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## Current Events.

### THE WEEK.

#### NORTHWEST DIFFICULTIES.

The committee of the House of Commons in Ottawa, which has before it the Northwest difficulties, is reported to be engaged on Archbishop Tache's historical narrative of the affairs relating to Riel. Meanwhile public opinion is highly disintegrated. Sunday, April 27th, a demonstration was made at St. Joseph's College, in Ottawa. Fully three thousand persons were present, according to the telegrams in Monday morning's papers. Addresses to the Archbishop and French speaking Catholics of the city, by Mr. Moore Higgins, and Dr. St. Jean, M. P., respectively, to which his Grace replied in French and English, dwelling particularly upon his devotion to our beloved Sovereign and his desire to pacify the inhabitants of his distant diocese. Father Richot spoke in French, and the Rev. Dr. O'Connor in English, after which the proceedings terminated. Several bands were present and performed selections of music between the speeches. The Hon. Letellier de St. Just, Minister of Agriculture and Immigration, occupied a seat on the right of the Archbishop.

#### WELL TIMED HUMANITY.

The captain of H. M. ship Niobe interposed on the coast of Cuba to save the lives of a portion of the crew and people on board the American filibustering ship *Virginius*. The *Virginius* went out to "sympathize" with the Cuban insurgents. Being captured by the legitimate Spanish authorities her commander and part of the crew were summarily shot. All would have met the same doom had not Sir Launton Lorraine come along in the Niobe and cried: "Hold, enough!" Intervention in other's affairs is often delicate and hazardous; in rebellious and international affairs especially. But whatever the hazard of the policy of intervention may have been, in any of the numerous cases occurring in modern times, the world overlooks all political ethics when humanity is the immediate motive, and rescue of human lives the instant result. Captain Lorraine having met the approval of his own Government, and temporarily left his ship on leave, visited New York. Last week he was the guest of the city; visited places and objects of interest with the Mayor and Corporation, and received addresses. At first, as the telegrams came along telling of his presence in New York, one trembled lest the British man-of-war's man should make speeches, and say things unthinkingly. He didn't. Yet briefly though the sailor spoke his words got mixed in reporting and printing. The substitution of "I," for "You," in the pithy apology made on board the American Training Ship, when he excused himself from delivering a lecture to the two hundred youths on board, was another of the thousand instances daily occurring to prove that no more human history of past times—apart from divine inspiration—can be accepted as exact. Mr. Havemeyer Chief Magistrate of New York, thought to draw the British naval captain into an "improvement of the occasion" speech to the two hundred boys. To which the response, looking at the lads: "You are likely to be lectured enough boys." This was given in some papers as: "I am likely to be lectured enough." In the few additional words there was a "nation" of meaning. "Be alert when called to duty. Obey your officers. Shout 'Yankee Doodle'; sing 'Hail Columbia,' and you'll be sailors in time!" All a fact as every one learned in British human nature knows; especially military and naval nature. "God Save the Queen!" "Britannia Rules the Waves!" "England expects that every man this day will do his duty!" "Harry Bluff, when a boy, left his friends and his home"; These are voices of inherited nationality. "The colours shot away, he nailed them to the mast, and died like a true British Sailor." Instead of that idea of ocean storm, and battle, and death deterring the youth of Imperial Britain from a life on the ocean wave it has enlivened and led the first footsteps seaward of many a thousand who, untouched by song and nautical sentiment would have remained ashore. Then there is—use it, Christian teachers as seemeth well—"a sweet little cherub sitting aloft, watching over the life of Poor Jack."

#### REMARKS FROM ENGLAND.

While the Dominion Parliament in Ottawa pursues its difficult course through complications arising out of inherited differences in race, language, and political aspiration,—the difficulties aggravated by conflicting

mercantile, manufacturing, and agricultural pretensions to special ascendancy in dictating financial policy—all the personal agitators accustomed to the unruly eccentricities of a partisan newspaper press which is seldom judiciously dispassionate, but nearly always on one side or other, in a mood of passionate distemper, willfully misrepresenting public men and events,—while statesmen are yet upon seas of uncertainty our desire is to defer commentary, and to await the coming of some tangible thing into the arena of the Acts of Parliament.

English journals give copious accounts of the American women's movement against the wastefulness, idleness, profligacy, and crime of the licensed traffic in drink. We transfer two passages; one seemingly adverse to the women, the other favorable.

#### FIRST ACCOUNT:

In Buffalo a shrewd dealer got a notice published that his saloon was to be visited, and in this way drew a large crowd, who consumed a vast amount of liquor while waiting for the women to come. No ladies put in an appearance, and the crowd, ultimately discovering the hoax, dispersed.

In Indianapolis a dealer employed an orchestra to drown the prayer meeting, but it was ineffectual, and he finally let out a couple of tame bears, at sight of which the ladies beat a hasty retreat. Throwing pepper in the stove is another trick, and always dissolves the prayer meetings. At Piqua, Ohio, a bar-keeper began undressing, and this caused the ladies to withdraw. His conduct almost got him lynched, however, for a crowd soon gathered, and gave him an hour's time in which to leave town. At Logan a saloon keeper who surrendered has "backslid" and begun business again, so that he is now "the subject of a perfect storm of prayers." At Ripley, the ladies being denied admission to a saloon, built a fire and encamped in front of it, conducted the siege so vigorously that in four hours the proprietor surrendered. In Chicago the movement began in a small way on the 25th of February. An old lady went from one saloon to another in a part of the town where they are numerous, and, informing each bar-keeper that she intended to pray for him, knelt in a corner and offered up her supplication. The Western telegrams report some disturbances at London, in Ohio, where a "tabernacle," placed in front of a saloon has been wrecked by the proprietor and his friends, the ladies being drenched with buckets of filthy water.

Some effective opposition has been offered in Ohio to the women's campaign. Various expedients are resorted to, and some attempts at baying down the crusaders with brass bands having been made. It is shown that in consequence of the onslaught made on the drinking places by the women, receipts from internal revenue taxes have fallen off in eleven districts at the rate of more than \$350,000 per month. Bishop Rosconans, of the Roman Catholic Church in Cincinnati, has pronounced against the women. Other prelates of the same faith, the Bishop of Pittsburg for instance, and the Archbishop of New York, look upon it with favour, if not with confidence.

#### SECOND ACCOUNT: HOPEFUL.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* thinks the three months' campaign has accomplished a much more lasting good than people now suppose.—It has created a strong temperance sentiment all over the country. Even in places like New York, where a few spasmodic attempts at public prayer have resulted in nothing but ridicule, a temperance revival is in progress which involves all classes and creeds. In the interior towns drinking has been made so thoroughly disreputable that very few, except the most hardened toppers, are willing to be seen with a glass of liquor, and the bar rooms have lost the custom of every man who values his position in society. It will be a long time before this public sentiment changes and the population falls back into those habits of easy drinking which play such havoc with American young men. The reform will show itself at once in the attitude of the public towards the liquor laws. Ohio, Indiana, and Massachusetts have laws on their statute books which would long ago have closed the dram-shops and seriously diminished drunkenness if the sentiment of the community had not been so strongly opposed to their execution. The temperance people want no more legislation; they only ask that the existing laws shall be enforced.

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, N. S., April 28. There was an exciting time in the House of Assembly this afternoon, on the resolution censuring Mr. Woodworth,

of King's County, for the charges made against the Provincial Secretary. Mr. Holmes, of Pictou, moved that the debate be adjourned until the evidence taken before the Committee be printed. The motion was lost by 8 to 22, and the debate on the resolution was resumed. After a sharp passage of arms between the Provincial Secretary and Mr. Holmes, Mr. Woodworth commenced to speak to the resolution, when he was interrupted by the Attorney General, who thought Mr. Woodworth should withdraw while the House discussed the question of breach of privilege in which he was concerned. Mr. Woodworth refused, and continued to address the House. In the course of his remarks he accused the majority of being malignantly prejudiced against him. A question of order arose and the Speaker ordered the galleries to be cleared. After sitting with closed doors for some time, the House adjourned until Monday.

HALIFAX, N. S., April 28th.—A vote of the legislature censured Mr. Woodworth for his formulated charges preferred against the Provincial Secretary.

William Brunt and two sons, 12 and 9 years, while fishing on a lake at Harrietsfield, a few miles outside the city, yesterday, fell through the ice and were drowned. The bodies were recovered, the youngest boy clasped in his father's arms.

Nathaniel Hatfield died at Tusket the other day from lock jaw, caused by a wound in his hand. He lived only thirty hours after being seized with lock jaw.

Rev. Mathew Richey, D. D., narrowly escaped choking to death at dinner in Windsor yesterday, by a piece of meat sticking in his throat. The prompt assistance of a doctor saved his life.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

Captain Thomas, commander of the steamship *Greene*, of the National Line, who recently rescued the passengers and crew of the French steamer *Le Rode* in the middle of the Atlantic, is a St. John man, and a brother of Capt. Thomas, who was at Redoubt. Capt. Thomas' mother is still living, and resides in the city. To show their appreciation of his services, the rescued cabin passengers of the *Europe* presented him with a magnificent gold chronometer watch and chain.

NOR IN TIME.—A New Brunswick M. P., was too late in securing the entry of West India produce, on which he might have saved \$2,000 in duties. A large wholesale house was also late in getting packages out of ship for entry in Halifax. Very little duties have been paid on teas as yet.

A LIBERAL CONGREGATION.—The congregation of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, have voted to grant their pastor, Mr. Beecher, a vacation of six months, to enable him to enjoy a trip to Europe, and also to pay his travelling expenses and continue his salary while he is absent.

WORK OF A ST. JOHN ARTIST.—The window of Messrs. McMillan's book store was on Saturday the centre of attraction to seafaring men. It contained a box in which was a full rigged ship, in miniature, as if being conveyed out to sea by a small tug, which is a little in advance. At a short distance off is a schooner under full sail. The bottom of the box is painted to represent the sea, and the sky and receding headlands form the background. The ship has every sail, rope and block to be found in one of 1,000 tons, and is pronounced perfect by sailors. They are the work of Mr. James Doyle, rigger of this city.

MAGISTERIAL MUZZLES.—At the Portland police court before Dr. Tapley, Esq., P. M., Mrs. Margaret Carlin brought up Hugh Montague for keeping a ferocious dog which tore her clothing. It seemed that the dog belonged to Montague's son, and he said the dog could not be made to bite any one. As the woman had come to the station with her dress torn this was considered sufficient evidence on the part of Mrs. Carlin, and defendant was ordered to pay the costs in the case and have the dog muzzled. There was an offset to the above, Mrs. Carlin being charged with abusing Mrs. Montague. The Magistrate said he would impose a fine of \$4, which could stand as a muzzle for Mrs. Carlin.

The New Brunswick Legislature, it is said will close by the end of the month, when a dissolution and the general elections are expected to follow. The writs may be made returnable in June. Parties in that Province seem to be getting ready for the struggle at the polls. The opponents of the Government accuse it of the design to take the people by surprise.

It is stated that Lord John Manners has definitely refused to reduce the price of telegrams to sixpence.

## Ecclesiastical.

—Death of the Pope's Physician. Dr. Viale, the Pope's physician, and one of his most intimate friends, has just died at Rome at the age of 85. The *Diritto* says that his Holiness feels the loss very acutely.

—A new church, the gift of Mr. Dana M.P., was lately consecrated at Burton-upon-Trent, by the Bishop of Lichfield. The church, the parsonage-house, schools, and endowments have involved an outlay of about 50,000.

—Archbishop Manning intends joining a pilgrimage to St. Edmund of Canterbury, at Pontigny, to take place in the second half of August. Pontigny, in the archdiocese of Sens, was the home of Thomas a Becket during two years of his exile, as well as the resting place of St. Edmund for 800 years.

Downfall.—At the annual general meeting of the National Sunday League, it was stated that a memorial for the opening of public museums on Sundays was being circulated with success among the clergy. It had already received over two hundred signatures, including Dean Stanley's, Canon Kingsley's and those of a large number of metropolitan rectors and curates.

—At the annual Easter vestry held in Manchester Cathedral, an extraordinary scene took place. A Mr. Collins was proposed as chairman, but the meeting was then informed that Precentor Smith took the chair in accordance with the provision of the Act of Parliament, an announcement that was received with great approval. The old churchwardens were re-elected, and an angry discussion followed with reference to the introduction of High Church ceremonies into the cathedral services. A cross which had been fixed over the communion-table was especially condemned. On its being stated by Alderman Lamb, one of the churchwardens, that the cross had been placed there by order of the Dean, Mr. G. Rudd Spencer said that if he had power he would make the Dean eat the cross he had put up. (Cries of "Shamo!" "Order!" and prolonged confusion.) The speaker continued that he heard a gentleman say "That the Dean ought to be sent to—," and he (the speaker) agreed with him. This announcement was received by the meeting with mingled feelings, some crying "Shame," and others applauding. The Chairman denounced this statement as shocking, and left the chair. A most disgraceful scene followed—the more excited shouting and gestulating, and when they had vented themselves they dispersed.—Standard.

MONTRÉAL.—At the Vestry meetings at Christ Church Cathedral, the Rector of the Parish (Canon Baldwin) was presented with a purse containing \$2,000 as a mark of the esteem and gratitude of the congregation for the efforts of that Clergyman in the cause of the suppression of the liquor traffic. The question of the division of the Diocese is still attracting much attention. It has been long felt that the Diocese is too enormous to be satisfactorily overlooked by the Prelate. There would never have been any difficulty as to the division had the question not unfortunately been tarnished by party spirit. The general opinion seems to be in favor of division; but the congregations are not yet as one on the subject. At the Easter Monday Vestry held in the Parish of St. James, West Parham, P. Q., a resolution was passed to the effect that the Vestry failed to see the necessity of any separation of the Deanery of Bedford from the Diocese of Montreal, and the formation of a new See within its limits; and further, that under the present circumstances it was opposed to the movement. On the other hand, however, the Parish of Iron Hill in Vestry passed a resolution instructing their representatives to support any practicable scheme for the division of the Diocese and the erection of a new See in the Deanery.

CHURCH ASSOCIATION, ENGLAND.—The Ninth Annual Meeting of this organization was held in St. James's Hall, London, on Friday, the 27th of March. Mr. Hoare presided, and at the close of his address, announced that "it had been determined, as Mr. Mackenzie is the great offender, to bring him before the courts of law in the new suit for the offences which he is constantly committing in St. Alban's Holborn. The proceedings will include not only those matters which have been already decided, but also the point of the erection of a confessional." The *Record* seems to mourn over the failure of the Association, a year ago, to engage Dr. Stephens in the Prestbury and Liverpool cases, he being "the eminent counsel by whose powerful advocacy all their victories had been gained." As a consequence of this "mistake," the English Church Union has retained Dr. Stephens for the defence of Mr. Edwards, of Prestbury, and Mr. Farnell, of Liverpool. The new move as to Mr. Mackenzie is to test the point "before the Supreme Court of Appeal whether or not the law may be persistently and contumaciously evaded and defied." We also note a statement in the *London Morning Post* to the effect that proceedings are about being taken against the Rev. Dr. A. B. Evans, Rector of St. Maryle Strand, on the ground of alleged excessive Ritualistic practices in his church.

## Miscellaneous.

—The most affluent may be stripped of all, and find his worldly comforts, like to many withered leaves, dropping from him.—Stevens.

—Mr. Knight, who succeeded from the Free Kirk some months ago, is seeking to be admitted a minister of the Established Church of Scotland.

—"No wonder," says the *New York Advertiser*, with that "commercial" souven for which it is distinguished, "no wonder absconders all go to Canada. It is the only country on this continent they can find To-ron-to."

—At a general court of the proprietors of the Bank of England, held in London, Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene was re-elected governor, and Mr. Henry Hicks Gibbs, deputy-governor for the ensuing year.

—It is hard to patronize and act a part long; for when truth is not at the bottom, nature will always be endeavoring to return, and will peep out and betray herself one time or other.—Tillotson.

—It is only from the Bible we learn that God is love; that his character is spotlessly holy. These we are informed that our first duty, our chief interest, is to acquire a character in righteousness and benevolence like God's.

—Baroness Burdett Coutts, who has more

than once been described as beyond all doubt "the most popular woman in England," has made an appeal which will go straight to the heart of the British public. It is on behalf of the children and aged sisters of the late Dr. Livingstone, who are understood to be in straitened circumstances.

—There are many who faint when they look on almost any duty or good work, because they are so consciously unequal to it. Why, if they were not unequal, or felt themselves to be equal, they had better, for that reason, decline it; for there is nothing so utterly weak and impotent as the conceit of strength.

—In an active life is sown the seed of wisdom; but he who reflects not, never reaps; has no harvest from it, but carries the burden of age, without the wages of experience; nor knows himself old, but from his infirmities, the parish register, and the contempt of mankind. And what has age, if it has not esteem? It has nothing.

—An author, no less eminent than judicious, makes the following distinction between the words innocence, wisdom, and virtue. Innocence consists in doing no harm, and occasioning no trouble to society. Wisdom consists in being attentive to one's true and solid interest; in distinguishing it from a seeming interest; in a right choice and a constant adherence to it. Virtue goes further, it loves the good of society, and frequently prefers it to its own advantages.

—The essential truth of Christianity is not a matter of logical evidence at all; it is a matter of fact; for it is based upon the highest spiritual laws, and embodies the loftiest conception of our reason, as well as our best and purest feelings. Its defence may be safely left to itself. The Christian life refutes every argument against the truth of Christianity, placing it far beyond the reach of question or cavil; but if this life is absent, no measure of argument will be able satisfactorily to substantiate it.

—The Bishop of Manchester, who acted as umpire between the operative house painters and the masters of Manchester and Salford, has issued an award in which he decides the minimum rate of wages per hour shall be 7½d.; that overtime on full working days shall not be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-half before the hour of 5 p.m., but on Saturday overtime shall be reckoned at the usual rate; that 19 per week extra shall be allowed to men on early jobs who are required to stay at home on Saturday.

—Mrs. Crawshaw, wife of the great coal owner, of Cyfarthfa Castle, Merthyr Tydvil, is in favour of cremation, and she suggests to the *Echo* that "the chief practical objection to it—namely, its giving facility for undiscoverable poisoning, might be got over, so far as mineral poisons are concerned, by the use of arsenic analysis. With regard to vegetable poisons, surely science is equal to devising such 'test papers' as, if used in every illness by the doctor, would be the terror of intending poisoners."

—There is a great deal of energy thrown away in many religious communities upon the errors or shortcomings of other religious denominations. This wasteful and unworthy manifestation of party spirit, as unchristian as it is mischievous, not infrequently finds its expression in a virulent denunciation, which overlooks the fact that the persons against whom their poevish and petulant tirades are levelled, and who could alone be benefited by them—if there were any benefit to be derived from them at all—are precisely those who would be the last to place themselves under their influence.

—Many who would shrink with horror from the idea of rejecting Christ altogether, will yet speak and act as if they were at liberty to set up for themselves an elective Christianity; separating the essential from the superfluous portions of Christ's teachings; deciding for themselves how much is permanent and necessary for all men, and how much is temporary and designed only for a particular age and people. Yet if Christ is indeed God manifest in the flesh, it is surely no less impious to attempt to improve his teaching than to reject it altogether. Nay, in one respect it is more so; for it is to acknowledge a doctrine as the revelation of God, and at the same time to proclaim that it is inferior to the wisdom of man.

—The Rev. Narayan Sheshadri. He has addressed crowded meetings at Dublin, Coleraine, Derry, Belfast, and other places. Of his reception in Connor a correspondent of the *Christian Intelligencer* writes: "He appeared there on their last day, before communion, and at the close of a service of two hours, and when he ascended the pulpit every neck was stretched to catch a sight of him. Most of them had never seen a Hindoo or a turban before, and for an hour and a half he had a breathless audience. When he and the Rev. W. F. Stevenson, the convener of our foreign missions, got out of the church they found the people ranged in two lines on each side of the footpath and along the road he was to pass, in order to get another look at him. Seeing this Mr. Stevenson proposed they should shake hands with him as he passed. From each side a perfect forest of hands was extended. All went well till he got to the churchyard gate, when those behind made a rush to get near him again, and he was actually swept away for some distance by the surging crowd."

TWO GAMMANS BILL.—The following is the text of the Gamman's Bill which was recently passed by the House of Assembly and which will become law on the 1st October, 1874. The Bill was introduced by Mr. Meredith, the member for London, and is intended as an amendment to the law relating to the attachment of debts as respects the wages and salaries of mechanics and others. 1. No debt due or accruing to a mechanic, workman, laborer, servant, clerk, or employee for, or in respect of his wages or salary, shall after the 1st day of October next, be liable to seizure or attachment under the provisions of the Common Law Procedure Act, or of the Act passed in the thirty second year of Her Majesty's reign entitled, "An Act to amend the Acts respecting Division Courts," or under the provision of any other Act relating to the attachment or garnishment of debts unless such debt shall exceed the sum of twenty-five dollars, and then only to the extent of such excess. 2. Nothing in this Act contained shall affect or impair the right or remedy of any creditor whose debt has been heretofore contracted before the said day of October next. 3. All Acts inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.