

## THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT  
No. 761 Craig Street, Montreal, Canada.ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:  
Country.....\$1.00  
City.....1.50  
If not paid in advance, \$1.50 (Country) and \$2 (City) will be charged.TO ADVERTISERS.  
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1890.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 17.—St. Olympias, Widow.

THURSDAY, Dec. 18.—St. Gathian, Bishop and Confessor.

FRIDAY, Dec. 19.—St. Nemesion Martyr.

SATURDAY, Dec. 20.—St. Christian, Bishop.

SUNDAY, Dec. 21.—(Fourth Sunday of Advent)—St. Thomas, Apostle.

MONDAY, Dec. 22.—St. Zeno, Martyr.

TUESDAY, Dec. 23.—St. Victoria, Virgin and Martyr.

CANON BROSAN has received a letter from the head of the Irish College at Rome stating that the Holy Father had received and examined with careful attention the photographs sent him of the proposed O'Connell memorial church, and gave his Apostolic Benediction to the work. The project is receiving general support and approval. The Rector of the Catholic University at Louvain writes, "though O'Connell is not honored as a saint, he is one of the glories of the Church of the nineteenth century. Belgium will very willingly bring her pious offering." A conference is to be given in the Catholic Circles of the great Belgian cities in aid of the scheme.

The Grit organs, as a rule, explain the general disaster which attends them at the polls by saying that they could not win "in face of the rampant corruption and unblushing bribery, etc., etc." But a recent election trial in Ontario seems to indicate that Grits are easily bought. The bill of particulars charges a Conservative with having bribed a voter with a cigarette! This is at the rate of ten cents a dozen. Mesmerism "in batches" and H. H. Cook's \$27,000 election present a strange contrast. Grit votes are evidently cheap and it might not now be amiss to reduce the duty on cigarettes at present \$2 per pound and twenty-five per cent before the next general election.

"THE Hon. Mr. Mercier politically wiped the floor with his opponents in the House during the debate on the Budget. He left them soiled, demolished, broken up, and argumentatively not knowing their head from their heels." So says the Quebec Telegraph. If reports be true Mr. Mercier has shown himself ready to do the same thing physically as well as politically. But we are inclined to think the people will regard the Premier with greater respect if he confines himself to arguments worthy a minister rather than those of the pugilist. Local Legislatures are not increasing in public favor and by many are regarded as too numerous and costly. They will rapidly fall into positive disrepute if they imitate the manners of the P.R.

DUTCH merchants, according to the popular story, sold the British besiegers of their city shot, which was to be returned within their walls from the mouth of the enemy's cannon. This is supposed to convey an idea of the keen business principles of the people referred to. They have just afforded another example. The funeral of their late popular sovereign was fixed for a certain day, December 4, so as not to interfere with the Feast of St. Nicholas, December 6, a season of joy, highly advantageous to the tradespeople. But the Czar telegraphed that he desired to attend and asked for a two days adjournment. Immediately, we are told, "a deputation of dealers in toys and other articles suitable as gifts waited upon the ministry, presented their case, and the result was that toys and dolls carried the day against the Czar." The Dutch evidently put their "thrill" before "funeral baked meats."

THE Universe has been severely taken to task for preserving a strict silence concerning the lamentable exposures connected with Mr. Parnell. But it gives a straightforward explanation of the course it has followed which has so sterling a ring about it that we think it deserves reprinting and perusal on this side of the Atlantic. It is in marked contrast with many of the other criticisms that have appeared in "friendly" journals:

Silence, it seemed to us, was the most charitable course—the more so that the man is of our own nationality, and has certainly rendered great and loyal services to Ireland. If he is to be roasted, let him roast himself; it shall not be urged that we, who turned the spit. On the moral aspects of the affair there is no room for controversy. There can be but

one opinion. To try to gloss over the sin is acting an unwise and unkindly part. There seldom has been a case in which there has been graver reason for the cry, "Save me from my friends." At the same time, we have no sentiment but a supreme scorn for those hypocritical purists, whose rage is really directed against the powerful political adversary whom they have persistently vilified for years, and whom they did not scruple to employ perjury, forgery, and other vile means to ruin, absolutely accusing him of connivance with murder. Our feeling is a blending of surprise, shame and grief, principally grief, not alone for the individual, but for the dear land whose interests have been darkened by the cloud which enshrouds him. But this will pass. The curtain will lift with God's help. No man is indispensable in this world, and if the lesson be taught us—a lesson we have often tried to enforce in these columns—that one man power is a false political doctrine—that principles should be the rallying cry, not persons—some good may come out of all this. Individuals may falter or stumble; individuals will die—the cause is immutable, impeccable, immortal.

## Church and Republic.

In an article in The Forum for December, Jules Simon, the French statesman, touches upon the question of Church and State in France, in a manner at once candid and judicious. Referring to the proposition for the abolition of the budget for public worship, he says it would cost the Radicals dear. The amount voted annually to the authorized churches is fifty-two million francs, and the necessary result of suppressing this grant would be absolute liberty of worship. Regarded from the point of view of those who advocate complete separation of Church and State, Simon regards the proposition as justifiable on republican principle. But, as he truly observes, politics are not conducted solely on principles; facts also must be reckoned with. The facts he cites are these: There are fifty millions of Catholics in France, and it would be impolitic either to dissatisfy them or to make their clergy independent. He then goes on to observe that the peculiar organization of the Catholic Church gives to its clergy a power possessed in the same degree to no other body. For centuries every government has understood that it must be treated with on a footing of equality, and for this concordats have been made—concordats which have cost the State dear, and which take away from the Church much of its own free direction. Until now, the Republic has refused to suppress the budget of Public Worship, which is demanded with increasing force by those who either will not or cannot see the danger of the proposition. As M. Simon says, those who ask it feel really no concern about the rights of conscience. They do not want to allow the clergy any of the advantages stipulated for them in the concordat, but at the same time these Radicals want to preserve those which the concordat grants to the State; for instance, the power of nominating the bishops—a singular way of understanding a bi-partite contract. In the meantime, while waiting to realize their plans fully, the Radicals have wrenched from the weakness of the more moderate Republicans a group of vexatious and irritating measures which nothing justifies, and which have made dangerous enemies for the Republic. In these measures M. Simon sees nothing but cause for profound regret. Religious congregations have been dissolved; hospitals and schools have been secularized; the exterior signs of religion—the "Calvaries" on public squares, the Crucifix in schools, in hospitals, and in justice courts—have been suppressed; the priests have been excluded from all connection with the distribution of charities and with public instruction. These measures, M. Simon says, have irritated the militant Catholics, and have brought back to their ranks a number of lukewarm churchmen. Furthermore, the application to the clergy of the military law will still more exasperate this hostility; but, as the law is being applied for the first time at this very moment, it is not possible to foresee the consequences.

While he regards these attacks as wanton and regrettable, M. Simon does not think them irremediable. He points out that "The policy of the Catholic Church is not one of rancor; it adapts itself to accomplished facts and makes the greatest possible use of them in its own interest. It is inflexible only with regard to dogma. The Church, irritated and threatened, does to the State to-day all the harm it can; reassured and treated with steady kindness, it will quickly become neutral."

From these observations by one of the foremost of French public men, it will be gathered that the Church in France is a power that cannot be trifled with. The republicanism of the people does not include enmity to the Catholic clergy nor fear of Papal aggression. Indeed signs are not wanting of a wide-spread and growing popular revulsion against the persecuting tendencies of the Radicals, who, if they could have their way, would abolish all religion. But now, more than at any recent period, it is the interests of France to be on good terms with the Holy See and for the Republic to have the friendship of the clergy.

France, as a nation, still holds its ancient position as eldest son of the Church. All considerations of sound policy im-

press upon French statesmen the wisdom of maintaining that position. Italy, as a member of the Triple Alliance, and as a despoiler of the patrimony of St. Peter, is at enmity with both France and the Vatican. This naturally tends to the preservation of friendly relations between the Vatican and the Republic, for, according to the conditions of European politics now prevailing, the Pope naturally looks to France for support and countenance in his efforts to preserve the independence of the Church. That the men at the head of affairs in France fully appreciate the value of the Pope's friendship has been shown frequently of late, and the toast of the French navy, proposed on a recent occasion by Cardinal Lavergie, was significant of the change coming over the relations of Church and State in France. As the Rome correspondent of the Liverpool Catholic Times pointed out in a recent letter, Cardinal Lavergie holds the same rank in France that Cardinal Manning does in England, that is to say, the head of the Catholic hierarchy. His public acknowledgment that the French Republic is the legitimate form of government for France, and his engagement that the clergy will follow his example, are matters of the highest importance as precursors of better relations between Church and State.

## The Crisis in Ireland.

Sir John Pope Hennessy, the candidate at Killkenny, nominated by the faction opposing Mr. Parnell, is a typical specimen of the sort of men that would find their way into parliament again should the master hand of the great leader be removed. A politician by profession and a placeman by nature, he is a survival from the most ignominious period of Irish representation in the English parliament. As everybody knows, who has read about or remembers the days when Isaac Butt was endeavoring to build up an Irish constitutional party, there was a class of men who could always be depended upon to accept situations under the crown, and thus break up the solidarity of Mr. Butt's party. Mr. John Pope Hennessy was one of that class. Therefore his reappearance at this juncture revives the memory of that time and invokes the suspicion that he has not forgotten the days when convenient subservience in an Irish representative was sure of a reward. Sir John got his reward in a colonial governorship and has served the British government with ability and faithfulness. He is a man of ability and has demonstrated to a nicety the old English saying that Irishmen are able to govern every country on earth except Ireland.

Nevertheless it would be a profound mistake to elect him. He represents an eruption and is an anachronism. He comes to the front now as the ghost of the Pre-Parnellite movement, when Irish members had their price. Useful, perhaps, he may be to remind us of what we ought to avoid, unless we want to go back to the bad old days. Like the old Romans, British politicians always strive to put in practice the classic motto "Divide and Govern." This is, we firmly believe, the bottom of the movement against Parnell. The plot was watched by the Tories. They had failed ignominiously in the Pigott conspiracy, but they found another tool in O'Shea. They knew the peculiarities of Mr. Gladstone and counted on the straight-laced puritanism of many who follow his lead. To split the Irish party and divide them from the English Liberals was the game. Apparently they have succeeded, but the whole truth has yet to be made known. At any rate, the Irish people know that Parnell has brought them nearer the goal of their hopes than any leader they ever had before. They see that he is admitted as holding a place in the front rank of the ablest statesmen of the day. As a master of parliamentary tactics and a personality of masterful power, he has no superior anywhere in the world. To ruin and drive such a man out of position as leader of the Irish nation, would mean the assured triumph of the enemies of Ireland for another generation. Knowing this, Irishmen whose eyes are open to the facts of the situation cast all other considerations aside and stand by Parnell.

As for the friendship of English parties Mr. Blake well said in the Dominion House of Commons that Ireland never obtained concessions from the good will of British parties, but only from their fears. Does anybody imagine that the tiger has changed his spots, or the leopard his skin? Admitted it may truly be that a wonderful change has taken place in the sentiment of the people of Scotland, Wales and parts of England, towards Ireland under the educating influence of Mr. Gladstone and his Liberal colleagues. But in the face of threatened disintegration we must believe in the leader who has proved himself true, not in those new found friends who would have his countrymen desert him when such desertion means the ruin of the cause to which he has devoted his life.

## Napierville.

The Conservative victory in Napierville last week, when Mr. Paradis won this old time and banner Reform county, defeat-

ing Mr. Monette, is by no means pleasing to the Opposition. Their organs endeavor to put the best color on the dark disaster which has befallen them, but not with much success. They pretend that Mr. Paradis is not, strictly speaking, a Government supporter. But the chief organ of the leader of the Government in this Province, L'Electeur, did not take this view of the case, in a frenzied appeal to the electors of Napierville, in the course of which it distinctly stated that "Your choice will be made between Mr. Monette, the candidate of Hon. Mr. Laurier, and Mr. Paradis, the candidate of the Tory Government at Ottawa." It is also pretended that Mr. Paradis opposes the Government on its commercial policy but in an interview with the Empire correspondent the Hon. Mr. Chapleau casts some light on this point. He said:

"When the newly elected member for Napierville consented to be a candidate at my request, he frankly told me that he would come out as an independent, and as I have always claimed for myself perfect independence in Parliament, I could offer no objection, although I knew Mr. Paradis to be a Conservative, as the Witness has been frank enough to admit. He told me, moreover, that he had confidence in the present Administration at Ottawa, and that Sir John Macdonald's reign has been a most beneficial one to the country at large. Mr. Paradis likewise said to me: 'You know that Napierville is a frontier county, and it is most important for us to have as free an intercourse with our American neighbors as possible.' The Secretary of State asked his candidate if he would vote for reciprocity with the United States, leaving the duties on English products, when Mr. Paradis replied that he would never be in favor of a treaty with the United States that would be unfair to the interests of the mother country."

The substitution of the blue flag for the red in the famous *rouge* constituency of Napierville is not a little significant. It is good earnest of the sweep that will be made of the Opposition at the general election which it affects to be so eager to court.

## Sir Ambrose Shea.

That the administration of the British Empire, like that of the United States, has passed into the hands of the Irish people, has often been demonstrated. It seems now that Sir Ambrose Shea, our noted and respected compatriot, late of Newfoundland, has not only assumed the government of the Bahamas, but has re-deemed a neglected part of the Dominions of the Crown from the slough of despondency into which the West India possessions have been sinking since the emancipation of the slaves. That ill-executed scheme, benevolently designed, but carried out by people who evidently thought that the payment of so much per head for the colored people was the "end all" of slavery, has, as is well enough known, produced much misery. But a new existence is opening up for that part of the West Indies. Mr. Bowers, of the Newfoundland Colonist, sends us certain recent work done by Sir Ambrose. He has arranged for the construction of a cable between Nassau and Canada. He has also arranged for steam communication between the islands, and the Nassau Guardian says:

We have also reason to believe that through Governor Shea's influence with the Canadian Government Nassau will be brought within the scope of the steam service now in operation between Halifax and Jamaica, the steamers calling at this port both on their way to and from Jamaica. This, without probably any expense to us, will bring us into direct communication with Halifax and Jamaica and will open the markets of the Dominion to our commerce. Lumber, provisions, and other important articles will be obtainable in exchange for our salt, sponge and fruits.

How much greater the British Empire would be if its government were let to Irish contractors. Irish soldiers and statesmen have always done the work. Let them take it permanently.

Mr. DAVITT is usually a calm, clear headed man; but if the telegram which attributes to him the statement that the fate of Home Rule depends on the struggle in Kilkenny is correct, then he must be failing in that robust national faith which he once confessed. The great cause does not depend on any one man, much less on a casual parliamentary election. It has survived the Union, the struggles of O'Connell, the disappointment of Butt. It will survive the disgrace of one who after all is but following a well beaten track, stained with the tears and sufferings of noble and often silent, but none the less noble pioneers of Ireland's later legislative freedom.

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## Montreal High School.

The burning of the High School, Montreal, has been the subject of investigation before the Fire Commissioners, and new

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light was thrown upon the event by the confession of one of the boys, George McKeencher, aged 15, who went to see Mr. Alfred Perry, and stated that the fire had been set by himself and some companions, whose names were taken for further use. The youth explained that they had taken a large quantity of paper, and, piling up the same in a wardrobe, a lighted match completed the job. He was sent to the reform school to await further developments.

## Purify Your Blood.

The importance of keeping the blood in a pure condition is universally known, and yet there are very few people who have perfectly pure blood. The taint of scrofula, salt rheum, or other foul humor is hereditary and transmitted for generations, causing untold suffering, and we also accumulate poison and germs of disease from the air we breathe, the food we eat, or the water we drink. There is nothing more conclusive than the power of Hood's Sarsaparilla over all diseases of the blood. This medicine, when fairly tried, does expel every trace of scrofula or salt rheum, removes the taint which causes catarrh, neutralizes the acidity and cures rheumatism, drives out the germs of malaria, blood poisoning, etc. It also vitalizes and enriches the blood, thus overcoming that tired feeling, and building up the whole system. Thousands testify to the superiority of Hood's Sarsaparilla as a blood purifier. Full information and statements of cures sent free.

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, Superior Court, Dame Olive Leasard, of the City and District of Montreal, wife of Stanislas Payette, trader, of the same place, has this day taken an action of separation of property against her said husband.

Montreal, 6th December, 1890.

BERARD &amp; BRODEUR, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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