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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

Montreal, Saturday, June 22, 1878.

### RELIGIOUS DELENSION.

THOMAS SCOTT, A.M., T.C.D., sends us through the Religious Societies offices, Dublin, the following scheme which we publish and commend to those who are devoted to religious direction and influences:—Every calm and dispassionate observer must see with deep sorrow and concern the great and gradual decline that has taken place in the practical profession of true religion, during the past generation of thirty years. The fruits are an abundant proof of this statement, and the statistics of crime clearly verify the alarming observation. It behooves, therefore, every philanthropist to consider this formidable evil, and to devise or discover some means by which this calamity may be abated, and society saved from further degradation. He attributes this decline and change for the worse to insufficient and inconsistent religious instruction of the young of all classes, and the setting up of the god of this world instead of the God of Creation—the All-wise and merciful Jehovah. In former times it was the practice and custom of Ministers in many places, to catechise the youth of their respective parishes or districts, for two hours on a week-day, set apart for that holy and sacred purpose. And the good effects of such instruction are to be seen to this day, in the holy lives of those who have enjoyed that inestimable and imperishable benefit. He would, under the deepest sense of humility and responsibility, commend all Ministers of the Gospel to introduce, or revive universally, a weekly course of Catechetical Instruction in the most essential and saving truths of the Gospel of Christ, for one or two hours on every Saturday, so as not to exclude the more advanced in years from the profitableness of this course of instruction. He mentions Saturday as the most suitable day for this most valuable improvement and instruction—

*First*—Because the Spiritual duties of the Sanctuary of the Lord's Day are alone sufficient to employ all the powers of Ministers in the efficient discharge of their sacred offices, and all the youth of every class in the exclusively spiritual exercises of Devotion on the Holy Day.

*Secondly*—That instruction on Saturday is the best preparation for the Spiritual observance of the Sabbath, both for Ministers and pupils.

*Thirdly*—That, as Saturday is generally a half-holiday, and as half that day is spent in sports and play, half of the play time might be spent in the service of Him "whom to know is life eternal," and in acquiring that "wisdom which maketh wise unto salvation."

*Fourthly*—That, as a prize is not inconsistent with our Heavenly calling, a handsome and suitable reward should be offered to the best answerer; one for every twelve pupils, including male and female, and signed by the officiating minister.

And *Fifthly*, and lastly—That as intellectual earthly acquirements are rewarded and valued among men, so those spiritual gifts and knowledge of Divine things should be most highly esteemed and admired in all those who possess and adorn

them, by their holy life and Godly conversation.

He believes that if these suggestions would be carried out generally and universally, by those "who call themselves Christians," a wonderful and marvellous change for the better would take place in the world, and a new era would commence in this generation, on which God himself would set his seal of approval, by turning many from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. The great and good end in view is certainly worth the experiment, and he prays that God may put it into the hearts of the ministers and people to try it in every land, without delay, wherever and to whomsoever the knowledge of his Epistle reaches.

### INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

The following is what we gather from our English exchanges in regard to this very important matter:—

The Royal Commissioners on Copyright, in their report to Her Majesty, recommend that where a work has been first published in any British possession, the proprietor of such work shall be entitled to the same privileges as if publication had first taken place in the United Kingdom. Such an alteration in the law would be only a tardy act of justice to Colonial authors; for, as the Commissioners point out, "a French author can publish in France, and subsequently, upon the performance of certain conditions, such as registration, secure himself against piracy of his work through the British Empire, while the Colonial author can neither secure his property in the United Kingdom nor France, unless he first publishes in the United Kingdom." The proposal that so great an anomaly should be removed by enactment will meet with general approval; but, at the same time, if the grievance had ever been severely felt in the Colonies, it is fair to assume that long ago they would have taken steps to obtain a remedy. At the present moment a British author who first publishes a work in a foreign country cannot secure a copyright in the British dominions. This disability applies also to dramatic pieces and musical compositions. The Commissioners, recognizing the hardship of this state of the law, recommend that a British author who first publishes a work abroad should be allowed to copyright it in Great Britain within three years of the date of its original publication. The rights of foreign authors are to a great extent determined by treaty; but irrespective of any special agreements between our own and other countries, the Commissioners recommend that aliens, unless domiciled here, should only be entitled to copyright for works first published in British dominions. It is not surprising that there should have been some difference of opinion among the Commissioners on this subject. Mr. EDWARD JENKINS, in a separate report, urges that the benefits of copyright should be extended "to all authors, without regard to nation or to place and time of first publication." This is perhaps anticipating a much more cosmopolitan state of opinion than exists at present. Upon some other points, however, the Commissioners make large concessions. M. GAVARD, on behalf of the French Government, proposed that the necessity for the registration and deposit of copies of French works in this country should be dispensed with. It appears that only England and Spain insist upon this condition; and as the Commissioners, after consulting Mr. WINTER JONES, the Librarian of the British Museum, came to the conclusion that the deposit of foreign books in that institution was of no practical value, they recommend that M. GAVARD'S proposition should be acted upon. They suggest that, if proof of copyright should ever be required, it should be supplied by the production of an attested copy of the foreign register. In addition, it is proposed that an unconditional right of translation be given to

foreign authors for three years; and that, if they exercise this right, their works, including translations and adaptations of dramatic pieces, shall be protected against unauthorized translations for a period of ten years from the date of publication in England.

### COLONIAL HONOURS.

Mr. FRODOR, the historian, on the strength of a short trip to South Africa, undertakes to lecture his countrymen on what he terms their neglect of the Colonies. Much of what he says may be true enough, but the remedies, such as they are, which he suggests are very puerile. He begins by saying that "no colonists are admitted to our ancient orders of honour." He scorns for them the "special" Order of St. Michael and St. George. "A colonist, of course, might not aspire to the Sublime Garter; but not one of them has even the 'Bath.'" He has also a suggestion to make with respect to the political connection of England and the Colonies. "We cannot now admit their representatives to the House of Commons. But there is a second House to which the objection does not apply. Why should we not have Colonial Peers?" Whether, sarcastically asks a metropolitan paper, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal would object to receive a Duke of Ottawa, a Marquis of Toronto, or an Earl of Beldige, with others of colonial title, Mr. Frodor does not discuss. But he does think "there might be a proper reluctance in these young communities to introduce among themselves the hereditary dignities of the Old World. And to meet this 'proper reluctance' he suggests that eminent men of the Colonies—"men of large fortune, distinguished politicians, the equals socially and intellectually of many of those whom we select at home for political canonization"—might be life peers. After the "Bath" and the peerage, Mr. Frodor takes up the Privy Council and "the mere title of Right Honourable." "People like these feathers in their caps, and so do their friends for them." Fourthly "there are the various departments of the Civil Service. Let examinations be held in Melbourne and Sydney, Ottawa and Capetown." "The colonists would at once have an immediate interest in the active life of the Empire." Fifthly, Mr. Frodor lays hold of the "English professions." "We have Irish lawyers and doctors, Scotch lawyers and doctors, even American lawyers, in distinguished practice among us; we would gladly see Australians and Canadians added to the list." The new Medical Bill specially provides for the admission of colonial doctors. "Sixthly, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are to invite colonial students and found colonial scholarships, and thus insensible links will form more strong a thousand fold than the most ingenious political contrivances." Seventhly, use is to be made of the army and navy. "Might not a few commissions be granted to the Colonies with advantage? A few nominations to our training ships? Nay, we have Highland regiments, we have Irish regiments. Why not have Australian regiments and Canadian regiments?"

In the Editorial Notes of a late issue, the Toronto *Mail* has the following very pertinent remarks which ought to be circulated as widely as possible:—"That favourite little abbreviation, 'Ont.,' has much to answer for, and even the word spelled out in full, when it stands by itself, is probably doing this Province no small damage. During the Centennial year, we think it was, a European purchaser, being pleased with a certain machine, desired to order some, but saw no indication of the place of manufacture except the provoking abbreviation mentioned, which was as Greek to him, though he did know that the machine came from somewhere in North America. Fortunately a paper label attached gave

the name of a Buffalo printer, who had printed it, and by writing to Buffalo the intending purchaser got information that the machine he wanted was made in the Province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada. We wonder how many packages of Canadian butter and cheese are being sent to Europa this very season, with nothing but that mischievous hieroglyphic, "Ont.," to indicate whether they come from Canada or from the States? On many pieces of Canadian machinery these letters are durably marked in the iron castings; and we suggest that it would be greatly to the interest of our manufacturers to have the word "Canada" either added or substituted, even at some little trouble and cost. As for stencil plates for marking flour barrels, butter casks, cheese boxes, &c., every one lacking the word "Canada" should be immediately destroyed, and new ones with this important addition substituted."

### LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

There are few men who have occupied a more prominent position in the politics of Great Britain during the last fifty years than Earl Russell; and the announcement now made that he has finished his career will be received with regret wherever his name and influence were known. It is true that he had for several years past virtually retired from public life; and with the infirmity inseparable from four score years he had latterly lived in perfect seclusion at Farnborough Lodge. Yet he retained to the last his interest in many national questions; and only a few days before his death a most eloquent period of his history was revived by the presentation of a congratulatory address from the Dissenting Churches of the country on the fiftieth anniversary of the passing of the bill for the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. The life of Lord Russell was as useful as it was protracted; and now that he is numbered among the departed, he will be remembered for the good he did rather than for the failings which sometimes marked his political career.

Lord John Russell, as he was long so familiarly known, was the third son of the sixth Duke of Bedford, and was born in London in 1792. His early education was obtained in Westminster School, after which he was sent to Edinburgh University, which was at that time preferred to the English ones by the great Whig families. In his earlier years he directed his attention to literature, and wrote his "History of the British Constitution," the "Memoirs of the Affairs of Europe from the Peace of Utrecht," and the "Life and Times of Charles James Fox."

In his later years the "Rise and Progress of the Christian Religion in the West of Europe," "Recollections and Suggestions from 1819 to '76," and other works, proceeded from his pen. The political career of Lord John began when he was only 21 years of age, he having been elected in 1813 to represent in Parliament the family borough of Tavistock. In the year 1818 he made his first Parliamentary motion in the direction of reform, and until 1831 he almost yearly brought the subject up before the House of Commons. In the latter year, after the resignation of the Duke of Wellington, and when Lord John had been made a Minister of the Crown, he had the imperishable honor of proposing this bill for the last time, and it became law. Around the measure is closely associated the history of those days, and when in 1832 the bill received the royal sanction, it was acknowledged that the horrors of civil war had been narrowly averted. In the year 1828 he carried his motion for the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts in the face of the opposition of the Duke of Wellington's Government, and in 1829 gave his support to the Roman Catholic Emancipation Bill.

The Ministry of Lord Grey acceded to office in 1830 after the general election consequent on the death of George IV. Lord John was a member of the Government, was made Paymaster of the Forces, and was one of the four members of the Government intrusted with the task of framing the first draft of the Reform Bill, previously referred to. He left office with the Melbourne Government, the successor to that of Lord Grey, in 1834, and in the first year of opposition introduced a motion in favor of taking into consideration the temporalities of the Irish Church. It was opposed by the Government, but after a three nights' debate was carried by a vote of 322 against 289. He followed this in a few days by a resolution in committee to the effect that any surplus which might remain after fully providing for the spiritual wants of the members of the Irish Church should go to the general education of Christians, and on the report of the committee being received by the whole House, the Government of Sir Robert Peel was dissolved, that of Lord Melbourne restored, and Russell became Home Secretary, with a seat in the Cabinet. In 1835 he brought in a bill for the reform of the municipalities of England and Wales, which was carried, and resulted in much good.

In the next session of Parliament Lord John introduced various measures of reform, of an important bearing. Among these were bills for the commutation of titles in England; for the gen-