



# CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXVIII.—NO. 41.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1878.

TERMS.—\$2 per annum in advance.

## ON THE WAY.

The *Globe* recently illustrated the risk encountered by our emigrants, in transit through American territory, by the specious insistence and pertinacity of the paid agents of the great railway landed corporations who waylay them at every turn, filling the ears of simple folk with unbounding disparagement of a region they know nothing of, and equally fluent "brag" of sections which have illustrated themselves to be deficient in the great essential qualities that make the safety of the settler.

The intending settler in Manitoba sees on his way here, in the Red River Valley, by far the best lands in the United States now open to entry, and speedily closing up with their own population, who wisely appreciate their value; but crossing the line, he sees before him our own Province, more compactly valuable than any similar square area on the continent. It is the door to the great valley of the Saskatchewan, the Arthabaska, and Peace River countries—a superb and valuable region—the whole well watered and wooded, and comprising great grain and stock-raising areas, the home of uncounted multitudes in the near future.

The whole of this north-western portion of the Dominion is vivified, braced, and stayed with a climate that in its purity, health, and exhilarating quality is in fit keeping with the great champagne country which it wraps in its elastic strength. The steady uniform cold of its winter is akin to the steadfast snow, the most welcome of guests and purveyor of all of business or pleasure. Health and fertility abide on this great plateau of Central British America. Northern races ask just that, no more; and let no seeker of a home under the old flag fancy for a minute that he can better himself, either in soil, climate, or government, by turning away at the instance of a paid *claqueur*, or any slight cause, from Manitoba and the great North-West.—*Winnipeg Standard*.

## THE POLES AND THE CRISIS.

The correspondent of the *Eastern Budget* at Warsaw, writes as follows on the 26th of April:—

The course of affairs in Russia is being watched here with eager anxiety, it being an axiom with the Poles that their present destiny can only be altered either by a European war or by an internal process of disintegration in Russia. Both of these eventualities seem now to be very near, and it is thought that if the war breaks out a revolutionary movement will be only the more certain. The consequence of the war which has just ended is that the Nihilists, with all their extravagance of doctrine, have become the pioneers of Liberalism in Russia. The true Liberals have now become convinced that freedom is now to be obtained for the country by pacific means, and they find in the Nihilists convenient tools for attaining their objects by main force, trusting to be able by their superior education and position to shake them off as soon as they will have performed their task. That an alliance between the Liberals and the Nihilists has already taken place is shown by the recent events at St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Kiev. The Government may attempt to divert the attention of the people by a war with England, but things seem to have gone too far to make so venturesome a policy likely to succeed.

## THE PALACES OF ANCIENT IRELAND.

Amongst the most noted of the old Irish palaces were Tara, Cruachan, and Emania, respectively in Leinster, Connaught and Ulster. Emania the oldest, was the residence of Cormac MacNessa, and as famous in the history of Hibernian chivalry as the Glastonbury of the King Arthur. Emania, eman mach, i.e., two-fold, was so called because the structure consisted of two great oblong buildings. It was the resort of the Red Branch Knights, the residence of the Chief of the Olan Rory. Cruachan was the Connaught Palace in Roscommon. It was built for the celebrated Queen Medby by her father, Eachaidh Fridleth King of Tara. There are many accounts of Cruachan, which was a large single building. Its exterior was formed of pine, its roof of oak, while the interior walls were of yew. It had sixteen windows, with shutters of bronze. Small sleeping chambers lined the sides of the great hall, which was decorated with arms and armor. The royal compartment was in the centre and highly embellished with bronze, silver and gold. The couch of the King or Queen was in the centre compartment, elevated above the floor and railed in. The champion seat fronted it. Emania ceased to be a royal residence, A. D. 351; Cruachan that of the Connaught kings in 645; Cashel, that of the kings of Munster, in 903; Naas, that of the royal line of Leinster, in 904; and the other Ulster Palace, Aile, in 914.

## PUBLIC FEELING IN RUSSIA.

The correspondent of the *Eastern Budget* at St. Petersburg writes on the 23rd of April as follows:—

"The semi-official papers here are striving hard to throw the whole responsibility of the expected failure of the Congress, and of the war which it is thought will follow, upon England. Their real object, however, is not to influence public opinion in Europe in favour of Russia—for they are not under any illusion as to the hopelessness of such an undertaking—but to make the Russian nation believe that if the war should break out it is England who will be the aggressor. It is constantly alleged in the Russian press that in the event of a war with England the Russians will be ready to a man to offer their last hope and drop of blood for the Czar, but the truth is that much pressure will be required to revive the war feeling in the Russian nation. It is astonishing with what freedom some of the Russian papers, which are but little known abroad, speak of the material exhaustion and the financial depression of the Russian Empire. They assert that any attempt to increase the taxation of the impoverished masses of the country would be more folly, and that a new internal loan is out of the question. As to the proposal to collect subscription in the country districts for a volunteer fleet of cruisers, it is represented that the local funds have already been so thoroughly exhausted by the subscriptions for the Servians and for the Russian sick and wounded that they are quite incapable of meeting this new demand upon them."

## THE NEXT ELECTION.

The following is the forecast of the *London Observer* regarding the next election in Ireland:—

The life of the present Parliament is drawing rapidly to a close, and it will soon become necessary for those Home Rulers who now hesitate to follow Mr. Parnell's lead to choose between so doing and risking the loss of their seats. Emergencies of this kind are apt to produce rapid political conversions, and though there may be some members of the Home Rule party who prefer the alternative of retiring from public life the majority will, in all probability, elect in favour of submission to the leadership of Mr. Parnell. They will find the means of quieting their consciences by the reflection that the Nationalist party in Ireland have a right to their own views of the proper mode of acting upon the Imperial Parliament, and that in a case so peculiar as this an Irish member may fairly regard himself as strictly a delegate bound to follow the course marked out for him by the will of his constituents. There is to much probability that some plea of this kind will be held by the adherents of Mr. Butt to justify their adherence to the extreme wing of the party. Even, however, if the Home Rule party were during the lifetime of the present Parliament to remain divided into pretty equal sections as to the policy or impolicy of obstruction, the Irish constituencies, it is to be feared, would at the next opportunity of expressing their views by their vote declare with no uncertain sound in favour of Mr. Parnell and Mr. Biggar. In short, what the Imperial Parliament has now to face is the prospect of having to deal with a compact body irreconcilable from the other side of St. George's Channel who avow their intention of coercing the legislature into the concession of their demands under penalty of seeing English legislation made impracticable. No assembly, with any self-respect could, of course, submit to be thus coerced, and in the last resort it would be compelled to uphold its authority and fulfil the objects of its existence by reducing its assailants to silence. Stern measures of repression may have to be resorted to for the purpose.

## THE IRISH IN NEW YORK.

New York has been getting up an elaborate census which contains many valuable statistics. We learn from that in 1875 the Irish-born population of New York city was 199,084, an increase of 23,349 in twenty years, the same population in 1855 having been 175,735. The smallness of this increase is surprising, considering the constant pouring of immigrants from Ireland during those two decades. According to the figures given there has been a very distinct decline in the relative strength of the native Irish element in New York in the period named. In 1855 the percentage of Irish born residents was 28, and in 1875 it had fallen to 20.

Foreigners of other nationalities, and the native-born element, had increased so much faster than the Irish, that the percentage of the latter had fallen as stated. The total population in 1856 was 629,810, and in 1875 it had risen to 1,041,600. A very large part of the native-born element should, of course be credited to Irish parentage, and this changes the matter somewhat, though it does not alter the main fact of a relative decline.

The Germans, per contra, advanced. They numbered 97,572, in 1855, and in 1875 they were credited with 165,012. Thus, while the increase in the total population was 62 per cent, the German increase was nearly 75 per cent. This is to a great extent accounted for by the enormous German immigration to this country immediately after the war with France.

Of the whole population of New York city, however, only 18 per cent, are unadulterated native, the remaining 82 per cent, being either of foreign birth or foreign parentage. The total number of foreign-born was 446,000, and the children born to foreign parents numbered about 400,000. The whole number of Irish in the State of New York in 1875 was 517,000, of Germans 367,000, and of English 119,000. The total native-born population in that year was 3,200,000, and the total foreign-born was close on 1,200,000. On the basis given for New York city, the children of foreign parentage in the State should have numbered about 1,000,000.

## THE "DREADNAUGHT."

We learn from the *London Standard* that the latest thing in war ships—the "Dreadnaught"—is to carry 15 inches of armour plating and that she is to be the most powerful iron-clad afloat. It is only a few years since the Maratime world was startled by 4 inches of armour plating on iron-clads and now it has run up to 15 inches. The *Standard* says:—

The *Dreadnaught* may well be termed an improved *Thunderer*. Her armour is thicker and there is more of it; in some parts of the vessel—the turrets for instance—the armour is upwards of fifteen inches thick, while there is no exposed portion of the hull defended with less than eight inches of iron. The four guns of the *Dreadnaught*, again, have a somewhat larger calibre than those of the *Thunderer*, and fire shot and shell one hundred pounds heavier; while the greatest improvement of all is to be found in the extra deck with which the *Dreadnaught* is provided, and which permits both officers and crew to see something of the daylight in their cabins. As it is a most elaborate system of ventilation is necessary to remove the foul air and send fresh supplies through the ships and it is fortunate indeed that the crews of these vessels are limited to one half the number carried by our large broad-side battle ships, for the machinery below is so intricate and extensive that to the unprofessional visitor it is hard to see where lodgings for 380 men are to be found. The two turrets, as also the pair of monster guns in each of them, are moved by machinery of many different kinds and as all this is below in the middle of the ship, it is easy to imagine the vast amount of mechanism to be found in the dark tween decks.

The turrets fore and aft are similar. They are entered from below; some roomy steps lead into the interior, and you find yourself in a low circular tower, the centre of which is taken up by two big guns placed parallel to one another, with a little passage between. The whole structure revolves like a round-about, and thus the guns peeping out of their small ports can be made to fire in any direction. A look-out is provided in each turret, but there is besides an armored tower of considerable height, whence the captain can command a view on all sides. In action the whole of the crew is below, and not a soul upon deck, which may thus be swept with shot and shell with impunity. The hurricane deck, a superstructure raised in the centre of the vessel, and also the upper deck, where the berths of officers and men are, and which, as we have said, does not exist on board the *Thunderer*, are comparatively unarmoured, and therefore could be shot away without difficulty; but as they are independent of the fighting capacity of the ship, any injury to them would be a matter of indifference to the crew, who would be safely housed under a three-inch flooring of iron. The whole of the centre of the vessel is, on the contrary, stoutly armoured, for here are the ship's engines—the centre of life—since, as she moves only by steam, and turns her turrets and loads her guns by machinery, any accident to this portion of her hull would mean disaster.

## THE PROPOSED RUSSIAN CRUISERS.

A strange story comes from America which, if true, seems to be connected with the operations of the Moscow Committee, the presidency of which the Czarvich has been permitted to accept. A Reuter's telegram from New York and a telegram to the *Times* from Philadelphia state that the *Cimbric*, a steamer of the New York and Hamburg Line was chartered at Hamburg by the Russian Government, and proceeding to a port in the Gulf of Finland, there took on board 620 men, chiefly Finns, as stowage passengers, and 63 cabin passengers, and the captain being instructed to obey the orders of one of the latter, a Russian naval officer, the *Cimbric* sailed on the 20th April, passed round the north of Scotland, and was ordered to steer for South West Harbour, on the coast of Maine, which she reached on Sunday last, and where she remains keeping steam up and awaiting further instructions. No one has landed, and there is no cargo aboard, except ship's stores and coal. It is not unreasonable to conclude that if the story is true, the cabin passengers are officers, and the stowage passengers sailors intended to man any American steamers which the Russian Government may succeed in securing. And the same telegram from Philadelphia states that a New York ship broker reports an application to charter two fast-sailing American steamers for delivery within sixty days in a West Indian port. The application, we are told, was for Russia, and was declined, but Russian inquiries for vessels have recently been renewed in other Atlantic ports. The United States Government, it is said has no advice relative to the report of alleged arrangements for Russian privateers at San Francisco.

## CATHOLICITY IN SPAIN.

The meetings of the Catholic Young Men's societies in Spain have been suspended on account of the hostile attitude of the Government towards these organizations. For the same reason the nomination of the uncompromising Catholic publicist, Senor Nocedal Ramon, chief editor of the Catholic journal *El Siglo Futuro*, as President of the Central Society, has been withdrawn. The Societies were unwilling to appoint a nobody to that important office, and equally determined not to appoint a Liberal candidate who should be agreeable to Senor Canovas. The post therefore remains, for the present, in abeyance.

## RUSSIA IN BULGARIA.

The following article from a Bucharest journal gives some information upon the Russian plan of re-organization for Bulgaria:—

"Poor Bulgaria, until yesterday the slave of the Turk, is menaced to-day with being smothered in the embraces of the Russians, and furnishes a faithful illustration of the species of liberty which the Russian Government is pleased to introduce into the East, and of the administration which it desires to inaugurate in the land watered by so many streams of blood. The system of administration put in practice on the other side of the Danube in Bulgaria is precisely like the bureaucracy which oppresses Poland. The country is divided into ten Governments, instead of five, as before, and subdivided into 80 arrondissements, in place of 40. The number of civil employes brought from Russia is enormous. The greater part of these officials are in military uniform, and they are paid so highly that the Budget is four times as great as it was under the Turks. Russia has a marked predilection for an army of employes. She believes that she can ensure the happiness of Bulgarians by transforming half the population into well-paid officials and placing all their movements under the eye of a spy disguised in military uniform and paid out of the State Budget. The liberty which holy Russia brings to Bulgaria is worthy of this liberator who holds in her chains unhappy Poland, and who strangles her subjects every pretension to liberty. Bulgarians who escaped yesterday from the yoke of the Ottoman are certainly not to be envied to-morrow. Saddled with this system of Russian administration, with this liberty and the protection of their generous liberator, the poverty which already reigns in Bulgaria will certainly increase in frightful proportions. What does it matter to the Russians to pay out of the Bulgarian pockets to a Governor 28,000 roubles, as long as their mission is to give to Bulgaria the liberty of a second Russia? It is evident that if Europe does not take in hand the cause of the Christians in the East, if she leaves to Russia alone the part of liberator and organizer of these down-trodden people, then unhappy will be the fate of these Christians, and the evils which they endure must finally make themselves felt throughout the whole of Europe."

## TURKEY.

### RE-AWAKENING OF THE NATION'S ENERGY.

A Correspondent writing from Constantinople says:—

Now that the beautiful influence of the old War Council has ceased, and that the commanders are left more to themselves, that rivalry which was one of the curses of the Turkish army seems to have ceased, in spite of the vicinity of Constantinople, and the three commanders—Osman, Mehmet Ali, and Mukhtar—are working together in great harmony, the latter readily yielding the precedence to the hero of Plevna. Indeed, so harmoniously are the three working together, and such the influence and popularity of Osman, that some misgivings have been excited lest in the decisive moment the army should not be quite ready to support a policy which might be, perhaps, disastrous to it. Whatever truth there may be in the reports about an intention to send Osman Pasha as Governor-General to Bardak, certain it is that the army has become a factor that must be reckoned with. Even if the Turkish army were not required to move from its present positions altogether, such conditions might be imposed as the price of the retreat of the Russians, as would paralyze any military advantage that might be derived from this; while if the condition of the Russian retreat was a retreat likewise on the part of the Turks, the position would be deteriorated rather than improved, for the lines are now in much better order than is usually believed, and were they once abandoned they could not be got into order again before the Russians could get back. Osman Pasha may be supposed to be aware of this, so that General Todleben will find his match in this case.

### POSSIBLE RUSSIAN CONCESSIONS

We cannot but believe that the Russian Government is sincerely desirous of a pacific solution. No sane man could wish to enter on such a conflict as one with the British Empire would be, at the close of an exhausting war. And the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* indicates concessions which, if the Congress were once assembled, Russia might be prepared to make. The frontier of Bulgaria might be determined by an International Commission, according to the nationality of the inhabitants. The exaggerated fear of Russian influence in the new principality might be calmed by putting a European Commission in the place of Russian Commissioners. The Russian occupation might be diminished in amount and shortened in duration, for Russia has no desire to keep in Bulgaria a large force any longer than is absolutely necessary for the preservation of order. If the new principality is considered dangerously large, it might be cut longitudinally into two halves, as Lord Salisbury proposed at the Conference of Constantinople. With respect to the war indemnity, a European Syndicate might be formed, which would take into consideration the claims of former creditors of Turkey as well as those of Russia. And as to territorial compensation in Asia, all that the Russians care very much about are Kara and Batoum; they are open to an arrangement about the rest. Lastly, as regards the burning question of Bessarabia, they will, according to this correspondence, be "quite satisfied with the recovery of the small part of Bessarabian territory

which is inhabited by the Russian population." These proposals—whatever may be their merits as a compromise—can only come on for consideration after a clear understanding has been established with reference to the terms upon which the Powers are to enter the Congress, but when before it, they would be very proper subjects for discussion, and might possibly—with others of the same character—form the basis for a permanent settlement. And it will be observed that Mr. Hardy, in his speech at Bradford, while he strongly insisted on the impossibility of accepting the Treaty of Santo Stefano as it stands, declined to say "that it could not be modified so as to bring about a permanent peace."

## THE ICELANDERS IN CANADA.

### DISADVANTAGES OF GIMLI AS A LOCATION.

The following communication to the *Winnipeg Standard* from an Icelandic settler gives a sketch of the foundation of Gimli,—the progress made there—and foreshadows the future of the infant colony:—

"The first emigrants of our people settled at Gimli in October, 1875. They numbered about three hundred souls, under the leadership of Mr. John Taylor, who had chosen this place on Lake Winnipeg in company with some others of our people principally on account of the fisheries in the lake.

"At present we number about 250 settlers lining the coast and extending one to three miles back. We have striven for subsistence mainly by fishing; but notwithstanding this source and the liberal loan granted by the Government—some \$30,000—the settlers had a hard time last winter, being pressed so close about New Year's that over 100 families found it necessary to make an appeal to their Lutheran brethren among the Norwegians in the United States. Some doubt has been cast upon the necessity of this appeal, but the majority would say that there is no question as to the need of it at all.

"The result of the application was a contribution of \$1,000—a great help to the poorest who have by it been enabled to save their seed potatoes, or buy a few bushels for that purpose as well as a little flour for the summer months.

"We have in the way of cattle a small number of oxen and cows, and fourteen ploughs. The clearings are not extensive, being from three to six acres each. Potatoes are our main, indeed only crop.

"The land on the lake and the banks of the streams is high and dry, covered with poplar, birch and spruce. Elsewhere it is very low and swampy. "Many of us begin to think we have made a mistake in selecting this locality for our home, that on the whole the land is not very well fit for farming, and that relying on the lake so much for a living will check the progress of the colony.

"The question here arises whether this poverty and discontent with the land springs from the inability or unwillingness of some to help themselves, or whether it is owing to the situation they find themselves in. We believe the answer to be this:—The Icelanders are just as willing to help themselves as any people, but as yet they are ignorant of tillage of the land, although learning with great quickness. The smallpox and quarantine attending it has been a great drawback to the settlement; but what roots the main discontent of the settlers is the quality of the soil, the difficulty of getting good roads through the willow swamps and low poplar lands, and their distance from a market.

"We hear of the reserve being opened for other nationalities, and our people would be very glad to have some good farmers among them; but we fear that there would be few likely to settle after having seen the land in this quarter yet open to entry."

On this letter the *Standard* remarks as follows:—

"The writer's statements, we happen to know, are worthy of entire credence—are facts. By them we are made to know that the younger and more enterprising part of this community have made comparisons with their own situation and that of immigrants in other and every way superior localities, which has led to such feeling of discontent as will thin out their present numbers, and certainly prevent any accessions to that point from Iceland, where numbers are on the eve of departure for this country.

"The main consideration which induced the selection of this locality—i.e.,—would seem, from trial, to have lost much of its force. Those immediately on the lake derive a certain sustenance, of course; but those a few miles inland have ceased to rely upon it at all. Finding no contact with settlers in other parts of the Province that the quality of the soil is the greatest test and base of their hopes in the future; feeling the justness of the expectation, and stirred with the knowledge that they, too, can essay success in the same field, and with patience achieve it, they are—the two classes adverted to, the younger and more enterprising—naturally disinclined to remain on an inferior soil, when by a slight removal they can assure themselves of a better. We shall thus see the Icelandic immigration not at all confined to Gimli; but in detachments and bodies, or even individual families scattered through other portions of the country.

"To those who, like our Governor-General, have looked with every interest upon these children of the North Sea, transplanted to the heart of this continent, we may briefly say that they have exhibited every energy in their new life. The young or indeed any members of the families seeking service and remitting with faithful promptitude to those at home and in need their earnings. They acquire, with exceptional and extraordinary quickness the English tongue, and always show a faithful docility that makes one overlook their ignorance in matters to which they newly apply their hands. That they look beyond the horizon as Gimli at this time is but a proof of their comprehending the actual situation and are wisely careful of their future."