

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1889

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 27, St. Landre. THURSDAY, Feb. 28, Ste. Honorine. FRIDAY, March 1, St. Anne.

A Possible Coup d'Etat.

A few days ago the Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto Mail informed the public that a rumor was "floating about the corridors of the House of Commons" that a resolution will be submitted in both Houses inviting the oldest son of the Prince of Wales to visit Canada as early as a date as would be convenient for him.

Reports to the same effect appeared at the same time in a number of American papers, with the further information that the movement was intended to offset the feeling, rapidly growing throughout the country, in favor of Annexation, and to help the Tory party in the general election, which, it is said, will be sprung upon the country shortly afterwards.

The Irish are as loyal as any class in Canada, but they are not Imperialists. A son of the Prince of Wales, a grandson of Queen Victoria, sits no feeling in the Irish heart save unpleasant memories.

Canada, as a people, may be excused for not allowing their feelings of loyalty to be affected by these things, and they would doubtless extend to the princely visitor a welcome worthy his exalted rank and their own spirit of hospitality.

But, apart from the Irish view of the suggestion, the idea of diverting popular sentiment, by a device so whimsical, is anything but flattering to the manliness and good sense of our whole people.

It is quite possible that the astute head of the federal ministry is convinced that to divert the popular sentiment is only another way of bringing about annexation, and has resolved upon a coup d'etat. It will not have

been forgotten that in the first draft of the Act of Confederation he styled this "The Kingdom of Canada," and only consented to the substitution of "Dominion" for "Kingdom" at the urgent request of certain of his colleagues, backed by the British ministry of the day.

The royal family is getting inconveniently numerous, not to mention its Hesses, Battenbergs, and we can imagine with what satisfaction this good little mother at Windsor, who, like Madame Marlon Opossum in the story book, has so many children on her back, would hail the transfer of a portion of her burden to the backs of Canadian taxpayers.

We have not created this formidable dream of statecraft from our unaided imagination. A dissolution and general election is not only possible but probable. The signs of the times are ominous for the Tories.

Thus a coup d'etat of most imposing dimensions is looming up within this very year. If the people of Canada would save themselves from being forever enslaved to the hideous European dynasty, military, aristocratic, class system, they must be warned in time, and prepared to resist a deep-laid scheme which a wily, unscrupulous man with towering selfish ambition would saddle upon them before he dies.

It must not be forgotten that always before going to the country Sir John Macdonald has contrived to get up a religious furore. Invariably his emissaries on platform, pulpit and press have raised the Protestant cry. At present the Jesuits' Bill has furnished a convenient pretext, and the howl goes echoing through the land.

England, America, Canada.

England's supremacy as a maritime and colonizing power has been rarely called in question by recent events in Samoa. It is not that England has deteriorated either in power or enterprise, but that Germany has risen to a position where she can challenge equality with the British in distant seas and uncivilized countries.

But the peculiarity of the present situation is the humiliating position England has been compelled to take at Zanzibar and Samoa, where her navy has played a very subordinate part.

humiliations at the hands of Bismarck which should make Englishmen feel ashamed, which has aroused the English press to strong expressions of disgust at the evident timidity of the Tory Ministry, and which have given foreigners the idea that British power and spirit have greatly declined from the historic standard.

Be this as it may, the grand fact now established is that "Britannia rules the waves" no longer. The fleets of France and Italy are fast rising to an equality with hers, and Germany is making prodigious efforts to raise her naval strength to an equality with that of her military greatness.

Thus it is plain that the rise of Germany marks, if it does not involve the decadence of England, henceforth England must learn more and more on the friendship of America, whether it has long been evident the spirit of enterprise, expansion and conquest has emigrated from the British Isles.

The considerations suggested by these well-supported views of the position of England will show anyone who takes the trouble to think them out how singularly unwise is the policy of irritation incessantly pursued by the Macdonald ministry in Canada. The military authority quoted in our last issue has demonstrated how absolutely the Dominion is at the mercy of the United States in the event of war.

Thus the two things most needed for the preservation of British power at the present time are the overthrow of the Tory ministry of Lord Salisbury in England and the defeat of the Macdonald administration in Canada. To the accomplishment of this twin purpose the Liberal party of England and the Liberal party of Canada are now patriotically devoted.

Drive the Tories from power in England! Drive the Tories from power in Canada!

A Ringing Resolution.

The Home Rule resolution placed before the House of Commons by Herman Cook is conceived in the highest spirit and expressed with profound sagacity. It reads as follows:

That the Parliament of Canada, in the year 1887, adopted a humble address to Her Majesty, expressing the hope that a just measure of home rule should be granted to the people of Ireland, and that in the year 1888, by resolution of the House of Commons, the sentiment of that address to the Queen was earnestly reiterated, and the hope again expressed that such a measure of home rule would be passed by the Imperial Parliament.

That in the year 1887, by resolution of the House of Commons, profound regret was expressed at the introduction of a Coercion Bill for Ireland into the Imperial House of Commons, and a hope was expressed that a measure substitutive of the rights and liberties of Her Majesty's subjects in Ireland might not become law, and the further hope was expressed that instead of the Coercion Bill a substantial measure for home rule would be granted to Ireland.

That this House has learned with profound regret that no measure of Home Rule has yet been granted to Ireland, but that the rights and liberties of Her Majesty's subjects in Ireland have been subverted by the Coercion Bill against which this House protested in the year 1887.

ent rejection of the Fisheries and Extradition treaties and militates powerfully against such amicable settlement of all matters in dispute between Canada and the United States as would promote in a high degree the welfare of Her Majesty's subjects in this Dominion.

No clearer terms could be chosen elsewhere to express the disgust of the Canadian Parliament with the disgraceful conduct of the English government. It contains a censure, a rebuke and a warning. Canada has suffered enormously through the cruel, vindictive, short-sighted policy of the Tories towards Ireland, and it may be truly said that the strained relations now existing between the Dominion and the United States are largely owing to that policy.

We can well believe, as reported from Ottawa, that the resolution was drafted by Mr. Blake, and will have the unanimous support of the Liberal party. Possibly before this paper reaches the hands of subscribers the matter will have been debated and a vote taken. But writing in advance, we can well imagine the furious opposition the resolution will receive from "trooly lolal" members on the government side of the house.

But what satisfies us most is the proof the resolution gives of the earnestness and determination of the Liberal party to strengthen the hands of Mr. Gladstone, the Liberals and the Home Rulers on the eve of the reassembling of the British parliament. Even should the resolution be defeated, the fact that the Liberal party of Canada has taken so bold and aggressive an attitude towards the government of England on the broad ground of Canadian right to protest against a policy inimical to British interests on the continent, will in itself have a profound effect on English public opinion and swell the tide of popular disapproval now rising against the Conservatives.

We do not, however, anticipate defeat, unless, indeed, Sir John Macdonald is prepared to take the life of his ministry in hand with the certainty of losing it. The resolution offers a crucial test of his sincerity, for neither he nor his apologists can plead in palliation of their desertion of the Irish cause that it is a dodge of the Liberals to catch the Irish vote. A general election is far off unless the government by its own act precipitates a dissolution, and the whole aspect of the question is more than likely to be changed before the end of three years.

Federation vs. Reciprocity.

Alarmed at the growth of public sentiment in favor of Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States, emissaries of the Macdonald government have been busy endeavoring to boom Imperial Federation as a sort of counter-irritant. The ministry as a whole is not committed to the scheme which is as yet one of the most nebulous imaginable. Even its most pronounced advocates are unable to agree on any practical programme.

Confederation has not been a success. It has simply enabled a set of politicians and speculators to amass enormous fortunes by getting control of the virgin resources of half a continent and borrowing unlimited sums on the strength of them. A few cities have been benefited by having the industries formerly scattered throughout the country concentrated under combinations of capital.

Sir John Macdonald is credited with saying that there is no use in arguing in favor of reciprocity, because the United States will not grant it. Precisely the same may be said of Imperial Federation. There is no use advocating it because England will not entertain it. And England will not entertain it because she will not tax her food supplies for the benefit of the colonies.

gives them an exclusive monopoly of our markets. Surely, if there is a policy which could make the "mother country hate her colonies it is this."

The same writer goes farther and shows how utterly impractical any scheme would be which should involve restriction on British trade. His reasoning on this point is conclusive.

Suppose, he writes, "that we (England) have excluded the United States corn from our market, and that Canada has admitted English goods freely to her market, what will be the condition of things? The United States may leave things alone. In that case, England will find herself suffering from insufficient supplies, from a contracted market for her goods, and from the new competition in manufactures which she will have forced upon the United States.

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This hard-headed way of dealing with the question from an English point of view must convince all sensible men of the absurdity of Imperial Federation. It does not satisfy the first demands of common sense and dissolves into moonshine when submitted to analysis. With regard to the alternative proposition of Reciprocity with the States, Sir J. H. Farrar is not less clear than in the passage already quoted: "It may be all very well to say," he remarks, "as a matter of theory, that when nations are divided by great natural barriers, such as hundred of leagues of sea or mountain, there is all the more reason for abolishing artificial barriers. But this is not the way in which the facts present themselves to the ordinary mind. I feel the need of dealing freely with my neighbor across the street long before I understand that the same exists need for freedom in my dealings with an alien in China. It was by the obvious absurdity of an artificial barrier between Surrey and Middlesex that Cobden brought home to men's minds the much less obvious absurdity of an artificial barrier between England and France. If, therefore, any strong case arises again, such as an approach to commercial union between Canada and the United States, or between any of the Australian colonies and their neighbors, we take it for granted that the one principle of equal treatment, which we have hitherto maintained, will give way, and that in this, as in other matters of taxation, the colonies will exercise and enjoy complete self-government."

The Curse of Cromwell.

Mr. Gladstone's letter, read at a Liberal meeting in Edinburgh the other day, protesting against Mr. O'Brien and other members of Parliament being imprisoned for acts called crimes in Ireland, but which were not crimes in England, voices the revolt of humanity everywhere against the brutal persecution by which so many Irish representatives are made to suffer.

Such tyranny is unknown outside Russia, and covers the name of England with disgrace, and turns the boast of British liberty and fair play into a scoff and a reproach. The gentlemen now languishing in felon cells by orders of the most cold-blooded scoundrel that ever blotted the record of Ireland's wrongs—in saying that we exhaust the terms by which infamy can be described—are among the best, the purest, the most brilliant patriots of modern times. Yet upon them are heaped all the personal indignities, all the physical and mental suffering and torture the lazzard, dandified miscreant Balfour dare inflict. No man of generous impulses can read the reports of these horrors, curtly labelled to the press as matters of daily occurrence, without feeling his blood boil with indig-

ignation and wrath. How perfectly Byron's lines on Castlereagh apply to Balfour:

"Cold-blooded, smooth-faced, pliant miscreant! Dabbling in sleek young bloods in Erin's name, And then for a richer carnage sought to roam, Resolved to sleep upon a sister state, The vilest root that ever sprung from earth, With just as freedom, of wisdom, and as more The language fathers by another day, And other poison long already mixed."

Here in the blaze of the closing years of nineteenth century civilization, under the government of a nation that boasts of leading the van of nations in freedom, enlightenment and christianity, mankind is challenged to witness exhibitions of dastard power that would add a shade of infamy to the reputation of an Ivan or a Caligula. Hence, the people of England who took to their liberty-loving hearts a Kosuth, a Mazzini, a Garibaldi, who chased a Haynau for his life through London streets, who spent millions to free the slaves of the West Indies, drove the "unspeakable Turk" out of Bulgaria, have they no bowels of compassion for their Irish fellow-beings, no anger against the men who are defiling the nation with shame, horror and bloodguiltiness in their name?

Twenty millions with Irish blood in their veins are looking on with set teeth and clenched hands. The sneering Salisbury and his lapping nephew little know the pent-up wrath that is ready to burst upon their devoted heads and the heads of the bleary Jews and beery scoundrels who cheer them on in their unholy work. If they but knew what lies behind the calm that sits on the front of the Irish movement—

they would turn sick and dizzy from a task that human power is incapable of performing. But fortunately for them and happily for England, the conscience of the British nation has been touched by Gladstone, Scotland has spoken with trumpet voice, Wales has echoed the cry, and the indignant masses but await, as they have been trained, the constitutional opportunity to vindicate the British name from the foul stain put upon it by a tyrannical ministry and renegade parliament.

Nothing but the certainty that the end is near keeps the peace. But for the final disposition of those who have prolonged the agony let the future tell.

"The will of God is slow, They grind both great and small."

LITERARY REVIEW.

DONALDSON'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE for March is rich in its table of contents. We merely mention a few of the principal articles. The Nun of Kenmare, an autobiography, an article that deals leniently with Miss Cusack and her curious book; Peter McCorry's the reviewer. Some Thoughts on Passant, by Thomas Hamilton Murray, of interest to all readers; The Paralytic, by the Grace the Archbishop of Philadelphia, will be read with avidity; The Biographical Sketches of the Deceased Bishops of the United States commences with its first Bishop, Carroll. These articles, prepared by William Collins, will run through several numbers. An interesting history of "Margaret," a charitable woman of New Orleans, with an illustration of a monument erected to her memory. Light for those in Darkness gives some account of the recent Colored Congress; the address of Cardinal Gibbons' lecture. There are besides in prose and poetry, twenty-six articles, on as many different subjects, besides the event of the month. One dollar for six months. Address, DONALDSON'S MAGAZINE, BOSTON, MASS.

THE AMERICAN CATHOLIC QUARTERLY REVIEW, Philadelphia: Hardy & Mahony, Publishers and Proprietors, Philadelphia: January, 1889.

This number of the American Catholic Quarterly Review opens with an article on "Land and Labor in France and the United States," by Mgr. Bernard O'Reilly, D.D. The title of the second article is "Savonarola," by "P." This article is a plain statement of the actual facts connected with "Savonarola's" career and execution. It clearly shows that he owed his downfall and death to the section of political causes together with his own impetuous zeal. "Scripture Poetry" is the subject of an article by Rev. Anthony J. Mass, S. J. It is a critical discussion of the mythical structure and laws of the Hebrews and the poetical parts of Sacred Scripture. "Lulworth Chapel, Bishop Carroll and Bishop Walmesley," by Rev. Thos. L. Kelley, is a paper which gives a number of very interesting details connected with the Episcopal consecration of Right Reverend John Carroll, first Bishop of Baltimore, at Lulworth Chapel, Dorsetshire, England, by Bishop Walmesley, assisted by the Reverend Charles Plowden and the Reverend James Porter, on the Feast of the Assumption, in 1790. "The Last Four Years in Belgium," 1790 "The remarkable change which has been achieved in Belgium, in favor of the rights of the people, home rule, tolerance social order and religion." "Bostonian Ignorance of Catholic Doctrine" is the subject of an article by John Gilmary Shea, LL.D. "The Progress and Significance of the Parnell Commission," by John Boyle O'Reilly. "The Year 1888—A Retrospect and a Prospect," by A. De G. "The so called Problem of Evil," by A. De G. "The eleventh article is an exhibit, by Brother Barbara, of St. Vincent de Paul, on the subject of "What the Language of the Catholic Church." The Scientific Chronicle, by Rev. D. O'Sullivan, S. J., describes several forms of new and more perfect phonographs, points out uses to which it may be practically applied and suggests some methods by which it can perhaps be still further improved. The latter pages of the Review are occupied as usual with critical notices of a number of important publications.

The article most interesting to Canadians is on "The Canadian Separate School System," by D. A. O'Sullivan, LL.D. (Laval). This paper is worthy of careful study not only by Catholics, but also by the increasing number of non-Catholics who see that the Public School System is constantly becoming more irreligious, with consequent injury to the morals of the children who are educated under that system. The writer of the paper sketches the history and provisions of the legislation of Canada respecting education, and leaves his readers to draw his own conclusions from the facts he presents. The population of Canada is almost equally divided among Catholics, Anglicans and Protestants. Under English legislation, the Catholics, the Episcopalians, and the Presbyterians were recognized as having certain distinctive legal rights, and certain endowments or grants for