

A POOR EXCUSE.

MR. CURRAN, M.P., EXPLAINS

Letter to the "Catholic Record"

Using Riel and a Weak Attempt to Justify the Policy of the Government.

The following letter addressed by Mr. J. Curran, M.P., to the Catholic Record, of London, appears in that journal of this week.

To the Editor of the Catholic Record: REV. AND DEAR SIR,—Owing to the widespread influence of your paper, and the stand you have taken therein on the Riel question, you have taken so much interest to the Dominion as a whole, and the French-Canadian people who are now being frenzied on the subject by political agitators and to the Irish Catholics of Canada whom it is sought to embroil in it, I deem it incumbent upon me to address you these few lines. I do not propose to discuss the whole question; that is unnecessary at present, and, if used, I shall have an opportunity of doing so on the floor of Parliament. I propose now to deal with the attitude you have assumed and the reasons you have given therefor. The Irish Catholics of the Dominion have been appealed to by the French-Canadian and other agitators to make common cause with them in denouncing the Government of John A. Macdonald. In your editorial of the 28th inst., you put the question and give the answer in the following language:

"What, then, should be the precise position of Irish Catholics in this crisis? They should not, in our estimation, take part in or encourage illegal or violent manifestations of any kind calculated to incite class against class or race against race. They should not express admiration for rebels or rebellion merely because the rebels were mostly Catholics and the rebellion headed by Catholics, nominal or otherwise. They must not forget that the Catholic Church as an organization was a heavy loser by Riel's uprising—priests murdered; missions laid waste; faithful and clergy dispersed."

That is pretty plain; I shall not attempt to add to its vigor, although in all justice some addition might well be made owing to the facts of the case, which, through authentic documents, will be more widely known in a few days than they are now. As you have put it, however, this is no case in itself to invite Irish Catholic sympathy. Priest murdering, hunted by ferocious savages, missions laid waste, faithful and clergy dispersed, etc., etc., all these things are not calculated to induce our people to rank their author as a hero or a martyr, to assign him a place on the roll of fame alongside of Emmet, or to give him the blasphemous eulogium which the Hon. Mr. Mercier, leader of the House party in this province, deemed him fit to occupy. I refrain from putting his words in writing.

Taking your own statement as the criterion Riel per se merited his fate, nevertheless you speak of him as a "victim." You think he deserves the sympathy of the French-Canadian people, yet Fathers Andre, Tousse, Moulin, Fourmond, Vegreville and Lecog writing a joint letter to the French-Canadian people of the Dominion, dated Prince Albert, the 13th June last, said: "We, the priests of the districts particularly affected by the rebellion, viz: St. Laurent, St. Antoine, Grandin, Duck Lake and Batoche, since it is in the midst of our people that Louis David Riel had established his headquarters, desire to draw the attention of our fellow countrymen to the facts of the case."

"Louis David Riel no longer deserves the sympathy of the Roman Catholic Church, nor the mission as priest and doctor, which our people of the confessions we might have afforded them. He acted purely in his own personal interest."

Exactly at what point is the sympathy of Catholics of any origin to come in for this self-seeker?

In so far as the French Canadians are concerned and the Irish Catholic allies whom you seek to gain for them, you answer the question in the same article as follows:— "They seek, by means just and fair, the vindication of their race, so foully wronged by the killing of Riel because his death had been decreed in the secrecy of Orange lodges. I have already pointed out that you admit Riel deserved the extreme penalty for his crimes. He was not, therefore, killed as you too forcibly put it. You allege that he was hanged because the decree went forth from the Orange lodges. If this were the case Canada would not be a fit place to live in."

Consider that allegation utterly unfounded. In fact, mischievous in the extreme and capable of working incalculable harm in our Canadian Dominion.

Granted that certain lodges did go so far as to demand his execution. Granted that certain preachers in bloodthirsty outpourings may have called upon the Government to hang Riel. All this was cruel and diabolical. In ordinary cases, almost any citizen will sign a petition for clemency to offenders. We hear of philanthropic persons begging mercy for the most hardened criminals. It remained for the Black Watch of Peterborough and ministers of the gospel to resort to clamor for a man's blood! And you believe that their representations to the Cabinet had the effect of ensuring Riel's execution? What does such a statement imply? That in a Government containing six Catholics, three of them French-Canadians, two Irish Catholics, and one a distinguished member of our church from the province of Nova Scotia, our representatives were so terrorized by Orange influence that they stepped their hands in the blood of one of their fellow-creatures. Any one of the French-Canadian members of the Government who would have resigned on this question might have placed himself, by that simple act, at the head of his fellow-countrymen in the Dominion. Either the Irish or the French-Canadian members who, in handing in his resignation, would have declared that he did so because man was being doomed by Orange influence, would have had the whole of our people at his back, without exception. It was not, therefore, for the sake of popularity that the ministers referred to remained in office. Was it for the sake of emolument? Let us suppose for one moment that the minds of five Catholic ministers could be so depraved, that their hearts were so craven, that their love of the miserable \$7,000 per annum was so overpowering. What about the Hon. Frank Smith? He has no salary. He would not accept one. He is jointly responsible with every one of his colleagues for this act, and yet you would have us believe that for the sake of gratifying Orange lodges he consented to cover his name with infamy and to blast for ever a noble man's reputation for consistent courage and unswerving fidelity to his people. Such a pretension could hold. If you believe anything of the kind come out boldly in your journal;

to state that we have been mistaken in our battles heretofore waged for Catholic representation in the Cabinet, that the presence of Catholics, Irish or French, in the Government has been a delusion and a snare, resulting in greater humiliation than ever could have overtaken us were we absolutely at the mercy of Protestant influence. Orange dictation had nothing to do with Riel's fate. We must seek elsewhere for the solution of the problem. Allow me, for a moment, to direct your attention to the articles of the Toronto Globe on this question, from the day the indictment was framed at Regina (begin then, it will be instructive) until the unfortunate man's fate was sealed. Let us cast a glance over kindred sheets published in the Reform interest and what do we find? So un-patriotic, so partisan, so disreputable, was the conduct of those newspapers, that the Montreal Witness, personally and politically opposed to the Dominion Premier, opposed to his fiscal policy, to his railway policy, and to every measure that he has inaugurated within my memory, felt itself constrained to publish the following on 13th August last:—"We are inclined to stand by the Government in any position it may take in a matter in which it seems to be the object of some to embarrass it." Again, on the 11th September:—"So much has been done to embarrass the Government, and its position has been rendered so difficult, that we have already stated our intention to support it in whichever course it feels called upon to take." These statements so thoroughly aroused the ire of the Grit journals that their rage knew no bounds, and in reply to their ravings and partisan perversity, the Witness, on the 17th September, administered the following rebuke:—"There are journals so destitute of either heart or conscience as to be able to treat a question of life or death to a human being simply and solely as an opportunity for the manufacture of political capital. These journals, believing the Government of the day, to which they are politically opposed, to be between the horns of a dilemma with regard to the execution of Riel, are anxious only to keep themselves free to impale the Government upon whichever horn the action may throw it against. Their plan is to force upon its attention those considerations of political expediency which it is the Government's first duty to leave out of the question in making the decision. If the question of Riel's execution was one of conscience or of honor with them they would be found either opposing or advocating commutation. The only alternative for a conscientious journal is to seek to leave the Government as free from embarrassment as possible in order that its decision may be made on the highest grounds. They choose none of these courses. On the day they will show that the Government is as much, if not more, to blame than Riel for the insurrection in the North-West, and that it has confessed as much by its action. The next day they will dwell upon how Riel deserves death, in having rendered the sacrifices of the lives of so many young Canadians necessary, and they declare that the Government will, out of fear of their loss of supporters in this province, not dare to hang him. Whichever course the Government may choose, they will be free to choose, they will be wrong, and they will not maintain a fair and honest position. If the choice was made from wrong considerations, though the very considerations they will condemn are the ones they are pressing upon the Government. These journals are naturally very angry with an independent journal, which, while not afraid to express its own opinions upon the subject, is determined not to embarrass the Government."

You will perhaps imagine that I am about to ascribe the execution of Riel to the porosity of the course pursued by the Grit journals. In this you would be entirely mistaken. I am endeavoring to write in a non-partisan spirit, and I must candidly admit I do not think the course of these newspapers had any effect on the Government's decision. Another influential organ of public opinion has broadly hinted that the blundering of the Bleus had something to do with placing the fatal noose on Riel's neck. It is well known that the Quebec Conservative members urged the Government with all their might to spare the life of Riel if it were possible. I was one of those who did so. A certain number of members with whom I destined to act, however, judging, as I did, their course not only rash but justifiable, sent what amounted to a threatening telegram to the leader of the Government when the warrant of execution was on its way to Regina. On the 14th of November the Star published the following article on the telegram in question:—"Whatever remote chance Riel had of escape a week ago, he has, it is generally believed, lost now. The Government would be more or less than human if it altered its decision now, in the face of the open threats levelled against it by a number of the Government representatives of the province."

That these gentlemen made a mistake fatal to Riel, if Riel had any chance previously, it is admitted on all hands. If the Conservative members of the French Canadian press, were really interested in giving Riel his life, they could scarcely have employed a surer means to succeed than those they have used. By publishing their threats to the Premier, and by making such public avowal of holding him responsible for Riel's fate, they have most assuredly tightened the noose around the unfortunate man's neck. The telegram referred to was a blunder. Yet I know it had nothing to do with Riel's fate. Others have ascribed the failure of a reprieve to the rascality of the Rouges, who sought to make political capital out of the unfortunate Metis leader, and by their hypocritical movements set on foot counter action in the sister province. This seems plausible; but to be perfectly fair I must say that neither Orange bitterness, Grit perversity, Bleu blundering, nor Rouge rascality occasioned the execution of Riel. The true solution of this problem must be sought in the words of the venerable pastor of St. Patrick's church, Father Dowd, who stated in his memorable sermon, speaking of Riel, that as the leader of savage tribes and semi-civilized half-breeds, who had to be taught respect for the law and constituted authorities, the Government had taken the responsibility of making him suffer the death penalty." This was an unbiased and, I think, a statesmanlike view of the subject, and one that will commend itself to all who have never personal nor political purposes to serve in displacing the issue on this subject to grounds that are likely to produce sectional and sectarian animosities.

I have the honor to be, Rev. and dear sir, Your obt. servant, J. J. CURRAN.

COUGHS AND COLDS that we so frequently neglect, and which so often prove the seeds sown for a harvest of consumption, should have immediate and thorough treatment. A description of ROBINSON'S PHOSPHORIZED EMULSION taken over the Cough is transcribed, will relieve the patient, and persevered in, will effect a cure in the most obstinate cases.

VACCINATION

SOME OF ITS DANGERS AND THE METHOD OF AVOIDING THEM. I. A. Loveland, M.D., in Medical World. The vaccine virus is a person whose health had always been excellent and who had never had any kind of disease. The vaccine virus is a person whose health had always been excellent and who had never had any kind of disease. The vaccine virus is a person whose health had always been excellent and who had never had any kind of disease.

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Weekly-Review of Montreal-Wholesale Markets.

The movement has been moderate in all the principal lines. In some branches a fair holiday trade will be done about the middle of the month. As December is usually a quiet month, this year is not likely to prove an exception. Navigation is now thoroughly closed, and as the roads are in good state, holiday feeling is already gaining ground.

Flour.—During the past few days an improved enquiry was experienced for the best grades of winter-wheat flour, sales of superior in car lots being reported at \$4.25 to \$4.27, and of choice superior at \$4.40 to \$4.45. Stocks are light, and fresh receipts meet with ready sale at steady prices. We quote: Patents, Hungarian per bbl, \$5.50; do, American, \$5.50 to 5.75; do, Ontario, \$4.50 to 5.00; Strong Bakers', American, \$4.50 to 5; do, Manitoba, \$4.50 to 5; do, Canada, \$4.40 to 4.60; Superior Extra, \$4.20 to 4.25; do, choice, \$4.40 to 4.45; Extra Superior, \$4.15; Fancy, \$4.05 to \$4.10; Spring Extra, \$4 to 4.05; Superior, \$3.80 to 3.95; Fine, \$3.60 to 3.70; Middlings, \$3.40 to 3.50; Pollards, \$3.15 to 3.25; Ontario bags, strong, b.i., \$2 to \$2.05; do, spring extra, \$1.90 to 1.95; do, superfine, \$1.80 to 1.85; city bags, delivered, \$2.45.

Oatmeal.—A fair business has transpired in oatmeal, but at very irregular values. Granulated has a wide range, being quoted all the way from \$4.20 to \$4.50 per bbl. Crushed meal quiet at \$2.90 to \$3. Mealie \$2.3 to \$2.4.50 per ton. Pearl barley \$6 to \$6.55 per bbl. and pot barley \$4.25 per bbl. Split peas \$3.50 to \$3.75 per bbl.

Wheat.—Apart from sales of a few car lots for milling purposes there has been little or nothing done in this market since the close of navigation. Here prices are quoted as follows:—No. 2 red winter 93c to 95c; No. 2 spring 93c to 95c, and No. 2 white winter 91c to 92c.

Barley.—Advices from the West state that there is a growing scarcity of good six rowed barley, with a firm tendency in values. In this market sales have been made at 58c to 60c for choice two-rowed Lower Canada. Prices here are quoted at 55c to 60c for malting descriptions and 48c to 50c for feed.

Buckwheat.—The enquiry is by no means urgent, whilst offerings are fair, and prices range from 48c to 48c per bush. Some holders ask 50c.

Small lot of rye was offered at 67c; values range from 65c to 67c per bushel. Milled.—Sales of bran have been made since last report at \$13.25 to \$13.50 in car lots and some now refuse to sell at under \$14.00 per ton. Shorts sell all the way from \$15.00 to \$18.00 as to quality.

Business at the moment is limited, and prices are unchanged at 75c to 80c for Toronto, and at 80c to 90c for Montreal in bond.

The principal business is now done in the country, on through rates of freight to Liverpool via Portland. Here the market is dull and prices are easy at 70c to 72c, the sale of a car lot being reported at 70c.

GENERAL MARKETS.

HIDES.—The market is decidedly firmer as the scarcity of supplies becomes more apparent. Here prices are:—No. 1 Toronto 10c to 10 1/2; No. 2 do 9 1/2 to 9 3/4; No. 1 Hamilton 10c; No. 2 do 9c. Chicago Buff 10 1/2 to 11c; Bulls, 8c to 8 1/2c. Green butchers, 9c to 9 1/2c.

LEATHER.—The advance in sole leather appears to be well maintained, and a rise in the price of stock has already taken place in some lines. Prices are as follows:—Ordinary No. 1 sole leather 22c to 23c per lb. Choice 11. A sole 24c to 26c. Waxed upper 32c to 38c as to quality, and splits 22c to 23c.

SOAP.—There has been some speculative sales of refined tallow lately, some 2,000 bbls having changed hands at 6 1/2c to 6 3/4c per lb, most of which have gone into stores. For lot of 100 bbls 6 1/2c to 6 3/4c are the quoted rates. Yellows have met with fair enquiry for the season at 5 1/2c to 6c as to quality.

MOLASSES.—There is no change in this market, Barbadoes being still quoted at 29c to 30c, and Trinidad at 23c to 26c as to quality and size of lot.

SALT.—The last cargo has been shipped by rail to different points, and stocks being all in store winter prices have been fixed as follows:—Eleven 55c; twelve 52c; factory-filled \$1.15 to \$1.20; Ashton's and Eureka \$2.40; Turks Island 30c per bushel; rock salt 40c per cwt, special quotations for ton lots.

TORONTO WHOLESALE MARKETS. A quiet trade is reported in commercial circles for the past week. The weather has been somewhat unsettled, and the movement is restricted, partly owing to the bad condition of country roads. Preparations are being made for a good Christmas trade.

Butter.—The market remains very dull, with prices heavy. The chief demand is for small lots of choice city, which sell at 15c to 16c. Medium lots at 11c to 12c, and inferior 8c to 9c. Eggs are said to be slightly easier, with moderate demand. Dealers are paying 20c per dozen for fresh, and selling pickled at 17c. Cheese is quiet and unchanged; a moderate business at 9 1/2c for the 1st September make and 8 1/2c for second quality.

Flour and Grain.—The demand for flour is restricted, and prices heavy. Superior extras are offering at \$3.80, and extras at \$3.70 without transactions. Wheat is also dull and demoralized. There is a slight decline in prices; little business being done in Manitoba wheat, No. 1 hard selling at \$1 to \$1.05, and No. 2 at 97c to 98c. Barley has been less active; prices were a shade easier. Oats are quiet and steady, with sales of car lots at 33c on track. Pans are firm. Eye sells at 60c on track. Oatmeal is firm. Bran in moderate demand and firm.

Groceries.—A fair trade is reported in this branch of business. Sugars are quiet and steady; Canadian refined at 5 1/2c to 6 1/2c, and granulated 6 1/2c to 7c. Teas are in fair demand for mediums. Fruits continue firm; Valencia 9c. Fish steady; trout \$3.40 to \$3.60; white \$1, and codfish \$3.75.

THE ACME MOCCASIN

Having been appointed sole agent for Montreal for the newly patented ACME MOCCASIN, we beg to place them before the public as the very latest improvement to foot gear for Winter Sports. They are a decided improvement on the old style, and will doubtless be fully appreciated. The ACME MOCCASIN is made in best quality of Moose Skin only.

S. CARSLY, Sole Agent for Montreal for the newly patented ACME MOCCASIN, we beg to place them before the public as the very latest improvement to foot gear for Winter Sports. They are a decided improvement on the old style, and will doubtless be fully appreciated. The ACME MOCCASIN is made in best quality of Moose Skin only.

MANTLE SALE! MANTLE SALE! MANTLE SALE! MANTLE SALE! S. Carsley's Great Cheap Sale of New Winter Mantles at Fifty Cents in the Dollar, begins every morning at NINE O'CLOCK.

DRESS GOODS SALE! DRESS GOODS SALE! DRESS GOODS SALE! DRESS GOODS SALE! S. Carsley's sale of New Winter Dress Goods at reduced prices begins every morning at NINE O'CLOCK.

S. CARSLY, 1765, 1767, 1769, 1771, 1773, 1775 and 1777, NOTRE DAME STREET, MONTREAL.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL. Superior Court No. 1206. Dame Genevieve Luciani, of the city of Montreal, in the District of Montreal, wife of Auguste Luciani, trader of the same place, duly authorized a referee in law, Plaintiff, vs. the said Auguste Luciani, Defendant. An action for separation as to property has been instituted in this court. Montreal, December 4, 1885. DUBAILLÉ, RAINVILLE & MARCHEL, Attorneys for Plaintiff. 18-5

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL. Superior Court No. 1214. Dame Marie Lavigne, of the city of Montreal, in the District of Montreal, wife of Pierre Rodier, merchant of the same place, duly authorized a referee in law, Plaintiff, vs. the said Pierre Rodier, Defendant. An action for separation as to property has been instituted in this court. Montreal, December 4, 1885. DUBAILLÉ, RAINVILLE & MARCHEL, Attorneys for Plaintiff. 18-5

WEBSTER In various styles of binding, with and without Patent Index. JUST ADDED A NEW PRONOUNCING GAZETTEER OF THE WORLD, Containing over 25,000 titles, describing the Countries, Cities, Towns, and Natural Features of every part of the Globe.

BIRTH. ELANAGAN.—On 2nd December, at No. 155 St. George street, Mrs. M. M. J. Elanagan of a daughter. 18-1

MARRIED. MACKIN—KENNEDY.—In this city, on the 28th November, at St. Joseph's Church, by Rev. Father McCarthy, P. M., John Mackin to Miss Julia Kennedy, both of this city. 18-2

DIED. HAWKINS.—At Quebec, on the 27th Nov., 1885, Mary Tompkinson, relict of M. Hawkins. 18-1

MULLIN.—In this city, on December 1th, Charles Mullin, aged 33 years. 18-1

MYLER.—At Quebec, on December 1st, James Myler, cutter, aged 67. 18-1

WILKINSON.—In this city, on the 1st inst., Wm. Wilkinson, aged 62 years. 18-1

MARTIN.—At Quebec, on the 6th inst., Eliza Barry, widow of the late Henry Martin. 18-1

DELANEY.—At Quebec, on the 1st December, Catherine O'Rourke, beloved wife of John Delaney. 18-1

FENNELL.—At Tadoussac, on the 3rd inst., James Fennell, a native of Tipperary, Ireland, and late proprietor of the Tadoussac Hotel, 18-3

KIELY.—In this city, on Dec. 1st, Martin P. Kiely, aged 83 years, a native of Cahireen, County Kerry, Ireland. 18-1

O'CONNOR.—At Quebec, on the 5th inst., Ellen Kennedy, aged 66 years, beloved wife of Edward O'Connor. 18-1

LARKIN.—In this city, on Saturday, December 5, of membrane croup, William Robert, eldest son of Thos. Larkin, aged 3 years and 2 days. 18-1

LEYDEN.—At Quebec, on the 26th Nov., Mary Duffy, aged 59 years, a native of the County Leitrim, Ireland, and beloved wife of John Leyden. 18-1

DOBBIN.—At Quebec, on Sunday, the 6th December, Mary Seymour, aged 73 years, widow of the late Patrick Dobbins, of Her Majesty's Customs. 18-1

HALPIN.—In this city, on Nov. 30th, Johanna Walsh, aged 73 years, relict of the late John Halpin, railroad contractor, and mother of J. H. Halpin and W. W. Halpin, of the firm of Dumaine & Halpin. 18-1

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