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AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1890.

CHRISTMAS.

The silent yet ever revolving wheel of time has once more brought us to the bright season of Christmas with all its social inspirations, its hopes, its joys, and, to some, its sorrows. But even the sorrowful cannot fail to be affected by the general atmosphere of joy which pervades the world at Christmas.

The result of the election in Kilkenny is certainly a great blow, but we cannot think it in any way reflects the feelings of the Irish people. It would be better, perhaps, if the entire Home Rule contingent accepted the 'hundreds' and put the matter to a practical test.

The report that Mr. Taillon is shortly to be called to the Senate gains strength. No more suitable nomination could be made. The country cannot afford to lose Mr. Taillon's services. He is an able man and, politically, above reproach.

The late Hon. Mr. Chauveau, in his will, provided that his valuable library was to be offered, first, to Laval, and then to the Government, in the event of the former not buying it. The offer is now before the administration. It is to be hoped the Government will hasten to secure for the province this magnificent collection.

It is the wish of the Holy Father that every branch of labor be represented in the workingmen's pilgrimage to Rome in September next year. The agriculturist, representing the first and most important of human industries, the mechanics of cities and country and factories. Every parish and labor association, will, it is hoped, be represented in this new demonstration of the faith of those taking part in it.

There is something instructive in the record of by-elections for the House of Commons since the general election in 1887. In all fifty-seven have been held. Of these 48 have been carried by Conservatives, 7 by acclamation and 7 seats were gained from the Opposition.

Lower Canadian Education. The young men of Mount St. Louis Institute, who have organized a Literary Union, were fortunate enough to secure a lecture for the opening of their course from Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., on Sunday evening last.

Mr. Mercier is not to be congratulated on the position assumed by him with reference to the bill introduced by Mr. Parnell to amend the law governing the

sufrage. Of course his motives, of the member can readily be understood, but the premier of the province should have taken some other stand than the one he did. With regard to Mr. Rochon's Legislative Council bill, he said plainly that the introduction of such a measure did not belong to a private member. He should have said the same with reference to this proposed suffrage amendment. But the premier smiled sweetly and condescended with the measure letting the "I dare not wait upon I would." Nor was it creditable that only one member, Mr. Pelletier, protested against the proposition. The fact is that the suffrage is too low as it is and in consequence not sufficiently valued as a trust of the highest order. The result is in too many cases the return of unsuitable candidates to the legislature. Irresponsible people lacking any stake in the country should not be permitted to act as trustees of the National interests and representation.

The pests known as "liars on space," who endeavor to injure Canada by sending false despatches of various kinds to the United States, have recommenced their evil work. For some time the arrest and committal of one of their fraternity seemed to have had a deterrent effect, but lately the crew seems to be gathering new courage and again emerging from their holes. Thus the notorious Ottawa fabricator has been informing the Americans that there is a deficit of \$1,000,000 in the Canadian treasury for the past four months; that the customs receipts have shrunk \$500,000 for November, as compared with last year, and that one of those mythical persons who does duty for "liars on space," a leading politician, has stated, no doubt, in strict confidence, that Canada is "on the verge of a commercial crisis." All of which we in this country are happily ignorant. But another of the fabricators has made an alarming discovery. It is announced in a Washington paper that "unnecessary excitement" has been caused in Canada by the despatches recently published in the New York press relative to the Behring Sea. Certainly this is news indeed to Canadians. Probably not one in a hundred is aware that Mr. Blaine, a Yankee jingo, who seems trying his best to ride his country for a bad fall, has addressed an irritating and offensive note to the British Minister; or that he has proposed an arbitration on an untenable basis, which could only result in war. But nothing could be more acceptable to the Americans than such information as these space fabricators supply. They are either paid to send their untruths to suit the market they supply, by external enemies of the country, or they basely go out of the way to pander to them. Neither position is an enviable one, and those who occupy it will have to be summarily dealt with sooner or later.

The local opposition organ in Peterborough lashes itself into fury because the farmers of the country decline to be led by the nose by the missionaries sent out by the Grit propaganda and believe the statements of these stump romancers. The farmers are by no means such fools as the able and learned editors of town and county sheets seem to suppose, and in consequence, are whined over with a hypocritical affectation of sympathy. Their ignorance is deplored. Their want of perception and knowledge of their lamentable position causes many tears to fall from the eyes of Grit aspirants to entrance to the doors of the public crib. The crass stupidity of the agricultural community bars the way to the many tempting collectorships, post-masterships in which the scribes of Gritism aspire to. "The farmers" we are told "are themselves responsible for the insults and injuries (sic) now being heaped on them. They have it in their power to blow the protectionist regime to pieces but prefer to toil and moil for the benefit of the parasites who are eating them alive." On the very day these words were published the farmers of South Victoria answered the political tricksters, who try to deceive them, in a most decisive manner. The farmers know how they fared under the old order of things and the recollection of the black period previous to 1878 is not forgotten by the elder and is a bad tradition for the younger members of the community. It is a healthy sign and one full of promise for the future stability of Canada that the lone and sinew of the nation, the agriculturists thus grasp the situation and so well and loyally maintain the interests of their country.

The young men of Mount St. Louis Institute, who have organized a Literary Union, were fortunate enough to secure a lecture for the opening of their course from Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., on Sunday evening last. The subject chosen was the education movement in this province. The lecturer made his theme interesting and instructive. He traced the educational history of the province from the early days of the first missionaries to the present time, pointing out all the benefits that had flowed from the efforts of the clergy, and emphasizing the weak points of the system, so long in

vogue. It would be impossible in the space at our disposal to give even a synopsis of Mr. Curran's eloquent address, which occupied an hour in the delivery, and we shall merely say it was a rare treat, and bodes well for the success of the Literary Union. Mount St. Louis Institute occupies a most enviable position amongst the educational establishments of the country.

A Misapplied Doctrine.

The Americans do not seem quite to understand the true meaning of what has come to be known as the "Monroe doctrine." Spreading ignorance and ignorance has interpreted it so long and so loudly as meaning the continental dominance of the United States, that at last it has almost come to be regarded as meaning this impossible and insolent theory. It is, perhaps, not out of place when rabid Congressmen talk lightly of the American flag flying from the North pole to Cape Horn, and call this absurd political delirium *bonems* the "Monroe doctrine," to briefly note what that so-called "doctrine" really is. As a matter of fact it is not an American invention at all, but one of the empiricisms of that most mischievous of statesmen, Lord Canning. Having to extricate himself from a difficult position into which he had placed himself in connection with the attack of the Holy Alliance on insurrectionary Spain, he thought the most adroit way to do so would be by meddling in the affairs of the Southern Hemisphere of this continent. With that end he sought Mr. Rush, the American minister at London, and the result was that an agreement was entered into by which it was understood that though England had interfered, in company with the European powers, in suppressing a revolution in Europe, she would not do so in Spanish South America, then in revolt against her mother country. This "doctrine" was concurred in by Monroe, and meant nothing more than the defence of the interests of Spanish America. The adherence to the doctrine on the part of Great Britain and her pledges in connection with Lord Canning's scheme greatly influenced her in connection with the Mexican expedition which ended in the Maximilian tragedy. Thus it may be seen that the "Monroe doctrine" has nothing whatever to do with modern United States pretensions. In some recent instances the latter country has openly defied it by assuming to give opinions as to its concurrence, or the reverse, with the decisions of various states in South America. One thing is very certain that the nation which, through one of its ministers, instituted the "Monroe doctrine," will enforce it strictly, so far as its own American possessions are concerned.

The Situation in Ireland.

The situation in Ireland has not improved during the week. The struggle in Kilkenny attracted absorbing attention, but, now that it is over there are signs of activity in other directions. We can well believe the Tories are jubilant over the dissensions in the Irish ranks, and that the enemies of Home Rule everywhere rejoice over the misfortunes of Ireland so suddenly precipitated. We are not, however, among those who regard the present difficulties as incurable, for, whatever may be the result of the quarrel in Irish elections, the membership must uphold the principles of Home Rule and follow its recognized leader. Nor do we believe that the Liberal party in England, Scotland and Wales, will abandon the Irish cause merely because an infamous conspiracy hatched by the Tories, with the degenerate O'Shea for a tool, has cast a brand of discord into its ranks.

Mr. Gladstone may abandon Mr. Parnell, but he cannot abandon a policy up to which he has educated his party, and by which both he and it must stand or fall. Meantime the Irish people are compelled to endure the jibes of a hostile press and sneers of hereditary enemies. Still we must bear in mind that Parnell is the one man who united, guided and controlled the Irish nation as Moses did the Israelites of old, to within sight of the Promised Land. And even should he, like the Jewish prophet, be destined never to enter it at the head of his victorious people, we will nevertheless have done his work in his day, and there will be no fear but that a Joshua will arise to complete it.

One fact should have great weight with the Irish people: it is that the London Times and the whole tribe which follows it are the most enthusiastic, uncompromising Anti-Parnellites. It is an old rule in war and diplomacy to find out what your enemy wants, you to do and don't do it. No better opportunity for following this advice could be desired than the present. The simple fact that the Times, the Tories and the Salisbury Government are anxious to see Mr. Parnell driven from the leadership of the Irish Nationalists should be abundantly sufficient in itself to rally every friend of Ireland to his side. For years the cry of the Coercionists has been "anything to kill Parnell," and now they are striving to accomplish their purpose by the hands

of his own followers. But Parnell is not a modern Aetion to be hunted down and torn to pieces by his own hounds. There is something heroic in his composition which commands success, and though the present storm against him be extremely violent, its very violence portends its early subsidence.

But it is not the split in the Nationalists' ranks that is to be feared, as likely to defer for another seven years the period of Irish emancipation. The only thing which could make that possible would be a split in the ranks of the Liberal party in England, of which there is not the slightest indication. That party is as firm as ever in its allegiance to Mr. Gladstone and Home Rule as ever, although the unprincipled renegade Chamberlain thought to make a division when the storm broke. He soon discovered, however, that, as leader among the Liberals of England, he had ceased to be an appreciable factor. The educational progress of the Home Rule propaganda has advanced far beyond his capacity to delay it, and will soon outstrip his capacity even to understand it.

The history of all great movements for constitutional reform in England has been pretty much the same in every instance. Beginning with the advocacy of a minority, it has steadily progressed in the face of the most bitter and, frequently of the most violent opposition, only to finally carry all before it on a wave of popular enthusiasm, not unmingled with popular wrath. The best elements of the British people recognize the necessity of relieving England of the shame and disgrace attaching to her government of the oppressed people of Ireland. This conviction, once established, will not, we dare hope, be resigned, especially when doing so would mean the continuance and increased intensity of that shame and disgrace. Granted that the spectacle of all Ireland engaged in a faction fight may have an effect inimical to Home Rule on some wavering minds, there is still the certainty that when the question comes up in the House of Commons the folly of the factionists and the machinations of the Tory conspirators will have no effect. As in the past, whatever their differences may be outside, the Irish members cannot do otherwise than follow the policy laid down and inflexibly pursued by Parnell, namely, to make the government of England impossible so long as Ireland is deprived of Home Rule and misgoverned from London.

In this country we can but await the chapter of events, giving what moral support we may in the direction of conciliation and a renewal of that solidarity in the Irish ranks which Parnell created and seems the only man capable of carrying to a successful conclusion.

South Victoria.

The election of Mr. Fairbairn in South Victoria is a most emphatic pronouncement of the Canadian electorate against unrestricted reciprocity. The advocates of the latter measure had staked all upon the issue in that contest. Sir Richard Cartwright took occasion to visit the constituency, and held two important meetings in the heart of the agricultural section of the county. He spoke in his most fervid style, and there revealed to the electors that when in 1877 the manufacturers had called upon him, asking him to revise the tariff, he had told them to go to "His Satanic Majesty." Messrs. Mulock, Bain, McMullen and Landerkin, M.P.'s, followed Sir Richard in denouncing the National Policy in every corner of the constituency. On the other hand, the Government accepted the challenge, and two of the Ministers, Hons. Tupper and Haggart visited the riding. Mr. Curran, M.P., also went into the field with his usual spirit, and amongst those who met the unrestricted reciprocity advocates were Mr. Corbrane, M.P., and other leading men of the party. The Conservatives were under a difficulty which, of itself, might have proved disastrous. The candidate chosen in the first instance felt compelled to retire, owing to personal matters, and a swap had to take place, which gave the Liberals a decided advantage. Then the notorious Sam Hughes was decidedly objectionable to the Catholics of the riding, who had a natural repugnance to work with him, whilst many of the friends of Mr. Dundas, ex-M.P. for the District, were equally dissatisfied, Hughes having made himself personally obnoxious to them. Despite all these difficulties, Unrestricted Reciprocity was defeated by a majority that surprised even those who had the most sanguine expectations of the vindication of the Canadian policy. The late Mr. Hudspeth, personally a most popular man, had secured a majority of 54, and it was feared that a new and untried man would be unable to poll an equally large vote; but the policy of those who would hand our fiscal interests over to the Washington politicians was so distasteful to the people of South Victoria that Mr. Fairbairn was able to treble the majority of Mr. Hudspeth. The leading papers in the unrestricted reciprocity interest are now abusing the Canadian farmers for their lamentable ignorance. Mr. Humburg Wiman says the movement has received a blow be-

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tween the eyes, and the great majority of the people of this country seem to feel that "Canada for the Canadians" is just as good policy now as when they pronounced in its favor in 1878.

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