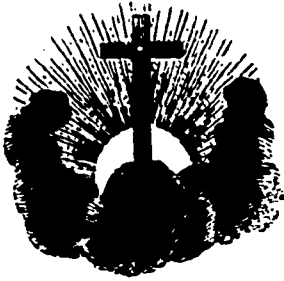


All letters and remittances must be forwarded, free of postage, to the Editor, the Very Rev. Wm. P. McDonald, Hamilton.



THE CATHOLIC.

Hamilton, G. D.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1843.

Her Majesty, in her following letter to the General Assembly, deprecates a schism in the Church, which they are threatening to cause. But the schism has been sanctioned by the Act of Parliament which confirmed the Scottish Church establishment at the Union. Never was there a more perfect schism confirmed by the Act of the same Parliament, than the one in question. That act was like the Serpent's breath in the fable, which blew not and cold; hot on the Church of England in England and Ireland, but cold on the Kirk in these regions; warm on the Kirk in Scotland, but cold on the pet Church of England, if she ventured northward beyond the Scottish borders.

HER MAJESTY'S LETTER—OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KIRK OF SCOTLAND FOR 1843.

"VICTORIA R.—Right Rev. and well beloved, we greet you well. Faithful to the solemn engagement which binds us to hold inviolate the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in all its rights and privileges, we gladly renew the assurance that we desire to extend to you the countenance and support which the General Assembly has long received from our Royal ancestors.

"In other circumstances it might have suffered to adhere to the forms which have been generally observed in our former communications to you, and to express our anxious hope that Christian charity will, as heretofore, abound among you, and restrain all animosities; but in the present state of the Church, and advertent to the discussions which of late have so unhappily disturbed its peace, we desire to address you with more than usual earnestness and anxiety.

"It behoves you to remember, that unity in the Church is the bond of peace, but that schism and its pernicious effects may tend seriously to endanger that religious establishment from which Scotland has derived inestimable benefits.

"The faith of our Crown is pledged to uphold you in the full enjoyment of every privilege which you can justly claim; but you will bear in mind that the rights and property of an established church are conferred by law, that the Church of Scotland is united with the State, and that her endowments are secured; and the

ministers of religion, claiming the sanction of law in defence of their privileges, are especially bound, by their sacred calling, to be examples of obedience.

"The act ratifying the Confession of Faith, and settling Presbyterian Church Government in Scotland, was adopted at the Union, and is now the act of the British Parliament. The settlement thus fixed cannot be annulled by the will or declaration of any number of individuals.

Those who are dissatisfied with the terms of this settlement, may renounce it for themselves, but the Union of the church of Scotland with the State is indissoluble, while the statutes remain unrepealed which recognise the Presbyterian Church established by law within the Kingdom of Scotland.

"We have no doubt that your anxious consideration will be given to various important matters connected with the welfare of your Church, which require immediate adjustment.

"The Act of Assembly passed in the year 1834, on the subject of the calls has come under the review of competent tribunals, and various proceedings, taken in pursuance of this act, have been pronounced by solemn judgments to be illegal. It has not yet been rescinded by the assembly; and a conflict of authority between the law of the land and an act of the Church, in a matter where civil rights and civil jurisdiction are concerned, cannot be prolonged without injurious consequences.

"The Church of Scotland, occupying its true position in friendly alliance with the State, is justly entitled to expect the aid of Parliament in removing any doubts which may have risen with respect to the right of construction of the statutes relating to the admission of ministers. You may safely confide in the wisdom of Parliament; and we shall readily give our assent to any measure which the Legislature may pass, for the purpose of securing to the people the full privilege of objection, and to the Church judicatories the exclusive right of judgment.

"There is another matter not less important—the present position of ministers in unendowed districts. The law, as confirmed by a recent judgment, has declared, that new parishes cannot be created by the authority of the church alone, and that ministers placed in such districts are not entitled to act in the Church courts.

"If it shall appear that the efficiency of the Church is thereby impaired, and that the means of extending her usefulness are curtailed, the law, to which such effects are ascribed, may require consideration and amendment; but until it be so considered by the Legislature, and while it remains unaltered, we are persuaded that it will be implicitly obeyed by the General Assembly.

"You will deliberate on such of these matters as fall within your cognizance, attentively and calmly; and we commend you to the guidance of Divine Providence, praying that you may be directed to the adoption of wise counsels, which shall promote the permanent interests and honor of the Church, and the religious peace and moral welfare of our people.

"We have again constituted and appointed our right trusty and entirely beloved cousin, John, Marquis of Bute, K. T., to be the representative of our Royal person in the Assembly; and we are certain that his prudence and approved merits, and his tried attachment to the Church of Scotland, will render him acceptable to you in the execution of the duties of his high office.

"He possesses our full authority for the exercise of our royal prerogative in all matters relating to the present Assembly, in which, in obedience to our instructions to him, he may be called upon to act for us, or on our behalf.

"We implore the blessing of God on your deliberations, trusting that he will overrule all events for the good of his Church, and for the spiritual welfare of the people committed to your charge; and we feel assured that Divine grace will not be withdrawn from the laborers of the Ministers of the Church established in this part of the United Kingdom, and so we heartily bid you farewell.

"Given at our Court at St. James's, the 15th day of May, in the sixth year of our reign.

"By Her Majesty's command.

(Signed)

"JA. G. GRAHAM."

At the time of our going to press last Saturday, the town was in a state of great excitement, and the most of the inhabitants had, on the ringing of the Town bell, armed themselves, in consequence of the appearance of about 150 men from the canal, who came into town early in the morning, for the purpose, it was understood, of rescuing two or three of their countrymen who had been made prisoners during the night, by the patrol organized on Friday to guard the town, to prevent a repetition of depredations which had been committed on the previous evening on the houses and persons of some of our peaceable inhabitants, all arising out of a dispute at the annual letting of the Brantford Bridge. A few soldiers of the 14th and 23rd regiments passing through to London, under a sergeant of the 23rd, were detained by order of the magistrates, and they were drawn up in file with the citizens, and but for the appearance of the military, it is thought a collision would doubtless have taken place, which most unquestionably must have terminated in bloodshed. Great credit is due to the Reverend Mr. Fergus, Roman Catholic Clergyman of this town, for the exertions he used to try and restore order among the men on the Canal.—*Brantford Courier*.

BEAUHARNOIS RIOTS.—We understand that a commission, composed of gentlemen well qualified to pronounce a correct opinion upon the facts brought beneath their notice, has been appointed to proceed to Beauharnois, and there investigate the cause of the recent riots.—*Montreal Times*.

ENGLAND — *Shrewsbury*.—A Baptist preacher and four other converts made their first communion in Easter week, in the Catholic chapel of the above town. The pastor has just now 19 Protestants under instruction.

An awkward circumstance, we are informed, occurred on Wednesday last, on board the Steam-packet *Sovereign*, on her way up from Kingston. One of the passengers lost a valuable package of jewellery, through the assistance, it was presumed, of one of his fellow-passengers. Upon the circumstance being made known to Captain Elmsley, means were taken for its recovery, which proved successful. Upon the vessel's reaching the wharf, no one was allowed to land; information was dispatched to the Mayor, and the vessel moved away from the shore. The Mayor soon arrived with the proper assistance—the passengers underwent a search without success, but the lost package was soon discovered hid under some baggage. The thief, however, we are sorry to say, escaped detection. Great praise is due to Captain Elmsley for the prompt and energetic measures he adopted.—*Toronto Star*.

From the Montreal Transcript.

THE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.

To-day the ceremony of benediction of the Bells imported for this magnificent building, will take place, and, immediately afterwards they will be hung in the Towers of the Church. It is matter of much regret, that from reasons not to be overcome, one, and that the principal Bell, remains behind. Those which have arrived were cast last year in the foundry of Thomas Mears, in Whitechapel, London—the one that is wanting will arrive by the first ship that may leave the port of London after it is in a fit state for embarkation; but it is understood that, at the time of embarking the rest, it had not sufficiently cooled to make its removal safe. This bell is, we believe, the gift of the Seminary of Montreal. The whole when arranged, will form a complete chime; and has been framed in imitation of the very celebrated chime so long existing in York Cathedral, England. The Bells as yet arrived, have embossed on one side, in the casting, the Arms of England—and on the other side, the Arms of the City of Montreal. The Bell yet to arrive, will have on one side the Arms of England, and on the other side the Arms of the Seminary. The whole have, upon the rim, the name of the founder.

Number one, which weighs about 6000 lbs., sounds C tenor—No. 2 sounds D tenor—No. 3 E tenor—No. 4 F tenor—No. 5 G tenor—No. 6 sounds C an octave higher than No. 1—No. 7 sounds D an octave higher than No. 2—No. 8 sounds E, an octave higher than No. 3—No. 9 sounds F, an octave higher than No. 4—No. 10 sounds G an octave higher than No. 5.—The Service will commence at two o'clock.

SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE.

On Saturday last, a solemn Mass was celebrated in the Catholic Cathedral, in honor of the Patron Saint of the Society of St. Jean Baptiste. The Catholic Bishop of Montreal presided at this august ceremony. The Vicar General, Messire Hudon, celebrated the Mass, and the Reverend Messire Roup gave an excellent