

The True Witness.

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
At No. 663 Craig Street, by
J. GILLIES.
G. E. OLBERG, Editor.

TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE:
To all country Subscribers Two Dollars. If the subscription is not renewed at the expiration of the year then, in case the paper be continued, the terms shall be Two Dollars and a half.
The True Witness can be had at the News Depot. Single copies 3d.
To all subscribers whose papers are delivered by carriers Two Dollars and a half, in advance; and if not renewed at the end of the year, then, if we continue sending the paper, the subscription shall be Three Dollars.
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUG. 5, 1870.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.
AUGUST—1870.
Friday, 5—Dedication of St. Mary of the Snow.
Saturday, 6—Transfiguration of Our Lord.
Sunday, 7—Ninth after Pentecost.
Monday, 8—St. Cyriacus and Comp. MM.
Tuesday, 9—Vigil of St. Peter of the Shackles.
Wednesday, 10—St. Lawrence, M.
Thursday, 11—Of the Octave.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

At this season a large number of subscriptions become due. We shall deem it as a favour if mail subscribers in arrears will settle their accounts as soon as possibly convenient. Our city subscribers will be waited on, and we hope they will be prompt in settling. To those who can call at the office we would be very grateful.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Up to the present time, the war news is very meagre. No serious engagement has yet taken place. Both parties are, in the meanwhile, shoving forward military preparations with great rapidity and on a gigantic scale for the approaching conflict. The Emperor and King William left their respective Capitals to rejoin their armies. On this account, a great battle is considered imminent.

The Secret Treaty of which we spoke last week has occasioned a great sensation in England. The real existence of it is now no longer doubted. Bismarck tried to fasten it on Napoleon. This latter, through his organs, repudiates in saying it began with Bismarck and was never entertained by France. The truth is probably both parties were therein more or less equally implicated, and if the whole truth was known, that Bismarck was more than any one else, for no one makes more noise and proclaims his innocence more loudly than the rogue himself when caught or has a point to gain.

It appears, too, that the copy of it published in the London Times was sent to that paper by Bismarck, and that it was published by that journal with the avowed intention of producing a strong feeling against France. Bismarck's intention was, it would appear, to induce England to take sides against France in the present war.

Berlin, Aug. 1—King William left for the frontier at 6 o'clock last evening. The Queen attended him to the railway station, where multitudes of enthusiastic people had collected, while there were flags and flowers without end. Fifteen ships laden with stones are moored in the Elbe, below Hamburg, ready to be sunk on the approach of the French fleet.

King William on leaving for the army issued a manifesto, in which he declares he goes to fight for the honor of Germany, and calls upon the whole nation to rise as one man. The King also granted a free amnesty for political crimes.

A special correspondent writes on the 29th, that the destruction of the railway at Bitche, was an extremely important line, and runs from Norback and Saarguemines on to Hagena, and thence to Straasburg. The order to destroy it was given on the 18th, to prevent the further concentration of the French from the South.—Accordingly a small number of picked men of the 4th Uhlans, started under the command of Lieutenant Van Vougt for Zweibrucken, the nearest German town to the French viaduct at Zweibrucken, an engineer miners and workmen awaited the cavalry. On Tuesday they sent off thirty cavalry men with miners and carts carrying the necessary materials, but on this night and also on the following one, the French outposts were too active for them and they had to retire unsuccessful. Now follows the characteristic part of the expedition. They made up their minds that the heavy loads which encumbered them must be reduced to the smallest possible compass, and that every man who took part in the expedition must be mounted. The next two days were therefore given to riding lessons.—After two days instruction, the miners and workmen were able to keep themselves on horses, and on Saturday night the whole body crossed the French frontier. The mounted miners and workmen were charged to push on with all haste to the viaduct, while the Uhlans engaged

the French outposts who were surprised. They accomplished their task with perfect intelligence and success. The country around was roused from sleep by an explosion which sent the great viaduct into the air. The miners rushed out again on the railway from the spot whither they had retreated after lighting the end of the train, and succeeded in tearing and blowing up some length of the line on both sides of the viaduct. They then retired safely into Bavarian territory.

The heaviest skirmishing that has taken place in this district is reported on the morning of the 28th. A party of French infantry had crossed into Prussian territory, about half way between Saarbruck and Saar lous. Forty men of the garrison of the latter place, belonging to the infantry of 69 went out to meet them, and were coming up with them between the villages of Luderville and Gesslerautern, about six miles west of Saarbruck, when a squadron of French cavalry suddenly appeared. The Prussians fired away as last as they could at the cavalry with their needle guns, and disposed of them before the infantry could come up. Then an infantry fight followed, which ended in the French throwing off their kits and running away, leaving one officer and eight men dead on the field. Three Prussians were severely wounded. According to the report, no less than three French companies were engaged.

The Prussian and Bavarian troops are said to be mustering in great strength in every town in this district. Neunkirchen is spoken of as the headquarters. It is supposed that if the French army does not enter Germany within three or four days the war will be carried into France. Neunkirchen is a formidable situation for the concentration of forces from every point of Germany. The country about here would be very rough for fighting, but if the armies could push forward a little way over the frontier they would be protected on the right by the forests of Saarlouis and on the left by Vosges. A cavalry regiment is expected near Saarbruck tomorrow. There has been a good deal of firing to-day between the Prussian and French outposts. One of the Prussian men had his horse shot under him, and adventurous civilians have consequently been impressed with the good shooting of the Chassepot at 1050 and 1500 yards.

The preparations for war on the part of Prussia, are being carried on with great clarity. Trenches have been opened two leagues from Cologne. An extended camp has been established in the triangle formed by Cologne, Coblenz and Treves. The fine park in Cologne, and the magnificent chateau of the banker Oppenheim have been razed. Mayence is in a state of siege, and is occupied by 25,000 soldiers. Trenches have been opened in front of the city, and persons unable to provide themselves with six weeks' provision have been notified to depart. A large force is encamped on the heights of St. Hubert, overlooking the valley of the Nahe, which will protect the important group of coal mines at that place, and command the junction of railroads from Bingerbruck to Landau. Large rafts are descending the Rhine at all hours with provisions and military munitions, between Mayence and Coblenz, and a formidable amount of war material and an immense body of troops have been collected. In consequence of new instructions having been issued from the War Office, there will be an entire change of tactics. Henceforth there will be no open campaign. The tactics will be similar to those hitherto employed in a siege, viz., an advance will be under cover of entrenchments. The Rhine provinces are being covered with improved works. The country between Coblenz and Mayence is entirely cut up in this fashion. This new system of defence requires a new mode of attack, hence the delay of the French advance. A Prussian corps has been stationed as a curtain to the Black Forest. The principal forces are concentrated in the triangular section of the country formed by the Rivers Rhine, Moselle and Saar. The last two rivers form the line of defence. The left of the army rests on the Rhine near Landau, and the right stretches out to the Moselle near Treves. A reward of five hundred thalers has been offered for the capture of a French mitrailleuse. It is believed that Prussia will raise her army to a million and a quarter of soldiers and advance on France.

The day after the declaration of war Gen. Von Moltke said if Napoleon had not marched to the Rhine by the 21st he would never cross above Mayence. Saar-louis has been recently fortified, and serves as the centre. In case of necessity the Prussians can fall back on Mayence and Coblenz, which protect the passage over the Rhine, and behind which they have a formidable corps in reserve.

Despatches from Saarbruck report that no operations of importance occurred along the entire line yesterday. A fierce attack by the French was repulsed vigorously by the Prussians to-day. A large body of French troops has moved on Forbach.

FLORENCE, Aug. 1.—The negotiations between Italy and France for the withdrawal of

French troops from Italian soil have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The Italian government has guaranteed the preservation of order in Rome, and the French troops have evacuated the city.

PARIS, Aug. 1.—A Belgian army of observation occupies a line between Liege and Aix la Chapelle.

A Council of Ministers will meet three times a week at St. Cloud. The Empress will preside over their deliberations.

The Gaulois says that it is proposed to form a corps of volunteer artillerymen to garrison the city, and be placed under command of former pupils of the Polytechnic school. This corps is designed for the special defence of Paris in case of need. No news of any engagement between the armies has yet (3 p.m.) been received here.

PARIS, August 1.—The Presse says there has been no fighting on the banks of the Rhine, as has been widely rumored. The advance posts of Bavarian troops have fallen back upon Lauter river. Several Prussian scouting parties have lately passed the Saar; their boats were plainly seen by the French. It is thought the Prussian force in that neighborhood is not so great as at first supposed. A number of Prussian soldiers who deserted and came into the French lines, have been sent to Tours.

The Journal Officiel to-day has information going to show that the sympathy of the people of the Danubian Principalities is not heartily with France.

The French government has contracted for a cable between Calais and some point in Jutland, Denmark, in order that the operations of the Baltic fleet may be directed from and reported to the capital.

The Presse denies that the Prince of Wales, now in Copenhagen, sympathizes with Denmark in her complaints against Prussia.

Orders have been promulgated in Paris to the effect that the enemy's private property shall be respected in France, as it is respected in Germany.

The Chancellor of the French Legation at Berlin, who remained after the declaration of war, has been required by the Prussian authorities to give his parole not to leave the city.

The Moniteur of to-day says that Herr Klazeko, who has arrived here from Vienna, has seen the Empress and the Duke de Grammont several times, and is believed to be charged with a confidential mission. So far, however, his language is expressive of neutrality on the part of Austria.

The Archbishop of Paris has addressed a pastoral letter to the clergy, requesting their prayers for the success of the French.

It is stated that the Emperor, before his departure for the Rhine, wrote to the Pope, explaining the causes of the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome.

LONDON, August 1.—It is certain England will take action to defend Belgium. The Times says Mr. Gladstone's speech at the Mansion House meeting, on Saturday, proves that he recognizes the war and is ready to meet it.

The French squadron is still cruising off Thurso, Scotland.

THE COUNCIL.

(From the Vatican.)

We noticed in our last number the foolish invention of the Pall Mall Gazette about Cardinal Guidi. A letter addressed from Rome to the Unita Cattolica confirms what we said. Cardinal Guidi, who is a Dominican, signed the magnificent Address which all the Prelates of his Order, headed by the Superior General, Father Jandel, presented to the Pope, and in which they "solemnly attested the belief of their whole School in the doctrinal infallibility of the successors of Saint Peter, in conformity with the formal and explicit doctrine of St. Thomas Aquinas." "Judge from this fact," says the writer in the Unita Cattolica, "how contemptible are the injuries which the praises of certain Gallican and Jewish journals seek to inflict on the Cardinal. But he has no need of defenders against the outrages either of Judaizing Gallicanism or of Gallicanizing Judaism."

The same journal publishes a letter which contains the following observations on the death of the late Bishop of Evreux, who was a zealous, unopportunist:—"On his return to France he became dangerously ill. We have received intelligence that he manifested deep regret on account of his speech in the Council, and that, at the moment of his death, he saw the vanity of that shadow which is called unopportunist, and completely changed his opinion. This fact has produced a strong impression upon the more pious members of the French minority."

One of the most illustrious members of that minority, the learned Mgr de Groulhae, formerly Bishop of Grenoble, and now Archbishop of Lyons, who was regarded as a pillar of the opposition, has disappointed the hopes of that party. In his recent discourse before the Council, we are assured that he said not a word either against the doctrine itself or the opportuneness of the definition, but referred only to the form which the definition should take, without himself

suggesting one for the approval of the Council. This grave and erudite man, who long ago disposed of the inventions of Greek malignity about Pope Honorius, was probably one of that vast majority of the Council upon whom the Bishop of Urgel lately produced by a single phrase so deep an impression. Spain, said this great Prelate, ardently desired the definition of the Immaculate Conception long before it was proclaimed, and would receive with the same pious exultation that of Pontifical Infallibility; while for himself, he added, in accents which electrified the august assembly, when it becomes a doctrine of the faith,—*Lætus moriar!* I shall die happy."

The seventy eighth General Congregation was held on the 28th of June. Six Fathers spoke, five in favour of the definition, among whom were the Bishops of Monterey, Ferentino, and Urgel. The latter Prelate, Mgr Caixal y Estrade, was heard, it is said, with extreme satisfaction, and is regarded as one of the chief ornaments of the noble Episcopate of Spain. On the 30th, in the seven y ninth Congregation, the speakers were the Bishops of Quimper, Aversa, Paderborn, Casale, la Reunion, and Florida, of whom again five were in favour of the definition. The Bishop of Quimper is said to have insisted strongly on making a definition free from all ambiguity, and which should leave no loop-hole for the subtleties of error.

The eightieth General Congregation assembled on the 1st instant. The Council was addressed by Mgr Pava y Rico, Bishop of Cuenca [Spain]; Mgr Colet, Bishop of Lucon; Mgr Maret, Bishop of Sura; Mgr David, Bishop of Saint-Brieux; Mgr Adames, Bishop of Luxembourg; and Mgr Grieth, Bishop of Saint-Gall. The discourse of the Bishop of Cuenca is said to have been so complete and exhaustive that many of the Fathers subsequently remarked: "What need is there of further discussion?" We learn indeed by telegram that, on the 4th, all the orators without exception renounced their intention to speak, and that the discussion was actually closed, amid general expressions of joy and contentment and loud exclamations of *Deo gratias!* *Deo gratias!* The next Public Session was expected to take place on the 16th or 17th.

In the eighty first General Congregation, held on the 2nd, addresses were delivered by the Bishops of Meath, Hebron, Chalons, Perpignan, Havana, Ayacucho, Saluzzo, and Angers. During this session one of the Fathers is reported to have said aloud, with allusion to the long and minute discussion which the subject has already received, "It is not debate which we need any longer, but the definition."

There is much talk in Rome of a very remarkable Brief, the first dated in the 25th year of his Pontificate, which the Holy Father has addressed to the clergy and people of Marseille, in reply to the recent manifestations of their faith.

In the session of the 2nd, the final vote was given on the *proemium* and the first two chapters of the *schema de Ecclesia*, as they were definitively proposed by the Commission de Fide. The three successive votes were almost unanimous.

TARDY REPENTANCE.—"We must remember," says the London Telegraph, commenting on the late raid on Canada, and the encouragement which for years Fenianism has received in the United States, and from all classes of society, official and non-official—"We must remember that Garibaldian volunteers, openly advertised and enrolled as such, did actually leave our shores in open day, to make war upon a Sovereign with whom Her Majesty was at peace." Yes indeed! Remember these things the Liberals of Great Britain must; and remembering them, they should be covered with shame and confusion of face; for how can they dare to reproach the United States Government for doing as towards the Fenians, neither more nor less than with the approval of almost the entire Protestant community of the British Empire, the authorities of England did with regard to the rascal Garibaldians? A thief, a scoundrel and a cut-throat is neither better nor worse, whether he wear a green tunic, or a red-shirt, General O'Neil is as good a man any day as Garibaldi as the fellow whom English gentlemen, and—tell it not in Gath—whom even English ladies, or females by courtesy called ladies, bowed down before and worshipped; whom mayors and civic dignitaries conspired together to honor; nay, whom, if rumour belied him not, the most illustrious subject of the realm disdained not to visit. These things Englishmen, and all those canting hypocrites who, whilst applauding Garibaldi and the Garibaldians, hurl their bitterest invectives against the Fenians and their leaders, must remember; and lest they should forget them, we will from time to time remind them of them.

Not in a spirit of triumph, or as of something in which we rejoice; but in shame as British subjects, and in sorrow. As the British nation sowed, so it is now reaping: with the self-same measure as that with which it has meted out to others, to the King of Naples, and the Sovereign Pontiff, is it to-day meted out unto

itself. Wherein it sinned, it is now punish and the proud nation which once reckoned itself mistress of the seas, and Queen of the sea whose flag was supposed to be a shield against injury or insult, is now reduced to the ignominious necessity of putting up with the grossest of outrages from a powerful nation like the U. States and is content to avenge herself by bullying weak and helpless communities such as that Greece. Never had a nation to eat so much dirt—and such abominable dirt at that, as that which Great Britain now contentedly swallows without a word of remonstrance she bolts unsavory morsels, and actually licks the hand which presents it. British subjects cannot but blush with shame when they see this sad change over their native land: they cannot but say, "How would the Government of France have acted, if it had been informed that for many years, and with the tacitly expressed countenance of the Prussian Government—an extensive organisation holding a mock Senate at Berlin and having for its openly avowed object the revolutionising of France, the overthrow of the Government, and an attack upon its soil, had been allowed to enroll, enlist, and accumulate arms and ammunition on the Rhine for an invasion? How would France have acted? How would any independent Power have acted? Why she would have instructed her Ambassador to demand at once either an explanation with suppression of the menacing organisation—or else his passports. And under circumstances exactly similar to these which we have supposed the British Government is content humbly to thank the U. States Government for issuing its proclamation against the raid after it had been effectually squelched beneath the fire of our rifles; and for seizing the stores of arms and ammunition which we suppose will be given back again to the Fenians in a few days, after the precedent of 1866.

And why is this? Because we cannot, without exposing ourselves to the ridicule of the world, condemn in others that which we have notoriously been guilty of ourselves. We cannot come into Court with clean hands; and were our representative at Washington to adopt a bold and manly tone with regard to the Fenian organisation in the United States, he would be met by the unanswerable retort that under analogous circumstances, Garibaldian volunteers, cut throats, and adventurers, the sweepings of the jails and back stums of England, were openly advertised and enrolled as such, without interference from the Government, and were allowed to leave the shores of Great Britain to make war upon a Sovereign with whom Her Majesty was at peace. And thus does the whirring of time bring us his revenge. We may blackguard the United States Government if we like; but still, like Shylock, it can always truthfully retort upon us—"The villainy you teach me I will execute; and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction."

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.—It seems by no means improbable that the law of the land will make it obligatory on parents in England to send their children, under a certain age at all events, to school, for a certain number of hours every day. This is a great stride on the way to Communism; and must, unless it be intended to inflict great suffering on the working classes, be followed up or supplemented by a State provision for the feeding and clothing of the poorer members of society.

To deprive these during a certain number of years of the services, or a portion of the services of their children is equivalent to robbing them of a certain amount of their wages, and food producing capacity. So keen, so incessant is competition in England, so desperate the struggle for life, so heavy and constantly increasing is the pressure upon the means of subsistence, that every possible source of income must be made available. The capacity of the child to labor must be utilized, or the child and parent must perish for lack of food. It is therefore clear that if, on the one hand, the State, in the interests of Education, deprive the father of the labor, or food procuring power of the child, it must compensate the former by furnishing him with an equivalent. Education is good, but food absolutely necessary; and the great, the overwhelming difficulty is how to get food for the millions of England's surplus population?

The logical corollary of "Compulsory Education" is therefore Communism. The State which says to the parent, "You shall not—though on the brink of starvation, though scarce able to find yourself, your wife, and children in food of the coarsest description—utilize all your possible sources of income, but shall keep your children at school, and therefore out of the receipt of wages, for a certain number of hours every week," must, if it would not increase the existing suffering of the poor, enact, that for every hour or day, during which the parent shall have been deprived of the child's earnings shall receive a certain quantity of flour or meal. In short Communism is the logical corollary of State-Schoolism. The State must feed and clothe as well as educate.