

But (warmly) I was NOT elected to support Sir John Thompson, and it is the latter who is apparently running the Government just now.

2nd Pol.—(drily)—You would hardly care to tell the Premier that, I suppose?

1st Pol.—Not yet. My constituents, however, are of my opinion—or, rather, I am of their's. You will remember that my county returned an Equal Righter for the Local in June last, and the feeling has grown rather than lessened since then.

2nd Pol.—That may be true of your constituency, which is strongly Protestant, but the country at large knows only two parties, Tories and Grits, and the people will vote with their parties through thick and thin. Look at Rykert's re-election.

1st Pol.—Is that a fair case?

2nd Pol.—Why not? Rykert's own confession proved him to be a man who made use of his position as member of Parliament, to coerce the Ministry and rob the country, and yet he was re-elected.

1st Pol.—Appropos of peculation—Is the House likely to take notice of Tarte's charges against McGreevy and Sir Hector Langevin?

2nd Pol.—As yet there is not much to go upon. Only a letter from Connolly, which implicates two ex-M.P.'s and a few guarded extracts from letters alleged to have been written by McGreevy. The latter, of course, are grave enough, if true, but Parliament will probably not take any action unless Tarte shews his whole hand.

1st Pol.—If the House took action against General Middleton upon what were, after all, very trifling charges, it can scarcely refuse to do so when the honour of a Cabinet Minister is impugned.

2nd Pol.—There is this difference between the two: the old soldier demanded an enquiry, the old politician will evade one.

1st Pol.—I should fancy, however, by the way Cartwright has been talking lately that he will bring the question to a point.

2nd Pol.—I dare say you are right in predicting a lively Session. Won't you take something to drink?

1st Pol.—Don't care if I do!

Correspondence.

While we give full publicity to the views of our correspondents, we wish it to be distinctly understood, we do not hold ourselves responsible for them.

"EQUAL RIGHTS."

To the Editor of the ANGLO-SAXON:

SIR,—I have read with much interest the outspoken article in your last number on this subject. In my opinion, however, the present unsatisfactory condition of the Equal Rights Party will not be mended merely by the choice of a good man for President. What is wanted is a revision of its platform, which should simply demand the same rights for Protestants in Ontario which Roman Catholics enjoy in Quebec. Nearly eight months ago I wrote the following letter to Mr. Dalton McCarthy which explains sufficiently my views:

"Dear Sir,—I trust you will have patience enough to give some consideration to the following views of mine on the policy of the Equal Right's Association. I heard Principal Caven's lecture, and understand that it is proposed to agitate for the amendment of the British North America Act and the abolition of Separate Schools. It appears to me that this course is not only the most arduous that could have been selected, but one which is of doubtful advantage to Protestant interests. I am strongly of opinion that there is 'a more excellent way.' I claim to possess some experience in this matter having been a Dissident School Trustee for many years in Lower Canada.

In the Province of Quebec, although there are no provisions in the law positively authorising this, the Common Schools in the French districts are mere appendages of the church. They do not meet the requirements of the Protestant minority, who dissent and establish separate schools, and support these by taxes on their own property as permitted by the law. (In passing, it may be remarked that they must signify their dissent in writing to the Chairman of the Common School Board). In some places the dissentient schools are purely secular in character, but in others the education imparted is positively Protestant and the trustees are not in any way hindered from making it such. In the majority of instances, however, this is not done, and the children grow up with very loose notions on the subject, while their Roman Catholic neighbours remain steadfastly attached to their principles. This I believe to be one of the reasons of the weakness and indifference of the Protestant minority in Que-

bec. The Roman Catholic majority there do thus enjoy or have taken possession of certain educational rights which the Protestant majority in Ontario do not possess or do not fully exercise. It would seem to be extremely easy for them to claim and obtain these rights. It would also seem to be of the greatest advantage to Protestants to have the Bible read, prayers said, moral principals taught and history explained from a thoroughly loyal and Protestant standpoint without the possibility of an objection from the Roman Catholic minority. They have their separate schools in which to inculcate Christian principles in their particular way, although the authorities ought to make certain that nothing historically untrue, or disloyal is taught in them. So long as these separate schools exist not a Roman Catholic in the whole Dominion can object to making the Common Schools completely Protestant. We would simply be applying the Roman Catholic principle that all education should be religious. To my mind the advantages of this course far excel those of the plan proposed by the Equal Rights Association. By the latter all religious teaching would necessarily be excluded from the Common Schools—the Bible, prayers, moral teaching founded upon religious first principles would be abolished and Protestantism would suffer. Then, the Roman Catholics would probably nevertheless secede and establish schools of their own, and the bickerings about their taxes would never cease.

I say then "fight the devil with fire," apply the principles of the Roman Catholics, take a leaf out of their book and establish Protestant Common Schools. Do not let them become secular for so the worst evils of the American system would be introduced. Make them such as to produce thorough Protestants, good citizens and honest men. To do this would be to obtain "Equal Rights" and really fulfil the object of the Association.

Of course I cannot expect that much attention will be paid to the opinions of a single individual, but I still indulge the hope that the Association may yet modify its programme. If not, the vote I gave on Saturday for Mr. Hay will be my last for "Equal Rights" so called.

My excuse for writing all this to you is that I have sympathised with your course in reference to the Jesuits Estates Act and the Dual Language. I sincerely hope that in the matter of separate schools you will favour the policy of Mr. Meredith rather than that of the Equal Rights Association."

OTTAWA, 1st May, 1890.

Trusting you will insert this communication in the ANGLO-SAXON,
I am, yours respectfully,
T.C.S.A.

Anniversary of the S.O.E.B.S.

The sixteenth anniversary of the Order was celebrated by Albion Lodge, on Friday evening December 12th, 1890. The Art Gallery of the Academy of Music, King street west, being engaged for the occasion. The members and friends numbering 400, assembled at eight o'clock to participate in the evening's entertainment, which opened with a concert in which the following took part. Misses Jessie Rankin, L. Denton and M. Alexander, Bros. R. Bridge, J. F. Johnstone, C. V. Hamilton, Mr. H. Simpson, (ventriloquist) Mr. Chatfield and Mr. Smedley, Bro. Prof. J. F. Johnstone, accompanied on the piano in his usual able manner, the encores were numerous, which testified to the appreciation of the audience.

The event of the evening was the presentation of an illuminated and framed address to Dr. J. S. King, in appreciation of his ten year's services as doctor of the lodge. The presentation was made by Bro. Jas. Lomas, P.G.P., one of the founders of the Society, who expressed the feelings of the members contributing to the address in eloquent and expressive terms. The doctor in his reply was evidently touched by the esteem in which he is held by his fellow members. *En passant* we may mention that the worthy doctor is the author of the beautiful ritual under which the lodges of the order work, and we learn that he has for a long time been collecting material for a complete history of the rise and progress of the S.O.E.B.S. from its inception. The evening wound up with dancing and supper.

Seventy-three cases of cholera and 60 deaths have occurred amongst the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Goorkhas.

From the Bharno district it is reported that the body of 500 Chinamen referred to last week are at Myalkin, 75 miles north of Bharno, with the object of crossing the Irrawaddy and moving to the Jade mines.

The Natal main line of railway is now 22 miles beyond Newcastle, and is progressing rapidly.

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