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THE TRUE WITNESS

WILL BE SENT

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1886

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We are now sending out our subscription accounts to subscribers to THE POST and TRUE WITNESS, and we earnestly trust that our patrons receiving these accounts will make it a point to pay off their indebtedness at an early date.

BEER seems to be as much an article of British faith as it is of German. The force of the old ballad which invokes all that is pleasant on him who tries to rob a poor man of his beer seems not to have waxed weak in these days of enforced temperance and advocacy of prohibition.

THE spirit of the people of the United States, when the question of protection or free trade is at stake, is clearly defined. It was but reasonable that after all the teachings of David Wells and able economists of the free trade school have fallen flat on the country, the facile effervescence of a George should have failed to effect its conversion.

THE COMING STRUGGLE.

There is speculation afoot in Toronto in consequence of the visit of Sir John Macdonald and Mr. White. It is deemed nearly certain that on that visit depends the date of the general elections.

We have information, the trustworthiness of which cannot be questioned, and it is to the effect that Sir John Macdonald has absolutely decided that the general elections must come on immediately.

Let it be so. The campaign will be short and sharp, and the result will be decisive. There are many constituencies in which the Liberal nominations have not been made.

JOURNALISTIC MORALITY.

The course pursued in the Scottish Presbytery at Toronto by the Rev. W. Inglis, of The Globe, has afforded The Gazette an opportunity of reiterating the theory which apparently governs its editorial course, namely,

that political—and, for all the public knows, other—exigencies may be deemed to justify divergences from the truth. The mischief done to the press generally by the confession practically of The Gazette in past days is seen in the statement made by The Presbyterian Review, that "newspaper writers are men who get their bread and butter by lying."

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

The "Know-Nothing" party in the United States when it existed was the cause of a great deal of comment and a great deal of abuse from certain quarters. But it cannot be denied that there was in its constitution an underlying principle which was by no means calculated to prove detrimental to the interests of society.

1. An amendment to the naturalization laws limiting the suffrage to persons born in this country and of American parents.

2. The election of American-born citizens only to political organizations.

It is impossible not to be impressed with the fact that the first part of the plan is one that is rapidly growing in favor in the United States. More than that, there are frequently heard expressions of opinion in favor of checking the present almost reckless system of immigration.

MR. JUSTIN MCCARTHY.

Home Rule needs very little advocacy in this country. We possess it in its integrity, had to obtain it by bitter action, and are therefore not likely to have any doubts as to its necessity and its merits.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

The English are sluggish thinkers, but when the truth does burst on them, the force of their opinions or actions is not easily checked. Thus, in all probability, Home Rule for Ireland will be compelled by English determination to do right for wrongs to which they have long closed their eyes.

THE NEW YORK CONTEST.

More than local interest attached to the candidature of Mr. Henry George in New York. It was not merely the civic chair that was at stake, but a vital principle. The result has shown that notwithstanding the violence of faction, the good sense of the American people caused them to drop minor differences and unite in the presence of a common danger.

THE ENGLISH LIBERAL PLATFORM.

The sterling speech of Mr. Morley was endearing to those who have the cause of Home Rule at heart. It indicates that the policy of the Liberals will remain in the future as it has been in the past, and that there will be no flagging and no cessation in the efforts of the party to obtain the very just boon of self-government for Ireland.

A CRITIC CRITICISED.

The Mail, so named, we suppose, because it is an irrefragable medical Tory, undertakes to criticise the Liberal platform published in The Post—the other day, and which was deduced from the speeches of the Liberal leaders.

Every schoolboy knows, as Macanlay would say, that "manhood suffrage and the repeal of the Gerrymander and Franchise acts" means the placing of the franchise on an equitable basis.

The organ next objects to plank 2 and 3, viz.—"Taxation for revenue only" and "No taxation on the necessities of life." It says: "A tax that is for revenue only cannot be protective." We say it can and ought to be.

Plank 5 and 12—"No sale or lease of public property except by public auction" and "the land for settlers only"—are lumped together in the most unwarrantable manner by the organ.

Plank 6—"The Soot Act to be enforced wherever accepted by the people." The Soot Act is a Dominion enactment, and if it is not the right and duty of the Dominion to enforce the act, it had no right to pass it.

Plank 7—"Prohibits any senator or member of parliament from being personally interested in any contract with the Government." The Mail says "This is the law now. We know it is. But how about Tupper's jobbery with Ouderdonk and other like affairs?"

Plank 8—"Absolute independence of each province in its own sphere of action." Is met with "This is assured to-day. Who assured it? Was it not Mr. Mowat, after immense labor and expense in resisting the unconstitutional encroachments of the federal authority directed by Sir John Macdonald?"

Plank 10—"Reciprocity with the United States" means the exact reverse of Sir John Macdonald's policy of opposition to reciprocity.

Plank 11—"Arbitration in labor disputes" is, thanks again to Mr. Mowat, permissive under Ontario law. But the organ knows perfectly well that this question has bearings on federal jurisdiction which must be settled in some way.

Plank 12—"The right of Canada to make her own commercial treaties" is not "practically conceded already." Far from it. And until Canada can take the initiative for herself she cannot hope to open up foreign markets.

Again, the organ finds it convenient to lump the reorganization of the Senate and the reduction of the public expenditure—planks 4 and 9. It says, in effect, the Liberals are divided on the first and don't mean anything by the second.

The Mail had better reconsider this plank, and it may find that John Henry Pope's axiom that "There ain't nothin' to it" is not altogether a safe way to dispose of it.

MR. BLAKE AND HOME RULE.

Recent Irishmen who, like Mr. J. J. Curran, still cling to the Orange-Tory party, are endeavoring to excuse their treachery by questioning Mr. Blake's motives in proposing the Home Rule resolution last session.

WORDS, BECAUSE EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT HIS SYMPATHIES ARE WITH THE TORY PARTY.

"For Mr. Blake's motion they had no better name than bluntness; and for his motives no higher compliment than that paid the trimmer and the time-server. We are not called upon to pronounce upon Mr. Blake's motives, but we have to deal with his acts; and if the act tends to the object and serves the purpose, the motive has no concern for us.

This is the most tender and apologetic view that the personal friend and political supporter of Messrs. Costigan and Curran could take. But accepting it for what it is worth, it is not the true view of the matter, nor is it just to Mr. Blake.

When the Liberal leader was called upon by the deputation from the St. Patrick's Society of Ottawa and requested to move, after Mr. Costigan had declined to do so, he said he could not accept any invitation from anybody speaking for any particular sect, or class or nationality, in the community, either to act or abstain from acting upon a question of this description.

Mr. Blake further declared in Parliament that the Irish Catholics in the House had no right to arrogate to themselves the exclusive power to deal with the Home Rule question, and that they injured the cause by so doing.

During the debate Mr. Burns, of Gloucester, accused Mr. Blake of "trying to catch the Irish vote." In reply, he showed that the Irish population in his province were divided into Catholics and Protestants; that the Protestant section was largely composed of his strongest, sternest, fiercest political opponents.

Plank 9—"Absolute independence of each province in its own sphere of action." Is met with "This is assured to-day. Who assured it? Was it not Mr. Mowat, after immense labor and expense in resisting the unconstitutional encroachments of the federal authority directed by Sir John Macdonald?"

But there are considerations far above and beyond mere party or sectional prejudices which make the question of Home Rule for Ireland one of vital importance to the Empire.

MR. J. J. CURRAN AND IRISH REPRESENTATION. In view of the probable dissolution of Parliament and a general election, Irishmen in those constituencies where their right to representation is conceded should lose no time in selecting candidates on whose fidelity they can rely.

Among the seats conceded to Irish Catholics without question, Montreal Centre is by far the most important. To fill it properly we should have a man of first-class ability, high standing and distinguished record.

want go party, back, but one whose weight will be felt; when he takes a stand as the representative of Irish Catholic rights and interests.

Unfortunately, in the past Irish Catholics have reposed faith in men who, carried away by the association of party, were unfaithful to their trust; men who, in obedience to that higher duty which all Irishmen owe to a cause dearer than life, they have had to punish as all traitors must know they should be punished when they betray their people.

Nothing could give us greater pleasure than to point to Mr. J. J. Curran as a man who filled the bill in all particulars, and worthy again to receive the nomination and support of the people of Montreal Centre.

At a critical moment in our history, when all the world was moved in sympathy with Mr. Gladstone in his noble, constitutional effort to grant Home Rule to Ireland, when Irishmen everywhere, and even foreigners and foreign legislatures, were sending him resolutions of sympathy and approval, and Irishmen in Canada were looking to the Federal Parliament for a like expression of feeling, where was Mr. J. J. Curran?

We need not repeat the miserable story of the 4th and 6th May, 1886. Every Irishman in the country has possessed himself of the history of those days' proceedings in Parliament. They know that a deputation of the St. Patrick's Society of Ottawa called upon Mr. Costigan to move a resolution supporting Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule bill; that he declined to do so; that the deputation then preferred their request to Mr. Blake, who at once acceded to their wishes and moved the proposed resolution immediately afterwards.

And among those who were foremost in supporting that wretched amendment was Mr. J. J. Curran! He made a speech on the occasion—a speech which will stand forever as a monument of his subservency to Sir John Macdonald and the Tory party, but a monument also of his treachery to the Irish cause.

Mr. O'Brien, an implacable Orange-Tory, in the same debate (page 1152) said:

"I shall vote for the amendment of Mr. Costigan simply on this ground, that it is just the one resolution of all the three that I think is likely to have the least effect."

Who that has read that debate does not remember the scolding Mr. Curran received at the hands of two of that much maligned class, the "Scotch Grits," Mr. McMillin and Dr. Lunderkin, for his recalcitancy to the cause of Home Rule? Who does not remember Mr. Blake's scathing sarcasm in pointing out the singular argument between the Irish Catholic member for Montreal Centre and the Orange-Tory member for Muskoka?

We all know how the Costigan amendment was trumpeted by the anti-Home Rule organs in the Old Country, and the injury inflicted on Mr. Gladstone's measure as the deliberate expression of Canadian parliamentary opinion. Mr. Curran may extract what consolation he can from the applause of his Tory and Orange associates for the part he took in opposition to the desires and convictions of his Irish constituents, but they have inscribed his name on the traitors' roll, and he ought to know enough of his countrymen to be aware that his offense is one which can neither be forgiven nor forgotten.

Irish loyalty to principle above every other consideration, Irish unity in and out of Parliament, Irish superiority to the blandishments of political leaders, are what have made Home Rule the burning question with which British statesmen are now compelled to grapple. These characteristics have made Irishmen feared and respected, and any man pretending to uphold their cause, but failing to display them at the time when his voice and vote were needed, must prepare for the inevitable. He must step down and out, or submit to ignominious dismissal from those whose confidence he betrayed and whose trust he perverted to the purposes of party.

If Mr. Curran is wise he will not court condemnation at the hands of his countrymen by again presenting himself for election. He had an opportunity such as may never come again of showing his courage, his independence and his faithfulness to the Irish cause. He might have placed himself in a position in the hearts of his countrymen where he could defy the assaults of all enemies. But he lost it; yes, he did worse than lose it. He deliberately accepted the Orange-Tory badge, preferred party to principle, and he must not complain should the people who prize that principle above every thing on earth tell him to go to his party, that they are done with him; that he has made his choice; they will make their own man to send to parliament of whom it cannot be said that he betrayed them. Even did Mr. Curran possess qualifications