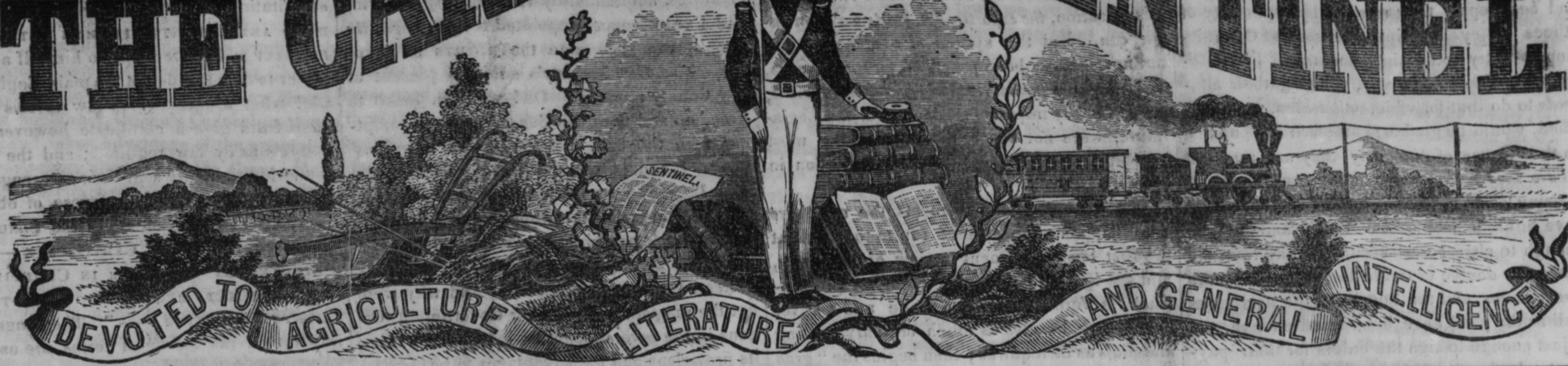


THE CARLETON SENTINEL.



Published and Edited

"Our Queen and Constitution."

By James S. Segre.

VOL. VI.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1853.

No. 7.

Popery Abroad--Its Amazing Growth.

The entire Roman Catholic population of the world is estimated at 139 millions, and these are governed by an army of ecclesiastics whose mere names would fill many volumes. In the city of Rome, they are to the enormous ratio of one to every twenty inhabitants. In the petty kingdom of Naples, there are no less than 64 bishops, and 20 archbishops. In all the other southern states of Europe it is much the same; and it is little better in the northern ones. In France alone, Rome has an agency of 42,000 priests, 7000 religious houses, male and female, 1,000 boarding schools for young ladies, 900 charitable institutions, and 200 ecclesiastical colleges. And the small kingdom of Belgium, containing not 4-1-2 millions of people, has near 20,000 ecclesiastics of all kinds, with 650 convents, monasteries, &c.

Passing on to other continents, we find Rome's emissaries dispersed over the vast region of America, from Hudson's Bay to the straits of Magellan; we meet them in Asia, contending with Bramha and Bhudda on their own soil; we see them in Australia, striving to preoccupy its colonies; nay, we trace them even through Africa, on the sands of the Sahara and the swamps of Guinea. To say nothing of America's Popish countries, the United States alone, that in 1800 had but one bishop and a few priests, have now no less than 36 bishops and 1500 priests, with 147 Popish Seminaries, &c., 34 colleges, and 136 religious institutions. In Asia again, Rome has now no less than 20 vicariates-apostolic, embracing 500 stations and out-stations, and employing a staff of 337 priests, with the usual complement of monks, nuns, &c. Yes, and of all these the vast majority are in our own Indian empire. Then Australia, which 50 years ago contained but one bishop and two priests, has now an archbishop, 14 bishops, and several hundred priests.

Is it possible to read these statistics, and reflect on Protestant apathy without dismay? and what must we think of those who still profess to despise a power like this, which counts not kingdoms but continents for its provinces, and controls them by an army whose name is Legion—with one centre, Rome; one commander, the Pope; one aim, universal conquest; and one spirit, unquenchable fanaticism. The statistics of British Popery are startling enough, but here is an army of which the whole British priesthood are a mere detachment. Its progress in Britain is sufficiently alarming; yet the above figures demonstrate that even this is but a small part of its general progress—like the rise of the tide in our rivers and estuaries, which is but a mark and consequence of its rise in the surrounding seas.

But there is something in Rome's present condition more alarming far than the mere number of its priests. Six years ago the Papacy seemed expiring; the world witnessed a general flight of its despots; the Pope himself was a fugitive; and Europe's salvation seemed near. Rome has since, by its single arm, rolled back the tides of progress over Europe, and bound its nations in heavier chains than before. Italy, which in 1848 was opened to the Bible, seems now more hopelessly shut than ever. The city of Rome, which then contained 150,000 inhabitants, has now but 100,000; the rest have been imprisoned, banished, or executed. Tuscany is now as notorious for its Popish persecutions, as it used to be distinguished for its learning and arts. In Austria, Rome rules with a dominion unsurpassed in the 12th century. In Holland she has perpetrated another aggression. In Prussia she has not only secured the restoration of the Jesuits, but other important concessions. While in Spain she has recently issued an edict, forbidding all men without exception to pro-

less Protestantism within its territory. And as for France, she has not only placed a perjured usurper on its throne, but has enabled him to extinguish, to all appearance, the spirit of 1848, and keeps that restless nation prostrate at his feet, as though it were paralyzed or spell-bound.

Here then is a foe that in six years has carried every important post on the Continent; has driven liberty to Britain as its last European asylum, and now bends its entire strength against her; a foe whose advance guards are amongst us, and whose emissaries fill our country with their intrigues.—Yet Britain slumbers, and thousands cry "No danger!" Well, suppose there were no danger, has it come to this that Protestant Britain shall remain deaf to the cries of enslaved and persecuted millions who are imploring her aid? Britain, that land of God's special favour! Was it for this he has preserved her for centuries from so many dangers—destroyed the Armada, defeated the Gunpowder Plot, and kept her safe in 1848, when other kingdoms were reeling? And can she now look on our persecuted brethren of continental nations, and utter the language of Cain? God forbid. But she cannot thus separate her interests from theirs; their safety is our safety. We cannot let them be thus vanquished in detail, without incurring equal guilt and danger. And see how this unworthy course is already emboldening the enemy, and meeting its just reward. Austria expels our missionaries from Pesth. Portugal forbids them to approach the Azores. Even miserable Spain, for which Britain has wasted so much blood and treasure, insults her with impunity by its edict above noticed, and will scarce give an Englishman a grave for his wife. Ay, and while Wiseman may build cathedrals where he pleases, the Pope will not suffer a Protestant church within the walls of Rome, nor permit an Englishman to carry a Bible through Italy. No wonder indeed that England, which once made Popes to tremble, is now the butt of derision in the Vatican itself.

Such, then, are but a few proofs of Rome's present strides, selected almost at random. Alas! to multiply them were only too easy. Yet some still speak of Popery as if it were an expiring thing, on which it was scarce worth while to waste an effort! It is not the first time it has been prematurely given over. According to the predictions of many, its requiem should have long since been sung. Alas! it shews at present few signs indeed of either death or decline. Serpents are tenacious of life, and we fear this one will be no exception. In 1848 we thought it all but killed, but it was only stunned, and the venomous creature is now rising in its fury to revenge the blow. Others will not believe it is so bad because it is not so bad here, and have still to learn that what it is at home it is in reality—that whatever atrocities it commits in Italy it would commit in England had it but the power—and that if it is comparatively mild here, where it dare not be fierce, this only proves its cunning, and shews that to the ferocity of the "beast," it adds the subtlety of the "serpent." Nay, strangest of all, some, resolved to see no danger, and to draw comfort from Europe's very calamities, tell us that Rome's present efforts are but its dying throes! And even suppose it were so, are God's people to look on indifferent, when in these struggles it threatens to slay more in its death than it has ever done in its life?

Fellow-Christians! an awful responsibility rests now on you. Britain, Europe's last hope slumbers. Yours is the solemn duty to wake her out of sleep, and never was one more momentous. Neglect it, and you are traitors to the world; generations unborn will curse you. Discharge it faithfully, and they will call you blessed. Then, children of Jesus, of every name, we urge you to strenuous efforts for the downfall of Rome and the salvation of its millions. Join our associations; distribute our tracts; circulate our periodicals; contribute of your means; and let there be no delay, for days are months in this warfare; let there be no presumptuous indolence, for we cannot expect success from God if we will not do our duty; let there be no cowardly unbelief, for Rome is doomed, and our great Master must conquer.—*Bulwark.*

Communications.

A Mechanic's Letters on the State of the Province.

No. 2.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:

WOODSTOCK, July 30, 1853.

CORRUPTION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

SIR,—We frequently hear of corruption in New Brunswick, which, besides being too prevalent among public men, seems not confined to any particular class of society. It is my intention in the present epistle to direct attention to the subject generally, particularly some instances that have come to my knowledge, and endeavor to trace out the cause of this demoralizing plague-spot.

No person who has noticed the general desire to evade the revenue laws, and smuggle foreign goods into the Province, must have been struck with the fact that nothing but the fear of detection, and its consequences, prevents our importers generally from becoming smugglers. They appear to entertain not the most distant idea that the illicit trade is immoral and irreligious, but consider it to be the most natural and harmless things in the world to cheat the Provincial Treasury,—and in the Government appears to be of the same opinion, for when smugglers are caught their goods are taken from them, and there the matter is dropped; they are never prosecuted, and made to suffer by fine or imprisonment, as in England and other countries.

Another step in the scale of corruption is the annual steps made to draw money from the public chest for improper objects, by petition, clamour, perseverance, pressure on the Representatives from without, and combinations. If a man contracts to construct or perform certain public work, and finds the price insufficient, he petitions the Legislature to make good his loss, and place him in the same position as though he had not contracted at all, but performed the labour by days' work, with the privilege of charging his own price for materials. One man loses his wheat or oat mill by fire, another loses his horse in consequence of the bad state of a road or bridge, and another is mulcted of costs and damages, he having defended a suit arising from disputed boundaries to his farm.—Each and all applies to the House of Assembly, as to an Insurance Office, to make good their respective losses; and they succeed or fail without the slightest regard to the merits of their respective cases, but according to the influence they can bring to bear, the combinations they can effect, and the pertinacity with which they persist in pressing their claims year after year. Can this be disputed? Who does not recollect how a gang of Yankee speculators purchased large blocks of land in this Province, paid the first instalment and no more, and thus (after locking up half of our wild land for years) justly forfeiting their claims and the money they had paid? Yet they had the assurance to apply to the Legislature for land to the amount of the instalment paid, and after sustaining several annual defeats, at length succeeded! But perhaps the most adroit and successful play ever hit on to tap the Provincial money-chest is the pension to "Widows of Old Soldiers of the Revolutionary War." When we take into consideration the fact that a man who was twenty years old at the close of the American War, (not an old soldier, surely), and living to the age of three score years and ten—the common age of man—and no more, must have died twenty years ago, one cannot but be astonished at so many hundreds of their widows still drawing pensions. Why, these old fellows must have been as amorous as certain of the ancients, or they must have married in their

old age for the very laudable and patriotic motive of reminding the third and fourth generations of their services by the annual pension-claims of their widows.

It is scarcely necessary to allude to the corruption that has, time out of mind, prevailed in the expenditure of public monies on roads, bridges, and other Government works. The money is granted not as it is wanted, but in proportion as an able tactician may be able to manage or sway the majority of the Committee of the House of Assembly. The Great Road grants are expended by Supervisors appointed by the Government, and generally under a system of gross favoritism.—The Bye-Road Grants are subdivided by the County members, and the Commissioners are by them nominated, the whole being done either to reward past, or secure future electioneering influence and services.

I have given instances enough to show the corruption prevailing among the people—the eagerness and recklessness with which every one endeavours to grasp and retain as much as possible of the public money, whether he is entitled to it or not. There must be some cause for the prevalence of this degrading propensity—this total disregard of patriotism, honesty, and honorable principle, and this cause I will now endeavour to expose.

Sir, the inhabitants of a country are accustomed to look up to their rulers for a code of morality, and as the history of all monarchies prove that whenever the Court is corrupt the people soon become corrupt also, the axiom will apply equally to republics and colonies. The masses soon understand what is going on in high places, and they reason thus with themselves: "Is it worse to job in roads and bridges than it is for our rulers to squander the public funds? Is it more sinful to get a few pounds of the said funds by practising deceit than it is for our law-makers to empty wine and ale bottles, dozen after dozen, at the public expense, and pile away the empty bottles by hundreds in one of the Committee Rooms? Is it a greater crime to evade payment into the Provincial revenue by smuggling, than it is to pilfer from the revenue after it is collected? Is it any wonder that the people ape their rulers, and become demoralized? Our whole system of Government, from the Executive to the Assembly, is one of smuggling, lying, pilfering, deceit, and humbug. I have it on good authority that the private secretary of one of Sir Edmund Head's predecessors, and a judge of our Supreme Court, did for a long time systematically and periodically purchase articles which they knew to be contraband, and smuggled into this Province from the United States! The Secretary, doubtless, was merely the agent of his master. What an example was here set for the people, by the Queen's representative and one of the highest legal functionaries of the land! Next let us look at the manner in which two of our present judges got their seats.—One of them petitioned for it and got it through one of the most shameful violations of our Constitution ever perpetrated, although it was a Constitution he himself had been partly instrumental in procuring, and had for many years professed that he valued it dearer than his life. The other was a member of a Government to whom was tendered, conditionally, the resignation of a judge who considered his usefulness somewhat impaired by a physical affliction; and the said Government chose to accept his resignation and overlook the condition, and just before tottering to their fall, the present incumbent retired to the seat so curiously and unjustly vacated, although he was suffering from the same infirmity as his predecessor, and in a worse degree! The members of the present Gov-