

most prominent. We have been informed by one of the most distinguished medical practitioners of Montreal, that, to his own knowledge, it often happens that the mothers of the children, subsequently exposed at the Convent door, have, during a long period of their pregnancy, done their utmost to procure abortion, by means of violent purgatives, and other well known agents; and that the mother's of many others have been, during their pregnancy, under an active course of treatment for certain foul diseases which it is not necessary to mention.—We hope the editor of the *Witness* will take some medical man's opinion, as to what effect upon the health of the children these two causes would produce. Enough for the present of a disgusting topic, which the necessity of refuting the calumnies of the *Witness* could alone have forced upon us.*

But the Grey Nunnery is an establishment whose operation is—

"To diminish the difficulties of seduction, and weaken or supersede the heaven-imprinted instincts of maternal love and responsibility."

Heaven help the poor man; if he can possibly imagine that the difficulties of seduction are diminished by the existence of an asylum for the miserable fruits of an illicit intercourse, he must be credulous, indeed; as if the libertine, or the unchaste, were ever deterred from the gratification of their lusts, by the consideration of the necessity of providing for their offspring.

—quis enim modus adsit amori?

No. The existence of the establishment to which we allude, has, or can have, no other operation than to diminish the crime of child-murder, by diminishing the temptation. As to maternal love—heaven-imprinted instinct—we presume to offer no opinion. We admit that it is an evil, that mothers should abandon their children. But there is a greater evil than this under the sun, and that is, Infanticide,—for specimens of which, the Editor of the *Witness* would do well to refer to the criminal statistics of Great Britain, and more especially of puritanical Scotland. We tell the Editor of the *Witness*, and those who, like him, would fain destroy, if possible, our Catholic Asylums,—those glorious creations of catholicity,—that the Protestants of Canada are very glad to avail themselves of them. Nor do we blame them if their consciences, upon this point, are very elastic. For instance. We were applied to, a short time ago, by a Rev. Gentleman, whose name appears as one of the members of the French Canadian Missionary Society, to give him information as to what steps should be taken, by a female of his congregation, in order that she might leave in the hands of the Nuns, her illegitimate child. Desirous to return to the paths of virtue, this poor girl found her restoration rendered extremely difficult by the continual presence of the pledge that she bore about with her, of her folly, and of her crime. The Rev. Gentleman desired to know, what precautions should be taken so that the mother might, if she wished, at some future day, reclaim her child. We told the Rev. gentleman alluded to, what was necessary to be done in her case, but cannot say whether he availed himself or not, of the information thus afforded. We mention this, not from any desire to cause annoyance to a gentleman we highly respect, and who, we are sure, was actuated by the purest of motives, but merely to show that there are Protestant Clergymen who believe that, in certain cases, a mother may do well in making over to others, the care of her child, and that he at least, though a "fellow-labourer," did not agree in opinion with the Editor of the *Witness*, as to the danger to which the child would have been exposed. For surely a clergyman would not for a moment entertain the idea of entrusting the child of one of his congregation to an asylum where, "in a fearful majority of cases, the children are consigned to an early—to a very early grave." We think the Rev. Gentleman was not mistaken; and until we see some better arguments against our opinion than those adduced by the Editor of the *Witness*, we shall still believe that it is better that these little infants should be left at a Nunnery door, than that they should be stuck down privies, which is too often the mode of disposing of illegitimate children in England;—that it is better that our Parliament should pass acts, securing to a few religious societies the peaceable enjoyment of their property, than that it should be compelled, as was the Scotch Parliament, towards the latter of the seventeenth century to pass

* Would we form a correct estimate of the amount of the mortality among the children at the Grey Nunnery, we should compare it with the mortality in similar institutions.

In the Findelanstalt, or Foundling Hospital, at Vienna, established by Joseph II. in 1784—for the 54 years, ending 1838, the average mortality was 79.86, or nearly 80 per cent. This establishment was often visited by the Emperor; and in most cases the children were nursed by their own mothers.

fresh and more stringent acts against the rapidly increasing crime of child-murder,—a crime continually increasing in Scotland, in spite of the facilities with which marriage was contracted, or rather, not to profane the sacred word, marriage, and to call things by their right names—in spite of the facilities with which concubinage was legitimized. And we shall still think that it is better that the eyes of the Editor of the *Witness* should be offended by the sight of the "stately cloisters" of the Grey Nunnery, than that the eyes of the whole community should be shocked by the spectacle of a mother who confesses to the deliberate murder of six infants successively, by applying arsenic, or some arsenical preparation, to her nipples, as lately occurred in England; or by the sight of the sumptuous establishments for the purpose of procuring abortions, which exist in neighbouring countries. We pass over, for the present, this writer's remarks upon the tenure by which the gentlemen of the Seminary of Montreal hold their property, merely observing, that his ideas of what is legal, seem to be as confused as his notions of what is equitable; and that it could not have been through ignorance that he marked down the revenue of the Seminary at £30,000, because, by a statement lately published in the *Pilot*, it was clearly shown that it barely amounted to £15,000. Neither will we, at present, enter upon the question of Canadian pauperism, its causes, its extent, or the manner by which it is provided for without being burdensome to the community. This must stand over to another day. With one statement of the *Witness* we fully concur. It is very true that Lying Legends, which a boy of common sense, six years old, would reject with scorn, are attempted to be imposed upon the French Canadian habitants—not by the Catholic Clergy, but by the agents for a certain Evangelical Society, whose *Records*, in a future number, we may, perhaps, take the liberty of overhauling.

PROTESTANT TESTIMONIES TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

(From the Halifax Cross.)

[In the *New Orleans Weekly Picayune* of May 27th, 1850, we find a sermon, "delivered in the first congregational Church New Orleans, on Dec. 23rd., 1849, by the Rev. Theodore Clapp"—a sermon remarkable in many points of view, but especially for the admissions made by the preacher as to the contrast between the Catholic Church and the various sects of Protestantism. Our readers, we are certain, will thank us for the following extracts. After a noble tribute to the good deeds of the Sisters of Charity, the preacher proceeds:—]

"Indeed, the Roman Catholic Church is infinitely superior to any Protestant denomination in its provision of charity and mercy for the poor. They labour to inspire the poorest and most forlorn with the hopes of religion. This very morning, if you were in St. Peter's Church at Rome (large enough to hold all the congregations of this city,) you would see the poorest and most obscure persons kneeling on that glorious pavement, by the side of the most noble, princely, and exalted inhabitants of that city. In that cathedral there is no place assigned for the exclusive use of fashionable people. All meet on the same level as the children of one common Father; as dependant on the same pardoning mercy; as travellers to the same grave; as partakers of the same promises, and heirs of the same immortal glory. Throughout Catholic Europe the doors of the churches are kept open day and night. Then at any hour of the day, the forsaken outcast, on whom the world has ceased to smile, can go, and falling down before the altar of his God, feel supported by the sublime faith that he has in Heaven a better and everlasting inheritance. I may say, that Catholic churches are the homes of the poor. In countries enjoying this form of Christianity, the most fallen are incomparably less degraded than the worst in Protestant lands.

"Then, they all, without distinction, participate of the sacraments of religion. No one is permitted to die without the rites of the Church. So it should be. Do you know what is the nature of that last benediction, which the Priest pronounces over the dying man? It runs, if I have been correctly informed, in a strain somewhat as the following:—'Go forth, O thou immortal spirit, in the name of the Father, who created thee, in the name of the Son, who died to redeem thee, and in the name of the Holy Spirit, who has sanctified thee; and when thou leavest the body, may the resplendent multitude of angels greet thee; may the spirits of the just, clad in their white robes, embrace thee, and conduct thee to the mansions of the blessed.' Could there be anything more appropriate; more thrilling, more beautiful and sublime? But with us, the poor die without a Clergyman, without a prayer, without any recognition of their immortality, as if they were about to lie down with kindred brutes in the same ditch, to exist no more forever.

"No Protestant denomination, with the exception of the Methodist, has done anything worth mentioning for the poor. This remark was once made by a distinguished prelate of the English Church. In our northern cities, New York, &c., there is an actual rivalry as to which church shall be most exclusive; and no one congregation has erected a separate building for the poor. Churches are constructed on purpose to shut out the poor. The pews are sold, like the

boxes of a theatre, to the highest bidder. The poor can never enter there. Oh, what a commentary on the degeneracy of our times! After spending the week in folly and dissipation, the noble among us enter a fashionable place of worship on the Lord's Day morning, merely to gratify the love of display, to indulge that poor, mean, pitiful vanity, which one act of true religious worship would annihilate for ever. I do not know where all would end. But I do know that Protestantism will soon go down to the dust and darkness of death, unless it changes its entire ecclesiastical plans and politics. Eternal honor be to the Roman Catholic Church, for practically observing the distinctive precept of our religion, to remember and bless the poor."

There is at present in Montreal a visitor from the Holy Land, in the person of the Rev. Father Flavians, a Maronite Monk of Mount Lebanon, whose Convent was, some years ago, destroyed by the Druses, and who now visits the new world on a mission to collect the means of rebuilding it. He celebrated mass, according to the Greek Catholic rites, in the St. Patrick's Church, on Wednesday morning; in the Bonsecours Church on Thursday morning; in the Recollect Church, this morning, Friday; and tomorrow morning he will celebrate mass in the St. Pierre Chapel, Quebec Suburbs.

NEWS BY THE PACIFIC.

Beyond the Battle of Idstedt, is of very little importance.

DENMARK AND THE DUCHIES.

Battle of Idstedt—Great Slaughter of the Schleswig Holstein Army—Entrance of the Danes into Schleswig.

Schleswig, Thursday, July 25.

"The anticipated battle commenced this morning, at three o'clock, with an attack by the Danes on both wings of the Schleswig Holstein army.—The Danes did not at first succeed in obtaining any advantage, but in a short time they began to gain ground, where they attempted to establish themselves, but were driven back so far by a gallant charge of the rifles and infantry, that no further attack was made from this quarter. On the right wing they were so warmly received by the Schleswig Holsteiners that they could not succeed in gaining a single inch of ground. After this attack on both wings had continued for two or three hours, the Danes made an onslaught with infantry, cavalry, and artillery at the same time. The Schleswig Holstein light infantry retired behind the main position near Idstedt, where the advancing Danes were received with a shower of balls from the fortifications thrown up there, which compelled them to retire a little.

The Holsteiners again rushed to the centre, and with such vivacity that the Danes were soon obliged to retreat *en masse* into a poplar wood.—This manoeuvre was twice repeated, and twice was our main position on the right wing and centre attacked by the Danes. On the left wing a mere skirmishing fire was only carried on. The battle had by this time continued for nearly eight hours, and between 10 and 11 o'clock it seemed certain that the result would not be otherwise than favorable to us. But just at this time it became apparent that the Danes had concentrated their whole force for a main attack on our centre and right wing. From the eminence where I stood, I could distinctly see the whole Danish Infantry debouch from the poplar wood, and form line directly opposite the Schleswig Holstein force, bringing up at the same time several new batteries of field artillery. I could also distinctly see the fatigued and worn out troops relieved by fresh battalions. Gen. Willisen also caused his reserve batteries to be brought forward as well as the cavalry, which had as yet been but partially engaged; and about 11 o'clock a most fearful cannonade commenced on both sides, which was kept up on the part of Schleswig Holsteiners with great obstinacy for two hours and a half, although the enemy's guns were larger and more numerous. Individual instances of courage were shown that would appear almost incredible.

"A small battery of 12 pounders, charged right into the thickest of the enemy's fire, posted itself at half distance, and greeted the Danes with repeated discharges. It was, however, soon obliged to retire in order to avoid a charge of cavalry. The most determined courage of the whole army was, however, of no avail against the superior force the Danes at this time brought into action. Shortly after this, the mournful news came that the Danes had broken through our centre. Under such circumstances there was no other alternative than a retreat, which immediately ensued. General Willisen gave the necessary orders, and the brave little army saw itself compelled to retire from the field of battle, the General himself being among the last to leave.

"The battle of Idstedt will take its place in history as one of the most sanguinary battles on record. On both sides the loss has been immense; but the Danes must have suffered most, otherwise, with their great numerical superiority, they would not have remained upon the field of battle. They cannot have numbered less than 45,000 to 50,000 men, according to the statement of the prisoners who, 400 in number, were removed, first to Schleswig, then to Rendsburg. Swedes and Norwegians are said to be among the number, in Danish uniforms.—Report says that not a single staff officer of the Schleswig-Holstein army has been wounded. Of one battalion of Jagers only two officers and 400 men remain. Many other battalions have been fearfully cut up. Of the artillery only one gun is missing.

NEWS BY THE NIAGARA.

It is expected that the Imperial Parliament will be prorogued about the middle of this month, by Her

Majesty in person, after which the Royal Family will proceed to Scotland.

Much excitement still prevails, as to whether the Baron Rothschild will be permitted to take his seat in the House of Commons, as member for London upon taking the oaths upon the Old Testament only.

The defeat of the Schleswig army seems to have been owing to a deficiency of ammunition. Their retreat was conducted in good order, and it is likely that they will soon be able to resume offensive operations.

The Greek question has been amicably settled. The necessary documents were signed on the 18th ult.

HE WOULD NOT BE A PEER.—Few acts of Sir Robert Peel's career have occasioned more speculative curiosity than his posthumously published wish, that none of his family should accept a title as the reward of services rendered by himself. The Conservative *Post* seeks an explanation of the 'strange wish,' in the character and achievements of the statesman. He was from the first destined to be a 'Member of Parliament,' and trained for that post; he fell into the project, and threw all his energies into it; all his triumphs were in the House of Commons; he declined opportunities of being called to the Upper House, because he knew where the true field of his genius lay; he desired thoroughly to identify himself with the House,—a ruling passion which he did not conceal; and 'this last act caps the rest.' There is some truth in this, and, as the *Post* says, it helps to explain Sir Robert's wish without the extravagant assumption that he was solely actuated by humility or was devoid of ambition. Peel was ambitious, and he was fond of power; but his ambition was not of the kind that desires to figure in stage pageants—the 'low ambition and the pride of kings.' The power which he considered was real, not affected power. He liked to feel that he was doing something when he moved; and he preferred to do for some beneficial end, especially the service of his country. He liked distinction, but his affections were bound to realities, not semblances. He had no sympathy with Elliston's self-illusion, brought on by the parade and strut of royalty on gala days, which made the inflated actor reward the loyally applauding audience of Drury Lane with the paternal benediction 'Bless ye, my people!' Peel valued power for its real potency; he knew that he was more powerful than a king or a lord, and he liked to feel it. It was not only because he was better suited to the House of Commons than he affected that assembly, but more because he saw that there lay the centre of power in England. It would seem that, as a provident and sagacious man, he desired to bind closer the ties of his family with the industrious classes rather than with the titular aristocracy. But there can be little doubt that the desire which survived him had another motive. It will now be remembered how, amid the general grasping for profit and honors, he abstained. He said nothing—but what must he have thought of a Buckingham snatching at a blue riband, or of a Campbell greedy for verbal augmentatives? Although official corruption, of the grosser kind, has probably shrunk before the advance of knowledge until it may be deemed nonexistent, the spirit of mere utilitarianism has scarcely yet had its reaction among the official and office-seeking classes; the public service is now sought in the trading spirit of self-interest: the poor man looks for subsistence, the rich for dignity; patriotism is now deemed rather Quixotic. Such sentiments especially prevail among the Liberals; the lavish distribution of place and title, the contrivance, the jobbing, have distinguished the 'popular' party. Peel grew Liberal without acquiring the disease of Liberalism. He was even the means of 'doing justice' to the claims of his own supporters and coadjutors: for himself he took nothing; it would have diminished his power, it would have lessened his usefulness; it would have obscured his fame to posterity. He has shielded his own name from the contempt which he must have felt at times when 'low ambition' attained its satisfaction.—*News of the World.*

AFFAIRS AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.—President Fillmore has issued his first Message to Congress. The occasion of it is as follows:—The Governor of the State of Texas dispatched a special commissioner with orders to extend the civil jurisdiction of that State over the portion of the Territory of New Mexico which lies east of the Rio Grande. This is part of the Territory lately acquired from Mexico, and is in dispute between the United States and the State of Texas. President Fillmore in a dignified manner insists that Texas shall not be permitted to infringe the Territory of the United States, nor to extend her laws beyond her own boundaries. At the same time, he does not decide absolutely as to what is the proper boundary between New Mexico and Texas. He calls upon Congress to settle this question at once, and not to refer it, as has been proposed, either to the Supreme Court or to special Commissioners. He says that Congress has already all the facts of the case in its possession, and should settle it at once. He, at the same time, recommends that, in case the claim of Texas should be found valid to any portion of this territory, Congress should grant that State a fair remuneration for the part so belonging of right to it. The entire Message is equally firm and conciliatory.—*N. Y. Freeman's Journal.*

The Honorable Francis Hincks is gazetted to be the Crown Member and Chairman of the Endowment Board of the University of Toronto, and Upper Canada College and Royal Grammar School.—*Herald.*

WEATHER, CROPS AND MARKETS.—We regret to hear that in the northern and western townships that much of the wheat crop on account of the prevalence of wet weather, has grown in the stock. We allude to Blenheim, Wilmot, Waterloo, Woolwich, Eramosa and Esquimaux. Dumfries and Beavary are comparatively free from this misfortune. The green crops progress favorably, and in some places a good deal has been cut.—Markets are unchanged here, wheat being six York shillings a bushel, and very little coming in to the mills.—*Galt Reformer.*

We understand that the Commissioner of Customs has instructed the Collector of this District that hereafter no property will be permitted to be inspected, and no vessel unloaded from foreign ports at any place in this District, except at the port of Buffalo; thus shutting the ports of Tonawanda, Black Rock, Barcelona and Dunkirk, against any commerce with Canada.—*Buffalo Courier.*