

## The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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J. GILLIES.  
G. E. CLERK, Editor.

We beg to remind our Correspondents that no letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless previously addressed.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JULY 22.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

Although hostilities have recommenced between the Danes and the German Powers, though without the intervention of a miracle, it does not appear how Denmark is to be saved from destruction, it does not appear that Great Britain will draw the sword. Indeed the *Times*, the exponent of public opinion, in a series of elaborate articles, proves conclusively that Great Britain is under no legal or moral obligation to defend Denmark, and that the latter country has little claims on the sympathies of Englishmen.—The logic of the *Times* may be good, but it comes rather late in the day. Whatever may have been the intention of the Palmerston Cabinet, whatever may have been their mental reservations, their attitude, and their language has certainly been such as to inspire the Danes with the hope, and Europe with the belief, that England would not permit Denmark to be dismembered. If there was no intention of appealing to the sword should negotiations fail, then these negotiations were in vain, and an idle mockery. Whilst, therefore, all will rejoice that peace is preserved, many will regret the sacrifice of national reputation by which that end has been accomplished.

Catholics have especially every reason to deprecate a war; for a war between Great Britain and Austria implies an insurrection in Hungary, an attack upon Venice, and the spread of the revolution in Italy. Well, therefore, may English Catholics rejoice that there are prospects that hostilities may yet be avoided, and that the expectations of Victor Emmanuel of British assistance in his designs upon his neighbors' territories are not immediately to be realised.

Acting under instructions from our superiors, we addressed, in our issue of the 8th instant, a question to the *Toronto Freeman*, wherein the latter was requested to indicate the source from whence he had derived his information relative to the feelings of the Catholic Hierarchy and Clergy of Lower Canada, with respect to the contemplated changes in the constitution of these Provinces. In the *Freeman* of the 14th inst., we had the following reply:—

THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE LOWER CANADIAN CLERGY.—A few weeks ago under the heading of "Political On Dits," a brief paragraph appeared in this journal stating, in effect, that the late political changes had the sanction of the Hierarchy and Clergy of Lower Canada. The *True Witness* denies this statement, and summarily demands proof for what we have stated. Overlooking our contemporary's peremptory tone and the undue assumption of authority he manifests, we beg leave to assure him that, his assertion can be sustained by negative and positive proof. As regards the former, we might rest our case on the fact that, Sir E. P. Tache, Messrs. Cartier, Langevin, Chapais, and several other Lower Canadians, who enjoy the confidence and esteem of the Hierarchy and Clergy, have been consenting parties to the arrangements made. It is fairly to be presumed that, these gentlemen, who, in ordinary circumstances, ask and follow the counsel of their ecclesiastical superiors, would not neglect to consult their views and interests in the case of the gravest and most important nature are at stake. Neither is it likely that the Premier and his colleagues would consent to the negotiations and the general policy fixed upon by the new coalition, if by doing so they would place themselves at variance with those who could cut short their political existence.

We have direct and positive proof that our statement was not groundlessly made; but we do not intend to compromise the parties who furnished the information upon which we penned the paragraph.—*Toronto Freeman*, 14th inst.

Our contemporary will permit us to correct one or two inaccuracies of which, in the above, he has been guilty.

In the first place, the *TRUE WITNESS* neither affirmed, nor contradicted, the allegations of the *Freeman*; as, to the sanction given by the Hierarchy and Clergy of Lower Canada to the much-talked of political changes. Even if we were acquainted with the views and opinions of the Bishops and Clergy upon these points, we should not deem ourselves at liberty, without express instructions, to say one word on the subject, or to drag our venerable Pastors before the public without their permission. No Catholic gentleman would be guilty of such improper conduct.

In the second place, it was not the *TRUE WITNESS* who put the questions objected to, to the *Freeman*; as, from the express wording of the paragraph in which those questions appeared, our contemporary is well aware. We spoke, not *proprio motu*, but in obedience to instructions from one whom the *Toronto Freeman* had gravely compromised with the public; and one, therefore, who, apart from his sacred office, and exalted position, had the right to demand, simply as a private gentleman, "by what authority do you—the editor of the *Toronto Freeman*—attribute certain opinions to me; seeing that I am not aware that I ever authorised you, or any other journalist, to speak in my name."

And lastly, the *Toronto Freeman* will please to bear in mind that, as it was not the lay editor of the *TRUE WITNESS* who questioned him, so his refusal to reply is not addressed to us. We were but the medium through which that question was put; and if the reply thereunto be somewhat less than respectful, it remains only for our contemporary to harmonise, as he can, the impertinence of his answer, with the respect which he professes to entertain for his ecclesiastical superiors.

L'OUZIE, of the 13th instant, asks us how it is, that the *TRUE WITNESS*, whilst professing repugnance to the Coalition between Messrs. Brown and Cartier, and declaring its hostility to Confederation, nevertheless, in its issue of the 8th instant, says that—if the measures or acts of the Coalition Cabinet are good, it will offer to the members of that Cabinet no opposition?—Our reply shall be short, and we trust satisfactory.

We speak and act in the manner attributed to us, because we care not one straw for men or parties. If the present holders of office were to be kicked out to-morrow, we should not shed one tear; whilst at the same time, if we could effect their expulsion from office by holding up a finger, we would not give ourselves the trouble to do so.

On the other hand, we are, as Catholics, and as citizens of Lower Canada, deeply concerned in everything that may in any manner affect the interests of our Church, and of our adopted country. We, therefore, knowing that the project of Confederation is seriously menacing to both, oppose that measure heart and soul; our object being, either to crush it entirely, or failing in that, so to emasculate it, as to render it incapable of evil. Here is the light in which we view the proposed Confederation, and its effects upon Lower Canada.

Every Government must have functions; and it is the nature of every government to seek to extend its legitimate functions, and to make itself felt in every direction. If then we have a Federal Government, it must have functions assigned to it; and as the dominant body in that Federal Government will be alien and hostile to Lower Canada, it is certain that it will be ever seeking to extend its functions over the weaker member of the Confederation.

Now it is also certain that, so long as the Canadas remain British Dependencies, the Imperial Government will never consent to surrender any of its functions to a Colonial Confederation. It follows therefore that the functions to be assigned to the proposed Federal Government will be the functions hitherto exercised by the several Provincial Governments of the British Colonies. Every thing given to the Federal Government will be so much stolen from, will be an encroachment upon, the actual functions of the Provincial Government; and it is therefore the duty of every Lower Canadian to exert himself now, so as to reduce the functions of the threatened Federal Government to a minimum, and to restrict its sphere of operation within the narrowest limits; and on the other hand, so as to give the greatest possible latitude and freedom of action to the several State or Provincial Governments. The Federal authority in short must be looked upon as our enemy, of whom we should first try and rid ourselves altogether; and failing in that as one whom we should endeavor to weaken as much as possible, and starve to death, if we cannot kill him at once.

Now if the French Canadian section of the Ministry will do this; if they will, above all, insist that no measure of Federation will be imposed on Lower Canada, without the assent of Lower Canada, given by her representatives in Parliament, and expressly chosen with a view to the great question of the day—the *TRUE WITNESS*, though it will continue to deplore the Coalition, though it will still look upon that measure as humiliating and dangerous—will offer no opposition to the members of whom the Coalition Ministry is composed. All we insist upon is this: that the *Double Majority* principle in its integrity, be applied to every clause of the Bill which they—the Ministry—propose to lay before Parliament; and that Lower Canada be allowed to determine for herself, absolutely and without any reference whatever to Upper Canada, whether she will consent to form a member of a Confederation of the British North American Provinces.

This is the explanation of our language and of our attitude. We know nothing about, we care nothing for, men and parties. Brown, Cartier, &c. &c., are in our estimation of no more intrinsic importance, than are the algebraic expressions of which we would avail ourselves to work out a problem. If they can serve our turn we would avail ourselves of them, thankfully; if they cannot, we reject them for others, pitilessly and without remorse.

The *Napanees Ledger* says that a fire is raging in the woods at Ernestown, which has done great damage.

The *Napanees Ledger* states that on the 9th, while a man named Mitchell was on his way from Belleville to Lindsay, he was attacked by two robbers, who rifled his pockets, and struck him with a stone, fracturing his skull.

UNWHOLESOME DIET.—Scarcely a day passes but what the *Montreal Witness* is compelled to eat his own words, and very nasty food these must be, one would think. However, the man seems to like the diet, for he is constantly at it. Here is the latest instance.

The *Witness*, the cause of whose hostility to the Grand Trunk we need not seek to enquire into, published a paragraph accusing the gentleman connected with the Railroad Company of having employed unfair means to induce the sufferers by the late terrible accident to accept a trifling compensation for injuries received; and that for that purpose, agents had been employed to tamper with the sick and wounded in the *Hotel Dieu*. Whether for these libels, as in the case of a Scotch nobleman, the *Witness* was menaced with legal proceedings, or with a horse-whip, we cannot tell; but on the 12th instant the following abject apology appeared in his columns. The poor man was, in short, again compelled to swallow his own nasty words:—

THE CASE OF THE GERMAN EMIGRANTS AT THE HOTEL DIEU.—We have received explanations from Mr. Kietze, which show clearly that the Emigrant Agent was right in stating that no settlements had taken place at the Hotel Dieu, and also that no emigrant who had suffered the losses mentioned, had been settled with for thirty dollars. The sufferer in question, though at the Hotel Dieu, was settled with at Point St. Charles, under the superintendence of the Committee composed of the Presidents of the National Societies, &c., and he received \$100, but as he had lost three twenty dollar and one ten dollar gold piece, in all, seventy dollars,—he reckoned, and stated to Mr. Kietze that he had only got thirty dollars for the killing of his boy, aged five years, and the injuries of his wife and remaining children. It will thus be seen that if the emigrant in question got too little,—a point on which we form no opinion,—the Grand Trunk authorities are no way to blame. They, we are informed, cordially and promptly settled the estimates of damages made by the Presidents of the national societies,—and, in so doing, we think fulfilled their duty in the premises.

We believe that all the reports about the Grand Trunk, or its agents, attempting to settle privately with the sufferers in the hospital are unfounded, having had their origin in similar misapprehensions with the above; and, further, that the whole business of settling is going on fairly, honorably, and above board. We, of course, deeply regret and gladly apologize for any incorrect reports we have been the means of circulating, or erroneous impressions we have been the means of producing.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.—After a long, searching, and careful investigation, the jury summoned in the case of the Railroad accident of the 29th ult., has rendered the following verdict:—

"The undersigned jurors, appointed to investigate the circumstances connected with the death of Theophilus Kuffeld and others mentioned in the annexed list of persons who lost their lives at the accident at the Beloit bridge, are of opinion that Theophilus Kuffeld and others came to their death in consequence of having been precipitated on the morning of the 29th of June last with a locomotive engine and train of cars, the property of the Grand Trunk Railway, into the river Richelieu through the draw bridge near that river, at or near the station on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway, known as the Beloit Station. That it is the opinion of the undersigned, that the said engine and train were so precipitated by the gross carelessness of Wm. Burpee, the driver in charge of said engine at the time it was so precipitated.

That it is the opinion of the undersigned, that the locomotive foreman at Richmond, displayed a want of judgment and caution in putting a driver in charge of a train without previously ascertaining by a formal investigation whether such driver knew the road signals;

That the undersigned are further of opinion that the almost uniform neglect of the Company's rule to stop the train before its entering on the south end of the bridge, has had much to do with the accident which happened on the 29th ultimo;

That the omission of the guardians of said bridge to report such neglect, is very reprehensible;

That, moreover, the undersigned are of opinion that the train which contained the said Theophilus Kuffeld and others from Richmond on the 28th of June last should have been provided with at least an additional brakeman to the one on board, and that it was the duty of the conductor in charge of the said train to have provided such additional brakeman;

And, lastly the undersigned are of opinion that it would much tend to the safety of the public travelling over the eastern section of the road if the draw bridge at Beloit be altogether abolished.

Montreal, 13th July, 1864.

(Signed),  
JOSEPH JONES, Coroner.  
Thomas Mussen, Foreman; John O. Beckett, A. W. Ogilvie, Thos. McCready, Hy. Bulmer, Sam. E. Dawson, John Elliott, J. B. Marion, S. Giraldi, John Phelan, J. H. Irwinson, Wm. Salter, Thos. Hood, J. L. Mathewson, Wm. Clendinning, Gottlieb Reinhardt, Wm. Wagner.

It was half past one this morning when the verdict was rendered, the jury having been locked up from about a quarter past eight on the previous evening.

The prisoner Burpee was committed for trial at the next Court of Queen's Bench, on the 24th of September, the witnesses who were examined having been previously bound over to appear and give evidence at the same time.

MUCH CRY, AND LITTLE WOOL.—That farcical body which the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, has in solemn assembly condemned the *Essays and Reviews*. And what then? Has it suspended the writers from preaching, and from inculcating from Anglican pulpits, the obnoxious doctrines? No indeed. This is not in its power, for the State, its lord and master, though it allows the Convocation to meet and talk, will not allow it to act. The condemnation pronounced by it, is then but a *brutum fulmen* by which it proclaims its impotence, and its own degradation.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.—June 1864. Dawson Bros., Great St. James Street, Montreal.

The interest of *Tony Butler* is well maintained, and the *Perpetual Curate* is approaching the term of his difficulties, though what the issue may be is not as yet indicated. We have one political article "The Crisis of Parties,"

in which Mr. Gladstone is roughly handled; a review of "The Public School Reports," and another of the Life of Sir William Napier; the reviewer does justice to the sterling qualities of the illustrious deceased. "Letters from the Municipalities" may be of little interest to the majority of readers, but *Cornelius O'Dowd upon Men, Women, and other Things in General*, is as usual witty and instructive.

NORTH BRITISH REVIEW.—May, 1864.—Dawson Bros., Great St. James Street, Montreal.

The first article consists of a short biographical notice of the late lamented Lord Elgin.—This is followed by a light but interesting record of a fortnight's adventures in Faroe; a treatise on *Energy*, a review of *Trollope's Novels*; *Day Dreams of a Schoolmaster*, an article on *Christian Missions*, another on the Anglo-Scottish dialects, one on *Rambles in the Deserts of Syria*, a brief review of several late *Sporting Boks*—the whole concluded with a defence of *Our Foreign Policy*. Of the above, the article on *Christian Missions* is most attractive to the Catholic, and contains much valuable matter. We propose to make our readers acquainted with its contents.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE.—The annual distribution of prizes took place at this Institution, on Wednesday, 13th instant, and was witnessed by a very large number of persons, amongst whom we were pleased to observe many of our principal citizens. It must be gratifying to the Rev. Fathers of the Society of Jesus to know that their efforts in favor of the young men of Montreal are so highly appreciated, and the fact augurs well for the future of our populous and prosperous city. The speeches delivered by the students at that entertainment, whether in English or French, we have rarely on similar occasions, heard equalled, never excelled; indeed we feel confident that, were their immortal subjects once more allowed to re-visit this earthly scene of ours, and to be present on that occasion, they would scarcely complain of having suffered any injustice. The music, we must also observe, was of a very high order, and satisfied the audience that that branch of education, like every other, receives due consideration in that excellent establishment. At the conclusion of the distribution of prizes, the Rev. Mr. Satch, Superior of the College, arose, and in the name of the Director and Professors of the Institution, thanked the audience for their attendance, and for the encouragement thereby given to the cause of education. He also took occasion to compliment the students on the satisfactory nature of their examination, to which they had, to some extent, received the rewards that day, and concluded by expressing a hope that the vacation on which they were just entering would be a happy one,—happy to themselves, happy to their parents, and happy to their alma mater.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL, SAINT NAZARETH STREET.—We had the pleasure of assisting a few days ago, at an examination of the pupils of this School; and we are glad to be able to bear testimony to the proficiency of the children in the various branches in which they were examined. The different classes in Book-keeping, Practical and Commercial Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, &c., acquitted themselves admirably, and to the entire satisfaction of the audience. The speeches, dialogues, and recitations, also, were such as would do honor to older and more pretentious heads. We congratulate the pupils of that School on the excellent result of their examination, and the heads of families in that part of the city on having their children educated by the pious and learned sons of the venerable De La Salle.

The annual distribution of Prizes at the Villa Maria Convent (Worklands) took place, as we stated in our last issue, with more than usual éclat in the presence of Lord and Lady Monk and suite, His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, and many other dignitaries and distinguished citizens.

The exercises commenced with a very brilliant overture on a harmonium, two harps, and four pianos performed by eleven young ladies, Misses Timmins, Kimber, Walsh, Benedict, Finn, Deakin, Murphy, Villeneuve, Hall, Easton, and Chaput. A poetic welcome to Lord and Lady Monk was read by Miss Pinsonneault, after which succeeded a Fantasia on harps, pianos and harmoniums. A dialogue on the subject, "*Les femmes célèbres de la France*" was given with great spirit, followed by a dialogue of a semi-musical character which gave an opportunity of displaying the care bestowed in the Institution on the cultivation of vocal as well as instrumental music.

The distribution of prizes and honors was then commenced. Gold medals and white crowns were presented to a number of young ladies for excellent conduct; prizes for domestic economy were likewise distributed, and a white rose was given to the young ladies of the superior class. Lady Monk presented the gold medals and di-

plomas—the highest honors in the gift of the Institution—to the following young ladies who in the past year completed their course of studies: Miss Timmins (Ward of John Lally, Esq., of Quebec); Misses Shannon, McCulloch, Finn, Saunders, Frechette, and Ollendorf, Montreal; Misses Benedict, and Griffith, Troy; Misses Ridley and Sweeney, New York.

The proceedings closed by an address to Lady Monk in verse, to which His Excellency made a most happy and appropriate response. His Lordship, the Catholic Bishop, also addressed the young ladies; after which the large and brilliant assemblage dispersed.

EXAMINATION IN THE C. BROTHERS' SCHOOL, KINGSTON.—The Annual Examination of the juvenile class of this School took place in the School-room, on Thursday last. His Lordship, the Bishop of Kingston, was present, as was also some of his Clergy, and a number of ladies and gentlemen of the city. At half-past one o'clock, the examination commenced; and it was astonishing, as well as interesting, to hear the answers given by those young boys—(scarcely any of them over ten years of age)—to the questions put to them by their teacher, in Practical and Mental Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, &c., &c. The facility with which they traced the several maps placed before them, was really surprising. Their answers in History, Ancient and Modern, showed—for boys of such tender years—a wonderful knowledge of this branch.

They were very minutely examined in several branches by His Lordship, who seemed agreeably surprised at their quick replies, and the expedition with which they solved several problems.

Some of the audience also examined them in Geography, Grammar, Arithmetic, &c.: to all of which they replied with ease, proving that they fully understood the branches in which they were examined, and that the good Brothers have not failed in imparting to the youth committed to their care the seeds of piety and learning.—The examination was interspersed with dialogues and recitations, which were delivered by some very young boys in good style.

The examination of the high class will commence next week, and will continue for three days; on the third the prizes (which I hear are very fine) will be distributed.

I know you will be anxious for particulars, and will send them as soon as possible.—*Com.*

To the Editor of the True Witness.

Montreal, July 14, 1864.

Sir—I take the liberty of requesting a space in your journal for the following slight description of the distribution of prizes, which took place to-day in the Visitation school, Quebec Suburbs.

The Church of the establishment was turned into a lecture room for the occasion, and, on entering, the visitor's attention was drawn to the works of industry which lay in profusion on the tables, or hung round the temporary platform. These consisted in elegantly finished embroideries, children's dresses, (plain and braided), plain and fancy needlework, of which there was a large assortment, enough to set up a good store. I regret that I cannot give you the names of all the sempstresses, but among them were the Misses McCawley, Mitchel, Clarkin, Ford, and Ryan.

Miss Clamoir, who, during the day presided at the piano, opened the proceedings with the overture to the *Somnambula*, to which she did full justice; her movements are at once easy and graceful, and in her subsequent accompaniments she was "soft or strong," sustaining the voices admirably.

The order of the day now commenced—

1st By a hymn sung by ten of the pupils.

2nd A recitation, *Balthazar's Feast*, rendered by Miss Mitchel.

3rd A dialogue, "The Annual Queen"—this was a merry contention for honor, which of course was won by Virtue (Miss Sheals) who was crowned by Umpire (Miss McCawley).

4th A well sustained Dialogue in French.

5th Margaret of France, recited by Miss Milligan.

There were other songs and scenic displays, all of which showed cultivated tastes, and during which the pupils were remarkable for their grace and modesty. I cannot, with any show of justice, pass unnoticed the compositions which were given in the shape of letters by the Misses Gilroy, Mitchel, McDonald, Clarkin, and Ningale; each read her own letter in consecutive order, slowly and distinctly. I must be permitted here to compliment the amiable Sisterhood upon their complete success in this branch of their course.

Miss Clarkin now took the piano, playing neatly; she was unwell, but I hope she'll "come again."

The prizes were distributed for merit in the various branches of a sound English and French education, viz:—For Arithmetic, Geography, Grammar, Parsing, &c. One tiny mortal obtained hers, because she said her prayers best in her class. Those who were so lucky as to obtain prizes were now assembled on the platform, and after an address to the Pastors, one to the parents, a concluding hymn, Miss Clamoir wound up with "St. Patrick's Day," which came sparkling from the piano.

The Very Rev. Mr. Trudeau, followed by Mr. Tupin, then addressed the pupils congratulating them on the successful conclusion of their seven months' studies, noticing their order and discipline, and impressing on them the necessity of application during the vacation; that by following this advice, and by returning immediately to school they would give the best proof of their gratitude to Sister Agnes, nay, to that kind and painstaking Sisterhood who had devoted their lives to them, and to whom nothing could be so comforting as the future success of the dear children.