

# TESTIS IN CELO FIDELIS

# The True Witness

## CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXIX.—NO. 15.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1878.

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### LETTER FROM VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

#### What the Crown Colonists Think.

#### THEY DO NOT CARE FOR CANADIANS.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,  
October 28, 1878.

To the Editor of the True Witness and Post.

DEAR SIR—From the extreme western limit of our vast Dominion allow me to send you greetings, and to felicitate the Post upon its success and usefulness, thus far, as a daily. I have pleasing recollections of the True Witness for well nigh a quarter of a century, and I earnestly hope that a journal which has done so much service hitherto in the cause of truth, education and religion will, with its evening converse, continue the good work for many a year to come.

The idea occurred to me that a leisure hour which rarely happens for me—could not be better disposed of than in jotting down a few inklings of this distant region, *carretera adamo*. The small world of politics, as well here as on the mainland, has been in a whirl of excitement since the result of the general elections became known. The most sanguine friends of Sir John Macdonald could not have anticipated a victory in his favor so overwhelming. The *furor* culminated on the 21st instant in the triumphant return of the Conservative chief for this city and district, along with the gentleman who exchanged the rare patronymic of Smith for that of Amor De Cosmos!

The Victorians, Canadians here say, are a peculiar people, by the way. They are alleged to have strange notions of their pre-eminence and importance, arising out of their former "Crown colony" connection. Even still there is what may be called the tail of a "family compact," similar to that which existed in Ontario previous to the "troubled times" of 1837-38. Those quondam "Crown Colony" folk, they say, are exceedingly jealous of any and all Canadians who come to abide among them, more especially if the new-comer happens to hold an official position under the Dominion Government. A gentleman, who fills an important public appointment, informed me that the Victorians seriously contemplated preventing the vessel, on which he was a passenger, entering the port of Esquimalt and were diverted from their purpose only out of consideration for the ladies who happened to be on board. They look upon us, and actually designated Canadians as "North American Chinese." Except those from the older Provinces who have settled on the island or the main land since British Columbia was admitted into the confederation, the bulk of the people of this country do not identify themselves with the Dominion, nor do they care a rush about anything in common with it outside their own special and exclusive interests. No doubt this selfish old feignism will tone down and utterly disappear when closer communication with the sister Provinces, than now obtains, will have been established, and when those who pride themselves so much upon their "Crown Colony" belongings shall have learned to appreciate the benefits and privileges conferred upon them by their union with Canada.

I have adverted to these peculiarities and weaknesses of those who claim to be British Columbians, in order to show that, in their anxiety to elect Sir John for some constituency in this Province, they were to no small extent, actuated by motives not altogether unselfish. Indeed, the cardinal object in so eagerly seizing the opportunity of returning the late member for Kingston, was the promotion of the railway project. And, apropos of the railway, conflicting interests of the most antagonistic nature present themselves. The Victorians are clamorous that Bute Inlet should be the main land terminus, whence connection should be made by bridges with Nanaimo and Esquimalt, which may be regarded as the *entrepot* of Victoria. It would involve the outlay, it is said by competent judges, of many millions of dollars additional, in view of such an event, a large number of Victorians, I am told, have speculated extensively in purchasing property in that locality, among others Mr. DeCosmos, and hence the preference so loudly expressed by the Islanders for the more northerly objective point on the main land. On the other hand, the mainlanders contend for what is known as the Fraser Valley route, as far as Yale, thence to branch off to Burrard Inlet. They hold that, if this route be followed, the line will pass through the settled and fertile districts, whereas, that to Bute Inlet would traverse an uninhabited and barren region. From what I have seen of Burrard Inlet, it may be stated, in all truth, that the proposed terminus has all the necessary advantages. It furnishes a land-locked roadstead, of greater extent than Bedford Basin—that splendid sheet of water near Halifax; excellent anchorage; and access from the ocean easy and safe.

Although the Islanders so strenuously insist upon the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railroad being fixed at Esquimalt, the large majority of them would forego their objections to whatsoever other route may be determined by the Government, upon the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, rather than have the work delayed any longer. That the railway is an indispensable necessity can be readily seen and understood by any one who spends a week in this Province. The fact is, without it, British Columbia bears the same relation, and is quite as disadvantageous to the Canadian Confederation as the "fifth wheel is to a coach." It is incumbent, therefore, upon the new administration to enter upon the great enterprise, with promptitude and earnestness, in order to remove the discontent and dissatisfaction caused by the halting and do-nothing policy

of the late Government. Were the work commenced at Yale next spring, and the road constructed to Kamloops, all parties here would be satisfied for some time to come. This would open up a rich agricultural and mineral country, and it would prove that the Dominion Government are in earnest as to the undertaking concerning which very many people, in these parts, entertain graver doubts. It cannot be denied that, already the patience of the most confiding has been sorely tried; and it is, therefore, full time that some tangible proof should be given of an earnest intention to carry into execution the terms proposed and guaranteed to British Columbia when joining the confederation. The wealth of this country cannot be exaggerated. Hence, it is an imperative duty which the Government owe to the whole Dominion, to adopt speedy and efficacious means for its opening and development.

While the Islanders are somewhat men with the exclusive and know-nothing spirit which obtained in 1854, through certain States of the Union, I would be very sorry to convey the impression in what I have stated, that such feelings extend to the transient visitor or tourist. Quite the contrary, their courtesy, attention and hospitality know no bounds. A brief sojourn in Victoria would make one almost fancy himself in the Ireland of fifty years ago, such are the kindness and cordiality exhibited on both sides. The city contains about 6,000 inhabitants and exhibits marked signs of progress and prosperity. A line of steamers, owned by the Pacific Mail Co., ply between this port and San Francisco, leaving each point on the 10th, 20th and 30th of every month. They are subsidized by the Dominion Government for the carrying of the Canadian mails. I have been informed that in the terms of agreement it was stipulated Victoria should be the terminus of the route at this end, and that coal and all other supplies would be procured here. If such conditions were made they are not observed, as the steamers, after a brief stay at Esquimalt—seldom extending over ten hours—proceed to Fort Townsend and Seattle, in Washington Territory, where they obtain coal and provisions. It is to be hoped a Canadian Company will be formed, at no distant day, to oppose successfully a monopoly, which presses severely upon every one who patronizes it, under the compulsion of existing circumstances. Only small steamers which run to Nanaimo, New Westminster, and other ports, and schooners of light draught and tonnage come into Victoria. The larger craft, including, of course, ships of war, anchor at Esquimalt. The city is delightfully situated, and, before many years, must become a large centre of trade and commerce. The climate is all that could be desired, being very moderate all the year round. Violets and pansies are in bloom now, and roses are gathered at Christmas. Fruit is abundant, especially apples, pears and grapes, which are of the largest size and of delicious flavor. Game is in great plenty, and comprises wild geese, duck, teal, widgeon, and seven species of quail, snipe, quail and venison. The fresh salmon, bass and other fish, a sturgeon, sea trout, and other fish. A very large amount of capital is annually employed at New Westminster in the canning of salmon. The fish are caught by the Indians, to whom nets are supplied by the proprietors of the canneries. There are day and night gangs while the run continues in the spring and fall. They are paid, on the average, about \$2.50 per day and night. The annual exportation of canned salmon from New Westminster is enormous. The principal markets for it are England, China, New Zealand and Australia.

In the interior, cattle and sheep are beginning to be raised in large numbers. This enterprise is only in its infancy. The export of beef is now made far and wide. And such beef! It would make the teeth of an epicure water, to see a sirloin or rib of this meat, so justly praised by Lord Dufferin, when here. I was always under the impression that the best of Ormond Market, or Hodgins, of William street, Dublin, supplied beef that could not be excelled in the world; but, in all candour, and despite my predilection for the Irish article, I must admit that the "bunch grass" is the most tender, juicy and toothsome morsel I ever ate, in the shape of beef. In yielding the palm, thus, to British Columbia it is some solace to know that the herds of the "blue grass country," so much prized, are almost exclusively, if not wholly, owned by Irishmen. Among those who are mentioned the Messrs. Vernon Bros., halling from Clontarf Castle, Patrick Kilroy, Haynes and Ellis. The Vernons are owners of about three thousand acres of the choicest land under cultivation and in pasture. Their name is proverbial throughout British Columbia for that amiability and courtesy which characterizes the men of prominence in public life. Among the men of prominence in public life are Sir Matthew Baillie Bibeis, K.C.B., the Chief Justice of British Columbia, who was appointed Judge of the Colony about a year ago by the Imperial Government. At that time the gold excitement was at its

height and the country was overrun by a set of roughs and ruffians from the United States of the most desperate character. Their acts of violence and lawlessness were of daily occurrence and filled the peaceable and law-abiding with terror. In a short time Sir Matthew, by the courage and firmness with which he meted out justice, cleared the country of these desperadoes. They have not ventured to find their way back again, having a wholesome dread of the inflexible Chief Justice, who is a terror to evil-doers. Sir Matthew is an able jurist, an accomplished scholar, a great lover of music, a keen sportsman, and a bachelor on the shady side of forty.

Judge Gray, formerly known, from the period of Confederation till 1872, as Colonel

Gray, a member from New Brunswick in the Commons, holds also a seat on the Bench. He was engaged, it may be remembered, in the codification of the laws, and as one of the arbitrators to decide the claims of Ontario and Quebec in connection with Confederation. His decision in favor of Ontario excited the hostility and opposition of the Quebec members to so great an extent as to induce his retirement from political life, and to lead to his appointment to the Bench of British Columbia; yet, singularly enough, the decision rendered by him has been sustained in its integrity by the Privy Council of England. Judge Gray has earned a high reputation in his official capacity. His decisions are clear, unambiguous and legal. His judgments on the Chinese question, recently delivered, are exciting much attention. Some fossils of the "Crown Colony" days are envious of the Judge and cannot afford him a good word; but they are few and insignificant. The object of their petty spleen and malice will survive it. There is, however, a serious disadvantage under which Judge Gray labors, and which, I have no doubt, you will agree with me in saying the Dominion Government should lose no time in remedying. I refer to the fact of his salary, since his appointment, having been \$1,000 less per annum than Mr. Justice Crease, his *confrere quippe Jurum*. This is neither fair nor just, the more so, as a large share of Judge Crease's duties—owing to his ill-health—devolves upon Judge Gray. The present Administration will enhance their popularity among a large number, both on the island and the mainland, by not only placing Judge Gray on the same footing as his colleague above named, but by making good the arrears since his appointment. In this connection, I may remark that the judges in British Columbia should be on the same level, as to salary and allowances, as those of Ontario and Quebec. True, they have not the same continuous routine of duty; but they undergo more hardship and privation in one circuit than their brethren in the East have to endure in a *hustum*. Before closing my notice of Mr. Justice Gray, I merely express an opinion, largely shared here and over the Province, in stating that it would promote the welfare and interests of British Columbia immensely were he appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He is well qualified for the office, being a man of large experience, broad views, refined manners, hospitable, and well acquainted with the condition of affairs here, and with the character and disposition alike of Canadian and British Columbians. These are qualifications indispensably essential to the successful administration of this Province, and, outside of Judge Gray, possessed by very few of our public men.

The Premier, George Anthony Walkem, a County of Down man, is, as you know, gifted with talent of a very high order, and has made his mark, as well in England as in the Dominion. It rests with himself to secure a continuance of that support and confidence which have raised him to the foremost position in the Legislature of British Columbia. By the exercise of prudence, discretion and uprightiness, together with his ability and tact, he may look forward to a long career of usefulness and distinction.

I presume you know already that this is a most expensive country to live in. The extravagance of the gold-finders, who squandered their hard-earned treasures with a most lavish hand, initiated the exorbitant prices that are paid for manual and mechanical labor, and for most of the necessities of life. Beef, mutton and fish are exceptional, being sold at eight, ten and four cents per pound, respectively. Any salary less than \$100 per month is regarded

as "a white man" here as almost beneath his notice. The only hotel in this city at which you can put up with any degree of comfort rates from \$8.50 to \$6 per day, according to the room occupied; and he is remembered that the "best rooms" are inferior to those of a fourth class Montreal hotel. In justice I must say the table and cooking are unexceptionable. A cabman does not think it worth his while to mount his box under \$3. Without any approach to a blush one of the fraternity charged \$2.50 for a drive that occupied *deux minutes* precisely! The waiter who attends upon you at table for a few days, or the porter who handles your luggage, will turn up his nose at any "tip" less than a V. "A cut, shave and shampoo, all for one dollar!" announced by an enterprising bar-

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as the rudder to the ship of public opinion, but it can never be the tug which shall lead her into the proper haven. We have endeavored—and what more can mortal do?—to regenerate our country. We have given to Canada a newspaper at once fearless and impartial, devoted to the interest of no sect or party, careless of abuse on the one hand, or adulation on the other. Sad to say, gentlemen, the country is not yet ripe for such a periodical; sad to say, our disinterested efforts have been coldly repelled on every side. But, gentlemen, hope, though dormant, is not yet dead in our hearts.

THE CLIMAX ARRIVED.  
next morning, when a full meeting of the shareholders was called. They were to assemble at the office of the enthusiastic gentleman above referred to, who held the position of chairman of the company. At ten o'clock, the time appointed, there was quite a crowd around the office. But the doors and windows were all shut, and there appeared to be nobody stirring within. Very patiently did the throng stand there until half-past one o'clock, when a terrible rumor began to get afloat. Little credence was given it at first, but by evening the horrible truth began to dawn upon the expectant crowd. The eloquent gentleman, whose orations on the beauty of morality, the glorious destinies of humanity, and the splendour of self-sacrifice for a worthy cause, had gained for him the highest position of trust in the *Dawn* Company, had gone off on a visit to the States, having inadvertently packed in his valise some \$400,000 subscribed in the interests of the Model Newspapers.

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### AFGHANISTAN.

LONDON, November 22.—A proclamation of the Viceroy of India recounts the history of the relations between India and Afghanistan for the last ten years. It says: "In return for the kindness of our actions and intentions, we gained only ill-will and discourtesy. The Ameer openly and assiduously attempted to stir up religious hatred, and bring about war upon the British Empire in India, and, although he repelled all efforts for amicable intercourse by the Indian Government, he formally received the Russian Embassy; and finally, while the Russian Mission was still at Cabul, he forcibly repudiated the English envoy, whose coming had been duly notified to him, and met our attempts to promote friendly relations with open indignity and defiance. The Ameer, mistaking for weakness the long forbearance of the British Government, has deliberately incurred its just re-venge. With the Scindas and people of Afghanistan the Indian Government has no quarrel, as they have given no offence. The independence of Afghanistan will be respected, but the Government of India cannot tolerate that any other power should interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan." The proclamation concludes:—"Upon the Ameer, Sher Ali, rests the responsibility of having exchanged the friendship for the hostility of the Empress of India."

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The *Standard's* despatch from Hull reports the Kharum column having formed a great camp at Fort Kapizanga. The cavalry and a portion of the infantry and artillery pushed forward eight miles further to Hozarupin. The inhabitants of the valley are friendly, and are bringing in supplies freely.

A despatch, dated Jumrood, Friday, says the garrison of Almusjid has bolted precipitately, leaving arms, food, twenty-one cannon and forty or fifty wounded. Considerable numbers of prisoners have been taken, and it is reported that the Afghan commander is among them. Considerable firing was heard up the Pass on Friday morning in the direction of Tylter's turning force. It is believed the Afghans are not in a condition to make any further resistance.

KHYBER PASS, Thursday night.—The advanced detachment of the Third Brigade moved forward until they found themselves confronted by successive lines of entrenchments. At dusk, when retiring in accordance with orders, they were severely wounded. Major Birch, who commanded, and Lieutenant Fitzgerald were killed, and over 30 sappers and four artillerymen wounded.

LONDON, November 22.—A Berlin despatch says General Kaufmann delivered a costly sword to Mundeha Mohammed Passan, chief of the Afghan Legation at Tashkend, to be transmitted through him to the Ameer at Cabul. When presenting the sword Kaufmann said: "My illustrious sovereign, in whose empire the sun never sets, and whose naked finger causes millions of soldiers to take up arms, sends this pledge of friendship and unchanging affection to his friend and ally, the noble and chivalrous ruler of the Afghans and Belooches. History teaches that Russia ever espouses the just cause; that she has always known how to protect her allies from attacks from any enemy, however powerful. Whoever sides with Russia need not fear that a hair of his head will be injured. The power of the Russian sword is great. This is a fact known to the enemies of Russia as well as to her allies. May God protect and preserve two powerful sovereigns—the Czar and the Ameer. May God promote the welfare of two allied countries to the benefit of the Afghans, Russians and humanity at large. May the echo of these words awaken consolidation and hope where oppression is prominent." The blade of the sword has the following inscription in Persian: "May God give thee victory over the infidels."

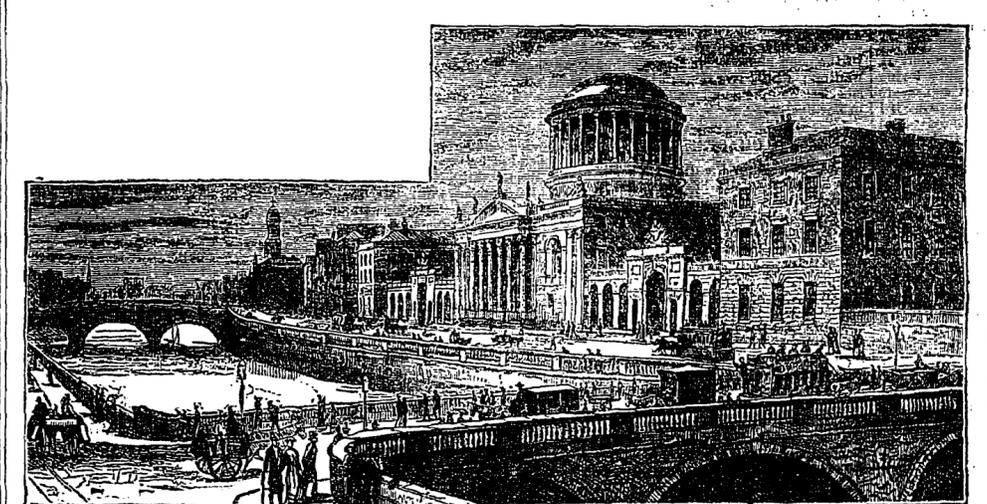
CONSTANTINOPLE, November 22.—The Turkish Ambassador to Russia will take to St. Petersburg a letter from the Sultan, thanking the Czar for his promise to observe the Berlin treaty stipulations and begging him to stop the Macedonian insurrection.

A despatch from Philippopolis says the words of General Todleben during his recent visit here made a deep impression. He told the Bulgarian-Russian authorities that they must conform to the treaty of Berlin, adding that, on his recent visit to Livadia, the Czar expressed his firm intention to execute that treaty.

One of the most reliable medicines for headache is Dr. Harvey's anti-bilious and Purgative Pills.

A terrible thing is a pain in the small of the back; it may come from disordered kidneys, from a cold or a wrench. But in all cases BROWN'S HOUSEHOLD PANACEA and Family Liniment, well rubbed in, will afford instantaneous relief, and ultimately remove the cause of the trouble.

This is a season of the year when children are almost sure to have dysentery, cholera, and diarrhoea. MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP is a never-failing remedy. It not only relieves the child from pain, but it cures the stomach and bowels, corrects acidity, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. It will almost instantly cure colic, griping in the bowels and wind-colic. Mothers, don't fail to procure it.



FOUR COURTS, DUBLIN.

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