

## THE IRISH SOIREE.

The annual festival of the Young Men's St. Patrick's Association came off on Tuesday evening with its usual success. This seems to be the ball of the season, and it was every way creditable to the spirited body under whose patronage it came off, and to our Irish fellow-citizens in general. If not all there, they were at least well represented; and nothing could exceed the harmony and good feeling pervading the whole assembly. Look where you would, you saw nothing but smiling, happy faces; and when the dancing commenced, it was a scene of unrivalled gaiety and animation. Many of the dances were the good old-fashioned dances of our younger days; and we are happy to say that none of the prohibited dances—Waltz, Polka, Scottische, or Mazourka—found a place on the programme.

At the opening of the Soirée, the President, B. Devlin, Esq., made a few appropriate remarks in his usual happy manner. He alluded to the rapid growth of the Young Men's Association; and hoped it would long continue to flourish as it had done for the few years which had elapsed since its commencement. He said the Committee had certainly done all in their power to make every one comfortable on that occasion, and to provide them with an evening of genuine Irish amusement. Whether they had succeeded or not would be best tested by the attendance at next year's Soirée, when they would again have the pleasure of drawing their countrymen and countrywomen together on a similar festive occasion.

His Worship the Mayor being loudly called on, advanced to the front of the platform and said a few kind, encouraging words, expressive of the pleasure he felt in seeing such an assembly of the Irish people of Montreal, and hoping that the numerous company he saw before him might all enjoy themselves as much as they expected. For his part, he said, he would consider it a capital offence for any man to detain them from the great business of the evening by idle talk.

Both gentlemen were loudly cheered; and the company proceeded at once to carry out their friendly advice. Dancing commenced about nine o'clock, and was kept up with spirit till a late or rather an early hour next morning. The music was very good, thanks to Messrs. Maffré and Prince, with their assistants. The St. Patrick's Band (under the tuition of Mr. Maffré) was also in attendance; and although not twelve months in existence, they performed some Irish airs—"St. Patrick Day," "Garryowen," &c.,—with very good taste and judgment. The creature-comforts were duly administered by Mr. Clouser, Confectioner, whose attention and civility, together with the excellent quality of the refreshments, gave perfect satisfaction to all who partook of them.

In conclusion, we must say that the Committee of arrangement deserve all the praise which we could give them; and we only hope that their next Soirée may go off as well as this one.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.**—A poor man, registered as a member of the Church of England, died a few days ago in the St. Patrick's Hospital, professing himself in his last moments an Anglican Protestant. Information was immediately sent to several of the ministers of that sect, with a request from the authorities of the Hospital, to the said ministers, that some one of them would make the necessary arrangements for his interment. The ministers applied to, have hitherto refused to interfere in the matter; and the body of the deceased is still lying in the "dead-house" of the Hospital, until such time as some of his co-religionists shall see proper to give it decent Christian burial.—*Communicated.*

The *Montreal Witness* expresses its surprise that we condemn the conduct of the rioters at Bytown in stronger language than we do that of the persons implicated in the Gavazzi disturbances at Quebec. We would remind our cotemporary that, if we have not spoken in the same terms of the two offences, it is because the circumstances attending them were entirely different. In the Bytown case, the insult and violence complained of were entirely unprovoked by those against whom they were directed; whilst at Quebec—though we do not pretend to justify the resource to physical force—the provocation was so gross—the language of Gavazzi so beastly and insulting, that it offers some explanation of, though certainly no excuse for, the assault committed on the person of the foul mouthed blackguard. If the *Witness* objects to this epithet as harsh, when applied to Gavazzi, we would call his attention to the terms in which the London *Times* speaks of the "sheer beasts" who have of late been indulging in invectives against Miss Nightingale, and her noble companions, somewhat similar to, though certainly not nearly so gross as, those which the "sheer beast" Gavazzi—(we thank the *Times* for teaching us that word)—poured upon the heads of Catholic Nuns and Sisters of Charity. That the Catholics who listened to him were provoked to anger by such language, was, it must be admitted only very natural—but that they ever went to hear such a "sheer beast," however was entirely their own fault, for they went of their own accord, and in defiance of the reiterated injunctions of their pastors; and thus, knowing what they had to expect, it was doubly wrong of them to proceed to acts of violence against the speaker—"sheer beast" and obscene blackguard, though he most undoubtedly was. We do not therefore attempt to justify the conduct of the Gavazzi rioters; we condemn it; but, remembering the provocation, we do not condemn it so severely as we do the utterly unprovoked outrage of the Bytown rioters. Had the person whose last moments they disturbed, reviled them and their religion; had he, like Gavazzi, called their priests—murderers and villains—had he

heaped every opprobrious epithet that a brain fertile in obscene calumny could devise, upon their sisters and daughters—had he branded their Sisters of Charity as w—s, and cursed them as "she devils"—we should indeed still have loudly condemned their conduct, but no doubt in somewhat different terms.

**CRIMINAL STATISTICS OF MONTREAL.**—We have been furnished by the Chief of Police with the report of the number of persons apprehended by the Police in the City of Montreal, during the last twelve months. As usual, the principal cause of crime seems to be the use of ardent spirits; for, out of 4,217 cases of arrest by the Police, 2,061 have arisen from intemperance—of which there were—Males, 1,677; Females, 380; and Boys, 4.

Serious crimes have been rare; there having been only 1 arrest for murder; 4, for manslaughter, and 1, for arson. For assaults, and resisting the Police, the number of arrests is put down at 100; whilst 1,331 persons have been taken up by the Police, as mere starving vagrants in want of food and shelter. The total number of persons confined in the Police Station shows an increase of 616 over that of the previous year.

The national origin of the offenders is stated as follows:—

French Canadian,	793
Irish,	1,567
British,	1,636

Thus showing that the population of British origin enjoys the unenviable distinction of furnishing by far the greatest number of offenders; although it is less numerous than either the French or Irish. Upon the whole, it would seem—from the rarity of great crimes, and the trifling nature of the punishments inflicted upon the greater part of the 4,217 persons arrested—of whom 1,385 were imprisoned for 15 days and under, and 2,387 discharged—that we have no great cause to complain of the public morals of Montreal. It is a sea port; and of course during the summer season, there is the disorder inseparable from every sea port. It receives also, during the same period of the year, thousands of immigrants from all parts of the world, and of all ages, and conditions; no wonder then that there should be, in proportion to its population, an immense amount of pauperism and its attendant evils. Drunkenness is however, as we said before, the chief cause of crime and offences against the Police regulations. Could the *shebeen* houses, could the low filthy grog shops, be put down, and their vile traffic arrested, there would be but little work for the policeman; whose principal efforts therefore should be directed to rooting up the groggeries, and bringing their owners to justice.

## LECTURE ON THE GEOLOGY OF CANADA.

T. S. Hunt, Esq., delivered his second and last lecture on the Geology of Canada, on Friday evening last before the St. Patrick's Society of this City.

Mr. Hunt commenced by briefly recapitulating the principal points of his former lecture, and distinguished the successive formations, Cambrian, Lower and Upper Silurian and Devonian, which like so many zones surround, while at the same time they dip beneath, the eastern and western coal basins. In the west there are no marks of disturbance from the time of the Cambrian upwards; but in the eastern basin there are evidences of great movements between the Lower and Upper Silurian; and again between the Devonian and the coal, which last has again in its turn, been disturbed. These successive movements have thrown up these formations into a series of mountain ridges which extend from Gaspé to the S.E., form the great Appalachian chain traceable as far south as Georgia. The rocks thus elevated and contorted are much altered in their texture, and have become crystalline, the fossils being obliterated. Metallic veins are formed in great numbers in these altered rocks, containing gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. It is the *debris* of these rocks that form the gold-bearing rocks of Eastern Canada, which have been traced by Mr. Logan over 10,000 square miles, and probably extend much further. This gold region has been followed along this mountain chain as far as the Southern United States, where the gold mines exhibit the same conditions as in Canada. The lecturer then remarked that all the explorations up to the present time had gone to show that with the present high prices of labor in this country, these deposits cannot be economically wrought; although it is not impossible that richer mines may be discovered at some future period.

Up to the time of the coal deposit, the lecturer said that all the deposits of rocks had been marine; but now the continent offered large tracts of low fertile land. A tropical climate prevailed and favored a luxuriant vegetation of pines, palms and fern-like plants of a gigantic size, whose remains accumulated on the soil where they grew, and were afterwards covered by sand and clay and then slowly consolidated into coal. Mr. Logan had pointed out that in all cases there is a bed called *under clay* by the miners, immediately beneath the coal bed. This is the layer of ancient soil, and contains in great abundance a fossil called *stigmara*, which is now known to have been the roots of one of the most abundant plants of that time. That deposits of coal do not exist in any inferior rocks was owing to the fact that previous to their epoch, the conditions of the earth's surface were not such as to favor the rich vegetation necessary to form coal; similar conditions however, frequently occurred subsequently, and coal deposits of some extent are found in several of the higher rocks. The small amount of vegetable and animal matter in the older rocks has impregnated them with a sort of mineral oil or bitumen, which in the disturbed portions have been distilled by heat, and condensed in an altered form in the crevices of the overlying strata. Such is the origin of the bituminous matter so much resembling coal in appearance, which has been found at Quebec. Unlike coal, however, it occurs only in veins or fissures where the rocks have been broken in their contortions. After the coal period, the whole area of Canada seems to have been elevated for a long time above the surface of the ocean, and only to have been submerged at the close of the tertiary epoch. At this

time were deposited the clays and sands of the present valley of the St. Lawrence, which extended as far west as the falls of Niagara, and are found at least 500 feet above the present sea-level. These deposits contain the remains of fishes, seals, whales and shells of the species which now inhabit the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. The land was then elevated by slow degrees; and successive terraces along the St. Lawrence, mark the ancient sea margins. With these clays which were deposited in quiet waters, we find great masses of sand, gravel, and boulders, which, coming from the north, are spread over large portions of the country, and indicate great currents, probably accompanied with masses of ice from the polar regions, which have helped to transport the huge boulders. Similar phenomena are found over all the northern hemisphere, and indicate a great cataclysm immediately preceding the present order of things, and probably corresponding with the historic deluge.

Mr. Hunt then observed that, by request, he would make some observations upon the order of the development of life in the successive geologic epochs. He regarded the theory of development which supposed the lower forms of animal life to have been gradually changed into higher ones, as being unfounded. According to him, as the earthists became fitted for higher orders of life, they were successively created, each perfect in its kind and destined in the course of time to degenerate and die out, to make room for higher types. The earliest fishes were more perfect in their organization than those of the present day; and in the triassic period when birds were the lords of creation, they attained a size compared to which our ostriches and condors are but pigmies. So in the epochs of the Saurians, these animals filled the waters, and were often 50 and 60 feet in length; but they have passed away and are represented only by the degenerate crocodiles, alligators and lizards of the present day. So the epoch of quadrupeds was distinguished in like manner by the megatherium and the mastodon. He concluded from these facts that each succeeding order, at an early period after its creation, obtained its highest development, and then progressively degenerated and gave way to another, better fitted for the changed conditions of the earth.

The lecturer then alluded to the vast time which geology taught us must have been required to bring about the present order of things, and mentioned the two principal hypotheses which had been proposed to reconcile this with the chronology of Moses. The first supposes that the days of creation spoken of in the sacred narrative are to be regarded as indefinite periods, and correspond to successive geologic ages, in accordance with which, it is to be remarked, that the sequence of creation there recorded agrees in a general manner with that observed in the rocks. This view is supported by many able writers. The other maintains that these were ordinary days, and that the sacred historian in that narrative refers only to the creation of the present order of things; while between the beginning in which God created the heavens and the earth, and the six days, we may suppose to be included the ages which geology requires, to which succeeded a period of disorder and darkness from which the divine word evolved the present creation. This interpretation is not new, but appears to have been a favorite one in the early ages of Christianity, before modern geology had an existence. St. Augustine, St. Basil, Origen, and other writers, speak of the creation as distinct from the six days' work, and believe an indefinite time to have elapsed between the two events. It thus appears that there is no difficulty in admitting all that modern geology demands, and that this science, so far from being in antagonism with the sacred record, only affords a striking confirmation of the interpretation of the early lights of Christianity.

**QUEBEC MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.**—Mr. Hearn has been returned to the City Council for Champlain Ward. In St. Peter's Ward the elections did not pass over without disturbance. We find the following in the *Pilot* of Wednesday:—

"We have received by special telegraph, information that the Municipal elections at Quebec terminated yesterday afternoon, but not without serious collisions in St. Peter's Ward. We are concerned to have to add that some of the persons engaged in the election were attacked and grievously injured; among them are Mr. Archibald Campbell, notary, whose life is almost despaired of; Mr. Paterson, grocer, Mr. Drum, cabinetmaker, Mr. Lowndes, merchant, Mr. Linton, merchant, and others are also reported to have been severely beaten and injured. The troops were called out at an early hour, but were not called upon to act."

Mr. Stafford was ultimately returned for St. Peter's Ward.

## REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

Norton Creek, W. Power, 12s 6d; Rawdon, P. Jennings, 7s 6d; Alexandria, Col. Chisholm, 12s 6d; A. McDonald, 12s 6d; St. Anne, Kankakee, U.S., J. Mullin, 5s; St. Monique, P. White, 6s 3d; St. Thomas, C. W., P. Bobier, 15s; Chateaugay, Rev. Mr. Caron, 12s 6d; Orono, F. Early, 13s 6d; Smith's Corner, D. Roche, 5s; Durham, M. Bradley, 12s 6d. Per M. O'Leary, Quebec—Mrs. J. Murphy, 7s 6d; J. C. Nolan, 15s; W. Hanly, 7s 6d; W. & J. McKay, 15s; P. Kennedy, 15s; M. Fitzgibbon, 15s; J. Barry, 15s; J. McNulty, 7s 6d; T. Corrigan, 10s; J. O'Neill, 7s 6d; T. McIlhenn, 15s; J. French, 15s; Most Rev. Dr. Turgeon, 15s; Rt. Rev. Dr. Baillargeon, 15s; Very Rev. Mr. Cazeau, 15s; Rev. Mr. Harkin, 15s; Rev. Mr. Ferland, 15s; Rev. Mr. Langevin, 15s; J. Lynch, 7s 6d; T. Fitzsimons, 7s 6d; T. Burns, £12s 6d; J. Wright, 15s; Rev. Mr. Morissette, 6s 3d; Valcarlier, J. Martin, 6s 3d; Ivorness, W. Carroll, 6s 3d; South Pillar's Light House, T. Roche, 12s 6d; Cranbourne, J. Keegan, 12s 6d. Per S. Donegan—Danville, G. Crosby, 15s 3d. Per Rev. J. J. Chisholm—Eldon, L. Campbell, £1 5s. Per W. Halley, Toronto—£5. Per M. Heaphy—Kempville, P. Walsh, 10s; P. O'Keefe, 5s; B. McCahill, 5s; North Gower, J. McSweeney, 5s. Per J. O'Sullivan—Prescott, E. Conway, 12s 6d; J. Walsh, 12s 6d; J. Mead, 12s 6d; F. Feeney, 6s 3d; C. Farley, 6s 3d; S. Kavanagh, 3s 1d. Per J. Doran—Perth, J. McKinnon, 12s 6d; H. Masterson, 6s 3d; J. McEhean, 6s 3d. Per T. Griffith, Sherbrooke—Self 12s 6d; Comp-ton, J. Farly, 12s 6d. Per H. McGillis, St. Andrews, C. W.—Moulletie, P. Lynch, 6s 3d; Vaudreuil, J. Lavery, 3s 1d.

in his long untutored tail and mane,) and driven by an old man, whose shirt collar (on one side) hung at least a foot over the corresponding part of his coat, while the other side was almost minus. One hundred guards, in citizen's dress, and without weapons, surrounded the vehicle, and the dismal array moved toward the scaffold. Short appeared cheerful, and spoke in hearty tones to his old acquaintances. Hanging was trembling with fear, and silent, while his eyes were unsteady; and glared here and there, like a frightened animal.

The gallows was so placed that on one side was a hill, affording thousands of persons a fair view of the deplorable spectacle.

When the wagon reached the spot, a minister beside the prisoner commenced a hymn; but only two or three voices joined him; and the singing was feeble, broken, but inexpressibly sorrowful. When the last stanza had been subdued forth, the condemned knelt and bent over their coffins, and the minister offered a prayer. During these ceremonies the great multitude collected around, (the number estimated at six thousand) was awed into stillness profound as a breezeless summer wilderness.

When the prayer was over, Short spoke as follows:—

"I want all of you to take warning by me. See what whiskey and bad women have brought me to. I have been to a good many hanging scrapes myself, and thought it was great fun, but I never thought I'd be hanging myself. This is the work of Captain Whisky. I am willing to die for the life of the man that I took. Talk of pleasure—I have tried all kinds of it, about ghasties drunk, and everywhere else, but I have had more real pleasure up in that old jail, than ever before in all my life; and chains on my legs—big, heavy chains at that. I just took off this old coat, and whipped Satan clean out, fair. I've made my election sure, I think. Yes, sir, I think my election is sure. [Some one in the crowd called out, 'If you are safe, I don't think there is much danger for the rest of us.'] I am perfectly willing to die. The man you have got in jail for aiding me is perfectly innocent, and ought to be let go; but that Blair deserves all I've got. [Blair was the man who told him to shoot.] He was as much to blame as I was."

"Some one inquired—'Are you willing to die, Slave?' Says he—'Yes; I hate this world and my own life; and he continued with an air that was nearly exulting—'and I'm going to leave it; I'll be in Paradise before sundown. Now, farewell, farewell; meet me in the other world. I want to see you all in Heaven.' An old man somewhat drunk, pressed upon him. Short said—'Whisky brought me to this—I expect you along in a few days.'"

Hanging then, quaking in every limb, got up and said—'I haven't got anything against any man in the world, and I hope nobody's got anything against me now.'"

Short repeated this remark. Large numbers of his acquaintances crowded about, shaking hands with him and asking questions, until the last moment. He knew all his old friends, and exchanged smiles and words of good will with them until the white cap was tied down over his face. He stood up firmly as the wagon was driven away, and said at that instant, very distinctly—'Farewell, all my friends'—when the fatal noose checked his utterance."

A few such disgusting scenes as the above—a few more such displays of maudlin cant, and daring blasphemy—and we should almost be inclined to question the expediency of Capital Punishment.

**THE "MAINE LIQUOR LAW."**—The Hon. A. P. Morrill, Governor of the State of Maine, writes in reply to the statements which appeared in the *Toronto Leader* from a "Special Commissioner," sent into the States to examine into, and report upon, the practical working of prohibitory liquor laws. His "Report" was most unfavorable; showing a great increase of crime and drunkenness during the last four years; and it is to counteract the impression produced by the "Special Commissioner's" statistics that the Governor of Maine now appears before the public; though, after all, he says nothing to throw any doubts upon the substantial accuracy of the "Report" as it appeared in the *Leader*, and in the *True Witness* of the 19th January last. The Hon. Mr. Morrill's defence of the prohibitory law amounts to this—that:—

"During the first nine months after its enactment by Mr. Dow, the then Mayor of that city"—of Portland—"the result was the immediate and total suppression of the rum traffic; but since that time there has been a very imperfect enforcement of the law, and the traffic has sprung into existence once more."

The Mayor hopes, however, trusts, and expects that a change for the better will occur at some period or other; like Mr. Micawber, he is looking for something to "turn up." From which it may be concluded that the prospects of the reform sought for by prohibitory enactments are still looming in the future, and are yet a long way off.

**PROTESTANT FESTIVALS.**—We learn from the *N. Y. Times* that on Monday, the 29th ult., being the anniversary of the birth day of the celebrated Protestant writer, St. Thomas Paine, a great meeting of his Protestant friends and admirers was held in New York, where the day was celebrated by a ball and festival at the Chinese Assembly Rooms.—"The attendance," says the *N. Y. Times*, "was unusually large and brilliant, and we have seldom seen on any similar occasion, such an array of beauty and intelligence." Now, as Catholics have no objection to Protestants celebrating the anniversaries of the birth days of their saints and heroes—from Titus Oates to Thomas Paine—we do think it rather unjust that they should be so severe upon us poor Papists for honoring the anniversaries of the martyrs and heroic actions, of our great men. A St. Francis Xavier, a St. Vincent de Paul, or a St. Agnes, are as well worthy of admiration, to say the least, as a St. Thomas Paine.

The *Catholic Citizen* of Toronto states that on Sunday last, on which day was celebrated the Festival of the Purification, the decree on the Immaculate Conception was to have been read, after Pontifical High Mass, in the Cathedral.