THE TRUE WITNESS

WILL BE SENT

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THE TRUE WITNESS is undoubtedly the cheapest and bost weekly paper published in Canada, and should be in every Catholic house-hold. We trust our agents, readers and friends will interest themselves in preading the circulation of a paper calculated to edily and instruct, affording pure, pleasant and entertaining reading. Our patrons can assist us in advancing the circulation of The True Witness by introducing it to their friends in their respective ocalities; and we shall be pleased, on applica tion, to send sample copies for free distribution amongst those who are likely to subscribe.

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WEDNESDAY.....DECEMBER 15, 1886

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We are now sending out our subscription accounts to subscribers to THE POST and TRUE WITNESS, and we carnestly trust that our patrons receiving these accounts will make it a point to pay off their indebtedness at an early date. The TRUE WITNESS is an exceedingly cheap paper. The subscription rate when paid in advance, being only ONE DOLLAR. The amount due by each is accordingly very small, but the aggregate of these trifling sums reaches a figure far up in the thousands, and these thousands are absolutely required to give each reader a bright, live, instructive, and an entertaining newspaper, such as the TRUE WITNESS is to-day.

CATHOLIC voters in Ontario should bear in mind that Mr. Mowat has been condemned by the Tories because he has been friendly to the Catholics, gives aid to Catholic institutions, and helps the cause of Catholic educa-

THE result of the elections in Manitoba is only what was expected, and has no special significance as bearing on the approaching it the confessional; that she has no right to general elections for the Dominion Parliament. The principle feature in the recent contest has been the excessive acrimony which has characterised it. The smallness of mind which is said in the classic proverb to be insenarable from small communities, has been witnessed to perfection in the waspish. ness of the fight. Although the provincial issues are necessarily simple, and the new settlers have in reality but one public interest in common, party in its most noxious form has been rampant. Good men have been descated, and men indifferent in the the Tory party in the present campaign. which the more excusable and more virile destruction of war looks almost noble. For sense of public usefulness elected, solely because they have pluned a particular nickname to their sleeves. Difference of principle at the basis of the controversy, of course, there was none. This is perhaps an inevitable result of parodying the form of English Parliamentary Covernment in the Provincial Legislatures. The history of party govern. ment shows its gradual growth in England, where it seems now a necessary evil. But, witnessed in a province like Manitoba, some sixteen years old, this party business with party names, borrowed from political d fiercas a which have no possible local application, the proceeding is calculated to remind one of the Chinese and the ship of war. Being much impressed with a severe chastisement inflicted on their janks by English menof-war, they bought a venerable hulk in order to copy it. This they did very closely, putting in rotten timbers and all. The petty strife of faction in our provincial matters is equally absurd.

to have excited the ire of certain of the temperance advocates of the Boanerges type. For them nothing but the "axe to the root" and "down with everything" will do. But he reminds his reader of the three persons it is fortunate that the direction of affairs in who were ordered to describe a camel. The connection with such subjects ultimately lies | first went to a book, the second to a zeologiwith men of judgment and calm deliberation. His wise and thoughtful remarks on the quest such trumpery expedients, lighted his pipe, tion do not appear to have quite met the and over a pot of lager-of course he approval of his own organ, The Globe, which usually expresses very sweeping sentiments in relation to the matter. But inner consciousness." Professor Dicey acts there can be very little doubt that somewhat in the style of this philosopher. the opinion expressed by Mr. Blake will be He knows nothing of Ireland, and so proendersed by every thinking person. Firstly, | ceeds to evolve premises concerning her conhe lays it down as a principle that to make dition on which to tound his conclusions. the question of Prohibition a party one would | Thus it is that his book has a species of value be fatal to it and disastrous to morality. as a study, and in consequence has been This is not to be denied. As widely read and extensively reviewed. Prowell might chastity or other rule fessor Diccy is at least fair, and exhibits and how it defeats the end its movers pre Blake's personal example and in the argu- prepared for his clients. Let us read his own That this convention favors the mainten- and that no beating about and mentative and subtle appeals of Mr. Samuel words:-"The maintenance of the Union arce in its integrity of the exclusive right of assist him. The fact remains, no matter how

|-Blake-who speaks too seldom-than in half a dozen acts of Parliament.

THE ELECTIONS.

The elections on Saturday resulted in one cess in a sweeping victory for the Attorney-General, and in the other, what will probably be called by the governmental organs, a "moral victory." Iberville has since confederation been Liberal. In 1867 it elected Mr. Molleur, and in 1871 the same gentleman was elected over Mr. Dufresne by a majority of 546. In 1875 Mr. Molleur was returned by acclamation. In 1878 he defeated Mr. Jules Fortin, and at the election in 1881 Mr. Demers defeated Mr. Charland by a plurality of 502. At the last election he was returned elected without opposition. The constituency is, therefore, essentially Liberal, and the return of Mr. Duhamel was only a reasonable anticipation from the first. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Opposition, which compassed heaven and earth, if not to defeat the Attorney-General, at least to bring down his majority to such a pitch as would have constituted an expression of public censure, Mr. Taillon has carried all before him, even in the locality where his adversary was accounted strong. If the elections have any special significance, they must be regarded as being in favor of the government rather than against it. Montcalm has been in the past generally Conservative, however, and the political position remains unchanged. It would perhaps have been as well, if the offer of Mr. Mercier had been accepted and the two members elected by acclumation, and thus needless electoral agitation saved. The next thing to be done is, we presume, to call the House as early as possible and test the position of parties.

PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL.

There are two counties in Ontario where the Catholic vote is so large that it can always decide the political character of the representation at Ottawa and Toronto. The population of these counties is largely French, and has recently been singled out by the chief organ of the Tory party for special attack. In The Mail of November 27th appeared an article attacking the Catholic Church and the separate schools. It said : -"The Church has no right in this province to a law compelling her own people to support her 'separate schools, which are as much " a part of her ecclesiastical organization as draw money from the public chest for the seventy so-called Public Schools in Prescott and Russell, in which she is teaching an alien language; that she has no right to be specially represented in our Cabinets, or to occupy an exceptional status in her relations with our Governments; and, above of our Public Schools.

plain. If they want to save themselves, preserve their freedom and independence, their language and their religion, they must vote straight and solid against the Tory candidates. Prescott and Russell should give no uncertain sound on the 28th December!

A "CASE" FOR ENGLAND. The British Government has shown itself so incompetent in its dealings with Ireland, and so utterly ignorant of its condition, that we are not surprised to observe that it has supplemented its Royal Commission to enquire into matters that ought to be familiar to everyone by an order to a gentleman to prepare a "case" for it. This has recently been printed under the title of "England's case against Home Rule." The author is Professor Dicey, a name which stands high on the roll of scholastic achievement. This gentleman does not appear to have relished his commission, for, with pleasing candor, he confesses MR. BLAKE's remarks on Prohibition seem | at the outset that he has "no special knowledge of Ireland," and all he has to work on is the "ignorance of an educated Englishman." This is delightfully refreshing, and cal garden, but the third, disdaining any was a German and a philosopher -"evolved the beast out of his own of life he made party questions, none of that spitefulness with reference to How pernicious such an attempt becomes, his opponents so often seen in English litera. ture. He assumes the Irish are not fit tend to have in view, may be judged from at present for self-government; that those what only recently took place in the State of who seek it really desire separation and the Maine. Mr. Blake, secondly, holds the view establishment of an independent kingdom that the country is not yet ready to that there is no national feeling in Ireland, have the question put before it. This else O'Connell would have succeeded and is undoubtedly true, and the officious over naturally arrives at the conclusion that the ing to force it as a public issue are really alike. But—and the Professor is too prodoing their cause much harm. But we believe found a student of history not to detect the Parliament of Canada to express the Mr. Blake has no faith in Frohibitory laws at the necessities of a "but"-something all. It is purely an affair of morality, and besides mere "union" is necessary, and "lawa" are not likely promote it. There this confession, and the passage in is more force in the direction of promoting which it is made, completely upsets temperance and total abstention in Mr. the "case" which Professor Dicey has

" must necessarily turn out as severe a task as ever taxed a nation's energies, for to maintain the Treaty of Union with any good effect means, while refusing to ac cede to the wishes of millions of Irishmen, we must sedulously do justice to every fair demand from Ireland, must strenuously and without fear or tayour assert the equal rights of landlords and tenants, of Protestants and Catholics, and must at the same time put down every outrage and reform every abuse." change blows up all the Professor's elaborate speculations on Home Kule in the various forms and hues under which he studies it. Justice! What can be the logi cal end of justice to Ireland but Home Rule? Professor Dicey has been sent out to carse Home Rule, but, like the errant prophet, has certainly done a good deal in the direction of blessing it altogether. We hope the English Government will have a few more similar 'cases" prepared for it.

THE DECADENCE OF ITALY.

In matters pertaining to morals and manners "Ouids," that very peculiar specimen of feminine writers, would hardly be regarded as a safe guide. She has a special dislike for the Church, and regards its rites, ceremonies and ministrations with a degree of unreason. ing and venemous antipathy not easy to comprehend. This makes her views on the condition of Italy of some value. To the superfical observer it may appear that the sacrilegious spoliation of the Holy See has been productive of some good, and that Cavour's Italy from the " Alps to the Adriatic was to day a solid and a stable fact. Yet "Ouida," after a close and interested study of the position, arrives at the conclusion that Italy—the apparently resurrected Italy whose central figure is the persecuted sufferer in the Vatican-is nothing but a whited sepulchre. She says :-

" The United Kingdom of Italy may, as a political fact, disuppear to-morrow in any European war or any great Socialistic upris ing; but historic Italy, classic Italy, artistic Italy, is a treasure which belongs to the whole world of culture, in which, indeed, the foreigner, if he be reverent of her soil, is far more truly her son than those born of her blood who violate her and desecrate her

But this sad picture is made more lurid in succeeding paragraphs of "Onida's" indictment. The following is her description of the Italy that has risen on the ruins of the Papal inheritance. The sin of the ingratitude of the nation lies heavily on her. Wo read in "Ouida's "language :-

What are the Italians doing with her ? I is sickening to note and to record. Nothing can ever give back to the world what, day by day, municipal councillors having house to sell, syndicates and companies merely looking for spoliation and speculation, con tractors who seize on the land as a trooper seizes on a girl in a sacked town, are al taking from the fairest and the most ancient cities and towns on earth. The sound of 'lations with our Governments; and, above the hatchet in the woods and gardens of all, that she has no right to impose her Italy is incessantly echoed by the sound of ideas of education upon the administrators | the pickage and hammer in the cities and towns. The crash of falling trees is answered by the crash of falling marbles. All over Catholics and French Canadians will see by the land, destruction of the vilest and most this extract the spirit and temper animating | vulgar kind is at work ; destruction before the present destruction has no other motive, object, or mainspring, than the lowest greed.'

A CUT AT THE "MAIL."

It has been already pointed out in these columns that the intelligent Protestants in Ontario, no matter what the baser kind of the Orange type may say, do or think, is strongly opposed to the abominable course of The Mail, as shown in its attempts to create rel ligious prejudice and strife. This is, doubtless, attributable to the fact that the intellectual calibre of the populace at large has improved since the dark days, when the late Hon, George Brown was able to raise the Protestant cry with good political effect. The party which has just now ventured on so rash an undertaking as the revival of these gifts and grants to favorites and party hacks, old and pernicious tactics seem like a noted historic family, to have neither forgotten nor learnt. Else the cause of the movers in the scheme is inexplicable. A rather rude awakening for the bigotted "practical politicians" who have taken the initiative in the repulsive agitation is, we apprehend, in store. They will certainly find on the 28th that they have only succeeded in launching a very powerful boomerang. Already there are abundant premonitions incapable of being misinter. preted, and which go to show that the public declines to be "set by the ears" in religious matters to suit the purposes of the managers of this or that political faction. One of the latest of these premonitions is specially worthy of notice. South Wellington is a constituency which has of late, we are told, been gratuitously flooded with copies of The Mail. The zeal of the management of that journal, or of someone else, has, it is said, caused the boxes in the post offices to be stuffed with them. It has, therefore, done its very best to propagate its principles in the riding. With what success has been shown at the nomination meeting at Guelph. when Mr. Raymond was selected as the candidate to oppose the Government. The Mail had done all it could to force its moral poison down the threats of the electors. Here is their reply to its persuasion, as shown in the resolutions passed by the Convention :-

That this convention approves of the votes of the Parliament of Canada in sympathy | country. with the just claims of the Irish people for fullest sympathy with, and sid by their moral support, the Irish people in obtaining the extension to Ireland of the system of local self government such as we enjoy in Uanada, and which is here found to be inconsistent neither with loyalty to the crown nor with the integrity of the empire.

civil rights of the inhabitants of such Province, as provided for by the constitution of Canada, in accordance with the wishes of its people, and repudiates as contrary to true Conservative principles any interference or intermeduling by the Dominion Parliament, or by any Province with the light of the people of another Province, to regulate their own civil rights, privileges and enstoms.

That this convention endorses and main tains the system of Separate schools provided for by the constitution as the right of all classes of the people, and favors all measures to render more efficient the Separate school system, not inconsistent with the rights of the supporters of the Public school system.

That this convention maintains the free and equal right of every citizen to the fallest equality of participation in all the rights, privileges and advantages of citizenship without distinction of race, color, creed or nationality.

There a wormwood-at least for the Mail But then the Mail is an "independent" organ. It is olear that its "independence" is not of a type that commends itself to the favorable consideration of the electors. But the fact is, that the instinct of self-preservation alone is enough to make it clear that the Conservative party, or any party, must repudiate the vile and incendiary doctrines preached in its columns.

DOMINION FINANCES.

The financial outlook for the Dominion is gloomy indeed. Every honest and intelligent citizen of Canada should look with alarm upon the corrupt methods by which the present government seeks to promote the interests of a party and retain power. Although our hietory as a Dominion extends over a period of less than twenty years, our net public debt has increased three fold, and the expenditure of the Government has increased in the same ratio, the increase in each having been, at least, six faster than increase of population, and of ability to pay. With an enormous increase in the taxation imposed by Customs duties, the expenditure last year exceeded the restigma which attaches to his name. ceipts by the sum of \$5,865,000! A MORT-GAGE OF ELEVEN DOLLARS PER ACRE ON EVERY FARM IN THE DOMINION!

At the present moment a statement of the net public debt of Canada, if made by the Finance Department, would certainly exceed \$220,000,000! Add to this obligations already incurred, but not discharged, such as railway subsidies and expenditure authorized on capital account, and the shrinkage our nominal assets would undergo if converted into cash, and \$250,000,000 is many millions less than the actual net amount of the burden now resting upon the taxpayers of Canada!

This vast sum would represent \$53 for very man, woman and child in the Dominion. It represents a debt of over eleven dollars per acre on every acre of improved land in the Dominion, according to the census of ISSI; and the payment of the interest on this great sum at 4 per cent., if raised by direct land tax, would require 44 cents yearly on every acre of improved land in the country; or, if levied as a poll tax, \$2 for each man, woman and child | Liberal or Conservative, in the cause of temwould annually be required for interest.

While our financial condition is rapidly growing desperate, as an admitted deficit last year of nearly \$6,000,000 clearly proves, no 1878 to \$39,176,000 in 1886! An increase same period and up to June 30th, 1886, the net debt has increased at least \$80,000. 000! The increase from 1884 to 1885 was over \$14,000,000, and for the financial year, ending June 30th, 1886, the increase will ex. ceed \$20,000,000, showing most conclusively that matters are rapidly going from bad to worse. But to the honest and patriotic citizen the most alarming feature of affairs is the

Boodle Carnival. The systematic, wholesale corruption that has been inaugurated at Ottawa, the waste of public resources, and public property, by and the debauching of Parliament by grants at railway subsidies, and sales at a mere fraction of their worth of timber limits, pasture leases and mineral lands to members of Parliament and their friends, is the most lamentable and dangerous feature of the political situation to-day. While in New York city aldermen who have been guilty of accepting bribes have been and are being tried by the courts and given long terms in the penitentiary, Canada presents the humiliating spectacle of a Government purchasing the support of its followers in the House of Commons by grants of immense sums of money to individual members, under the guise of railway subsidies, and by granting to its camp followers, in and out of the House, great areas of timber land, pasture land and mineral land, without competition, and at prices but one remove from a gift! It nged not excite surprise that the servile major. ity of the House of Commons, enriched at the public expense by numberless railway subsidies, railway charter, timber limits, and ranch leases, to say nothing of interests and contracts as silent partners, should refuse to condemn extravagance, corruption, and mal-

It remains to be seen whether the prople of Canada whose resources are being wasted. and whose common possessions are being sold for a song, will continue their confidence in the administration which wastes the public property and imperils the future of the

THE MONTCALM ELECTION.

It appears, from a despatch we have received from this constituency, that Mr. J. J. Curran imagines that he can obtain a coat of political whitewash by means of an address signed by a few local Irishmen. But he | much vexed question, which agrees with the will find that he is much mistaken, and that no beating about the bush wil at.

question of Home Rule was trembling in the familiar but painful incident. It is sufficiently notorious that at a moment when it was the duty of every true Iri-hman to strongthen the hands of Mr. Blake, whose resolution on Home Rule was designed to promote that cause, Mr. Curran failed in that duty. It is sufficiently notorious that the resolution of Mr. Blake, so well calculated to points out, all these three movements were give encouragement to Mr. Gladstone and Irish members, was defeated in part by the vote of Mr. Curran. It is equilly noto rious that Mr. Curran voted for a milk-and-water resolution formed for the purpose of pleasing his Orange chieftain. It was a question of party or principle, and Mr. Curran proved true to his party and false to what he professes to believe the true principle. This is a course, questionable even in petty matters, but not to be tolerated when principle comes into the balance. There is no ing to excite Protestant feeling by uttering question as to the importance of Mr. Blake's cries about the Marmion business. Inat is, resolution. Mr. Davitt himself, when here the other day, contessed that the Irish people were under deep obligations to that gentle. testants. man for his efforts on their behalf. Mr. Curran's conduct, had it been witnessed in the ranks of the old country members, would have relegated him to private life. There the slightest departure from duty is a signal for the termination of a political career, however brilliant. The course pursued by Mr. Curran stands in strong contrast with that followed in Quebec by Messrs. Fiynn and Lynch, who both in the face of strong obstruction, and to their own letter was an autograph one. I was accordingly interests boldly asserted the right of Irish. engaged by H. H. Smith, of Peterborourh, the men to govern themselves. Their course will Ontario. not be forgotten. Mr. Curran will find that month. no such feeble attempts as that inspired by

MR. BLAKE ON PROHIBITION.

At Aylmer, Ont., on the 7th inst., Mr. Blake made a speech, in which he dealt with the Prohibition question. He maintained that the country is not ripe for a prohibitory liquor law, and distinctly refused to take it up as a party question.

This declaration by the leader of the Liberal party is, like all his utterances, a clear, manly, unequivocal statement, which will be accepted by all as a reasonable, understandable position for one in his position to take. But, while he thus expressed his convictions, he declared himself strongly in favor of temperance legislation in harmone with the popular will, but not such as would become a dead letter through not having the support of public opinion, which alone gives vitality to the law. He said the Reform party was divided on the question and he spoke for himself alone. The Tory party is also divided, but he was willing to work with everyone, perance. Argument and example he held to be the great means for bringing about the desired reform.

efforts at retrenchment are made. The ex- parties, he is not prepared to drive away from penditure has increased from \$23,503,000 in his side of general politics. Reformers who do not think as he does on temperance and proin eight years of \$15,673,000! During the hibition. Nor will be refuse on temperance questions to co-operate with Tories who oppose him on general politics.

In his views on repressive legislation, Mr. Blake takes solid ground, ground that every man who is not a faddist must take when he considers the actual state of public opinion and the social habits of the people. "No repressive legislation," he said, "can be " profitable or paramount unless there exists a widely diffused and very strong felt and former? "earnest public opinion at its back." That such does not as yet exist he is fully convinced. Therefore, he declared that he could not honestly vote for Prohibition now, and could give no pledge for such a vote at any definite time. But should the time arrive when he would be convinced that the law would be permanent and useful instead of hurtful, he would vote for it, whatever the political results might be to himself. Until that time comes he announced that he would vote against Prohibition whatever those results may be.

Mr. Blake then referred to the two financial questions involved in the consideration of his subject. The first of these is the quesion of revenue. He thought that the prosperity resultant from the disuse of intoxcating liquors would in time restore very largely the loss from the duties. But there would be a temporary and grievous disturbance to be faced, and the present condition of enormous expanditures, high taxation and large deficits is unfavorable to immediate action. There are certain permanent interests, existing under the protection of the law, in respect of which justice demands that compensation on a limited principle should accompany their legislative extinction. But this demand ought not to prevent the extra judicial oaths passing of the law if the general good requires it. In that case the law should be passed and the compensation provided. These were his views as a temperance man devoted to the cause for thirteen years.

Mr. Blake was conscious that these views would not please the extremists of either party, but he could not help it. It was his duty to give his countrymen his honest views and take the consequences. That advice he gave, and those consequences he was pre pared to face.

We look upon this statement as eminently satisfactory, and are glad that Mr. Blake has assumed a position in relation to this conclusions that all sensible men have arrived

Let the advocates of prohibition address and Dr. Ross in Quebec. Should there have

each Province of Canada to regulate the manyaddresses he may receive, that at a great themselves to the labor of educating the crisis in the history of Ireland, when the public. In that they have the hearty co operation of the press, the pulpic and the balance and Loglish speaking people the world social powers. The temperance cause is over were looking anxiously to Westminster, | making rapid progress, and can only be inthe member for Montreal Centre failed in his jured by repressive legislation which must duty. It is hardly necessary to describe the fail through the indifference and hostility of large classes in the community.

"FACTS FOR IRISH ELECTORS."

Allusion has been made in these columns to a fly-sheet, issued by the Tories in the Ontario election campaign of 1883. As The Globe going on simultaneously :--

(1.) Sir John, Meredith and Banting were stirring up Roman Catholic pre judices against Mr. Mowat by means of this pampe let.

2.) The same Sir John Macdonald was sitting enthroned at Ottawa by means of the disgraceful compact known as the Chestnut Park Treaty, and made between him elf, Hon. Frank Smith, John O'Donohue, John Shields, Orange Sentinel Clarke, Sir David Macpherson, and others.

(3.) Mr. Meredith and The Mail were trythey were trying to inflame Protestants against Catholics and Catholics against Pro

The affidavit follows :-

" AFFIDAVIT OF M. W. KIRWAN. "I, the undersigned, M. W. Kirwan, of the city of Quebec, and presently in the city of

Mostreal, solemnly affirm as follows :-"I am a journalist. When in the city of Toronto in the year 1882 I was shown a letter from Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, addressed to a prominent Conservative friend of mine, urging the desirability of securing my services as a writer of campoun litera-ture for the Conservative party during the approaching Ontario Provincial elections. The organizer of the Conservative party for Ontario. My salary was to be \$100 a month. The understanding was that I should assist the Conservative party by special no such feeble attempts as that inspired by appeals to the Irish Catholic electors, him at Rawdon will remove the political Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Lezis lature, were aware of the agreement. I accord ingly began to write an appear to the risa Catholics of Ontario. I wrote the sheet, 'Facts for the Irisa Catholic Electors,' extracts from which have recently appeared in *The Globe*, of Toronto. While I was preparing it I had, occaingly began to write an appeal to the Irish sionally, to make inquiries as to the nature and cope of my work from Mr. Meredith, to whom I had always easy access. This was during the ression of the Ontario Legislature, and as my researches were made in the Parliamentary Library, it was there that my consultations with Mr. Meredith generally took place. When the sheet, 'Facts for the Irish Catholic Mectors.' was completed, I submitted a proof to Mr. Mercdith in his private room in the Queen's Hotel, and I showed a prof to Mr. Bunting in his private office in The Mail Buildings. the received the proof as if expecting it and expressed no surprise. I also sent a proof to Sir John Macdonald under cover, marked 'private and confidential,' It was returned to me with several marginal corrections in Sir John's handwriting. I have a distinct recellection of some of the corrections a distinct recollection of some of the corrections made by Sir John Macdonald. the names of some Irish Catholics who had been appointed by him to positions of emplument and trust. These corrections by Sir John were embodied in the sheet and published with I have also a dis inct recollection of Mr. Bunting saying that the sheet would do good work among the Irish Catholics, or words to that effect. I remember, too, that Mr. Meregith raised no objections to any statement made in said sheet after reading the proof. He smiled approvingly, and said 'it would do,' or something similar to that. I am, too, the author of the circular containing the following letter nuestions—

(Private and confidential.)

Toronto, Jan. 7, 1883. Dear Sir, -A letter will be forwarded to you in a day or so making enquiries with reference to the Catholic vote in your riding, Be good enough to answer the questions and forward your reply without delay to H.

H. Smith, Esq , Peterboro'. Yours faithfully, ----

QUESTIONS.

1. About how many Catholic electors are there in your riding?

2. About how many of them voted for the Conservative candidate the last election? 3. About how many voted for the Re-

4. About how many were there who did not vote at all? 5. Who are the Catholic clergymen in the

riding? 6. How did they vote?
7. Did they take an active part in the con-

test, and if so, how?

S. What reasons, if any, do the Catholic electors give for supporting Mr. Mowat?

9. Have you any suggestions to make as to the best means of putting the Conservative

cause fairly before the Catholic electors? 10. Give the names of a few of the most infinential Catholics in your riding?

11. Send a complete list of the Catholic electors in your riding, with names and ad-

dresses.

12. Oblige by returning this list at once, and the reply to question eleven, as soon as

13. Name of riding.

"These questions were also submitted to Mr. Meredith and approved by him. It was, to the best of my recollection, on his suggest tion that the answers were directed to H. H. Smith, of Peterborough, although said circulars were insiled by me from Toronto. My salary was regularly paid by Mr. Smith during this time, and for several months while I was canvassing and addressing meetings of the Irish Catholic electors of Ontario.

"And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act passed in the thirtyseventh year of Her Majesty's reign, entitled,
'An Act for the suppression of voluntary and

Solemly affirmed before me at Montreal, on this fourth day of December,

A.D. 1886, "W. A. WEIR, a Commissioner in Quebec for receiving affidavits for Ontario, 181 St.

M.W. KIRWAN.

James Street, Montreal," Now, Sir John Macdonald has taken the opposite tack, and is howling at Protestants to put down the Papists. Does he imagine Irish Catholics are such purblind idiots that they don't see through his miserable game ?

THE TORY CREED.

Everybody accepts The Mail as the mouthpiece of the party led by Sir John Macdonald in the Dominion, Mr. Meredith in Ontario