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SCOTT ACT TACTICS.

THE following letters have passed between Mr. S. R. Badgley, president of the Scott Act Alliance in St. Catharines, and Peter J. Brown, Esq., of Ingersoll:

ST. CATHARINES, ONT., Nov. 5, 1885.

PETER J. BROWN, ESQ., INGERSOLL, ONT.:

DEAR SIR,—I send you per this mail a copy of our "Journal," in which you will see that we are in a Scott Act contest here, and you will also see the position taken by the Rev. E. M. Bland against us. We were quite surprised at his letter, as we heard that he was favourable to the Scott Act when in Oxford County, and a friend told me to-day that you could give me reliable information as to the position he took there. If you feel disposed to aid our cause in this way, and if what we hear of our reverend friend is true, we would like the information and will feel grateful for your assistance. I am, dear sir, yours very truly,

S. R. BADGLEY, President Alliance.

INGERSOLL, 6th Nov., 1885.

S. R. BADGLEY, ESQ., ST. CATHARINES:

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of yesterday, I regret that I cannot give you the information desired. Mr. Bland and I differed in his mode of conducting service, and in consequence are not good friends; apart from this I have nothing to say against him, and fully endorse the substance of his letter to the Liberal Temperance Union. My observations in this county since the Scott Act came into force lead me to believe that there is more whiskey consumed, both openly and behind the door, than ever before. As a matter of fact you, or any other perfect stranger, can travel the county and in nine out of ten of the houses licensed under the Crooks Act can ask for and get all the whiskey you want.

Yours truly, P. J. BROWN.

THE FRENCH-CANADIAN PEASANT.

THERE is no more deeply credulous being than the French-Canadian of the lower classes. Whatever mental life he has is still the life of a little child standing in the morning of the world. The age of faith has not ceased with him. That there should be places made holy by beatific visions, that relics should work miracles, that all sorts of local saints should have power to bless and all sorts of local devils power to curse, are to him among the deepest facts of life. Such beliefs are so wrought into his thoughts that he never can get outside their grasp. These come to him naturally from his religion, but he is full of superstitions besides. His churchyard is alive with ghosts. He easily credits any supernatural story. And Pierre was no freer from such ideas than were others. One of his most lasting memories was of a little sister of his who for a long time had always been dressed in blue, in fulfilment of a vow to the Virgin. She had been very ill, and his mother—the dear old *maman* who was now dead—had vowed to the Holy Mother, if she would but cause the child to recover, to dress her in this her favourite colour for three years. There were many other instances of the same kind among the neighbours; indeed, it would not be too much to say that there was hardly one of them but could tell some tale which was not of this world.—*December Atlantic.*

WHAT are we to think of an organization which facilitates the kidnaping of an English child; which sends it quietly out of the country beyond the protection of English law; which plants it first in Paris, and then, on the alarm being given that the police are on the move, sends the child four hundred miles further off; which frustrates all communication between the child and her parents, defaces, addresses, suppresses letters, and finally sends the child on a night journey from one end of a foreign country to the other, with two young men for her protection? It is a discovery to find that such things can be done, though it is not clear that they are possible to any organization except the Salvation Army. It is to the mercy of such an organization, obedient to the beck of one man, that we are to trust the inviolability of our English homes.—*Manchester Examiner.*

THE fate of the Government is sealed, it is tottering to its fall, and the manufacture of forged telegrams by the Ministerial press, or the usual villainous abuse of the Liberal Party, cannot save it from impending ruin. Here in Ottawa city the prevailing opinion heard on every hand is that any candidate who would support the present Government would be rejected at the polls. The burning of Sir John Macdonald and Messrs. Mackintosh and Tassé in effigy in a city which formerly was so overwhelmingly Conservative that a demonstration like that would have been quickly and energetically resented, clearly shows how popular opinion has changed. What is true of Ottawa is true of Ontario and Quebec generally, and the Tory outlook is obscured by lowering clouds portentous of ruin and defeat to an Administration which a few months ago was seemingly entrenched firmly in the public estimation.—*Ottawa Free Press.*

A MAN who has stirred up two rebellions, neither of which had the smallest chance of success, ought either to be made head of the political community, or permanently removed from human society. Riel in his first affair in 1869 committed a most foul murder on an unarmed prisoner, came near causing a great deal of bloodshed, and put the Dominion to great expense, and dragged a large number of young men from their homes for two or three months. Yet he was forgiven, and allowed to go about his business. He repeated the offence, this time getting the Indians to join him, or, in other words, letting loose bands of savages on defenceless frontier settlements. They committed one dreadful massacre at Frog Lake, and, under his leadership, engaged in three or four fights with the troops. The general result was that on the Government side 67 men were killed and 119 wounded. The killed were mostly young business men who were serving in the militia. If a man ought ever to be hanged for taking other men's lives and making their homes desolate, Riel certainly deserved his fate. To dignify his operations with the name of war is absurd.—*Nation.*

THE anti-Chinese craze on the Pacific Coast has reached its limit of insane folly. Hitherto the people of that region have only insisted upon legislation to prevent the coming of more Chinese to this country. Now they are beginning to demand that those who are already here shall be shipped home post haste. The San Francisco *Post* declares that "agitation for the enactment of a law prohibiting further immigration, and providing for the return to their own country of the Chinese now here, has become the duty of the people of the States and Territories cursed by the presence of the coolies." According to the census of 1880, there were in the State of California 73,548 Chinese out of 894,694 people of all races, or one Chinese out of every twelve. The proportion in Oregon and in Washington Territory was even smaller. But admit that there is still one Chinaman out of every dozen people. Did the Caucasian race ever make a worse showing than when eleven white men insist that the yellow man who makes she twelfth must be sent out of the country because otherwise they will be ruined by his competition!—*N. Y. Nation.*

THE municipal elections have gone in favour of the Conservatives. Their gains are not startling; still they do gain considerably in the aggregate. They have wrested seats from the Liberals in the north as well as in the south, in the great manufacturing towns which have been the chosen homes of Radicalism, and in the smaller boroughs which practically returned the Liberals at the last general election. They have gained seats at such towns as Stockport, Crewe, Nottingham, and Manchester, as well as at Devizes and Dunstable, Ipswich and Stalybridge. If this does not portend a Conservative reaction, it shows at least that the Radicals have steadily lost ground among the artisans and shopkeepers of the towns. And it also shows that the Radical leaders were well advised when they resolved to set up some new franchise-machinery which, properly handled, would "sweep the counties." The canny gentlemen who pull the party wires knew well enough that they had not much to hope for in the boroughs. They called in the new electorate to redress the balance of the old. The intelligent citizen had become too intelligent; he, too, was to be swamped by a mass of bribable ignorance in the rural districts.—*Exchange.*

A THEATRICAL paper tells the story of an exasperated dancing-master, with whom every elector should at present have the keenest sympathy. The other afternoon he returned home to hear that a gentleman had called and expressed much disappointment at missing him. "A pupil! what a pity that I should have been out!" was the dancing teacher's comment; after which he went to the theatre, where he was engaged in the evening. On going home he heard that the visitor had called again. The unfortunate dancing-master sighed himself to sleep. At seven o'clock in the morning he was roused and told that "the gentleman" was waiting for him downstairs. Hurriedly yet carefully he dressed himself, and hastened to meet his new pupil. The first glance was satisfactory. The visitor looked like a safe twenty guineas. There were apologies for calling at so early an hour and excuses for keeping the caller waiting. "Is it stage dancing or private dancing?" asked the genial teacher; to which came the reply, "Before I enter into details, first let me ask you, sir, are you Liberal or Conservative?" Nothing remains to be added, except that the dancing-master had not the presence of mind, before showing him out, to ask what were his visitor's politics. That would at least have given him a chance of voting against his prosecutor.

TRUTH reveals the fact that the people of Maine, deprived of the lighter drinks that temper the habit elsewhere, have fallen back on illicit whiskey; that the trade in intoxicants is thrown mainly without restraint or supervision into the hands of the lowest and most irresponsible hands; that the percentage of drunkenness is greater there than in the license States; that the amount of pauperism is heavier and rapidly increasing; that crimes, especially of the higher kinds, are advancing at a frightful rate; that the death rate is heavier there than in license States; that there are more suicides, insanity, idiocy, blindness and bodily defects, arising from a vitiated stock, in the former than in the latter States (see the United States census on this point), and that the disregard of the law among the people is engendering contempt for all law and advancing general demoralization. That these men mean well I have no doubt. Macaulay said of the old Puritans that they forbade bear-baiting, not because of any sympathy with the bear, but because they hated to see the spectators enjoying themselves. I take no such cynical view of these men's efforts. Doubtless there was an honest intent in the author of the Maine law to prevent, or at least mitigate, the evils flowing from the pernicious and detestable crime of drunkenness. But a wise man, when experience has shown that his scheme only aggravates the evils it was meant to cure, substitutes something more practicable. Here, Neal Dow perseveres in the teeth of signal and disastrous failure.—*New York Sun.*