

The True Witness

AND
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1874.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MAY—1874.

Friday, 29—Ember Day. Of the Octave.
Saturday, 30—Ember Day. Of the Octave.
Sunday, 31—First after Pentecost.

JUNE—1873.

Monday, 1—Our Lady of Good Succour. (24th
May.)

Tuesday, 2—St. Gregory VII. (25th May.)

Wednesday, 3—St. Philip of Neri. (26th May.)

Thursday, 4—Corpus Christi, 6th.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The correspondent of the London *Times* makes some very important revelations with respect to what transpired betwixt Victor Emmanuel and Bismarck upon the occasion of the visit to Berlin last year, of the first named.—The German statesman expressed his regret that severer terms of peace had not been imposed upon France, terms which should have crippled her for centuries. As it is, France is recovering her strength, has paid off the heavy sum imposed on her by Germany, and is putting her army on a sound footing. War therefore with France whilst she is still in the midst of her preparations, was the policy for Germany; and therefore Bismarck, courted Victor Emmanuel as one who might prove a useful ally in the war which he, Bismarck, meditated.

But on what grounds was this to be brought about? what pretext could either Italy or Germany find for going to war at present with France? The plan suggested by Bismarck was this. On his return to Italy, Victor Emmanuel, by his agents, was to get up a spurious agitation in Nice and Savoy for a restoration to Italy. He, Victor Emmanuel, was to show himself averse to this at first; but at last, when all was ready, he was to declare it no longer possible for him to listen unmoved to the cry for help addressed to him. Then of course he was to advance his troops; and Germany would at once make common cause with him, against the common enemy. This was the treacherous plot, devised, as the *Times* tells us, betwixt Bismarck and King "honest man." It came to naught however, or perhaps has been only postponed, because the financial condition of Italy is not at present such as to render it prudent for that Power to engage in hostilities. In fact Italy is bankrupt; its deficit is increasing year by year; and though willing enough to play the rogue in company with his tempter, Bismarck—the King "honest man" from sheer inability to pay, being as it were one of the "dead beats" amongst the sovereigns of the world, is obliged to refuse Bismarck's tempting offers. The *Times* thus shows on what a fragile basis stands the peace of Europe, and that the war when it breaks out, will have been forced, not upon Germany by France, but upon France by Germany. As to Bismarck he is evidently one whose word no one can rely on, whom no promises can bind, and whose whole career is one of treachery. We give elsewhere some extracts from the letter of the *Times*' correspondent referred to.

The demon of centralization has another victory to boast of in Switzerland; and the friends of freedom throughout the world must mourn over the extinction of the liberties of that once free and prosperous confederacy. In an evil hour the spirit of modern liberalism and democracy got possession of the people; and the liberties gallantly won, and gallantly defended by their noble forefathers, the degenerate sons of Switzerland have cast away, "complete centralization which is the grave of constitutional freedom" in the words of the *Globe*, has been substituted for the ancient free institutions whereby the internal sovereignty and independence of each several Canton were upheld; whilst for all external purposes, and as against the aggression upon their national independence, the Cantons were as one. The Catholics alone fought against the proposed changes, but fought in vain, for one of the objects of the authors of those changes was the enslaving of the Church, and the assertion of the supremacy of the State over the souls as well as over the bodies of the people.

And so it goes on in this glorious nineteenth century. In one country after another the liberties of the people are crushed out by the ever-advancing car of Democracy, the Juggernaut of politics. In Italy, in the U. States, in Germany, the same centralizing influences have been at work, and the same deplorable consequences have ensued; and now last, if not least, Switzerland once so free has been brought under the same degrading despotism. This is what Liberals call progress; progress from freedom to slavery, and the most abject of all slavery; slavery to brute majorities. The *Globe* of Toronto in spite of its liberal proclivities has some true insight into the matter:—

The new Constitution places absolute power in the hands of the Protestants and the Voltairians, who together constitute a clear majority of the people. Secular education—a secular university; control over each religious body—civil marriage—legitimation of children born out of wedlock on the marriage of the parents—these are among the signs of the new era, and sufficiently indicate the absolute supremacy of the State in all matters relating to the life of the citizen. The Council of Confederation can now fight Ultramontanism to the death—could, if they wished to risk the rebellion of the Catholic Cantons, prohibit Roman Catholicism altogether. The pastor, State paid and unpaid, can be restricted, and the Government have as much power as the Emperor of Germany, backed by a powerful army, and animated by a spirit which is only liberal in the sense that the French Liberal is liberal—that is to say, it has passionate instincts in regard to freedom, and a love of symmetry which is the very antithesis of Constitutionalism properly understood.—*Globe*.

The London *Tablet* publishes some particulars of the vote by which the Cantonal liberties of the old Helvetic Confederacy have been annihilated. For the measure there were, on the vote by head, 335,000 against 200,000; and on the vote by Canton, thirteen and a-half Cantons voted for the measure; eight and a-half against it. With the exception of Soleure and St. Gall, which are only nominally Catholic, all the Catholic Cantons voted against it. The vote was in fact a trial of strength betwixt Protestants and Catholics, and the former carried the day; sacrificing their civil liberties, and State Rights, in order the more effectually to trample upon the religious liberties of the Catholic minority.

The news from Spain is very conflicting. So far from being crushed by their failure before Bilbao, the Carlists are still in the field, active as ever, and seem to be resuming the aggressive. The persecution in Germany continues, but there are no fresh events of importance to record this week. His Grace the Archbishop of Posen receives the sympathies of his people, and of the Catholic body throughout the world. Whether the German government will intrude a bogus Archbishop upon the See whose chief pastor it has cast into jail, and in so far as is in Jack-in-Office's power to do so, has deposited, is uncertain. It does not much matter however what it does. Mgr. Ledochowski, is, and will remain, Archbishop of Posen in spite of all the lay tribunals in the Empire. There are not wanting signs too of a reaction of public sentiment in Germany; and amongst these we may mention the rupture betwixt Bismarck and the Count Von Arnim from which some important disclosures, very damaging to the first named are expected. The friends of Von Arnim say he will publish certain letters "which will cover Prince Bismarck with confusion." In this falling out there are hopes that honest men may come by their own.

In France a new Ministry, the names of whose members we publish elsewhere has been patched up. That it will last is not generally expected, and the political condition of France is such that she can only emerge from one political crisis, to plunge into another.

We have now full particulars of the great disaster caused by the bursting of the dam of the reservoir at Mill River. The loss of life is not quite so great as was at first reported, being now put down at one hundred and thirty-eight. The following particulars are taken from a Boston paper:—

THE RESERVOIR WAS KNOWN as the Williamsburg reservoir, and occupied a deep valley, the dam being built across a narrow ravine some 408 feet wide, the water covering between 75 and 100 acres. The dam was built seven years ago by a joint stock company, duly chartered by the Legislature, the stock being taken by the different manufacturing establishments on Mill river, a small stream scarcely twenty feet wide. The reservoir is one of those used for storing water for the dry season, the other two being located in Goshen. The dam was

BUILT BY CONTRACT, and was generally regarded by the stockholders as perfectly safe, though before the County Commissioners would approve it, immense quantities of gravel were dumped into the pond in order to increase the width of the structure. The main reliance of the dam was a wall of huge stones laid in cement, about six feet wide at the bottom, and gradually tapering up for forty feet, until at the top it was only two feet wide. Gravel was emptied on either side, forming a causeway one hundred feet thick at the bottom and some twelve or fifteen feet at the top. At the centre, six feet from the bottom, was an iron pipe sixteen inches in diameter, which was used to draw the pond down as the necessities of the mills required. The greater portion of the dam was built upon the solid rock, but a little to the right of the waste pipe there was a strain of clay, and according to the best information obtainable that can be relied on,

THE BREAK BEGAN AT THIS SPOT. For nearly a year the water has filtered through the dam in small quantities, but nothing serious apprehended until within a short time and then no one had any idea of the terrible fate that was so

soon to overtake the happy villages below. Early on Saturday morning the gate-keeper, Geo. Cheney, noticed that the water was penetrating through in a greater quantity than usual, and he watched it with dim forebodings of disaster until, soon after seven o'clock, he began to get frightened, and made preparation to warn the people below. Scarcely had he completed his arrangements, ere he saw the danger was imminent, and, jumping upon his horse, he started down the valley road at a break-neck pace. Soon the water began to roar behind him with a noise

MORE TERRIBLE THAN THE HEAVIEST THUNDER, and, urging on his steed, he managed to keep in advance of the waves, and, as described in our Saturday night telegram, he succeeded in partially warning the people of Williamsburg and Haydenville.

The bursting of the reservoir is by some attributed to its bad construction, the dam not having been built according to the terms of the contract.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., the band of Pilgrims for Europe whose intention is to visit the shrines of Our Lady of Lourdes, and to give the Holy Father a sensible testimony of the devoted loyalty to his person and his office of the Catholics of the U. States, started from New York on their pious voyage—for whose peace and prosperity their co-religionists whom they left behind them, will not fail to pray; "in viam pacis et prosperitatis dirigat eos omnipotens et misericors Dominus." We may mention as another instance of the strong Catholic feeling that now prevails in the U. States, that the Archbishop and Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of California have transmitted an Address expressive of their sympathy and condolence, to His Grace the Archbishop of Posen, now in jail by order of the German Government for obedience to the laws of the Catholic Church.

In the Province of New Brunswick great preparations are being made for the election of members for the Provincial legislature. Election meetings, so the telegraph reports, are held daily, and there is great excitement caused by the bitter feelings which the persistent efforts of the Protestant majority to impose a detested system of State-Schoolism upon the Catholic minority have provoked.—Freedom of Education ver. State-Schoolism is the battle cry, and most heartily do we wish success to our unjustly treated co-religionists of the Lower Provinces.

Our Dominion Parliament has nearly finished its labors for this session, and before we again address our readers will have received its *quietus* in the shape of a prorogation. Amongst the *on dis* of the day is one to the effect that in the month of October next there will be held in Montreal a Conference of the Dominion Branch of the Evangelical Alliance. Should the meeting come off, there will be a rich treat for on-lookers no doubt. On a small scale we shall have a repetition of the screaming farce lately enacted amidst much applause at New York, where a few of the sects set themselves up as representatives of the entire Protestant Christian community; although in that they were evangelical they carefully excluded their brother Protestants members of the Unitarian, and other Liberal denominations. Are then these not Christians? that they are Protestants no one can doubt.

COMPLIMENTARY TO CANADA.—We copy from the Toronto *Globe* a notice of a theatrical performance of which our readers may have heard as having been reproduced from the theatres of the United States, in Montreal, Ottawa, and other Canadian cities. The Italian are our own:—

"THE BLACK CROOK.—On Monday next this New York sensation will be produced at the Academy of Music, but not by any means in the New York style, all the objectionable features having been eliminated. Those who are expecting to see anything in the original form may therefore conclude that they will be disappointed."

How much the publication of a certain Episcopal Circular, warning all decent people against countenancing immoral spectacles, may have had to do with this "elimination" from the spectacle in question of those highly spiced, indecent, or, in other words, "smutty" points which proved its chief attraction in New York, we are not of course able to say; but the fact remains that in Catholic Lower Canada, where the piece was first brought out, the proprietors of the exhibition did not dare give it "New York style." That they felt themselves obliged to cut it down, and leave out portions, is a proof of the essential difference of the moral atmosphere of Montreal, and of New York and other Cities of the United States; that which was the main feature of the performance, would not, because of Romish ascendancy, be tolerated in Lower Canada. And of course as it was necessary to present the piece in an emaciated form in Montreal, with all the objectionable portions eliminated, it would have been impossible almost, to present it in its original form, or in New York style, even in Toronto, much to the disappointment no doubt of those who were expecting to be regaled with a highly-seasoned exhibition of indecency. We must certainly congratulate ourselves here in Canada on the respect which even United States exhibitors of popular spectacles, are compelled to pay to the moral code enjoined and put in force by the Romish Church. The "New York style" draws largely, no doubt, in New York; but it won't do in Canada.

THE CATHOLICS OF OTTAWA AND THE AMERICAN PILGRIMAGE.—In compliance with an invitation from the Reverend Father Peltier, the Catholics of Ottawa, on Sunday, the 10th inst., assembled in the vestry of Saint Joseph's Church of that City, to take into consideration the manner in which they might best express their sympathy with the Pilgrims about to leave the shores of this Continent on a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Immaculate Virgin in France, and to Rome there to lay before the feet of the Holy Father, Christ's persecuted Vicar on earth, the expression of their devoted loyalty.

The meeting which was largely and most respectfully attended, was addressed at length by its convener, the Rev. Father Peltier on the object which he had in view, and in which he felt assured that his audience would fully concur. A Committee was then appointed to draft a letter—a copy of which we give below—to the Director of the Pilgrims, embodying the sentiments of the Catholics of Ottawa with respect to the Pilgrimage.

It was then Moved and Resolved.—That a solemn High Mass be celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, on Saturday, the 16th May, at 8 a.m., for the special benefit of the Pilgrims at that moment embarking on their long voyage.

We subjoin the text of the Letter addressed:—

TO THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN PILGRIMAGE:

Gentlemen.—The undersigned Committee have been appointed to communicate to you the sentiments of the Catholics of Ottawa—the Capital of the Dominion of Canada—in connection with the holy pilgrimage, upon which you and your associates are about to embark.

Speaking on behalf of our co-religionists here, we beg to assure you of our earnest prayers that our good God may vouchsafe to bless abundantly your pious undertaking. For this end, and in accordance with our intentions, a solemn High Mass will be celebrated in St. Joseph's Church on Saturday next, 16th instant the day, as we have been informed, of your departure from New York. We sincerely regret being debarred the happy privilege which you and your companions de voyage will soon enjoy, of visiting those holy places in France, sanctified by the visible presence of our Blessed Redeemer and His Immaculate Mother; of kneeling at the feet of the glorious and august Pontiff who sits in the chair of St. Peter; of offering to that illustrious living martyr the tribute of your homage, sympathy and fidelity, as devoted children of the Church; and of carrying away, in return, the inestimable blessing which the Father of the faithful will impart to you. In spirit and with all the affection of our heart, we shall accompany you; and we earnestly hope, when prostrate in prayer, before the sacred shrines of Paray la Monia, and Lourdes, you will remember your brethren in the faith in far off Ottawa.

Furthermore, we desire to participate in the offering you will make of respect, veneration, and unwavering allegiance to the illustrious prisoner of the Vatican. We desire to repeat through you those feelings of devotion and attachment to the Holy See which were conveyed a few years ago, to the sovereign Pontiff, from his children in Ottawa.

If we now add a word to our former address it will be only one of confidence. Though the great forces of the world which have hitherto mingled together are now separated, and are marshalled against the Church and her Supreme Ruler; though the great conflict of the material and moral powers is rapidly preparing for a final solution, we know that the result will be. The present hour of exultation and confidence with which those who are the fools of the world are perpetually deafening our ears is a sign that the material power—might without right has attained its highest ascendancy. But it is also a sign that the words of the prophet will be fulfilled that "the land of the giants shall be pulled down in ruins," and this great material power is now nearest to the fall.

The life of the immortal Pius IX has been wonderfully prolonged—not without a purpose, and we rest assured that he will not pass away until he sees at least a beginning of the downfall of the powers arrayed against him.

In conclusion we wish you a safe happy and prosperous voyage—returning with the plenitude of those graces and blessings which the exalted motives that have prompted your journey are so well calculated to draw down from the treasury of heaven.

Here follow the signatures.

BRUCE AND RIEL; MORE LIGHT.—Between these two there has been a brisk passage of arms, the first named accusing the other of having caused the death of the unhappy man Scott, to be accompanied with circumstances of diabolical cruelty. As throwing some light on the relative positions of these two, we copy from the *Gazette* a letter from Mr. Bruce which had previously appeared in the *Manitoba Metis*, and whose authenticity has not been contested. Now if that authenticity be admitted, it appears that Bruce, who is now so indignantly pathetic over the death of Scott, was a short time ago equally indignant that Schultz had not been killed; and it appears also that Bruce, not Riel, was the head of the disloyal party which aimed at wresting the Red River district from British North America, and transferring it to the United States. In short, if the letter be authentic, Bruce stands self-convicted of treason and treachery; whilst his present hostility to Riel appears to have had its origin in this: that the latter would not be a party to the treacherous design of handing over the country to the Yankees whose tool all along Bruce seems to have been.

It speaks well for Riel that he should have incurred the hostility of such a man; and raises a strong presumption in his favor that, even in the Scott affair, which we deplore, he may have been compelled to adopt extreme measures to save the country from anarchy, and from that Yankee annexation to which, by the intrigues of Bruce and the other party, it was exposed. Anyhow, the letter published by

the *Gazette* throws quite a new and unexpected light on the Red River troubles:—

We (*Gazette*, 26th inst.) have been requested to publish the following letter, published in the *Manitoba Metis*, the authenticity of which has not been denied:—

JOHN BRUCE'S FIRST LETTER.

St. Boniface, 18th April, 1871.

DEAR FRIEND.—I have long wished to say a word to you in reference to our daily situation. You doubtless know how we have been treated by these new comers of Orangemen. We shall be rid, in the course of three or four weeks, of this undisciplined battalion of heartless and faithless men, come expressly to use fire and sword if they can get the opportunity.

A part of the battalion is disbanded, discharged; all are going to Prairie Portage, ready, as I know, to get up a riot. They are already organized—but against whom? you may ask. Doubtless against the Governor, but much more against the half-breeds. Is that all? No; for I have heard one of those volunteers say that before the snow is again on the ground, Macdougall will have re-entered the Province and will be Governor.

You see, dear friend, that such men can do everything, especially what is bad. I assure you, dear friend, that I am exhausted, so much so that my health is worn out, by seeing outrages committed against my fellows almost every day. But yesterday N— had gone to see his wife; I sent my nephew with him. Well, they met a volunteer who said to him—Stop—I shall see you to-morrow. And poor N—, in order to attend to his business, which is pressing, is obliged to remain with me and to hide, so to speak, night and day, I had resolved to send to Mr—, our friend, some correspondence in order that he might forward it to the St. Paul press.

But, I fear greatly for myself, that is why I do not send any at present. I have determined to leave for Pembina at the first opportunity, in order to put MYSELF UNDER THE EAGLE'S WING there.

It is very much to be deplored, seeing that Canada had so earnestly made promises to the half breeds through their delegates, that she should so greatly fail to keep her word. It is thoroughly English.

The wish of the half breed party, who have shared in their right, is that if the Hon. W. O'Donoghue with a small force, they should join him, of course with arms in their hands. It is added that these same guns will not be fired at one man only. Yes, dear friend, it is a great misfortune. If Schultz had been killed with this clique, I think we would have saved THE COUNTRY.

Almost at every mail I think of writing to the Hon—, Senr., but I am so discouraged that I do not care to do so.

Oh! yes, if we had listened to our good friends on the other side of the line, we should now be at peace. I don't want to say anything against Riel, because he is now in exile, but the plank of safety was ANNEXATION.

You understand that as long as the orange flower remains here, the country will be disturbed. They talk of a great emigration in spring—probably of the Canadians, but much more of the Orangemen.

For my part, I have no confidence in Mr. Archibald. He may be a well-meaning man, but seeing what he has done since his arrival, I have no confidence in him.

He pretended to issue writs for the election in Portage County. Men took up arms and brought liquors into the polling booths. He says nothing as representative of the Queen, against these things—so he is no Governor.

It is true he does no harm, but neither does he do any good.

You will try, if possible, to give me news of Mr. W. O'Donoghue, and of your Pembina.

Yours devotedly,

JOHN BRUCE.

SMALL-POX.—The authorities of the Montreal Hospital in Dorchester Street publish some very important facts with respect to the several cases of small-pox that have been treated in their institution.

In the first place it appears that out of the entire mortality for the year 1860, no less than 35 deaths, or not far from one quarter of the whole, were caused by small-pox.

In the second place it appears that out of 28 unvaccinated patients, more than half, or 15, died, whilst only 13 recovered.

Thirdly it appears that of those vaccinated, but only slightly vaccinated, 11 in all—7 recovered, and only 4 died.

Fourthly, out of 45 patients bearing marks of a good and successful vaccination, 39 recovered, and only 6 died.

Fifthly, amongst the doubtful cases, in number 4, there were 3 recoveries, and 1 death.

In other words, of those who being unvaccinated, are attacked by small-pox, more than one-half die; whilst out of 56 vaccinated patients—many of them evidently but slightly vaccinated—46 recover, and only 10 die.—From these facts and figures every one it at liberty to draw his own conclusions.

ORDINATIONS.—On Thursday, 14th instant, Feast of the Ascension, His Lordship the Bishop of Three Rivers conferred the following Orders in the chapel of the Nicolet Seminary:—

Tonsure.—Mr. James Masterson.

Minor Orders.—Messrs. Leon, Riviere and Masterson.

Sub-Diaconate.—Messrs. Tetrault, Landry, Riviere, and Masterson. The same ecclesiastics were also raised to the Order of the Diaconate.

LEGISLATIVE UNION.—We see by some of our exchanges that it is contemplated to unite together in legislative union, so as to form but one single Province, the three Maritime Provinces of the Dominion, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island. Should the scheme prove acceptable to the people of the three Provinces, its adoption would have this advantage at least that it would greatly curtail the cost to the several Provinces of their local government. One Lieutenant-Governor, and one legislature, instead of three would suffice for them.

Our readers will find elsewhere a report of the Lecture delivered by the Revd. Father Brettargh on the *Spanish and English Inquisitions*. We bespeak for it a careful perusal; it will be seen that it does not contain a word to justify the language of the *Globe* upon which we commented last week.