

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1863.

Mr. Gillies of this office is now on a visit to our subscribers throughout the Upper Province, with full power to settle all accounts, and to make such arrangements as may to him seem appropriate.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The tidings which reach us from Poland would seem to indicate that the insurgents are holding their own, and that powerful as is Russia, she will find that the Poles are very stubborn foes to deal with.

The episcopal mind in England is in a very excited state on account of the Bishop of Natal. The man has evidently placed himself, by his recent attack upon the Old Testament, outside of the pale of Christianity, but he remains nevertheless an Anglican Bishop, and from this position it is almost impossible to dislodge him.

The news from the States is contradictory. According to one set of statements the Federals are just about going to annihilate the Confederates; according to another and equally credible statement, the Northerners are on the eve of great disasters, and they have certainly met with a serious repulse at Port Hudson.

MORAL CONDITION OF IRELAND.—Save in the districts in which unhappily agrarian outrage is still found, the security of life and property in that country is very high. Garroting is unknown, and violent robberies of any sort are very rare.

To this very important testimony to the moral condition of Ireland, the Reviewer appends the subjoined note:—

It may be thought that this is an over-strong statement in face of agrarian outrages recently prevalent in certain parts of the country. But these offences are of an entirely exceptional character, not being committed, as a rule, by members of the criminal classes; and no conceivable system of prison discipline could produce much effect upon them.

As an answer to the calumniators of Ireland, and of Popery, these extracts from such a staunch British and Protestant periodical as the London Quarterly Review are conclusive, and should suffice, one would think, to silence them, if not to put them to shame.

garrotte-robberies, and other offences unfortunately so frequent, and so steadily increasing in Protestant England and Scotland are "very rare," and in general, "the security of life and property in Ireland is very high."

Agrarian outrages, or offences arising out of disputes about the tenure of land are the only serious crimes which to any considerable extent pollute the soil of Catholic Ireland. God forbid that we should appear as the apologist of these crimes, or as seeking to extenuate their guilt.

Neither is this "exceptional" or peculiar to Great Britain, for the same phenomena repeat themselves on this Continent with wearisome uniformity, as may be seen by reference to the Statistics of the Provincial Penitentiary of Canada. In the Lower or Romish section of the Province, serious crime is rare, and the number of convicts sent to the said Penitentiary from the Catholic portion of the community, is, in respect to its population, trifling.

But whilst the moral condition of Ireland is thus, upon the showing of Englishmen and Protestants, highly gratifying, how is it with that more favored land, which reads its "open Bible" in the full light of the Holy Protestant Faith? In that land where exist not any of those "exceptional" social circumstances, and abnormal conditions, which give rise to the only serious offences wherewith Ireland, plunged in "Romish darkness" can be taxed?

By the last returns there were no less than 130,000 prisoners committed to these goals within the 12 months, not including summary convictions. There were very nearly 400,000 persons proceeded against summarily within the year, and between 260,000 and 330,000 acquitted. The average daily number of persons in those prisons were between 16,000 and 17,000.

ready expired. They were aware that during a very recent period there was such insecurity in the streets of London that it was dangerous to walk about after nightfall.

The above is no ex parte statement, be it remembered, but the calm, unimpassioned utterance of a "Blue Book" which even more than the "open Bible" some persons reverence as containing the words of truth.

The facts or figures cannot be controverted. That Blue Book do not lie, or official statistics deceive is an article of faith with many, which to impugn would be "flat burglary as ever was committed."

The Day, the ever-to-be-commemorated Festival of Ireland's Apostle, was duly celebrated on Tuesday last, the 17th instant, by his spiritual children in Montreal. At an early hour the different National, Charitable, and Religious Societies, mustered, and marched in the following order from the St. Patrick's Hall, to St. Patrick's Church:—

MARCUS DOHERTY, ESQ., GRAND MARSHAL, ON HORSEBACK.

IRISHMEN OF THE VOLUNTEER MILITIA FORCE, Under Command of Lieut.-Colonel Devlin. No. 1 HOSE COMPANY, Capt. Farrell.

CHILDREN OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS, With Flags, Banners, and BANDS.

IRISHMEN OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, (Not being Members of any of the Irish Societies) Two Abreast.

ST. PATRICK'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, Grand Marshal on Horseback, Sup. with Pike | FLAG | Sup. with Pike.

HARDY'S BAND. MEMBERS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S B. SOCIETY, Two Abreast.

Committee of Inquiry, Collecting and Assisting Collecting Treasurers, Secretaries, Treasurer and 2nd Vice-President, 1st Vice-President, President, Physician, Stewards, Assistant Marshal on Stewards with Wands, Horseback, with Wands.

ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY, Marshal on Horseback. A O'KERNAN'S BAND.

Supported with Battle Axe | FATHER MATHEW'S BANNER. | Supported with Battle Axe.

MEMBERS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY, Two Abreast.

Sup. with Spear. | BANNER OF THE B. VIRGIN | Sup. with Spear.

Stewards with Wands, Vigilance Committee, Executive Committee, Secretary and Treasurer, Vice-President, President, Vice-President.

Stewards with Wands, MONTREAL COLLEGE BANNER, THE COLLEGE BAND, STUDENTS OF THE MONTREAL COLLEGE, Two and Two.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY, Assistant Marshal on Horseback. PRINCE'S BAND.

Supported with Battle Axe | GRAND SUNBURST BANNER OF IRELAND. | Supported with Battle Axe.

Stewards with Wands. MEMBERS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY, Two and Two.

Assistant Marshal on Horseback. Sup. with Battle Axe | GRAND HARP BANNER OF IRELAND. | Sup. with Battle Axe.

Two Stewards with Wands. Members of the Committee, Physicians, Secretaries, Treasurer, Vice-Presidents, President, CHAPLAIN.

Ology of the St. Patrick's Church, Assistant Marshals on Horseback.

On arriving at the Grand Entrance of the Church, the Procession formed in double line, facing inwards, the Flags and Banners falling to

the right, and the left. Prince's Band—headed by Grand Sunburst Banner of Ireland, and followed by the President and the other Officers—Bearers of the St. Patrick's Society, the Total Abstinence Society, and of the St. Patrick's Benevolent Society—then entered the Church, playing the National Air, "St. Patrick's Day."

High Mass was sung by the Rev. M. Trudeau, assisted by the Rev. M.M. McKenna and O'Brien, as Deacons and Sub-Deacons. The musical portion of the service was excellently conducted. After the Gospel, the Rev. Mr. Fitzpatrick ascended the pulpit, and preached an impressive and most eloquent sermon.

"Behold I have chosen you, and have appointed you, that you should go, and should bring forth fruit, and that your fruit shall remain."

Commenting on these words, the Reverend gentleman proceeded in the following strain:—

"To bring souls to God was the holy mission confided to the Church by her Divine founder. This was the desire of the Catholic Church: her constant anxious desire, the object of all her institutions. It was her holy work to direct men, not to things which were temporal and endured but for a moment, but to the heavenly Jerusalem, where there were joys that would never fade, and bliss that would never end.

The life of him, who with true Irish hearts the vast assemblage then present, had met together to honor, or rather God through him,—for Patrick is what he is and was what he was, only through God's grace, and he honor Him through His holy ones, for he is honored, in His saints—most of them must be familiar with. But the source and principle of Patrick's greatness lay in the great work to which by Divine Providence he had been called—the work of saving souls, and to his confidence, fidelity and attachment to the vocation that had been set him.

He turned the misfortunes with which he had been afflicted to account; finding a nation of pagans, with whom he was a bondsman, he vowed to convert them. Finding darkness to cover the land, and dimness the people, he vowed to help them, and it pleased God to place it in his power. He was deterred by no difficulties, in the strength of the Most High, how could he fear? He converted Ireland to the faith which she had kept ever since, and this was why he was so venerated as her apostle, and why they so gloried in him.

It was a name which was worthy of the nation of whom he was to become the patron saint. He had no fear in his heart when he went on his self-sought, but divinely appointed mission, for he knew he could do all things through God strengthening him. It was to Tara that Patrick directed his steps; and there, where all the enlightenment of the nation was concentrated, where its assembled wisdom was convened, before its astonished chiefs he declared the glad tidings of salvation, and preached to them the true God. He told them that they must abolish their idolatrous practices; that the sun they must no longer adore, but worship its maker.

Then, I say, come one, come all—Come to-night to the City Hall, Throw away your cares and sorrow, Rejoice them if you will to-morrow; But to-night let all be joy, Unmixed with sordid base alloy. Mr. Brown, President, and Mr. O'Farrell Secretary of the St. Patrick's Benevolent Society, addressed the assembled crowd; Lieut. Clarke, of No. 4 Company, also spoke; after which the Procession broke up.

The Irish heart like the Irish harp ever gave forth sweetest sounds of praise to God. The preacher went on to show how the truths taught by St. Patrick could best be perpetuated. His hearers must be ready to receive all the teachings of the infallible Church; they must continue constant in a spirit of prayer; they must imitate Patrick as an Apostle as well as a Saint. They must imitate all his actions; stand fast by the faith, and give no occasion to the enemy to blaspheme. They must cultivate a spirit of union among themselves, and live in brotherly love with all men; they must forget past differences, and put down the seeds of discord wherever sown. No one ever lost anything by cultivating a spirit of good fellowship, a spirit of forgiveness; and this should be carried out even towards those who had brought reproach upon Irishmen or their country. They must forgive and forget—be as one with those around them, and God's blessing would be upon them.

The Mass then proceeded. Divine Service concluded, the Procession reformed, and marched, as previously indicated, through the principal streets, whereon many handsomely decorated arches had been erected—amongst which we must mention those at Mr. John Ferou's, Alexander street; at Mr. George McNamee's, St. Antoine Street; (those two were beautifully and tastefully decorated with evergreens and looped with garlands of ribbon; the latter representing the portraits of eminent and patriotic Irishmen) at Mr. Thomas O'Creedy's, Mountain street; at Mr. Joseph Moran's, corner of McCor and St. Joseph streets; at Mr. Richard M'Shane's, Wellington street—this one also was well worthy of particular notice for the exquisite taste displayed in its decoration; at Mr. T. O'Connell's corner of McCor and William street; at Mr. M. Merriman's, and at St. Ann's Church.

Arrived at the St. Patrick's Hall, the assembled thousands were addressed in a very eloquent and appropriate speech by the President of the St. Patrick's Society, T. McKenna, Esq. He said:—

Fellow-Countrymen—Children of Ireland—It is beyond the power of human voice to reach the limits of this vast assemblage, and may it ever be so on this celebration of the festival day of the Patron Saint of Ireland. Proud, joyful and happy should we feel to-day at this great manifestation of our strength—this unmistakable evidence of our unity. Proud, joyful and happy do we feel in the consciousness of having nobly done our duty. When I look around upon this surging mass of human beings, moved, as they are, to restlessness by the fire of patriotism which burns brightly in every eye, I cannot find words to give expression to the feelings of my heart, and I can only exclaim in the language of enthusiasm—Thank God I was born in Ireland. Truly it may be said: The Spirit of a Nation never dies. Wherever the children of Ireland are scattered over the earth (and where are they not?) they assemble to-day under the guidance of their ever faithful spiritual guardians, to commemorate in a becoming manner—not the triumphs of the sanguinary field—not the fading glories of an hour, but the resurrection of their country from the tomb of Paganism, to the divine light and glory of Christianity.—Ours is a great and holy mission—let us be faithful and fulfill it. The children of Ireland have carried the faith of St. Patrick to the utmost limits of the earth.—Tried, as they have been, in the fiery furnace of persecution, they have preserved that faith inviolate and pure in all its pristine splendour, to serve as a beacon light to the ship-wrecked nations of the earth, and guide them to the haven of spiritual repose and eternal security. Fellow-countrymen, we have a great and noble duty to perform here in the city of Montreal—and that is to erect a St. Patrick's Hall. Let us not be behind our countrymen in other parts of America, in that respect. Let us erect a Hall that shall be a permanent memorial of our patriotism, and an evidence of our industry hereafter—when we shall have passed away—when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, our children may point with pride to the noble structure, and say: this did our fathers for the love of Ireland. To-night, we will have a social gathering in the City Hall, and the proceeds are to be devoted to that patriotic purpose. I call upon you all, in the name of Ireland, to come and contribute your mite to assist us. It is the bounden duty of every Irishman—and I may add every Irishwoman, too—to come to the assistance of the St. Patrick's Society, in order that by a united effort of all our people, we may bring this project to a glorious consummation. To our fellow-citizens, of other nationalities, we also extend a cordial invitation to be present at our festive gathering to-night. The harmony and good feeling which now prevail amongst us, is not obscured by one dark cloud to mar its beauty, or threaten the serenity of its perpetuity. Like the sun in a clear blue sky it shines forth resplendent, throwing its genial warmth around, and enkindling within our hearts the fire of mutual affection.

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CONCERT AND DINNER. In the evening there was a Promenade Con-