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EDITORS:

REV. GEORGE R. NORTHGRAVES, Author of "Mistakes of Modern Ireland."

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London, Saturday, July 7, 1894.

Official.

The annual retreat of the secular clergy of the diocese of London will begin on the evening of July 9, in Assumption College, Sandwich.

By order of His Lordship,
M. J. TIERNAN.

St. Peter's Palace,
London, June 18, 1894.

THE VICTORY.

We announced last week the result of the Ontario elections to be that the Government of Mr. Mowat was sustained by the electorate. At the hour of our going to press, the returns were necessarily defective; but though the general result was exactly as announced, some of the details require to be altered on account of later news received.

We fully expected, before the battle, that the Government would be sustained, notwithstanding the new factors which entered into the contest; for we had such confidence in the honesty and good sense of the people of the Province that we could not believe that a Government which has been faithful to its trust, economical and fair to all classes in the community, would be condemned by them on the issues raised by a fanatical faction who are now seen to be but an insignificant portion of the population.

We are quite aware that there are angry spies who watch carefully every word uttered by a Catholic journal in order to put a false construction thereon, that thereby the passions of fanatics may be inflamed against Catholics; and our savings have often been so misconstrued, especially in the columns of the *Mail*; but this will not deter us from expressing our satisfaction and delight that the great victory which has been achieved in the cause of religious liberty and toleration has shattered the forces of P. P. Aism and fanaticism under every name.

In the confusion which results from so many parties having been in the field, it is impossible to say as yet what Mr. Mowat's majority will be in the new Legislature; but we think we are not going beyond the mark if we assume that it will be quite as large as that which supported him in the one recently dissolved.

The members of the new House are strangely divided among Liberals, Conservatives proper, Patrons of Industry, P. P. A. men, Independents, and members elected by some combination among the different parties named.

In the new Legislature the Government will have 49 straight supporters, at least. There is a likelihood that this number will be increased to 50, as it is understood that Mr. Senn, who captured Haldimand as a Patron of Industry, by a majority of 17 over Dr. Baxter, is disqualified by his holding an office under the Government. It is probable that in a new election Dr. Baxter will win.

Thus the Government will be supported in a full house by a majority of 4, or perhaps 6, over all other parties combined—Conservatives, Patrons, P. P. Aists, Independents, and several species of mongrels composed of mixtures of these various classes in different degrees, such as Conservative Patrons, P. P. A. Conservatives, Patron Conservative P. P. A's, etc.

It is certain, however, that a considerable number of the Patrons, at all events, will give a general support to the Government. Several of them have declared their intention to do so, and it is believed that, except on peculiarly Patron measures, seven or eight Patrons will generally vote with the Government. Thus while the Government is strong enough to resist undue pressure, a Liberal policy which will be just to all, farmers as well as townsmen, will be supported by 56 or 58 members, giving the Government a majority of 20, or thereabout.

What those Patrons will do who coquetted with the P. P. A. remains to be seen. At all events, the Govern-

ment will not be compelled to seek their aid, nor that of the P. P. A. members, as Mr. Meredith would have been if the result had been the defeat of Sir Oliver Mowat.

One of the most remarkable features of the contest is the complete collapse of the P. P. Aists, only two members having been elected on the straight P. P. A. ticket. These sit for the two ridings of Lambton; and as their majorities were respectively only 184 and 74, it follows that 131 votes well distributed would have wiped P. P. Aism out of the Ontario Legislature! And this is the result of all the bragadocio we have had from this quarter during the last three years—the result of the green campaign sheet full of lies which was circulated by the P. P. A. through the country by thousands.

We have no desire to exult over the Conservative party and Mr. Meredith by reason of their defeat, but it is our duty to point out how completely the results have proved the accuracy of our prognostications regarding Mr. Meredith's intentions if the Government had been defeated.

From the beginning Mr. Meredith had no expectation of governing except with the aid of the P. P. A., and of course his policy was necessarily shaped to suit the wishes of that now demoralized association. He had only 60 Conservatives in the field, and of these only 27 have been elected.

With the collapse of the P. P. A. the party of Mr. Meredith has collapsed also. It cannot be doubted that the immediate cause of their so complete a disaster was their coquetting with the bigots of the P. P. A.

Ontario has been in days past so much injured by religious dissensions that it is a crime for any one to foster them now. For one professing to be a statesman, it is both a crime and a blunder. Such a one is not a statesman, but a demagogue.

Mr. Meredith denies most vehemently that he endeavored to excite religious discord. We have shown so frequently how he did so that we shall not repeat the proofs here. Suffice it to say that his presentiment uttered at Napanee, that the encouragement he gave to fanaticism might shatter his party, has been borne out by the result. He shattered his party, because his party thought it proper to encourage a horde of fanatics whom Ontario would not endure.

Of course the fanatics are now consoling themselves with repeating the same story which they had to tell in 1890 and 1886: "Oh it was all the solid vote—the crystallized vote of the Catholics which did it."

Plainly, let us say, we have not a doubt that the Catholics voted with fair unanimity for Sir Oliver's administration, which, as citizens, they had a perfect right to do; and the more especially so because their rights were attacked, not only by the P. P. A., but by Mr. Meredith and his party also. Doubtless to this fact it is due that the victory was so complete; but it is a patent falsehood that they were driven to the polls to vote at any dictation. They went thither because they understood the situation, and would not submit to be bullied by any party.

It is very easy for our opponents to say that the Protestants were on the other side; and we do not doubt that very many of them were so; but as the case stands, Ontario is not exclusively a Protestant province, nor do Protestants contribute all the taxes by which government is carried on. The Catholics of the province have their right to the suffrage equally with their Protestant neighbors, and they will continue to exercise it. But the administration has been sustained by the united vote of Catholics and Protestants; and there are not a few Protestants who have shown that they are as much in earnest as Catholics are to maintain the equality of all citizens before the law. The victory was gained, not by Catholics, nor by Protestants, as such, but by the voice of the country, Protestant and Catholic alike, each citizen having just the amount of influence to which he was entitled, and the verdict has been, "Equal rights to all."

In London, Mr. Meredith was elected by a majority of 135. The comparative insignificance of this majority, the smallest he ever received, gives some hope that even in this city the ascendancy of the spirit of bigotry will soon become a thing of the past.

Of all the constituencies in the Province, London has seemed to be the one most irrevocably given over to fanaticism. It is the third time that Mr. Meredith has been returned while raising the banner of intolerance, and in great measure because he thought

it proper to raise it. At all the municipal elections held in this city since that banner was first held aloft, intolerance has won the day, and so irrevocably had the city, apparently, gone over to fanaticism, that at the last election, for the Mayoralty, both candidates fought under it, and it seemed that the victory was to be gained by the one who should excel the other in bigotry.

Mr. Meredith should know that Catholics hold dear their rights to educate their children as Catholics, and he ought to respect their sincere convictions. This he has not done. It is true, he has said that he has no intention to destroy our school system, simply because he and the whole power of the Dominion Government cannot do it. But he proclaimed openly his intention to harass Catholic schools to the utmost extent possible. As leader of the Government it would be in his power to do this.

We have said already that Mr. Mowat will have 49 or 50 supporters in the new Legislature, and Mr. Meredith 27. There will be, besides, 14 Patrons of Industry, 2 P. P. Aists, and 1 Independent.

No one can imagine that Mr. Meredith expected to get a working majority of his followers into the Legislature out of his 60 candidates. Whence, then, would he derive his support if he had succeeded in defeating Mr. Mowat? The answer must be, from the P. P. A. Receiving such support, could he do otherwise than adopt the principle features of the P. P. A. policy?

We say, then, that Mr. Meredith's defeat is plainly the defeat of the P. P. A.; and this view is confirmed by the fact that most of his sixty straight supporters received the P. P. A. vote, not without having first bound themselves to the satisfaction of the P. P. A. lodges, to support P. P. A. principles.

The result of the elections is a proof that the day is past when a fanatical cry was able to carry the elections of Ontario. Many years ago the severe lesson was taught to Mr. George Brown that the way to political power in Canada is not through religious bigotry. We congratulate the people of Ontario that they have three times within eight years taught such lesser lights as Mr. Dalton McCarthy and Mr. Meredith the similar lesson that such tactics are not agreeable even to Protestant Ontario.

The immediate result of the contest will be the death of P. P. Aism. Nothing now remains to be done but to inter the corpse.

We must give due credit to the many Protestants, lay and clerical, who assisted in gaining the great victory achieved for the cause of religious toleration. They have proved that our confidence in the liberality of the Protestant majority in the Province was not misplaced. Their liberality thus proved will serve to strengthen the bonds which unite together the various Provinces of this Dominion, which bigotry has done its worst to destroy.

In a general conflict it cannot be expected that there will be no reverses at particular points; and on the present occasion such reverses have occurred.

We regret the defeat of Mr. Harry of Kingston, the newly-appointed Commissioner of Public Works, by a majority which was at first reported at 9, but has since been shown to be of 4 votes. In this instance a recount has been demanded, which may possibly reverse the result.

In Toronto the four Conservative candidates, have been elected by unexpectedly large majorities, amounting in the aggregate to 6,116. Toronto is usually a Conservative city; but the large majorities secured by the Conservative candidates on this occasion are due to the compact between the Conservatives and the P. P. A.

INSTEAD of growing weaker, Lord Rosebery's Government is becoming stronger and more compact. A motion was made by Mr. Arnold Foster, on the 20th inst., to reduce the salary of John Morley, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, by £2,000, the object being to pass this as a vote of non-confidence. Mr. T. W. Russell seconded the motion, which was lost by 210 to 160, the majority being 50, the largest yet recorded on a strictly party question. In support of his motion, Mr. Foster said that the apparent peacefulness of Ireland is not real, but is due to the fact that the Government does not prosecute when it ought to do so. Mr. Morley contended that Ireland is in a more peaceful condition than it has been for a generation, and in proof of his statement quoted the monthly returns from all parts of the country.

COMMENCEMENT DAY.

It is the custom of many to look with contempt on the exercises of Commencement Day. They are perchance world-stained, having naught in common with the bright-eyed band of scholars who will tell you of their hopes and firm resolves. Never do we see our students, who, with big, expectant eyes, are looking out upon the undiscovered realms of life, without forgetting for a time all care and anxiety. We listen to them reverently and lovingly. The cries of the present are lulled to rest by the voices of the past, and up before us comes the vision of our youth, that like a magic lyre gave forth, at the touch of all that was best and holy, sweet sounds of melody that entranced our wondering ears and made our inexperienced life give challenge to aught that might sully our manhood and offend our God. And so we bid our young friends God-speed. We wish them every success in their chosen professions. We pray that their faith may be ever firm and vigorous, may be ever undimmed by the breath of sin, for a pure heart penetrates heaven and hell. Other boons might we crave for them, but none surely more precious and heartfelt than that their hearts may be ever young and childlike, ever untouched by the cynicism of the theories of this utilitarian age, and that when the sun of their days is setting beyond the hills they may regard the world not indeed a planet whose first law is, as pessimists fain would teach us, the survival of the fittest, but as something fair and beautiful, an emblem of a higher and brighter world that but veils the splendor of its Creator.

Truth and virtue are not words without meaning. Many sins are pressing in the aching bosom of the earth, and so long has it heard the cries of anguish and despair that it has ceased to wonder at them. But there are myriads who, true to themselves and to God, are treading firmly the path of duty and singing on their onward march to eternity the grand hymn of passion conquered and self-sacrifice conquering.

Our young friends must be wary and watchful. They must be prudent. They must mistrust themselves. Pre-emption courts defeat. They will at some period of their lives be called upon to battle strongly against some temptation that, if yielded to, will despoil them of the rich harvest garnered during their college days. Then they must act the Christian. It may occasion them keen suffering, but better that than to feel the touch of and to prove recreant to principle. Suffering will open before them a broader horizon. It is the teacher whose lessons have sunk deeply into the hearts of all those whose names are inscribed on the honor-roll of fame and whose memories are an abiding source of strength and inspiration. Never yet lived a man who made his fellows better who did not clasp the hands and look into the clear, deep eyes of God's hand-maiden, Sorrow; and their suffering passes—having suffered does not pass. It remains with us a source of perennial consolation and of strength. Time mellows the pain, and when in after years "we turn to the heartaches passed away, we read them with smiles, not tears."

We should wish to remind our young friends that persistent toil is the essential condition of success. This is a very commonplace truth, but one to be remembered in this age of feverish activity. The college graduate who puts away his books shows that he does not even understand why he spent years within the precincts of a house of learning. A college gives only a method: it is the seed-time, but the harvest to be garnered depends upon the efforts of the future. They who are now anchored in the haven of success were not always blessed with favoring winds. But their energy never flagged; they neglected no opportunity, and when opportunities were wanting, they created them. Persevering labor never went long unrewarded. Be not disheartened by slow advancement:

"Heaven is not reached by a single bound,
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies
And we mount to its summit, round by round."

He who understands the importance of labor will economize his time. He will avoid fashionable dissipations, which, innocent, perchance, never fail to enervate the nobler part of man. He will think it sacrilege to buy social baubles with the precious moments, winged messengers from heaven.

Be ever conscious of your dignity and of your responsibility. God

never does anything in vain. If He has given you a liberal education it is that you may be a guide to others less favored. Your mission is to preach the "gospel of glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will." Preach it by your rigid adherence to religious principles and by your constant good example. You may never wear priestly garb, but you can preach the sermon that the world is never tired of hearkening to—the sermon of a noble and useful life. Go forth to your life's work. Go forth and in words that fell first from the lips of a Spartan mother, but which, purified and supernaturalized by Christianity, have for us a deeper meaning: "Do your duty."

Perplexed you may be, and oftentimes the way will be dark, but you have a never-ending source of power and a mine of wealth for all your needs in prayer:

More things are wrought by prayer
Than the world dreams of—wherefore let thy voice
Rise like a fountain—night and day,
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of praise
Both for themselves and those who call them
friends.

THE FRENCH SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO.

In view of the fact that the present is the third occasion in the history of the Province since Confederation, on which an attempt has been made to carry the Ontario elections on an anti-Catholic cry, it will be interesting to our readers to know the result of the straight forward and honorable dealing of the Ontario Government toward the French schools in the counties of Prescott and Russell and elsewhere throughout the Province.

It was the *Toronto Mail* which furnished the platform for the Conservative party in 1890. The counties of Prescott and Russell have had, for a number of years, a rapidly increasing French-Canadian population; and though it is not to be inferred that there is any likelihood that this population will increase in Ontario to any such extent as to outnumber those who speak English, the French-Canadian has long been the bogeyman of the *Mail*, which tries to frighten the Ontarians with the thought that they will be gradually gobbled up by the all-devouring Gaul.

In a great measure, the French-Canadian settlers in the counties referred to, though honest, sober, and industrious, are not largely endowed with wealth; and as they are surrounded by a population speaking a tongue different from theirs, they labor under a double disadvantage.

Anxious though they have been to learn English, the language of the Province in which they have chosen to live, there were few teachers to be had competent to teach both French and English; and as there was not yet any means established in Ontario to furnish them with legally qualified teachers with this necessary qualification, they had to do the best they could to have teachers at all for their children.

This state of affairs gave the *Mail* a magnificent opportunity to inaugurate a no-Popery crusade. There was a favorable soil in Ontario for the nourishment of the noxious weed of religious hate and racial jealousy, and it must be cultivated; so a special reporter was despatched to the locality under the high-sounding title of a Commissioner, to make up a harrowing tale of French-Canadian ignorance and intolerance toward their Protestant neighbors, and especially of their devotion to their religion and language.

The "Commissioner" did his work well, and all Ontario was soon in a blaze of indignation, of which Mr. Meredith and his party took advantage, in the hope that by means of it they might gain power.

A commission was appointed by the Government to enquire into the facts of the case, with the result that the truth was made known as we have summarized it above. It was found, even, that the French-Canadians were anxious that English should be thoroughly taught to their children, though they were very properly opposed to the forcible crushing out of their own language, and still more to the ban which was threatened to be imposed against their religion.

In consequence of the state of affairs discovered to exist, suitable means were adopted by the Government to meet the necessities of the case; and not only were French Model Schools established, and bilingual text books introduced for the French schools, but the Germans of the German settlements had similar facilities afforded them. The anti-Catholic and anti-French policy on which Mr. Meredith

conducted the electoral campaign of 1890, however, was not adopted; but the policy of the Government has been most successful, and the French schools of the Province are now in a most efficient state.

The same Government commission which made its report in 1889 paid another visit to these schools in August, 1893, and a most satisfactory condition of things has been reported by them. The commissioners were Mr. John J. Tilley, Inspector of Ontario Model schools; the Rev. Alfred H. Reynar, M. A., Language Professor in Victoria University, and Rev. D. McLeod of Barrie. Without the use of the violent and odious methods proposed by the Opposition, English has become really the language of the French schools, though French has been encouraged instead of being proscribed. The Plantagenet Model school was inspected, and the commissioners say: "The students passed a most creditable examination. In English grammar, geography, history and arithmetic, the standing was quite equal to that in a good English school, and even in explaining words and phrases in English the students did exceedingly well."

The Commissioners say further that, "While all classes of the French people are not only willing, but desirous that their children should learn the English language, they at the same time wish them to retain the use of their own tongue; and there is no reason why they should not do so. To possess the knowledge of both languages is an advantage to them. And their use of the English language, instead of their own, if such a change should ever take place, must be brought about by the operation of the same influences which are making it, all over this continent, the language of other nationalities as tenacious of their native tongue as the French. It is a change that cannot be forced. To attempt to deprive a people of the use of their native tongue would be as unwise as it would be unjust, even if it were possible. In the British Empire there are people of many languages. The use of these does not affect the loyalty of the people to the crown, and the English language remains the language of the Empire. The object of these schools is to make better scholars of the rising generation of French children, and to enable them to do better for themselves by teaching them English, while leaving them free to make such use of their own language as they please."

The policy of the Government, so different from that of Messrs. Dalton McCarthy and Mr. Meredith, and which the latter made his war cry four years ago, has proved most successful. The children are all learning English; most of them now speak English. English is used in communicating with the teacher, except where it is impracticable, because the pupils do not understand English; the teachers are improved, and there is now only one of them unable to teach English, out of sixty-nine.

In 1889, 26 knew English well, 20 fairly, and 19 were incompetent to teach English efficiently. But of the present 69 teachers, 47 had attended the Plantagenet Model School, one the County Model School, 4 had received Normal school training, one had passed through the school of Pedagogy, and only 3 were teaching on permits.

We have said that only 1 was incompetent to teach English. Fifty-one are classified as good, 19 of whom are excellent; 11 are fair, 9 inferior.

The number of classes in English has increased from 177, in 1889, to 268 in 1893. The number of classes in English text-books beside readers, has increased from 25 to 119; and twelve schools have full sets of English text-books.

The average time given to English each day was before two hours and two minutes; it is now three hours and two minutes.

Of 3640 French-speaking children on the roll, 3581 are learning English, or 984 per thousand. In 1889 there were only 2484 out of 3,219, or 771 per thousand.

In many of the schools great progress had been made. In 1889, 17 were reported as very satisfactory; 21 as having made fair progress in English, and in 15 the pupils knew very little English.

In 1893, 30 were very satisfactory; in 15 there was fair progress; and in 11 the knowledge of English was inferior.

The progress in English was, therefore, all that could be expected.

It is a fact worthy of remark that during the four years following the attack made by the *Mail* and the party of Mr. Meredith on the French schools, 27 of the Public schools in the two counties named were turned into separate schools so as to protect them