

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1870.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

SEPTEMBER—1870.

Friday, 16—St. Cornelius and Cyprian, MM. Saturday, 17—Stigmata of St. Francis, C. Sunday, 18—Fifteenth after Pentecost. Monday, 19—St. Januarius and Comp., MM. Tuesday, 20—Vigil. St. Eustachius and Comp., MM. Wednesday, 21—Ember Day. St. Matthew, Ap. Thursday, 22—St. Thomas of Villanova.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Immediately after the surrender of the Emperor, and the army of Marshal McMahon at Sedan, the Prussians resumed their advance upon Paris, before which City they may be expected to arrive before these lines meet the eyes of our readers. There is no French army in the field to oppose their progress, nor any fortified places in the way, to impede their march.

Of the state of Paris we receive contradictory accounts. If on the one hand we are assured that its defences are almost impregnable, on the other hand we are told that there are neither guns in sufficient numbers to arm them, nor men to man them. With a large army in the field, menacing the communications of the attacking force, Paris might perhaps make an effective resistance to its enemies, or at all events detain them before its walls, till operations outside should compel the besiegers to retreat. But unfortunately, it does not seem that France has any organized army left that she can rely upon. She has men, and these men are full of valor, and patriotic enthusiasm; but they are as yet undisciplined, and ill furnished with material.

Under these circumstances we may expect an armistice and capitulation. We do not think that any government would expose Paris to the horrors of a bombardment. Paris is in one sense the capital not of France merely, but of Europe, but of the civilized world. In the material order she is almost what Rome is in the religious or spiritual order. In her very greatness lies her weakness. She is so rich in art-treasures, in the accumulated wealth of all ages, and of all lands, whose destruction would be a loss irreparable, a loss that all future generations would deplore—that the men who hold her destinies in their hands may well without any imputation on their patriotism, or their courage shrink from exposing these treasures to destruction from shot, and shell, and the indiscriminating fury of the flames. We think therefore that Paris will not fight, but surrender on such terms as the present Government may be able to obtain from its assailants. The Parisians are described in such reports as reach us, as anxious, and somewhat cast down. Their traditional insolence and reckless gaiety have left them; and though during the terrible days of the first Revolution the theatres were open, and were nightly thronged as usual, though then the disposition of the City was not checked—now in this supreme moment all places of amusement are closed, or deserted, and a deep gloom has settled over the capital where pleasure held but the other day its favorite court.

The Republic has been accepted throughout France; not a voice has been raised in behalf of the fallen Emperor. The political prisoners under the late regime, many of them scoundrels of deepest dye, have all been enlarged and carried in triumph by the fickle populace; and the malignant Rochefort finds himself to his own surprise, and to the disgust of the civilized world, a member of the Government. What manner of a Government it is, and in what light Catholics must regard it, may be gathered from the fact that Garibaldi has tendered to it his services.

What conditions Prussia may be willing to impose as the price of peace we know not. It is generally reported that these conditions will comprise the cession by France of Alsace and Lorraine to the Germanic Empire now in its birth throes; other accounts give out that

Prussia will be content with the surrender to it of Strasbourg, and Metz, but this latter implies a considerable rectification of the French frontier, and a surrender of territory to which the French will not long submit. It is also said that, alarmed at the probable aggrandisement of its powerful and ambitious neighbor, Russia is preparing to interfere in the struggle and in behalf of France. This may very probably be true, and if so will lead to strange complications. No doubt were Russia to interfere effectively to obtain better terms for France, it would be on the tacit, if not expressed understanding that it, in so far as France is concerned, should henceforward, be left free to pursue its aggressive policy towards the Turk. Russia cares more for Constantinople than it does for Paris. As yet however Prussia has indignantly refused all offers of mediation; and though it does not seem that any such offers have been formally made on the part of Great Britain, the German press has given it plainly to be understood that any such offers would be scornfully rejected. We are informed too that the U. States have offered to mediate betwixt the contending parties; but flushed with triumph as the Prussians are, and justly proud of their army, we do not think that they will refrain from the pleasure of dictating the terms of peace beneath the walls of Paris.

Meantime, deeming that this is their hour, the demons of the Revolution, the obscene vultures, and carrion crows of Democracy are hovering and uttering their discordant screechings over the City of Rome, as if it and its Pontiff had already been given to them for a prey.—The Piedmontese Government announces its design of transferring its seat from Florence to Rome, and this is perhaps no empty boast.—The Pope alone appears unmoved in the midst of the turmoil. His mind is made up, and no unworthy concessions will ever be made by him. At the worst his enemies can but kill him on the steps of the altar, but after that they will have no more that they can do. We may be sure therefore that though there is no assurance that the saintly Pius be not murdered, he will never make any the slightest concession to his enemies, that he will never surrender or barter away the slightest of the rights of the Holy See. Catholics therefore are not alarmed, nor is their faith in the promises of Christ shaken. True: He never promised His Church or His pastors immunity from persecution, or from martyrdom for His sake; but we have seen how He deals in His own good time with the persecutors: we have witnessed the fate of Cavour; and even now we have before our eyes the spectacle of the ignominious fall of him who first let loose the hell hounds of the Revolution in Italy, and who sanctioned, if he did not instigate, the robberies of Victor Emmanuel. Yes! He who brought these troubles upon the Holy Father has been hurled from his throne, whilst the old man unarmed still sits in the Chair of Peter. Well would it be for Victor Emmanuel were he to pause ere it be too late in his sacrilegious designs upon Rome and God's Vicar on earth! The cup of his iniquities is nearly full; and perhaps before Christmas the name of that bloated debauchee may be added to the list of unthroned and degraded monarchs.

The telegram reports that the splendid British ironclad ship *Captain* has been lost with all hands on board, in number about 500 persons. No particulars are given, but we learn that amongst those who have perished are, Captain Coles, Lord Northbrook, and a son of Mr. Childers, first Lord of the Admiralty. The advance of the Prussians upon Paris has been retarded by heavy rains—just such rains as in September 1792, brought their invasion of France, and proposed capture of its capital to a disastrous issue. Marshal Bazaine had, it is said—succeeded in cutting his way out of Metz, and was marching towards Paris. The Provisional Government is straining every nerve for the defence of the City and the reorganization of the army; it expects to be able to put in the field some 300,000 men, including troops of the line, the national guards, and the Garde Mobile.

The King of Prussia refuses to recognise or communicate with the Provisional Government; he will only treat with persons appointed by the late Imperial authorities. The Empress Eugenie has joined her son in England, and both are living at Hastings. There seems to be no doubt that the Piedmontese Government is preparing to attack Rome. A *casus belli* with the Sovereign Pontiff it cannot so much as pretend to have; and if this brutal attack of a weak Power by a strong one, be allowed to proceed, there can be no security for peace or order in Europe. The possession of Rome and the Papal States may be coveted by Piedmont; but if this can excuse its aggression on the former, the U. States have an equally good excuse for invading Canada, and taking possession of Quebec and Montreal.

We give below the latest telegrams from the seat of war:— LONDON, Sept. 12.—The siege of Paris may now be said to have fairly commenced.

The Prussian forces in detachments form a semi-circle around Paris at a distance of about 25 miles. In this position the army has been halted at the firm request of the Prussian Ministers in order that King William and Count Bismarck may consider the proposition for an armistice emanating from Austria and Russia.

A Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—A stubborn defence of Paris is certain if the city is besieged. The idea that the Prussians will walk in without difficulty is an entirely mistaken one.

Paris remains tranquil, and the inhabitants are firm in the belief that the city can be defended. The roads leading to the city are all closed, and no more provisions are going in.—What the city now contains must prove sufficient for the emergency, or the Prussians will in a few weeks walk triumphantly through the streets.

Garibaldi is expected at Paris. Verdun continues to hold out against the enemy. At Montmedy on Thursday the garrison splendidly repulsed a Prussian attack.

A special to the *Herald*, dated Paris, Sept. 11th, says:—The Prussians entered Laon yesterday. Shortly after their entrance the magazine exploded blowing up a portion of the citadel. The Prussian staff and several hundred soldiers were killed.

The fortress of Thionville still holds out. The garrison makes frequent sorties.

The defence of Metz still continues, Marshal Bazaine being well provided with provisions and ammunition.

A special to the *World*, dated Ostend, says: The *Morgen Zeitung*, of Hesse Cassel, gives particulars of the Emperor Napoleon at Cassel. He was accompanied by Gen. Felix Douay and Lebrun as prisoners on parole, and by a brilliant staff of French officers.

The Prussian civil and military authorities of Hesse, in full uniform, received him at the station with a company of Prussian infantry as a guard of honor, a squad of hussars keeping back the people.

The Emperor, who was received with an Imperial salute, wore the uniform of a Lieutenant-General, but no sword. His breast was covered with orders, and he wore an undress scarlet kepi. He is corpulent and looked very gray, but browned in complexion and well.

As he stepped out of his royal railway carriage on the platform, the drums beat and the guard presented arms.

By order of King William two chamberlains of the Court of Prussia are in attendance upon the Emperor.

Latest intelligence from Prussian headquarters is that in reply to a proposition made through the Austrian Legation, King William declares that he will listen to propositions of peace only in the Tuileries, and from the Imperial Government of France.

The war has entered upon a new phase.—Hitherto, that is until the declaration of the Republic in France, it has been a war betwixt Kings and Emperors; now, if continued, it will be a war betwixt Kings and Peoples.

Republicanism is catching. The disease having broken out in France, we may naturally expect that it will spread; that Spain will take it, that Italy will take it, and very probably that Germany, in spite of the momentary popularity of the King, and even of Bismarck, may take it. A "Germanic Empire"—will probably be but the prelude to a Germanic Republic.

Thus the war may be regarded merely an incident, or episode in a terrible epic which we call *par excellence* "The Revolution." It, the war, may have been provoked by the ambition of Princes; with the view on one side, of perpetuating a dynasty; on the other side, of exchanging the title of King for that of Emperor; but its probable result will be that both Emperor, and King shall ere long be members of the illustrious company of monarchs retired from business, and that the Peoples will take the business of peace and war into their own hands.

It is in this light that we read the address of the Working men of Paris to their brothers in Germany. It is an appeal to the principles of social democracy common to both; and as the democratic spirit is strong in Germany, and as Socialistic doctrines are there rife amongst the working classes, this appeal may not be altogether in vain. In substance it says—Are we not brothers? Are not Emperors, and Kings, and Capitalists, and all *calotte* men generally, our natural and common enemies? Why then should we continue cutting one another's throats, when by union we might avenge our wrongs, and redress the balance betwixt ourselves, and the rich, our oppressors from time immemorial?

So long as he was fighting against Imperial France, the King of Prussia had with him the sympathies of his people, of all the Germanic people it may be said: will that sympathy be extended to him, should he continue the war

with Republican France, with democratic France? We doubt it. For a short time longer the hereditary hatred of the two races, the remembrance of wrongs inflicted and of insults endured, may prolong the contest; but we certainly expect that the democratic and socialistic sympathies of the two peoples will soon prove more than a match for ethnological antipathies. The France which has just erected a statue to Voltaire, should certainly be received with a loving embrace—*une accolade fraternelle*—by the Prussia which the other day erected a statue to Luther.

Certainly the lately proclaimed rulers of Republican France are men against whom German democracy can entertain no prejudices. If we except Gen. Trochu who is reputed to be a good and sincere Christian as well as a brave and skilful soldier, the men to whose hands the destinies of France are entrusted, are well known infidels, and extreme democrats. Even the *Witness* to whom these men are warmly commended by their well known hatred of the Catholic Church, can find nothing better to say of them than this—That this man is a Protestant or non-Catholic; that man a Jew or non-Christian; and of the others that they "respect," not profess even but, "respect Christianity." So also Robespierre and his colleagues respected God; in fact they looked upon him as a very respectable party indeed, and inaugurated a *fete* in honor of *L'Étre Suprême*.

Small cause therefore have Catholics to rejoice over the late political changes in France. They are changes for the worse; for Louis Napoleon though in his time he did much evil to the Pope, was moved rather thereunto by dread of the Revolution, than by his own feelings. The present rulers of France need no stirring up, for they are as thoroughly anti-Catholics as the bitterest bigot of Exeter Hall can desire. Still we must remember that it was the French Republic—not Louis Napoleon, that directed the first expedition against Rome, and purged the Holy City of the impure horde that defiled the sacred places; and it is not impossible that the Catholic party in France may yet be numerous and influential enough, to control, and keep in abeyance the strong anti-Catholic proclivities of the members of the provisional government.

Humanly speaking the Papacy would seem to be at the last extremity. Its enemies assail it on all sides, and already their songs of triumph are heard. But the end is not yet; and though there be none other than One who fighteth for us and the Church which He founded, yet He is a strong ally, and with His mighty right arm He has ere now, many a time and oft defeated the plots of the enemy, and made of them the wonder and derision of the world. Three years ago, who would have ventured to predict that Pius IX. would be Sovereign in Rome, when Louis Napoleon was a prisoner, and in exile? Dark then and heavy as are the clouds which now menace the Church and European society, Catholics can await the bursting of the storm without fears for the result. The storm will pass over; when the sky shall clear it will no doubt appear that many mighty ones have been hurled down from their seats; but amidst the general wreck we may be sure that the Rock will still stand in its old place; erect, unshaken, and a witness to generations yet to come, that the gates of hell shall never prevail against it.

We would warn our readers against giving any credit to the many sensational stories sent across the ocean from occasional correspondents and others; such, for instance, as that the Empress Eugenie reviled her husband as a coward, when she heard of his surrender; that the King of Prussia behaved like a brute to his prisoner at the interview betwixt them, threatening to shoot him; that Louis Napoleon waged war to conceal his frauds on the Treasury; that the late Empress addressed a letter in her own hand to Queen Victoria, imploring the mediation of the latter. This, and a lot of stuff of the kind, is printed, but rests on no solid foundation whatsoever.

For Louis Napoleon it may be observed that his state of health was such as to render it almost physically impossible for him to sit a horse for any length of time. The man has many sins to answer for no doubt, but he should not be reviled as a coward.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The siege, or rather blockade of Paris by Henry IV., to which you allude, occurred in 1590. It was during this celebrated siege that the citizens, reduced to the utmost extremity by the scarcity of provisions, had recourse to the horrid expedient of digging up the dead from the church-yards; and from a sort of powder made by grinding or pulverizing the bones of the corpses therein deposited, they concocted a sort of paste or bread, with which in vain they sought to prolong their lives. Almost all who partook of this hideous food died, and upwards of thirteen thousand persons are said to have perished from famine in Paris.

The fly disease in cattle has appeared around Mount Forest, and farmers are alarmed.

Some time ago the Montreal *Witness* published a list of names of persons, residents of Montreal, who, so that journal announced, had been marvellously enlightened to see the errors of Popery, and strongly persuaded to "embrace the truth as it is in Jesus." As we know that by going the rounds of the low grogeries and houses of ill-fame, it is an easy task to find amongst the frequenters of these institutions any number of "brands" ready for a consideration, or for the mere fun of the thing, to announce their abhorrence of Popery—in which they are no doubt in earnest since Popery abhors them and their doings—we only laughed, as did other Catholics, at the sight of the *Witness*' list of precious converts to "the truth as it is, &c., &c., &c.;" nor should we condescend to revert to the matter but for a communication that we have just received, and which exposes in a striking manner the dishonest artifices of the *Witness* and its allies.

The writer, Victor McBeth, to his surprise found his name down in the list published by the *Witness*. Naturally ashamed of finding his name in such company, he wrote to the Editor of the *Witness*, asking on what authority the latter had presumed to set him down as a convert; and calling on him, the Editor of the *Witness*, to make reparation by inserting in his columns a contradiction of the insulting and lying statement to which the *Witness* of the 27th August had given circulation.

This demand the Editor of the Montreal *Witness*, true to his antecedents, and to his evangelical principles, refused to do, as it seems from our correspondent's letter which we publish below:—

(To the Editor of the True Witness.)

Sir,—On the 27th of August there appeared in the columns of the Montreal *Daily Witness* a list of names that had left the Roman Catholic, to join the French Protestant Church (Chapin's). Looking over the list, I happened to see my name. I then wrote to the Editor of the *Daily Witness*, asking him whose authority he had to use my name for such a purpose. I also asked him to publish my letter denying that I belonged to that Church, but he did not seem to like to give me satisfaction. But I now respectfully ask you to publish this, so as to give my friends and myself the satisfaction that I never entertained the least idea of leaving the Church to which I belong, which is the Roman Catholic Church.

Hoping that you will give me justice, I remain yours most respectfully,

Victor McBeth.

Montreal, P.Q., Sept. 7, 1870.

THE GUIBORD CASE.—The Court of Review has pronounced judgment in this case, instituted by the *Institut Canadien* to compel the giving of ecclesiastical sepulture to one of its members who died last November. His Honor Judge Mondelet, before whom the case was argued in the first instance, gave judgment in favor of the *Institut* and against the ecclesiastical authorities; but on Saturday last this judgment was *unanimously* reversed by the Court of Review. This is a great triumph for the cause of religious liberty. In our next we will give the judgment.

PROCESSION.—On Sunday last, at the hour of Vespers, there was a grand Procession headed by Monseigneur, the Bishop of Montreal, and attended by all the Clergy, the members of the Religious Communities, of the several educational establishments of the City, and the faithful generally, in honor of the Blessed Virgin, with the object of imploring her powerful intercession to obtain a cessation of the cruel war now devastating some of the fairest portions of Europe, and the deliverance of the Holy See from the perils which seem to menace it. A discourse was also delivered on this subject by the venerable Bishop, and after Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament the Procession dispersed.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS.—We publish below a list of the young Ladies who were enrolled, Thursday, 8th, Feast of the Nativity of the B. Virgin Mary, into the illustrious *Congregation de Notre Dame*. His Lordship, the Bishop of Montreal, officiated on the occasion, and addressed a few eloquent and touching words to the postulants on the duties and obligations of the holy state which they were about entering.

PROFESSED.

Sisters—Elizabeth D. Murphy, dite St. Mary Edward; Denise Chatillon, dite Ste. Denise; Marie C. Michaud, dite Ste. Irene; Elizabeth Leroux, dite Ste. Lea; M. Virginie Puro, dite Ste. Marie Hubert; Josephine Dupont, dite St. Olympinde; Leonille Bouchard, dite Ste. Zite; Adolina Bellemare, dite St. Raphael; Virginie McMullin, dite Ste. Amelie; Josephine Lacasse, dite St. Victorien.

ASSUMED THE HABIT.

Sisters—Hermine Pouliot, dite St. Servule; Helene Fitzpatrick, dite St. Philippe de Jesus; Aurelie Fournier, dite St. Thomas de Ville-neuve; Esther Durney, dite St. Jean Gualbert; Jeanne Costello, dite Ste. Petronille.

A "gentleman of the press" at Hamilton, bragged that no man could pick his pocket of a coat without his knowing it. An expert light-fingered listener at once diligently searched all the best's pockets and owned the vaunt was justified—there wasn't a cent in them.