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Catholic Record.

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 6, 1884. THE ANNEXATION OF JAMAICA.

we should this week discuss the proposed annexation of Jamaica to Canada. When first we heard mention of this extraordinary proposition we felt inclined to think it had no other basis than the silly wanderings of some superloyal imagination. In this view we must confess ourselves to have been deceived. There is on foot a well laid and carefully planned scheme to bring Jamaica into the Canadian Confederation. That plan has not yet in detail been laid before the public, but we may, from the information before us, fully discuss the principle of the scheme. But, before going further, let us ask and answer a question. Where and what manner of land is Jamaica? Jamaica is found, as to situa tion, soil, products and institutions thus briefly but clearly described :

"Ja maica aboriginally Xaymaca, or Land of Wood and Water—an island situated in the Caribbean Sea, about 90 miles to in the Caribbean Sea, about 30 mines to the south of Cubs, within 17 deg. 45 min. —18 deg. 30 min. N. lat. and 76 deg. 10 min.—78 deg. 22 min. W. long. It is the largest and the most valuable of the British West Indian Islands, being 140 miles in length, and 45 in extreme breadth and a population now estimated at 500,-060. It was discovered in May, 1494, by Columbus, who called it St. Jago. It was taken possession of by the Spaniards in 1509; but in 1655, a British expedition sent out by Oliver Cromwell, under Penn and Venables, attacked the island, which capitulated after a trifling resistance. In 1670 it was formally ceded to England by the Treaty of Madrid. From the sea level on all sides of Jamaica a series of ridges gradually ascend towards the central ranges, from which they radiate, dividing the large rivers, and attaining, in the culminating Western peak of the Blue Mountains, an elevation of 7,-335 feet. From these mountains at least 70 streams descend to the north and south shores, but with the exception of one (the Black River, and that only for small craft) they are not navigable. Excellent harbours are everywhere to be found. Most of the staple products of tropical climates are raised, and in this direction great improvement has taken place during the last few years. The Governor is assisted by a Privy Counci not exceeding 8 members, and a Legisla Council tive Council consisting of 8 official and 8 mon-official members. Kingston is the port and largest town, and is now the capital and seat of government. Popu ation about 25,000.

Amount of public revenue in 1879 ... £547,003 Expenditure in 1879 502,938 Public debt in 1879 ... 718 608 Pablic debt is 1879. 718,698
Emports from United Kingdom, 1879. 994,578
Emports to United Kingdom, 1879. ... 1,347,342
Total imports from all countries, 1879. 1,347,342
Total exports to all countries, 1879. 1,337,571

The chief articles of export were:sugar, £415,404; rum, £197,325; tobacco, £249,158; fruit, £40,175,"

To this description we may add the further information that the entire white population of this island is hardly 20 .-900, while the purely negro population as fully 400,000, the remainder being made up of Chinese and inhabitants of every shade of color and almost every conceivable admixture of blood. The mass of the population have never had any share in the government of the island, which is controlled and directed in the interest of a few proprietors and merchants.many of whom do not reside in. and some of whom have never seen this island. Hence the disaffection that has at times manifested itself; hence the bloody uprisings of the down-trolden multitude; hence the present unsatisfactory political condition of the island. Who are they who propose this scheme of annexation-and who are they in Britain and in Canada who approve the scheme? As to the former a correspondent of the Mail gives us an idea :

"The accompanying copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of Jamaica proprietors and merchants held in London on the 7th inst., has just been forwarded me by the Hon, Mr. Solomon. It is important as showing the way in which the prospect of contederation with Canada is regarded by a body of capitalists having a very large stake in the prosperity of the island. Mr. Solomon that he will submit it to the Colonial Office, before leaving London for Jamaica, which he will do on Sept.

That this meeting of Jamaica proprietors and merchants approves of this scheme for the entrance of Jamaica as a province into the Canadian Dominion, and desires the Hon. Mr. Solomon to take the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter before the Jamaica Legislature so that official proposals may be made without loss of time to the Governmunication Mr. Solomon may have with

the Canadian Premier, Sir John Macdonald, he may be assured of the sup-port of the Jamaica proprietors and merchants in Great Britain.'

"These sugar and coffee planters know their own interest, and see in the duty free importation of their produce into the Dominion an immensely increased the Dominion an immensely increased demand for their principal crops. And our four and a half millions of sugar and coffee consumers will also know theirs when drinking their untaxed coffee sweetened with untaxed sugar, and enjoying the untaxed oranges, delicious guavas, yams, arrowroot, and other productions of the tropical farm, which I trust ere long we shall call ours.'

The monopolists of Jamaica are then interested in nav. anxious for the success of this scheme. They desire to secure for themselves a monopoly of Canadian markets and care little for the cheapening of tropical products to us, only in so far as this cheapening may swell their own receipts. Let us have reciprocal trade relations with the British West We announced in our last issue that Indies, and the whole of the commercial argument in favor of the annexation of Jamaica falls to the ground. That commercial argument is the main one advanced by the correspondent of the Mail, Mr. A. Spencer Jones, who is evidently an enthusiastic admirer of the annexation scheme, and claims to be its first promoter. He tells us .

> to every man's table and pocket, is but one of the many benefits which the acquisition of Jamaica will bestow on us. Our cotton factories, our hardware factories, our agricultural implement makers, our sho makers-in fact all our manufacturing interests, will find increased work, wages, and profits in supplying the nearly 600,000 new customers, which free admission to the Jamaica market will secure for them. And not only will our existing industries bo benefitted but new ones now unknown in Canada will soon spring up. The island, which from the height of its range of mountains—over 7,000 feet—possesses several climates, admirably adapted for the protetion of silk, and has in it negro peasantry or small landholders a class of men to whose habits that in-dustry is well adapted. As a laborer for hire on the large sugar estates, it cannot be denied that he is the inferior in steady industry of either the East Indian or Chinese coolie. The former class of laborers have already been brought from India in considerable numbers, at the joint cost of the planters and the Government, and that they are doing well is shown by the two facts that of the 22,837 coolies introduced up to September 30, 1882, only 5,821 had, at the end of their five years' indentures, claimed the free passage home, guaranteed them by the Government, and that those who returned, though penniless when leaving India, carried back with them over £40,-00 sterling in money and jewellery. In this demand for coolie labor may possibly be found a solution of the Chinese prob-lem with which we shall have to deal on

What guarantee is offered us that this annexation will cheapen those tropical products? The 600,000 new customers promised us by this ardent but injudicious writer would, we fear, in practice be found reduced by hundreds of thou. sands. Jamaicans, whether annexation come or not, will del in those markets that are cheapest. Will the markets of Canada be for them the cheapest? We do not think so. The cost of transportation is now so great and will, no doubt, continue to be so great, that nothing but an absolutely prohibitory exclusion of other goods than Canadian could secure for us the markets of Jamaica. from annexation the Jamaican p.o. prietors and traders would, by securing the Canadian market for their products, derive, we admit, great advantages, but the advantages promised to Canada by its advocates are vain and illusory to the last degree. The Mail correspondent

the completion of our great railway."

tell us that : "The United States thought no sacrifice of men or money too great to win back a South that had seceded—shall we as Canadians be so timid, so blind, so unfit for the responsibilities greatness as to refuse a South-which, should the Imperial Government con-sent, will be freely offered to us at the next session of the Jamaica Legisla-

There is no analogy whatever between the two cases. The United States fought for their existence as a nation, for a South, one with them geographically, commercially and politically. We, on the other hand, are asked to assume the grave responsibility of receiving into the Canadian Confederacy a South dissociated from us geographically, to a very great extent commercially, and which must eventually be wholly dissociated from us politically. We are asked to place ourselves in a position of antagonism to the United States of America, which cannot but view the annexation of Jamaica with displeasure as a further attempt at the establishment and perpetuation of monarchical institutions in a portion of America very largely subject to American influence. How grave, for instance, the responsibility of Canada in connection with Jamaica, with a large population of disaffected blacks in that island, and the United States in possession of Cuba? And what other purpose have the promoters of this scheme in Britain in view but the menacing of the American republic with the establishment at its very doors of institutions avowedly

and other West Indian possessions. It est citizens, as representative men before resumption of reciprocal trade relations, this folly and injustice. The British adjoining country. It will be fruitful of \$1,000 from its citizens. jealousies and heart-burnings between the two countries, injurious beyond calculation to this new and rising country. We have here already sufficient diversity of race and religion and climate. We have here already in this confederacy too many conflicting interests to satisfy without adding to our difficulties by the absorption of the complex population of Jamaica. The so-called legislature of that country is not qualified to speak for its inhabitants. These that body does not represent. It represents the proprietors and the traders. For them it speaks. By their views and the views of imperial policy, in which they readily acquiesce, this so-called legislature is governed. This legislature may vote us Jamaica, but they cannot vote us its people nor its people's heart. We have no objection to the black population, per se, of the island, for to us who favor the widest practicable extension of social and constitutional privileges to all men, a man's color amounts to nothing. But "The cheapening of tropical produce, though an advantage that will come home maintaining, as we do, that we have already such diverse elements to govern as to render our good government of the Jamaican negro a veritable impossibility We see in our absorption of the half million blacks of that island difficulties of an insuperable character. Certain of the Canadian promoters of the scheme are eager for its consummation because of its promised furtherance of their special views. We cannot but look upon their eagerness in this regard as indica tive of a desire to control the growing strength of the French race in Canada An addition of twenty or twenty-five Jamaicans to the Federal Parliament, with the necessary addition before long of fully as many more from the North West, would displace the Province 3of Quebec from its present position of influence in Federal councils. We raise a voice of solemn warning to our Quebec friends in what, we trust, may prove good time. Men there are who have long worn in their presence the mask of friendship, but who have secretly sworn to reduce at the first opportunity their political power and prestige. The Jamaica scheme nowion foot offers some of these unscrupulous politicians a long desired-for opportunity. We trust that the statesmen of the sister Province. rising above all partisan considerations. will be equal to the emergency, and prevent, as they can prevent, the consummation of a scheme that can bring to Canada naught but anxiety and peril. If Britain be earnest in her desire for

FLUNKEYISM.

the consolidation of her American posses.

sions, let her bring about West Indian

confederation. With such a confederation

Canada might establish reciprocal trade

relations, presenting none of the dangers

and securing us all the advantages of the

proposed annexation of Jamaica.

We find no fault with the visit of the British Association to Canada. On the contrary we are happy that those profound and sapient gentlemen have thought fit to visit this little country of which so little is known or cared for in Britain. But we do certainly, as a Cana. dian citizen, object to the nauseous display of flunkeyism made ever since their visit was first talked of. We can, in this great country, receive people hospitably without going on bended knee before them. In fact hospitality is one of the characteristics of the Canadian people. These British Association people are no better than ourselves. Some of them perhaps not as good, as an item in the Free Press will show :

"A few days ago while the Russell House guests were at dinner, they were surprised to see a party of ladies and gantlemen, evidently foreigners, enter the dining hall, and stare about on all ides. The visiting gentlemen kep heir head gear on and escorted th ladies up to the manager's private table one corner of the room. They turned to backs of the chairs towards the table, sat down, and again stared about the room. When the waiters started the room. When the waiters started to serve them, the gentlemen took off their hats and coolly laid them upon the table. The ladies in the party conducted themselves more becomingly. The guests were greatly amused at the rather vulgar actions of the strangers who were, it was afterwards ascertained from the register of the hotel, members of the British Association."

In another Ottawa paper of the same date this item attracted our attention "The committee for the reception of the delegates of the British Association is working with great vigor. Already subscriptions to the amount of \$1,000 have been realized.

Those representing the association will

rive on the 30th by special train from Montreal and will return in the evening. Anything more stupidly ridiculous, anything partaking more of the character of imposition than these subscriptions for purposes of hospitality we know not. Poor men—men who cannot, without injustice to their families, contribute to the wants of the cholera patients. The priest is compelled to dig the graves and bury the dead almost single-handed."

ing America to the acquisition of Cuba place themselves, at the expense of hon- can be no fear for its future. We have will, if carried out, forever prevent the strangers. There should be an end to so much desired between the old Association could have been well enough Provinces of Canada and the received at Ottawa without dragging this

> THE FREE PRESS ON THE PRESI-DENCY.

Our sapient contemporary, the Free Press, which so often affects to despise American institutions, in its issue of the lst inst., undertakes to lecture the American nation on its duties in regard of the Presidency. To the lofty mind of the Free Press the Presidency is, of course, a matter of small moment to the world at large. Small, however, as it is n the eye of our contemporary, it has managed to draw from it an article which for absolute disregard of facts can only be excused by the evidently gross ignorance of the writer. He says, for instance :

"A large number of the influential Republicans have arrived at the conclusion that it will be better to elect a Demo cratic President like Mr. Cleveland, than saddle the American people with a per sonage of Mr. Blaine's antecedents reputation. It is alleged that a well-be-haved Convention at Chicago would have nominated Arthur, who was alluded to in a resolution as follows:—'We believe his eminent services are entitled to and will receive the hearty approval of every citizen.' Why, then, has not the every citizen.' Why, then, has not the faithful, the honorable, the well-tried servant been continued? If the good work of civil reform and general purifi cation which President Arthur has given himself to is to go on, why not continue him in it; why substitute Mr. Blaine, whose name is associated with so many questionable transactions? One en is that the Republican con vention at Chicago was shamefully manipulated in Mr. Blaine's interest. We re told that many delegates treated as merchandise, to be bartered for wine, money, or promise of position, and that the convention instead of being a deliberative body was converted into howling pandemonium, overflowed by the worst elements of Chicago, admitted vithout tickets. Upon the principle that no clean thing can come out of an unclean thing it is easy to account for the selection of Mr. Blaine, and all reputable nominations rejected. But there are among the Republicans very many thousands who, to promote the objects to which the Republican party has re-cently devoted itself, would prefer to see them advanced by Mr. Cleveland than aid prostrate again by Mr. Blaine.'

We certainly cannot be accused of any leaning towards the republican party. We have always given our adhesion so far as it might go, to the Democrats. But in this contest we are certainly in favor of the election of Blaine and Logan, on account of the views of the former on the foreign policy that Americans should pursue. As far as the democratic politics of the Union are concerned, we are now, as we have always been, strongly in favor of the old time democratic doctrine of state rights. But this is not to-day the living issue it was some years ago. When it does come into prominence again we will be as strong in our advocacy as ever of that sound constitutional doctrine that good word includes and expresses. The Free Press betrays its own character by the

"It is well-known, that so far as politi-"It is well-known, that so had as point cal principles are concerned, there is at the present time very little difference claims to be willing to advance and protect "labor," though the phraseology in which their intentions has been couched reminds one more of an intricate maze of irreconcilable argument than of a well Seeing that so little difference as to prin ciple exists, prevailing tendency is pay more attention to the characters and public services of the men.'

There is nothing of the kind known. that very little difference of principle prevails between the two great American parties. After Mr. Blaine's election the Free Press will find that a very great difference exists. Especially so if the scheme for the annexation of Jamaica to Canada is ever laid before the Parlia ment of the Dominion and assented to by that body. Then the Free Press will find that at least one American party guided by certain principles different in many important regards from those guiding and controlling certain small classes of American citizens.

TRUE HEROISM.

The French clergy have, from the very first outbreak of the cholera, given ample proof of that heroism which has everywhere distinguished them. An epidemic may alarm the people but it has no terrors for the ministers of God. In a secular journal we lately read an item that gave us great edification:

"At Pintsdebon, a village in the department of Yonne, an average of two persons daily die of cholera. The panic there is intense. The laborers have abandoned their work in the harvest fields and fled. The villagers have shut themselves up in their cottages and re use to open the doors for anyone. The parish priest at Noyers has gone to the relief of the almost deserted inhabitants. The nurses are sick and unable to attend

never, ourselves, despaired of that great nation, for the moment, unfortunately, under radical control. France can, however, do, and will no doubt do, that which Belgium has done, liberate herself from the odious tyranny of an aggressive and unscrupulous infidelity.

THE KHARTOUM EXPEDITION.

One of the peculiar features of this very peculiar expedition, of which General Wolseley is to have the command-inchief, is the invitation extended to Canadian voyageurs to take part therein. Anything, we must say it, more extraordinary we have never heard of. Gen. Wolseley's expedition up the Nile bears not the slightest analogy to his Red River campaign of 1870. In the latter case the General had nothing but physical difficulties to contend with. Ever when arrived at Fort Garry there was no foe to meet him. But in the case of the Nile expedition there will likely not only be a foe at the end of the journey, if ever it be reached, but multitudes of foes along the way. Besides, there is the difference of climate, which to those of our Canadian voyageurs who may go, will prove to them an insuperable obstacle to real serviceableness. From the Ottawa Free Press we cull some particulars concerning the employment of Can-

"In conversation with Lord Melgund downe, this forenoon a Free Fress representative learned that some time ago the Imperial government telegraphed to the Governor-General for 00 men to go as voyageurs to assist in navigating the small boats through the rapids of the Nile, in connection with the relief of General Gordon, It is understood that the idea of sending for Canadians first emanated in the mind of General Wolseley, who, during the Red River expedition, had good reason to know the efficient manner in which his work was then discharged, chiefly by Indians. In the present case it was Indians that the British Government requested. On enquiry, however, Lord Lansdowne ascertained that Canadians vere equally as expert, if not better, in performing the duties required as were ndians. The first order to send three nundred was afterwards increased to six hundred. In both cases the answer sent. Lord Melgund stated that the wages of the men will be paid in what is known as the sliding scale, from the time they leave Canada until they return. The lowest grade will receive \$30 per month, the next \$35 and the highest \$40. It may be added that there will be no difficulty in securing the number of men required.'

We hope, for the honor of Canadian good judgment, that there will be difficulty in securing the number of men required. The wages offered are very poor, and the service demanded extraordinary. A city contemporary of the Free Press, the Ottawa Sun, in very energetic language gives a view of the case in which we are prepared to concur :

"There seems to be ground for fear that the expedition for Crank Gordon may prove a failure, owing to the tardiness of the British Govern ment about setting it in motion. Gordon is reported to be provisioned only until Monday next, and the relief party, it is said, can hardly reach him before the 1st of November. So well informed an authority as Sir Samuel Baker, who is familiar with the country to be traversed, speaks gloomily of the prospect, and says that the boats relied on for passing the cataracts of the Nile are totally unsuited for the purpose. The British government is open to censure for having failed to start the expedition last April so as to take advantage of high water in the Nile. Should disaster or failure overtake the expedition it would probably prove fatal to the ministry,—a result which, in view of the important undertaking in the matter of extension of the franchise, would be much to be

General Wolseley is an officer of many noble qualities, in whose success we have always rejoiced. We will not indeed regret any success he may, in the expedition to Khartoum, meet with. But we do think, that heretofore he has permitted his generous instincts only too often to supplant his good judgment. He has been, it is true, successful, but success is often brought to a very sudden and wholly unexpected termination. We Laurent and Rev. Mr. Frayling. The hope it may not be so in the case of Gen. altar was beautifully decorated for the eral Wolseley. His has been a noble occasion. The choir, under the direction career from the outset. We hope it may continue so till its termination. It will appropriate music in magnificent style. be interesting to our readers to know that elaborate preparations are making Ave Verum in good voice. The serfor the success of the expedition to Khartoum. A cable despatch dated the o'clock. After the service His Grace 31st says:

"Certain particulars with reference to the relief expedition up the Nile have been finally arranged. The forces which will proceed south of Assouan will be composed of 8,000 British troops, 2,500 Egyptians, and a flotilla of 950 river boats. The boats will be manned by 400 Canadians, 300 Kroomen, and about 2,000 Egyptian and Nubian boatmen. The cost of the expedition is estimated at £8,000 000. It is reported that Gen. Lord Wolseley, before accepting the chief command of the expedition, insisted upon being granted carte blanche as ted upon being granted carte blanch to the strength of the equipments of the force. The total number of British troops in Egypt at the present moment is 10,-128, of whom 601 are on the sick list. its very doors of institutions avowedly injustice to their families, contribute inimical to republicanism. This menace will have but one effect, that of stimulations arowedly injustice to their families, contribute for such purposes, are often victimized by worthless schemers who manage to such heroes as this good priest, there When all the reinforcements destined

pedition to Khartoum will not be decided peauton to knartoum will not be decided upon until Gen. Wolseley reaches Egypt. General orders have already been given, however, to eliminate from the troops all men whose physique renders it unlikely that they would be able to undergo the privations which the expedition will, no doubt, be exposed to. Several special correspondents left London for Egypt last night."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

- The Belgian Chamber of Deputies has, by a vote of 80 to 49, adopted the new education bill in its entirety. This vote is quite decisive, and though the bill is not all it might be, it is certainly a vast improvement on the radical and Masonic system for five years in force.

- The latest despatches give color and strength to the rumored alliance between France and Germany. A Berin despatch says :- "Courcel dined with the Emperor to-day. Rumors of a Franco-German alliance strengthen-by the statement that German residents in China have been placed under French protection."

- We read with pleasure the following dispatch : "The British Government is preparing a bill to modify the Land Law in Scotland for the purpose of protecting the Crofters from summary eviction. It is rumored the bill is based upon Land League principles," The Government cannot do better than take a leaf from the book of the League.

- The British press is ever ready to give credence to charges of brutality against French officers and soldiers. The London Times is now, however, compelled to take a back seat on this account. We are told by a cablegram that the London Times gives a review of the recent Blue Book relating to Madagascar, and says :- "It is a conclusive disproof of the charges of savagery and elementary barbarism brought against

the French by the Malagassies." - The Czar is really an object of pity to all Europe. He is to visit Warsaw this week, and Warsaw is alive with spies and detectives on the look-out for Nihilists. "Five hundred secret police have, we are informed, arrived at Warsaw from St. Petersburg. The Czar arrives at Warsaw on Sept, 6th and will remain until the 9th, when he goes to Skernilvic, remaining until the 19th and will then spend some time hunting in Jomazof forests."

-The policy of France in regard of China promised a most brilliant success. We are informed that the rumors of an alliance between France and Japan are again revived. It is said that France has formally invited Japan to occupy the Island of Formosa, while France, with the aid of Courbet's fleet, is to seize and hold Hainan. An alliance with Japan were certainly the crowning of all French efforts to secure predominance in China.

- Our esteemed city contemporary the Free Press lately favored its readers with this choice item: "Rev. Charles Sharp, of Bloomfield, Pa., Catholic Church, while crazed with disease, suicided yesterday afternoon by shooting." The Free Press has acquired a certain reputation for enterprise in publishing divorce and suicide items, but in this case it is entirely astray. There may have been at Bloomfield a "Chas, Sharp" and even a "Rev. Chas. Sharp," but no such person there exercised the Catholic ministry. Nor can we from the ample sources of information at our command find the slightest trace of a priest of that name or any similar one at any time within recent years exercising ecclesiastical functions in any part of the United States.

- The twenty-fifth anniversary of the appointment of the Most Rev. Dr. Lynch to the episcopate was celebrated on Tuesday, August 26th. The Globe of next day spoke of the celebration in these terms: "There was a very large congregation at St. Michael's Cathedral yesterday morning to the commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the appointment of His Grace Archbishop Lynch to the diocese of Teronto. His Grace said pontifical high mass, assisted by Rev. Vicar-General of Mr. Lemaitre, organist, rendered Miss Tillie Myers sang Ave Maria and vice concluded about half-past nine dined at the palace in company with His Lordship Bishop O'Mahony Rev. Father of Guelph; and the different parish priests of the city of Toronto. The grand celebration of His Grace's appointment will take place in November, when it is expected that four or five archbishops, ten bishops, and between two and three hundred priests will participate in the services.

- Mr. Gladstone's reception in Scotland has been of a most enthusiastic character. On Saturday, the 30th, he reached Edinburgh, where he received in better health tha time enjoyed, and and resonant. The decorated in Glads estimated that 5.000 assemblage. Memb Lords and Comme officials were on t stone made a spe the Franchise Bill. ceded to Tory idea conflict, laying pa the practical conce should not go into in order to allow th distribution Bill. that the subject o reform involved to be contained in one the Franchise bill ward the Redistribu the Lords would l end the conflict. enter upon the que necessary. The Fr itary principle in those placing it in the elected Cham enemies. He stron of the Lords to de to the country. The a principle was tree He would rather a the Franchise Bill in political life, th innovation. A vot the proceedings, w

> are expected. Refare will be sold for Hon, Messrs, Angli Ball games are co tractions of the da

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