

The True Witness.

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
At No. 696, Craig Street, by
J. GILLIES.
G. E. OLIER, 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.

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 Correspondent that no letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless pre-paid.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 1867.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

DECEMBER—1867.

Friday, 20—Ember Day, Vigil of St. Thomas.

Saturday, 21—Ember Day, St. Thomas Ap.

Sunday, 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Monday, 23—Of the Feria.

Tuesday, 24—Fast, Vigil of Christmas.

Wednesday, 25—CHRISTMAS DAY.

Thursday, 26—St. Stephen, M.

We regret to state that the Pastoral of the Bishop of Sandwich arrived too late for this week's issue, but will appear in our next.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Burke, lately arrested on a charge of Fenianism, and suspected of having been the organizer of the attack on the police van in Manchester, which resulted in the murder of the brave but unfortunate policeman Brett—has since his arrest been confined in Clerkenwell prison, London. On the afternoon of Friday the 13th inst., the outer wall of the prison, for a considerable extent, was blown into the air by the firing of a mine which had been constructed beneath it, it is suspected by Fenian confederates of the prisoner, with the object of procuring his release. None of the prisoners escaped however, but on the side of the narrow street opposite the prison wall, great damage, both upon persons and property, was inflicted. About twenty houses were destroyed, or rendered uninhabitable; and, more melancholy still, some forty persons were seriously injured, of whom four are said to have died. Perhaps yet more victims to this diabolical outrage may be discovered when the ruins shall have been thoroughly sifted. Great, and very natural excitement prevails.

Comments are scarce necessary. Every Christian, every honest man, no matter what his origin, or political opinions must condemn it, and the party which has recourse to such means—the very means employed by the Garibaldians, and revolutionary cut-throats of Rome—to effect their objects. One is at a loss whether the more to marvel at the brutality, or at the silliness of this attempt to rescue Burke; for gunpowder is no respecter of persons, and it was to say the least, far more likely that Burke would have been killed by the explosion, than that he should thereby have been restored to liberty, and the embrace of his friends. Three persons, named respectively Timothy Desmond, Jerry Allen, and Anna Justice, have been arrested on suspicion; but beyond the fact of their vicinity to the spot just before the explosion occurred, and of their running away immediately afterwards, no proofs of their guilt have been made public. The house opposite to where the wall of the prison was breached, had long been suspected by the Police of being a Fenian place of resort. The inquest on the bodies of the victims murdered by the explosion, was to have been held on Tuesday last, 17th inst.

On Saturday, Burke and Casey, two of the Fenian prisoners in Clerkenwell prison, were brought up to Bow Street for examination.—Nothing was elicited, and Burke took especial occasion to repudiate all knowledge of the crime that had just been committed. It is rumoured, but not authenticated, that Kelly one of the released Manchester prisoners, is still in England, and that he was the director of the scheme for rescuing the prisoners at Clerkenwell.

It is to be feared that occasion will be taken by the Whalleys and Murphys, of this sad affair to excite popular prejudice against all the Irish residents in London, and other large cities of England indiscriminately; and that an excited mob, not distinguishing between Irish and Catholic, but confounding one with the other, may wreak their fury upon Catholic churches and convents. In Liverpool apprehensions of an outbreak are entertained.

Meantime the British Government is determined upon the most active measures of repression, in which they will be supported by the Parliament, by the press, and the vast majority of the people. A proclamation against the political displays in imitation of funerals in which the friends of the three men lately hung at Manches-

ter have since the execution been indulging, has been issued by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and a Mr. Martin is, it is said, to be prosecuted on a charge of sedition, because of a certain speech by him delivered.

On the Continent of Europe men are awaiting patiently what the projected Conference on the Roman question may bring forth. No one deems that it will lead to a settlement of that question satisfactory to both parties, for they are as irreconcilable as heaven and hell. It may not however be uninteresting to enquire what the people of the Roman States, what the subjects of the Pope think of the matter; for they certainly are deeply interested in the solution of the question, though of course Liberals are by no means inclined to allow them a voice thereon; and for this purpose we call into Court, as a most unexceptionable witness, considering what are his proclivities, the Naples correspondent of the London Times, who writing under date Nov. 20th, thus describes the results of an interview with a Garibaldian captain, then just returned to Naples from the expedition against Rome:—

"After writing yesterday I met with Captain—who returned four days ago from the Roman campaign. He states that the population of the Pontifical States were hostile to them; that women and children took up arms against them refusing them food, and even water. Not merely in the country, but in the towns it was the same. In Yellere they were received only pretty well—'discreetly bene'—in Frosinone decidedly badly. In both places the plebs were taken by us, and were a plebs taken generally it would be in favor of the Pope. The people are all *veri Cattolici Romani*, and were not worthy of our efforts in their favor; they are far behind hand."

"This," adds the Times' correspondent:— "confirms the impression which I communicated to you more than two months since, and the wonder is that Italians themselves did not more correctly feel the pulse of the Romans."—Times Corr.

So then it appears, and from their own admission, that the efforts of the Garibaldians and Italian Liberals would, if successful, have but had the effect of imposing upon the people of the Pontifical States an alien government which they hate; and for whose supporters they entertain such bitter feelings of aversion, that they refuse them food and even water, that the very "women and children take up arms against them." This is what Liberals mean by liberty, and shows how they apply their principle that peoples have a right to select their rulers! An insurrection is apprehended at Naples, so profoundly do the Neapolitans detest their Piedmontese conquerors.

There is nothing new from the U. States. It is said that Spain has offered to sell them the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico for the sum of \$150,000,000, to be paid in gold, and in three instalments extending over six years.

We have as yet no good news of the Abyssinian expedition which has been joined by 4,000 Egyptian troops. The prisoners in the hands of the King are still alive, but the advancing army is already suffering from want of water.

Later telegrams from England inform us that, on the 16th instant, an attempt was made to set fire to several warehouses in the City of London, and that Fenianism is suspected of being the exciting cause. A man has been arrested at St. Alban's on suspicion of having been engaged in the Clerkenwell outrage, and it is thought that he is the person who lit the fuse. Nothing positive has yet been made public.

The Conference on the Roman question will, it is thought, be abandoned. No good could come of it, and the European Powers refuse to have anything to do with it.

Complaints of the sufferings of the working classes in the United States are rife. In the South the freedmen are out of work, and out of food; in New York some 50,000 persons are said to be dependent upon charity, and public assistance, for their daily bread; and in New England the operatives seem to be no better off. On the whole there can be no great inducements to the Canadian to emigrate to the U. States in their present condition.

TRADES UNIONS AND THE QUEBEC AUTHORITIES.—The Montreal Gazette referring to the disgraceful riots at Quebec on the 10th inst., when a band of organised ruffians, armed with bludgeons and axe handles were allowed without opposition from the civic authorities, to cruelly beat, and to drive from their work the men, who had accepted the offers of the ship-builders,—well and truly says that, herein we have a:—

"Striking commentary on the cowardice and folly of the authorities who misuse the authority of the Crown in that benighted region. Cowardice because, although backed by a force sufficient to overcome any number of rioters, and informed of the desperate step the Ship Carpenters' Union was again about to take, they shirked their well understood duty, and allowed a mob armed with bludgeons to parade the streets, and drive off unoffending workmen who were forced to labor to preserve their families from starvation. Folly, for the next result of this defiance of the law, and connivance of the authorities, will probably result in an attack on the flour stores, and other outrage, perhaps bloodshed."—Montreal Gazette, 11th inst.

Severe as are the remarks of our Ministerial contemporary, they are not a bit too severe upon the civic authorities of Quebec—may hardly severe enough, if the facts are truly given in the public journals. What on earth were "the incompetent nobodies who parody justice and prostitute the laws in the ancient capital"—as the Gazette most appropriately styles them—about

to permit such an outrage? They had at their disposal a military force, amply sufficient to have dispersed the ruffians who beat and ill-treated the honest men working for their daily bread; and the country has the right to ask why they did not employ this force for the protection of Her Majesty's loyal and inoffensive subjects?

It is nonsense to cry out against the *Rouges*, and the demagogues, generally, as bringing the administration of justice, and government itself into contempt. All the trash, that all the noisiest and most unprincipled of demagogues could spout out during the course of a twelvemonth, would not do so much damage to the cause of law and order, would not so much tend to bring the legally constituted authorities of the country into contempt, as has been done by this disgraceful apathy of the civic authorities of Quebec. What is government for unless it be for the protection of the innocent, the industrious, and well disposed, and for the summary punishment of wrong doers? Failing in this, through cowardice or through folly, a Government virtually abdicates, and no man is bound to do it reverence. At all costs, at all hazards, yes, even if unfortunately it had been necessary to shoot down the axe-handle and bludgeon ruffians like mad dogs, it was the duty—the imperative duty of the civic authorities to protect the workmen, and to see to it that not a hair of their heads was hurt. Better we say for the cause of law and order, better for the interests of justice and of humanity—that the gutters of Quebec had run red with blood, than that one of Her Majesty's subjects, to whom she is as much bound to give protection as he is to yield her allegiance, should have been prevented by force, or by threats, from honestly and lawfully working for his daily bread.

The issue now raised is this—Are bludgeons and axe handles, or is Law to be supreme at Quebec, and indeed throughout this portion of Her Majesty's dominions? This issue must be tried, sooner or later, and every day that the trial is postponed, the more difficult will it become to settle it without an effusion of blood, and an expenditure of life. One discharge of the rifles of a single company would in all probability have sufficed to decide it in favor of Law, on the 10th instant; this having however been neglected, it may require the employment of Armstrong guns, and grape shot, before the final verdict shall be returned. Emboldened by impunity, encouraged to despise the authorities as imbeciles, cowards or "nincompoops," and to trample law and justice under foot, the ruffians whom a bold front and a determined stand would have dispersed perhaps without a shot fired on Monday last, will now in all human probability not be put down without the employment of the most severe and vigorous measures. These measures the Government of the Dominion should be implored to take at once, if we are not to be handed over to the reign of anarchy, and to the brutal tyranny of an irresponsible mob. We say it advisedly. Trades Unionism in Canada, in so far as it attempts to interfere with the natural right of every man to sell his labor to whom he pleases, when he pleases, and at what price he pleases, must be "stamped out," in blood if necessary—but this will not be necessary if only our rulers will be wise in time, and do their duty to the Queen and to their fellow subjects.

It is in the interests of labor rather than in those of capital, of the poor rather than of the rich that we say this: it is the cause of the weak, of the needy and down-trodden that we are contending for; it is the cause of liberty and of justice, against tyranny, and of iniquitous oppression. The negro on this Continent has been set free: we demand that the white laborer in his turn also be enfranchised: for—and with this consideration we will conclude,—wherein are the principles of natural justice more outraged when the Southern planter cowards in hand, says to the unwilling nigger, "work you *shall*, or I'll flog you"—than when the Trades Unionist, bludgeon or axe-handle in hand says to his white fellow-citizen, willing to work—"you *shall not* work, or I'll beat your brains out?"

This consideration we throw out for the benefit of the Liberal promoters of Trades Unionism as it actually exists at Quebec, and who raise their shouts of triumph over the emancipation of the negro slaves of the Southern States.

The Quebec Chronicle has a claim on our gratitude for that by its wanton and unfounded attacks upon the Catholic Communities of Quebec, it has elicited from the *Courier du Canada* a triumphant vindication of these unjustly maligned benefactors of the public of Canada; and some very interesting details as to the origin of their riches, the possession and noble use of which by Catholic bodies corporate stirs the bile of our first named fanatical contemporary.

As a general rule our Protestant fellow citizens know little or nothing of the origin of the different properties of the Catholic Church; they labor, many of them, under the false impression that these originated for the most part in gifts from the Crown, or State, of public property.

This is not the case; for whether in Quebec or in Montreal, the property held by the several

Catholic institutions—by the Episcopal Corporations, by the Seminaries, by the Ladies of the different Religious Orders, were all acquired either by purchase, or by gift from private individuals. For instance, the *Journal du Canada* furnishes us with the following interesting particulars respecting the source of the property held by the Seminary of Quebec:—

"On the 12th of April, 1680, Mgr. de Laval gave, purely and simply, all his property to the Seminary of Quebec:—1st. The lands and Seigneurie of Beauport, from the Montmorency river to that of the Gouffre, which empties into St. Paul's Bay; 2d. The house called the Little Seminary built by Mgr. de Laval near the church of Chateau Richer; 3d. L'Isle Jesus; 4th. The Seigneurie of La Petite Nation of five leagues in front, and five leagues in depth, above Montreal; 5th. All his moveables, books, ornaments, arrears of rents belonging to him at the time of his death."

The care and strict economy with which the bequest of Mgr. Laval has been managed by the Quebec Seminary, has enabled them to increase their resources, and thereby to multiply the benefits that they confer upon the public. Poor themselves, for the individual priests, members of the society draw but the poor pittance of \$20, or about five pounds annually in return for all their labors, they make others rich. Every year the Seminary devotes to the business of education alone the sum of \$52,000: it supports a Museum, it endows Professorial Chairs, gives gratuitous education to hundreds of poor pupils, and besides being on all occasions of calamity the most liberal of contributors, it daily feeds, clothes, and supports numbers of poor, who but for this noble institution would be left to die of cold and hunger.

And what is said of the Seminary of Quebec is true also of the other religious institutions of that City; of the Ursulines, of the Ladies of the Hotel Dieu, whose property, which they devote not to themselves but to God's poor, and the education of the young, came to them, not through the State, but through the hands of private individuals inspired with the spirit of charity. The same is true also of our religious, charitable and educational establishments in Montreal—of the Bishopric, of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, of the Jesuit Fathers, of the Hotel Dieu, of the Ladies of the Congregation, of the Grey Nunnery, and of the Providence. None of these owe their property to the State, or to endowments from the public purse; but wholly to the liberality of individuals, and to the wise use by them made of properties by them purchased out of their own funds, and whose proceeds are all devoted to the service of God, of the poor, and the promotion of sound education. These are facts which we defy any one to disprove: and we assure our Protestant brethren, that there is nothing which all our religious institutions more desire, than that the public should know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth respecting the origin and the disposition of that wealth, which so often, but so unreasonably provokes the wrath, and inspires the calumnies of a Quebec Chronicle, or a Montreal Witness.

THE PARK.—We have received a plan of the proposed park to be laid out on the flanks and summit of the mountain. No better site could be chosen, and if the Corporation can acquire the property on moderate terms, a great boon will have been conferred on the citizens of Montreal. Only one objection can be raised, and that is based upon circumstances over which the Corporation can have no control. The Park will be so far from those parts of the City, where the poorer classes generally reside—and it is for them that a good public Park is mostly to be desired—that they will scarce be able to avail themselves of it in the summer after the day's work is done. To the dwellers in Sherbrooke Street, and the upper and Western parts of the City generally, the proposed park will be very handy; but for the citizens of Griffintown and Quebec Suburbs, it will be such a long way off, that they will reap but little benefit from it except on Sundays and other holidays. We trust therefore that on these days, especially, it may always be kept open, in spite of the Puritanical outcry which we anticipate, from the *Witness*, so that the poor, and the working classes who will be unable to avail themselves of its benefits on working days—may not be robbed of its advantages altogether. We deem it prudent to enter this caveat against Pharisaical Sabbatarianism in time. The Sabbath, as designed by God, was made for man: but as distorted by Puritanism, it has been made the day of days for another party altogether, the friend neither of God, nor of man. We throw this out then as a hint to our non-Puritanical fellow-citizens, of all denominations, in order that they may insist before a penny be laid out for the purchase of the Park, and as a condition *sine qua non* of its acquisition, that it be *always* kept open to the public on all Sundays and other holidays, so that the poor and working classes as well as the rich, may derive the same profit from it. The battle must be fought against Sabbatarianism now, before the ground is bought.

Mr. John Walsh, Morrisburg, Ontario, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the True Witness in that locality.

A strange story—we can scarce credit it, though it is reproduced in the columns of our highly esteemed contemporary *Le Nouveau Monde*—is being circulated with respect to the Post Office of this City. We are told that the Postmaster, by way of assuring himself of the moral or intellectual competency of the subordinate officials of his department, has had them all subjected to a phrenological inspection, and has dismissed from the service all whose bumps had not attained a certain *minimum* degree of development. In consequence three persons, French Canadians, against whom no other complaint is urged, have been discharged from the Post Office.

We do not vouch for the truth of the above story. We give it as we have received it, and await further explanations from the gentleman whose conduct has been so severely denounced.

VILLA MARIA.—The young ladies of this institution, pupils of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, have generously made up amongst themselves a purse of One Hundred and Thirty dollars as an offering to the Holy Father in this time of necessity. We congratulate the young ladies on this noble act on their part; we felicitate their parents, who should be proud of such children; and we acknowledge our obligations to the devoted Ladies of the Congregation who have imparted to their young charges, principles which already bear such excellent fruit. If, as we have shown elsewhere, in the Pontifical States the very women and children take up arms to repel the Piedmontese invaders, here in Canada, our youth of both sexes are animated by the same noble spirit of devotion towards a Sovereign unjustly attacked, and who is, at the same time, the head of their Church on earth, the representative or Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

PASTORAL OF THE BISHOP OF MONTREAL.—Under date 8th inst., Feast of the Immaculate Conception, His Lordship Mgr. Bourget, Bishop of Montreal, has issued a Pastoral to all the Faithful of the Diocese, enjoining the observance of a *Triduum*, or three days special devotion, to implore the protection of heaven upon the Holy See, and the present occupant of the Pontifical Throne, our beloved Pope Pius IX. Great spiritual advantages will attend the due performance of these religious exercises, to the observance of which all the faithful of the diocese are earnestly exhorted.

CONVERSION.—On Sunday morning, the 8th inst., His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, received, in the Church of the lately canonically erected parish of St. Vincent, the abjuration of Miss M. Metcalfe brought up as a Protestant. At the same time and place His Lordship brought to a close the spiritual retreat, that had been held in the parish.

AND FOR THE GOOD CAUSE.—The pupils of the St. Anne's Convent at Lachine have opened a subscription for the purpose of raising a sum of \$100, which they intend forwarding to Rome, for the support of the Pontifical Army. Other colleges and convents in Lower Canada are taking similar steps.

THE WOUNDED ZOUAVES.—We are happy to say that letters have been received in town stating that M. Larocque, the son of our well-known fellow-citizen, A. Larocque, Esq., and who was very badly wounded at Montana, is doing well—and is in a fair way towards recovery.

A TEMPERANCE LECTURER.—Mr. James Strachan—we know not if he rejoices in the prefix of Reverend to his name—was found by the Police in the streets of Toronto in an extreme state of beer, or as it is vulgarly called, "tight." Being brought before the magistrates to answer for his conduct, he put in the following defence:—

"The fact is I have for the past few years been delivering Temperance Lectures in the States. Of late I have found that they do not take as well as at first. My stories have become stale; my experience of the evils of intemperance is, to use an expressive slang phrase, about played out. So I concluded to come to this country for a short time, and get on a 'big drunk,' and thus replenish my exhausted stock of startling illustrations, and vivid reminiscences, which will give me a fresh start as a lecturer."

SEANOE AT VILLA MARIA.

To the Editor of the Gazette.
Sir,—Do you remember what a glorious moonlight we were favoured with on last Tuesday? Of course you do, for even if you were shut up in your sanctum, wearily penning a leader for the next morning's paper, you must have noticed the silvery radiance streaming in through the delicate tracery left by the frost on every window pane, and making its way triumphantly through the grimy coating which is popularly though perhaps unjustly supposed to always adorn the casements of editor's sanctums.

Well, if you, sitting thus in the solitary dignity of mental labor, glanced now and then admiringly, perhaps pensively at the magic scene visible without, think how we, snugly seated in a quaint carole of the olden time—wrapped in comfortable buffalo robes and drawn by a stout pony of the true Canadian breed, must have enjoyed it as we fairly "flushed" along over the snowy ground,