

The True Witness

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

G. E. CLERK, Editor.

TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE:

To all country Subscribers, Two Dollars. If the Subscription is not renewed at the expiration of the year, then, in case the paper be continued, the terms shall be Two Dollars and a half.

The True Witness can be had at the News Depots. Single copies, 5 cts.

To all Subscribers whose papers are delivered by carriers, Two Dollars and a half, in advance; and if not renewed at the end of the year, then, if we continue sending the paper, the Subscription shall be Three Dollars.

The figures after each Subscriber's Address every week shows the date to which he has paid up. Thus "John Jones, Aug. '71," shows that he has paid up to August '71, and owes his Subscription from that date.

S. M. FETTERILL & Co., 37 Park Row, and Geo. ROWELL & Co., 40 Park Row, are our only authorized Advertising Agents in New York.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1871.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

OCTOBER—1871.

Friday, 20—St. John Cantius, C.
Saturday, 21—Of the Immaculate Conception.
Sunday, 22—Twenty-first after Pentecost.
Monday, 23—Of the Feria.
Tuesday, 24—St. Raphael, Arch.
Wednesday, 25—SS. Chrysanthus and Daria, MM.
Thursday, 26—Most Holy Sacrament.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The great fire at Chicago, the most terrible that has occurred since the great fire of London more than two hundred years ago, has been the all engrossing topic of conversation during the week. It is looked upon as a national calamity, or rather as a calamity whose effects will not be confined to this Continent, but will make themselves felt in Europe. In another place will be found such details as have reached us by telegram, and these are fully confirmed by later intelligence. Of the great City that proudly called herself the "Queen of the West," which glorified herself, sitting upon the waters, and saying in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow—a great part, and that part the wealthiest, has been burned with fire, and utterly destroyed. In one hour so great riches have come to nought, so that that all the company in ships, and as many as trade by sea, standing afar off, cry out, when they see the smoke of her burning—What city is like unto this great City? In her fate as well as in her previous wickedness, Chicago recalls forcibly to mind the prophecies against Babylon, and the vision that the old man of Patmos did see. Chicago, it is said, was conspicuous, even amongst American cities, for its abominable iniquity; it was worse in this respect—if that be possible—than New York.

The loss of property has been enormous, and the Insurance Companies will suffer severely, though it is expected that the majority of them will be able to meet their engagements. According to one account, perhaps exaggerated, the value of the property destroyed in dwelling houses, churches, and public buildings, is put down at One Hundred and Eighty-Four millions of dollars, or about Thirty-Six million of pounds sterling!

More terrible is the loss of life. It is estimated that at least five hundred persons, perhaps many more, have perished; it is also feared that amongst the victims are many of the orphans in the Catholic Asylum. The sufferings of the survivors were dreadful. Some 100,000 persons, of all ages, and condition were homeless, naked, and starving. No tongue can adequately describe the horrors of the unfortunate city; whilst to make matters worse, gangs of robbers and incendiaries, probably members of the International, or Communists, are, or have been, doing their best to keep up, and spread the fire. Of these wretches, it is said some eighty have been caught and very properly hung, or shot down on the spot; this however is doubtful.

Prompt measures for the relief of the sufferers have been taken. In all the Cities of the Union, and every where in Canada, in Great Britain, and there where the news has spread, meetings have been held, and monies subscribed for purchasing food and covering for the unfortunate whom the fire has made destitute. The British Government has offered for their use, all that remains of the military stores in the Dominion, in the shape of five hundred tents, and seven thousand blankets. Before the winter sets in we may hope that the more pressing wants of the sufferers shall have been amply provided for.

Chicago will, at all events, soon rise from its ashes. All that made it great and rich still remains—the fertile plains of the West; the Lakes, and the railroads which enabled it to transmit to all parts of the world the rich harvests of the American Continent. These re-

main, and in a few years no doubt Chicago will be as rich and flourishing as ever.

In the meantime the Fenian raid at which we hinted in our last has actually occurred. The great General O'Neil, had advanced upon the Province of Manitoba, but has again suffered himself to be taken prisoner, and conveyed out of harm's way by the United States troops. Little interest is excited in the silly affair, which amidst the great events of the day has created no excitement. Bush fires we are sorry to say have been very prevalent both in the State and Canada, and have caused much damage.

From England we learn that the Queen's health is improving. The difficulties betwixt the laborers and employers at Newcastle, which it was hoped were at an end, have broken out again, and it is feared will be attended with serious disturbances; many arrests have been already made. All the large cities of the Empire, are collecting and forwarding monies for the relief of Chicago.

The New Reformation in Germany does not seem to be making much progress. Some 500 gentlemen have met at Munich to devise an Anti-Infallibility League, some having been sent by self-appointed committees, and others attending without undergoing any such ceremony. They did not affect much however, and as the *Times*' correspondent recognises—"if the number of those German Catholics who in addresses or at local meetings have declared against the recent sensational acts of the Roman Church be taken as a fair standard of the importance of the assembly, its weight is insignificant indeed." The government it would seem proposes to come to the rescue, and to give importance to the otherwise very insignificant acts of the Assembly; for we see it reported that the Minister of Public Worship and Instruction has laid down in the Lower House of the Bavarian Reichsrath, when the subject of Papal Infallibility was therein under discussion, the proposition "that the State had at all times a right to make changes in laws relating to the Church." It does not follow however that Catholics will feel themselves under any obligation to obey such laws.

The election returns from France give as the result, 867 Liberal Conservatives, 494 Moderates, 201 Radicals, 104 Legitimists, and 94 Bonapartists. We suppose that the Orleanists are included amongst the Moderates and Liberal Conservatives.

Large sums have already been collected for the relief of the sufferers at Chicago. The Lord Mayor of London acknowledges the receipt of £17,000 stg., as the result of two days collection, and all the other large cities of the Kingdom are exerting themselves in the same cause. At Montreal, Monday morning, about \$50,000 had been subscribed, nor are Quebec and Toronto backward. We have not as yet seen the report of the amounts therein taken up.

LATEST TELEGRAMS:—LONDON, Oct. 16.—Subscriptions at the Mansion House for the benefit of Chicago sufferers amount to £20,000. Liverpool contributions amount to £4,000. An address has been issued by representatives of workmen, demanding the separation of Church and State in England, and announces meetings of workmen to be held throughout the country. Mr. Bradlaugh, at a meeting here to-night, according to New York *World's* special, declared that the Queen was insane, and demanded the regency to be entrusted to the Judges of Law and Equity until a Republic was established.

BERLIN, Oct. 16.—The Emperor William today opened the session of the German Parliament in person. The present condition of United Germany he considered eminently favorable and gratifying.

Horrid details of terrible fires in Wisconsin are coming in.

The news from Michigan is very meagre, but most terrible. Though details have not come to hand, the total destruction of a large number of towns is reported. It is also reported that the whole of the West coast is on fire from Green Bay to Menomonee. Deperce Wright's Town and Fort Howard are threatened. No rain fell for two months until yesterday (Sunday), when copious showers were hailed with joy. Great numbers of wounded had been brought to Green Bay. The scenes were appalling; men and women partially roasted alive, with their eyes burned out.

Advices from Pond du Lac says the reports from the Northern District grow hourly worse. The accounts of suffering are unparalleled.

FACTS ABOUT ROME.—Under the caption *Rome Before The Conquest*, the Montreal *Gazette* lays before its readers some extracts from a Blue Book lately published by authority of Parliament, containing amongst other documents the Report of Consul Severn on the condition of Rome and its people, before the unprincipled attack on, and capture of that City by the army of Victor Emmanuel last year. The Report is dated Nov. 23rd, 1870.

This document is far from bearing out the stories of Papal misgovernment, and the miseries

caused by Papal rule, so industriously circulated by the enemies of the Catholic Church, and by them relied upon as an excuse for the most outrageous violation of Treaties, and the law of nations that in modern times has disgraced the history of Europe.

"Consul Severn says"—we quote from the *Gazette*—"that the lower classes in Rome were at the time when he wrote"—(the same cannot be predicated of them to-day when groaning beneath the military despotism of Piedmont)—"in a favorable position as compared with those of northern countries, not only in the matter of soil and climate, but also in the aid and protection extended to them by the Papal Government. * * * No doubt it is to this fact that we may trace the exceeding veneration with which His Holiness is regarded by the poor and humble of Rome and its vicinity." To this also we may attribute the detestation which the same classes entertain, and exhibit towards their conquerors, and the usurpers of the Throne of their only legitimate sovereign the Pope. Thus the fact remains on record that the rule of the latter was most beneficent and that though a captive, and daily exposed to outrage, the deposed Sovereign is still the object of his loyal subjects' love and profound veneration. Victor Emmanuel is not the people's choice. They, were they free to act, would quickly consign him and his bands of armed mercenaries to the place from whence they came.

No little sensation has been caused in the ranks of the "high church" Anglicans, by the appearance in the pulpit of a Scotch Presbyterian Church, of the Protestant Archbishop of York, and of another Anglican dignitary, the Bishop of Winchester. These gentlemen whilst spending some weeks in Scotland, were invited to officiate in the places of worship of the Scotch established church; and to the horror of the party in the Anglican establishment that ludicrously calls itself "Catholic," actually complied with the request, thus communicating in sacred things with those who, according to the Anglican theory are not Catholic, but avowedly Protestant.

It is true that the Head of the Anglican Church does as much when at Balmoral; but hitherto we believe no Anglican Bishop has ever ventured upon such a step as that taken by the two dignitaries named above. A lame attempt to explain away the significance of the act, has been made in the *Times*, wherein it was stated that, though the dignitaries in question did officiate in a Scotch Presbyterian church, they did so at the invitation of, and with the object of ministering to, the Episcopalian dissenters of the parish—the building having been merely placed at their disposition for that purpose. This excuse, however, has been disposed of by a subsequent letter in the *Times*, from the Rev. Mr. A. Cameron, the minister of the parish in question. He expressly asserts that the Anglican prelates officiated for the benefit—not of the Episcopals—but of the Presbyterian congregation at large; and that it was understood that the usual order of Presbyterian worship should be by them observed. "And this," adds the writer—"was the case on both occasions."

There is no help for it. Our Anglican friends must either abandon their "Branch Theory," or acknowledge the Scotch Presbyterian Church as another "Branch" of the Church Catholic.

Taking warning from the terrible disaster that has lately befallen Chicago, people in Montreal are beginning to ask themselves what security they have that a similar calamity shall not fall upon their own City. We have here no doubt a well organized and efficient Fire Company; its members are brave, active, and intelligent; and our Water Works, if not quite up to the requirements of the City with its increased population, and daily increasing area, are good.

This is one side, but there is another and less cheerful side to look at. A great part of Montreal seems as if it had been expressly laid out to invite fire, and to neutralize the exertions of the Fire Companies to expel the visitor. Wooden houses, sheds rather, in which the most dangerous occupations are carried on, filled with combustibles, dry, ancient, and just the things to kindle quickly, and to spread the flames widely, encumber and endanger life and property in many of our best streets; and in the suburbs, a great portion of the houses are built of wood, and offer every conceivable convenience for the destruction of the City. Of course we shall have to pay some day the penalty of our own folly in tolerating these things, but in the meantime we allow them to continue and to spread. We are glad however to see that a move in the right direction is being made, and that a petition against allowing wooden buildings and lumber yards within the city limits is being circulated for signature. The prayer may be granted by the Corporation; it may perhaps enact some wise Bye-Laws in conformity therewith; but we may

also be sure that like the greater part of its other regulations for cleaning the streets, &c., these will be but a dead letter which every one will violate with impunity. As an instance we may ask—Did any one ever know the Corporation to enforce its Bye-Law for keeping the side walks clean of snow?

Victor Emmanuel is emulous of the fame of the vile King Ahab, and strives to outdo even that worthy in acts of robbery. As Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard hard by the palace of the eastern King which the latter coveted, so it seems that Victor Emmanuel has cast longing eyes on the property of the Saint Andre Convent, which stands near the Quirinal Palace. Our modern Ahab covets these for an addition to his stables; nor does he, as did the king of whom mention is made in the Bible, offer to take the land he covets in exchange for land of equal value elsewhere. He is not so scrupulous, and proposes to seize it by force; but unfortunately for him, it seems that the Americans have a College there; and though he fears not God, he has a wholesome fear of man, and so hesitates at consummating his intended iniquity. The papers add that the Pope has given instructions to the Religious whom the Piedmontese propose to rob, to yield only to force; and so Victor Emmanuel will either have to beat the retreat, or furnish the world with another great scandal. Who can doubt however that with him at last it will be as it was with Ahab, and as God spake by the mouth of Elijah the Tishbite? Who that believes that there is a God, and that He is the rewarder of iniquity, can doubt but that He in His own good time, will bring evil upon the persecutor and spoiler of the Church, will take away his posterity, and make his house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and as the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. Amen. So be it; will every Catholic heart throughout the world respond.

Amongst the "Peculiar Institutions" of the U. States we must reckon "Divorce Agencies." We have before us the programme of one of these institutions, sent to us for insertion as an advertisement by a legal firm in New York, who are the business men of the institution in question. In this Agency all who may employ them are assured that without publicity, divorces shall be procured for them, and that no fees will be called for until the divorce be actually obtained, which divorce shall be legal everywhere.

We knew nothing that better illustrates the moral condition of the U. States, and the deleterious effects of tampering with God's holy law of matrimony than this "Divorce Agency" business. The peculiar institution of Mormonism, against which in an outburst of Pecksniffian morality the indignation of the U. States is aroused, is not a whit more repugnant to Christian ethics, and to the divine law, than is the system of Divorce every where tolerated amongst our neighbors. It would be well if, before attempting to reform the Mormons, and prosecuting the leaders of that Protestant sect for lewd and licentious conduct, they were to get up a little moral reformation at home, and erase from their Statute Book the anti-Christian laws beneath whose deadly shade grow and flourish these lewd and licentious Divorce Agencies.

HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF.

A.D. 1871.

A great sensation has been produced in Hungary at the revival of the old custom "ad audiendum verbum regium" in the case of a Hungarian bishop. The prelate, the Bishop of Sathlacschenburg, published the resolutions of the Oecumenical Council, and the Papal decrees relating to them, in his diocese without the Emperor's permission, and he was accordingly summoned to Pesth to be solemnly reprimanded for his conduct. He was received in the Prime Minister's palace by all the Ministers in full court dress; and Count Andassy, who represented the Emperor on the occasion, informed the bishop that he had received an autograph letter from His Majesty announcing that the Bishop's conduct had met with "the Royal disapprobation and displeasure." The Count added that he was commissioned to convey to the Bishop "the Royal rebuke," and to express hope "that he will pay due respect to the laws and to the orders of His Majesty in future."—*Daily News*.

A.D. 33.

"And it came to pass on the morrow that their rulers and elders and scribes . . . were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them"—(the Apostles who were publishing Christianity without the Emperor's permission)—"in the midst, they asked them, —By what power or by what name have you done this? . . . But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council they conferred among themselves, saying, what shall we do to these men? . . . But that it spread no farther among the people let us strictly threaten them. . . . And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all, nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, —Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye."—*Old Book*.

We have to chronicle the death of His Honor Judge Aylwin, in the 66th year of his age. The deceased enjoyed a high reputation both as a learned jurist, and as an able and eloquent statesman.

On Sunday, 8th inst., the following Orders were conferred in the chapel of the College of St. Anna Lapeoatiere, by His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec:—Deacons—MM. Grondin, and Desjardins. Sub-Deacons—MM. Teta and Dube. Minor Orders—MM. O'Farrell, O. Pelletier, Proulx, F. L. Pelletier, Lisotte, and Caron. The following received the Tonsure—MM. Richard, Garneau, and Lavery.

On the 6th inst., His Lordship the Bishop of Three Rivers conferred the Holy Order of Priesthood on his assistant secretary, the Rev. M. Ling.

On Monday evening, the Bishops of Montreal, St. Boniface, Ottawa, and St. Hyacinthe, started for Quebec, there to assist at the Assembly of the Bishops of the Province, which took place on Tuesday, and was presided over by His Grace, the Archbishop of Quebec, Metropolitan. Affairs of great importance will no doubt be discussed and determined.

The *Mineer* informs us that the Sovereign Pontiff has been pleased to create a new Ecclesiastical Province in British North America, Mgr. Tache, the Archbishop of St. Boniface will be its Metropolitan, and will have as Suffragans their Lordships Grandin, Farand and De Horborney.

The anniversary service of the late lamented Mgr. Baillargeon, Archbishop of Quebec, was celebrated on the 13th inst., by His Grace the present Archbishop, assisted by His Lordship the Bishop of Rimouski, and a large number of clergy from other Dioceses of the Province.

The correspondent of the *Journal des Debats* notices as of happy augury, and as a sign of the practical divorce betwixt Church and State, that the opening of the Mount St. Denis tunnel was unattended by any benedictions, or religious services whatsoever.

We regret to have to report a serious accident to M. Bouthillier, our universally respected Sheriff. He fell when going up the stairs of the Court House the other day, thereby breaking his leg, and injuring an ankle.

On next Tuesday evening, the lecture announced last week will be delivered in St. Patrick's Hall, by *Tierna N'Oyr*. Our readers in this city will, we are sure attend largely, and give our contributor a *Cead Mille Failthe*.

We beg to inform our friends in St. John and neighborhood, N.B., that Mr. J. J. D. LANDRY, Catholic Bookseller, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the TRUE WITNESS. We hope our friends there will give him a call.

We are sure that the news that our worthy Mayor, M. Coursol, has been presented by the French Government with the cross of the Legion of Honor in recognition of his service as Chairman of the French Relief Fund Committee, will be received with pleasure by all our citizens.

The late rains have it may be hoped extinguished the prairie fires which have been very disastrous. More than 800 persons are said to have perished in Wisconsin, and the destruction of property has been enormous. A very violent gale of wind raged in this City on Sunday last, several buildings were blown down, and we regret to learn that a young lady was killed by the falling of a tree.

The reply of Her Majesty to the numerous petitions from her loyal subjects of the Catholic religion in Canada has been received. It is the same as that given to Malta; and whilst maintaining the policy of non-intervention in the affairs of the Italian Peninsula, it assures the petitioners that Her Majesty regards these affairs with a lively interest, and professes to believe that the usurping government will maintain the freedom and independence of the Sovereign Pontiff.

Leo, or Inglebretzen, the convict under sentence of death for the brutal murder of Mrs. Foster at the Tanneries, which is to be carried out on the 17th prox., has been admitted into the Catholic Church, and has received conditional baptism. We hope that his conversion may be sincere; and trust that the forfeit of his life which he is most justly doomed to pay upon the scaffold will be a warning to others. As usual, some of our maudlin philanthropists are busying themselves to procure a mitigation of sentence on the plea that he, Leo, was intoxicated when he perpetrated his foul murder; but we cannot for one moment fear that the Executive will pay any heed to the babbling of these silly men.

TOBACCO SEIZURE.—It is said that on Saturday last the Customs authorities of this city made a seizure of nearly ten thousand dollars worth of tobacco belonging to a manufacturer of the city for alleged infringement of the revenue laws. The case will likely come up this week before one of the Courts.