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THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPT. 30, 1853.

ST. PATRICK'S BAZAAR.

We beg to direct attention to the St. Patrick's Bazaar, for clothing orphan and destitute children, opened last evening in the St. Patrick's Hall (Place d'Armes) and which we are happy to learn, will remain open for several days on account of the large quantity of work to be disposed of. The citizens of Montreal need no word of exhortation from us to secure their patronage for this admirable work: each succeeding year, the increasing success of the St. Patrick's Bazaar, affords the most substantial proof that this work of Charity elicits the warmest sympathies of every class of our fellow citizens without distinction of creed or race. Indeed, it would not be creditable to us were it otherwise, considering that the objects to be relieved are orphan children, and that their fair patronesses are ladies whose persevering zeal has already established them models of exertion in the cause of charity throughout the Province.

To our friends from the U. States, as well as from other parts of this province we would say—visit the St. Patrick's Bazaar if you desire to see some of the very best specimens of our native industry—we will take the blame if you are disappointed.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

In the political world there is nothing new; the only subject of any interest arises from the fresh complications which have occurred in the Eastern question, to which a pacific solution is now, more than ever, doubtful. All depends upon the acceptance or non-acceptance, by the Emperor of Russia, of the terms contained in the Sultan's note; and the general opinion is that the former will not accept them, in which case, to all human appearances, war is inevitable; unless the great Powers of Europe submit to the only alternative left them, that of surrendering Turkey to the ambitious grasp of Russia, and leaving the latter power undisturbed mistress of the East. In the mean time all these delays are favorable to the designs of the Czar. His troops retain possession of the Principalities, drawing their resources from the invaded territory; whilst the approach of the autumn will soon render it necessary for the combined squadrons to seek a safer anchorage than that afforded by Besika Bay. These prospects of war, together with the bad harvest, have caused a considerable rise in the price of food throughout the West of Europe. A winter of much suffering, famine and disease is anticipated; to which fears, the simultaneous appearance of several decided cases of Asiatic Cholera in several parts of England, has greatly contributed.

The Chinese insurrection is daily assuming increased importance in the eyes of the Catholic world.—It is known that the insurgents profess to be, and are claimed as, good sound Protestants; and certainly, in so far as Protestantism is merely a bastard, or mongrel kind of Christianity—it seems that they well deserve the title, by the cruelties which they exercise towards Catholics, of which an account will be found on our 6th page.

In another column will be found a report of the proceedings in the Court of Queen's Bench, at Quebec. In the case of Mr. Sheriff Sewell, for jury packing, the Court has inflicted a fine of fifty pounds upon the criminal—the highest penalty in its power to award—thus clearly marking its sense of the guilt of the culprit. Though this trifling punishment—trifling, when compared with the blackness of the offence, one of the foulest of which a public officer connected with the administration of justice can be guilty—is all that the Court awards, or, we believe, has it in its power to award—we trust that the matter will not be allowed to rest here. The interests of society, which require to be protected against the misconduct of Jack-in-Office—the honor of our legal tribunals, demand that the crimes of Jury-packing, and bribery, be visited with some severer punishment than the infliction of a trifling fine, which, to a man in Mr. Sewell's position, who has long enjoyed a handsome revenue out of the pockets of the public, is no punishment at all. A poor petty larceny rogue, for some trifling offence, not one-half so dangerous to society as that which has been established against Mr. Sewell, gets bread and water, hard labor, and imprisonment, in the Penitentiary: and we see not why Dives and Lazarus should not be made to suffer alike for their misdeeds. The Court indeed can not exceed the powers conferred upon it by law; but we should think that it has the power of dismissing the officer, who has brought upon it such disgrace as has Mr. Sheriff Sewell; and we are certain that, if it has that power it ought, out of regard to its own honor,

as well as for the sake of restoring confidence in its proceedings, to exercise it rigorously against such an unworthy and incapable official as Mr. Sewell has proved himself to be.

The language of the Judges in pronouncing the sentence of the Court upon Mr. Sewell, is however, calculated to inspire us with confidence, that, in so far as lies in their power, justice will yet be done. To them all eyes are directed: on their untainted integrity, do the public rely for protection against the incapacity and dishonesty of government officials; and we believe that it will not be their fault if the precincts of the Court of Queen's Bench be not soon cleared of the presence of men who, by their dishonest acts have brought such shame upon it. It is now upon record in that Court, that its officers, for whose acts it is responsible, hesitate not, to offer bribes to advocates in order to induce them to betray the cause of their clients about to be arraigned before it—a piece of villainy we believe unparalleled in the annals of British Jurisprudence—and which, if Judge Aylwin has it in his power, will not be allowed to go unpunished. "If," said his Honor giving utterance to the honest indignation of his heart—"if charges of this description be allowed to go unregarded there will be an end to justice, equity and right"—almost our very words of last week—and added his Honor—"If the accusation be true, no punishment can be too severe upon the offender."

Mr. Justice Rolland, in delivering judgment, was very severe upon Mr. Sewell. Admitting—"that if the facts alleged in the Sheriff's affidavits were proved," much could be said in extenuation of the offence—His Honor continued—"Now, as to the proof of the excuse, I must say for one I am not satisfied with it.—In my opinion, the attempt at an excuse for a breach of duty—an avowed contravention of the law—HAS FAILED, no satisfactory evidence having been laid before us. The Sheriff, of his own choice, has abstained from producing that legal evidence of facts which was in his power."

The Court, it must be remembered, in awarding a sentence of only £50, was only dealing with the errors in the Grand Jury Lists; those which were detected in the Petit Jury Lists not having as yet come officially before it. It will be noticed too, in the Sheriff's affidavits, that the deponent never ventures to swear that these errors, in the Petit Jury Lists, proceeded from inadvertence, or that he was not privy to the offering of a bribe, by his deputy, in order to hush them up. And yet the attempt to pack the Petit Jury was still more scandalous than the other offence of which the Sheriff has been convicted, and for which he has been fined; we trust this matter may be thoroughly investigated.

Connected with these proceedings, we can not fail to notice a decided tendency to offer up Mr. Von Exter as a vicarious sacrifice for the sins of Mr. Sewell, laying upon the shoulders of the former the whole burden of the iniquity. This, though too commonly the way of the world, and the ordinary fate of poor deputies to rich principals, would be a gross aggravation of injustice in the present instance. It is clear that, throughout, Mr. Von Exter has been an instrument in the hands of others—a tool "which knaves do work with," so long as there is any work to be got out of it, and most ungratefully cast upon one side when its services are no longer profitable. By Mr. Von Exter's own letters, by the Sheriff's own admissions, extorted from him with difficulty, and after much quibbling and shuffling, it is certain that the former was neither morally nor legally responsible for the falsification of the Jury Lists, having throughout acted under the immediate advice, and positive instructions of his principal, Mr. Sheriff Sewell. The original lists, made by Mr. Von Exter, before the Gavazzi riots, were correctly made out; it was by the instructions of Mr. Sewell, and after the riots, in which that gentleman got himself so roughly handled for the unbecoming part he took in them, that the names of Catholics were so cleverly omitted, and those of Protestants inserted. A little attention to dates makes it clear that, for the errors in the lists, no blame can be attributed to the Deputy, but that Mr. Sheriff Sewell is alone responsible for them—was alone concerned in having them concealed. It would be mighty convenient for Mr. Sewell, very pleasant for his friends, if, after having got Mr. Von Exter to do all the dirty work, they could pitch him overboard, like Jonas to the whale, and make their peace with the public at his expence. But will the Press—will the Bar—amongst whose members we should look for the behaviour of gentlemen—lend themselves to such a shabby transaction? Are they going to wash Mr. Sewell's foul linen?

BISHOP RAPP AND THE CLEVELAND ORPHANS.

On Sunday last, His Lordship the Bishop of Cleveland assisted at Vespers in St. Patrick's Church.—It had been previously announced that the afternoon collection was to be for the Cleveland Orphan Asylum; and when Vespers were ended, the venerable Prelate ascended the pulpit to explain the wants of his infant diocese. His discourse was simple and touching—"a plain unvarnished tale," unadorned by flights of fancy—with little aid from art, but still most effective, full of truth and fervor, and deep pathos. He spoke first of the prosperous condition of the Church in Canada, and of the many reasons that we have to be thankful to God, inasmuch as He has been pleased to bless us beyond others, with the comforts and privileges of religion. After a brief, but graphic description of our stately churches, our noble hospitals, schools and asylums, he proceeded to describe the lamentable destitution of the church of Cleveland. Six years ago, he said, it pleased the Father of the Faithful to make that town a Bishop's See; and though it then contained 3,000 Catholics,

it had neither church, nor episcopal residence, nor hospital, nor asylum, for their exclusive use. "Above all," said the Bishop, "we had no school wherein to train up our children." He then went on to tell how our poor countrymen came to Cleveland in thousands, seduced by fallacious hopes; how, sinking under their disappointment, and the manifold sufferings and privations of their hard lot, they, in numberless cases, died in the poor-house, leaving their helpless children exposed not only to destitution and misery, but to be pounced on by the traffickers in souls, and brought up by the enemies of that Church for which their ancestors fought and bled, and to which their parents clung with ceaseless love, amid all their sufferings; yet still the church of Cleveland had grown and flourished, notwithstanding its poverty, so that it now numbered ten thousand souls, having increased more than threefold in the six years of its existence.

"We have begged for a church," proceeded the venerable prelate, "we have begged for a hospital—we have begged for an asylum for our orphan boys and girls; but weighed down with an immense debt, we have not the means of supporting them, and we are often, very often, obliged to turn these helpless children from our door, though we know that they must go to almost certain perdition. Save us, then," said he, "good Christians of Montreal," in the words of our text, "save us, or we perish. We know that most of you are poor, and that you have many calls on your liberality; but we also know that you are rich in faith and in zeal for our holy religion. Extend your charity, then, to the children of your own race; give each of you a little, in proportion to your means, so that we may be enabled to protect and cherish those destitute creature, according to our wish, and you shall have my blessing a hundred times, and the crowning blessing of God."

We are happy to have it in our power to say that this fervent appeal was not unsuccessful; the collection amounted to \$160, though the congregation present was not very large. But this is nothing strange, for the charity of our people seems really inexhaustible; they are, for the most part, poor—tradesmen, laborers, and mechanics; there is scarcely a week but they are called on to contribute to some charity, whether foreign or domestic, and yet they are never found wanting; they have always wherewith to assist the necessitous, wherever they come from. And so will it ever be; they who are disposed to give for God's sake will never be left without the means, for "God loveth the cheerful giver."

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, QUEBEC.

On Thursday, Mr. Primrose put in the affidavits of the Sheriff and his deputy, in which the latter admitted his trying to corrupt Mr. O'Farrell, by means of bribes—and the former asserted his innocence, of authorising such conduct—in so far as concealing the errors of the Grand Jury Lists was in question. Mr. O'Farrell was allowed to put in affidavits in reply.

It then turned out that some more blunders had been committed in impanelling the Grand Jury; a man named Stevin, having been substituted—whether by the stupidity, or dishonesty, the knavery, or design on the part of the officers of the Court, does not appear—for a John Stevin. The proceedings had therefore to be commenced de novo. So much for government putting a set of ninecompoops in our public offices.

On Saturday, the Grand Jury again found True Bills against the parties accused of participating in the Gavazzi riots, who were committed to prison, the Court having refused to take bail. The Court gave judgment in the case of Mr. Sewell, fining him £50. Mr. Justice Aylwin expressed the opinion of the Court on the bribery question, qualifying it as a most serious, and indictable offence.

We believe that the prisoners have been admitted to bail.

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

This Exhibition opened on Tuesday, and does great credit to the skill and energy of the gentlemen concerned. The weather has been most unpropitious, but we hope is about to mend, and may not frustrate this laudable attempt to foster a spirit of improvement amongst our rural and industrial population. We have not space this week to enter into particulars, but may remark that the show of cattle was remarkably fine. We noticed especially, some splendid Ayrshire cows, and one or two well-bred short horns. There will be a Torch Light procession, and a display of Fireworks, to-night, on the grounds.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS OF THE PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY.

(Printed by Order of the Legislature Assembly, Quebec 1853.) We noticed in our last the conflicting views, as to the proper mode of conducting the affairs of this important Institution, which the Report of the Inspectors, and the letters of the Catholic and Protestant Chaplains, disclose. But the quality and quantity of secular instruction that ought, at the expense of the State, to be imparted to convicts undergoing the punishment of their crimes, are not the only subjects upon which the above mentioned officials are at issue. Still more serious, because more directly affecting the discipline of the Penitentiary, and the morals of the prisoners, are the indifferences as to the mode in which religious instruction should be given to them: and as to whether it be proper to allow the convicts, attending the Prison Sunday School, to hold communication with one another under the pretence of instructing one another in the law of God, and the precepts of our holy religion. Dr. Nelson—the Catholic Chaplain—and we may add, the regulations of the Penitentiary which ought to be constantly main-

tained—condemn this practise; the Protestant Chaplain, perhaps with an eye to proselytism amongst the convicts, and Mr. Dickson, approve of it. It is for the government to decide betwixt them.

Whatever may be the judgment of the public as to the soundness of Dr. Nelson's opinions respecting the propriety of converting our prisons into state colleges, he certainly deserves great credit for the bold and straightforward manner in which he has exposed a glaring violation of prison discipline, and denounced an abuse which, under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Hannibal Mulkins, has for some time obtained in the Kingston Penitentiary, and which threatens to be as injurious to the cause of religion, and the moral interests of the prisoners themselves, as it is opposed to the regulations laid down by the Government for the management of the Institution.

It was intended by the framers of these regulations, that it should be conducted on the silent system; that though, not in all cases confined in separate cells, the convicts should hold no communication whatsoever, or upon any pretence whatever, with one another; the strictest silence was to be enforced always, and upon all. This salutary regulation the Rev. Mr. Hannibal Mulkins has taken upon himself to set aside in the most extraordinary manner, and upon the most absurd pretence imaginable, by employing convicts as teachers in the Sunday School; thus permitting the prisoners to hold almost unrestricted intercourse with one another, and presenting us with the extraordinary spectacle of felon, expounding to felon, the mysteries of Christianity, and expatiating upon the beauties of the paths of righteousness. As an infringement of penal discipline such a practice, such an exhibition can hardly be too strongly condemned; as it strikes at the very roots of the silent system, and preparing the way for the introduction of interminable abuses; but, viewed with regard to its moral consequences it is still more condemnable. Convicts meet together in Sunday School, nominally to talk good, and do the pious—in reality to entertain one another with all manner of filthy conversation. A man need not be blessed with a very lively imagination, to conceive the style of conversation that takes place amongst the convicts upon these occasions, and the quality of the religion which they communicate to another. But we are not left to the exercise of our imagination, to learn the results of this scandalous breach of discipline; the Prison officials are very explicit upon the point. We have first the testimony of the guards and keepers to the effect that:—

"Much conversation takes place during the Sunday School. The places where conversation is more freely held are the yard, &c., and in the Secular and Sunday Schools."—p. 86.

The nature of this conversation we learn from the Catholic Chaplain:—

"It has often come to my knowledge that they make use of this opportunity to hold conversations on the most immoral subjects."—p. 32.

And again from Dr. Nelson's Report, "I assert," says the Inspector, "without fear of contradiction, that I have heard a convict, who was pointed out to me as a man of education and great information, expound the Holy Scriptures in a manner to excite my astonishment and indignation, and to marvel that such a man should have been selected as a teacher to his fellow convicts. The awful events attending the crucifixion and death of our Saviour, he explained as arising from natural causes, an earthquake, and not from supernatural or Divine power." This was expounding the 'Sacred Record' with a vengeance."—p. 84.

It is not difficult to conclude what effects may be anticipated from such moral and religious instructions, imparted in such a manner, and by such men. Better, far better, would it be, as well for the convicts themselves, as for the interests of society, that the Sunday School should be at once abolished as a nuisance,—even though no religious instruction whatever should be imparted to the prisoners,—than that such immoral conversations, and blasphemous travesties of God's Holy Word, should any longer be tolerated.—In this opinion we are happy to see that the Catholic Chaplain coincides. Of the Sunday School he says:

"Under present circumstances, I have formed but a very poor opinion of its beneficial results; yea, I am much inclined to believe that it is more than needless, and that the sooner an end is put to it, the better."—p. 32.

The same authority strongly insists upon the propriety of appointing one Catholic matron to take charge of the female Catholic prisoners; and in treating of the proper qualifications for such a person, he gives some very excellent recommendations, which are as true, as they are sure to be offensive to the majority of the psalm-singing hypocrites of the present day, who fancy, that to reform the criminal, you have only to stick a copy of King James' Bible into his lists. "The matron" says the Chaplain, "should not only be religious but a person of great prudence;" "She ought to bear in mind that religious training does not consist in interminable quotations of Scriptural texts, seldom to the purpose,—nor in moral discourses by the yard, at times when she well knows that the temper of the convicts is ill disposed to benefit by such harangues; nor in cramming down their unwilling throats silly stories of conversions by reading the Scriptures, culled out of unmeaning tracts, the reading of which, now-a-days, becomes the spiritual food of the elect."—p. 36.

It is to put a stop to this mischievous propensity, that the Catholic Chaplain insists upon the propriety of one of the matrons being a Catholic; a proposition, the reasonableness of which no one, in his senses will contest; though we suspect that the cause of the outcry that has been raised by certain of the Protestant press against Dr. Nelson, and the Catho-

"When it may be necessary to bring prisoners together during the hours of labor, instruction, and Divine Worship, effectual means ought to be taken to prevent any intercourse betwixt such prisoners." Rev. 5th, select committee. The regulations for military prisons are equally stringent, and whilst allowing the prisoners to be employed for the general service of the establishment, expressly prohibit the employing of them as teachers.