

THE HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1884.

BELFAST.

Is our esteemed contemporary the *Patriot* imagining that mere abuse of Mr. Martin and his friends will have the effect of electing Mr. McMillan, it will find itself mistaken. The public have long since become aware that abuse is the great forte of our redoubtable contemporary instead of argument. When the *Patriot* is asked for bread it gives a stone. One of the reasons—and really one of the most solid—advanced by the organ of Mr. Laird why the present Government should be overthrown and Mr. McMillan elected for Belfast, is because the corpse of a patient brought from the Hospital for the Insane was allowed to remain over night in the Sherwood Cemetery unburied. Supposing that were true, how could it effect the representation of Belfast? How could blame attach to the Government of years for the neglect of an official for a few hours? But, indeed, it is utterly false. The undertaker convinced editor Laird that it was untrue, that the corpse was not buried at once because of a delay of a few hours necessitated by another burial taking place almost concurrently. Nevertheless, the story appeared in the next following weekly issue of the *Patriot*, although the editor apologized for its insertion in his daily edition. That is what we call ghoulish graveyard politics. The *Patriot* is not averse to making political capital out of the dead, which is, however, not a bit singular, seeing that the party which it pretends to champion seizes all sorts of misfortune—private and public—to gain a party advantage. We doubt very much if any sane man in the Belfast district would vote for Mr. McMillan owing to such a shabby trick.

The Government of the Province can afford to smile at such an attack as this. And the other attacks delivered from time to time by the organ are as inefficient. The bridges, it informs us, are all rotten, and yet the farmers coming into market express themselves delighted with them. As a matter of course, the Government could advocate a heavy scheme of taxation and build iron bridges, but we modestly submit the editors of Belfast would not think that good policy. If the Grits ever attain to power they can try it. Another cause of the organ's assumed anger is that the Government should send delegates to Ottawa to press the claims of this Province on the Ottawa authorities. What would the Grits do under the circumstances? And then look at the beggarly parsimony of Sullivan and Co. Look at the salaries of officials! How different from the Grit Province of Ontario, where the Government have raised salaries all round and added to the indemnity of members. These miserable Tories in possession of the Provincial Government are willing to spend lavishly for education, but are niggardly in other respects, and indeed the people are here enough to agree with them and support them. Say we all. Let in the hungry Grits and see how the money will fly.

As for Mr. McMillan, he does not deserve the confidence of the electors of Belfast. We, unlike the *Patriot*, shall not indulge in personal abuse of a candidate. But, then, there is no necessity in descending to that level while having Mr. McMillan's public career before us. The *Patriot* in trying to excuse its nominee's lackluster and cold turning mentions the names of several prominent men who went and did likewise when it suited them. There have in this Island been many changes since Confederation. Confederation itself brought chaos into Island politics from which it has only lately emerged, and on account of those changes many of our public men were conscientiously obliged to adapt themselves to new political conditions. What actuated Mr. McMillan in his somewhat? Was it that he differed from the men with whom he had previously acted? It was not that, that until lately Mr. McMillan was a Conservative. Whence the change? Alas! It was brought about through the most sordid of all motives—personal interest. Ask any intelligent what is the Belfast district why it is that Mr. Duncan McMillan has become so thorough-going a Grit and he will tell you that it is because the Government would not consent to deprive Belle Creek of its privilege of pocket accommodation, so that Mr. McMillan and his brother could utilize their schooner. If the Government had accepted the offer of these gentlemen and sacrificed the interests of thousands of others in their behalf, Mr. McMillan would now be engaged stamping for the Conservative candidate instead of opposing him. Is such a man deserving of the confidence of the electorate of one of the finest districts in the Province? If elected what guarantee is there that he will not, on every possible occasion, make the interests of his constituency—of the Province—subservient to his own? On the 21st of this month the electors should—before voting—pause to consider two things: Which is the better party of the two, and which is the better man? If they think taxation and extravagant expenditure good for the Province, they will vote for Mr. McMillan; if they think that a man who acted the part he did as regards the case in which it was Belle Creek versus McMillan, they will also vote for him; but, on the contrary, they are of the opinion that the cheapest of Government possible and the better of two candidates are to be desired, they will return Mr. Martin with a majority that will secure the Grits. We want no dead issues in the contest; no calumnies in connection with churchyards. The issue is a live and a square one, and, as such, it will have to be fought out on its merits.

THE SUDAN DISASTER.

In the language of Edgar Allan Poe, "Unmerciful disaster follows fast and follows faster." In the wake of the Anglo-Egyptian forces in the Sudan. First it was Colonel Merdith and his force were annihilated, next Hicks Pasha and his army were slaughtered, and now comes the news that Baker Pasha—the ablest of the Anglo-Egyptian generals—has been completely defeated and all his artillery captured by the enemy. We are told in every despatch that comes to hand that the series of disasters has arisen from the cowardice of the Egyptians who, panic-stricken at the sight of the enemy, throw down their arms and either scream for quarter or run away. And we can well believe it. For who are these Egyptian soldiers? Six months ago when an expedition was organized for the reconquest of the Sudan, the Cairo correspondent of the *London News* stated that the recruits to form the army under Hicks Pasha were forced into the ranks at the point of the bayonet. Fight from such men was hardly to be expected. But there were others—whole battalions—who were deeply disaffected and hated the Khedive and his English masters with deep intensity. These latter were composed of the army of Arabi Pasha now an exile in Cydon. Taking these two component parts of an invading army and placing them under the best general that ever drew sword, nothing but cowardice could be expected. Even British soldiers would show the white feather under such circumstances. They are—rather worse—Mahomedans who understand they are fighting against their co-religionists to enable Christians to be supreme in Egypt and the Sudan. They themselves—some of them at least—had risen against what they considered a Christian *tyranny*, and yet they were sent to strengthen that very same *tyranny*. It was absurd, and the result is disaster. We at this distance understand that there is very little Christianity connected with the war in Egypt or the Sudan. We know right well that the Gladstone Government, when they ordered the shelling of Alexandria, were using the forces of Her Majesty to enforce the claims of Jews and others who clamored for interest on their Egyptian bonds, and who would rather like to see all the Christians in England and the world down deep in the Red Sea entangled in Pharaoh's chariots—these bones whitening with the bones of Pharaoh's army? Why not allow El Mehi to occupy the Sudan and be hanged to him and his race-muffins? When he advanced on Egypt proper would be the time to give him that taste of British steel Arabi Pasha experienced at Tel-El-Kebir. The Sudan is not worth the blood of the gallant officers who have suffered through its burning sands, or, better still, why not let the Jews and other bondholders go and collect interest on their bonds? El Mehi marching through the Sudan would gain no *clat*, he would be defeated the first time he came in contact with a British army near Cairo, but El Mehi defeating and annihilating what the Mahomedan world will magnify into four mighty British armies, is altogether a different individual. He is contrary to the prophet, and the Mussulmans of North Africa and India are beginning to look to him as the champion of Mahomedanism throughout the world. He has issued something like a declaration, in which he promises to drive the British out of Egypt. The worst of it is that no statesman in England knows who to deal with the False Prophet. They will scarcely think of sending a British army into the desert, and yet something like it must be done if British prestige is to be preserved. Poor Mr. Gladstone is in a dilemma.

A Warning Shot.

It is said that when one of the Hohenzollern family is about to die the ghost of the "White Lady" appears in the corridors of the royal residence at Berlin. The "White Lady" was a certain Countess Oranienau, who was done to death by a Hohenzollern in the seventeenth century. This inconvenient lady was seen lately, and consequently a Hohenzollern is about to die. Perhaps it is the old Kaiser, for his time should be about come. The Berliners, who, by the way, are famous for their scepticism, believe this nice story; but we do not, and for many reasons. We do not believe there is an aristocracy in the other world. We believe that God, who controls all the world, cares as little for the Hohenzollerns as for any one of the numerous Jacob Schmidt to be found in Germany, and that there are, neither white nor black ladies, are permitted to walk round through corridors warning people of their doom because they are Hohenzollerns. And we doubt the story for another reason. If all the ladies the Hohenzollerns have done to death were to appear in the corridors of the royal palace, said palace would have to be enlarged considerably to prevent the jostling of shades against shades.

The Provincial legislature will assemble for the transaction of business on the 6th of March. We hope and believe that Mr. Alexander Martin will be a member of the Assembly, and that Mr. Duncan McMillan will remain at home to brood over the fact that, changing one's political coat in a trying moment for one's party and through purely selfish motives, does not pay.

PERSONALITY IN JOURNALISM.

A man is not looked upon as by any means an emotional animal, or one given to undue levity. On the contrary, he is recognized as one of the most serious and positive quadrupeds in the animal kingdom. He certainly bears a deserved reputation for melancholy. And yet an editorial which appeared in the *Patriot* of Monday would make a horse laugh, unless indeed the animal was lost altogether to a keen sense of the ridiculous. The article was in the shape of a whine from our much esteemed contemporary over an attack in the *Enquirer*, which it alleges should never have been written. It was scurrilous, and, of course, it was personal, and it closes with the remark that "it is the organs of the *Enquirer*" regrets anything concerning the *Patriot*, it arises from its inability to ignore Mr. Laird." Mr. Laird is all the time obtruding his name in his paper, and yet when he is assailed he complains of personality. Has there ever been such a humbug as this Mr. Laird? He says, in effect, that it is cruel to throw water on a drowned rat, and yet when a few luke-warm are poured out the rat drowns at all. It is Mr. Laird every time, it is eternally Mr. Laird, until the organ sinks beneath the weight of the name. When well-intended chastisement is inflicted on the man of Keewatin he cries, "Oh, don't be personal, assail the *Enquirer*, if you like, but spare me, just as the bear and spay at the game of 'Beat the Bear and Spay the Master.' The thing is incomprehensible to us altogether. And bear in mind this same gentleman never tires crawling behind the editorial curtain to obtain a glimpse of the writer. In the editorial we refer to the following sentence appears: "We can only account for such 'journalistic' as the ground that there was a dearth of editorial matter in the *Enquirer* on Saturday last, owing to the absence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands from the city."

And still the *Patriot* editor pretends to be a journalist. What does it matter who writes the article? We have no commission to defend the *Enquirer* or the Commissioner of Crown Lands, but we do think they are treating the *Enquirer* with more respect than he deserves.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In Wendell Phillips' America has lost its greatest orator and humanity its truest friend. To him more than to any other man of his time is due the enfranchisement of the negro. He was for freedom, right and justice wherever they presented themselves, and he was a better foe of oppression in every form. The dead orator was a sincere friend and alumnus of the great O'Connell, of whom he never tired speaking.

We learn from the estimates that the \$300,000 which appeared in the supplementary estimates last year as drawback on fish and oil, due to merchants and traders, of Prince Edward Island, appear in this year's estimates, and will, no doubt, be beyond all peradventure this time. It will be remembered that this item—so important to the Island—was dropped towards the close of the session, owing to what we shall be content to call a misunderstanding, though it was called by a harsher name last year.

SKAKIM, one of the strongholds in front of the False Prophet, is situated on a small island on the Red Sea, and is connected with the mainland by an immense causeway. It has been strengthened of late by English engineers, and it is thought can defy El Mehi. Khartoum is situated at the juncture of the Blue and White Nile, and is two hundred and eighty miles from Berber. An army going to its relief would have to cross a desert for which an enormous number of camels would be necessary. Khartoum is doomed. Tokar and Suakin are little forts on the Red Sea, one forty-five, the other thirty-two miles from Suakin.

LORD DERBY is more outspoken and honest in what is known as the Irish policy of the Government than either Lord Spencer or Mr. Trevelyan. Lord Spencer is all for philanthropy. He carries ladies under his arm into the emigrant ship, consoling himself with the idea he is sending away a future rebel; or, as T. P. O'Connor has it, "he dangles a rope in one hand and a baby in the other." Lord Derby, on the other hand, says quite bluntly, as is his manner, "I think the emigration of a few millions from Ireland would pay." But it is not a cruel policy, whether blunt like that of Lord Derby or hypocritical like Lord Spencer?

THE Ice Carnival in Montreal is a great success. It is said that its organizers have netted one hundred thousand dollars by their scheme, while the city has profited to the extent of a million without reckoning the trade connections formed and the increase in Montreal's future prosperity which must accrue. Thousands were present at the Carnival from New York and hundreds from other American cities, and even European countries furnished their quota. It is now in order for Montreal to forget its claims on the next Dominion Exhibition in favor of less fortunate Charlottetown, which has lots of ice, but no palace.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 8th, 1884.

The following is a summary of the estimates laid on the table by the Finance Minister yesterday afternoon: Public debt (with sinking fund) \$8,921,194; Charities and coast service 1,001,048; Civil Government 1,001,048; Administration of Justice 627,620; Police 15,000; Penitentiaries 208,794; Legislative 657,940; Arts, Agriculture and Statistics (including census) 100,450; Immigration 525,575; Quarantine 48,466; Pensions (including superannuation) 290,165; Railways 1,099,410; To Income 30,100; Public Works and Buildings (do) 1,852,975; Mail subsidies and steamship subvention 380,973; Ocean and river service 221,000; Lighthouse and coast service 227,708; Fisheries 255,200; Seafaring institutions 35,750; Marine Hospital 15,000; Seamen 62,000; Superintendent of Insurance Companies 10,250; Subsidies 325,500; Geographical survey 60,000; Indians 726,473; Miscellaneous 229,569.

COLLECTION OF REVENUE. Customs 708,815; Excise 311,256; Land Revenue 71,900; Weights, Measures and Ties 81,700; Inspection of Staples 3,000; Subsidies 15,000; Minor revenues 7,000; Railways and Canals 3,256,722; Public Works 2,409,965; Post Office 2,409,965; Dominion lands (chargeable to income) 151,703; Total consolidated fund 29,811,639.

THE ESTIMATED RECAPITALIZATION. Redemption of debt \$34,280,280; Railways and Canals 11,448,100; Public Works 2,409,965; Dominion lands (chargeable to capital) 340,000; Total capital \$46,714,344.

These estimates show a reduction of \$1,400,000 on those of last year. The above are merely the principal items. There is a larger sum in minor matters, including \$300,000 for P. E. Island, which would have been voted last year but for Mr. Davies, and which is something like drawback duty on fish and fish oil for 1871, and the United States fishermen had obtained access to your waters. The debate on the guarantee to the Canada Pacific Railway commenced on Tuesday, and was adjourned until Friday. Sir Charles Tupper's speech on this subject was a great one, even greater than usual, which is saying a good deal. You are of course aware that, owing to the terrible shrinkage of late in railroad construction, the country is in a state of depression, especially in the transcontinental, which ruined Mr. Villard and shook Jay Gould—the bonds of the Central Pacific Railway could not be sold under a sacrifice, even for the wealthy Sydenhams. Hence the Syndicate asks the Government to guarantee their stocks, and lend them \$22,500,000 on good security. Sir Charles was anxious to make it clear that Sir Charles was not making it clear that the country would have been voted last year but for Mr. Davies, and which is something like drawback duty on fish and fish oil for 1871, and the United States fishermen had obtained access to your waters. The debate on the guarantee to the Canada Pacific Railway commenced on Tuesday, and was adjourned until Friday. Sir Charles Tupper's speech on this subject was a great one, even greater than usual, which is saying a good deal. You are of course aware that, owing to the terrible shrinkage of late in railroad construction, the country is in a state of depression, especially in the transcontinental, which ruined Mr. Villard and shook Jay Gould—the bonds of the Central Pacific Railway could not be sold under a sacrifice, even for the wealthy Sydenhams. 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