

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY.....NOVEMBER 27, 1889

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 27, St. Leonard of Port Maurice.

THURSDAY, Nov. 28, St. James of La Marche.

FRIDAY, Nov. 29, St. Satorinus.

SATURDAY, Nov. 30, St. Andrew.

SUNDAY, Dec. 1, St. Eligius.

MONDAY, Dec. 2, St. Blisiana.

TUESDAY, Dec. 3, St. Francis Xavier.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 4, St. Barbara.

Ontario Politics.

At length there appears to be a gleam of

hope for the Hon. Mr. Meredith, leader of

the opposition in the Ontario Legislature.

The Hamilton Spectator, twin brother of the

Toronto Mail, thus deals with him in a recent

issue:

"Mr. Meredith is an amiable gentleman, an

able lawyer, a good scholar, and an honest man;

but he is not a party leader.

The duty of the hour is to get a leader and try

to do something, or to give up a vain and even

farcical pretence of opposition."

Mr. Meredith, should he be ambitious for

political success, may well bless his stars that

he no longer finds favor with our Hamilton

contemporary.

Apart from his own ability, and the

efficient support given him by such able

lieutenants as the Hon. Christopher Frazer

and others, the present Premier of Ontario

has had no more powerful lever to maintain

him at the head of affairs in the Province

than the course pursued by the Mail and

Spectator. These journals have been far

more useful to the Ontario Liberals than the

Globe and other recognized party journals.

The support of the Spectator would have

crushed a much more able man than Mr.

Meredith, and he is beyond doubt a gentleman

of considerable ability. Now that the paper

in question has come out squarely and called

for the decapitation of the Opposition leader

people will naturally ask themselves: What

is this for? And the answer is readily forth-

coming. Mr Meredith will not consent to

lead on the lines chalked out by the fanatical

element.

The leader of the opposition in Ontario,

should have taken a leaf out of the book of

the Dominion Premier long ago. The latter

did not wait for the Mail to repudiate

him; on the contrary, he repudiated the

Mail, and had Mr. Meredith been gifted

with greater political sagacity, he would have

denounced the Spectator, *ad hoc* genus omne

months ago. In that respect and in no other

did he lack the qualities of a good leader.

It is surprising how some of our contem-

poraries in the Province of Ontario, cling to

the belief, that the majority of Canadians

are imbued with the notions of the penal law

days. They seem to think that education

does nothing for the country within the past

twenty-five or thirty years, and that appeals

capable of arousing wide-spread prejudices

years ago are just as effective as ever. Day

by day the number of fanatics is becoming—

thank God—beautifully less in our country.

Even in the birthplace of prejudices begotten of

ignorance times are changing, more enlighten-

ed views are gaining ground, and soon, there

as here, but a few isolated cases shall remain

as reminders of by-gone intolerance. As for

Mr. Meredith, we believe him to be too high

minded to attempt to scramble into power

over the ruins of Catholic rights and liberties,

even were it possible for him to achieve such

a result, which it is not. For him to have

incurred the outspoken displeasure of men

who would have dragged him down to their

own level ought to be a source of gratification

to him, and it will secure for him the respect

and confidence of those whose confidence and

respect worth anything in the community.

High License.

One of the most important pro-movements

made at the Baltimore Congress was that in

favor of high license. The subject has occupied

the attention of the best minds for a considerable

period. Prohibition has proved a failure

whenever and wherever tried, and of those

who preach the doctrine very many are un-

true to the principle they advocate. High

license has been endorsed, and means should

be adopted at once to bring the question be-

fore our Legislature. The drink curse is

making fearful ravages in our midst, and

prompt and energetic measures must be

adopted to stem the tide that is bringing ruin

upon so many families and destroying the

souls and bodies of so large a number of our

most promising youth. The grocery where

liquor is sold should be abolished. The

traffic should be isolated, and the temptation

removed that the liquor-selling grocery

offers. That being done, and a high license

imposed on the liquor shops, the hours of

selling ought to be limited, and closed bars be

abolished.

being back to the Holy Roman Empire, and

count of all the wonders he had seen and the

great kindness he had experienced while in

this country, adding that one of the most pleas-

ant of his recollections will always be that of

the few hours spent at Woodstock.

CELIC LITERATURE.

No. 4.

QAL'S POEM FOR OREDE.

BY HENRY KAVANAGH, SENIOR.

Qael, a favorite warrior of Fion, General of

the Leinster Militia, heard that the beautiful

daughter of Cairbre, Prince of Kerry, could

only be won by a chief who had the genius to

compose a poem to her taste on the grandeur of

her clan and the richness and elegance of its

treasures. She was very capricious, and had

already received jewels and tokens of love from

the most illustrious and accomplished men of

Erin, but treated them all with indifference, if

not contempt. Qael described her to his com-

panion as an enchanting, fair and noble lady, and

asked his General to come to her court and in-

duce him. "This was done," when he asked if he

had a poem before taking his departure, he

produced and read the following, which is a

literal translation of the original from the Book

of Lismore. The learned O'Curry, of the Dublin

University, was of opinion that the poem is

valuable as a description of a princely residence

in ancient Ireland.

PART I.

I've made a journey many a league,

To be fair Qael's honored guest,

Felt not the length nor use fatigue,

But thought of love and her behest,

Resolved by south-west roads to see

Her mansion at the mountain's breast.

The Egan, she thoughtly named, with the

My Druid's rock of destiny;

And thus I've passed a pleasing week.

The favour of her choice to seek.

The house is happy where she lives,

Retainers line the halls and rooms,

To each rich recompense she gives,

Musicians, druids, fearless roams,

And tall door-keepers, bright on neaters,

Old bards and minstrels with their songs,

And those who share her bounteous favors,

O'er all to her command belongs,

To one young mistress sweet and fair,

To Qael's of the yellow hair.

The colour of her house is white,

Within are benches and green rushes,

With woollen mantles blue and bright,

And silk that like the Orient flings,

While fawn with silver or with gold

Her Grianan upon each corner;

The thatch is wings laid manifold;

With certain hang the sun to shade

The door posts are of richest green,

The lentil long renowned has been;

The door is carved and chased outside,

To guest and stranger open wide.

How fortunate my fate would be

To pass the days within her towers,

Or hunt the deer or walk the glen,

Where the mid-cushion soft, or see

World stray among her garden flowers,

And taste together fragrant fruit,

Should Qael's deign to hear my suit.

Her chair is placed upon the right,

The footstool fits for any drest,

Its alpine gold would dazzle sight;

Of all things fine it is the finest:

A gorgeous couch above the feast

In full array seems like a throne,

'Twas made at Tuill, in the East,

Of beaten gold and precious stones,

A bedstead's near with gems inlaid,

The quilt of silk, the pillow soft,

With curtains hung the sun to shade

On slender rods of bronze aloft.

Four posts support the dower bed,

With ornaments of silver gored,

Not fearful shapes with demon heads,

But works of art and cultured taste.

(The second and third parts to be published

next week.)

NOTE.

*Grianan, a lady's sunny chamber.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Fraser Institute.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—The Daily Witness has raised the ques-

tion:—Whether the citizens are entitled to have

a public meeting to be held in the Fraser Insti-

tute to discuss matters relating to the subject.

That paper has refused the following letter, de-

claring that the citizens have no such right.

Please give it a place in your columns in the

public interest.

JOHN FRASER,

Nov. 21st, 1889.

Editor Daily Witness:

SIR,—As the interview you had with one of

the Governors of the Fraser Institute respecting

the right of the citizens to have "Annual

public meetings" to be held in this Institute,

as reported in the Witness of Saturday, the 16th,

you make that Governor to say: "So far as I

can remember, the answer was no promise or

"understanding at the meeting of October 15th,"

"1885, or at any other time, that annual meet-

ings would be held."

So there has been no annual meeting of citi-

zens for OVER FOUR YEARS; not since Oct. 15th,

1885. This is too bad; every other corporation

holds its "Annual," and in this Institute, which

was founded solely for the benefit and free use

of the citizens, they are denied or refused an

annual meeting!

These Governors have a big sign board,

namely, "THE FRASER INSTITUTE," fixed high

above their door; but there is not ONE DOLLAR

of the Fraser estate money expended on the

books and trinkets on their shelves; and that

Red House No. 303, Dorchester street, has as

little to do with the estate of the late Hugh

Fraser as the Mechanics' Institute would have

if the Governors of the Fraser Institute had

placed that sign board of theirs high and above

the entrance to the Mechanics' Institute on St.

James street!

Do not be deceived, Mr. Editor, nor let your

readers, the citizens of Montreal, be any longer

deceived with "Outward and visible signs,"

leading to deception, but demand a public meet-

ing, and that right speedily, and have those

Governors face to face with the citizens of

Montreal, before this noble bequest—like the

great "Tilden bequest," to establish a public

library and reading room in New York,—be

frustrated away, and there be nothing left but

the baseless fabric of a vision.

JOHN FRASER,

46 Drummond street,

Montreal, 19th November, 1889.

LITERARY REVIEW.

DONAHUE'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE, for Decem-

ber, is varied and interesting. The leading

article is a scathing review of the course of the

New York Mail and Express, by Peter Mc-

Carthy, Canada and Her Neighbor is continued.

Rev. William Barry has an able article, entitled

Wanted: A Gospel for the Country. Rev.

John Costello begins a series of articles on

Theology and Natural Science. Description of

the Paris Exposition, by a Bostonian, is very

interesting; A Christmas Sketch, by Miss M.

A. Tinkler. Centenary of the Hierarchy, and

the great events in Baltimore. Story of the

Bombardment of the "Disco" by the Navy. The

Cardinal Gibbons, together with a great variety

of matter on various subjects, Youth's Depart-

ment, etc. This is the last number of the pre-

sent year. Now is the time to subscribe. \$2 a

year; \$1 for six months. Address DONAH