

THE TRUE WITNESS

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There is an increase of twenty-three Catholics in the personnel of the British House of Commons. In the last Parliament there were but sixty Catholics.

THE TORY ORGANS AND MGR. FABRE

The Ministerial organs, French and English, are violating the formal instructions given by His Lordship Mgr. Fabre, not to use his mandement as a political weapon against the movement which has been constitutionally set on foot to overthrow Sir John Macdonald.

NINE LIES IN ONE PARAGRAPH.

It is astonishing the amount of nonsense and falsehood the only religious daily can cram into one of its editorial paragraphs. For instance, the Daily Witness says "the Roman Catholic Church has thrown itself squarely across the track of the Riel movement."

That is false, as can be proved by Archbishop Taché's manifesto, in which His Grace says that it is the duty and the right of every citizen, whether in Parliament or at the polls, to vote on the question as conscience dictates.

That is false. "British" or "anti-British" has nothing to do with the movement. Nobody but a malicious and deliberate deceiver, such as the Witness, ever mentions the word British.

The Daily Witness says "Riel is regarded as a hero because he raised a standard of revolt among a people more or less French."

That is false also. Riel is regarded as a hero because he represented and championed the cause of right and justice against misgovernment and oppression, and because he died for that cause with the courage and fortitude of a hero.

The Daily Witness on the heels of lie No. III asks the very foolish question if the Church is British in its feelings, and gives the very wise answer that the Church is far from being British.

That is an awful whopper, and it is a wonder it did not choke our contemporary. Wasting away! Fifty years ago there were a few bishops, a small number of priests, a handful of believers, churches few and far between, and poor at that.

"In no country, Catholic or Protestant, does Catholicism flourish as under the British flag."

That is also false. Catholicism has flourished not under but in spite of the British flag, especially in an island called Ireland. Lie No. V. for the only religious Daily.

The Witness adds, that "it was for this reason that the higher powers of the Church opposed the National movement in Ireland as long as they could."

That is false, too. Neither the higher nor the lower powers of the church opposed the national movement in Ireland.

The Daily Witness says if "French Canada were divorced from England, this province would soon be a minority, one Roman Catholic attached to fifty Protestant states."

That is false, for the very simple reason that in the American Republic there are no Protestant states.

A person cannot maintain a connection which he has not got; but the Church of Rome has no English connection; therefore it cannot maintain the alleged connection.

The only religious daily shows the olven foot in the concluding lie of its brief editorial paragraph when it says: "We are mistaken, however, if it (the Church) can long resist this nationality movement, the elements of which it has, as in Ireland, untiringly nursed."

In this the Witness adds cowardly slander to falsehood and betrays the secret of its nature—blind and bitter hatred of the Catholic Church. The Daily Witness starts out by saying that the Church has thrown itself squarely across the track of the Riel movement, but, mongrel fashion, it winds up by saying that the Church is nursing the elements of the movement.

THE FRENCH AND IRISH RECORD.

The French-Canadians and the Irish are natural allies. They are one in race, one in religion, and one in traditional antagonism to "perfidious Albion." When France was humiliated, Ireland mourned; when Ireland struggled for independence, France held forth a helping hand to save her.

We said that Orangemen were brutal when they got the chance, and so they are. A despatch from St. Johns this morning tells that an Orange mob attacked two of the released Riel prisoners, who had been kept in jail by the Orange Attorney-General.

Another despatch brings the news that the Orange processions were prevented by the Executive, which would not be calculated to increase the docility or peacefulness of the boys in yellow.

For five years during these stormy days the Irish Brigade in the service of France served in this country. O'Callaghan proves this beyond the shadow of a doubt. The letters of the French Minister of War of that day, Count d'Argenson, leaves no doubt about it, and all students of O'Callaghan know that the Irish Brigade were present at the capture of Oswego, where two British regiments, Shirley's and Pepperell's, lowered their banners and surrendered their arms to the Franco-Irish soldiers, who reduced the place to submission and made "Oswego" the Fontenoy of this land.

The English people are prone to cling to cherished traditions very closely, and have to be rudely shaken before they will institute reforms of the most necessary character. Free trade has been with them a superstition so long that it is little short of a marvel that a change should be thought of.

left France for Canada in 1755 was a Masonian, and the 28th June saw the France-Irish colors fluttering over Quebec, and the 9th July heard the tramp of the Irish Brigade in the streets of Montreal. He fought the British at Lake George, Fort William Henry, Carillon and the heights of Sillery and Ste. Foy. The impetuous Montcalm did not await the arrival of Bougainville and the seasoned Irish diers, who formed the greater part of his command, and it was because of that that the French colors went down a blaze of glory in this country for ever.

DUBLIN RECLAIMED.

DUBLIN, the capital of Ireland, is to be reclaimed to-morrow from the garrison and from West Britonism. It is fitting that the author of the Irish National Anthem, "God Save Ireland," Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., should be the man on whom should fall the glorious work of wiping out the baneful influence of that alien element—West Britonism and Orangeism—which have been such a curse to the nation.

ORANGEISM IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

ORANGEISM in Newfoundland is vicious, and when it gets the chance, brutal. It is especially so since the appointment of Sir Ambrose Shea, an Irish Catholic, to the Governor-Generalship of the Island. England, by appointing Sir Ambrose, gave Orangemen a stinging slap in the face, but they don't know when they are insulted and despised.

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TRADE IN ENGLAND.

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that the present projectors of a measure of protection in England are themselves theoretically free traders. The suggestion must be gall and wormwood to the ultra free traders of the John Bright school. To them the persons who so much as venture to suggest protection are merely "fools," and with such an argument is deemed wasteful and ridiculous excess.

THE MAIL'S ADMISSION OF MIS-GOVERNMENT.

We invite the special attention of the public to the subjoined indictment drawn up by the Toronto Mail against Sir John Macdonald's Government for their mal-administration of the North-West and for their oppression of the half-breeds.

"By the passage of the Manitoba Act of 1870 old Canada had formally and frankly recognized the rights of the Half-breeds of that Province to share in the Indian title, and it follows as a matter of course that if they had rights in the soil of Manitoba, those of them dwelling in the regions beyond had rights in the soil there.

"It must have been quite well understood by Parliament in 1870; at all events the records show that the Government of the day recognized the point, though a settlement was not then asked for.

"It was a tangled question; it would involve the appointment of a commission and no end of trouble; St. Albert and St. Laurent were far distant dependencies without political influence; it was a claim that 'would be done the worse for blue-moulding in the pigeon-holes.'

"This was the way in which the officials treated the just demand of the Metis, and we agree with Mr. Blake, that their negligence was gross and inexcusable, and contributed to bring about the insurrection.

"Had they had votes, like white men, or, if, like the Indians, they had been numerous enough to command respect and overawe red tape, without doubt the wheels of the office would have revolved for them; but being only Half-breeds, they were put off with an eternal promise, until patience ceased to be a virtue."

"We repeat again that the departmental system under which such callous and cruel neglect of the rights of a portion of the community was possible, was wrong, and should be censured."

No opponent of the Government has spoken a more unmistakable terms, with greater severity, and with warmer indignation against their unhalloved and cruel administration of affairs in the North-West than the Mail has done in the above article, which a momentary sense of justice, truth and of frankness snatched from its purchased, slavish and partisan pen.

REFORMERS AND CONSERVATIVES.

There was a time in the political history of this country when no honest Irish Catholic could be a Reformer. The shadow of the Globe forbade it. No self-respecting member of our race or creed could walk side by side with the denouncers of our religion and our nationality.

We shrank from alliances with Catholic haters, and when the Reformers changed their sentiments and their policy, the Irish Catholics still remembered the vituperation that was heaped upon them, when George Brown was a young man and "Reform" in Canada was synonymous with "Know Nothingism" in the United States.

Then, owing to the opposition of the Irish Catholics, more than to the desire to do right, the situation was made to undergo a change. The Reformers began to throw aside the badge of intolerance. This change may have been gradual, but it has been real.

given way to religion and justice, and the Reformers are no longer what they used to be. The Globe and its many Reform satellites have become eloquent champions of Home Rule for Ireland. The Reform Legislature of Ontario has refused to yield to Orange clamor for incorporation. The members of its Ministry to a man voted against it.

In the Dominion House of Commons, Edward Blake, the Reformer, denounces Orangeism; Sir John A. Macdonald, the Conservative, favors it and votes for its incorporation. Alexander Mackenzie, the Scotch Presbyterian and Reformer, plumps against the very first reading of the Orange Bill.

The change is complete. The old Reformers are dead and buried, and in the present party, led by Mr. Blake, "Fair play for all" is the principle that has taken the place of intolerance and ascendancy. And the Conservatives have changed too. Whatever they did for the people they did reluctantly, and only with a view to their own consolidation in office and power.

The alliance was at best an unholy one. Irish Catholics and Orangemen can never work in harmony. It is mere hypocrisy to pretend that they can.

Orangemen will change nothing and learn nothing. It is we who were beginning to yield, not they. But that has passed. We do not want their alliance. Their enmity is preferable to their friendship.

THE ANTI-FRENCH FRENCH CANADIAN.

The Minerve has undertaken to speak in the name of the Irish people. It says that the Irish Catholics are not in harmony with the movement which has for its object the punishment of Sir John A. Macdonald for hanging Riel. It thinks when one Irish Catholic M.P. speaks that all the Irish Catholics in Canada must be dumb.

Even the Irish Catholic public opinion? Even the Irish Canadian, Government organ as it is, yet even the Irish Canadian does not defend the policy of the Government in the Riel issue, its utterances are neutral and hesitating.

Whether on the scaffold high Or in the battle's van, The noblest place for man to die Is where he dies for man.

WANTED TO KNOW.

We wonder if we shall ever hear the true history of the rebellion in the North-West. We do not mean the causes of the revolt, for these will no doubt be all found out when Parliament meets, but what we want to get at is the history of the penulations of the general store, the alleged incapacity of General Middleton, the blunder at Fish Creek, the looting, or worse, at Batoche, the defeat of the Queen's Own at Cut Knife, and the reason why Lord Melgund left his post in front of the enemy? True, it is now a little late in the day, but it would be interesting even still to know the reason why Middleton, with 800 men and some pieces of artillery, retired before 40 or 50 half-breeds and Indians on the 24th of April; it would, too, be equally interesting to know if the officers as well as the men looted the stores when Batoche was "carried by storm," there would still be some interest taken in a graphic description of the fight at Cut Knife, where Poundmaker claims to have made his men cease firing "out of pity" for the retreating Queen's Own; and all Canada would listen for an answer if Lord Melgund undertook to reply to the question, "Were you sent to bring up a battalion of regulars to carry Batoche, fearing that the Canadian militiamen were not equal to the task? Then this pony that General Middleton is charged with having stolen. Surely that story cannot be true. Even if it were proved that the men looted farms, few people could be induced to believe that General Middleton would be guilty of plundering a gallant enemy. We are prepared to believe that the women and children were well treated, and all honor to the Canadian militiamen for their conduct towards the weak and helpless. We think that fact has been established, and we are proud of the men who in their triumph respected virtue, even if they loved women and golden store. But there is yet much, very much, to learn about the campaign. Why did Irvine remain at Prince Albert? Who shared with the Bell Farm the profit of the \$10 a day paid to the teams; or who were the financial gainers and who were the financial losers by the campaign? The people of Canada have an interest in knowing all these things. Did Middleton order the attack at Batoche, or was it done without his knowledge, while he was sipping coffee off a bread box? Or how is it up to the present hour that no one has been rewarded with emoluments or honors but the General, who is charged with doing those things he ought not to have done in the North-West campaign? Who shall answer?

THE HON. JOHN COSTIGAN.

The Hon. John Costigan makes a very big mistake if he thinks that we are personally hostile to him. We do not forget, nor are we likely to forget, that, as a private member of the House of Commons, he did good service for our people. If he never did anything but fight the New Brunswick School Question and introduce the Home Rule resolutions, they would be enough to make us treat him with a gentle hand. But he knows, as well as we do, that since he became a member of the Government his hands have been tied, and he is not now the John Costigan he was four or five years ago. He is not now as he was then, free to fight the battles of his people. He has been forced to become the slave of a party, and not, as he was, the champion of a people's principles. It would have been better, far better, for the Irish Catholics of Canada if John Costigan had not entered the Cabinet at all. He knows that he dare not do what he would unhesitatingly do when he was not in the Cabinet. The position he occupies, without influence or without patronage, must be humiliating to himself as it is injurious to the people he represents. We do not forget the case of the late John Grey when John Costigan was forced to yield to Orange clamor. We know too, of other cases less public but equally humiliating to the Minister of Inland Revenue and it is not because we have any special love for the individuals who were wronged, but there is a principle involved, a principle which affects every Irish Catholic in Canada, and one that John Costigan, as their representative, should have continued to uphold. He is above all others supposed to be the man who should stand up for the rights of the Irish people, and it is our duty to consider the people first and the man afterwards. We could name many cases in which John Costigan was obliged to give way before Orange oppression, but to mention names would involve men who still hold government appointments. We repeat that it is with no pleasure that we are forced to say this, but the interests of our people demand it. John Costigan would do his duty if he dared, but to dare means resignation. Whatever appointments he has made have been petty ones. That "he means well" is on everybody's lips, and we believe it. But from a man in his position it is acts, not intentions, we want. Let him insist on a fair share of the emoluments of office for the Irish Catholics of Canada; let him no longer consent to be made a party to a public deception on the people he represents; let him tell Sir John A. Macdonald that this thing of holding a portfolio, without the power and the patronage it bestows, must come to an end; let him do this and insist on a change, or let him resign and become, as he will, the strongest and the most popular Irish Catholic in the Dominion. Let him do for our people in his own sphere what Christy Fraser does in his, and then, but not till then, will he receive the confidence, the admiration and the thanks which we would all like to bestow on him if he conscientiously could. But John Costigan may as well know that the Irish Catholics of Canada are coming, slowly but surely, to the painful conclusion that his position in the Cabinet is only of benefit to himself, his family and a few, and a very few, of the least present.