

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY At No. 210, St. James Street, by J. GILLIES.

G. E. CLERK, Editor.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1873

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

FEBRUARY—1873.

Friday, 28—Of the Crown of Thorns.

MARCH—1873.

Saturday, 1—Of the Feria.
Sunday, 2—First in Lent.
Monday, 3—Of the Feria.
Tuesday, 4—St. Casimir, C.
Wednesday, 5—Ember Day. Of the Feria.
Thursday, 6—Of the Feria.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT

All the days of Lent, Sundays excepted, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday included, are days of Fasting and Abstinence.

The use of flesh meat at every meal is permitted on all the Sundays of Lent, Palm Sunday excepted.

The use of flesh meat is also by special indulgence allowed at the one repast on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays of every week from the first Sunday of Lent, to Palm Sunday.

On the first four days of Lent, as well as every day in Holy Week, the use of flesh meat is prohibited.

On all days of the year without any exception, on which the use of flesh meat is prohibited, it is perfectly allowable to use animal fat, such as lard, or drippings, in the preparation of food; for frying fish, for instance, eggs, and other Lenten diet; but it is not permitted to eat the meat, or animal fat in its natural condition.

It is permitted—1st. to fry fish, or eggs with fat, or even pork, provided the pork be not eaten; 2nd. to boil pork in soup, to add to it fat or lard; 3rd. to cook pastry in fat, or to use the latter in the preparation of pastry.

It is also permitted on the mornings of fast days—1st. to take some mouthfuls of bread, and a little tea, coffee, chocolate, or other beverage; 2nd. that on the evenings of fast days, they may take soup made with flesh meat, standing over from dinners.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The report of the renewal of love betwixt the two branches of the French Bourbons has just received a rude contradiction, and the long-standing feud has, so the *Univers* tells us, broken out again with more bitterness than ever. It is very gratifying to see that the head of the elder branch keeps aloof from the miserable quarrels and petty intrigues with which all the other parties and political pretenders in France are more or less mixed up. There is also war, bitter war, raging in the bosom of the Assembly. The Committee of Thirty have it seems presented their report and draft of a constitution, in which is advocated a responsible Ministry, with a Second Chamber as a sort of counterpoise to democratic ascendancy, or political buffer to deaden the ever recurring shock betwixt the Executive and the people. This proposition was vehemently opposed by the Left side of the House, but supported by the Right. Betwixt them a complete rupture has occurred.

The republic proclaimed in Spain, and recognised by all the great Powers, has a formidable opponent to deal with in the Carlists. It is impossible from the conflicting telegrams that reach us to arrive at the real state of affairs. There are continual skirmishes in which the revolutionary party always represent themselves as victors, but still the Carlist bands turn up again where least expected, and do not seem to know they are beaten. This kind of guerrilla warfare may last for years. The situation remains unchanged in Rome, and amidst the conflicting reports that reach us as to the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, we scarce know what to believe. On the whole we are inclined to think that the Holy Father will not quit Rome. In the meantime the Catholic Church throughout the world ceases not to pray for the speedy discomfiture and humiliation of his enemies.

The fearful Credit Mobilier scandals brought to light in the United States; and the almost universal corruption of the leading politicians, especially amongst the "godly" and Repub-

lican members of the Senate, afford a fund of infinite amusement to the profane, and furnish an apt illustration of the peculiar blessings of democratic institutions. The Southerners must chuckle with delight at the everlasting infamy with which their chief enemies in the Senate are enveloped as in a mantle. Such a set of unprincipled rogues, such mercenary rascals never met together in a Court of Legislature. What they are thought of by their own fellow-citizens—now that they have been detected and exposed—may be gathered from the subjoined extract from a United States paper, the *Lancaster Intelligencer*. It's capital fun to the onlookers:—

What a nice set to be sure, these canting snivellers of the "God and morality" party. What a charming mingling of the "Praise God Bearebones" type of New England Puritanism, and that lovely "shepherd," the Rev. Stiggins. "It's all vanity," but if there is one less objectionable than another it's that particular vanity known as "Credit Mobilier." We can almost hear these lively cusses chant, after the fashion of the saintly Stiggins, as with unctious groans and upturned eyeballs he passes his tumbler behind his back for a replenishing with his favorite "wanty" of "hot pineapple rum and water." The case is before the country, and all the asseveration in the world, all the falling back upon their immaculate characters cannot whitewash this batch of Congressional saints. The bold, frank Kelley, honest, bluff old Glenn Schofield, the amiable Colfax, "Rock of Ages" Wilson, our two Vice Presidents—present and prospective—Puritanical Patterson, and a host of lesser Radical lights, have been drawn in as by a net in this investigation, and now lie high and dry exposed to public gaze, squirming and wriggling pushing behind each other, trying to hide from the light, which is intolerable to them. Well may we ask if this is the stuff of which your leaders, your "noblest and greatest," are made. Oh, "God and morality" party, what manner of men can we expect in your rank and file. Their share of "all the decency and nearly all the intelligence" of the country which is absorbed by the Republican party, must be small indeed.—*Lancaster Intelligencer*.

It is remarkable and is also commented upon by the United States press, that *Harper's Weekly* of New York, of which scarce a number ever appears without some dirty nasty libel upon Catholics—and whose special duty it was during the late Presidential contest to lampoon Mr. Greeley, has preserved a discreet silence upon the all exciting topic of the Credit Mobilier villainy, entertaining no doubt a fellow-feeling with the scoundrels therein implicated, which makes him wondrous kind. The *Chicago Tribune* thus comments upon this silence of the Harper journal:—

"The failure to improve this opportunity is not at all to the credit of Mr. Thomas Nast, still less to the credit of his employers, the Messrs. Harper. It shows that Mr. Thomas Nast and Messrs. Harper are guilty of sneaking hypocrisy. It shows that they stand ready to malign and outrage the character of every man who presumes to think differently from them in matters of politics and religion, and to cover up the crimes of those who are political or religious friends. It shows that Mr. Thomas Nast's talents can be hired for very dirty work. It shows that corruption and malfeasance in office stand in no danger from Mr. Nast's pencil, so long as they are committed by his friends."

We may be permitted to say, en passant we trust that there are no Catholics in the Dominion so mean as in any manner to encourage the circulation of any of the, to them, insulting Harper publications.

In England the great question of the day is "Coal." When it is said that this, a prime necessary of life, and the source of all Great Britain's wealth, the basis of all her material greatness, has risen in price from about 20 to 50 shillings per ton since 1871, the gravity of the crisis may be—not estimated indeed, for it surpasses calculation, but,—dimly guessed at. If truly, as some think is the case, this fearful increase in cost of coal is partly due to the giving out of the coal fields, as well as to the deterioration in the value of money, and the suicidal strikes of the colliers, a worse misfortune than the "Battle of Dorking" has already fallen on England. Universal bankruptcy, and social revolution, that is to say the slaughter of the rich minority by the starving majority are imminent. Without cheap coal, England will cease to be the great manufacturing shop of Europe. Her great industries will be suspended; the millions employed therein, and dependent thereon for their daily bread, will be turned out to starve we may be sure; for millions will not starve quietly whilst thousands around them are wallowing in luxuries. Without cheap coal, England's navy must be paid off, and her fleet of iron-clads laid up as useless. Torn by social war within, and an easy prey to the stranger from without, she will soon cease to be reckoned even amongst the nations of the earth. Men talk of the horrors of '92 and '93 in France; but the horrors that must inevitably follow the giving out of the coal mines in England, will afford matter for greater wonder to the last generation of man that may live on the face of the earth.—Whether the coal fields are becoming exhausted? as some pretend is the case; or whether, the present scarcity be owing to mere temporary causes? are questions which cannot yet be answered; but the situation is sufficiently serious to make us remember the words attributed to Dr. Arnold. "Woe to the generation that shall see the coal of England fail, and the national debt unpaid."

The latest news from Spain is to the effect that the Carlists are becoming more formidable; and that at Barcelona the red flag of the Commune, ominous of plunder and throat-cutting,

has been displayed. Alas! for unhappy Spain which having renounced the faith, has now become the prey of Liberalism and Modern Progress!

The Coroner's inquest on the body of the man killed the other day by the explosion of the boiler on the Grand Trunk Railroad had not given in its verdict at the time of going to press.

A very interesting case as to the legal custody of an infant has just been determined in London before the Court of Queen's Bench, but in a manner by no means satisfactory to the Protestant public. The *Times* is quite indignant about it; the facts are these.

The infant, whose legal custody was in question, was a girl, the issue of a mixed marriage betwixt a Catholic father, and a Protestant mother. The father died, making a testamentary arrangement, in virtue of which he committed the custody of the infant to his brother, also a Catholic. The girl, however, was in the hands of her maternal grandmother, by whom she was detained, and brought up in the non-Catholic faith. Under these circumstances the Catholic uncle applied to the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ of *habeas corpus*, in order to enforce his rights in the custody of said infant, in accordance with the testamentary dispositions of the deceased father.

The case was heard before a Court composed of the Lord Chief Justice, and Messrs. Justice Mellor, Lusk, and Archibald. For the defendants, it was pleaded that at the time of the marriage it was arranged that the issue of the said union, should be brought up, the sons in the faith of the father that is to say as Catholics; the daughters, in the faith of the non-Catholic mother. On the other hand, the testamentary disposition of the father was pleaded, in virtue of which disposition the custody of the infant was assigned to the Catholic uncle.

On the 5th inst., Mr. Justice Mellor delivered the written judgment of the Court in this case, which has excited as we said much interest. The decision was to the effect that, if the fact of the testamentary disposition in virtue of which the uncle claimed be established, the will of the father must be carried out, and the custody of the infant transferred to his brother, her uncle. The question of fact, that is to say of the existence, and validity of the alleged testamentary disposition, is to be submitted to a jury; but the question of law, to wit, that the custody of the issue of a mixed marriage belongs of right to the father—unless cruelty or immorality can be established against him—has been determined by the great English tribunal.

This decision seems to us in harmony with the law of God, as well with the law of the land. By the law of God, the man is the head of the wife, the ruler of the family, to whom the wife has deliberately promised obedience; and this we say in spite of all the infidel trash spouted now-a-days about "Woman's Rights" and the equality of the sexes. When a non-Catholic woman takes as her husband a Catholic, or a Catholic woman contracts marriage with a Protestant, she with her eyes open, of her own free will and choice, accepts him as her head, and the ruler of the entire family, and has no right afterwards to complain of the consequences. This is the law of God, "for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church—quoniam vir caput est mulieris; sicut Christus caput Ecclesie"—Eph. 5, 22; and it is also the law of England, as we see by the unanimous decision of the Court of Queen's Bench.

BISHOP STROSSMAYER AND THE COUNCIL OF THE VATICAN.—The *London Tablet* of the 1st inst., publishes the following item from Rome transmitted by Renter's Telegrams:—

"Jan. 29.—The Pope has given an audience today to Baron Hubner. His Holiness has also received Bishop Strossmayer, who opposed the dogma of Infallibility at the Oecumenical Council, but who has this month formally proclaimed the decrees of the Vatican Council in his diocese of Diakova."

This telegram, if true, finally answers the question we have often heard put, as to the actual position of Bishop Strossmayer. We may here mention that the *Montreal Witness* has never answered, or in any way noticed our reply to his challenge to convict of falsehood the author of the pamphlet, published in the *Witness* office, and purporting to be a faithful report of the speech delivered by Bishop Strossmayer before the Council. Our contemporary by his silence must be supposed to allow judgment against him, and the author of the pamphlet in question, whom we tax with gross and deliberate falsehood.

The public will be gratified to learn that Her Majesty has been pleased to approve of giving a pension of £50 for life from the Civil List, to Mrs. Knowles, the widow of the brave captain of the *North Fleet*, in recognition of the valor of the man who stuck so nobly to his post; and perished gloriously whilst trying to save the lives of the women and children under his charge.

GREAT PROSPERITY.—The prosperity of Great Britain during the past year is said to have been great, indeed unprecedented. Some sceptical persons, who do not feel elated in spirits by the rise in price of all the necessaries of life, and the ever increasing pressure on the means of subsistence, ask: "wherein does prosperity consist?" This question we do not propose to answer; but here are some of the outward and visible signs of commercial prosperity as described by the *Witness* of the 18th inst.:—

"The condition of the poor in different parts of England is described as heart-rending. It is hard for us to realize the accumulation of evils to which they are exposed. A winter of unusual severity; the coasts lashed with storms; fuel at famine prices—coal being double what it is in New York—add to all which, the agricultural and mining strikes, and we have a perfect picture of misery. It is no wonder then that we hear of multitudes perishing from cold and want."

AN HONEST VINDICATION.—The *London Times* having ventured to make some remarks upon the French Canadians, not complimentary to the latter, the *Montreal Gazette* of the 19th inst. makes the following excellent rejoinder:

"The French Canadian population is chiefly engaged in agriculture. Does the *Times* suppose that any comparison can be instituted in point of intelligence and self-reliance between the habitant of this Province, and the agricultural hind of England, which will not redound to the advantage of the former?"

Our contemporary might have added "in point of morality" also; only it would be to insult the French Canadian habitans to institute any comparison betwixt them, and the rural classes of Great Britain.

GOD'S MILL GRINDS SLOWLY, BUT VERY FINE.—Of this old truth we find an instance in the annexed paragraph, which we clip from the *Montreal Gazette* of Wednesday of last week:—

"The royal family of Italy seems to be in a bad way. King Victor Emmanuel has felt the first blow of the malady with which he has been so long threatened—apoplexy: Prince Humbert is menaced with a still worse disease; the Princess Marguerite is ill with a hopeless disease; and the young prince, her son, is paralyzed in all his limbs."

We learn with pleasure that the Temperance cause is making great progress in Alexandria. In the three parishes, St. Raphael's, Alexandria, and Lochiel, into which the district is divided, there are above sixteen hundred teetotallers. This must be very consoling to the clergy who have worked so earnestly in the cause.

ECCLESIASTICAL APPOINTMENTS.—His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal has been pleased to appoint the Very Rev. Hippolyte Moreau, as Vicar General of the Diocese of Montreal in the place of the late Very Rev. A. F. Truteau, deceased 28th December last.

The health of Sir George Cartier, it is said in the journals, continues to improve. This will be good news to his many friends in Canada, for he is one whom it could ill spare. It does not appear yet whether he will be strong enough to take part in the coming Session of Parliament.

The Hon. M. Chauveau has been appointed Speaker of the Dominion Senate. It is confidently asserted that Sir Francis Hincks is about to retire from office, and that his place as Finance Minister will be taken by Mr. Tilley.

D. A. CHISHOLM, Esq., Alexandria, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the TRUE WITNESS in his neighborhood. We hope our Catholic friends there will assist Mr. Chisholm in his efforts to extend the circulation of the paper.

Mr. JOHN LEE, Perth, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the TRUE WITNESS in his neighborhood. We hope our friends in the locality will keep Mr. Lee busily employed.

We would remind our readers of the Concert in aid of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. See advertisement.

TAMWORTH, Feb. 18th, 9 a.m.—On Friday last a most brutal murder was committed and lynch law carried out in the Township of Abinger, in Skend's shanty. It appears there were two men working in the shanty who have been quarrelling with one another all winter, and on Friday night they fought it out. In the night, the man who got badly beaten got out of his bed, found a butcher knife and stabbed his opponent. The other men sprang up, and seeing this conduct it roused their feelings, and they took him and lashed him fast till morning, when they formed a jury, tried him, and then took him out to a tree and hanged him till he was dead, then cut him down and buried him. Twelve of the party were arrested and taken to Belleville yesterday for trial. The man who was stabbed has since died. We have not been able to get the names of the parties or full particulars yet of the murder.

[NOTE.—As the Township of Abinger is situated in the County of Addington, the despatch would seem to be in error in stating that the men will be sent to Belleville for trial. Napance is the County town; and there probably, they will be sent.]—*Belleisle Intelligencer*.

St. John, N.B., Feb. 16.—Mr. C. W. Weld, counsel for the separate school party, has moved for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the Supreme Court on the School Act, and leave has been granted.

The St. John's News understand that Mr. T. K. Ramsay will be appointed Judge of that district. As a jurist Mr. Ramsay won high commendations while acting as Judge in the Districts of Bedford and St. Francis, and stands well in the estimation of the bar of this District.

We had proposed to ourselves, pending the issue of the action for libel instituted by the Brothers of the Reformatory against the *Witness*, to allow no allusions to the subject to appear in our columns. The *Gazette*, however, having published some remarks on the merits of the case, which the *Witness* has reproduced, we, to keep our readers posted up, publish these comments of the *Gazette*, together with a rejoinder thereunto that the *Gazette*, when requested to do so, honestly published; but which rejoinder the *Witness*, though reproducing the article in the *Gazette* that provoked it, carefully suppressed:—

(From the *Montreal Gazette* of the 21st.)

The second libel suit against the *Witness* is in the nature of a civil action for damages. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the facts of the case to know whether it is justified or not. The Reformatory institution is a public institution, and therefore a fair subject for public criticism. Undoubtedly, our contemporary might, when the letter making very serious charges against the Belgian Brothers was brought to him, have instituted inquiries, before its insertion, into the truth of the charges. But we are too well acquainted with the difficulties attending the publication of a daily newspaper, not to see that this might be neglected without any evil intent. The *Witness* has, since the charges were made, inserted the explanations offered by the Belgian Brothers. The public, therefore, had the full opportunity of knowing, through the same medium as contained the original charge, the explanation that was given of it, and in this way all that could be done to remedy the wrong done to the Reformatory was done by our contemporary. The essentially public character of the institution will, we are inclined to think, take from it all sympathy in the proceedings which it has instituted. A frank insertion of the explanation ought to have sufficed; but if these proceedings tend to make us all more careful in the insertion without due enquiry and investigation of an ungenerous attack, even upon public men and public institutions, they will not have been altogether without good effect.

(From the *Montreal Gazette*, 22nd inst.)

To the Editor of the *Gazette*:

Sir,—I was painfully surprised at seeing in today's issue of your paper, generally so liberal, some comments upon the merits and claims to the sympathy of the public of a case actually before our Courts of Justice; and on which, therefore, until those courts have spoken, it is incumbent on all to be silent. I allude to your comments upon the action instituted by the Brothers of the Mignonne street Reformatory against the *Montreal Witness*.

You pretend that the "essentially public character of the institution will take from it all sympathy in the proceedings which it has instituted." Why? Were the *Witness*, or any other journal, to publish an accusation of heinous cruelty against the warden of the Provincial Reformatory, attributing to him the vilest motives and describing him as one at whose heart the canker worm of the devil was gnawing (see *Witness*), would not the malignant official have some claim on the sympathy of the public, should the charge turn out to be untrue? Nay, would not Calcraft, if taxed with needless cruelty to the subjects who came under his hands, be entitled to such sympathy, if falsely accused? Your logic here is surely at fault.

You also pretend that the *Witness*, and here you prejudice the merits of the case, has done "all that could be done to remedy the wrong done to the Reformatory," in that it has "inserted the explanation offered by the Belgian Brothers." Here, again, I think that you are at fault.

The *Witness* first published—not as a report that, in the public interest, should be investigated, but—as an "incontestible fact"—I pray you to weigh well the words—that the Brothers had been guilty of a specified act of heinous cruelty; and this was accompanied by severe remarks on the devilish cruelty of the said Brothers, at whose hearts, the public were assured, the canker worm of the devil was gnawing. So much for the wrong done. Now, about the ample reparation.

In a subsequent issue the *Witness*, it is true, published the version of this affair as given by the Brothers. But did the *Witness* at the same time retract or modify the original charge? Did he publish the Brother's version as "an 'incontestible fact' as he did the charge of cruelty against you? Not in the least. "If" said the *Witness*, the version of the brothers be true, then our informant was in error; and even this was qualified with the assurance that he (the editor) had been most "exact" in assuring himself of the truth of the original charge, thus leaving the public to believe that the credibility of that charge had not been destroyed. Did the *Witness* express one word of sorrow for having attributed the vilest motives to the Brothers, for having sneered at them as a "holy order," unwinding of the precepts of the religion of Jesus? Not one word of the kind has ever appeared. Contrast, Sir, I beg of you, the assurance, the "incontestible fact" of the accusation, with the "if" of the ample reparation.

And what single step did the *Witness* take to verify the charge of cruelty against the Brothers before giving it to the world as "an 'incontestible fact'?" By his own showing the evidence of the "incontestible fact" was the bare unsupported assertion of a lad, whom his social position and domestic relation with the victim of the alleged cruelty of the Brothers, made a most insufficient witness. Do you think, Sir, I put it to you in all candor, do you believe that upon such testimony the *Witness* would have published as "an 'incontestible fact' a charge of a similar nature against the Directors of any Protestant, or even of any purely secular, institution? Would you, Sir, publish as "incontestible" such a charge against any one on such flimsy grounds? Ah, Sir, if your conscience, as I am sure it will, answers these questions in the negative, you must perforce admit that the attack in the *Witness* on the Belgian Brothers savors more of the odium theologium, than of an honest zeal for the good management of a public institution.

I trust, Sir, to your love of fair play for the insertion of the above remarks on your editorial of to-day. It would have been better had no comments been made on either side, pending the action of our courts of law; but as you have had your say on the matter, and have therefore to a certain extent prejudged the case as before the public, it is but just that the latter should hear

Montreal, 21st February, 1873.

ALTERHAM PARTER.

THE GRAND TRUNK AND SUNDAY LABOR.—The Stratford Beacon learns that a few days ago an order was issued by Mr. Spicer, local superintendent of the Grand Trunk, to the different agents to use every means in their power to prevent the necessity of despatching trains on Sunday, and to endeavor to diminish Sunday labor at the various stations as much as possible, with the view of finally abolishing it altogether. This is a move in the right direction.

Honest farmers in Iowa fill ducks with water and let them freeze before taking them to market.—*Ex*. This is only equalled by some of our Nova Scotia farmers, who bring turkeys to market stuffed with heavy water. A gentleman purchased a turkey in one of the country markets a few days ago, which weighed rather heavy for its size. On taking it home he found that it was stuffed with three quarts, two livers and three necks!