

The True Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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J GILLIES.
—
G. E. CLERK, Editor.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1871.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

JUNE—1871

Friday, 2.—Ember Day. Of the Octave.
Saturday, 3.—Ember Day. Of the Octave.
Sunday, 4.—First after Pentecost.
Monday, 5.—St. Gregory VII., P. C.
Tuesday, 6.—St. Norbert, B. C.
Wednesday, 7.—St. Angela Mericia, V.
Thursday, 8.—Corpus Christi, (Q).

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Paris has at last been taken by the Versailles forces, but at a price so high, that France will mourn many a long day over the victory.

In our last we mentioned that the troops under the orders of Marshal McMahon had effected an entry into the City, and had cleared the *enceinte* of its defenders. Sullenly the latter fell back, fiercely defending every inch of the way; and from the houses, and the barricades which they had thrown across the main thoroughfares keeping up a deadly fire upon their assailants. Driven at last by sheer force from their positions, the *Reds* determined that the victors should be masters only of a heap of ruins. With sacrilegious hands they set fire to the Palaces of the Tuilleries, the Louvre, the Luxembourg, the Palais Royal, the Hotel de Ville, and most of the principal buildings, the glory of France, the possessions of the civilised world. Fast and furiously spread the flames, carried by a strong east wind that was blowing at the time, and fed by the petroleum and other highly inflammable substances which the routed Communists had plentifully saturated the devoted buildings, and in a few hours naught remained of these world renowned edifices, of these palaces whose names are historic, and carry us back to remote ages, but a heap of blackened ruins. It is not possible to give, accurately, a report of the total destructions; and much uncertainty still prevails as to the fate of the glorious art treasures of the famous gallery of the Louvre, but it is to be feared that many of them have been destroyed, and more seriously injured.

The fighting along the streets was desperate, but the chief loss is said to have been on the side of the defenders, which seems odd: the assailants probably understate the amount of casualties on their side. On Thursday evening however M. Thiers officially announced that the troops of the government were master of Paris.

On Friday morning the telegrams reported, and the report is confirmed, that the *Reds* had put to death in cold blood Mgr. Darboy, Archbishop of Paris, some fifty priests and several other prisoners whom they held as hostages. No doubt the Versailles Government will deal sternly with the ruffians who have brought such disaster and disgrace upon their country. Many prisoners have been taken from amongst the most prominent agents in this bloody business, and Rochefort has been brought in, handcuffed, to Versailles. He will probably die the death that he deserves, by so many titles. Two chief leaders of the Communists have been already shot. We give below the latest telegrams:—

PARIS, May 28.—The insurgents yesterday shot the Archbishop of Paris, the Abbe Dugorri, and 60 other hostages remaining in their possession. The troops had previously captured La Roquette and saved 169 hostages detained there.

VERSAILLES, May 28.—The remaining insurgents surrendered unconditionally at nine o'clock this morning. The slaughter on Saturday night was awful. Although the suppression of the Commune has cost over sixty thousand lives and the destruction of one third of Paris.

Belleville was attacked this morning, and the batteries of marine guns posted in Montmartre at the same time fired upon the insur-

gents. The loss of the government troops was 1,200. That of the insurgents was immense. Thirty thousand prisoners have been taken, including numbers of debauched and foul-mouthed women. Courbet poisoned himself after he was captured. Rochefort and Assy are to be tried by a civil court as criminals.

A Paris special says:—There is a rumor here that the Count de Chambord has been proclaimed King of France by the right wing of the Assembly at Versailles. Lovers of law and order seemed to be well pleased.

NEW YORK, May 29.—A Versailles correspondent telegrams that M. Delescluse, the Minister of War under the Commune, was shot by his guards and instantly killed on Saturday night in attempting to escape. The trial of those Communist leaders who were taken alive will commence during the present week; their conviction is certain, and it is generally believed every one will suffer death. After a desperate and bloody conflict, the Government succeeded in capturing the insurgent positions at Belleville and Pere la Chaise late on Saturday night. The firing then ceased, and yesterday morning, on the troops advancing on the one position yet held by the Commune, the insurgents hoisted a white flag, and surrendered in a body. They were immediately disarmed, and the great rebellion in Paris of 1871 is ended. The Thirty-eighth Regiment of the line, belonging to McMahon's army, returned to Versailles in triumph, the men having flowers and branches in the muzzles of their rifles and bearing also a magnificent banner of red silk captured from the Communists. General Vinoy has been appointed Governor of Paris by M. Thiers. It is proposed as a temporary measure to divide the capital into twenty military districts, each to be strongly garrisoned. This arrangement will be maintained till order has been completely restored, and the passions aroused by the insurrection have disappeared. Owing to the plan adopted by McMahon for storming barricades held by the insurgents, the Versailles troops did not suffer heavily during the seven days of fighting in the streets of Paris. The loss to the army altogether was only 2,895, while, according to the most reliable estimates, the losses of the insurgents were over fifteen times as great. It is stated on good authority that among the unfortunate persons held as hostages in the Prison of La Roquette who were murdered, were ten nuns. The French Government will ask the extradition of all Communist chiefs who have already taken, or may take, refuge in England, as under the French law they are regarded as criminals who come within the terms of the Extradition Treaty. A despatch from Paris last night says firemen from Antwerp are now entering Paris. The fire in the Hotel Dieu has been extinguished. Paschal Grousset and two of the principal leaders of the insurrection have not been discovered. It is believed they are alive and in hiding. This morning the firing ceased and the great rebellion gave its last gasp. The remnant of insurgents hid down their arms and the drama was over. Ten thousand prisoners are now passing through Rue Lafayette, most of them bareheaded and with their uniforms turned inside out. Among them are 2,000 regulars who went over to the insurgents on the outbreak of the rebellion. The bystanders are quiet, and do not utter any words of reproach.

Foster, who was found guilty of the New York city car murder, has been sentenced to be hung on the fourteenth of July. The case will, however, be brought again before the courts upon motion for writ of error and upon argument of the writ at General Term, and very probably again at the Court of Appeals; but the general impression among lawyers who have watched the case is that there is little chance of a reversal and new trial.

An extra of the Quebec *Official Gazette* of Saturday contains a proclamation summoning the Legislative Assembly of the Province to meet at Quebec, on Wednesday, the 2nd day of August next.

The Washington Treaty has been ratified by the required majority in the Senate of the U. States, and may we suppose be looked upon as an accomplished fact. There will be opposition to it in the Dominion, but after much angry talking it will have to be accepted.

Another frightful tragedy has occurred in the Pennsylvania Gold Mining district. The West Pittston shaft, owned by the Valley RR Company and worked by Blake & Co., has taken fire, and some forty men and boys are shut up in the pit, whether they are alive or dead is not yet known. There can be little prospect of their escape, however, as the pit will fill with water in 24 hours. A later despatch shows that all those who were in the mine have been got out, 18 of them dead.

Extensive fires are still reported in the Ottawa district, but at latest advices, thanks to the rain, they were gradually dying out.

CHANGE OF OFFICE.—The office of the TRUE WITNESS has been removed to No. 210, St. James Street.

It is a remarkable fact that, though almost universally, the Protestant and Liberal press reproach the Sovereign Pontiff, and the Catholic Church with their position of antagonism as towards "modern civilisation," this same civilisation is denounced in no measured terms, as a relapse into barbarism by all the more intelligent of the Pope's censors.

Take for instance the last number of the *Edinburgh Review*, certainly not a reactionist publication, but long the foremost of the advocates of liberalism in the British Islands. In the article on the "German Empire," the *Review* takes occasion to denounce, and in almost the very language of the much condemned Syllabus, the disregard of truth; contempt for treaty obligations, and supremacy of might over right,—(as evidenced for instance in the treacherous and unprovoked attack by Victor Emmanuel upon Rome)—which are the striking characteristics of "modern civilisation." We make some extracts:—The Italics are our own.

"Peace may be preserved; God grant it may! For we have seen enough of ruin and bloodshed. But that which makes peace effective and secure—mutual confidence, common obligations, respect for treaties, an open policy, is entirely wanting. If this be so we take the liberty to say that civilisation itself is moving backwards. Without mutual confidence, regulated and protected by public law, there is no security, and no peace; and the most painful and alarming symptom of the present state of the world appears to us to be, that force rather than law at this moment govern the most civilised nations of the earth; that all alliances are shaken, and that there are no longer any common standards, or principles of political action recognised by governments. If such a state of things were prolonged, it would lead us back to never ending wars, and barbarism."—p. 244.

The Pope has not spoken more strongly against "modern civilisation" and its brutalising tendencies, but so long as the nations of Europe tamely acquiesce in the violation of Treaties, of the rights of sovereign princes, of pledged faith, in the triumph of brute force or might, over Law and right, as exemplified in the Italian Peninsula, and the present attitude of Victor Emmanuel as towards the Sovereign Pontiff—it is impossible that that which alone makes "peace effective and secure—mutual confidence, common obligations, respect for treaties, an open policy"—can be restored.

The recent debates in the House of Lords on the Bill for abolishing religious Tests in the Universities afford another proof of the impossibility of eliminating the so-called "sectarian" element from education without at the same time leaving it "non-Christian." Lord Salisbury fought hard for the preservation of the principle of Tests, as without them the Universities would cease to be distinctively Christian; and by a small majority of five—the numbers being 71 to 66—he carried an amendment which—we may be sure that the Commons will reject—exacting from all tutors and other teachers of youth in the Universities subscription to a pledge not to inculcate anything contrary to the teaching, or to the divine authority of the Holy Scriptures; and providing that offices in the said educational institutions should be open only to those who are agreed on the essential points of Christianity. But, as the *Times* puts it—and here is the difficulty—who is to determine, "what propositions are, or are not, opposed to the divine authority" of Sacred Scripture? who shall decide what are the essentials of Christianity? One Protestant will tell you that the doctrine of the Trinity is an "essential"; another, equally well read in the Scriptures, and equally competent to interpret them, will assert with equal confidence that the so-called doctrine of the Trinity is not only not an essential of Christianity but a gross corruption. So with every other doctrine that distinguishes Christianity from pure theism. If one Protestant sect, call it essential; twenty or a hundred other Protestant sects are at hand ready to cry out that it is not a doctrine of Christianity at all. As there is therefore no one in a non-Catholic country, capable of deciding the question—"What is Christian truth?" it is evident that Lord Salisbury's amendment is mere *baucombe*; and that the Universities when unsectarianised, when thrown open with all their offices and dignities to the non-conformists, will have ceased to be distinctively Christian, that is to say, they will be no more Christian, than Jewish or Mahomedan. They need not of course become anti-Christian, but they will be simply non-Christian.

What is true of the University, is true of the common or primary school. If it is to be unsectarian, it must needs be non-Christian, for there is no single doctrine or principle peculiar to Christianity which is held in common by all the Protestant sects. It is impossible, in short, to draw out a confession of faith which all Protestants would sign, which would not be at the time so thoroughly purged of all Christianity, as to be perfectly unobjectionable in the eyes of the deist who altogether denies the idea of revelation as a ludicrous superstition.

The body of G. Lemieux, a young man who was drowned on the 18th ult., was found on the 30th ult.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTH-DAY.—Wednesday last was observed as a general holiday, but from the absence of the troops, there was none of that military display which usually distinguishes the day. There were large numbers of pleasure parties; and towards the afternoons desperate efforts were made by the rowdies with their fire-crackers to get up a conflagration.—The rowdies aforesaid were partially successful; the City having by them been set on fire in several places on Wednesday, but the Fire Brigade managed to undo the work of the incendiaries. Some day it will not be so successful; and we may be sure that unless the City Council at once pass a stringent By-Law strictly prohibiting the letting off of fireworks in the streets, and unless this law be most rigorously applied, with extreme penalties to all offenders, we shall soon have to record a catastrophe in Montreal such as that which a few years ago, nearly destroyed Portland. It was a mere chance that on Wednesday last a terrible calamity did not occur; and it is hardly to be expected that our Fire Insurance Companies can much longer continue to carry on business in a City where—we say it advisedly—every facility and encouragement is offered to rowdy incendiaries. We subjoin some sensible remarks upon the subject from the *Montreal Gazette*; and we do hope that prompt, and severe measures may be taken by the civic authorities to put a stop to a most dangerous nuisance:

FIRE-CRACKERS.—If the City Council does not immediately pass a by-law, imposing a heavy fine on parties selling fire-crackers, after the scenes witnessed in the city yesterday and last night, they will meet with the execution of all who have property to lose or who love good order. Instances of mischief done and accidents caused by fire-crackers yesterday could be mentioned by the dozen, suffice it to say that a young girl nearly lost one of her eyes from the explosion of a fire-cracker thrown into her face by a cowardly ruffian standing on the steps of the Victoria College at nine o'clock. The names of the parties could not be learned in the crowd and confusion caused by the incident. During the afternoon a furious runaway was occasioned by a cracker exploding under a horse. The driver was dashed from his seat, narrowly escaping a broken neck. The vehicle was smashed to pieces and the horse, with the shafts dangling behind its heels, was stopped in St. Antoine street. Craig and St. Lawrence Main streets were a blaze of fire from the continuous discharge of crackers. Boys and youths boldly lighted a fire-cracker, walked in front or behind the first group of females they met and pitched it among them. From the windows of several houses in St. Lawrence Main street large numbers of lighted crackers were thrown on to pedestrians below. There has been enough of this cowardly and dangerous amusement, and it now remains for the City Council to merit the gratitude of the public by at once dealing with the nuisance, or the opposite by treating it with indifference.—*Mont. Gazette*, 25th.

THE CITY COUNCIL.—Our civic rulers have addressed themselves in earnest to several very important matters, and we hope that they will go on vigorously with their good work.—Amongst other things they have discussed a law which, we hope, will be carried, for imposing a heavy fine on proprietors who knowingly lease houses for immoral purposes. The difficulty of course in enforcing such a law will be to establish the guilty knowledge on the part of the proprietor; but it may well be assumed that a proprietor leasing his premises to any person once convicted of having kept a disorderly house, does possess the guilty knowledge which constitutes the offence. In fact the law should be made so stringent as to make it impossible for any one, once convicted of the offence of having kept, or being a resident of, what is called a "disorderly house," ever after to be able to hire a house in Montreal at all; and the dirty proprietors who lease their houses for such purposes should be held up to execration by the publication of their names.

Another good move was also made by the introduction of a By-Law prohibiting the sale of fire-works by any unlicensed person, and imposing severe penalties on any person letting them off in the streets. We hope that both these laws will be carried, and stringently enforced.

A dreadful calamity has occurred in the town of Bradford in Upper Canada. A fire broke out there on the 22nd ult., and, aided by the dry weather, and strong wind blowing, spread with great rapidity. There was but one fire engine in the place, and that was quite incompetent to check the spread of the flames, which, sweeping everything before them, soon reduced almost the entire town to ashes. The money loss is estimated at four or five hundred thousand dollars, and many families have lost all that they possessed in the world. The farmers in the neighborhood, to their credit be it stated, have done all in their power to send assistance to the sufferers.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—A very sad event occurred on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 24th ult. Two gentlemen on the editorial staff of the *Montreal Gazette*, who had gone out to Lachine, hired a boat with the intent of pulling up stream to the island. They, it seems, changed their minds before they had gone far, and tried to pull across the river; but the strong current swept them down, in spite of all their efforts, to the rapids in which the boat

capsized, and both of its occupants were drowned, before the eyes of Mr. Somerville who owns a farm on the side of the river, but who of course was unable to render any assistance. The deceased, Messrs. Spaight and Lodge, were highly respected, being gentlemen of high literary culture, and accomplished writers, and their fate is deeply regretted by the entire community.

DIED.

In this city, on Monday, the 29th ult., of consumption, MARY ANNE KAVANAUGH, aged 40 years, wife of JOHN GILLIES.—*May she rest in peace.*

VILLA-MARIA.—On Tuesday of last week this institution under the charge of the Ladies of the Congregation, was honored with a visit from His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal who administered their First Communion to several of the younger pupils.

FIRES IN THE BUSH.—We regret to learn that, owing to the drouth, and the strong winds lately prevalent, bush fires are again breaking out all over the Ottawa district.

The Bill for allowing the Dominion of Canada to create Provinces out of its acquired territory has passed its second reading in the House of Lords.

The Census for Prince Edward's Island has been published. It sets down the population of the Colony at Ninety-three thousand five hundred. Of these, forty thousand, or very near one half, are set down as belonging to the Catholic Church; the remainder are distributed amongst the many Protestant sects, of whom the Presbyterians are the most numerous. There has been a net increase of population of 21 per cent since the last Census in 1861.

The Dublin *Fremont* makes some extracts from a ponderous Blue Book lately published on the statistics of the chief States of Europe. From these the significant fact may be gathered that Sweden is not only the most thoroughly Protestant country in Europe, but that it is also one of the most immoral. Its population is about that of the Dominion, or a little over four millions, amongst whom there are but 400 Catholics. The total number of births for 1867 was 128,000, of which upwards of 13,000, or over ten per cent, were illegitimate.

POLITICAL.—The Dominion Parliament, we are informed, will not meet before February, so that there will be plenty of time for the public to consider the provisions of the Washington Treaty. The Canadian Government will of course support them, nor do we expect will the country reject them. Can we make better terms for ourselves? That is the question.

The elections for the Legislature of the Province of Quebec will come off immediately.—We trust that they will be marked by peace, and good order, and that the best candidates may be returned to serve in Parliament. It is not for us, a non-political journal, to say which are the best candidates.

BLESSING A BELL FOR THE NEW CHURCH AT THE TANNERIES.—On Sunday the 14th ult. the above ceremony took place, and was an occasion of much interest to the large assemblage of Catholics who were present. His Lordship Bishop Bourget officiated, assisted by the Cure of the Parish, Rev. Mr. Lapierre, and several other clergymen. Among the numerous Sponsors we noticed His Worship the Mayor, who entered the church with Madame C. S. Rodier; Hon. A. A. Dorion, with the Lady Mayoress; Louis Beaubien, Esq., M.P., with Madame P. Dunn; Mr. J. H. Dore, with Madame J. Lenoir; Mr. P. Power, with Madame Wm. Donnelly; Mr. Louis Desrosiers, with Madame F. Faure; Mr. A. Brogan with Madame Dunn.

The excellent Band of the Christian Brothers played appropriate tunes in the best style during the Procession from the toll-gate which preceded the Bishop, and at the church door. An eloquent and affectionate address was delivered in church by His Lordship after the Benediction; and the *finale* was marked by a collection which exceeded \$500.

An interesting feature in the day's proceedings was the attendance of the St. Patrick's Benevolent Society of the adjacent church on St. Gabriel Farm, headed by their Pastor, Rev. J. Salmon. This Society, which is quite numerous and is rapidly increasing, formed a separate Procession from St. Gabriel Church, but joined the general concourse which met His Lordship at the toll-gate.

We cannot omit to mention that the Montreal Sarsfield Lacrosse Club also attended, and were, from their handsome uniform and manly, graceful appearance, much admired. They walked near the venerable Bishop, and seemed well fitted to be his body-guard.