

The True Witness.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, OCT. 12.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

OCTOBER—1866.

Friday, 12—Of the Feria.
Saturday, 13—St. Edward, Conf.
Sunday, 14—Twenty first after Pentecost. Mater-nity of Blessed Virgin.
Monday, 15—St. Theresa, V.
Tuesday, 16—St. Callistus, P. M.
Wednesday, 17—St. Hedwig, W.
Thursday, 18—St. Luke, Ev.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

From the French Emperor we have a Manifesto over the signature of the Marquis de Lavallette, on the subject of the great events, and important territorial changes, that have followed upon the late war in Central Europe. To our surprise we learn that His Imperial Majesty is delighted, positively delighted with all that has taken place. This is the best war possible, all is for the best; and in this spirit of new born optimism, he not only reconciles himself to, but actually revels in, the contemplation of the military preponderance of Prussia, in the sudden start into new life of a formidable rival to France, and in the aggrandisement of the domains of the Piedmontese Sovereign. He desires no acquisitions for his Empire; he has no hankering after the Rhine, no dreams of a rectified frontier for France. Not a bit of it; and like a kind father who rejoices to see his children growing up around him, even though they be a little boisterous at times, and given to fistuffs, he is quite content to sit in the corner, and look on at the youngsters enjoying themselves. He would not disturb their amusements, or interrupt their sports for the world, not he.

This is the general tenor of the Manifesto.—France, we are assured, has no reason to be uneasy about what has occurred, or to feel jealous of the growing power of Prussia. Besides, the Emperor foresees as highly probable, if not imminent, an attack upon European liberty, and modern civilisation, from a combination of two Great Powers—one menacing in the far West, the other barging like a thunder cloud over the Eastern frontier of Europe. These two Powers, externally so dissimilar—one representing the extreme of monocratic, the other of democratic despotism—yet in spirit or internally, so alike, and which are irresistibly attracted towards one another by the force of sympathy, may, so Louis Napoleon foresees, bring some day their united forces to bear against Western and Central Europe; and in such a contingency it would be well, so he argues, that Europe be no longer parcelled out into a lot of small independent States, but should be the heritage of some three or four Great Powers, able to combine for purposes of a common defence. This is the Napoleonic Idea, as given in the Manifesto; and with the prospect of another Eastern question before us, there may be much truth therein. Only we confess ourselves unable to solve the following mystic utterance of the Imperial Sphinx, wherein, having exhibited to us the Holy Father stripped of his possessions, and left naked and defenceless to his foes, external and internal, the Emperor informs us that:—

"The interests of the Pontifical Throne are assured by the Convention of the 15th September.—The Convention will be loyally executed. In withdrawing his troops from Rome, the Emperor will leave in their place as a guarantee for security of the Holy Father, the protection of France."

This may be irony, what the vulgar call "poking fun," but assuredly it is out of place in a grave State document. There are but few who doubt that the Convention of Sept. 15th, as were all the previous acts of Louis Napoleon whereby the Revolution in Italy was fostered, and brought to its present state of efficiency, was a forced concession to the demands of the Carbonars, of whom Louis Napoleon was once, if rumor do not belie him, a sworn brother, and to whom as a recalcitrant brother, or brother forgetful of his obligations, the dagger of Orsini was sent as a reminder.

The uprising of the Greek Christian population of Candia is serious. The Christian Powers of Europe may be called upon to intervene betwixt the Turks and their oppressed subjects, and should this occur, the Eastern Question with all

its complications will break out again with more violence than ever. From Italy we learn that the Sicilians are still in arms against their alien conquerors, and that the Piedmontese troops have still all their work before them.

From Great Britain we learn with joy that the prospects are less discouraging with regard to the crops. Many arrests of prominent Fenians have been made at Liverpool, and more are expected to take place. The opinion daily gains ground, and is openly expressed in the journals, that Head Centre Stephens is in the pay of the British Government. This opinion is confirmed by two events that have just occurred. In the first place, the letter published over the signature of Byrne, the Warder, and professing to give an account of Stephens's escape from jail, has been denounced as a forgery; in the second place, Hopper, the brother-in-law of Stephens, has just received his pardon from the Government, after a short imprisonment of a few months, imposed on the prisoner as, it is said, with the view of throwing dust in the eyes of the public. Treachery in the Fenian ranks is so general, and informers are so plentiful, that it is by no means improbable that Stephens is what it is now said that he is. At all events time will show the real character of the man, but the Irish should be on their guard against all who address them with grandiloquent expressions of patriotism, and love for Ireland.

ST. PATRICK'S BAZAAR.

As the Annual Bazaar in aid of the Saint Patrick's Orphan Asylum is now before the public; as the lady friends of the institution are engaged in collecting funds and filing up their lists on the different articles to be disposed of at the coming Bazaar, which opens in the Mechanics' Institute, Great St. James Street, on Wednesday, the 10th of the present month,—the Treasurer of the Asylum would beg to submit the following for the kind consideration of the public:—

That the inmates of the Asylum have varied during the past year from 230 to 250 souls; that the expenses of the twelve months ending August 31st, 1866, were £2,258 11s 6d;—(\$9,034 30c); that the balance on hand was £1 6s 11d; and that the proceeds of the present Bazaar are the only means on which the orphans have to rely for their clothing and support during the coming winter. The Asylum receives £160 a year from the Government, and £125 from other resources, making a total of £285 of what might be called a fixed revenue; leaving a deficit of nearly two thousand pounds to be made up by the voluntary contributions of a charitable public, who, realising the great utility of the Asylum, generously contribute towards its support without distinction of class or creed.

The ordinary resources for the support of the Asylum are three-fold—an annual picnic, an annual subscription, and an annual bazaar. Our last picnic was a failure, owing to the torrents of rain which poured down just as the people were coming to the picnic. There has been a falling off of about one hundred pounds in the annual subscription, owing principally to the belief that the bequest of the late Mr. Fitzpatrick rendered an effort in aid of the Asylum less necessary than usual, although not one dollar of that bequest has yet become available; not one dollar of it, in any shape or form, has yet passed into the hands of the Treasurer.

Should there be a falling off in the proceeds of the present Bazaar, the Treasurer does not see how the poor orphans can be supported during the coming winter, with its intense cold—which requires warm clothing—and the high prices for every article of food. The account for bread alone during the past month was \$245.60.

In the above circumstances the Director and Treasurer do confidently trust that the public will rally round the little Orphans of St. Patrick's Asylum, and, by their generous and charitable aid, place them beyond the influence of hunger and cold during the coming winter; remembering well that what they do for them they do for Him Whom they represent, and that eternal life will be their reward—"Come ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you; for I was hungry, and you gave Me to eat; a stranger and you took Me in; naked and you covered Me. Amen I say unto you, as long as you did it to one of these you did it to Me."

That these things may be realised in those who contribute to their support, is the daily prayer of the St. Patrick's Orphans.

A Grand Bazaar will be held at l'Asile St. Joseph, St. Bonaventure Street, on Monday next, the 15th inst. and following days for the benefit of the Orphans of l'Hospice St. Joseph et de la Salle d'Asile. The opening of the Bazaar will take place at one o'clock p.m., under the immediate patronage of the Ladies of the Benevolence Committee of the institution. All charitable persons who intend to send article to this Bazaar, should send them at once to l'Hospice St. Joseph.

On Thursday and Friday, this week, Mr. Shaw will sell by catalogue a collection of about 700 volumes of fine Literary and Historic books; and on Saturday evening about 600 Catholic Prayer Books. Some of the books are slightly damaged, but most of them are in good order.

THE WHITE SLAVES OF ENGLAND.—One of the most characteristic symptoms of that distressing and very prevalent disease, commonly known as "nigger on the brain," is the callous indifference which the patient manifests towards the sufferings of men, women, and children with white skins, and of Caucasian origin. It is owing to this that the wretched condition of the laboring classes of England engaged in the factories, has hitherto excited so little attention and commiseration, and has assumed such terrible and gigantic proportions. Alas! for the color of their skins. Were the little children of the manufacturing districts of England only "niggers," had they been endowed at birth with the darkly tinted *rete mucosum* of the Ethiop, or graced with his woolly locks and blubber lips; how different would have been their lot! They would have then been savory in the nostrils of philanthropists, Exeter Hall would have risen up in their behalf indignantly asking "are they not men and brothers?"—and a storm of indignation at the announcement of their wrongs would have raged from one end of the Kingdom to the other, scarce less violent than that which broke out when the tidings reached England of the hanging of the instigator of the massacres of Morant Bay.

Unfortunately the little slaves of England are white, our own flesh and blood, with blue eyes and Saxon complexion, and there is therefore but precious little sympathy for them amongst those who are troubled with the complaint of "nigger on the brain." Yet from time to time a voice is raised in behalf of the unhappy creatures, over-worked, underfed, and cruelly flogged in order that the prescribed amount of work may be got out of their feeble frames. Flogging comes cheaper than feeding; there is no lack of children; parents are always ready to sell their offspring on reasonable terms to the manufacturing task-master; and so sound political economy dictates the propriety of husbanding the victuals, and of being lavish in the matter of the lash.—When the over-flogged slave dies, it is so easy to replace him in free and merry England!

It must be born in mind, however, in extenuation of this state of things, and as in part explanatory of the cool indifference with which it is viewed by that class of English society which is most intolerant of the Southern planter, most exuberant in its denunciations of negro-slavery in Virginia, that the white slavery of England is the work not of your haughty semi-feudal aristocracy, nor of cruel landlords and bloated territorial magnates, but of that exemplary, and never enough to be worshipped class of which men like Mr. Bright are at once the representatives and the idols, and which is the stronghold of modern English Liberalism. This of course greatly alters the aspect of affairs and to a considerable extent, in the opinion of many, justifies the continuation of the system.

What that system is, however, in its working, what its physical and moral consequences upon its victims, have been lately proclaimed to the world by some two or three writers, who do not understand why Englishmen should be so very enthusiastic about the wrongs of the sleek, well-fed, well-housed, and, in sickness, well cared for nigger of the Southern States, and yet so callous to the sufferings of the starved, beated, decrepid, and "kicked-out-to-die-when-no-longer-useful" white slaves of the English manufacturing districts. Amongst the most prominent of these grumblers at the "peculiar institutions" of non-feudal times, we may cite the *London Quarterly Review*, which in its April issue in a long article entitled, "The Children's Employment Commission," furnishes us with startling facts both as to the extent to which white slavery prevails amongst the non-agricultural classes in England, and as to the hideous physical and moral consequences of that system. Perhaps after their perusal we may entertain doubts as to how far the English Liberal is warranted in throwing the first stone at the Carolina cotton growers, and the slave-holders of Virginia.

The white slave system of England is not altogether of recent growth; it has existed for many years; and speaking of the commencement of the present century, the *Quarterly Reviewer* describes it as even then flourishing, and rife with abuses "compared with which the abominations of negro-slavery were examples of mildness and humanity." A regular internal slave-trade existed even in those days, and is thus described:—

"A new traffic was found to have sprung up. Child-jobbers traversed the country for the purpose of purchasing children from their parents, and selling them again into worse than Egyptian bondage. The consumption of human life in the manufactories to which these children were consigned was frightful"—*London Quarterly Review*, April, 1866. p. 193.

Government interfered, and ineffectually tried to put a check upon these horrors, but the cotton lords, and manufacturing aristocracy were then as now too strong, and defeated the benevolent designs of the Government. Again in 1840 its attention was directed to the subjected, and some indignation was excited by the publication of a Parliamentary Report from which it appeared that in many instances, the white slaves were set to work at five years of age, in some instances when as yet only three years old, whilst as a general rule they were sold into servitude by

their parents at seven or eight. These little children thus sold, were doomed to incessant work in gangs for from sixteen to eighteen hours a day, and the effects upon their bodily health and morals may be imagined. Again the Legislature interfered, and an Act was passed prohibiting the working of boys and girls under ten years of age in mines and collieries: but still, in spite of legislation the white slave system with all its horrors continued to spread, and again in 1861 a Commission, whose Reports up to this date furnish the text upon which the *London Quarterly* hangs its comments.

Very hideous is the state of things by these Reports—which the *Reviewer* quotes—revealed. In one manufacture in Staffordshire, the Commissioners report having found "not fewer than 593 little children not over five years of age, of whom 159 were females; and 4,605 other children of between the ages of five and ten." The mortality amongst these young slaves was enormous.

"In one district out of 1,120 deaths, 470, or upwards of forty three per cent, occurred within the first year, and 149 or thirteen per cent before the fifth year of life, making a total of 619 deaths, of fifty five per cent of children under five years of age, the majority of whom succumbed from debility of constitution induced by the want of parental care." p. 194.

The physical and moral effects of this slavery into which the children are sold by their parents, are thus described:—

"They"—the slaves—"are, as a rule, stunted in growth, ill-shaped, and frequently deformed, become prematurely old, and short-lived."—p. 195.

"A girl of 14 was examined by the Assistant Commissioner, and the following was the result:—'Never was at school in her life. Does not know a letter. Never went to a church or chapel. Never heard of England, or London, or the sea, or ships.—Never heard of God. Does not know what He does. Does not know whether it is better for her to be good or bad.'—p. 196.

And this in the land of the "open bible," which sends missionaries to the heathen in foreign parts; which subscribes funds for the conversion of Italian and French Canadian Papists; and which shed tears of misplaced and maudlin sympathy over the sufferings of an imaginary *Uncle Tom*!!!

Nor are the Staffordshire manufactories by any means the worst in their treatment of the little white slaves. In the Lace Making business in Nottingham and its immediate neighborhood the Commissioners ascertained "the almost incredible fact that infants two years of age had been known to commence work in one department of this manufacture, namely, in pulling out threads, and that, many were found working at three years of age."—p. 197. The *Reviewer* adds:—

"There is nothing more startling and distressing in these Reports than the details of the sufferings to which these poor children are subjected in learning a business by which they are to earn their livelihood, the wearisome days, sleepless nights and painful exhaustion which manufacture by almost infantile fingers involves, and of the physical and moral ruin which soon overtakes little creatures herded together in rooms with scarcely space to move or breathe, and deprived from infancy of every kind of recreation and enjoyment."—p. 197.

It may excite surprise how children so young can be made to work at all. The mystery is solved in the following passage:—

"A long cane is resorted to in proportion as the hours of work are protracted, the youngest becoming at length so fatigued as to be as uneasy as birds."—p. 198.

The hours of work extends some times from eight in the morning till eleven or twelve at night: no wonder that the children die by scores, that the survivors are stunted and deformed in body, and depraved in morals. "A large proportion of the women have had illegitimate children, and some at so early an age as 'quite to startle even those who are at home in criminal statistics.'"—p. 199.

The above extracts which are all that we have room for will serve to give some idea, though of course only a faint one, of the condition of the "in door" slaves. Let us turn to that of the "out-door" slaves who are employed in the great metal manufactures, mines and collieries of the land of the "open-bible." But this we propose to postpone till our next issue.

MORTALITY AMONGST PRISONERS OF WAR.

—From official documents just published by the Secretary of War of the United States, in reply to a Resolution of the House of Representatives, it appears that during the war betwixt the Northern and Southern States, the mortality amongst the prisoners captured by the former far exceeded the mortality amongst the prisoners of war captured by the other. Out of 261,000 Federals, prisoners in the Southern States, 26,500 died; whilst out of 200,000 Confederate prisoners in the hands of the Northerners 26,500 died. In other words, of the prisoners held by the Federals one out of every fifteen died in prison, whilst only two out of twenty-three died in the prisons of the Southern States. If then the great mortality of the prisoners were due to their ill treatment, it is easy to determine by the application of the rules of arithmetic, whether the Northern or the Southern States were the most brutal in their treatment of their several prisoners of war. Cruelties there may have been on both sides, but we are sure that brave soldiers like Lee, Grant, Meade never countenanced them; but certainly the balance of brutality was not on the side of the South.

TICKET OFFICE.—We see that the Grand Trunk Railway Co. have placed their tickets for sale in the city again. This will be a great accommodation to the travelling public. Commercial and ordinary tickets to all places on the Grand Trunk line can be had at the office of Mr. W. O'Brien, their well known passenger agent 19 Place d'Armes.

GOOD RECOMMENDATION.—At the opening of the Toronto Assizes, Mr. Justice Wilson recommended the adoption of the punishment of flogging, for scoundrels convicted of robbery accompanied with violence. This is a most excellent recommendation, and we hope that it may be adopted by the Legislature, and vigorously enforced by the Executive. Of all punishments there is none, after the death penalty, of which the professional criminal has so great a dread as the punishment of the lash; none therefore which tends so powerfully to repress crime and to protect person and property; none therefore which a Government, whose first and most imperative duty it is to protect person and property, can with more propriety inflict. Whenever adopted, the efficacy of the lash, as a deterrent from crime, has been experienced. The mere threat of this punishment sufficed at once, and for ever, to put a stop to a certain class of crimes directed in the early part of the Queen's reign against Her Majesty's person; and a few sound floggings in Canada would do more to put a stop to the career of the criminals who infest our large towns, than any other punishment that the wit of man can devise. All honor to Judge Wilson for his very excellent recommendation to the Toronto Jury.

OBITUARY.

On the morning of the 26th of Sept., at five minutes past three o'clock, the Very Rev. Vicar General McDonagh, of Perth, C.W., breathed his last. For a long time the esteemed gentleman had been gradually failing, and his early demise was expected. Yet the sad announcement of his end will touch many a heart that loved him well and esteemed his many virtues. A true friend, a true gentleman, a true priest, he has passed away with the good wishes and blessing of every one capable of appreciating real worth. Good, pious and affable, his end was like his life, peaceful and happy. Perfectly resigned to the divine will in all things, in death he was consistent with himself. Seemingly without the least pain he fell asleep in the Fatherly arms of Him Whom he had so well served during life.

Born in the Parish of Longbarrow, County Mayo, in 1812, the lamented deceased was 54 at the time of his death. After having gone through the preparatory studies for the priesthood at St. Jarlath's, Tuam, he came to Canada, and was ordained by the Right Rev. Dr. Macdonald, first Bishop of Kingston. Under this zealous pastor, he was stationed for two years at L'Orignal, C.E., after which he was transferred to the difficult and laborious mission of Perth, C.W. It would be impossible to even refer to the services he rendered religion in his parish. For nearly thirty years he has shown forth in his life the precepts and counsels of our Divine Redeemer. Energetic, zealous and untiring, he spent himself in administering to the spiritual and temporal wants of others. Wherever there was a sorrowing heart to console, a tearful eye to dry, a poor, stricken soul to sustain, an indigent widow to aid, a helpless little orphan to protect—the good Vicar General McDonagh was at hand with assistance, cheerfully and unostentatiously bestowed. But why speak of all this; God knew it, and that is sufficient for him and for us.

On Friday morning, at 8 o'clock, a Solemn High Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul. Rev. P. O'Connell, of Richmond, was celebrant, assisted by Rev. J. O'Brien, of Brockville, as Deacon, and Rev. Jas. Browne, of Napanee, as Subdeacon. At the conclusion of Mass, Rev. J. J. Graham, of Perth, made a few remarks, in reference to the great loss the people of Perth had sustained. The beautiful church was crowded to excess, not only by Catholics, but also by many Protestants, including the Rector. Many of those present testified by their tears how sensibly they were affected.

After the last solemn rites had been paid to the honored dead, his remains were lowered down into the grave, amid the sobs and tears of his stricken flock.

He is gone now, and it will be long ere we see his like again. He has passed away—at the falling of the leaf—but his blessed example remains for our encouragement and consolation.—He is not all dead; he yet speaks to us silently but eloquently, and the voice of the honored dead shall be as powerful as the living. His grave—amongst the people whom he so much loved—is a beacon to direct them in the present, and lead them on to the glorious promises of the future. We mourn for him not as those without hope, but as Christians who hold the blessed assurance of meeting him hereafter. One thing remains for us, to pray that God may receive him into his eternal reward. *Requiescat in pace.*

DANGER IN HANDLING FIRE-ARMS.—A sad accident is recorded in the *Mirror*, which happened on Thursday 4th inst. and has brought mourning into a French family of this city. A son of Mr. J. B. Senechal, Catherine Street, started with a friend on a sporting expedition. When landing from a canoe on one of the Varrennes islands, the young man took his gun by the muzzle, and the trigger meeting with some obstacle, the piece was discharged into his breast. He breathed his last after ten minutes. He was a tall, handsome, and very promising young man, and had just completed his course of studies.

OTTAWA, 5th.—A special commission, will be issued to try the Fenian prisoners at Toronto. Chief Justice Draper will preside; but all the judges will be named in the commission for the trial of the Fenian prisoners in Lower Canada. A special term of the Court of Queen's Bench will be held in Montreal.