

**THE TRUE WITNESS**  
AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY, .....AUGUST 5, 1891

It looks as if the session at Ottawa were going to last till the snow flies, for as the investigations proceed it appears that boodling in the civil service was the common rule and practice, instead of the exception.

It is reported that the vintage on the Rhine, the Moselle and in the Palatinat will be a complete failure this season, owing to insect ravages. The news causes rejoicing among California vine growers, who assure the world that they are quite prepared to keep up the supply of all the famous and favorite brands, and that there is no fear of the stock of champagne running short.

THE Star of this city has suddenly assumed an attitude of hostility to the Government and to the Premier in particular. But those who have memories will not forget that Premier Abbott was Mayor Abbott when an attempted "sensational" on the part of the Star was to its great mortification, treated by that gentleman in a legal and judicial spirit rather than in that of a sensational newspaper. This may account for the present tone of the Star. Further developments will be awaited with interest.

A CO-OPERATIVE foundry company, which has carried on business for twenty-four years at Somerset, Massachusetts, has at last been compelled to dissolve. After the close of the civil war a considerable number of manufacturing concerns were established on the co-operative, profit-sharing principle, and all except the Somerset company failed. Its success was probably owing to unusual organizing ability and was often cited as a proof that the principle on which it was operated was that which would solve the labor problem. Its abandonment now shows that the defect in the system must be radical, and that other means will have to be found to settle the old question.

ALTHOUGH King Pomare before he died sold all his royal claims and prerogatives to the French, including the right of succession to the government of Tahiti, the natives have still to be reckoned with. On the island of Raiten the champions of Tahitian independence have entrenched themselves in the crater of an extinct volcano, inaccessible except by single file, and so far have defied all attempts to dislodge them. It is impossible, however, for them to hold out permanently. These, the Society Islands, are a really valuable addition to French territory. They are not only luxuriantly fertile, but also rich in minerals. The value of the exports and imports is about a million and a half annually. Fifty years ago the natives were among the most ferocious cannibals of the Pacific, but, thanks to the zeal and devotion of the missionaries who went among them, they are nearly all converted to Catholicity.

How to wrest from England the financial leadership of the world, is the problem to which United States Senator John T. Morgan, of Alabama has addressed himself. His plan is beautiful in its simplicity. He holds that as the United States produce one hundred millions of dollars worth of precious metals per year, one third of which is gold, the treasury should accumulate coin to almost any extent. Certificates could then be issued representing dollar for dollar, which would give all the money they would want. In ten years the accumulated treasure would amount to a billion dollars, and very few of the certificates would ever be presented for redemption in metal, if the people knew the metal was in the government vaults. This billion of dollars in reserve would, Mr. Morgan says, make the United States the greatest financial power in the world, the clearing house for all nations, and thus wrest from England the financial leadership which she has held for centuries. Schemes like this appear quite feasible on paper, but turn out very different when the attempt is made to put them to a practical test. In the present instance, the extreme danger of a national government entering upon

such a scheme appears to have been overlooked by the Senator from Alabama. Like too many people now-a-days he seeks to invest government with powers and functions which it should not be permitted to exercise in a free country. A bullionised government run by machine politicians would, under the conditions mentioned, be likely to produce results of which Mr. Morgan little dreams. A wise people would rather keep the Government poor and restrict instead of enlarging its powers.

It is much to be regretted that the telegraphic reports to the daily newspapers are so untrustworthy and matter for doubt and uncertainty rather than confidence. It was announced recently that Lord Salisbury had declared strongly in favor of women having the suffrage granted them, and the "shrieking sisterhood" were elated in consequence. Now it seems that all Lord Salisbury said was:— "There are one or two reforms which I should like myself to examine, if we ever come to discuss the question of the suffrage in a fundamental manner. I will not dwell on one of them, because even in this club it may cause some difference of opinion; but I am bound, for the sake of record and not to seem to have altered my opinion, to say that, in my judgement, whenever the question of the franchise is brought up, the question of relaxing the restraints which are now imposed on the voting of women will have to be reconsidered."

**MATERNITY NURSES.**

A recent deplorable event in Baltimore, consequent on the misconduct of one of the class of women who undertake to nurse their sex during the troubles of maternity, has caused an agitation to be set on foot, having for its object the establishment of a system whereby none should be permitted to attend such patients without a proper certificate of efficiency and the production of proof of respectability and honesty. This is as it should be, and such a system is as much needed in Montreal as in Baltimore. There are a number of women, generally of the lowest and most illiterate type, calling themselves "sick nurses," who are little short of a public menace. Mother Smith, Brown, Jones or Robinson, from the parlours of the city, puts on a smug look and a cap, smirks with hypocritical veige, and pretends to a perfect knowledge of her "profession," gammone the doctor and patient, and yet is found out too late to be nothing more than a new edition of Mrs. Gamp or Betsy Prig. A gin bottle is her secret solace when she gets the chance of imbibing unseen by her deceived employers, and it is a mercy if she confines its administration to herself alone. Against such harpies the public needs protection, and probably the only method of such protection is by the establishment of a school under Governmental control, from which all such nurses would have to come. At present they are responsible to no one, and when they do wrong it is hard to bring them to justice.

**LET JUSTICE BE DONE.**

The country owes a great deal to the Conservative party, but the latter will add much to its claim upon the nation's gratitude if it does something to relieve it of the machinations of the vampires who have been brought into such infamous prominence by the Committee of Privileges and Elections at Ottawa. It is amazing that the men who have been sucking at the vitals of the country should ever have reached the position they have occupied. It is clear that for the most part they have risen from the residuum of the people, and an elevation from the pick, spade and hod which, in most cases would be honorable and to their credit, has to all appearance only resulted in the cases of these men in the development of every bad quality, the fratricide of every type of dishonesty. Perjury, in certain cases, seems to have been a formal pastime, lying a rule rather than an exception, stealing a mere matter of habit, hypocrisy a necessity, duplicity a study. The whole investigation reveals lives which seem to answer to that of the famous character whose principle was to

—Moek the time with fairest show,  
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

The country must demand the suppression of this horde of rascality so far as their power for evil is concerned. If some can be made to reflect on their evil deeds in Kingston so much the better. New York sent a somewhat similar band of political and social banditti, who had fixed themselves like barnacles on the city and state, to Sing Sing. In this Canada can learn a lesson worthy of imitation. Especially ought our fellow-countrymen to demand that prompt justice be done, for it is a deplorable fact that some of those who have done so much to tarnish the fair fame of Canada claim to be of our race and country. The good name of Irishmen and Irishwomen demands vindication as much as the honor of the country.

**PROTESTANTISM AS IT IS.**

A Catholic reading the sermons preached and articles written, in defence of their opinions, by those Protestant clergymen who have been accused of heresy, can feel only profound compassion for them. Their evident sincerity only makes the misery of their position more painfully evident. Having drifted away from the too rigid moorings of their creeds, they are hopelessly at sea, and can find no soundings in the abyssal depths of Protestant theology. Those creeds, framed by men of meagre education, harsh judgment, and filled with the fire of controversial zeal, suited the sectaries so long as the spirit which animated authors dominated them. But when higher education developed the science of biblical criticism, and an inexorable logic was applied to the creeds, they were found utterly irreconcilable with scripture, reason and experience.

While doubt and confusion thus produced were paralyzing the intellect and undermining the faith of the preachers, the people were growing indifferent. It was found that congregations listened, but did not believe. With that subtle instinct which pervades religious assemblies, the people became aware of the decay of conviction among their pastors. As might be expected this soon led to an open display of indifference and the church attendance began to dwindle. As a social force public worship continued, but Christianity in any sense ceased to attract attention either as a standard of morals or guide to conduct. Particularly was this to be seen among Presbyterians. Not only did the congregations dwindle, but many became so thin that churches all over the United States had to be closed, and with the disappearance of congregations went an extraordinary decline in the number of desirable candidates for the ministry.

When this decline of Protestant Christianity was at its most rapid point, those who feared it would end in utter wreck raised the banner of union. In its two main divisions of Old Kirk, and Free Kirk, the Presbyterian body was large and influential. But as each decayed, and the prospects of revival died out, union was gladly accepted. This movement was at once a proof of the decay of faith and the reduction of membership. The subdivided sectaries sank their minor differences, because they felt that in union only was their hope of escape from extinction.

Precisely the same process took place among the various branches of Methodism. They all merged into one, and, while they loudly proclaimed that their union was a proof of the increased spirit of Christian brotherhood, everybody who cared to look below the surface knew that it was owing solely to decay of belief and shrinkage of membership. The truth of the matter was that the dry husks of a Presbyterian dogmatic religion neither satisfied the intellect nor the emotions. Instead of green pastures and living waters the hungering and thirsting flocks were being starved in the arid wastes of Calvinism. Methodism, on the other hand, had lost its boasted primitive simplicity, while its central principle of conversion and justification produced a canting hypocrisy as repulsive as it was transparent. Nor was the Anglican communion untouched by the privailing decline of faith. The radical difference between the "High and Dry," and the "Low and Slow" sections became more strongly accentuated. The latter declared the former were drifting towards Rome, and the others retaliated by charging the Low-Churchmen with a tendency to Unitarianism. This dispute culminated in the contest for the selection of a bishop for Massachusetts, Rev. Phillips Brooks, who was admitted on all hands to be the best man for the vacant chair, was accused of heretical proclivities and of having fraternized with dissenters. The storm raged with great fury for a while, but Brooks and the Low-Churchmen carried the day.

The causes of the trouble among the sects have been stated by Dr. Briggs. "Traditional dogma in the Presbyterian church," he says, is chiefly the scholastic Calvinism of the seventeenth century of Switzerland and Holland, mingled with elements from British Evangelicalism of the eighteenth century. But alongside of it is an apologetic based upon the Armenianism of Bishop Butler and an ethical philosophy of the nineteenth century. It is this internal strife between Calvinistic dogma, Armenian apologetics and rationalistic ethics that has brought on the crisis in the Congregational and Presbyterian churches. Calvinistic dogma has been well nigh eliminated from the Congregational churches. In the Presbyterian church semi-Armenianism demands a revision of the Calvinistic sections of the Westminster confession. The Calvinistic party in the Episcopal church is a vanishing quantity. The Baptist churches seem to be strong in their Calvinism, but there are signs of weakness in these also."

Such is the desolate picture of the state of the Protestant sects, as drawn by one of their most able, learned and sincere clergymen. But the worst of it

all is that none of the so called churches will agree to accept any standard of authority. It is plain, however, that a large section, perhaps the larger section, of Protestantism is passing into rationalism. That in its turn, as students of religious movements know, is a phase of thought which precedes a revival of faith. It is in accordance with the old example. When the beam touches the lowest point it begins to rise. Here is where we find the hope of the return of those who have wandered so long in the wilderness to the onerous fold. And it is that hope which must fill Catholic hearts with compassion when regarding the forlorn condition of the Protestant world as Protestant ministers have described it.

**DOMINION PARLIAMENT.**

Twenty-six of a majority, in one of the fullest houses since the parliament met three months ago, is a result upon which the supporters of a sound fiscal policy and Canada's autonomy may well congratulate themselves. The debate closed its weary accents at four o'clock in the morning, and the members were called in. To all parts of the country the confident prophecy had been telegraphed that the Government was in the throes of dissolution; that defections were the order of the day. The names of men true to the cause of the national policy since its inception were paraded in the Opposition prints as having expressed themselves only anxious for the vote to come on that they might throw themselves into the arms of the Opposition and swamp the Government out of sight. The galleries, despite the hour of dawn, were filled with eager spectators, some of them summoned from afar, to witness the exit of Sir John Thompson and his friends from the seats at the right of the Speaker, but what a spectacle of dismay was presented by the faces of Sir Richard Cartwright and his followers when the announcement was made that the Ministerial majority stood unimpaired. The people of Canada may well rejoice that the unrestricted reciprocity wreckers have been given their *quintus* for a good while to come.

The bill codifying our criminal laws has been distributed. It is a masterly work and bears the imprint of the heroic labors of the indefatigable Minister of Justice. The bill will get its second reading and be left over until next session, when it will become law, with such amendments as may be suggested by the judiciary and other competent authority in the interval.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries is one of the most active members of the Government. He has introduced and carried through several bills of great importance to the fisheries of Canada. New legislation has also been pushed forward regarding navigation, giving greater security to passengers and calling for increased protection as to the carrying of live animals across the seas, as well as better regulations for navigation in our inland waters.

The Dominion Election laws are being altered, if not amended. Referring to the changes made, the Minister of Justice said "that before the House had got through there would be one man more to be commiserated than the successful candidate, and he was the returning officer," around whose proceedings so many safeguards are being thrown, and upon whose shoulders no end of responsibility is being heaped. There were no less than six bills introduced on the same subject, and it required the labors of a special committee to roll them into one, which operation has been successfully performed. One relieving feature during the legislation of the past week was the six months' hoist given to the Sabbatarian bill of that canting hypocrite, Mr. Charlton, of Equal Rights fame. His proposition was fairly snowed under, if we may use such a simile, in this tropical season.

The Tarte-McGreavy investigation is still going on. This week will bring matters virtually to a close, when the report will be made to the House of Commons. It is needless to speculate on the result. The defence is now about to be heard, and all comment on the subject would be indecate and unfair. Party papers are already clamoring for the head of the Minister of Public Works, and none louder than those who have condoned the offences of the Mercier Government and its army of satellites and parasites.

Mr. Howard Vincent, M.P., of the Imperial Parliament, has been making the acquaintance of our Dominion members and advocating his scheme of more extended trade relations between the mother country and her many possessions. The hon. gentleman was entertained at a banquet in the House of Commons restaurant, at which many Conservative and a few Liberal members were present. He is a pleasing, if not an eloquent speaker, and placed his views strongly before his hearers. There is no doubt that the mission of Mr.

Howard Vincent will be productive of a general awakening on the subject he handles so well. He is starting on a mission of propagandism throughout the whole country, and it would not be surprising if at the next general election, should treaty negotiations with the United States fail to come to a head, that this new proposition, with its visions of fair trade relations with the great market of England, in view of mutual concessions and advantages against outsiders, will be a prominent plank in the platform of many candidates, if not of one of our political parties.

**IRISH AFFAIRS.**

Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien have been liberated from jail, in Ireland, the period of their incarceration having expired. Great were the expectations of all concerned as to what course these gentlemen would pursue in connection with the political situation. All along, the Parnellites and their opponents were respectively contending that no sooner should the jail gates be opened for the exit of the political prisoners than they would at once proclaim their allegiance to their respective sides of the unnatural and disastrous faction fight raging between the two camps. Fortunately, the men on whom so much was made to depend have not indulged in any shilly-shallying. They have pronounced emphatically that they cannot be counted upon to support the late leader, whom they, no doubt, respect for his great services in the past, but whose usefulness, at the present, they fail to recognize. Mr. Parnell is reported as having stated that the defection of his two important friends will not cause him to deviate from his course by one hair's breadth, and such a declaration is characteristic of the man. There is, however, another defection more disastrous still for the prospects of the fallen chieftain. Mr. Dwyer Grey, of the Dublin Freeman's Journal, has announced his withdrawal from the Parnellite ranks, and should the journal, which is controlled by Parnell, slip from his grasp, then the sponge may as well be thrown up. For the sake of Ireland, it is to be regretted that her talented son, having become the victim of a woman's wiles, did not retire from the political arena at the time of his grave fault. After a brief period of exile in private life, he might again have come to the front. In fact, on all sides, it is believed he would have been recalled. Instead of so doing, his every act since the split in the party has been calculated to render his return an impossibility. Parnell the obstructionist, Parnell the tactician, the organizer, the father of the Home Rule movement, will never be forgotten, but the strong man, bound in the fetters of Mrs. O'Shea, the friends of the cause will ardently desire to hear as little of as possible in the future.

The Irish cause is far from dead. Indeed the enemies of Ireland are now forging the machinery by which her complete emancipation is about to be effected. Salisbury and Balfour have been doing some good in ameliorating the land laws and in pushing forward works of public utility in Ireland; yet it is to the local government bill that we look forward, as the initiatory step that is to lead to the final settlement of the Irish question. Local government is not home rule, but it will be the training school for a comprehensive system of national government at an early date. In a speech delivered some years ago by the late Sir John A. Macdonald, he pointed out that our municipal and local government system in Canada was the starting point for a great number of our best men in the public affairs of the Dominion. Men began in the municipal and county councils, became acquainted with their workings, and seized a good grasp of public duties and responsibilities: from those they proceeded to the local legislatures and thence to the Parliament of Canada. In Ireland the same results will follow. Men will be trained under the local government system to the administration of public affairs. The people of Ireland will not be content with anything less than a Parliament in College Green; the agitation for Home Rule will go on, but much more effectively, owing to the advantages they will enjoy under local government. Not only will the people be trained, but the very machinery of the local institutions may and will be used for furthering the great national project. It is gratifying to find that all sections of the Irish party profess to be willing to lend a helping hand towards forwarding the Government measure and making it as perfect as possible. In that course they are giving evidence of a true sense of their responsibility and a keen insight into the political future. The present generation will see Home Rule for Ireland an accomplished fact; the disasters of the past year have been a sore trial for all patriotic hearts, but good times are yet in store for the old land.

**WANTS TO BE A JESUIT.**

Mr. Jean Bourgeois, son of Mr. Justice Bourgeois, of Three Rivers, has entered the novitiate of the Jesuits.

**FUNERAL REFORM.**

A correspondent, alluding to an article which appeared in these columns some weeks ago on the desirableness of establishing societies among the members of church congregations for the purpose of providing for Christian burial, as contrasted with the formalities of undertakerism, takes some exception to the proposition. We suspect the correspondent is an undertaker, for he champions the cause of that trade in a most devoted and zealous manner. We must, however, adhere to the opinion we formerly expressed, namely, that funeral reform is an absolute necessity, and that the extravagance often forced on poor people in connection with the burial of their dead be checked by the provision of means for respectful and reverent interments at a moderate cost. The undertakers, of course, always say that they cannot prevent people ordering extravagant funerals. We will grant this, but it does not excuse the exorbitant and excessive charges imposed by the "ring" which has been formed by the undertakers, and which holds the public at its dictatorial mercy. Let us hear one of these undertakers himself, and our readers will better appreciate what we mean. Before the "Ring" Committee of the House of Commons an Ottawa undertaker gave under oath the following evidence:

Q. What price caskets do you sell? A. There is a difference between a coffin and a casket. We sell caskets from \$60 up according to the class and trimmings. Some are trimmed very plain.  
Q. Up to what price? A. One hundred and seventy-five dollars for one we had once: black walnut with gold trimmings, such as has been used but once in Ottawa. I got \$175.  
Q. White wood compares with rosewood? A. Yes. We charge \$60, and that is the *cheapest casket I sell*.  
Q. Well, what does that cost you? A. The casket itself, I think, laid down here would be, with \$1.25 carriage, about \$12. Then there would be trimming and our labor. Say \$14 for the casket.  
Q. What would the trimmings be? A. Handles, lining and plate.  
Q. It costs you about \$14.50 or \$15 laid down? A. Yes, about that. I suppose we should make about \$40 or \$45 on the actual cost of the casket.

And so on. A Toronto man swore that the "ring" charge for \$72.50 "caskets" was \$75, and that the "ring" rules for the prevention of any one who wished to be less extortionate going into the trade were rigid, and that the association would sell material to no one not in the combination. We do not pretend to enter into the question of the legality or the necessity of these arrangements made by undertakers. In fact, one of them stated before the committee that the undertakers "could not do with five or ten per cent profit," as they did not work more than two-thirds of the time and were obliged to have the same staff of men and horses. This bears out our contention that each congregation should form its own burial association. The church should provide the carriage for the body of the dead; friends should see to the last duties; and the hideous gloomy paraphernalia too often seen give place to a ceremonial that would recall the burial of Christians, as in the early ages of the Church.

**A SPECIMEN BRICK.**

A good number of well disposed people imagine that because the Liberals masquerade beneath that name they are really more enlightened and more anxious to give fair play to the minority in the Dominion of Canada than their opponents in politics. We have always contended, and are still of the opinion, that rank bigotry is to be found in many of the minds and hearts of the men in both parties. In so far as our experience goes, there are the blowers of heat and the blowers of cold in both political camps, just as it suits their purpose. Some newspapers, like the Ottawa Free Press, that are absolutely shameless, blare hot and cold at the same time in the same issue. The rampant Orange element of the west, in the neighborhood of the *glorious* twelfth, gives outward signs of the inward spirit; but for simon pure all-the-year-round bigotry, the unregenerated Grit has no equal. This fact is brought out by a correspondence addressed to the Daily Witness by Mr. Jamieson, M.P., a Protestant Tory, who feels indignant at the treatment meted out to Sir John Thompson by Dr. Douglas. The Daily Witness, which loudly proclaims itself the only religious daily in the Dominion, opened fire by alleging that "Dr. Douglas, in his denunciation of Jesuit rule in the Dominion, spoke for the whole Methodist Church." Mr. Jamieson, M.P., is a Conservative and a Methodist, and in his first letter administered a well merited castigation to the only religious daily. Since that correspondence was written the vast majority of newspapers on both sides of politics have found it to their advantage to denounce the intolerance and vituperation of the poor old doctor, and by some means a second letter addressed to our contemporary by Mr. Jamieson *was not published until Saturday last*. If *any* be true, as alleged by our contemporary, that the letter of Mr. Jamieson "was de-