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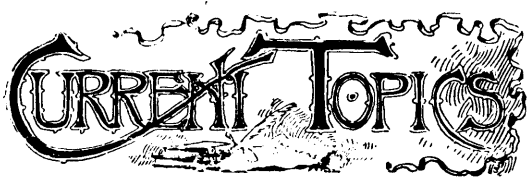
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"THE EDITOR, DOMINION ILLUSTRATED."

28th FEBRUARY, 1891.



A Stab in the Back.

The disclosures made within the past few days of writings by a prominent Canadian journalist in favour of the United States view of international matters, reveal a state of double-faced hypocrisy without precedent in our annals. It is almost inconceivable that a man whose daily writings were always national, always more or less loyal to British connection, and always permeated with an apparently earnest tone of deep solicitude in the interests of the country, should at the same time permit his pen to be doing service for a foreign state against his own. It is an offence far removed from the ordinary peccadillos of politicians whose exaggerations and inconsistencies seldom go to greater length than to excite party or personal feelings; it is a gross disclosure to our national enemies, in an underhand and contemptible manner, of all the points at which the Canadian position was most vulnerable, with the implied, if not expressed, advice as to the most promising plan of stealthy attack.

The Springhill Disaster.

No horror has for many years come on us with such sadly painful accompaniments as the disaster at the Springhill colliery last Saturday. Not only did death strike its victims with the cruel shafts of agonizing fire and slow suffocation, but the appalling list of widows and destitute, helpless children, thus suddenly deprived of means of support, is the feature which calls for most pity and prompt help. That assistance will promptly come for their immediate wants is already assured; but that an amount will be given sufficient to ensure a livelihood for these little ones until old enough to support themselves is a problem only to be solved by the Canadian people at large. Too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for liberal contributions now when the details of the calamity are fresh in the mind. Canada has providentially been spared from many great mining disasters, considering the large number of her people employed in underground work, and the comparative immunity so enjoyed should be a special reason for generous gifts when a great call like this arises. Consider the position of the unfortunate sufferers. The agonizing suspense after the explosion; the reports—spreading like wild-fire—of great loss of life; the waiting for relief parties to go in; the cruel heart break as a mangled form is identified as the husband and father, dearly loved, and the sudden knowledge that all means of livelihood has suddenly stopped. God grant that the purses of all our people—rich and poor—may be opened to give what they can to enable these destitute mothers to

keep their little ones from want and misery, and in even the semblance of a home, until old enough to work. Montreal has done nobly in so quickly taking active measures to render practical help; and every city, town and village throughout the Dominion should quickly follow suit, for the sake of suffering humanity. So far as known not the slightest iota of blame can be attached to the management of the colliery for the disaster; every possible precaution appears to have been taken, and rigid inspection by unprejudiced experts had almost immediately preceded the fatality. With no one at fault, it then becomes all the more the duty of the community at large to help the helpless widows and the still more helpless little children.

The Liberal Party and Annexation.

In the present political campaign it appears to be taken for granted, by many persons, that the Reform party is composed of out-and-out annexationists; at any rate, this extraordinary view is adopted by papers outside of Canada, judging from the remarks that appear in their columns. We think this to be a foul slur on a large and influential party of our people. That the Liberal party—as a collection of individuals—are in favour of the surrender of their country and their birth-right to foreign domination, is a thing so monstrous that it is difficult to imagine how a sane man could entertain such an idea for one moment; and yet it is firmly believed by hundreds of full-brained people. For the sake of the memory of all that is honourable and patriotic in the name of Whig, of Liberal, of Reformer, let them now—in the midst of this hand-to-hand struggle—voice unmistakably as a party their creed that whatever their views on commercial questions, they are first, last, and all the time loyal to Canada and to British connection.

Affairs in Ireland.

From the highly dramatic way in which the M^r. CARTHY-PARNELL struggle opened out a few weeks ago, the subsequent events have been singularly devoid of special interest. Far from the result of the Kilkenny election depressing Mr. PARNELL, it has had the effect of nerving him to still more vigorous efforts to obtain the confidence and support of the Irish people, and he has carried on the fight with a quietly steady persistence. He carries things with a high hand. Suddenly breaking off negotiations with Mr. O'BRIEN, he is evidently anxious to work alone and rule alone, if success crowns his efforts; and the surrender of Messrs. O'BRIEN and DILLON to the authorities, and their subsequent imprisonment, will certainly prevent their taking any part in the fight, which otherwise would have bid fair to assume the nature of the triangular species of duel, associated with the celebrated Mr. MIDSHIPMAN EASY. In spite of the opposition of the clergy, Mr. PARNELL appears to be slowly gaining ground; even his opponents must admire the wonderful persistence and pluck with which he carries on the campaign. Mr. M^r. CARTHY is evidently too much devoted to literary work to wage the war in the close personal manner adopted by his opponent.

Mr. Balfour.

While the Irish leaders have been fighting among themselves, Mr. BALFOUR has been quietly devoting himself to the more necessary and pressing work of endeavouring to relieve the wants of the suffering peasantry. His recent visit to the affected districts resulted in his inaugurating a relief fund, which has now run up to an amount exceeding £50,000, his own contribution being the princely one of £2,500. This, and the inception of relief works on a large scale by the Government at his suggestion, should do much to allay the harsh feelings entertained against him by so many of the lower classes in Ireland. His enthusiastic reception by the students of Trinity University a few days ago speaks well for his popularity with a large and representative body of young Irishmen—numbering over 800—who will necessarily have much to do in the future with swaying the public opinion of the nation.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891. QUESTIONS.

SECOND SERIES.

- 7.—Quote mention of a shipwreck on Lake Ontario; give date and particulars.
- 8.—Where is narrated the escape of a prisoner destined to be burnt?
- 9.—Quote the paragraph mentioning a suicide occurring on the stage of a theatre.
- 10.—Give details of the instance cited of a frontier being kept neutral in war?
- 11.—Where is mention made of a new literary organization in a city in the West of England?
- 12.—Quote the expression or expressions relative to the low standard of morality in Buenos Ayres?

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 139 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January and February.

The third series of Questions will be given in our issue of 28th March.