

The Charlotteville Herald.

NEW SERIES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1895.

Vol. XXIV. No. 52

Calendar for Dec., 1895.

MOON'S CHANGES.

Full Moon, 2nd day, 2h 26.9m. a. m.
Last Quarter, 9th day, 2h. 52.6m. a. m.
New Moon, 16th day, 2h. 17.3m. a. m.
First Quarter, 24th day, 1h. 8.9m. a. m.
Full Moon, 31st day, 1h. 18.2m. p. m.

Day of Week	Sun	Moon	High Water
1 Sun	29 4 10	3 18	6 00
2 Mon	30 10 4	3 8	11 14
3 Tues	31 6 9	3 12	11 57
4 Wed	1 2 9	3 23	10 2
5 Thurs	3 8	3 40	10 53
6 Fri	4 8	3 53	11 28
7 Sat	5 8	4 23	12 3
8 Sun	6 8	4 35	12 46
9 Mon	7 8	4 59	1 09
10 Tues	8 8	5 39	0 59
11 Wed	9 8	6 24	1 06
12 Thurs	10 8	7 34	1 36
13 Fri	11 8	8 53	1 57
14 Sat	12 8	10 11	2 10
15 Sun	1 9	11 28	2 18
16 Mon	2 9	12 43	2 24
17 Tues	3 9	1 58	2 30
18 Wed	4 9	3 14	2 37
19 Thurs	5 9	4 31	2 45
20 Fri	6 9	5 48	2 53
21 Sat	7 9	7 05	3 02
22 Sun	8 9	8 22	3 11
23 Mon	9 9	9 39	3 20
24 Tues	10 9	10 56	3 30
25 Wed	11 9	12 13	3 40
26 Thurs	12 9	1 30	3 50
27 Fri	1 10	2 47	4 00
28 Sat	2 10	4 04	4 10
29 Sun	3 10	5 21	4 20
30 Mon	4 10	6 38	4 30
31 Tues	5 10	7 55	4 40

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Fresh Light on History.

FATHER GERARD, S. J., ON THE GUNPOWDER PLOT.

(London Tablet, November 16.)

In our issue of last week we quoted from The Western Mail a short paragraph summarizing a lecture on the Gunpowder Plot, given by Father Gerard, S. J., at Cardiff. The South Wales Argus, of November 7, supplied its readers with the following lengthy report of the lecture:

Father Gerard, who spoke entirely without notes, said: The account of the Gunpowder Plot published by the Government of King James I., has in its main outline been implicitly accepted ever since at least in this country; but the complicity of the Catholics as a body has long been discredited by respectable historians. The complicity of Father Garnet, the Jesuit, has been the subject of interminable discussion, with the result that Mr. Gardiner, the latest and best of our historians, who has given special attention to this period, pronounces the account given by Garnet of himself to be in all probability "the exact truth." But while in these details there is admitted to be doubt, it has always been believed that to a great extent the history of the conspiracy is known with absolute certainty. As Jardine puts it, "The outlines of the tragedy were too notorious to be suppressed or disguised; that a design had been formed to blow up the Parliament House, with the King, the Royal Family, the Lords and Commons, and that this design was formed by Catholic men and for Catholic purposes, could never admit of controversy or concealment." This, however, is the very question to be discussed to-night.

Reasons will be given, which seem difficult to answer, to show that even in its main outlines the Government story is certainly untrue; that it was invented to conceal the truth; and that all the evidence points unmistakably to the conclusion that Cecil (Earl of Salisbury) is the Prime Minister, if he did not actually originate the plot, at least knew of it long before the pretended discovery, and worked it for his own ends. This was the belief at the time and for long afterwards, not only universally amongst Catholics, but amongst intelligent Protestants. Osborne speaks of its management as "a neat device of the Treasurer's he being very plentiful in such plots." Goodman, Anglican Bishop of Gloucester, says that he "would first contrive a plot and then discover it, to show his service to the State, and the more odious and hateful the treason were, his service would be the greater and more acceptable." We are told on the authority of Lord Cobham, that James himself used afterwards to call the 5th of November "Cecil's holiday," and Archbishop Usher is quoted as frequently saying that if Papias knew what he knew, the blame of the gunpowder treason would not lie on them. In the reign of Charles II. we find an ultra-Protestant writer complaining that some in his day looked upon this plot as a romantic story, or a political invention, or a State trick, and class it with fables of the character of Jack the Giant-killer.

Out of a mass of evidence this must suffice. A French writer remarked that the plots in the reigns of Elizabeth and James have this common feature—that they proved highly advantageous to those against whom they were directed. In the time of Elizabeth these plots were unquestionably a favorite device of Walsingham, as those of Squires and Parry, while it is certain that he knew all along of Babington's conspiracy, and worked it for the destruction of Mary Queen of Scots; Walsingham's successor as secretary was Cecil, and his contemporaries unanimously judged him capable of doing the like. At this time, he was threatened with the loss of that power, which he valued above all things. The King did not like him; the nobility were jealous of him; the people hated him; and he had powerful rivals ready to supplant him. He especially dreaded the influence of the Catholic party, whom the King seemed inclined to favour. For a time at least the Gunpowder Plot relieved him from his difficulty and made him all powerful. It must be added that while Prime Minister of England he was in receipt of a secret pension from the King of Spain. The Catholics of England had been cruelly persecuted under Elizabeth. The Penal Laws, in the words of the late Lord Orlery, were "as wild and savage as any since the foundation of the world." They hoped for toleration from James, who had assured them they should have it, and who did at first greatly mitigate their sufferings. Then suddenly the policy was changed, and they were persecuted more severely than ever, so that it was said that the times of

Elizabeth, though most cruel, were the mildest and happiest in comparison with those of James. This inevitably excited disappointment and indignation, and it was not wonderful that some violent and turbulent spirits amongst them should be ready for violent remedies. The conspirators were eminently such characters. So well known were they that nine years previously, when the Queen was ill, it had been proposed to lock them up as a precautionary measure, they being "hunger-starved for innovations" and "turbulent spirits." They had all, or nearly all, been engaged in serious treasonable actions, and particular in the rebellion of Essex, when some of them had narrowly escaped the gallows. This being so, as Lord Castlemaine says, it was no hard thing for a Secretary of State "to know of them as men fit for his purposes. The story of their proceedings told by the Government is incredible. According to this, so secretly did they work that those at the head of affairs had no suspicion of danger till the eve of the session of Parliament, when warning was given by an anonymous letter to Lord Montague. "Never," it was said, "was treason more secret and ruin more apparently inevitable."

But the details will not bear examination. First, we are told, these men, known as desperate characters, hired a house close to the House of Lords. From this they dug a mine through the intervening garden, and then endeavoured to break through the foundation of the Parliament House so as to construct a chamber inside for their gunpowder. The wall was nine feet thick, and at it they worked for at least six weeks, getting only halfway through. If this really happened, it is impossible that the Government should not have known of it. What became of the earth and stones which they dug out? How did they bring in unobserved the timber needed to prop up their tunnel? Above all, what of the noise made in beating through the wall? The neighborhood was thickly populated, there were people constantly in the building above them, and the sound of their picks must have resounded far around. It is almost impossible to believe that this work at the mine ever took place; the more so, as when the House of Lords was taken down, no trace of the breach in the wall appears to have been found. The story goes on that after a time the conspirators discovered that between them and the Peers' Chamber was a large room, commonly described as a "cellar," which it was not. It was above ground, running the whole length of the building, 70 feet long and more than 24 feet wide, which had been used for storing coals. This they hired, and abandoned the mine. Meanwhile they had bought their powder, and stored it across the Thames at Lambeth. This again suggests many questions. We are told that there were over four tons of it, purchased in the name of the chief conspirators, just the men known to have been most dangerous. How did they, without exciting suspicion, procure this quantity? Then it had to be ferried across the river, hauled up the Parliament-place—a much frequented locality—and under the Parliament House. And all without the Government having any idea of what was going on! We must remember that this same Government had its spies everywhere, was informed of all that was passing, especially amongst the recusants, could intercept letters from Paris to Brussels, or Rome to Naples, and had information of what passed in the "Papal Court" before it reached the Catholics. Yet they were said to have known nothing of the Gunpowder Plot till the day before Parliament met. The end of the story is equally strange. Cecil saw the letter to Montague two days before the session, and we have it from himself that he at once divined that there was gunpowder under the House of Lords for the purpose of blowing it up. Yet for ten days he did nothing. Not till the morning of the 5th itself was the search made which "discovered" it, and then he talked of the "miraculous" nature of this discovery so shortly before the intended catastrophe. There is certainly some colour for Bishop Goodman's view, that all was contrived for stage effect. But would any man in his senses have left a store of powder so long in such a place in the hands of a man like Guy Fawkes, if he had thought there was any harm in it? It would be interesting to know what would have happened if a match had been applied to that powder. The conspirators appear to have been disappointed with it, for they supposed it to have become "dank." More remarkable still, after the discovery, searching inquiries were

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made about everything else—even as to where the conspirators had procured their crowbars and their beaver hats; but about the powder no word was ever breathed! Of it we hear no more, and the Lords assure us that very day above the "cellar" where much of it, at least, must still have been. Moreover, for 73 years afterwards this "cellar" continued to be let out in the same careless fashion, and filled with all sorts of lumber, so the discovery could not have caused the great terror it was supposed to have aroused. In 1678 Sir Christopher Wren reported this letting of the cellar to be unsafe, and then, not before, was instituted the traditional "search" on the eve of Parliament. More extraordinary still, and altogether bewildering, is the fact, vouched for by the landlady of the house hired by the conspirators, that on the 4th of November Fawkes had carpenters and other work-folk in his house to repair it. What was the sense of putting a house in order on the Monday which was to have been blown to pieces on the Tuesday? Besides, would these workmen fail to notice the mine or other suspicious circumstances? Moreover, Speed says that during a session this house served the Peers as a withdrawing-room, being only let between the sessions of Parliament. The session beginning on November 6th, it would be in the occupation of the Peers and their attendants. How was Fawkes to keep possession and carry on his operations unperceived? How was he to get into the cellar? and how was he to get out of it without exciting the notice of the guards and the crowds of spectators who accompanied the Royal procession and surrounded the House of Parliament? It is said that he was to have been taken by boat from the Parliament stairs to a ship waiting to carry him to Flanders. But a strong flood-tide was running, making London Bridge impassable down stream. All this, as has been said, is quite bewildering.

We have, moreover, clear evidence that, long before this, the Government, through its secret agents, were "working" a Catholic plot, with the special object of implicating priests, and men of position. Eighteen months earlier—just when the Gunpowder Plot was started—one of their "setters" offered to implicate sixty priests and Jesuits, and was told that twenty would do, provided they were big fish, and were given names of such as would serve the purpose. Several other documents might be quoted to the same effect, and Cecil himself, unguardedly admits that before the Montague letter he had information of a "practice" intended against the Parliament, even by the actual conspirators. Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, declared that it was always necessary to insinuate a "Judas" among the Catholics, and there were strong reasons for believing that this affair was managed through Thomas Percy, one of the principal "conspirators." He had all three years before been a Protestant, and very wild and licentious in his life. He then became a Catholic, and apparently a very fervent one, being so described both by others and by himself. Nevertheless, as is proved by documents in the State Paper Office, he had two wives living, one in London and one in Warwickshire. Sir Francis Moore, an eminent lawyer, told Bishop Goodman, that having occasion to be out late at nights he had more than once seen Percy coming out of Cecil's house at two in the morning, and "wondered what his business was there." Again Percy having been absent in the North, returned to London on Saturday, November 3rd. Of this Cecil makes a great mystery, declaring that he had with infinite difficulty discovered the fact from Fawkes. There is, however, in the State Paper Office a pass, dated October 25th, to Percy, from the the Lords Commissioners of the North, to post to London on the King's special business, and charging all mayors and sheriffs to supply him with three good horses on the road. It would not be hard for the Secretary of State to learn the movements of one who travelled in this fashion. But, it will be objected, Percy fled with the others from London, and when they were overtaken at Holbeche, in Staffordshire, he, with three others, was shot dead. It must, however, be remembered that, as is attested by Lord Castlemaine, it was commonly believed to be no uncommon thing, when the

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