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Notice.

Owing to unavoidable delay in obtaining portraits of
 the officers of the

DEAF AND DUMB

Teachers' Association,

we shall be unable to produce such portraits before the
 number of the 15th August.

Canadian Illustrated News.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1874.

THE BEECHER-TILTON AFFAIR.

The scandal over which the cities of Brooklyn and New York in particular, and the continent of North America in general, are now agitated, may fairly be said to have taken its place among the *causes célèbres* of the world. The high social position of the parties concerned, the well-known religious character of the accused and the equally well-known erratic views of the accuser, the grave nature of the charges made, and the persistence with which these charges have been denied, all combine to raise the Beecher-Tilton affair far above the ordinary run of scandals. It is very far from being our intention to enter into the details of the case or to discuss the probability or improbability of the evidence elicited by the Plymouth Church Committee of Investigation. Indeed it is with the utmost reluctance that we touch upon the matter at all. The subject is not an inviting one, though unfortunately the issues involved are so great that a thorough discussion is not to be avoided. There are, however, two points in the matter which cannot be dismissed without notice, and in neglecting which the journalist would fail in his duty.

The first of these is the remarkable tone of hostility to Tilton for which the New York journals have been remarkable since the "scandal" became matter of public attention. The whole number of New York dailies, with one honourable exception, seem to have combined to pour the vials of their wrath upon the accuser's head. No language has been too strong for them to describe his action; no epithet too rude to depict himself. In the torrents of abuse they have lavished upon him they have exhausted the vocabulary of Billingsgate. They have held him up to scorn and contumely as the blight of his wife's honour, and the would-be destroyer of his pastor's reputation; they have condemned him as a liar and a profligate—a being for whom there should be no place among his kind. Their violence in denouncing him has only been equalled by the petulance with which they cried out against any aspersion on the character of Mr. Beecher. Without the slightest fact upon which to base their assertions, or the merest shadow of an argument beyond the feminine chain of reasoning, 'it is so, because it is so,' they have taken upon themselves, even while an inquiry is pending, to decide as to the merits of the case, to set up the pastor of Plymouth Church as a much persecuted member of the noble army of martyrs, and to brand his accuser as a villain of the true diabolic dye. Such a course of action was hardly to be expected from journals of the class to which the New York dailies belong. From them at least we were entitled to look for a suspension of judgment until the facts of the case should have been elicited. By their headlong eagerness to defend Mr. Beecher they have only injured his cause and strengthened the hands of the enemy.

But if the leaders of public opinion in the States have grossly erred on the side of favouritism, what must be said of the court of investigation before which the inquiry is now going on. The inquiry must necessarily lead to the life-long ruin of at least one person. It is a matter of the deepest importance, involving a question of moral life and death. Naturally one would have supposed that a matter of such vital interest would have been committed to an impartial arbitration for thorough investigation and final decision. It was necessary that no question of favouritism or personal interest should have been allowed to blind the judgment or corrupt the honesty of those to whom was committed the difficult task of sifting the evidence upon which lay the honour and reputation of accuser and accused alike. And it was further indispensable that the proper means should have been taken to allow of none but reliable and truthful evidence being adduced. But what are the facts of the case? The members of the committee of investigation represent Plymouth Church. They were chosen by Mr. Beecher. They are personal friends of Mr. Beecher. They have an interest in his acquittal. Again, as to the evidence adduced. It is mere assertion, unsupported by oath; and therefore utterly valueless. Should Mr. Beecher be absolved by his judges, the absolution, in such circumstances would carry no weight with it. Matters would stand just where they did before, with the additional feature that a cloud of suspicion would rest upon Mr. Beecher's following. The public will never be satisfied with any decision that does not come from a competent court of law, and the proceedings now being carried on, be they as long, (as wearisome they already are) as those in the Tichborne case, will never have the slightest effect upon the general opinion. This hole-and-corner business will not do. If Mr. Tilton wants justice he must take his case into the courts. If Mr. Beecher wants to free himself from a grave suspicion, he will never rest until the charges against him are submitted to a full, free, and unprejudiced enquiry, such as can only be obtained in a court of law.

CANADIAN MANUFACTURES.

The Select Committee appointed at the last Session of Parliament, to inquire into the extent and condition of the manufactures of the Dominion, have published a very interesting and important report. The chief conclusions to which they have arrived are altogether deserving of public attention. It appears that the competition with the United States is seriously complained of. American manufacturers, having the exclusive control of their own market, find it convenient to relieve themselves of their surplus products in Canada, in many instances at prices less than the cost of production, thus making of Canada what is popularly denominated a "Slaughter Market." This disturbing element in the manufacturing industry of the Dominion is so great as to induce even those who may regard free trade as a correct principle, in the abstract, to recognize the necessity of a modification of that principle as a measure of self-protection, and the Committee do not hesitate to recommend the enactment of such laws as will regulate the evil complained of. The almost universal testimony of manufacturers is to the effect that an increased protection to manufactures will not necessarily increase the cost of the manufactured article to the consumer, as it is a well-established principle that the cost of manufacturing decreases as the quantity of goods manufactured increases. Although the export trade in manufactured articles has not yet been developed to any extent, it has been ascertained that in some classes of goods already a successful attempt has been made to place them upon foreign markets. Therefore, the encouragement of this trade, as tending to enlarge the market for our manufactures, and thus to promote their prosperity, and at the same time to increase our foreign commerce, should be effected by all legitimate means. To accomplish this object the Committee recommend that a drawback should be granted on all materials used in manufactures used for export. Attention has been called to the condition of certain classes of manufacturers who pay, under the existing tariff, the same amount of duty upon what to them is raw material as is paid on the manufactured article. More particularly is this true of clothing and haberdashery. The woollen manufacturers complain that they suffer in their business by the importation from Europe of low-priced woollen cloths, and ask the Government to impose a scale of duties graduated upon the quality of the article. Evidence was taken touching the introduction into Canada of American reprints of British copyright works. While the privilege of publishing the aforesaid reprints in Canada is granted to the publishers of the United States, it is denied, under severe penalties, to the publishers of Canada. It goes without saying that this state of things calls

far a prompt and energetic remedy." The Committee publishes the emphatic belief that permanency is an important element in any tariff, and that it should be so adjusted as to afford adequate protection to existing industries, and to invite the attention of capitalists to branches of industry which as yet have not been successful in this country, and which are yet untried.

The loss of the "Foam" must carry its moral. Vessels of her class sacrifice everything to speed. The quarters run down to almost nothing above the water and not even a little bulwark is allowed around them for safety. That this mode of construction is all wrong may be guessed from the fact that the English clubs will not allow any centre board yacht to enter for a race. Such boats as the ill-fated "Foam" require experienced, hard-fisted sailors to work them, and even they admit that they never feel safe while on board in anything like bad weather. "Skimming dishes" is a term that has been applied to those models and we fear it is only too truthfully expressive.

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

THEIR MENTAL AND MORAL CONDITION.—HISTORY OF THEIR INSTRUCTION.—WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR THEM.—THE PROTESTANT INSTITUTION FOR DEAF-MUTES, MONTREAL.—METHODS OF INSTRUCTION.

BY THOMAS WIDD, MONTREAL.

For many centuries a mystery has hung over the deaf and dumb which few persons have been able to fathom. They are continually confounded with the blind and idiotic, and many intelligent and benevolent people have suggested that they should be shut up in asylums for feeble-minded! Another mistake, or rather superstition, of greater antiquity, concerning deaf-mutes is that where nature takes away one sense, she supplies the next to it in importance in greater perfection, and on this principle it is believed that the person afflicted with deafness is to some extent compensated by greater acuteness of vision and mental perception. This is an error which teachers in deaf-mute institutions are striving to correct in all countries at the present day. Deaf-mutes have generally very imperfect sight, and in almost every instance there is great dullness of intellect, so much so that they are only a little removed from cretinism. Their condition before education is terrible to contemplate. The natural avenues to the mind are hermetically sealed and other means of reaching it have to be employed. As long as he remains uneducated he can never know the wondrous love of God, or have any ideas of right or wrong. He is an irresponsible being and is held as such in the courts of justice in several civilized countries. The heathen possesses a vocal language and is accessible to the missionary, but the deaf-mute knows no language previous to instruction. He does not know his own name or the alphabet of his mother tongue. From this fact the reader will be enabled to form some idea of the difficulties to be encountered by the teacher in the instruction of this class of people.

HISTORY OF THEIR INSTRUCTION.

No record of the deaf and dumb has been found in ancient history previous to the Christian Era. The first mention we have of a deaf-mute is found in Scripture, where Christ pronounced the potent "Ephphatha." The Venerable Bede mentions an instance in the seventh century, of an English deaf-mute having been taught to repeat sentences by John, Bishop of Hesham, but we are not told by what method he was instructed. About 800 years later, in 1442, we find that one Rodolphus Agricola, of Fröningen, succeeded in teaching a deaf-mute to write his thoughts. This was regarded at the time as miraculous, and was attributed to Satanic influences by the ignorant clergy, who for a long time afterwards opposed and discouraged all attempts to ameliorate the condition of this afflicted class, stating "that by educating the deaf and dumb they are exposed to the danger of damnation, from which, left unobstructed, they would be exempt." But, notwithstanding this opposition, we find one, Father Ronce, an enlightened Benedictine, devoting all his energies and talents to their education in 1580. In the year 1620 another Benedictine, named Juan Paulo Bonet, invented the one-hand alphabet for their instruction, which gave birth to the system of dactylogogy. This invention was quickly followed by another of no less importance—the two-hand alphabet. The inventor of this alphabet was a Scotchman named George Dalgarno, a man of no small learning and ability, who, we regret to say, now lies in a nameless grave in St. Mary's Churchyard, Oxford, England.

From the invention of the finger alphabet dates the era proper of deaf-mute instruction. The high honour of having conceived a plan for their instruction belongs to Dr. John Wallis, a distinguished mathematician and cryptologist, who for many years was connected with the colleges at Oxford, where he died about the year 1676. The celebrated Abbé de l'Épée next came into the field and started the famous Institution at Paris. He was followed almost simul-