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EDITORS: REV. GEORGE R. NORRISGRAVES, Author of "Mistakes of Modern India."

THOMAS COFFEY, Publisher and Proprietor, THOMAS COFFEY, Messrs. LEON KING, JOHN NICHOL, P. J. NEVEN and W. A. NIXON, are joint authors.

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THE MANITOBA QUESTION.

There still remains some doubt as to the course which will be pursued by the Dominion Government in regard to the Manitoba School Law.

It is not that there is any doubt regarding what is due to the Catholic minority. It is conceded that the Manitoba Act, by which the Dominion Parliament made the territory into a Province, expressly reserved the control of education for the purpose of giving security to the population, Catholic and Protestant, that the rights of denominational education which they then enjoyed, should not be taken from them.

But when on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., the question was put to the Government whether it is their intention to introduce remedial legislation during the present session, the Hon. Mr. Foster answered on behalf of the Government that the reply of Manitoba to the remedial order had been received only that morning, and that there had as yet been no meeting of the Government to consider the matter.

He promised, however, that there would be an announcement made of the policy to be followed, as soon as a decision can be made regarding the course to be pursued.

On Wednesday Mr. Dalton McCarthy again questioned the Government, and received the similar reply from Mr. Foster, to the effect:

"I think my honorable friend is very insistent. It was only yesterday that I told him we had received the documents from Manitoba. This morning, for the first time, they were laid before the Council. We cannot prepare legislation quite so fast as that."

We could not expect that a bill could be prepared quite so rapidly as Mr. McCarthy seems to expect; yet, as the matter has been so long under consideration, we feel that the Government should, with the least possible delay, announce its policy in the matter.

The Catholics of Manitoba have now been suffering for five years under the injustice which has been inflicted on them, and a remedy for their grievance should be applied with the least possible delay; and as the Government ought to know the course which ought to be followed, any long delay in the matter will be very vexatious.

We believe it to be the duty of the Government to take action, as the question is one of public policy, affecting the rights of both Catholics and Protestants in the Western Province, and in Ontario and Quebec as well. We should be informed, without unnecessary delay, whether it is the intention of the Government to maintain the authority, and duty of the Dominion to see justice done to minorities in all the Provinces where there are separate school laws.

Mr. Dalton McCarthy is also very anxious that an announcement be made of the Government's policy on the question. He, no doubt, imagines the situation will give him the opportunity he has long been seeking to form an anti-Catholic party in the House of Commons, and it is stated that he has remained in his seat in Parliament, at great personal inconvenience, for no other reason than this, as he has been employed to attend a case which is to come up before the British Privy Council.

It is not often that Mr. McCarthy allows his public duties as a member of the House of Commons to interfere with his professional occupations, so it may be inferred that he considers the present the golden opportunity for him to increase his present following of one. His hurry in endeavoring to have the Government speak out at once is explained by the fact that if the decision should be that there shall be no remedial legislation during the present session, he will be able to make his trip to England. It would appear to be a feature of Mr. McCarthy's policy to make the public business a secondary matter to his personal convenience, just as, according to his own admission, it was owing to a personal pique that he formed his "third party" in the first instance.

It is now being maintained by some that the Bill of Rights which was sent by the people of Manitoba to Ottawa as the basis of the agreement by which the Northwestern Province entered into the Dominion, contained no provision regarding Separate schools.

This position is taken by Attorney-General Sifton, of Manitoba, and the Toronto Globe, though the last named does not assert that redress should not be granted. Both, however, take the ground that the matter is one altogether within the right of the majority to legislate upon as they see fit.

We maintain that quite independently of any agreement it is the natural right and duty of parents to educate their children in the way they should go, and therefore to secure for them a religious education without obstacle from any quarter. We maintain that if the State, or the majority of any Province, attempts by law to impose a double tax upon parents who endeavor to fulfil their natural obligation of educating their children religiously, it is an unjust law, violating the distributive justice with which laws should be enacted. We maintain that the State, by such interference, goes beyond the sphere of duty which belongs to it, and infringes upon the rights of individuals just as much as if it insisted upon the people supporting and attending a State Church.

We therefore hold that the Manitoba school law of 1890 is essentially unjust, ungenerous and tyrannical, even if it transgressed no special agreement or treaty.

But concerning the existence of an agreement there is no shadow of doubt. The Dominion Parliament framed the Manitoba Act on that agreement, with which it has been proved to coincide clause by clause.

The Bill of Rights sent by the people of Manitoba for acceptance by the Dominion Government has been lost by some accident. Most probably it has been stolen from the archives for the express purpose of weakening the cause of the Catholic minority, for it was used with effect when the case of the minority was before the Supreme Court of Canada. But though the original was lost, the copies of it were not lost, and there is a copy in the Department of Justice, and this is quoted as containing the clause on education to the effect that the schools of the Province shall be separate schools, on the basis of the school laws of Quebec.

This clause is referred to in the decision of the Imperial Privy Council, and it has been declared both by Archbishop Tache and Father Riehot that it was in the original Bill of Rights on which the people of Manitoba insisted before they would agree to enter into the Dominion.

We do not enter here into a discussion on the right or wrong of the first Northwestern insurrection, when the terms of the territory were agreed to. It is now generally admitted that the original settlers had substantial reason to suspect the good faith and honesty of many of the Canadians who were waiting for an opportunity to squat upon their lands and to ride rough shod over the "French and half-breeds," especially. However, the Bill of Rights was not intended as a protection merely for the French and half-breeds, but for all the original settlers; and to all appearances the education clause was intended rather as a protection to Protestants, who then constituted the minority, though afterward they became the majority. To repudiate the agreement now would be equivalent to the contention that Catholics are the only class of citizens in favor of whom no constitutional guarantees ought to be observed.

The question at stake is one which affects the good faith, honesty and honor of the people of Canada, and it is the duty of the Government first of all to see that the engagements of the country are carried out. It is only in case the Government should be derelict in this duty that it should devolve upon any private member to move for redress by remedial legislation.

We have not yet, perhaps, valid reason to suppose that the Government will neglect its duty, but we know that there is a large amount of pressure being brought to bear to induce them to let the Manitoba majority have its own way. We have no right to assume that they will yield to such influences. Their promises have been to the effect that they will not be deterred by any threats from performing their duty. With the backing they have in the House of Commons, it is within their power to do what they well know ought to be done, and the time has come when they should pronounce and act with decision. If they do not do

this, we trust a Government can be formed which will do its duty. In the meantime, should the Government abdicate its functions by throwing its obligations to the shoulders of private individuals, we trust that there are private members in the House who will not shirk their duty, but will bring forward a bill to relieve the aggrieved Catholic minority at the earliest possible moment.

THE PENDING CONTEST IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Salisbury's Government is now fully enthroned in power, and the two great parties in England are preparing for the election campaign, which will now begin at once. It is said that Her Majesty, the Queen, who has never favored the Irish Home Rule policy, is highly pleased at the return of the Conservative party to power, as she never was reconciled to the advent of the Liberal Government, though she yielded to the necessity of the case in calling it to office.

In the return of the Conservatives to power there is small hope of any policy of conciliation toward Ireland, and it is possible that there will be a return to the old policy of coercion which was tried under Lord Salisbury's regime before, but succeeded only in embittering the people of Ireland. It is certain that the new Government is bitterly opposed to Ireland and to granting any concession to the wishes of the Irish people, and thus the only present hope for Ireland is in the general election which is to take place. There could scarcely be a stronger evidence of the will of the new Government toward Ireland than the selection of Mr. T. W. Russell, the Ulster Liberal-Unionist member for Tyrone, for the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board. Mr. Russell has been one of the most violent opponents of Irish Home Rule, and an upholder of the policy of coercion in its worst form, though there were times, while the Salisbury Government was in power before, when he threatened to go into opposition because that Government persistently withheld the rights of the Irish tenantry to the fruits of their own labor.

It is difficult to say whether the installation of Mr. Russell in office signifies that the new Government will be more moderate in its treatment of Ireland than it was before, or that Mr. Russell will be more tractable than formerly in supporting the brutal treatment of Ireland, for which the previous Government of Lord Salisbury was remarkable. It is to be feared that the latter is the state of the case. Though Orangism is predominant in Tyrone, Mr. Russell's constituency, the people of that county, are not so blind as not to see clearly enough that the recognition of the rights of tenants is necessary for their welfare, as well as for more Catholic sections of Ireland, and Mr. Russell owes his election to the fact that he has managed to persuade them that his support of a Tory Government is consistent with the zeal with which he professes to uphold the interests of the people.

The calculation was at first that the polling for the elections which are now to take place would begin on July 15, and that within ten days thereafter they would all be ended. But the date has been deferred a few days, to enable the Government to obtain supplies.

As is usual just before an election, the quidnuncs are busy making forecasts of what is going to occur, and most of them assert very positively that the new Government will be sustained by a compact majority, though it is not generally asserted that it will be large. Some of those who assume to be well informed predict that the majority will be about 40, while a few others more sanguine say it will reach 100 or 120. It appears to be most likely that it will be close to the smallest figure, if the Government succeed at all in gaining a majority, and there are not wanting close observers who are of opinion that the Liberals will hold their own. It is generally conceded that they will lose some seats in Scotland, but in Wales, where only three seats are now held by supporters of Lord Salisbury, it is probable that two of these will be gained by the Liberals, and Ireland will certainly be true to the Nationalist party. If it were not for the unfortunate split in the Nationalist camp, dividing it into two factions, there would be no doubt that Ireland would give a powerful phalanx to the Liberal side; but even as the case stands, it is fully expected that there will be at least 72, as at present, and probably 75, who will give a faithful support to the Liberals, if they

are faithful to their pledge to support Ireland's claim to Home Rule, and there is little doubt that this will be the case. Lord Rosebery, himself, in a speech delivered in London, on the 2nd inst., declared that in reference to the House of Lords the policy of the Liberals is unchanged. With that House opposed to all legitimate reform, he said, it was impossible for the late Government to pass much needed measures, but the Liberal party will fight the coming battle on the issue of diminishing the power of the Lords to impede useful legislation. He stated that his Government was pledged to the policy of a reform of the House of Lords, and that the party will adhere to that pledge.

Though Home Rule is not specifically mentioned in the short report of his speech which was transmitted by cable, it is implied in this that the party will be faithful to its pledges on this matter also, for the principal measures which were impeded by the Lords were those of Home Rule and Welsh disestablishment. A reform in the legislative status of the House of Lords is necessary for the passage of both these measures, and the Liberals have not lost hope that the electorate will sustain them in carrying out this reform.

The Tories profess to rely much on an increase of their strength in the English constituencies, but it is not at all certain that their expectations will be realized. In Lancashire they will probably make gains; but though they rely also on considerable gains in the city of London, it is extremely doubtful that they will meet with the success they anticipate there.

The Liberal strength was reduced by the bye-elections held during the last three years, but the losses were not so great as to make them despondent. They amounted to only five seats. This was enough to make their position precarious, with the small majority with which they entered into office, but it is not enough to indicate that in a House of 670 members they will be in a hopeless minority. On the other hand, notwithstanding the confidence of the Tories that they will make large gains in London, there is a fair prospect that the gains will be the other way, in which case it is not at all impossible or improbable that the Liberals will be called to resume anew the seals of office.

It is certain that there will be a hard fought battle, and it would be premature to predict on whose banners victory will perch. Should the Tories win, the concession of justice to Ireland will be deferred, but if such be the case the Nationalists need not give themselves up to despair. Undoubtedly they will continue to demand the rights of the Irish nation until they succeed in gaining their just cause.

A SNEAK PLOT BAULKED.

We mentioned some months ago the cowardly attack made by the A. P. A. of Auburndale, Mass., on Miss Louise Imogen Guiney, a Catholic lady who was appointed postmistress of that town. The position was given to Miss Guiney, not only on account of her own talents, but also in recognition of the bravery of her father, Brigadier Gen. Guiney, whose services were several times rewarded by the United States Government by his being promoted from one degree to another until he attained the high military position he occupied till his death.

Miss Guiney herself is a graceful writer, and her poems were frequently published in the New York Independent, which was one of the first journals to denounce the tyranny under which the A. P. A. attempted to crush her: attempted—but miserably failed.

The endeavor came in the shape of a conspiracy to boycott Miss Guiney in the sale of postage stamps! A small business truly for patriotic Americans to practice against the daughter of a valiant soldier of the United States!

Our readers may remember that we stated that the salary of \$1,700 per annum, paid to Miss Guiney, depended upon the sale of postage stamps in her office, and the purpose of the A. P. A. was to lessen the sales so that the salary might be diminished. But when the meanness was exposed, Catholics and Protestants alike from all parts of the United States sent their orders for postage stamps to Miss Guiney in order to foil the attempt at boycott, and this was done especially from those localities where the post-masters were Apapists, and now so successfully has the A. P. A. effort been foiled that the announcement is made that Miss Guiney's salary is to be \$2,400 per annum.

May all the plots of the A. P. A. be just as successful as this one.

War upon women is a favorite pastime of the A. P. A. It was a war upon women which they inaugurated in Kansas city a few weeks ago, and which has been denounced by the citizens in a public meeting held only a few days ago. In this case the women attacked were school teachers. Such is the chivalry of the nineteenth century!

A WORD TO OUR BRETHEREN.

They who condemn the Catholic Church should first obtain an accurate knowledge of her teachings. That there is an amazing ignorance amongst even those who pride themselves on their intellectual attainments is potent to the most superficial observer. The most absurd imaginations are enunciated as doctrines of Catholicity. It may be malice or misconception or the manifestation of the garnered bigotry of centuries. We care not to assign its cause, but the popular idea of Catholicism is as grotesque as it is false. William Mallock says, in reference to this ignorance:

"In this country the popular conception of Rome has been so distorted by our familiarity with Protestantism that the true conception of her is something quite strange to us. Our divines have exhibited her, too, as though she were a lapsed Protestant sect, and they have attacked her for being false to doctrines that were never really hers. They have failed to see that the first and essential difference which separates her from them lies, primarily, not in any special dogma, but in the authority on which all her dogmas rest. Protestants, basing their religion on the Bible solely, have conceived that Catholics of course profess to do so likewise, and have covered them with invective for being traitors to their supposed profession. But the Church's primary doctrine is her own perpetual infallibility. She is inspired, she declares, by the same Spirit that inspired the Bible, and her voice is, equally with the Bible, the voice of God. If we would obtain a true view of the general character of Catholicism we must begin by making a clean sweep of all the views that, as outsiders, we have been taught to entertain about her. We must, in the first place, learn to conceive of her as a living, spiritual body, as infallible and as authoritative now as ever she was, with her eyes undimmed and her strength not abated, continuing to grow still, as she has continued to grow hitherto; and the growth of the new dogmas that she may from time to time enunciate we must learn to see are, from her standpoint, signs of life and not signs of corruption."

Words such as these, coming from a Protestant, need no comment.

All we ask is a fair field and no favor. Let the doctrines of Catholicism be shown forth as they are and not as they exist in the excited imagination of controversialists.

Fair and honest exposition will be instrumental in banishing forever from our midst the demon of discord, and it may bring about that unity of Christendom desired by earnest souls all over the world. We say "earnest souls," for we believe that many who talk glibly about "unity" do so merely because it is the fashion and fad of the hour, and they care infinitely more about things earthly than the matter of their destiny. But we say to all who, confronted by problems which they cannot hope to solve, cry out in anguish for guidance, to study the teachings of Catholicity, and they will, as many before them, find peace and consolation.

COMMENCEMENT DAY.

Commencement Day must needs awaken feelings of sadness and of joy in the souls of our graduates. They cannot but feel they are bidding farewell to the kind friends that have, with more than a mother's care, guided them on the path of learning and virtue, and yet they may not restrain a feeling of exultation at the thought that comes to the pure and strong who have resolved to play well their parts in the drama of life. We can well imagine the heroic resolutions that are breathed forth in colleges all over the land; and we cherish the hope that the conflicts and disappointments of years will but serve to show that the resolve of the graduate has become the fixed purpose of the man. We have no desire to play the preacher, but we take the present opportunity to impress upon their minds a few truths that fall often they have heard within the precincts of their Alma Mater.

From out of thousands have they been chosen to be the bearers of the sacred treasure of a Christian education, not indeed to guard and keep it with selfish care but to enrich others less favored than themselves. God has assigned them their place in the vanguard of the ranks of humanity. And they must march in to eternally. Battles must be fought; for falsehood will array itself against truth, and vice

against virtue. Let them, however, be true to themselves, be guided by the lessons of their collegiate days, and they will be triumphant, though every force of the world and of hell made onslaught against them. This they well know, but our interest in their welfare may condone the reiteration.

We should wish to remind them also that the essential condition of success in life is faithful and persevering work. No man yet has achieved any enduring success who did not labor long and tirelessly. We read, indeed, of individuals who, without seeming effort, wrote their names in indelible characters upon the annals of the world, but they were dowered with the divine gift of genius—or the historian, carried away in admiration at their deeds, forgot the source whence they sprang. The general rule, however, is that our writers, statesmen—in a word all those who are moving upwards—are walking hand in hand with unbending and unflagging toil. Disappointments and failures will ensue; but, fortified by the experience of past ages, they go, ever onward with confidence, knowing that success will, sooner or later, crown their labors. We might cite thousands of examples to prove this. Men whose words live in the heart of humanity say, ten, twenty and thirty years passed by before they found a listener. Sir Walter Scott was forty-three years old before he laid the foundation of his great work of the Waverley tales. Milton and Dryden were over fifty before they would acknowledge their abilities. Newton was once asked the secret of his success, and he answered, Hard Work. And as it has been so is it in our age. The sluggard, the half-hearted worker, has no place on the roll-call of honors. The reason, perhaps, that so many of our graduates achieve little or no success in life is because they have failed to recognize the imperative necessity of faithful and persevering labor, of attention to little things, of thoroughness that is satisfied only with the perfect.

II. We should ask them all to become temperance advocates:

"We wish no argument which says that the use of wine in itself is licit. We know all those various arguments as well as others; but we know beyond the theory. We know in practice that these drinking customs of society tend to create the appetite, and this appetite, by demanding satisfaction, grows stronger day by day."

"Some Catholics there are who wholly live as if they were the only ones on earth and owed no duty towards their fellows—forgetting that we must deal with a concrete world; forgetting that we have duties towards our fellow-men, and knowing that we shall be judged on the last day by the effect of the influences which our actions will have on our fellowmen. If Catholics everywhere preached and recognized a strong, vigorous crusade against intemperance, for the short period of a decade of years, the change would be too bright to attempt to portray."

So speaks the prelate of St. Paul's, and he who knows aught of the manifold curses of strong drink must appreciate the truth of these utterances. Let them avoid the social parties in which the wine-cup is honored, and by so doing they will not only strengthen themselves but their weaker brethren.

We know that they may be called "fanatics," "cranks," but better, infinitely more honorable, is the appellation than that of coward, that must be coupled with the name of him who fears to have the courage of his convictions, and to stretch out to a despairing and enslaved brother the assistance of word and example. They cannot exert any appreciable influence unless they become total abstainers. Not only will they not give proof of what is in them, but they endanger their future if they do not earnestly and sincerely purpose to shun alcohol in any form. We have seen young men who stepped from college halls with hearts set firm with high resolve to act well and nobly, and we have seen them but a short time afterwards so changed in ideas and sentiments that we shuddered at the awful transformation. One we knew and well. He sailed out upon the ocean of life freighted with infinite possibilities, and, scarce before he commenced his course, he suffered shipwreck on the shoal of strong drink. We spoke to him, but our words fell on heedless ears, for there are sins that rub from off the soul the bloom and fragrance that will never come again. We implored him for his mother's sake to stand true and firm, and at the mention of her name he started up and the old innocent look came back to his eyes and the tears coursed down a countenance hitherto still but blighted by the plague-touch of intemperance. But he shook his head and sat down listlessly. Sad at heart we turned to go. Just as we opened the door we said: