

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION AT HAMILTON.

Toronto, Sept. 23, evening.

Leaving Montreal on Tuesday evening at 8.30 by the G. T., we were unexpectedly delayed at the Tanneries for five hours, till an engine and some cars which had been thrown off the track a little distance ahead, could be cleared out of the way. From the best information I could obtain from officials, a number of ties had been dragged on the track at a culvert, and so placed as to make sure of throwing off a train; and if it were a passenger train going at a high rate of speed, the loss of life and property would have been very great, as the light passenger-cars would all doubtless have been thrown off. But if the destruction was intended for our train, which must in ordinary course have reached the place very soon after the ties were put on the track, the diabolical conspirators were disappointed, for a down freight-train was the first to reach the obstruction, and the freight-cars were so heavy that only the locomotive and one or two of them ran off, the former being badly broken. The news of the disaster brought the Grand Trunk managers out immediately, who got the wreck removed as soon as possible, whilst we were wondering what was the matter. After we did start, great caution seemed to be exercised, and the pace was necessarily slow. The reason of these delays I did not learn till next morning, and no one could conjecture any motive for such a diabolical outrage until it was remarked that Mr. O'Reilly was on board the 8.30 train from Montreal; and some supposed that the same men who had in Montreal plotted the murder of Mr. McGee had been tracking the Crown Prosecutor, whose skill and assiduity had procured a verdict of guilty against his murderer. If so, it was a dastardly attempt, for Mr. O'Reilly acted with great candor and fairness, and Irishmen do not usually seek to murder a fair opponent. After the murder of McGee, however, it is difficult to imagine anything that would be too criminal for the parties engaged in that act. It may be, however, that the act was one of reckless, drunken folly, or of spite in some other direction. In any case, to jeopardize the lives of several hundred passengers, in order to gratify malice against any individual, is an act of such wholesale murder and wanton atrocity that a single murder seems to be a small crime compared with it.

With the exception of this detention (during which some rowdism, so far as talking went, occurred on board the sleeping-car), and a good number of subsequent stoppages, caused probably by our being out of time, the journey to Toronto was safe and pleasant. The employes of the company were very attentive and obliging, and everything, so far as I could judge, was in fair order. At several parts of the road, we passed gangs of men employed in relaying it, and we glided over the new-laid portions as smoothly and with as little noise almost as if we had been on ice.

The country along the St. Lawrence and Lake shore is very beautiful, though autumn has not yet clothed it with its coat of many colors, and when we reached the rich townships of Whitby, Pickering, &c, we saw a considerable breadth of fall wheat coming up finely. There are also many fine fields of turnips and some of carrots in this highly cultivated region.

I omitted to say that there were several notable on board the train, among whom may be mentioned the Bishop of Huron, returning from Montreal, and the Rev. Morley Punshon. At almost every station we had accessions of passengers going to the Hamilton exhibition, and we learned that special trains, crowded with passengers for the same destination, preceded us. We did not reach Toronto till 7 p.m., instead of 1 p.m., and there was no opportunity of going forward to Hamilton, which is greatly crowded, till next morning.

In looking over the Toronto evening paper, we can find no later intelligence in it concerning the Hamilton Exhibition than in the morning papers, which you have doubtless received.

J. D.

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

(To the Editor of the Daily Witness.)

Sir,—Your Catholic contemporary emanating from 696 Craig Street, has thought fit to retreat from the controversy on this subject, declaring that it "cannot condescend to reply to the scurrility of Thomas Widd"; giving as its reason for pursuing such a course, that I "confound the statements, assertions bare and unsupported by testimony, by names, dates, and details of circumstances, with proof," and it closes its brief editorial thus:—"We are sure that they (the Protestants) must blush when they see such statements published in the 'only religious daily paper in the world'; and which professes to be the only true exponent of their principles." Now, Mr. Editor, you will agree with me in saying that great dishonesty and injustice is shown by the *True (?) Witness*, whose editor has, in reality, been forced to retire from the controversy, which he has provoked so much to his disadvantage and disgrace, by the incontrovertible facts brought to light with regard to the priests among the deaf and dumb of Montreal.

The public who have seen the progress of this discussion should not be deprived of the concluding remarks on either side, and I would like the public to be the judges in this delicate matter, which concerns the temporal and eternal welfare of 2,000 deaf and dumb in the Dominion of Canada.

For the information of the *True Witness*, I would here say that I am able to produce proof and evidence in support of what I have

revealed, and I am willing to prove the same before twelve respectable men; and, furthermore, I court the fullest and most searching investigation.

The facts which have appeared in the controversy on my side have been summed up, analyzed, and denounced as "scurrility" by the philosophizing editor of the *True Witness*. Still the *True Witness* has not produced a shadow of testimony to exculpate the directors of the deaf and dumb school from the charges brought against them,—most of which the directors themselves admitted to me, and justified as necessary to the maintenance of the papal religion.

Instead of the readers of the "only religious daily paper in the world" blushing at these statements, the *True Witness* may have forgotten that Protestants do not blush at the truth being brought to light, nor call facts "scurrility." They will be filled with greater commiseration for the poor, deluded deaf-mutes, who groan under the thralldom which keeps them in darkness and degradation, and whose tutors dread the light entering their dormant minds lest they should turn and rebuke their ignorant and superstitious teachers! The Roman Catholics will not educate the deaf-mutes as they ought to be educated, nor will they allow others to do so. The poor deaf-mutes—whose calamity brings them down to semi-idiotcy and cretinism, and even below the blind—cannot help themselves; and friends of a different religion, who, yielding to the impulse of pity and love for them, attempt to lead them out of darkness, are opposed and anathematized by the priests of Rome, who join the *True Witness* in its eloquence and "logic" to check the course of Gospel truth; but the united vociferation of its enemies will only add energy to Protestantism,—i. e., civilization and Gospel truth.

From the tone of the *True Witness* throughout this discussion, one is apt to start at the impression it conveys as regards the "true means of salvation," as taught to the deaf and dumb, and advocated by your Craig Street contemporary. It denies that the Gospel is the true means of salvation, and, in its argument, attempts to display rhetorical powers, which amount to rhapsody. The *True Witness* does not admit the Gospel to be the true means of salvation,—then I would ask: Is the "true" means of salvation it advocates furthered by the sending of threatening letters of the stamp I have been favored with? Are murder and violence a part of its religion? Are the days of the unfortunate Lollards to be enacted in Canada?

The public are taxed by the Provincial Government to enable it to give grants to charitable and educational institutions in this province, and the taxpayers have a right to see that their money is judiciously put to a good purpose. The annual grants to the two Montreal deaf-mute schools is \$1,500 each. How are the pupils benefited by it? They can hardly read or write a correct sentence after years at school, and their Sunday "services" consists of accounts of murders, robberies, and superstition attributed to Protestants,—the taxpayers and benefactors of the deaf-mutes.

Apologizing for trespassing so much upon your valuable space. Yours respectfully,
Montreal, Sept. 26th. THOMAS WIDD.

EDUCATION FOR ARTISANS.

(To the Editor of the Montreal Witness.)

Sir,—During the few months I have been in your city, I have made myself pretty well acquainted with it, and have naturally instituted many comparisons between what exists here and in the old country, from which I came, in reference to almost every matter brought under my notice. At present, I mean to refer to one particular matter only, and that in as few words as possible; and I am induced to do so all the more readily, as the evil to which I allude is one which lies on the very surface and can be easily remedied. I find that there is a lamentable deficiency of property—I do not say thoroughly-educated artisans in every branch of trade, not only here, but throughout the entire Dominion, partly explainable, I know, by the parents—either from need or greed—taking their boys from school and setting them to work before their education is anything like sufficient to fit them for raising in their trade, or filling any situation in it, which requires a little intelligent scholarship. On further inquiry, I find, however, another much more probable explanation of this matter, in the fact that many of the more pushing and intelligent lads who very soon come to feel their position, and the serious disadvantages they labor under in consequence, and who would gladly make up their deficiency by study and application in the evening when their work is over, are utterly at a loss how to do so, for want of a teacher to guide them for a fee within their reach. Now, in the old country this want is amply supplied in all the manufacturing towns with which I am acquainted, and which I think goes far to explain why our old-country artisans are so much sought after to fill situations of responsibility and trust, not only here, but in every quarter of the habitable globe. I have called this want an evil, and is it not, and a serious one may I not institute at once a few evening classes where such lads as I have referred to, may obtain, for a small fee, what I know some of them at least, anxiously desire, and thus foster such a laudable ambition, instead of standing by and seeing it nullified if not barked; and, I am sure, teachers won't be wanting, zealous in their work, and ready to do all in their power to promote the object in view. Let this be done, and let employers and parents facilitate the movement, which they can do in many ways, if they have the wish to do so; and I have no doubt but that properly educated artisans will soon be more plentiful and not so far to seek; and the whole public will also share in the result thereof. The benefit which cannot fail to result therefrom.

I am, yours truly,
Montreal, Sept. 24th, 1868.

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