system was attacked and denounced, and ultimately it was abolished. The English army has, on the whole, benefited by the changes, and the people congratulate themselves that another step in the right direction was made when Promotion by Purchase in the army became a thing of the past.

After fifteen years' service the "Steward at Rideau Hall" was picked over the head of "Civil Servant." This looks hard. There may be some extenuating features about it, but the case of "Civil Servant" is the case of thousands of others. One successful political campaign is enough to place a man at the top of the ladder in the Civil Service, and the question of "fitness" or "experience" amount to nothing at all.

Revival of Business in the United States.

The news from the United States is encouraging. The Herald is jubilant, and it points out that three years ago there were 60,000 idle men in New York, while now there are only 11,395. This is encouraging. Even during busy times there are always thousands of unemployed in New York.

Carpenters' and cabinet-makers' wages are reduced from \$2.50 to \$1.75; bricklayers, plasterers, painters, and sawyers from \$3.50 to \$2.25 and \$2.00; blacksmiths from \$3.00 to \$2.00; tailors from \$4.50 to \$2.50; and shoemakers from \$3.50 to \$2.00.

And what is the cause? The Globe attributes the cause of this revival of business in the United States to the fact that the hard times first began there, and it is natural that the hard times would cease there before they would cease where they began later.

Prison Labor.

How is the question of Prison Labor going to be settled? We see that the workingmen of Toronto are in arms against it, and they appear to excite some sympathy. What to do with prisoners has always been a grave question? They must be fed, and they must labor. But the moot question always has been—What are they to labor at? It is manifestly unfair that Prison Labor should enter into competition with honest labor.

Independence in Politics.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Herald says that there is some talk about forming an "Independent" party in Parliament. We do not know what truth there may be in the report, but we are not over-awfully sanguine that there is much foundation for it.

dependent calibre in the House of Commons to undertake the formation of such a party, we believe the country would receive the news with pleasure. At present each side puts its own views *colours de rose*, and it is hard to get at the truth of anything.

Dead.

We regret to announce the death of the Ottawa Herald. When that journal was started the Irish Catholics of Canada looked forward with pleasure to its advocacy of their interest. But now it is no more—from dust to dust it has returned—and we are left the simple heritage of remembrance.

The other day we were told that the heads of departments in Ottawa had decided to resist political influence, in order that individuals in the various departments should be benefited by it. They had, we were told, resolved to keep political influence as much as possible out of the Civil Service.

The Volunteer Militia.

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Mr. Costigan, M. P.

The Irish Catholics of Montreal are to be congratulated on the brilliant reception they gave last week to Mr. Costigan, the member for Victoria. As an Irish Catholic demonstration, it was, perhaps, one of the most successful affairs ever held in this city.

stration of last week proved two things. The numbers present—crowded as the people were to the doors, and unable as many were to obtain seats—proved Mr. Costigan's popularity; while his speech gave his hearers an opportunity of acknowledging that he possesses qualities of an order which eminently fit him for the discharge of higher duties than those which are at present within the range of his mission.

The Speech from the Throne.

Canada at the Paris Exhibition, the fishery award, the cattle trade, trade with France and Spain, the Canada Pacific Railway, stamps, weights and measures, the census, ordnance and admiralty, the estimates, readjustment of the tariff, and a measure of government insurance; but not one word about Protection, makes up the sum and substance of the Speech from the Throne.

As is evident the matter is extensive and very important. But Dr. Howard has been a match for it; his strong intelligence, his truly Christian notions in philosophy, a long and constant study of man and his physical and moral diseases, and consequently a great experience; such are the forces and knowledge which have helped the worthy doctor in his lecture. Man is a free being, and therefore responsible for his action; but he is free only when he acts with a deliberate will.

When a cunning man seems the most humble and submissive, he is often the most dangerous. Look out for the crouching tiger.

Old Deacon Sharp never told a lie, but he used to relate this:—He was standing one day beside a frog-pond—He had his word for it—and saw a large garter-snake made an attack upon an enormous big bull-frog.

Mrs. PARTINGTON'S LAST.—"Ike" read—"If you marry," said a Roman Consul to his son, "let it be to a woman."—"Very proper advice," said Mrs. Partington, interrupting him; "but I don't know how he could have given any other under the circumstances, seeing that Providence foreordained that it should be so previously before-hand, though in one sense all the girls that marry are not women either, because they fell not, neither do they spin, and know no more about housekeeping than the fifth wheel of a coach."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Another Interesting Letter from Dr. Howard. To the Editor of the True Witness and Post. Sir,—I find it a good rule, when a man has said all he has to say, the less he attempts to say afterwards the better.

Presuming that the foregoing question was meant for me, I answer it thus: "I have not overlooked the significance of the struggle between infidel materialism and the Catholic Church, and I have seen no danger to the latter from the struggle except, in her or her friends, trying to stop free discussion. Christian materialism is, in the hands of the scientist, quite able to defend itself against infidel materialism."

Now, sir, I thought that in the foregoing I not only gave a very scientific, but a very sound Catholic reply to the question put by "G." I did not say that the accusation was true; I only said that it has been a most successful cry against her; and in saying she had nothing to fear from free discussion, I meant to show how strong my faith was.

"I must repeat, without any qualification whatever, that Dr. Howard's theory of *body and mind being one* is absurd, although, as he says, Catholic theologians have accepted both his premises and conclusions."

"MAN'S MORAL RESPONSIBILITY." By Dr. HENRY HOWARD, &c., &c., &c. "Our intention is to make our readers acquainted with this lecture. The subject which is treated therein reaches the highest topics of philosophy and theology, whilst its speculation comprehends, together with the penal code of societies, the care which is to be given to asylums."

Our attentive study of the splendid lecture of Dr. Howard is quite sufficient to convince everybody that the sickly, morose and weak minds are numerous, and that many crimes, turpitudes and scandals are committed by men who have not the free use of their will and of their reason.

When the great and good "Bishop Conroy," Papal Delegate, visited Montreal, he honored me with many private interviews. Once in conversation he told me he had heard something of my peculiar scientific views, and would be obliged if I would send him copies of all that had been printed.

"200 DRUMMOND STREET, 19th Sept, 1877."

"MY DEAR DR. HOWARD: "Accept my thanks for your kindness in sending me your interesting writings, and believe me, "Yours faithfully, "GEO. CONROY."

In my last conversation with the good Bishop in thanking him for his letter, I told him that there were some who threatened to send my writings to Rome and have them indexed, he smilingly said, very good, "let them send them to Rome, they won't be indexed."