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John Bright's Descent from Liberalism to Toryism.

His Eurly Career-An Advocate of Beform and a Tribune of the People-His Downfall and Desertion of Democracy—His Opposition to Gladstone's Irish Policy-An Advocate of Coercion.

(From the Boston Republic.)

Few men, in late years at least, have been more prominent in their day in England than the veteran John Bright, who, as these lines are penned, lies hovering between life and death, and of whom it can be truthfully and sorrowfully said that had he died, say ten years ago, his memory would be more widely treasured, and his name more highly mentioned hereafter, than will be the case if his present illness proves a fatal one. John Bright was born Nov. 16, 1811, at Greenbank, a place near the now famous Rochdale, his present residence, his father, whose name was Jacob Bright, being a Quaker spinner and manufacturer at Rochdale. When he was in his 24th year young Bright made a trip to the continent, going as far as Palestine, and on his return home he delivered a series of lectures on his travels before a literary institu-tion which he had previously formed at Rochdale. Always deeply interested in all questions of political economy, young Bright, when the Anti-Corn Law League sprang into existence in 1839, became one of its leading members, taking an active part in the agitation which followed, and he also vigorously espoused the free trade movement, ranging mself upon that issue side by side with Mr. Cobden. His first attempt to secure parliamentary honors was made in 1843, when he effered himself to the electors of Durham, and although he was beaten in his first canvass, he succeeded in the same year in getting himself elected member for Darham City. Of his parliamentary labors little need be said, save that he threw himself earnestly into all measures of reform. In 1845 he secured an appointment on a parliamentary committee on game laws, and he afterwards published an address to the tenant farmers of England strengly condemning the existing laws and urging agitation for their repeal. In 1847 he was returned as one of the members for Man chester, and for several years following he worked hand in hand with Cobden for financial reform and free trade. True to his Quaker principles, when the Crimean war was on the point of breaking out in 1854, he urged its avoidance by all possible means, and he took part in the proceedings of the Peace Society which sent a delegation to St. Petersburg to ask the Czar to use all his inwas on the point of breaking out in 1854, he fluence for the maintenance of peace. When war finally ensued Bright did not cease to denounce the government for taking part in it, and so energetically did he engage in this work that his health broke down, and he was obliged to seek rest on the continent. During his absence another election ensued, and the Quaker was rejected by his former constituency, which apparently had little sympathy with opposition to the ministerial war policy. Bright, however, was not the sort of a man to remain long out of politics. In 1857 he secured an election from Birming

ham, and while representing that constituency he was instrumental in overthrowing THE PALMERSTON GOVERNMENT

by defeating it on the second reading of the conspiracy bill. When our civil war broke out Mr. Bright was one of the few Englishmen who did not desire to see the breaking up of the Union, and the attitude he then maintained, at a time when even such men as Gladatone seamed to sympathize with the South, won him a warm place in the American heart, and an affection which he has not wholly forfeited by his late acts in esponsing the cause of coercion, acts so inconsistent with his early career, when he was a Radical of the Radicals and an advocate of justice and equality. In the Gladstonian ministry which followed the close of the civil war in this country, Mr. Bright was one of the leading ministers, holding the position of president of the board of trade, and at that time the warmest possible sympathy existed between him and the grand old man whose Irish proposals Bright has embittered the closing years of his life by trying to defeat. Mr. Bright, before he was led astray from

his early principles, was always a good friend of Ireland and the Irish people, and in behalf of the latter his voice was often uplifted in Parliament and his pen willingly employed in the press. It was he who was chiefly instrumental in securing for Justin McCarthy his first employment when that young Irishman, nearly forty years ago now, went to London in the hope of trying his fortunes in that great metropolis. Bright was at that time a shareholder in the Morning Star, and through his influence Mr. McCarthy secured his first London engagement, which was that of parliamentary reporter for the Star, of which paper the brilliant Irishman afterwards became editor-in-chief. When, following the election of 1868, it became evident that Mr. Bright was going to become a cabinet minister in the Gladstone ministry, and when, in consequence of that fact, the Quaker statesman sold out his stock in the Star, so great was Mr. McCarthy's reverence for Bright that he refused to remain longer with the paper, and, consequently, handed in his relignation. Bright's regard for McCarthy was then of the highest sort. The old Quaker, who, during the time of Mr. McCarthy's connaction with the Star, was in the zenith of of Liberalism. The latter is a demagogue of his popularity, had a habit of frequently the deepest dye, who imagined that he saw in dropping into the office of that paper, where diadstone's new departure a means of de-he spent many an hour in discussing with its stroying that statesman's political in-

despite Bright's erratic performances of late years. When Mr. McCarthy first entered

in a speech, in which he recounted his many brilliant qualities, and congratulated Parliament on the accession of such a man to its

Bright, once he had entered Mr. Gladstone's cabinet, loyally supported that premier in all his movements. He upheld the government, even at the risk of his own principles, and his fidelity to his chief then seemed unalterable. In fact, his allegiance to Mr. Gladstone then may be said to have been, in one sense, the cause and origin of his treason to him at the present time. When the Liberals proposed coercion for Ireland Mr. Bright, notwithstanding that the greater part of his lifetime had been devoted to advocating justice and humans treatment for all classes, was as ready as the veriest syco-phant of the ministry to go into the government looby on a division, and in these first acts of violence to his conscience, which must even then have upbraided him for his dereliction of his earlier principles, may be found the motives which impelled him in these later years, when Mr. Gladstone at last saw the necessity and justice of granting home rule to Ireland, to break with his former leader, ally himself with the coercionists, and thus continue the course he entered upon when, in the Gladstonian ministry, he first became a supporter of that miserable misrule of Ireland which continues until the present day. Let it not be supposed, though, that Mr. Bright became a coercionist all at once when he became a cabinet minister. Prior to that event few Englishmen had been more outsnoken than he in professions of sympathy with the down-trodden Irlsh people, and even when, in deference to his chief, he voted for those enactments for the maintenance of "law and order" in Ireland, he seldom tailed, when opportunity offered, of saying a good word for the Irish people and of urging measures for the welfare of their miseries. Betimes he even spoke against coercion, and when, in the fall of 1880, a parliamentary demand for a new orlmes not was being formed, consequent upon the holding of a landlords' meeting in Dublin, Mr. Bright said: "I saw the other day the statement that 100 of them, (the Irish landlords) equal nearly to the number of the Irish members, had assembled in Dublin, and discussed the state of things, and they had nothing but their old remedy, force, the English government, armed police, increased military protection and assistance, and it may be measures of restriction and coercion, which they were anxious to urge upon the government. The question for us to ask ourselves is, Is there any remedy for

this state of things? FORCE IS NO REMEDY.

There are times when it may be necessar and when its employment may be absolutely unavoidable, but I should rather regard, and rather discuss, measures of relief as measures of ramedy, than measures of force, whose influence is only temporary, and in the long rup, I believe, is disastrous."

Yet Mr. Bright, within a few days after he had uttered these brave words, went into a cabinet meeting, and consented to the introduction of a new crimes act, so that, from 1880, at least, all his expressions of sympathy for Ireland have had a dishonest and insin cere sound in them; and his treachery then paved the way for the infamy to which he has since descended. How much better would his reputation not be te-day if he had stood by his statement that "force is no remedy," and resigned his cabinet portfolio sooner than consent to the coercion bill of 1880, and how immeasurably greater would be the honor surrounding his name now if he had refused then to enter upon that downward path which has since led him into the ranks of Toryism and the perpetration of acts which must forever re main a stigma upon his memory! After this to a recital of evictions in Ireland, as that was told in Westminister, as something that parts amusing; neither were many astonished when he refused to return to reason with Mr. Gladstone when the latter statesman, frankly acknowledging the errors of the past, admitted that coercion in Ireland would aiways prove a failure and asserted that the only way in which the Irish question could ever be

legislative rights. Mr. Bright consummated his downfall from Liberalism by seceding from Mr. Gladatone when the latter signified his intention of introducing on Irish home rule bill in Parlia ment. It is very difficult to understand what motives could have impelled the venerable Quaker to take this step. One can under-stand, it is true, with difficulty, why, in obedience to Mr. Gladstone's wishes, and against his own convictions, he consented in 1880-'81 to the introduction of a new orlmss act. He was then a cabinet minister, and his opposition to the government then would mean the loss of his portfolio. No such matter was at stake, though, when he broke with Mr. Gladstone on the home rule question, an issue en which, had he been true to himself, it should have been an easy thing for Bright to sup-

THE LIBERAL LEADER,

port

inasmuch as the latter's proposals looked to dealing justly with an oppressed people. It is easy, too, to understand the motives which induced Hartington and Chamberlain to desert Mr. Gladstone on the home rule question, The former is a typical English landlord, whose interests in his estates incline him to Toryism, and who has always been a cynical hater of the masses, despite all his professions editor the political events of the day or questions of literary interest, and the result was that with Gladstone's downfall would come

ambitions are seldom entertained. He cer-tainly was never jealous of Mr. Gladstone, and yet from being one of that statesman's warmest friends and staunchest supporters be has become one of his bitterest enemies and most determined opponents. No man, not even Chamberlain himself, shameless scoundrel as he is, has spoken more virulently of Mr. Gladstone in late years than John Bright, and no "Unionist" has been more stubborn than he in his refusal to accept the slive branch which the grand old man has so often extended to the dissidents.

And yet, if one can credit reports, there is a lingering love yet in John Bright's heart for the man under whose captaincy he served for so many of the best years of his life. A recent visitor to Bright's residence relates that during a conversation he had with the venerable Qasker, the subject of politics being discussed and Mr. Gladstone's name being brought into notice, Mr. Bright declared that the saddest moment of his life was that in which he found it necessary to part company with the man whom he had so long regarded as his political guide and leader. Upon the visitor's mentioning the fact that he had been a recent caller at Hawarden, Mr. Bright eagerly inquired: "Tell me, then, tell me did you notice any signs of sentity in Mr. Gladstone's mind?" thus indicating that it is his mistaken belief that nothing but mental aberration could ever have induced Mr. Gladatone to propose legislative independence for the Irish people. Mr. Bright's family relations have been gorely disturbed by his late political tergiversation. In fact, they have been almost completely sundered if the reports which have come

ACROSS THE OCEAN

are reliable. His venerable brother, Jacob, who is also a member of parliament, and the senior of John, we believe, is a warm up-holder of Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy, and between him and John, in consequence, an estrangement has broken out. It fact, it is said that of all Mr. Bright's family, only one of his sons remains loyal to his father in these degenerate days which have of late been his portion. One cannot help feeling a sense of pity for the purblind old man, whose political perversity has done such great injury to his former splendid reputation, severed the friendships which were the joys of his other years, and brought enmity even into his own house-hold. And as one sees him hovering between life and death, with the opportunities offretrieving his errors fast slipping out of his grasp, the lines which Whittier wrote of Daniel Webster come to my mind, and we feel like saying of Bright as he did of the

statesman of Marshfield : Revile him not, the tempter hath And pitying tears, not scorn and wrath,

Befit his fall ! O, dumb be passion's stormy rage, When he who might Have lighted up and led his age,

Falls back in night ! All else is gone; from those great eyes
The soul has fied;
When faith is lost, when honor dies,
The man is dead!

Then pay the reverence of old days To his dead fame; Walk backward, with averted gaze, And hide the shame !

ANNEXATION'S ADVANTAGES. ERABIUS WIMAN ADDRESSES AN AMERICAN

WORKINGHEN'S GATHERING. NEW YORK, December 12—(Special)—Erastus Wiman lectured in West Newbrighton last evening to the Kill Von Kull Workingmen's club, on Canada's relations to this country. "Here are 5,000,000 of people" said he, "whose only hope of successful development and perfect growth lies in a union between themselves and the nation alongside of them, the greatest much less a member of parliament, who openly advocated this measure." Mr. Wiman attributed this to an admirable and self-sacrificing feeling of loyalty similar to that which had held this country together in its hour of peril. He then portrayed the advantages of Commercial union which would assimilate the two countries. If this produced annexation well and good. If it satisfactorily settled was by granting the did not it would produce all the advantages of Irish people the restoration of their stolen annexation.

CREED STRIFE IN PITTSBURG.

PITTSBURG, December 13-The injunction case against Rev. Father Sheely to compel him to remove his Catholic parochial school from the first ward public school building, will probably be dropped as the plaintiff, Thomas Maxwell, has sold his property in the ward and removed from the city limits. The removal of Maxwell makes the bill null and void. If the opponents of the parochlal school decide to continue the fight, it will be necessary to secure another citizen to sot as plantiff and file another bill. Meanwhile creed agitation is high and a political conflict similar to the one just ended in Boston is predicted in this city before long.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Sister St. Fabiola, nee Miss Mary Margaret Bogue, daughter of the late William Bogue, Esq., of Quebec. She had been a member of the order of the congregation of Notre Dame for the past 22 years and was generally respected by all who had the pleasure of coming in contact with her. She was one of the founders of the order in Prince Edwards Island, where she enjoyed many friends.

A CORKMAN PUNISHES THE TIMES.

A last one Irishman has brought the London Times to time, He is Sir John Pope Hennessy, that, the warmest friendship sprang up be. his own opportunity of reaching that of Her Majesty's colonies, based on reports of

tween the two, and has ever since continued, despite Bright's erratic performances of late been so long covetous. None of these things, however, were true of John Bright. He had the House of Commons, John Bright rose in his place and.

Liberal leadership of which he has been things, been so long covetous. None of these things, however, were true of John Bright. He had the Times has been adjudged guilty and ordered to pay over to the Irishman eight thousand pounds (forty thousand dollars) and to make an ambitions are seldom entertained. He cersimilar course instead of asking for a Parliamentary Commission, He could have proved himself guildless of the Time's charges, even before a London jury, and forced the proprietors of that paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of that paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of that paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of that paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of that paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of that paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of the paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of the paper to sign a 2 applicary and have described by the proprietors of the paper to sign a 2 applicary and the proprietors of the paper to sign a 2 applicary and the paper to sign a 2 applica paper to sign an apology and pay damages. Somehow, we are beginning to think that it would be a help to Mr. Parnell and to the Irish cause if he had a few Corkmen like John Pope Hennessy in his councils. But—God help us, and Ireland—the spasmists turn to Captain Sheara her to John Pope Hennessy.

IDEA OF FRIENDSHIP

Ella Wheeler tells what our friends should be like.

love and Friendship-The "Exclusives" of Society - A Contrast in the Large-Hearted Man-The True Friend-What Genuine Friendship is, Means, and Should Bring -Little ? hings by Which Those Who are Our Velends May be Recognized-Love Like an Ocean, Friendship as a Caim Bay -Our Friends Placed Before the Looking

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Live stands alone in the solar system of the affections like the sun, unmated and incomparable. From it all the other emotions derive their worth, yet they must not expect to imitate

its light, or warmth, or power.

Our friendships are the stars next in magnitude to the orb of light. There can be but one true love, as there is but one sun visible to the earth. But there may be as many orders of friendship as there are varieties of stars in the firmament, though few, to be sure, of the first magnitude.

A great nature can enjoy and be loyal to a great variety of friends. It is time we did away with that old idea, grounded in human selfishness, that a man should have but one friend have found them at the core selfish, narrow, and unsympathetic. The broad-gauged and noble-hearted man goes out spontaneously to his fellow-beings, and gives affection and loyalty to many. He attracts as many true friends as his varied characteristics render him capable of en-

joying You appeal to his intellect, and are a mental comrade; in the association he grows fond of you, and interested in your personal life, but you cannot expect him to shut out from his beart another who anuses and entertains him with a flow of cheerful spirits which you lack. You show no evidence of affection; you are jealous of this other friend. You simply show narrow-mindedness, grounded in self love. You have your own sphere in that man's life and cannot be crowded by another, any more than one star crowds another in the hea-

The moment my friend says to me, " I must be first in your affection, no matter what other claimants for your regard come knocking at

your door," I reply.
"My friend, it is yourself you love, not me; the absolute friend asks only for what I choose to give, and, confident of his own worth, never doubts his true place in my affections. you my true friend you would rejoice to see me love, and you desire me to add fuel to the flame which is already consuming you. But I can only bestow what you inspire. Look to it that you inspire the best within me and it will be

With each new friend I think our capabilities

of affection increase.

Love is to the human heart what the Koran is to the Mohammedan or the Bible to the Chris tian. There can be but one. But we may have as many choice friends as we have choice books in our library, if our heart wealth is great enough to procure them. I need not appreciate Dickens less because I enjoy Thackeray also. I do no wrong to the authors because I revel in the poets. There are moods when the humorist cheers and entertains me, and again I need the philosopher, and all are equally admired and esteemed by me, and there is no one I could

I once heard a person say, "I love my friends so intensely I am janlous of any ray of light that falls upon their paths, save through me." This is not friendship. It is self-worship, self aggrandizement—self to the core. Distrust any aggrandizement—self to the core. Distrust any act of kindness shown you by such a friend. It is done, not to give you happiness but to win your gratitude. The real friend never thinks of your gratitude, though he would be hurt by your ingratitude. But he would as soon bestow a favor unknown to you, and he rejoices to see you henefitted by others, and takes pleasure in anything which helps you no matter how remote it may be from his own interests.

Old friends endeared by years of memories are best. Yet I have no right to reproach my old friend if he outgrows me in his tastes and habite, and I have no right to call him change able if he finds new friends who are more con genial in these things, and who keep step with him. He may have found me sufficient for him when we both studied fractions together, but if Doodle" with me. I had better blame myself for not making at least sufficient progress to appreciate him, even if I cannot enter into full sympathy with his higher development. If I am worthy the name of a true "old friend," I will rejoice to see him speed on and up even if

our paths of necessity diverge.

Not long ago I heard a thinking woman say that she could forgive the Lin of commission in a friend far sooner than a sin of cmission. 'Ar unkind act or word may spring from a hasty temper or a mistake of judgment, but the friend

temper or a mistake or judgment, but the friend who sits still and silent when I need a defender or a mentor, commits the unpardonable sin," she said, and said truly.

While I would prefer my friend to not forget to praise me for well doing, I can excuse him for being the last if he is the first to warn me when I am doing wrong. He is no friend who when I am doing wrong. He is no friend who sees me drifting towards the rocks and does not tell me so; if he sees me preparing for the battle with a flaw in my armor and does not point it out to me before the fray begins. If he Times to time. He is fir some rope Hennessy, point it out to me before the ray begins. It no a Catholic and a Home Ruler, through a has not discovered it until we are in the thick tory official. The Times more than a year of the bathle, then the true and wise friend ago, published some falshood about him and the manner of his administration as Governor of one of my weak point should unnerve me; but he

to come to my assistance if the flaw proves my failure.

I do not want my friend to feed or cloths me,

for that would enervate my strength and rob me of my self-reliance. I do not want him to carry own ability. Let him chide me for my idleness and spur me to achieve results with my own

F. Edwin Knight, that rare and too infre quent poet, has said before me :

"I do not ask that, Damon like, My friend should risk his life for mine. I do not ask that o'er my head His thatch should be a sheltering vine, I do not ask his bounteous board To share on even terms with me, Or that his purse should open wide, Inviting, saying, "Take, 'tis free,"
Such friendship saps the native vim
Of self-reliant firm resolve—
Nay, rather, this I ask of him— As day by day our lives revolve-An honest judgment, faith sincere, An open candor, calm and clear, A warning word to turn my way From error's path, if there I stray. A quiet note of timely praise
To stimulate my darker days,
Companionship, if with it brings
A cup of pleasure void of stings."

In Charles Kingsley's delightful little book, the "Water Babies," there is a wonderful weird water-sprite who makes people make them-selves, she does not create anything but she teaches things how to create themselves; this is the office of the true friend—to tell us how to create ourselves and to urge us to action.

My true friend never comes to me with the Aly true friend never comes to me with the belittling and causeless gossip which he hears about me. He never says, "I know you will not care—"and then relates some malicious lie invented by the mind of envy. He never tells me anything disagreeable unless it is to warn me or put me on my guard against a secret ene my or against my own imprudence. He tells me the kind and pleasant words that he hears spoken of me, and takes as much pleasure in hearing them as I do. And he defends me in my absence even against an army of par my absence even against an army of ac-

He will say things to my face which he would not say or permit to be said behind my back.

Friendship of the highest order should banish all wearisome restrictions and formalities. If I happen to drop in upon my nearest friend as she is preparing to go out with another, she should feel free to go with no fear that I will be burt or feel slighted. The moment this fear of wounding our friends in such matters creeps in it is no longer or not yet an absolute friend-

ship.
We can bear with the tyrannies, anxieties, fears and turmoils of love, because its joys and raptures repay us for all it makes us suffer; but the calmer pleasures of friendship are jeopardized if we permit these other emotions to mar

Love is like the mid-ocean, grand, beautiful, grown to be in fact—a sovereign nation. In and terrible, full of delight and danger; and friendship should be like the calm bay where we political status. exhilaration of love, and it must not give us the anxieties.

We feel rested and strengthened after an interview with a real friend, never irritated or

The worthy and worth-while friend never chides us for not loving him enough nor begs to be laved more: he makes himself so deserving and so unobtrusive that we needs must give him gratitude and affection.

The wise friend never weighs us with his friendship—never burdens us with the feeling that he cannot live without our constant devotion. It is the privilege of love alone to do Love may lean and cling forever,

And forever grow more dear.

But friendship must sometimes stand upon its own feet, or we tire of it. If my friendship is absolute, I will stand by my friend in trouble, danger, and disgrace-not upholding him in the latter, but holding him from sinking lower. If he resents my restraint, however, and is determined to sink, I do not prove my friendship by sinking with him, I only prove my own moral weskness. Better let go my hold and save my strength to assist another who wants my help. I do not ask my friend to go down into the valley of despair with me—he will be a truer friend if he

me up beside him. I do not want my friend to constantly urge me to accept favors, but when, in my hour of need, I ask a favor. I want him to grant it with the air of one who is the recipient rather than the giver. And always I want him loyal, trusting and sincere in word and act; as liberal, as loving, as free from jealousy as he is full of justice, ready to praise, and not afraid to re-

stands above in the sunlight and strives to lift

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

ITALIAN IMMIGRATION.

THE POPE PROPOSES TO SEND ITALIAN PRIESTS TO AMERICA.

ROME, Dec. 13.-The Osservatore Romano publishes the Pope's letter to the bishops of America with reference to the care of Italian immigrants. This letter says the Pope deplores the fact that many Italians, forced by poverty to emigrate, find themselves in a worse position than ever in America. Great danger attends their sculs, both during the voyage and on their he has passed into higher mathematics I have no their sculs, both during the voyage and on their right to complain if he no longer enjoys singing arrival, owing to the difficulty of meeting priests the multiplication table to the air of "Yankee speaking Italian. Being much preoccupied with speaking Italian. Being much preccupied with these facts, the Pope charged the Congragation de Propaganda Fide to study the two-fold question of how to promote the religious and the material welfars of emigrants, and it has been decided to despatch priests from Italy to locali-ties inhabited by Italian immigrants, the Pope says that it will afford him great satisfaction if the American bishops will facilitate the task of these priests by referring to the propaganda in regard to any change required in their sacred duties. His Holiness concludes with a benediction upon the bishops, clergy and faithful in

AN INSANE MAN'S ACT.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17 .- At Todd Town, small settlement in Montgomery county, north of this city, John Ferguson, an engineer, shot and killed his wife Mary, Sunday morning, and then shot himself, both dying almost immediately. Insanity, caused by too close application to work, is the reason.

While cost of living may be reduced down to a mere nominal sum, the trouble remains will keep his own eye upon it, and stand ready I with many to get the nominal sum.

ONTARIO'S VICTORY.

HER CLAIMS TO INDIAN TIMBER LANDS UP-HELD BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

OTTAWA, Dec. 12 .- The appeal of the St. Oatharines' Milling company against the de-cision of the Supreme court to the Judicial committee of the Imperial Privy council was decided to-day in favor of the province of Ontario, as is shown by the following cablegram received here :-

"The judgment of the Supreme court of Canada is affirmed and the appeal dismissed. Held that the Dominion has no power to legislate itself into a title. The province is to assume the burdon of the Indian treaty.

The question involved was whether the title to certain lands in that portion of Ontario, which used to be known as the dis-puted territory, was vested in the Provincial Government under the boundary award defining the limits of the province, or whether it was vested in the Deminion Government under certain treaties made with the Indians, the original owners of the soil. The decision is that the title rests with the province, which will have to assume the charge of the Indians.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE. TREATED BY A CANADIAN PROFESSOR IN NEW

YORK. ITHACA, N.Y., Dec. 13 .- Prof. J. G. Shurman, of Cornell university, who is a Canadian apoke here to night on the political situation in Canada. He held that Canada had been growing into an independent nation since 1840, and especially since the confederation is 1867 Since 1880 Canada's semi-contines. a 1867 Since 1880 Canada's semi-continental inter-oceanic territory had greatly fostered the sentiment. However, there were influences that might work for annexation.

Taxation, general and local, was about as high in Canada as in the States, being in Nova Scotia \$9.45 per capita as against \$11,25 in Vermont, but the Vermonters' burden would be lessened by \$2 before 1900 by the payment of the debt. The population did not respect the 49th parallel. There were nearly

one-fourth as many Canadians in the United States as in Canada. Still it was shown that from 1790 to 1860 the rate of increase of population had been greater in Canada than in the United States, but from 1861 to 1881 the Canadian increase had been only 33 per cent. However, neither the finance nor the population nor even the

fisheries required such radical treatment as a political union with the States which Canadian sentiment opposed. Both countries would be benefitted by limited trade reciprocity. Canada had not only to wait for the returns from her golden Northwest. Then she might become in name what she has almost

THE MEGANTIC ELECTION.

INVERNESS, Dec. 14.-Inverness is pine miles from Somerset. The drive takes one from exclusive French surroundings into a mixed community. There are three charates, here—Catholic, Presbyterian and Mathodat Of those the Presbyterions are the most numerous, after them the Catholics and the Methodists last. The Catholics ore about half French and half Irist, but like all similarily situated places in the Prevince the Irlah, English and Scotch are decreasing while the French are rapidly gaining ground,

At the last general election for the Provincial Legislature Mr. John White had a majority of three at the polt in this place, while at the general elections for the Dominion Mr. Turcotte, the Liberal condidate, had 22 majority. The Irish and his locality went solid for Mr. Turcotte, but they divided over Mr. White. In Mr. White's case the Irish Catholics did not show that unanimity that marked their political acts in other parts of the province, and his defeat war, in sure, no doubt, attributable to their division. The Scotch are, like the Irish Jatholics, mostly Liberal, and they will give Col. Rhodes a generous support, while the Orangemen will, as a rule, be in opposition.

The other day the Star made a statement bout Col. Rhodes that is misleading; in fact, not true. It said "Col. Rhodes will have to answer why he voted against the Orange Incorporation Bill while in the Assembly." Now Col. Rhodes never sat in the local House. He was elected for this county about 35 years ago, when he defeated Mr. John Clapham. He did not, however, run a second time, but retired from politics. Now this was a long time before Confedera-tion, and the Star should explain this before he asks Col. Rhodes to account for his action on a certain question. The Star should be more explicit and let us know what it means. At present its statement only

mystifies and no one understands it.

At first there were some people who did not care for Col. Rhodes because he was an "outsider." But all that has changed. They are reminded that the leader of the opposition Mr. Taillon, is an "outsider" in Montcalm, the place he represents, and many others are similarly circumstanced. Indeed the friends of Col. Rhedes predict success and all the indications point to that result. There can hardly be a doubt about the result, and the Conservative leaders admit that it will require a desperate effort on their part to retain the seat for their friend. When they admit this much, it is evident enough of their fears.

The Deputy Minister of Fisheries has returned to Ottawa from the Maritime pro-vince. Whilst there he visited Chatham, N.B., and had a conference with the smelt fishermen of the Miramichi regarding their grievances. The fishery inspector in that iccality has been reporting that bag nets should be prohibited, stringent restrictions should be enforced and a high license should be imposed, which the fishermen claim would amount to a prohibition. Lieut.-Col. Tilton fully enquired into the matter and will shortly present a report to the minister. The reatrictions complained of by these fishermen may, it is possible, be modified.