

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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THE SOUDAN REBELLION.

Affairs at Suakin—Anxiety Concerning General Gordon—A Battle Expected Last Week—Fears that He Has Met with a Repulse—The Feeling in England.

SUAKIN, March 20.—Spies report that Osman Digna with a few followers has fled to the interior. His flight is attributed to the reward offered for his capture. Slaves are deserting him and fleeing to Suakin.

PARIS, March 21.—The *Figaro* publishes the following:—"Gordon has told the French Consul at Khartoum that he is disappointed in what he thought he was able to accomplish, and that it will be impossible for him to defend the place against the advancing tribes."

It is stated in Cairo that Abdel Kader, Minister of War, will be sent to Gordon's rescue.

SUAKIN, March 20.—It is now reported that Osman Digna has summoned tribes to arrange for a renewal of warlike operations. Admiral Hewitt has withdrawn the proclamation offering a reward for Osman.

CAIRO, March 21.—Sir Evelyn Baring has received orders from Gordon that the rebels had attacked Halfaya and that the garrison of Khartoum made a sortie and relieved Halfaya.

Clifford Lloyd, under-secretary of the Interior, has ordered the release of 125 untried prisoners in the jails at Assiout and Assiout. Some have been imprisoned for years.

The Khedive has received from Queen Victoria a telegram of condolence on the death of his mother.

KHARTOUM, March 21.—An expedition to relieve Halfaya, consisted of 1,200 men in three steamers. The men were concealed in the holds to avoid the fire of the Arabs on the banks of the river. The expedition has returned to Khartoum, having rescued the garrison, raised the siege, captured many cattle and arms, and lost only two men. There were great rejoicings over the victory and enthusiastic demonstrations in honor of General Gordon.

Six thousand rebels face the palace on the right bank of the Nile. They recently fired upon three hundred blacks sent down to the river for wood and killed a hundred of them. General Gordon says produce continues to enter Khartoum from the south, southwest and southeast. Gordon has armed many inhabitants, but they can do but little against the mass of rebels fronting Khartoum.

SUAKIN, March 21.—The cavalry has made reconnaissances in various directions without finding any rebels.

SUAKIN, March 22.—It is believed here that Osman Digna's forces have almost entirely deserted him. Admiral Hewitt is sanguine of being able to open the Berber route. He proposes to divide the road into sections and make the tribes answerable for their respective divisions. The troops will advance on Wednesday from the camps around Temeleb and attempt to surround Osman Digna.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 22.—The Porte has abandoned the discussion with England relative to a basis for negotiations concerning the Egyptian question, and decided to leave Lord Granville to take the initiative in future.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The *Tribune's* London cable dated March 12, says:—"The most important news from Egypt of the week appears in the *Times'* despatch from Khartoum, showing that General Gordon is engaged in active and successful hostilities with the natives, and was intending to attack the main body, 6,000 strong, last Sunday."

The *Sun's* correspondent cables: News from Egypt is not decisive. Osman Digna is broken up, but General Gordon does not seem to know what to do. He is losing about Suakin. Feverish suspense about Gordon has been broken by news from the *Times'* correspondent that he has secured the garrison to the north of Khartoum, but the same correspondent describes the Arabs as blockading Khartoum, and everybody awaits anxiously as a result. The future of Gordon in any case is very uncertain, as the Government must not make up its mind whether to desert him or to send him English troops. It is held of the anti-slavery party at home follow his advice and to give him Zobeir asha, who would be the most effective pacifier.

The *Times'* correspondent cables: The feeling of dejection in regard to Gen. Gordon has been lessened, but not extinguished by news of March 16. His position is regarded as extremely precarious. It is felt that the curtain is again fallen upon Khartoum at a most vital moment. Until the issue of the battle between Gen. Gordon and the Arab army of March 16 is known, anxiety for his fate will continue unabated. But even if Gordon successful in that engagement, it is now generally recognized that his mission is a lost one. The report of the Egyptian garrison from Sudan is now admitted to be impossible without the intervention of British forces. Latest dispatches received at London from Gen. Gordon indicate that he proposes an English force to go to Khartoum. The absence of advice from Berber a source of fear that Gordon was repulsed the battle of March 16. He is hemmed in Khartoum on both sides, and maintains his position in expectation that an English army will speedily appear to relieve him.

It is reported that in the Cabinet meeting Saturday dispatches from Cairo were considered which stated that immediate danger the fall of Khartoum was over. Sir Evelyn Baring, the British Minister at Cairo, has the dispatch of a British contingent to Khartoum, by way of Korso, of two squadrons of the troops at Suakin. The news of Hartington's secretary, that the war is, has appeared a second time. It is believed that the Cabinet is in

THE BISHOP OF ACHONRY

On Emigration.

The following extracts from the Lenten pastoral of the Right-Rev. Dr. MacCormack, Bishop of Achonry, Ireland, speak strongly against the schemes for depopulating Ireland:

EMIGRATION.

In referring to the industrial development of the country, I should not, I think, omit reference to a subject now earnestly exercising the minds of public bodies, but nowhere more than in the West of Ireland. I refer to the question of emigration, a question deeply affecting the temporal and moral well-being of many of our poor people. Interpreting the present by the past, I am decidedly of opinion that emigration should be discouraged and discontinued by all lawful means; and that the clergy of the West should keep a watchful and jealous eye upon the movements of those birds of ill omen which are occasionally seen hovering about Union Board rooms. Their statements and promises should be largely discounted, if not discredited. They now come with larger gifts than before. They are now, forsooth, prepared to spare the ratepayer. Not a penny shall they demand for the deportation. But we have reason to doubt and fear these Grecian gifts. Experience warns us. Harrowing accounts of the misery of State-aided emigrants have been written to friends at home, and appeared in Canadian journals, and in view of those disheartening revelations, we should, by all legitimate means, embarrass the efforts of emigration propagandists, whether in the person of poor law officials here in the West or functionaries direct from the executive. Toronto, it is said, has more Irish paupers parading its streets at the present moment than may be seen in any city or town in Ireland. And what must be the feelings of these poor people, far away from their country and kindred, and suffering the pangs of want in a foreign land! The struggling artisan, the pined laborer, and the falling farmer should learn a lesson of caution from the sad experience and bitter disappointment of those who were induced by State aid to quit their native shores. Poor people! In the day dream of their simple enthusiasm they recklessly grasped at even an uncertainty, in the hope of improving their wretched condition at home! But, alas! the hills of Canada, that were held out to their vision in the distance as proverbially green, assume quite another color when neared by the poor emigrant, and when they behold the veritable and not the visionary—the real snow-capped slopes of Canada—the

and the very winding sheet of their hopes and happiness! We should, then, in the name of our common country and common humanity, raise our voices in earnest protest against the deportation of our poor people to those inhospitable regions of the British colonies.

But, why transport them from their native shores to any other land, and even if favorable provision were made for them abroad? Surely, there is room enough for five millions in this green isle of our own; and work enough, if it were only proportioned out to the labor class of the country. A million acres of land might be reclaimed, arterial drainage (so much needed) might be projected, construction of tramways proceeded with, planting of trees encouraged, and other useful and reproductive public works set on foot. Here is a wide field for laborers ready at hand, and a market for labor at once created. Assuredly, the money available for transportation of the people could, by an easy process of our law-givers, be applied for the purposes enumerated, or kindred objects of national benefit. And relief by transportation is, after all, an unnatural, an unpalatable sort of thing. Poverty is not to be treated as a crime. The poverty of our people has been mainly the result of past systematic injustice, and the fault of persistent misrule. How could the O'Connell peasant be prosperous who was driven from the rich land of the province, and obliged to settle on the barren bog, or bleak mountain side? What Cromwell did on a large scale, with his execrable ukase, many a landlord did in a small way with his heartless order—"to the bog, or out altogether." And thus overcrowding became inevitable by those cruel methods; yes, overcrowding even in the inferior lands to which the people were marvellously consigned. But what more just or reasonable than to restore those lands to the peasantry, which their fathers watered with the sweat of honest labor, and from which they were hunted by one of the social hierarchies recorded in the annals of past history? Why not transplant the surplus population of poor districts to those lands at our doors, rather than transport them to the swamps of Manitoba, or to the snows of Canada? In the west of Ireland there is abundant scope for the scheme of transplantation—wide wastes of improvable lands, and landlords very willing to dispose of their interests.

There is yet another reason why we should not wish to see our Osthlo people quitting this Catholic land. The Orange confederations are becoming more aggressive, and, doubtless, if the strength of the Catholic body is run down by extensive emigration, the consequences may be very unpleasant for us. And touching on this subject, I have to express my deep regret that sectarian rancour should have been roused on our borders by the reckless conduct of a few *Silgo* persons. This hopeful quartette seem to have caught a brand from the great Orange pile of the "Black North," and glared across red-handed, from

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BRITISH POLITICS.

Obstruction Tactics of the Conservatives

—Mr. Parnell and the Poll Tax
—The Prospects of Disolution
—Mr. Gladstone's Illness
—The Irish Ministry—New Members.

New York, March 23.—A cable despatch to the *Tribune* says:—"The week began with rumors of Gladstone's resignation, varied by equally baseless stories of an immediate dissolution of Parliament. Both stories were believed on Monday at the Stock Exchange, and were telegraphed all over the country. Both were pure guess work. The scandalous proceedings last Saturday in the House of Commons made men credulous about anything. The Liberals generally accepted as accurate Sir William Harcourt's description of what then took place as "a dirty trick," nor will Mr. Labouchere and his Radical associates soon be forgiven for concealing and supporting a scheme by which the Ministry were to be ousted, Lord Randolph Churchill was Mr. Labouchere's confederate and sundry Radicals were his tools. Respectable Tories joined with them in violating a clear agreement that Saturday should be devoted to supply."

THE PARALLELISM.

lent ready help, and upon the defeat of Mr. Labouchere's resolution settled down to the old-fashioned obstruction till six o'clock on Sunday morning. This excellent beginning, was steadily followed up during the week, the Ministers barely succeeding in getting votes for money to carry on the Government from day to day. The *Sun's* correspondent asserts that Parliament continues to the scorn of everybody. Appropriations still consume most of the time, and the rest is frittered away by questions and filibustering. A Conservative leader has seriously damaged his party by blurring out that their object is to stop legislation and to force dissolution. The game is not, however, skillfully played. The *Standard*, which, though a strong Conservative organ, loves to play the candid friend, has articles and letters denouncing the Conservative obstructiveness, and the Cabinet has been enabled to take up the strong position that they won't be bulldozed or filibustered into premature dissolution. The narrow escape, too, of the Government from defeat last Saturday has greatly sobered its party, and though there is much

GRUMBLING ABOUT EGYPT,

the Liberals once again stand solid. The favorite idea at present is to allow the Conservatives to go on wasting time till a certain period of the session, then to take up the country on the double cry of upholding popular rights and putting down parliamentary irregularities. Lord Hartington has immensely advanced himself as temporary leader of the house and has squelched Ahmed Barakat and the other small Tory fry who used to defy Gladstone to insanity, self-contradictory and rash pledges by giving curt answers or refusing to answer.

THE PROSPECTS OF DISSOLUTION.

The second reading of the Reform Bill was postponed from Thursday, but is expected to be moved on Monday by the Marquis of Hartington, whose leadership of the House in the absence of Mr. Gladstone, has been firm and judicious.

MR. GLADSTONE'S ILLNESS.

The *Post's* cable says:—"Mr. Gladstone is slightly better, but his physicians refuse to allow him to resume his parliamentary duties for several days to come. The irritation of the throat has subsided, but it has left the former very weak. Mr. Gladstone's health has excited considerable interest among the medical journals, and the *Lancet* urges him, for medical reasons, to accept a passage and seek the calmer precincts of the House of Lords, where there is less danger of over-fatigue, and where his valuable life may yet be spared for years to come; whereas a continuance of the present exciting existence may produce fatal results at the shortest notice to a man of his years."

PARNELL'S PROGRAMME.

The *Tribune's* cable says: Mr. Parnell's remark that Irish farmers are fools if they pay poll tax is considered to indicate a plan for a new campaign. His speech on St. Patrick's Day contains ominous references to non-political methods of attack on England, which the dynamic party may construe for their own encouragement. With the exception of Mr. Parnell's allusion, if it be one, there has been no dynamic discussion in public this week, but articles in N.Y. journals like the *Nation* have arrived, which Englishmen think are examples of perverse ingenuity in suggesting obstacles to legislation for the prevention of dynamic plots in America.

THE WORLD'S CABLE SAYS:—Mr. Parnell's new policy that the farmers of Ireland should refuse to pay the poll tax imposed under the O'Connell Act is receiving practical approval in Ireland. The corporations of Limerick and Cork lead the way in opposing the tax. Limerick declines to submit to a mandamus directing the payment of the extra poll tax quartered there by the former magistracy. Clifford Lloyd, and Cork refuses money for Captain Plunket's reinforcements. The *United Ireland*, of which William O'Brien, M.P., is editor, in an article indicating the line of resistance, says:—"If the authorities at the Castle want bloodmoney and poll tax, let them send a policeman to lift it. That if the people take advice from O'Brien and Mr. Bright, they will enter upon a fiscal revolt and show England the impolicy of punishing thousands of innocent people for the sins of a few guilty."

ANGLO-IRISH POLITICS.

By cable from Irish Special News Agency.

LONDON, March 22.—The fears of an immediate dissolution of Parliament are probably unfounded, but the Cabinet means to go to the country on the Franchise question. The general election will probably occur this autumn as Government are too weak to send the Franchise Bill to the House of Lords a second time.

The business of Parliament is utterly at a deadlock and attempts are being made by the English and Scotch to render the Irish party responsible for it.

Patrick's Day celebrations were unusually numerous and very enthusiastic. The London dinner, at which Mr. Parnell presided as chairman, was four times larger than any Patrick's Day banquet ever held there.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT SHERBROOKE, QUE.

For the twelfth time the St. Patrick's Society of Sherbrooke and vicinity celebrated the national festival in this city. At 9:30 a.m. the St. Patrick's Society left their hall and formed in procession, headed by their banner, and proceeded by the Irish pupils of the Brothers' school, led by the Rev. Brother Superior, proceeded to the Cathedral to attend a solemn High Mass. His Lordship Mgr. Antoine Baile occupied the Pontifical throne, while Rev. Mr. Lefebvre, assisted by Deacon and Subdeacon, celebrated Mass, the assistants in the sanctuary being chosen from among the Irish students of the college. The choir of the St. Charles Borromeo College reflected credit on themselves by their beautiful singing of the different parts of the Mass, while Miss Jessie Devere rendered "O Salutaris" and "Ave Marie" with great taste and sweetness.

The sermon of the day was preached by the Rev. Daniel McManis, who is the first Irish priest ordained in this diocese. Although this may be said to be the first appearance of the patriotic young priest before so large an audience, his effort on this occasion has shown him to be well versed in Irish history and possessed of an ardent patriotic heart deeply imbued with religious and patriotic feeling and the desire to advance the interests of faith and fatherland. The father and mother of the talented young preacher were present at Mass. Their feelings of joy and happiness while listening to their son's sermon can be better imagined than described.

While the procession was reforming at the church door the cornet band of the college greeted the society with a selection of Irish airs very creditably rendered. On the return to their hall the members of the society were addressed by the president, Wm. Murray, Esq., and the president of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, E. O. Belanger, Esq., who both congratulated their audience on the success attending their celebration of Ireland's national festival and gave expressions of sentiments of patriotism which were enthusiastically received and applauded by the meeting.

The concert at the City Hall in the evening was attended by a highly appreciative and sympathetic audience, the respectability of which was proven by the admirable order that prevailed throughout the entire programme, notwithstanding the crowded state of the hall, from the doors of which scores of people had to turn away, unable to procure even standing room.

At 8 p.m. the President, Wm. Murray, Esq., accompanied by the Hon. Judge Brooks, L. O. Belanger, Esq., President of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, the Rev. Messrs. Reed and O'Connell, and E. D. McGibbon, Esq., the orator of the evening, ascended the platform to the inspiring strains of St. Patrick's Day, brilliantly rendered by the Sherbrooke Quintette Club Orchestra.

The President in his opening remarks described the objects for which the St. Patrick's Society had been founded:—1st. To promote harmony and good will amongst Irishmen, and foster national feeling and love of Fatherland; 2nd. To render assistance, when necessary, to persons of Irish birth and descent in the city of Sherbrooke and vicinity; 3rd. To ensure the due celebration of the festival day of the Patron Saint of Ireland. He thanked the citizens of Sherbrooke for the proof they had repeatedly given of their sympathy and friendship for the St. Patrick's Society, and assured the audience that the encouragement thus given would be an incentive to this Society to increase its efforts to make itself worthy of public support and esteem.

The concert opened with "The Harp that once" sung in quartette form by Mrs. O. O'Leary, Miss Bohan and Miss O. Bowen and H. E. Fraser, whose rich and cultured voices did justice to that grand patriotic song. Then followed "Believe Me," by Mr. H. E. Fraser; a piano duet, "The Wishes' Flight," by Mrs. O. O'Leary and Miss Annie Griffith; "Magnetic Walls," song, by Mrs. O. O'Leary, a comic song by Mr. T. J. Lane, and a fine solo by Mr. Arthur Fraser. Where every one did so well, it would be invidious to particularise as each performer was so well appreciated as to receive an enthusiastic encore, to which it was impossible to respond in every case; Mr. Lane (of Quebec) nevertheless, had either to sing "The same thing over again," or give another comic, which he kindly consented to do; but bowed his thanks to the second encore.

The President then introduced the orator of the evening, E. D. McGibbon, Esq., who on coming forward was loudly greeted by the audience. In the course of his opening

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT SHERBROOKE, QUE.

By cable from Irish Special News Agency.

LONDON, March 22.—The fears of an immediate dissolution of Parliament are probably unfounded, but the Cabinet means to go to the country on the Franchise question. The general election will probably occur this autumn as Government are too weak to send the Franchise Bill to the House of Lords a second time.

The business of Parliament is utterly at a deadlock and attempts are being made by the English and Scotch to render the Irish party responsible for it.

Patrick's Day celebrations were unusually numerous and very enthusiastic. The London dinner, at which Mr. Parnell presided as chairman, was four times larger than any Patrick's Day banquet ever held there.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT SHERBROOKE, QUE.

For the twelfth time the St. Patrick's Society of Sherbrooke and vicinity celebrated the national festival in this city. At 9:30 a.m. the St. Patrick's Society left their hall and formed in procession, headed by their banner, and proceeded by the Irish pupils of the Brothers' school, led by the Rev. Brother Superior, proceeded to the Cathedral to attend a solemn High Mass. His Lordship Mgr. Antoine Baile occupied the Pontifical throne, while Rev. Mr. Lefebvre, assisted by Deacon and Subdeacon, celebrated Mass, the assistants in the sanctuary being chosen from among the Irish students of the college. The choir of the St. Charles Borromeo College reflected credit on themselves by their beautiful singing of the different parts of the Mass, while Miss Jessie Devere rendered "O Salutaris" and "Ave Marie" with great taste and sweetness.

The sermon of the day was preached by the Rev. Daniel McManis, who is the first Irish priest ordained in this diocese. Although this may be said to be the first appearance of the patriotic young priest before so large an audience, his effort on this occasion has shown him to be well versed in Irish history and possessed of an ardent patriotic heart deeply imbued with religious and patriotic feeling and the desire to advance the interests of faith and fatherland. The father and mother of the talented young preacher were present at Mass. Their feelings of joy and happiness while listening to their son's sermon can be better imagined than described.

While the procession was reforming at the church door the cornet band of the college greeted the society with a selection of Irish airs very creditably rendered. On the return to their hall the members of the society were addressed by the president, Wm. Murray, Esq., and the president of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, E. O. Belanger, Esq., who both congratulated their audience on the success attending their celebration of Ireland's national festival and gave expressions of sentiments of patriotism which were enthusiastically received and applauded by the meeting.

The concert at the City Hall in the evening was attended by a highly appreciative and sympathetic audience, the respectability of which was proven by the admirable order that prevailed throughout the entire programme, notwithstanding the crowded state of the hall, from the doors of which scores of people had to turn away, unable to procure even standing room.

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