

THE TRUE WITNESS

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY The Post Printing & Publishing Company

761 CRAIG ST., Montreal, Canada.

Subscription, per annum, \$1.50 If paid strictly in advance, \$1.00

TO ADVERTISERS: A limited number of advertisements of approved character will be inserted in 'THE TRUE WITNESS' for 15c per line (agate), first insertion, 10c per line for subsequent insertions.

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THE POST PRINTING & PUBLISHING COMPANY: MONTREAL, CANADA.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1884

CATHOLIC CALENDAR

THURSDAY 1.-St. Philip and James, Apostles. Cons. Bps. Spalding, Peoria, 1877, Janssens, Natchez, 1881. FRIDAY 2.-St. Athanasius, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor of the Church.

My dear boy," said an old Ottawa politician, "you may talk principles on the stump, but don't, don't try it on in Parliament." Says, but unsavory advice for political moralists.

Out of 6,293 bills passed since Confederation only 32 have been disallowed. But out of these 32, Manitoba and British Columbia count 19 or nearly 33 per cent, and that's where the shoe pinches the foot of Western Progress.

Oratory this season in the Dominion Parliament was on the side of the Opposition. Mr. Blake made four brilliant speeches, the most magnificent of which was on the Orange question, which The Post has published in pamphlet form.

Both the English and French press oppose the extraordinary clauses in the bill relating to Quebec taxation. The ancient capital forgets we are living in the nineteenth century. It has not yet awakened from its Municipal Rip Van Winkle sleep.

The Toronto World, whose obituary we regretfully published a short time ago, did not, after all, give up the ghost for good; it has been in a trance only. On Saturday morning last it awoke as fresh and vigorous as ever. We welcome its reappearance with pleasure, and wish it a long and certain tenure of life.

The exports from Great Britain to Canada are falling off. This cannot fail to make itself felt in a healthier and more active trade within the Dominion. In the quarter ending March, the value of exports from Great Britain were \$6,014,560 against \$8,897,515, a decrease of \$2,883,000 or about 33 per cent. The National Policy is making itself felt.

The United States Senate has before it a bill to make null and void any agreement to import foreign laborers for the purpose of breaking down the price of wages. Every master of a vessel will be fined \$1,000 for bringing an alien under such an agreement. Our readers will remember the trouble the importation of glass blowers from France gave some months ago.

A Canadian gentleman writing to a friend in this city says, in regard to woman's right to vote: "In Wyoming it looks to me like this: a man who has a wife controls two votes instead of one, and as many more as he has grown-up daughters." A large family of girls must be a blessing to a Wyoming politician, as sons are apt to kick over the traces and vote as they have a mind to.

If Lord Carnarvon and the Marquis of Lorne would devote a small portion of their elegant leisure to reading the Canadian press they would find that the labor market of Canada is over-stocked. They are doing more injury than good in inducing immigrants to come here. If they would refrain from pointing out Canada's advantages as an immigration field our poor-houses and charitable institutions would not be over-stocked.

Quebec has an income of \$2,428,163 and spends \$3,077,006, leaving a deficit of \$648,843. It receives from the Dominion on account of the recent subsidies \$200,000. To

avoid increased taxation economy is recommended. Since 1873, the cost of legislation, civil government, and the grants for literary, scientific and charitable purposes, have increased from \$495,796 to \$713,180, or nearly 50 per cent. There is abundant room here for the exercise of economy.

Ontario's wheat crop was 16,000,000 bushels short last year. The freight traffic of the Grand Trunk, as a consequence, fell off 205 673 tons, reducing the income \$150,000 as compared with the half-yearly receipts of a corresponding period in 1882. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is paid on the first and second preference and 3 1/2 per cent. on third preference stock. A balance of about \$3,000 is carried forward to the next half-year's account. The passenger traffic improved in the half-year about 8 per cent.

John Bright says that "commercial dishonesty is the besetting sin of the religious world." There is certainly a great deal of laxity in this particular among a certain pharisaical class, and Montreal has its full share. Commodore Vanderbilt used to say: "When a man talks religion to me in business I button my pockets and trade with him on a strictly cash basis." In 99 cases out of a hundred the Commodore is right. Lavater says: "The more honest a man is the less he affects the airs of a saint."

Since confederation about \$43,000,000 of the public funds have been spent in railways, canals and other public works in Ontario and \$41,000,000 in Quebec, making together about \$84,000,000. Nova Scotia got about \$23,000,000, New Brunswick \$25,000,000 and Prince Edward Island \$23,000,000. The Lower Provinces received altogether \$77,000,000, only \$7,000,000 less than Quebec and Ontario, with a population of 3,500,000 to their 800,000, or less than one-fourth. Yet the Lower Provinces say confederation is a failure. They have had the lion's share.

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher says of Manitoba: "Take Winnipeg, for instance; ten years ago there were two houses, to-day it has 20,000 inhabitants, and is as beautiful a city as Chicago, only a good deal cleaner. From out of the North men with strong muscles and stews came forth to capture the South. From out of the North come the cold winds, says the Scripture; from out of the North come men, say I." Carlyle says, "when the snow falls, men children are born." Effeminate youths don't smoke cigars in the teeth of a Manitoba blizzard.

Justice Davis, of the United States, in speaking of divorces, regrets "the ease with which they are procured in many States, and held that the more lax the laws in this respect, the more lightly would unseizable marriages be and the more frequent would be the cases of unhappy unions." A divorce was recently obtained for cold feet, and the latest is a claim by a white woman against her colored husband on the grounds of incompatibility of color. Marriage is not regarded in these times as fate, but merely as an episode.

The malodor of the Toronto Mail is becoming simply revolting. It has lost all character of respectability, and is the unruly terrier of Canadian journalism. Its offensiveness disturbed even the dreams of the Toronto World, which, on the morning of its resurrection, exclaimed:—"That the Mail should conduct its controversy with Archbishop Lynch in a manner repugnant to every person of good taste and right feeling is a matter of course. The Mail is nothing if not violent, vindictive and egotistical. Its conception of the use of language is not the diplomats conception, but the fish-wife's."

The London Advertiser, edited by the Hon. David Mills, has been a phenomenal success in Canada where journals have to struggle long and hard for a foothold. It is now printed on a costly Bullock press which delivers the papers folded, pasted and ready for mail. Dieraald says, "There is nothing great but the personal." Mr. Mills has stamped his personality on Western Ontario in so marked a manner that his journal has become a power in the land independent of the locality in which it is published. He is at present in Ottawa engaged in a new work which he intends publishing during the summer.

The City of Montreal has only one representative in the Provincial Legislature for every 47,000 of its population. Ottawa County has 49,432, Drummond and Arthurs 37,360, and Rimouski 33,791. These counties have the largest basis of representation. There are fourteen constituencies with a population of less than 13,000. Three Rivers and Laval have little over 9,000 each. Leave these two out and we have 12 constituencies with a population not larger than Montreal in 1881, and yet their representation is four times as great. Now, Hochelaga is added, and with natural increase equals the population of 15 electoral districts. Let us have representation by population.

The Montreal Times, a Lower Province paper, thinks The Post is too severe on "blue nose M.P.'s," who obtrude themselves on Parliament and try to clothe in matters that do not concern them. It says:—"Maritime members have just as much right to legitimately express and assert their opinions in regard to Upper Province matters as Upper Province members have to express and assert their opinions concerning Maritime affairs." There is this difference, however, that Upper Provincials never interfere with Maritime affairs, whereas certain Maritime members have more to say in Quebec and Ontario matters than the members from these respective Provinces. Go slow. A man once made a fortune by attending seriously to his own business, but lost it by attending to that of other people. The Lower

Provinces with a population of 800,000, have got out of the Dominion chest since Confederation \$7,000,000, while Ontario and Quebec got only \$4,000,000, with a population of 3,500,000. Let sleeping dogs lie. Quebec and Ontario are quiet, but refrain from too much interference, or they may stop supplies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS: It is seldom, and only in small quantities, that the Associated Press supply the American papers with Canadian news. This should be a reason for sending only accurate and truthful intelligence; but the Montreal correspondent of the Associated Press, who has exceedingly little to do, does that "little" at the expense of truth and justice. The following is a sample of the news he sends our cousins over the border:—

Montreal, April 24.—The Laval University at Quebec and its two affiliated schools of medicine and law have, it is said, been ordered closed by the Pope. It is stated that over \$1,000,000 of church funds have disappeared in keeping the University and its branches here going. The Apostolic delegate, Mgr. Smeulders, who came out especially to investigate the question, is credited with making the recommendation to close up. Archbishop Taschereau of Quebec left to-day for Rome to endeavor to have the mandate of the Vatican rescinded.

In every line of the above despatch there is either a falsehood, a misrepresentation of the facts, or an exhibition of ignorance of the question on which the correspondent attempts to enlighten the American people. The Associated Press should look after their Montreal correspondent and advise him to show more respect for truth, and to hunt up facts.

A COMPLETE BACKDOWN

Our esteemed contemporary, the Daily Witness, professes to have a very poor opinion of the capability of religious orders to teach. We had occasion, on Wednesday last, to review one of its articles, in which it attempted to sneer at and deride the Christian Brothers in their capacity as teachers. The Witness treated the subject with its customary meanness, and produced an article equally offensive and unfair. It pretended that the friars were unable to teach anything but catechism, and that "writing, reading and arithmetic" were of the least consequence with them. To test its sincerity and to prove what amount of faith it had in its ridiculous pretensions, we offered to pit the pupils of the Christian Brothers' schools against the whole Witness staff, with the privilege, if required, of calling in the assistance of the pupils of secular schools. Our contemporary, knowing its statements about the friars to be absolutely untrue, avoids the contest and acknowledges its own inability to meet the well stored minds and bright intelligence of the friars' boys, in the following strain:—

"The Friars have some boys, so the Post tells us, who know their catechism like a book and who would whip the whole Witness establishment in secular learning and that paper logs for the contest—no need; we shall take the Post's word for it. It is well always to have topers, big strawberries to put at the top of the box to make those who wish to do so believe that they are like all the way down. But the proof of the tree is its fruits. 'I tell my son,' said a leading Roman Catholic gentleman, some years ago, 'that if he wants to be a carter he may go to the Friars' school, but if he wants to take a position in the country he must go to a Protestant school,' and he told us the school where he was."

The fact that the Witness admits to-day the superiority of boys taught by religious orders, will not prevent it from keeping abuse upon and detracting from the same orders. What does our contemporary mean to prove by the story of "the leading Roman Catholic gentleman," who some years ago, refused to send his son to the Friars' school? The Friars have turned out and do turn out pupils who have filled the highest positions in every walk of life. The fact that this leading Roman Catholic held the same opinion as the Witness is sufficient to condemn him.

THE LAND WAR IN SCOTLAND

According to our Scotch exchanges, the landlords are being treated to a pretty lively time by their tenants in several districts of Scotland, notably in Skye. A civil war on a small scale has broken out, and the officers of the Crown are unable to keep the peace. The crofters do not take kindly to eviction, as the following instances will show: Two sheriff's officers went to Glendale with nine writs of eviction against tenants of a Dr. Martin. On the object of their visit becoming known in the district, they were surrounded by a large crowd of men and women, who handled the officers in the roughest manner, and chased them out of the place for three miles, laboring them with stones and sticks and painting them with mud. An equally warm reception was accorded to other process servers in the district of Stenschohl, where they were hunted out of town by some two thousand men, women and children, who followed them for a distance of nine miles, keeping up a continual babel of hooting, screaming, yelling and pelting of clods and stones at the officers. After the hunt the crofters held a meeting to consider the situation, and steps were taken to prepare for a proper reception to any "Captain Donald and his half hundred" who might invade their confines.

The Scotch tenants are more fortunate than the Irish in being able to protect themselves without being run through with bayonets or shot down with buckshot, or imprisoned as suspects. This exhibition of strong feeling on the part of the crofters has called forth no coercion acts from parliament. The revolt is in fact kept quiet, and is alluded to only in a few journals. The crofters mean business. On the estates of the Duke of Argyll, in the district of Moss, they have refused to pay rent for some

time, because his lordship is unwilling to concede as large a reduction in the rent as they demand. The state of feeling is shown by the conduct of the tenantry in marching in a body to the residence of Argyll's agent or factor to ascertain from him whether a certain one of their number had paid his rent, which they inhaled upon knowing. Upon receiving a negative reply, the tenants went quietly home again but not without making it known that had it been otherwise the defaulter would have suffered at their hands. The officers of the Crown stand in actual danger of bodily harm should they attempt the performance of their duty. It is impossible for them to procure the necessary "witness" to their procedure from amongst the crofters, who have been warned of the consequences attending their being "witnesses." Talk about "intimidation" and "village ruffians" in Ireland! The Scotch are evidently bent upon improving the record. And still we do not hear of any marines being sent to watch over the lairds.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

The secretary-treasurers of the rural municipalities of the Province of Quebec are, according to law, bound to make annual returns to the Provincial Secretary relative to the financial condition and material development of the municipalities during the year. These statistics are of interest, as they offer a fair indication of what progress the Province at large is capable of making. The secretary-treasurers appear to be rather careless and negligent in gathering these statistics and forwarding them promptly to the Government.

Thus, the last compilation brought down the other day by the Provincial Secretary contains the municipal returns for the year ended 31st Dec., 1882, or a year too late. The following table shows to what extent the rural districts of the province gained in population and wealth.

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1882, Increase over 1881. Includes: Number of residents (1,023,669), Number of taxpayers (207,953), Value of assessed real estate (\$197,230,170), etc.

The report says that the increase in the number of acres assessed shows a great falling off as compared with the previous year, when the increase was 1,201,058 acres. Judging by these figures, it is clear that the progress of colonization has decreased or that the settlement of our uncultivated land has considerably diminished in 1882. On the other hand, the rate of increase in the value of real estate diminished from 1881 to 1882, as it was only 1.60 per cent, instead of 7.62 per cent from 1880 to 1881. The value of real estate exempt from taxation was \$19,549,233 in 1881 and \$18,233,019 in 1882, which shows a decrease of \$1,216,214, or 6.7 per cent. It is clear that such a decrease has not taken place, and is accounted for only by the omissions and inexact figures in the returns made by the secretary-treasurers. The report further remarks that the figures representing the liabilities are incorrect and much too low, as they include only the floating debts of the municipalities, to which, by right, the amount of local or county subscriptions to railways and the same still due the municipal loan fund—over three millions and a quarter—should be added to make them complete. This would increase the liabilities to \$5,259,000 instead of to \$1,939,625.

This is, on the whole, a poor showing for the Province to make. The development of its resources in the rural districts is evidently much too slow and limited.

CHANGES IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM

In the report on the condition of the schools in Montreal, the Royal Commission make several recommendations of importance, involving radical changes in the present system. One great fault found with the Board of School Commissioners was that they were too bureaucratic in their methods, and that its transactions were altogether made in the dark and away from the gaze of the public. This is a vicious practice and leads to many errors. Where there is full publicity given to the transactions of officials, there is less room for mal-administration and consequent scandal. As a remedy for this state of things, the Commission recommended that the meetings of the School Board be open to the public. An exception is, however, made for special occasions, when the Board may hold a meeting with closed doors, if two-thirds of the commissioners desire it. We doubt if it would be wise to admit of an exception to the general rule of making the meetings public, "special occasions" might arise very often. The ratepayers have a right to know all about the management of their schools and all that transpires at board meetings. If the thin edge of secrecy was once introduced that right might be interfered with to a too considerable extent. In no case and on no consideration should a secret meeting be tolerated when questions involving expenditure of the funds are to be discussed by the Board. The report wisely recommends that a half-yearly statement of expenditures and receipts, showing the actual financial condition and state of the schools, in concise form, be published in the principal papers. This would be another safeguard against extravagance. As to the personnel of the Board, the Commission advises that the number be increased from six to at least nine. A Board of nine members would be quite sufficient to transact the business. Now, as to the

method of constituting the Board, the Commission proposes an improvement on the old system of appointment.

But, to our mind, the proposal of the Royal Commission is not equal to the public demand and is not sufficiently in the popular interests. The report recommends that the members of the Catholic and Protestant Boards be appointed, three by the Government, three by the City Council—one from each electoral division for the House of Commons from among the property holders, and three to be elected annually at the city elections by property holders qualified as voters in the several above named divisions, the Protestants by Protestants and the Catholics by Catholics. If the ratepayers are to have a voice in the selection of the members of the Board, that voice must be preponderating, not only in its formation, but in its control. The Board, as a whole, must be directly responsible to the people. Out of the nine members, six, at least, should owe their appointment to the popular vote. If the proposition of the Royal Commission was acted upon, there would still remain too much of the bureaucratic and irresponsible element on the Board, and that is what must be strictly avoided in the construction of a new system for the management of our schools.

THE "DAILY WITNESS" ON THE WAR PATH

Our religious contemporary, the Daily Witness, has gone into the blood-and-thunder business with a vengeance. Gore, nothing but gore, filled its columns last evening. The most blood-curdling tale in a dime novel library could not compare with the account of an imaginary war at Oka, which it dished up to its readers. The alleged atrocity of the deeds was only equalled by the fierceness of the style in which they were written up. The Witness spread its venom all over town in flying bulletins, which were placed in the public squares and streets. These inflammatory placards read as follows:—The Seminary at Oka Again at War with the Indians—The Protestant Minister's Fences Pulled Down by the Seminary's Minions—The Indians Rally to Their Pastor's Aid—The Indians Put to Flight, &c.

What does the Daily Witness mean by thus attempting to stir up strife and ill-feeling in this community? Has it not done enough of that damnable work in the past? Its fanaticism and rabid bigotry once led to the burning and destruction of the Oka church. Does it want to incite the Indians to the same crimes over again?

If the Seminary did violate the law (which it has not done) is that any reason why the Witness should urge the Indians to take the law into their own hands? This turbulent sheet actually laments that in their attack upon "the Seminary's minions" the Indians were unable to slay "the invaders." Listen to its wail:—

"Then the Indians, with all the spirit of their painted and feathered ancestors, made a charge and drove back the invaders. The Beds were only armed with sticks and stones, and were outnumbered by at least five to one. But the Whites could not, or would not, stand against the onslaught."

The Reds were only armed with sticks and stones!! No doubt it would please the blood-thirsty Witness if they had been armed with guns and revolvers so as to be able to do more deadly work among the whites. The only thing this inflammatory sheet is sorry for is that the whites did not stand to be slaughtered. Shame upon such sentiments! Out upon such a journal! It deserves the execution of the entire community and should be prosecuted by the authorities for unseemly violence of speech. Here is another illustration of the insane malignity of that journal. It says:—

There is no doubt that some hard blows were dealt by the Indians with their clubs—perhaps "shillelagh" better describes the weapon—but it takes two parties to make a quarrel or a clubbing, and one of the parties in this conflict did not give time for a fight at close quarters. One French-Canadian, Joseph Leclair, is reported to have fallen under a crushing blow, but to have walked home after it. The stones would have done more damage if the bodies with which they came in contact had not been moved so rapidly in the same direction.

What a cause for sorrow and lamentation that the two parties did not come to close quarters! Nothing but gore will satisfy the Witness. And these tearful eyes of our sanctimonious contemporary, as they fill up at the sight of the stones, wasting their violence on the desert air before they reach the bodies of the intended victims! The trouble at Oka has not only been magnified by the Witness, but its malignity and spitefulness have gone further. It has misrepresented the whole affair, the following information, received from reliable sources distinctly and unequivocally proves:—"The Daily Witness is all wrong in its account of the Oka affair. Two telegrams received from the Rev. Father Leclair at Oka positively declare that there is no fight between Catholics and Protestants, but between Protestants and Protestants. There is one party for the minister and there is another against him. Hence the fight."

THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH PRESS ON DYNAMITE

It is now over two weeks since the Scotland Yard detectives arrested several parties in London and other English cities for their connection with dynamite conspiracies, and the authorities are still unable to proceed even with a preliminary investigation for want of sufficient evidence. The arrest of these dynamite suspects was the signal for a renewal of denunciations of the American Government. The alarm and fear which seize the British

papers seem to completely swamp their judgment. They chorus amazing protests against the United States and all the American people, holding that country responsible in full for the alleged doings of dynamiters. Whatever happens, the shrill demand is repeated that the United States authorities must suppress these diabolical conspiracies—must discover evidence of them and act upon them. The American press point out that the force of this demand is rather slightly impaired by disclosures from Paris showing that the dynamiters are making France a base of operations in their criminal warfare. The evidence also tends to show that the most of the dynamite is manufactured in Europe and not in America. If the English police cannot therefore catch the dynamiters operating with their infernal machines at the railroad stations in the heart of London, they can hardly expect American detectives to put hands upon them at the initial and less demonstrative stages of conspiracy. The New York Herald ridicules the London Times for its exhibition of childish fear, and asks how many men have these alleged dynamiters killed in England? The answer is, not one during the three years of warfare.

Thereupon the Herald remarks that it falls to see how the dynamiters have carried out their threats, as the Times asserts they have done, and adds:—"They have threatened that England should be made a desert place by reason of the deadly dynamite. Yet it seems, as handled by them, to be about the safest article sold in the shops. Why, in this country the ordinary pistol, supposed not to be loaded, is far more destructive than all the Irish infernal machines taken together—we kill more with it. In view of these facts, would it not be well for the London Times to modify the extravagance of its language?—or does its recently appointed and somewhat juvenile editor feel himself under obligation to make the fur fly and stir up the Americans? Our people are against the dynamite polly, and our government will do its duty in the premises; but offensive language in the English papers will hardly prove advantageous."

If the English detectives were to work less into the hands of the dynamite conspirators, for the purpose of increasing the value of their services, the British public and the press would be in less danger of being shaken by explosions or by the fear of them.

TO SHOW UP OR SHOT UP

A correspondent calls our attention to an article which appeared in a late issue of the Montreal Daily Witness, charging the clergy in general, and the Christian Brothers in particular, with antagonism to the cause of education, and we are asked our opinion of the sentiments contained therein. The opportunity for this fresh attack was furnished by the condition of the school affairs in Hochelaga, where a change in the educational system has been necessitated by its annexation to the city. The Witness opens up with gore on its pen. It says:—

"The war between ecclesiasticism and popular intelligence seems rapidly coming to a head in this province. The clergy and friars have for years had all their own way in Hochelaga, which has recently become a part of Montreal. Montreal has a lay school system which the clergy have, so far, been unable to kill, though they have managed to get as much of the school money as possible spent on stones and mortar, a system in which certain contractors have concurred. The idea evidently is first to separate this ward for school purposes that the friars may teach catechism instead of reading, writing and arithmetic, and then to make a similar move in other wards. The dispute is an interesting one. It concerns us as citizens of the country whose educational interests are imperilled."

We are asked what we think of that? We see nothing in it but a weak reiteration of antiquated bigotry and prejudice on the part of the Daily Witness, a mistaken idea of the relations of the clergy and the friars to education, and a strong confirmation of the Gazette's opinion that our pious contemporary is "incorrigible." It is never a clean job to dissect and analyze the Witness' writings on questions where an element of Catholicism enters. It can pile more offensiveness into a given space than any journal that we know of. For a religious and Christian paper, it is singular what an amount of antipathy it bears to the greatest bulwarks of Belgium and Christianity have ever had in the perpetual conflict between error and truth, right and wrong. The Witness could not have more holy horror of the devil than it has of a friar or of a priest. We pity its state of mind. In the mean time let us proceed with the dissection of the Witness' article. Our contemporary is all imagination when it talks about war between popular intelligence and ecclesiasticism. The clergy and education are too great friends for the proclamation of any such war. Our contemporary should not imagine that all Canadians are bigots or idiots. We don't dispute the fact that the clergy and the friars take a deep interest in educational matters in Hochelaga, but we deny, as unwarrantable and false, that the clergy of Montreal attempted to kill our school system by spending our money on stone and mortar. The responsibility of that mismanagement falls on the shoulders of laymen, and the Witness knows it; but to trifle with the truth is of no consequence in its eyes when a point is to be made against the object of its hatred. Our contemporary has a grudge against the friars particularly, and thinks that they can only teach catechism, and are nowhere at reading, writing and arithmetic.

To settle this question we tell the Witness what we will do: We will venture any legitimate wager it may think fit that we can find pupils in a Friar's school who will whip the