

been extinguished sooner. Knew nothing of the cause of the hose bursting.

Jean B. Monette, sworn—Deposed that he was branchman of the "Hero." That, in company with La Brèche and another comrade, he effected an entrance into the burning building, and took up a position to play upon the flames. That immediately, the "Neptune" and "Protector" directed their stream full upon them; and in spite of their cries and entreaties to them to desist, persisted in pumping upon them—as he believed—on purpose, and with the intention of preventing them from saving the building. Did not believe that the firemen, generally, were desirous to extinguish the fire, or they would have pumped upon it, instead of upon the men of the "Hero" engine, from whom they were distant only 10 or 15 feet, and whose cries they must have distinctly heard.

Jean Joseph La Rose, sworn—Deposed that he was a branchman of the "Hero" engine, but could say nothing of his personal knowledge about the bursting of the hose, except that they burst oftener than at any other fire. In company with La Brèche and Monette, got into the Nun's building; when immediately the "Neptune" and "Protector" turned their stream full upon them, and deluged them with water. Cried out to them to desist; and M. La Brèche got down and complained to the captain of the "Neptune" about such unworthy conduct—but only got laughed at for his pains. Believes firmly that he and his comrades were pumped upon on purpose—because there was no fire where they stood and because the men of the "Neptune" and "Protector" engines, even if they had not seen them for the smoke, must distinctly have heard their cries; as the distance betwixt them was so small. Suffered much in the manner in which he had been treated; and met M. Le Blanc, who, seeing the frozen and exhausted condition in which he and his comrades were, told them to hurry home.

Mr. Fletcher, Assistant Engineer sworn—Deposed that he was early at the fire. That he attributed the bursting of the hose, in part to their being laid down in kinks, and to the too sudden forcing water through them. Did not notice any disinclination to work. Knew nothing of hose bursting from obstructions of ice. Hose frozen on the 25th; but would not say whether three days, and two nights were sufficient for thawing them with proper care.

It had never been represented to the Fire Department that the quantity of hose was not sufficient in frosty weather, in case one fire should occur within three days of another. Such a representation should have been made, if quantity of hose deficient. Saw nothing himself of pumping on men in building; but heard of it from La Brèche, and told him that the men who pumped on him were much to blame.

The Committee then adjourned till Thursday 2 P.M.

"A Member of the St. Patrick's Congregation"—or to speak correctly, one who falsely assumes that title, for we are sure that every honest Irish Catholic in Montreal disclaims all membership, or communion with him—still continues his abuse of the Irish Clergy of Montreal, in the columns of the *Pilot*—fit channel for his malignant drivellings, and malicious aspersions, against our revered pastors. If however he expects to elicit any reply from us, he is mistaken. The Catholic Clergy of this city know their duty, do their duty, always and under all circumstances—and need no one to defend them. They can well afford to despise the cowardly malignity which prompts the effusions of a mis-called "member of the St. Patrick's Congregation," which have by this time been appreciated at their proper value by the Irish laity also. We say "cowardly" advisedly; because no one but a coward would drag the name of a lady, or of a priest, into a newspaper discussion.

As the same writer, however, alludes to ourselves, and as we, as laymen, are fair game, we may be permitted to do for ourselves what we would scorn to do for our Clergy—viz., to offer a word or two in explanation of our conduct. "It is currently reported"—says the writer in the *Pilot*—that the editor of the *TRUE WITNESS* "originated the idea" of bringing forward a certain "Government employé" as one of the delegates from this city to the Buffalo Convention; and that he also "made such a proposition to the aforesaid Government employé." In these statements, there is both truth and falsehood.

It is false that "the idea originated" with us. For it was first proposed to us by a friend of the person alluded to, as a "Government employé"—who, the "friend," gave himself the trouble of calling at our office to sound us. It is true however that believing the aforesaid "Government employé" to be, from his long Colonial experience, better qualified than any man in Montreal to perform the duties of a delegate, we did make a suggestion to him in writing to that effect—which however from causes needless to recapitulate led to nothing. But how came this to be "currently and authoritatively reported?" There is but one way of accounting for it; and that is, that the person to whom the suggestion was made, was guilty of the ineffable meanness of divulging, or allowing to be divulged, the contents of a correspondence marked "Private and Confidential." If then it be true, as "A Member of the St. Patrick's Congregation" asserts—that "it is currently and authoritatively reported," that the editor of the *TRUE WITNESS* made any proposition to a certain "Government employé" about the Buffalo Convention, the only excuse we can offer for our conduct is this—that, we mistook the aforesaid "Government employé" for a gentleman; and that we will take good care never to fall into such a monstrous error again.

We would call attention to the report of Mr. Murphy's lecture on our sixth page.

The men accused of the murder of Corrigan at St. Sylvester, were brought up for trial at the "Court of Queen's Bench," Quebec, on Tuesday last. The Solicitor-General stated, that in consequence of the absence of some important witnesses, he could not go on with the case.

BUFFALO CONVENTION.

It would appear from a letter from the Reverend Dean Kirwan, of London, which we give below, that Tuesday, the 12th of February, has been fixed upon as the day of meeting:—

LONDON, C. W., Jan. 3d, 1856.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN CHIEF.

DEAR SIR:—As an important anxiety is manifested throughout the length and breadth of this vast Continent by the Irish race to accelerate the meeting of the Convention for the purpose of colonization, I beg to inform you, the delegates, and all who are supposed to lend their co-operation, that the Convention will meet in the city of Buffalo, on Tuesday, 12th day of February, 1856.

The preliminary meeting of the first session will commence at 4 o'clock P.M., of the same day. It may be expected that I should give a brief outline of the important duties that will devolve on the delegates. The object of the Convention is to promote colonization, as the best and surest mode of establishing the Irish family on this Continent, and thereby secure and protect the emigrant from the persecuting and paralyzing influence brought to bear against his country and creed. In order to effect this, 1st, it will be necessary to provide means; 2d, to provide the most suitable and convenient localities, either whole districts, or townships; 3d, the means of information which will be accessible to every emigrant as soon as he lands on the American soil. The Convention must not be a transient affair; perpetuity is necessary in order to maintain the existing and secure the future success of the object in view. There will be for many years an emigration from Ireland, and let me suppose that it should decrease to 20 thousand per annum, or even half, would it not be worth while to cherish and protect that number? In the course of ten years, they and their offspring would count a great host. In order, then, to be at all times in a position to relieve and assist the emigrant, the system of perpetuity is necessary to guarantee success. By this I mean that the Convention should be modelled on the system of Parliament, or the Councils of the Church; that the President should have large and concentrated power, for an arch without the binding keystone will crumble; that the delegates should continue in office for the space of five years from the date of their election; and that the Convention should meet annually at a specified time and place, and continue their labors. It is not to be expected that all the good that can be done will be accomplished in one year. Every year will bring its new quota, so that it is by the multiplication of numerals we arrive at millions.

It will also be powerful in preventing scheming politicians and abused faith of their countrymen, as the views of the Convention in relation to the position which Irishmen should occupy under their respective governments will be the voice of disinterested persons. It is to be supposed that the elected delegates will be men of probity, and acquired experience, and therefore that their opinions or councils will carry due weight with their countrymen. The Convention will also be useful and effective in giving salutary warning to their countrymen to beware of entering into an alliance or conspiracy with any body or party of men whose object is to violate the laws of the government under which they live, or desire to invade the Territory of an offending neighboring power. One of their first and most important duties will be to exhort the emigrants to support and uphold the constitution of their respective governments, for it is only when the letter, and above all, when the spirit of the letter of the constitution is violated, that injustice, oppression, and persecution follow. Let the motto then of the Convention be: Our God, our religion, our adopted country, and the constitution under which we live, the fostering protection under these of the emigrant. The idea of enrolling the slippery dollar must be eradicated, and the more permanent and substantial one of acquiring a home be substituted as the effectual means of putting the emigrant in a position of independence, and securing for him and his posterity and equality of civil rights and religious liberty. Let the idea of acquiring property be once implanted in the mind of the emigrant, and it will work its end; precedent and example have great influence, so that when the emigrant located on land writes to his friends or associates that he now cultivates the farm and has a home, he will become an actual missionary, installing identical views into the minds of his friends and acquaintances. How different it has been hitherto, when the table of wages on the railroad or canal was carefully inquired after, and conned over and over again. Having given this brief outline, it may not be out of place that I should glance at the effect likely to be produced by the efforts of the Convention. The number of competitors in the labor market will be diminished in the large seaboard towns, cities, railroads and canals, by transferring them into the interior of the country; then will cease the fierce contentions for the possession of a job, so disgraceful to kindred and country; the country will be largely benefitted by its speedier development; food and clothing will be cheaper, for the number of non-producing individuals will be diminished, and, consequently, of consumers; whilst, on the other hand, the agricultural products of the country will be largely increased, and the surplus sent to market to supply the wants of non-producers. It is to the inequality or disproportion existing between non-producers or consumers and the agricultural class that has caused consumable commodities to range the last two years at famine prices. When it is considered that a half million of emigrants from Europe arrive annually on this Continent, all consumers, and but few producers, such a result must reasonably be expected. Colonization will create another beneficial effect for the coming emigrant, as the labor mart will not be glutted. Instead of being the taxed and unwelcome guest, he will be hailed with joy, because his services are required by his more fortunate and opulent fellow-being. To the same cause I may trace the necessity of having so many benevolent and charitable institutions in the large and populous towns and cities. These, however numerous, are inadequate to meet the wants of the infirm who had spent their early youth and manhood in earning the dollar, and likewise of many who have bequeathed their unprotected and unprovided orphans to the charitable care of their more industrious, provident, and fortunate neighbors. The sums expended in the erection of these establishments are considerable, yet they afford but a temporary relief for the infirm when convalescent or the orphan who has no home to return to when necessitated to leave the charitable roof that sheltered him. Colonization will diminish the cause and therefore the effect, by placing the young man in the prime of manhood, whilst his frame is vigorous and his arm strong, to wield the glittering axe, to cleave the forest, or eradicate the wild prairie grass, and build a home, which will shelter him and his family, and guarantee to him in his declining days a sufficiency for support. Would not such noble ends in view deserve the fostering care of our respective legislators and governments, and especially as they have such ample means on hands in the interminable extent of forests and prairie lands? How much a liberal policy and hearty co-operation on their part would conduce to the greatness, peace, and prosperity of the respective countries and people over whom Providence has placed them to be fostering and protecting fathers, the inequalities now so discernible on the surface of society would diminish; the poor man would not envy the rich, the clothes he wears, or the food he eats, for his farm granted him by the liberality of a wise and paternal government, will henceforth, by honest industry, supply him with the necessities of life. The reasonable and contented *Philosopher wants no more*. With this explanation, which I now submit to the public, I trust it will not be deemed presumptuous to invite the co-operation of the hierarchy and laymen of this Continent, and likewise to humbly request that our respective governments would send representatives to lay before the Convention the map of the country

and the inducements which they are willing to hold out to the emigrants, and the cause of Colonization.

I have the honor to be, &c., T. T. KIRWAN, R. D.

CONVENTION MEETING AT HAMILTON.

A meeting was held in St. Mary's Church, January 13th, 1856, to take into consideration what action should be taken by the Catholics of the City of Hamilton in the forthcoming Convention to be held at Buffalo.

The Very Rev. Edward Gordon V. G., Chairman, and Mr. James Ryan, Secretary. Moved by Mr. L. Devany, seconded by Mr. A. S. Jordan, and

Resolved—That this meeting approves of the Convention being held in Buffalo.—Carried.

It was then moved and carried that C. J. Tracey, D. Murphy, and M. J. O'Beirne, Esquires, be delegates to represent the Catholics of Hamilton.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Carayon, seconded by Mr. D. Stuart, and

Resolved—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the delegates from Canada should meet in Buffalo the day previous to the opening of the Convention.

Moved by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. D. Stuart, and Resolved—That the proceedings of the meeting be published in the leading Catholic journals of the country.—Carried. The meeting then adjourned.

The following delegates for the Convention to be held at Buffalo, were appointed by the Catholic Institute of Perth.

The Very Rev. J. H. McDonagh, V.G., and John Deran, Esq.

To the Editor of the True Witness.

SIR—The Editor of the Montreal *Pilot* having refused to publish the subjoined letter—although in justice it was his duty to do so—you will much oblige me by inserting it in your journal.

Yours, &c., J. W. CASEY.

To the Editor of the Pilot.

SIR—Notwithstanding the notice that the columns of the *Pilot* are closed to any further discussion on the proceedings of the "Dissentients," I trust you will, as a matter of justice, permit me to honor the "Responsibles" of this evening with a notice of their very brilliant but harmless joint-stock effusion.

In the first place, I beg them to accept the acknowledgment of my gratitude for the very kind notice such "influential" Responsibles have taken of my "subordinate position" and myself. The silly fellows ought to know, if they know anything of human nature, that by writing my name so often in a few sentences, they would somewhat elevate me from my "subordinate position," though that elevation be in my own estimation, for which I am truly grateful. I regret that a little consideration for the "highly influential and respectable positions" which these gentlemen occupy, prevents me from giving a like publicity to their names; for, if I did, that respect which is now paid them, would, I fear, be diminished by the knowledge that they are our "highly influential gentlemen" and "most respectable Irish residents"!!! *O Canada! O acres!* who could believe that such arrogance existed in a joint-stock Co., without a "dissentient" voice. Their "respectability" might be impaired by this knowledge, much more so by the knowledge that they are guilty of—*falsehood*.

The "Responsibles" seem to be accurate in recording their entrance into the *Transcript* office. I could wish that for truth's sake, they had persevered in their accuracy and not introduced into their puerile effusion the name of a gentleman whose character and respectability are so well known, that any complimentary remarks from them would serve to diminish, rather than increase his well merited standing. And now, Sir, would you believe that these self-dubbed "influential and respectable" Responsibles would publicly and deliberately falsify the language, &c., of this gentleman, for no other purpose than that I can see than to entitle their communication to some consideration. I then assert that their statement respecting Mr. McDonagh's noticing my "lecture" to these Responsibles as one of "impertinence" and of "highly improper interference," is incorrect, is absolutely untrue—a statement they should not have the audacity to make, did they not possess a too sufficient quantum of those qualities which they attribute to me; but there they are, Sir, responsible for *falsehood*, which is somewhat more serious than "the advertisement" in the *Transcript*; and a falsehood they should publicly retract, if they possess any of the qualities of common courtesy. For my part, I am disposed to forgive them; they may possess good hearts, but their memory is as treacherous as that of the Reporter of the Meeting at the St. Patrick's House. I pity the joint-stock Co., in whose presence conversation is carried on for a few minutes, and in such a short period, they not only forget, but falsify that conversation. Oh, the collective truth of the Co.!!!

It appears that the use I made of that little proposition of had a ticklish effect on the Co.; as I perceive they have devoted a short notice to my ignorance of the adjective (?) "dissentient." I pity your knowledge, gentlemen; but I have not time to instruct them; yet will I tell them to look up my MS., and examine before they pronounce so dogmatically. Their ignorance of Printing establishments saves them from being laughed at by any who can distinguish between truth and falsehood. These "Responsibles" should have their cranial examined by some Phrenologist, and allow the public to know the construction of their intuitive organs. Behold how rich in divination! They at once learn that my letter was a "maiden production" Ah, these organs are disorganized. I have proclaimed them guilty of one falsehood already; I shall now mark this—*falsehood* No. 2. Again they say Mr. McDonagh would not publish my letter. Allow me to ask these "Responsibles" why I should require the columns of the *Transcript* to reply to a letter in the *Pilot*. I shall mark this however—*falsehood* No. 3. And again they say, I gained admission to the *Pilot* by "pure mistake," and they "knew" it.

If calling on and seeing the Editor of the *Pilot*, giving him my letter, which was kept for the issue of the following day, be a mistake, I confess my ignorance of the meaning of the word; but this is worthy of the "Responsibles;" and I shall mark it—*falsehood* No. 4!!! Are you not grateful, Messrs. "Responsibles," that I withhold the names of a Co. guilty of so many falsehoods in a short paragraph.—The "Responsibles" inquire if I went to the caucus with "the expectation to sponge." This language is adapted to a peculiar sphere, which is well understood by the "Responsibles"—*ne sutor ultra crepidam*. They say, too, such practices "take place at other meetings." Mysterious indeed! Let the Co. substitute the word *such* for *other*, and then they will be understood, unless indeed they would compare a "Restaurant" to St. Patrick's House. Truly what a contrast! Again they inquire, why I went to the caucus, knowing that it was for "dissentients" exclusively! So these "Responsibles" cannot apply their peculiar organs to the reading and understanding of plain English. If they possess any powers of discernment, let them read my letter again; and they will see under what circumstances I went to the caucus. 'Tis a great pity their modesty would not allow them to identify themselves with "A Member of St. Patrick's Congregation." I should feel most happy to proclaim that we have surpassed Ireland—claiming only one Frederick Lucas; and that we have a whole *LYE COMPANY!* Why be so reluctant, gentlemen, to wear the mantle of Frederick Lucas; 'tis well, you and ten such Co's, would have appeared "small fry" beneath its ample folds. Oh *terque quaterque* unfortunate "Responsibles."

And now, Sir, permit me to inform those influential gentlemen that were their argumentative equal to their intui-

tive powers, they would not descend from their "highly influential and respectable" positions to write billingsgate for common sense; but feeling they cannot distinguish between *even* these, I blame them not. They have given me nothing to reply to, except billingsgate and falsehood; of both of I have convicted them, though not in their peculiar line of argument. Let those concerned be mild in their judgment of the *joint-stock Co.* The collective wisdom of the "Responsibles"—*et hoc genus omne*—would so tarnish the columns of the *Transcript*, that Mr. Ronnie, its respected and accomplished Editor, need not dread being supplanted by such a *clique*.

Some may be surprised at the expression "our good friend Ronnie," but they should not. "Our good friend Ronnie" and his *confreres* of the press, deserve the everlasting gratitude of one of these Responsibles for the respectable appearance they give his jabberings in the City Council. I may return to this subject again; in the meantime *libera nos a malo*.

Yours, &c., J. W. CASEY.

Montreal, Jan. 23, 1856.

☞ This is positively the last communication that we will insert on this matter.

BAZAAR OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

On Monday and Tuesday next, a Bazaar in aid of the funds of the institution of St. Thais—an asylum supported by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and intended for the reception of females after their discharge from prison, or who desire to abandon their vicious habits—will be open from morning to night at the house, No. 41, Notre Dame street, nearly opposite the old "Water Works" office.

We would beg to enlist the sympathies of our Irish friends for this institution, which makes no distinction of races; and in which at the present moment there are more penitents of British and Irish, than of French Canadian origin. The smallest contributions will be thankfully received at Dr. Picault's.

We hope that the attention of the proper authorities will be directed to the following statement:—

On Monday last, 21st instant, about half-past nine o'clock in the evening, five or six scoundrels, for the most part disguised, introduced themselves feloniously into the house of G. A. Beaudry, Esq., Notary, residing in the village of St. Jean Chrysostome, County of Chateauguy. Mr. Beaudry, who is also Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality of that Parish, was then absent from home, in order to give the necessary instructions to the Valuator appointed by the Governor General to make the valuation of the liable properties in that municipality. There was in the house, only Mrs. Beaudry, her sister, two young children and a servant girl. The ruffians having blown out the lights, went into a room where Mrs. Beaudry was lying on a sofa. There, one of the villains had the cowardice to threaten her with a revolver pointed towards her face, enjoining her to tell them where was her husband, and that if she refused to do so, they would shoot her, adding that Mr. Beaudry wanted to make them pay taxes, and that they would murder him, soon or late. The poor lady, more dead than alive, being almost unable to speak by fright, answered that she did not know. After much threatening, which brought no result, (as Mrs. Beaudry was almost senseless and unable to speak,) the ruffians ran, like furious beasts, into the different parts of the house, screaming, swearing, breaking the household furniture, and, after firing over twenty shots, they went away swearing that they would return to commit the premeditated murder. It is but justice to add that the Municipal and School laws have never received any execution in that Parish.

Several communications unavoidably postponed, having come to hand too late. *Quebec* correspondent not received at all.

☞ Our best thanks are due and tendered to the Rev. Mr. Proulx, of Oslawa, for his kind exertions in favor of the *TRUE WITNESS*.

Birth.

At Quebec, on the 22nd ult., at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Henry Martin, Grocer, James Barry, aged 70 years, a native of the City of Cork, Ireland. *May he rest in peace.*

In this city, on the 24th ult., the wife of Mr. Michael Gorman, Printer, of a daughter.

In this city, on the 28th ultimo, Mrs. D. Lanigan, Notre Dame Street, of a daughter.

Died.

In this city, on the 20th ult., Lawrence William, eldest son of Mr. Thomas Hawley, aged 7 years and 28 days.

In this city, on the 30th ult., Mary Dwyer, relict of the late Michael O'Brien, of New Paisly, a native of the County of Limerick, Ireland, aged 65 years.

At his residence, London, O.W., after a long illness, Hardings J. O'Brien, aged 60 years; much regretted by his friends and acquaintances. Mr. O'Brien has been an old settler in London, and a good member of society. He belonged to the Knights of St. Patrick's Temperance Benefit Society for several years. On Saturday morning, at half-past nine o'clock, the funeral took place; and about half an hour previous to the time appointed, the Knights of St. Patrick assembled at their rooms opposite the Catholic church, and proceeded from thence in regalia to the house of the deceased, each wearing a mourning badge on his arm. On arriving at the place, they formed a procession, six of the members carrying the deceased brother. The Society marched two by two towards the church, followed by a large number of mourners. When the procession reached the church door, the members of the Society formed two lines, letting the corpse, borne by the six members, pass into the church. Immediately after Grand Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean Kirwan, the choir, accompanied by the Rev. Father Ryan of St. Thomas, sang the usual anthems for the occasion. Mass being finished, the corpse was placed in a hearse, and the funeral procession moved towards the cemetery, where the remains of the deceased were interred. *May he rest in peace.*—Communicated.

CARD OF THANKS.

THE undersigned acknowledges with much pleasure the very prompt and satisfactory manner in which his claim—occasioned by fire on the 4th of January—has been settled by the PROVINCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF TORONTO, through their obliging Agent, AUGUSTUS HEWARD, Esq.

WILLIAM KELLY,  
Lower Lachine Road.

Jan. 31.

INFORMATION WANTED

OF MARY and MARGARET OADIGAN, aged respectively, 21 and 18 years, who left the workhouse of Skibbereen, Ireland, in May 1853 for Canada. Any information will be thankfully received at this office.