

## Ontario Cannot

THE PROTESTANT CLERGY MAL-  
IGNED BY PROFESSIONAL  
AGITATORS.

If the opponents of Sir Oliver Mowat tell the truth, the Protestant clergy of the Province of Ontario have been guilty of the gravest dereliction of duty.

The charge made against Sir Oliver Mowat is that he has conspired to sell the liberties that all Protestants prize, and it is maintained that Protestantism must go down unless Sir Oliver is made to stand aside, and let these professional Protestants take the place of his Government.

Despite the bitter declamation against Sir Oliver, the overwhelming proportion of the guardians of Protestantism decline to be moved by the plaintive wails of the men who have raised sectarian cries as the best means of promoting their political fortunes.

Last Sunday, in this good city of London, and for several Sundays previously, the ADVERTISER had representatives in every leading Protestant church in London, with the object of ascertaining how much influence the professional agitators had with the natural guardians of Protestant liberties. These representatives found that no alarm whatsoever existed among the Protestant preachers. The preachers had not ascertained that Ald. Coe, Assessor McCoubrey and Barrister R. M. C. Tothel had decreed that unless the Toronto candidate for the representation of London were elected the whole Protestant fabric would topple to the ground. These preachers were apparently ignorant of the contention that the beautiful Scripture selections approved of by the representative of all the Protestant Church bodies showed on every page, according to the Protestantism, that the Pope controlled those who agreed to the compilation! These preachers had not ascertained that the new Protestantism consisted in repelling the Golden Rule. These leaders in the community had not reached the conclusion, at which the professional Protestants have arrived, that the proper way to commend Protestantism to our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens is to preach a Gospel of Hate, or at least a Gospel of Worry and Misrepresentation.

So it is throughout the entire Province. The recognized Protestant leaders, who do not make political capital of their Protestantism, decline to join in the Unholy Crusade. Not half a dozen clergymen have openly adopted the tactics of those who are assailing Sir Oliver Mowat, while hundreds of them—many formerly Conservatives—are supporting the Grand Old Man of Ontario, as worthy of all the honors that every section of the community, no matter where its members may worship their Maker, can bestow.

Does anyone doubt the Protestantism of Principal Austin, of Alma College, St. Thomas? or of Principal Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston? or of Principal Burns, of Hamilton Wesleyan College? or of Principal Cochrane, of Brantford College? or of Principal Hare, of Whitby College? or of Principal Caven, of Knox College? These men are at the head of the institutions in which the rising generation obtain their grounding in Protestantism of the best type, and they unitedly assert that they have the utmost confidence in the Protestantism of the present Government of Ontario and are giving it their hearty support. Does anyone doubt the Protestantism of Rev. Dr. Dewar, editor of the Christian Guardian, the organ of the great Methodist Church of Canada? Dr. Dewar has no misgivings as to Sir Oliver's orthodoxy, and is satisfied that all classes of the community are given fair play by his Administration. So it is with the stalwart Protestant divine who controls the Canada Presbyterian; with the editor of the Canada Baptist, the organ of that ever-vigilant Protestant body, and with hundreds of other clergymen in all the great denominations into which Protestantism in Ontario is divided.

If it were true that the Premier of Ontario is the man that he is represented to be by the Coos and the Tothels, of the Meredith contingent, then ought he to be driven out of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is a respected elder. But many hundreds of Protestant clergymen in this Province are either supporting Sir Oliver Mowat or decline to be led into making a crusade against him on the ground that Protestantism would be better served by Mr. Meredith than by Sir Oliver; by John A. Leitch than by Hon. Geo. W. Ross; by Wm. Hancock than by Hon. J. M. Gibson. But if the terrible stories told against the Ontario Government, either in secretly circulated sheets, in unscrupulous Conservative newspapers, in private canvass, or on the platform, are only half true,

## Afford to Dismiss

what a recreant set the Protestant clergy of the Province must be! The stories are not even half true, and those who make them know it as well as the Protestant clergy do who decline to enter upon a crusade so utterly unwarranted. It is no use to mince words in dealing with the matter. In no country is Protestantism more alert to assert its principles than in this much-favored Province. But the natural, the selected, Protestant leaders in Ontario decline to join in the present outcry because on a previous occasion many of them were fooled. They were misled by the professional Protestants, who kept their zeal for Protestantism at fever heat until Mr. Meredith was hopelessly beaten, and then retired from the business. Now that another election is on, these emissaries are on deck once more with their cries revamped to look as fresh as played-out cries can be made to appear. Who are the men who raise these sectarian cries? Are they leaders in Christian work? Is it not a fact that nine out of every ten of them rarely darken a church door, and that they would far rather attend a cock fight than set a foot within a Sunday school? We know who the professional Protestants are in London. When they do not correspond with the description given above, they are office-seekers who think that the promulgation of these cries may prove the shortest cut to a job.

Even Mr. Meredith, with all his protestations of unselfish devotion to the Protestant faith, has never been known as a church worker. It is not upon record that any convention of the Protestant community has ever met and called upon him to act as their guardian against the machinations of Sir Oliver Mowat, whose Protestantism he so unfairly assails. It is upon record, though, that Mr. Meredith was a party to the issuing of a campaign document, known as "Facts for the Irish Electors," in which an endeavor was made to prove to the Catholic electors that Sir Oliver was much too zealous a Protestant to suit the Catholic community, and it was argued that Mr. Meredith alone could do for the Catholics what Sir Oliver Mowat refused to do.

Sir Oliver Mowat's patriotic policy of fair play to all classes and creeds has not changed. Mr. Meredith's line of action has changed, and no one knows what Mr. Meredith's policy will be a few months hence.

These are the reasons why the natural leaders of the Protestants of Ontario decline to join Mr. Meredith in his ill-founded outcry. These are some of the reasons why the large majority of the electors will continue to support the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat.

### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Discusses the Augmentation Scheme—  
London Chosen as the Assembly's  
Next Meeting Place.

St. John, N. B., June 18.—The assembly enjoyed a very pleasant excursion up the river Saturday afternoon by the kindness of the Board of Trade, and a grand reception in the evening in the Mechanics' Institute by the Women's Home Mission Society of St. John Presbytery.

This morning the resolution requiring graduating students and ministers received from other churches to serve one year before settlement was sent to the Presbyteries and college senates to consider and report to the next assembly.

Augmentation matters were discussed further. Ministers are required to present the claims of the scheme to the congregations and report results to the presbyteries.

Rev. C. W. Gordon, just returned from advocating the Northwest missions in Scotland, gave an interesting account of the work.

Rev. W. M. Wilson, formerly of Chatham, N. B., brought greetings from the Church of Scotland.

Winnipeg and London both invited the assembly next year. The vote being taken, London was accepted.

A large deputation of the deanery of St. John from the Church of England appeared with Christian greetings to the assembly.

Rev. Messrs. Schofield, Raymond and Desoyes spoke eloquently and sympathetically, expressing high esteem and goodwill for the Presbyterian Church in the great work in which she is engaged.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Herriago, who spoke eloquently in reply, and seconded by Rev. A. S. Murray, of London, a suitable reply was adopted. Rev. Principal Caven also spoke in his own admirable way. The reference on both sides to the question of union and the spirit of unity and the obstacles in the way of organic union of the churches were full of good sense. Recognizing frankly the spirit of unity and recognizing doctrines of Christianity and recognizing each other as parts of one great Christian church, and bidding each other god-speed as expressed by Mr. Desoyes in the old version of the 111th Psalm: "We have wished you good luck, ye that are of the house of the Lord." The moderator replied, when the assembly sang "Blest be the tie that binds."

A deputation was also received from the Baptist ministers of St. John and neighborhood conveying hearty greetings.

The coal strike in Illinois is probably at an end.

## Sir Oliver Mowat

NO INTIMIDATION

Attempt to Bulldoze the Returning  
Officer.

The True Inwardness of the Polling  
Place Dispute.

Sheriff Cameron Does His  
Whole Duty to the People.

The Election Might Have Been Invalid-  
ated but for the Sheriff's Firmness.

The citizens of London will be at a loss to account for the neglect of city business which the all-night wrangle over the location of the Provincial election polling booths exemplified. It was understood that the chief business of the aldermen on Monday night was to finally dispose of the electric railway franchise, and set the industry of electrifying and extending the lines humming, so that the workmen of London might be provided with employment that so many of them stand in need of. Instead of that the council spent many hours wrangling over the location of the polling booths—a task that the mayor should have called upon them to undertake long ago, if it were deemed advisable to undertake it at all.

In order to properly understand this question, it is necessary to give the election law on the subject and a statement of the action of the returning officer on the one hand and the mayor on the other.

The law as to polling places is as follows:

1. The returning officer shall also, on receiving the writ of election, fix one polling place for each subdivision into which a city, town or other local municipality is subdivided, in the most central and convenient place for the electors of such subdivision. But the number of polling places now required by law in cities and towns shall in no case be diminished (except as hereinafter provided), and the polling places shall be at least 100 yards distant from each other in cities, towns and incorporated villages, and at least one mile distant from each other in other local municipalities.—55 V. c. 3, s. 38 (1), 57 V. c. 5, s. 1.

2. A returning officer may in his discretion grant such additional polling places in any polling subdivision as the extent of the subdivision and the remoteness of any body of its voters from the polling place render necessary.—55 V. c. 3, subdivision 38 (2) (By 57 Vic., cap. 5, sec. 2, the following subsection is added):

2a. In cities the returning officer may in his discretion unite two or more adjoining polling subdivisions and fix one polling place for the united subdivision; provided always that such united polling subdivision shall not contain more than 200 voters.

3. The building in which the poll is held shall not be a tavern or place of public entertainment, and there shall be free access to the poll for every elector.

4. In cities, unless the municipal council provides suitable polling places at its own expense, the returning officers shall provide the same, and the expense thereof not exceeding \$8 for each polling place, shall be paid by the treasurer of the city, upon the order of the returning officer.—55 V. c. 3, s. 38 (3, 4.)

Then the statutes provide for the following proceedings at the close of the nominations:

1. When at an election a poll has been granted, the returning officer, immediately after having granted a poll and before adjourning his proceedings, shall publicly proclaim from the hustings the day previously fixed in and by his first proclamation, and the places at which the poll shall be opened in every polling subdivision or ward, as the case may be, for the purpose of then and there taking and recording the votes of the electors, according to law, and the place where and the time when the returning officer shall sum up the number of votes given to the several candidates.

None of these provisions of the law can the returning officer, as an officer of the Crown, fail to observe on pain of penalties and of upsetting any election that may take place. Has Sheriff Cameron done his whole duty, and nothing but his duty? Most certainly he has. Let us give the facts:

Sheriff Cameron received the writ on June 1, and he issued his proclamation for an election immediately. It was posted up at the City Hall, as required by law, on June 4. While proceeding to make minor arrangements, the sheriff delayed fixing upon polling places till Tuesday, June 12, so that the City Council, if it had so desired, had ample time to provide him with the necessary booths. Before the meeting of the council, the returning officer sent Deputy Sheriff Glass to the city clerk to obtain necessary certificates, but the city clerk, being busy arranging the council programme, requested Mr. Glass to delay for a day. Within two days after that time, Mr. Glass returned to the office of the city clerk, and on request was furnished by Mr. Kingston with a copy of the list of polling places used in the municipal elections in January last, to be used as a basis for compiling the Provincial list of polling places. Not till the 12th of June did the sheriff start out to make the arrangements for the polling places, and to inspect the premises as required by law. He was accompanied by his bailiff (Mr. Graham), and the tedious work of location was accomplished in three days, with the exception of those places for which the occupants could not give a definite answer. The day after, on Friday, June 15, at 3:30 p.m., Mayor Esary wrote to the returning officer intimating

## ---Principal Grant.

that he intended to suggest to the council last (Monday) evening that it should provide the necessary polling booths. Sheriff Cameron immediately replied that, as the council had failed to provide the necessary polling places, he had proceeded to obey the law and had selected suitable places himself.

From this statement it will be seen that Sheriff Cameron has followed out the strict letter of the law, and in delaying action in regard to the selection of polling booths till the latest reasonable hour, has carried courtesy towards the civic authorities to the extreme.

The fact is that Sheriff Cameron has not deviated in any particular from the procedure of the late Sheriff Glass, who for over 34 years acted as returning officer in elections in this city. For nineteen years the provision in reference to the selection of the polling places has been on the statute books, and in every one of the Provincial elections since 1875 up to and including 1890, Sheriff Glass selected the polling places in precisely the same manner as that pursued by his successor on the present occasion. The late Sheriff Glass was a methodical, careful man, and he kept a written record of all these matters, which, on the suggestion of Deputy Sheriff Glass, was consulted by Sheriff Cameron as soon as he was selected as returning officer. From that record it was found that even in 1890, when everyone knew that there was to be no contest in the city, Sheriff Glass made no change in his procedure. Many days before the nomination the late sheriff had chosen the polling places and duly inspected them, and no one in civic authority objected to his procedure. It is only when Sheriff Cameron is the returning officer that an eleventh-hour attempt is made to have proceedings taken by him that might invalidate the election. Think of the absurdity of the contention made by the Conservative wire-pullers in the council who caused to provide a new list of polling places, and refused to even consult in advance their Liberal associates at the aldermanic board! First, we have Mayor Esary merely informing the returning officer that at the eleventh hour before the nomination, he will "suggest" to the council that a departure be taken from the methods pursued for the past nineteen years! Then we have the City Council majority passing a list of polling places in the early hours of nomination morning, and asking the returning officer to substitute it for the one legally provided for by him. Suppose the sheriff had accepted this caucused list, there is no guarantee that it was one which could be relied upon. Indeed, we know that the owner of one of the premises chosen by the council had previously positively refused to permit his place to be used on polling day. Besides, the returning officer is bound by law, as stated above, to see that the polling places are properly situated, as well as actually available, and he must announce the list of polling places on nomination day. How could he inspect the whole of the polling places selected by the council between the hour of 2:25 a.m., when the council adjourned, and the hour for holding nominations on the same day—even supposing he had been disposed to lose his night's rest to be at the beck of men who should have acted in reasonable time, or not at all?

Sheriff Cameron has kept well within his legal duty, and has very properly refused to be intimidated into a departure therefrom. The list of polling places chosen by him will stand.

### OLD WORLD NEWS.

#### An Elevated Railway!

LONDON, June 18.—The project to build a railroad to the top of the Jungfrau, 13,668 feet high, is likely to be carried out if the Swiss Government approves. This will be the most ambitious scheme of railroad building ever undertaken. The promoters offer to spend \$20,000 to build an observatory at the summit and man it if the Government grants the concession.

#### The Fossils Will Fight.

LONDON, June 19.—A meeting of Conservatives was held yesterday. The Duke of Westminster presided. A committee was formed to conduct the campaign against the disestablishment of the church in Wales. It was agreed to contest every constituency in Wales in the general election. The Duke of Westminster subscribed \$5,000 and a total of \$25,000 was raised.

#### A Dig at Rosebery.

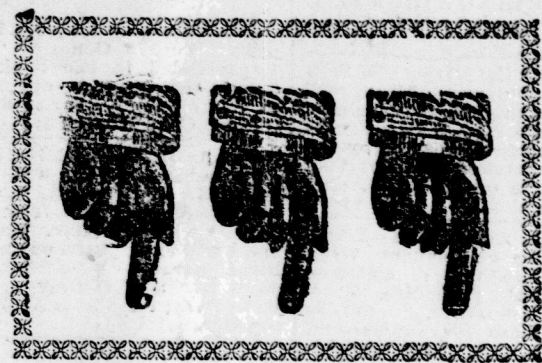
LONDON, June 18.—Dr. Percival, master of Rugby, preached in Westminster Abbey last night, taking as his text "Am I My Brother's Keeper." In the course of his sermon he referred to Lord Rosebery and horse racing, and said that the whole world appeared to have taken Cain's word as a motto. When an English nobleman patronized the turf, with its weedy growth of dishonesty and degradation, simply to gratify a feeling for excitement and did not use an effort nor stir a finger to reform it, he came under the same condemnation.

### CONCISE CULLINGS.

Four cases of small-pox were discovered in the annexed district of New York on Sunday.

Some 10,000 miners in Kansas will go on a sympathetic strike next Thursday. The strike is to force a settlement in Missouri and the Indian Territory.

Ask your grocer for the new Fire Kindler.



THE

# BANKRUPT

## STOCK

OF

## Spittal, Burn

AND

## Gentleman

HAS BEEN

# Removed

TO

# KINGSMILL'S

128 and 130 Dundas Street,

130 and 132 Carling Street

LONDON, - - ONTARIO.