

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, October 27, 1876

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

OCTOBER, 1876.

Friday, 27—Vigil of SS. Simon and Jude. Saturday, 28—SS. SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES. Sunday, 29—TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Monday, 30—Of the Feria. Tuesday, 31—Vigil of All Saints. Fest

NOVEMBER, 1876.

Wednesday, 1—ALL SAINTS. Holyday of Obligation. Thursday, 2—All Souls.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Events in the East seem to point to war: thousands of Russians now fill up the rank and file of the Serbian army—a Russian General commands, Russian advice is always sought and it would seem that ere long Russian cannon will be thundering at the gates of Constantinople. Austria, trembling for her own existence, seems to have retired from even the field of diplomacy; France anxious to recuperate plainly declares her indifference, Italy blusteringly offers her services, hinting at armaments and forgets that she never won a battle unassisted, whilst the great Sphinx of the century, the man of Iron and Blood, Bismarck, quietly lets each one play his little game ready when the time comes to claim his share of the spoils. If there be any truth in a startling work on Bismarck and Gortschakoff, lately published in France by an Austrian diplomat and most ably reviewed in the last number of Blackwood, the Eastern question is fast rushing to a solution, it does indeed appear that the two great Chancellors have had an understanding, during the last fifteen years, to hold in check any power which might attempt to interfere in their projects: Austria was to be crushed and the minor German states to be annihilated, the vain ambitious Napoleon I; deluded by the mirage of the rectification of the French frontier, France in her turn was to be trod under the Prussian heel, Austria is reminded of her agony when a word from Paris might have saved her, in every move made by the German, the Russian is at hand, for the German blow was everywhere preceded by the Russian warning and intrigue. And for such services, where was the reward? The Northern heart never beat with disinterestedness; a fixed stern purpose always swayed its movements, Constantinople has for ages been the Mecca of every Russian-born, Emperor or Peasant. What if Bismarck and Gortschakoff have long ago written out the solution of that terrible enigma the Eastern question? A gigantic struggle must ensue, England will put forth every effort; her design is already shadowed forth by the telegrams stating that Constantinople will be occupied at the first sound of Russian Cannon, with 80,000 British soldiers and Egypt likewise will fall under British control; Turkey at the same time will not be idle; calling upon millions and millions of Moslem Brethren in Asia, the Sultan will fight with desperation, for defeat to him must mean destruction; and if the roar of battle arise, God alone can tell how far it will be heard and how long.

In the United States the fierce struggle continues and will continue for three weeks in the Presidential contest; the same weapons are employed as those customary in all free countries on similar occasions, calumny, perjury, bribery and murder, and crime of every hue; a new element is being introduced, the same as that used by Caesar when Roman Freedom was to be crushed; the voice of the soldier is to decide the strife in many sections. When corruption has descended from high places to low, and permeated the whole body, politics, the same remedy has been ever prescribed. Ambition has stepped in, and for a decade or too firmly curbing the evil passions of the populace, it gains public confidence, makes its heavy arm to be felt almost necessary until firmly seated in power, it throws off the mask and bursts forth to the astonished world as the Masters of the People, the Terror of Freedom. Let us hope that such a fate be not reserved for our neighbors; may the exiles of every nation never see in their midst the horrors of tyranny which their fathers have felt, and may the American People celebrate a second and a third centenary of Freedom and Prosperity.

From France we have the intrigues of the Radicals, from Prussia the continued persecution of the Church, from Italy and the World over the same attacks on Religion, and so it must continue for some time yet! but let us not fear, the Barque of Peter has braved greater perils, and survived them.

DISGUISED BAPTISM.

"The prevalence of smallpox in Montreal is said to be due to the reluctance of the French Catholic population of that city to submit to vaccination. Some physicians and public men have encouraged this feeling, and it has risen to such a height that the City Council, when about to pass an ordinance making vaccination compulsory, was mobbed. The residents of Montreal East are so ignorant that they suppose vaccination to be a disguised form of Protestant Baptism. The New York World shows that while the Catholics of Montreal are to the Protestants as three to one, the death rates are as five and one-half to one; and the disproportion in the latter case is mainly due to smallpox."—Baltimore American.

An usual with papers of its class, the Baltimore American cannot allow an occasion pass without

slandering Catholicity and true instincts the writer utters as many falsehoods as he indites phrases, in attributing to fear of Protestantism, the reluctance of a certain portion of the population of Montreal to compulsory vaccination; his falsehoods are usually blazoned forth with a good deal of ingenuity; as when he states "the death rate of Catholics is as five and one-half to one as among Protestants;" a regard for truth would have made him say English speaking citizens, the Irish Catholics being those who suffer the least from smallpox and in the statistics on the matter are included in the latter term of the above proportion, though your honest American, substitutes the word Protestant, in order to draw a moral. We suppose he will be able to give us a theological reason why Irish Catholics do not object to Protestant Baptism by vaccination as he calls it and why they are healthier in that respect and others too than Protestants in Montreal.

Some months ago, it is true, there was a scrimmage about compulsory vaccination, verdict: the City Sanitary Doctor much frightened and nobody hurt. This arose from the rather awkward way in which undiplomatic Aldermen sprung the subject upon the City, after a long discussion in the papers among medical men and others upon the usefulness and dangers of vaccination. The anti-vaccinators were supported by one of the most prominent French Canadian physicians of Montreal, he raised before the imagination of an excitable population as following vaccination in many cases, a whole army of loathsome maladies, scrofula walking through a person's bones, cancer eating out the tongue and eyes, consumption ravaging the lungs, and death scrambling around him in front and rear and on every side. A row ensued, a storm in a tea pot, and everything subsided to the status quo. Public Vaccinators have been appointed they find no difficulty in doing their work, and the American and his confederates may hug to their hearts the sweet reflection that the Catholic population of Montreal is day by day being Protestantized wholesale by the baptism of Vaccination.

We may add that Montreal has not the monopoly of Anti-vaccination disturbances and that they take place on a much larger scale elsewhere as appears by the following extract, taken from an exchange:

"An anti-vaccination demonstration took place on Saturday at Malton, on the occasion of the release from Prison of Francis Rawling, who had been imprisoned seven days for the non-payment of a fine imposed under the vaccination laws. Some riotous proceeding took place, and the windows of the Town Hall were smashed by a crowd numbering several thousands."

"THE PRESS."

The various phases of opinion that exist in our midst on all questions, religious and political, owing to the peculiar circumstances in which we are placed, with a population drawn from so many sources, naturally reflect themselves in the journalism of our Province. For a considerable time past a certain section of the press, and more particularly that wing of it which owes its very existence to the bigotry and ignorance of its supporters, has been losing no opportunity of creating rancour and strife in our midst, setting Protestant against Catholic, and raising a howl on every conceivable topic where it was deemed possible to arouse the prejudices of their readers. The fierce tirade of the Postmaster-General at Argenteuil, where he made his savage and insensate attack on the Catholic Hierarchy and clergy, and the lectures and addresses of Sir A. T. Galt on the question of Church and State, gave the fanaticism mongers a glorious opportunity to spread themselves before the people, and those who followed the discussion are aware of how well they profited by the occasion. As it so happened, the gross appeals thus made, having no tangible basis, created little more than a passing rustle on the public mind. Yet, day after day, a reference to the columns of the self-constituted organs of Protestant opinion in our midst will establish, that occasion is sought, under every pretext, to destroy the harmony and put an end to the kindly feelings, that fortunately exist amongst those professing different creeds in our community. Whilst good citizens of every shade of belief must sincerely regret this state of things, it is refreshing to find that there are journalists, above catering to vulgar prejudices, who have the manliness to speak out freely and boldly the sentiments that ought to animate those who desire earnestly the welfare of our common country. In a recent article the Evening Star, a wide-spread journal, has, under the heading of "The Sincerity of the Argenteuil Appeal," given utterance to some well-timed observations. We refrain from saying anything in reply to its remarks on the eccentric editor of the Reveil and his equally eccentric and, as we believe, pernicious publication. What we wish to bring to the notice of our readers are the following remarks addressed by that Protestant journal to its co-religionists, which are merely the echo of what has over and over again appeared in the columns of the True Witness. The Star says:—

"The Protestants are able to take care of themselves, and the Catholics have no desire to molest them in their privileges, which are guaranteed and will be supported by the whole power of the Dominion. Let them trust their Catholic fellow-citizens more fully, and refrain from interfering in any way in their religious discussions. They will exist till the end of time. They are the stock-in-trade of the politicians, and are too valuable to be discarded. If Protestants will attend to their own affairs, paying no heed to designing and inflammatory appeals to fears, and prejudices of religion and race, they will act far more wisely than in forming hostile and futile organizations."

Nothing could be more true, in every sense of the word, than that the Catholic majority in this Province have no desire to infringe in the slightest degree on the rights and privileges of their Protestant fellow-subjects. Every guarantee that legislation could give to a minority in any community, they possess, and it is well known that Catholic statesmen contributed to hedge in and protect the privileges of that minority. Yet in the face of all this we find appeals made for the formation of Protestant defence alliances, and kindred organizations which, having no legitimate ends to compass, must necessarily degenerate into engines of mischief for the whole community. If the sound

advice of the Star can prevail, the efforts of the so-called religious journals to propagate hatred and discord shall be unavailing.

DOES ROME FAVOR THE TURKS?

Among the many strange calumnies which are published again and again and repeated a hundred times is the one that the Church of Rome is favorable to the Turks continuing in Europe. Are the lessons of history forgotten? or do bigots deliberately hide the truth, and not only hide the truth, but maliciously invent falsehoods and spread them broadcast through the world? We fear so; otherwise who can read the history of the Middle Ages and later times and not be struck with admiration at the heroic efforts made by the Catholic Church to repel the invading torrent of Mahomedanism? Read the account of the magnificent bravery of Godfrey de Bouillon and his companions at the capture of Jerusalem; remember the hosts of warriors leaving their country, selling their estates, abandoning their families, their wives, and their children, the luxuries and pleasures of Europe to suffer hardships and famine, pestilence and death itself in defence of Europe against barbarism and infidelity. This splendid struggle lasted for centuries. Seven times did Catholic Europe rise and rush enthusiastically forth for the defence of civilization and all that makes the glory and happiness of modern nations. Who crushed the Turk at Lepanto? Was not Sobieski who saved Europe at Vienna a Catholic? did Charles Martel wield any other than a Catholic sword when he expelled her ever from the soil of France the descendant of the Prophet, did Spanish Chivalry bow to strange altars when Spain saw the last of the Moors fleeing in terror and rage before the triumphant banner of the Cross.

And if to-day the Crescent proudly waves at Constantinople, is it not due to the treason and cowardice of the Eastern heresy? If the mountains and valleys of Servia and Montenegro groan under the iron heel of the Bashi Bazaruk, is it not due to the jealousy of Rome traitorously displayed by their forefathers, imbued with the same hatred of the Pontiff which to-day allows the Freemason of Italy, the Illuminati of Germany, the Internationale of France to curse and persecute the Church, which conquered the Barbarians of the North, and to which are due the literature, the sciences and the civilization of modern times? And yet the World says that the Catholic Church favors the Mahometan!!

VACCINATION.

The important question of vaccination, which has given rise to so much discussion in our midst, owing to the stand taken by some, perhaps earnest, but certainly, misguided men who have in and out of season, combated a practice that has been attended with such beneficial results for humanity; has called forth a masterly paper, from His Worship the Mayor, whose eminence in the medical profession stamps his utterances with the highest authority. We regret, that want of space, will not allow us to publish the entire document, replete as it is with valuable information, tracing the history of inoculation and vaccination from the earliest period in various countries, down to the present day, and giving details as to the nature of small-pox not only instructive but eminently practical. After dealing in a few well chosen remarks on the wretched course pursued by the opponents of vaccination, referring to the labors of Jenner the first prominent advocate of vaccine he says:—

In 1798 Jenner published his first important paper. In 1799 the first public institution for vaccination was established in London, and in the following year it was introduced into France and Germany, and the reaction of vaccination has now become general over the whole educated world. Here and there, as might be expected, it has met with opposition, but every objection that has been urged by the anti-vaccinator has been answered again and again by the leading minds of the profession, and while, on the one hand, Great Britain furnishes a conglomerate periodical devoted to the spread of anti-vaccination views drawn up in poor prose and worse poetry, the highest medical authorities are unanimous in their approval of the practice. So much is this the case that I feel I owe something like an apology to my medical brethren for writing affirmatively of a practice most of them endorse. I spoke of Jenner as discoverer, but Jenner did not discover vaccine any more than Watts discovered steam. He noticed the prevalent belief among the peasantry in the immunity farm servants and milk maids had conferred upon them by their occupation; and little by little he drew the conclusion which has been so pregnant with benefit to mankind. The belief in the existence of a vaccine virus was not confined to England alone. Cow-pox and its relations to small-pox had been noticed long before on the continent of Europe; and in France and Germany numerous experiments had been made prior to Jenner to show that persons affected with the natural vaccine virus were not susceptible to the small-pox influence. Jenner's merit consisted chiefly in producing the virus at will, and in diffusing it at pleasure for our advantage, and how slowly and how cautiously he advanced his every statement may be gathered from the fact that twenty-two years elapsed between the first experiment and the promulgation of his theory. He was assailed then, as his memory is now, but with more excuse than then now, as no one having the leisure and disposition to read, and having access to the records of medical observers has now the shadow of the critical acuteness of which says Curschmann, may serve as a model. But we do things differently now-a-days, and a harangue in a market place or public square by gentlemen who may know something of law, 'tis true, but little of medicine, is deemed sufficient to initiate the uneducated masses into a knowledge of one of the most difficult and abstruse subjects in the whole range of medical science. I shall not allude to the members of my own profession who have chosen to so far forget what is due to their own dignity and the dignity of their calling as to select such an arena for the dissemination of their fatal errors! As the times are as pregnant with mischief, as the air is with disease, I proceed to ask and to answer questions asked and answered a thousand times:—

- 1st. Does vaccination confer a certain degree of protection against small-pox.
2nd. Are the effects of vaccination permanent.
3rd. Is there risk of lighting up local inflammatory action?
4th. Is there risk, when vaccinating, of inoculating the system with scrofula or other hereditary disease?
5th. Is there risk of contaminating the system with syphilis, or other acquired disease?
The answer to these questions will, I think, cover the ground gone over by the anti-vaccinationists. His Worship then proceeds, to give the highest authority, for the position he has taken, and

support it by statistics from every country—Coming directly to the city of Montreal, where the ravages of the small-pox infection, have been so calamitous and threaten still greater havoc, he gives expression to the following forcible remarks:—

But why travel throughout Europe and into parts of Asia and the adjoining States of America to prove that which may be most easily established in our beautiful city. I readily admit that small-pox has its "periods of dormancy and its periods of activity," and that every now and then, at irregular intervals it overspreads a district or country as an epidemic. But why should it pass so heavily on this city? and why single out one nationality? But why should it pass so lightly over Quebec Dr. Russel, President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, residing there, gives the reason:— "We have very little small pox here (Quebec). We are all vaccinated." Why does it pass so lightly over the Three Rivers? Dr. Badaux, the Doyen of the profession there, explains:—"On n'a pas de Picote ici. On se fait vacciner." The same for Toronto. And why does it visit Montreal and why does it visit most severely those of a particular nationality? We nurse it. In Quebec, Three Rivers and Toronto there is no one even writing against vaccination—the only prophylactic for small-pox, and that the converse is true in Montreal is evident from the circumstance that the mortality is immensely greater among that nationality whose beautiful language has served as a vehicle for the dissemination of a most deadly error. We have two civic hospitals in Montreal for small-pox—one for Catholic and the other for Protestant patients—not that it is pretended small-pox has any religious complexion. The former is presided over by the Sisters of Providence; the latter by Miss Chambers. What is the experience these ladies have gained from an examination of the cases under their charge? I put to the Matrons of both the same questions; and here are their questions and answers:—Have you noticed any difference between the vaccinated and non-vaccinated inmates of the hospital? Sister Nativity states, in French:—"There is no comparison between the effects of small-pox on the vaccinated and non-vaccinated; the vaccinated, as a rule, are not affected, and when they are they have it slightly; the deaths are among the unvaccinated." Miss Chambers' is precisely to the same effect. What more convincing evidence than this, and from sources having no reason to mislead? I do not quote from the physicians of the city, who, with very small exceptions have again and again expressed their entire belief in the prophylactic power of vaccine. Volume after volume has been written to establish the power of vaccine, and my table, as I write, is covered with documentary evidence, the magnitude of which alone prevents my introducing it here. Sufficient however, has been adduced to warrant an answer to the first question in the affirmative "that vaccination confers a greater or less degree of protection against small-pox." 2. Are the effects of vaccination permanent? Although it forms no part of my present subject, yet, as an impression prevails with some that persons exposed to small-pox contagion incur additional risk by being vaccinated, and by having one disease engrafted in another, it is well to state that such a view is entirely erroneous. If vaccination is performed sufficiently early, so that the areola may have had time to form, it will prevent small-pox; if later, it will modify that disease.

We trust that the address of Dr. Hingston may be productive of beneficial results, and that our confederates of the French press, in this Province will give the able disquisition of His Worship, the widest possible circulation amongst their readers. Fortunately, the English speaking community, is fully alive to the benefits resulting from vaccination and, it is to be hoped, that those who have up to the present time, been earning for themselves, an unenviable notoriety, amongst our French Canadian fellow-citizens, by their insane opposition to a practice, so pregnant with salutary results, will see the propriety of ceasing to promulgate doctrines on this subject, which can produce no other effect than to fill our grave yards with the innumerable victims of their miserablerotchets.

WAR NEWS.

Despite the rumours of a general war that filled the air a few days ago, causing a panic in the money market and creating the greatest excitement in commercial circles, nothing has as yet transpired to change the situation of the contending parties. It is almost impossible to form any opinion on the subject with the conflicting reports that are cabled to the press. One day it would seem as if Russia were disposed to force on a war with Turkey assuming all risks, and responsibilities and on the next we learn that negotiations are on foot for a pacific settlement of the difficulties. Then the despatches inform us that a war is sure to take place but that Russia will not make the open declaration until spring. Amidst all these conflicting rumours, the only thing certain appears to be that in the event of an outbreak France is determined to be a spectator of the struggle. Despite the pleadings of the London Times making Prince Bismarck the virtual arbiter of Europe and calling on him to intervene, the wily chancellor of His Majesty the German Emperor, does not seem willing to be drawn out at present, and the German press says that the entente with Russia is most cordial. Austria is evidently in an awkward position, and as for Britain although great activity prevails in the Dockyards and that the work of putting the land forces on the best possible footing is being pushed forward, she is not likely to take any part in the struggle single handed until the movements of the Russians become menacing to her Indian possessions. The Autumn Session so loudly demanded by the Opposition, the Government have determined shall not take place. In the meantime the embers in the Volcano are smouldering and it is impossible to foresee at what moment the war eruption may burst forth.

WELL MERITED PRAISE.

In a recent article the Montreal Gazette on the question of Education and the outcry lately raised on the subject of the School Tax, pays the following tribute to the Christian Brothers:—"Now the fact is that, until very recently, if it had not been for the exertions of the Christian Brothers the poor of Montreal would have been absolutely without teaching of any kind." The Gazette is a Protestant journal, strongly devoted to Protestant interests, in this Province especially, and the above testimony, coming from such a disinterested source, is nothing more than simple justice to the good Brothers who have done so much for the education of our youth. No where are the arduous labors of this indefatigable community more manifest than in the City of Montreal,

and the number of young men now filling positions of trust and responsibility who received their training at the hands of the Brothers is the best evidence of the good they are daily performing in our midst. It is not likely the flattering testimony of our respected contemporary the Gazette will be pleasing to the only religious daily, seeing the amount of labor it expends endeavoring to establish that the Catholic Church is the inveterate enemy of popular Education. The average seven thousand children who, in the City of Montreal, to-day receive sound elementary instruction, gratis, from the Christian Brothers, is, perhaps, as good an answer as any to the false insinuations of the enemies of the Church.

THE M. C. P. R.—INGRATITUDE OF THE PUBLIC.

Soliloquy: Mr. G...., loquiter: "Will nobody understand how good, how beneficent, how disinterested we have been, and will we be made to pay for privileges, that we have been enjoying for years and that we never expected to have to pay for? Well, if the public won't see our merits, we'll punish its ingratitude; we'll take all we can get and ask for more, we'll pay for nothing unless we can't help it; but if we must pay, we'll pay like honest men; but before we come to that decision, we must consult our lawyers. By the bye, let Robillard write or get out a couple of letters, he must go for something, or somebody, Stephens, or any other man." Curtain falls, next Act.

The boy who among a lot of equally unskilled companions, fires the most stones at a mad dog is most likely to hit the oftencast. George Washington Stephens seems to enjoy that proud preeminence among his confederates of the City Hall; he has detected more abuses than any of them, he may have been guilty of as many, but his firing has been so constant and so fierce that he has knocked down more idols of clay in this our loved and patient city than any other man we know of; we are glad to say that at last he has given a few rap to the City Passenger Railway Co., and if he can succeed with his last scheme of having their privileges put up to competition, he will have shied a mighty big rock and struck fair. Then we can forgive him many peccadilloes in and out of school; and we say, "More power to his elbow."

REV. FATHER STAFFORD.

We notice with pleasure, in the Dublin Freeman's Journal, that the much esteemed Parish Priest of Lindsay, the Father Mathew of Ontario, is now enjoying the beauties of his native Wexford; we trust that his merits will be appreciated there as they are in Canada, and that his popularity among the friends of his youth and of his esteemed family will be as great as among the thousands who have learned to revere and to love him in America; we trust that before leaving on his return he will show his fellow countrymen in the dear Isle how Home Rule makes a people contented and prosperous, and tell them how in his adopted country the Irish can govern themselves in peace and union, sobriety and love of religion and country. The success and union of Irishmen the world over is the best refutation of the calumny that the Irish race cannot govern itself, and none could illustrate the truth better than the Rev. Father Stafford.

TEMPERANCE.

The Rev. Father Brettagh, of Trenton, one of the most eloquent Divines in the Dominion, has delivered a powerful address on the subject of Temperance before the delegates of the Total Abstinence Catholic Union, held at Belleville on the 10th and 11th instant. We intend giving a full report of this admirable specimen of historic eloquence in our next issue. The Rev. speaker has avoided all common-places, and struck out in a new path which cannot fail to delight and instruct our readers. We shall not farther anticipate on the rich treat in store for our patrons, but confine ourselves to recommending the admirable discourse to the careful perusal not only of total abstinens, but to all who take an interest in the noble cause of Temperance.

PAPAL HONORS TO A CANADIAN.

Gustave Drolet, Esq., of this City, has received from Rome the Decoration of Chevalier of the Holy Order of Pope Pius IX, in recompense for his services on the field of battle during the revolution that despoiled the Holy Father of his patrimony.—Mr. Drolet was one of the first Canadians who joined the Papal service, and the well-merited recognition of his services is a subject of congratulation. He is the President of the Union Alleé, composed of the Canadian Zouaves, and has always been most earnest in his devotion to the cause.—We wish the gallant Chevalier the full enjoyment of his well earned honors.

The Catholic population of Savannah has been decimated by that terrible scourge the yellow fever. An exchange says:—

"The city of Savannah, Ga., is severely afflicted by a visitation of Yellow Fever. The deaths from this disease have reached forty-six in a single day. The well, who were able, have mostly left, giving the place a lonely appearance. Nearly all the Catholic clergymen of the city have been stricken down by the fever, and one, Father Langlois, has died. Bishop Gross, on hearing of the calamity, abandoned his tour in Europe, and immediately started for his home. The Sisters are nearly worn out attending the sick, their Hospital being full of patients. Relief is sent in from various directions."

The Catholic Visitor, speaking of that high toned publication the Catholic Review, says:—"The Catholic Review has put on a new dress, which rather improves its appearance. We are pleased to note this evidence of prosperity, on the part of our contemporary, for the Review is ably and carefully edited, and ranks among the best Catholic papers in the country." We say ditto to the Visitor's remarks.

The Tribune.—The present number of our confederate the Toronto Tribune gives cheering evidence of material prosperity on which we heartily congratulate the publishers. The neat and unpretentious design of the new heading is beautiful for its simplicity as well as its unmistakable Catholicity.