

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1887

TALK of naming mountains after Sir John Macdonald. Isn't the public debt mountain enough and the inscription big enough?

THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS!

The political trail that Chamberlain has followed began with a highroad and ended by running up a tree. In American party parlance he would be called a coon.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND addressed his Jubilee letter to the Queen "My Great and Good Friend." Her Majesty replies to him with "Our Good Friend." Evidently she does not think him her equal, and so does not reciprocate the "great." Both letters are priceless specimens of utterly utter balderdash, cant, humbug, absurdity and rancid illiteracy.

AND now it is the President of a Bank who has gobbled the funds and vanished. Henry Taylor is the man, and the bank is the Bank of London, Ont., as announced in yesterday's Post. But what can we expect when the Government of the country set the example of plundering and boodling.

A YOUNG MEN'S CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION is to be held at Toronto on the 13th and 14th September, the time having been prudently selected during Exhibition week. It is a puzzle to understand what these young Conservatives are expected to do.

It is stated that the writ for a new election in the county of Ottawa to fill the vacancy in the Quebec Legislature, caused by the unseating of Mr. Cormier, will be issued at once. It is probable that nomination day will be Saturday, September 3rd, and that polling will take place on the following Saturday, the 10th.

OUR protectionist Government have a peculiar way of patronizing home industries. After laying an almost prohibitive tax on iron, they go abroad for it, and, of course, import it for Government works free of duty.

Down by the sea, they do not seem to take such great pride in the fisheries protection business as some papers further inland. Thus the Acadian Recorder says that where Admiral Luce made the mistake was treating the matter seriously. "It could have told him that the so-called fisheries for the most part are called into existence and designed to afford employment to hangers-on of the Government and to be the means whereby supplies are procured from supporters of the Administration."

for sale, it can be made the pretext for adding to the fleet. No doubt those who led him on to make the statements he did had a hearty laugh over the whole thing.

LANSDOWNE continues to persecute his unfortunate tenants with unabated malignancy. We read in the Irish papers that at the Wicklow Assizes, before Mr. Justice Harrison, two cases, at the suit of the Marquis of Lansdowne, against tenants on his Queen's County estate, who had adopted the Plan of Campaign, were proceeded with before a special jury. This means that His Ex., with connivance of the Crown officers, carried his cases into a county where he had secured the service of a packed jury, and of course got a verdict against the tenants.

MR. E. R. RUSSELL writes to the Liverpool Post:—"The recess will be one of extreme political activity. I believe that between October and January a steady, persistent and widespread propaganda will be carried on by the National Liberal Federation and the branches on behalf of Home Rule and the general objects of the Liberal party. The great bulk of Mr. Gladstone's followers and a number of the Parnellites will be pressed into the service, and the managers of the Gladstonian party are confident that the effect of this movement will be to complete the conversion of the country to Home Rule."

SUGAR, according to the latest London quotations, is selling at 16s. 9d. per imperial hundred or \$3 3-5 per 100 lbs. Under our beneficent tariff every family that consumes head for head as much sugar as a family of the same size in England has to pay for the privilege just twice as much. This is the kind of a free breakfast table the Tories have given the workmen of this country. It is the same story all round. The cotton manufacturers have a complete ring, which has, this year, advanced prices on the unfortunate consumers with the jubilant approval of the whole Tory press.

MR. ROCHEON, who contested Ottawa County at the late Provincial election, has again been nominated by the Liberal convention. Mr. Cormier, who resigned the seat on account of admitted corruption, is the Conservative candidate. We regard the election of Mr. Rocheon as a foregone conclusion. For many years a Tory clique have done as they pleased in the county. Bribery, intimidation, frauds of all kinds, were practised with unblinking openness and the most cheerful regularity. These practices cannot be repeated now that a reform administration is in power, or if attempted will call down immediate punishment.

QUEBEC papers publish circumstantial reports of the progress being made in the preparations for the Provincial exhibition, which takes place at that city next month. Messrs. Leclerc and S. C. Stevenson, the secretaries of the Exhibition committee and of the Provincial Council of Arts and Manufactures, respectively, are daily working in the interests of the exposition, and receiving entries. They report gratifying success in the number and character of the entries made, especially in those received from Montreal and other western towns and also from the United States. A large number of Quebecers have expressed their intention of exhibiting. Among other attractions are two days' racing on the St. Charles course, nautical sports, pyrotechnical displays, etc. The band competition has been omitted. The programme for the exhibition week will be issued at an early day.

DEMOCRATIC losses have prevailed to a serious extent in recent elections in the United States. The New York World recognizes in the labor movement the "most serious danger that has threatened the democratic party for years," and takes a very discouraging view of affairs, saying itself by saying that "it is not too late" for the administration to do something which shall restore it to the confidence of the party.

SIR ROBERT THORNTON, premier of Newfoundland, has contradicted the reports of distress in that colony. He writes:—"Statements published abroad regarding Newfoundland are untruthful and malicious. There is neither bankruptcy nor universal destitution. The bank and western fisheries are successful. The Labrador and northern fisheries have hitherto been poor, but are improving. At the latest advice, the general outlook here is much better than it was last season at the corresponding period."

POLITICS in Ottawa county have undergone quite a transformation since the provincial elections. The Conservatives no longer command the resources of the province in favor of their candidate. Colonization road monies cannot now be used as an election fund. The funds in this connection have been pretty well expended and show how the Tories managed to elect their candidate. But now that source of corruption is dried up, and they have to fight the battle over without it. Still there is a wealthy and powerful interest that will sacrifice much to prevent the Liberals getting hold of the county. Many, therefore, will not be waiting. What Mr. Rocheon's friends have to guard against is not the black swanships. They must know by past experience what sort of men they have to deal with. The methods of those men at all events are no secret, and

should be taken into consideration. Per fas et nefas is the Tory motto on the Gatincau.

ANOTHER interesting letter appears in the Baltimore Sun from its special correspondent in Ireland. His observations on the system of public school education are noteworthy. He relates that the Government expends about \$4,200,000 upon them annually, to which sum about \$1,000,000 more is added from private subscriptions, tuition, and books are practically free, and the number of children on the roll out of a population of 5,000,000 is about 1,000,000, with an average daily attendance as high as from 65 to 75 per cent. There are numerous institutions of higher grade, besides training schools, and in all the teaching and system of management is well designed and efficient. "The curriculum in all grades," the correspondent observes, "is fully up to if not in advance of the standard in the United States." There is not now a child in Ireland, it is held, who cannot read or is not being taught, which is more, unhappily, than can be said for this country.

AN eminent English statesman, Mr. Giffen has compiled tables which show in part the enormous sums sent back to the United Kingdom to the relatives and friends of emigrants who have gained homes in the United States. From 1848 to 1885, both years inclusive, there was forwarded from America, through certain banks and mercantile houses, \$155,092,935, a large part of which eventually passed into the pockets of Irish landlords. In the last six years covered by the tables the contributions were greatly increased, the annual average being \$7,427,474. Of course the statement is incomplete, for certain bankers declined to furnish the required information, and a great deal of money has reached Ireland from America without going through the bankers. The average annual amount remitted from Australian colonies since 1875 has been only \$289,000.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD was interviewed on the question of Commercial Union at St. Andrews, N.B., the other day. Here is what he said:—"Congress will very effectually settle that matter when it is brought before it. There has been no desire manifested for such a measure, either in the United States Congress or in the British Parliament, and there is no reason for supposing that Americans are desirous for such a union. It would mean that Canada would have to adopt the American tariff. This would not be agreed to for two very important reasons. In the first place, Canadians would not wish to stand a higher tariff, and, secondly, differential duties can never be placed on importations from England. Neither country would gain, because they are naturally adapted for similar industries. It is not a measure to meet with popular favor in the United States, and neither party in Canada will take it up. The Americans have no particular desire to get our market, nor are we determined to have theirs. I think it a very visionary scheme."

OF course the Premier is bound to throw cold water on the movement. His policy is to keep Canada isolated so that he and his clique may govern and revel, while he hands the people over en masse to be plucked, fleeced and skinned by the syndicates, rings and monopolists who are ever ready to back him and supply any amount of money to debauch the electorate and keep their preserves to themselves.

We are astonished to find in a Catholic religious paper, the New York Tablet, the following atrocious suggestion:—"There is but one way apparently for the American fishermen to bring the present difficulty to an issue. Let them fit out a number of their vessels with galling guns and arm their crews with up. The Americans have no particular objection to the Britishers, while not violating the Treaty of 1818, give the latter a more accurate idea of the three mile limit. This would bring matters to a crisis, and the entire American people would approve of the act. As it stands at present, it is clear the people alone can and must settle it, either in the manner mentioned or by a change of administration."

Were it not for the words "while not violating the treaty of 1818" this editorial utterance would be the wildest gasconade. But who is to be the judge? Fishermen armed with galling guns? Is the Tablet aware that it is advocating piracy, open violation of law and murder? This is not the language of Catholic teaching nor of Catholic journalism. It is vicious folly and ought to be repented for and withdrawn. Canadian fishermen threatened by the Tablet are many of them better Catholics than he appears to be by the language quoted, and their rights are sacred. The fisheries belong to Canada. No American fishermen suffer molestation who observe the treaty. If a mistake is made, it is soon rectified. Let the poachers keep off, and let the Tablet cool its head and write sense and not violate the laws, both human and divine, by advocating piracy and murder.

It appears that the British Government is determined to demonstrate its impotency in Ireland. By proclaiming the National League it has simply transformed an open public organization into a powerful institution, whose work will be conducted in such a way as to defy all the Government can bring to bear against it. Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. T. W. Russell have withdrawn their support from the Ministry on account of this proclamation. Nothing now remains of the Unionist faction but Lord Hartington and the tail of parliamentary accidents, who have no hope of re-election, and may, therefore, be counted as Tories to all intents and purposes. Doubtless it is upon this hopeless position of those miserable political scoundrels that the Government relies for continuance in power. But a parliamentary majority out of harmony with the country, and a Ministry that has lost touch with the people, are not likely to last very long. Meanwhile the irremediable, uniform and ceaseless pressure of a united and determined people is slowly crushing the life out of the garrison in Ireland. In spite of the proclamation, the National League will continue to

govern Ireland, the Plain of Campaign will still be carried out, while the world will laugh at the impotent vindictiveness and stupidity of Tory misrule in Ireland.

We learn from our Maritime Provinces, exchanges that the lobster-fishery pursuit has led to a neglect of the ordinary precautions for the salmon fishery, and that magnificent fish has been driven from the coast by the manner in which their accustomed resorts are turned into lobster-fishing grounds. The consequence is that the salmon fishery—a great resource of the fishermen proper—has proved a failure. Under the N.P., too, the shipbuilding industry has been blotted out. It is said that at Sandy Point, N.S., where once thirty vessels were owned, there is not one now; and it is not surprising that there is a pulling-up of stakes in every direction, off for the United States. Meanwhile the Intercolonial Royal Family are travelling over the country in palace cars, and half the Dominion Cabinet are in England, participating in "exhaustive festivities," while in every province a number of journals are paid tens of thousands of dollars yearly each to keep shouting at the top of their voices: "Everything is lovely!" This is the "science" of Tory government in Canada to day.

LANDING a cargo of Scotch granulated sugar at Montreal to bring down the price of the home made article is causing considerable comment in the West. The Hamilton Times says:—"The sympathy of every independent Canadian ought to be given to the wholesale grocery firm of Lightbourn, Ralston & Co., of Montreal, who are fighting against the coercion of the refinery ring. Those gentlemen refused to join the grocers' ring to raise the price of sugar, and they have brought to Montreal 1,500 barrels of Scotch sugar, which they are selling at 7 cents a pound, while the Canada Sugar Refinery Company sells the same grade at 7 1/2 cents. More than 100 years ago the inhabitants of Massachusetts boycotted imported teas and other goods which were unjustly taxed, and got along as best they could on home products. The Canadians to-day find the home product unjustly taxed, and one way of fighting the refinery's ring that has been formed to rob them is to confine their purchases to imported refined sugar. The retail grocers who would defy the ring and advertise that they were selling the Scotch sugar exclusively would be apt to do a large business, but some of them may fear the future vengeance of the ring. The spirit of 1776 is not very lively these days."

HOW THE UNION WAS CARRIED.

Here comes the antediluvian Kazoot spinning a yarn about the Anglo-Irish Legislative Union with all the gravity of Rip Van Winkle. Weeks after the abortive issue of Dr. Thomas Dunbar Ingram's tissue of lies and forgeries, our grandmothers' organ sentimentally rehearses it for the benefit of those whom it imagines it is still able to mislead. The book referred to has been before the British public for some time, and has been so thoroughly exposed as one of the most mendacious attempts ever made to falsify history that it has been dropped like a hot potato, even by those whose cause it was intended to serve. The task undertaken by Dr. Ingram was one of great magnitude, and the way he performed it proved him to be a man with an unlimited capacity for drawing on his imagination for facts. He undertook to show that the Union was carried by Pitt and Castlereagh with the full consent of the great majority of the Irish people; that the Catholic laity and clergy were favorable to it; that Grattan and Flood were not sincerely opposed to it, and that it was honestly carried in the Irish Parliament without bribery of any sort!

When W. W. Story, the poet, undertook to whitewash the character of Judas Iscariot, and when, more recently, Froude attempted a like generous service to the memory of the biggest brute and tyrant that ever sat on the throne of England, which is saying a great deal, Henry VIII., an incredulous public accepted these compositions as among the literary oddities of the time. But this tour de force by Dr. Ingram is more astonishing even than Story's defence of the most abominable traitor in all history. Fortunately it is nearer in time, and so can be more easily refuted. But the fact, that any man would have the audacity to undertake such a work is a good lesson for those who care to inquire how history can be, and is, manufactured for English readers. There is no political event of modern times of which there is so abundant contemporary literature as there is concerning the union of Ireland with England. Contemporary writers of the highest reputation, men whose words are now standards of English literature, all bear unanimous testimony to the ineffable rascalities and corruption by which the union was carried. The speeches of members of the Irish Parliament are full of allusions to the unallowed arts employed to destroy the legislative independence of Ireland. Public and private correspondence, published since the writers have passed away, the satirical poems of Byron, Moore, and a host of lesser contemporary poets, abound with allusions to his abominations put in practice to secure the union. In fact there is no attempt to disguise or defend the manner in which Pitt carried out his policy, and all honest men of the time, whose opinions have been placed on record, condemn, and many of them execrate, the devices of the Government.

serenely and assures us that all the people who lived, and spoke, and wrote, and saw, and acted in the political scenes of the Union, were a set of idiots who did not know what was going on about them; that the literatures of the day is all mistaken, that the Irish priests and people concealed their real feelings when they opposed and execrated the Union, that the agitation ever since kept alive to repeal the Union is all a sham, and in fact that everything and everybody have been exactly the reverse of what was seen and believed during all these years!

Could anything be more preposterous! Among men of reading in England, Dr. Ingram's book is regarded as the most clumsy and audacious falsification of history ever palmed off on the public since the days of Baron Munchausen. But, it suits the palate of the Kazoot, for that organ recognizes in it the same principle that has long been its own guide, "Political exigencies." If an editor may lie and swear to it till he is convicted of the falsehood, why may not a party publish a book of lies and swear by it too? But the article in to-day's Kazoot is of use as an indication of the animus of hatred for the Irish and opposition to Home Rule which runs through every vein of its body. It should, however, wake up and endeavor to give its readers something more solid for reflection than the exploded chestnuts of Irish politics.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE.

The total eclipse of the sun, which took place to-day, was a phenomenon regarded by physical scientists as of the utmost importance, as likely to set a number of theories at rest. Parties of astronomers, photographers and spectroscopists from national and private observatories throughout Europe and America, were stationed at various places to take observations. The eclipse was visible from the eastern part of Europe, throughout the whole of Asia, across the Pacific Ocean half way between Japan and the Sandwich Islands. The southern limit of the partial phase passed across the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the head of the Bay of Bengal, between Borneo and the Philippine Islands, the northern limit being the North Pole. The path of the totality, was about 125 miles west of Berlin, which it enveloped; passed about sixteen miles north of Moscow, and thence through the southern part of Siberia, across Japan, embracing Tokio and so on to the Pacific Ocean as far as the little island at Rio de Oro, latitude 39° north and 157° east longitude. This little island is directly in the midst of the path.

On the earth the eclipse commenced at 3:05:05, Greenwich mean time, in the north-easternmost part of the Mediterranean Sea. The last point of contact was among the Caroline group of islands, latitude 10° north, the total duration being four hours, fifty-six minutes, four seconds. The length of the total phase varied from two minutes, twenty-one seconds, to three minutes forty-eight seconds.

In the longitude of Moscow the length of totality was two minutes, thirty-two seconds; but in Siberia, in latitude 51° and longitude 141°, the length was three minutes, forty-eight seconds, while in Japan the time was three minutes, ten seconds. The length of the total phase was about the average time of the phenomena, as they range from nothing to seven minutes. In these few minutes the Russian, French, German, English, American and Japanese parties, at their respective stations, hope to be able to solve some of the delicate questions in the sun's corona. There is a decided value in the line traversed by the eclipse, as telegraph wires are in the path, and if the wires are absolutely available.

Those who observed all or some of the total solar eclipses of the past eighteen years, from 1869 to 1886, confirm the earlier observers who had declared the phenomenon to be the most impressive scene in nature, far exceeding the glory of the greatest comets—at least those of 1843, 1858, 1861 and 1882. As the black disc of the intercepting moon moves slowly across the sun's burning disc the light gradually decreases, but not so much as one would suppose; at least, one's senses do not admit that when the sun's disc is half hidden there is much apparent loss of light, or even when three-fourths of the disc is obscured. When the disc is decreased until the merest narrow band of bright and living light is visible there is nothing around either body to call for attention. The sky is blue, the stars have not appeared, and no one can predict the possible changes that in a few seconds only must appear. The last brilliant point of sunlight disappears and suddenly the wonderful rose-colored flames burst far beyond the dark spherical body which now hangs in the heavens as if we could almost reach it. Far outside these red flames, which are in broken masses here and there on the circumference, the fleecy, delicate white wisp of the corona stream out from the sun's disc millions of miles.

It is to study this almost infinitely expanded solar appendage that the actual observers have been hoping for satisfactory and conclusive demonstrations at each total eclipse. Jansen has been at work for years at Meudon, near Paris, studying the sun. Huggins thought he had photographed the corona in broad daylight, but was satisfied that he had been mistaken after the eclipse of last year. Every effort has now been made, not only to photograph, this insupportable envelope, but to determine with the spectroscopic and polariscopic characteristics of its constitution. So far we know more definitely than a few years ago that the corona is a real solar appendage more expanded in the equatorial than in the polar regions; that it is an excessively attenuated envelope of gas, mainly hydrogen and helium, highly luminous, and taking shape according to the activity of the solar forces.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND MODERN SCIENCE.

St. George Mivart is an Englishman, whose attainments have placed him in the front rank of living scientists; and although a sincere Catholic he is a firm upholder of the doctrine of Evolution, including the Darwinian hypothesis. Two years ago he contributed to the Nineteenth Century Magazine an article entitled "Modern Catholics and Scientific Freedom," and in last month's number of the same publication he follows up the views he then expounded with another and more remarkable paper on "The Catholic Church and Biblical Criticism." As these contributions to current literature, touching the vexed questions of the relations of Religion to Science, contain an exposition of the views entertained by men of the highest intellect, who adhere devoutly to Catholic faith and doctrine, they are worthy of close attention. Mr. Mivart tells us that his object in writing the first paper "was to show that Roman Catholics are as free as other people to hold the doctrine of Evolution generally, and the natural evolution of the human body in particular." He founded his argument, he adds, "upon the facts which concern the enormous and unjustifiable condemnation at Rome of that illustrious confessor of science, the aged and unfortunate Galileo." Thus it will be seen that Mr. Mivart boldly takes his stand in defence of the Church on the very ground from which her enemies have long been accustomed to attack her. He then goes on to give his reasons for writing. Knowing well how many estimable persons were at that time in a state of great anxiety and distress respecting the question to which he then addressed himself, he purposely (to set their minds at rest so far as he possibly could) so stated his case as practically to challenge censure should the evolutionary doctrine be thought to require it. There were no wanting persons, he assures us, who fully anticipated that he should incur severe blame, and he had solicited to know that others earnestly resented his condemnation. But, he informs us,—and here is where the whole gist of the matter lies to non-scientific Catholics:—"That the latter (the persons who ought his condemnation) were deemed 'by those they addressed to be more jealous than wise, in what events have so far shown, for, up to the present time, I have not even received a private hint of disapprobation from any ecclesiastical authority. On the other hand, I have been gratified by the receipt of warm thanks 'from members of the clergy, most varied as to rank and position, and I have also received thanks from a much smaller number of the laity."

These assurances that he was not in conflict with the Church on account of his scientific views he fortifies with an extract from a letter written to him by "a most esteemed Superior of one of the medieval religious orders." This extract is so deeply interesting we give it in full:—"Since your Nineteenth Century article I have very frequently had occasion to explain your views both in England and elsewhere. There is not a shadow of a shade of unorthodoxy about them. That also is the opinion of Cardinal Newman, with whom I had a conversation thereon. Your article was not falling in the right direction, even for 'heavenly science.' What a pity it is to find so much narrowness amongst those whose duty it is to watch the noblest science of all! Deep and far-reaching theological thinkers are rare; but there are some to be found, though they write comparatively little. They are happy to say, more influenced as headquarters than people think. Those who make a good deal of noise know, as a rule, very little of the nature of the theological science. Their shallowness, inconsistency, anger and haughtiness are simply appalling. Whatever may be said against the schoolmen, they certainly tried to make physical sciences of their day, and the decline of scholasticism began with a neglect of those sciences. Roger Bacon's prophecy was then realised, and the Peripatetic philosophy culminated in the absurd condemnation of Galileo."

We will not venture to comment on this passage, but accept without a doubt Mr. Mivart's assurance that "it is abundantly clear that all danger of conflict between the Church and biology is forever at an end." "But if so," Mr. Mivart continues, coming to the subject of his second paper, "is all danger of conflict between science and ecclesiastical authorities also at an end?" He is far from thinking that such is the case. Controversy in historical science in the department of Biblical criticism, he thinks, an affair of the near future. To quote his own words:—"There are men of mark whose opinions cannot be lightly regarded, who think that the coming conflict between authority and criticism will be the most momentous controversy in the whole history of Christianity. Some of them are convinced that the great Catholic Church—the ship of Peter—after successfully riding the swelling billows of physical science, will at last be engulfed in the whirlpool of Biblical criticism. This is the opinion which Mr. Mivart undertakes, unsuccessfully we think, to combat. After reviewing the stupendous powers wielded by the Church and the certainty of its continuing, whatever changes the world may undergo, he reiterates his former declaration that "it seems plainly to the advantage of science in the future, as well as in the past, that no needless supposition, opposed to the perfect intellectual freedom of Catholics, should be permitted to subsist."

Passing over much that is admirable in Mr. Mivart's paper, and that which we would like to quote, did space permit, we come to the following noble passage:—"Doubt has acquired for men of science who are Theists, a distinctly religious character. Few things seem to them more shocking than to be called upon to give assent to propositions which are not only neither self-evident nor verifiably proved, but are even declared to be demonstrably untrue. Every man of science worthy of the name must not only declare the holds, even if things he considers proved only in such a way as to be ready to examine and weigh