

The True Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY,
AT

761 CRAIG STREET.

M. W. KIRWAN—EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
Terms—\$2.00 per annum—in Advance

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27.

CALENDAR—FEBRUARY, 1878.

WEDNESDAY, 27—Feria.

THURSDAY, 28—Office of the Blessed Sacrament.
Sir Toby Butler, Sir S. Rice, and Counsellor
Malone heard against the "Bill to prevent the
further growth of Popery," 1793.

MARCH, 1878.

FRIDAY, 1—Feria.

SATURDAY, 2—Office of the Immaculate Conception.

SUNDAY, 3—Quinquagesima Sunday.

MONDAY, 4—St. Casimir, Confessor, St. Lucius, Pope
and Martyr.

TUESDAY, 5—Feria.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE VILLAGE INFANTRY
COMPANY.

The members of the above Company will
assemble at the QUEBEC GATE BARRACKS,
Dalhousie Square, To-morrow, (THURSDAY)
EVENING, at 7.30.

The prizes for the shooting last autumn will
be distributed at the Quebec Gate Barracks
on to-morrow week, the 7th March.

M. W. KIRWAN,
Captain Commanding.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"ON THE LOOK OUT."—Should have sent
his name and address.

"X."—We do not know at present. We may
notice the subject as soon as we have any-
thing of importance to communicate.

"GABRIEL."—Your verses are somewhat ir-
regular. The rhythm is faulty, although
the ideas are good.

"A CONSTANT READER."—No one knows, and
the *Christian Trumpet* is guessing.

"ONTARIO."—Thanks for your letter. If
you kindly send us your address we will send
you a private note.

REVIEWS.

We hold over a number of reviews of books
for next week.

LA COMPAGNIE IRLANDAISE.

By M. W. KIRWAN.

This book will be published by Messrs Daw-
son Brothers in a few weeks. It will contain
nearly 300 pages.

THE EMMET CENTENARY.

On Monday next, the 4th of March, the
centenary of Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot,
will take place. Emmet and Fitzgerald are
perhaps, if not the most revered of the Irish
patriots, at least two of the most honored.
Living in their time, every spirited man would
be a rebel. If "old times have changed, and
old manners gone," yet the memory of Emmet
is green in the affections of his countrymen.
The Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit
Society of Montreal intend celebrating the an-
niversary of Emmet by a dramatic entertain-
ment in the Theatre Royal, and they deserve
to be encouraged in the undertaking.

In Quebec there is to be a torch-light pro-
cession.

"WOE TO MONTREAL."

Last year Mr. Robinson, an employee of the
government, left his place at Kingston and
came to Montreal. We are to suppose that
he obtained leave of absence, and that the ob-
ject of his visit to this city was known. He
came, he saw, and he proclaimed "Woe to
Montreal." He returned to Kingston after an
absence of some days, and we have not heard
that he was ever brought to account for his
conduct. Does the government allow its ser-
vants to wander about the country on orange
deputations; or was Mr. Robinson's pay stop-
ped for the time he was absent from his duty?
We think some of our M.P.'s might take up this
question in the House of Commons. We
make the suggestion, and we leave it in the
hands of some of our friends, hoping that they
will see to it, and save us the trouble of re-
turning to it again.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

At a meeting of the delegates of the Irish Catholic
Societies of the city of Montreal, held in the sacristy
of the St. Patrick's Church on the 26th instant, to
make arrangements for the celebration of St. Pat-
rick's Day, it was

Resolved.—That as a mark of supreme re-
spect for the memory of Pius IX., and as a
testimony of heartfelt love and veneration for
their deeply lamented Pontiff and Father, the Irish
Catholic Societies of this city will this year forego
the joyous celebration of their national feast by a
public procession.

Resolved, Secondly.—That the officers and com-
mittees of all the Societies shall occupy their usual
places in St. Patrick's Church at grand mass on the
17th March, wearing their regalia of their respective
societies covered with black crepe.

"THE INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT LEAGUE."

"The constitution and by-laws of the Inter-
national Protestant League" or loyal orange
brethren, under a new name, is now before us.
How we obtained the document does not matter,
we have it, and intend to use it for the benefit
of society at large. As usual the "preamble"
opens with a declaration in favour of "civil
and religious liberties" and then the constitu-
tion is opened to our view, and Grand Lodges,
and their composition, candidates for mysteri-
ous "G. W. G's" are instructed by "brothers"
while vacancies in the "G. L." and a model of
hierarchy mystify the uninitiated in the cat-
combs of orangeism and lead us somewhat
astray. We have "inner guards" and "outer
guards" "crossed gravels" for "G. W. C's"
"single gravels" for "G. W. D. C's" "wands"
and "swords" and the "keys" and "pens" and
"open bibles"—those open bibles—and "stars"
for alphabetical authorities that "puzzles the
will" of ordinary men. Then comes the
"Regalia," which may be worth describing.
It is embraced in paragraph 26. Here it is:

"All officers of the G. L. shall wear a collar of
black watered silk ribbon, four (4) inches in width,
edged with half inch gold gimps with the Eye and
Bible, and the words 'Protestant International
League' printed in gold on the left side. Then
comes a description of the emblems, "swords" &c.

"The Constitution of the subordinate lodges"
comes next, and we may require them for
future use. Then we have the "Ritual"
which consists of the "opening ceremony" the
"closing ceremony" and the "Initiation." The
"Initiation" is perhaps the most import-
ant part of the proceedings. It is too an
improvement upon orangeism. We learn that
after the candidate for initiation is introduced
he is asked to make the following declaration:

"I—do sincerely and solemnly promise and
declare that I am not a Roman Catholic or Papist,
or a member of any disloyal or treasonable society
or organization."

After this the "W. C." (those letters are
troublesome,) applaud the determination of the
newly initiated brother but tells him "before pro-
ceeding further I would ask—are you willing to
take that obligation and keep it sacred."

CANDIDATE—I am.

Like the marriage ceremony the answers are
obligingly prepared. Then the W. C. ad-
ministers the Obligation. With a capital O.
Here is the Obligation:—

"In the presence of God, and of those here pre-
sent, I, of my own free will and
accord, do sincerely and solemnly promise that I
will be true and faithful to every brother of the In-
ternational Protestant League, in every just and
lawful action, and that I will be always willing to
assist and defend him against all unjust and unlaw-
ful attempts to curtail him of his civil rights or
religious freedom. I further promise and declare
that I will always conceal, and never in any way
whatsoever, disclose or reveal, the whole, or any
part of the signs, passwords or secrets, now or here-
after to be communicated to me, unless I shall be
authorized so to do by the proper authorities of the
International Protestant League. So help me God,
and keep me steadfast in this my solemn obliga-
tion."

Candidate shall kiss the Book.

W. C.—Brethren, you are all witnesses that this
candidate has taken our obligation?

BRETHREN—We are.

W. C.—W. M., please conduct our friend to the
W. Chaplain for further instruction.

The W. C. will give one knock to seat the lodge.

W. M.—W. Chaplain, or order of the W. C. I
bring this candidate to you for further instruction.

W. CHAPLAIN—"Brother, let us stand together, in
the words of St. Paul. Watch ye, stand fast in the
faith, quit you like men, be strong. Be strong in
the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the
whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle
not against flesh and blood, but against principalities
against powers, against the rulers of the darkness
of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high
places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour
of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the
evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Let us pray: (Members standing.)

"Oh! Lord, watch over this our brother, help him
to keep sacred the obligation which he has just
taken, and grant that his name may be found writ-
ten in the Lamb's Book of Life, at the Great Judg-
ment Day. This we humbly ask in the name of
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

BRETHREN—Amen. (Members will be seated.)

W. CHAPLAIN—W. M., please conduct the candi-
date to the W. D. C. for further instruction."

W. M.—W. D. C., by order of the W. Chaplain, I
bring this candidate to you, for further instruction.

There is enough blasphemy in those quota-
tions to move the bones of the murderers of
Dolly's Brae. "Put on the whole armour of
God, that ye may be able to stand against the
wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against
flesh and blood, but against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers of the dark-
ness of this world, against spiritual wickedness
in high places."

Subtle, but not complete. If that "I am
not a Roman Catholic or Papist" was not in the
constitution, all this might pass muster; but it is
as plain as noon-day, that the candidate is to
"put on the armour of God to combat the
"rulers of the darkness of this world, against
spiritual wickedness in high places"—in other
words the "Pope and Popery; Anti-Christ
and his myrmidons," as a plain and honest
member of the International Protestant League
would interpret it all. Now, when men swear
this, and in such a manner that they cannot
doubt it eventually becoming public, what
must they do in the secret of their lodges, where
there is no recording angel to place their
doings before a surprised public opinion. If
the orangemen of Canada are like their prede-

cessors in Ireland, they would do anything
that would be safe to exterminate the Catholics
root and branch, from every country in the
world. That was their object, and their only
object. Do you doubt it? Then read the oath
which the Armagh Orangemen used to take,
and which is believed in by Madden, Plowden,
and many Protestant historians as well. Of
course it was not printed, but it was adminis-
tered in secret, and may be so administered
still for all the outside world may know to the
contrary. Here it is: "I, A.B., do swear
that I will be true to King and Government,
and that I will exterminate the Catholics of
Ireland as far as lies in my power." Perhaps
you do not believe it, then search the examina-
tion of Arthur O'Connor before the Secret
Committee, in the House of Lords, in 1793;
search Tone's diary; search the autobiography
of Counsellor Thompson, and Plowden's "His-
torical Disquisitions on the Orange Societies
in Ireland," page 54. Yes, and the Orangemen
of Armagh acted up to their oath, for they
exterminated 7,000 Catholics in a short time
afterwards. People wonder at the manner in
which Catholics and Irish Catholics in particular
look upon orangemen, but if those people had
suffered from the acts of the brethren, they
would wonder how it is that we can live at
peace with them at all. In Ireland they op-
posed every measure that was ever framed
since their formation, which was calculated
to improve the condition of the Catholic
people. As early as 1792 the orange
corporation of Dublin, a Catholic then had
no "Civil rights" whatever and the cor-
poration was exclusively champions of as-
cendancy: when there was some chance of
improving the condition of the Catholics for
which the Protestant patriot Henry Grattan
worked so cheerfully, every orangeman in Ire-
land protested and the corporation sent in a
petition that Catholics "by no means were now
or hereafter to attempt to interfere in the gov-
ernment of the Kingdom, such interference as
would be incompatible with Protestant As-
cendancy which we have resolved with our lives
and fortunes to maintain." There is "Civil
and Religious liberty!" This was published
in the *Dublin Journal*, and more:—"In
order" said the document, "that no doubt may
remain of what we understand by the words
'Protestant Ascendancy' we have further re-
solved—that we consider Protestant Ascen-
dancy to consist in

"A Protestant King of Ireland"
"A Protestant Parliament"
"A Protestant hierarchy"
"Protestant electors and government"
"The benefits of justice"
"The army and revenue"
"Through all their branches and details, Pro-
testant," and their system connected with the
Protestant realm of Ireland."

That was the orangemen's idea of 'Civil and
Religious liberty' in 1792, and we have no proof
that it is not the orangemen's idea of Civil and
Religious liberty in 1878. We wish we could
think otherwise, but history will not allow us.
It would be a sad day for us all if the name of
"Protestants" ever became synonymous with
that of "Orangemen." Many Protestants are
our friends, men with whom we could not fall
out over religious discussions. We would no
more think of saying one unkind word of their
religion than we would of our own. We re-
spect their convictions quite as much as we do
the convictions of Catholics, but the his-
tory of orangeism arouses a long record of as-
cendancy and injustice, which unfortunately
too often find vent in disturbance. It is a pity
that it should be so, and that here in Canada
these foreign elements should be introduced to
put citizen against citizen, and to erect the
barriers of strife within the limits of what
should be a peaceful community.

"THE STATE OF THE MILITIA."

Lieut. General Smyth does not unneces-
sarily bespatter the troops under his command
with praise. He is too much the soldier, with
too much experience not to detect and honestly
point out the links in the armour of the troops
under his command. To an unexperienced
man, the gay trappings, the fairly steady move-
ments, and the tolerable discipline of the
parade ground might appear to be sufficient
evidence of efficiency—to Gen. Smyth they
are merely the tinsel covering of our military
system, and give but little idea of their real
value if tested in the field. There have been
so many insipid laudations written and spoken
about Volunteer Militia that the plain truth
told by General Smyth in his Annual Report
must come with stunning effect upon the minds
of men untutored in military affairs. The
fact is, and General Smyth hardly denies it,
that our Volunteer Militia is in a very bad con-
dition. In all that goes to make up an efficient
organization for warfare, we would compare
unfavourably with the reserve forces of any of
the European powers. Of administrative
work our officers, with a fractional exception,
know nothing. Outside our small staff we

have few men of experience in the routine
work without which no army corps could hold
together. The German Landwehr, the French
Mobile Guard, or the English Militia, are in
every respect, except the physique of our rank
and file, immeasurably our superiors. These
reserves have regularly qualified officers to
direct and control their internal economy, they
are regularly practised in the duties of cloth-
ing and feeding troops in quarters and in the
fields while they are periodically trained in mimic
warfare. Even the English Volunteers the lowest
in rank of the English defensive forces are far
superior to our Volunteer Militia. They are
better shots, and each battalion has an adjutant
and a staff to look after its administration.
Here in Canada the system is as rude as it
well can be. We have simply a number of
men in uniform, but of military organization
we have little or none. Quelling local distur-
bances, or resisting Fenian raids, is no more test
of the efficiency of our Volunteer Militia than
firing at the moon is a proof that there is a man
in it. The Fenian business was the most un-
fortunate thing that ever happened to the
militia in this country. It induced a few
people to think that they had "seen service"
and impressed the public with the idea that
our military system was perfect in its way.
The Fenian business never tested the efficiency
of our military system at all. The spirit of
the volunteers can always be relied upon, but
the working of the commissariat, the capacity
of the quarter-masters department, the whole
machinery of the *Intendence* was never placed
under trial, and from the Annual Report of
General Smyth, it is well for us that such a
test has never been forced upon us. Every
friend of the Volunteer Militia should open his
eyes to these facts. Blind laudations will never
make the service what it should be. Fortu-
nately for the country General Smyth is not
given to flattery and the report he has just
made to the Minister of Militia is an additional
proof that he does not hesitate to point out the
 dangers of a system which may be compared to
a shell without explosives. This we have said
before, and we rejoice to notice that General
Smyth says nothing to warrant us in changing
our opinion. "In the event" he says "of call-
ing out the forces for war service, it must not
be expected that the machinery would start in
very good working trim. A working staff
would have to be immediately extemporized,
and much anxious responsibility thrown upon
the general officer in command, whose mind
and attention should at such a time be free and
unshackled from the consideration of small
departmental details." This is, as we have
previously pointed out in those columns,
one of the chief weaknesses of our Volunteer
Militia, and we cannot help repeating the
opinion we gave some time ago that it would
be better to have an efficient staff and a small
force of men than a non-efficient staff and any
number of "men in uniform." It is a mis-
taken system which leaves the brain of the ser-
vice unprovided for. More armies have fallen
to pieces because of a demoralized *Intendence*
than ever were destroyed by the bullets of
an enemy. Staff duties are not to be acquired
in a few days. They require experience, and a
vigilant enemy might not give us time to ac-
quire that experience before he had placed us
under trial. No matter how well drilled our
corps may be, no matter how well they may
appear on parade, or how successfully and loyal-
ly they may sustain the civil power, yet if the
staff is not made efficient and reliable, the
various battalions would simply illustrate the
old fable of the bundle of sticks, if their ser-
vices were seriously and suddenly required.
No one knows this as well as well as the Lieut.
General, and to remedy the present state of the
militia he suggests:

1st. A longer period of drill.
2nd. The establishment of three permanent
companies with similar objects to the two gun-
nery schools.
3rd. A paid and permanent Adjutant and
Sergeant Major, for each corps.
4th. Arms, accoutrements, and clothing, to
be kept at regimental head-quarters.
5th. That a contingent allowance be given
to each captain of a company as in the army.
6th. That the Brigade staff be paid a con-
solidated allowance instead of being paid eight
dollars per annum for each efficient company.
7th. The batteries constituting the gunnery
or Artillery schools should have their four field
guns horsed.
8th. If the Cavalry and Infantry schools
cannot be constituted, 50 men and two officers
should be added to the two gunnery schools,
rendering them thereby schools for the three
arms of the Service.
9th. Additional assistance for the repair of
rifles.
10th. That a brigade of Garrison Artillery
be raised at Quebec and another at Kingston.
These are the improvements which General
Smyth recommends and it might be instructive
to follow them in detail. The general indeed
tells us that "many other improvements sug-

gest themselves" but that he would not refer
to them at present. The extracts we have
given, however, give us the substance of the
recommendation of General Smyth, but yet
there are some of them that require explana-
tion. For instance, in his first suggestion, the
general recommends a longer period of drill,
while in another part of his report he advises
the abolition of Independent Companies, and all
through the report he shows a preference for
city over the rural corps. Now we think it
will be found that the recommendation for a
longer period of drill cannot apply to the city
corps, and if the rural corps are abolished, the
necessity of more drill will not exist at all.
The city corps as a rule, drill once a week.
Here in Montreal they sometimes drill even
often, and it might be difficult to exact more
drill from them. It is the rural corps that re-
quire more drill, and if those rural corps are to
be done away with, then the necessity for car-
rying out the recommendation of the general
upon this point will not, in our opinion, arise.
A few days, say ten or twelve, each year in
Brigade or Divisional camps of exercise would
be enough for the city corps. During the year
they are instructed in Company, and Battalion
movements, and a few days in camp would be
sufficient to knock them into shape. There can
be no doubt that the rural corps are on the
whole, not up to the mark. They cannot
compete with the city corps, and we be-
lieve with the general that the money
spent on rural companies would be better used
in consolidating battalions and assisting those
corps which show all the symptoms of energy
and vitality. It may be remembered that we
urged this view of the case some time ago,
and we rejoice to notice that the general has
taken a similar view of the condition of the
rural companies.

The 2nd and the 6th recommendations re-
quire consideration. We wish the financial
condition of the country was such that we could
advocate the 2nd, but with a deficit staring
us in the face, we are decidedly in
favour of the 6th. It, too, harmonises ex-
actly with the suggestions we made some time
ago that the Batteries A. & B. be used
for infantry purposes as well as for
artillery, and that infantry officers be encour-
aged to look to them for instruction and guidance.
We advised that Quebec should become
our Shoburgess and that Kingston should
become our Hythe. We thought that
a small infantry force in both places would
furnish the country with a number of well
drilled men, and we are pleased to see that the
same idea occurred to General Smyth. The
training schools we thought then, as we think
now, too expensive, but we agree with the re-
port where it recommends in the 5th paragraph
"the addition of 50 men and two officers as in-
structors to be added to the two gunnery
schools."

The 3rd recommendation we put forward
some time since in these columns, and have
shown that there would be money enough
saved by consolidating the Independent Com-
panies into battalions to pay an adjutant. The
general is quite right when he says that "it is a
delusion to imagine that an efficient mili-
tary force can be kept up without a prop-
erly paid permanent staff; and the attempt to
do so can only lead to an unprofitable expen-
diture of the public money." This is the very
thing we have been harping at for some time
past.

With the 4th recommendation everyone must
agree, but about the 5th we have our misgiv-
ings. What may answer in the regular army,
or in the English Militia, where the contingent
money is also given, may not answer here. In
both those services the officers have nothing to
do but to attend to their duties. It is their
business. The English Militia is circumstanc-
ed differently to the Dominion Volunteer
Militia. The officers are taken from the aris-
tocracy, and, during the term of drill, give all
their time to their duties. The regular army
is, we contend, no criterion and the militia does
not prove to us that the contingent money if
extended to our system; would become a suc-
cess. The English Militia officers, as a rule,
never see their regiments except for thirty or
sixty days in the year. During that time they
perform all the duties of regular troops. They
can attend to all the routine of barrack or
camp life. It is their duty. This contingent
money is often a source of annoyance and ex-
pense to them. To get rid of it they often
hand it over to the colour-sergeant, and he in
turn becomes responsible to the Captain for the
care and preservation of the arms. When em-
bodied permanently, they do not do this, but
when only out for training, they do. The
contingent money gives increased work—
more book-keeping and more anxiety. Now,
in the English Militia, all this is of little con-
sequence to the officers, while in our Volun-
teer Militia time is a great consideration. We
would urge the authorities and particularly our
popular and accomplished general to save the
time of the officers as much as is possible, with