

Boycotter la France

Oui, ni plus ni moins, quelques cerveaux allemands, italiens, anglais et yankees ont enfanté la lumineuse idée de boycotter la France.

Et sur nos rivages le petit procureur général Longley, d'Halifax, se révéla tel qu'il est, s'est précipité sur cette occasion de se donner du lustre, et a levé au Canada l'étendard du boycottage.

Qui l'aime le suive ! Au milieu du torrent d'injures qui se déverse contre la France depuis huit jours, cette forme d'outrage nous a paru particulièrement insolente et stupide.

Boycotter la France, Messieurs, essayez donc ! Elle a subi bien des désastres, elle a commis bien des fautes ; mais, en dépit de ces désastres et de ces fautes, c'est pour nous une joie profonde, au milieu des épreuves qu'elle traverse, que de pouvoir crier à la face de ses insulteurs : la France est encore la tête et le cœur de l'Europe, elle est encore le plus rayonnant foyer de lumière qu'il y ait au monde, elle est encore la fleur la plus magnifique et la plus exquise qui soit éclosée au souffle de la civilisation chrétienne et occidentale.

Le déchainement de fureur de la presse allemande, italienne, anglaise et américaine est une véritable honte. Depuis cinq jours, il s'est écrit et dit des choses insensées. On serait tenté de croire qu'il y a là comme une mystérieuse conjuration internationale.

Mélez-vous donc de vos affaires, scribes impudents et calomnieux ! N'y a-t-il donc plus de linge sale à laver à Berlin, à Londres et à New-York ? Est la France est-elle devenue la razzia d'une tourbe de folliculaires enragés ?

Ne discutons pas l'affaire Dreylus. Un procès a eu lieu en France, il n'a pas tourné comme le désiraient un grand nombre de gens. Faisons un pas de plus, supposons qu'une erreur judiciaire ait été commise. Ce serait un grand malheur. Mais n'y en a-t-il jamais eu ailleurs qu'en France ? Et cela confère-t-il aux nations étrangères un droit d'intrusion dans l'administration de la justice française ?

Nous nous étouffons que ces considérations si rationnelles n'aient pas empêché les excès que nous signalons. Les préjugés nationaux sont donc bien violents puisqu'ils font oublier ces vérités élémentaires.

On croit rêver quand on entend s'élever ces voix allemandes, ces voix anglaises, ces voix américaines, demandant que la France soit mise au bon des nations civilisées. S'imaginer-t-on que l'histoire est un livre fermé ? L'Allemagne est-elle immaculée ? L'Angleterre est-elle impeccable ? Les Etats-Unis ont-ils acquis par l'éclatante pureté de leurs annales le droit de poser à la vertu sans tache ? Elle serait longue la liste des victimes qui, des rives de la Sprée, de la Tamise ou de l'Hudson, ont poussé un émuant cri d'appel de l'injustice humaine à la justice éternelle !

Mais à quoi bon ces récriminations et ces distribes de nation à nation ? Ceux qui les fomentent en ce moment font une œuvre criminelle. Les folliculaires étrangers qui couvrent de boue le peuple français, méritent d'être flétris comme des malfaiteurs internationaux.

Quant au petit procureur-général Longley d'Halifax, il peut ravalier sa petite barbe et rentrer ses petites griffes.

Il n'a pas été taillé pour se mesurer avec la France.—Jour. des Camps.

Est-ce la Guerre

Londres, 22.—Aujourd'hui a eu lieu la réunion du cabinet, attendue avec tant d'anxiété, depuis quelques jours. La séance a commencé à 12.30 heures p. m.

Une foule considérable assemblée dans la rue Downing, a acclamé les ministres à leur arrivée.

M. Jos. Chamberlain a reçu la plus large part des applaudissements.

Avant la séance, lord Rothschild a rendu visite au premier lord du trésor. M. A. Balfour. On dit que cette visite est due aux difficultés financières que rencontre le gouvernement au sujet de la campagne militaire imminente.

La séance du cabinet s'est terminée à 2.40 heures. Les ministres ont été acclamés en sortant du Bureau des affaires étrangères. En attendant qu'il a été possible de se renseigner, les ministres ont adopté une vigoureuse ligne de conduite.

Le marquis de Lansdowne, ministre de la guerre, et M. G. Z. Goschen, premier lord de l'amirauté, se sont rendus immédiatement au Bureau de la guerre.

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L'inspecteur Abbott, de la fameuse agence "Scotland Yard," de Londres, est arrivé hier, d'un voyage dans l'Ouest où il accomplissait avec succès une mission périlleuse et difficile. Il a arrêté, près d'Edmonton, un nommé William Crik, activement recherché par les autorités de Londres, pour vol de \$40,000.

"Crik, nous a raconté l'inspecteur Abbott, occupait une position de confiance dans un important bureau de courtier. Un matin du mois de mai dernier, Crik arriva au bureau à l'heure habituelle, mais au lieu de se mettre au travail, il demanda à son patron la permission de s'absenter pendant quinze jours, disant qu'il était malade et qu'il ne pouvait continuer son travail. Comme il avait en sa possession un certificat de médecin qui attestait de la véracité de ce fait, le patron accéda volontiers au désir de son employé. Une semaine plus tard, Crik revint et déclara qu'il devait, sur l'avis de son médecin, entreprendre un voyage maritimes. Le patron acquiesça encore et Crik s'embarqua pour l'Amérique avec un nommé Summers.

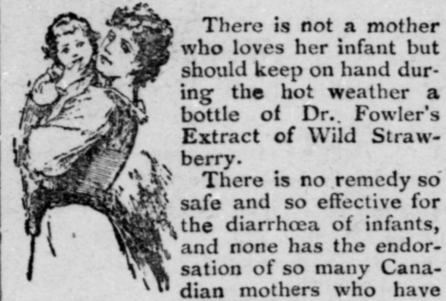
Quelques jours plus tard, on découvrit que Crik avait volé \$40,000 à son généreux patron. Il s'était emparé d'un certain nombre de coupons qu'il avait vendus à un autre courtier pour la somme susdite. On ne savait quelle direction Crik avait prise, et l'inspecteur Abbott, qui fut chargé de cette affaire, n'avait que le signalement de l'accusé. Il se mit activement à l'œuvre et, il y a quatre semaines, il apprit que Crik était au Canada. Il s'embarqua aussitôt, et, après avoir parcouru toutes les provinces, il retrouva enfin son homme près d'Edmonton. Malheureusement, Summers n'était plus là. Quelques jours auparavant, il s'était embarqué pour retourner en Angleterre. M. Abbott télégraphia la nouvelle aux

autorités de Londres, qui ont arrêté Summers à son arrivée à Londres, où il subira son procès.

Quant à Crik, il a été ramené à Montréal samedi, il s'embarquera ce soir, sous l'égide du détective anglais pour retourner à Londres, où il subira son procès.

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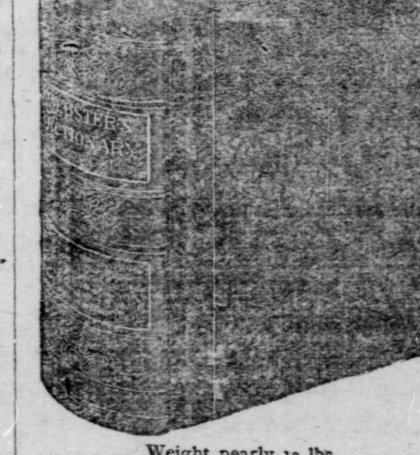
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