

MERRIE ENGLAND.—Protestantism and an "open bible" have done but little to ameliorate the condition whilst on earth of the working classes of England; whether they will be compensated in another state of existence for the penances in this, is a question we care not to discuss. We will content ourselves with a few gleanings from the columns of the *London Times*, and brought out by the strike of the Agricultural Laborer.

Of this unhappy individual, the well known correspondent of the *Times*, "S. G. O.," thus gives a description. He—we are informed—is ever hovering on the borders of pauperism, dwelling where, if health can be preserved, decency can exist; working for a wage which affords, after shelter and clothing are paid for, no margin for any food but that which just supports; is altogether unequal to the task of supplying the repairing power, the call upon the constitution which each day's hard toil imperatively demands; in other words, keeps the physical condition of the laborer far below what it ought to be, having regard to the work he must do, the weather he must encounter.

The *Medical Times and Gazette* takes up the same song, and sets before us the actual condition of the English peasant, the cultivator of the soil. Rarely does he eat butcher's meat. "He sleeps probably over a dunghill, or near a cess-pool, with his wife and half a dozen children in the same room, and is very fortunate if he escape an attack of continued fever once in his life."

But this is true, we may be told of one section only of the laboring classes—of the agricultural classes. Alas! The facts brought out by the *Medical Times and Gazette* show that as are the physical conditions of the Agricultural Laborer, who, we are told, is deteriorating in size and vigor every day, the condition of the town operative is far worse physically and morally. "He"—the Agricultural Laborer—"is taller, bigger, and stronger, but not so acute and restless." He eats less meat, but he drinks less gin; his chances of life are better; his children are comparatively speaking healthy; "they are not syphilitic or strumous;" and whilst as a general rule the town operative rarely reaches 50 years of age, the Agricultural Laborer often rarely accomplishes his three score and ten. On the whole the *Medical Times and Gazette* thus sums up:—

"He"—the Agricultural Laborer—"ought to have a better dwelling; and he ought to have a somewhat more animalized diet; but except in these two particulars, we believe his lot in life is infinitely preferable to that of the town operative, who works from day to day among the noise, the comparative darkness, and smells of a factory; and retires from the public-house—the only bright place that he knows of—to his room with his ailing wife and sick children in a town alley."

Modern progress, and commercial prosperity are no doubt excellent things; but we pay a high price for them in the filth, squalor, and degradation of the moral and physical conditions of a large mass of our fellow-creatures for whom, after all, as well as for the respectable, temperate-making, gig-driving, and villa-let-occupying classes of society, Our Lord died upon the Cross. We will not, however, say more lest we should be found guilty of blasphemy against the gospel of progress, of which the first word is "Cursed are the poor;" and which, in lieu of the now exploded virtues of "Faith, Hope and Charity," proposes to us things more excellent by far, "Thrift, Speculation, and Smartness." Now the greatest of these is Smartness.

IRISH PRIESTS AND IRISH ELECTIONS.—The letter of our Dublin correspondent on this subject, on our first page, will be read with interest. It shows how great a measure of liberty is accorded under British rule, when the Roman clergy are allowed to play such pranks, for which under most other Governments they would get smartly rapped over the knuckles.

The above paragraph we clip from the *Montreal Witness* of the 15th inst., as showing what he understands by liberty—a commodity of which he thinks too much is allowed to Catholic priests in Ireland by the British Government. Now to what does this liberty amount? according even to the showing of the correspondent to whom the *Witness* refers us. To this:—That in political matters the same liberty or freedom of action is accorded by the British Government to Catholic priests, as is accorded to laymen. In the words of Mrs. Dodds, "and what for no?"

The question is not, as to whether in some of the late Irish elections, the manner in which some priests exercised their civil rights is one of which Catholics should approve? whether their language was always appropriate, and becoming their sacred character? These are questions foreign to that which the *Witness* has raised—which is simply this:—

"Has the priest the same civil rights as has the layman? seeing that as before the law he is subject to the same civil obligations, and enjoys no immunities or privileges because of his ecclesiastical status." The British government answers this question in the affirmative. In the priest it recognises simply the citizen, with the same political rights, and the same political duties, as those that it recognises in every other citizen. If either priests or laymen resort to physical force, or use means to excite others to violence, priests and laymen are alike

amenable to the law of the land; but for language which however reprehensible in a Christian point of view, provokes to no acts of physical violence, or breach of the peace—the law has no penalties, in the case of either priest or layman. This is plain even handed justice—but nothing to make a song about. Less than this would be simply tyranny, and injustice, of which the Continental Governments whom the *Witness* so much applauds, are often guilty.

DEAR AT THE PRICE.—Noticing our remarks of the 10th inst., upon the "strike" amongst the converts of the F. C. M. Society, who are standing out for better terms, and insisting not only upon clothes, firewood, and victuals, but upon hard cash, as conditions preliminary to their "Coming to Jesus," and accepting the Gospel plan of salvation—a French Canadian Protestant paper of this city gives us some further details as to the extravagant demands of these "abjurers of the errors of Romanism." Some amongst them have actually the impudence to stand out for a pecuniary consideration, or *douceur* of from \$15 to \$20, as the price of their conversion; though others are it must be admitted, more moderate in their terms, and are willing to accept a lower figure for their evangelisation. This is indeed very sad; and the groans of our contemporary aforesaid, are not altogether unreasonable:—

"What more sad," he asks, "than to see them pricing their soul religion—Roman Catholic—at 15 or 20 dollars, often at much below this. To what a depth of meanness have not these wretches sunk whom God created for a nobler destiny; and to think that some have come to us who called themselves priests, and who indeed looked as if they were priests?"

Sad indeed! but what would the F. C. M. Society have? It cannot expect that any but the very lowest and most debased of French Canadian Catholics should ever address themselves to it; or that any of its so-called converts should be actuated by any but the most sordid of motives. The Society must take what it can get, and be thankful; remembering that if there were not mercenary creatures amongst Romanists, such as it describes, it would have no converts to boast of at all. Its position in this respect, reminds us of that of the bride who, appearing before the minister to be married with the bridegroom in a considerable state of beer, as the profane have it, replied, upon being remonstrated with, for coming to be married under such disreputable circumstances:—"What can I do, Sir; I must come with him when he is drunk, for when he is sober, he won't come up at all."

We have been asked our opinion of a phenomenon that is said to have manifested itself in the Quebec suburbs; where, at a place where two streets intersect, a well-defined cross is said to have manifested itself on the ground. In reply, we beg leave to state that we have not as yet given ourselves the trouble to form any opinion of our own on the subject; but that we think that the explanation tendered by some of our contemporaries,—that the figure of the cross aforesaid is due to the leakage from intersecting water supply pipes,—is very plausible. For the rest, we would remind our readers that it is alien to the spirit of Rome, to attribute any phenomenon, however strange or unusual, to supernatural causes, before every possible solution of the said phenomenon on natural principles has been tried, and has failed to solve it.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOL LAW.—On the motion of Mr. Costigan the question has been again brought before our Legislature. A lively discussion—not terminated when we put to press—ensued; we trust that some expedient may be devised for doing justice to our cordigionists; but till then the question must not be allowed to rest. If justice cannot be obtained one way, it must be looked for in another.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.—His Honor the Mayor has issued his proclamation for the due observance of the day; he reiterates his warning against the letting off of fire crackers in the streets, and we trust the Police will be on the alert to arrest any persons who may indulge in his dangerous pastime.

The subjoined commentary of the *Montreal Gazette* of Monday last on the news from the U. States is, though short, pithy, and full of instruction as to the moral progress of our neighbors:—

"The record of news from the States is full of murders and robberies."

OMAHA LEGAL ENTERPRISE.—\$150,000 in 3,000 Cash Prizes will positively be drawn in open public, May 30th, in aid of Mercy Hospital. Endorsed by the Governor and State authorities. Tickets \$3 each; or two for \$5. Last chance. Address—Pattée & Gardiner, Omaha, Nebraska; or Pattée & Co., 114 Broadway, N. Y.

The Cunard steamer *Tripoli* has gone ashore, a total wreck, near the Irish coast; all on board saved.

It is rumored that M. Dorion is about to retire from public life.

We would inform our friends in River Dennis, Co. Inverness, and Port Maitland, Straits of Canoe, N.S., that Jons Cusimion, Esq., Merchant, of the latter place, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the *True Witness* in those localities, and is now prepared to receive subscriptions and grant receipts therefor. We hope our friends there will assist Mr. Cusimion in his efforts to extend the circulation of the *True Witness*.

THE OFFERTORIUM.—A Complete Collection of Music for the Sunday and other Holyday Services of the Catholic Church. By Wm. O. Fiske. Price in cloth \$2.75; Boards, \$2.50.

We have to return thanks to Mr. Henry Prince, Music Seller, of Montreal, for a copy of this very valuable compilation of sacred music; and we have much pleasure in introducing it to the notice, and of commending it to the favorable consideration of our educational institutions.

To the Editor of *The True Witness*.

OSHAWA, Tuesday, 14th May, 1872.

RESPECTED SIR.—Thinking a slight sketch of how the Separate School system works in this Village and this part of the Province, would be interesting to you and useful to your readers, I write you a few lines respecting an examination at Oshawa, which took place yesterday, Monday, 13th May.

Passing the school house I was invited by one of the Reverend Sisters to enter, and witness the examination.

The school house is a brick building, now a little out of repair, through the effects of age, the action of the weather on the outside, and the wear and tear caused at least by 50 pupils inside.

The children were principally girls from 4 to 14 years of age, arranged in classes at the lower end of the school room, under the charge of their instructors. At the upper end of the room was a raised dais richly carpeted, on which the children were to stand when being examined. The walls were hung with large maps of recent publication. There was a melodeon of an antiquated and venerable appearance on the platform on which the pupils were to perform during their musical lessons. In front were placed chairs for the Visitors, in the centre of which sat the President, the Reverend Father Shea, the Parish Priest, a gentleman of most imposing appearance, physically grand. Half an hour's conversation showed me that his intellect was far more powerful than his physical body, almost gigantic as is the latter.

The appearance of the children reflected great credit on their parents, the children being neatly dressed without any overstraining for a theatrical effect. As each class was brought on, and moved off the platform the pupils displayed an artistic grace which in that particular as in every other accomplishment, showed the patient, careful training of their Reverend Lady Instructors.

The President, Father Shea told me when I remarked to him the handsome appearance of the children, that they represented several Nationalities, English, Scotch, Germans, French, Norwegians; and though mentioned last, not least, the Celtic Irish, the true sons of the Church, its defenders and propagators in every land over which the banner of St. George floats and our beloved Queen reigns.

The different classes proved so good in their several examinations, that it is difficult to particularise. Geography in particular was well illustrated by the female pupils, in their light fairy like costume, with their wands tracing on the map, the different lands and seas through which the traveller by steamship and railway would have to pass from one part of the world to the other; with a glossiness that would have amazed Christopher Columbus if he had been present, to see the wonders of this our progressive century.

The religious class was as it ought to be, in such and in every school, the dominant one. The children's quotations of scriptural proofs in support of the doctrines of our holy church, was most excellent; they had texts of scripture enough at their command to satisfactorily prove to your neighbour, the *Witness*—that is if he believe the Bible,—that we are right as well in theory as in practice.

There was a pretty girl, a deaf-mute, about twelve years of age, who gave an exposition of her dumb language as she was taught it in Montreal.

The vocal music was very good indeed, several pieces being sung during the examination. The last piece rendered, the "Shamrock of Ireland," was unusually well given by a young lady not fourteen years of age, the chorus being filled by all the pupils; and what was gratifying indeed, well harmonised, and in perfect tune. After this the President made a very feeling and effective address to the Scholars, saying how gratified he was by their progress, and hoping that their improvement would continue year after year as long as they were at school; and finally recommending them to well prepare for the great and most important event of their life, their first communion. At the conclusion he was most rapturously applauded by the children and visitors.

One or two other gentlemen made short addresses; and brought this very interesting day's proceedings to a close, which was a long and fatiguing one to the Lady Teachers and Pupils, having commenced at nine and closed at half-past five in the evening.

The whole was wound up by all the Pupils, ably led by their Reverend Pastor, singing God save the Queen.—Yours, most respectfully, VISITOR.

BREAKFAST.—EPH'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural law which governs the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. —*Civil Service Gazette*. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"J. Epps & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Epps's Milky Cocoa (Cocoa and Condensed Milk).

RAIL ROAD RETURNS.—The traffic returns of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway for the month of April last show an increase of 30 per cent, over the receipts of the corresponding month last year.

THANKS.—The Secretary of the Bishop of Montreal desires gratefully to acknowledge the courtesy extended to their Lordships the Bishops of the several dioceses recently assembled at Montreal, by Mr. Bridges and the authorities of the Grand Trunk Railway.

AN INCONGRUOUS YOUTH.—On Monday last at the Police Court a lad named Felix Higgins, eleven years of age, was sent for four years to the Reformatory School for obtaining \$1.25 from Oliver Dagon under false pretences. The youth belongs to a very respectable family, but has been a source of much trouble and annoyance to them for some time past. —*Witness*.

THE SMALL POX.—This dreadful scourge is by no means expelled from this city, as will be seen not only from the weekly returns of mortality, but also from the fact that there were yesterday no fewer than five persons in one house in Panet street. Surely the house to house visitation should have prevented such an occurrence as this, more especially as the house was in a filthy condition. —*Montreal Gazette*, 7th inst.

LUNATICS.—On Saturday, Drs. Boyer and Beaubien, with Mr. Justice Monk and Mr. Sheriff Bouthillier made an examination of these confined in goal suffering from mental derangement. They found twenty-five persons more or less deranged, of whom six men and seven women were ordered to be sent to Beauport. —*Herald*.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Between 3 and 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon a chain used in hoisting bar-iron from the hold of the steamship *Nab* broke and the iron fell upon a labourer named David Lavellee working there, striking him on the head. Dr. Ross was in attendance, and dressed his wounds, but he survived only a very short time. The body was afterwards conveyed to the house of his father in Wolfe street, where the coroner held an inquest, and a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

GRAND TRUNK—CHAMPLAIN DIVISION.—In addition to the favorable report of the whole road, given by the President at the last London meeting, it is agreeable to learn, on the same authority, that the Champlain Division is paying for itself. Indeed a large traffic is being done on this part of the line, both in passengers and freight; and the greatest attention is paid to keep this part of the track in order and maintain a regular service. We learn that between St. Johns and Rouss Point, 23,000 ties are to be laid down this summer. Besides this, 5 miles of steel rails will be laid between Lacadie and St. Johns, and the road at Lacolle will be ballasted.

A warning was given the other day in the Superior Court against the practice of leaving horses standing on the street without anyone to take care of them. The Corporation were fined in \$500 and costs, as damages sustained by an individual who had gone to look at a fire, and whilst there was injured by a horse belonging, we suppose, to the Fire Department. The horse it was shown, had been left free and the driver that the plaintiff was only an idle spectator, and was off the sidewalk, was not allowed to weigh. The horse was left without any caretaker, and the Corporation was therefore condemned. —*Witness*.

ROWDYISM.—On Sunday last a number of rowdies hired a couple of boats for the day, and proceeded down the river as far as Longue Pointe. No sooner had they landed at the village than they attacked the house of Joseph Lachapelle, a farmer in the place, whom they assaulted, wounding him severely on the head. The authorities after some trouble succeeded in arresting two of the gang, and detained them in custody until the arrival of Detective Colton, who brought the prisoners to the city, and lodged them safely in the cells of the Central Police Station. The names of the prisoners are Jacques Courtois and Antoine Bernard. —*Herald*.

NINE HOUR LABOR LEAGUE.—The usual weekly meeting of this League was held on Friday evening, and was well attended. A number of new delegates were received into the League. Several members stated that they had presented petitions to their employers asking them to grant the nine hour system, and requesting an answer by the 22nd of the present month. Mr. Arch brought forward a motion for the formation of a branch of the Canadian Labor Protective and Mutual Improvement Association. The mover at some length spoke of the necessity of such an association, followed by other members who supported the motion, which was carried unanimously. An amendment against introducing politics into the association was lost owing to the want of a second. A mass meeting will be held on the 3rd of June next. —*Witness*.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DUNKIN ACT.—Our readers may not be aware that one of the provisions of the Dunkin Act of 1864 gave a lien to the wife or other relative, or the employer of one who is in the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors to excess, against the seller of the liquor. The condition on which alone the action can be brought is that notice in writing should be given to the liquor seller forbidding the sale of liquor by him to the habitual drinker. The liability arises upon the sale of any liquor to such person within a year after the notice. We have not till lately heard of any actions being brought under this law; but we find that a judgment, with damages to the amount of \$15, has been obtained under it at Napanee by a married woman against the keeper of the Solby House at that place. The husband of ladies who give these kind of notices are likely to have thirty lives. —*Montreal Herald*.

OPERA AIR MUSIC.—Whatever objections there may be to the presence of a large garrison, it is impossible not to regret the absence of the fine music to which the public were so often treated in Viger and Phillip Squares, and on the McGill College grounds, on summer evenings, a few years ago, by the military bands. Such being the case we are glad to learn that a movement is now on foot to secure the services of the splendid band of the Grand Trunk Brigade, to perform two nights per week in Phillip Square during the ensuing summer months. The permission of Col. Bridges and the officers of the Brigade has been obtained for the same, and it only now remains to have the necessary amount raised, say \$600 or \$800, to pay the band and meet incidental expenses. This, we think, will easily be raised, and thus a new charm be added to the delicious evenings which at this season are generally enjoyed. —*Witness*.

THREE RIVERS, May 20.—A fire broke out last night about 9 o'clock, in the foundry and machine shop of R. Benihard, which was totally destroyed together with two other workshops. The fire then communicated to the machine shop of the gas works; but, fortunately, through the exertions of the firemen the fire was prevented from communicating with the gasometer and other works. The Gas Company's loss is fully covered by insurance.

OTTAWA, May 18.—Fires are raging in the vicinity of this city, and fears are beginning to be entertained of very serious damage. In the vicinity of Hull the fire is extensive, and is fast approaching the village. A breeze towards the city would place us in great danger. The weather is intensely dry, and the sky shows not a sign of coming rain. Recollections of the fires of last year make people very anxious.

WAS IT MENDER?—Mr. James Gillespie, of Burford, drove a friend in his buggy to Paris railroad station to catch a western train. Gillespie was last seen alive at a hotel at Paris, which he left to return home. At a late hour at night the horse and conveyance came home without Mr. Gillespie, the dashboard being kicked to pieces. His son, at once divining that all was not right, started off early next morning in search of his father, whom he found, lying on the side of the road about half-way between Burford and Paris, his hands blistered and swollen as though he had held firmly unto the lines until his

last expiring efforts had gone forth, his forehead bruised and his body otherwise lacerated, and dead. There is no knowing to a certainty by what means death was occasioned. The supposition is with many that he must have received the full force of the kick of the animal when the dashboard was broken, which break was undoubtedly done in that way. Others are of the opinion that his death is the result of foul play, and more than one circumstance contributes to foster this notion. When Mr. Gillespie left home he had in his possession the sum of \$25.00. When found there was no money upon him. Further than this, a club, recently cut, was found in the buggy, upon which was blood.

REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

Portneuf, Rev. F. D., \$2; Carleton Place, R. F. N., 6.85; Three Rivers, E. B., 2.50; Centreville, W. C., 3.
Per G. P. H., Keenansville, J. W., 5.50.
Per Rev. B. G. B., St. Patrick's Hill—N. C., 2; P. W., 2.

Died.

In this city, on the 14th inst., Mary Ann McGue, of consumption. —*R.I.P.*

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

	May 21.
Flour 47 bbl. of 196 lb.—Pollards,.....	\$1.00 @ \$0.90
Superior Extra,.....	0.90 @ 0.80
Extra,.....	7.20 @ 7.25
Fancy,.....	6.90 @ 7.00
Fresh Supers, (Western wheat).....	nominal.
Ordinary Supers, (Canada wheat).....	6.60 @ 6.70
Strong Bakers',.....	6.75 @ 7.00
Supers from Western Wheat (Welland Canal),.....	nominal.
Supers City Brands (Western wheat)	
Fresh Ground,.....	0.80 @ 0.65
Canada Supers, No. 2,.....	6.10 @ 6.20
Western Supers, No. 2,.....	0.90 @ 0.90
Fine,.....	5.75 @ 5.65
Middlings,.....	4.70 @ 4.90
U. C. bag flour, per 100 lbs.,.....	3.10 @ 3.20
City bags, (delivered),.....	3.35 @ 3.40
Wheat, per bushel of 60 lbs.,.....	1.60 @ 1.62 1/2
Outramp, per bushel of 200 lbs.,.....	5.00 @ 0.00
Corn, per bushel of 56 lbs.,.....	0.62 @ 0.62 1/2
Pease, per bushel of 40 lbs.,.....	0.62 @ 0.63 1/2

FOR SALE.—One Altar, Two Confessionals, Two Organs—one with eight stops and swell; one with four stops, with first class case. To be sold cheap. Address, —*R.C. Seminary*, MONTREAL.

WANTED.—A TEACHER for Roman Catholic Separate School, Napanee. Duties to commence on May 13th. Salary liberal. Address—JAMES CULHANE, Chairman, Napanee, Ont.

WANTED.—A SITUATION as TRAVELLING COMPANION or ENGLISH GOVERNESS. Would not object to crossing the Atlantic with an invalid, or in charge of children, not under eight or over fourteen years of age. Terms moderate, and best references given. Address—Box 47, Kingston, Ont.

WANTED.
A FIRST CLASS ENGLISH TEACHER. Salary \$125 per annum. Apply to
L. TASSE, Sec. B. S. S., OTTAWA.

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869.

IN the matter of FRANCIS N. LAW, Insolvent.

I, the undersigned, L. Jos. Lajoie, Official Assignee of Montreal, have been appointed Assignee in this matter.

Creditors are requested to file their claims before me within one month.

Montreal, 15th day of May, 1872.

L. JOS. LAJOIE, Assignee.

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869.

IN the matter of JOSEPH MORIN, Tinsmith of the City of Montreal, as well individually as having been in partnership with ROBERT LEBORE, Tinsmith of the same place, and doing business together under the name and style of MORIN & LEBORE, and also as having carried on business heretofore under the name and style of JOSEPH MORIN & CO., in copartnership with Melodie Laporte, Master of the City of Montreal.

An Insolvent.
The insolvent has made an assignment of his estate and effects to me, and the creditors are notified to meet at the Court House, in the Insolvency Room, in Montreal, on Thursday the twenty third day of May, 1872, at ten o'clock of the forenoon, to receive statements of his affairs and to appoint an Assignee.

L. JOS. LAJOIE, Interim Assignee.

MONTREAL, 9th May, 1872.

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JUST RECEIVED

AT

WILLIAM MURRAY'S,

87 St. Joseph Street,

A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT of Gold Jewellery and Fancy Goods, comprising Gold and Silver Watches, Gold Chains, Lockets, Bracelets, Brooches, Scarf Pins, &c., &c.

As Mr. M. selects his Goods personally from the best English and American Houses, and buys for cash, he lays claim to be able to sell cheaper than any other house in the Trade.

Remember the Address—87 St. Joseph Street, MONTREAL.

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