

THE AYLESFORD UNION.

"That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel"—PAUL.

AYLESFORD, N S., APRIL, 1897.

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THE MONTH.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher died on March 8th.

The fifty-fifth Congress of the United States assembled at Washington on March 15th.

Dominion Parliament opened on March 25th with the usual blow of trumpets and blazo of cannons.

The gold output from Nova Scotia mines for 1896 is placed at half a million and confidence is expressed that the yield for 1897 will be twice that amount.

Things are not as pacific in South Africa as could be desired. President Kruger of the Transvaal encouraged by that bumptious youth, the Kaiser, seems indisposed to keep faith with Great Britain. British supremacy in South Africa is, however, too important a point of the nation's foreign policy to be lightly relinquished and unless the big Boer mends his ways he will find somebody after him that will shake his little republic worse than the Jamieson raiders.

Canada now enjoys the questionable distinction of being the only country except Roman Catholic Spain which has a representative of the Holy Roman Empire at court. It was acknowledged on the floors of the House of Commons at Ottawa on March 30th that the Holy Father's preference to Canada was the direct result of a written appeal borne to Rome by Canada's Solicitor-General and signed by five Cabinet Ministers, including the Premier, and 45 Senators and Commoners. If we must acknowledge Canadians are incompetent to govern their own country, could not a wiser choice be made than of one whose assistance was three centuries ago rejected by the mother country at the battle's point?

Another scene of the *Prohibition Farce* has been enacted. With full constitutional powers to legislate thereon, and the fresh memory of a provincial plebiscite in which the people declared overwhelmingly by their wishes in the matter, our legislators have shut the legislative doors and gone home to ask what their constituencies want them to do. It is to be hoped that the temperance people will so emphasize their point this time that there will be no doubt as to their meaning.

For those who decline to believe that we have a Rome muzzled press we commend the careful reading of Rev. Wm. E. Hall's letter in the *Messenger and Visitor* of March 3rd in which he tells of the refusal of the *Chronicle, Echo, Herald and Mail* to publish an inoffensive account of Dr. Fulton's Sunday evening service in the Tabernacle church, while each of the above-named papers opened their columns to criticisms adverse to the Rev. Dr. The *Recorder* alone had sufficient independence to give space to Mr. Hall's composition.

The famine and plague still continue their work in India but the opinion seems to prevail that the latter is rather on the decline. The British government is unremitting in its heroic efforts to save its Indian subjects and it is said that the expenditure for this purpose has reached a daily average of nearly \$125,000. With this the effort is being made to keep alive forty millions who are entirely destitute and fifty millions more who are in the earlier stages of the famine and must soon become wholly dependent unless the Lord sends the long withheld rain.

Canada's contribution to the Indian Famine Fund is nearing the \$100,000 mark, over \$50,000 of which has been contributed through the Montreal Star office alone. Never before in the history of the country has any similar demand called forth such a generous response. Beyond bearing evidence to the general philanthropy of our people this is also regarded as significant of the growing spirit of imperialism. In other words Canada has extended the hand of help to India largely because she recognized in her a suffering sister to whom she is bound by ties of common interest and in bonds of a common Empire.

On the morning of March 12th John E. Sullivan met the law's demand for his bloody night's work at Meadow Brook last fall. He went to his doom with

Buck-like stoicism, being "prepared" for the end by the same Father Confessor. If Roman Catholicism does not degrade, sensualize and brutalize humanity, will somebody explain why over 80 per cent. of our murderers are Catholics, while only 42 per cent. of our population are of that faith?

The Dingley Tariff Bill now before Congress bears the stamp of the same mint as the old McKinley bill and unless greatly amended will discriminate even more severely against Canada. At any rate it has destroyed all hope of anything like the *inmediate establishment of reciprocal trade relations* between the two neighbors. A Republican government at Washington is not calculated to help forward a Liberal policy at Ottawa.

The Cretan question is still the question of the hour in Europe. The concert of the powers has proven effective in at least restraining serious hostilities between the insurgents and the Moslems. Crete and Greece are alike loud in their demands that they be left free to effect a union. The old martial spirit of the race which has slumbered for centuries seems once more to have sprung into life. In Athens and other cities the statues of ancient heroes have been decorated, and fervid oratory of the Demosthenes type has lifted listening multitudes to the wildest heights of patriotic enthusiasm, while the deeds of Salamis and Thermopylae, Marathon and Leuctra have been brought to their memories. The day for which Lord Byron toiled and hoped seems now to have dawned and the prophecy of the hour is an independent and united Greece. Byron could no longer sing, "Tis Greece, but living Greece no more." Indeed Greece is proving just at present about as lively a little fellow as the powers have had to nurse for some years. As for the powers, with the popular sympathy of Europe for Greece, the treaty pledges by which they are bound to maintain the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and the necessity of continuing concerted action calculated to insure the oft-threatened peace of Europe, they occupy no easy position. However desirable the independence and autonomy of the entire Hellenic race, the peace of Europe is too great a price to pay. Let it be hoped that right and might may kiss each other and the highest good be conserved.

The church that looks after the poor will sooner or later get the rich also.