

66 THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25, 1886

Nothing could show the utter worthlessness of "total prohibition" as a moral force more than the present condition of the State of Maine.

During the dull season the advent of a Mikado company seems to be a perfect godsend to editors. Scarcely a city along the track of travel followed by the company recently in this city is not taught by its local writers some profound moral based on a maxim or sentiment taken out of the opera.

The Travailleux of Worcester, Mass., has recently published a very strong warning to the French-Canadians against any further emigration into the Eastern States.

A SMART, TRUSTWORTHY LAWYER, WHO IS willing to take a case against a fortune teller, will be engaged by a person who has been persecuted for the last seven years; only those who know of fortune telling need apply. If successful will be well paid. Answer in person. H. E. HOLMES.

This advertisement appears in the New York Herald. What a rush of a certain class of lawyer there would be to both sides if it had only appeared in a Montreal paper!

The labor candidates of Brooklyn, N.Y., are wise in their generation. At a largely attended meeting of delegates held at that city last night, a resolution was moved approving the principle that it was not the policy of workmen to nominate workmen's candidates, but to accept pledges from the candidates of either political parties, and support the candidates giving the most satisfactory pledges.

intentioned and orderly meeting into confusion is a demonstrated truth. This course of action is, however, a violation of the law. A political meeting is for the purpose of exercising out of the most exalted and important rights of the citizen in which he performs a part of his duty as a steward of the highest privilege the State confers on him.

The great Archbishop of Cashel, the Most Rev. Dr. Croke, still leads the march of the Irish nation towards Home Rule. The patriotic prelate, in reply to an address, said that the people should exhibit sufficient firmness to show the Government that if war was made upon them they would resist.

This was also the doctrine preached and the conclusion unanimously arrived at by the recent Irish National Convention at Chicago: Uphold fair government, resist coercion, and continue the fight for Home Rule.

SOME of our American contemporaries are exhibiting rather a nationalistic spirit in reference to the action of the Federal authorities in connection with the navy. It seems that for some time the want of proper marine defence has been dawdling on the States, and a spasmodic attempt has recently been made to supply two or three cruisers.

Mr. G. W. CURTIS' compliment to Parnell is the subject of some comment. That eminent gentleman recently said:—"He (Parnell) is, indeed, an uncorrupted king, and should he die, there is no one to take up his sceptre. No fabulous monarch of Tara's halls, no lord of the round tower, no wild Celtic chieftain, was so powerful a ruler." There is room for comment. Allowing, even, for the license of rhetoric, the statement is not justified.

The alleged cable despatches which are doled out by the grace of monopoly to the press are things so wonderfully made that it is difficult and dangerous to form an opinion upon anything they pretend to describe. It is to be hoped there is no truth in the statement that in the House of Commons Sir J. Ferguson, one of the Secretaries of State, said that "negotiations for the amicable settlement of the Atlantic fisheries dispute were proceeding between England and the United States and Canada."

The Americans have paid a great deal of honor to the memory of Lafayette, although recent revelations in the way of the secret papers of French history have proved that he was by no means the single-hearted, disinterested, generous helper of an oppressed people he pretended to be.

At election times it is not rare to see charges hurled by the organs of the respective parties in reference to organized interference with public meetings. Sometimes the charges are true, sometimes the result of fancy. But that a band of hired agents, without being exceptionally numerous, can throw a well

simply the confidential agent of the French King, who was anxious to know which way the cat was going to jump, and his money, which he spent so lavishly and pretended was his own, came out of the pockets of a people at the time as hardly pressed as those he was pretending to assist. It does not appear that Lafayette is entitled to the noble American gratitude has raised him to. But there were officers, soldiers of fortune perhaps, but still generous men, who did the States during their struggle incalculable benefit. Only a few of these were rewarded and fewer remembered. Von Steuben died poor. De Kalb, one of the bravest and most skillful of the military commanders, died at Camden bravely trying to rally the discomfited revolutionary troops.

THE HOME RULE FEELING.

The fact that Wales has organized a Home Rule Association is full of significance, and goes to show the vitality and strength of the Home Rule sentiment more than anything else. Wales has never had a Parliament of her own, complains of no specific wrongs, and has for five hundred years been a part of England as a principality. Even the barbarity or injustice of the "ruthless king" has been wiped from memory. In spite of this the Welsh are beginning to see that Home Rule would enable them to possess privileges that under the present system of Imperial representation they do not obtain.

THE ANARCHISTS.

The sentence of the Chicago jury upon the anarchists was anticipated and, in view of the evidence, inevitable. Public opinion had condemned the prisoners before the evidence had proceeded very far. The feeling in the United States seems to be, if the press is any indication, that anything like the open exhibition of such a spirit as was shown to animate the Chicago rioters cannot for a moment be tolerated. The United States are remarkably generous in the direction of permitting unchecked immigration, and so very great is the influx of the obscuring of Europe that without care it may be found that a danger to the commonwealth is being gradually developed.

"THE WHEEL."

It is stated that a new association, to be termed "The Wheel," is in process of extension in the Southern States of America. This association is in the farmers' interests, and to some extent may be considered akin to the Grangers, inasmuch as it takes charge of agricultural interests. But only to some extent, as the Southern agriculturists seem to think that they have some very exclusive and sweeping rights. In fact, it may be asserted that they do their best to perpetuate slavery on a small scale. Some attention has recently been drawn to Savannah, which may be regarded as giving a fair type of the Southern landlord spirit. It is understood that the Legislature there is absolutely controlled by the landlords and storekeepers, and that the law takes its stamp from their inspiration.

tract by the most grinding rigidity, and heavy damages can be obtained against the man who employs any "fugitive" laborer. But the refinement of cruelty is seen, and any extension of food or shelter to a workman is visited with pains and penalties. So that a man who does not become a speculator of white slaves may be hunted without pity out of the State, if he can get as far. But he has a danger to face which renders this hard to do, for the foresight of the landlord has called into existence a vagrant law which makes any one without work and helpless liable to be sent to the chain gang. The lien laws are framed in the same spirit. The tenant is generally in debt to the landlord, who holds a cross-lien note, by which all he has is pledged to pay the lien when it is due. The result may be imagined. The following specimen advertisements are from a Savannah paper of a recent date and give a good idea of the working of the landlord system in the South, and at the same time are not a little suggestive of the old days of slavery:—

RUNAWAYS!

ALL persons are hereby warned not to hire or harbor Arthur Chesney, white, or Louis Glenn, colored, as they are under contract with me for the present year.

M. H. ARNOLD, Crawford, Ga.

WARNING!

ALL parties are hereby notified not to hire or harbor Charley Callaway, colored, as he is under contract with me for the year 1886. Any violation as to his whereabouts will be prosecuted.

ED. JACKSON, Stephens, Ga.

"The Wheel," the new agrarian association of the south, is said to be extending in the vicinity, and the landlords of other States will doubtless work on the same lines of self-aggrandizement as those of Savannah. This formation of the association is not a hopeful augury for the future of the south.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The opening of Parliament in England has proved, as was anticipated, that the new Government has no immediate intention of taking up the question of Home Rule. Whether it is rash enough to think that delay may enable something to "turn up" and cause the drift of affairs in Ireland to be changed, we cannot say. But if so, the administration is doomed to disappointment. The spirit of the age, so far as Ireland is concerned, is perfectly clear, and if its determination needs impressing on the governmental brain the Chicago convention ought to have the force to do it. The remarks of Lord Randolph Churchill clearly indicate that his government means to trifle with the subject of dealing with Home Rule. Local government is to be treated as a "question affecting the United Kingdom." The Government is going to perform a series of legislative acts. It proposes to appoint a "Royal Commission." This was inevitable, but we can imagine the derisive laughter with which the announcement was received. It is going to create a "deep sea fishery" on the western coast, make "harbors of refuge," "extend railways" and "promote arterial drainage." Now, it ought to be apparent to the Government that the speech of its leader in the House of Commons is, possibly unintentionally, a direct and emphatic endorsement of the claims made by the friends of Ireland, that she should have the privilege of making her own domestic laws. The royal commission "to enquire" shows that after eighty years of union the Government has to confess that it knows nothing of the working of Irish affairs. That deep sea fishery, harbor and drainage works are now promised as a species of solatium is a glaring confession that under the united parliamentary system the most elementary domestic matters of Irish interest have not been promoted. Here are a few, in a national sense, commonplace items of absolute necessity to the country. Yet they are only now promised; but who will suppose that if Ireland had possessed her local legislature they would not have been accomplished long ago, as mere matters of course. In the course of his remarks on the speech, Mr. Gladstone said that what had recently happened at the polls had in no way produced the slightest change in his convictions regarding the late Government's Irish policy. We do not think the course of his opponents in the House will be likely to contribute to his conversion. However, there is no doubt that that there must be a halt along the line until February, and it is only to be hoped that the present administration at London will have the judgment to enable them to rightly interpret the signs of the times.

THE CUSTOMS.

THERE can be no question but that among the many mismanaged departments of the Government the Customs is one of the worst. Since the accession to power of the present occupants of the portfolio of Customs there has been continual revelations, some small but some great, which indicate that a stringent enquiry into its working would reveal a condition of iniquity that would probably startle the people of the country. In this city there have been some very notable revelations, but they only differ a degree from similar occurrences all along the line, and of which the public does not hear. The Patterson-Kissock case, the McLachlan case, are both fresh, with all their odor of corruption and scandal, in the memory of our readers. Now comes the Ayer patent case, which being in a measure before the courts, the outraged virtue of an official having to be vindicated, may be passed without further reference. But these are typical cases all of which abundantly prove that there is something not rotten only but putrid, and ten times worse than rotten in the state of our Denmark represented by the customs. There is not only smoke to indicate the presence of fire, but a good stiff blaze appears to the naked eye. It is high time the hose was turned on it. One remedy suggested is the establishment of a Customs Court. This is not a bad suggestion

in its way, and such a tribunal should undoubtedly be in existence, but it would not be a remedy for the evil complained of. It might decide the merits of, but would not prevent, the offences. The real remedy lies in effective management. The government pretends to have efficient appraisers and yet we hear of goods being entered at a lower rate than their true one, and they are afterwards at some uncertain period perhaps seized. This is unjust, and further, that, gives evidence of incapacity. If the authorities once pass goods that process should be the end of the matter. It is absurd to suppose that any great fraud could be accomplished if the supervision was properly carried out, and the course followed by the Customs department in so many cases is sufficient to convince the public that there is serious ground for suspicion that the management is the reverse of what it ought to be. Incompetency and corruption are two serious matters in public administration. Are these proved by recent cases to exist in one of the most important departments of national administration?

A SINGULAR CHANGE.

The traveller in the Eastern States cannot but be impressed with the fact that the descendants of the old Puritans are fast passing away. Emigration has something to do with this, and there are other causes which need not be enlarged on. But the fact is patent, and attention has recently been drawn to a feature in the case not generally noticed before. A gentleman writes to the New York Sun a letter in which he states that he has been for years travelling through the State of Massachusetts. In the course of his travels he has made close and impartial enquiry into the changing condition of that State. But this visitor has not only confirmed the view that the Puritan stock is dying out, but he has discovered that the future population of the State will be men either directly Irish or of Irish descent. He writes:—"This startling proposition, whenever made in the Puritan presence, receives only a Puritan sneer; but the time is surely near at hand when the Irishman and his children and grandchildren will exert a powerful if not controlling influence in shaping the domestic policy of the State. An inevitable foreshadowing of this may be seen among the names of those who succeed in obtaining office or are placed there without solicitation at the local elections. The unmistakable leaves of the Macs and the O's is present in the old time Puritan lump."

The writer goes on to say that this change will be of the greatest benefit to the country and will have a decidedly regenerating effect upon it, and proceeds:—"With an occasional exception they (the Puritan's descendants) chose to desert the home of their fathers rather than make the effort to reclaim the land. But what they refused to do the Irish are doing. They commenced by purchasing small tracts near the principal towns. They love to become landholders. The unrightly neglected and barren places they have rendered fertile and fruitful in this State by their patient labor is simply incredible. They have gradually extended their holdings, and now, when a dissatisfied Yankee, lost to all veneration and ambition, wishes to sell his paternal acres, his best customer will be found in some enterprising Irish tiller of the soil. These tireless sons of Erin drain the land, clean off the bushes, remove the stones, and show by well-directed industry how barns can be filled and homes supplied with the comforts of life. They send their children to school. Their families are uncommonly large. By natural increase and additions by immigration their numbers have become truly formidable. It would, indeed, be a strange mutation of fortune if the Celtic race should, in the course of half or three-quarters of a century, by the irrefragable law of population and progress, drive the Puritanic element to the wall, and boldly and firmly assert their supremacy."

THE POPE AND FRANCE.

There have been events witnessed in France of a character calculated to cause the Vatican authorities to think that the affairs of the Church may not be as faithfully conserved in that country as they ought to be. Indeed, one Roman journal went so far as to assert that the proud title of "Eldes daughter of the Church" was forfeited. Just now there is great cry of indignation going up in Paris chiefly in consequence of the action of the Pope with reference to China. The outcry is certainly not justified. It is hard to tell why France should pretend to have an exclusive right to represent the Holy Father at Peking, or why the sending of a special envoy should be regarded as an encroachment on French privileges. But it is noteworthy that the demand for a Papal representative came from the Emperor of China himself. France also expresses the opinion that Rome should have no diplomatic status at Peking. This is the very thing the Chinese want, else they would not have asked for an envoy from Rome. France complains that her interests have been overlooked and that she has been insulted. The boot is on the other foot. Nothing could have been more insulting than the treatment extended to His Holiness by the French Ministers when he communicated with them on the subject, and their conduct alone proves the need that evidently exists for the action of the Holy See. Leo XIII. is showing marvellous skill in a time when revolutionaries and hypocrites endeavor to thwart his efforts. So far as the France of to-day is concerned there is very little probability of its present government being satisfied with anything he does.

VERY TRUE.

The truth seems to be dawning on the minds of the English, and the scales which bigotry and sectarian rancour and political hatred have caused to blind the eyes of the people, are falling. The following extract from the editorial columns of the London

Daily News is significant as showing that our "union" has apparently sent out the fact that Orangism is, if to exist, at least to exist in quietness and obscurity. A quarter of a century ago, such an article in a leading London paper would have been almost an impossibility. Says the Daily News:—"Where things might happen for Belfast and Ireland than a little resolute government just now. It is abundantly evident that the deadliest enemy to the peace of Ireland and to the peace of the whole kingdom is that unhappy town. In spite of all the natural exasperation caused by the Home Rule defeat, not a single other town in Ireland has given a moment's anxiety. Catholic and Home Rule Ireland, that has lost in the late electoral conflict, has maintained a profound calm. Protestant and Unionist Belfast, that has won, has for weeks past revelled in intermittent slaughter. It is all the fault of Mr. Gladstone, no doubt, yet it is unfortunate all the same; and it would have been still more palpably his fault if Providence had only been pleased to order it the other way. It is extremely fortunate for Belfast that she stands where she does, though less fortunate, perhaps, for the United Kingdom. In the United States this impudent claim to disturb the repose of a whole country, in the name of a sectarian difference would have been rudely and very mercifully dismissed. There might have been one day's rioting or even two; thereforfeitably would not have been three. The disgusting org of blood and destruction would have lasted until the militia could have been called out, and not a moment later. The Press has a part to play as well as the authorities in the suppression of these senseless disturbances, and its first duty is to refrain from trying to persuade the ruffians on either side who are engaged in them that they represent anything but the worst and the meanest passions of our nature."

THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND ITS RESULTS.

The Chicago convention of the Irish National League of America concluded its important labors on Friday. It was, beyond question, the largest and finest deliberative body that ever assembled on the free soil of this continent. Over one thousand of the representatives of the Irish race, gathered from every section of the United States and of this Dominion of Canada, discussed the most perplexing and burning question in Imperia politics, with a gravity and a dignity that could not be surpassed by the most polished parliamentary body; with a clearness and intelligence that heightened the already high reputation of Irishmen for brains; with a vehemence and unanimity that could not leave England in doubt as to the Irish determination to make Home Rule a fact by hook or by crook; and finally, with a degree of patriotism and submission to Parnell's leadership and line of policy that makes the Irish people at home and abroad practically solid in the winning fight for Ireland's legislative independence.

The significant and striking feature of the deliberations, of the speeches, and of the resolutions was the well fixed purpose to subject the National League on this continent to the discipline of the accepted leaders in Ireland. The convention emphasized the fact that Parnell and his followers were the masters of the situation; that to them belonged the right to command and direct the movement for Ireland's redemption, and that as long as they remained true to the National flag, the League would heartily continue its support of the leaders and their policy.

In this the enemy was keenly disappointed. The enemy expected and prayed for a totally different pronouncement from the Convention. The enemy wanted a split and the Convention was as one. The enemy wanted a declaration against Parnell and the Convention assured his representative, O'Brien, Macdonnally and Davitt, that the Irish race in America, as in Ireland, stood as one man at the back of the Irish Parliamentary party and its chosen leader.

As the Chicago Intra-Ocean said:—"It would be a shame and a scandal, it would be a reproach to the Irish character and the Irish people did the Irish-Americans fail him now. It was a glory and a triumph that the convention held itself squarely to the work in hand, and did exactly what Mr. Parnell would have had it do."

The Chicago Convention has accomplished two things. It has made the cause of Home Rule for Ireland imperishable; and it has given the Irish right to be considered the most enlightened and influential among all the peoples that compose the great and free Republic of America.

THE CLOUD IN THE EAST.

The "Eastern question" has assumed another of its kaleidoscopic phases in consequences of the deposition of Alexander of Battenburg. Though this is a serious menace to the peace of Europe it is not a particularly surprising event, as the designs of Russia have been long well enough known. Russian intrigue has been at work openly for a long time past, and this move is only one more cast at the possession of the "Sick Man." The immediate result is not easy at the moment to forecast, and until the so-called Provincial Government shows what its dictator proposes to do, external action is not likely to take place. Otherwise the position is, or should be, unchanged, as the interests of foreign nations are not in any degree altered. What they were at the time of the last embroglio they are to-day. Austria cannot possibly brook any great march of Russian power any more now than before, and whatever may have been the supposed agreement of the Emperors at Ghatin it must be evident that, like all those