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SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 16 1886.

Malignant Misconceptions.

The World was one of the first journals in the country to give a favorable reception to Archbishop Tache's plea for leniency to the misguided participants in Riel's crime. It was the only paper, who are now repeating their offense in the Manitoba penitentiary, but we were careful to say that we repeat now, while much should be done for mercy's sake, nothing should be done to stimulation. The reasons for this attitude are obvious. These Indians and halfbreeds, children of nature, are not to be judged by the same strict standard as men of the world, of whom Riel was one. He had enjoyed the advantages of education, had traveled, and had associated with the intelligent classes of both the English and the French speaking races. For these attainments he found no better use than the trade of doctoring and medicine leading those of his own people whose ignorance, artlessness and superstition rendered them an easy prey to his selfish ambition and superior knowledge. Nevertheless it would never have done to have entirely condoned the lawless acts of the aides and Hottentots among either the Indians or the Metis, nor will it do now to commute their penalties at such a time or in such a manner as to convey the impression that fear and not generosity inspired the act of clemency. The quality of mercy must not be strained through any such medium. The department of justice should be approached in the usual and proper way, as it is approached in the case of white offenders. We feel assured that so approached the department will lend a willing ear to petitions on behalf of the Northwest convicts, with the entire approval of Canadians of all classes.

Either from sheer fatuity or from a desire to embarrass the executive, the Globe has adopted a policy calculated to throw difficulties in the way of those who propose to ask clemency for the prisoners. It argues that every one who joins in such a petition thereby admits the responsibility of the government for Riel's crime and per consequent the impropriety of his execution. To say nothing of the quality of this logic, which is quite up to the Globe's usual standard, it is apparent that if that journal desired to close the avenue of hope to the prisoners it could have adopted no course better designed to that end. The Globe has apologized for Riel and his followers, and has lampooned the participants in their suppression from Gen. Middleton down to Capt. Howard. It is not possible, therefore, to infer that, in assuming the extraordinary attitude which we have described, it is inspired by covert malignity against the unfortunate men confined in the Manitoba penitentiary, and that while professing solicitude for their pardon it is really anxious to render their pardon impossible. No. Its motives are of the most cordial and disinterested, as they have been throughout. So long as there was a possibility of Riel's escape it clamored for his blood. So soon as his blood was forfeited the law demanded atonement for that blood. It was demanded that the Northwest prisoners be set free. Now that there is a prospect of their pardon it puts upon the government's probable policy toward them a construction designed to arouse party prejudices and to render difficult the broadest purposes of those who seek mercy for mercy's sake and not for party purposes. There will be found in the history of Canadian journalism no other example of such disregard for the amenities and decorum of public life. The French organs have been at least consistent in their violence and unreasonableness, which cannot be said of what was once, but no longer is, the chief organ of Montreal opinion in Canada. It is a maliciously misconstrued the situation throughout.

A Newspaper Democrat Getting Excited.

The New York Sun is pleased to say that we have discussed the fishery question in such a way as to lead it to believe that our ignorance of the subject is unfathomable. This paragraph of ours it quotes:

"As how Tweed might have said, what are they going to do about it? Let them denounce and they may the treaty of Washington, and the Halifax award, the fact remains that it is within three days from this date. Will President Cleveland and his cabinet deliberately and formally repudiate a solemn international treaty now acknowledged to be in force, on the ground that on that condition their predecessors made a bad bargain? Soberly, we should say that it is not that they should believe that they must shrink from taking this extreme course in the bottom of the nation now exhibited by the New England fishermen and their most conspicuous advocates."

To which the Sun replies:

The Toronto World seems to imagine that the three-mile limit clause of the treaty of 1818 is what the American fishermen dread and protest against. As a matter of abstract right, the old American interpretation of the inshore fishery clause in the treaty of 1818 is well worth contending for; but the practical value of the inshore fisheries to Gloucester and Walford and Portland shippers is a thing of the past. Our codfish and halibut fisheries are on the ocean banks, miles outside of Canadian jurisdiction. The schooners which go into British waters in the winter after herring by the fish of the Canadians who have seized them. They are purchased just as quickly for salt and are purchased by the American fishermen from the coast people of Newfoundland, and any Canadian interference with these commercial transactions would simply be to deprive Canadians of their means of livelihood. The market taken in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are no longer plentiful enough to make the Gulf attractive or very profitable waters for American fishermen. It is changing their habits, the market have changed the international aspects of the fishery question.

What are we going to do about it? Well, if congress takes the sensible view of the matter, we are going to give the herring of the sea who sail from Cape Ann and Cape Cod and Cape Elizabeth the same protection in home markets as is afforded to other American industries of equal importance. This will be done by declining

to be involved, under the guise of reciprocity, in another arrangement whereby we give so very much more than we get. The fish convention is practically a sham, although the Canadian fisheries are worth something to American fishermen in time past, yet they are no longer. The fish worth going for are on our coast banks, miles outside of British jurisdiction. If, in these things, we have wonderfully changed within ten years or less. The Halifax commission awarded to Canada five millions and a half consideration for the privilege to American fishermen of coming within limits which are now declared to be the fishery of the United States. Our neighbors had fault with that award, but we submit that it could not possibly have been made without evidence of a very material and practical kind to sustain it. The Halifax commission dealt with facts, and the facts must have been there to give at least some show of color to the award.

In such "unfathomable ignorance" as the Sun implies to us we must share and share alike with some distinguished authorities. The Halifax commission, for instance, which had its American representation, it is true, but we see it now, the gulf stream has altered its course somewhat, or the police current, or both, and the fish have taken to new tracks. All this may be, but, if so, we would like to have it established by competent scientific authority. The Sun implies that some such change has taken place, for it says that the value of certain inshore fisheries to American fishermen is now a thing of the past. It once was, but it is not now. On this question let us have a report from the navy department at Washington, also one from our own department of marine and fisheries at Ottawa. The Sun by implication admits that what we say would have been given some years back; give us the reasons why it is not true now. They must be scientific reasons, too; reasons political or literary are worthless in this connection.

Except, let us add, for throwing light on the Sun's motives. The Sun is a misbegotten democratic paper, which makes no opportunity of giving a stab to the democratic president who now sits in the White House. This is an old trick with our swampy contemporary. In the contest of 1880 it damned Hancock with false praise, and said that he was a pretty good man, weighing about 250 pounds. Last fall it supported Butler. It could not support Blaine, of course, but anything that could be done to beat Cleveland it did. And all this was done by an alleged democratic paper! "Save us from our friends," by all means, if they be of the Sun stamp. But let us get down to the bottom of it all, if we can. President Cleveland and Secretary of State Bayard have given mortal offense to a certain misbegotten section of the democratic party, for which the Sun now speaks. They have given vengeance, and now they have mounted the unbridled American fishery horse, intending, if the horse should prove big enough and strong enough, to ride down Cleveland and Bayard together. They are likely to have an exciting and eventful ride of it. John Gilpin's record will be nowhere by the time they get through.

Mr. Blake at London.

Contact with the public men of England would seem to have improved Mr. Blake's style, for his speech of Thursday night was not only elegant and well-delivered, but it avoided the involved and long sentences of some of his former efforts. Furthermore, like all the modern British political discourse it was short. Perhaps these merits are due to the fact that it was carefully prepared and read almost as much as delivered.

The address was pitched in a high moral key, mislabeled throughout, indeed almost developing at the end into the same old peroration of the pulpit, namely, that if they did not reap the crop in this life surely they would be a great and sure reward hereafter. But politics deal with the here and now, and different from this, and Mr. Blake was outside of politics in closing as he did.

Still it was an admirable effort and any country ought to be proud of a man who can talk and think like Mr. Blake. His followers, therefore, approached the address. His declaration that he did not seek office through the blood of Riel was thoroughly honest, but it was at the same time a complete repudiation of the Globe and the policy. His other declaration that he did not desire office at the expense of an outworn alliance based on creed or race antipathies was also thoroughly honest, but at the same time a complete repudiation of Mr. Edgar's address to the Relief of Quebec. Most eloquently did Mr. Blake walk his hands of the Globe and Edgar and many a reformer breathes easier for that sublimity sake. The Mail's tactics in just the opposite direction came in for well-earned rebuke.

Mr. Blake's position was so broad and yet so direct that conservatives as well as reformers can do and subscribe to it. He will not appeal to the prejudices of race and creed, he will not even appeal to party lines and party cries. He was wholehearted in the full development of the facts, and then endeavor to give a verdict on the whole matter. He is bent in sifting it to the bottom, but not on forming a verdict and indulging in incendiary appeals before that sifting process has been completed.

Lombard Street Property.

Attention is called to the advertisement of the Ontario Industrial Loan and Investment company, offering for sale the chief part of Lombard street, between Church and Victoria streets, in the very centre of the city. It was thought that the contemplated new music hall would have been built on part of it, but that project is in the meantime abandoned. The property is now offered for general purposes. As the company has already expended large sums to improve the centre of the city it does not feel at liberty to proceed further in this direction. The citizens at large are interested in the use to which this site may be devoted. Several offers have been made for sites for factories but the company will reluctantly begin to lease or sell for such objects, as once the character of the street has been determined by the erection of any large building it cannot be altered. It would be unfortunate if, alongside of the best buildings and chief business centres, industries should be established that would cheapen the locality. Who can suggest the best use for this street?

Hon. David Mills is reported as having said at the Blake banquet that he "did not understand" why the independent press is so called. We are free to admit that there may be several other explanations. Mr. Mills cannot understand, but we do not believe that this is one of the things

that accord his capacity. Mr. Mills' paper is called grid because it is grid, and in like manner The World is called independent because it is independent. Mr. Mills' paper is a party organ because it never criticizes any act of one party and never approves any act of the other party. The World is not called a party paper, because it frequently disapproves or approves, as the case may be, of the acts of both parties. If Mr. Mills' theory that every newspaper which publishes a government advertisement is corrupt, the London Advertiser must be steeped to the date line in corruption, and the thousands of dollars which Mr. Mills has personally drawn from this public fountain must be charged up against his immortal soul. Mr. Mills should think of these things, and he should not do his thinking with his mouth, either, as he is too prone to do.

A number of our United States contemporaries are wrought with Germany for selling intelligence which has been used to the nominal protection of the great republic, but as the republic has no navy to speak of it is difficult to see how the union is going to help itself.

Col. Ingersoll's Visit.

Editor Toronto World: It becomes our duty as directors of the American Secular Union, of which Col. Robert G. Ingersoll is president, to deny as wholly false and gratuitous the malicious piece of defamation lately published in an insignificant Cleveland sheet called the Sentinel Age, and reprinted in your newspaper. The allegation is that Col. Ingersoll pocketed from the proceeds of his own lecture a balance which he claimed he had agreed should go into the treasury of the union. No such agreement was ever made by Ingersoll. If any such understanding existed, it was a misunderstanding, for which the secretary of the union is alone responsible. The lecture, though given in the course of the proceedings of the convention, was independently conducted, independently advertised, and the whole independently paid for by Colonel Ingersoll's agent. It was never made a part of the truth, it is in spirit the direct opposite of the truth. At the Cleveland convention of the American Secular Union, a few weeks previous to the Ingersoll convention in Albany, Colonel Ingersoll met and settled the whole deficit, and in each case he, a private individual, donated more than the combined subscriptions of both cities. Moreover, in addition to this liberality, Colonel Ingersoll agreed, under certain conditions, to contribute \$1000 toward the campaign fund of the Secular Age, but all the way through has been only one of noble generosity, and nothing but an honest right would put any other construction on his conduct.

COURTLANDT FARMER, TREASURER, SAMUEL F. PUTNAM, SECRETARY, E. M. MACDONALD, Chairman Fin. Com. C. B. REYNOLDS, Chairman Ex. Com. New York, Jan. 14, 1886.

Where the Moral Kettle Can be Applied.

Editor World: Let this be the last of the following suggestion, and would like very much to hear your opinion on the matter. I for one think that Mayor Howland would perform an act of lasting good to the city generally if he would persuade the city council to pass a bylaw forbidding the granting of billiard and pool licenses to saloon keepers. Our youth is subject to too much temptation as it is, not to need more. There is many a young man who has been playing billiards in a saloon, and has ended by becoming a drunkard. Billiard parlors are all very well in their way, but when considered in connection with whiskey they are the worst. For my part I think it would have done much more good to Toronto if, instead of passing the grocery and liquor bylaw two years ago, the city council had passed a bylaw forbidding the granting of billiard and pool licenses to saloon keepers. Our youth is subject to too much temptation as it is, not to need more. 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