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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1885

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS... We have sent out a large number of bills to subscribers in arrears, and up to date the returns have not been as large as they should be.

The British Exchequer is pretty well emptied. The government has to face a deficit of \$75,000,000 in the budget for the current year and an equal deficit is estimated for next year, with an increase in the war estimates.

The Irish party has properly refused to accept the government's proposition to limit the operation of the Crimes Coercion Act to one year. Mr. Parnell could in no manner or way be a party to the renewal of coercion for Ireland.

How people are aware of the fact that in the ranks of Canadian journalists we have a brilliant Chinese editor. Our celestial confrere 'Yan' the Brockville Recorder. He is delighted with the report of the Commissioners on Chinese immigration, and says in a recent issue that he does not see why he has not 'a much right to live in Canada as an Irishman or a negro.'

The French Government have declared rice to be contraband of war in China. The British Foreign Office protests against the action, as it interferes with England's trade at Hong Kong, but the French remind England that in declaring coal to be contraband she seriously crippled their marine, both war and mercantile, and that she ought not to complain so much if forced to take some of her own medicine.

Even the baby provinces of Manitoba is talking about secession. The patriotic citizens therein say that the Federal powers have trampled on their rights, and they are not going to stand it any longer. Premier Dufferin is denounced, and the 'better terms' bargain he effected in the early part of the winter at Ottawa is scouted. Meetings are being held to advocate secession from the Canadian confederation, and no one knows where the trouble is going to end.

The next danger which Mr. Gladstone's government will have to face will be the demand for an extra four or five million pounds for the Sudan war.

bination to refuse the grant will be much stronger than the one which only left the Government with a majority of fourteen on the vote of censure. The Radicals, who are opposed to any kind of war in the Sudan, will not consent to the expenditure of more money in an aimless war, although they were willing to condone the past faults of the ministry. Their union with the Tories and Whigs, and backed by the Parnellites, would involve the certain defeat of the government. Questions which touch men's pockets are more dangerous than those which affect their sentiments.

This members of the Grand Jury paid a visit of inspection to the Iseane Asylum at Longue Pointe. A thorough investigation was instituted from cellar to attic, and the condition of the patients as well as the management by the Sisters were found to be irreproachable. In every detail was there evidence of care and kind treatment. The Grand Jury were unanimous in their admiration of the establishment and of the manner in which it was conducted, and authorized a document to be drawn up and signed declaring their satisfaction. Of course the testimony of the Grand Jurors will amount to nothing with some people when they can get some Cockney expert to describe the asylum as a tomb of horrors.

It may not be generally known that Osman Digna, the Mahdi's right-hand man, is a Frenchman by birth. He was born in the old French town of Rouen in the year 1832, and has had a very interesting career. The Sudanese hero, while still an infant, lost his father in 1837; his mother married an Alexandrian merchant, half French and half Egyptian, of the name of Oamen Digna, who, taking a fancy to young Osman (at that time named Alphonse Vinel), insisted on having his name changed to his own, and, dying in 1842, left him about half a million francs. After the death of his stepfather he was left to the guardianship of Ali Khana, a kind of half partner of the elder Osman, a Mussulman, who, at the death of Madame Digna, in 1845, took young Osman into his house. His religion at that time, being very much of the 'Christian unattached' type, was soon converted into Mahomedanism.

It is much to be regretted that a few of our esteemed French contemporaries cannot venture on the appreciation of a political opponent, or undertake a discussion of his utterances, without introducing an element of either pessimism or of fanaticism which is positively objectionable and damaging under all circumstances. An inveterate sinner in this respect is L'Etendard. The election of Mayor Beauregard is a twelve or thirteen inch thorn in its side. It charges the young Mayor with being a revolutionist of the worst stripe, and credits him with designs and views that would be terrible if they were not the mere result of a heated imagination and a bad temper. We concur with the Herald in saying 'it is a pity that our contemporary is so intolerant. It professes to have the profoundest veneration for religion, but it appears to forget that the chief characteristic of the very religion which it is so exceedingly zealous to uphold is the love that thinketh no evil and is kind. If the writer of the article in question did not profess so very loudly to be a good Christian, his discerning readers would be apt to conclude that he was impelled to write by some malignant spirit.'

Among the important changes in the tariff announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech last night, is the one made in the duties on cigars. The impost on this article averages at present only about 10 per cent, while the average duty on imports generally is about 20 per cent. The Minister has resolved to double this impost, that is to say, to increase the excise duty on cigars made from tobacco grown in foreign parts from three dollars to six dollars per thousand, and to increase the duty on cigars made from home material from a dollar and a half to three dollars per thousand. Imported cigars will also be subject to \$120 per pound instead of sixty cents, and twenty per cent. ad valorem. The Minister was forced to thus double the duty to maintain the excise revenue, upon which the Scott Act is having a most damaging effect. This Act not only affects the interests of the liquor dealers and manufacturers, but it tells almost as severely against cigar dealers and manufacturers. There are at present in this city several cigar factories which have had to close down, or only do a third of their usual work, owing to the ever increasing falling-off in the demand for cigars consequent upon the adoption of the Scott Act.

Our esteemed contemporary the Ottawa Sun enters a very strong protest against the existing law of libel. As the law stands, says the Sun, any bound who is not even worthy of the whip of an honest man is in a position to pursue and prosecute and injure the publishers of a newspaper, contrary to the principles of justice and that reasonable protection which the law ought to be able to afford to every citizen. The practical operation of the law of libel leaves it open to a thing without either character or reputation or any claim in the world upon the regard and the esteem of his fellows, which may consider itself alluded to in some publication in a newspaper, to enter an action of libel against the publishers. Our contemporary considers that this experience which individual publishers have been compelled to suffer should teach them wisdom, or at least the prudence of uniting in a demand for relief from a law which, as it stands at present, leaves them open to the most intolerable persecution. It would be exceedingly advisable for newspaper publishers to

to the hint thrown out by the Sun, and to put forth an effort to secure fair and necessary protection from libel laws.

Last Wednesday President Cleveland sent names of his Cabinet Ministers to the Senate for confirmation. Contrary to custom the Senate referred to give the list its immediate consideration and approval, and refused all the nominations to committees. This action was altogether unexpected, and is more or less an indication that the Cabinet-elect has not the unanimous confidence of the upper branch of the National Legislature. Senator Riddleberger openly stated his objection to Mr. Bayard holding a place in the Cabinet, on the ground that the gentleman from Delaware was 'an American,' having shown himself more English than American upon the Irish question. It will be remembered that when Senator Bayard introduced in the Senate his resolution of sympathy with England, immediately after the London explosion, Senator Riddleberger was the only one to protest against it. His independent and manly opposition against the resolution and the entire Senate, won for him the admiration and approval of the country. The consequence was that Bayard had to drop his resolution. Mr. Riddleberger evidently considers that the un-American role which the Delaware Senator attempted to play on that occasion, and which was hissed off the stage by the people, should disqualify and debar him from high office in the executive.

The London Advertiser, edited by Hon. Mr. Mills, is strongly opposed to the idea of the Canadian Parliament paying out of the Canadian treasury the expense of fitting out and sending a regiment to the Nile. It has no objection to people volunteering for the war in the Sudan, as Canadians have as much right to leave the country now as they had during the American war, when thousands of them found their way into the northern army. The war in Egypt was begun in the interest of greedy and grasping bondholders, and Canada has no right to help in grinding the natives down and keeping them in a state of perpetual bondage. Our London contemporary says that 'every one acquainted with the facts must regret that the English Government should have interfered in the way they did in Egyptian affairs. If Col. Williams, or any one else, chooses to raise a regiment, and the English Government accepts and pays, there can be no objection. But it would be the most abject flunkeyism to propose to send a regiment at our expense when nothing that we might say with regard to the policy of the contest would for a moment listened to. When the Canadian Parliament expressed its opinion upon the question of Home Rule for Ireland, it was received with a torrent of abuse from the English press, and the answer to the colonial offer was itself a gross insult. Let us mind our own business; when we have a share in determining British foreign policy we may fairly feel called upon to share in sustaining it.'

Orange intolerance and animosity, which of late years has brought so much disgrace upon Newfoundland and caused its people so many heartburnings, has passed from the mob into the Legislature of the Island. In his speech to Parliament, Governor Sir John Grover complained of the disturbed state of society, and pleaded for steps to be taken to soothe and allay the angry passions that have prevailed ever since the Harbor Grace riots. This prayer was mocked at by the Orange members of the Legislature, who wanted to throw the whole odium and responsibility of the 'strained relations' upon the Catholic portion of the community. Mr. Penny, one of the disturbers of the peace, moved an amendment to the address denouncing 'the unjustifiable outrage at Harbor Grace, declaring that the present deplorable state of feeling was the result of the disgraceful failure of justice at the recent trial of the Riverhead prisoners and that harmony and good feeling could not be restored until justice had been satisfied.' The failure of justice for these Orange bigots is the fact that, after two trials, lasting over one hundred days, the Catholic prisoners were acquitted by two juries. The Penny amendment, which was only slightly improved on by Sir Wm. Whiteway, was carried by a small majority. The result was that the Catholic members of the Cabinet, Hon. J. W. Donnelly, Minister of Customs, and R. J. Kent, Speaker to the House, at once sent in their resignations.

EXCLUDING PRODUCTS OF FOREIGN CONVICT LABOR. The American Congress adopted a resolution the other day prohibiting the importation of cheap labor under contract to compete with the workmen of the United States. The step was a wise and just one. Our Canadian Government are, to some extent, following suit. The most striking novelty in the tariff for 1885 is a resolution declaring that it is expedient to prohibit the importation into Canada of all goods manufactured or produced by prison labor or which have been made within or in connection with any prison, jail or penitentiary, and to attach a penalty to any such importation.

The object of this resolution is excellent and must necessarily commend itself to the approbation of parliament, as it will certainly do to the labor interests of the country. It does not of course reach as far as the American resolution, but it is a step in the right direction. The American workman will not have 'foreign cheap labor' to drive him out of his legitimate field of industry; the Canadian will not have the products of 'foreign convict labor' to take the place of the products of our own factories. As a matter of fact it is established that several American penitentiaries

have been pouring their products into Canadian markets at a ruinously low valuation and to the injury of the Canadian operative and artisan. The prison contractors of the United States were obliged to come to this country with their goods, as several of the State Legislatures were forced to pass laws to prevent convict-labor coming in competition with the toil of honest citizens. If the American people refuse to buy and make use of the products of their own convict labor, why should they have an open market in Canada? Sir Leonard Tilley's resolution on the subject, has not been brought before parliament a bit too soon, and the House should have no difficulty in adopting it as another instalment of protection to Canadian labor.

THE MENACING MUSCOVITE.

Another trouble is gathering over Mr. Gladstone's head in the shape of a threatening war cloud on the Afghanistan frontier. There is a rapidly growing apprehension that a collision is near at hand, notwithstanding the polite exchange of diplomatic courtesies between the cabinets of London and St. Petersburg. The eastern question is revived in Europe at a time when England seems to have its hands full with its disasters in the Sudan and its serious social and political troubles at home. The crafty diplomacy of the Muscovite never shows itself so boldly as when its intended victim is seriously involved elsewhere. The present crisis in which the English government finds itself weakened and fettered is looked upon as an opportune moment to advance the Russian policy of aggression in Asia another step. The final struggle for empire in India may not be decided upon, but the steady manner in which the Russian positions have been pushed almost within sight of Herat, which is recognized as 'The Gateway of India,' clearly demonstrates that the present advance of the Russian troops has been made in accordance with the policy for which Russia did not hesitate to fight France, Italy, Turkey and England combined thirty-three years ago.

For a number of years past the Russian advance has been more diplomatic than military, but now the time is judged ripe for encroachments of the latter description. The remoteness of the country has kept the world ignorant of the Muscovite movements until their results have been seen. When the Russians would be caught making military diversions on the Afghan frontier calculated to alarm England, they would, on being called to account, protest innocence of offense and offer to withdraw their troops. Almost every ally movement of this kind has been followed, however, by some substantial diplomatic gain by Russia. Its emissaries stirred up rebellion in Afghanistan, which necessitated England sending an army thither to restore its protegee to power. In this an advantage was gained, for the English naturally came to regard the Russians as oppressors and the Russians as benefactors. As a consequence a strong anti-English party has been in steady formation in Afghanistan, and there was ample evidence of it in the last outbreak at Cabul. It is no wonder, therefore, that the recent movement of Russian troops into territory which England claims belongs to Afghanistan, and to maintain the autonomy of which she is pledged, has caused a profound sensation in England and has created so much activity in war circles. The need for this activity is so great that the government was obliged to suspend the operation of the factory act so far as it relates to Woolwich Arsenal to allow the workshops to run night and day in order to turn out two and a-half million cartridges weekly. While diplomatic despatches are passing to and fro, both the Russian and British Governments are sending orders to the United States for war material. The Union Metallic Cartridge Company, of Bridgeport, has received an order from Russia for one hundred millions of these deadly missiles and from England another order for fifty millions. The London Daily News says, 'Although there is a possible hope of a peaceful solution the situation is still critical. The British Government's demand that the Russians retire from the Afghan frontier, whether put in the form of an ultimatum or not, is final. The choice of peace or war lies in the hands of Russian statesmen.' Will England's success against Russia in the present conflict be as marked as in the past? England will not have the same allies to fight her battles. France has her hands full and will certainly lend no assistance against the Muscovite? A large portion of the population of India would array themselves against their masters and would hail every disaster to English arms as a just retribution for the wrongs heaped on them for centuries. Under these circumstances it is not very probable that England will have an easy task in bringing Russia to terms and holding her Indian Empire together.

GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

We are in receipt of Sadlier's Catholic Directory for the current year. Its publication is an annual event of interest to all who watch the marvellous growth of the Church in the English speaking world, but especially in the United States, where her progress is even more wonderful than the expansion of the country itself. This year, we are happy to note, the Directory attains to greater accuracy and fulness of detail than ever. In former years there was some indulgence in approximate figures which did not cover the reality. This year the diocesan authorities have made it their business to co-operate with the publishers, and to furnish correct estimates and actual figures. In a few cases there was some difficulty in obtaining them. The failure to obtain the

report of one diocese delayed the publication of the Directory until now, although all the rest of the matter had been in type months before. Thus every report in the volume is official and can be fully relied upon. The gigantic proportions which the work of the Church is assuming in the American Republic are forcibly and clearly exhibited in the ecclesiastical statistics thus compiled. From the year 1565, when the Spaniards planted the first cross in the oldest town in the United States—St. Augustine, Florida—down to the present day, the annals of the Church present an unbroken record of prosperity and progress. The following authentic figures will give a fair idea of her actual position in the Union. There are no less than 6,226 churches of all degrees of size and value, from the gorgeous marble cathedral in New York to the unpretending structure of timber in the new towns of the Western States. In addition to this great number of regular churches there are 907 chapels and 1,895 stations. There are in all 7,043 priests, 63 bishops, 14 archbishops and one cardinal. Two more members of the Sacred College are in prospect, according to the general belief of people in authority. There are at present 1,597 ecclesiastical students in the country, while the number of seminaries of all kinds is 35. There are 83 colleges, 581 academies and 2,464 parochial schools, the last named having an attendance of 490,531 pupils. The Catholic asylums number 272 and the hospitals 154.

The highest recorded number of baptisms in any one state during the year 1883 was 23,738 in Ohio; the lowest, 352, in South Carolina. The total of Catholic living births in the United States for that year was 1,577,173, and the total of deaths at all ages was 756,893. The contrast between these numbers partly shows the ratio of increase, which, of course, is augmented by the continuous large immigration of Catholics from Europe and British America. Of the 83 colleges already mentioned, some, such as those at Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, and St. Louis, Mo., are flourishing universities that can compare favorably with the oldest and best in the country. With regard to the number of pupils in parochial schools throughout the various dioceses, New York comes first with 34,333, while Chicago has 27,300, Cleveland 23,500, Brooklyn 22,901, and Newark 21,134. The diocese of Boston has about 20,000. In asylums New York takes the lead with 23, Baltimore having 17, Brooklyn 16, Albany 14, and Chicago, Cleveland and St. Louis 13 each. There are 10 each in Boston and Buffalo. Concerning hospitals, it may be a matter of some surprise that the diocese of Alton (Ill.) has the greatest number, 12. New York coming next with 10, followed by Boston and the vicariate-apostolic of Colorado with 7 each. Observing a distinction between churches and chapels or stations, it will be of interest to state that the greatest number of churches is in the Milwaukee diocese, which has no fewer than 204. The vicariate-apostolic of Nebraska has 235, the diocese of Cleveland 217, closely followed by Alton, which contains 201. In the whole country there are 65 dioceses, including 12 archdioceses and 9 vicariates-apostolic.

THE CANADIAN VOYAGEURS AFTER THE NILE EXPEDITION.

The Canadian voyageurs have returned to Canada, having left behind them a number of their comrades still in the Sudan, others in foreign hospitals, more in early and unmarked graves, and a few starting it through the old country. The returned voyageurs are more like prodigal sons, glad to get back and disgusted with their Egyptian experience. Bitter complaints, which could find no outlet while under the thumb of British officers, are now being loudly made against the authorities for ill-usage and mean treatment. As one of the prodigals put it: 'We couldn't open our mouths, while away, without being fined, but by jingo we are in Canada now and Canada is a free country.' And they are unboasting themselves with a vengeance. They have a good many things to say of the expedition and the majority of their criticisms are decidedly unfavorable. When they are asked why the whole contingent did not volunteer for another six months, they meet their interrogator with the exclamation: 'Volunteer again! Not much. The next time the British Government gets us on another campaign they'll know it.' The Witness correspondent having recalled the fact that eighty of the voyageurs had re-enlisted and remained in the Sudan, the following explanation of how their re-enlistment was compassed was given by the interviewed voyageur. 'Those eighty voyageurs are "sorry enough they remained, but they were coaxed to remain by the officers. Many of them re-enlisted while they were half drunk, and the day we left you could have seen the tears trickling down their cheeks. The officers wanted us all to stay, but we had already had too much of the "Soudan.'

If these statements be true, and there is no reason to doubt them, it is simply outrageous on the part of the British war officials to employ such means to entice and keep men in the service. On being questioned what they had to complain of in particular, they answer, everything; they suffered from the dangers of the river, increased by the unsuitableness and even the rottenness of the boats, which were simply 'so many man-traps.' The voyageurs who were drowned owe their deaths to the rotten condition of the river craft. Then there was the terrible heat of the day and the chilly atmosphere of the night, when they had to sleep on the banks of the river, covered only by a blanket.

Besides this they did not get enough to eat. They were put on rations like the soldiers, and had to be satisfied with one pound of canned meat and one pound of hard tack per day. As if the contingent did not suffer enough at the hands of the British authorities, the Canadian officers who were in command had to help in increasing the measure of discomfort and discontent. With the exception of one or two officers, the voyageurs speak in strong terms of denunciation of their conduct towards the men. Captains Amund and Dennison come in for a good round share of condemnation. They have earned the enmity and contempt of the voyageurs, who consider their bearing to have been most despicable and discourteous. A correspondent relates an incident of their inhumanity which is deserving of the severest censure. 'It is stated that on the way by train in open box cars to Alexandria, when many were intoxicated, Wm. O'Rourke, of Ottawa, and Leo Polo, of Grenville, were observed to tumble off, and three comrades, who knew they were run over, passed the word to Captain Amund, and entreated him to stop and recover the bodies, but being rung in his head he refused to take any notice of the appeal, even neglecting to telegraph back from the first station stopped at.'

But their grievances did not end in Egypt. On their way from Alexandria to Quene-town, in the troopship Poonah, their treatment was simply disgraceful. 'We were treated like so many dogs and subjected to all the rigors of military discipline,' is how they describe it. The accommodations on board were something horrible. The voyageurs were quartered down in the lower hold, where all was dark and damp. Their position was worse than that of cattle. Fourteen men were packed in a space which contained only a table ten feet long, and in which they had to live, eat and sleep in hammocks over the table. The voyageurs were ordered to scrub the decks and do ship work generally, which they refused. As a punishment, their grog was stopped and their bread also. The men had to feed themselves and buy what victuals they wanted at exorbitant prices. They blame Captains Dennison and Amund for making no effort to put a stop to these studied affronts and abuse. As a result, several voyageurs threaten to sue the Government for their barbarous treatment on the Poonah.

We don't know that the voyageurs are entitled to much sympathy; we imagine many people will be inclined to say 'Survive them right.' Why did they abandon their peaceful Canadian homes to go and facilitate the slaughter of fellow-men who are fighting for their own homes and their country? Canadians should bear in mind a very useful and profitable maxim: The more they mind their own business the more they will be respected.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Mayor Beauregard's inaugural address was a sound, sensible and happy effort. There were no flourishes in it, but there was much wise counsel and useful suggestions. The point upon which His Worship laid the most stress was that of the public health, which he did not hesitate to regard as the 'great question of the day,' and the one that required an immediate solution. He did not beat about the bush to tell the Council that the Board of Health had failed to raise the city of Montreal to its legitimate rank from a sanitary standpoint of view, and that many improvements were needed. Notwithstanding Montreal's specially favored position on the banks of the St. Lawrence, the public health was far from satisfactory, as was clearly indicated by the mortality returns. Our average death rate is from five to seven and eight per cent higher than that of other cities who cannot boast of quarter the geographical and topographical advantages which are the natural possession of the metropolis. It is reassuring to know that the municipal authorities will be fully awakened to the importance of a thorough exercise of all their functions as have to do with the preservation of the public health. The cleaning of the streets and the work of the scavengers have not been effective in the past, and the new Mayor promises that the contractors for this service will receive a fair share of his attention.

In a city like this when the severities of winter are about to pass away and to uncover pestilential elements, the approach of warm weather ought to be accepted as a signal for closer observance of the laws of health. This year this observance is more necessary than usual, in view of the official prophecy of the almost inevitable coming of the dread epidemic which created so much ravage in Europe last summer. The general safety demands that a strict sanitary discipline be enforced upon the landlords and tenants who are crowded into tenement houses and are ill-supplied with appliances for ventilation, and who are surrounded with equal and filth. The early spring should be devoted to processes of thorough cleansing and purification. With proper and energetic sanitation, the threatened visit of the cholera will not become an uncontrollable source of danger, but will be disarmed of much of the deadliness of its character. Besides exceptional vigilance and activity on the part of the Board of Health; there is also required on the part of the citizens a resolute effort to conform to the diet and habits of their daily life as much as possible to the given requirements of health.

DUBLIN'S NEW ARCHBISHOP.

LECTION OF DR. WALSH. DUBLIN, March 10.—Rev. Dr. Walsh, the President of the College of St. Patrick, has been elected Archbishop of Dublin. Dr. Walsh will give the satisfaction to the clergy and people of Ireland. Dr. Walsh is a very sympathetic man with the Irish people, and his election will be a great boon to the Irish people. Dr. Walsh is a very sympathetic man with the Irish people, and his election will be a great boon to the Irish people.