

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

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J. GILLIES.
G. E. CLERK, Editor.TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE:
To all country subscribers, Two Dollars. If the
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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.The True Witness 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 "JOHN JONES, August '63," shows that
he has paid up to August '63, and owes his Sub-
scription from THAT DATE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 15.

ECOLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MARCH—1867.

Friday, 15—Ember Day, Lanes and Nails.
Saturday, 16—Ember Day, of the Feria.
Sunday, 17—Second Sunday of Lent.
Monday, 18—St. Gabriel, Arch.
Tuesday, 19—St. Joseph.
Wednesday, 20—St. Patrick, transferred from 17th.
Thursday, 21—St. Benedict Ab.REGULATIONS FOR LENT.—All days of Lent,
Sundays excepted, from Ash Wednesday to Holy
Saturday included, are days of fasting and abstin-
ence.The use of flesh meat at every meal is per-
mitted on all the Sundays of Lent, with the ex-
ception of Palm Sunday.The use of flesh meat is also by special indul-
gences allowed at the one repast on Mondays
Tuesdays, and Thursdays of every week from the
first Sunday after Lent, to Palm Sunday.—On
the first four days of Lent, as well as every day
in Holy Week, the use of flesh meat is prohibited.OFFICE OF THE
ROMAN LOAN.At the Banking House of Duncan, Sherman
& Co.,11 NASSAU STREET, CORNER OF PINE.
New York, January 30th, 1867.To
ALFRED LAROCQUE, Esq.,
Agent of the Roman Loan,
Montreal, Canada.Dear Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that I
have received instructions to keep this Loan open,
until the same is absorbed, as it is expected in Rome
that the late direct appeal of the Holy Father to the
Clergy will produce this result before the first of
April.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT MURPHY,
General Agent for the United States,
British Provinces and South America.Bonds of 500 francs are sold for \$66 00
Do 125 do do 16 50

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

That on the 6th inst. Fenian disturbances
broke out in Ireland is certain, but it is no easy
matter to construct a regular and reliable history
of the details. We give below the several
telegrams as they reached us, with this caution—
that they have all passed through the hands of
the Yankee operators, by whom they have very
probably been distorted:—LONDON, March 6.—The Fenian agitation in
Ireland has been renewed and is increasing. A
meeting of several hundred Irishmen near Dub-
lin has been dispersed by the troops. Telegraph
wires have been cut in various parts of the coun-
try.LONDON, March 6, eve.—In the House of
Commons, Lord Naas, Chief Secretary of Ire-
land, stated to-day that the Fenian rising around
Dublin was supposed to number from 1,000 to
4,000.DUBLIN, March 6.—An attack was made by
a body of Fenians upon the Drogheda Barracks
yesterday. The attacking party was received
with great gallantry by the military and police
stationed in the barracks, and several volleys
given the assailants, who retired in confusion,
losing a number killed and wounded, whom they
took from the field. The repulse was complete.
Several of the Government forces were wounded,
including three of the police.LIVERPOOL, March 6.—Despatches have been
received by the Government stating that an at-
tack was made by a small force of Fenians upon
Castle Martyr yesterday, but the enemy was
repulsed and driven off. One of the attacking
force, said to be an American officer, was shot.LONDON, March 6.—The Fenians have torn
up the rails and blocked up the roads between
Cork and Dublin, completely suspending railway
travel between those cities.The Government does not feel any alarm at
the aspect of affairs, as very efficient measures
have been made and are now making to suppress
all attempts at insurrection throughout Ireland.
There have been as yet no serious outrages
committed by Fenians either upon persons or
property of private subjects, the rebels appearing
to be in a quasi state of strict military disci-
pline.General Massey, a supposed Fenian leader,
has been arrested in Limerick.Tracy, reporter of the Cork Herald, has been
arrested for telegraphing false reports of sedition
among English troops.LONDON, 8th, noon.—Several Irish and Eng-
lish newspapers have received and published a
proclamation purporting to come from the Gov-
ernment of the Irish Republic. It declares that
after ages of outrage and of vain appeals to rea-son and justice, they have at last resolved to
appeal to arms to rescue Ireland from serfdom
and establish a national union, public safety and
political freedom, and bring about the consequent
separation of Church and State. As republicans,
they appeal to republicans throughout the world
for sympathy and support.DUBLIN, 8th.—A heavy storm prevailed in
this vicinity the night before last. Large quan-
tities of snow fell, and it is said that the insur-
gents who took refuge in the mountains are suf-
fering severely from cold and exposure.Donohue, the leader of the Fenians in the
fight at Tallaght, has since died, and three of his
companions are also dead.A police constable has been killed by the Fe-
nians in Cork.The rails on the roads running into Waterford
have been torn up.Large quantities of ammunition and materials
for producing Greek fire have been discovered
and seized by the soldiers and the police in
various parts of the country.LONDON, 8th, noon.—Troops are being rap-
idly despatched to Ireland from all available
points.LATER.—Despatches from Dublin, Cork, and
other parts of Ireland received during the morn-
ing and afternoon give the following intelligence:
A body of Fenians 1,500 strong are reported to
be threatening the Town of Tipperary. The
troops had a battle with a band of insurgents
near Kilmann, in the County of Limerick, and
defeated them, killing one man, wounding several,
and taking thirty prisoners. Among the latter
was the Fenian chief General Lane. A force of
rebels some 300 strong was also beaten by the
soldiers at Clonmel. Several of the former
were killed, eighteen prisoners were taken, and a
quantity of arms was captured. The Fenians
strip private houses of all guns and other weap-
ons. Armed bands of men are moving through
the Counties of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick,
and have frequent conflicts with the police and
constabulary. A Dr. Cleary is reported to have
been killed at Kilmallock. Incendiary fires are
frequent in the City and County of Limerick.LONDON, 8th, evening.—The Irish correspon-
dent of the London Times says Ireland is full of
Irish Americans, and urges that severe punish-
ment in their cases is imperatively necessary;
but adds that it is very difficult to apprehend
them, for the people, though they give them no
aid, refuse to betray them to the authorities. He
states that Col. Dunn led the Irish in their at-
tack on the station at Kilmallock. He con-
cludes by saying that the present rising is consid-
ered a failure in Dublin.DUBLIN, March 8, evening.—A despatch
from Waterford reports that the Fenians had
appeared in force at Devil's Bit Mountain, in
Tipperary County. Troops with artillery had
been despatched to dislodge them. The result
of the battle is not yet known.The insurgents muster in strong force parti-
cularly in the County of Tipperary. No bands
have yet appeared in Wicklow County, and the
town of Wicklow is quiet.Reports from Drogheda state that there has
been no further disturbance in that city up to
this hour. Twelve of the foremost rebel leaders
have been captured.The Fenians have captured and hold posses-
sion of police barracks at Kiltel, in the County
of Kildare.LONDON, March 9, noon.—It is reported from
Ireland to-day that tranquility has been restored
throughout the province of Leinster, and that
there has been no recent disturbance in the
County of Kerry, the scene of the abortive out-
break of last month.DUBLIN, March 9.—A despatch from Wex-
ford states that the Galty Mountains, on the
border of Tipperary and Cork counties, are
swarming with Fenians, and it is feared that an
attack will be made upon the town of Tipperary,
the inhabitants of which are disaffected and
strongly disposed to help them.LONDON, March 9.—Official despatches re-
ceived from Ireland say that loads of arms have
been discovered and seized by the military, and
that this fact seems to confirm the reports that
the rising of the Irish had failed to be general.LONDON, March 9, evening.—Despatches
from Dublin state that small bands of Fenians
are patrolling the counties of Cork, Wexford,
Tipperary and Limerick, pressing the people into
their ranks and committing robberies everywhere.
The taverns in the city of Cork are to be closed
every evening at dark.James Stephens is reported to be still in Paris.
DUBLIN, March 10.—The existence of a Fe-
nian Council, which has been in secret session in
this city has been discovered, and its members
arrested by the police. Burke, one of the Fe-
nian leaders in the South, has been captured at
Tipperary.DUBLIN, March 10.—The band of Fenians
which was previously reported to have taken
possession of the Barracks at Kiltel, in Kildare,
have been dispersed by the troops. The in-
surgents made an attack on the Barracks at
Mount Melick, at the foot of Slieve Bloom
Mountain, and were repulsed. Two of the at-
tacking party were shot. The rebels are said
to have assembled to the number of 3,000, in
the neighborhood of Aherli Abbey Laix, in the
Queen's County. Troops have been sent out to
disperse them.Two Irish Americans were arrested on board
a vessel from Cardiff, at Cork. Both were re-
cently at Chester.LONDON, 11th, evening.—Ireland is quiet. The
Government, however, is organising the forces
into six flying columns for the pursuit of the
scattered bands of Fenians and active service in
case the necessity should arise.The band of which was recently encamped on
the Galtree mountains has vanished, leaving no
trace of their whereabouts.The government has offered a reward for the
apprehension of Dunn, one of the Fenian leaders.The Right Hon. S. H. Walpole, Secretary of
State for the Home Department, announced in
the House of Commons this evening that the news
from Ireland was good. Mr. Walpole also stated
that the Government will not proclaim martiallaw in Ireland, but will try the Fenians by special
commission.The Ministerial Reform Bill will be laid be-
fore the House of Commons on the 18th inst.
Monday next. News has been received of the
death of Dr. Livingstone—the well known
African explorer: he was killed by the Caffres,
and his death is a great loss to the scientific
world. The Continental news is dull. By way
of vindicating the liberty of the press in France,
the Government has prosecuted M. Emile Girar-
din, and obtained a verdict of 5,000 francs
against him; he has appealed. The Eastern
question still occupies much of the public atten-
tion, and will probably give rise to many
serious complications ere it be settled. An at-
tempt upon the life of Victor Emmanuel is re-
ported. This would seem to indicate that the
Mazzinian, or extreme Liberal party are be-
coming tired of their tool, and wish to get rid of
him. It is reported that the P. Passaglia is in
Retreat, and gives evidence of a desire to make
atonement for the scandal he has caused to all
good Catholics by his attitude towards the Holy
Father.THE MILITARY RECONSTRUCTION BILL.—
Now that this measure has, we do not say be-
come law, for it is not law, never will be law,
and will never be morally obligatory upon any
one: but, now that it has passed the mock or
rump Congress sitting at Washington, what, we
naturally ask, will be the action of the oppressed
people of the Southern States? what the action
of the friends of liberty, and the violated Con-
stitution, in the Northern States? For the
rights and liberties of all, whether North or
South, are alike menaced by the "unconstitu-
tional" Bill; and if the precedent be once al-
lowed, the tyrant North of to-day, may be the
oppressed North of to-morrow. It is a poor rule
that won't work both ways.This question would soon be resolved, as
similar questions often have been resolved, in
England, where the torch of freedom still burns
strong and bright, and where the "unconstitu-
tional" action of any one of the branches or or-
ders of the Government has always found some
patriot prepared to resist it, at the risk of for-
tune, and life if necessary. If it is otherwise in
the United States, it is because such are the
deleterious effects of democracy, that thereby
all manhood, and all dignity are, as it were,
squeezed, or violently purged, out of the body
politic. Democracy not only unfits men for, but
it renders them incapable and unworthy of, free-
dom.Let us consult the past,—the history of Eng-
land.When an arbitrary king attempted, under the
pretence of "ship money," to levy money with-
out the consent of Parliament—(an exercise of
power not more in violation of the unwritten
Constitution of England, than is the recent act
of the Washington Legislature an exercise of
power in violation of the written Constitution of
the United States)—an English country gentle-
man, John Hampden, though the sum for which
he was assessed was only twenty shillings, boldly
and patriotically determined to test the consti-
tutionality, or legality of the impost by an appeal
to the Courts of Judicature. It was not for the
sake of the money, but of the great principle at
stake, that he thus ventured to brave the anger
of the King, and to risk his property, his liberty,
and perhaps his life in defence of a great Con-
stitutional principle.A verdict against Hampden was indeed ob-
tained by the Court, from a majority of the Judges,
but the moral victory remained with the illus-
trious Hampden; and though "ship money"
was levied for a few years longer, yet the dis-
cussions which ensued during the long protracted
trial, and the consequent enlightenment of the
public mind, gave assurance that sound constitu-
tional principles would ere long be triumphant.
Is there no Hampden in the United States, bold
enough, and patriotic enough, to test in the
Supreme Court, the legality of the recent action
of the self-dubbed Congress towards the Southern
States?It is to be feared that there is none; yet
should such a one arise, he would have before
him a far clearer case in his favor than had
Hampden. Charles could show many and long
established precedents for his levy of "ship-
money;" the letter of the law was by no means
plain against him; and even the famous statute
De Tallagio non Concedendo is admitted by
Hallam to be "of very equivocal genuineness." But
the illegality of military law, of military dis-
tricts presided over by Brigadier Generals, of
military in lieu of civil tribunals—there, and then
where, and when, no actual war is being waged—
is so glaring, so patent, so directly in violation
of the written Constitution of the United States,
that it is inconceivable that the Supreme Court
—should a case arising out of the late arbitrary
measure be brought before it—should for one
moment hesitate in finding for the plaintiff.—
Why then does not some arise to bring the con-* Some precedents, such as *Dane, Gell* might be
adduced in defence of the pretensions of the
Crown.stitutionality of the "Military Reconstruction
Bill" under the cognisance of the Supreme
Court? Because the political atmosphere of
the United States is not favorable to the
development of Hampdens; because people there
are all too afraid of "the sovereign people;"
are all too abjectly crouched at the feet of that
cruel and unprincipled tyrant, to dare in thought
even, to contest his arbitrary decrees. The
Asiatic serf crawling humbly on his belly before
the throne of some Oriental despot is an emblem
of manly courage, and independence, in com-
parison with the dough-faced wretch who, like a
whipt dog, lies down and trembles beneath the
lash of "the sovereign people."We believe, too, that, were there any one in
the United States with pluck or moral courage
sufficient to bring the question fairly to an issue,
every act passed, every tax levied, by the rump
Congress since its refusal to admit the Senators
and representatives of the Southern States, might
be set aside as unconstitutional, illegal, and con-
tradictory of the fundamental principle of the
political community, to wit:—"That taxation
without representation is tyranny." The Pre-
sident might, if he had had pluck enough, have
brought this question to an issue, by refusing to
recognise as Congress, any body from which re-
presentatives of the Southern States, applying
for admission, were excluded. This was the
course which, consistently with his theory that
the Southern States are "States within the
Union," he should have pursued, by refusing to
send down any message to Congress until it were
properly constructed. But a body from which
the representatives of "States within the Union"
are excluded, is not a properly constituted Con-
gress of the United States; and is therefore in-
competent, legally, to exercise any of the func-
tions by the Constitution committed to that
body.What the President, from want of moral
courage failed to do, it is however still in the
power of any plucky and patriotic private citizen
to do. By refusing, for instance, to pay any tax
imposed by the imperfectly constituted Congress
—just as Hampden refused to pay "ship-money"
—and by bringing the case before the Supreme
Court, the latter would be obliged to decide the
questions:—Whether by the written Constitu-
tion, the majority of the Congress has the right
to exclude the minority from the debates? Whether
the power of legislation and taxation, which
the Constitution confers on the whole, can be
legally exercised by a part? Whether *ex post
facto* penal legislation is Constitutional? Whether
in short, men can be legally treated as
criminals, and deprived of rights either civil or
political, against whom no verdict of "Guilty"
has been recorded by any Court of Justice? All
these questions are involved in the so-called re-
construction of the Southern States; and unless
the people of the United States are prepared to
abandon all their liberties without an effort for
their preservation, these great Constitutional
questions must be settled, either by the Law, or
by the Sword—either on the battle field, or on
the floor of the Supreme Court. Ah! if there
were a Hampden, a man with the spirit of a free-
man, and the heart of a patriot in the United
States, these questions would soon be brought to
an issue.TRACTS *ver.* THE CONFESSIONAL.—There
are topics which it is difficult to treat properly;
there are secrets known to every body, that are
yet scarce fitted for the columns of the journal.
Of these there is one to which under the name
of the "social evil" a selected article in the
Montreal Witness of the 4th inst., directs at-
tention; and to which we make allusion with the
view of showing that the very remedy recom-
mended by the Protestant journalist, is to be
found in the Catholic Church, and in the much
vilified Confessional.In the article to which we refer, the writer,
after treating of the effects of legislative action
on the evil complained of, continues in the follow-
ing strain:—"What we do urge is universal enlightenment,
especially of the young. There should be a series of
tracts, setting forth the nature, reasons, obligations,
and requirements of sexual purity, and the awful in-
evitable consequences of disobedience to the Divine
command. These, so far as prepared, should be
systematically disseminated, and universally studied."
—From New York Tribune, cited by Montreal Wit-
ness, 4th inst."Universal enlightenment" on a peculiarly
delicate and dangerous topic, is the remedy that
the Protestant recommends, to be administered
through a "series of Tracts" to indiscriminately
applied, and "universally studied." The Cath-
olic Church, too, recognises the value of the
remedy of enlightenment, but condemns the meth-
od above proposed for its application. She
administers it in the Confessional; through the
agency of her clergy, men trained to the study
of moral theology; to each one of her children in
particular, and in such manner as the exigencies
of each particular case may require; knowing
that that which may be salutary to one, may be
unprofitable, or even poison to another; that en-
lightenment, which in one case may carry with it
a savor of life, may in another case carry with it
the savor of death. The tract suited to the man
grown old in the practice of debauchery, she wellknows is not suited to the young person as yet
a stranger to iniquity; and she knows also—such
is the ingenuity of the perverted intellect, and of
the corrupt heart to extract deadly poison even
from the sweetest flowers—that the indis-
criminate study of tracts such as the Protestant
moralist recommends, and which would, in many
cases, be read and studied with a morbid curiosity
rather than with a view to moral improvement—
would do more harm than good. Like a wise
and tender mother, does she therefore commit
the charge of "universal enlightenment" to men
fitted for the task, by profession, and practice, by
serious studies, and by a profound acquaintance
with all the depths and windings of the human
heart; who, sitting in the tribunal of Penitence,
speak to the young and to the old in vice, in the
name, and with the authority, of her Divine
Spouse. If our separated brethren, laying aside
for one moment their prejudices, would but
calmly and honestly address themselves to the
discussion of the question, "Of the two modes of
enlightenment—that by means of the indis-
criminate and universal distribution of tracts; and
that by means of the particular exhortations of
the learned and elderly priest—which is the more
prudent, the less likely to be abused?" we be-
lieve that the answer would be general in favor
of the Confessional: through which, and not
through a series of tracts universally and indis-
criminate distributed, amongst persons of both
sexes, and of all ages and conditions, as Protest-
ants recommend, does the Catholic Church give
the requisite "enlightenment."And she does more, as all who frequent her
administrations know. She not only enlightens the
intellect, but she purifies the heart, and strength-
ens the will. Not so much from a defect of
knowledge or ignorance, as from a corrupt heart
and from a depraved will, do sins proceed; and so
the Church, not content with telling her children
what to do, and from what to abstain, imparts to
them through her Sacraments, the necessary
power or strength to do—the power or strength
to resist the temptations of the world, the flesh
and the devil. Ah! wretched man that I am,
cries out every one whose eyes have been opened
—who shall deliver me from this body of death.
Still it is his doom to confess that, though he see,
clearly the better course, that which he should
follow, he is impelled by his passions to pursue
the worse. Alas! who shall deliver me? he cries
in his despair; "quisque liberabit de corpore mor-
tis hujus?""Be of good cheer, my son," says the Church,
says to him Our Lord Himself in the person of
His minister. "If thou art weak, I am strong;
and My strength shall suffice for thee. Seek it
only there where alone it is to be found, in fre-
quent and fervent Communions with Me; so,
fed with My flesh and blood, shalt thou grow in
grace and strength, and shalt marvel as thou
bringest forth fruits not thine own." Yes? "en-
lightenment" not by tracts but in the confessional,
but in enlightenment supplemented by the Holy
Eucharist, is to be found the only certain remedy
against the Social Evil which our Protestant friend
deplores, but with which Protestantism is impos-
sible to heal. For this we need the services of
the Divine Physician.The Canadian of Quebec seems to be offended
at the silence of the Catholic journals on the
provisions of the Union Act with reference to
the School Question:—"They should at least
have the courage," says the Canadian, "to
approve openly the policy of their masters, or
should have the conscience to re-assure Catholics
of good faith."We would suggest to our Quebec contem-
porary that he himself assigns a satisfactory rea-
son for the silence of Catholic journalists upon
the matter; for he says, "*Le Clerge parait
satisfait*,"—the Clergy appear to be satisfied." If
so, why should the laity complain? The
former are the guardians of faith and morals;
and if they see no reason to apprehend any dan-
gers to the laity from the new dispositions of the
law, surely the laity have no cause to be fright-
ened.At the same time we do not pretend to attri-
bute to the Clergy sentiments either of satisfac-
tion, or of dissatisfaction with the measure.—
We have no right to speak in their name; and
they, if they see cause to make their sentiments
known, well know when, and how, to do so, with-
out our interference. What satisfies them, will
we hope always satisfy the laity.But we would also venture to hint, that ac-
quiescence in the inevitable, does not always im-
ply satisfaction; and that a transaction, or bar-
gain may honorably be accepted, not as a good
bargain, but as the best bargain possible under
the circumstances. For ourselves, the law as it
stands is not all that we would wish it to be.—
We think that the "right of appeal" though it
secures to the Protestant minority of L. Canada,
all that they can desire—since it transfers the
question of their schools from a legislature in
which they will be in a minority, to one in which
Protestants will be in an overwhelming majority
—offers but little advantage to the Catholic
minority of Upper Canada—since it can merely
transfer the question from a Legislature in which