

circles of England should the tidings be cabled over that the largest, and in fact the only strictly commercial electoral district in Canada should find no more fitting representative than a pronounced Land leaguer? We may well ask, what has Montreal West done to be branded with such an odious stigma as this?"

Then on the 30th November, 1881, it said:

"If Mr. Doherty should be lucky enough to get elected for Montreal West it would be an enlivening piece of news to send to the old country to say that the greatest city in British America had returned the president of the Land league as a member of Parliament. The Land leaguers in Ireland would be greatly encouraged and all the more, as Mr. Doherty is to go in if he can on the Conservative ticket. They say the Conservatives and Liberals are getting to be good friends at home, and so it would be all right. But the society for preventing cruelty to animals here would have to look sharp, as after the election some of the Liberal cows might find themselves without their tails."

And, again, the evening organ of the Reform party said:—

"What would be the effect if it were cabled over to Parnell in Kilmainham that the president of the Land league has been elected as a member of Parliament for the city of Montreal?"

These are a few specimens of what has been done in the past by the great Reform party, and they show the great love which they bear to the people whose votes they now seek to obtain. We have been speaking here about an execution, about one unfortunate man having been hanged under a Conservative administration, when that man was recommended to mercy by the jury which tried him. One would imagine from the outpourings on the other side that no man or woman had ever been executed in this country under similar circumstances before. But, sir, I find recorded in the *True Witness*, of 23rd January, 1863, when the Reform party was in power, a case against that party—not of the execution of one man, but of the execution of an unfortunate man and his wife, who had been *strongly* recommended to the mercy of the court; and that man and his wife were both hanged, despite the *strong* recommendation of the jury and despite the most urgent appeals made from all parties in their favor. Let us read, Sir, a brief extract from the paper I have just mentioned. This man was named Aylward, and he had settled with his wife in a township in the rear of the county of Hastings. Their neighbor was a man named Munro. The parties lived in good fellowship until, unfortunately, some hens belonging to Munro had caused depredations in a wheat field belonging to Aylward.

One thing brought on another, and three or four days after this had taken place, one of the hens belonging to Munro was shot by Aylward; Munro and his son went to Aylward's house to see him about it, they spoke about the hen, and were told; it might be found upon the land where it had committed the depredation. They went out together, Aylward taking his gun; a scuffle took place between Aylward and Munro and his son; during its progress the wife of Aylward came to the assistance of her husband, a wound was inflicted upon Munro which produced death sometime after. This is how the *True Witness* narrated some of the facts:

"The husband and wife were Irish Catholics, both young and much attached to each other. The man was 26 years of age, of medium size but strong and robust, of intelligent cast of feature, and, like the generality of his countrymen, capable of displaying strong friendship, but easily estranged by unkindness or acts of selfishness. Mrs. Aylward had a very youthful appearance, and did not look to be more than 18 or 19 years of age, although some two or three years older. She was considered to possess more than the ordinary share of beauty, and was of light and elastic figure. Any person who visited their home could not but be struck with the neatness and cleanliness with which everything about it was kept, and which gave an air of comfort and cheerfulness to their humble home. At the time of her death she was the mother of three small children, girls, the youngest an infant at the breast."

Chief Justice Draper presided at the trial; the jury found a verdict of guilty, accompanied with a strong recommendation to mercy, and says the paper:—

"And now comes the application to the Executive for a commutation of the sentence. The petition was prepared by Mr. Finn, the prisoner's attorney, and was signed by all the leading inhabitants of the county of Hastings, by high and low, by rich and poor. There was no distinction of rank or class or creed, the Orangemen of the county being the foremost on the petition. In fact, everyone felt, with the exception of the Grit M.P.P., that their lives ought to be spared. The Grit Government refused the petition. Everyone thought they should not be executed, and a respite of one month was asked. All of no avail, they were hanged by the neck until dead, on the morning of the feast of the Immaculate Conception."

That, sir, is a statement of the facts as they happened under a Reform Government. And the Reform party now appeals to the people of the country—to the French Canadians and Irish Catholics—and says that the execution of Riel was an outrage, that it was a brutal murder—that it was a judicial murder. But what did they say when this poor unfortunate Aylward and his young wife were both