

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE. A WEEKLY EDITION OF THE "EVENING POST"

761 CRAIG STREET, MONTREAL, BY THE Post Printing and Publishing Company.

Terms (By Mail) \$1.50 per Annum in Advance City (Delivered) \$2.00

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14.

CALENDAR.

JANUARY-1880. THURSDAY, 15--St. Paul, First Hermit, Confessor. St. Maur, Abbot. FRIDAY, 16--St. Marcellus, Pope and Martyr.

NOTICE.

Subscribers should notice the date on the label attached to their paper, as it marks the expiration of their term of subscription.

Subscribers who do not receive the True Witness regularly should complain direct to our Office.

Address all correspondence and make money orders payable to the POST PRINTING and PUBLISHING CO., Montreal.

Teachers' Attention!

We are desirous of obtaining the name and post-office address of every Catholic lady and gentleman school teacher in each province of the Dominion and in Newfoundland.

As yet we have not received the names of one-half the Catholic teachers of the Dominion.

Notice to Subscribers.

This is the most appropriate time to remind the subscribers of the Post and True Witness that the beginning of the year is the most convenient time for settling accounts.

The programme of the places Mr. Parnell decided to visit during his American tour includes Montreal, where he will lecture early in February if certain emergencies do not arise which may require his presence in the Imperial Parliament.

At a meeting of Repealers held in Dublin in 1845, James Gordon Bennett, father of the present proprietor of the New York Herald, was present, but was refused recognition by Daniel O'Connell on account of the position his paper took on the slave question and left in a huff.

ALARMING news from India once more. Mahomed Jan is again in the field, this time it is supposed with a disciplined army and a fair share of artillery.

The contest between Dr. Bergin and Mr. D. B. McLennan is now occupying the attention of the electors of Cornwall. Though the Post is not enthusiastic in the interest of either political party, we cannot refrain from expressing our preference for the late member, Dr. Bergin.

Mr. PETER O'LEARY will lecture at Oshawa on Tuesday night next on the Irish Land Question, on the invitation of Rev. Father McIntee, and probably no Irishman living, including even Mr. Parnell, is more capable of doing justice to the subject.

Paris Exhibition of all nations, and while there studied what may be called universal economy. He is a forcible speaker, possessing great natural eloquence, combined with a wonderful store of information.

HERR BISMARCK still keeps the war pot boiling, and though he talks of disarming, he is engaged in preparations of an extensive nature to wrest semi-German Provinces from Russia; he is, in fact, playing the same tricks he practised against Austria in 1866 and France in 1870, which is, while entertaining aggressive intentions himself, to make it appear to the world that it is the enemies of Germany who are assuming the offensive.

The Irish landlords have at length realized that they are upon their trial before the public opinion of the world, and more especially the democracy of this continent.

A Snarl from Ottawa.

A great calamity has befallen the EVENING POST; it has, as the complete letter-writer would say, through circumstances over which it has no control, lost the confidence of the Ottawa Herald.

One can easily understand how it is that the Irish landlords and the same class in England and elsewhere should make an effort to destroy the sympathy which is evoked by the distress in Ireland, and "made" in England and Scotland as well.

its soaring. For our part, if his Lordship Bishop Duhamel, who, besides being an ornament to the Church as one of its dignitaries, is possessed of fine literary tastes as well, denounced the Herald for the miserable trash it furnishes its readers, never minding religion or theology at all, we could scarcely blame him, for, of a surety, it is purely and simply disgusting, and fitted to pervert the taste of any of its readers whose tastes are not already perverted.

The "Witness" Unseats the Wrong Man.

The Canadian Spectator severely criticises the daily papers of Canada for their plagiarisms, and servile imitation of the English papers. They do not as a rule form opinions from information they possess themselves.

The Land Agitation.

One can easily understand how it is that the Irish landlords and the same class in England and elsewhere should make an effort to destroy the sympathy which is evoked by the distress in Ireland, and "made" in England and Scotland as well.

going on forever; but what surprises us is that here on this continent they should find so many among its democratic people to chime in with their ideas. We are right in saying a democratic people, for it is unnecessary to state that Canada has not been colonized by the sons of dukes who came hither to spend large fortunes.

The Agitator Parnell.

At the present moment Mahomed Jan, the Afghan general, is by far a more popular person with the British world than Charles Stewart Parnell, the member of Parliament for Meath County.

Rich and rare were the gems she wore. And a bright gold ring on her hand she bore. Mais non, mais non change tout cela. Parnell has changed all this. Parnell is aware that countesses and duchesses who would melt into tears over the song of "Kathleen Mavourneen" could see the aforesaid Kathleen in her own proper person shivering by the roadside after eviction and would pass the girl with haughty scorn.

until it either comes in contact with the infernal regions or the point where the claims of the antipodean begin. Hence, the practical agitator says, in effect, "stick to the land; it is more substantial than a song, and it will be time enough to remember the glories of Brian the Brave when hunger has ceased gnawing at your hearts."

Irish Relief Fund.

Table listing donors and amounts for the Irish Relief Fund. Includes names like The Proprietors and Employees of the Post and True Witness, A Lady (per Mr. O'Leary), P. S. Gendron, Prothonotary, James Duffy, Francis Kennedy, John Kennedy, Henry Harnett, of St. Vincent de Paul, A Friend, James McArran, bookseller, George Clarke, Andrew Dunn, James Conroy, A Factory Boy and comrades, Wm. Conroy, James O'Mara, Albert street, Canadian, Grenville, P. Q., John Cantwell, apprentice, M. P. Ryan, M.P., and E. L.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Distress in Ireland.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS and POST. Dear Sir,—Can you explain the cause why some forward movement is not being made here to relieve the distress now existing beyond all doubt? Are we waiting to see how long our people can subsist without food, fuel and clothing? Such does appear to be the case, judging from the apathy shown in this city.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS and POST.

Sir,—As an Irishman and one who has had a good deal of experience among the Irish, I naturally take great interest in the present position of that unfortunate and too often oppressed country, and having carefully read your article of the 5th—"Landlord and Tenant," I consider it on the whole a very fair synopsis of the present position, and I cannot without horror contemplate the possibility of a recurrence of the heartrending scenes of 1847-48. Verily they were appalling and never to be forgotten by those who witnessed them and who felt how utterly incompetent they were to stem the torrent of misery, disease and death; and the poor people, who patient, how uncomplaining, only the beseeching look from the ghastly shrunken face which here too plainly the imprint of coming death.

the three great national traits of patience, honesty and gratitude, and the Irishman, if at all decently treated, has essentially a grateful heart. Shall, they, not; then, be helped in the day of their trouble? I am happy to see the Irish heart on this continent has been stirred to its depths, but it is an urgent case, not one to which "festinus lente" applies.

I am very familiar with the relations, I should rather say want of relations, between landlord and tenant as they existed a quarter of a century since; between those two classes there stood a wall of adamant; that wall was the "Agent." As a matter of fact no tenant could personally reach his landlord, or if by chance such a meeting occurred, he would be told—courteously, no doubt—but still told, "I never interfere with my agent."

But above and beyond all this was the evil shadow of absenteeism, and the tenant naturally felt it to be a hardship that he was altogether debarred from communication with him who ought to be at once master and friend; a just and kindly master; a friend who would see to the prevention of all injustice or small tyranny on the part of subordinate officers, under which head I class all sub-agents, clerks in offices not under the immediate eye of the agent, bailiffs, their drivers, and all the numerous class of parasites who have been made fat by the mismanagement of Irish estates and the impunity with which they were able to carry on their nefarious practices, and when the crash of 1848 came, who held up their hands? who were found to have quietly added house to house, and field to field in fee farm for ever? Who but those sub-agents and clerks who had drawn from the life blood of the wretched peasant their property in the shape of eggs, chickens, ducks, pigs and the miserable half-sovereign they might have hidden in the old stocking, and in return would they not give them that bit of bog, that neighbors field and time for the rent. To that extent it is unfair to charge all actual misery upon the landlords; but where such practices as I feel delineate were in force, then I say those in whose hands the charge of these poor people rested, in the sight of heaven were guilty of a gross breach of trust and their punishment has but commenced.

Meanwhile, I denounce the conduct of any who, by mere words or fiery advice, would inflame the passions of these much wronged countrymen of mine; they are as impulsive as they are generous, and above all nations require to be dealt with at once firmly and gently. As well fire to fuzze in the heats of August, as inflammatory words to these people at such a time as the present; that the landlords should be compelled to realize the position is right and just, but human nature is weak, and landlords are sometimes not above the weakness of remembering injuries, be they real or imaginary; therefore for both sides it should be remembered how wise is the counsel of moderation. Of one class the Irish have been rid, the iniquitous tithe system, and with it perished the excrescence upon humanity, the Tithe Proctor. The picture of a Protestant Rector distaining upon the morsel of property of a Roman Catholic (or any other for that matter) to recover his two, three or five shillings of tithe was a foul blot upon humanity, and an insult to God and the Gospel; it was but a question of time to wipe that out and just here I take occasion to say that from that day the landlord, not the tenant, paid the tithe on government estimate; henceforward they were known as "Rent Charge," not as tithe. I speak from experience, and give a flat counter-diction to those in this country who have made statements to the contrary. There are some who have done so, but that iniquity is completely wiped out.

I could largely supplement the list of absentees and the value of estates, as given by you on the 5th, without leaving the West of Ireland, but it is needless, and I have already trespassed on your patience sufficiently. Of Sir Charles Knox (not Knox) Gore's merit as a landlord, I know as little as why he or any other of his class should appear for endorsement to the New York Herald; his father, Sir Arthur, had the reputation of being a good landlord. That fraction of being a good landlord, as clear seeing nobleman, the Earl of Lucan, as clear as thirty-five years since, comment they had his Castlebar estates of a tenant who had subdivided their holdings, to their utmost tension, the result being dexterated lands, and debased and poverty stricken tenantry and rents unpaid for periods varying from five to twenty years. This, too, with characteristic vigor, he ejected the recalcitrant tenantry, forgiving all arrears and assisting liberally towards their emigration. The result is that, where want and misery reigned, there are now large, well fenced and cultivated farms, nor has his Lordship's name appeared in connection with any of the troubles now raging in the county of Mayo. Certainly public opinion was at the time outraged, and the London Times poured upon Lord Lucan its vials of wrath; but his property greatly increased in value, and, doubtless, many of these men or their descendants now bless the day they were compelled to exchange their wretched tenements for the green fields and pastures new of the States and of our Dominion. If a clearer insight into the national characteristics of Irishmen as a nation, and a stronger interest in their present need, and the necessity of contributing to its immediate relief by their more fortunate brethren on this continent, until it either comes in contact with the infernal regions or the point where the claims of the antipodean begin.