The True deliness: A THOLIC CHRONICLE DELIGHED SVERY FRIDAY BY THE EDITOR LAND GEORGE E OLBRE

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEB. 7, 1862.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE tone of the press, both in France and Great Britain, would seem to indicate that, unless the Northern States are prepared to assert, very decidedly and very speedily, their power to crush the Southern Confederacy, the latter will be formally recognised by the Great Powers of Europe. It is said, and apparently with truth, that France being a greater sufferer by the interruption of commercial relations with this Continent, and by the shutting up of the Southern markets, is much more urgent in this matter than is England; and that the latter has already declined to take part in a joint action proposed by the Government of Louis Napoleon, having for its object the raising of the blockade, and the recognition of the Confederate States. The public mind in Great Britain is not yet prepared for such extreme measures; and the Times contends that, no matter what action France may take in the premises, the policy of England is still to wait, still to adhere to that strict neutrality which she has observed since the first outbreak of hostilities in the United States, and to trust to the natural course of events; which, without interference from without, must ere long bring about the desired consummation. There is, of course, distress in England from the want of cotton; but it is not believed that the distress is so great as to justify intervention in the affairs of North America.

month of the year, and yet no decided advantages have been gained by the North over the "rebels," although in December it was confidently asserted that the rebellion would be put down, crushed, and trampled under foot before the end of January. Still however "all is quiet along the Potomac." General M'Clellan, whom some wicked wags have styled the "Young Napoleon," makes no sign, and is said to be at logdemoralised by their inaction, and as suffering from pestilence; whilst an enemy still more terrible-national bankruptcy-threatens their very existence. Of the condition of the Confederate army, we know nothing; but it is not easy to believe that the horrors which war has inflicted upon the North have not been felt with equal severity in the South; or that the financial prospects of President Jefferson Davis are any brighter than are those of President Abe Lincoln. Upon geither side, however, do we see an, desire to come to terms, or to bring the conflict to a conclusion - and yet like everything else, we suppose that even the civil war in the United States must come to a close in course of timethough how, when, and upon what conditions, no one can pretend to foresee. The parties to it are so mutually exasperated, are so bitter against one another, that it seems destined to become a very war of extermination; and certainly in the North, the advocates of enfranchising and arming the slaves are becoming bolder and more outspoken, and will probably succeed in imposing their desperate policy upon the hitherto reluctant Cabinet at Washington. Meantime, the tidings of the destruction, or attempted destruction, of the port of Charleston by sinking vessels laden with granite at the entrance, had provoked the indignant comments of the European press; which denounced it as an act of barbarism, unjustifiable by the laws of civilised war, and, whose repetition should be prevented by armed intervention, if necessary. It is not that similar measures have never been resorted to by European nations, even in modern times-but never with similar objects. The project of blocking up the port of Boulogne, from whence the shores of England were menaced with invasion during the great war with the first Napoleon, was entertained by the British Government of the day; but such a measure, if successfully carried out, would have been purely defensive, and upon those grounds might have been justified. But no such excuse or palliation can be surged for the blocking up of the port of have been; but love and reverence to the Brit- ant spirit." Not of a Christian, but simply of a Charleston; for that act was not defensive, was ish Crown, and to the British Empire, there "Protestant spirit"—that is to say, a spirit of not dictated by any military necessity, and could would have been none to boast of in no wise, directly, or indirectly, contribute to- Human nature is much the same every where. according to the True Witness, all Protest very existence of their shools upon the friendly pewer string to loppose to the true where.

carried it into execution purely vindictive of retributive; and was intended, not to protect the oasts of the loval States from invasion, not cripple the war resources of the enemy, but simply to indict upon him as signal and irremediable injury which should endure to all future ages witters as griewed in athis light that the of the Irish Catholics in the Northern States, armaments for the bombardment of New York ists would have been perfectly justified in any defensive measures that the exigencies of the case might have demanded. But there is an essential difference betwixt defensive and purely vindictive measures; and as the sinking of the lidle to insist upon them. And yet, self-evident stone fleet at Charleston was uncalled for by any military exigency, can in no wise contribute towards the subjugation of the "rebels," or have any influence over the fate of the war, and will make itself selt only when that war shall be at an end-it must be looked upon as a measure purely vindictive, and therefore repugnant to the hands of Great Britain as that which has been principles of all civilised nations.

The affairs of Italy remain unchanged; but so violent are the disputes in the Italian Parliament, that the attempt to construct a United Italy must be abandoned as hopeless. "Brigandage" is as formidable as ever in the Kingdom of Naples, and the conscription does but swell its ranks.

CANADA AND IRELAND .- The British press recognises, and with justice, and with good reason congratulates itself upon, the loyalty of the Catholics of Lower Canada. The warm attachment of the French Canadians to the monarchical institutions under which they live, and their determination to maintain British connection, are thankfully acknowledged on the other side of the Atlantic. One journal, the London Daily Telegraph, attributes the cession of Messrs. Slidell and Mason, and the consequent preservation of peace, to the bold and loyal attitude of Canada, and to the evidently unanimous determination of its people, to defend their country against Yankee invasion; and a correspondent of the Times takes occasion to contrast the action of the Catholics of Canada with that of the men who assisted at the great meeting in Dublin, presided over by The O'Donaghue.

This is all very true, and very well. The Catholics of Canada are, and have abundant reason We are now getting well on into the second to be, loyal to Great Britain, and to shrink with feelings stronger than mere loathing, from the prospect of annexation to the United States .-The language and conduct of the French Canadians in Lower Canada does indeed stand out in remarkable contrast to that of the people of Ireland at home. This cannot be denied; but for all this there is good reason; and from it there is a valuable moral lesson to be derived.

The Catholics of Canada generally are loyal gerheads with Congress, and the civil authorities. the French Canadians in particular - though The troops under his command are represented as standing in the relation of aliens in blood, language, and religion, to the people of Englandare attached to English connection, and are ready to shed their blood in defence of the rights of England's Queen. And they are so, not only because their religion enjoins loyalty as a duty; but because they have been honorably and equitably dealt with by the British Government.

> The Catholics of Ireland, the people of Irejand, have not thus been dealt with by their rulers. They have been robbed of their Legisature; they have been virtually treated, until of ate years, as a conquered and subject people ;they have seen their Church plundered, and her property handed over to a hated and alien Establishment; and with few intermissions the policy of their Governors has been that of maintaing Protestant Ascendency-that is to say, the political ascendency of a Protestant minority over a Catholic majority. Ireland is; therefore, and most naturally, discontented, and a source of weakness and disgrace rather than of strength and pride, to the British Empire.

But had Catholic Ireland been treated as Catholic Lower Canada has been treated by Great Britain; had she, like Canada, been allowed her own Legislature, her own Church, and the control over her own internal affairs - Ireland would be to-day, what Lower Canada is; and it is to the gross injustice of Great Britain towards Ireland, and not to any inherent defect in the Irish character, that writers who comment upon the contrast betweet Ireland and Lower Canada should, and if they were honest would, attribute the want of affection on the part of the former towards British rule. Had Canada been treated as Ireland has been, and still is treated; if we were legislated for in London; if we had a Protestant . Ecclesiastical Establishment in Canada, appropriating to its use the buildings and endowments devoted by Catholic piety to Catholic religious and charitable purposes—the press of England, we fear, would have had little cause to Christian Guardian, Protestantism consistscongratulate itself upon Canadian loyalty during our Protestant contemporaries above cited, find, the late crisis. Mechanical obedience there might | and with good reason, "the germs of a Protest-

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andctrue to their plighted faith bangare the Irish Witness their fidelity during the last century to contains in embryo the whole of Protestantism, the Continental sovereigns under whom they took and is the first for formal principle from whence service, and whose armies they so often led to victory; witness the loyalty, of the great mass Stone Fleet " appears so monstrous Had despite of the usage that they have therein re-Charleston been a great naval depot from whence ceived; and we may be sure that, if they are not enthusiastically loyal in Treland towards British or Boston were about to put to sea, the Federal- mile, it is the fault of the latter, and not of the Trish heart, or of the religion which the people of Ireland cling to with a martyr's faith.

These are truisms, we shall be told-facts so patent to the most superficial observer that it is and patent as are these facts, British statesmen will persist in ignoring them, and in treating those who insist upon them, as agitators, as visionaries, as disaffected, and foolish dreamers. And yetwhat more natural than that the people of Ireland should claim the same treatment from the awarded to Lower Canada, and the beneficial effects of which upon the Mother Country are now apparent? If it is right that we of Lower Canada should have our own Parliament or domestic Liegislature at Quebec, it cannot be wrong for Irishmen to insist upon an Irish Parliament in Dublin. If it be wise and just to recognise the Catholic Church in Lower Canada, to respect her endowments, and to treat her Prelates with courtesy, it cannot surely be either wise or just, to ignore that same Church in Ireland, to hand over her Irish endowments to Protestant ministers, and to treat her Irish Prelates with affected contempt, as intruders; and if the result of one course of policy has been to confirm the Catholies of Canada in loyalty to the Empire, the impolicy of that course which makes of Ireland the weak point in that Empire, must be apparent to the most inveterately prejudiced champion of 'Protestant Ascendency;" for the preservation of which, every consideration of honesty and sound policy, and the safety of the Empire itself, must apparently be sacrificed.

Oh Jerusalem! wept Our Lord over the doomed City, " if thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eves." So too a thick darkness seems, whenever the question of Ireland is mooted, to descend upon the best and wisest of British statesmen. The things that belong to the peace of the Empire are hid from their eyes; they cannot see that so long as they refuse to treat Ireland as they have treated Lower Canada, so long Ireland never can be to that Empire what Canada is-but that she will always remain the

As British statesmen have sown, so have they reaped. In Ireland a bitter, a most bitter harvest; but in Canada a rich and plentiful crop of loyalty and good will. Why then do they not change their seed for Ireland? Because the things which belong unto peace are hid from their eyes.

one vulnerable point, through which perhaps,

some day its enemy shall deal it the fatal blow.

PROTESTANTISM IN GERM .- There has been -as our readers will perceive by referring to our Irish items of intelligence-an unpleasant altercation betwixt His Lordship the Bishop of Galway, and one of the parochial clergy-the Rev. Mr. Daly. The latter having persisted, in spite of the kindly admonitions, remonstrances, and nositive injunctions of the Bishop, in taking an active and prominent part in secular politics, had been suspended from the exercise of his sacred functions. Hereupon a riotous demonstration in favor of the suspended priest was made by some of his admirers amought the laity; upon which a Protestant journal - the Liverpool Post quoted by the Montreal Witness of Saturday last - observes exultingly "that there are the germs of a Protestant spirit in the West of Ireland."

We allude to this painful transaction, not in order to criticise either the action of the Bishop, or the conduct of the suspended priest-for it is not for us to sit in judgment upon our ecclestastical superiors; but merely for the sake of showing how conclusively and unconsciously our definition of Protestantism, as implying merely revolt against, or negation of, ecclesiastical authority, is confirmed by Protestants.

In the opposition offered by the Rev. Mr. Daly's friends to the act of the Bishop, there cannot be detected the faintest trace of Lutheranism or Calvinism or any other Protestant ism considered as a phase of Christianity, but simply an act of revolt against ecclesiastical authority; and yet in that simple act of revolt, which does not imply any belief either in the sole authority of Scripture, or in the doctrine of justification by faith only - in which, according to the

principle: "Ther," germ of a Protestante spirit" it proceeds: But upon Protestant testimony, resistance to the authority of a Catholic Bishop, though not grounded upon any, distinctive views of the doctrines of Christianity, and in which Unitarians and infidels might as consistently take part as evangelicals and orthodox Calvinists—is satisfactory evidence of the existence of the "germs of a Protestant spirit." What then must that spirit be when fully developed?

Thus we see that Protestants confound Protestantism and infidelity; and tacitly admit that in " germ" the two things are identical. " The people"-says the writer quoted by the Montreal Witness - "have revolted against this mandate of the Bishop;" and it is in this revolt itself-not in the motives to, or the results of the revolt-that our Protestant contemporaries find the "germs of a Protestant spirit." But as infidelity may, does, and indeed must, prompt its votaries to " revolt against episcopal man lates," so also we find the "gerin of an infidel spirit," as well as of a Protestant spirit, in that act of revolt. In germ, the two spirits are thus identical; and as those things which are identical in germ, must also be identical in their full and fina development, so Protestantism differs from infidelity, not in germ, or first principle, not in kindbut in degree only, and in that it is less fully developed. Infidelity, which springs from the same germ of revolt against ecclesiastical mandates, is therefore but full blown Protestantism .--

All Protestants know that this is strictly true though few have the honesty to admit it. By them, revolt against episcopal mandates, no matter what may be the purport of the mandates revolted against, is always accepted, and gladly hailed as a sign of a "Protestant spirit." I they hear a drunken rowdy, nominally a Papist, cursing and blackguarding his clergy-if they see him pelting his Bishop with rotten eggs, they at once conclude that the man is, if not already a sound Protestant, at all events in a fair way of becoming one. They hear that in Italy priests and monks are being forcibly expelled from their convents and monasteries, that the clergy are silenced or exiled, and that the authority of the Church is everywhere defied and set at naught. Hearing these things Protestants rejoice exceedingly; and wiping their lips give God thanks for that He has been pleased to shed the light of the Gospel upon a people sitting in darkness. So too, if from Ireland tidings reach their ears of violet mob demonstrations against a venerated Catholic Prelate, they hail the dawn of a new Reformation, and proclaim to the world that in Ireland also, "there are the germs of a Protestant spirit."

THE CENSUS .- The several journals of the Province give an analysis of the late census, which discloses some features very acceptable to Catholics, and to the friends of French Canadian nationality.

The total population of the Province is 2,506,755. Of these, very nearly one half, or 1.200,870, are Catholics, and the remainder, 1,305,885 are Protestants, or non-Catholics, of various denominations. Of these the Anglican. sect is the most numerous, counting 370,887 members, whilst the Methodist and Presbyterian sects are represented by 372,462, and 346,991, respectively. Next in importance come the Baptists, who reckon 63,310 adherents; and lowest in the scale of Protestant sects we find that of the Mormons, or "Latter Day Saints," who can boast of only 77 adherents; of whom 74 belong to Upper, and 3 to Lower Canada.

If numbers alone constituted political strength, we should find in the above figures a full assurance, both for the preservation of our civil and religious liberties in the Lower Province, and for the triumph of Freedom of Education in the Unper. But numbers without union profit little; and it is because Catholics, unfortunately, have not been united, that the minority of Western Canada have still to complain of vexatious restraints upon their schools; and that the majority of Eastern Canada find themselves constantly menaced by the Clear Grits with constitutional changes, which by altering the relative strength of the two sections of the Province in the Legislature, would have the effect of placing the shoulder to shoulder, and uniting ourselves with that civil and religious liberties, the ecclesiastical, charitable, and educational endowments, of Lower Canada at the mercy of their unscrupulous enemies. If we wish to obtain and to retain that influence in the Legislature to which our numbers entitle us, we must be careful to cultivate that union which worldly policy, no less than Christian charity prescribes.

This union can be cultivated only by means of the mutual interchange of good offices betwixt Catholicisuffer all the other members of that body the Catholics of the East and of the West .-The former need the good offices of the latter against the eucroachments of the "Clear Grits;" revolt against ecclesiastical authority-in which, the Catholics of the West are dependent for the

takes up the cry for "Representation by Population, as a nolitical enemy as it is he duty of the latter to insist upon "Freedom of Education" for the Catholic minority of the West. These truths are so self-evident that it would seem as if it were a work of supererogation to insist upon them ; and yet, they have been so often shamefully neglected that it is equally evident that either they are not believed, or that they are deemed of less importance than the paltry interests of place and party.

The Canadien however recognises the truth. and we are delighted to place it on record :-

"So long as the Union of the Canadas subsists, the Catholics of Upper Canada will stand in need of us to resist the efforts of a fanatical Protestantism, as we stand in need of them to resist the efforts of Upper Canadian Clear-Gritism. A common danger should make but one single cause, of the cause of the Catholics of Upper Canada, and that of the French Canadians of the Lower Province." - Cana-

These are words of truth and wisdom; and if there be still amongst us auglit of capacity. for either, we shall lay them to heart. There has not hitherto prevailed that union betwixt the Catholics of the two sections of the Province which the common interests of Catholicity require. There have been faults on both sides. Some have been too intent, on one side, upon propping up a Ministry, to note its faults and shortcomings on the School Question-and to. insist upon justice to the Catholic minority of Upper Canada. Others, on the other side, have been equally culpable in preferring their particular or merely local interests to the general interests of the Church; and neither the one nor the other has the right to launch out into accusations or reproaches, as it the fault were entirely on one side.

Instead, therefore, of indulging in mutual recriminations, let us seek rather to avoid in the future, those errors which have done so much injury to the common cause, in the past. On many minor points we may well, indeed must, be permitted to differ; but there are two, upon which there should, there can, be no difference of opinion amongst the Catholics of Canada. One-that it is the right of Catholic parents to educate their children as they please without interference from the State; and that every restriction upon the exercise of this right, is a monstrous injustice. The other, that the people of Catholic Lower Ca nada - having, when immensely the superior, in point of numbers of the people of Upper Canada. been restricted to an equal number of representatives in Parliament with the latter-have the right to insist that now, that the population of Upper Canada is slightly in excess of that of the Catholic section of the Province, an equality of representatives in Parliament still be allotted to them.

Every man who adopts these two points in hisconfession of political faith is our friend; every man who opposes them, or who refuses to adopt both, is, and ever shall be treated by us as our

This for years has been the political platformof the True Witness, and nothing shall ever persuade us to make any the slightest modification therein. Earnestly do we request the concurrence therein if our co-religionists of Upper Canada; to whom the maintenance of Equality of Representation in a United Legislature is of vital importance-since upon it their Separate Schools and their civil and religious liberties depend; earnestly do we invite the co operation of our Catholic contemporaries; -and we do so with the more confidence because we have before our eyes an article from the Toronto Mirror, wherein that journal clearly exposes and strongly denounces the anti-Catholic policy of the Reform party; and makes profession of the same political principles as those of which the TRUE WIT-NESS ever has been, and ever will be, the uncompromising advocate. We make some extracts from the article in the Toronto Marror by us alluded to :-

" We deal with an energetic antagonist, bucked by a strong and united body, who will fight against us with the virulence of men who feel bate it is their last struggle for the cause of Protestant Secondancy. It will require our whole strength and willity to make headway against such spirits. The moment we exhibit weakness or cawardice, we are beaten. The enemy has entered the field in truth and in earnest; and the men or body of men who stand parleying with him, and who would talk of conciliation at the expense of any portion of our rights or liberties, is his best and most effective ally. We can only preserve ourselves from the hopeless and subordinate lot which has failen to the lot of the Catholic minorities of New Hampshire and Vermont, (perhaps under Providence as a warning to us) by standing enlightened and liberal portion of our Protestant fellow citizens who are in favour of maintaining intact the constitution of the country. On this subject, we find in the last issue of the True Witness (the well-known and esteemed organ of the Irish Catholics of Montreal) a few remarks so noble and patriotic that we cannot forbear quoting them for the benefit of our readers :---

"Ontholics of all origins, whether residents of Bastern or Western Canada, are immediately interested in one another's welfare, "A blow dealt to religious liberty in Toronto, or on the shores of the Lakes, must be felt in Quebec and along the banks must needs auffer with it. Our common enem , but our enemies alone, fain persuade ustibat, betwirt the Oatholics of the Western Province, and those of the Lower, there should be moisympathy of feeling, no unity of action. They seek to exaggerate and perwards the subjugation of the South It was — Treat men well, and they will be grateful; ill use antism essentially consists.

| Services of the Catholics of Liower Canada by those who and persecute them, and you will make them your A "gerin" is that from which anything is and it is as much the interest of the former to cism.— True Witness.

The state of the s