

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.
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We beg to remind our Correspondents that no
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NEWS OF THE WEEK

So little progress has been made hitherto by the Conference for the settlement of the Danish question, so slight are the hopes entertained that it will be able to accomplish more in the future, that the *London Times* in an editorial of the 10th ult., admits with a sigh, "that it is very possible that on the 26th the campaign will once more open, and the possession of the debated territory be left to the decision of the sword." What, in such a contingency, will be the action of the British Government we are not informed, but we do not think that it will draw the sword for Denmark.

The state of the Pope's health continues to be the subject of lively discussion in the European journals; but our readers will be glad to learn that a great improvement therein has taken place, as is admitted by the *Times* correspondent; who however seeks to console himself, and the Protestant public whom he addresses, by the reflection that the "lamp of life will one of these days go out unexpectedly." By this hopeful prospect he is buoyed up, and he and the Liberals of Europe comfort one another with these words.

In the Kingdom of Naples the work of pacification or subjugation goes on but slowly, and fresh Piedmontese troops have been sent south to subdue the refractory Neapolitans. Deportations and fustillations are the order of the day, and the Kingdom of Naples is in short a second La Vendee, in which in the name of Italian Unity, the worst horrors of the French Revolution are being repeated by the mercenary ruffians of Victor Emmanuel. One good thing however, one encouraging symptom presents itself. Garibaldi and the King are daily assuming more hostile attitudes towards one another, and as the proverb says, when rogues or *Rouges* fall out, honest men have a chance of coming by their own.

We have nothing definite from the seat of war near Richmond. Grant still menaces Petersburg, and in a series of conflicts does not seem to have gained any advantage. Gold throughout the week has ranged from 210 to 220; this also is encouraging.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.—The most superficial observer must be struck with the close, we may say the perfect analogy subsisting betwixt the state of affairs in these two countries. In the former, thank God, we have not as yet had recourse to material arms; and if there be aught of honesty or wisdom—ought of capacity to profit by the example of our Southern neighbors—we may entertain the hope that, in time, even the wordy warfare now waged may be stilled; and that peace and harmony betwixt the two Provinces, and the two distinct races by whom they are severally inhabited may be restored.

This however cannot be expected from the proposed Federation, or from any probable modification thereof: and be indeed must be exceedingly deficient in political foresight who does not perceive that the scheme lately announced in the Legislature for allaying "sectional differences" can but have the effect of intensifying and perpetuating them. As rationally might the sick man expect a quiet night's rest from the application of a blister, or a dose of salts, as the Canadian publicist anticipate a cessation of "sectional differences" from a Federation, either of the two Canadas, or of all the British North American Provinces.

The cessation of "sectional differences," forsooth, from a Federal Union! Are men mad, or do they believe their listeners to be fools, that they assail our ears with such trash. Let us but turn our eyes for a moment to the southward, to the battle-fields of the Army of the Potomac; and then ask ourselves how far has a Federal Union tended to allay, or prevent the growth of "sectional differences" betwixt the members of that Federation? Never was a Federal Union inaugurated, never can a Federal Union again be inaugurated, under such favorable auspices, and such fortunate conditions, as those under which was inaugurated the Federal Union of the North American Republic. Betwixt its component parts, there were no essential differences of race or creed. Heirs to the same social system, inheritors of the same "common law" of England, of the same traditions, the same literature, the same mother tongue, and the same religion, with no bitter memories of the past to look back upon, flushed with recent triumph over a common enemy, and newly conquered independence, comrades on many a hard fought field—of one blood, of one lineage, and of one faith—the people of the young American Republic might well believe their political fabric to be destined

to an immortality and a prosperity not accorded to the systems under which other men lived.— If ever, we say, there was a form of Government devised by the wit of man calculated to ensure its own stability, the designs of its originators, to maintain peace amongst its members, and to do away with all possibility of future discord, or "sectional differences," that form of Government was that of whose birth our grandfathers were the witnesses, and of which we have beheld the overthrow in the storm of civil war. And yet there are men mad enough, or, shall we say impudent enough, to prate to us of a Federal Union of these Provinces as a specific against "sectional differences!"

Why! already the two Canadas stand to one another in the hostile relations of South to North. What the Yankees are to the people of Virginia, Georgia and the Carolinas, that are the great mass of the Upper Canadians to us of Lower Canada. They are our Yankees; and for the last quarter of a century, the history of this portion of North America is but the record of the gallant struggles of the French Canadian race against that Yankee dominion. Alien to one another, as we have often said, in blood, in language, and religion, with no community of interests or traditions, of literature, or of social usages, with no bond to unite them, except their common allegiance to Queen Victoria—the people of the two Canadas present in their respective positions a contrast the most striking to the people of the thirteen Colonies when the latter inaugurated that Federal Union of whose bloody consequences we are the spectators. And with this example before our eyes, with this instance of the inefficiency of any form of Federal Union to prevent the growth of "sectional differences" and their development into internecine war, we prate about a Federal Union as a means to allay already existing, and deep seated differences; differences having their roots deep down in the soil of our social being, and springing from the ineradicable differences of race and creed which distinguish the people of one Province from those of the other! Is this simply folly? or must it be set down to the account of something worse than madness, and more disgraceful than folly? We allude, of course, to the language of the *Evening Telegraph* and other journals favorable to the scheme of Federation.

We are told that the Federal system in the United States has failed, not from its intrinsic defects, but because of the disturbing influence of slavery; because of the antagonism betwixt Slave States and Free States. This we do not admit; for though the existence of the slavery element may have slightly precipitated the rupture, it is in no sense its cause. But let this pass. For the sake of argument let us grant all that can be attributed to slavery as the cause of the civil war; and what then? Here we not Popery in Canada? and are not Popery and Protestantism as mutually antagonistic as slave labor and free labor? Have we not ethnological differences, as well as religious differences? and are not these fully equivalent to those differences betwixt North and South which, according to one set of theorists, have caused the break up of the Federal Union?

Because we say these things, we are not insensible to, not willing to prolong, the evils which spring from "sectional differences," betwixt subjects of one Sovereign, and to whom we of the Lower Province are profoundly attached, and sincerely loyal. We are for union, but for moral, not political union; and we know that the more closely the people of Upper and Lower Canada are politically united, the less will they be morally united. We aim at union, we say, but a moral union, by the means, and as the consequence, of a political severance. Politically separated, each Province under its own legislature in the enjoyment of full autonomy, Upper and Lower Canada would be the closest and the most steadfast of friends. Politically united, they are, and ever must be, mutually provoking one another to wrath, and inspiring one another with fears and jealousies. Upper Canada will still be to the Lower Province what Massachusetts is to Virginia, and Mr. George Brown must stand towards the French Canadians as the hated Butler. The only chance for a thorough cordial union betwixt the two Provinces lies in their political separation.

To those who labor under the delusion that in mere political union there is strength, and that a political separation of the two Canadas would leave the Provinces weak, and unable, if attacked, to cope with an enemy in time of war—we would respectfully offer one suggestion. Were the thirteen colonies, because each was governed according to its own form of Constitution, Patent or Charter, the less able, because of their political severance, to make head against the formidable military power of France on this Continent? Were they, because of their political difference, the less morally united in the hour of danger, or less formidable to their foes, than they would have been had all their peculiar forms of government been merged into one, and a complete political unity established betwixt them? Certainly not. For all purposes of offence or defence, the thirteen colonies were one;

and they were one as towards the enemy, because as towards one another they were several and distinct; because in short, they were morally and not politically united. So too would it be with us, and all the British North American Provinces, were our relations towards one another as were those of the thirteen colonies; were each Province left free to govern itself without interference of any kind from its neighbors.

But this moral union, of which the basis must be the perfect autonomy of the several Provinces, and of which the results would be peace and good will at all times, and in the hour of danger a combined front against the common foe—is not at all the kind of union after which Protestant Reformers, Clear Grits, *Rouges* and Liberals do hanker. It is only as a means to an end, the triumph of democracy, of the principles of '89, and the spoliation of the Catholic Church in Lower Canada, that our political opponents value Union. Look at their writings: search the columns of the *Witness*—or of its twin brother the *Toronto Globe*, the organ of Mr. George Brown—and what shall we find? Always the most extravagant laudations of Italian Unity; and because thereby the great and good work of secularising the property of the Church, of putting down Monks, and subjecting all ranks and conditions of the clergy—and ultimately it is hoped the Pope himself—to the civil power has been signally promoted. This is the great work, the crowning mercy of Italian Unification: and this is the work which Protestant Reformers and the friends of Mr. George Brown hope to carry through in Canada by the same agencies. We do our enemies no wrong in this, for they make no secret of their ultimate designs. In that they approve of the robbery and persecution of the Church in Italy, how can it be believed that they would shrink from the carrying out in a United Canada, of measures of which they approve in a United Italy?

But without entering at the present into any details, or urging to day the innumerable objections, moral and material, that naturally present themselves to the scheme of a Federation of all, or any of the British North American Provinces, let us content ourselves with the consideration how far such an arrangement would be likely to smooth down asperities, and allay "sectional differences." Here we quit the domain of theory, for the domain of facts. In letters, indelible letters of blood, is the solution of this problem written, so that to all ages it is given to know how vain it is to expect that a Federal Union shall prevent the growth of mutual jealousies and hatred.

The several States of the American Republic were united in Federal Union, and under the most favorable circumstances conceivable. Circumstances, so favorable, that never can we expect them to be repeated.

The several States of the Union are now engaged in the most deadly, the most cruel war recorded in history. On the one side the North lavishes its blood and treasure to enforce its hated yoke upon the seceded South: on the other side the Southerners with a heroism and devotion without parallel, submit cheerfully to the bitterest of privations, to have their homes devastated, and their fields laid waste, in the hopes of thereby being able to escape from the odious connexion with their Yankee neighbors.

Therefore a Federal Union does not afford any guarantee whatever against the development to the most dangerous proportions, of what are euphuistically termed "sectional differences."

In short, to dispose of the whole question as to the efficacy of a Federal Union to promote concord, we have but to ask ourselves—what are the Southerners fighting for? For what cause are they shedding their heart's blood on the field of battle? We reply—to throw off a yoke which long years of bitter experience has proved to be too grievous to be borne; a yoke alas! which some amongst us it seems are intent upon imposing on Canada. We are, and we are not ashamed to own it, Secessionists at heart, sympathisers with the South: not because we do not detest slavery—but because heart and soul we would uphold the principle of State-Rights against Federal Sovereignty, or in other words Centralisation. Sympathising therefore as we do with the South in its efforts to throw off the yoke of Federal Centralisation—we cannot, in common consistency, but be heart and soul opposed to the Federal Union of such heterogeneous elements as the Provinces of British North America.

A SAFE FLAG TO FIGHT UNDER.—In reply to a short paragraph in our last, the *Montreal Witness* of Saturday writes:—

"Our best authority" was the ladies in the carriage belonging to one of the most respectable families in Montreal.

With these words the *Witness* shuts us up, because, but only because, neither directly nor indirectly will we be guilty of dragging the names of ladies before the public in a newspaper controversy. The *Witness* is sheltered from our batteries, when he hides behind his intrenchment of crinoline, and covered by the petticoat flag which he hoists, he may sleep in peace and perfect security. We have not a word to say when a lady speaks.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.—These have been made at last, and we will give them to our readers as they appear in an editorial of the *Globe*, and in a speech by Sir E. Tache, reported in the *Montreal Herald*. It may be premised that the material consideration, or price paid to Mr. George Brown for his share in this great work, is three seats in the Cabinet, to be placed at his disposal after the prorogation. In this respect his friends think that he has somewhat neglected their interests, in not securing for them a larger share of the public plunder.

The following is the *Globe's* version of this transaction, or compromise, for we care not to assign to the transaction an epithet that would offend any one:—

According to the policy adopted, the remedy for existing constitutional difficulties is to be found in the adoption of the federal principle. A measure applying that principle to the Canadas is to be introduced at the next session of Parliament, with provisions for the admission of the Lower Provinces, and of the North-west territory into the federation, whenever that becomes practicable upon equitable terms. The application of the federal principle to the Canadas involves a legislature and a government for the whole Province, having charge of matters common to the whole; and the division of the Province into two or more sections, with legislatures and governments having charge of matters of a local character. In the upper branch of the federal legislature the equality of representation is to be preserved, while in the lower branch, Representation by Population is to prevail. Efforts are to be made to induce the Lower Provinces to join the confederation, but the success of the scheme, as far as Canada is concerned, is not to be contingent upon their assent. In any event, Parliament will, at its next session, be asked to carry out the principle as regards this Province, while those who are beyond the control of the Canadian Parliament, will be taken in whenever they are willing to come.—*Toronto Globe*.

The annexed is the explanation of the business given in the Legislative Council by Sir E. Tache:—

Sir Etienne Tache read the following document: "Last night in the other House the Attorney General of U. C. in answer to some remarks of the Hon Mr. Brown, stated that he was aware an attempt had been made for political purposes to spread the rumor that a discrepancy existed between the Ministerial explanations in the two branches of the Legislature, but that no such discrepancy existed; in fact it was agreed between the Government and Mr. Brown that the mem. read to both Houses should be considered as the explanations which ought to be made to Parliament and the country. That Sir Etienne Tache and Mr. Campbell had therefore refused to go beyond this, and Sir Etienne had stated that any statements beyond the written paper were only the individual opinion of members. That in consequence of the rumors of a discrepancy as to the statement and to put an end to attempts to produce discord, the members of the Government had conferred together and authorized him (Attorney General U. C.) to state that in introducing the federal principle in the proposed federation either of all the British North American Provinces or of the Canadas as the case might be, it was understood that, to the local Governments and Legislatures would be entrusted the protection of all local laws, interests and institutions and that no agreement had been or could be made as the constitution or powers of such local Governments. These details must hereafter be carefully and fully considered. That in the General or Federal Government which would have the sovereign power and deal with all subjects of Government and Legislation common to all the sections composing the federation, one branch of the Legislature must be composed on the principle of equality represented therein, and that the other or popular branch must be constituted on a popular basis, and that representation based on numbers prevail; but in stating so it must be distinctly understood that representation according to numbers did not involve any sanction of the principles of universal suffrage, but that all classes, all interests and property should be represented in the Lower House where they were in England. Sir Etienne added—I now beg to say that this statement of the Attorney General West is the opinion of the Government, and that I desire to announce it once for all as such, and further that I decline entering into any further discussion on the subject.—*Herald*.

Upon the merits of the scheme which we lay before our readers, we need to-day offer no other remarks than these—That it comprises all the disadvantages of a Legislative Union with "Representation by Population," and that to these evils it adds other evils peculiarly its own. It behoves the Lower Canadians then, and indeed the Catholics of the entire Province, to be on the alert, for their liberties were never seriously in jeopardy before to-day. The supreme moment of their fate has however now arrived, and God grant that amongst them there be sufficient honesty and pluck to meet it.

THE "GLOBE" ON ROMANISM.—Mr. George Brown's organ is terribly exercised on the subject of Convents, and Nunnery Schools. Not having, as yet, the power to put these institutions down, to confiscate their property, and to treat their inmates as the Liberal Italian Government which it so much admires and so constantly propounds to us as a model, treats the inmates of Nunneries in Italy—the writer contents himself with denouncing the abominations of conventual education, and warning his readers against the wicked artifices of the Nuns. Here is the style in which the organ of our new ally—Mr. George Brown—speaks of conventual education, and the sin of those who countenance it:—

"The trifling with the truth of God in supporting Romanism is so serious, and the danger to the whole community so great, that we must not shut our eyes and be silent: for the peace and good of our country we must not."

Courage Messrs. Protestant Reformers! courage George Brown! The ball is at your feet, and the game is your own. No more "trifling with Romanism" will be tolerated, now that your day of power has arrived; no more encouragement shall be given to these accursed nunneries and monkeries which you so much abhor. "Te Consule," oh George Brown, Rome will no longer have cause to boast of her good fortune: and henceforward a new reading of the

Ciceronian verse will have to be adopted.

But perhaps you reckon without your host: perhaps there are in Lower Canada more honesty, more patriotism, more disinterestedness and more energy than you give these Lower Canadian Papists—*moutons* you sometimes call them—credit for. Perhaps we Romanists are not yet given over to you for a prey: and perchance, please God, we shall yet be enabled to defeat your dangerous Federation scheme, and all your other clever plots for our humiliation and subjection. At all events we will try; and if you do succeed in your heart's desire of putting down these accursed nunnery schools that trouble you so, it shall not be, please God, without a last desperate struggle on the part of Canadians and Catholics for their "laws, their language, and their religion."

FEDERATION, AND ADULTERY MADE EASY.

In one respect, Mr. George Brown is entitled to praise, and he shall have it. Even at this moment, when it is his object to disgust Lower Canadian Catholics as little as possible, he makes no secret of his ultimate designs; he seeks not to conceal the ruinous consequences to morality and to religion which would necessarily flow from the adoption of the policy which he advocates, and of whose triumph he now deems himself certain. All he wants is power—power, through a majority in the Legislature, to enforce his views upon the country, and we shall be blessed with a Divorce Court upon the English model, whence Government "Licences to commit Adultery" will be issued on cheap and reasonable terms to applicants, and the arbitrary restrictions of the Christian law upon the lusts of the flesh shall be dispensed with. Already has such a Court been established in the Colony of Victoria; already is the Protestant press of that Colony crying out at its demoralising effects; and such a Court, and such effects upon the morals of Canada, will be, we may be sure, amongst the first fruits of the Federal Union. Here is what the *Globe* says upon the subject. Seriously do we commend it to the notice of all our readers, who believe that a political alliance with George Brown may be contracted without detriment to the interests of religion or morality—or, in other words, that it is possible to touch pitch, and not be defiled:—

"Already the Parliament of the country, by previous legislation, has acknowledged that there are cases in which divorce should be allowed. But as matters now stand, it is impossible for any but men or women who have a handsome sum of money at command to procure justice. It is a very expensive thing to get a Bill passed into law. A poor man may have as good cause for divorce from his wife as a rich man, but there is not the slightest chance that he will be able to get rid of her, and resume the status he enjoyed before his marriage, simply because the dollars are wanting. Surely this is not a desirable state of things. If it be right that the wealthy husband should, under given circumstances, be able to procure relief, it must be wrong that the poor husband, under precisely similar circumstances, should be denied all. Yet, as the law now is, the injustice and anomaly exists. The evil can only be removed in one way—by the passage of a measure which shall allow of divorce in certain specified cases. We would not say that the English law should be copied in every particular, but it would serve as an excellent guide by which to walk. Despite the efforts of those who are opposed to it upon religious grounds, it has rapidly come to be generally recognised in England as a great public good. Then to imitate the course adopted in the mother country, in this respect at least, Canadians cannot do better."—*Globe*, 13th ult.

Give us a Federal Legislature, with "Representation by Population," and Mr. George Brown will not have long to wait for his Divorce Court.

In reply to many queries as to what the *True Witness* thinks of a political alliance betwixt French Canadian Catholic Conservatives and George Brown, we reply that we entertain the same opinion of such an alliance, as that which some years ago we entertained and expressed in these columns of an alliance betwixt the Irish Catholics of Upper Canada, and the same Mr. George Brown. The *True Witness* is to-day what it was yesterday, what it will be to the last hour of its existence; and as it can see nothing in Mr. George Brown but what it has seen all along; a heart black with malice against every thing Catholic, full of hatred and all uncharitable things to French Canadians—though to promote his particular objects he may for the moment deem it prudent to moderate the raucor of his tongue,—we can see no reason for changing or modifying our opinion of an alliance of Catholics with such a man, and the party of which he is the reputed head.

* And of the Brown-Dorion Alliance.

FIRE AT CORNWALL.—A most disastrous fire occurred at the Railway Station yesterday, by which over 1,500 cords of wood were burned, and a dwelling house belonging to Brian Mahon, together with some outhouses. The fire originated as is supposed, from sparks from a locomotive in passing. When it was first discovered it had made such progress that it was impossible to stop it until the entire pile of wood was consumed. As soon as it was found that the fire could not be stayed by the means at command here, a telegram was sent to Montreal for help, and Mr. Spicer, with engines and about fifty men, came, reaching here in 2 hours and fifty minutes. The citizens assisted as much as possible, and the wind being favorable the fire was prevented from extending. Several other large piles of wood that were near by were in great danger of being consumed. The unfortunate man whose house was consumed was assured by Mr. Spicer that the Grand Trunk would speedily build him a new one in its place.—*Cor. Montreal Gazette*.