

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 29.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

JUNE—1866.

Friday, 29—St. Peter and Paul, Ap. Obl. Saturday, 30—Commemoration of St. Paul.

JULY—1866.

Sunday, 1—Sixth after Pentecost. Precious Blood. Monday, 2—Visitation of the B. V. Mary. Tuesday, 3—Of the Octave. Wednesday, 4—Of the Octave. Thursday, 5—Of the Octave.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Every moment it was expected that the boom of the cannon would proclaim the outbreak of the war in Europe, which all the efforts of diplomacy now seem unable to avert.

In the South of the Peninsula everything seems to indicate that the Neapolitans will rise in arms against their Piedmontese masters, the moment that war in the North shall have called the hated foreign soldiery to the field.

The excitement growing out of the late marauding expeditions from the United States has quite subsided. The troops have been called in from the front, and everything has relapsed into its accustomed place, and order.

It is a significant fact, which should have the effect of suggesting to some hot-heads in Upper Canada, the injustice and the folly of trying to create prejudice against their Irish Catholic fellow citizens, that of the late invaders of the Province, a large portion was composed of the criminal classes of the United States, who were evidently actuated solely by motives of plunder.

neath which they live, or to invite aggression on their adopted country; and though amongst the prisoners taken from the late marauding bands, the majority seem to be of Irish origin, it does not follow that their criminal acts meet with any sympathy from men of the same race in this country.

By the Steamers City of New York and Moravian we are put in possession of European intelligence to the 14th inst. Actual fighting had not commenced: but the advance of the Prussians had compelled the Austrians to fall back, and evacuate the Duchies.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.—With reference to the injuries inflicted by the Fenian raid on the Missisquoi frontier where a large quantity of valuable property was stolen and destroyed, Sir F. N. Belleau announced in the Legislative Council that it was the intention of the Government to institute an inquiry: and he added that a force, to co-operate with the military force on the frontier, was about to be organized.

In the House of Assembly, on the 21st inst., Mr. Holton asked it was the intention of the Ministry to bring forward this Session a Bill for the schools of Lower Canada, according to promise.

Mr. Galt replied that such a measure would be brought down; that, he trusted, the said measure would prove satisfactory to all parties, and he promised that it should not be carried without a fair discussion.

Mr. Scoble put a question with reference to amendments in the Upper Canada School laws, and the intentions of the Ministry.

M. Cartier declined to answer directly, but referred the questioner to the Att. General of Upper Canada, when he should be in his place.

On the 22nd, Mr. J. A. McDonald announced that it was the intention of the Ministry to push through all business connected with the so-called Confederation of the Provinces as quickly as possible, and then to prorogue.

It is said that the Government is about to establish at Quebec a naval school for the training of officers and cadets for a Provincial Marine.

As Catholics in Canada are often taunted with the language of a certain section of the press in the United States which calls itself the Catholic press; and as the infamous principles and sentiments which are therein often to be found, are fathered upon the entire Catholic community, and cited as illustrative of the lax morality, and low code of honor that obtain amongst them, we may well be pardoned if we say a few words in vindication of ourselves, and of our really Catholic contemporaries, unjustly confounded with others altogether unworthy of the same name.

The so-called Catholic press of the United States consists of two distinct, and well marked classes of journals. Of these, one is primarily or essentially Catholic; and only accidentally Irish in its tone and politics, in that it happens that, in the United States, the majority of English reading Catholics are of Irish origin. This section

of the press is one of which any country, any community would have reason to be proud. Its conductors are scholars, gentlemen, and Christians; and though of course they write on political questions with a strong national bias, there is rarely to be found in their columns anything offensive to the national feelings of Catholics of other countries, nothing repugnant to sound doctrine and Catholic morality.

But unfortunately for the credit of the Catholic name, there is another class of journals on this Continent, which arrogate to themselves the title of Catholic, and which do reflect infinite dishonor upon that name. These are primarily or essentially Irish, and only accidentally Catholic, in that it so happens that, in spite of the fearfully and rapidly increasing apostasy and demoralisation of the descendants of the Catholic immigrants to the United States, a large number, perhaps a majority, of their Irish readers still profess to be Catholics.

Catholic press, which we have drawn above, confound the two; and thus, unfortunately, impute to Catholics in general, the low and degrading principles, the disregard for moral obligations, and contempt for decency which characterize the journals of the second class, or journals only "accidentally" Catholic.

As a proof of what we have advanced, we will quote the words of one of our really or essentially Catholic journals in the United States, the N. Y. Freeman, on the subject of the late marauding expedition upon Canada.

"O'Mahony and Killian led Fenianism into the disgraceful affair on the borders of New Brunswick. Roberts and Sweeney led Fenianism into the graver fault of the assault across the Niagara, and out from St. Albans. They engaged Fenian followers in what was bound to be a failure disgraceful to all who took part in it. Had they even, by supposing the impossible, succeeded in holding a footing in Canada, it would, still, have been a deeper disgrace—for the Canadians have done no harm to Ireland, and have as good a right to govern themselves in the way they are doing, as the Irish people in Ireland have."

counted an enemy for telling them the truth.—N. Y. Freeman. If Protestants would judge us, and form their estimate of our political morality from papers of the stamp of that which we have quoted above instead of from the low democratic journals which misrepresent and bring disgrace upon us, much of the ill-feeling that prevails betwixt Protestants and Catholics would soon disappear.

CONVERSIONS IN CONNEMARA.—We all know how the supernumeraries of a minor theatre are mobilised and utilised, so that in one short melodrama they play many parts. In one scene they shall appear as brigands carousing, quaffing imaginary wine out of very real tin or pewter goblets: anon the scene shifts, and our ci-devant brigands figure as loyal troops—or as a chorus of peasants, hailing with songs of triumph the safe return of their chief to his ancestral halls.

So is it with the conversions in Connemara, reported in a late letter to the London Times, by good Dr. Trench, the very unsophisticated gentleman who enjoys the revenues, and assumes the title, of Archbishop of Dublin. This gentleman, it seems, had never seen a real live convert from Popery: he was naturally incredulous as to the existence of such a phenomenon, except in the heated imagination of some moon struck frequenter of Exeter Hall; and therefore he determined to go down in person to Connemara, and determine for himself the truth of the reports.

From the deluded gentleman's own report of his trip, as given in a letter to the London Times, the whole thing was managed very simply. Our readers all know how, in Ireland, when a Protestant Episcopal visitation is expected, to keep up appearances, the parson about to be visited will borrow a congregation for the day, from his neighbors—to make a show.

The first place Dr. Trench visited was Castle Kirk, in company with Dr. Plunkett, the notorious Souper agent. Here 58 converts were paraded, and pointed out to him.

Two days later, and in the same company, he attended a ceremony at Errismore: and here a lot of 206 converts was paraded for his inspection.

On another day Dr. Trench, visited Sellemas a place about six miles north of Clifden—(which is the depot, or school from which the converts are marched out to the different posts as they are wanted, and where their services to make up a congregation are required—Errismore is some seven miles south of it); and was treated to the spectacle of a lot of 235 converts, the greatest number paraded together during the entire visit of inspection.

Here is the secret of the Connemara conversions. Clifden is a kind of convert depot, to which all the little children bought up by Souper

agents, from needy, starving and unprincipled parents, are drafted from Dublin, and all parts of Ireland. Then when a show of converts at any particular place in Connemara is required, a requisition, or order, sent down to Clifden is promptly complied with, or filled up; and Souperism is triumphant in the eyes of the world.

But these facts not being known to strangers, Dr. Trench's letter in the Times created quite a sensation. For a few days the belief did obtain—even amongst the more intelligent classes, that a "great work" had been done, and was still going on in Connemara: "the hand of the Lord" so the elderly females of Exeter Hall protested, was very visible; and greasy-looking men of God hesitated not to proclaim with the orthodox nasal twang, that the reign of the Beast in Ireland was drawing to a close.

That discomfiture has come at last, very suddenly, and unexpectedly to the saints. For it seems that even amongst Protestants in Ireland there were sceptical men, sons of Belial, who did not accept without considerable misgiving all the marvellous tales told by that good man Dr. Trench.

And so as these doubts gathered force, an inquiry—or investigation into the truth of the facts asserted by Dr. Trench was determined upon. A special commissioner was despatched by the Dublin Evening Post to Western Connaught, to test by personal inquiry and observation the statements which were published over Dr. Trench's signature in the London Times of the 10th of May.

"The drift of their statements is to show that the persons whom the Archbishop saw at Castle-Kirks were, partly imported on cars from other places, partly the families of Scripture readers, and others connected with the mission, and scarcely any of them Roman Catholics, or 'jumpers' as the priest calls them.

And in these simple words is told the entire history of the Reformation movement in Ireland. These are but two classes of persons therein concerned: the impostors in the first class: the "imposed upon" in the second.

In view of the speedy realisation of the Quebec scheme of Union for the British North American Provinces, our Protestant friends of Lower Canada are beginning to bestir themselves on the school question; and we are told that Mr. Judge Day is actually at the Seat of Government, urging on school legislation in order to protect the interests of the Protestant minority.

No one can object to this. Every legal security that the Protestant minority may require to ensure to them their rights as parents over the education of their own children, should cheerfully be granted to them; but at the same time, and whilst the question is under discussion, it is but reasonable that the Catholic members of the Legislature should insist upon the giving to the Catholic minority of Upper Canada the very same legal guarantees that in Lower Canada are accorded to the Protestant minority.

The different sections of the Fenian Brotherhood continue their mutual interchange of invectives, and bandy terrible accusations of treason and pecuniary dishonesty. There is, no doubt, a good deal of truth spoken on both sides.

The latest pronunciamento was made by Head Centre Stephen, who in a speech delivered by him at Washington on the evening of the 19th inst., thus expressed his opinion of Messrs Roberts and Sweeney:—

"I say, and mark the import of my words, that all Irishmen, be they whom they may, who are throwing obstacles in the direct way to our country's liberation are traitors and are this hour abhorred, despised, execrated by the men in Ireland, and they dare not for their life's sake place a foot on the soil over which the green flag should now in triumph be waving. The men who now propose to sell the Irish vote of this country to political demagogues are traitors, and I here denounce them by name, Roberts, General Sweeney, and the whole party called the Senate. It is time to speak out in plain language, and I will do it now, hereafter, and forever, by voice and through the means of the press."