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London, Friday, Dec. 2.

"PITY THE SORROWS OF A POOR OLD MAN."

The London Free Press makes a piteous appeal to Sir John Thompson not to drop the older members of the late Government when he comes to form his Cabinet. It is known that ambitious followers of Sir John Thompson are very anxious to take the places of the barnacles in the administration, and our city contemporary is apparently sadly grieved lest the member for Judge Elliot be dropped out. They make no secret of asserting that Mr. Carling is a source of weakness to the Administration in more ways than one. That, however, is a purely domestic question, which Sir John Thompson can settle in his own way.

We cannot, however, permit the Free Press to crave indulgence for Mr. Carling on the ground that he has pleasant manners and that privately he behaves himself. In that respect, he is superior to some of his colleagues; but that by the way. What the public of this country are concerned in now and will be till justice is done, is the fact that Mr. Carling is a usurper in Parliament; that he sits in a seat that was stolen for him; that he is the beneficiary of an unjust judge, who counted him in though he had the minority of the votes and though six Superior Court judges, four of them Conservatives, had previously decided that his view of justice and of law was entirely wrong.

Our city contemporary earnestly pleads that Mr. Carling should be rehabilitated, and that bygones should be bygones. No free people will ever let bygones be bygones while the greatest wrong that ever could be done them remains unatoned for. The majority of the citizens of London, it is quite apparent, will not stultify themselves by pardoning the rascality that robbed them of their dearest rights, and they can be relied on to reckon with their despoilers, whensoever a fair opportunity is offered them. The people of London and the people of the whole Dominion, in fact, must judge Mr. Carling not by his bland smiles and handshaking capabilities—these are accomplishments that are conceded him—but by his conduct as a public man. Here he stands, the willing recipient of a seat which he knows to have been stolen for him. Let him bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Let him give up to Mr. Hyman the seat which the electors of London voted to him. Then and not till then will he the time to crave for sympathy in his distress. Then and not till then will it be time for Mr. Carling to hold up his head among the citizens of London, and crave and have his craving satisfied that bygone be bygones.

TRADE FREEDOM AND LOYALTY.

A hysterical correspondent of our city contemporary, who has not the courage to append his name to his contribution, says:

"It is now high time for Canadians and all true loyal British subjects to speak out boldly against all traitors and disloyal men who are crying out annexation, political union and free trade."

We can understand the attack on those who favor annexation, and on those who believe in political union; but why a man should be denounced as a traitor and disloyal because he believes in freedom to trade — freedom to buy and to sell as he deems wise — freedom to make the most of his honest earnings—is something that is past our comprehension. The idea of a man being disloyal to his country because he entertains the trade views held by every leading British statesman of the past 40 years! No true Canadian or loyal British subject will be so foolish as to brand a believer in trade freedom a traitor either to Canada or to British institutions. The branding, if any is done, will be by the agents or the beneficiaries of the combines, who may be expected to continue to raise false issues and to misrepresent their opponents as the easiest way to beclouds the true issue. The cry of "traitor" against tax reformers, however, is now laughed at by all sensible men.

It is somewhat noteworthy that so long as a criminal was hanged in public, and fast crowds were present to witness, with morbid curiosity, the last act in the dreadful drama, just so long was it invariably announced that the prisoner had made a last "dying confession," which was sold by the thousands by the needy peddler. Nowadays executions are very properly conducted in private, and it is rarely that prisoners own up to their misdeeds. They do not regard themselves as heroes of the event, and in most cases are too hardened or too proud to confess their deeds before men. Such was the line of conduct pursued by Buck Olsen, who was hanged yesterday for killing a Moncton, N.B., policeman. He failed to escape the gallows even though a fellow prisoner confessed that he, and not the condemned man, perpetrated the crime. The confession, if corroborated, would doubtless have been given weight, but the Minister of Justice apparently took little stock in it. If it was false, what was the motive that influenced the man in making it? He must have known that by so acting he placed his neck in danger.

Our English Letter.

Gossip About the Queen and Her Old Dresses.

Woman Making Her Influence Felt in Public Affairs.

Men With Shady Reputations Must Not Be Cabinet Ministers.

[Special Correspondence of the ADVERTISER.]
LONDON, Eng., Nov. 21.

The Queen has just returned from her home in the highlands to her beautiful castle at Windsor, which has, in her absence therefrom, been redecorated and refurnished in its principal apartments most sumptuously. Her Majesty seems to be in very good health, while there have been recently some serious rumors in regard to the health of the Prince of Wales. I have made inquiries from gentlemen who ought to know, and they assure me that these rumors are great exaggerations; and that though he is not robust, in fact, frequently ailing, yet he is just now in fairly good health. Considering, however, that his mother is so hale and hearty and that his Royal Highness has passed his jubilee, one need not wonder that Tom Mann, in a recent address, should say that the Prince of Wales never expected to come to the throne!

It is asserted that, of recent years, her Majesty has taken a great fancy to pet birds, and will have them in her private rooms. She longs for companions without sycophancy. Princess Beatrice, who has very great influence over her mother, suggested canaries, and the yellow songsters were thereupon tried, but the Queen found their persistent warbling too shrill for her liking, and so they were dismissed under royal disfavor. In their stead came a bullfinch and a linnet. These suit, and though there has been a change of Government, and the master of the buckhounds, etc., has been changed, these feathered attendants remain at their posts, unmoved by changing Ministries. They accompany the court wherever it may go (except to the continent), and there is a special cage in the royal train for their accommodation and comfort just as similar arrangements are made for her Majesty's favorite canine attendants—Spot, the terrier; Marco, the Pomeranian, and Roy, the collie. These always travel first-class. No plebeian dogs, these!

It may interest your numerous lady readers to see the answer which Mrs. Gladabout gives in Winter's Weekly to the deeply interesting and gravely important question, "What becomes of the Queen's old dresses?" Oh! shades of Sartor Resartus, does the fate of an empire hinge on the reply? Listen, then, intently: The Queen's dresses are never disposed of after she has left off wearing them, but are carefully packed away in lavender. They are all carefully over-hauled (mark! not overalled), by her Majesty's wardrobe keeper, and any little repairs are neatly made; fresh tuckers are sewn in at the throat and wrists; all bows and rosettes of ribbon or crape are stuffed with tissue paper, as are also the sleeves; the buttons are covered with a twist of the same; the garment is folded carefully up and laid away in one of many huge presses kept for the purpose. They are laid away as if they were sacred relics, and the task of keeping the moth out of them costs considerably more than the garments are worth. What a splendid sum would be realized in the interests of charity for these disused dresses, etc., if her Majesty were so gracious as to send them to some bazar. The competition would be keen enough to tear them into shreds. Surely it is better to distribute the dresses benevolently than to hoard them in a wardrobe.

While referring to the ladies, I may mention that at the recent Free Church Congress at Manchester the ladies were conspicuous by their absence. I think this arose mainly from the fact that the feminine section of Nonconformity regarded the congress as a masculine, if not almost entirely a parsonic affair. I was traveling in the vicinity of the congress about the time that it was in session, but I did not visit it. I felt no great drawing thereto, for I could not see sufficient definiteness in the programme (or program, as the Daily Chronicle insists on spelling the word.) The general impression is that it was not a decided success. It did not take hold of the public conscience or imagination. The essays and speeches thereat were a more or less (less rather than more) able reiteration of commonplaces. The best thing about it was, so it is said, a magnificent gathering in the spacious Free Trade Hall, the scene of so many oratorical displays at enthusiastic meetings from the time of the anti-corn law struggle down to the present day. At this public meeting of the congress the great hall was crowded, and glorious speeches, rousing the utmost enthusiasm, were given by the chairman, R. W. Perks, M.P. (Wesleyan), Albert Spicer, M.P. (Congregationalist), Rev. C. A. Berry (Congregationalist), Rev. Dr. Clifford (Baptist), and Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson (Presbyterian). Every speech was excellent; but a Manchester merchant whom I met last evening in South London, and who was present at that great meeting in the Free Trade Hall, assures me that Dr. Monro Gibson made the speech of the evening. I see one of the religious weeklies confirms this testimony of my friend. It says: "Dr. Monro Gibson delivered a speech which can scarcely be described. It was one of those astonishing outbursts in which even practiced orators surpass themselves. Nearly every phrase of it was punctuated with rapturous applause. We cannot give any adequate conception either of its vivacity or of its lofty tone." My Manchester friend said, while his eye flashed at the recollection, that he had "never attended so fine a meeting in his life." But that meeting could have been held, and I believe with equal effectiveness if thorough preparatory arrangements had been made, without the congress, and it would have answered every purpose. The congress itself numbered 300 members. It should have been 1,300. Yet the press now a days, by its full reports, wonderfully multiplies the influence of such an assembly; so that a small congress in 1892 is far more educational to public opinion, and far more effective every way than a congress ten times its size 40 years ago. The good seed is scattered broadcast far and wide. If the Liberation Society were only to organize a campaign of mass meetings addressed by our finest orators throughout England, Scotland and Wales, the impending battle for religious equality would soon be fought and won. At present, however, there is a deplorable lack of a forward movement in its favor. True, there is a forward policy embracing Wales and Scotland, but a questionable expediency prevents a forward movement. There is such a great anxiety not to embarrass Mr. Gladstone in his great effort to carry a home rule bill for Ireland. Liberate Ireland, then liberate the church from State alliance and control. That sums up the situation; but I am greatly mistaken if plucky little Wales will stand this waiting policy.

I said above that the gentler sex were not largely represented in the Free Church Congress. This may partly arise from the significant fact that about the same time there were two conferences of women—one at Birmingham (I forget its title), at which some wild things were said, one glib speaker actually saying that "if men would not concede women's rights, dynamite must be the argument employed in future.' Think of that, O pantaloons, and be dismayed at the threat of your gentle (?) sister! It is only fair, however, to say that the majority of her sisters disclaimed this appeal to cruel force. The other conference was held at Bristol, and was called "The Central Conference of Women Workers," though Bristol is anything but a central city, as a glance at the map of England will show. It was a very important gathering, nevertheless. All the most influential ladies associated with our great philanthropic and reform movements were there, and there was abundant and gratifying evidence that women in England are becoming thoroughly aroused and are nobly coming to the front for the promotion of social reforms and Christian charities. The conditions of work among the poor, amendments in the criminal law, emigration, education, prison work, rescue work, deaconnesses and nurses, the temperance question especially in relation to inebriate women, medical homes, convalescent institutions, friendly societies, the health of pupil teachers, occupations for educated women, etc., will indicate the wide range of subjects discussed by our earnest sisters. This is a sign of the times, and ominous of great social improvement.

If these ladies continue as they have begun it will be impossible for men convicted of flagrant offense against morality to find a place in our House of Commons, and certainly not in the Cabinet. Nothing was more noteworthy at the Free Church Congress to which I have previously referred than the clear, strong, tremendous pronouncements made by the leaders of Nonconformity on this point. Dr. Clifford protested sternly against the inclusion in the Liberal Cabinet of a compromised man (whom he publicly named) unless he cleared himself. Dr. Mackennal, with characteristic caution and gravity, declared that "Nonconformists would not support any Cabinet that contained within its ranks a man who had been convicted (by the judges) in the eyes of the nation of a grave offense against social morality." Rev. J. Guinness Rogers expressed his conviction that no Liberal Cabinet could exist, even for three months, that dared to admit such a man. The very suspicion of the thing excited highest indignation, and was felt to be a dishonor to Liberalism. You may rest assured that there is something behind all this. There is some well-grounded fear that certain members of the present Cabinet contemplate, in some grave emergency, to ask a certain politician who is regarded to be very friendly to a certain section of the working classes and to be very popular amongst them, to join the Government. The Liberal leaders have carefully avoided any assurance to the contrary. The Government may get into straits over the Home Rule Bill; but it would go from Scylla to Charybdis if it perpetrated the folly suggested. The step would be fatal. The present Government is in power through the votes of Nonconformists. If it alienate them through so suicidal a policy as that supposed to be in contemplation it is doomed, and its dissolution would be speedy. And this would be an infinite calamity! The Liberal party would go through the Red Sea of disaster into a waste, howling wilderness, and might have to wander there, a scattered, discomfited, undisciplined horde for 40 years before it reached again the Canaan of royal smiles and national power.

PHILO.

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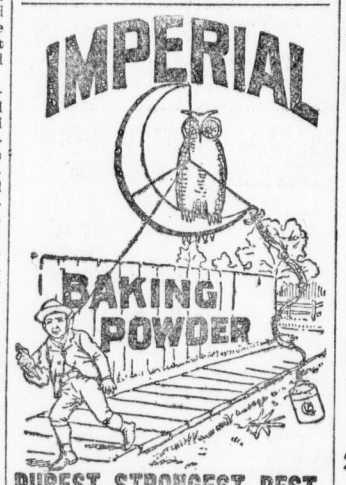

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SNAPS

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2nd—1,200 yards Aberdeen Check Suitings, Dress Goods of course, double fold; 10c. will be the price on Bargain Day.

3rd—400 yards Heavy Wigan, Scotch manufacture, to-day 5c, worth double.

4th—1,300 yards Solid Broche Dress Goods, worth 75c yard, to-day 35c.

5th—10 pieces Repp Dress Goods, to-day only 7½c.

6th—10 dozen Men's Soft Felt Hats, to-day 25c each. Needs no comment.

7th—75 pairs Boys' Long Pants, all-wool, to-day $1. A bargain.

8th—A line of Men's Heavy Tweed Overcoats, perhaps two dozen, to-day $5; your last chance at this line at the money.

9th—25 Gray Coat Robes, to-day $4 50 each.

10th—200 yards Fancy Silk Velvets, worth $1 to $1 25, to-day 25c yard.

11th—A line of Beautiful Chenille Curtains, only 10 pairs, to-day $4 90.

12th—43 only Misses' Ulsters, Curl Cloth, worth $4 to $7. To test the merits of this announcement we show this line only to those who ask for them. Price, $2 95.

13th—150 yards Heavy Cloaking, black and brown, for Ladies' and Children's Ulsters, to-day only 50c; not dear at all at $2.

14th—1 piece Silk Sealette, worth $5, to-day will clear it at $2 95 per yard. Some won't believe this; more will, enough to sell all we care to at the price.

15th—27 dozen fine Ribbed Cashmere Stockings, will give them away to-day at 20c pair.

16th—24 dozen Women's Wool Under Vests, fine make, Prussian manufacture, will clear to-day at 50c; regular price 75c and 90c.

17th—1,000 yards Twilled Cretonne, splendid for comfortables and quilt linings, 5c is the price to-day.

18th—10 pieces All-wool Canadian Tweed, to-day 25c yard.

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