

THE LIBERALS AND THE FRENCH.

The attitude of the French Conservatives towards the Government of the Dominion with respect to the execution of Riel, can be no surprise to those familiar with the tactics of the French contingent in Parliament; but it is somewhat strange to observe with what delight the action of these refractory supporters of the Government is hailed by the organs of the Liberal party throughout Canada. Had Riel's sentence been commuted, the Liberal press would have undoubtedly condemned Sir John and his Cabinet for not having the moral courage to uphold the law of the land; but now that Riel has met his well-deserved fate, they are prepared for party purposes to go in hand and glove with French sympathisers in Québec. This is not a party question; it is simply a question of right or wrong, and the Liberals should be prepared to take their stand, irrespective of French support. If they are prepared to condemn the Government of Sir John for having allowed the arch-rebel to meet his doom, then the people of the country will understand their platform, and will act accordingly. To float into power upon the wave of French disruption would irretrievably ruin the Liberal party in Canada, and before the leaders had time to taste the honied sweets of office, they would again find themselves in the cold shades of opposition. The blood of this country will never tolerate French dictation and French domination, and the Liberal party should bear this in mind; otherwise they may find all too late, their camp deserted, and their colors left in the hands of an alien race.

MASSACHUSETTS CENSUS.

The progress of Massachusetts is not now of the remarkable kind it once was. Progress there yet is, and that of no mean kind, but it is clear, from the figures below given, that the growth of that State, for the future, is not likely to be a marvel:—

The census of Massachusetts, which has lately been completed, shows a population of 1,941,465, a gain of 158,380 since 1880, the increase being a little less than two per cent a year. About half of the cities and towns have gained, and the rest have lost. "The gains," says the *Boston Advertiser*, "are in manufacturing centres, the marked losses in the agricultural districts. In the twenty-three cities of the Commonwealth there has been an aggregate gain of 119,992, or twelve and-a-half per cent. since 1880. The population of Boston has increased from 362,839 to 390,406. This is a gain of but seven per cent, which seems small compared with the gains of nearly all of the other cities. It is explained by the large increase in Boston's suburban population, showing a growing tendency of people doing business in the city to seek homes in the suburbs. Thus in Cambridge the population has increased from 52,699 to 59,660, thirteen per cent; in Somerville from 24,933 to 29,992, twenty per cent; in Chelsea from 21,782 to 25,709, eighteen per cent; in Malden from 12,017 to 16,407, thirty-six per cent; and in Newton from 16,995 to 19,759, sixteen per cent. In 1880 Lowell ranked next to Boston, with 59,475 inhabitants, and Worcester third, with 58,291; now Worcester holds the second place, with 68,383, and Lowell third, with 64,051, the percentage of gain being seventeen in the former and seven in the latter. The population of Fall River has grown from 48,961 to 56,863, seventeen per cent, and that of Lynn from 38,274 to 45,861, twenty per cent. The inhabitants of Lawrence have decreased from 39,151 to 38,812. In many States besides Massachusetts censuses have been taken this year. The results are instructive, and must prove valuable. A state census intermediate between the Federal enumerations has always been taken in New York, pursuant to the Constitution, until this year, when it was defeated by the opposition of Governor Hill. The omission deprives the people of interesting and valuable information, showing the growth of the greatest of States."

EGGS, BUTTER, AND CHEESE.

The farmer's wives throughout the United States are carrying on an immense business, the importance of which is frequently overlooked. Their labors, supplemented as they now are by the cheese and butter factories, yield a product valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. Five hundred members of the National Butter, Cheese, and Egg Association of the United States met in convention at Chicago the other day. The enormous dimensions of the interests represented by them may be gathered from some of the statistics presented by the President, John D. McDonald, of Philadelphia. The value of the butter, cheese, and milk produce of the past year is estimated at about \$500,000,000. This is \$350,000,000 more than the entire oat crop of the country, \$419,000,000 more than the pig iron product, \$257,000,000 more than the iron and steel product, \$120,000,000 more than the cotton crop, and \$100,000,000 more than the entire wheat crop. The amount of money invested in milch cows alone in 1885 exceeds the enormous sum of \$700,000,000, which is \$41,771,701 more than the capital stock of all the banking institutions in the country.

CHINESE PROGRESS.

China has taken a new lease of life, and torn a few pages from the European book of modern civilization. Instead of the hordes of undisciplined soldiers, China now proposes to establish a regular army, which, upon a peace footing, is to number 700,000 men; and in the event of war, 1,400,000. She also proposes to improve her navy, and has ordered in Europe sixteen cruisers and gun-boats. Effete China is evidently renewing her youth, and the French will have to look elsewhere than upon her domain for the territorial extension they so ardently covet.

MISSIONARY STATISTICS.

A late number of the *New York Independent* has an interesting article on "Some Missionary Statistics, and What They Teach," by Rev. Dr. A. J. F. Behrends. The article is being copied or commented upon by the leading American papers.

Dr. Behrends is a Protestant gentleman, and the figures he gives are those relative to Protestant missionary operations. He says that "Protestants annually spend ten million dollars for sending the Gospel to Asia and Africa," and that "all the Continental and American (Protestant) Foreign Missionary Societies have thus expended three hundred millions of dollars since the present century opened." Of the recent annual expenditure, more than nine million dollars were contributed by the Protestants of Europe and America.

It appears that the American Board alone has already spent an aggregate sum of twenty-one million of dollars in Christianizing the far away heathen.

Now, what can be shown as the results of this enormous outlay of three hundred million of dollars? Dr. Behrends answers that "there are over three thousand Protestant missionaries in the field, more than twenty-seven thousand native helpers, and a membership of nearly seven hundred thousand in Heathen, Mahommedan and Papal lands." In Turkey, to which great attention is alleged to have been paid, "there are four hundred churches and a claimed membership of twenty-three thousand communicants."

Looking at the tremendous expenditure mentioned, and at the results therefrom, anyone looking at the matter from a purely secular standpoint, may well question whether in these foreign missionaries "the game is worth the candle." Poor, sick, halt, etc., at home, have been stinted for the benefit of the Heathen, and the latter's return is seven hundred thousand Protestant converts, who have been converted at the cost of eighty-five years of work, three hundred million dollars, and three thousand missionaries with their native helpers. "For each 'convert' from Heathenism, Mahommedanism and Papacy," the Missionary Societies have paid out four hundred and thirty-three dollars.

We may again return to this subject, but even the few facts we have given, furnish food for reflection on the part of us all.

THE ADVERTISING POLITICIAN.

The successful politician of to-day is fully aware of the importance of having himself thoroughly advertised. To be noticed in the daily newspapers, favorably or otherwise, is his aim and object. "The Hon. Q. P. Wriggle addressed a large meeting at A., attended the fair at B., was present at the opening of the Branch Railway at C., was cheered by his enthusiastic admirers, etc., etc." or, "the Hon. Q. P. Wriggle comes out in the role of a prophet; he predicts the downfall of the Government; the Hon. gentleman aspires to lead his party, etc., etc." Such are the paragraphic references which the advertising politician delights to read. Let the man of brains be a Chatham in statesmanship, if he shuns notoriety, shuns fulsome flattery or scurrilous abuse, he must be prepared to take a second place beside the man whose name forms the topic for many an editorial leader, whose ubiquity surprises even his friends, and whose notoriety savors of that fame which cannot be said to be immortal.

FRIENDS, NOT FOES.

It is generally supposed that the Afghans would unite with Britain, in opposing the onward march of Russia in Central Asia. This, no doubt, is true, as respects the Afghans proper, but the Uzbeks and Herati inhabiting the western portion of Afghanistan feel no antipathy to the Muscovite. They regard their Afghan masters with the most bitter hatred, and long for the time when they shall be relieved from the grinding tyranny of their Afghan conquerors. The Uzbeks are among the most degraded of modern slaves, but they have sufficient intelligence to understand that the Government, which has already freed upwards of 150,000 slaves in Central Asia, would be preferable to that administered by the Ameer at Cabul. When the Russian advance is made, as made it will be in time, the people of Herat and the surrounding country will be prepared to throw off the Afghan yoke, and welcome their invaders as deliverers.

The English language is prolific. New words are constantly being coined, and the foreigner will, in the course of a few decades, find it almost impossible to master its intricacies. The latest word introduced is of twenty-one letters, and is the name now generally applied to Chamberlain and his followers. Disestablishmentarians are very wicked people, that is, if they are disendowmentarians, but disestablishmentarians, who are not disendowmentarians, believe that they are acting in the best interests of the church.

P. E. Island, which has about the same population, but less area and resources than Cape Breton, has one hundred and forty miles of Railway. Perhaps, after P. E. Island shall have been favored with submarine connection with the mainland, our legislators will begin to think that the mineral-propped isle to the east of us is also deserving of some governmental consideration. We do not mean to complain of so much being done for the fair and fertile "tight little Island"; but we do complain of so little being done for a part of the Dominion that has such splendid possibilities as the Island of Cape Breton.