

Re-Opening

OF SCHOOLS.

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PORTER'S

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The Watchman.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13, 1890.

Editorial Notes.

THE question as to how far secular journals should interfere with church services, whether held on Sundays or week days, arises from the attacks lately made by the Victoria Warbler on the Presbyterian and Methodist bodies of this town, in connection with the so-called "political" temperance meetings on Sundays. All questions affecting the material interests of the community, and all matters affecting the moral well-being of the same come within the range of politics. Who shall say whether measures affecting the public interests, especially those which aim at the correction of moral and social evils shall be discussed from the pulpit or the church platform, or not? We presume it is safe to say that these are matters which are the business of the congregations concerned, and nobody else's. The opinions expressed upon questions of general public interest, whether emanating from the pulpit and its surroundings, or from the public platform, are legitimate subjects for discussion by the press and by the community. But the right to say whether public questions, those relating to temperance legislation or any other matters are to be dealt with within the precincts of the church, belongs to the congregations concerned and to the members thereof alone. Between the open discussion of public questions, and the attempt on the part of the clergy to exercise undue influence over their flocks in matters political, there is a vast difference. There are few congregations, it is true, the members of which would not be shocked by the political sermons of Dr. Wild for instance. But so long as Bond Street Church in Toronto desire to hear the views of their talented pastor upon the the important political topics of the day, who shall say them nay? Nor have those whose training has made them prefer that the line between the secular and the religious should be rigidly drawn a right to condemn those who have been trained in a different school. And we might as well whilst upon this topic add that it is a remarkable fact that the local journal which has sent forth its wail about the objectionable Sunday temperance meetings, has never had a word to say but in praise of the Bond street Toronto pastor, who at one time recommended the N. P. to the favorable consideration of his hearers, and at another time recently gave Mr. Meredith quite a lift from the same vantage ground. But the public will be curious to know what has happened to our west end contemporary. It is not so long ago since the "religious side of the thing" did not concern that luminary in the least. Is the late move the symptoms of another contortion, of an ecclesiastical nature this time rather than political? There are rumors to that effect, and we await developments with more than ordinary interest.

THE calmer minds who are sincerely anxious for the future safety of the Separate School system of Ontario cannot view with favor the extremely zealous advocacy of Archbishop Cleary of Kingston. In the late Meredith-Cleary controversy the archbishop fairly earned the title of the "fiery ecclesiastic" from his opponents, but his recent intemperances from the pulpit at Tweed exceeded anything that came from his pen. The clergy as a class have not earned the reputation of being "wise in their generation" in dealing with political and secular questions, and the archbishop of Kingston is no exception to the rule. The clergy reserve controversy in this Canada of ours, and the attacks in the past upon the "godless schools" of the province, furnish illustrations to the point. So far as we are concerned ourselves we believe that the young people of all denominations might be educated in the same schools with perfect safety to their religious welfare and to the interests of the various churches to which they and their parents belong. They must of necessity mingle in after life in the business and social world, and why not from the start? The separate education of a section of the community tends to keep alive distinctions and feelings which cannot but be regretted by all good citizens, and the system is intended to guard against a danger which does not exist in fact. However, those who are the wisest friends of the Separate school system must feel that the sooner the schools are brought into the same relation to the State as the public schools, the better for the safety of the system. The tendency of the age is to make education national and non-denominational. So long as special privileges exist in regard to Separate schools, so long will the agitation continue which must in the end imperil the very existence of the whole system. For what is Mr. Meredith contending which so arouses the ire of the archbishop? That the Separate schools shall be State schools, and not church schools; that every citizen must be prima facie a supporter of the national schools, until

THERE is no doubt that Mr. McCarthy's amendment to the N. W. Territories Act, asking for the rescinding of the dual language clause, will give the Canadian people another illustration of the extent to which partyism has control over our public men. We have already the Toronto Globe paving the way for the Liberal members to vote, as Mr. Laurier must vote, against the amendment in question. The dual language system for Quebec, and the Separate School system for Ontario and Quebec, were necessary compromises at the time in order to bring about the Confederation of the Provinces. The condition of affairs in these provinces in this regard was settled, and there was some excuse for the compromise agreed upon. The case of the N. W. Territories at the time of the passage of the Act of 1875 was entirely different. The district was inhabited almost exclusively by the Cree Indians, and the whole machinery of local government had to be developed. It was contended and justly at the time that in the matter of a dual language and a Separate school system such should be left exclusively to the voluntary action of the future province. Amongst those who contended for this phase of provincial rights was the late Hon. George Brown. The amendment of Mr. McCarthy practically and simply asks that the Dominion Parliament remove the disability imposed upon the N. W. T. by the Act of 1875, that the question of a dual language may be left to the new province to be settled by itself. But there is every reason to believe that the advocates of provincial rights on this occasion will not be so numerous as they were when the notorious Jesuit Bill matter came up for decision. Even the "noble thirteen" will not be a unit it is to be feared on this occasion. The question is an awkward one to both of the great political parties, the solid French vote being a necessity to the government, and the opposition, especially in view of the leadership of Mr. Laurier, being as willing to succumb to that necessity which knows no law.

of his own act he becomes a supporter of the Separate schools; and that the Separate school supporter shall enjoy the privacy of the ballot. This is the sum and substance of the platform laid down by Mr. Meredith. The public will fail to see in all this a "diabolical spirit of hatred of religious education," or that "Satan has raised his standard here, and has sent forth from the gates of hell his army of demons to propagate his wicked maxims." All this is decidedly fiery, but not argumentative.

Press Comments. The Empire.—One of Mr. Mowat's devices to maintain power, the denial of free elections by the refusal of secrecy of the ballot, is defended by the Globe on the line that it would be troublesome to pry into the manner of voting and that there fore there is no such espionage. If this were the truth, which it is not, the possibility of disclosure would still serve the purpose of intimidating and coercing voters. It is a common practice, and a case has even been proved in court, for a Grit heeler to boast to that detection and punishment would follow any attempt to evade the tyrannical dictation. The only trouble necessary is to spy out one or two cases and make them examples to enforce the intervention of the license officials and Division Court bailiffs of whom Mr. Mowat is the mere creature as a minister.

The Mail.—Conservative papers are denouncing Mr. Mowat for the dilatoriness displayed by the Legislature in settling down to work, while their Liberal contemporaries are paying similar attentions to Sir John for a like reason. It would be absurd to expect either the Commons or the Legislature to plunge into hard work immediately upon assembling, for there is a certain amount of dragging routine to be gone through before the actual business of legislation can begin. Still, it cannot be denied that legislators are scarcely as active and as pushing in attending to the affairs of their country as they usually are in conducting their own private business. As a rule the Governments are to blame for this.

The Star.—Socialism is in the air of Germany, and the young Emperor has not escaped the contagion of his surroundings, though, perhaps, he would be the last to acknowledge it. It is quite natural, however, that the head of a paternal system of government should make the proposition he has for an international convention on the labor question. But, whatever may be his object, and the great organs of opinion in Europe have readily conceded the benevolence of his intentions, there can be little doubt of the magnitude and pressing importance of the question he proposes for solution. German legislation of late years has been tending towards state socialism, while the popular instincts and prejudices of other people are opposed to it. The true ideal of Government is one that contemplates the administration of justice only, leaving all subjects free to pursue their own happiness. It may not be attainable in the present stage of human development, but it should be the ultimate object of all politics.

Peterborough Review.—Barley-growing is an interesting subject for Ontario, and considerable discussion has taken place regarding the advisability of growing two-rowed barley instead of six-rowed. This question has become one of importance, as the market in the United States for six-rowed has fallen off, and there is a demand for two-rowed in England. The Dominion Government has given much attention to the matter in the interests of the farmers, and one result will be an appropriation of \$25,000 to purchase two-rowed barley seed, which will be sold for seed at cost. The experimental farm has been testing the barley, and the Ottawa correspondent of the Mail thus summarizes the results:—

"The Government has been endeavoring recently to secure practical information on the subject of two-rowed barley, which is now being discussed by the farmers of Canada. The report was issued here to-day, and while it does not recommend a radical change, it shows that the results of wide-spread experiments have established that two-rowed barley can be successfully raised in Canada. The importance of this matter is derived from the fact that hitherto Canada has grown almost exclusively six-rowed barley for the purpose of supplying the United States market. It has been found that the Americans are now using largely their own barley, and that there is danger of the entire demand ceasing. This has led the Canadians to look abroad for other markets. The barley we now grow is unfitted for the British market because the brewers use the two-rowed. It is impossible to mix the two varieties, as in the course of brewing the six-rowed barley germinates faster than the two-rowed barley. Besides this, the two-rowed grain yields thirteen per cent more extract than the other variety. Hence the preference for it is well founded."

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A Young Woman Killed.

QUEBEC, FEB. 9.—A sad accident occurred in Sillery yesterday afternoon, by which a young lady aged 18 years, lost her life. It appears that Miss Alice Therien, living with her parents in St. Michael's Cove, had occasion to go to the village of Bergerville. On her way back, for a short cut she took the path leading down from St. Michael's well on St. Louis road, and which is constantly used by the inhabitants of the vicinity in travelling between the cove and the village. The snow has an icy crust, caused by the rain of few nights ago, and the unfortunate girl must have missed her footing, and not being able to catch at any of the obstacles in the way, slid over the cliff, which is dangerous and very steep at this point, to the surface below, a distance of four hundred feet. She fell into a window in rear of a house occupied by Mr. Flanigan, and there lay in an unconscious state. The occupants of the dwelling, hearing the noise, ascended to the upper storey and discovered the form of Miss Therien lying on the floor with an ugly gash in the forehead. She was picked up and conveyed to another room and medical aid summoned. Dr. Brophy and Dr. Dube were on the spot shortly afterwards, but found the young lady had received a severe fracture of the skull. The accident happened at about half-past one o'clock and the victim died two hours and a half afterwards.

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