

The Colonist.

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NOT A RELIGIOUS QUESTION.

We reproduce from the Montreal Gazette of the 30th ultimo a thoughtful, a moderate and a timely article.

The article in that paper deals with a very delicate question and it deals with it most judiciously.

It is exceedingly difficult to discuss the political differences, so called, that arise from time to time between Protestants and Catholics without giving offence to extremists of both denominations.

It is extremely hard to get men to listen to reason when in their opinion an injury has been done, or is contemplated, to the religious body to which they belong.

To many the Manitoba school difficulty is simply a question between Protestants and Catholics.

In their opinion good Protestants should range themselves on one side and faithful Catholics on the other.

They persistently refuse to view the question in any other than a religious light.

When you tell them that denominational religion has really nothing to do with the question which the Parliament and the people of the Dominion are called upon to consider, they listen with incredulity, or they refuse to listen at all.

They know better. The zealous Protestant says that the question has been raised to get Manitoba under the thumb of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and the angry Roman Catholic says and believes that the Manitoba minority are refused their rights because they are Catholics.

It can easily be understood how hard it is to get two men or two parties who look at the question in this way to take a moderate, common-sense view of the matter in dispute.

But, if this Dominion is to have peace, moderate views must prevail, and they should prevail.

If we are to have peace the majority of the electors of this Dominion will have to look upon the question as they look upon a dispute between individuals regarding the conditions of a contract or an agreement.

The parties to an agreement pledge themselves to do certain things, and they are bound in honesty, when the time comes for carrying out the conditions, to do what they have promised to do.

This is where religion really comes in in this Manitoba case, as well as in every other case in which men have bound themselves by agreements, no matter whether the agreement is called a covenant, a treaty, a compact, or a Constitution.

All religions that deserve the name require those who profess them to be as good as their word to keep the covenants they have entered into.

If it can be shown that the Province of Manitoba or any other of the provinces has entered into an agreement to protect the denominational minority of its inhabitants in the educational rights and privileges they have lawfully acquired, it is the duty—the acknowledged religious duty—of both Protestants and Catholics to fulfil the conditions of that agreement to the letter.

There is, thank God, no difference between Protestants and Catholics as to the duty of keeping faith with those with whom they deal.

They are all taught to be as good as their word, to keep the bargains they have made.

And it is just as obligatory on communities—municipalities, provinces, nations—to carry out in good faith the agreements they have made as it is on individuals.

This Confederation is kept together by the federal compact. It is of the very first necessity that the different parties to the compact shall do all that they had promised.

If it can be shown that the Province of Manitoba has covenanted to protect the denominational minority of its inhabitants in their rights, is it not the duty of Manitoba to carry out its

agreement with regard to that minority without waiting a moment to consider whether the minority is Catholic or Protestant? There can be no question about it.

AN EXTREME VIEW.

The Winnipeg Tribune of the 2nd inst. has an article on the Conference.

It unconsciously shows that the Manitoba negotiators were not free agents.

They dare not accept terms which they knew were obnoxious to the extreme men of their party.

This is what the Tribune, after announcing the failure of the negotiations, says:

We do not possibly see how anyone who has studied the case, or understood the circumstances, could expect any other result than that which has been reached.

The Dominion commissioners, in order to satisfy the Quebec hierarchy, could accept nothing less than separate schools, and separate schools our government could not concede and continue in power.

No body should understand this better than the Dominion government and the minority, because it was upon this issue that the recent general elections were fought, and won by such a sweeping majority.

Strong and all as the personnel of the Greenway government may be, it does not attempt to do more than settle the school question that would involve the sacrifice of the principle of national schools.

So earnest are the members of the legislature in their adherence to the national school idea and to the legislation of 1890, that they would defeat the government on the first vote if the government put forward any proposal to restore separate schools.

If the people of Manitoba are united up on any one point, it is that our national school system shall be preserved inviolate.

For our school system we have struggled and braved every opposition, and for that school system we will continue to contend until our right to maintain it is acknowledged on all hands, and our provincial autonomy recognized at Ottawa.

It will be observed that the Tribune does not say one word about the merits of the case.

It speaks as if the question were one between the majority in Manitoba and the hierarchy in Quebec.

The rights of the minority secured to them by the Constitution were not of the slightest consequence in the estimation of the Tribune.

The will of the majority, whether it was in accordance with the Constitution or not, was all that, in the estimation of the Tribune, was worthy of consideration.

Of course with those who look upon the question in this light it was not possible to negotiate to any purpose.

MR. MILLS CORRECTED.

The Regina Leader does not agree with the reasoning of the Hon. David Mills, and undertakes to correct that deeply-read and hard-thinking Liberal leader.

It says "the fundamental error in the argument of the Hon. David Mills, in favor of the claim of the Manitoba minority for redress, is the assumption that the minority of Manitoba and Quebec hold their special privileges under identical conditions."

It is to be hoped that Mr. Mills will be able to meet the objections of his Regina antagonist who, by the way, is not Mr. Davin.

Mr. Davin voted for the second reading of the Remedial bill, convinced, as he says, by the force of Mr. Mills' reasoning that he ought to do so.

We do not intend to criticise the lucubrations of the constitutional lawyer of Regina.

All that we purpose to do is to direct attention to the fact that the Hon. David Mills considers that the Manitoba minority is entitled to a redress of their grievance, and that his reasoning was so cogent and convincing that he made a convert of Mr. Davin.

A MIXED RACE.

It was only the other day that a Philadelphia journalist in an intensely anti-British article reproached the British with being a "mongrel nation."

This, of course, was intended to be both severe and contemptuous.

We at the time advised the anglophobe editor to look at home before he began condemning the British because they are of mixed origin.

An article by an intensely loyal United States citizen, G. H. D. Gossip, in the March number of the Fortnightly Review, maintains that the Americans are not in sympathy with the British because they are not really blood relations.

Here is an extract from it:

"No doubt," says Mr. Gossip, "blood is thicker than water and many Americans of pure British descent, the Irish excepted, still entertain sympathy and friendship for the mother country and the race from which they sprang.

But how many Americans there are of pure British blood at present in the United States is a question impossible to answer.

Inter-marriage for more than two centuries between the original New England and Dutch colonists and their descendants with the Germans, Irish, Poles, Swedes, Hungarians, French and other nationalities have produced an essentially heterogeneous, cosmopolitan nation unlike any country in the world—a veritable olla podrida of nationalities.

It was only in 1664 that a new Amsterdam was unjustly wrested from Holland by Charles II and called New York on the "might makes right" principle; while the names of Stuyvesant, Van Buren, Schuyler often read in the newspapers, on street corners or over the shops of New York and Brooklyn testify to the survival of a strong Dutch element in the population.

According to the latest census returns there are nearly sixty-five millions of people in the United States. Of these fifteen millions are foreigners not native-born, and there are seven millions of negroes, so that the native-born American population is only forty-three odd millions.

Amongst these forty-three odd millions of native-born Americans, too, an immense num-

ber are of foreign parentage, with foreign proclivities, or of mixed descent, and although English is still the language of the country, the United States are rapidly being cosmopolitanized.

Of these forty-three millions of native-born Americans, at a rough guess, only about half, probably, are of pure English and Scotch descent, while the fifteen millions of foreigners include about five millions of Germans and Irish.

It is quite true blood is thicker than water, and that before the British fleet commenced the bombardment of Alexandria the French and German fleets steamed silently away, while the sailors of the American squadron cheered those of the mother country; for the pro-English sympathies and sentiment still linger in the breasts of Americans; but these sympathies are gradually getting weaker year by year and may be said to be slowly dying out or superseded by a growing cosmopolitan spirit due to the renewed increase of foreign immigration.

Mr. Gossip is not ashamed of the admixture of other races with the descendants of the pilgrim fathers.

He is, on the contrary, proud that the Americans have become "a heterogeneous cosmopolitan nation—a veritable olla podrida of nationalities."

THE EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN.

Very little is known about the movements of the troops in the Sudan.

It is certain that the number of the troops under Osman Digna has been greatly exaggerated.

It is now known that the dervishes do not number 100,000 or anything like it.

The country of the Upper Nile is neither rich nor populous.

The dervishes, though brave and hardy, are comparatively few in numbers, and are really not formidable to a moderately large and well equipped army.

Their strength and their mode of warfare are now well known to the British, and barring accidents and unforeseen contingencies, the expedition against them is sure to succeed.

The war correspondents of many of the newspapers are not friendly to Great Britain, and some of them cannot resist the temptation of attempting to create a scare.

But we think they will not succeed. They have so ridiculously over-estimated the strength of Osman Digna's army and the forces at his disposal that very few intelligent people will now place the slightest reliance on their statements and predictions.

It will be observed that the dervishes have done very little indeed, so far. Kassala is still safe, and Suakin is apparently in no danger.

It is not by any means likely that there has as yet been an encounter between the vanguard of the British expedition and the defenders of the Sudan.

THE SOUDAN.

It might be supposed that in these days of steamships, railroads, telegraphs and globe-trotting generally there would not be a corner of the earth's surface left unexplored, and that full information relative to the most remote corner of the wildest part of the earth's surface can be easily obtained by the intelligent inquirer.

But this is very far from being the case. Whenever public attention is directed to any barbarous or semi-barbarous country, it is soon seen how little even the best educated people know about it.

When the war between China and Japan broke out, the savants and the travellers of the world, were in a position to give the reading public anything like a correct idea of the condition and resources of the two countries?

About China particularly the most grotesque blunders were made by men who ought, one might suppose, to be in a position to be well informed.

Statesmen, editors, and military men, as the event proved, were all at sea relative to the extent of the resources of China, to the nature of its military organization, and to its capacity to carry on a war with an active and enterprising enemy.

To-day, when most persons of inquiring minds want to know something definite and reliable as to the condition of the Sudan (spelled by the London Times Sudan) their laudable curiosity is by no means easily gratified.

Most people know that it is south of Egypt and they have an idea that a great part of its area is desert.

They, too, have a hazy notion that its inhabitants are principally Arabs of the fiercest kind.

How the people live, what kind of Government they have, what are their resources and what chance they have of succeeding in a contest with a civilized nation are questions that are not easily answered.

We find that the dervishes, as they are called, are very jealous of strangers.

Missionaries, traders and explorers find it impossible to get a foothold in the country.

It is said that only one European has, during the past twelve years or so, been able to enter the Sudan, Oliver Pain, a half-crazy Frenchman, and all that we are told about him is that his death was painful and sudden.

At the beginning of the war waged against Egypt by the Mahdi several priests and nuns and government officials were taken prisoners.

These one by one escaped.

Among them was Slatin Pasha, who is now the guide of the expedition.

They were allowed opportunities during their captivity to observe what was going on around them and it is from them and from Egyptian spies that the British Government have been able to get what information they possess as to the present condition of the country.

The Sudan has since the siege of

Khartoum been in an unsettled condition. Industry has not flourished and what commerce the country has is decaying.

We are told that "the power of the Kalifa, cruel and despotic as it is, has not sufficed to suppress discord, police and the punishment of crime are scarcely thought of.

Years of crop failures, of pestilence and of increasing wars, have brought the people to look back to the days of Egyptian rule as a time of peace and plenty.

It is confidently believed that the dervish realm is "on the verge of chaos and collapse."

It is hard to tell how much truth there is in this description of the internal condition of the Sudan.

Slatin Pasha has said that the fighting strength of the dervishes has been ridiculously exaggerated, and it is very likely that he is right, as he speaks from personal observation.

It is known for certain that the dervishes, whether they be many or few, are very brave, and that they can keep the field and remain in good fighting trim under conditions in which a European army would starve.

THE BRITISH IN EGYPT.

A great deal has been said about the greed of the British for new territory and their unscrupulousness in seizing the land belonging to weak nations when they believe it will be of use to them.

The British occupation of Egypt has been the theme of unending vilification, principally by the French.

It is given as an instance of downright robbery, and the unfortunate Khedives, father and son, have been the objects of effusive sympathy.

The French philanthropists and patriots may, perhaps, believe that the British deserve all the denunciation that has for years been directed against them, but there are observers known to be impartial who say that the British occupation of Egypt has been productive of nothing but good to the unfortunate inhabitants of the country.

This is what an American writer says about the effects of the British occupation of Egypt as far as its working classes are concerned:

"Egypt has been the chief of England's latter-day successes. It is in Egypt that the common sense, the honesty of purpose, the unflinching energy and the administrative ability of the imperial Englishman have been most strikingly shown.

Finances have been placed on a sound and a prosperous footing, receipts largely exceed expenditures, and the Government has in hand a considerable sum, obtained through the successful management of the land tax debt.

It has been proposed to use this for the construction of a new barrage or irrigation dam at Assouan, which would add enormously to the country's arable area.

The consent of the country powers of Europe is, however, necessary for most important financial measures, and in this case the blind opposition of France to all things Anglo-Egyptian has as usual stood in the way.

The Admiral writes to Port Angeles that the fleet will consist of his flagship the Philadelphia, carrying 550; the coast defence ship Monadnock, 175 men; the monitor Monterey, 175 men; the cruiser Albatross, 155 men, and probably the cruiser Ranger, 155 men.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

There could not, it is conceded, be a more popular or attractive feature in connection with the coming Queen's birthday celebration than to have the United States Pacific Coast squadron present for the occasion.

This fleet, comprising some six vessels, will according to Admiral Beardslee who is in charge of the squadron, be at Port Angeles very shortly.

In a letter which the Admiral writes to Port Angeles he states that the fleet will consist of his flagship the Philadelphia, carrying 550; the coast defence ship Monadnock, 175 men; the monitor Monterey, 175 men; the cruiser Albatross, 155 men, and probably the cruiser Ranger, 155 men.

THE COMING FLAGSHIP.

H. M. S. Imperieuse having sailed from England for Esquimaux early last month, will not arrive here as soon as expected.

An accident having befallen her machinery she was obliged to put back, and her arrival here now may not be until August.

The Royal Arthur, it is expected, remain until the Imperieuse comes to her relief.

A SEALER LOST AT SEA.

News comes to E. B. Marvin & Co. from Capt. J. G. Cox, who is now at Yokohama, that one of the Vera's seamen was lost while that vessel was on her passage from Victoria to Japan, and two members of the schooner's crew were obliged to enter hospital upon their arrival in port.

The names of these, as also that of the unfortunate man lost, were not mentioned in the letter received. The Vera had a very stormy voyage, which lasted 56 days.

MARINE NOTES.

At 4 o'clock yesterday morning the C. P. N. steamer Maude, Captain Roberts, got in from the West Coast and at noon proceeded to Comox for coal.

She brought in a small but important freight, including the second consignment of the 1896 seal catch to arrive in the market.

There were 92 skins in the shipment, representing the schooner Kilmey's season's work.

The passengers who arrived on the Maude were J. C. Anderson, Capt. McKell, F. Jacobsen and wife, and E. Schultz.

The steamer reports all the sealers out hunting.

The Glasgow Weekly Mail of March 21 contains the following paragraph: "The Imperieuse, recently commissioned as flagship to Rear Admiral Palliser to relieve the Royal Arthur on the Pacific station, was to have had a trial of her machinery at Portsmouth on Wednesday, but her reversing gear gave out and she had to return to dockyard to make good the defects.

This will probably occupy two days.

Forty-one cabin and 10 steerage passengers for this city arrived by the City of Puebla from San Francisco yesterday afternoon.

The Puebla also brought for this port over 95 tons of freight.

A new vessel has just been built for the Alaska Improvement Company at San Francisco.

The craft is 120 feet long, 22 feet beam, 9 1/2 feet depth and has a deck-house 56 feet long.

The Quadra leaves for the West Coast to-day on a trip of inspection to the lighthouses between here and Cape Beale.

The steam schooner Mischief, with mail, freight and passengers, leaves for Quatsino and way ports, including Alberni, to-morrow.

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good and that the best its members can do for the good of the country would be to end the session and go home.

This is not said of some insignificant State Legislature, but of the assembly composed of the representatives of the whole nation.

"These representatives," Harper's Weekly says, "were nominated by party bosses or through intrigue which the people generally did not understand or did not take the trouble to circumvent.

Thus nominated the members of the present Congress were opposed by candidates nominated by another machine, and the people were thus limited to a choice between two evils."

This was not written by an enemy of the Great Republic, but by one of its citizens, who evidently has its welfare at heart.

When a lover of the Republic thus bears strong testimony to the failure of the most important of republican institutions, what may be expected of an enemy of republicanism—of government by the people and for the people?

THE QUEBEC TUNE.

Mr. Laurier and his organ sing in Quebec a very different tune on the Manitoba school question from that which the Liberals sing in Ontario.

In the latter province the Liberals find fault with the Government's Remedial bill because it is too clerical; in Quebec the burden of Mr. Laurier's complaint is that it is not clerical enough.

The Mail and Empire in a late issue says:

"L'Electeur, Mr. Laurier's principal organ in Quebec, furiously rages because the clerical school is not contemplated in the remedial bill.

The attitude of L'Electeur emphasizes the difference between the clerical schools and the schools as proposed.

It is charged by Mr. Sifton that Manitoba had the clerical school prior to 1890—that is, the school in the management of which the priest was supreme, the people and the state having nothing to do with it.

In the remedying of the complaint of the minority the government places the schools under state control by requiring inspection and efficiency, and under popular control through giving trustees the duty of local management.

The clerical school is what Manitoba abolished and voted against; the school of the public school standard, with the Roman Catholic prayers substituted for the Protestant prayers in exclusively Roman Catholic districts, is what the bill provides for.

Mr. Laurier is opposed to the bill because it does not establish or endow the clerical school.

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