

THE TRUE WITNESS

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The Post Printing & Publishing Company, MONTREAL, CANADA.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1883

CATHOLIC CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1883. THURSDAY 20.—Vigil of St. Thomas. FRIDAY 21.—St. Thomas, Apostle. Ember Day. Fast. Ep. Boe, Detroit, died, 1871.

TO OUR FRIENDS.

The success which has attended the efforts of our agents and patrons in extending the circulation of THE TRUE WITNESS during the present year is unprecedented in the history of any journal of its class in the Dominion.

ACCOUNTS.

We are now sending accounts to all subscribers in arrears, and request their immediate attention thereto. As we desire to enforce payment in advance in all cases in future, we request each subscriber to remit all arrears due and add the amount of subscription in advance for the coming year.

An Ottawa despatch says that the Scotchmen of the Capital are deeply offended at Lord Lansdowne for declining to patronize his concert on St. Andrew's day. It appears that what made the refusal more galling was the fact that Lord Lansdowne had patronized a so-called St. Patrick's concert after the Irish Society had openly declined to present him with an address of welcome.

The Herald makes an incorrect statement when it says that the National Testimonial presented to Mr. Parnell was only \$30,000; the handsome figure resolved was £38,000, which is quite a little addition. Our contemporary seems to be pleased that the share which Ulster contributed to the fund was only twice as large as that of Connaught, and only a third of what Munster and Leinster subscribed.

An instructive table of statistics has just been published comparing the annual expenditure of the United Kingdom on intoxicating liquors, with various other items of expenditure on the necessities of life, for the ten years ending 1882. Intoxicating liquors stand at the head of the column by very long odds.

At the banquet given by the Winnipeg Orangemen to Mr. John White, M.P., a certain Catholic, and not much of one, either put in an appearance and responded to the toast of "Our Guests." This fact, the Toronto Evening Canadian says "it notices with pleasure." We suppose the pleasure of the Canadian was the greater, as the Catholic re-

ferred to remained silent while the usual insults and defiance were hurled at his Church by Bro. White and his co-banqueters, and especially while the Venerable Archbishop of Toronto, Mgr. Lynch, was misrepresented and calumniated in the most unblushing manner by the assembled fanaticism of the Winnipeg lodges.

A STATISTICIAN has recently discovered that there are two million widows in Germany. Trying to explain this fact, a French contemporary remarks that the husbands of a few of these are in heaven, but the greater portion of their lords are in the United States.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER, Canadian Commissioner to Great Britain, has denied the rumor of his having succeeded in negotiating a commercial treaty with France. Sir Charles says it would be hard for him to be successful in such negotiations when he had never undertaken any of the kind. His visit to France was for no treaty purpose, but simply to represent Canada at the Cable Conference in Paris.

It may interest lovers of statistics to know that the Mormon church, which defies the authority of the United States Government, has only a membership in Utah of 127,000. The number of families is 23,000; births in the last six months, 1,200 males and 1,100 females; number of marriages in the last six months, 339; new members admitted, 23,040; deaths, 781. The church organization embraces 12 ecclesies, 58 parishes, 3,153 high priests, 11,000 elders, 1,500 bishops, and 4,400 deacons. The territory of Arizona reports a membership of 2,262, and Idaho has double that number. Judging by the number of those who hold office in the community the rank and file in the Mormon church must be very meagre.

The following is a fair sample of how events and delays in Ireland are colored and misrepresented by British correspondents:—Yesterday a man named Dunn was arrested in Dublin for having arms and ammunition in his possession. After chrouching the incident the correspondent added:—"Dunn is a prominent member of the National League, and is believed to be connected with the 'Fenians.'" This piece of information was given with the object of creating prejudice, and of showing how lawless the Leaguers and Fenians are; for it now turns out that Mr. Dunn is nothing of the kind, but that he is what is called a "Loyalist." Being a loyalist, the authorities said "he, of course, only required the arms and ammunition for shooting game;" but if he had actually happened to be a Leaguer, he would have been considered a would-be murderer, and a term of years in prison would have been the result.

URS INGERSOLL, the notorious free thinker and infidel, is by no means sincere in his denegation of the existence of a Divinity. He, no more than any other self-confessed infidel can escape from the religious sentiment which is implanted in the nature of man, and from unconsciously bearing testimony to the fact in some manner or other. In a lecture on temperance, Ingersoll declares that "Intemperance violates obligations, reverences fraud and honors infamy. It defames benevolence, hates love, scorns virtue and slanders innocence. It incites the father to butcher his offspring, helps the husband to massacre his wife, and the child to grind the parrioidal axe. It burns up men, scorches women, detests life, curses God and despises heaven." If in the opinion of Ingersoll it is such a crime for a man in a state of intoxication to curse God and despise heaven what must not be the crime of a man who does so in his sober senses?

SOME of the directors of the defunct Exchange Bank have, on several occasions, denied in very emphatic terms that they knew anything whatever of the manipulation of the Bank stock of the President and Manager, Mr. Thomas Craig. The absent Manager, on hearing of this denial by his fellow-directors, is reported to have affirmed that he was not alone in responsibility for the transactions in Exchange Bank stock, as he had conversations with the directors about the matter, and they well knew what he was doing. When asked if this fact could be found in the minutes of any meeting of the Board, Mr. Craig replied in the negative, but added that the question could nevertheless have come up in an informal manner. The manager asserts that, "at any rate, it was well understood that he was to do what he did." This confession of Mr. Craig places the Board of Directors in a bad light and makes their position rather awkward. To wink at crooked transactions is, if anything, worse than to take formal cognizance of them and to openly sanction them.

THE Toronto Mail frequently attempts to lecture the people of Montreal on the principles of morality, and says "it is not the enemy, but the staunch friend of the honest men of Montreal." We are inclined to think that if honest men want a staunch friend they will hardly look to such a vulgar, ill-bred sheet as the Mail for one. That journal with its degenerate progeny, the News, are among the worst specimens of dishonest and profligate journalism on the continent. The following rebuke which one of their respectable neighbors in the Queen City—The World—has been forward to administer, is sufficiently corroborative of our opinion. The World says: "For nearly a year Toronto has been treated to a style of journalism that is of the severest order. It is of a kind that believes in dishing up social filth and scandal, of collecting all the personal garbage that can be found in the city or that can be

manufactured—either will do so long as the stench is strong—and run through a daily sewer otherwise called a newspaper. When seditiously attacked by such a pest, when its existence in our midst is an offensive canker to respectable citizens, it is high time that efforts were made to stamp it out and to bring home the responsibility, therefore, to those who have introduced it, to those who keep it up. The persons, then, who are primarily responsible are the owners of the Toronto Mail."

THE Irish Canadian in its last issue denies that its editor is an Orangeman or "related to the Orange Sentinel," and asserts that we have been "imposed upon by the sweet-smelling Carey of Toronto." The Canadian must be more explicit before we can give it any credit for its denial. Now we will ask the Canadian a few plain questions and demand unequivocal answers thereto. Is not Charles Clarke the editorial writer of the Evening Canadian, and do not his articles appear on the editorial pages of the weekly reprint called the Irish Canadian? Is he not, therefore, in reality the editor of that sheet, much more so than the person who superintends the make-up and selects the set type matter? Is not Mr. Clarke an Orangeman and brother to the editor and proprietor of the Orange Sentinel? We further demand that the Canadian name the individual whom it refers to as "the sweet-smelling Carey" of Toronto. If it refuses, we will brand it, as it really is, a base and cowardly slanderer. In reply to our former demand on the Canadian to name the authority for its charge against the Managing Director of THE POST Printing and Publishing Company, it vaguely refers to "certain negotiations" with Mr. Quinn. We again demand that the cowardly sneaking sheet name its authority with particulars and date of the alleged negotiations.

THE Canadian says:—"A Journal whose chief prophet joined a secret society and then gave away one of his tel.ow-members;" etc. We challenge the Canadian to name the man, the society he joined and the person he "gave away." A journal which makes charges by insinuation is only a vile and irresponsible slanderer.

ADMITTING THE TRUTH OF THE CHARGE.

THE editor of the Toronto Evening Canadian, in reply to a charge made by THE POST that that gentleman was a member of an Orange Lodge, wrote an article in which he complained of our having published a statement that was "misleading." Although insinuating that we had wrongly accused him, the editor of the Evening Canadian, singularly enough, failed to deny our charge in explicit and straightforward terms. In answer to his complaint we gave our reasons why, and the authority on which the charge of his connection with an Orange body was made, and we further explained that if our statement of the facts was incorrect, we would do him the justice of publishing any denial that he might deem fit or necessary to make. To that we have received the following letter, which, so far from being a denial of the charge, is, on the contrary, a complete justification of our position. It reads:—

To the Editor of THE POST: Sir—In reply to your article of the 11th instant, touching my connection with the Orange Order, I beg to say that when a boy of fifteen years of age I was initiated into an Orange lodge. Since the evening I was initiated I have never entered an Orange Lodge, nor have I ever had hand, act or part in any matters connected with that Order.

Yours, &c., O. H. CLARKE, Editor Evening Canadian.

This is as clear a corroboration of our charge as we could possibly wish for. In stead of being a denial, it is a full admission that what we stated was strictly true. Mr. Clarke admits the fact that he was initiated into an Orange lodge. We have nothing to do with the circumstance of time or period of his existence at which the initiation took place. It suffices to know that he was and is a member of an Orange lodge, for Mr. Clarke has neither resigned his membership nor retracted the oath he took on being received a member. We are ready to believe that he has taken no "hand, act or part" in Orange proceedings, but the fact still remains that he has not severed his connection with the Orange lodge, and that the Orange body can claim him as one of their own as long as his name stands on their roll of membership, and until he has renounced his Orange oath of allegiance. According to his own testimony, therefore, THE POST has done no injustice to Mr. Clarke in publishing a charge which he is unable to deny over his own name.

THE HANGING OF O'DONNELL.

ON Monday last, the 17th of December, Patrick O'Donnell, the slayer of James Carey, mounted the scaffold—that instrument of vengeance which England uses so indiscriminately and recklessly against her Irish victims, and will sacrifice his life for an act which the highest legal authorities on either side of the Atlantic and the public opinion of the world refuse to construe into a crime. In the conscience of the condemned man the killing of his fellow-traveller on the high seas was but an act of self-protection against a murderous onslaught; in the eyes of mankind the slaying of Carey is looked upon as an avengement and as a fate too good for the most consummate ruffian that the 19th century has produced. While being the instrument of his own protection, O'Donnell was also that of popular vengeance and it is for this, and this alone, that England choked him to death. The Hon. Van Hoosen, Judge of the Supreme Court of New York, when asked if a jury of

Englishmen were capable of doing justice to O'Donnell, he replied: "Certainly not, with an English jury he had not a particle of a chance. The moment I saw that he was to be taken from South Africa and brought to England for trial, I said 'O'Donnell is doomed.' Any evidence, however slight, an English jury would be certain to take as an excuse for conviction." The Honorable Justice also considered that Judge Denman's directing answers to the jury were "highly improper" and well calculated to destroy his chances of escape at their hands. Another prominent Judge, the Hon. Mr. Van Brunt, in reply to the question of what he thought of Judge Denman's remarks, exclaimed: "What do I think of it? Why, I think it was a direction to the jury to convict, that's all. There can be no doubt whatever about it. Anyhow, evidence or no evidence, the jury would convict. Perhaps I should not put it exactly in that way. At all events they were expected to convict and would convict on any evidence, no matter how flimsy. As for the judge, he was there as the representative and embodiment of English prejudice. O'Donnell had no chance whatever with an English jury. I don't care how the jury was constituted. They were there to give the very worst verdict possible upon the very least evidence."

Many other prominent and distinguished members of the American judiciary have also given expression to equally forcible and unfavorable opinions on O'Donnell's conviction and on the illegal and unfair methods employed to win the case for the Crown. O'Donnell has therefore died a victim not of British justice, but of British prejudice. Death, under the circumstances, could therefore have no terrors for the doomed man, and the infamy which usually attaches to such an end will be totally wanting in his official strangulation.

O'DONNELL'S EXECUTION.

AT exactly two minutes past 8 o'clock last Monday morning O'Donnell was hanged in conformity with a conviction and a sentence dictated by ignorance and prejudice combined. The greater portion of the civilized world had protested against the injustice of the condemnation and the indecent haste and determination which the English Government manifested in the execution of its victim. But sanguinary instincts are not to be counteracted or checked by mere appeals for mercy or indignant protests against the butchery. The exigencies of British policy, and not the demands of justice, had to be satisfied; and O'Donnell's life was taken accordingly. We fail to see what the English Government had to gain by adding another to the list of its political victims. The humiliation of a back-down from an unjust sentence passed by a partial judge (if there could be humiliation in such a step), would be more tolerable than the shame which shall ever attach to the enforcement of a death which the generality of people looked upon as undeserved and unjustified by the proceedings of the Crown at the trial.

England seems to never know when it is adding fuel to the fire of hatred and discord which exist between the rulers and the ruled. It is an equally unwise and dangerous policy to back up a mal-administration of the laws by wantonly shedding blood. By hanging O'Donnell, the English Government has done all in its power to immortalize the name of Carey's slayer, and to intensify the feeling of animosity entertained by millions towards the government itself. O'Donnell's conduct since his incarceration, and especially since his condemnation to death, excited the admiration of all those who had come in contact with him; even his wardens were greatly impressed by his behavior. He bore himself like a man all through the trying ordeal. He exhibited no fear of death, and the scaffold had no terrors for him. He carried himself with becoming dignity and courage to the end. The world, refusing to believe him a criminal, gave its sympathy to him in his cell; in death it will give him its prayers.

MR. PARNELL'S PRONOUNCEMENT.

A scene of great magnificence was witnessed last night in the historic Round Room of the Rotunda, Dublin. It was signalized by an event of deep significance and of national importance. England's ministers had dared to insult Ireland's leader on the floor of Parliament, and to fully traduce him before the eyes of the world. The demonstration of last night was Ireland's answer to Parnell's detractors. Twelve hundred men, representative of the Irish people, had gathered from every corner of Great Britain and Ireland to do honor to the idol of the nation. Around the banquet table had assembled the flower of the Irish people; Ireland's intellect, her genius, her statesmanship, her fidelity, her courage and generosity were there to drink to the toast of "Ireland a Nation." It was this sentiment that charmed this imposing and brilliant assemblage of Irishmen, that inspired them with enthusiasm, and strengthened their determination to carry the national struggle to a victorious finality. The event has given a fresh impetus to the agitation. The Land League and the National League were but precursors to a higher and nobler aspiration. It is not an inadequate Land Tenure Act, or a feeble reform of the grand jury system, or a partial extension of the franchise that will satisfy the cravings of the Irish people. Their political and social emancipation must be complete before there can be any relaxation in the national effort. Mr. Parnell's pronouncement sounds the note of the situation, and its tone is as unmistakable as its patriotism. "We are determined," he said, "that this generation shall not pass away until it has bequeathed to those who come after us the great right of national indepen-

dence and prosperity." This will, no doubt form the text of the new crusade for the achievement of Irish liberties. Mr. Parnell gave utterance to no meaningless platitudes, but faced the situation calmly and boldly. He proved England's incapacity to rule the Irish people, and demonstrated how its government of the country amounted to actual oppression. "All our experience," he said, "of English dealings in Ireland results in the conclusion that the English are always willing to employ force to the fullest extent against the masses of the people." Mr. Parnell also entered a strong and earnest protest against the system of coercive emigration, which he characterized as a murderous blow against the life of the nation, accompanied by untold sufferings on the part of the victims. The present Irish executive which gave full play to the unbridled insults and passions of the foreign garrison in Ireland, was shown to have no greater ambition than to prevent everybody from doing what he has a legal right to do. English government in Ireland always has been an impotent mockery, and the fact has been singularly emphasized by the Irish leader. Ireland a nation! The phrase can have but one interpretation—an Irish Parliament, Irish laws, Irish institutions, a free green flag flying above a free country and a prosperous people.

THE HORRORS OF A RUSSIAN PRISON.

POLITICAL prisoners in Russia are subjected to the most inhuman cruelties by the Government officials. The barbarity with which they are treated in the Russian Bastille at St. Petersburg has scarcely ever been surpassed in the most uncivilized age or country. A pamphlet, reciting the horrors and outrages which are committed in that prison, has been scattered among the Russian people, and the greatest excitement and indignation spreading all over Europe, have been the result. It gives an illustration of the dreadful fate which the prisoners in one section of the Peter-Paul Fortress of St. Petersburg have to endure. Here each prisoner is condemned to solitary confinement. The cells are musty, wet, filled with bad odor and poorly furnished with light. The nourishment is day for day the same, and only for a very limited time can the prisoners breathe fresh air, and the wretched creatures are deprived of this privilege by the slightest fault against the rules of the prison. The fruit of babes gnawed by rats at their mothers' breasts; of women outraged and then poisoned by prison officials; of prisoners rotting to death and exhaling before life is extinct the odors of decomposed corpses; of despairing wretches driven to madness or suicide by their sufferings, covered with vermin, loathsome with scurvy and diseases induced by putrid food, and making night hideous with the yells of frenzy or the shrieks wrung from them by torture, is one so full of horrors as to be scarcely incredible. But it only the half was true of what is told of the deeds of cruelty practiced in that prison the voice of the civilized world should be raised in protest and denunciation. The same terrible treatment of prisoners seems to prevail everywhere in Russia, and is affirmed by a competent and reliable authority on such matters: Professor Alphonse Thun, of Leipzig. This writer is well acquainted with the prosecution of the nihilists, and in one of his books on the subject writes as follows about the St. Petersburg Fortress:—

"This citadel is for political prisoners a place of horror. The cells in which the condemned are confined are dark, cold and damp, like a grave; the painted windows admit so little light that the lamps can only be extinguished during a couple of hours in the day. The food consists of cabbage, soup and grit for dinner and a piece of bread for breakfast and supper. Despite the intense cold of a Russian winter the stoves are only heated every third day, and frequently less. Consequently, the walls are damp and the floors are literally covered with puddles. The prisoners wear only their undergarments and a prison cloak. All the exercises are permitted is a quarter of an hour every other day. No other diversion is permitted." It is scarcely conceivable that the Emperor Alexander encourages or is aware of the commission of such atrocities, but ignorance of these outrages perpetrated on his imprisoned subjects will not relieve him of the responsibility and of the blame which attach to them. In this fearful ill-treatment of prisoners the nihilists find a strong incentive and motive to wage war against His Majesty and his Government.

THE FRANCHISE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE Franchise Question will, without doubt, be the great bone of contention between the Liberals and Tories during the next session of the English Parliament. There has been considerable speculation as to whether Ireland would be included in the measure. That point, however, now appears to have been definitely settled. Ex-Secretary Foster, who but a short time ago had nothing but buckshot and bayonets for the Irish, is now willing and anxious to extend to these same Irish an increased number of votes. This indicates a rather remarkable change in the attitude and views of the father of the latest coercion laws. Instead of having crushed the National party the Liberal coronelists find that they have been playing with a boomerang, and that the Irish Nationalists are very likely to crush them. Fearing this result they have consented to include Ireland in the coming franchise measure. In fact, it was only after the Irish leaders had threatened to prevent the franchise from being given to England, that Ireland was put on an equal footing with Great Britain. The Tories, of

course, will oppose tooth and nail any extension of the franchise either for England or Ireland, but more particularly and vehemently will their opposition be directed against any extension to the latter. There are already far too many electors in Ireland to suit the taste and convenience of the Tories. The danger of having the bill mutilated in the House of Lords to the disadvantage of Ireland has been foreseen and properly guarded against by the Irish party. In order to insure the assistance of the Irish members in getting the measure through the House of Commons, the Government must not only include Ireland in the bill, but it must also guarantee that, if the House of Lords strikes Ireland out or rejects any of the Irish clauses, it will either send the original measure back for adoption or drop it altogether, and thus deprive England as well as Ireland of any extension of the franchise. The Government will have to give that pledge, for they will never have the slightest chance to carry a franchise bill through the House of Commons against the united forces of the Parnellites and the Tories. The balance of power between the two great English parties would be the strongest and most effective weapon that could be placed in the hands of the Irish leader and his party to bring from the Government of the day that just and fair legislation to which Ireland has been so long a stranger. From all appearances Mr. Parnell seems to begin to hold that "balance of power," and as a natural consequence Mr. Gladstone is commencing to act and to govern himself accordingly.

WILD AND SILLY STATEMENTS.

THERE has just appeared in the columns of the Evening Canadian an article which contains several references to THE POST, which are equally ludicrous and contemptible. Our readers can judge of the new character which this journal has assumed, and of the new mood which has been introduced into it, when they are informed that the Canadian unblushingly asserts that THE POST is an embryo of Parnell's and is antagonistic to his policy. We really never dream that our Toronto contemporary, after abandoning its first principles, would sink so low and reach a depth of degradation where it would be incapable of justice and truth. But we suppose this is the natural result and consequence of the step by which the Canadian severed all connection with every school of theology, none of which it is to recognize in the future." When a man ignores the principles of morality and refuses to be guided by anything but his own ideas of good and evil, he can scarcely escape from giving to the world an exhibition of a lamentable lack of virtue. If truth and justice stand between him and his object, he does not hesitate to violate them so as to attain his end. Such is the present position of the Evening Canadian. It was not pleased because we mentioned the fact that its editor was a member of the Orange body. Finding that the record and the policy of THE POST were unimpeachable, that journal has recourse to malicious invention and misrepresentation to try and do an injury to this paper. Thus it says:—

"The fact that Charles Stewart Parnell is a Protestant must be a thorn in the side of each bigoted journal as the Montreal Post, yet Parnell, Protestant though he is, has done more for the Irish people than any other man who ever lived."

"The poor, foolish Canadian! Why, that is just the reason we have admired Parnell so much, and found so much to admire in him, since he has headed the national struggle. In the field of battle we look not for differences between its supporters and its opponents. Before the Canadian was thought of THE POST gave Mr. Parnell for years a cordial and undivided support, so that it is rather late in the day for our contemporary to turn around and inform its narrow constituency that 'the fact of the Irish leader being a Protestant is a thorn in the side of such bigoted journals as the Montreal Post.' Perhaps the present Orange, or, if we please, ex-Orange, editor of the Canadian is not familiar with the writings of THE POST on this head, and has not had the opportunity of reading THE POST until he took control of the quondam Irish Catholic organ. Under these circumstances his untruthful statements could be excused on the score of ignorance, but otherwise his utterances are those of a calumniator. But it is in the following paragraphs that the Canadian stultifies itself completely; speaking on the Parnell Testimonial it says:—