THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE—JUNE 6, 1862.

The True Witness.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1862

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

"Jordan," says the sweet singer of the conventicle, " is a hard road to travel." Still harder, and more dreary is it to travel over, or through interminable columns of type, and to find naught therein of the least interest. And yet such is the lot of him who wades through the last journals from Europe in search of news.

In the absence of things positive, we must content ourselves with surmises, and rumors. It is surmised, as it has been surmised any time for the last two years, that Louis Naroleon is about to consummate his long-career of iniquity by selling Rome, and the Pope, to Victor Emmanuel-price, or conderation, not yet determined upon. According to the Augsburg Gazette the following is the programme as sketched out by the archconspirators.

The Emperor has fixed upon a certain day, within a year, when Rome is be evacuated by French troops. Previously to this step being taken, however, the ceremony of summoning the Pope to surrender at discretion will be duly observed, the summons being couched in the terms of the President's letter to Edgar Ney. The Pope will of course prove obdurate, will reiterate his " non possumus," and then the French troops will be withdrawn. At the same time the Piedmontese troops will not be allowed to enter Rome immediately; but the revolutionary party in plain clothes will be permitted, perhaps incited to get up an emeute as a preliminary, and drive the Holy Father out of the City. The time fixed for the execution of the programme is said to be the Spring of 1863.

Plon-Plon, who is at Naples, is said to be engaged in arranging the minor details of the plot : and it is also hinted that the "idea" with which the Emperor is possessed is, this time, the Island of Sardinia, which he is to receive from Victor Emmanuel as the "thirty pieces" for selling the Vicar of Christ to his enemies: Plon-Plon is to return to Paris with the treaty in his pocket.

With regard to Venetia, rumor is also busy Austria is to be invited to accept—anglice coerced into acceptation of—a territorial indemnity of something, somewhere. Victor Emmanuel will cede another slice of his territory to France-for of course the Emperor has another "idea"-so that Genoa will become a part of French territory, whose limits will then extend to the Ticino. We give those rumors as we find them, and offer no opinions as to their truth; only we have but too good reason to fear the worst, when we see a Louis Napoleon, a Plon-Plon, and a Victor Emmanuel taking sweet counsel together against the Lord's Anointed. Yet there is One in heaven Who will laugh them to scorn, and confound their knavish plots against His Holy Church.

There has been another great field day in the House of Commons, on the second reading of the Church Rates Bill. The proposal for their abolition was rejected by a vote of 287 to 286.

The Prelates of Ireland have closed their deliberations in Dublin. The resolutions which they have adopted with regard to the Government School system have not yet been given to the public; but the correspondent of the London Times belives that immediate action, hostile to that system, is about to be taken. The reports from the famine stricken districts of the West of

Ireland are most painful. From the seat of war in the United States the reports which reach us are as usual meagre, and contradictory. It is certain, however, that Gen. Beauregard has evacuated Corinth, retreating in excellent order, and carrying off with him all his decreased from upwards of 3,000 in 1853, to guns, his baggage and his sick. Not a trophy, 1,314 in the first month of 1862, whilst the cost even, of any kind has he left the Northerners to for the criminal establishments of the country has boast of. Still the fact that he has been compelled to retreat, must have a moral effect prejudicial to the Southern cause.

We learn also that a great battle was fought on Saturday and Sunday last on the Chickahomwith great slaughter the division under General Casey, making many prisoners, and capturing a career was checked by the advance of other stantial trophies of victory. 'The tidings of this every seven is illegitimate," or that "female vir- and it is for the principle of "Freedom of Edu- the 8th ult, and describing the visit of Victor mented him highly on his proficiency.

en by the co- move of professions were anneared the con-"though not disastrous, is not cheerful," and that it was only "by great exertion; and the most determined bravery we were saved from a signal

With such chequered fortunes is the war carried on; and though the Southerners fight with the desperate courage of men determined to establish their national independence, yet they are fighting under every disadvantage. In numbers of men, in the quality of their weapons, in their command of the seaboard by their fleets and gunboats, the Northerners have an immense preponderance over their foes; and it is indeed wonderful that with such fearful odds against them, the Southerners should have been able so long to maintain the struggle. Whatever we may think of their cause, and of the origin of the quarrel, it is impossible not to admire the heroism and constancy of the South.

As we were going to press, a telegram from General Halleck announces a great success over General Beauregard, who is said to have lost 10,000 prisoners, and 15,000 stand of arms.

IRISH CRIME-The Protestant press, as may well be supposed, are making the most of two sad cases of agrarian outrage—the murder of Mr. Thiebault and that of Magnire-that have lately occurred in Tipperary. Our Protestant contemporaries do right in denouncing these outrages; for every good man-Englishman or Irishman. Protestant or Catholic-will unite in condemning them, and in invoking a swift retribution upon the actors therein. But it is illogical, unjust, and a monstrous perversion of truth to conclude from two isolated acts of outrage, commit ted under violent provocation, to the general criminality of the people amongst whom they occur. Yes! in spite of the two bloody crimes which we have lately had to record-we contend that the statistics of Ireland show that its population are the most moral, orderly, and virtuous on the face of the earth. Let us come to facts and

A Mr. William Thomson, Actuary of the Standard and Colonial Life Assurance Companies, and a staunch Protestant, to boot, has lately published a statistical pamphlet, of which the contents were read before the Royal Society of Edinburgh in the month of April last. To such testimony no Protestant, and no enemy of Ireland, can object on the score of its being partial to Catholicy, and prejudiced against Scotland and in favor of Ireland. Now what are the social facts which this pamphlet brings to light?

Of Presbyterian Scotland this witness says: is I state broadly, once and for all, that in more than one County in Scotland, out of every seven persons you may meet, one is probably illegitimate;— while in the lower classes of society, in certain districts, female chastity is scarcely known, and certainly not appreciated."

Again he says :--

"The subject of my present paper has been before my mind for some years, and was suggested by the perusal of the returns of the Registrar-General, and the reports of the Emigration Commissioners; but it has assumed more recently greater importance in my eyes, in consequence of the attention which has been directed to illegitimacy, and to the social evil, and, more particularly to the immorality of Scotland, as shown in the Scotch return, which, in point of illegi-timacy, is a source of national disgrace, while the resulting evil of prostitution is so obtrusive and extensive as to alarm all right-thinking men."

This is the view of Scotch morality as given by a Protestant. Of the morality of the Irish, he is compelled by the force of figures to give a very different account, though he attributes their greater purity to an ethnological instead of to a religious cause. The Irish are pure, not because they are Celts-for the Celtic population of Wales, under the baneful influences of Methodism are the most impure in the British Islandsbut because they are Catholics. It is to the grace of God given through the Sacraments, and i not to their Celtic origin, that the Irish are indebted for their virtues, and above all for the longs exclusively to the "Church," the other to chastity of their women. Still the fact remains; the "Family;" and though it is no doubt for the and it is admitted that to these Irish Celts " the advantage both of Religion and of Education moral crown" must be given :-

"Our Celtic race showing certainly, if we may udge from figures, a higher code of morals than the Northman and Saxon."

To this testimony we may add that of the last Report of the Directors of Convict Prisons in Ireland, which shows that crime in Ireland-in space of the distress and hunger which so greatly prevail-is rapidly and steadily on the decrease; the numbers of convicts in Irish prisons having diminished by no less than £60,000.

These figures are a good set off to the two exceptional outrages which have occurred in Tipperary, and should teach the calumniators of Popery to be more guarded in their abuse of Ireiny, in the first part of which the Southerners land, and less lavish of their praise of Protestant were completely victorious; driving before them morality. The Irish have their faults, for they are men; but they have this to boast of, and of this it is not in the power of man to deprive number of guns-twelve batteries it is said-and them-That inasmuch as they have remained a large quantity of baggage. Their successful faithful to the Church of Christ, the "moral crown," even by the confession of their enemies, divisions of the army, and the Southerners seem | must be awarded to them; and that in no part of either gross ignorance, or of gross hypocrisy .- | dent of the London Times. to have retreated, carrying off with them the sub- | Catholic Ireland can it be said, that "one in | The principle at issue in both cases is identical.;

battle have been variously received; by some as tue is scarcely known, and certainly not appre- cation"-of unlimited freedom for the parent, so a great triumph to the North; but the New York | ciated." These things are said by Protestants, in Tribune admits that the news of the battle | Scotland, and of Protestant Scotland; but no man would dare to say them in, or of, Catholic Ireland.

> PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT. - The proceedings in this body have not been very interesting. Mr. Scott is doing his best to push forward his School Bill this session, but we do not think that he will succeed. Perhaps, mutilated as the Bill has been in Committee, this is of less consequence; and it is to be hoped that during the inof Parliament, the Catholics of Upper Canada will agitate and organise so as to ensure their triumph during the next Session.

MR. SCOTT'S SCHOOL BILL.—As a matter of paramount importance to our Catholic fellowsubjects in Upper Canada, we publish at full the Separate School Bill, as returned from and amended by the Select Committee to which it had been referred, and which was presented to the House on the 30th ult. Our readers will compare it with the Bill as it passed its second reading, and was published in the TRUE WITNESS of the 2nd ult.

It is not for us to pronounce upon the merits of the alterations which have been made in the Bill by the Committee. Any measure with which the Catholics of Upper Canada are content, will content us, for our true position is simply that of auxiliaries; if, however, which, we fear, the amended Bill shall upon trial be found not to meet the wishes of our co-religionists, it will still be our duty to give them every help in our power, towards procuring a full and perfect measure of justice.

There is one clause in the amended Bill-the 19th-which we think will hardly prove acceptable to the Catholics of Upper Canada, whilst it is undoubtedly fatal to the principle of " Freedom of Education" for which we have always contended. By "Freedom of Education," we mean the natural right of every man, of every father of a family, as before the law, to support those Schools, and those Schools only, of which he approves, and to which he in the exercise of his absolute parental rights sees fit to send his children. This right is inherent in the parent, irrespective of his religious status; and it is, we contend, grossly infringed upon by the following clause, which stands as the nineteenth in the Bill as amended in Committee :-

"No person shall be elected as Trustee of any Separate School unless he resides within three miles of the site, or proposed site of the School Rouse; nor shall any person be deemed a supporter of any Separate School unless he reside within three miles of the site, or proposed site, of the School House."

That is to say, that the Catholic parent who happens to reside three miles and a half from the site of a Catholic School House, will be obliged to pay for the support of the non-Catholic School, to which he cannot with a safe conscience, send his children. And this is the measure of justice which Protestants, who declaim against State-Churchism, mete out to Catholics, when they have it in their power to rob and on-

This one clause is evidently destructive of the entire principle of "Freedom of Education" for which we have always contended, and for which we ever will contend. The School Question, and the Church Question are in substance identical; for every argument which tells against State-Churchism, and compulsory Church-Rates, tells with equal dialectic force against State-Schoolism and compulsory School-Rates. It is as much an abuse of its power, and in violation of the natural rights of the individual, for the State to establish a "Common School" system, as it would be to establish a " Common-Church" system. Neither Religion nor Education is a legitimate function of the State; the one bethat the State should make material provision for the support of both-(provided, only that it do so in such a manner as not to infringe upon the rights of the Church, of the Family, or of the individual) - yet better, infinitely better, that both Religion and Education be left exclusively to the operation of the Voluntary System, than that the State should enforce upon its subjects either a Church or a School system to which any of them are conscientiously averse.

We occupy in Canada, and as against compulsory School Rates, for the support of Schools to which we, in the exercise of the plenitude of our parental rights, do not see fit to send our children, very much the same ground as that occupied by the Protestant Dissenters in England, as against compulsory Church Rates for the sustentation of religious edifices of which they, in the exercise of their rights of conscience, do not see fit to avail themselves as places of worship; and it is impossible for any one to condemn Church Rates in England, and to support a Common party, Protestant principles have progressed, and this spring, at the M'Gill University of this city, School system in Canada, without convicting

long as through his misconduct he shall not by due process of law have been deprived of his parental authority - to direct, without let or interference of any kind from the State, the entire moral, physical and intellectual culture of the children whom God has confided to his care; and for whom God holds him, and not the State, not "Jack-in-Office"-no matter by what title called - responsible.

This is the only ground upon which the advocates of Separate Schools can safely offer battle to their adversaries; and so long as they hold it, terval betwirt the prorogation and the meeting it is a "coigne of vantage" from which they cannot be driven-it is a strong hold logically impregnable. So long as they ask for those Schools in their religious capacity only, and as Catholics, they expose their flank to their enemies, and are compelled to accept the charge of the hostile columns at every possible disadrantage. The opponents of "Freedom of Education" can well reply-" We know nothing of Catholics or of Protestants; we cannot discriminate betwixt them in our legislation, neither can we recognise that any man's religious opinions, no matter how strongly or conscientiously entertained, can be pleaded against the provisions of an Act of Parliament. We legislate for all the Queen's subjects, indiscriminately, without distinction of persons, or of religious professions." If we once admit the right of the State to do anything more than merely make material provision for either Education or Religion; and if we come before the Legislature pleading our religious status only, and our conscientious convictions as Catholics, and not our natural, inherent, indefeasible rights as parents-then this answer is conclusive against our claims.

But were we for once to adopt the other system of tactics, that which the TRUE WITNESS has ever advocated, as that which alone can conduce to victory-then such a reply would be without meaning, and without force. It is as parents, and as fighting under the banner of the 'Family"-and not as Catholics ranged under the banner of the Church-that we propose to enforce our just and most moderate demands upon the Legislature. We do not say to it --"Our convictions as Catholics" - but "Our rights as parents are infringed upon, and outraged, by your Legislation. We, and we alone, have the right to say how, by whom, and in company with whom, our children shall be educated; and we owe you, and we owe no man amongst you, any account for the manner in which we exercise that right." This is the language which we should employ, which we must employ, if we wish to succeed. This is the language which Protestants would employ, if treated as Catholics are treated in Upper Canada; and we strongly suspect the former would add to it some such words as these-words however which their holy religion, which teaches Catholics that it is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong-must prevent the latter from uttering :-

"And so help us God! we will not allow you, nor any of you, to interfere with us, in the education of our children; and if you attempt to levy School Rates upon us for the support of Schools to which we will not send those children, you will have to levy them at the point of the bayonet."

Of course Catholics cannot appeal to physical force, even against the tyranny and injustice of the Protestant majority; but they may-but in a ease which concerns the spiritual interests of their children, they are bound to -- employ against their enemies every moral weapon which the law of the land places within their reach; and to use all legal means to overthrow the degrading system of State-Schoolism which it is attempted to impose upon them. If respect for justice will not induce their enemies to do them right, then must they extort justice by the application of some other persuasives. "Agitate, Agitate, Agitate. Let there be no peace, no quiet in the land, day or night, until full justice be done you. Avail yourselves of the existing Common School system only to embarass it, and to make it a bane and a cusre; throw every conceivable legal obstacle in the way of its working; oppose everything; make yourselves as troublesome as possible to all connected with the system, so that in very weariness of spirit, they shall at last be the moment, always pain those who do not approve glad to get rid of you at any price." This is of witnessing the Irish character turned into our advice to our Catholic friends of Unper ridicule. Canada; and it is the course of action which Our Lord Himself commended in the poor widow, who, retused justice by the judge who feared not God nor regarded man, at last forced him by her importunities, continued by day and by night, to avenge her of her adversary .- St. Luke 18.

STRONG PROTESTANT SENTIMENTS. - The evangelical press boasts loudly of its triumphs in Italy, of the progress of its holy religion, and points, as conclusive, to the numbers of Protestant bibles and Protestant tracts distributed within the last few months. We will not damp the joy which these glad tidings have brought to Protestantdom. Amongst the Italian revolutionary are progressing, of which we give a striking and thimself of monstrous inconsistency—the result of conclusive instance from the Nanles correspond of the Legal Faculty at the convocation which

Emmanuel to that city and its environs, recites. as characteristic of the feelings of the Neapolitan revolutionary party, which sides with the Sardinians, and enrolls its members in the so-called " National Guard"—a conversation which he held with one of the latter-who expressed his feelings towards the revolutionary dynasty in the following strongly Protestant terms:-

"Well, sir, this day is a compensation for all; we wept when we saw Victor Emmanuel - per Dio" (or by God) - 'we love him better than Christo il Padre Eterno"-(than Christ the Eternal Father)-" for has he not redeemed us from slavery."

The Times' correspondent does not attempt to " justify the unintentional blasphemy" of the above-which is so horrid that we shrink from laying it before the eyes of our readers; and ind ed we would not do so, were it not that it is so strongly illustrative of the anti-Christian and indeed diabolical sentiments with which the Liberal and anti-Papal party in Italy are animated, and of their close relationship to the Jacobins of the French Revolution. They are Protestants it is true, for they curse the Pope in their hearts: but they are Protestants of the Marat and Tom Paine stamp. Yet they no doubt will be greeted by Exeter Hall as "brethren in the faith;" and the Times correspondent's report of the sentiments of his Neapolitan friend towards the Pope. as expressed in reply to a question put by the former, would gladden the heart of Spooner himself:---

"And the clergy," I said, "what are they doing?"
"Brigands, cunugliu, all of them; and that—
Pope is the chief brigand."—Times' Naples Cor.

The National Guardsman of the Times correspondence is a fair specimen of the Italian Protestant, and of the nature of the conversions which the emissaries of Exeter Hall, and the Tract and Bible distributors are operating amongst the people of the Peninsula. How far Christians have reasons for rejoicing in a process which teaches those subjected to it to love a bloated profligate like Victor Emmanuel more than the Lord Jesus, the Eternal Father, is a question which will naturally present itself to some minds, but is one which we will not at present stop to discuss.

We learn from the Montreal Gazette that His Excellency the Governor General may be expected in Montreal in the course of the present month.

Mr. M'Gee has been re-elected for Montreal West without opposition.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY'S PIC-NIC .- We have been requested to state that the Grand Annual Pic-Nic of this Society will be held on Wednesday, 2nd July next, in the Victoria (late Guilbeault's) Gardens.

TOM MOORE CELEBRATION .- In accordance with the announcement previously made, the genilemen of the "Tom Moore Club" entertained their triends on the 28th ult .- the anniversary of their illustrious patron. As we anticipated Nordheimer's Music Hall was well filled with the elite of the Irish society of this city, who are ever ready to forward a charitable and patriotic undertaking; and it afforded us much pleasure to find that every one present was well satisfied with the carrying out of the programme.

As our readers are aware, the programme was both musical and dramatic, consisting of some of Moore's choicest melodies, as well as other gemof music, and selections from Shakespear's great tragedy of "Othello."

The "Tom Moore Cluh" were assisted by artists whom it is sufficient to name in order to convey an idea of their performance; we allude more particularly to our charming cantatrice, Mad. Honey Stevenson, and Mons. Gustave Smith, the organist of St. Patrick's Church. Miss Mitchell sang very sweetly, and with practice will become a very accomplished vocalist.

The gentlemen of the "Moore Club" acquitted themselves very creditably, and their singing is very much improved since their last appearance in public; and Mr. E. Woods proved himself equal to his reputation as a clever amateur violinist.

The two characters in the dramatic performance were well sustained by Messrs. M.Kenna and Holland. These gentlemen presented a very fine appearance in their magnificent costumes, and displayed considerable ability and discrimination in their respective roles.

On the whole the entertainment was calculated to reflect credit on all who participated in it; and the selections made were far superior to and more appropriate than the burlesque comedies that are sometimes selected for such occasions; and which, although they may excite laughter at

MRS. STEVENSON'S BENEFIT CONCERT .-We were well pleased to see that this charming eantatrice's efforts to cater to the public amusement are duly appreciated, and that Nordheimers' Hall was crowded on Monday evening upon the occasion of her benefit. The music selected was from the most popular Operas of the day, and was admirably executed by Mrs. Stevenson, aided by a body of Amateurs, amongst whom must be mentioned the Tom Moore Club. The Band of the 16th was in attendance, and contributed largely to the success of the Concert.

Admission to the Bar.—We learn with pleasure that on Monday, the 2nd instant, Mr. John P. Kelly, of Montreal, was, after a long and brilliant examination, admitted to the practice of law. He graduated as Bachellor of Civil Law, and was selected to read the valedictory address was held there in the early part of last month. At his examination on Monday, the examiners, The latter, in writing from Naples under date Messrs. Belanger, Mackay, and Day, compli-