



"AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM."

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The Campaign Against Catholic Office Holders.

Catholic Register.

Last week we gave a long list of the names of Catholics in the Kingston district who have been driven out of Government employment by the Liberals. The Globe had been denying only a few days before that Catholics have any grievance against the new administration; but the chief government organ prudently abstains from offering any defence of the dismissals enumerated. We had hoped to induce the organ to descend from virtuous and patriotic generalities and come down to plain facts and particular instances. But we may have been at fault ourselves in not offering direct proof that religious opinion was the evident "crime" of the Catholic office-holder in any stated case of dismissal.

The circumstances surrounding the removal of Mr. McAllister, of Cobourg by Hon. Mr. Paterson leave no room for supposing anything else than politico-religious persecution. This week we propose to take up another case in Mr. Paterson's department in which we are prepared to demonstrate a religious persecution beyond aye or nay.

The Government campaign against Catholics is not confined to one district or province. It is so widespread and intense that we fully anticipate all the time from now till the opening of the Parliament will be required to give an outline in THE REGISTER of the entire bill of particulars, to which we earnestly invite the attention of the Catholic electors of the Dominion, and particularly the Irish Catholic members of the House of Commons and Senate, to whom our people must look for a vigorous protest at the earliest possible opportunity.

The case of Mr. J. F. Tennant of Gretna, Manitoba, is one of the worst instances of religious persecution that has ever come to light under a supposed civilized Government. The facts are plainly set forth in the following communication from a correspondent, whose name we suppress, believing that to divulge it would quickly be followed by the infliction of injury upon him by partisans holding positions of influence.

To the Editor of The Catholic Register:

DEAR SIR—As you have always shown a disposition to defend the rights of Roman Catholics, I wish to give you the facts relative to a very coarse piece of persecution in the Dominion Civil Service of Manitoba.

Joseph Tennant, an Irish Catholic, has been for many years collector of customs at the port of Gretna. During the last Provincial campaign, when the Catholic religion and Catholics were maligned and slandered on every platform by the henchmen of the Greenway Government, Tennant attended a public meeting held in Gretna. One of the speakers, the Hon. J. D. Cameron, a member of the Greenway Government, was most bitter in his language towards the Church and people of our creed. One of his remarks was to the effect that any man who was a separate school supporter must necessarily be a disloyal man.

Tennant, who has been a British soldier, as well as his father before him, hotly resented this slander and consequently incurred the enmity not only of Cameron but of the whole Greenway Government. Tennant came to this country on the Wolsley expedition in 1870. He has been Mayor of West Lynne, councillor in the town of Emerson, and a temperate and capable man in every respect. In April of this year he was dismissed, not allowed one dollar of superannuation, although he had paid nine years into the fund and his last month's wages were withheld.

always considered Mr. Tennant one of the most able men in his department and he, Captain Young, has given Tennant letters to that effect.

Mr. Tennant has a family of eight children and is very conscientious on the matter of giving his children a Catholic education. He has carried this principle to the extent of sending all his children to Winnipeg where they could get the education desired.

No one who has not lived in this Province can be cognizant of the spirit of persecution that has been engendered towards men of the Roman Catholic creed; and Tennant lost his position and is penniless because he would not permit a vile slander to go unanswered.

The Hon. Mr. Laurier as well as the Hon. Mr. Paterson were made aware of all the facts concerning this case, but the Greenway Government and R. L. Richardson, M.P., publisher of a rabid anti-Catholic sheet in this city, demanded Tennant's head.

Signed,

Mr. Tennant, by publicly refuting the slanderous assertion of Cameron, did nothing more than any honest man is bound to do in honor and conscience. He defended his personal loyalty, a thing which his career in the military service of Canada, and the career of his father as a British soldier, demanded of him. He defended his religion and the religion of his children, which was an obligation laid upon him by his conscience. For doing these things so becoming in an honest and an honorable man a partisan agent was set upon his track, and to-day the man is at the mercy of the world. He has not only been unjustly treated, but he has been defrauded and robbed. Had he paid into an insurance company the proportion of his wages that went into the Civil Service superannuation fund, the common law would have protected those savings, and the insurance company would be compelled to refund. Can a Government legally do that which in a business corporation is pronounced dishonest and illegal? Furthermore a month's salary was withheld from Mr. Tennant; and very likely if he proceeded by law to recover the money his poverty would defeat his legal right when pitted against the wealth of the state.

Our readers may reasonably ask themselves when reading these facts: Is partisanship essentially so blind and heartless as to isolate a man like Mr. Tennant from the sympathy of his neighbors no matter what their politics may be? It is not. It is not partisanship in itself that has crushed Mr. Tennant. The "offence" which he committed was not against the Dominion Government but against the Government of Manitoba. The malice of Greenway's confere, Cameron, would have been powerless in itself, and if publicly displayed would have injured Cameron alone. But Cameron could avoid public criticism and carry his influence into the Dominion Government by hiring the politician Richardson to use the knife. We are inclined to think that a very little "knifing" indeed was needed when the victim was a Catholic and Mr. Paterson the politician who must pronounce the sentence of capital punishment.

The quick success of Richardson after he had been set on the trail by Cameron of course shocked everyone who had known Mr. Tennant, or was aware of the circumstances of his dismissal. A liberal newspaper, The Qu'Appelle Progress,

voiced the better partisan sentiment when it said:

It is with feelings of surprise and sorrow that we hear of the dismissal by the Customs Department of an efficient and courteous officer, a brave soldier and an esteemed citizen, in the person of Sub-Collector Tennant, of Gretna, Manitoba. When the First Expedition was started to Manitoba, Mr. Tennant was one of the earliest to join the party, and when the Mounted Police was in its infancy he was an upholder of peace within our boundaries and a maintainer of law and order upon our frontiers. At great personal risk he saved a whole boat's crew from destruction, and was the recipient of the most marked approval of Lord Wolsley for the promptness of his actions and the gallantry of his conduct. Can we ask the Liberal or any other Government afford to lose the services of such a man for the mere fact that he was a little too outspoken in his political sentiments—a little too open and candid in his expression of his feelings? Had he been less of a man and more of a trimmer would he still not have been in the enjoyment of his office? We know that we voice the feelings of the business men of Winnipeg and Manitoba in saying that it would be a graceful action on the part of the Government to reinstate this gentleman to his or some similar position. A large-hearted, whole-souled policy of this kind begets confidence in our leaders and adds lustre to our administration.

In a later issue the same paper said:

The statement made by the Premier, the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on the floor of the House of Commons, that in the case of civil servants charged with alleged offensive partisanship justice would be done to all has not been verified. Sorry we are to say for the credit of our country, and the Government we support, that the rule so laid down has been broken and flagrant acts of injustice committed to gratify the personal animosity of a few individuals. To refer briefly to one case in point, Mr. J. F. Tennant, ex-Collector of Customs at Gretna, a reliable and efficient officer with a record established of over twenty years for faithful work in the service of his country, has been dismissed at a moment's notice, and without a trial. He is the only one so singled out in the whole of the Customs service for the province of Manitoba, all others charged with the same offence having been allowed British fair play and a trial, with the opportunity of meeting their accusers face to face. And for why, we ask, was Mr. Tennant refused this? Was it because by virtue of the high office held by his accusers that they would be above the suspicion of a disgraceful attempt to belittle the honor of our country? If so, we are willing not to blame the Government, provided even at this late hour justice be done to the victim of premeditated spite. It is a fact well known that the Attorney-General of the province of Manitoba, the Hon. J. D. Cameron, declared he would hound Mr. Tennant out of office, and this some time previous to the Dominion campaign. Mr. Tennant's offence was for resenting at a public meeting, held in Gretna during the Manitoba provincial elections, a gross insult to the loyalty of Roman Catholics, made by the Hon. J. D. Cameron. Mr. Tennant was one among a small Roman Catholic minority resident in the place and had done military service for his country in the Red River expedition and would have been something less than a man to have passed over such affront. It is said that the Hon. Thomas Greenway, the Premier of Manitoba, also lent himself and is a party to the disgraceful attempt to lower the honor and dignity of our country by a promise made to Mr. Tennant's successor that he would give him the office for support rendered. What a spectacle! A Provincial Premier bartering Dominion offices for political support. Once again we make an appeal to the Dominion Government and our Premier of the Dominion, the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for justice in this case as well as others, believing as we firmly do that if a hearing be secured for Mr. Tennant the sentence under which he

now suffers so unjustly will be repealed, and no individual, no matter how high his office, will be allowed to tamper with the rights of the humblest of British subjects and expect his actions to be above honest criticism.

Newspaper protests against Bossism of this sort carry little weight. The better way is to protest on the floor of Parliament, the protest being made in the name of religious conscience by all the Catholics in the House of Commons and Senate without distinction of party. THE REGISTER does not wish to promote political feeling among Catholics or to advocate a politico-religious combination without cause. We shall look to our representatives until their influence has been proved powerless. These articles will be continued. There is a great deal yet to come.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the parting of the Ways.

Catholic Register.

The return of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his amiable wife to Canada called forth great popular manifestations of joy at Quebec, Montreal and other cities of the east. These demonstrations would have been remarkable had they not been well-deserved and natural. As it was, they were fully anticipated and the whole Dominion shared in them. Sir Wilfrid has returned home a great Premier, and everyone is glad that he has earned so much honor for himself and for Canada. He is a man whom success is not likely to spoil, and whose greater personal strength and power is a desirable factor in the political life of the Dominion.

Canada has become used to trusting almost everything upon the personality of the First Minister. Sir John Macdonald and Sir John Thompson were men who knew how to carry the peculiar individual responsibility vested in the highest political office in this land. Sir Wilfrid Laurier up to the present time has not been generally accepted by his own party in the rank of statesmanship so freely accorded by the Conservatives to his two historic predecessors. In the future none will dispute his right there.

This is a fact to be hailed with genuine satisfaction by all who would deplore, not by reason of any party-convictions, but in a spirit of sincere patriotism, the existence of a weak Government at Ottawa. The history of Confederation has convinced Canadians that the Federal Government will be strong as long as it includes a Premier whose political strength is unchallenged by his associates in the ministry. The Liberals by withholding the right of personal generalship from Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced a new plan of Government. They went through the general elections under the banner "Laurier, Mowat and Victory"—giving the people to understand that Laurier might be trusted because Mowat was by to hold his hand when it shook. After the change of Government had taken place the new Premier was compelled to surround himself by a cabinet of "little premiers," so that the provincial electorates might each trust its own local man, if it could not trust the Prime Minister.

This sort of bolstering up has seriously threatened the career of the first French Catholic Premier. It weakened him personally and opened as many doors as there are provinces for the perpetration of acts which one man occupying as personally responsible a position as the late Sir John Thompson would never have countenanced. To go no further than the story unfolded in our leading article to-day, we believe that if the Premier had had the full power attaching to his office, a fellow like Richardson of Winnipeg, at the instigation of a provincial politician, could never have ruined, for the gratification of private malice, a gallant soldier and honest public servant like Mr. Tennant, the deputy-Collector of Customs at Gretna, Manitoba. But because the Premier was made to feel that standing alone he was not strong enough for his position, provincial bigots like Cameron in Manitoba, Dalton McCarthy in Ontario, Israel Tarte in Que-

bec and others have had their way thus far almost unchecked.

In the future Sir Wilfrid Laurier can afford to stand alone. He has placed all Canadians under a personal obligation to him. Uncle Oliver was not there to appropriate any credit that was not due to him, and the rest of the "little premiers" were furnishing daily proof of their combined irresponsibility at Ottawa. Sir Richard Cartwright only held himself in the respect of the country.

In Sir Wilfrid Laurier's new role we look for better government. We look for an end of the hunt after Catholics whose religious faith or political opinions may have rendered them obnoxious to provincial bosses. We look for a restoration to their places in the civil service of men like Mr. McAllister of Cobourg and Mr. Tennant of Gretna, Man. The Premier is now strong enough to tell the provincial bullies that if they do not like honesty they can leave the government. A reconstruction of the ministry is expected, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier can now select his associates and not leave the selection in their own hands. The Premier stands at the parting of the ways, where the future road leads either to fame or to failure.

Returning to the Faith of their FATHERS.

Rev. Canon Grigson, vicar of Townsville, North Queensland—whither he went from England in 1889—has been admitted into the Catholic Church.

Among the number of the recent notable conversions to the Catholic faith in England are the following:—Miss Edith Howard—Hodges whose sister joined the Church a few years previously and is now head of a religious community in Rome; George Alfred Gaudy, brother of the Rev. Fr. Gaudy, Secretary to the Bishop of Plymouth; the Rev. A. St. Leger Westall, Curate of St. Saviour's Crofton, with his wife and family; also the Rev. Mr. Still for many years vicar of Ken. The last named gentleman was received into the Church on his death-bed.

Jewish Logic.

In the letter issued by the Fathers of the Pan-Anglican and Protestant Episcopal conference recently held at Lambeth Palace England, it is stated that "the conversion of the Jews is much hindered by the severe persecutions to which Jewish converts are exposed from their own people."

Mr. O. J. Simon a leading Hebrew has written a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury in which he declares the Statement to be "absolutely false," and calls upon his Grace publicly to withdraw it. Continuing he says, "I might add that I know, as your Grace does, of many Protestants who have cut off their sons and daughters for becoming Roman Catholics or Israelites." After pointing out that, from his intimate acquaintance with the work of "The London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews," he is in a position to assure his Grace that the alleged Jewish converts to Anglicanism are quite willing to return to the Synagogue if the Jews will agree to maintain them as handsomely as the Anglicans are now doing, he concludes with the following significant statement: "It is well for Anglicans to reflect that no Jew with a sense of history and logic, with which they are not meagrely equipped, would dream of becoming a Christian except as a Roman Catholic."

Evidently Mr. Simon shares the view of the sage who, on being asked his opinion as to the respective claims of Catholicism, Judaism or Protestantism to be the true religion, replied: If Christ has really come the Catholics are right; if He has not come the Jews are right; but whether he has come or not the Protestants are wrong.

A CONSISTENT SUGGESTION.

From the Washington Star.

"They ought to change the name of that club of yours," said Mr. Bibbles's wife at the breakfast table.

"In what way?"

"They ought to call it the Klondyke."

"I—I must say that I don't see why."

"For the reason that when a man starts out to go there, there's no telling when he'll get home again."