

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1885.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We have sent out a large number of bills to subscribers in arrears, and up to date the returns have not been as large as they should be...

The Scotch crofters are determined to make it hot for Ross Winans, who sued a cottar for damages, for allowing a pet lamb to graze on his three hundred square mile estate...

The validity of the Provincial Act imposing a tax on banks, insurance companies and other corporations carrying on business in this province, occupied considerable of the time and attention of the Court of Appeal yesterday...

The Toronto Mail brings our unreliable evening contemporary to task for its ignorance on Irish matters and its attempt to sneer at Mr. Parnell's demand that grand juries be made elective...

by Dublin Castle. Mr. Parnell is simply saying that this absurd, unjust, and antiquated body be abolished, and the people permitted to enjoy that home rule in miniature which we in Canada prize so highly under the name of municipal government...

BRINGTON, the so-called unofficial representative of England at the Vatican, but who has been repudiated by the Government in the House on several occasions, appears to be again furnishing material for the press and cable correspondents...

Some interesting statistics regarding the comparative efficiency and earnings of labor in Great Britain and of other countries have been compiled by Mr. Jeans and put in the shape of a paper, which was recently read before the Statistical Society in London...

PROPERTY qualification for representation of the people in any of our public bodies is an anomaly that should be done away with. All experience goes to prove that the property qualification is an utter failure as a test either of fitness or solvency...

SECULAR AND MORAL TRAINING.

SOME of our contemporaries in Ontario are exceedingly anxious that the system of separate schools which exists in that province should be done away with.

They think that the national intelligence should be developed without any regard to religion, or that at the most if religious instruction must be imparted, it should be that vague and indefinite order which they call "sectarian" Christianity. A child educated without morals is a monster, and as morals depend on religion, then it is quite obvious not only that the child should be taught a definite and fixed system of belief, but that the spirit of his religion should be made to pervade all the exercises of the school and identify itself with his character...

ALIEN LANDLORDS IN AMERICA.

The American Congress has prepared a bill to prohibit aliens and foreigners from acquiring or owning lands within the borders of the United States. Already certain noblemen of Europe, principally from Great Britain, have acquired in the aggregate some twenty-one million acres of land in the United States...

The report on the bills points out that a considerable number of the immigrants annually arriving in the country are to become tenants and herdsmen on the vast possessions of these foreign lords under contracts made and entered into before they sail for our shores. The avarice and enterprise of European capitalists have caused them to invest many millions in American railroad and land bonds...

The guiding principle of Congress will be, that American soil should be owned exclusively by American citizens, and the present bill proposes in plain terms, and as a part of the national policy, to prevent absolutely the citizens or subjects of other nations, so long as they adhere to and retain their allegiance to foreign Powers, from acquiring the ownership of American soil within the jurisdiction of the United States...

IMMIGRATION AND INDEPENDENCE.

The great bulk of European emigration still flows towards the United States. The number that adopted the Republic as their home was almost ten times as large as the number that consented to settle in this Canada of ours during the past year. A colony is evidently not so attractive as a free and independent country. The one great obstacle in the way of Canada's rapid development is, beyond question or doubt, its colonial title, its dependence on the good will of a foreign country for the enjoyment of the constitutional privileges which have been accorded to it...

Europe. The sooner our statesmen come to recognize this fact the better for our broad uninhabited Dominion. Canada will never be much until there are some twenty-five million people in the country, and at our present rate of increase that will scarcely be before the middle of the next century. It might be at the close of the present century, if Europeans could look upon the name of Canada as entirely and unequivocally synonymous with national freedom and independence. The two words would be worth a host of immigration agents and would do their work more effectively...

Table with 3 columns: Countries, 1884, 1883. Lists immigration statistics for various countries including England and Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Austria, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and Dominion of Canada.

Even Canada is made to feel the great republic. It must not, however, be understood that the 45,504 who crossed over the lines were all native born Canadians. A large proportion of them were Europeans who came to Canada but did not elect to settle here.

THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE NILE EXPEDITION.

Gordon was made a prisoner in Khartoum on the 19th of January, 1884, and exactly one year from that date he heard the first gun fired for his rescue. After months of vacillation the Gladstone Government made up its mind to send out an expedition last summer for the purpose, and its command was conferred to General Lord Wolseley. The difficult problems involved in an advance to Khartoum were carefully studied, and there was no limit to the preparations for the effective execution of the plan...

As soon as the advanced guard of the expeditionary corps had reached Korti, a village on the Nile, Wolseley saw that it would be foolish to continue the Nile route any further, and a march across the desert must be confronted after all, with Shendi as the objective point. A force of 1,500 men was placed under the command of General Stewart, and they started on their perilous journey at the end of December last. The suffering of the troops in the march of 160 miles through a scorching desert are described as horrible and as entirely attributable to the extremely bad management of the water supply.

A large number of the troopers are said to have been kept in a state of semi-insanity half the time from thirst. Plenty of water ground was found at stated places, but it was impossible to reach it in most instances, because of some criminal negligence on the part of the commissary as that, for instance, of leaving the portable pumps behind, which was done at Korti. Some of the London journals tauntingly say that Wolseley has been far less careful about the water supply for his troops than he has been for the safety of the jams and marmalades.

It was in this condition and under these circumstances that General Stewart with his little army had to meet a numerous detachment of the Mahdi's followers on issuing from the desert near Matemneh. The Arab forces are said to have numbered from eight to ten thousand. The engagement was heavy and the fighting was furious, proving the natives to be no cowards, but ready to stand their ground until disabled or killed. After the first few volleys the battle became a regular hand-to-hand fight. Most of the Arabs were armed with spears and they rushed to close quarters, swarming over the bodies of their dead and wounded comrades. A press despatch says that at the first shock from the enemy the fate of the whole British force trembled in the balance, but the steadiness of the Guards, Marine corps and mounted infantry prevailed, and the Arabs were forced to retire. They left as many as eight hundred slain on the field, and the number of their wounded is estimated at two thousand. The British losses were nine commissioned officers

killed and nine wounded, sixty-five non-commissioned officers and men killed and eighty-five wounded. This loss is severely acknowledged by General Stewart in his official despatch, and is sufficient evidence that the battle was not a "mere walk over," but that victory had to be achieved by a plucky and obstinate fight all along the line. General Stewart is of the opinion or rather hopes that the success which has attended this first engagement will result in disheartening the Mahdi's troops to such an extent that all their future fighting may be of a less obstinate character.

AN EVENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

There has been no incident in modern Irish politics regarded with more absorbing interest and anxiety by both friends and foes of the national cause, than the recent Parliamentary nomination in Tipperary. The cable correspondents at the time dealt meagerly with the event which is destined to become memorable in Irish history, because it turned out favorable to the cause of union and self-government; but our Irish exchanges are brimful of the proceedings which threatened a national disruption, but ended in an unparalleled triumph for the people, the country, and their leaders. The crisis arose in this way: A writ was issued for the election of a member in the place of the late P. J. Smyth and a convention of delegates from a number of the National League branches of the county was held in Thurles. Previous to the convention it was publicly announced that it was the desire of Archbishop Croke and of Mr. Parnell that a tried Nationalist, in the person of John O'Connor, of Cork, should be invited to stand. Up to the day of the convention the name of no other candidate was mentioned and it was accepted as a foregone conclusion that the National nominee would receive the endorsement of the premier country. When the convention assembled, however, a Mr. O'Bryan of Cashel, a good speaker, and a strong supporter of the National party, was proposed and his selection was advocated on the ground that it was not necessary to go outside the constituency to seek for a fit and able representative. This argument led a majority of the convention to vote for the nomination of Mr. O'Bryan, and on the motion of Mr. O'Connor himself the nomination was made unanimous. Here all would have ended well, only for outside and foreign criticism. The result viewed and criticized from a distance had assumed a significance as terrible as it was unexpected.

The fact that the candidate recommended by the leader of the Irish party and by the patriotic Archbishop of Cashel, and stamped with their emphatic approval, had been rejected by a county convention of the National League, set the anti-Irish press on both sides of the channel almost beside themselves with joy. The long looked-for and desired split in the National ranks was at last about to take place. A pang of consternation went through the country and a yell of exultation passed through the ranks of its enemies. The Castle organ declared the event would strike a death blow at the dictatorship, which is a sine qua non of the Irish parliamentary party's "efficiency for mischief." The London Standard exclaimed that it "was one of national importance because it was a repudiation of the principle upon which hitherto the business of the patriotic agitation was successfully worked." Thus, gallant Tipperary, which is the very soul and centre of Irish nationality, was reckoned upon by the enemies of Ireland as an ally in the destruction of the power which has placed the people within measurable distance of the right to govern themselves. The men of Tipperary had given a direct snub to the leader of the Irish people. A few more elections resulting like this, in an apparent defiance of his advice and authority, would so shatter his influence that he would be disregarded by both the English parties in the House. The days of his power would in fact be numbered, and the Irish party once disunited would become a thing of the past. With these anticipations it was no wonder that the British and anti-national press had articles after article urging the men of Tipperary to maintain their reputation for independence, and to offer a manly and determined resistance to the dictation of Mr. Parnell, who was endeavoring to force an outsider on the county in preference to one of its own sons, whose candidature had been unanimously adopted at a representative convention. This howl of exultation and the eagerness of the exhortation to continue in its attitude of alleged defiance against Parnell soon aroused the people of Tipperary to the consequences of the ill-considered and ill-considered action of the convention. The moment they realized the construction put by Ireland's enemies upon the nomination of Mr. O'Bryan, they recoiled in horror from the imputation of revolt against the Irish leader and Archbishop Croke, with which they had been so suddenly credited. As an Irish exchange poetically put it, "the great heart of the county was wounded to the core by finding Tipperary patronised as an engine for the destruction of the National strength." Under these circumstances nothing but a complete and unconditional reversal of its action could remove the misconception which had been created, or blot the evil hopes of the enemy. A second convention was accordingly called, and a magnificent gathering responded to the summons. The whole 74 branches of the League in the county were fully represented, there being near 500 delegates present. Now came the time for weeping and gnashing of teeth in the camp of the enemy. They had been handling a boomerang and didn't know it. The blow that was to have dealt humil-

lation to Parnell and Archbishop Croke and wrecked the Irish party, rebounded with beautiful precision and effect, knocking all their gloating anticipations higher than a kite. Mr. O'Bryan, who had been the innocent cause of the crisis, came before the second convention and surrendered his claims in a manner, as Mr. Parnell characterized, that did honor to his head, his heart and his love for Ireland.

After a patriotic and eloquent speech, in which he protested against the imputation of revolt against the party and the cause that had been fastened upon his nomination, Mr. O'Bryan concluded in the following admirable strain: "I am here to surrender to the people of Tipperary in God's name and in my country's trust which was reposed in me in the very place where I now stand. Do not imagine, gentlemen, that I do so with the slightest feeling of pain, regret, or of sorrow. I was a proud man when you elected me, but the pleasure I felt on that evening was the pleasure of victory, and the pleasure of ambition, perhaps, satisfied; but the pride I feel at this moment is one which very few Irishmen will be permitted to feel—it is the pride which a true patriot ever feels—the pride of making a sacrifice (applause). Therefore, gentlemen, in vindication of my own principles and of yours, as an act to prove the unity and indivisibility of the Irish people in the Irish National cause, I give back to Tipperary what Tipperary has given to me (prolonged applause)."

PATRIOTISM AND DYNAMITE.

The anniversary of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, was celebrated last evening by a banquet under the auspices of the Caledonian Society of this city. The occasion was marked by an incident which had an unpleasant beginning, but which, we are happy to see, had a very satisfactory ending. The response to the toast of the evening was entrusted to the Rev. Dr. Stevenson. In his eloquent and charming tribute to the memory of Burns and to his poetic genius, Dr. Stevenson touched upon the question of patriotism. In a moment of indignation and horror at the terrible crimes which have been recently perpetrated in London, he denounced Irish patriotism with the inhuman use of dynamite, and attacked the Irish people with an unsparring hand, and denounced their patriotism which made it a duty to hate the rest of mankind. The language the speaker used was exceedingly strong, but it was also provokingly unjust and undeserved, and was certainly not in accordance with the Reverend Doctor's hitherto known sentiments. This is what he said—

"We had specimens of that just now in the patriotism that manufactured dynamite and made war on the human race for a fancy of its own, destroying innocent women and children in its revengeful fury—a patriotism which, because it wished to have a parliament house in a particular square, broke down, not only all political law, but all civilized and moral law. That was not patriotism at all. How was sure they would be rid before very long. The great heart of humanity would rise against it and put it down. It was not Great Britain, not the English alone who were attacked in this great war, but the interests of humanity and the world at large. Let them blow us up with dynamite a little longer and we would see whether we or they are stronger. If it was right that the Irish people should have a distinctive Irish parliament in God's name let them have it; if wrong let it be shown to be wrong. But let the war be a war carried on between men and not between fiends and men."

If such indiscriminate denunciation came from the Daily Witness or from some other unenlightened and prejudiced scribbler, no one would feel hurt at it, but coming from a man of Dr. Stevenson's stamp, whose liberality, breadth of view and culture are admitted by all, the above declaration was indeed a painful surprise. Dr. Stevenson made no distinction between the fiend and the Irish people. The shame of the irresponsible misdeed must rest upon the nation. Without a doubt, we have the chasms the perpetrators of these heinous outrages as Irishmen, forgetting, however, by every man must be deemed innocent until found guilty. But even admitting that the criminals were Irishmen, what justification, what reason, what ground is there to saddle the responsibility of their crimes upon the whole people and to threaten the nation with coercion and extermination? Have the Irish people commissioned or delegated in any shape or form this band of desperadoes to make war upon civilization and humanity? Decidedly not. The only agitation which the people at present sanction and encourage is a war upon England's misadministration of Irish affairs, and the battles of that war are fought against heavy odds in the light of day, on the public platform (when allowed) and on the floor of the House at every favorable opportunity.

What strikes us as a strange and inexplicable phenomenon, is the fact that Englishmen and anti-Irishmen are ever ready to recognize the heinousness of a crime and to place it to the discredit of the Irish people; while they absolutely refuse to heed the warnings of a constitutional agitation and govern themselves accordingly.

It is not a very wise or just policy to punish a nation for deeds which have its hearty disapprobation. It would be most undesirable to make an oppressed people, who are working out their regeneration and freedom by peaceable means and according to constitutional forms, feel that they must bear the consequences of an act whether it has the popular sanction or whether it is simply performed by irresponsible individuals. It might turn out to be a case of seeking the game as well as having the