

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, A WEEKLY EDITION OF THE "EVENING POST" IS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25.

CALENDAR. FEBRUARY. THURSDAY, 26—Feast of St. Valentine and St. Agnes. FRIDAY, 27—The Holy Land and Nails. SATURDAY, 28—Feast of St. Valentine. SUNDAY, 29—Third Sunday in Lent. Epist. Eph. v. 1-9; Gosp. Luke xi. 14-23.

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Mr. M. H. O'RYAN, as our authorized agent, is prepared to receive subscriptions for the EVENING POST and TRUE WITNESS for Sillery Cove, Que., and vicinity.

GENERAL ROBERTS is making another attempt to make peace with the Afghans, but with little prospect of success. Peace with the Afghans can be only of a precarious nature, but it may afford the British a chance to retire from the country without loss of prestige.

On Sunday, February 15th, in compliance with a circular issued by His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa, the sum of \$82 was collected in the parish of Vanhook Hill, towards relieving the distress in Ireland.

The City Council of Montreal is growing tired of its princely generosity, and is determined to vote no more money away. It is perhaps just as well it came to this conclusion, which is equivalent to saying Montreal shall be laughed at no more for its magnificent intentions.

INTELLIGENCE of increasing distress comes once more from Ireland, and also of evictions and attempts at eviction. Those best acquainted with the state of the country say the distress and the disease brought on by unwholesome food, or the lack of food altogether, will be most severely felt in May and June, and we learn by mail accounts that the landlords are preparing for wholesale evictions also in those months.

The sum of money voted by the Canadian Parliament for the relief of the Irish sufferers by the famine will be of great benefit to those it is intended to succor. It is a large sum of money, and will go a great way. Ireland will have reason to think of Canada with gratitude for ever more, and whatever the faults of the Irish people may be, ingratitude cannot be reckoned among them.

They are at present having lively times in the Ontario Legislature discussing the estimates. One item of \$450 spent by the Lieutenant-Governor on his trip west on duty is the subject of hot debate, though His Honor offered his own cheque for the amount.

wants to know if the Province is going to pay His Honor's "whiskey bill." The Honorable Mr. Fraser, in defending the Government, administered a scathing rebuke to Mr. McMaster, who finds, able and all that he is, that the Provincial Secretary is still his master in sarcasm and force of eloquence. Truly, our legislators and newspapers are growing more vulgar each day.

The British Government has been given a chance to show what justice they are about to deal out to Ireland. This time the Irish members have not asked money to stay the march of an artificial famine; they have not requested measures of Home Rule; they simply moved, from their places in Parliament, that the franchise in Ireland would be assimilated to that of England and Scotland. Nothing, one would think, could be more just, nothing more simple and in accordance with the ideas of "British fair play" we hear so much dejected talk about, more especially when the world is so persistently informed that Ireland is really an integral part of the British Empire.

At a meeting of the Irish Societies, held in New York on Wednesday night, it was decided, after a stormy discussion, that the usual parade would take place on St. Patrick's Day by a vote of 71 to 28. It is noticeable that the most prominent Irishmen were against the parade, among them being Richard O'Gorman, General Thomas F. Bourke, Dr. McKeefe, Eugene Kelly, Judge Quinn, Thomas Clarke Luby, and others. The 68th Regiment has also resolved to abstain. It is possible those who went in for the procession may have substantial reasons, but until they are known the general public will think it strange that while Ireland is starving, her children abroad are rejoicing in all the pride, pomp and circumstance of a glorious procession.

Seed Potatoes. We do not know the exact meaning of Major Nolan's Seed Potatoes bill which has been read a third time in the British House of Commons and become law (except the Lords throw it out), but suspect that it relates to the granting of potatoes for seed by the Government to the tenants of Ireland. Tradition has it that it was the great Sir Walter Raleigh who first introduced potatoes into Ireland, and only they would, we suppose, have come anyway, we could wish, both for the sake of Sir Walter and Ireland, that the ship that brought him and them across would have sunk to the bottom of the sea. This would have certainly saved Sir Walter a disgraceful death on the block, and perhaps millions of Irishmen, women and children death from famine, which is still worse, because more painful with prolonged agonies. It is, of course, possible that the diabolical land laws would have produced great distress no matter what formed the staple food of the Irish people, but it is improbable that famines like those of 1819, 1822, and the terrible famine of 1848 could have occurred under any other than that which may be appropriately termed the potato-landlord system. The British conquered Ireland, and took possession of the lands after a struggle which lasted uninterruptedly for five hundred years, but fortunately, (or unfortunately) they did not succeed in exterminating the ancient race. As this race did not consent to die it follows that it had to live, but how was the problem to be solved. Manufactures or commerce there were none; the alien Government took particular care of that, so they had to confine themselves solely to agriculture. This would have been all well and good, for there are less profitable occupations than that of farmer, but as has been seen they had no lands to cultivate, the conquerors had monopolized them. There was, therefore, nothing left for them to do, seeing they persisted in desiring to live, than to resolve themselves into a pauper peasantry and till the soil for the new masters they had received, on condition that they obtained enough to eat and something to wear. These, in fact, were all they were entitled to, according to the penal laws, which did not permit them to own a horse worth more than five pounds, which prevented them going to school or to church, which, in fact, made them slaves. They rented pieces of land from the lords, and, as potatoes went a good way, they raised them and lived upon them almost altogether, dedicating the bulk of the land to pasturage, hay, wheat, oats and other cereals, which they sold to pay the rent. It would be exaggeration to say that they did not save something themselves all this time. The landlords were not such a bad kind of people then

as they are now; they lived on their property for the most part and spent money in the districts, some of which crept into the pockets of the tenants. It was when the Irish emerged from the state of helotry and became freedmen, and had votes and talked of emancipation and repeal of the union that the landlords became thoroughly disgusted, rack-rented and went to live abroad. It was then that the tuber became the staple food of the people altogether, not through choice, for they are as partial to good beef and mutton, and oat and wheat bread as their neighbors, but through sheer necessity, as being the only root which would bring such a large return in a limited space, as would enable them to pay the ever-increasing rents, which had now to sustain agents in a style befitting gentlemen, and at the same time the landlords proper, who abroad had contracted princely habits. The failure of the potato crop, therefore, meant a famine for the people, while not materially affecting what might be called the landlords' crop. Hence it stands to reason that if potatoes had not become the staple food of the peasantry, the Irish historians would not have to record so many famines in one of the most fertile countries in the world.

Ireland contained a large population in the time of Brian Boru, but we hear of no famine in those days; on the contrary, we are told that a beautiful lady went through the island on foot with a gold ring on top of a white wand without molestation. She would not go so far now; the landlords would rob her! After King Brian's time came the English, the Reformation, potatoes and famines. France has no famines to record in our days; and why? Simply because she has abolished the feudal system, has a French Government, trade, commerce and prosperity. France, fair and fertile as she is, would see her children die, as she saw them die before the Revolution, if the same system prevailed as in Ireland. Why should the man that tills the soil give three-fourths of the produce thereof to a man in London whom he has never seen, while his children are dying of hunger? "It is the law," it may be said. Well, it is a bad one, and should be abolished. The owner can be compensated as were the slave owners of the West Indies. Either the landlords or the people will have to quit when the struggle now going on is over. In either case let us hope that we shall hear no more of Government granting money for seed potatoes.

tion, almost without difficulty, in order to drown the voices of the Obstructionists. Indeed, one member was so enthusiastically obstructive towards the Obstructionists that he (according to the English papers) turned his stomach and had to leave the House. The clubs were made too hot for the Irish members, and a Home Ruler was sure to be excluded. If they were savage, or even semi-barbarians like most of the members composing the new Bulgarian Parliament, they might be excused; but when it is understood and acknowledged by such papers as the London Daily Telegraph that the Home Rulers are, as a body, the most brilliant party in the House, one is at a loss to account for the hostility of the Englishman except it is the ancient hatred and prejudice which he cannot restrain. He finds that the Irishman is superior to him in manners and in debate, and it angers him, and in his anger he insults him, and has very often to apologize. We presume the quarrel which has led to the present challenge was somewhat of this nature, and that the Irish gentleman, seeing he could not obtain Parliamentary protection, has decided to resort to the ancient method of adjusting differences. As a rule, the English members are not fortunate in their quarrels with the Irishmen. The last little excitement of a belligerent nature arose from the quarrel between The O'Donoghue and Sir Robert Peel during the American war. There was a meeting held in the Rotunda, Dublin, to sympathize with the North, at which O'Donoghue spoke and used words which displeased the baronet, who was then, we believe, Chief Secretary for Ireland. This position is of course filled by an Englishman, and formerly a talent for fighting and playing on the fiddle was the chief qualifications, as the duello was then the rage, and an Irish lawyer would ask no better start in life than the honor of winging an English Irish Secretary. Sir Robert Peel called the O'Donoghue a mannikin traitor and deprived him of the commission of the peace; the O'Donoghue challenged him and Sir Robert accepted. All went lovely for a while, and it was understood the duel was to be fought in Belgium. But Sir Robert destroyed everything by his awkwardness. Whom of all the world did he ask to be his second, but Lord Palmerston, his chief who prevented him fighting, and thus saved him from the pistol of the Irish member. A discussion arose on the matter in Parliament, in which The O'Donoghue pictures Robert as seeking protection behind the petticoats of Lord Palmerston. He also said in answer to the taunt that duelling had gone out of fashion, that the acts which provoked them should also have gone. There is no doubt duelling is a bad practice, but that if there be an excuse for it at all, it is that there are some people so thick-skinned, and at the same time so insulting that nothing else will tend to make them change their conduct, and this applies more particularly to the English county members.

Correspondence. Parnell's Land League Fund. To the Editor of the True Witness and Post. Sir,—To allay the sufferings and remove the twinges of hunger from which my fellow-countrymen and kinsmen are now suffering, I have quietly given my mite. But this does not satisfy my Irish conscience; I would do my share towards removing the cause that so long, and with such death-dealing effect, oppresses the national heart.

I have for some time been studying the subject and making a diagnosis of the disease. Into my laboratory have I taken the different remedies from time to time prescribed by the doctors, who for years—I might add—waited on the patient, and the analysis proves, at least to my own satisfaction, that either the case has not been thoroughly understood, or that the faculty which administered the medicine was composed chiefly of quacks, or that the text-books were from the London College—the British Parliament. The doses given were mere narcotics, superinducing a restless slumber, and the fearful canker that gnaws her very vitals, the land laws and absentee landlord system—remained untouched.

Now, sir, to my mind a surgeon capable and willing to grapple with the difficulty has taken her case in hand. He is a son of the soil, loves his dear mother, Ireland, and will not, if his filial hand can sustain, allow her to perish. With lancet in hand he is prepared to risk his reputation, his all, on the operation. Should he not then be supported in his mission of love for fatherland by every Irishman in Dominion; yea, in every quarter of the globe? The very life of Ireland is the question of the moment, and will not her children uphold the hand raised to save her? Away with the base idea of such ingratitude to our national mother! Forbid its Irish instincts and Irish love of country! Her cherished son, who now appeals to us, studied her case from his childhood under her own eyes, from her has he his diploma, and save her he will if Irishmen are but faithful to him.

I am happy to know, sir, that you are proving true to the cause for which your paper was established; that Montreal, notwithstanding the back-sliding of a degenerate descendant of France who happens to occupy the civic chair, is preparing for him. *Ceud mille fuilte*. May the reception be worthy of him, and of the Irishmen of your city.

I enclose \$10 for the "Parnell Land League Fund," and hope that many of the cloth will go and do likewise. The lady, I am confident, will be to the fore. By a united effort we can effect wonders, and our cause is a holy one. You will likely hear from me again. In the meantime I am yours, AN ONTARIO PRIEST. Ontario, February 20th, 1880.

John of Tuam's Receipt for Our First Installment. ST. JARLATH'S TUAM, } February 2nd, 1880. My DEAR SIR—Allow me to acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of £100 (one hundred pounds) through the Montreal Bank in London, on the part of the "Post Printing and Publishing Co. of Montreal," in behalf of our afflicted people. The receipt of this large contribution has been publicly acknowledged, in conjunction with another contribution of £150 from the Parish of St. Bridgid's, in the Dublin Freeman's Journal of 26th of January, 1880.

In return, I beg you and the members of the "Post Printing Co." to accept my warm acknowledgments, and believe me, your faithful servant, JOHN, Archbishop of Tuam. John P. Whelan Esq., Manager.

There is a disease now very prevalent among horses in Inverness Co. (I.R.), supposed to be a virulent form of strangles. Several valuable horses have been lost by it.

"True Witness" Irish Relief Fund.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Edward Crowe, Peterboro, Ont. (\$1.00), Robert Richardson (\$1.00), Chinaman (\$2.00), James Mack (\$50), Myles O'Regan, Lachine (\$1.00), Peter Brady, Merrickville (\$1.00), Patk McCabe, Jr. (\$1.00), John Brislan (\$1.00), Francis D. Lisson (\$25), Harry Reynolds (\$1.00), Edward Wynne (\$1.00), Will McCarney (\$1.00), John Mills (\$1.00), Robert Bates (\$1.00), Patk O'Hara, Sr. (\$75), Samuel Jakes (\$1.00), John Gill (\$1.00), Jas McKibbin (\$25), Edward Brennan (\$1.00), Thos Murphy, Bartabee River, N.B. (\$1.00), Wm O'Brien (\$1.00), Mrs Wm Minister, Point St Charles (\$1.00), Treasurer of the Irish Annual Ball (\$65.65), Joseph Dunn, Cote St Paul (per Wm Wilson, Esq.) (\$10.00).

PARNELL LAND LEAGUE FUND.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes M. Mullin, lumberman (\$5.00), M. Fitzgibbon (\$5.00), Thomas Foy (\$1.00), Thomas O'Keefe (\$5.00), John White (\$5.00), Montrealer, from Portland (\$4.00), Henry Sheehan (\$1.00), F. W. (\$5.00), James Allen (second subscription) (\$5.00), An Ontario Priest (\$10.00).

City Council Meeting.

IRISH RELIEF FUND. When this order of the day was taken up for discussion, Ald. GREENE arose to a point of order. He wished to explain to the members present how, through a misunderstanding, Ald. DONOVAN had left his seat before this important question. The absent gentleman before leaving had enquired if the report was adopted, and was answered in the affirmative. Ald. McSHANE did not desire to oppose any report of the Finance Committee, but he thought that Montreal as a city should do something worthy of her name. If a grant was made he did not think a single ratepayer would murmur.

Ald. McMULLIN regretted that the Council could not appropriate a small sum. He was informed that the city charter would not allow of any such means of relief. They had on many occasions infringed it, and for precedents he would point to Chicago, where \$50,000 was paid, \$5,000 to St. Hyacinthe, and a grant to Chief Penton. Ald. NELSON stated that in the case of Chief Penton a medical certificate had been produced to prove that the Chief's death was experienced by extra labor in the service of the city. In the present instance there could not be a case of more alarming symptoms to appeal to the charitable; but the city must stop somewhere, and the present was the time to ignore former precedents. The Chicago fire fund had been thrown up to them on every possible occasion, and now he would advise them to "take the bull by the horns." He continued in the same strain, remarking that the close alliance existing between Montreal and Chicago would be sufficient apology for any measures, no matter how strong they were. He was sorry that any money had been granted St. Hyacinthe, but still he favored the St. John appropriation of \$10,000. He concluded by hoping the Council would take the present opportunity to check the practice.

Ald. McSHANE could not conceive the idea of any one reproaching the Chairman of the Finance Committee with ameliorating the sufferings of the distressed. The Dominion Parliament had set a good example by voting \$100,000 of the country's money. He would move that the motion now before the Council be referred back to the Finance Committee with instructions to report to this Council that a certain sum be voted to the relief of the people suffering in Ireland. Ald. HOLLAND was happy to state that the suffering had greatly diminished since their last meeting, and the necessity of assistance not being so great, he would oppose the amendment. The motion, being put to the members, was defeated by a vote of 6 to 10. YEAS—Proctor, Mullin, McShane, Fairbairn, Thiabault and Kennedy.

ATTEMPT ON THE CZAR'S LIFE.

The Czar Again Escapes by Almost Miraculous Dispensation. ST. PETERSBURG, February 17.—There has been an abortive attempt to kill the Imperial family by laying a mine in the winter palace. Five soldiers were killed and 25 wounded. The mine was laid under the guard room of the winter palace, which is immediately under the dining hall. Owing to accidental delay the Imperial family had not entered the latter at the usual time. The explosion made a hole in the floor of the dining hall 10 feet long and six wide.

VIENNA, February 18.—A cipher despatch received here from St. Petersburg says that as the details of yesterday's attempt upon the life of the Czar are more fully made public, the escape of the Emperor and entire Imperial family from instant death seems the more remarkable. The force of the explosion tore up a larger hole in the floor of the dining-room than was at first stated, the wrecked portion being not less than 15 feet in length by 12 in width; fragments of timbers were thrown all over the hall, and had the Czar and his family been seated in their accustomed places at the time, they must have been destroyed. There is a great deal of comment and surprise over the fact that despite the supposed vigilance of the guard around the Imperial Palace, the mine was laid. Since the receipt by the Emperor of warnings that, after the failure of the attempt upon his life on the railway near Moscow on the 6th of December, the Winter Palace and himself would yet be blown up into the air, the palace has been

GUARDED BY THE POLICE, the adjoining streets patrolled night and day by a picked force, the grounds brilliantly illuminated at night by electric light, and all persons found wandering in the vicinity and unable to give a satisfactory account of themselves have immediately been placed under arrest. Owing to the seeming absolute impossibility of outside parties placing a mine within the palace without detection, it is generally believed that persons high in authority and in the Czar's confidence were concerned in the conspiracy. Attempts are now being made to trace the course of the electric wires by which the dynamite was

exploded, and the opinion prevails in official circles that they will be found not to extend beyond the walls of the palace. The addition of this fresh shock, following so swiftly upon the trying experiences through which he has passed, is said to have made a profound impression upon the Czar, who was already HALF CRAZED WITH FEAR AND APPREHENSION. It is believed that within a very short time the Czar will either announce his abdication in favor of the Czarewitch, or issue a proclamation convening an assembly of the notables of the empire, for the purpose of framing a constitutional form of government. In official circles it is believed that the former alternative is the more probable.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 19.—Official inquiry into the cause of the explosion at the Winter Palace developed the fact that the mine was composed of dynamite and gun cotton, and has been traced to the fuel cellar in the inner court. Since the official inquiry commenced the workmen who were engaged in the room immediately beneath the guard room, the scene of the explosion, have fled.

THE CAUSE OF THE DELAY OF THE CZAR in entering the dining hall was owing to his reception of Prince Hesse, who had just arrived to take part in the 25th anniversary of the Czar's accession to the throne. Enormous and enthusiastic crowds surround the palace, and cheer lustily for the Czar, and the city is gaily decorated in honor of his escape from death. Thankgiving services were held in all of the churches, which were crowded.

LONDON, February 18.—No fresh details of the plot for the destruction of the Emperor and his family have been obtained. The police pretend they have plenty of clues, but despatches from St. Petersburg say that the event has thrown the whole court party into consternation, and that it is universally believed that the conspirators are at this moment inside the palace. A person has been arrested in Paris who is suspected of having been connected with

THE ATTEMPT UPON THE CZAR'S LIFE on the railway near Moscow. The feeling at St. Petersburg, excited by the attempt in the Winter Palace, is strongly conflicting. People are in a state of great excitement, and asking each other what is to come next. ST. PETERSBURG, February 18.—During all the excitement consequent upon the explosion the Czar and the Duchess of Edinburgh remained remarkably self-possessed. All the members of the diplomatic corps in this city have unitedly congratulated the Czar upon his narrow escape from instant death. Congratulations from all parts of Europe continue to be received, and indicate that the excitement through Europe at the dastardly attempt upon the life of the Czar is intense. No arrests have been made thus far. The Russian press have been permitted to publish official news only of the explosion.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 19.—During the investigation now in progress in connection with the explosion at the Winter Palace it has been found that several household servants are missing, which fact is regarded by the police as prima facie evidence against them. The police are sparing no efforts to capture these servants, as it is not doubted that a clue to the plot may be obtained through them. Many arrests have been made, including several of the persons who are suspected of having perpetrated the explosion, and of keeping them in hiding. The whole basement in which the mine was laid is undergoing a thorough examination with a view of discovering some clue to the perpetrators on or about the fragments of the mechanical portion of the mine. No facts have thus far been ascertained to direct suspicions against any person living outside the palace. The Czar is much more calm than at any time since the explosion. The Czarina, who was sleeping at the time of the explosion, is quiet, efforts having been successfully made to keep her in ignorance of the occurrence and the proceedings resulting from it.

LONDON, February 19.—Forty officials of the Imperial Court at St. Petersburg were arrested at the Winter Palace on Monday night, soon after the explosion took place, but notwithstanding the extent of the plan for the plot, it was carried out so nearly to success that the greatest difficulty is experienced in obtaining trustworthy details respecting not only the explosion itself, but the events which have followed after it. The Russian telegraphs are at present practically shut for all news purposes, and the European Embassies are kept as much as possible in the dark. The most trustworthy information respecting the plot and the events which followed its developments have come through certain cipher despatches which the Austrian Ambassador sent to his Government early on Tuesday, and later on during Wednesday. There can be, from these reports and such other information as has been obtained, no doubt that the plot was contrived by persons residing in the palace, and up to that time high in the confidence of the Emperor. The mechanical work of excavating for the men laying the wires connected with it and arranging the electrical battery which discharged it, is said to have been accomplished by five or six workmen, who were introduced into the palace by one of the subordinate officials, under a pretence of repairing a sewerage drain, and of laying some new gas pipes. These men have not been seen since the explosion, and there is no reason to suppose they were sent away early in the morning of the day when the explosion took place. They have, in all probability, by this time crossed the frontier, and are hiding either in Switzerland or Germany.

LONDON, February 23. Reports from St. Petersburg say the Czar for the past two days has refused to see any callers. It is believed that the exciting events through which he has just passed have brought on another attack of nervous prostration, from which he recently suffered so severely. He still receives hourly reports of the progress of the investigations, and issues orders respecting the search for and arrest of suspected parties. Speculations are revived concerning the probable early accession of the Czarewitch to the throne.

The present state of things in Ireland, says the Chicago Tribune, presents some strange anomalies. One-third of the island is in the jaws of famine, and the people of the United States are publicly and privately contributing not less than \$200,000 per week to assuage hunger and prevent starvation to death of the landless tenant farmers. And, while this inflow of American charity is going on to alleviate distress and avert death, there is an outflow week of \$1,000,000 worth of animal and vegetable food of Irish production to pay landlords' rents on the farms equitably and rightfully belonging to the tenants. The Irish farmers are actually selling \$1,000,000 worth of food per week to pay such rents to merciless English landlords, while the benevolent people of America are sending over there \$100,000 per week to keep these same farmers from eviction and out of the poor-houses or paupers' graves! Such is the land-system of Ireland. Stop this outflow of \$1,000,000 a week of Irish agricultural products to pay absentee landlords for the privilege of living in their own country, and the Irish people would want no charity from this or any other country. They would have the money themselves to lend or donate to the needy.

J. McVet & Co. are our authorized agents for Post and True Witness in Valleyfield, Que.