

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY,JULY 15, 1891

WHERE is the man who predicted that the present session of parliament would not last more than eight or ten weeks?—*Ottawa Free Press.*

Some of the Free Press "reptile press" fraternity ventured the opinion that the government itself would not last as long. But it seems to possess a vitality of wonderful power, and even the Opposition are helping it to the best of their ability, with the worst intention of course.

The elevation of Lady Macdonald to the peerage as a Baroness in her own right is a graceful act of homage to the great talents of her late husband and a Royal acknowledgment of his services to the Empire. The TRUE WITNESS was the first paper to announce the fact that the Queen intended to bestow a special mark of her appreciation on our late great Premier's widow, and although there has been no formal announcement as yet of the creation, the editorial article extracted from the Times and printed elsewhere fully establishes the fact that the rank has been conferred. Canada may justly feel proud of her new distinction, for, though personally bestowed on Lady Macdonald, the honor may be regarded in a wider sense and looked upon as a national one.

It is to be regretted that so excellent a journal as the New York Catholic Review has permitted itself to be deceived by one of the type of "reptile pressmen" who make it their business to misrepresent Canada in the publications of the United States, apparently under the inspiration of the Cartwright-Wiman body of conspirators. The falsehoods of these people have become familiar in the secular papers; but it is now to see them cropping up in a section of the press which hitherto has been regarded as trustworthy. We regret to read in the Catholic Review, on the responsibility of a "correspondent"—Sir John Macdonald has departed and left "nothing after him save a great and much-loved name; all parties are at sea, the unity of the Dominion is threatened by the discord of the provinces, and, as our Canadian correspondent showed last week, the sentiment of annexation is growing in every quarter." We are happy to inform the Review that it is in error, and that its correspondent can give not the slightest proof of his unworthy assertions. Great as is the loss Canada has suffered by the death of Sir John Macdonald, though his person has left his principles remain, and the rudder of our Ship of State has not and will not be changed a single point.

The scandal arising out of Sir W. Gordon Cumming's conduct at the gaming party at which the Prince of Wales figured as banker has caused much comment—some hypocritical, some severe, and some unjust. But the fact that some of the principal parties to the transaction were women has not received the attention it deserves. Yet if they had not been consenting, if not promoting agents in the scheme, the scandal would never have arisen. Now that the players have been dealt with these ladies are coming in for a share of public condemnation, and we think very justly. But cynics say that the feminine disposition inclines her to gambling. Certainly women have always been mixed up in such transactions. A reference to Notes and Queries shows that at the close of the last century gambling was a feminine vice of great prevalence. Lord Kenyon, one of the great jurists of the period, speaking from the bench on some high born women gamblers, made use of the following pointed remarks: "They think they are too great for the law, but if any prosecutions of the kind are brought before me and the parties are justly convicted whatever be their rank or station, and though even they be the first ladies in the land, they shall certainly exhibit themselves in the pillory." This was tolerably plain talking and the records show that in 1797 Lady Buckinghamshire, Lady Elizabeth Luttrell and some others of the ton were charged at

the Police Court with holding banks at faro—it is spelt Pharoah in the act of prohibition—in their houses by rotation and each were fined £50. Perhaps a little enforcement of the anti-gaming laws would not be amiss in the year 1891. The old laws are in force in Canada, and gambling is one of the prevailing vices of the day.

THE German Emperor seems to have met with a most enthusiastic welcome in England, though perhaps those who cast up their caps and shouted give little heed to the possible political consequences of his visit to their shores. It is said that the Imperial Government is virtually attached to the alliance lately formed by some of the great powers. Lord Salisbury is an astute statesman in foreign affairs, but the British people will not relish being dragged at the chariot wheels of the youthful tyrant, and they will like it less if it should turn out that the cause at issue proves a losing one. Some recent revelations have shown that Bismarck went into retirement in consequence of his tendency to become autocratic and tyrannical. The Empress Dowager received a good deal of sympathy from the German people when it became known that she had been, in a relative sense, ill-used by the late Chancellor. But the German people dislike tyranny and will not submit to it any more from a Kaiser than a Chancellor, and it certainly seems as if the young Emperor is assuming a tone and style which will be resented by his people.

The San Francisco Monitor addresses a correspondent in the following plain terms:—

"Your obituary poem can only see the light of day on payment for its publication. But we do not advise you to publish it. Save your money for Masses. One Mass for your dead friend is better than all the poetry you could print from now to the Day of Judgment."

It is a melancholy fact, too familiar to editors, that there is a large number of well-intentioned people who persist, without the slightest ability, in endeavoring to express themselves in verse on occasions of special sorrow. They wonder, perhaps, that the wretched effusions, which they no doubt consider beautiful poems, do not appear. The reason for not printing them is simply that the matter is worthless. The critical editor is of course denounced as a stupid creature wanting discernment and utterly lacking any appreciation of the beautiful. But the swarm of would-be poets should remember that poets are born, not made—and that only at long and rare intervals.

The merest clod by labor wrought
Can turn a verse.
But only inspired by God
Can plant within that verse a thought.
We cordially endorse the opinion of our San Francisco contemporary and commend it to would-be obituary poets.

THERE has been a second experiment in electrical executions, in accordance with the existing law of the State of New York. The horrible story of Kemmler's doing to death has no doubt not been forgotten, and the second ceremony of the kind was looked for with much anxiety and doubt. The world, as far as it has any information on the subject at all, is assured that everything on the present occasion went well, and medical men even go further and speak confidently of the "painlessness" of the death following the discharge of the electrical fluid. Both assurances are satisfactory as far as they go. But owing to the state of the law, which imposes rigid secrecy, they cannot be accepted as gospel, and we are not surprised that a large and influential section of the United States press should demand some relief from the present veil which the prison authorities are compelled to cast over the proceedings. We quite agree that a certain amount of privacy should surround these dreadful occasions, a privacy sufficient to prevent sensational and repulsive descriptions being written up for the benefit of morbid and depraved tastes, but there certainly should be an inquest and a properly returned verdict. It cannot be denied that in electrical executions those operating are dealing with an element, mysterious and terrible, of which we know comparatively nothing. A few scientific applications of this unknown element, now evidently in their infancy, and which have advanced but little since the days of Faraday, are all we know of electricity; and it perhaps would be better if some spoke less confidently of "painlessness," and so forth in connection with the use of electricity in executions. Dr. Shady, who was at the execution, says, in reference to the recent Sing Sing judicial tragedy:—

"But, if we must have capital punishment, what advantage have we gained by electricity over hanging? We have seen that it may fail horribly unless extraordinary precautions are taken. It has been claimed by those who appear to know that the torture of Kemmler was grossly exaggerated. We can testify to the contrary, and assert that no adjectives are strong enough to do justice to the dreadful scene. The most that we can hope is that history may never repeat itself in that direction. Execution

by electricity renders necessary a complication of machinery, the utmost skill in its adjustment, and greatest care in its management, and always entails the employment of scientific experts—all to satisfy the mere whim of some world-betterers who believe that death is thus rendered easier and quicker than by other means. It is yet to be proven that it has any real advantage over ordinary hanging. Those who have compared the methods are willing to affirm that hanging is rarely attended with much real suffering, that the moment the noose is tightened sensation is abolished, and that death is, for all practical purposes, sure and speedy. The rope has the additional great advantage that when used in the ordinary way it seldom misses its aim, is easily worked, and within the reach of the most primitive community."

THE money, or currency, question is still the leading topic among American politicians, who certainly cannot complain of not having enough instruction on the subject. The committee on coinage has examined a multitude of alleged financial experts, whose testimony and whose opinions, as to the best sort of currency for the nation, were as various and conflicting as they could possibly be. It would seem, indeed, that money, which appears a simple thing to most of us, is a very abstruse subject and quite evasive of exact scientific treatment. Thus, a Mr. Newlands, in giving his views before the committee, said that both gold and silver, apart from their money use, which had been given them by law, custom and tradition, were intrinsically the most worthless metals in the world. Deprived of their money quality, he insisted, gold and silver would be worth very little as compared with iron, copper, lead and other useful metals. He was also of opinion that what are called the precious metals are merely articles of commerce like anything else that can be bought and sold. As standards of value he held them to be purely fictitious, and he seemed to think that they were the cause of recurring panics, inasmuch as they kept the volume of currency too small for necessities of business. This last consideration touches the sore spot in the currency controversy. A vastly increased amount of circulating medium is demanded by the people and the problem is how to accede to that demand without inflating or depreciating the currency. It cannot be done on a gold basis pure and simple, for it would require nearly all the gold of Europe as well as of America to supply the collateral. Silver, on the other hand, has been practically demonetized and cannot be restored without causing depreciation. Hence the enunciation of opinions such as those expressed by Mr. Newlands. Another authority holds that the credit of the nation and its revenues and assets is an all-sufficient basis for all the currency required by the people. There will always be enough gold to meet ordinary demands in connection with foreign exchange, and there is no fear of a run on the national treasury for redemption of its notes.

THE FARMERS' MOVEMENT.

A valuable contribution to contemporary political thought of the larger and better sort appeared in a recent number of the North American Review. Mr. Rusk, Secretary of Agriculture in the United States Cabinet, is the author, and the movement among farmers towards a more active participation in public affairs is his subject. This farmers' movement is undoubtedly the leading fact in the politics of this continent, and much that Mr. Rusk says will apply to the farmers of this country. Admitting that in some instances there have been exaggerations of the evils which now afflict the agricultural class, he fairly states some of the real grievances and difficulties with which farmers have to contend. He points out that agricultural profits are small, rarely exceeding five per cent.; hence reductions that seem trifling to industries yielding fifteen and twenty per cent. profit cut the farmer to the quick. Thus it seems that agricultural industries, projected under prices, have ceased to pay under those now prevailing. To find a remedy for a state of affairs which threatens them with ruin, the farmers have established organizations numbering sixty thousand with a membership of two and a half millions. Of this sum, Mr. Rusk truly says they are the conservative element of the population and furnish the moral backbone of the nation. They represent the homes and families which mean so much to the country. Capital need fear no illegitimate onslaughts on the rights of property from men who own their own homes, till their own acres, and who owe their living to the proper administration of the little capital they possess. Whatever danger there may be, Mr. Rusk thinks, lurks in the large cities, in the drinking and gambling dens, and in the slums where the ignorant and irresponsible congregate and are led by the worst elements of society. Deserted farms and overgrown cities indicate an abnormal and unhealthy state of society. Therefore, on the success of the farmers' movement the future welfare of the whole country largely depends.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The proceedings of our legislators at Ottawa have not been marked by any great progress towards the closing of the session, except in the disposal of private bills. The tariff changes have met with universal approval, but the old debate, on the subject of the National Policy and Unrestricted Reciprocity, is being rehearsed with vigor. The features of the discussion during the past week were the remarkable speeches of Dr. Montague, M. P., and Mr. Desjardins, M. P. for L'Islet. The Doctor is, already, well-known to the public as an effective speaker, but, until the present session, Mr. Desjardins had only figured as the financial critic of the Opposition, in the Quebec Legislature. Many of those who have made their mark in the Local Legislatures fail when transferred to the wider field of the Dominion Parliament. Mr. Desjardins is not in the category, his speech, on the budget, was one of remarkable ability and clearness. He has taken first rank amongst the well-informed debaters in the House, and is a valuable acquisition to the talent of this Province in that body.

The Tarte investigation committee continues to prosecute its labors. With the exception of the declarations of O. E. Murphy, there has been no evidence yet adduced, to establish any of the charges against either Sir Hector Langevin or Thomas McGreevy.

Mr. Perley, chief engineer of public works, has been dismissed from the public service, on his own admission that he had allowed his wife to retain presents of jewelry sent to her by O. E. Murphy, although he had refused to accept money presents himself. No charge of favoritism to the contractors has been proved against Mr. Perley, who has many sympathizers in his present predicament, but, as he himself has been forced to admit, his was a criminal weakness, when he allowed his wife to retain diamonds the price of which he himself had spurned. The spectacle of an old and honored public servant driven from his post under such circumstances is a hard one; yet not only must justice be done, but examples made of those who leave themselves open to the wiles of such men as O. E. Murphy.

Mr. Burgess, deputy Minister of the Interior, has sent in his resignation to the government. His delinquency was not a grave one in the amount of money involved. Yet the committee of public accounts made it clear that he was allowing things to be done in so loose a manner that the treasury might have been depleted to a large extent.

THE TWELFTH.

There appears to have been no disturbance of any kind in Canada on the 12th instant. As usual, the brethren paraded the streets of Toronto and orators made speeches, but the order having been incorporated, there was no real or imaginary grievance, and therefore it was difficult for the truly loyal sons of William to get up steam. Some of the leaders of the great movement for civil and religious liberty, and, consequently, equality before the law and the institutions of the country, gave expression to the hope that Toronto would always have a Protestant Mayor! How consistent these gentlemen are! There is not much probability that, for some years to come, Toronto will be sufficiently enlightened to elect any one but a Protestant Mayor. It may be well to remark, however, that in Montreal, where we have no organization for the promotion of civil and religious liberty, where Catholics are as free to one, a Protestant Mayor is quite in order. Be-nighted Catholics here are not afraid to trust their fellow-citizens of other persuasions, or to place them in positions of trust and of honor. What is more, not all the intolerance and bigotry of the Toronto mob will prevent Montreal, or other Catholic centres, from acting in a spirit and generosity of fair play to the Protestant minority in this province.

GOOD WORDS.

Mr. Chamney Depew delivered an address, recently, to the graduates of Manhattan College, New York, a Catholic institution of considerable prominence. It is a difficult task to say anything novel on an occasion of that kind, and Mr. Depew did not attempt to do so, but spoke words of wisdom which cannot be too deeply impressed on the minds of young men. The main idea in his eloquent address was the necessity of hard work on the part of students. He wisely told them that there is no such thing as luck. Those who, Micawber-like, place their reliance on something turning up, are sure to meet with some disappointment. Taking advantage of favorable opportunity, he said, was not luck, and nothing is more true. On the other hand, he pointed out the almost certainty of success of those who, having completed a thorough college course, are steadfast in their application. Too many young men think it is too long to wait until they have finished their col-

lege studies, and, if they can cram sufficiently to pass the matriculation examination for a profession, that all will be well. Nothing is more pernicious than such a notion. In every profession and walk of life to-day, where education is necessary, the graduate of a properly organized university's art course has advantages untold over his less favored competitor. Parents frequently listen to the importunities of their sons to be allowed to quit the college before having completed their classical and philosophical studies, but no greater mistake could be made. In the professions to-day there is still room, but, as Daniel Webster is credited with having said to a farmer, who wished to know his opinion about the prospects of his son in the study of the law, "there is plenty of room in the upper story." The lower walks of the professions to-day are overcrowded in Canada and all over the world.

SIR JOHN THOMPSON.

The Minister of Justice continues to gain in public favor day after day. The Rev. Doctor Douglas, who made such a savage assault upon him, now appears to be half ashamed of his fanatical utterances. In the present case, good has come out of evil. The speech of Doctor Douglas has had widespread notice, not only in Canada, but in the United States and in Great Britain as well. On all sides the Methodist divine has been treated with scant courtesy, and his utterances characterized as indecent and bigoted; whilst Sir John Thompson's great abilities are recognized, his eminent services to the State commented upon, and the prediction made that he is destined to take his place as Prime Minister of Canada at an early date. It is gratifying to the friends of the Minister of Justice to see intolerance rebuked in so many quarters, and to find that in Canada to-day those who would revive old-time animosities or disabilities are frowned down by the great majority of the people.

The Union St. Joseph.

The fortieth annual report of the Union St. Joseph shows the receipts of the past year to have been \$29,238.92, and the expenditure \$29,199.85. The value of the Society's property is placed at \$36,207.99. The membership is 1199. During the year thirty-five new members were admitted, twenty-five were struck off the list, six resigned and twenty-two died. Since its foundation the Society has paid \$188,501.22 to its members.

Mgr. Issa at St. Patrick's.

At the High Mass at St. Patrick's on Sunday Mgr. Issa, archdeacon to the Chaldean Patriarch, preached a long and interesting sermon, in which he explained the object of his mission to this country. As already stated in these columns, he is endeavoring to raise funds to spread the blessings of education and civilization amongst his compatriots in Chaldaea, who after having remained followers of the schismatic Nestorians for fourteen hundred years, now asked to be reunited with the church of their forefathers. The collection which was taken up after the sermon amounted to over \$250. In conversation Mgr. Issa said that he was surprised at the generosity displayed by Irish people towards him. He had been deeply touched by seeing a number of little girls place 5 and 10 cent pieces in the collection box after his sermon.

St. Patrick's T. A. and B. Society.

The regular monthly meeting of the above society was held Sunday afternoon. Mr. M. Sharkey, vice-president, occupied the chair. The report of the special committee on the annual picnic of the society was read. The affair will be held at Otterburn park on Saturday, August 1. The arrangements are nearly all complete and an attractive programme of games has been drawn up, for which valuable prizes will be offered. Amongst the prizes are the following:—Hon. Edward Murphy, gold medal; Dr. W. H. Hingston, silver medal; Mr. Jas. O'Brien, silver cup; Mr. M. Sharkey, silver cup; Mr. A. Martin, silver crucifix; Simpson, Hall & Miller, silver berry dish. There are also other valuable articles, such as sewing machines, handsome volumes, etc. The event, judging from the interest shown, promises to be a successful undertaking, the pledge of total abstinence was administered to several persons. The auditor's quarterly report was read and showed the finances to be in a satisfactory condition. Considerable discussion ensued on matters of interest to the society, after which the meeting was brought to a close.

The Notre Dame Churchwardens.

La Semaine Religieuse says the pamphlet written by the ex-church wardens of Notre Dame was an unfortunate affair, full of errors and unworthy of respectable and sincere Catholics. It pities the author, and says that public opinion is not the proper tribunal before which to call any priest. Further on it says that the reasoning of the pamphlet is absolutely false when it claims that the management of temporal affairs must be left exclusively in the hands of laymen. A layman in questions of this kind must consult the church, and the church will tell him that all its doctrines declare the property of fabriques to be church property. This property is destined for religious work and as such belongs to the church. The church by creating fabriques called laymen to help her, but did not thereby lose any of her rights, and a bishop will ways have sole control over the decisions of the cure and churchwardens.

Good Immigrants.

The first arrival of Icelanders for the season took place on Friday, when 112 adults, accompanied by 48 children, passed through by the Canadian Pacific Railway for the North-West from Quebec, having arrived here per SS. Peru-

vian, where they will join the Icelandic settlement near Calgary. They were in charge of Mr. Baldwinson, Icelandic immigration interpreter and agent, who will proceed with them to their destination. The newcomers were dressed in the costume of their country, and attracted no little attention at the Dalhousie square depot while waiting for the trains. They were in good circumstances, carrying their money, for the most part in gold coin, on their persons, and will embark in farming.

Mr. Chapleau.

Hon. J. A. Chapleau took his seat in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon for the first time since his recent accident and was warmly welcomed. The honorable gentleman is still obliged to use crutches.

Right for Once.

Reviewing the opinions of the press on the Carlow election the Pall Mall Gazette, a paper of very debased tone and tendencies, says: "The interests of the Irish people and those of the Irish clergy are identical and, consequently, they are pulling together."

A Chestnut.

The gold ore specimens taken from a shaft recently sunk on a mining property in the township of Fairbank, fifteen miles west of Sudbury, have been assayed by Prof. Hays, of the Ontario School of Chemistry, and found to average \$235.44 per ton. The richest of the Colorado mines yields only \$220 per ton.

Where is Mr. Pilmoss?

The Quebec Daily Telegraph says this afternoon:—A few days ago the SS. Enchantress, from Montreal for England, arrived in port, and after discharging half her cargo in the Louise Basin, went into the dock for repairs to her screw, which had been injured. Since then the vessel was re-loaded by Mr. Denis Murphy, stevedore, who managed to save so much space that he put half the Enchantress' cargo that was on her deck before under the hatches.

Fatal Accident.

A fatal accident occurred Thursday morning at Laprairie on the Grand Trunk track. As the Massena train, which leaves Montreal at 6 a.m., was passing the Lawson and St. Constant crossing, a young woman named Jane Miller, who had been milking cows in a field close by, was returning across the line. The train, which was passing at the time at full speed, struck her on the head and threw her a distance of over fifty feet. When picked up the unfortunate girl was found to be dead. Why she crossed the track at the time is a puzzle to many of the local inhabitants, as the regulations with regard to signalling and gate-closing are always strictly carried out. It is supposed that the fog, which prevailed at the time, denuded the sound of the approaching train, and that the deceased must have lingered some time on the track. Coroner Jones went over to Laprairie in the afternoon and held an inquest, at which a verdict of "accidental death, imputing blame to nobody," was returned.

Hymen Waves His Torch.

St. Ann's Church was the scene of a very pleasing ceremony on last Monday morning, July 6th, the occasion being the marriage of Mr. W. Murphy, a member of St. Ann's choir, to Miss Agnes Murphy, of this city. The Rev. Father Strabbe tied the nuptial knot. During the service the choir rendered a number of excellent selections from the following composers: Rossini, Riga and Diabelli. At the opening and close of the service Mr. P. Shea played Mendelssohn's Wedding March with fine effect. After a sumptuous and beautiful repast, which was served at the residence of the bride, the happy couple left amid the congratulations of their friends for an extended tour through the States. The presents were numerous and costly.

Dr. Wm. Delaney was married last Wednesday morning at St. Patrick's church, Quebec, to Miss Clara Hearn, eldest daughter of M. A. Hearn, Q. C. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Walsh, C. S. S. R. The bride was conducted to the altar by her father and the groom by Joseph Boivin, assistant provincial secretary.

An Important Return.

A return has been laid on the table of the House of Commons relating to holdings in Ireland classified according as the valuation is over £50, and £50 and under. This return shows that there are 41,272 holdings over £50 valuation, 8981 of which are in Ulster, 15,609 in Leinster, 12,792 in Munster, and 3850 in Connaught. There are 511,077 holdings at £50 and under, 184,418 of these being in Ulster, 102,329 in Leinster, 108,773 in Munster, and 115,557 in Connaught. The total valuation of the holdings over £50 is £4,482,083, and of £50 and under £5,654,460. The proportion of the guarantee fund that would be available under the chief secretary's amendment, as now inserted in the bill, for holdings over £50, would be £2,776,594, and for holdings valued at £50 and under £2,747,630.

A Great Leakage.

The census of England and Wales, just taken, shows a population of 29,001,018, an increase of 3,026,572 or 11.67 per cent. since the last census.

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