

THE TRUE WITNESS

IS PUBLISHED BY The Post Printing & Publishing Company, 761 CRAIG ST., Montreal, Canada.

Subscription, per annum, \$1.50. Single copies, 5c. Sold strictly in advance.

TO ADVERTISERS. A limited number of advertisements of approved character will be inserted in THE TRUE WITNESS...

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The Post Printing & Publishing Company, MONTREAL, CANADA. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1884.

CATHOLIC CALENDAR

- JANUARY, 1884. THURSDAY, Jan. 31.—St. Peter Nolasco, Confessor. FEBRUARY, 1884. FRIDAY, Feb. 1.—St. Ignatius, Bishop and Martyr. Cons. Bp. Marty, Dakota, 1850.

TWO AND A HALF MILLIONS is a handsome sum of money; that is the extent of a gift sent presented to Pope Leo XIII. by Mrs. Stapleton Bretherton, of Lancashire, England.

In the report of the Auditor General we find that the total amount necessary to meet the cost of the general election of 1882 was \$147,838.37, while the amount allowed was \$131,698.53.

In connection with a recent gathering in Ulster a good deal was made by some unknown humorist, who issued a placard in which Orangemen were invited to attend in the night of their numbers to protest against the reduction of rent and to object to any further spoliation of the aristocracy and landlords who have been, the document sarcastically puts, "your tried and trusted friends."

The Orange lords, who got up an address of sympathy for Lord Rossmore because he was disgraced by the Queen on account of rowdy conduct at Rosetta, have managed to secure only 1,500 signatures to the document in all Ireland. This is another proof of our contention that the Orange faction is fast becoming an Orange fiction.

The Draper's Journal gives statistics of the brewing trade which are amazing. The making of beer has become one of the largest industries on the continent. The amount of beer and ale sold in the United States in 1883 was no less than 17,349,424 barrels.

It seems to be going pretty hard with those dear Orange loyalists in the North of Ireland. A determination has been come to to seek an official enquiry into the legality of the Orange society and to make its members amenable for their recent rowdyism, resistance to the police and marines of Her Majesty, and for other little peculiarities of their Orange behavior under very trying circumstances.

We beg to call the attention of the Montreal Daily Witness, and the Toronto Evening Canadian particularly, to the following facts which have been sworn to by several witnesses at the judicial examination into the charges preferred against Head-Constable Doyle, of Harbor Grace, and the other Orangemen who precipitated and took part in the riots:

- 1st. The witnesses swore that the Orangemen fired the first shots. 2nd. That Head Constable Doyle shot and killed Callaghan, shouting at the same time, to the Orangemen, "Fire, Fire!" 3rd. That certain Orangemen, named Butt and French, who were identified, did fire.

In face of this evidence will the Canadian have the courage to assert and maintain that the Orangemen were the aggressors, that all the cowardliness and wantonness were on their side, and that they had cowardly fired on unarmed processionalists?

The Daily Witness, with its usual dishonesty, attempts to make its readers believe that the Archbishop of Quebec is in favor of Freemasonry, and does not believe in the same teaching as the rest of the Church in regard to secret societies. Our pious contemporary says:

Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto, does not appear to hold the same opinion regarding the harmlessness of the Freemason's societies of Canada as does the Archbishop of Quebec. Archbishop Lynch says that none but the intelligible among Roman Catholics belong to these societies, and he draws the attention of the faithful to the pains and penalties attached to the ecclesiastical laws of the Church prohibiting members joining it.

The Witness does a palpable injustice to the Archbishop of Quebec in attributing to His Grace any such thing as liberalism on the question of secret societies; and its statement to that effect is slanderous, as nearly all the utterances of our contemporary are when it touches on Catholic subjects. We don't know of any other journal in this country that finds it so easy and natural to tell the most sickening lies than the Witness when it wants to give violence to its bigotry and prejudice.

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

The first session of the newly elected Legislature of Ontario was formally opened Thursday afternoon with the usual speech from the Throne. As the result of the late elections Mr. Mowat comes before the House with a large working majority, which, though slightly reduced in number, is yet sufficient to carry him through during the existence of the present Parliament.

NIHILISM AND FENIANISM

Our French contemporary La Minerve sums up its appreciation of Nihilism and Fenianism in the following terms. It says: "The English Press—that of London—has attacked the Russian Government in the most open fashion, on account of the murder of Sudeikin recently committed at St. Petersburg. It must be a monstrous system, say the English journals, that will thus foment Nihilism."

The difference between the two revolutionary movements is altogether in favor of the movement which is carried on in Ireland. This is tantamount to admitting that Fenianism, by the fact that it is more justifiable, constitutes in a greater degree than Nihilism, a condemnation of the system which gives it birth and a reason for its existence.

SKETCH OF THE NEW PREMIER

The following is a short biographical sketch of the new Premier of Quebec:—The Hon. J. J. Ross is the son of G. McLaughlin Ross, of St. Anne's, formerly a West Indian merchant, and was born at St. Anne's, Quebec. He chose the medical profession, and in college showed good abilities. In 1856 he was married to Marie Allna, daughter of Col. Lanouette, of Champlain. He took an active part in politics from an early age, and, by his abilities, found a place among the best men of his party.

THE LAND QUESTION IN THE UNITED STATES

A strenuous effort is to be made in the United States to put an end to the wholesale acquisition of American territory by foreign capitalists and landlords, and to crush out the land-grabbers generally. The first important step taken in that direction was the presentation of a resolution in the House by which the Committee on Public Lands is instructed to declare forfeited all portions of the public domain heretofore granted to States and corporations to aid in the construction of railroads, so far as the same are subject to forfeiture by reason of the non-fulfillment of the conditions on which the grants were made.

THE LATE LIBRARIAN OF PARLIAMENT

Dr. Todd, Librarian of the Dominion Parliament, expired Jan. 22nd at the Capital under very melancholy circumstances. His death was extremely sudden and unexpected. He had caused deep and widespread sorrow for the deceased gentleman was held in universal esteem and respect. Dr. Todd was born in London, England, in 1831, and at the age of twelve he emigrated to this country. He was a bright, intelligent youth, and was educated at Victoria College. On completing his education he was appointed Assistant Librarian of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada at the early age of nineteen.

become a standard work, one for guidance and consultation. Another very important work, which gained further renown for our Canadian Librarian, was that published three years ago under the title of "Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies." The University of Queen's College, Kingston, Ont., honored itself by conferring on the eminent author the degree of LL.D. in 1881, and shortly after, his services were further rewarded by Her Majesty creating him a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. In the death of Dr. Todd the Dominion Government has lost a valuable servant and the country a worthy citizen who was an honor to it.

THE PROVINCIAL CABINET FORMED

The Hon. J. J. Ross, after a delay of two weeks, has succeeded in forming the greater part of the new local ministry. It is seldom that a Premier has such difficulty as Dr. Ross experienced in selecting material for his Cabinet. The Ministers were not chosen so much for their ability to defend and carry out a policy, as for their competency to heal up the splits in their own party and to prove acceptable to both wings. The Lieut.-Governor in calling Dr. Ross to the Premiership struck upon the right man to accomplish the latter purpose. From the time his name was mentioned in connection with the task of forming an administration, he had the good will and confidence of the entire Conservative party.

READING ROOMS OPEN ON SUNDAY

We are glad that a movement has been inaugurated in the city to open reading-rooms on Sunday evenings. The members of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association are to be congratulated on the initiatory steps they have taken with this desirable object in view. There can be no manner of doubt but open reading-rooms on Sunday evenings will prove a welcome boon to numbers of young men who, otherwise, would be exposed to the temptations of the tobacco shops, candy shops and other unmentionable places where intoxicating liquors are sold in contravention of the law.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT

Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet are making final preparations for the tug of battle which will be resumed at Westminster on the fifth of February next. A Cabinet Council has been held at the Premier's official residence in Downing street, at which the ministry decided definitely as to the principal measures to be introduced during the coming session of Parliament. The event is looked forward to with an interest such as the assembling of Parliament has not awakened during the past decade. The relative strength of the different parties in the House has changed somewhat since the general election four years ago, when the Liberals rode into office on an unusually large majority.

THE DUDISH ETIQUETTE AND THE SAINTS

Our attention has been called to a vile and offensive caricature on St. Patrick and St. Bridget, two of the most honored saints in the calendar, which was published in the columns of the Montreal Star on Saturday last. Discussing in its usually silly fashion questions of "dudish" etiquette, our contemporary undertook to propound "what privileges ladies have in this year above those of other years?" It profoundly and deeply indignant that the ladies have two such superior privileges—first, that of "popping the question," to some "lord of the creation," secondly, that of demanding a silk dress. It is as if he can't see the point. After avowing its ignorance of the origin of these privileges, our contemporary finds room for the following opprobrious paragraph, to explain on what traditions these so-called privileges are based. It says:—

There are many, too, who are anxious to read and cultivate their minds, but who have no time except on Sunday, and no opportunity except that furnished by a public reading room. From the absence of such reading rooms these latter are forced to associate with the former, and soon both are found treading the downward path of ruin together. Facilis descensus Averni. As to drawing young men away from the society of ladies properly so called; those who seek and frequent such society are not the persons who stand in need of the safeguard of a public reading room. They are well able to take care of themselves. As to the others above mentioned, he who draws them away from the temptations that beset them and brings them into a cheerful and well regulated reading room, is a friend to the community and a benefactor to his race.

As a matter of fact, reading rooms and libraries have for many years been kept open on Sundays in many countries of Europe as well as in the United States; and experience has shown that, so far from any abuses arising from the practice, the greatest good and the most gratifying results have been witnessed and recorded. Nowhere is there greater need of a higher intellectual culture among young men than in our city; nowhere is there a more urgent necessity for improving and elevating the tone of our working classes. This culture can be gained and this improvement effected, in a very large measure, by throwing open the various libraries and reading rooms of the city, and making them accessible to all who wish to avail themselves of their advantages.

THE STAR WANTS TO BE FINNY

If the Star wants to be finny, it should do so without being indecent or insulting. The above effusion is simply disgusting and unworthy of a public sheet with even tardy pretensions to respectability. Nothing more despicable could be found in the most disreputable of dime novels or Police Gazette. Even Marie Colombe's book, "Sarah Barnum," which was suppressed the other day in radical Paris, contains nothing more malicious or profigate.

THE GAZETTE ON HARD NAMES

The Gazette pretends to believe that there is a split of religious feud in Ulster and that it is spreading more and more. There is no such thing as a religious feud, for the simple reason that there is not a single religious principle or practice at stake. It is absurd to say that Lord Hamilton and his rowdy allies oppose Mr. Parnell on religious grounds. The best blood in the National movement is Protestant, and the raising of the National standard in Ulster is no sign of religious intolerance or a signal for an internecine conflict for the love of God. A few Orange landlords have set themselves up against this progress and development of Irish nationality, and to aid them in their nefarious work, they have hired the corner loafers and idlers of Belfast, Derry and a few other northern towns to hoist the bloody flag with the connivance of Earl Spencer. That is the secret and extent of the opposition to the national cause in Ulster. To call it a "religious war" is to dignify partisan misbehavior beyond its merits. We all know what a disturbance two or three roughs can create in a gathering of men, and how they can give it a turbulent and disgraceful character, although the nineteenth-twentieths of the meeting are perfectly peaceable and respectable. It is exactly the same thing in Ulster; the noisy and pugnacon conduct of a few Orange lords and roughs leads to the situation a wider appearance of strife and opposition than really exists. Our morning contemporary is, moreover, greatly shocked