

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1890

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

THURSDAY, Feb. 12, St. Benedict. FRIDAY, Feb. 13, St. Gregory II. SATURDAY, Feb. 14, The Sacred Passion. SUNDAY, Feb. 15, St. Faustina and Jovita.

The Education Question.

The movement started by the government of Manitoba for the abolition of Catholic Separate Schools is one which may have far reaching consequences, and cannot be allowed to pass without the most determined opposition.

More particularly must it be opposed since it goes even beyond the revolutionary doctrine that the State has a first right to educate the children, inasmuch as Mr. Greenway has announced the intention of the government to provide religious instruction in the secular schools with which he proposes to replace the existing system.

It was bad enough surely for the State to usurp the most sacred and fundamental rights of the parent by assuming that "the child belongs to the State before belonging to the parents," without also usurping the functions of religion and venturing to become, not only a schoolmaster, but a religious instructor likewise.

Indeed it would be far better to sweep away and utterly abolish the whole system of public schools and leave every one at liberty to educate his children as best he can, than to surrender to the State a right which belongs to the Church alone, and which cannot be tolerated by Catholics without the most deadly peril to all they cherish as most sacred and inalienable.

As the Rev. Father James Conway, S.J., has shown in his admirable treatise on education, "Man, coming into this world as a rational being, helpless and dependent on others for his physical, mental and moral development; as a social being, with social qualities and social wants; as a religious being, having certain fixed religious duties towards his Creator in common with his fellow-men, is, by the very fact of his existence, a member of three distinct societies, each complete in its own sphere—the domestic society or Family, the civil society or State, the religious society or Church.

The first duty of the parent, after providing for the physical wants of his offspring, is to secure for them an education that will fit them to become useful and worthy members of society. Marriage having been instituted by God himself in the union of our first parents, it includes the sacred obligation of preparing the souls born to those in wedlock to take their places in the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

In these days of rampant atheism, when men who have had no special, or any, training to fit them for the business of government—that most profoundly difficult, exacting and dangerous of all merely human occupations—are lofted into the highest positions, it is plainly to be seen that, if society is to be preserved from anarchy, the Family and the Church must be defended in the preservation of their rights in the education of the young.

The utterances of the Holy See on this most vital question are very plain and leave

no chance of misunderstanding. In a brief by Pius IX., quoted in the treatise mentioned above, we read:—"All those who would have the Church resign, or withdraw her salutary direction of the popular schools, demand nothing less than that the Church should not regard the behoofs of her Divine Founder, and neglect the most important charge committed to her of procuring the salvation of men. Assuredly, in whatever places or countries these most dangerous schemes of exalting the authority of the Church from the schools should be attempted or put into execution, and the youth should be lamentably exposed to the danger of suffering loss in their faith, the Church is not only bound to use all her zeal and efforts and spare no pains at any time, that the young should receive the necessary religious education, but is also bound to admonish all the faithful, and declare to them that such schools, being hostile to the Catholic Church, cannot in conscience be frequented."

The principle here laid down has been acted upon in all countries where the circumstances are as stated. In the United States at the present time this is a burning question. It may, however, be observed that the Sacred Congregation of the Inquisition grants that there may be circumstances in which Catholic parents may, in conscience, send their children to public schools, viz: when no Catholic school is at hand, or when that which is at hand is not fit to give the children an education suited to their station and conformable to their age. It is to be remembered, however, that the frequenting of the public schools can be permitted, even in these cases, according to the declaration of the Sacred Congregation, only when the danger of perversion can be rendered remote; and that the decision is left to the Bishop, not to the parents of the child.

The doctrine of the supreme teaching-office of the Church is thus laid down:—That the State has not absolute power over the schools. In other words, they are not and cannot be mere State institutions, under the sole direction of civil authority.

That there can be no legitimate plea for exempting the schools from the authority of the Church, whether they are mere elementary schools, or literary and scientific.

That no Catholic can convoke at a system of education which has divorced itself from the authority of the Church and the Catholic faith, and has for its object, solely or mainly, natural or secular training.

Lansdowne Again.

We see by United Ireland that the Marquis of Lansdowne and his precious agent, Mr. Trench, are once again to be a little in a light which shows the one to be as little fitted to be a ruler of races as the other is to be a ruler of estates. Recently at the Cahiroveen Quarter Sessions several ejectment orders were asked for by Mr. Mansfield, on behalf of Mr. Trench, against tenants of the Viceroy of India. Trench himself does not seem to have the moral courage to appear in court, but left his subordinate to act the part of whipping-boy. Several tenants were proceeded against for small amounts, and Judge Adye Curran, who seems to have an inviolable faith in the doctrine of pressure within the law, tried his powers of persuasion upon Lansdowne, per Trench, per Mansfield, but to no avail. One of the difficulties which troubled his judicial conscience in some of the cases was the hanging gale; and when the landlord's side pressed for decrees, Mr. Curran said, if he were driven to it, he would give them, but would make an order for payment by instalments. In others he reluctantly gave decrees, remarking that the tenants were paying their rent well. Judge Curran is always anxious for the peace of the country; but his next weakness seems to be a tender regard for the landlord's reputation. Lord Lansdowne and his hanging gale seem to perturb him. Perhaps he forebodes that the wrongs of the Kerry peasants may in the not remote future find an echo amongst the rice-fields of Bengal.

They found an echo in Canada so loud and persistent that Lansdowne found a change of climate good for his health and so he got out without waiting to finish his term. Sic semper tyrannis, at least in Canada.

The Dominion Parliament.

The proceedings in our Dominion Parliament have not been of the most edifying character since the opening of the session. The estimates have been brought down and a certain amount of progress has been made in disposing of them. But, as regards these measures which create the liveliest interest in the minds of the public, comparatively little has as yet transpired. Several days have been consumed in discussing the question of repealing the Dominion Franchise Act. As

we go to press the discussion on the McCarthy resolution, anent the French language in the Territories, is about to begin. We shall keep our readers informed of the progress of the debate, which promises to be of great interest. Two amendments have been proposed—one by Mr. Davis, M.P., and the other by Mr. R. S. White, M.P., of Cardwell. Both these amendments favor an appeal to the people of the Territories before any decisive steps are taken on the dual language question. Nothing, as yet, appears to have transpired as to the position of the Government with reference either to the main motion or either of the amendments, and the same may be said as regards the policy of the leader of the Opposition. Both parties will be forced to show their hands in the forthcoming debate. The budget speech of the Minister of Finance has not yet been announced. The public accounts show a surplus in the coffers of the Dominion over expenditures, and this will be made the most of by the Ministerialists. No doubt, at an early date the advocates of Unrestricted Reciprocity and Commercial Union with the United States will be heard from, and the old arguments pro and con will be hurled across the floor of the House with as much vigor as though there was the slightest prospect of altering anyone's opinion on those well worn topics. The Young Liberals of Toronto have condemned the Muleck motion and address to Her Majesty, but the sister club in Montreal has declined to follow suit, and instead has passed a resolution of confidence in Mr. Laurier, the Liberal leader. Yet, it is a matter of congratulation that the young men of our country evince an interest in what is going on with reference to Canada's present and future.

North-West Lands.

Mr. Martin, Manitoba's Attorney-General, appears to be suffering from a disease which our neighbors to the south call "big head." He is not content to work within the lines of constitutional evolution but wants to attain his objects by a series of catastrophes. As if he had not created trouble enough by his bilingual and educational proposals, he now goes in for annexation of the North-west territories to Manitoba. He appears not to be troubled with any of those scruples which usually influence men who esteem the claims of patriotism and justice. He belongs to what the late Chief Justice Wood called the Great Raise-a-Row party. He does not consider the sacrifices that the people of the older provinces have made, the enormous debt they have contracted for the purchase and opening up of the North-West and Manitoba, and the establishment there of institutions which have given him the chance of rising to his present position. He evidently forgets that he is the subject not the master of the situation, and should be warned by what happened to other magnificences who undertook to run the North-West. There is a Thomas Scott in Winnipeg who could give Mr. Martin some pointers on this question. The episode of his government should not be forgotten, although it was eclipsed by Riel's later performance. But Mr. Martin has little hope that his ambition to get control of the lands of the North-west will be gratified, at least, not till there is "a big smash-up to the east." This is somewhat reassuring. He is wise to wait for the smashing process to begin before asserting himself. Seriously, however, there is nothing to be gained by raising disturbing questions. But the absurd extravagance of this proposition is its own refutation. It is not a new notion, nevertheless. A similar claim was put forward in behalf of Virginia, after the Revolution, to all territory west of that state. This claim was founded on the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Walter Raleigh in the year 1583, which included under the name Virginia all the English settlements on the continent. This charter became extinct and the United States assumed the sovereignty of the western country. In somewhat similar manner, but through payment of money, the Dominion of Canada has succeeded to the territorial rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and, as was done by the United States, has divided the country into territories which in time will become provinces like Manitoba. The idea of that province wanting to gobble the third of a continent is more absurd than the claim of Virginia. The historical precedent, however, is valuable. The author of "Public Good," with whose writings Mr. Martin is supposed to be familiar, lays down an argument that applies exactly to the present case. "These very lands," he wrote, "formed in contemplation, the fund by which the debt of America would in a course of years be redeemed." That argument carried the point against the claim of Virginia. It is irresistible in the case of the Dominion.

Address to the Queen.

That the House of Commons of Canada should have passed an address to Her Majesty expressive of the loyalty of the Canadian people is somewhat surprising. Such a proceeding is unprecedented, and, evidently, was deemed unusual for by some gentlemen belonging to the political persuasion of its promoter, Mr. Mulock, M.P. The opening remarks of the Hon. Mr. Laurier, leader of the Opposition, would lead to that conclusion. No doubt Mr. Mulock was prompted to adopt the course pursued by him, in order to set at rest the imputation of disloyalty so often cast upon his political friends, since Mr. Wiman, Mr. Butterworth and other tariff reformers have been ventilating their views concerning Canada, and in some instances hinting that closer commercial relations would inevitably lead to political union with the United States. The vote cast was an imposing one, and the speeches delivered were exceedingly pointed. Mr. Patterson, M.P. for Essex, made the declaration: "that inasmuch as it

had been stated in several of the organs of public opinion on the other side of the line, that London, which is in his constituency, had given signs of being desirous of casting its lot with our Republican neighbors, nothing would give him more pleasure than to run his next election against a candidate who would adopt annexation to the United States as his platform." The friends of the United States were very badly crushed, there being not one dissenting vote on the address, hardly more so, than the Imperial Federationists. On all sides it was made manifest that Canadians desire to be let alone to work out their own destiny. They feel equal to it and have a holy horror of Constitution tinkers. It was admitted that in the future, perhaps the dim future, the position of Canada may be changed, as it inevitably must; but that we are perfectly satisfied with the present state of affairs. The Irish Catholic members of the House were all present and voted for the adoption of the address, no doubt feeling that we enjoy Home Rule in Canada, and trusting that their fellow-countrymen in the old land may soon find themselves in the enjoyment of the same inalienable privilege. Canada has been fairly dealt with by the Imperial authorities and is therefore loyal. Verbum sap.

Ontario Politics.

The legislators of the sister province of Ontario have met and opened the proceedings of their Legislature at Toronto. The address from the Throne is like all such documents, scarcely indicative of the course matters will take during the progress of the session. It is surmised that a general election for the Local House is impending, and as a consequence lively times may be anticipated. Scandals to suit the occasion will be the order of the day, the most heinous crimes will be imputed to the administration of the Hon. Mr. Mowat just as such unpardonable offences are hurled at all governments on the eve of an appeal to the people. Those tactics being anticipated will scarcely find much credence amongst the electorate. Judging from the tone of the debate on the address from the Throne, Mr. Meredith is going to play his Protestant card for all it is worth. His slim following in the House has approved of his platform, we are told, with the exception of Mr. Clancy, M.P., who being a Catholic, naturally decries the policy of his leader. The Province of Ontario will be regular on its trial within the next few months. It shall then be decided whether the schoolmaster has been abroad to any purpose, or if the obscuration, begotten of ignorance and bigotry, that reigned supreme there in the days of George Brown still holds sway, and can be worked upon to consolidate the masses of Protestant electors. Mr. Meredith, or rather those who have control of that gentleman, i.e., Dalton McCarthy & Co., evidently believe, that there is still a kick in the Protestant horse, and that the antiquated steed may do as good service now as in days of yore. Should they fall in their calculation and the electorate of Ontario prove to have outgrown the old time prejudices, more especially, should the defeat of Mr. Meredith be emphatic it will be a happy day for the people of Canada. The influence of such a course on the part of Ontario would not only be felt in that province, but must have a beneficial effect elsewhere, and for the last time we shall have heard of religious intolerance being made the platform of a political party.

The B. A. Bill.

There seems to be an impression in some quarters that the B. A. Bill, now before the Legislature of Quebec and which, for the second time, has passed the Lower House, will be defeated again in the Legislative Council. The Upper Chamber could not be guilty of a greater mistake. The best thinkers are all ranged on the side of the Bill. A number of the junior Bar do not favor its passage, but nearly every leading member of the legal profession, and all the members of other liberal professions, are strongly in favor of the measure brought forward by Mr. John S. Hall and warmly endorsed by the Premier of the Province. On more than one occasion we have pointed out the great advantages to be derived from granting certain privileges to young men trained in our Universities. In the whole course of the discussion on this important subject not one argument worthy of being called serious has been advanced on the other side. Some of the statements made are simply perille. When it is taken into consideration that the Bar of Ontario, second to none in the Dominion, by its rules and regulations, admits as students, without further question, the holders of university degrees from this Province, it does seem strange that a lot of young men at our provincial Bar can prevent similar legislation for the Province of Quebec, in the face of the stand taken by those whose bearing and ability give a status to the profession in our province. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Legislative Council will make no such grave blunder as to refuse, for the second time, to sanction a measure calculated to elevate the standard of our professions and placing our regulation for admission to study therein on the same basis as that fixed in any country that boasts of its higher education.

The Orange Incorporation Bill.

To the no little surprise of the public, this bill passed its second reading on Monday by a majority of sixteen, and after little or no discussion. We see that the prospect of its becoming law, has caused a good deal of consternation, and some indignation on the part of several esteemed Catholic contemporaries. While we confess to being somewhat surprised that a measure so often unsuccessfully attempted should now pass with so little apparent resistance, we cannot say that we share in either the consternation or indignation. That the Orange society has no reason d'être in this country of course goes without

saying. That in the country where it first came into existence it has a record of nothing but wanton cruelty inspired by the most ignorant and malignant bigotry is equally well known. What reason anybody can see why it should be incorporated in Canada, is quite beyond our comprehension. But on the other hand, what evil can result from its being declared a body corporate is almost equally difficult to perceive. In Quebec we are amply protected from its offensive displays by our party processions act. In the sister Province of Ontario, incorporated or unincorporated, the organization flaunts its banners whenever its members feel so disposed.

That the incorporation will make matters either better or worse, we fall to see. In fact if the measure produces any effect it may even remove the last pretence of a grievance on the part of Klog William's followers, and deprive them of any shadow of a pretext for their Society's continued existence. Opposition is the breath of life to such organizations; without it they sicken and die.

It is probably some such reasons as these which have brought about the passing of the measure, and caused such apathy among those who heretofore have strenuously resisted it. For our part, Orangism, incorporated or unincorporated, we consider is best treated with the contempt of silence. Whether it be a body politic, or not, is a matter of very little consequence. And perhaps the shortest and most effective way of getting rid of it is to give it the baneful it has been so long crying for and thus save ourselves from hearing of its again.

Another railway to connect this city with the Atlantic seaports of Halifax and St. John, has been projected and application is now before the Federal Parliament for a charter. The St. Lawrence & Maritime Provinces Railway runs in direct line from Rivière du Loup to Moncton via Edmonton and is entirely within Canadian territory. It will reduce the distance between this city and Halifax to 749 miles. The short line through Maine makes the distance 750. The missing link to complete the proposed system is 180 miles in length. Private capital is available for the work which it is proposed to undertake next spring and carry to completion without delay. It will be an important addition to the Grand Trunk system and of great commercial advantage to Montreal.

All our doctors, who have been interviewed, have told how much they know about the influenza bacillus. They have not told us what they don't know, yet, perhaps, the unexplored ocean of their ignorance is greater than the island of their knowledge. Various recipes are given to overcome the microbe. There is but one, however, perfectly sure. Be clean! Clean in body and soul, then defy the microbe.

DESPATCHES say the Sublime Porte is in a dilemma. When was it not in that interesting position? A rotten government, with rascals for agents, a book that nobody believes in for law and the whole dominated by tax-eaters, ought to be in a dilemma. It is satisfactory, however, to know that the horns of the Turkish dilemma have only a narrow strait between them.

At bottom the miller's trouble, which some people seem to imagine may be got over by increasing the duty, is one of railway rates. It is not the cost of production, but the cost of transportation which destroys the miller's margin of profit. All experience proves that to tax the people's bread is a profound economical as well as political mistake.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

Sir,—To decide an argument will you please say if a friend states the truth when he says that the then Irishmen of Montreal bought the ground on which stands the present Cathedral of Notre Dame, and that they laid the foundation for a Church on that site but were prevented by ecclesiastical authority to build a Church thereon; and further, that the Irish Catholics of Montreal will not be permitted to build a church for their own use. Is there any church in Montreal erected by its Irish Catholic citizens?

WILLIAM SLATTERY.

[The ground on which Notre Dame Church stands has been the property of the Order of St. Sulpice since its establishment in Montreal, which was previous to any Irish immigration to Canada. The Irish Catholics have St. Patrick's Church, which is, we may say, exclusively occupied by them. The church accommodation for Irish Catholics in Montreal is ample. St. Ann's, St. Mary's and St. Gabriel's having Irish congregations. No one nationality, as such, holds any ecclesiastical property in its own right.—Ed. T. W.]

The Ontario Legislature.

Toronto, February 7.—In the local House today, Mr. Meredith moved for an order of the House for a return showing a copy of the submitted by the Minister of Education for the opinion of the judges of the Chancery division of the High Court of Justice, as to the true construction of certain provisions of the Public School act relating to separate school supporters. Also the answers given by the judges to the questions submitted by the minister. He said he would discuss the subject at the first opportunity after the return had been sent down. The Attorney-General gave notice of a bill to facilitate the settlement of provincial questions. It is understood that this bill has special relation to the dispute anent the land improvement fund, its proper share of which Quebec refuses to pay.

The Irish Local Government Bill.

LONDON, February 11.—It is stated that the Irish local government bill which the Government proposes will be based upon the English local government bill enacted in 1888. "The Daily News" says: "If this is so, every Liberal will welcome it as a stepping stone to home rule." Sir William Vernon Harcourt will bring up the Bill to-morrow in Parliament to-morrow, upon a question of privilege.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Queen's Speech at the Opening.

LONDON, February 11.—Parliament re-assembled to-day. The Queen's speech opening the session was read by commission. It is as follows:—

My Lords and Gentlemen: My relations with other powers continue friendly.

An armed force, under a Portuguese officer, was despatched during the autumn from Mozambique into territory where British settlements had been formed, and where there are native tribes who have been taken under my protection. A collision, attended by bloodshed, took place, and acts were committed which were inconsistent with the respect due the British flag. The Portuguese Government now, at my request, has promised to withdraw its military forces from the territory in question.

A conference of the powers interested in the suppression of the slave trade has been convoked at Brussels by the King of the Belgians. I earnestly hope the results of its deliberations will advance the great cause for which it assembled.

A commercial convention has been concluded with the Khedive. A provisional arrangement for the adjustment of pressing fiscal questions has been made with Bulgaria.

The convention concluded by me with the Emperor of Germany and the United States with respect to the Government of Samoa will be laid before you with the protocols of the conference.

The treaty concluded with the United States for the amendments of the law of extradition will also be submitted to you. The latter awaits the ratification of the United States Senate.

The disordered condition of Swaziland has rendered it necessary to provide a better Government there. The independence of Swaziland was recognized by the convention held in London. I have, acting in conjunction with the President of the South African Republic, sent a commission to learn the views of the Swazis and white settlers.

I shall await with lively interest the results of the conference being held to discuss the important question of Federation of the Australian Colonies. Any well considered measure for bringing these Colonies into closer union will increase their welfare and strength and will receive my favorable consideration.

My Lords and Gentlemen:

The continued improvement of affairs in Ireland and the further diminution of agrarian crime there has made it possible to very largely restrict the area where it is necessary to deal with certain offences with the customary process. Proposals for increasing, under due financial precaution, the number of occupying owners; for extending to Ireland the principles of local self-government which has already been adopted in England and Scotland so far as they are applicable to Ireland, and for improving the material well-being of the population in the poorer districts, will be submitted to you.

The bill facilitating and cheapening the transfer of land in England will be again presented. Provisions will be submitted to you for diminishing the difficulty and cost which attend the passage of private legislation required for Scotland.

Bill improving the course of procedure by which tithes are levied and facilitating their redemption will be submitted. I have appointed a commission to report the best means of improving the economic conditions which affect the inhabitants of some parts of the western Highlands and the islands of Scotland.

Your attention will be again invited to the bill to ascertain the liability of employers for accidents to employees and the measure improving the course of procedure from the winding up of the affairs of insolvent companies under the limited liability acts. Bills will be submitted for your consideration for consolidation and for the amendment of the law in respect to the public health of the metropolis and the dwellings of the working classes and also a bill for the better regulation of savings banks and friendly societies.

Your attention will be directed to the accommodation provided in camps and barracks and you will be asked to make better provision for the distribution and the health and comfort of my troops. I commend you earnestly to the discharge of your high responsibility to the care and guidance of Almighty God.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons. The estimates to defray the cost of my Government will be submitted to you. They are drawn with due regard to economy as well as to the necessities of public service.

Parnell Commission Report.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—It is positively stated tonight that the report of the special commission to investigate the charges made by the Times against Mr. Parnell and his Home Rule colleagues, will be presented to Parliament immediately after the formal opening of that body to-morrow. It is learned that a van containing 1,200 copies of the report, for the use of members and others entitled to be served with it specially, will be driven to the House of Commons shortly before Parliament is convened, under a guard particularly charged with the duty of preventing a copy from falling into unauthorized hands.

The Tory Party Growing Weaker.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Six new members who have been returned during the recess will be sworn in in the British House of Commons to-morrow. Four of these are Liberals and two are Tories. The numerical strength of the Tories in this session of parliament will be less by thirty-two members than at the beginning of the session of 1889, since which time the Conservatives have gradually grown weaker.

Will Ask for \$100,000,000.

LONDON, February 10.—It is reported tonight upon good authority that the Government will propose to Parliament an appropriation of \$100,000,000 for the land purchase scheme for Ireland, and that its bill is an extension of the powers given by Lord Ashbourne's act.

Six New Italian Cardinals.

ROME, February 10.—Six Italian Cardinals will be created in March in view of the minority of the Italian cardinals as compared with the number of foreign cardinals. The Pope has decided against the holding of next conclave outside of Rome.

Sympathy with the Pops.

ROME, February 10.—The majority of the sovereigns of Europe have telegraphed to the Pope the expression of their sympathies for the loss of his brother, Cardinal Pecci. Enormous crowds have passed all day, viewing the corpse.

France Declines Germany's Invitation.

PARIS, February 10.—France declines the invitation of Germany to the international labor conference. She has already accepted the Swiss invitation to a labor conference, to be held in May.

The Pope Decorates the Shah.

ROME, February 10.—The Pope has decorated the Shah of Persia for his kindness to Catholic missions.

Another Caramei May Die.

ROME, February 10.—Cardinal Jacobini has had a relapse, and is in a dangerous condition.