

The True Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1870.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

SEPTEMBER—1870.

Friday, 23—*Ember Day*. St. Linus, P. M.
Saturday, 24—*Ember Day*. Our Lady of Mercy.
Sunday, 25—Sixteenth after Pentecost.
Monday, 26—St. Joseph a Carpenter, C.
Tuesday, 27—St. Cosmas and Damian, MM.
Wednesday, 28—St. Wenceslaus, M.
Thursday, 29—St. Michael, Archangel.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The last act of the great and terrible drama enacting in Europe is apparently close at hand. Paris is, not exactly besieged for it is not, and owing to its immense size cannot, be invested; but it is now actually attacked by the Prussians, and on its successful defence depends the last hopes of France. The case is not desperate yet, for the autumnal rains are at hand, which combined with the hardships to which an invading army is exposed, must cause sickness amongst the Prussian troops, and augment the difficulties in the way of keeping open their long and exposed lines of communication. The Parisians are represented as firmly determined to defend themselves,—their capital, which is France, to the last man; and should they persevere in their resolution, a desperate contest is at hand in which the odds are certainly not altogether in favor of the Prussians. We are told that Marshal Bazaine has succeeded at last in cutting his way out of Metz, and that, whilst he himself with a portion of the liberated army was marching towards Sedan, Canrobert with a smaller force under his command, was advancing upon Paris. Strasbourg still held out on the 16th, though the City and its defences had suffered severely from the Prussian fire, and though the non-military population were in dire distress, and had petitioned the Commandant, the brave General Ulrich, to yield to the inevitable, and capitulate. He however stands firm, and will defend the place to the last.

The number of Prussians now menacing Paris is set down at 400,000; their first attack it is expected will be on Vincennes. The city is said to be well supplied with ammunition, in greater quantities than was fired away at Sebastopol.

Whilst these things are going on in France great events are in progress in the Italian Peninsula. Without any declaration of war, or pretext for hostilities, in spite of solemn engagements to the contrary, the Piedmontese have invaded the Papal Territories, and have either killed, or made prisoners of, the troops of the Sovereign Pontiff. Rome is attacked, and is probably by this time in the hands of the enemy; and ere we go to press the Pope himself will be either in exile, or a prisoner; or possibly his name may be enrolled in the list of martyrs whose blood is the seed of the Church. We have this to console us, however. We knew in the first place that the Holy Father will make no unworthy concessions, will never submit to the degradation of being the subject of Victor Emmanuel; and that, in the second place, there is a God Who in His own good time will avenge his servants. The first sufferer will be Victor Emmanuel. The success of this wicked, unprovoked attack upon a neighboring sovereign will be followed by the triumph of the revolutionists, and the proclamation of an Italian Republic. Whatever may be in store for the Pope—captivity, exile, or death—the doom of Victor Emmanuel is sealed, and the revolutionary party, whose tool he has been, will make but short work with him. On the 16th the Papal troops made a gallant but ineffectual stand against the invading army.—Resistance indeed to the large masses of troops that Victor Emmanuel can hurl against Rome is hopeless. On the same day it was reported that the Sovereign Pontiff had left Rome, from which city the advanced posts of the Piedmontese army of invasion were distant only about ten miles. It is thought by many that the Holy Father will take shelter in Malta; it is also reported, and it is significant, that the

headquarters of Free Masonry are to be removed to Rome.

The loss of the splendid turret, ironclad ship the *Captain*, the most formidable ship in the British navy, is confirmed. The manner in which this disaster occurred is a mystery, and the details that we have received serve but to wrap the mystery up in thicker darkness. We are told that in company with some ten other ships of the Experimental squadron under Admiral Milne the *Captain* was cruising some 20 miles off Cape Finistere on the 6th inst. At dark all was well; during the night a S. W. breeze freshened to a stiff gale with squalls of rain, during one of which at about 1.15 a.m. on the 7th, the *Captain* then on the starboard quarter of the flag ship, was lost sight of. At daylight she was no where to be seen, but some portions of her spars or floating wreck were picked up by the other ships of the squadron sent in search of her. This is in substance the report of the Admiral himself; and if it stood alone, we should be forced to conclude that, in a sudden squall, the *Captain* had capsized, and gone to the bottom with all hands, without having had time to fire a gun, or make any signal of distress to her consorts, who were of course close to her.

But we are told that some 18 of the crew of the *Captain*, had arrived safe on shore, somewhere on the coast of Spain in a boat; and that these survivors reported that another boat had got away from the ship, but had been swamped. Now, if the *Captain* had had time to lower boats, and to put people on board, she would have had plenty of time to make known her dangerous situation to the other ships of the squadron. Every evening on board a man-of-war, when sailing in company, the night signals are reported ready for use, at the muster at quarters, and these therefore at a moment's notice could have been made use of; and, as men-of-war, sailing in squadron keep together, each ship in its allotted place, it is impossible that if these signals had been made they should have been unnoticed by all the other ships of the squadron, on board of every one of which there was an officer whose special duty it was to keep a sharp look out for signals. The only way we can see out of the difficulty is this:—That the story as to the escape of some of the crew in boats is a sensational lie got up by our telegram reporters; and that the *Captain* went down in a moment without having had time to make any signal. Besides, as portions of the *Captain's* spars were found floating about next morning, by the ships that were looking for her it is not probable that the boats which must have put off from her not more than 3 or 4 hours before could have got so far by daylight as to have escaped all notice. The truth however will be published some day, but we fear that the immediate cause of the foundering of the *Captain* will always be a mystery. It has done much to discredit the turret armament, a principle of which, if not the inventor, Capt. Coles who perished in the *Captain*, was one of the most ardent advocates.

During the past week there has been much excitement, and a great influx of visitors in this City, owing to the Provincial Exhibition, and the Lachine Regatta. The Exhibition was a decided success in so far as it made manifest the Agricultural and Industrial progress of Canada. The animals exhibited were very fine.

The Lachine Regatta came off on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The great event was of course the boat race betwixt the Tyne crew, the first in England perhaps the world—and the St. John's crew. This well contested struggle which terminated with a decided victory for the first named or Tyne crew, was witnessed by an immense concourse of spectators, numbers having come not only from the United States, the Maritime Provinces, and other parts of America to witness the race, but from Europe.

In order to keep our readers posted up in the great events of the day—we publish the latest telegrams from the seat of war:—

PARIS, Sept. 17th.—Strasbourg is nearly untenable and the inhabitants are departing.

The Prussians crossed the Seine last evening near Amiens but were beaten back. Cannonading is now heard towards Bietene.

The Prussians advancing on Paris have appeared on the heights of Villeneuve and Bruney.

The city of Calais and the whole Pas de Calais were this morning declared in a state of siege and under martial law.

We have a rumor from Meuse that the force under Canrobert on Wednesday attacked and defeated the Prussians near St. Justin, and that an action was going on on Thursday near Tergnier. It is believed that Canrobert has formed a junction with the troops from Lille, Valenciennes and Yrras, and is threatening the right wing of the Prussians before Paris, near Compiegne.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—A N. Y. *Tribune* correspondent says:—I had another conversation with Bismarck this morning. He said positively that the Prussian government will not treat with any government, nor recognize any as *de jure*, and that the only government of that

character in France known to Prussia is the government of Napoleon, or of a Regency acting in his absence. "We do not know," he added, "whether the whole of France will recognize the Republic. How can we treat on so serious a matter with a provisional government which may be disavowed to-morrow?" I asked whether any English diplomatist had arrived at headquarters to advocate intervention. "I have seen no diplomatist," was his answer. He commented sharply on the French treachery at Laon, saying that the place capitulated, and the Prussians entered without any opposition. Then a French artilleryman blew up the powder magazine, killing himself, 45 Prussians and near 300 Gardes Mobile.

MUNDELSAUM, Sept. 18.—It is officially reported that the works facing Lunelle, numbers 52 and 53, of Strasburg are finished near Lunelle. Fifty-three mines were exploded by the besieged, and earthworks protecting the assailants were injured, but they are since repaired.

BERLIN, Sept. 19.—A telegram from the King's headquarters states that the total number of men actually captured at Sedan was 30,000, including 39 generals and 2,595 officers, 500 of whom were released on parole.

The following news is official:—While Napoleon was at Namur, Belgium, he eulogized the discipline and courage of the Prussian soldiers and said nothing could keep them out of Paris.

FLORENCE, Sept. 18.—An official despatch from the headquarters of the Italian army of occupation on Roman territory at Monte Rotondo of the 17th says:—Baron Arnim came to General Cardona's quarters by authorization of the Pope, to explain that foreign military forces for the moment ruled Rome, and that His Holiness was unable to prevent any resistance of the Italian troops. He wished to know what course eastward they intended to take. The General replied that his purpose was fully set forth in the royal proclamation. The King had shown great patience, but the fact is that foreigners attempting to defend the city and to rule the Pope, tried their patience severely. Arnim begged a delay of four hours that he might bring on additional influence to bear on the Pope. Cardona so far yielded as to suspend the attack on Rome for twenty-four hours, but reserved the right to manoeuvre his troops which now encircle the city.

PARIS, Sept. 18.—A fight took place yesterday ten miles from Paris between the advanced guard of the Prussian army and a reconnoitring party of the French forces. The latter were driven back and the Prussians established themselves on the heights which the French had been holding. The Prussians numbered 30,000. The fight is said to have been very bloody, the French, though beaten, inflicting heavy losses on the Prussians. The conflict raged for upwards of two hours.

PARIS, Sept. 19.—Trains on the Northern railroad from Rouen only run as far south as Breteuil at present. The Prussians were expected at the latter place on Saturday.

The fragments of the Sedan army which arrived at Sedan consisted of 600 men who previously escaped from Metz.

The loss of life in the hospitals of both armies from typhus fever is very serious.

General De Failly is not dead, as has been so often reported. He and his staff occupy finely furnished apartments at Mayence, and is sumptuously provided for by King William.

Despatches have been received to-day destroying all prospects of Marshal Bazaine's escape. A handful of men only escaped thus far.

The siege of Toul is vigorously pressed. According to military experts the place cannot hold out much longer.

Many Prussian scouts have arrived near the walls of Paris. All the departments are arming actively.

The people of Paris is generally dissatisfied with the Government which failed to adopt revolutionary measures. A manifesto was voted by twenty arrondissements of Paris and has been presented to-day to the Provisional Government, and is to be posted to-morrow on the walls.

Prussia explains that she will be fully prepared to treat for peace only when France presents a government sufficiently able to enforce a treaty.

MADRID, Sept. 19.—The raising of the French blockade in the North and Baltic seas is officially announced to the Spanish Government.

DRESDEN, Sept. 19.—Princess Amelia, Duchess of Saxony, died yesterday, aged 76 years. She was a sister of King John of Saxony.

The *Daily News* correspondent says that Bismarck insists on the evacuation of Metz and Strasburg or else Paris is to be starved out.

The Germans laugh at Marshal Bazaine's hopes of escaping from Metz.

LONDON, Sept. 17.—The Queen has united with Vice-Admiral Daeres in a letter of condolence to the widows and orphans of those who went down in the *Captain*. She addressed

each one of them personally in sympathetic terms. She feels acutely the loss of her best ship with many gallant seamen.

A special to the *Herald*, dated Paris, Sept. 19, reports that 400 Uhlans yesterday occupied Marseilles.

The postal service has been suspended, and service by messengers is to be organized.

Several Prussian scouts were killed by the Garde Mobile and Turcos in the neighborhood of Paris.

LONDON, Sept. 19.—A correspondent of the *Times* writing from Paris says: Gen. Venoy led 20,000 troops of line to Vincennes to dispute the passage of Marne.

The advance of the enemy yesterday was not great. Their troops are massed near the Seine ready to cross at any moment.

A correspondent of the *Times* writing before Strasburg says: The seven days preparations for an assault cannot be completed in less than four weeks.

Malet, second Secretary of the British Embassy, who finally succeeded in getting to the Prussian headquarters, returned on Friday bringing an answer from Bismarck to Lord Lyons. Before this mission Lord Lyons had asked Favre whether if England requested an armistice the French Government would welcome her intervention. When this became known to Lord Granville, Lord Lyons was politely rebuked for his pains. Bent on improving the situation, Lord Lyons sent on an informal mission to Bismarck, notifying Granville after Malet had gone. Lord Granville forthwith directed Lord Lyons to summon Malet back. Lord Lyons obeyed, but his messenger took the wrong road and after several failures in making his way through crowds of Uhlans reached the King's Headquarters. Out of all these successions of cross purposes grew considerable coolness between Lyons and Granville. Malet's talk with Bismarck was plain and to the point. He asked for an ultimatum. "We must have Metz and Strasburg," said Bismarck. "Dismantled?" asked Malet. "No," replied Bismarck, "stronger than ever." "Then suppose the French Government finds your terms impossible?" "We shall invest and starve Paris, and if that does not succeed, we shall try sharper means." "Would you bombard the city?" "Certainly, and burn it if forced. The necessity is sad, but how to escape it." Bismarck talked about Gladstone and Granville and their timid message disrespectfully, and he did not hesitate to let it be seen that he cared nothing for the efforts of outsiders and was resolved to settle all questions with France alone. For Lord Lyons himself Bismarck professed his respect and gratitude, and cordially advised him to get out of Paris while he could. He had notified Lord Granville that the siege once begun, he would allow no communication between foreign governments and their embassies inside that city. The written answer sent by Bismarck to Lord Lyons was confidential, and has not been disclosed; but Lord Lyons intimates that he thinks Bismarck means to have Paris before concluding peace, as the most effectual means of enforcing his demands. Nor is the French Government, at heart, confident of making a successful defence. President Trochu told Lord Lyons he would do his best, but, he added, there will be a massacre, followed by anarchy. The Ministers still utter brave words. Russia's attitude is getting still one of reserve. It has come out that Gortschakoff was asked by England to join in a fresh guarantee. He answered, "Yes, if you include Holland."

A REPUBLIC.—For the third time France is said to be a republic. Naturally we ask "what is a republic?" Till we get a definite answer to this question we know not whether we should rejoice or be sad over the news. Strange to say, though the word republic and republican government are on every body's lips, we never yet met with any one who could define them, or who indeed seemed to have any very clear idea of what he meant thereby. The nearest approach to a definition of a Republic that we ever met with is this:—That it is a form of government in which the chief of the executive department is elected, not hereditary. But taken in this sense, France is no more a republic to-day than she was yesterday, or the day before Louis Philippe was an elected not an hereditary Chief Executive functionary, and so also was Louis Napoleon. They held office in virtue of a popular vote just as Gen. U. Grant holds office as President, in virtue of the popular vote.

Another idea of a republic which seems to possess the public mind is that a republican government differs from every other form of government in this:—That under it the Chief Executive holds office not for life, but for a limited term of years; and if this be all that recent changes in France have effected; if it have but imposed upon the French people the necessity of annual, or triennial elections for the office of Chief Executive, we certainly do not see that they have gained anything worth our congratulating them upon.

We frankly confess that we do not know what a republic means, if every government which governs for the sake of the people governed be not a republic; whether, as in England there be an hereditary Chief Executive called King or Queen, or an elected President. Now a King is not necessarily a monarch, nor is a Kingdom necessarily a monarchy, or government by one man power; since Great Britain is called a Kingdom, and assuredly that country is not ruled or governed by the will of any one man, or woman. If the public good or commonwealth be the object for which republican governments exist, then assuredly Great Britain is as much a republic as the United States, as much a Commonwealth as is Connecticut.

If however a republic mean only the brute despotism of majorities over minorities; if, as in the United States, it mean only a government, by fraud and corruption, if republican liberties mean only, as is the case in New York, the privilege of voting often and of getting about \$4 for a vote—that we believe is about the market price of the article—then we again say that we see nothing in the proclamation of a republic in France to call for our sympathies or congratulations. We are of those who entertain the old fashioned Catholic notion, that legitimate Governments exist by divine appointment indeed, but for the commonwealth or good of the people, and that every government which makes the good of the governed its end is a republic; whilst every government in which human will rules, whether it be the will of a majority or of a minority is a despotism.

We fear however that that which in France is hailed as the republic, is but the democratic republic which as all history shows stands in the same relation to Caesarism that the egg does to the chicken. Caesarism, that is to say a form of government administered by an elected chief popular with the army is the only form of government possible to a country which having no hereditary king, and no influential hereditary territorial aristocracy, keeps on foot a large army, and aspires to be a great military power. This is the actual position of France. It may pass through many revolutions yet, and assume many phases of government, but no matter under what name called, republic, or kingdom, or Empire it will virtually be governed by one man, a favorite of the army, whose good will he will have to cultivate either by giving them victories abroad, or by largesses from the public purse at home.

PUNIC FAITH.—The telegrams report that Victor Emmanuel had offered the Sovereign Pontiff, if he would consent to the swallowing up of his States by Piedmont, and exchange for himself the position of an independent Prince for that of a subject, to guarantee his spiritual independence with absolute control of the Vatican palace, the Leonine city, and all ecclesiastical buildings except the convents, which the robber king wanted for himself.

History also reports that on the 15th September 1864 the Piedmontese Government by a Convention of that date entered into the following agreement:—

"Art. 1.—Italy engages not to attack the actual territory of the Sovereign Pontiff, and to resist by force if necessary, all attacks made from without on the said Territory."

The telegram of the 15th September, 1870, also reports that an armed force acting under the orders of King Victor Emmanuel had without any pretext of grievance, invaded the territory of the Sovereign Pontiff made prisoners of war of his small but gallant army, and was advancing upon Rome with the intention of annexing it to Piedmont.

And this violation of the laws of civilized nations, and of plighted faith, this unprovoked outrage by a strong, on a weak, Power is approved of by the majority of the English Protestant journals! The principles appealed to, to justify the action of the Piedmontese are capable of a wide application. On the same principle Prussia might annex Belgium, and Russia take possession of Constantinople.

PROTESTANT ROUGHS.—There have been some rather serious riots at Toronto caused by the violent behaviour of a newly formed Protestant Society of that city, and calling itself "The Young Britons." This society seems to be composed in great part of the lowest blackguards, and the worst loafers of Toronto; and the chief exploit of its members is abusing "b— Papists" and kicking up rows in houses of ill-fame where the *Young Britons* do greatly resort. Fifteen of these blackguards were hauled up before the Police the other day.

GRAND CATHOLIC BAZAAR OF WINDSOR, ONTARIO.

As we stated, in one of our late issues, there was a change for the better effected in Father Wagner's gift enterprise, with regard to the offering of a Photograph to each benefactor of St. Alphonsus Church. Instead of a Photograph, every benefactor will receive a Lithographed likeness of Pius IX., beautifully executed on the very best of paper (11x14 inches)