The True Witness.

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. E. CLERK, Editor.

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to all subscribers whose papers are delivered by certiers, Two Dollars and a-half, in advance; and if not renewed at the end of the year, then, if we continue sending the paper, the subscription shall The Taus Witness can be had at the News Depots.

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- We beg to remind our Correspondents that no tetters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless

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MONTREAL, SFRIDAY, DECEMBER 15.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

DECEMBER-1865. Friday, 15-Fast-Octave of Imm. Concept. Saturday, 16-St. Eusebius, B.M. Sunday, 17-Third Sunday in Advent. Monday, 18 - Expectation of B. V. Mary Tuesday, 19 - Of the Feria Wodnesday, 20-EMBRE DAY-Fast and Abstinence Thursday, 21-St. Tuozas, Ap.

The "Forty Hours" Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will commence as follows :-

Friday, 15-St Joseph Asylum, Montreal. Sunday, 17 - Convent Assumption. Tuesday, 19-St. Thecdore. Thursday, 21-St. Thomas.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Mr. Stephens, of whose arrest our English spournals by the last mail informed us, managed to effect his escape from his cell on the 24th alt., at about two o'clock in the morning. How this was managed we are not told. Of two things one. Either some of the authorities of the prison had been bought up by Fenian gold to connive at the prisoner's escape; or his capture, and the attendant circumstances were part of a reflot, or arrangement betwixt the British Goveroment and Mr. Stephens; in virtue of which the former were to obtain possession of all the papers and documents throwing light on the Society and its objects; and the latter whilst enjoy. ing all the immunities and profits of the informer, was to be spared the ignoming that naturally attaches to that character. All is of course uncertain, nor would we attempt to express an opinion as to either of the above hypotheses. In the mean time, whether to keep up the game, or whether in earnest, we cannot say, but the Government has offered a reward of £1,000 for the recapture of the escaped prisoner, and £300 for such information as may lead to his arrest, together with a free pardon to any persons concerned in his escape who may give such information.

The political world is quite dull. We regret - to see that the cattle pest is spreading in parts of the United Kingdom. There is much excitement in England, and much controversy in the unress, about the late negro insurrection in Jamaica, and the vigorous measures resorted to for its suppression by the Colonial authorities .-From the speech of the Governor to the Legistative Assembly of Jamaica, on the opening of the Legislative Session, it would appear as if the danger were not over; and as if the sangumary outbreak of the savage negroes of the eastern section of the island, were but part of a general, dent Johnson has perhaps accomplished his task the white males of Jamaica, for consigning the white females to the fifthy embraces of the negroes, and for setting up an independent black smile as we read the long string of fustian comrepublic. His Excellency thus describes the actual state of society in the Island; and if his description be true, then most certainly the stringent measures by his orders adopted towards the pegro insurgents were not one whit worthy of the authority of the sword; and that the only censure:-

It is my duty to point out to you that, satisfactory as it is to know that the rebellion in the Eastern District has been crushed out, the entire colony has long been, is still on the brink of a volcano which . may at any moment burst into fury.

There is scarcely a district or a parish in the island where disloyalty, sedition, and murderous intentions are not widely disseminated, and in many instances, openly expressed. The misapprehensions and mis representations of pseudo philanthropists, in England and in this country, the inflammatory harangues or seditious writings of political demagogues, of evilminded men of high position, and of better education, and of worthless persons without either character or property to lose; the personal, scurrilous, vindictive and disloyal writings of a licentious and unscrupalous press; and the misdirected efforts and misguided counsels of certain ministers of religion, sadly so mis-called, if the Saviour's example and teaching is to be the standard, have led to their natural, their necessary, their inevitable result amongst an ignorant, - excitable and uncivilized population-rebellion, arson,

These are hard and harsh words, gentlemen, but they are true, and this is no time to indulge in selec-

A mighty danger threatens the land, and in order to concert measures to avert it, and prevent so far as human wisdem can any future recurrence of a similar state of things, we must examine boldly, deeply, and unflinchingly into the causes which have led to this danger. I know of no general grievance or Individual cases of hardship or injustice arise in every community; but, as a whole, the peasantry of stantly before the public as if it were yet alive and amount of the difference in value betwint paper to Canada.

taxed, can live more easily and cheaply, and are less under an obligation to work for subsistence than any peasantry in the world. The same laws as to the imposition of taxes, the Administration of Justice, and the enjoyment of political rights, apply to them and to the white and coloured inhabitants alike. They ought to be better off-more comfortable and more independent than the laborers of any other country. If it is not so, it is due to their own indolence, improvidence and vice, acted upon by the absence of good example, and of civilizing influences in many districts, and by the evil teaching and evil agencies to which I have already referred in all.

It is a remarkable fact, too, that many of the prinpal rebels in the late outbreak, have been persons well off and well to do in the world-posssessing lands, cottages, furniture, horses or mules, or other property, and with an education above the average of the peasantry.

It is necessary to bring these facts before you in order to convince you how widely spread and how deeply rooted the spirit of disaffection is; how daring and determined the intention has been and still is to make Jamaica a second Hayti, and how in perative it is upon you, gentlemen, to take such measures as, under God's blessing, may avert such a calamity.

These measures may be summed up in a few words. Create a strong Government, and then, under a firm hand, to guide and direct, much may be accomplished. In order to obtain a strong Government, there is but one course open to you—that of abolishing the existing form of constitution, [compensating the officers whose offices are abolished] and establishing one better adapted to the present state and requirements of the colony-one in which union, co-operation, consistency and promptness of action may, as far as practicable be secured.'

Acting upon the suggestion contained in the above speech, a Bill has been laid before the Legislature for amending the Constitution, and another to indemnify His Excellency and all others concerned in the suppression of the late horrible and sanguinary outbreak of the negroes.

We have elsewhere noticed the row in the Fenian camp, and the antiphonal objurgations of Head Centre or President O'Mahony and his refractory Senate. The first choir, or Senate, bellows forth lustily in a deep bass to the Head Centre, "You are a cheat and an impostor, fraudulently appropriating the funds of the Irish Republic." To whom the second choir, Mr. O'Mahony, thus responds in a clear tenor voice, "You are traitors, bought by British gold, and I expel you from the Senate." Hereupon the first choir thunders forth, " Deposition of the Head Centre; great treason of President O'Mahony;" and the service ends for the present with the solemn dethronement of the latter, and the appointment of Mr. Roberts to reign in his stead. More excellent fooling than all this is, it would be impossible to conceive, or even desire.

The Reverend Redemptorist Fathers are giving a Mission in the St. Patrick's Church of his City, in connection with the exercises of the Jubilee. The subjoined is the order of these exercises, which will prove interesting and profitable to our English speaking Catholic popu-

Low Mass at five o'clock in the morning, folowed by an instruction.

Low Mass at eight o'clock, followed by an other instruction.

At seven o'clock in the evening, Rosary, Sermon, and Benediction of the B. Sacrament.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S MESSAGE.—Whilst the Constitution of the United States yet existed t was the custom for the President to inaugurate the Session of Congress by a Message, just as the proceedings of the Imperial Parliament are opened by a Speech from the Throne. The custom still obtains; and it has this year imposed on President Johnson the difficult task of adopting, or trying to adopt, the language and forms of constitutional liberty to the actually existing military despotism which has superseded, and rendered impossible the restoration of, the old Constitution bequeathed to the United States by Washington, and their political fathers. Presithat are by their very nature impossible; but, at the same time, it is difficult to refrain from a monplaces in which his Message abounds, about liberty, and the Constitution, and the Union, and rights, and such like trash, when we know that the only authority in the United States is simply existing rights are the mights of the strong over the weak-the right to trample under foot the original Constitution, and all its wise provisions for the liberty of the State, and of the in- pendent States. dividual.

The Message is, therefore, for the most part, though a clever, still a very worthless document indeed, a mere long-winded piece of hypocrisy which will deceive no one. The Southern States are conquered Provinces, over which the North bears rule by the same title, by precisely the same right, as that in virtue of which Russia rules over Poland, to wit-the right of the strongest; and it would have been much wiser and in better taste for the President to have at once fully and openly admitted this self-evident fact, than to have done, as in his Message he has done, seeking to disguise truth under a cover of carefully selected euphuisms. When a man is dead the sooner be is buried and put under ground the better, for the longer he is kept the worse will be stink. So it is with the old American Constitution. An excellent thing it was in wrong under which the negroes of this colony labor. its day, but it is now dead, and can never be redecaying smell proclaims the sad truth of its damise to the least sensitive of noses? Bury they have slain their Constitution.

The argument of the Message is, that the Southern States never were out of the Union; that their secession ordinances were ab initio null and void, and of no effect whatsoever; and that therefore Virginia, the Carolinas, &c., are, and ever have been, States, or component parts of the same political organism as that to which New York and Massachussetts belong. In accordance with this view of the case the Message treats of the "rights" of the Southern States; and the President justifies his not having given the elective franchise to the Southern pegroes. upon the grounds that he has no Constitutional right to interfere with the distribution of the elective franchise in the several States. "It would have been an assumption of power by the President, which nothing in the Constitution or law of the United states would have warranted."

Here is a straining out of the gnat, and a swallowing of the camel with a vengeanceworthy of the spiritual children of Praise God Barebones, and of the descendants of the Puritan who slew his cat on Monday because it had killed a rat on Sunday. "An assumption of power which nothing in the Constitution or laws of the United States warranted," it would have been, no doubt, for the President or Congress to have interfered in any manner with the elective franchise in the several States, an act of arbitrary power or despotism certainly. But no less an assumption of power, unwarranted, nay expressly prohibited by the laws and by the Constitution of the United States, has been every act of the Northern Congress and of the President during the last five years. The cruel and aggressive war waged by the Northern against the Southern States—the proclamation of the President emancipating the negroes—the appointment of proconsuls from Washington, or prefects under the title of provisional governors to the Southern States-every act, in short, by which the Union has been restored, were, and are, "assumptions of power" over States-(for, be it remembered, that the avowed theory of President Johnson is that the Southern States have never for one moment ceased to be "States in the Union")for which we defy any man to discover any warrant in the laws or Constitution of the United who, having knocked down and robbed his victim of purse, watch, boots and breeches, should leave him his drawers, on the plea that the law of the land did not warrant such a complete denudation, would not be a whit more ludicrous than that displayed by President Johnson in that portion of his Message in which, referring to the Southern States, and the work of reconstruction, he assigns his reasons for not having extended full political rights to the negroes.

More honest, more politic would it have been to have told the trith the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. "We," might President Johnson have said, speaking to the Southern States in the name of the triumphant democracy of the North, " we have beaten you by force of numbers in the battle field; you are at our feet, wounded, bleeding, helpless; we treat you therefore as a conquered and subject race, which lives, not by its rights, but by the clemency of its masters; we do not compel you to extend the elective franchise to the negroes, because, at present. it is not expedient for us to do so, since we might haply render our inconsistency and hypocrisy too and long premeditated scheme for exterminating as well as it is given to man to accomplish tasks conspicuous in the eyes of the world, were we to impose on you a franchise which some of us-Connecticut for instance—have just rejected for ourselves." Such language would have been insolent, no doubt, and brutal, but it would have been strictly true, and would have conveyed a faithful picture of the political relations which actually do obtain betwixt North and South; and which ever must obtain, until the latter shall a second time, like the Poles, make a bold and, we pray to God, a successful effort to assert their liberties, and their rights as sovereign and inde-

The Message treats of the financial position. and is hopeful; we do not think, however, that in the following passage it is truthful. " The debt of a republic is the safest of all." This is certainly not borne out by the facts hitherto recorded of democracies - which, whatever may be their good qualities in other respects, have never been remarkable for honesty, love of truth, or a keen sense of honor; not born out by the fate of the paper money issued by the Thirteen Colonies in their War of Independence, by that of the assignats of the first French Republic, or by the good faith towards their creditors of the many other republics which have sprung into existence of late years on this Continent. Not warranted, we will add, by the fact that already repudiation, or public swindling, has been resorted to by some of the Northern States, in that they have legislated to pay the interest of their obliga. tions to their foreign creditors in their depreciated

vigorous? when the smell, the sickening and and gold. The safest debt in the world is that of Great Britain, which, thank God, is not as yet. a republic or a democracy; and it is safe beyour dead out of sight, is the best advice which cause of the monarchical and aristocratic institucan be tendered to the Northern States, since tions which protect it from the hands of demo-

The foreign relations of the United States with France, Mexico, and Great Britain are alluded to, but it is not easy to make out what the President's foreign policy will be. He complains that materials of war were obtained from Great Britain by the Southern States, forgetting, however, to mention, that, for one dollar's worth of such material obtained by the South, hundreds of pounds worth were obtained by the North. He complains too of the formal accordance of belligerent rights to the Southern States as unpre. cedented, and unjustified by the issue; forgetting to add that the Northern States were the chief gainers by that formal recognition of belligerent rights, since thereby were formally recognised their right to establish a blockade, and to exercise, as towards British merchant vessels on the high seas, those rights which belong exclusively to belligerent powers; but the attempt to enforce which by the Northern men-of-war upon vessels on the high seas bearing the British flag, without such a formal recognition of the North as a belligerent power, would inevitably have led to a declaration of war, and the recognition of the Independence of the Confederate States. Now there cannot be one belligerent; there must be two belligerents; and thus by the very act whereby Great Britain formally recognised the belligerent character of the Northern States, it also formally recognised the belligerent character of some other State, that is to say the Southern States. It might, perhaps, have been better for Great Britain to have witheld the recognition of the belligerent character of the South, in which case It would of course have refused to recognise any belligerent character, or belligerent rights in the Northern States; any right therefore in the latter to blockade any portion of the Continent of North America, or to exercise the rights of a belligerent as towards British merchant vessels on the high seas. This would much have simplified matters, because, on the one hand, it would have deprived the Northerners of the only semblance of a legitimate complaint against British neutrality; and on the other hand, it would, in all human probability have eventuated in the the triumph of the Southern cause, and of Southern Independence. Put into plain English, the States. The cant or hypocrisy of the foot-pad President's complaint amounts to this. That England formally accorded belligerent rights, as against her own merchant vessels, to Northern men-of-war, and thereby enabled the North to subdue by starvation as well as by superiority of numbers, its plucky, but weaker and disadvantageously situated opponents.

The Alabama case comes next, but this subject is exhausted. The President pretends that the late claums put forth by Mr. Adams were made rather with the view of testing the question of the liability of neutrals, for the acts of their citizens, than of exacting pecuniary compensation That part of the Message which relates to the correspondence betwint France and the United States on the Mexican question is purposely very vague; but neither with France nor Great Britain is it proposed to push matters to extremities, at the present moment. A good deal yet remains to be done in the way of reconstruction; more, indeed every thing yet remains to be done in the way of reconciliation: and until the North and South be reconciled, a war with any foreign Power would be highly imprudent. As it is the wound is not healed, but only scabbed over; ready to break out into a state of violent political suppuration on the slightest excitement.

The latter part of the Message is devoted to the purpose of vivid glorification of the pecuniary and military resources of the United States. Of the former it does not, it cannot speak too highly. neither can we find fault with the high, but not too high estimate which the President makes, of the power and military greatness of his country. We did not need the evidence of the late terrible couflict to convince us that in pluck, in soldier ike qualities, in powers of endurance, and a stubborn subdued kind of enthusiasm, the grand children or great grand-children of English sires, and the descendants of the old Puritan stock had in no wise degenerated. What we have learnt, what the lesson taught us, by late events in the United States is this: That the lust of conquest is as strong in the bosom of the most democratic communities as in that of the most absolute of monarchs, Asiatic or European; and that to gratify this lust, the former are as ready to sacrifice all their liberties, as is the latter to seize upon those of their subjects. Compelled to elect betwixt sacrifice of territory, or sacrifice of Constitution, the Northern States have saved their territory at the expence of their liberties.

THE BISHOP OF MONTREAL .- We are bappy to have it in our power to announce that our beloved Bishop Mgr. Bourget may be expected to arrive in a few days. By last accounts from vived. What then is the use of keeping it con- paper currency, thereby cheating him to the Europe, he was in Paris on his way from Rome

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARIES AND THE JAMAICA MASSACRES. - There is a lively con. troversy raging as to the share that the Baptist Missionaries had in provoking the late horrid outbreak amongst the free negroes of Jamaica. as well as the more serious insurrections of former days, especially the insurrection of 1831. Then as now, it is certain that the blame was laid at the door of the Baptists and other Protestant missionaries; that to them and their teachings were attributed the low morality and the diabolical passions of their negro converts. who in all their insurrections seem to have had one and the same end in view, to wit—the gratification of their morbid, but truly African taste for blood-and their abominable lusts .-To kill all the white men, and to appropriate to themselves all the white women are, and ever have been the Alpha and Cmega of a negro rebellion. Thus attacked, the missionaries have not lacked for defenders, and at the present moment Sir Morton Peto, who is no doubt an excellent authority on all railroad matters, whatever may be the value of his religious and political opinions. comes before the public as the apologist of his brother Baptists accused of being the instigators of the late Jacquerie in Jamaica. It is certain from the published lists of those who were hung and flogged as ringleaders, or actors in this diabolical outbreak, that the names of the most prominent members of the sect-of Bantist ministers and preachers—cut a very conspicuous figure: nevertheless, so their friends and champions assure us, we must look upon them rather as martyrs than as criminals of the blackest dye, and on Baptists generally as gentle lambs in the midst of ravening wolves, by whom they are cruelly persecuted, and foully calumniated. On which side lies the truth?

If on the one hand we have the testimony of Sir Morton Peto, of the Baptists themselves, and of some officials, in favor of the missionaries, we have also official documents from men high in position and authority asserting in clearest terms the permicious results of these missionary teachings upon the excitable negro. Thus Lord Metcalfe, reported officially some years ago from the West Indies, speaking of the Baptist preachers that "instead of being ministers of peace, they are manifestly fomentors of discord (Lord Metculfe's Papers-Edited by J. W. Kaye, p. 330); a report the more remarkable and the more valuable because of its harmony with a report on the same subject from Southern Africa. by Sir Benjamin D'Urban. We have also on the same side, the testimony of the Methodist missionaries at Jamaica, and throughout the Wesi Indies; but as the Methodists and the Baptists are rivals, and bitter enemies, their mutually hostile testimony may perhaps be looked upon with suspicion. Certain it is that the Methodists give the Baptist missionaries and their converts the worst of characters, and that the latter return the compliment with interest. The unprejudiced reader in such an intricate impeach as this will probably dismiss the case with the old adage. " Arcades ambo." So Mr. Olmsted sums up the matter with the trite remark that "the Baptist and Methodist clergy spend most of their force in arguing against each other's doctrines," adding that the former generally get the better of the dispute since baptism by immersion "strikes the fancy of the negro;" but on one point all who have visited the West Islands, will agree, to wit. the gross immorality and filthy licentiousness of the negro population, male and female. They are often, indeed generally, zealous Baptists or fervent Methodists in religion; but in respect of chastity and the Christian virtues, they are as low as the beasts of the field. They look upon these virtues as superfluous according to one Protestant authority, Dr. Dalton; whilst according to another, Mr. Trollope, "be-the negro-never connects his religion with his life." .

Many of the Bantist ministers are converted negroes, who baving got religion as they term it at the "revival," impart what they have got to their brother negroes. What a "revival" is amongst white men we know; but what it is amongst a sensual and excitable race like the negroes no pen can describe, or could describe without violating all decency. It is impossible says a Protestant writer, Mr. Dennys "to conceive the borrible state of society to which the so-called revivals give rise, or the awfully blasphemous language of their promoters;" and it must be remembered that it is from amongst the most prominent victims of these abominable socalled revivals, whose filthness no beart can conceive, no tongue describe, that the native Baptist preachers are selected. What the effect of the teachings of these ignorant and immoral preachers upon their negro hearers may be ima-

But we are not left to draw on our imaginations entirely. Some few years ago, in 1861, the Baptist Society in London commissioned one of its members, a Mr. Upderhill, to visit and report upon the actual condition of the Baptist congregations in the West Indies. In his work on the West Indies Mr. Underhill insisted upon the evils accruing from the employment of these negro

· Vide Marshall's Obristian Missions.