

THE SECRET SOCIETIES.

FREEMASONRY A STUMBLING BLOCK TO CHRISTIANITY

So says Rev. Dr. Gregg. A letter from Rev. Dr. J. Macdonnell, of the communications on the subject. Since the World published a report of the recent meeting of the Toronto presbytery a great deal of feeling has been stirred up in the city.

Dr. Gregg of Knox college said that he was glad to see that at least the secret societies were being mentioned as hindrances to religion. He said that he had been told that the Freemasons were a stumbling block to Christianity when it is so formed as to admit deists, heathens, Mohammedans, etc. Freemasonry is also unfair. I am told that they get the advantage in the courts. If one of the parties to a suit is a freemason and the other is not, and there are freemasons on the jury, the man who is not a freemason will not get justice.

The reporter then called on Rev. Mr. Monteth, clerk of the presbytery, who copied the clauses in the report on the state of religion which has caused so much discussion. It is as follows: "What is the state of religion in this city as a special hindrance to the cause of Christ in your own neighborhood and in the city at large, outside organizations, etc. and what is being done to counteract these evils?"

Dr. Gregg read the report over carefully and said in reply to a question, "This report is quite correct—these are my sentiments." The rev. gentlemen then continued at some length in the following strain: "Masonry is manifestly as I have stated it. How can a society be otherwise than a stumbling block to Christianity when it is so formed as to admit deists, heathens, Mohammedans, etc.?"

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ANARCHY AND DYNAMITE.

THE DISTURBING ELEMENTS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

Call for United Action on the Part of the Nations.—Baron Rothschild's House in Danger.—Assassinated Paris. The Moscow Gazette urges that common European action be taken against anarchists. The Paris police have discovered that a man employed as a shorthand writer by a firm of engineers there is an emissary of Patrick Ford of the Irish World.

The Italian ambassadors have been instructed to confer with the powers in regard to the proposed European demand upon the United States government to legislate against dynamite. A quantity of dynamite and nitro-glycerine has been seized at Vienna. It is supposed it was the intention to explode the mansion through the sewers. The Clan na Gael have begun operations at Paris. A man, who says he is an Irish American and who closely resembles the late John Dillinger, was brutally assaulted in the place Du Temple. The voice of the victim allowed that he had been taken there, but that he would not say who had done it.

Founded as it is upon the bible, its first and fundamental principle is "to fear God" and its whole teaching and working is based on the two commandments, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself." The fact that the basis of this order is sound in all its parts can be attested by many hundreds of ministers of the gospel members thereof, who not being ignorant nor having to find some excuse for their inability to secure and hold their congregations gladly come forward and assist in promulgating the principles of an order which is alike an honor to the members and humanity at large.

The presbytery and synods must try again or else be largest. The United presbyterian church of the United States does not permit freemasons to take of the Lord's supper, although I do not go to that.

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THE LOYAL BROTHERHOOD

CONDEMNING THE ORANGE WIRE-PULLERS AT OTTAWA.

How the Incorporation Bill was Checked.—The O. B. got his reward by withdrawing the bill and refraining from further agitation in the matter. We deem the prospect of the largest of any political party in the country to be the Orange Brotherhood. It is also worthy of note that Bro. Birmingham, who was equally loud in pressing Sir John to concede the bill, was afterwards one of the wire-pullers who were so loudly denouncing the bill.

That whereas the strange grand lodges of the Orange Order, which have been for years exercising over both political parties to the injury of the country and the denial of just and equal rights to a body of men who have stood firm to their principles and are loyal to the country, an outrage which outrages, at least should be met by the government, it is resolved: 1. That unless untrammelled Orange men cease in mass and at once to exercise their independence of all political parties and cast aside their present leaders and thus prove their fidelity to their avowed principles, the usefulness, as well as the honor, of Orange institutions, shall be passed by into utter contempt and be dispersed by friends and foes alike. 2. That it is now manifest that the Orange Order, as a body of men, is a disgrace to the country and its principles are a disgrace to the Orange Order.

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THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

NOTION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS.—Public Accounts.

At the legislature yesterday a motion was made by Mr. Drury for a committee to report on the advisability of reducing the number of representatives in county councils. He showed the total number of councillors had increased from 780 in 1872 to 986 in 1881, or at the rate of 20 per cent, while the cost of their indemnity had increased during the same time from \$25,450 to \$42,271, or an increase of 40 per cent. He said in the United States some of the counties had their affairs managed by five commissioners, and the system worked well. The motion was the subject of a good deal of discussion, most of the members being in favor of some scheme by which the number of councillors might be reduced. A committee was appointed to investigate the subject and report.

Mr. Meredith charged the government with endeavoring to the largest of any political party in the country to be the Orange Brotherhood. It is also worthy of note that Bro. Birmingham, who was equally loud in pressing Sir John to concede the bill, was afterwards one of the wire-pullers who were so loudly denouncing the bill.

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SIR JOHN AND SECESSION.

THE PREMIER SAYS THE MOVEMENT WILL DO NO GOOD.

The Convention Therefore Withdraws the Resolutions.—Unsatisfactory Interview With Norquay. WINNIPEG, March 7.—The convention met again today. Owing to the enormous pressure brought to bear on the secession resolution and telegram from Sir John Macdonnell to the effect that the carrying of it would not brighten the prospects of the province it was withdrawn but not without much discussion. A delegation to the premier reported that he had said he was in accord with the farmers, and upon this report a resolution was passed, after a long discussion, to the effect that the interview was unsatisfactory.

EDITOR WORKING: Yesterday morning I strolled into the police court, where a great number of other persons were assembled to hear the case to be tried by the police magistrate, and before his worship took his seat the police clerk handed to each young person a printed form similar to the one enclosed, and he was very solicitous to induce myself and others to become a member of the Mutual Marriage Aid association. I spoke to the chief constable, who said he could give me no advice. Please inform me through your valuable paper if this is a genuine affair or a fraud; if the latter, it is not proper to be carried on in the police court each day, as it leads to the belief that it is carried on under the sanction of the police magistrate. W. S. Owen Sound, March 6, 1884.

THE NEW WARD OF ST. MATTHEW. The clauses with reference to the annexation of Riverside to the city of Toronto as St. Matthew's ward were adopted yesterday by the private bills committee of the legislature. J. D. Edgar appeared on behalf of John D. Edgar, registrar of the county of York, and explained that owing to the annexation of Riverside and York to the city of Toronto, the registrar's fees would be considerably reduced. The committee passed a clause leaving it to the discretion of the city council to give Mr. Edgar \$2000 as compensation on any loss which he might sustain through the annexation of these municipalities.

THE BLACK FLAG. "When a convict escapes from Portland (England) prison a black flag is hoisted." Such is the legend upon which one of the most successful melodramas now on the road was written. The piece had a phenomenal run in both London and New York. It will be produced for the second time in Toronto all next week at the Grand Opera house, with matinees Wednesday and Saturday. Mr. Edwin Booth, the well known actor, is at the head of a good company and there is no doubt that the crowd which greeted them on their first visit will be repeated in the scenery (by Vogtlin) and stage effects are very fine.

MANY ADVANTAGES. Pelley & Pyle advertise a special spring sale of carpets commencing on Monday next at their carpet warehouses, King street east. The above firm have many advantages not possessed by others in the carpet line. The principal one is the being the residence of one of its members in England where he has many opportunities of buying special lines of carpets and other goods at much below the cost of manufacture; and also has the choice of all the newest designs that are produced by the manufacturers. We would therefore say if you want carpets, by all means go to Pelley's.

A VERDICT FOR \$40,000. After two non-suits in the court of common pleas in this city, the court of common pleas yesterday gave judgment in the celebrated Murray case, entering a verdict for \$40,000 for plaintiff. This was the price contracted to be paid for certain Winnipeg property during the boom in which the real estate developed in this city and of fraud.

SMALLPOX IS ON THE INCREASE AT ASHLAND, PA. The Abyssinia has arrived at New York from Liverpool, entering a verdict for \$40,000 for plaintiff. This was the price contracted to be paid for certain Winnipeg property during the boom in which the real estate developed in this city and of fraud.

THE PHILADELPHIA DEALERS ARRESTED FOR SELLING PISTOLS TO SCHOOL BOYS HAVE BEEN HELD FOR TRIAL. Rev. John S. Inskip, editor of the Christian Standard, died at Asburg park, N. J., yesterday.

IT IS REPORTED THAT THE RUSSIAN MISSION HAS BEEN TENDERED TO EX-SERGEANT FERRY WHO IS NOW IN EUROPE. A dispatch from St. Thomas, West Indies, says that two very severe earthquake shocks were felt there recently. There is a big strike of coal miners in the Hocking valley, Ohio, caused by the refusal of operators to concede the demands of haulers.

THE NEW YORK PRODUCE EXCHANGE HAS POSTED P. J. SHADLEK, DEALER IN HOPS, BARLEY AND MALT, BECAUSE HE WAS UNABLE TO MEET HIS ENGAGEMENTS. The United States Senate committee on territories has agreed to give the name of Lincoln to the new territory it is proposed to make out of Northern Dakota.

THE LESKER RESOLUTIONS HAVE AT LAST RETURNED FROM GERMANY AND THE GERMAN MINISTER AT WASHINGTON WILL HAND THEM TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, TOGETHER WITH BISMARCK'S LETTER DECLINING TO RECEIVE THEM.

THE OLD WORLD IN BRIEF.

CARDINAL COMPIETRO IS DEAD AT ROME.

The French have begun to advance on Bacin. The Parnellites intend to renew the agitation in Ireland at once. Nelli, who professed to know the murderers of Earl Leitrim, has been sent to a mad house. In southern Russia the Cossacks are violently resisting the efforts of the government authorities to collect taxes.

A party of destitute Austrians and Italians have arrived at Galveston from Mexico, where they were induced to emigrate by promises of land and assistance from the Mexican government which were not fulfilled.

BERLIN, March 7.—Tageblatt says Sargent will not be recalled until after the new president has been elected, when it is possible he will be appointed to St. Petersburg.

BOERS IN STALLAND ARE ADVANCING TO ATTACK MANKORDE. A British battalion has been ordered from Capetown.

DETROIT, March 7.—A special Chicago dispatch says the Phipps extradition case occupied the attention of Commissioner Hoyne yesterday. The commissioner said he was convinced from the evidence that Phipps did not shoot his wife on the Canadian side of the river. He was, however, in doubt as to his jurisdiction in the case. He would, therefore, certify to papers and send them to the attorney-general of the United States at Washington and let him pass upon the case.

DETROIT, March 7.—Frank Rande, who attempted to kill Deputy McDonald Saturday night and was placed in solitary confinement, hung himself last night. Rande's real name was Charles C. Scott. He is supposed to have murdered thirteen persons.

DETROIT, March 7.—Harris, lessee of the Drury Lane theatre was robbed at a hotel here of a check for a thousand pounds, a large quantity of bank notes and a diamond brooch.

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METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

TORONTO, MARCH 8, 1884.

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