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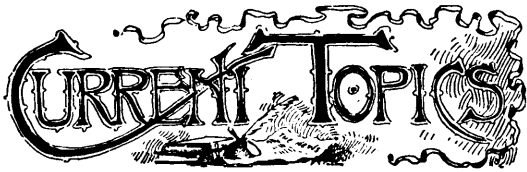
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We are reminded of the deadlocks of the old pre-union days on this Province by the action of the North-West Assembly in declining to pass the supplies, a motion to that effect having been defeated by a vote of 15 to 6. This hitch, which is a repetition of what took place last year, is due to a conflict of opinion between Lieut.-Governor Royal and the majority as to the control of the Federal funds. His Honor is willing that the Assembly should have full control of the local funds, but insists on retaining in his own hands the disposal of the subsidy voted by the Dominion Parliament. The Executive Council, on the ground that the Lieutenant-Governor has the letter of the law on his side, continue to serve as his advisers, though they would prefer to see the Assembly accorded the rights exercised by the Dominion. The situation is an anomalous one, and it is to be hoped that the proper steps to break the deadlock will be taken before the Territorial Assembly is again convoked. A despatch of the Colonial Secretary, in the year 1879, in reference to the case of the late Lieut.-Governor Letellier, says that the lieutenant-governor of a province "should, of course, maintain that impartiality towards political parties, which is essential to the proper performance of the duties of his office, and for any action he may take he is, under the fifty-ninth section of the act, directly responsible to the Governor-General. After quoting this opinion in his "Constitutional History of Canada," Bourinot adds: "The only safe principle that he can adopt for his general guidance is that pointed out to him by the experience of the working of parliamentary institutions, to give his confidence to his constitutional advisers while they enjoy the support of the legislature." The people of the Territories, being mainly from the older provinces, have carried with them the ideas of responsible government which prevailed in their former homes.

Much surprise, we are informed, was created by the decision of a popular audience in Calgary some time ago, when a discussion took place on "The Future of Canada." The speakers took sides—some defending the actual colonial federation; others advocating a federation of the Empire; others, again, declaring for independence, while a fourth party argued in favour of annexation to the United States. When a vote was taken on the result the audience pronounced in favour of the annexation argument. There is nothing remarkable in this. We have such debates in young men's clubs and societies very frequently in Montreal and other cities, and the judgment of the audience is given out as much on the merits of the cause defended, as with reference to the oratorical and debating skill of the speakers. The decision in the instance in question was a recognition of the abilities of Messrs. Sifton and McKenzie rather than of the advantages of annexation. There is no cause for alarm; but the opponents of the victors must endeavour to do better next time.

Canada has, it seems, contributed its quota to the long list of prisoners who, during more than four centuries, were confined within the strong walls of the Bastille. Of these distinguished unfortunates Mr. Phileas Gagnon, the well-known bibliophile and antiquarian, of Quebec (who has just been made a corresponding member of the Historical Society of Newport, R.I.), gives an interesting account in *L'Union Libérale*. It appears that Mr. Charavay (of whose business as an autograph-collector some particulars were not long since published in this paper) sent Mr. Gagnon on approbation a mass of manuscripts that had formed part of the archives of the Bastille. Mr. Gagnon was not long in discovering certain historic Canadian names in some of the documents submitted to him. They are signed by M. de Sartine, Lieutenant-General of Police in 1764, and addressed to the Comte de Jumilhac, at that time Governor of the Bastille. They concern a number of persons convicted of being accomplices in the frauds of the Bigot clique—Michel Jean Hugues Péan, Jean Cadet, Louis A. A. J. Pénisseau, Jacques Michel Bréard, Jean Corpron and François Maurin. Sieur Péan was a knight of the military and royal order of St. Louis, and had formerly been captain and aide-major of the troops of the marine. His wife, Madame Péan, *née* Des Meloises, had won the heart of Bigot, and figures frequently in the scandals of the period. Cadet was commissary-general. The extent of his defalcations may be gathered from the fact that in the judgment pronounced on him he was ordered to make restitution of 6,000,000 livres. He had, however, a counter claim against the Government of 11,000,000 livres, and the authorities, after a time, cried quits with him. Bréard was Controller of the Marine. Corpron was a Quebec trader, and had acted as clerk to Cadet; Maurin and Pénisseau held like positions under Cadet at Montreal. Péan was admitted to the Bastille on the 13th of November, 1761, by a *lettre de cachet* signed "Louis," and countersigned "Choiseul." Mr. Gagnon gives, as an example of the form of these powerful letters a copy, word for word, of the document that gave the famous Marmontel his entry into the great prison fortress. It is very simple. The Governor is instructed to receive the prisoner into the Bastille (or other prison) and to keep him there until further orders, and the King prays that God may have him (the governor) in his holy keeping. "Written at Versailles, the 27th of December, 1759. The order for release is in the same form of words, only that the person concerned is to be let out instead of in. The letters relating to the Canadian defaulters are orders for the admission of visitors on business or for friendship. The series is of considerable interest to the student of our history. Mr. Gagnon reminds us that Perrot, the contumacious Governor of Montreal in Frontenac's first administration, and whose name is preserved in that of Isle Perrot, was committed to the Bastille by Louis XIV. for punishment and example.

"Si fecisti nega" is a principle of action with which, in our own public life, we are not entirely unacquainted. Mr. Parnell's course would lead one to suppose that he deemed it safer not to take the trouble of denial, but to leave all controversy as to the facts of the case with his opponents. There are just two inferences to be drawn from his demeanour on this point. Either he is conscious, in spite of appearances, of relative, if not positive, guiltlessness, or he has deliberately adopted a strategy which, whether victorious or not, must throw the ranks of the enemy into confusion (while diverting attention from the real issue) and almost make them regret that they interfered with his leadership. As to the former alternative, it is quite possible that Mr. Parnell, while far from blameless, might be sinned against as well as sinning, though to prove this might necessitate disclosures which would be denounced as cowardly and could not fail to enlarge the range of the scandal. He might, therefore, prefer silence with all the misconstruction that it implied to such a mode of defence. If such be the case, and his Irish colleagues are aware of all the circumstances,

he may naturally feel resentment at their desertion. Before (and even after) the publication of Mr. Gladstone's letter, they were unanimous in their professions of unimpaired allegiance. Mr. Parnell, not without reason, thinks that if they were willing to adhere to him, knowing his faults but remembering his services, at the first meeting, it showed a strange fickleness or a lack of straightforwardness to accept immediately after the dictatorship of the Liberal leader. He feels aggrieved that a statesman who for years was the bitterest foe of their common cause should, by his trusted lieutenants and many of the men whom he had drawn from obscurity, be made the arbiter of the Nationalist party. Besides, he saw that more than one of the seceders were moved by personal grudges, at least as much as by patriotism, and were only too glad of the chance to take their revenge. Under these circumstances he felt himself justified in appealing from his parliamentary following to the Irish people from whom they had all received their mandates. This question is still *sub judice*; but, whoever wins, the compact Home Rule party is a house divided against itself, which, as we know on good authority, will not be able to stand.

It is no slight solace to those who would retain their good opinion of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition to know that no breath of scandal has sullied the fair fame of Parke, of Jephson, of Nelson and of our own Stairs. The honours paid to this last young officer a few weeks ago were gratifying to every true Canadian. "Young Jephson" is sometimes mentioned in Mr. Stanley's record as if he were—well, "Young Jephson." No one, however can read the letter which Mr. A. J. Mounteney Jephson sent, in May last, to the bereaved father of the late A. M. Mackay, pioneer missionary of the Church Missionary Society in Uganda, without having the highest opinion of the writer. As to Mackay, it was (and so Jephson considered it) an honour to be on terms of friendship with such a man. The tributes to his memory are proved by the simple narrative of his labours, just published by his sister, to have been amply deserved. The son of a Free Church minister, he was born in the manse of an Aberdeenshire village on the 16th of October, 1849. Twelve months ago no one apprehended so near a termination to his life of self-devotion. His father, being a man of study and a scholar of more than ordinary accomplishments, the boy early became a lover of books and knowledge. In 1867 (the family having removed to Edinburgh) he entered the Training School for Teachers, in connection with the Free Church, and to the benefits that he received at that institution he left grateful testimony. The bent of his mind was towards engineering, and after what many would have considered a thorough preparation for the profession, his desire for larger acquirements induced him to go to Germany, and he reached Berlin in November, 1873. He was for a time thrown into society which, to one of his belief and aims, could not but be distasteful; but he found a home by-and-by in the household of Hofprediger Baur, who called him his "Lieber Sohn Mackay." In 1876 he offered himself for missionary work (using the term in the largest sense) in connection with the Victoria Nyanza Mission, and the Church Missionary Society accepted the offer. In his last message, dated January 2, 1890, he gave an outline of the changes that had taken place during the interval between his arrival and the close of last year. It included the death of King Mtesa, the accession of Mwanga, his defection from his father's engagements and persecution, under Arab counsel, of the Christian community that had grown up in his realm; the murder of Bishop Hannington and the dismay and despair of the surviving Christians; their ultimate triumph after a sharp struggle and much bloodshed, and the hopeful condition of the Uganda mission-field. Before the letter containing this review of the later experiences of himself and his co-labourers reached England, the writer was dead. On the 8th of February he passed away after a short illness. Mr. Jephson's letter was written in May to Dr. Mackay. He described the exhaustion of himself and his comrades when