

The True Witness.

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, AND WEEKLY EDITION OF THE "EVENING POST" PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, AT 761 CRAIG STREET, MONTREAL.

By M. C. MULLIN & CO., Proprietors. Terms (by Mail) \$1.50 per Annum in advance Copy (Delivered) \$2.00

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14.

CALENDAR—AUGUST, 1878.

THURSDAY, 15—ASSUMPTION OF THE B. V. M. Holiday of Obligation. Less Ecclesiastic. xxiv. 11-20; Gosp. Luke x. 38-42. Cons. Bp. O'Connor, Omaha, 1876. FRIDAY, 16—St. Hyacinth, Confessor. SATURDAY, 17—Octave of St. Lawrence. SUNDAY, 18—TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. St. Joachim, Confessor, Father of the B. V. M. Less. Ecclesiastic. xxxi. 8-11; Gosp. Matt. i. 1-16; Last Gosp. Luke xviii. 9-14. MONDAY, 19—Of the Octave of the Assumption. TUESDAY, 20—St. Bernard, Abbott, Doctor of the Church. WEDNESDAY, 21—St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Widow.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS. Mr. T. HAYES, of this office, is authorized to solicit subscriptions and collect accounts for the EVENING POST and the TRUE WITNESS, through the Eastern Townships. He will call upon those of our subscribers who are in arrears.

As the expenses attending the issue of such an enterprise as the EVENING POST are necessarily large, and as for a while we shall rely upon the TRUE WITNESS to pay a part, we trust those of our subscribers in arrears will forward their indebtedness, or pay it over to our agent, who will shortly visit them. We hope our friends will more cheerfully do this and help us in our circulation by obtaining for us new readers, seeing that the price of the TRUE WITNESS has been reduced to \$1.50, while in size it has been enlarged four columns, and is now one of the best and cheapest weekly papers on this continent.

MONTREAL CENTRE.

We are glad to be in a position to state that the electors of Montreal Centre have decided to hold a public meeting, in order to nominate a candidate, or candidates, for the representation of the Division in Parliament. This meeting, we think, should not be confined to Irish Catholics, but it should be a meeting of the electors of all creeds, to nominate an Irish Catholic. This will be the best answer to the outsiders who have thus far presumed to dictate to the men of Montreal Centre what they should do.

PROTESTANTISM AND ORANGEISM.

The Montreal correspondent of the Toronto National did us justice when he said that he never saw anything against Protestantism, as Protestantism in the Post. Nay more, if he searches the TRUE WITNESS for the last eighteen months, he will not find one word that could offend Protestant susceptibilities. We neither offend nor speak harshly of Jew or Gentile, Protestant or anybody else. We have often said that we would as soon insult a Catholic for being a Catholic as a Protestant for being a Protestant, but there we halt. As we offend no one, we think no one has a right to offend us, and we are just as ready to resent an insult as we are slow to give one. With our Protestant fellow citizens we have no dispute, and if this is taken in the spirit in which it is intended, some little good may be done. As for Orangeism, with that we never can have peace, but to Protestants we have neither enmity or ill-will, and we desire to do all in our power to close the unhappy breach which exists between them and their Catholic fellow-citizens.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Many of our English contemporaries are far from satisfied at the turn affairs have taken in the East. They appear to think that Cyprus will be a white elephant, and that the defensive alliance between Great Britain and Turkey will but all the sooner bring England and Russia into war. The fact appears to be that Cyprus will be an expensive item, and the question of a good harbor on the island is still doubtful. It may, too, be said that now Russia and England face each other in Asia Minor, while in Asia 1,000 miles still divide them. No doubt the rivals are nearer to each other, and are all the better prepared for the conflict. Russia, with Kars and Batoum, overviews a great part of Asiatic Turkey and finds a port on the south shore of the Black Sea, while Turkey is strengthened by her alliance with England, and England is strengthened by her acquisition of Cyprus. As we said before in these columns, England, Russia, and even Turkey are all strengthened, and can the more easily prepare for the big war that is some day sure to come.

THE ORANGE TRIALS.

The Orangemen through their lawyers have almost admitted that their society is illegal in the Province of Quebec. They have refused the "test" case, and are now determined to be tried as criminals. The cause of this is evident. As a "test" case, in a civil court, the question of the illegality of the order would be quickly disposed of. There can be no doubt that the court would sustain the opinions of the four lawyers, and Orangeism would be declared illegal. In that case there

would be an end to it. But in a criminal trial it may be different. There is a loophole for escape, because a jury may disagree, and the Orangemen may be discharged. In that case the question will remain as it is. Thus the Orangemen prefer the choice of a criminal conviction rather than test the illegality of their order in the manner most likely to settle the question. This is in itself a proof that they see the order is illegal, and that a "test" trial would go against them. We are not surprised at this, for it is, undoubtedly, the best way for them to fight what they must know to be a losing game.

DON'T PROMISE.

If report is correct, we have still a month before the elections take place. Meanwhile we venture to advise the Independent electors of Montreal Centre not to promise their votes to any man. There is as yet only one candidate who has publicly announced himself, and it is time enough for men to make a pledge when they have a choice. No doubt the old game of Divide and Conquer will be attempted, but we hope for good results for all that. The electors may depend upon it that at the present moment party politicians are not their friends. Both parties have swindled the country, and both parties are simply working to place themselves in positions from which they can best benefit themselves. And are there no lessons to be taken from history? Are the teachings of so many a decade to be lost? Is it not now as it ever has been, and are not politicians—aye, mere politicians—endeavoring to fool the Irish Catholics by party lies? We advise the Irish Catholics to trust them not. They are false, root and branch, and they are simply duping the Independent electors, to whom we once more venture to say—Don't promise.

"PRIESTLY RULE."

The Witness appears to think that the time is come when the State should take upon itself the appointment of the Bishops of the Church, and it quotes a lot of obsolete trash to sustain its views. The latest quotation it makes is as far back as 1788, when somebody said something to somebody else, which, added to some other dove-tailed quotations, make it appear that the British Government had at one time the power of nominating the Bishops of the "Church of Rome." Then we have a tirade against "priestly rule," etc., and it winds up with a general recommendation to the Hierarchy to "reflect upon these facts, and to consider what will be the probable result of a continuance in the course they have been pursuing for some years back." It is scarcely becoming in the Witness to think that the men who are charged with "priestly rule" would hearken to the advice of their insulter. If the Witness could learn to discuss such questions as it propounds in the article we refer to, in a becoming manner, we could give reasons against the views it adduces, but so long as it writes about "priestly rule" we must only allow its remarks to pass us by as idle words which we heed not.

"MR." LYNCH.

The dispute about the Separate School question in Toronto is far from being settled. The Irish Canadian and some Catholics in Toronto have opened fire upon the Archbishop and the clergymen in charge of the Catholic Separate School Fund. All the money, it appears, cannot be accounted for, and charges and insinuations of foul play have been pretty widely circulated. The Archbishop says that vouchers are held for all the money expended, except a few items for "washing, cleaning, scrubbing, and the like." Now who would think of taking a receipt from a poor charwoman? Is it not the height of nonsense to expect such a thing? The word of Archbishop Lynch is worth something. Few people will be prepared to say he lies, and yet this is just what the Toronto Telegram insinuates. Well, the Telegram may have a right to question the truth of His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, but it exhibits bad taste and vulgarity when it otherwise insults him. Instead of using the title by which he is universally recognized, the Telegram writes of the Archbishop as "Mr." Lynch. This has not even the merit of being smart, while its offensiveness will harm no one, or nothing, but the Telegram itself.

THE SEPARATE SCHOOL QUESTION.

The Separate School bubble of Toronto has burst, and the calumnies which have been flung at his Grace the Archbishop and the Episcopal corporation, have fallen a long way short of their mark. On Wednesday evening a meeting of Catholic gentlemen was held at the Archbishop's palace, and at that meeting everything was explained. The report of the meeting occupies more than two columns of the Mail, and so far from misappropriating money, it was shown that the Episcopal corporation had advanced money to the Separate Schools to the amount of about \$3,000, which sum had never been charged to the schools. After the explanation of his Grace and his Lordship Bishop Jamot, the financial report as read from 1863 to 1874 was adopted by resolution, with two dissenting voices. There were fifty-seven gentlemen present, so that the vote was almost unanimous. It is thus falsehoods are answered, and the miserable insinuations of a hostile and venomous press are refuted. After such an expose, if the press that has so industriously assailed the honesty of a dignitary of the Church had one spark of decency they would be ashamed to mention the question of the Separate Schools again, but we expect them to set about picking holes in the report, and under the plea of the "public interest" to be as rabid as ever. It is one of the penalties we have to endure for being "Papists." The report will be found on our third page.

PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN.

We have often been advised to single out individual Orangemen, and to attack them and their surroundings. It has been urged that by showing up the personelle of the organization; by pointing out the character and the position occupied by the chiefs of the order, that more could be done to injure it than all we could say about its vicious principles. But we think otherwise. As we never attack the "editor" of a paper, so we never attack the leaders of a movement. We take the principles they advocate, and have up to the present refrained from attacking the individuals. This is, we know, a piece of journalistic courtesy which has not been extended to ourselves. The press hostile to our opinions have, in all cases, attacked the "editor"—that terrible "editor"—but have not always discussed the principles that "editor" advocated. To Orangemen, individually, we wish no harm, and we shall certainly not pick individuals among them out for attack. Individually, we would not touch a hair of their heads, but we would poison their principles if we could.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The Eastern question is assuming a new phase. Now it is a war in Bosnia, where we learn that the insurgents, aided by regulars, are fighting the Austrians with some show of vigor. Already the Austrians have lost one thousand men, and there is no appearance of the resistance to the occupation of Bosnia being at an end. Again, we learn this morning that the Russians do not expect a permanent peace, for they are fortifying their positions. From Trebizonde, too, the telegrams inform us that the native tribes are mustering in great force in the defiles leading to the interior, determined to oppose the carrying out of the decisions of the Berlin Congress. It is estimated that their numbers will soon reach 15,000. From Batoum too, news comes that the Turks refuse to abide by the decrees of Congress, and that they will not give up the place. The local chiefs of Batoum held a council on Wednesday and decided to fight, while it is said that there are 20,000 mountaineers prepared to assist them outside. Altogether, it looks as if the trouble was about to be renewed. All parties have had their hands strengthened, and what the result will be no man can say.

ORANGEISM IN QUEBEC.

According to a telegram in the morning papers we hear that "since the twelfth of July, several citizens suspected of being Orangemen are unable with safety to leave their homes, while others have had to move to new residences. To aggravate the matter it is said that Catholic Union party are circulating rabid party songs." We hope that this news is not true, and certainly we believe, if there is any shadow of truth, that it is exaggerated. Our friends in Quebec may rest assured that it is not by continued violence that we are to triumph. It is not by imitating the insult and the wrong which is a part of the history of Orangeism, that we can best prove to the world the justice of our cause. There is nothing in Orangeism which a Catholic can, without disadvantage, imitate, and least of all can we imitate the ribald song or insulting language with which Orangeism abounds. It is the principle we must fight, and not the individuals, and if there is any truth in the report we publish we hope that the men in authority will put a stop to it. If they do not they cannot be surprised if fair minded people think that Orangeism has had a bad effect upon some Catholics as well as upon the Orangemen themselves.

A CALUMNY REFUTED.

The other day we wrote a short article about Orangeism in Quebec. The article was written in reply to a statement found in the Montreal papers, to the effect that individual Orangemen were being subjected to attack and annoyance from, we presume, the "Quebec Roughs." We doubted the statement at the time, and we now find that there is not a word of truth in it. It is a pure fabrication. This our Quebec correspondent telegraphed to us on Saturday, and we have otherwise been convinced that the statement is false. Now, we do not charge the correspondent of the papers in question with having invented this sensation. These charges we leave for our enemies to hurl at us. We know too well how rumors fly about, and we know too, how easily it is for a correspondent to be led into the mistake of telegraphing a falsehood without intending it. In the rush for news such things will always occur, but when they do occur, the same correspondent should make some effort to put himself right. The calumny upon the Irish Catholics of Quebec was circulated in the Montreal morning papers, but no contradiction of it has yet appeared in the same journals. This is not fair, and it is certainly not the way to make people have much confidence in that amiable honorable which should rule all journalistic enterprises.

THE ST. HENRI SHOOTING AFFAIR.

What a study politics are! How each side tries to throw the blame upon the other side, and tries to throw dust in the people's eyes at the same time. Let us, for instance, take the St. Henri shooting affair. Our citizens are shot down by Volunteers, or rather by men wearing Her Majesty's uniform, for there is strong presumptive ground for supposing that some of them were not sworn in, and forthwith the Conservatives blame Mr. Joly and the Reformers defend him and blame Judge Coursol, who is a Conservative. The Reformers say that Judge Coursol wanted too much money to conduct the investigation, and the Conservatives say that he did not, but that Mr. Joly did not want the investigation to take place at all, and so it goes

on, each party trying to make political capital out of the occurrence. Now, to us it is not a question of money at all. Our citizens are shot down, and we want to know by whom, or by whose order, the shooting takes place. We want an enquiry, and no amount of wrangling about money can blind us to that fact. Judge Coursol denies that there was any question about money between himself and the Quebec Government, and it is simply political huckstering on both sides that is causing the delay. But, meanwhile, what about the enquiry, for that is the point upon which the public is interested?

THE "OPRESSED" CATHOLICS.

The Toronto Telegram is a paper after the fashion of the Witness. Harnessed, they would pull well together. Both papers are edited with some ability, and they are enterprising to boot. They make their antagonism to "Jesuitry" and the "priest-riding" ultramontanes no secret, but, strange to say, they occasionally champion the "oppressed" Catholics. Here in Quebec the solicitude of the Witness for the habitant is touching; while, in Ontario, the Telegram is equally affecting in contending for "respectable Catholics" in the matter of the Separate School question. The report of the meeting at the Archbishop's palace so completely upset the wild theories of the Telegram and its abettors, that the Telegram lost its sense of decency and inserted a most offensive and insulting article against his Grace Archbishop Lynch. The article occupies half a column of the Telegram, and it is written in language which, for moderation sake, we will call intemperate. It abuses the Archbishop; it says that the spirit of his officials is cowardly and contemptible, because the reporter of the Telegram would not be permitted to attend the meeting, and it speaks of Catholics putting up with the "grinding tyranny" of the Church. And then it is all because of its love for Catholic rights, as against the "trickery" of "Mr." Lynch and his surroundings. It may be as well to notice, but it would be unbecoming to attempt to reason, with vulgarity such as this. The Telegram and the Witness have large circulations, and they commit more sin in the name of religion than it would be easy to account for.

IMMIGRANTS AND EMIGRANTS.

There are, it appears, 600,000 Canadians now residing in the United States. The Conservative papers blame the Free Trade policy of the Mackenzie government, and the Reformers retort by saying that the great majority of these 600,000 went to the United States during the long reign of the Conservative party. There may be a little truth on both sides of the question; but it is very odd that, while Canada has only succeeded in inducing 35,000 immigrants from 1874, that 600,000 born Canadians should have emigrated to the United States within, we must suppose, a period of say forty years. This would prove that the emigration is far greater than the immigration. If we take 35,000 as the total number of immigrants for four years, it makes say, a rough total of 9,000 a year. But if we take 600,000 at forty years, it makes a rough total of 15,000 a year, thus making the emigration nearly twice as great as the immigration. This is a significant fact, and if the figures, as published, are true, it is a question of grave import to the people at large. American theorists have, we hear, said that an immigrant is worth \$1,000 to the country, and while we take no party view of the question, yet the fact, if it be a fact, that 600,000 native-born Canadians are now living in the United States, forces us to enquire how much they would have been worth if they had been induced to stay at home?

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The Orangemen of Ottawa and Toronto, it appears, are determined to celebrate the closing of the Gates of Derry on Monday next. Beaten in Quebec, they avenge themselves in Ontario by "celebrating" all the anniversaries in the Orange calendar. Well, if we were living in Ontario, we would let the Orangemen celebrate their anniversaries until doomsday, and during our time of it, treat their celebrations with stern contempt. In Ontario, Orangeism has unfortunately obtained a firm foothold, and Catholics look upon it as something not worth noticing. Living in Ontario, every reasonable man would think the same. If they like to insult their neighbors, well let them. It may be hard to stand, but it is better to stand it than be at perpetual war. No doubt it may be, and indeed often is, carried to the limit of endurance, but prudent counsels prevail, and peace is secured. This being so in Ontario, and while such a policy may be prudent there, yet a totally different state of affairs exist in the Province of Quebec. Looking over the files of the Witness for 1876, we find that the Orangemen appeared to think they had "driven the thin end of the wedge in" and they think it will be their own fault if they do not drive it home." Now, this is just what we will try and prevent them doing. We know how persevering they are, and we want to draw that wedge out again, and we think we can do it. At all events we are trying.

FREE TRADE V. PROTECTION.

The other day we wrote a short leader on Free Trade v. Protection. We then declined to commit ourselves in any opinion upon the question. We are in fact anxious to see the addresses of the candidates who desire to represent Montreal before doing so, and for this reason: In our opinion neither Free Trade nor Protection will ever bring prosperity to Montreal, while the Orange question is left in doubt. That question is now, we believe, settled; but until it is finally settled, and in such a manner that an Orange parade is impossible, then all the Free Trade or Protection in the world would not restore the

trade of the city. When we look back to the past twelve or eighteen months, and when we see the paralysis to trade caused by riot and threatened riots, we are justified in holding the opinion that the fate of our city depends more upon a satisfactory settlement of the Orange question than it does upon anything else. No doubt candidates for Parliament will try and shirk the question as much as possible, but the people will not allow them. The Irish Catholic vote, at least the great majority of it, will go for the man who is most hostile to Orangeism, and who will fight it in the House of Commons, if necessary, as well as out of it. The people should see that they are not deceived upon this question. They should get public pledges and not private promises of total independence first upon any question affecting Catholic and Irish interests. It is no use talking of Free Trade or Protection, until we settle the greater question of Orangeism. That is the subtle enemy of all our liberties, and we must fight it to death's door, and then into its grave. In this Province we can do this, and having done it, we will be doing good work for the world in general, and for Quebec in particular.

THE COLONIZATION SCHEME.

The Spectator some time since said that unless Montreal improved in its customs, the best thing Protestants could do would be to emigrate. A writer of the Witness last evening combats this idea, and suggests that Protestants should be induced to come to Montreal, rather than those in Montreal to desert it. Now, we may suggest a better way still—why not get rid of a few thousands of the Catholics? It will not cost much, and the Catholics are, we believe, willing to go. The colonization scheme which promises to settle about 500 families in the Valley of the Ottawa is now actively at work trying to carry out the idea, and as there can be no doubt that the majority of those 500 families will be Catholic, a good opportunity offers itself, to people who may be inclined to bigotry of charity, either to get the Catholics out of the way, or to do a Christian work in helping the poor. We believe that Mr. Joly has offered to give \$20,000 if the corporation of Montreal give \$20,000 more, and if the people add another \$20,000, which will make \$60,000 in all. With this it is proposed to give each family \$120, which is considered sufficient for a family until the farm can be made self-sustaining. We recommend this view of the situation to all those who are dissatisfied with the state of affairs in this city,—amongst whom, no doubt, will be found enough of men who, seeing the benefit that this emigration scheme would result in, will give it their hearty support.

ANNEXATION.

T. H. Dickinson, from Roxham, one of the volunteers who came to Montreal on the 12th of July, writes to the Witness of last evening, urging annexation. The reason, and the only reason, he gives is the manner in which the Orangemen of Montreal were treated by Mayor Beaudry on the last anniversary of the "immortal" William. It is just this: T. H. Dickinson and a number of his co-religionists and brother volunteers are dissatisfied with the laws, and forthwith they proclaim their disloyalty and announce themselves in favor of annexation. This is the sum and substance of the letter, and it is simply another illustration of that conditional loyalty which Orangemen have ever given to the laws and to their Sovereign. A little circumstance goes wrong with them and—ho! for annexation! Suppose the Catholics behaved this way. Suppose we said that we were denied the right to carry arms; that our lives are at the mercy of Orangemen who come here vowing vengeance; that 200,000 of our people in Ontario are unrepresented in Parliament; that we are merely the political scavengers of the Dominion, taking the crumbs of office thrown to us to keep us quiet, and that then we went for annexation. But that is not the way we teach what is a subject's duty. Whatever we may have to complain of, we appeal to the Dominion and not to aliens to do us justice. But then, we are unconditionally loyal—the Orangemen are not.

THE ELECTIONS.

If the Irish Catholics of Montreal are not now determined to return an Independent member to the House of Commons, let them hold their peace for ever. Let us hear no more talk about Irish this, Irish that, or Irish the other, but let us all go in as Canadian citizens and forget the land we came from, or the insults we receive because of our faith or nationality. If the sophistry of the Gazette or the mourning of the Herald is to baulk our resolution of standing together now, then the cause of unity is dead, and it is better for us all to take our place as ordinary citizens, refusing to fight any battles of Orange or Green, and simply becoming Reformers or Conservatives, according to our conscience. Let us at once "pluck the Shamrock from our hats and throw it on the sod," or let us like honest men prove that we mean to stand together in this trial as we have in the trials through which, for some time, we have passed. The time will soon come when we must either "shame our traitors or prove them true," and in that hour of trial the man who stands by the sworn Orangeman, Sir John A. Macdonald, or the abettor of Orangeism, Alex. Mackenzie, will prove that he is the stuff of which traitors are made. There is no use in mincing this matter, for both sides are hostile to us, both sides have proved themselves hostile, and the men who say otherwise are not the honest friends of the Irish people.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The suppression of Orangeism in the Province of Quebec appears to have made the brethren more demonstrative and offensive in Ontario. This is not to be wondered at, for opposition has, we know, the effect of temporarily galvanizing the order into vitality. The Toronto Telegram, a paper well known to be in sympathy with the Orange order, a few days ago cautioned the authorities against the dangers of Young Britishism, and its caution did not come too soon. From the morning telegrams we learn that the Young Britons of Hamilton wantonly attacked the Emerald Society because that society would not play "God Save the Queen" at a time when the bandmen were dismissed, and they had, it appears, gone home. This is just the way to force men not to play "God Save the Queen," for the rowdies of Hamilton may be assured that conduct such as they have been guilty of, will only result in making the "Emerald Society" refuse to play any tune whatever at the dictate of roughs, who care no more about the Queen than they do about religion, but whose loyalty and Christianity are simply "No Popery" in another form. We always suspect these demonstratively loyal crawl-thumpers, and if we inquire who played "God Save the Queen" when the Prince of Wales was in this country, we will find that it was not the men who are to-day loudest in their sycophancy. Loyalty is one thing, servility is another, and to an old country people coming to Canada there appears to be a great deal of the latter indeed.

ORANGE ON BOTH SIDES.

According to a report in the Orange Sentinel, a paper whose opinions we would never think of fighting, we find that H. Merrick, M.P.P., Conservative, M. Bowell, M.P., Conservative, John White, M.P., Conservative, and many other "brethren" recently attended a meeting of Orangemen held in their hall in St. James street, Montreal. At that meeting it was decided "that if a parade be held in Montreal at any future time, it shall be under the direction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British America." This is to say, that if the Orangemen decide upon a parade "at any future time" we may have civil war in Canada. The excitement caused by such an act would, we fear, call the Catholic population to arms and no man could predict the result. Well, this is how the Conservatives would treat us. They would trample upon us, and we are now asked to put them into power in order the better to enable them to do. The Orangemen of Ontario are Conservative almost to a man, and if they once more get the upper hand, then "Woe to Montreal." Sir John A. Macdonald the other day, at a meeting near Kingston, said "I am an Orangeman." There is no use telling us that he behaved well to the Catholics when he was in power. Times have changed, and if in power last month, the Orangemen—Sir John A.—could not, by his oath, hesitate to "protect" the Orangemen through our thoroughfares. We must remember when Sir John A. Macdonald was in power there was no Orange question to disturb the harmony of Montreal, and we see in the fact that already the Orange vote is looked upon as safe for the Conservatives. Again, what are we to think of the Reformers. At the same meeting we see the names of Dunbar Brown, P.D.G.M., Montreal, and Mayor James Bennett, D.G.M., Toronto. These two gentlemen are Government employees, yet they attend Orange meetings make Orange speeches, and go on the business of the Order from one end of the Dominion to the other. Couple this with the eagerness of the Mackenzie Government to pour troops into Montreal and what are we to believe? What should we believe but that both are almost alike, and that we deserve all we get unless we are men enough to send to the House of Commons a man who will fight our battles without pining his fortunes to the coat-tail of either one party or the other.

COLONEL FLETCHER.

At the annual inspection of the Victoria Rifles on Saturday last, Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher, D. A. G., is reported to have used some extraordinary language. The part we consider as extraordinary reads as follows:—"I am aware that there are some who would like to see the volunteer force broken up, (voices. "They will not see it," no, no, etc.); but judging from the spirit which I see here manifest, they will be disappointed." We are afraid that the gallant Colonel's perspicuity must be as bad as his hearing. We have some opportunities of seeing public opinion, as reflected through the press, and we have never yet seen the wish expressed that the "volunteer force should be broken up." Quite the contrary, it appears to us, that on all hands the utility of the volunteer force is admitted. It is necessary for defensive purposes, and it cultivates that love of arms which is, in these days, necessary for all people who are determined to retain their independence. But still the Volunteer Militia may not be perfect. We, for instance, think it far from perfect. We think it, in fact, more deficient in its internal economy, its staff, and its war material, than the first reserve of any nation in Europe. If Colonel Fletcher is satisfied with the present condition of the Volunteer Militia, it is good reason why he should retire in favor of a younger and a more active man. There are plenty of young men who have been eight or ten years in the Volunteer Militia who could fill his position to the advantage of the service. Again, if Colonel Fletcher thinks that the party spirit which is so glaringly manifest in some corps is no reason of complaint, that is another reason why he should make room for a better man. We wish to see the Volunteer Militia freed from all internal source of