

The True Witness.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR. OCTOBER—1865.

- Friday, 6—St. Bruno, C. Saturday, 7—Of the Immaculate Conception. Sunday, 8—EIGHTEENTH after Pentecost—Maternity of B.V.M. Monday, 9—St. Denis, &c., MM. Tuesday, 10—St. Francis of Borgia, C. Wednesday, 11—St. Bridgett, W. Thursday, 12—Of the B. Sacrament. The "Forty Hours" Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will commence as follows:— Friday, 6—St. Michael, Vaudreuil. Sunday, 8—St. Francis d'Assise, Long Point. Tuesday, 10—St. Bruno. Thursday, 12—St. Gabriel, Brandon.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The British Government appears at last as if it were thoroughly aroused to a sense of the importance of the Fenian conspiracy, and as if it were determined to deal energetically with the danger. The Channel squadron has, in consequence, it is said, been ordered to cruise off the West Coast of Ireland, and to keep watch over the points where it is probable that a landing from America might be attempted. As we mentioned in our last, the office of the Irish People has been occupied by the Police, and its editor arrested; and it is added that the numbers of the troops actually in Ireland are about to be considerably augmented.

It is to be hoped that these precautions may put a stop to the agitation which, if allowed to continue, and to culminate in armed insurrection, would but throw Ireland back half a century, and restore the Orange Ascendancy. In '98, the British Government, it has often been said purposely encouraged the rebellion as a means of carrying out the long projected Union scheme. More humane principles prevail now, it is to be hoped, and we believe that the authorities are really sincere in their professions of aversion to shedding of blood, and their desire to avoid an appeal to arms. Compared with the action of the Washington Government towards those whom it looks upon with suspicion as disaffected, that of the British Government towards the open preachers of armed revolution in Ireland stands indeed in striking and most honorable contrast; and whilst John Mitchell is arbitrarily locked up in the Bastille in virtue of a lettre de cachet, the editors of papers which daily are exhorting their readers to take up arms, are left unmolested. It is lucky indeed for the leaders of the Fenian movement in Ireland, that they are not the subjects of a despotic Government like that which sits at Washington.

There are probably much exaggeration, and many errors in the statements that have been made public concerning the extent of the Fenian organisation, and its designs; but it is certain that the British Government has, through the agency of its spies, and the revelations made by traitors in the Fenian ranks, ample and authentic information upon these points. From it no Fenian secrets are hid; and the plans of the insurrection are as well known to the authorities in Dublin and London, as they are to the Fenian leaders themselves. We may hope therefore with confidence that the foolish movement will be put down at once without bloodshed, and without giving the Orangemen an opportunity for again establishing their rule over the unhappy Catholics of Ireland. An abortive attempt at rebellion would but aggravate the grievances of which, with good cause, the people of that country complain, and furnish their enemies with a plausible excuse for perpetuating them; and that any attempt at armed revolution at the present moment, and in the actual condition of the European political world, would prove abortive, would be crushed, who can doubt? The insurgents would fight with desperate courage, we can readily believe; but even Irish valor could not accomplish impossibilities, or make head against the overwhelming physical force that with a few days notice the British Government would bring into the field. Ireland would be as Poland, as the brave but unfortunate Southern States of this Continent, whom, neither the justice of their cause, nor yet the valor of the supporters of that

cause, could save. The gros bataillons are on the side of England, as they were on the side of Russia and of the Northern States, and in the long run victory must remain with the "big battalions."

The Belgian brings us news up to the 21st ult. The cattle plague was on the increase in England. Many arrests have been made in Ireland, and the examinations of the prisoners (for the British Government, not being like that of the United States, a despotic Government, is obliged to accord the benefit of a public trial to those whom it arrests)—was fixed for the 23. From papers seized it was discovered that the Sergeant Major of the 88th regiment was a Fenian, and he and several soldiers of the same corps were at once arrested. As to these last they should be dealt with as military offenders, and tried by drum-head court-martial as mutineers.

The Catholic world will weep over the sudden death of that brave and truly Catholic soldier General Lamoriciere, than whom France had no worthier son. He died as it behoved a Catholic and a soldier to die: erect and embracing the cross, the sacred standard beneath which he had often fought, and which he so gallantly upheld on the last, the most glorious of his fields; that of Castel Fildardo where, though the victory remained with the enemy, the glory, the imperishable glory was all his own and that of the brave soldiers—Irish many of them—who so gallantly did battle for the right against the overwhelming force of Piedmont. We have given elsewhere a brief biographical notice of this illustrious soldier, from the London Times.

The Continental news is barren of interest.—The French Emperor and the Queen of Spain have had an interview, the result it is said of the latter's recognition of the brigand Kingdom of Italy. Cholera, on the decline in Constantinople is increasing in severity at Marseilles. We are happy to see that the report of the appearance of cattle plague in Donegal is contradicted.

The great event in the United States is still the trial of Wirtz for alleged cruelty to Northern prisoners of war under his charge. The defence is not concluded, but from the evidence already adduced, it would seem as if great brutality was, in some instances, exercised towards Northern prisoners. This is a sad blemish upon the otherwise glorious escutcheon of the Southern States.

The last week of September was a season of merry making and festivity in this City, from the presence of a number of gentlemen, visitors from the Lower Provinces, and the Agricultural, Horticultural, and Industrial Exhibitions then proceeding. The show in all these departments was very fine, and Canada may point with pride to its splendid horned cattle, and the triumphs of its artisans, and manufacturers. The Horticultural Exhibition was, of the three, perhaps, the most attractive to the general public, and too much praise cannot be given to the contributors for their splendid specimens of flowers and fruits, and to the managers of this Department. But the Industrial Exhibition presented much worthy of more than a passing notice. The large hall and the galleries of the Crystal Palace were filled with the produce of our busy shops and factories; and the display of articles was, from their beauty, as pleasing to the eye, as from the evidence which it furnished of the industrial progress of the country it was gratifying to all Canadian patriots. Every department of native industry was herein well represented and attracted general applause; but a splendid boat, the handiwork of Mr. O'Gorman, of Kingston, from its elegance of design and exquisite finish, was an object of particular attraction. To it, we are happy to see, was awarded a special prize. There was also on exhibition by M. M. Dion, a very ingenious and very useful piece of mechanism for giving the alarm in case of fire. So delicate is this instrument that it is affected by a rise of temperature, which, by the ordinary thermometer, would be scarcely appreciable. Large crowds were attracted by the exhibition of this article, for which the ingenious inventors have secured a patent. On the whole the Exhibition Week was a decided success.

The Court of Queen's Bench, Judge Aylwin presiding, has been in session since the 25th ult. On Thursday last commenced the trial of Stanislas Barreau, a returned Yankee soldier, for the brutal murder of a young servant girl, and child on the 28th of May last, in the house of a M. Moquin, of Laprairie, who was then absent at Mass. The particulars of this horrid case—how the scoundrel, having murdered, as he thought, all the witnesses of his crime, robbed the house—sum of money; how, for some time concealed in a house of ill-fame in Montreal, he contrived to baffle the police; and how, at last, he was captured near Kingston, must still be fresh in the minds of our readers. After a trial extending over four days, the accused was found Guilty, and will, it is to be hoped, for the credit of Canadian society, expiate his crime on the gallows.

Sentence of death, to be carried into execution on Friday 17th November was pronounced on the convict in a most solemn and impressive man-

ner. Alluding to the fact that the murderer before him was one of those many unhappy French Canadians, who from residence in the U. States have become thoroughly depraved and brutalized, the learned Judge that forcibly delivered himself:

"Unhappy man, why did you ever leave your parish and your church where you were happy, contented, without guilt, why did you allow yourself to be drawn away by the thirst for gain and for dollars? Did you follow the trade of a brigand in a foreign country? (The convict was a returned soldier from the Northern army.) Returned to your own home, you have shown yourself corrupted and debauched, a robber, an incendiary and an assassin."

Solemn words these, words most significant, and most seasonable! Would to God that all French Canadians who think of leaving their Canada for the U. States could hear them and lay them to heart; for alas! it is to be feared that there are many who like Stanislas Barreau will leave their native land, happy, and innocent, but who, corrupted by the contaminating associations to which in the strange land they will be subjected, will return like Stanislas Barreau, to be the pest and the disgrace of the country which gave them birth. At all events we trust that the words of warning from the Judge will produce a good effect on the many comrades of the convict with whom it is to be feared the country is infected; and may inspire these gentry with sentiments of prudence, by convincing them that if they return to Canada they must lay aside their acquired habits of brigandage, and keep their hands from picking and stealing if they would escape the gallows.

In justice to the Rev. M. Villeneuve we must be permitted to observe that the assertion made by Barreau before the Court to the effect that since his arrest he had been abandoned by the Clergy, was a deliberate lie. The wretched man has been the constant object of the Rev. M. Villeneuve's spiritual ministrations; but it must be borne in mind that like most of his countrymen who go over to the United States, Barreau had practically become a Protestant or non-Catholic. It is to be hoped that he will so employ the remainder of his days on earth, as to obtain pardon for this and his other offences against God and men.

THE "TIMES" ON CANADA.—The correspondent of the London Times represents the people of Canada of all races, and of all creeds, as profoundly indifferent to Confederation; and the Times, editorially, proceeds to take us to task, and would almost seem to insinuate that indifference to Confederation indicates Annexation tendencies, and a deficiency of loyalty to the British Crown. We may admit the fact of indifference; but the inference which the Times seeks therefrom to draw is silly and unjust.

The Times seems to labor under the singular delusion that, in so far as Canada is concerned, the Confederation policy took its origin in view of the external circumstances of the Province, and was adopted chiefly with a view of warding off the dangers to which Canada was exposed from the aggressive designs of her powerful neighbor. Were this the true state of the case the apathy or indifference of the people of Canada to the success or failure of such a policy would be extraordinary, disgraceful, and worthy of the censure of the Times.

But it is not the true state of the case. The Confederation policy had not in its inception any connection, however remote, with our foreign relations; neither was it in any degree adopted with a view to strengthening the Province against the risk of an attack from the armies of the United States. It is a policy which originated in the struggle for power and place betwixt two parties in Canada, so nearly balanced that victory never long remained faithful either to the one or to the other. It was adopted originally, not as a means of military defence, but as a panacea for what were called "sectional differences," as a sop to the Clear Grit Cerberus of Upper Canada, as a substitute, in short, for "Representation by Population." The idea of connecting it with our foreign or external, instead of our peculiar domestic or internal conditions, was an afterthought, skillfully adopted by way of making the scheme popular in Great Britain, and amongst French Canadians, by making the latter believe that they had no alternative but to accept a measure, which would indeed subject them to the Protestant demagogues of Upper Canada, or Annexation.—Of course under such circumstances the loyal Catholic Canadian would accept Confederation as the less of two evils; but it is not to be expected that he should be very enthusiastic in its favor.

The genesis of the measure is recorded in our Parliamentary annals in language the most clear. In the month of May, 1864, a committee of the Legislative Assembly was named at the instigation of Mr. George Brown, not to enquire into the best means of protecting the country from invasion from without, but of allaying its sectional differences within, and of investigating the causes of the unsatisfactory relations actually existing betwixt Upper and Lower Canada. The Committee met and reported, in somewhat vague terms indeed, but still in favor of what it called Federation as a substitute for "Representation by Population," clamored for by Upper, but refused by Lower Canada.

In the meantime another Ministerial crisis oc-

curred—for a crisis used to occur once a quarter or so). The actual "Ins" had been defeated by the actual "Outs" by a majority of two; and it was morally certain that if, upon this vote, the "Ins" had gone out, and the "Outs" had come in, another Ministerial crisis would have again occurred in a few days, so keen was the struggle for place and power betwixt the two parties. Now this was a dreadful state of things. Legislation was at a dead-lock; a stable Government had become an impossibility; there was no security of tenure for office-holders of any grade; in to-day, they were liable to be in the streets, to-morrow. Honorable members of Parliament knew not how to vote; it was simply impossible for them to guess which would be the winning side; and a man after having made the most complete, generous and public sacrifice of all his old stock of principles, and with the best of prospects, might in a moment, by an adverse decision of the House with its closely balanced parties, find himself done, as it were, out of all the casual advantages which he had been led to expect. Public or political life had in short become a dangerous lottery; and for the sake of all parties, of the country, of the "Ins" and of the "Outs" even, that they might know how to cast their votes, it had become absolutely necessary to put a stop to the recurrence of these incessant crises, and to secure a strong stable Ministry.

This generally felt necessity led to the Coalition betwixt the leaders of the "Outs" or Clear Grit demagogues of Upper Canada, and the "Ins" or Conservative and Catholic party. But as the conditions of this Coalition it was stipulated, on the one hand, that the Clear Grits should give up Rep by Pop; and on the other hand, that a substitute for Rep by Pop, and a remedy for the "sectional differences" should be conceded by the Conservatives in the shape of a so-called Federal Union of the two Canadas, and that then the Lower or Maritime Provinces should also be invited to strike in and unite with the Federated Canadas. This is the history of the origin of the Coalition, and of the consequent adoption of the Confederation policy as the necessary condition of that Coalition. It was in this sense too that the policy of the Coalition Ministry was expounded by that much-lamented gentleman Sir. E. Tache, himself the head of the Ministry, and a man whose honor and integrity of purpose no one, not even his political opponents can call in question; and thus from the "sectional differences" of Upper and Lower Canada, with the object of removing their cause, and of furnishing a substitute for "Rep by Pop," did the Federation, and subsequently the Confederation policy originate. The "military defence" of the country was an ingenious afterthought; but it had originally nothing whatever to do with the appointment of Mr. George Brown's Committee on "sectional differences" in May 1864—or with the Report in favor of the adoption of the Federal principle which that Committee drew up—or with the formation of the Coalition Ministry which subsequently made Confederation the plank par excellence of its platform.

And as no one as yet has condescended to explain, or attempted even to explain, how the political union of Provinces whose relative geographical conditions are as are those of Canada and the Maritime Provinces—which are separated from one another by an alien country, and betwixt which, in case of war with the U. States, military communication would be cut off—could in any manner or degree increase their powers of resistance to the said United States; so with the great majority of the people of Canada the project of Confederation is still looked upon simply as a scheme for allaying the "sectional differences" betwixt Upper and Lower Canada; by giving to the former, if not all that it had previously demanded in "Rep by Pop," at all events twenty-five cents in the dollar on its claims, with the prospect of the balance of five cents at no very remote period. To such a scheme the Canadian Catholic can perhaps reconcile himself, as to the inevitable; he may put up with it lest a worse thing should befall him; but it cannot be expected of him that he should be very triumphant. The Times seems to expect that we should be enthusiastic for a measure which has found favor in the eyes of our Clear Grit enemies, only because it seems to assure to them a present, if only a partial, triumph over Popery and the "inferior race." This is to exact too much, more than flesh and blood can endure. We can accept our defeat with a good grace, and endeavor to make the best of it; but as the children of Israel refused to sing the songs of Zion in a strange country, or to grace their captors' triumph with the melodies of their native land, so also do we refuse to celebrate our discomfiture and the success of democracy, by servile demonstrations of an unfeigned joy.

Nor is there in this any grounds for impeaching our loyalty and attachment to the British Crown, and above all for calling in question the genuineness of that aversion which we profess for annexation to the neighboring democracy.—If indeed we could perceive in Confederation anything to give us additional strength against

the enemy in case of war, any pledge for the maintenance of British connection and the preservation of the monarchical element in our political constitution, we might indeed be enthusiastic in its favor, for we can conceive of no greater misfortune that could befall Canada than Annexation. But common places about "Union is Strength"—saying that for all military purposes Canada and the Maritime Provinces, in that they are Provinces of one and the self same Empire, are already as closely and as effectually united as they possibly can be under their actual geographical conditions—fall vainly in our ears; and indeed in us they excite lively suspicions either of the good sense or of the good faith of him who has recourse to them, since having closely followed the Confederation movement from the beginning, we know that it originated, not from any spirit of patriotism or loyalty, but wholly and solely in the legitimate design of allaying the sectional difficulties or jealousies betwixt Upper and Lower Canada, of securing to the country the blessings of a stable Government, and to the members of that Government the advantages of security of tenure of office.—Every body in Canada knows well that this is the real state of the case, and that there is no test of either loyalty or disloyalty in the favor or disfavor with which the Confederation scheme is accepted by the people of Lower Canada.—These are loyal from habit, from interest, and above all because their Church inculcates the duty of loyalty on her children; but because they are loyal there is no reason why they should go into raptures at the prospects of the destruction of French Canadian autonomy, and the triumph of democracy and centralisation.

That we have not misrepresented the object with which the Coalition Ministry was formed, and the policy of Confederation adopted—will, we think, be apparent from the following extract from Mr. George Brown's own organ and mouth-piece, the Toronto Globe of the 2nd instant. The Globe then, that is to say Mr. George Brown himself, tells us that "he entered the Government"—not with any idea of carrying out a policy which should increase our means of resistance to the aggressive designs of the U. States—not with the idea of consolidating and perpetuating British rule on this Continent, but—we quote his own words:—

"For the ONE SOLE purpose of obtaining such a change in the Constitutional Government of the country as would secure their just influence in public affairs to the people of Upper Canada."—Globe, 2nd October, 1865.

This then is the "ONE SOLE purpose" of the policy of the Coalition Ministry, i.e. of the Confederation scheme, in so far as Mr. George Brown supports it. Why should we of Catholic Lower Canada be enthusiastic about the success of a measure of which the ONE SOLE purpose is to give additional influence in public affairs to the people of Protestant Upper Canada?

And again,—that we have not misrepresented the character of the measure itself which under the name of Confederation has been adopted by our Canadian legislature, and its probable results on Catholic Lower Canada, is very clear from the terms in which the Globe of the date above mentioned, that is to say Mr. George Brown himself, speaks of it:—

"In pursuit of this end" (constitutional change to give to Upper Canada increased influence in public affairs) "no (Mr. Brown) and his Reform Colleagues have been well content to set aside, for the time being, every minor issue—they have been well content to accept for the hour the statu quo—but they can fearlessly defy their opponents to point out one single step they have made in a retrograde direction. And abundantly here they had their reward in the measure placed on record beyond recall, by an overwhelming majority of both Houses and both sections of the Province."—Globe, 2nd Oct., 1865.

Mr. G. Brown and his friends would not be so well pleased if they did not believe that Confederation gave them all that they looked for from Representation by Population.

THE ST. PATRICK'S BAZAAR.—The Ladies of Charity of St. Patrick's Congregation are busily employed in their great annual work of charity—the Orphans' bazaar. They commenced operations in the Mechanics' Hall, Great St. James street, on Wednesday evening, the 4th instant, and will bring them to a close on Tuesday evening next. Reader, do you desire to have a share in this work of mercy for the sake of the Orphans!—if so, visit the St. Patrick's Bazaar. Do you desire to participate in the blessings that result from feeding the hungry and clothing the little ones of Christ?—if so, visit the St. Patrick's Bazaar. Truly it is said that charity is twice blessed: it blesses him that gives, and him that takes. Assuredly, they who out of their honest earnings contribute to gather the little Orphans from the lanes and byways of the city, the haunts of vice and wretchedness; to feed and clothe them, to train them in the ways of sobriety, industry, and justice—will have their reward. Society owes them a debt of gratitude; religion smiles on their work; and God will not be slow to reward it.

To Farmers, Graziers and Breeders of Stock it will be interesting to learn that Mr. Weld of Canada West, himself an experienced raiser of stock, is about to publish an Essay, in pamphlet form, price \$1, on Breeding and Agricultural subjects generally.