

## The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
At No. 369, Notre Dame Street, by  
J. GILLIES.  
G. E. CLERK, Editor.

## TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE:

To all country subscribers, Two Dollars. If the subscription is not renewed at the expiration of the year then, a case the paper be continued, the terms shall be Two Dollars and a-half.  
To all subscribers whose papers are delivered by carriers, Two Dollars and a-half, in advance; and if not renewed at the end of the year, then, if we continue sending the paper, the subscription shall be Three Dollars.  
The True Witness can be had at the News Depots. Single copy 3d.

We beg to remind our Correspondents that no letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless prepaid.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 26.

## ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MAY—1865.

Friday, 26—St. Philip of Neri, C.  
Saturday, 27—St. Mary of Pazzi, V.  
Sunday, 28—Sunday within the Octave.  
Monday, 29—St. Gregory VII. P. C.  
Tuesday, 30—Of the Octave.  
Wednesday, 31—St. Angela of Merici, V.

JUNE—1865.

Thursday, 1—Octave of the Ascension.

The "Forty Hours" Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament will commence as follows:—

Saturday, 27—St. Peter's of Montreal.  
Monday, 29—St. Zotique.  
Wednesday 31—St. Julie.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

The prospects of an understanding betwixt the Holy See and the revolutionary Government of Piedmont are at an end, and the negotiations betwixt the Sovereign Pontiff and Victor Emmanuel have come to naught. This is but what, from the well known character of the negotiating parties, might have been anticipated. On the one hand we have the Holy Father, who is as firm in upholding the cause of God and of his Church, as he is meek and conciliating in all things that merely concern himself as an individual. On the other hand, we have the crowned head of the Italian Revolution, the puppet in the hands of the anti-Catholic and anti-Christian party which seeks first the overthrow of the Kingdom of God upon earth, in order that thereon may be inaugurated the reign of their father the devil, and that his kingdom may be set up. It is to this party that Victor Emmanuel owes his being; it is because he has frankly thrown himself into its arms, and consented to do its bidding, and to accomplish its dirty and impious work, that he is its ostensible head. He dare not trifle with his creator, he dare not offer obstacles to its imperious will, for were he to be so rash, it would turn upon and read him; it would hurl him from the throne on which it has placed him, and elevate another more docile, more unscrupulously wicked, to the bad eminence which he now occupies. Therefore it may easily be conceived that the demands which Victor Emmanuel, speaking not in his own name, but in the name and as the creature or tool of Italian Liberalism and Italian infidelity, would propose to the Holy Father were such as the latter could not condescend to accept, or even listen to. Thus it is with no surprise, almost with a feeling of relief, that we learn that the negotiations have been broken off, and that M. Vegezzi, who conducted them on the part of the King of Piedmont, has left Rome, and gone back to his own place. As to the immediate cause of this rupture we are not as yet informed, but we suppose that in a few weeks the truth will be published. In the mean time it would be manifestly absurd to attach any importance to the utterances of a mendacious Liberal press upon the subject.

The trial before a military tribunal of the several persons accused of complicity in the murder of the late President, as well as in the dastardly assault on Mr. Seward, has been continued throughout the week, without eliciting anything tending to implicate either President Jefferson Davis, or the Southern gentlemen named in Andy Johnson's Proclamation, in the crime. Nothing more irrelevant or ridiculous have we ever read than such portions of the evidence given in this case, as the Washington authorities have permitted to be published; for they have permitted some of it to appear, moved thereunto by the very general expression of disgust at their previous iniquitous determination to suppress the details of the trial. Any one who has read and retained in his memory, the celebrated Report of the trial *Bardell ver. Pickwick*, as published by Dickens, will have a lively idea of what has been going on at Washington during the past week, and of the style of evidence admitted against the accused. One witness testifies to having heard Booth say, on one occasion, that if "they acted their part right, the Confederacy would gain its independence, and old Abe Lincoln must go up the spout." Hereupon, with a logical accumen worthy of Sergeant Buzfuz, when he dwelt upon the mysterious words "Chops and Tomato sauce," and indignantly appealed to heaven and the jury whether a confid-

ing woman's happiness was to be trifled away by such shallow artifices, as these—it is concluded that the plot to kill President Lincoln was arranged soon after the battle of Gettysburg. Another witness deposes to "drinks" having been participated in by Booth, and others of the accused. Another deposes to a meeting of Virginia officers, at which he was not present, but of whose proceedings he had heard a rumor. Somebody in short had told him, that somebody had said that at that meeting it had been resolved to kill Abe Lincoln, and he believed that Booth was present at the meeting. This is the kind of stuff of which, for the most part, the evidence is composed; hearsay evidence which no English Court of Justice would allow to go before a jury, or even to be delivered in its presence; but then in monarchical England there still lingers a superstitious reverence and attachment for liberty, and justice. One witness, a Mrs. M. Hardspath, testifies to having picked up a letter signed Charles Selby, and addressed to my "Dear Louis," in which the latter is styled the Charlotte Corday of the nineteenth century, and told that he must kill Abe. As all this still leaves the conduct of President Davis untainted, a new dodge has now been resorted to. A letter has been conveniently found, date unknown, contents unknown, writer unknown, in the deceased Booth's pockets, which clearly establishes Jeff. Davis' guilt. What a "mighty convenience" it is that Booth is dead, and has left his capacious pockets behind him, in which we should not wonder if the Federals yet find a battery of six pounder Armstrong guns, sent out by the perfidious government of Great Britain. Well! dead men tell no tales; and no doubt anything that may be wanted will yet be found in "Booth's pockets."

The defence of the accused had not commenced as we write; but their best defence will be to take exception to the competency of the tribunal before which they are arraigned. This will not serve them personally, of course; for guilty or innocent, their guilt is a foregone conclusion with the Court. But it is a line of defence which, if resorted to, might have the effect of bringing home to the minds of American citizens, the despotism which now obtains in the country, which but a few years ago used to boast of its liberties, and immunity from the despotism of Europe.

A Dr. Blackburn has been arrested on the charge of having attempted to import Yellow Fever from Bermuda, by means of the clothes of patients stricken with that disease. What truth there is in the story we cannot say; and as the accused will have to stand his trial for the offence imputed to him, it would be unfair to prejudge the cause.

General Sheridan is under orders to proceed to Texas, with instructions to lay waste the country should the struggle for independence be prolonged. It is reported that General Kirby Smith has been killed by a Major McKee in the course of a dispute relating to cotton. A plot has been discovered amongst the negro troops at Memphis to assassinate all the Confederate soldiers on parole in that city. Whether the negroes were incited to take this step by the Abolition preachers, or whether it were adopted by them spontaneously, does not yet appear; but they attempted to put their diabolical scheme into execution with great vigor, for a guard of white soldiers having been placed over their quarters, they tried to sally out, and were not repulsed without the loss of twenty of their numbers. President Jefferson Davis is at present confined in Fort Monroe, where he is detained, in order to give to the Federals time to trump up, or fabricate evidence against him. From the general tone of the Northern press, it is probable that he will be murdered.

Our latest dates from Europe up to the time of going to press are by the *Hansa* from Southampton on the 10th instant. In the House of Commons there had been a warm debate on a measure for lowering the franchise, which was followed by a division wherein the Conservative party came off triumphant—the numbers being as 238 against 214. The Dublin International Exhibition was opened by the Prince of Wales on the 9th instant. Ten thousand persons were present. The Canadian delegates in England have, it is said, succeeded in the object of their mission, though we know not what that object was, and they may therefore be shortly expected in Canada.

## RECONSTRUCTION AND PROSCRIPTION.

The plan for the reconstruction of the Union, as announced by Northern journals, is a close copy of the policy adopted and pursued for years by the English Government, after the conquest of Ireland by the Anglo-Dutch under the Prince of Orange, for the government of the Sister Island. Indeed in all essential respects the two plans are identical, and will have no doubt the same results.

The policy of the English government as towards Ireland was to exclude from all political power, all Irishmen obnoxious to the suspicion of being hostile at heart to the Revolutionary settlement of the Crown, and the House of Brunswick. That all Catholics were necessarily hostile to

that measure, and to that dynasty was assumed as an undoubted fact; and therefore all Catholics were expressly excluded from all participation in political power, whilst at the same time a series of skillfully devised tests or oaths were resorted to in order to enable the government of the day to distinguish betwixt its Protestant—and therefore presumed loyal subjects—and its Catholic and therefore assumed hostile subjects. This is the whole history of the Penal laws of last century. Religious motives had little or nothing to do with them. William of Orange was no bigot, neither was he at all disposed to persecute any man for conscience sake. Profoundly indifferent himself on all matters of religion, at heart an infidel, or at all events a sceptic, one form of Christianity appeared to him as worthless, except as a means for governing mankind through their superstitious fears, as any other. It certainly is but just to acquit a Prince so skilful in the art of governing, and one of the most profound and far seeing diplomatists of the seventeenth century, of hostility from religious motives towards Catholics. He hated Louis XIV., he dreaded the power of France; but at heart he bore no ill will to the Pope, and would have been well content to patronise Catholicity in his usurped kingdoms, could he have done so without danger to his own ambitious schemes. So too with the statesmen of a subsequent age. It was not so much against Popery as a religious system, that their Penal laws were directed, as against Popery as a political system, and one which was assumed to be an indubitable proof of attachment to the Stuarts, and of hostility to the Revolution settlement in Ireland. What did the dissolute, corrupt, and infidel politicians of the days of Anne and of the first two Georges care for religion in any form? They imposed tests and oaths merely in order to exclude Catholics, whom they supposed to be necessarily hostile to their policy, from all share in the management of the affairs of the country.

This is exactly what the Northerners are doing in the Southern States. As Ireland, even after its conquest by the Anglo-Dutch, still retained its Legislature, from which, however, all disaffected persons, that is to say Papists, were excluded, so the Southern States now conquered by the Yankees, are to retain also their several Legislatures, with the outward forms or trappings of self-governing communities. But just as the English Government branded the Irish disaffected to their rule as "rebels," excluding them from all participation whatsoever in political power, and imposed tests or oaths by which that disaffection might be detected—so do the Northerners act as towards the Southern States. The vast majority of the population of these States are set down as "rebels" because they fought for their independence, as did the Irish at the Boyne; because they were truly loyal to the Constitution, and to the principle of State Rights, as were the Irish to their Sovereign and to the Constitutional principle of hereditary right; and therefore they are by a triumphant North excluded from all share in the Government of their several States, and a searching oath is applied to them in order to test their affection or disaffection towards the new order of things, or political settlement, by force of arms established. In principle there is not a shade of difference betwixt the conduct of the Northerners towards the vanquished South, and that of the English towards a conquered Ireland. The one seeks to set up Yankee ascendancy, by the proscription of its political opponents; just as the other in Ireland attempted to reduce the Kingdom of Ireland to the status of an English Province, by limiting all power and privileges to the Anglo-Saxon and alien minority therein settled. As accidentally the line of demarcation betwixt Celt and Saxon coincided with the line of demarcation betwixt Catholic and Protestant, it so happened that the political proscription of the Irishman assumed the appearance of the religious proscription of the Catholic; but the objects which the framers of the Penal Code had in view were really identical with those which the Northerners are aiming at in their policy of "reconstruction" of the Union. Union they desire, even as England desired Union with Ireland when the Prince of Orange drove James from his throne; but the Union which they desire is one in which the Northerners seek above all things their own political ascendancy, even as in the case of Ireland, its Union with England was only to be accomplished and perpetuated by the establishment of Protestant, or in other words Anglo-Saxon Ascendancy. In what will this policy of proscription result?

It is true that betwixt the men of the North and those of the South, there are not those religious and ethnological differences which in the case of Ireland subsisted betwixt the vanquished Catholic Celt, and the victorious Protestant Anglo-Saxon invader. Nevertheless there are differences betwixt the former which will long prevent the two from blending, or fusing together into one homogeneous political unit; and we think that these difficulties will be but augmented by the high-handed and unconstitutional measures adopted by the North. Of the right of any State to secede from the Union, and to take up arms to enforce that secession, doubts may be entertained,

different opinions may be held by different men, because it is not a case expressly provided for in the Constitution, or written contract betwixt the several sovereign and independent States of which the late Union was composed. But there can be no doubts, there can be no differences of opinion, as to the illegality of the measures now pursued towards the Southern States by the central Government. There can be no doubt that that government has no more legal or constitutional right to interfere in any manner with the internal affairs of any particular State, or to determine the conditions upon which the citizens of such State shall enjoy and exercise their political franchises, than it has to legislate for Ireland or for New South Wales. The memory of this illegality, of this usurpation by the Federal Congress, of powers which do not belong to it, of powers which by the written Constitution, in virtue of which alone it has its being, it is expressly prohibited from exercising or arrogating to itself, must long rankle in the hearts of the vanquished Southerners: will still further tend to irritate them, and to inspire them with a hatred still more intense than that which even now animates them, for a government so outrageously and so hypocritically tyrannical; which cloaks its violations of the Constitution under a feigned respect for the laws which it violates, and tramples under foot.

But will not this tyranny react on the Northern States, upon those by whom, and in whose behalf, it is now exercised against the South? Once established the principle that in any one case, the State holds from the Central or Federal Government, that the latter has in any conceivable contingency the right to intermeddle with the affairs of any particular State, and to dictate to it, how and of whom its Legislature shall be composed; and the whole political system of the neighboring republic is revolutionised. It is a poor rule that won't work both ways. A rule that is applicable to Virginia to-day, may be applied to Massachusetts to-morrow; and if the Federal Government may violate the terms of the compact or Union, in virtue of which it exists, how can it be pretended that those terms are binding upon any one of the States in particular? The Union of North and South may indeed be reconstructed and preserved, but only at the expense of the Constitution, and by a reconstruction of the Union which binds the Northern States themselves together. The fundamental principle, the one best and brightest feature of the old American Constitution, that of the independence of each particular State in the management of its internal affairs, has now been upset, and can never again be replaced; has at last been obliterated, and can never again be restored. "State Rights" were the one barrier against the encroachments of despotism, and democracy; and this barrier overturned, the liberties of the victorious North, as well as those of the prostrate South, will be, rather are, but the memories of the past—a past which can never be recalled.

The *Globe*, as organ of a member of the Cabinet, sings to a very different tune to that which it was of yore wont to whistle, when in the cold shades of the Opposition. Not that we believe in any change of heart, or disposition, but in change only of outward circumstances. So we have seen more than once our flaming patriot, breathing fire and fury against the oppressor, touched by the magic wand of office, subside into the most exemplary of loyal placemen.

The *Globe* is now, and long may it continue in its present vein—death upon Annexation. It refuses to listen to such a project; it will not condescend even to discuss it. Annexation, says the *Globe*, "is a word which should never be uttered by any Canadian except with contempt and aversion." For once we can with a good conscience respond *Amen*, even to the *Globe*.

For what do men propose to themselves by Annexation to the neighboring Republic? They can indeed annex its political troubles, its debt, its financial burdens, its heart burnings, its present despotism, and its future anarchy; but can they annex its soil, its climate, its more favorable material conditions? And unless they can do the latter, of what profit, even from the most sordid point of view, would be a political annexation?

If indeed the greater material prosperity of the United States over Canada could in any degree be attributed to some moral or political advantages which the United States enjoy, which their peculiar form of Government bestows upon them, and which might be expected to accrue to Canada, were the latter to assimilate its social and political conditions to those of its Southern neighbor, we could understand the meaning and the object of a Canadian cry for Annexation. But every one knows that any material advantages of which the United States can boast, are due exclusively to the superior climatic, and the other physical, conditions of that portion of this Continent; and just as compared with regions further North, and situated towards the Arctic Ocean, Canada deserves to be spoken of as a terrestrial Paradise; so as compared with countries in lower latitudes, blest with a more genial climate, strangers to our long dreary winters, and

with a soil more bountifully endowed by nature, rich in coal above all things, and in the other elements of wealth, and of material greatness, Canada must necessarily appear to great disadvantage.

Except under very extraordinary and exceptional circumstances, we believe that the material prosperity of a country depends but little, very little, on its form of government, or its political institutions. As every man's real happiness in this world depends more upon himself, more upon his own good conduct, his industry, sobriety, and economy, than upon his external conditions, so we believe that with communities it is only by the exertions of the individuals of which they are made up, that the resources of the country which they inhabit can be developed and put to profit. Government can do but little; and it perhaps does best then when it does least, when it refrains from all interference, and gives greatest scope to individual energy. In a country like our's, to be let alone by Government is the *summum bonum*; and the colonist who attributes his want of success and bad crops to the Government, which will not do this, or which will not do that, is in nine cases-out of ten a good for nothing, helpless creature, whom no government could help even if it would, whom it would not be worth while to help even were it in the power of government to help him. In short, as a general rule, the less a government governs, the better; and surely it cannot be denied that the government of Canada under Queen Victoria, leaves as much scope to individual energy and intelligence, as does that of Andy Johnson. Wherein then even in a material point of view could we gain by Annexation? What would be the effect in a moral point of view it is easy to see, and the spectacle is most appalling.

We say then with respect to Annexation what we have often said with respect to the Ministerial scheme of Confederation: That therein we cannot perceive any remedy for the disadvantages under which we labor, and which must be attributed, not to anything in our political condition, but exclusively to the climatic accidents of the country. Deficient harvests, a small return for toil expended on the land, and seed sown, and the difficulty, owing to our long, interminable winters of keeping in good condition a sufficient quantity of live stock on the farm, to furnish a sufficiency of manure for the crops—these in ultimate analysis are the causes of the stagnation of trade, and general impoverishment of the country, of which certain croakers complain, and cite as an argument in favor of organic political changes. But never do they condescend to explain how such changes would apply a remedy to the evil complained of; how for instance Confederation would increase the fertility of our wheat lands; how Annexation would supply the want of turnips as winter food for cattle; or how the farmer would be enabled to take more off his land in harvest time, in the shape of food, than he had put into it, either in the shape of seed or of manure, in the season of sowing. If Confederation might be said to have the effect of shortening our winters; or if Annexation could keep the winter communications of the country open and free from ice during the whole year, then indeed we should anticipate much material benefit, to the farmer and to the merchant, from the proposed constitutional changes. But upon these points we are by no means sanguine. Whether Confederated or non-Confederated with the Lower Provinces, whether annexed or non-annexed to the United States, we fear that the Canadas will still have to contend with the same climatic disadvantages then, as they have to contend with now. We fear that every year the St. Lawrence, the outlet to the sea, will be blocked up with ice for many months, that all field labor will be suspended, that snow will still cover the face of the earth, that the average returns to the farmer will be as small as ever, and that remunerative occupation for the urban working classes during the winter will still be scarce.

But there are men who would still legislate for everything, and who believe that an Act of Parliament is a panacea or cure for every ill to which flesh, whether bucolic, or commercial is liable. Have we not seen men who believe, and go about professing the belief, that drunkenness can be put down by Act of Parliament?—and with such an instance of the extreme credulity of mortals, need we wonder that there are others who believe, and preach the doctrine that the bad harvests, the consequence of our soil and climate, can be remedied by a political poultice in the shape of Confederation according to some, of Annexation according to others?

A WELL-MERITED COMPLIMENT.—The liquor sellers of U. Canada, have as a testimony of respect to Mr. Dunkin, the author of the new prohibitory liquor law, given his name to a lately invented "cock-tail," or intoxicating beverage, cunningly composed, and said to be of surpassing excellence. Thus do those enlightened men the licensed victuallers, testify their gratitude to their benefactors; and thus shall the "*Dunkin Cock-tail*," beloved of thirsty souls, hand down to remote posterity the name and the memory of Canada's Temperance Legislator.