

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY. At No. 223, Notre Dame Street, by J. GILLIES, G. E. CLERK, Editor.

To all country subscribers, or subscribers receiving their papers through the post, or calling for them at the office, if paid in advance, Two Dollars; if not so paid, then Two Dollars and a-half.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

To sift out the one precious grain of truth concerning the actual position of the Schleswig question from the bushel of chaff in which telegrams and editorials have enveloped it—is no easy task. War is inevitable—we are one moment assured; and the next, our informant exults in the prospect that the peace of Europe will upon this question at least, not be disturbed.

The Poles still continue to fight with desperate, but it is to be feared, unavailing courage. They know that defeat means to them extermination, and they fight therefore with the courage of men to whom death on the battle field or death on the scaffold are the only alternatives.

In the French Chambers the opposition headed by M. Thiers continue to attack the Emperor's policy, and so far as eloquence is concerned the advantage is all on their side; numbers on that of their opponents. The Mexican expedition had been more especially singled out as the point of attack, and M. Thiers had delivered himself of a very forcible oration condemnatory of the objects, and depreciating the actually obtained results of an expedition which had already cost France so much blood, and so much treasure, and which threatened to draw still more largely upon her resources.

The British domestic news is uninteresting. Judgment against Bishop Colenso had been given by the Archbishop of his Province and the sentence of deposition passed on him. This is however of no consequence, for the Privy Council is the supreme court of appeal in all spiritual cases, and to this tribunal Bishop Colenso has appealed.

The relative positions of the belligerents on this Continent remain unchanged since our last.

MR. J. S. MACDONALD AND THE HIERARCHY.—Our readers will do us the justice to admit that the TRUE WITNESS eschews party politics, and that it stands aloof from the ignoble squabbles of the Ins and Outs for the handling of the public plunder. Not indeed because we subscribe to the doctrine that the Church has no connection, that the priest should not meddle, with politics; but because our Canadian politics are so contemptible, so entirely engrossed with the personal affairs of this or the other needy and unprincipled political adventurer, that we feel contact with them as a degradation, almost as a pollution.

Nor should we have deviated from this course of perfect and independent neutrality to day, were it not that at a Ministerial banquet given at Quebec on the 4th instant, Mr. J. S. Macdonald went out of his way, or at all events is reported as having gone out of his way to insult the Catholic Hierarchy, in the Mercury, which under the present Ministry does the dirty work of the dispenser of the public plunder.—In the report of the Mercury, Mr. Macdonald is reported as having stated that the Ministry of which he was the head, had opposed

to them "the Grand Trunk, the Hierarchy, and the Ocean Steamship Company," and as he picked up out this insult to our Church, his henchmen loudly belched their applause, thereby as a body accepting the position of hostility to the Church assigned to them by their leader.

So be it; for if we have not sought to provoke the enmity of these men, so neither do we shrink from, nor do we dread it. Only this much they must permit us to tell them. That their outcry against the opposition from the Hierarchy which they have had to contend with, is a symptom of their guilty consciences. As the pick-pocket, or "prig," looks upon every policeman whom he sees in the streets as his personal enemy, because his guilty conscience tells him that he is a rogue and the enemy of all honest men, so do the consciences of Mr. J. S. Macdonald and his gang assure them that they richly deserve, even though they have not as yet encountered, that opposition or hostility of the Hierarchy of which they complain. It is this guilty conscience that makes the Rouge sing out before he is hurt; and which teaches him to look upon every loyal subject of Queen Victoria, every sincere Canadian patriot, and every faithful Catholic as his enemy; as the enemy of him whose eyes are ever affectionately turned towards Washington, and who meditates the sacrifice of Canadian autonomy upon the altar of annexation, and the pillage of the Catholic Church as a peace offering to the Clear-Grits.

AN OLD DODGE.—It is a common trick on the part of some of our Protestant contemporaries, when they wish to publish something very offensive against the Catholic clergy, and yet do not desire to incur the editorial responsibility of so doing, to put the offensive words into the mouth of a nameless or imaginary correspondent, whom they style an "Irish" or a "French Canadian Catholic," as the exigencies of the slander may require. This "Catholic" correspondent is, in short, one of the editorial "properties," as stage managers would style the thing, without which no Protestant journal can now-a-days be efficiently conducted. The Brockville Recorder has one of these useful articles, which it keeps up in an old garret, for the most part, but which it occasionally puts upon active service.

Such an occasion presented itself to the Brockville Recorder the other day. There was some dirty work to be done; a Catholic Bishop to be misrepresented, a Catholic priest to be libelled, and insulted. Immediately the "property" was put in requisition, and brought down from the old familiar lumber room where it habitually reposes. Really quite a superior article is this "property": "an Irish Catholic of great respectability, who we believe is very well known in Montreal," adds the Montreal Herald, who copies approvingly the article in question from the Brockville Recorder.

The matter treated of by the writer in the said paper is the late election for the South Riding of Leeds, which resulted in the defeat of Mr. Richards, the Ministerial candidate. The offensive part, and that of which alone we complain, is that wherein His Lordship the Bishop of Kingston is by implication accused of playing the part of a political partizan, for unworthy motives; and a Catholic priest, the Rev. M. Clune, of Smith's Falls (so the name is spelt in the Herald), is directly accused of conduct unbecoming a Christian gentleman, in that he struck a man for refusing to vote for Mr. Jones, the Opposition candidate. Now we contend that the man who made these anonymous charges against a Catholic Bishop and a Catholic priest, cannot be a "respectable Catholic;" and that therefore the correspondent over the signature of an "Irish Catholic" is but an instance of the "old dodge" which we have above indicated.—Had the charges aforesaid appeared, editorially, in the Brockville Recorder, the editor of that journal would have been responsible for their truth; but to shirk this responsibility the slanders are made public as a correspondence; and to give them additional weight with the public, they are published over the pseudonyme of "A Catholic," whose respectability and religion the Montreal Herald vouches for. Thus the slander is propagated, and all editorial responsibility is evaded.

If an honest man, or a brave man, has a charge to make, not against a system, but against an individual, he will do so over his own name, and not take cowardly refuge in a pseudonyme. The anonymous accuser is a coward, and a coward is never to be believed even upon oath, much less then as a newspaper correspondent. In that the writer in the Brockville Recorder and the Montreal Herald makes a personal, but anonymous attack upon certain individuals, we have the best of reasons for contesting his credibility and respectability: whilst in that the individuals so attacked anonymously, through the columns of a Protestant journal, are dignitaries of the Catholic Church, we have the best assurance that their assailant is not a Catholic. He is but a "dummy," a "property," a kind of John Doe, or Richard Roe of the office, an editorial fiction. If in this surmise we are mistaken, let "A Ca-

tholic," if he be a man, come out in his own name, and over his own signature; and not like a coward, stab men in the dark." We can deal with an editorial attack, because the editor is a real flesh and blood personage—a being with a local habitation and a name. We are prepared to meet, and deal with all charges made through the press against our clergy, substantiated by the signature of the accuser. But since newspaper editors expressly disclaim all responsibility for the accuracy of the facts deposed to by their several correspondents; and as the assailant of the Bishop of Kingston gives no name, it is impossible for us to condescend to any serious notice of his allegations. When he gives his name to the world, then, but not before, can we meet him.

As fast as one difficulty with the Federal Government is surmounted, or smoothed away with diplomatic shovel, another starts up, and again seems to oppose an insuperable obstacle to the preservation of peace. Since the outbreak of war betwixt North and South we have never, even for a day, been without at least one sufficient casus belli to deal with. The Trent affair, the Alabama affair, the affair of the Alexandria, of the steam rams in the Mersey, illegal enlistments, illegal seizures of British merchant ships, abduction cases innumerable, monstrous demands put forth by the Federals for indemnity from the British Government for injuries inflicted upon Yankee commerce by Confederate men of war—have all, and each in their turn, seemed to be the immediate precursors of war betwixt the two nations; and though for the time they may have been disposed of, the memory of them still remains in the memory of our neighbors, who no doubt promise themselves to exact a strict account for all the fancied injuries which they have sustained at the hands of the hated Britishers.—The latter on the other hand have borne so much, so long, and so tamely, have manifested such a spirit not of Christian, but commercial, forbearance; have so docilely held out the left cheek to be buffeted when smitten upon the right, that it may be predicted almost with certainty that no amount of insolence, abuse, and ill usage will provoke the British Lion to show his teeth, or so much as to growl, except in a very subdued tone of voice, when insulted, abused, and ill-treated, by a Power which has large armies, stores of guns, and a formidable fleet at its command. No. The British Lion is as prudent as he is brave; he reserves all his manifestations of wrath for the benefit of small Powers, such as the Pope, the King of Naples, or the Emperor of the Brazils. These he can bully with impunity, for they are weak; and he bullies them to his heart's content, and reads them high moral lessons. But the Yankees are strong, and therefore as the "lady help" would say when stipulating with the woman whose household work she consents to perform, the Yankees "must be let alone."

But this "letting alone," this tame putting up with wrong and national indignities, provokes unfortunately to fresh outrages; and the Federals have just given us another instance of the contempt which they entertain for law and courtesy, and of their firm conviction that the British Lion will for the sake of peace put up with any amount of cuffing and kicking. The facts are related by the Toronto Globe, which though a strong pro-Yankee organ, can scarce stomach this last insult to the British flag, and outrage upon British territory.

The Sioux Indians have, as our readers know, been for some time engaged in hostilities with the Federals. The latter have waged a war of extermination against their red foes, killing indiscriminately men, women, and children whenever they had the chance. Driven to despair it seems that some of these Sioux chiefs, with their followers, escaped into British territory and encamped in the neighborhood of Fort Garry under the protection, as they foolishly thought, of that flag which for a thousand years has braved the battle, &c., &c., but which it seems from the sequel, cannot brave the fury of Yankee warriors.

The latter were determined not to be baulked of their prey by such a paltry obstacle as that flag, and so they instructed a Mr. McKenzie, formerly of Minnesota, now resident at Fort Garry, to kidnap the unfortunate Indians, and bring them over to the American camp. This Mr. McKenzie, having made the Sioux chiefs drunk, succeeded in accomplishing. He plied them, so we read in the Globe, with whiskey, laudanum, and chloroform until senseless, bound them upon sleighs, carried them to Pembina, where they were received by the Yankee officer, a Major Hatch, and chained down to the floor of the guard house. By this time, in all probability, they have been put to death by their captors. Upon these facts the Globe thus comments:—

Now, were the case reversed, had these Indians been kidnaped by British people from off American soil, there would have been a tremendous uproar. We mean just as much, and probably a great deal more, when we say that the act cannot pass unnoticed by the English Government. The circumstances of the case, we admit, are unfortunate. The people of the Red River would, doubtless, so far as their immediate individual interests are concerned, much rather see the two Chiefs hung than see them return.

But Great Britain has a Treaty of Extradition with the United States. Both nations, in negotiating it, were exceedingly careful to guard their sovereign rights from infringement. It is provision is made for delivering up men guilty of certain specified crimes, but none others. It may be, as in the present case, that the limits are too narrow always to subserve the purposes of justice; but that is no argument for arbitrarily violating the sanctity of a foreign soil. As well might we claim the right of kidnapping in the United States, deserters from our army. Had Major Hatch discharged his duty, instead of chaining the Chiefs to the floor of the guard house, he would have set them free. But, unfortunately, we need no proof that too many American officers are ready, for the sake of gaining a little popularity, to violate the best understood principles of international law. The case, as soon as it becomes known in Washington, will undoubtedly attract the attention of Lord Lyons, who will, we apprehend, find little difficulty in coming to a satisfactory arrangement with the American Government. We should not be at all surprised to learn that the Chiefs had been executed before this, for brief time elapses in the Far West between the capture of an Indian and his death. If, however, Major Hatch has any discretion left he would not proceed so far without asking orders from headquarters. In any event, what Her Majesty's representative will look to is the vindication of her sovereignty, not for the sake of the captured men, but for the honor of the empire. Thus much, circumstances imperatively demand.

It will be seen that there are many points of resemblance betwixt the case of these Sioux chiefs, and that of the kidnapping of the silly creature Redpath at Montreal. As in the latter case our Government did not deem it its duty to interfere, though the chief agent in the outrage was said to be an official of the Federal Government, it is not probable that it will take any pains to vindicate the honor of the British flag in the case of Indians kidnaped by a private person. Humble pie is your only diet for British Lions now-a-days, and this they will swallow to any extent. Of course if the offender had been weak, one whom it would be quite safe to quarrel with, or one whom a Palmerston or a Russell might bully with impunity—as the Pope for instance—we should have had no end of indignation, and patriotic outbursts about honor of British flag, and integrity of British territory. But the relative position of the parties being what they are, John Bull will pocket the affront very meekly, and eat his beef with a pleasant smile overspreading his jovial countenance. He will be perhaps a little more truculent than usual towards Pius IX. and roar as it were a lion; but towards Abe Lincoln he will be as gentle as any dove, for such is the policy of Liberals in general, and of our own Liberal Government in particular. It was not thus in days of old.—John was then a testy old fellow, quick to take offence, and quick to strike; but alas! "Lenit abscens animos capillus" and John now patiently tolerates what he, in the hey-day of his youth, would not have so borne:

\* \* \* calidus juvenata Conale Planco.

We are well pleased to learn, and so also will be many of our readers, that the Building Committee for the projected Catholic Church in Cornwall have given out the contract for the work. M. Zephirum Perrault is the contractor whose tender has been accepted, and we understand that he is obliged to commence operations with the coming month of May. Everybody in the district is now in earnest to get the good work completed, as soon as possible; and as usual when any good work is toward, the Ladies of the congregation are especially active, and have undertaken a Bazaar to be held in November next, in aid of the Church Building fund. Our correspondent adds:—

"The contract embraces the completion of the exterior, the tower and coping, the doors and the windows. For this we pay \$6,872, a large sum for our small and not very wealthy parish. We are however strong in hope, and confidently trust "Our Lady of Grace" (under whose special invocation the Church when finished will be placed) will obtain us aid from her Divine Son sufficient to enable us to bring our undertaking to a happy completion, and to the greater honor and glory of God."

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.—These commenced on Friday last, at the City Hall. M. Jean Louis Beaudry was put in nomination for Mayor, and was elected unanimously. The proceedings for the elections of Councillors for the several Wards are thus given in the Herald of Saturday:—

East Ward.—Moved by Ephraim Hudson, Esq., seconded by J. B. Gauthier, Esq., that J. B. Roll and Esq., be councillor for the ensuing year. No opposition. Re-elected. West Ward.—Moved by Alex. Murphy, Esq., seconded by Thos. Patton, Esq., that N. B. Corse, Esq., be Councillor for the ensuing year. Moved by Robert Irwin, Esq., seconded by C. G. Greaux, Esq., that A. A. Stevenson, Esq., be elected for the ensuing term. A poll being demanded, it was granted. Election last week in February. Centre Ward.—Moved by David Muir, Esq., seconded by Edmund Frechette, that T. S. Higginson, Esq., be elected Councillor for the ensuing term. Moved by William Darling, Esq., seconded by R. A. Hubert, Esq., that G. B. Muir, Esq., be elected. A Poll demanded. Election last week in February. St. Ann's Ward.—Moved by Patrick Larkin, Esq., seconded by Francis Payette, Esq., that J. W. McGauran, Esq., be elected Councillor for the ensuing year. Moved by John Moore, Esq., seconded by John Conroy, Esq., that Thomas McGrath, Esq., be elected. A Poll demanded. Election last week in February. St. Antoine Ward.—Moved by C. B. Tuttle, Esq., seconded by Andrew Watson, Esq., that Daniel McNevin, Esq., be elected Councillor for the ensuing term. There being no opposition Mr. McNevin was declared re-elected. St. Lawrence Ward.—Moved by J. B. St. Louis, Esq., seconded by Albert Lupien, Esq., that Gabriel

Holland, Esq., be elected Councillor for the ensuing term. Moved by Dr. Godfrey, seconded by William Burnett, Esq., that George Bowie, Esq., be elected. A Poll demanded. Election last week in February. St. James Ward.—Moved by Richard Thomas, Esq., seconded by Remi Lambert, Esq., that Francois Constant, Esq., be re-elected to represent this ward in the City Council for the ensuing term. No opposition, declared re-elected. St. Mary's Ward.—Moved by Stephen McNaughton, Esq., seconded by A. Mathias, Esq., that J. R. Goyette, Esq., be re-elected to represent this ward. Carried without opposition. St. Louis Ward.—Moved by Louis Frigon, Esq., seconded by Galbraith Ward, Esq., that Ferdinand David, Esq., be re-elected to represent the above ward. Moved, in amendment, by Thomas Peel, Esq., seconded by Joel Leduc, Esq., that J. B. Homier, Esq., be elected for this ward. Election last week in February.

The proceedings passed off in an orderly manner. Owing to a mistake at this office, and not to the neglect of our correspondent, the subjoined obituary notice of a good Christian and a warm-hearted Irishman failed to make its appearance in our last:—

"On the morning of Thursday the 28th ult., the citizens of Kingston learnt with sorrow that death had been busy during the night, and had carried off one of their oldest, worthiest, and most esteemed members; for they heard that that excellent man Matthew Rourke had passed away, and would appear amongst them on earth no more.

"The deceased was an Irishman, born to Armagh in 1796. He emigrated to this country in 1817, and commenced business in the rising city of Kingston in 1820. His first start was beset with many obstacles; but Matthew Rourke was endowed with a capacious mind, and an iron will. These, with the grace of God, enabled him to make head against his troubles, and soon he attained a position of wealth; while his honesty assured him the respect of his fellow-citizens. His straightforwardness, his unimpeachable integrity, earned for him the esteem and love of all who had dealings of any kind with him; and thus honored and trusted in private by men of all denominations, he was repeatedly elected to fill offices of honor and of trust in public affairs. Though unostentatious by nature, Matthew Rourke was always to be found foremost in every good work.—Under a rough shell, and apparently a rugged exterior, he concealed a warm, generous and tender heart; and his ears were ever open to hear, his hand ever open to relieve the poor and the afflicted. His private charities are known to God only, but his works of public charity and benevolence still live, and keep his memory fresh amongst us. The walls of our magnificent Cathedral, in whose vaults his mortal body now quietly reposes amidst other cherished remains, will long recount his unflagging zeal and his exhaustless liberality. The sacred cause of education had in him an earnest and enlightened champion; and three of his daughters, emulating the virtues of their sire, have already consecrated their lives in the Congregation of Notre Dame, to the sublime mission of directing the youth of their own sex in the arduous path of science and religion.

"So having for nigh the allotted three score and ten years, faithfully served his Master upon earth, the summons calling him to receive the reward of his labors went forth. He was stricken down with a painful illness, which he bore long with true Christian fortitude and resignation to the will of God; and with that robust and steady faith which alone can make a man triumphant over the king of terror. In faith and in peace he breathed his last, ministered to by his friends, and receiving the last consolations of that holy religion which had been the constant rule of his life, his comfort in affliction, to which he had ever clung with unswerving fidelity, and for whose sake he had cheerfully severed the fondest ties.

"On Saturday, the 30th ult., after a Pontifical High Mass, his remains were deposited in their last resting place amidst the sighs and prayers of a large circle of friends, and the tears of an afflicted family, to whom even in death he is still the consolation. They know that he is not dead, though parted from them; for the just shall live for ever—justi autem in perpetuum vivunt, and their works do follow them—opera enim illorum sequuntur illos. Enshrined in the hearts of the poor, his memory will long be cherished, and will outlive those perishable monuments which but proclaim that he whom we loved is no more. May this remembrance stimulate us whom he has left behind him to emulate his virtues, so that when our Master calls us, we also may like him die the death of the just, and so that our last end may be like to his.—Com.

The aspersions upon the Officers and Men of the 47th Regt. are not only infamous in themselves, but they are false. The Deserters alluded to are not all Roman Catholics, nor even the half of them; and there is not the slightest interference with the religion of the Roman Catholics in the 47th Regt. Such a statement going home, without contradiction, might do serious damage to the Commandant of the Garrison and Officers of that Regiment. And we happen to know, that these gentlemen do feel sensitively the injury inflicted, knowing how difficult it is to remove an ill impression. Fortunately, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese, Dr. Horan, came to their relief yesterday, during Divine Service. As far as his words have been reported to us, he said "that the statements of the News were false. He had made enquiries, and had learnt that the majority of the Deserters alluded to were not Roman Catholics. That whatever griefs or wrongs the Roman Catholic soldiers had to complain of, interference with their religion was not one of them. Nothing on that score could justify them in deserting from a Service they had voluntarily entered, and had sworn to remain in. Any soldier who would be false to his Queen and Country would be false to his God. So far from Colonel Lowry interfering, he had been more than ordinarily liberal to his Roman Catholic soldiers