

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 1890.

FROM PILLAR TO POST.

The incessant attacks which the local Opposition upon first makes and then immediately backs down, or in other words, place it in the position of the boy who was always crying wolf, when there was no occasion for alarm, until at last the cry went unheeded.

The Lien Act, according to it, was a trap for the mechanic, the School Tax Act was an unwarranted, the Order-in-Council remitting the \$105 tax was a delusion and a snare, the Order-in-Council withdrawing the public lands from sale was a nullity; the Attorney-General had perpetrated a crime, which must drive him from public life, and, so on, "ad nauseum."

Upon each and every one of these topics, it called upon us for a defence of the Government, but no defence from us was required, as legal decision after legal decision vindicated the action of the Government, and facts and precedents demonstrated that what the organ had been saying was rubbish, so that step by step it abandoned its points of attack, and tried to lead its confusion by new inventions.

Take for example, the assertion that the Order-in-Council withdrawing the lands from sale was a nullity.

We find on local contemporary, on the 2nd instant, expressing himself thus:

"We have pointed out that the Order-in-Council is a nullity. \* \* \* But in point of fact it is worse than a nullity. We urge the Government to amend the fatal blunder at once."

And on the 3rd instant it said:

"The Order-in-Council is not worth the paper it is written on, as a legal proceeding."

On the 10th December, however, it says:

"The simple fact of the matter, however, is that the Order-in-Council is of doubtful legality."

Or, take the abuse which has been heaped upon the Attorney-General on account of his private practice, and in respect to the Ashcroft embankment case, when conclusively shown that it was arising, itself against facts and precedent, it simply retires into its shell, and invents what it terms the Nicola Land transaction, and calls upon The Colonist, as it has done in all the other positions from which it has been forced to back down, for a defence.

The effort to create a controversy upon its own inventions is too transparent, and as for ourselves, we have something else to do than to enter into a disquisition upon every piece of slander which the "Times" launches. Let the organ wait until the House meets and then if it wants to ventilate any of the scores of ridiculous charges it has been heaping up during the interval, its friends will be only too ready to furnish it with material for its own want of judgment in paying attention to anything it may have said.

THE LATEST REFORMER.

The last advocate of educational reform is the Emperor William II. It is surprising to see a German find fault with the system of education which has been the boast and the pride of both the people and the Government of Germany.

The Emperor's complaint is that the people are being over-educated, or rather mis-educated. The youth of Germany are instructed in more than things which they ought to be taught. He complains that time is lost in the higher public schools in examining the boys with Latin and Greek, instead of directing their attention to the German language and German history.

He says that these schools should teach the methods of the German school, that the practical business of life, that the amount of mere book work must be reduced, that more attention must be paid to the training of the body, and more time must be given to healthy recreation. He attributes many of the evils which he finds in the political world to the vicious system of education under which public men and journalists have been taught.

There are a great many in all countries who condemn the system of education practised in all the schools, high and primary. They say that it is not producing good results. The schools, they aver, do not fit men and women for the life of life. Time is wasted and energy dissipated in learning what does not improve the mind, and what actually unites the pupil for fighting successfully the battle of life. They contend that education should be from the very beginning more practical, and that none but those who evince a peculiar aptitude for it, should receive what is called the higher education. Mr. Guldwin Smith in this country, lately pointed to the unfortunate man Birchall as an example of the evil effects of forcing work on a young man as an education for which he was not fitted by nature. He said:

"Had he (Birchall), instead of being sent to college, been kept steadily at work in some useful calling, he might have gone decently and perhaps creditably through the world. Sending him

to college, where, having no literary gifts, he was sent not to study, and where, being idle, he was sent to be dissipated, was the mistake which sent him down. That no boy should be sent to college who does not show a decided inclination to study is a lesson which Birchall preaches to us from a felon's grave."

This is an admission of extreme case, but there are thousands in this Dominion and in every other civilized country who have reason to lament that they were not taught in their youth something that they could learn well and something that would have helped them to earn an honest livelihood instead of being kept for years vainly struggling to acquire branches of learning for which they had no taste and no capacity, and the smattering which they had been able to obtain had been of no earthly use to them after they had left school. The higher education does not often lead a man to the gallows, but it does very frequently result in grievous disappointment to those who hoped to benefit by it, and in their misguidance, well-meaning relatives and helpers.

The speech lately delivered by the Emperor of Germany is only one more indication that the whole system of education will, before very long, undergo a thorough reformation. There are very many dissatisfied with it and the result it produces.

A DIVIDED PARTY.

Parrell is determined to raise a row in Ireland. He knows that his countrymen are impetuous, and that they still cherish the Celtic sentiment of loyalty to a chief, and he is bound to make all the capital he can out of that feeling.

There are many Irishmen who regard republicanism of Parrell as treachery to Ireland, and who look upon the opponents of their leader as the enemies of their country.

Impelled by this feeling, many of them rally around Parrell as if he were a peer, and he is bound to make all the capital he can out of that feeling.

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THE SIMPLE TRUTH.

A good name is precious to a city as well as to an individual man or woman. It is hard by anything that injures reputation and benefited by whatever tends to raise it in the estimation of the world. People when they speak of the city in which they live should bear this in mind. It is the easiest thing in the world to speak evil of a city, and there are in it had people as well as good ones, and one has only to keep in his mind the wickedness of its wicked members and to expatiate on the number and enormity of their vices to leave the impression on the mind of the hearer that the people are bad, as well as the wickedness of the city which they form a part as immoral as were the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is needless to say that the picture which he draws is true to life, and is most unjust to the community he professes to portray. It is quite possible that this misrepresentation is done without any ill intent. On the contrary, it may be the object of him who thus magnifies the vices of the community, to do good; and we can hardly understand how surprised he is when he finds that people who, jealous of its reputation, look upon him as its malinger and its defamer.

There are many in Victoria just now who are indignant at the way in which this city has been spoken of by some of its clergymen. They are quite ready to confess that, in Victoria, as in every other city, there is much done that ought not to be done, and a very great deal left undone which ought to be done; but they are very far indeed from admitting that it is a city of iniquity, or, in any respect, more wicked than other cities of the Dominion of the same size, and similarly situated. And when the city's condition is viewed from a common sense standpoint, it will have to be allowed that the estimate they have formed is, on the whole, fairly accurate. It must be remembered that Victoria is, in the first place, a seaport town, and that it is the resort of miners and a very large proportion of the floating population of the province. Any one who has lived in a seaport town knows that there are parts of it which are not exactly as orderly as the residential quarter of an inland town. But there is no more to be said in this respect than that a man or woman cannot walk with a clean conscience through the streets of any city, and that under wise and better guidance the people of Victoria will walk in the measure of self-government, and will very rarely, as happily, long, and, until very lately, as happily, as a guest at the Occidental.

Rev. E. K. McMillan, of Sehome, Wa., is a guest at the Occidental.

There is a view, but the man who is viciously inclined will have to search out its haunts.

The truth, as far as our observation goes, is that it is as easy for a man or woman to live a good life in this city as in any other in the Dominion. Of course, if a man wants to go to the bad, he can do so as readily in Victoria as he can in Toronto or Montreal or Halifax or Hamilton. The way that leads to destruction is everywhere broad, but it is not broader here than in other Canadian cities. If, on the other hand, he desires to live a good life, he will find it as easy to do so here as in any other town on the continent. He will find, among the citizens of Victoria, a large proportion of refined, intelligent, well-living and well-disposed citizens who will in any other community, steadily and dutifully. The incentive to well-doing, as many and as great here as in other places, and the temptations to evil are more numerous or more attractive. A writer or an orator who looked only on the bright side of Victoria and expatiated on the virtues and the goodness of its citizens alone could easily make it appear the most delightful place of residence on this side of Paradise, and that, without saying one word that is not strictly true. But the one which has caused so much indignation and called forth so many and such strong protests is too dark. The truth, as in most other cases, lies between the two extremes. But it is pleasant and a better place than Victoria to live in is pretty sure to go far and far worse.

A VICTIM.

Minister Minner, who did what he considered his duty in the case of General Barrundina, has been recalled. The United States government has disavowed his act. It will be remembered that Barrundina was a Guatemalan political officer who had taken refuge in Mexico. When the revolution in San Salvador was in progress this refugee took passage in the American steamer Aspasol for the port of Victoria. The Minister Minner, on board, demanded that he be given up to the Guatemalan authorities. The captain refused to surrender his passenger, and he was under the protection of the American flag. Minister Minner, on being appealed to, sent a written order to the captain to deliver Barrundina to the authorities of the country. This he did because he understood the law of the American flag did not protect a violator of the laws of a country while the vessel flying it was in a harbor of that country. This seems to be good sense, whether it is good law or not. It would be a very singular thing if that the violator of the law had to do in order to escape pursuit and punishment, "would" be, to take refuge on board a foreign vessel. But it is objected that Barrundina was a political offender. Why should that make any difference? Surely, the Government of a country should have jurisdiction within its own territory, and should be able to arrest a violator of any of its laws, whether or not he is a political offender. It is, for instance, that if O'Brien and Dillon had been found in a French vessel in the harbor of Dublin or Cork, the officers of the law dare not touch them, because the law of the French ship must be regarded as French law. While the French ship is in British territory, and all on board of her are subject to British law, and, therefore, she could not be made an asylum for persons accused of crime. The law of the French ship must be regarded as French law. While the French ship is in British territory, and all on board of her are subject to British law, and, therefore, she could not be made an asylum for persons accused of crime.

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Government takes the initiative in the matter, and introduces a good and workable measure, and, created, such grave doubts of its being judiciously done, that there will be little disposition on the part of our citizens to give Beacon Hill, the sum of \$50,000 into the hands of these commissioners, to make it look pretty and attractive according to their taste and notions, with their zig-zag roads and mazes, and other novelties too numerous to mention. Once given them this power, it will be too late to complain, even if they were going to level the Hill. We know that the measure is being introduced by the Legislature, and that it will be passed by the House of Commons. The measure is being introduced by the Legislature, and that it will be passed by the House of Commons.

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It will be said that they exercise a very great influence in all churches, whether it is officially recognized or not, perhaps more than they had an acknowledged position in their ruling bodies. This may be, but it is no thanks to the men if they do. The Methodist have, in any case, got over the theological difficulty, and it will be interesting to observe the effect of giving the women a position in the representative bodies of the denomination. Will the Methodist Church in the United States be benefited by this change? Will it become more zealous and more energetic? Will worldliness and formality diminish within its bounds, and will earnestness and purity increase? We shall see.

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