

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Music Classes—Miss Campbell.
Youth Wanted—R. B. & Co.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Aug. 21 '84

THE DISPUTED TERRITORY.

If we are to believe the statements of parties whom there is no reason to think prejudiced, the victory of Mr. Mowat on the Boundary Award is after all a barren one, or in the language of political slang, is only a 'moral victory.' It is said that the 88,000 square miles of territory adjudged to Ontario is really not worth one cent an acre, that it is, in fact, a howling wilderness of rock which nothing short of the fortitude or dire necessities of an Indian could induce a man to explore. The timber, minerals, &c., are, it is averred, but a dream.

We were prepared to learn that the value of the disputed tract was greatly exaggerated, that it is of much the same nature as Algoma or Muskoka. But in the face of the anxiety of tory henchmen to secure large grants of it, and of the bitter hostility of Quebec and Manitoba to its cession to Ontario, a hostility at bottom due to one and the same cause, we cannot accept the above estimate without important qualifications. Sir John A. Macdonald would certainly not hesitate to close the gaping maws of a Shields brigade with worthless gifts, but the men, constituting such a brigade, are far too astute to be put off with rock unless it contains a rich vein of precious metal. Patriotism may, indeed, now as in Dr. Johnston's time be the last refuge of a scoundrel, but the partizanship, which is not content to rest at cheering and shouting, but freely expends the sinews of war to gain its object, is not the refuge of fools, at least in money matters. No public man has ever paid a higher price for his tenure of office than our present Premier, and such a trifle, as is in these days the sacrifice of honor and principle, unaided by a much more substantial sacrifice of money or its equivalent, would not have kept him in power for one short year. It will doubtless please many to declare the grapes sour now that it is known for a certainty that the purple clusters are beyond their reach. But this does not change the flavor of the fruit.

Admitting, however, that Ontario's contention was about a straw, it will still remain for Conservative politicians to explain their motives in their ruthless attempts to deprive their native province even of a straw which was unquestionably her own.

MAJOR GRAY.

In the *York Herald*, of 14th inst., appeared the following letter:—

To the Editor of the "York Herald":
SIR—In your issue of last week, I notice a paragraph to the effect that I had received a militia appointment, and that West York was about to become vacant. 2. Having redeemed West York, I purpose holding it for my party, and having regard to the prosperity of my country, I deem it advisable to remain at my post, and fight the organized hypocrisy at present in power. 3. Recent events must have made it plain to every honest man in Ontario, that all the bribery, recent treachery and rascality in the Local House was on the side of the Government and their supporters. 4. The Opposition, to their credit be it said, stand before the public as upright honest and honorable men, who will be in a position to meet their supporters without a spot or stain upon their character, and may confidently appeal to and receive increased support from the Electors.

I am, Sir,
Yours very truly,
JOHN GRAY

Parkdale, Aug. 11th, 1884.

The words of the above precious production are, of course, borrowed from the *Mail*: the arrangement of them smacks of the accomplished Major Gray himself. It contains four sentences which we have numbered: we have something to say to each.

1. The report that Major Gray was soon to receive a 'militia appointment' originated with his own friends. It was discussed by them without any pretence to secrecy, and on the assumption of averred facts, to wit, Major Gray's desire to better himself financially, and the still greater of certain of his party to take his place. The latter may pass unquestioned, with the former we have nothing to do. These reports were circulated unchallenged, until a black cloud, fraught with direst woe, suddenly appeared on the political horizon. That cloud, which men now call the Bribery Conspiracy, suddenly burst, and, needless to say, the opening of West York was at once relegated to the region of enterprises damned for their fatality. Perforce, then, Major Gray must continue to be a foe to his own interests, and a mar-

tyr to those of his country; in the sinister words of the *Mail*, he must remain for at least several years longer in that to Tories most tantalizing of predicaments, 'unremunerative opposition.'

2. We question much that the tactics employed in 1883 for the so-styled redemption of West York would again prove successful. At the last election, it was solemnly asseverated that Mr. William Patterson was an American, that he owned not one foot of property in Canada, that he had no interest in the country, and that he did not for a moment seriously contemplate the erection of a foundry in Parkdale. These falsehoods did their work. But they have left a bitter taste behind, and, joined to recent events, render it more than advisable for Major Gray to remain as long as he can 'at his post.' Wherever Mr. Patterson was born, it is certain that he is quite as good a subject of the Queen as the Major himself, and the objects of his veneration are not men who to-day stand convicted of conspiring with Yankee lumbermen against Her Majesty's legally chosen Government. As to Mr. Patterson's property, people now know that all the cabbages which the Major ever raised would cover but a small part of it, even if his own magnificent head were thrown in. Finally, the splendid foundry, now in full operation at Parkdale, has already earned for the Major's brigade the praise of having lied like an epitaph.

3. This sentence would be a real treat, were it not so stale both in manner and substance. It is the language of a man whose style of thought and power of expression are borrowed from the *Mail*, a journal not written to argue or convince, but solely to stimulate and tickle the palates of those who find argument distasteful, and to whom conviction means indiscriminate bolting. When a man uses such words as 'bribery,' 'treachery and rascality,' with a taste and skill so exquisite, his speech bewrayeth him to be one of those gullible-for-self innocents who receive their intellectual nourishment from the wooden spoon wielded by 'the smallest editor in Canada.' Major Gray has evidently been mightily pleased with Grip's cartoon, representing Messrs. Mowat, Hardy, Fraser and Pardee being led off, in charge of the same veracious editor, to trial for attempting to seduce into crooked ways that trio of cherubs, Meek, Bunting and Wilkinson. We suppose that the Major never heard of Mr. Weeks of West Middlesex fame, whom Mr. Meredith made such frantic exertions to pull out of the slough into which he had fallen. That the gallant leader of the Opposition himself nearly took a header.

4. This last sentence irresistibly reminds one of the Chieftain's truthful declarations:—"These hands are clean," "Would to Heaven I could catch Riel," "Not one stick of timber, &c." It is well for Canada that, even if there are many morally competent and willing to fill Sir John's shoes, there is not one with the requisite talents. "Upright," only sometimes. "Honest, honorable," yes, in comparison with some whose names we do not now remember. "Spot or stain on their character," tush, 'tis a fabric too damaged to hold anything.

In conclusion, we beg to ask Major Gray if he ever heard of the proverb which says that he who excuses himself accuses himself. He does not deny that he was to have received a 'militia appointment,' and we have shown that it would have proved very inconvenient for his party if he had accepted it. He will do well in the future to wait for charges to be made before he proceeds to rebut them. When there are no enemies at hand, the only rust his sword is likely to receive will come from the night air. We sincerely hope that, at least in the Major's case, the pen is not mightier than the sword, for the former is surely the weakest of goose-quills.

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