

The True Witness

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NOTICE.

Subscribers should notice the date on the label attached to their paper, as it marks the expiration of their term of subscription. Subscribers who do not receive the True Witness regularly should complain direct to our Office.

To Our Readers.

Our readers must have noticed that the True Witness has become a paper able to compete with the best weeklies in the country. Our news columns are full of information, our selections are suitable for Catholic families, and care is taken that nothing of an objectionable nature will find its way into our columns.

Mr. Tilley's Loan.

Party journals never betrayed party spite more effectively than they did when they chucked over the "failure" of Mr. Tilley's loan. To the Reformers it did not matter whether Canada wanted the money or not; if the Conservatives could only be discredited, all would be well.

Crime in Ontario.

Crime has enormously increased in Ontario during the past few years. In 1869, there were 6,569 people imprisoned, while in 1877 there were 13,481 imprisoned for various offences against the law.

About Dress.

There is a good deal of talk just now about the dress of the officers of the Volunteer Militia. Anonymous correspondents in the Toronto press have been criticizing the officers of the Governor-General's Foot Guards.

the silver lace. But silver lace has always been unpopular. The question of doing away with it has often been agitated in England. But when there is a regular standing army, such as there is in England, the necessity of drawing a line between the regulars, the militia and the volunteers was admitted.

Know-Nothingism in Canada.

Canadians can be "know-nothings" when they wish it. They are illustrating this in the case of Goldwin Smith. At present many Canadians are denouncing the professor because he has more political foresight than all his calculators from Gaspe to British Columbia.

Government Printing.

The Mail announces that it will not accept a contract for Government advertisements or printing on any consideration whatever. This appears to be somewhat strained. The logic to be deduced from this reasoning is that no Conservative paper should take Government advertisements or printing.

Archbishop Purcell.

Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, is in financial difficulty. This difficulty has been brought about by his own goodness of heart. Protestant and Catholic benefited by the venerable prelate, and Protestant and Catholic alike extend to him their sympathy, and if we mistake not, will do much to give him their support.

Sanitary.

Montreal is in a satisfactory sanitary condition. The water is bad, small-pox is more prevalent than it ought to be, the drainage is defective, and were it not for our severe winters we might look forward to periods of epidemic similar to that which recently decimated the South.

and when the time of change comes, it is then the strains upon sanitary arrangements break down and the seeds of disease are sown. Nor is the remedy an easy one. No doubt our water can be purified, and our drains put in order, but yet there is a great strain upon our sanitary arrangements at certain periods of the year.

Advantages and Disadvantages.

Canadian life is a curious mixture of English and American ideas. In politics we are Americanized; in social life we are perhaps, clinging with some tenacity to English habits. In both cases, however, we fancy Canadians are an improvement upon their neighbors.

The "Evening Post."

The Post has not pulled itself into existence. Among all the crimes and casualties charged against us, the agency of "pull" has never been used to extend the circulation, or to attract to our columns the good things in the advertisers' way.

Grant in Ireland.

One of the faults of the Irish character is too much impetuous honesty. If an Irishman thinks of a wrong he must talk about it. If he has reason to believe that he has been injured or offended, he must at once let the world know it. In his everyday dealings the Irishman is not a diplomatist, and he knows nothing of the art of using speech for the purpose of concealing thought.

people, and altogether we cannot but regret that the people of Cork did not act otherwise than as they did.

Athletics.

What good does it do to the world, or what benefit does it do to athletic exercise, to see O'Leary and Campana wearing themselves to death? Weston attempting to walk 2,000 miles on the English highways in six weeks, resting from midnight on Saturday to midnight on Sunday; or to see Madame Anderson trying to walk 2,700 quarter miles in 2,700 quarter hours? We can understand a rowing match between two celebrated scullers; we can enjoy a race, either long or short distance, between athletes; lacrosse, cricket, baseball or any other manly exercise, all do good in their way.

The Hon. Mr. Joly.

The two morning papers have leading articles, one for and one against the Hon. Mr. Joly in the matter of the land purchases made by him at Belleville and Gale. On such a question neither the Conservative nor the Reform organs can be trusted—the one will blacken the character of the Hon. Mr. Joly on the smallest pretext, if it can—while the other will be equally ready to defend him, even in a hopeless cause.

Licensed to Kill.

There is only one class of men, that we are aware of, who are licensed to kill by law, and that class are publicans. According to our idea of morals it is no harm to kill a man when it is done slowly and with due precaution. The law gives the publican license to poison anybody and everybody, and the publican does not hesitate to do as the law allows him.

The Afghan War.

The Afghan war has taught the world a new lesson in the art of modern warfare. If it closes as it has commenced, it will establish what military men already declared, that no natural barriers, when held by a semi-civilized people, are insurmountable to a well appointed army.

ghans not only successfully resisted, but annihilated a force of British troops sent against them. In the days of the breech-loader and the Armstrong, the Afghans themselves are routed before battalions composed of men not one bit more heroic than their fathers, whom these same Afghans defeated. "Passes" considered almost impregnable, and around which associations of terror lingered, are penetrated as if the men were attacking were on a promenade.

The Hon. Mr. Joly.

The Hon. Mr. Joly is an honorable man. His political opponents may assail his political acts, but no one has thus far attempted to impugn his honor. As a politician, what he does will, as a matter of course, be assailed, but, as a citizen, the Hon. Mr. Joly is and ever has been, above reproach. As a politician, too, he is a hard working, and we believe, a conscientious man.

The Duty of Irishmen in Canada.

When a man enjoys the blessings of civil and religious liberty; when he is protected by the laws and can aspire to the highest office in the land; when he looks to the authorities to guard his property and to protect his person; when free institutions and a liberal administration direct the policy of the nation; what then is a man's duty to the state? In Canada a man has as much liberty as is good for him. Here there is no practical grievance that good conduct and energy cannot remove.

The Water we Drink.

We published on Thursday a letter from Mr. Lesage, the City Engineer, in reply to an article we wrote on "The water we drink." The most important feature in Mr. Lesage's letter is the analysis it contains from the pen of Dr. J. Baker Edwards. In that analysis Dr. Edwards makes it appear that "the water we drink" is far from being as bad as we supposed it to be.

menaces by saying that "the water supplied to the public of Montreal is not the pure and simple element some people suppose it to be. It is a variable admixture of food, drink, dirt and disease." These statements are contradictory, and we know not which to credit.

It is nothing astonishing in this age to see wealthy men give sums of money, varying from a thousand to a million dollars towards hospitals, colleges, museums and other public institutions, some of the donors of which princely sums being rank infidels. Every one cannot give a million dollars, nor even a dollar, but those who can should, surely if only carrying out one of the corporal works of mercy, to shelter the homeless and in this respect what can be a greater act of charity than to assist the completion of the Grey Nuns' Hospital for the aged and deserving poor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Another Letter from "G."

To the Editor of the True Witness and Post.—But, before quoting Si-mondi, I have a remark to make. Here we see France divided into hostile camps—parties struggling at the daggers' point for supremacy—appalling crimes and excesses committed on all sides—Frenchmen rending the bosom of their unhappy country—a perjured King disgracing by his perjury and abominations the crown of St. Louis—heresy striving to establish itself on the ruins of an ancient Catholic Kingdom—the foundations of society shaken and all order lost. Hated and despised by all parties in the State, the King saw a thousand hands raised to strike him down.

In his rage he spills the blood of the people like water, and marks his revenge by whole sections of country turned into a waste and howling desert. Charles I. was not one quarter as culpable in his abuse of power, and yet the English put him to death. Henry III's fate was provoked by a long career of sanguinary tyranny and cruel injustice. A fanatic mob strikes him down, and instead of attributing the deed to its real cause, the turbulence of the times and the king's own conduct, furious prejudice and hate charge the Jesuits with a crime for the establishment of which there is not one shadow of proof.

Now, search all the authorities of the epoch, Huguenot as well as Catholic, and you will not find one, deserving of the least confidence, that even hints that Ravaille had been instigated by the Jesuits, directly or indirectly, to do the deed for which he suffered. The invention is of more recent date. It had its origin in that facility with which some fanatics swallow every calumny, however absurd and fanciful, that malice invents against the Church of God and her defenders.

Now, just listen to the Calvinistic Si-mondi, writing of this Ravaille affair.—"One does not know which is most deplorable, the fanaticism which armed an assassin against the King, or the cruelty, precipitation and base servility of the magistracy, who not content with putting the culprit to an atrocious death, extended the chastisement to innocent men—a magistracy which did not take time to find out the truth, who commenced en masse, in forty-eight hours, to dishonorable exile, a numerous religious society without a hearing or defence, for an attempt at regicide in which they had no part whatever!" It was not only a scandalous iniquity, it was a monstrous act of political baseness; for, the Parliament which condemned the entire order of Jesuits on account of some opinions contrary to the royal authority found among the writings of a few of those religious, was the same body which, a year before, sanctified revolt and tacitly winked at the assassination committed by Jacques Clement. In fact, all this cruel injustice was done to excuse the Parliament's previous opposition to the royal authority. (Book xxi., pp. 819-823.)