

BUTLER'S JOURNAL.

Devoted to
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE,
LITERATURE,
CURRENT NOTES and SOCIAL
GOSSIP.

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FREDERICTON, JUNE, 1896.

A MAIL FROM LINCOLN.

A certain strong-minded woman hailing from Lincoln stopped us on the street the other day and expressed a desire to pay her subscription of two years' standing. We were glad to meet her, both because she and her family had been friends of ours in days gone by, and because in these hard times a little change comes always acceptable. We had heretofore always been very friendly, so much so that this good woman whenever we would visit her place would always give us a warm welcome and hustle around and put the kettle on and not let us away until after dinner. Her good husband, her big boy and the kids likewise remained "True" to us, and we know of no family with whom we could feel more at home, could have a higher regard for and no children whom we could love better than theirs. This was, however before the Bathurst School Question or the Remedial Bill became a burning issue, and also before those zealous and indefatigable disseminators of sectarian strife and discord had invaded the rural simplicity of this quiet little neighborhood, and inflamed the minds of some of the people with bitterness and hatred toward a certain class of their fellow beings.

In return for the many favors bestowed upon us by this kind family we agreed to furnish THE JOURNAL to their boy, to whom it was addressed, for 25cts. per year, a promise to which, of course, we adhered, and turning out her pocket she could only find 45 cts. which we accepted thankfully, counting of course on a continued subscription and no interruption of our existing friendly relations. So far as we are concerned there is no change in our friendship, fidelity, or respect to these good, but misguided people.

After paying us, she made the request that we stop sending the paper to her boy. We, of course agreed, as we have had similar requests in the past, and do not consider it our place to ask for an explanation, as when a subscriber has paid their indebtedness their business ends with us and we consider them the best qualified to judge of their own concerns. But woman like she began to give us "a piece of her mind," and commenced a tirade against us, charging us with religious bigotry, slandering the Protestants, and several other things to which we did not stop long to listen, for if there is anything we hate it is to prolong an argument with a woman; for we respect them even when they cannot respect themselves, and we guard particularly against getting heated, for fear we might say something out of place.

We don't consider it necessary to apologise to sensible Protestants, (who form the bulk of our subscribers and to the ones who are not sensible, a few of which we have had in different parts of this Province it is altogether unnecessary) for any thing we have said in THE JOURNAL in times past and whoever charges us with slandering our Protestant friends and neighbors, is guilty of a malicious falsehood.

The files of THE JOURNAL are open to inspection from the first issue and we challenge any one to put their finger on a paragraph in which we have slurred or slandered the Protestant religion. It ill becomes aiders and abettors of men like Rush, sent here by that slimy serpent, the A. P. A., whose avowed object is the proscription and ultimate extirpation of Catholics to make such charges. We have not replied to one tenth of their scurrilous abuse, and in no instance have we attacked any one.

On the contrary there has not been an issue of our paper in which some Protestant has not been singled out for honorable mention or grateful remembrance, and in our Wayside Warbles ninetyfive per cent of the friends to whom we return our thanks and good

wishes and with whom we relate our pleasantest experiences, and the kindest hospitality are Protestants. It is an insult to the intelligence of these good people who have read THE JOURNAL for years to ask their pardon for what we have not done. We have even drawn down upon us the wrath of certain Catholics for standing up for Manitoba against the Remedial Bill.

The devil once turned the beauty of Eden into a howling wilderness and the innocence and simplicity of its inhabitants into sin with its resultant suffering, and when the A. P. A. or any of its offshoots, poison the minds of former friends to the extent of boycotting a man on account of his religion or because his opinions are not the same as theirs and pollutes the wellsprings of friendship and affection with its poison vomit and and turns heretofore innocent neighbors and friends who have been linked together in the bonds of friendship and affection into hostile armies it is doing the work of the devil.

WHOM DO WE SUPPORT.

When asked by our friends what candidate we are going to support in the coming Dominion election we might return Mark Twain's answer "that we have all we can do to support ourself." In regard to the two great parties we feel like the man about to die who said that he did not care much whether he went to heaven or the other place "as he had friends in both places;" so we have friends in both camps and feel disposed to let them fight it out between themselves, particularly as we have not yet had any financial inducement to support either party. While inclining personally to the Liberal Party as the most democratic, and therefore the most likely to secure needed reforms we do not feel like throwing ourselves into the contest unless the question of Independence becomes a factor, and as it is not likely to enter the domain of practical politics in the Maritime Provinces we prefer to remain silent. Between Tupper and the old flag, and Laurier and the new flag, we should not hesitate for a moment, but while Laurier and many of his colleagues are friendly to independence, it has not yet become a plank in the Liberal platform, and is not likely to be. Besides the Liberal party can count among its followers quite a large sprinkling of lords, and many more who would like to be. The true people's party has not yet arisen in Canada, and under the present dependent status of the country we don't see much choice.

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