

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. XXVIII.—NO. 34

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1878.

TERMS:—\$2 per annum in advance.

NEW AGENTS.

Mr. Farquhar McLeod has kindly consented to act as our agent for Dalhousie Mills.

Mr. Michael Cleary has been appointed as one of our travelling agents. He shall shortly call on our friends in the county of Glengarry.

Mr. J. W. Kennedy, of Richmond, is our authorized agent for the counties of Richmond and Sherbrooke. We trust that our friends in these counties will receive him kindly.

Mr. James J. Kelly has kindly consented to act as our agent in St. Stanislas de Kostka.

A NEW SWORD.

A new sword has been introduced in the English army. It is described as a combination of the ordinary regulation sword (cavalry and infantry), with a six-chamber revolver at the hilt, the hilt of the sword answering for the stock of the revolver, the cambers of which takes the Boxer Cartridge, regulation pattern. The steel scabbard is wonderfully utilized, being cut in sections with top hinges, and folding up in the form of a rifle stock. This is attached to the hilt of the sword by a slot and catch, the whole forming a short repeating carbine, or, without the scabbard attachment, a sword and revolver in one and the same weapon. It is sighted up to one hundred yards, the foresight being taken from the point of the sword.

SOUND.

There is a startling soundness in the following letter which must strike every one that reads it. It should learn the wholesome truth that "Charity begins at home" into the brain of the Irish people. The letter was written by the Most Rev. Archbishop of Cashel to the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Here it is:—

"My Lord Mayor—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a paper bearing your signature purporting to be an appeal in favor of what is called a 'Turkish Fund for the purpose of affording assistance to certain non-combatants of every creed in Constantinople, Adrianople, Philippolis, and the surrounding districts.'

"I sympathize, I believe, as much as most men with all who are in distress, or who suffer from bodily or other pain, especially if it be good cause and is not the result of any misconduct or perversity on their part, but in the present instance, I cannot help thinking that the Turkish fugitives, on whose behalf this appeal is made, however worthy of being compassionated, are not at all as much entitled to Christian sympathy and support, as the poor, down-trodden, turpited, and utterly miserable Irish-pesant who are being driven in desperation from their homes on the slushy slopes and wilds of the Galtee mountains.

"Yet I do not find that any one of the many philanthropic personages whose names figure on the subscription list with which I have been favored, has ever expressed a word of sympathy with those starving mountaineers, 'fugitives' and non-combatants' as they are called, or subscribed a penny to purchase for them either food or raiment, 'Cazius bene ordinate incipit domi.' I have the honor to be, My Lord Mayor, your faithful servant, "T. W. Cross, Archbishop of Cashel."

THE CONDITION OF CHINA.

Referring to the present condition of the northern provinces of China, the San Francisco Chronicle publishes the following extract from a letter received by a gentleman in that city from a friend in Shanghai:—

The great question which at present agitates the Flowery Kingdom is the famine at the North. For four years past a part of four of China's Northern provinces has yielded either a small crop or none at all. One year ago the suffering was something dreadful among these poor people, who are worse off than slaves. At that time about \$70,000 was raised by foreign communities at the open ports and forwarded to disbursing agents, who made good use of the money. This year the famine is still worse. Over a country that embraces a population of some fifteen millions of people, absolute destitution prevails. People are actually eating each other. Babies are cut up and sold by the pound. There seems to be no remedy. The Chinese authorities are doing something, but it is only a drop in the bucket. The foreign community have elected canvassing committees, and the subscriptions will be up in the thousands; how much it is impossible to say. From last year's experience it is estimated that a life can be saved for about \$1.50, so that all that can be done will save only a few out of the millions. In the Central provinces there is an abundance of rice. This is being shipped to the suffering districts, but it takes a month to reach them. It costs nearly three times the price of the rice to carry it to its destination—no railroads, no canals, not even a carriage-road. Within the past fifteen years the Chinese Government has spent enough on fortifications, ships, improved arms and ammunition to have built a road from Shanghai to Peking, with branches leading through the famine districts. The ships are useless; so are the fortifications; they both serve only for an excuse to pay fat salaries to lazy officials. The arms and ammunition are stored away, rusting so as to be worthless, and China's millions are starving. Chinese officials do not want to change the order of things. Why should they? The merchants and traders men desire it, but they have very little to say in the matter. If I am rightly informed, with all their government workshops and arsenals, there has

never been an agricultural tool or implement made Guns, torpedoes, ships, etc., seem to be their end and aim. The oil class grow richer and richer each year and the lower classes poorer and poorer. No wonder that such numbers are willing to go to the Pacific coast, where, in a few years, they can earn a life competence and lie down and die in their land with the millions taken from the poor laboring classes in our own country. What kind of people is it who regard not nonchalance their neighbors devouring their own children? Were you to ask them to explain their strange apathy they would not doubt give the regular Chinese shake of the head and say, "He no sabe."

A TALE OF HORROR.

At a meeting recently held in London, at which a number of clergymen and some English and Irish M.P.'s were present, the following tale of horror was related by Davitt, one of the ex-political prisoners:—

Immediately after sentence he was deprived of his own clothes and put in convict uniform, his hair and beard being cut close at the same time. He remained in Newgate but eleven days after receiving his sentence, and in that short period he was being initiated into the reality of penal servitude. On the 23rd of July he was removed to Millbank. Chains were fastened on his ankles in stocks in a manner that he could only stretch some twelve or fifteen inches when walking, and to insure his offering no resistance he was compelled to hold the end of the chain by which his feet were bound. Thus manacled, and guarded by a couple of warders, he was driven from Newgate along the Thames Embankment to the Millbank Penitentiary. His bed was made of three planks laid parallel to each other at the end of the cell, and raised from the stone floor only three inches at the foot and at the head. The only seat allowed to him was a bucket, which contained the water supplied to him for washing purposes, this bucket having a cover so as to answer the double purpose of water-holder and stool. The height of this sole article of furniture allowed to him was 14 inches exactly, including the lid, and on this "repentance stool" he was compelled to sit at work ten hours at least every day for ten months (cries of "Shame!"). The punishment thus entailed upon a tall man could be easily conceived. The recumbent posture and bent chest, necessary while picking oakum, with nothing to lean one's back against to obtain a momentary relief, was distressing in the extreme. The effect upon a weakness in his chest, was singular, but not surprising. On entering Millbank his height was exactly 6 feet, but 10 months later he measured only 5 feet 10½ inches. His description of his treatment in the Dartmoor convict establishment provoked frequent outbursts of indignation on the part of the audience. The food was really insufficient and it was quite a common occurrence for men to be reported and punished for eating candles, boot-oil, and other repulsive articles, notwithstanding that a highly offensive smell was given to the prison candles to prevent their being eaten instead of burned. Men were driven by a system of half starvation into an animal-like voracity, and anything that a dog would eat was nowise repugnant to their taste. He had seen men eat old puddings found buried in heaps of rubbish. He was assisting in casting away, and had seen bits of candle pulled out of the prison cesspools and eaten after the human soil had been wiped off them (sensation). After giving an account of various employments in Dartmoor he went on to show that political prisoners were treated with exceptional harshness. Among other proofs in support of this he mentioned that from his arrival in Millbank in 1870 until his discharge from Dartmoor in December last, he was classed and associated with the ordinary prisoners, placed on the same footing with regard to diet and work, and had in every particular to perform the daily task of penal servitude as laid down by the prison rules. Now, a political prisoner who was compelled to observe these rules in every particular like other prisoners, and to undergo the same penal discipline, was as clearly entitled to all the privileges allowed by those rules as men who were convicted for murder, theft, forgery, bigamy, and other non-political offences. One of the most convicted rewards of good conduct in prison was the privilege of receiving visits from friends at intervals of three, four, and six months, according to class and time served. A prisoner who had not forfeited his claim to such a privilege by any breach of discipline was as justly entitled to it, as to his daily rations of food. Well during his seven years and

seven months' imprisonment he had been by the admission of the prison officials a "good conduct" prisoner, and had consequently a right to a visit whenever he demanded one in accordance with the rules; but from the day after his sentence until the day of his discharge he was not allowed to see a friend or to receive a visit from anyone (shame). Again, ordinary convicts, when located according to class, were allowed to select a companion from the same ward to exercise with on Sunday. Mr. Chambers and himself were never allowed this privilege. They might select companions from among thieves and murderers, but were not permitted to even speak to each other at any time, Sundays or other occasions.

HOW CAN THE SPANIARDS TAKE GIBRALTAR?

There is only one hindrance to the Spaniards retaking Gibraltar, and that is, that it is impregnable. Three of its sides are so steep and precipitous as to be wholly inaccessible, and the fourth side, sloping down to the water, protected by about 1,000 pieces of artillery. The Moors were finally expelled from the fortress by the Spaniards in 1462, and the latter then greatly strengthened it and supposed they had made it impregnable, but it was captured by a few British sailors under Sir George Rooke in 1704, and the most desperate and most persevering efforts have been unavailing to retake it. In 1713 it was

we were saved by the British, but the rest all perished by the flames, explosions or drowning. Soon afterward the besieged were re-inforced, but they had lost only sixteen men throughout the attack. These little excerpts from history are not very encouraging to Spain in her aspirations for the recovery of Gibraltar. If she really means to take the Rock she will have her hands full.

"SCOTLAND FOR THE SCOTS."

Some time since, and not very long ago, either, "the Scotch argument," as we may term it, was a favourite one with English publicists and public men in their contests with Irish Home Rulers. There, it was said, is Scotland, which like Ireland, had once a Parliament of its own, but which has, nevertheless, accepted the Union, and would not dream of going back to the ante-Union state of things; it must be more perversely which prevents Ireland from following her example. It is every day becoming more and more plain that Scotland is not content with her position in the empire, and signs are thickening that the change she desires, and will yet insist on, is not so very dissimilar, after all, from that demanded by Ireland. There now is before us a pamphlet which is published by the eminent Edinburgh firm of Edmonstone and Co., which is evidently the production of a Scot of more than average ability, and the object of which is to lay briefly before the Scottish people the systematic neglect suffered by them at the hands of the Imperial legislature, in the hope that the time has come when it is evident that the present constitution of Great Britain does not provide a means of efficient administration for the three divisions of so great an empire, and that the attempted legislation for each kingdom forms an obstruction to legislation for the other two." We have been taught to believe that the Scotch are not swayed by what are sneeringly called sentimental considerations—that in their eyes national honour, for example, is as nothing compared with advantages. The author of this brochure impliedly stigmatises this assertion as a libel. The noble lords and other persons who voted the Union for the sum of £20,540 17s 7d are here spoken of as "the creatures who sold their country like a mess of pottage." The "men who" (in old times) "stood boldly forward as Scotsmen in the face of the world" are contrasted with those who are "content to see Scotland daily becoming less and less a field for honest action or noble ambition; content to become Englishmen and to let themselves be called so; content to become utterly denationalized and see their hills and glens, with all their memories and traditions, made the hunting and pleasure grounds of the English idler and their own denationalized land-holders." The design (of the existence of which strong proofs are given) to merge the Scottish judicature in that of England is denounced in unsparring terms, and in this connexion the declaration to Pope John the Twenty-second, is quoted with enthusiastic approval, that "so long as one hundred Scotsmen remained alive they would never submit to the dominion of England." The neglected state of Edinburgh Castle, "the centre of a thousand stirring memories," is treated as an affront to the national mind, as is also the custom amongst Englishmen of speaking of "England" when treaty obligations would compel them to say "Britain." Lastly, the Scottish people are called upon "to rouse themselves from their torpor and resolve with heart and hand to compel the British Government to maintain, if not the actual letter, at least the spirit of the Treaty of Union, by en masse asserting that Scotland has an individuality as a nation, with separate laws and institutions to protect alike from English interference and control." These are certainly not the slavish principles of public policy which have hitherto been supposed to prevail north of the Tweed. On the contrary, do they not bear a family resemblance to those which "the unreasonable Irish" have been in the habit of advocating? But there is something even more notable to come. We have all heard much of the great material prosperity achieved by Scotland in the last half century. The writer of the pamphlet under notice admits all that is said on this point, but maintains, in opposition to all English notions, that the prosperity in question is so far from being the result of the legislative connection with England, that from the date of that connection to the present day there has been "an unceasing drain" upon the people of the annexed country, and upon their money, "by the influence of studied centralization." Recalling the vast sums

expended in nursing the fishing industry of Scotland, and in cultivating the artistic tastes of the citizens of Edinburgh, we confess that, at first sight, this contention appears strange, but on reflection we cannot doubt that England has robbed Scotland as well as Ireland, though much less openly and to a much smaller extent. It is particularly noticeable, by the way, that Scotland and Ireland are both defrauded in the allotment of parliamentary representatives to the three divisions of the United Kingdom, for if the 638 members of the House of Commons were allotted proportionally to population, Ireland would be entitled to 112 instead of 105, Scotland to 70 instead of 60, and England to only 476 instead of 493.—Nation.

THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

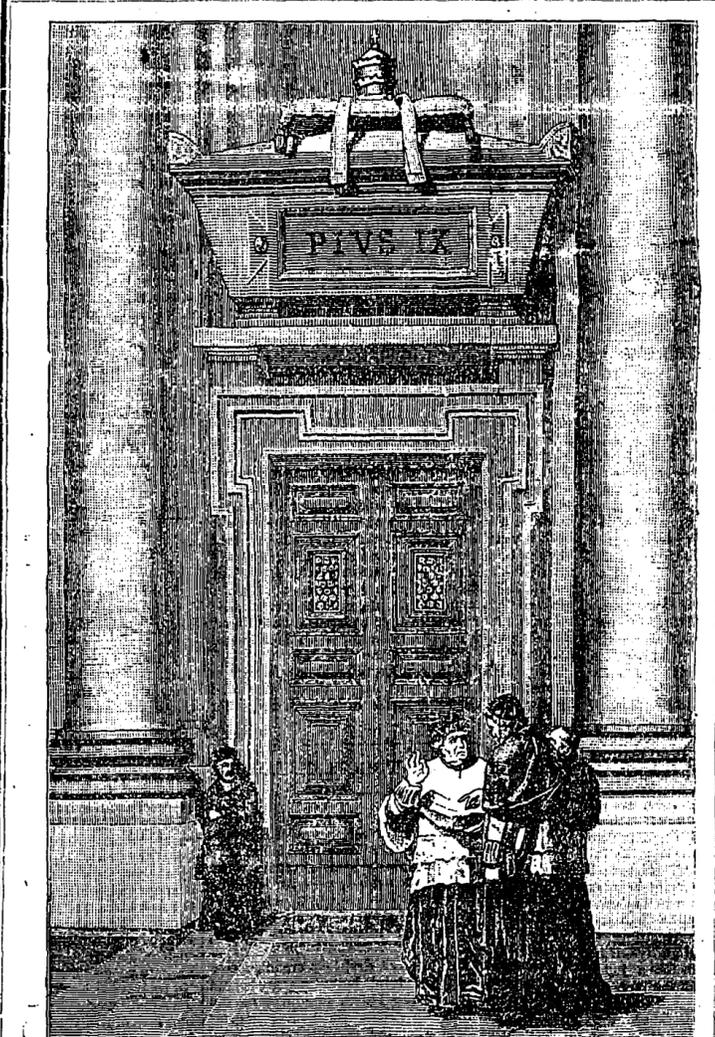
The Council of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language (says the *Byrnes*) met at four p.m. Rev. Samuel Houghton, F. R. S., in the chair. There were also present—Rev. M. H. Close, M.R.I.A.; John Nolan, O.D.C.; Captain R. MacEniry R.I.A.; Dr. Ryding, D. Comyn, M. Corcoran, and J. J. MacSweeney, secretary. It was stated that the class recently formed in connection with the Dunmanway Association is progressing satisfactorily. A Gaelic department has been opened in the columns of the *Irishman* newspaper, and also in the *Shamrock*. The selections and translations are made by a competent Irish scholar who has devoted some time to this branch of Gaelic literature. Other journals in Ireland keep up the language in their columns, as the *Tuam News*, *Teachers' Journal*, &c.

"THE PILOT" ON GENERAL SHIELDS.

General Shields' address in New York, published on the first page this week, is one of the most remarkable utterances ever delivered in this country, taking in view the character and experience of the speaker and the nature of his words. It is a speech to be read and remembered by the Irish people. The audience that attended his excellent lecture in Steinway Hall was one of the largest ever assembled there. It was notable for quality as well as for numbers, the very best part of the Irish population being present. The Common Council has placed the Governor's Room in the City Hall at General Shields' service for a public reception, which will soon be held. The Irishmen of New York are not always up to the mark in honoring those of their countrymen who deserve especial honor, but they certainly are not lukewarm in the present case. They have shown that they are proud of the gallant old hero of Cerro Gordo, whose heart still throbs warmly for Ireland, as they have good reason to be, and their manner of showing their regard for him makes amends for many shortcomings.

THE CHINESE DELUSION.

It takes a long time and severe pounding to beat down a popular delusion after it has become chronic. At the beginning of the career of Warren Hastings in India it was the common belief in England that India was, according to its extent and population, the richest country under the sun. "Palaces of porphyry, heaps of pearls and diamonds, vaults from which gold was measured out by the bushel, filled the imagination of even the business men of London," Macaulay tells us; but he adds that, in fact, "India was a poorer country than countries which in Europe are reckoned poor—poorer, for instance, than Ireland or Portugal." Through the visionary speeches of American statesmen like Benton and Seward, a like error in regard to "the boundless resources and wealth of China" has obtained popularity in the United States. It is called the "Flowery Land," the "Earthly Paradise," and the ignorant are trained to believe that its four hundred millions are as rich in proportion as the six millions of Belgium or the thirty-seven millions of France; and that to become sharers in their wealth we have only to open the Golden Gate and let them in by the million. This is all a delusion. The fact is that no half-civilized people of ancient or modern times were poorer than those of India and China. The Japanese *Times*, of the 26th of January last, declares that the vast empire of China has been utterly ruined by the wholesale destruction of its forests, and the consequent impoverishment of the soil and loss of rain supply. They average six bad years out of eight for crops. Famine afflicts those who stay in the country and greater famine the millions who quit their desert farms for chances in the overcrowded cities. The beasts of burden and the seed corn are eaten up to postpone the day of inevitable starvation, and "whole provinces have of late years relapsed into the sandy wastes." The same paper adds that "there is no money in China for any other purpose than those of her own dire necessity." The Shanghai bankers and the Canton merchants are constantly becoming poorer—are poorer now than they have been for generations." These statements, coming as they do from the neighboring country of Japan, are entitled to credence. They utterly dispel the old and popular delusion about the great importance to the United States of the China trade. It is probably worth as much, to us now as it ever will be; and that is less than the value of the lard and butter we annually sell to England—less than the one-eighth of our average yearly wheat exports to the single port of Liverpool!



THE TEMPORARY TOMB OF PIUS IX.

confirmed to Great Britain by the treaty of Utrecht, the Spaniards attacked it with a large force in 1727, and in 1779 the assault was renewed by a combined French and Spanish fleet. This latter siege lasted three years. By June all communication between the rock and mainland was cut off, and in the following month the fortress was completely blockaded. The besiegers brought to bear all the resources of war, by land and sea, and their operations were directed by the ablest French and Spanish engineers; a powerful fleet anchored in the bay, and for three weeks an incessant bombardment was kept up from eight mortars and 200 pieces battering cannon. The garrison made a sortie on Nov. 27, 1781, and destroyed the enemy's works, but the allies soon reconstructed them and brought 1,000 pieces of artillery to play against the fortress, an army of 40,000 men the meanwhile besieging it by land, while forty-seven ships of the line and a great number of smaller vessels menaced it by sea. Admiral Rodney having succeeded in throwing relief into the fort by defeating the French fleet, the garrison were greatly encouraged, and, by discharging red-hot shot, silenced the enemy's enormous floating batteries and burned many of their ships. Nine of the batteries were set on fire. About 400 of the

submit to the dominion of England." The neglected state of Edinburgh Castle, "the centre of a thousand stirring memories," is treated as an affront to the national mind, as is also the custom amongst Englishmen of speaking of "England" when treaty obligations would compel them to say "Britain." Lastly, the Scottish people are called upon "to rouse themselves from their torpor and resolve with heart and hand to compel the British Government to maintain, if not the actual letter, at least the spirit of the Treaty of Union, by en masse asserting that Scotland has an individuality as a nation, with separate laws and institutions to protect alike from English interference and control." These are certainly not the slavish principles of public policy which have hitherto been supposed to prevail north of the Tweed. On the contrary, do they not bear a family resemblance to those which "the unreasonable Irish" have been in the habit of advocating? But there is something even more notable to come. We have all heard much of the great material prosperity achieved by Scotland in the last half century. The writer of the pamphlet under notice admits all that is said on this point, but maintains, in opposition to all English notions, that the prosperity in question is so far from being the result of the legislative connection with England, that from the date of that connection to the present day there has been "an unceasing drain" upon the people of the annexed country, and upon their money, "by the influence of studied centralization." Recalling the vast sums

REV. A. C. H. P. ST. PETER'S ST. PETER'S ST. PETER'S