

The True Witness.

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.
No. 696, Craig Street, by
J. GILLIES,
G. B. 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, a case the paper be continued, the
terms shall be Two Dollars and a-half.

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.

For Terms, Witnesses can be had at the News Depots,
Single copy 3d.

We beg to remind our Correspondents that no
letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless
pre-paid.

The figures after each Subscriber's Address
every week shows the date to which he has paid
up. Thus, J. Jones, August '63, shows that
he has paid up to August '63, and owes his Sub-
scription from THAT DATE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JAN. 25.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

JANUARY—1867.

Friday, 28—Conversion of St. Paul.
Saturday, 26—St. Polycarp, B. M.
Sunday, 27—Third after Epiphany. St. John
Chrysostome, B. D.
Monday, 28—SS. Fabien and Sebastian, M. M.
Tuesday, 29—St. Francis de Sales, B. C.
Wednesday, 30—St. Martin, V. M.
Thursday, 31—St. Peter Nolasco, C.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Baron Ricasoli has addressed the exiled
Bishops whom Piedmontese persecution had
driven from their Sees; and Joseph Mazzini has
addressed the revolutionists of Rome, exciting
them to action. These are the two most note-
worthy events of the last few days in Europe.

In his letter, the Piedmontese Prime Minister
professes himself an admirer of religious liberty
such as it exists in the United States, whose ec-
clesiastical policy he proposes to the admiration,
and recommends to the acceptance of the exiled
Bishops whom he addresses. He does not per-
ceive, however, or perceiving fails to mention,
that in the United States, if the Government
gives no aid to the Catholic Church, it has hi-
therto, at least, abstained from confiscating Cat-
holic ecclesiastical property; and has not yet
ventured upon the step of driving out from
their homes, those of the Church's children who
have adopted the religious and celibate life.—
It will be quite time enough for the Bishops,
whom Signor Ricasoli lectures, to accept the U.
States' system of Church Government when the
former shall also on his part have frankly ac-
cepted it, in its integrity. The representative of
a State, however, which deals with the Church
as does the Piedmontese Government, only ex-
poses himself to ridicule when he has the imper-
tinnence, to appeal to the policy of the U. States,
in vindication of the wholesale spoliation, and
persecution which he has advocated, and enforced
against the Catholic Church in Italy.

The Address of Mazzini is the programme of
the Revolution. Rome is, we are therein told, "an
Idea," and the idea is this: That as from Rome
Pagan and Imperial, went forth the system which
gave political and material unity to the world:
as from Rome, Christian and Papal, went forth
the power that for many centuries gave to Chris-
tendom its social, its religious and moral unity;
so from the modern democratic Rome of which he,
Mazzini, dreams, is to go forth the religion of the
future, the religion of democracy, which is to
give to the world its long desired fraternal unity.
The overthrow of the Papacy, he advocates, not
as an end, but as a means towards the end which
he has in view, and which he scruples not to avow:
the overthrow of Christianity, and the substitu-
tion in lieu thereof of that "fraternity," which,
with the help of the guillotine, the Terrorists of
'93 sought to establish. Not from Paris, how-
ever, any more than from Bethlehem of Juda, but
from Rome—the Eternal City, is the religion of
the future, the great work of democratic redem-
ption, to proceed. So at least says the Gospel,
of which Joseph Mazzini, the Head Centre of the
Carbonari or Italian Fenians, is the precursor,
and prophet.

There is deep and growing discontent in
France at the proposed reconstruction of the
army. The star of the second Emperor is sink-
ing fast. Foiled in his foreign policy, and his
domestic policy execrated by his subjects, Louis
Napoleon, who but a few months ago seemed to
be at the pinnacle of human greatness, and to be
the arbiter of the destinies of Europe, appears to
be doomed to a fall as rapid, but less glorious
than that which befell his uncle. He is now but
paying the penalty of the sins of his youth, when
in an evil hour for himself, and the great country
that he was destined to govern, he allied himself
with the Carbonari. These have compelled him,
with their daggers at his throat, against his will,
and better judgment no doubt, to redeem as Em-
peror, the pledges given by him as an adventur-
er. Since the almost successful attempt of
Orsini, he has felt that he must do their bidding,
or die, and he has consented to do their bidding.

But his services are no longer wanted, for his
work is done, as far as it can be done, and the
Revolution has no farther need either for him, or
for his other tool Victor Emmanuel. Both there-
fore will be shortly cast aside: and indeed it is
scarcely possible to exaggerate the tone of scorn
and contempt with which Mazzini speaks of
"Bonaparte," and of the "Kingdom of Italy,"
both of which have had their day.

Among minor events we may notice a report
that Her Majesty will visit the Paris Exhibition.
The would seem to indicate that she is beginning
to recover from the state of deep affliction, almost
prostration, into which the death of the Prince
Consort plunged her. Her loyal subjects will
pray that such may indeed be the case. There
has been a very serious fire in the Crystal Palace,
that has destroyed the most costly and interesting
section of the building with its contents. The
Times has an article, pointing out the worthles-
ness of all the existing precautions against fire.
From Ireland there is nothing new: it is still the
same story of arrests, and hunting for arms.—
Confidence is, however, becoming restored in the
efficacy of the preparations of the Government.

Could we accept the utterances of the Wash-
ington press as truthful, we should say that the
United States were on the very verge of civil
war. In the acknowledged organ of the Presi-
dent, the intention on his part of maintaining the
Constitution, by force if necessary, against the
attacks of the revolutionary, or radical party
now supreme in the Legislature, is almost openly
avowed. "Events," we are told, "have already
brought the Government to the very verge of
another Revolution;" and it is significantly
added—"At the call of the President his friends
north and south, and the army and navy will
respond." Finally the Manifesto says that, as
the President has sworn to maintain the Con-
stitution, so at all hazards, he will maintain it.—
Now every act of the body calling itself the
Congress is a violation of the old Constitution,
and can be defended only upon the tyrant's plea,
that of necessity; as necessary to prevent the
fruits of the victory won by the North on the
battle field, from being wrested from its hands on
the floor of the Legislature. This is perfectly
true in fact no doubt; but whether it is a moral
vindication of the anti-constitutional legislation
of the so-called Congress, is another question.—
If the radicals, taking for their major premiss
the necessity of holding the South in subjection,
conclude to their right to set aside the Constitu-
tion, because it is otherwise impossible for them
to impose their system of "reconstruction" on the
Southern States—the friends of the latter, as-
suming as their major premiss the inviolability
of the Constitution, may with equal logic conclude
against the right of the victorious North to im-
pose upon them their "reconstruction policy" at
all. They argue from different premisses, and
accommodation is therefore impossible. Sooner
or later the quarrel must be submitted to the
arbitrament of the sword.

From the latest telegrams by Atlantic Cable
we glean the following items:—Upwards of forty
persons have lost their lives whilst skating,
through the breaking of the ice on a sheet of
water in the Regent's park. The cold has
been very severe in England, and the sufferings
of the poor, great; in consequence there have
been bread riots in London.

The French Emperor announces certain re-
forms, necessary to "crown the edifice." The
Address of the Chambers in reply to the speech
from the Throne is to be discontinued; the
Legislative is to have the right of putting ques-
tions to the Government, the latter reserving to
itself the right of giving or withholding an
answer: offences of the press to be tried in the
Correctional Courts; stamp duties to be re-
duced; no limits to public meetings, except
those necessary to public safety—of which nec-
essary of course, the Government will be the
judge. There has also been a Ministerial crisis
in Paris, the members of the Cabinet having ten-
dered their resignations. Of these, six were re-
fused, but M. Fould retires. Causes of this
movement are not given, but it is thought to in-
dicate warlike policy on the part of the Em-
peror.

The Candian insurrection lingers on; the ex-
citement amongst the Greek population of the
Turkish Empire is increasing, and every thing
bodes a re-opening of the Eastern Question.

CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.—The
prosperity and progress of this very excellent
association are matters which interest the whole
community; and we hope therefore that a good
attendance will be had for the Lecture which is
to be delivered by the Reverend Father Baka-
well of the St. Patrick's Church on the evening
of Wednesday the Sixth of next month for the
benefit of the Society. The subject will be the
"Social Effects of Protestantism," and from the
well known reputation of the reverend lecturer,
we are confident that the lecture will afford a
high intellectual treat to all who attend.

Mr. P. Munrovan of Peterboro has been ap-
pointed general Agent for the TRUE WITNESS
in the counties of Ontario, Victoria, Peterboro,
Northumberland and Hastings, and is fully au-
thorised to collect all monies due this office and
grant receipts for the same.

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED
STATES, AND THE NORTHERN CONGRESS.—
When, in a sad hour for the cause of liberty on
this Continent, and after one of the most glorious
struggles for freedom recorded in history, the
brave Southerners, overwhelmed by the numbers
of their enemies, laid down their arms, the war,
in the language of Tacitus when treating of that
bloody epoch which intervened betwixt the death
of Nero, and the election to the Imperial throne
of Vespasian—may be said to have died out, as a
fire dies out for want of fuel: but it could in no
wise be said that peace had been restored.

Hostilities soon broke out betwixt the Legis-
lative and the Executive; betwixt the fragment
of a Congress which assumed to itself the right of
legislating for, and governing all the States, and
the President. In this new war, and on this battle
field, the President has been defeated. His in-
tentions were perhaps good, but he could not
carry them out. It was indeed evident from the
first, that, in so far as he represented the Con-
servative or old Constitutional party in the
country, his cause was lost. He was illogical,
inconsistent, and therefore weak. He asserted
that the Southern States were "States in the
Union;" and he did not, as logically and consis-
tently with this premise he should have done, re-
fuse to recognise any deliberative body in which
the Southern States were not represented, and
from which their Senators were excluded, as in
any sense a Congress of the United States, or as
constitutionally competent to legislate, or impose
taxes. If the body calling itself Congress had
a Constitutional right to exclude the representa-
tives of the Southern States, then these commu-
nities were not "States in the Union;" if it had
not that right, then should the President, as
chief Executive of the U. States, and common
guardian of their several rights, have resisted, to
the shedding of blood if necessary, the uncon-
stitutional assumptions of power of the so-called Congress.
By asserting his theory, and by failing to reduce
it to practice, he betrayed his weakness, and
gave his enemies, and the enemies of the old
Constitution, an easy victory over the President
or Executive.

But even now peace is not restored, for there
is yet another Richard in the field, another
champion for the old principles, and for the old
rights. This fresh antagonist betwixt whom and
the usurping Congress the last and decisive battle
will soon have to be fought, is the Supreme
Court of the United States. It alone of all the
safeguards and guarantees which the ancient
Constitution gave, still holds its head above the
waters of revolution: everything else has yielded
to the flood, and the last chance of liberty now
left to our republican neighbors lies in the triumph
of the Supreme Court over the arrogant and un-
constitutional claims of the Congress. As the
last battle was waged betwixt the Legislative
and the Executive, so will the next be one be-
twixt the Legislative and the Judiciary.

The Supreme Court has declared unconstitu-
tional, not only the "Test Oath" imposed by the
radical legislature of the State of Missouri, upon
all ministers of religion, and school teachers; but
it has also condemned, and denounced the pro-
ceedings of the military tribunals set up by the
Northern government in the so-called loyal
States during the late war. All the acts of the
said military tribunals are therefore held to be
illegal, all their decisions, null and void. Apply-
ing the same principles and rules which it has
applied to the particular cases already brought
before it, the Supreme Court will in like manner
be obliged to declare the unconstitutionality and
nullity of all the acts by means of which, since
the cessation of hostilities in the field, the vic-
torious Northern or extreme Radical party have
sought to perpetuate their ascendancy over the
conquered South.

But more important than these details will be
the great question of principle which this contest
betwixt the Congress and the Supreme Court
will raise, and finally determine. That question
is this:—"Is the Federal Legislature omnipo-
tent, in the sense in which the British Legisla-
ture is held by constitutional lawyers to be om-
nipotent? Or is it a body exercising only de-
legated, and therefore limited functions?" The
principle which the Congress is striving to es-
tablish is this: That it is sovereign: that as the
representative of the entire people in their cor-
porate capacity, it is supreme, sovereign, omni-
potent in fact. The principle which the Supreme
Court represents, and for which it will have to
contend, is on the contrary this—That Congress
is not supreme, that it is not sovereign, and that
it is not omnipotent—seeing that it can only
rightfully exercise its functions within the limits
expressly marked out for it by the Constitution,
or Treaty of Union betwixt the several States of
which the Union is composed. Hereupon issue
will have to be joined.

Such an issue could be raised in no other
country, because in no other country does there
exist such an institution as the Supreme Court of
the U. States. It is a unique body. There is
nothing like it, perhaps there never was anything
like it, in any political organisation in the world.
Bellum magis desiderat, quam pax, cooperat.
Tac. IV. 1.

It is an institution peculiar to the U. States, as
they were before the war betwixt North and
South, and is essential to that Union: an institu-
tion, therefore, which would have no meaning un-
der any other political system, whether monarchi-
cal or republican. Its very existence implied that
the old Constitution was merely a league or
treaty betwixt several Sovereign, and Indepen-
dent States: its most characteristic function was
to preserve the terms of that league or treaty in-
tact from the encroachments, either of any par-
ticular recalcitrant State on the one hand, or from
the arrogant assumptions of the Grand Federal
Council or Congress on the other, and to enforce
the faithful observance of the Treaty on both.
For this purpose was it created, and set over and
against Congress; to limit congressional action;
to revise its legislation: to determine the sphere
within which that body might alone constitu-
tionally exercise its functions; and to warn it,
when it transgressed those limits, and extended a
grasping arm beyond that sphere, "Thus far
may'st thou come, but no farther." Thus we
see that the very existence of such a political
organism as the "Supreme Court of the United
States" is conclusive proof that it was the de-
sign of the framers of the Constitution, that the
Congress should not be sovereign, should not be
omnipotent, but should exercise only certain
limited, and sharply defined functions: it is in fact
a standing protest against the assumption of the
body which now legislates for the U. States, and
it must either make good that protest, or cease to
be.

For in a Republic, "one and indivisible" such
as the Jacobins of France set up, such as the
radical party in the Northern States are seeking
to substitute for a Federation of many sovereign
and independent States, there can be use, no
place for such an organism. Its presence in, or its
absence from any given form of Constitution de-
termines at once the nature of that Constitution,
as clearly and conclusively as do the respiratory
organs, of any given animal determine whether it
be a fish or a mammal. If the Supreme Court
of the U. States be so modified in its composition,
or if its functional action be so far deranged as
that it shall no longer be able to limit the Legis-
lature, and to annul the acts of Congress when-
ever these shall be repugnant to the terms of the
written League or Treaty betwixt the several
States; whenever, in other words, Congress shall
be able to make good in fact, the principle for
which it is now contending, that it is sovereign,
that its sphere of action is unlimited, and that it
is omnipotent in the sense in which omnipotence
is predicated of the Legislature of Great Britain
—then indeed will the death knell of the Ameri-
can Constitution which our fathers knew have
sounded: then will it be time to commit the life-
less, rotting corpse to the earth, and for all the
friends of liberty to weep over its grave.

It is not easy to fathom the motives of some
of the English journalists, and periodicals, in
their incessant and most insulting attacks upon
the Irish. One would think that prudence, if no
higher consideration would, at the present mo-
ment, prompt the conductors of the British press
to adopt a different tone towards a people, whose
good will, could it be won, would be worth to
England a lease of the Empire of the world.

Prominent amongst the offenders against good
taste, and good policy stands our old acquaint-
ance *Punch*; who, somehow or another, seems
to think that he can atone for his lack of wit,
and his sad falling off in humor, by vulgarity, and
the insolence of his manner towards the Irish.—
Papists, a few years ago, the Cardinal Arch-
bishop of Westminster, and the Sovereign Pon-
tiff, used to furnish the journalist to whom we
allude, with food for his ribald mirth; to-day
the typical "Irishman," whom in his cartoons
he represents as a wretched looking creature,
barely man, almost baboon, with misshapen
limbs, and forehead villainously low, is the stand-
ing dish, or *piece de resistance* which *Punch*
sets before his readers.

And yet we know not if, after all, Irishmen
should take this very much to heart. That it
is their physical condition that *Punch* holds up
to the public reprobation of Englishmen is almost
a compliment, since thereby it is virtually admitted
that, in the moral conditions of the Irish, there
is not so much for the censor to quarrel with;
and since, certainly, if it comes to a ques-
tion of mere *physique*, the Irishman need not
fear comparison with the native of any coun-
try on the face of the earth. Whatever we
may say or think of the moral qualities of the
Irish Celt; whether we denounce him as a Papist,
or honor him for his faithful adherence to his re-
ligion, we must all admit that, as a general rule,
he has, if estimated merely according to his
physical development, no superiors. There may
be bigger men, and stronger men; but none
more active, none better proportioned, none
more easily developed into the smart soldier, as
the ranks of the British army can well testify.
There are no finer specimens of manly beauty to
be found anywhere, than are to be found
amongst the Celtic peasantry of Ireland; whom
Punch, with little wit, but much malignity, per-
severingly caricatures.
And of the Celtic woman, of the beauty of the

daughters of Erin—what shall we say? Hardly
is this a topic becoming the gravity of a middle-
aged journalist. We feel indeed that we are
treading on delicate ground, and we must walk
warily; and so, disclaiming for ourselves any
undue sensibility to feminine charms unbecoming
an elderly *paterfamilias*, and making no preten-
sion even to be a connoisseur in the matter, we
will content ourselves with taking it for incon-
testable, because asserted upon the authority of
many most competent judges, that the most per-
fect models of female loveliness in Europe are
to be found amongst the mothers and daughters
of that Irish Celtic race, whom *Punch* has the
impertinence to depict as deformed, and as little
better than Gorillas. If, we say, modern tour-
ists, Protestants and Englishmen, are to be be-
lieved, the Celtic race has as good reason to be
proud of the exquisite beauty of their women—
though this is a matter upon which we presume
not to offer any opinion of our own—as the Irish
Celt in particular has to glory in the purity of
his own countrywomen.

We, as British subjects, and as knowing the all
importance of the good will of the Irish people
are, we think, of all men, the most deeply af-
fected by, and have most reason to complain of,
the insulting tone of certain sections of the Brit-
ish press, and the caricatures of *Punch*. The
ribaldry of the latter especially is so notoriously
false and destitute of all foundation in fact, that
the Irish might well afford to laugh at it. But
still they do not so treat it; and we cannot blame
them if they feel sore, and indignant at the man-
ner in which they and their fellow-countrymen
are held up to ridicule; nor need we be sur-
prised if the hostile feeling towards England
which unfortunately is but too prevalent amongst
Irishmen, be kept alive and stimulated by the
impolitic and most wicked insults of the British
press, or rather of some portions of it.

THE REFORMATION IN ITALY.—The Car-
dinal Archbishop of Naples has at last been al-
lowed to return to his diocese, after a long exile
inflicted upon him by the tyrannical authorities
of Piedmont. It is unnecessary to say that the
return of the holy prelate was hailed with joy by
the Catholic population; but our readers will
perhaps be surprised to learn that the revo-
lutionary authorities of Naples, to whom, since
the conquest of that country by the Piedmontese
the administration of affairs has been confided,
are almost equally well pleased. The reason
assigned for this strange phenomenon by the cor-
respondent of the London Times, a witness
certainly not prejudiced against the revolution
and its agents, is simply this:—That the con-
duct of the Liberal, or Reformed Clergy, has
become so scandalous, so intamous and dishon-
oring to the people, from the absence of any
spiritual authority to control them, as to bring
disgrace upon the revolution itself. The Car-
dinal, it is hoped, will be able to lend his aid to
purge the Church of the unclean disciples of
Garibaldi. We copy from the Times Naples
correspondent, writing under date December
25th:—

In certain affairs of a strictly civil character the
Cardinal has consulted the authorities, and by the
moderation of his conduct has somewhat disapproved
his antagonists; while the powers that be leave to
His Eminence all control in spiritual matters, and
are not ill pleased to have his support in checking
the disorder which had crept in among the lower
clergy *soi disant* Liberals. Of these disorders, and
of a shameless character too, there can be no doubt
that the Government is indisposed to speak much of
them. As to the removal of the rectors of five or
six churches, this affair was arranged by the civil
power, before the arrival of His Eminence in Naples.
—Times Corr.

We know now, and upon unexceptionable
authority, what manner of work is this same Re-
formation in Italy in which the evangelical Pro-
testant world takes such delight; we know too
what manner of men as to their morals, are the
pariahs and disciples of this same Reformation.
So "shameless" are they, that even the Revolu-
tionary Government is glad to invoke the co-
operation of the faithful Papists whom hitherto
it has persecuted, in putting down the too
abominable nuisance. This is what the Revolu-
tion with its "open bible" has done for Italy, in
the moral order.

What it has done for it in the material order,
we learn also from the same unexceptionable
authority. Again we copy from the same
Naples correspondent of the London Times:—

Taxation, ruinous rents, high-priced provision
press heavily on the resources of the Italians, and
though they cannot subdue that buoyancy of tem-
perament for which they are remarkable, still they
curtail their sources of material enjoyment to a very
painful extent.—Times Corr.

The Right Rev. M. Laflèche, V. G., Three
Rivers, has received from Rome the Bulls naming
him Bishop of Anthedonia *in partibus*, and ap-
pointing him co-adjutor of His Lordship the
Bishop of Three Rivers.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.—The Rev. Jesuit
Fathers, have kindly placed their handsome ex-
hibition Hall, beneath their church, at the ser-
vices of the St. Antoine Conference of the So-
ciety of the St. Vincent de Paul, for a Dramatic
and Musical Soiree on the 31st inst., the funds
being for the relief of the poor. Doors open at
8 p.m., precisely. Price of Tickets Twenty-five
cents.