

The True Witness.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUG. 21, 1863.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The tone of our latest European journals, and the improved condition of the money market, would seem to indicate that the war panic on account of the Polish embroglio is on the decrease.

The news from the seat of war is barren of interest. The army of the Potomac is busy watching that of General Lee, and the Confederates return the compliment; neither seems anxious to come to blows again this hot weather.

It is again confidently reported that the Federal Government will attempt to enforce the draft in New York and a large military force has been concentrated in the City, to crush out resistance, should any be attempted, and to put a stop to all demonstration in favor of State Rights, and personal liberty.

SERVILE WAR.—The fruits of the policy adopted by the Northern Government in arming the blacks, and thereby inciting them to cut the throats of the white men, and to outrage the white women of the South, are rapidly manifesting themselves.

Beckham Landing is twelve miles below Island No. Ten, in Union county, Tennessee, immediately south of the Kentucky state line. About 10 o'clock, a.m., Aug. 4, 1863, eighteen black United States soldiers, direct from Island No. Ten, their station, arrived at the home on the Landing, fully armed with muskets, side-arms, and pistols, and murdered the whole of old Mr. Beckham's family then present on the place.

That the Federal Government, when it resorted to the expedient of arming the negroes, anticipated, nay, expressly meditated, such acts as are above recounted—there can be no doubt.

and by all unprejudiced persons that Government will be held morally responsible for the direct, and indeed inevitable consequences of its barbarous policy. Abe Lincoln and his Ministers are as much the murderers of the Beckham family, as if they had themselves actually drawn their knives across the throats of the unhappy father, and helpless little ones.

The policy of the English Government during the War of Independence, in arming the redman against the insurgent colonists, was ably and justly denounced by the best and most eloquent of British statesmen, as a crime against the civilized world; but in comparison with the arming of the negroes against their masters, the policy of George III appears legitimate, and even praiseworthy.

The Southerners we are told, do not treat the armed negroes who may fall into their hands as prisoners of war, but apply to them the law of their several States—a law which existed long before the present troubles commenced; a law which neither Congress nor President has the legal or moral right to modify or abrogate, because expressly, by the act of Union itself, placed beyond the reach of either the one or other.

If we are told that the Southerners are "rebels," and have therefore forfeited all their legal rights, and that Congress has superseded or abrogated the particular State laws regulating the condition of negroes within the limits of their States—we reply: First, that this plea, whether good or bad, cannot be urged by the Federals, or their government, seeing that they have themselves already recognised the Confederates as "belligerents," in that they exchange prisoners with them, which is never done in the case of "rebels."

Upper and Lower Canada are precisely in this position. They have only one horse, or legislature, betwixt them; the Lower Province having some years ago, for the benefit, and with the connivance of Upper Canada, been most iniquitously robbed of its own horse, and doomed to ride double.

No doubt the Northerners have the right to arm and enroll the negroes in the Northern States for purposes of defensive warfare; and negroes so armed and enrolled would have the

right to demand the ordinary treatment of prisoners of war, if captured by Southern invaders of any of the Northern States. But if the armed negroes invade the Southern States, the latter cannot be blamed if they put in force against them the well known previously existing laws.

And seeing what manner of men these negro soldiers are; and knowing from the history of the past what has been, what ever must be, the result of arming slaves against their masters, and inciting to servile war—we see not how any one can contest the moral, as well as the legal, right of the Southerners, fighting not for territory, but for independence, waging not aggressive but a purely defensive war, to refuse to armed negroes, to the bell bounds whose true propensities have in the case of the Beckhams been so strikingly illustrated, those courtesies and amenities which are extended by the soldiers of one civilized nation to another.

By men of all parties, the fact that the governmental machinery of Canada does not work smoothly, that in spite of oiling the friction is constantly increasing, and that yearly the difficulties to be encountered are becoming greater and more serious, is frankly admitted.

Upon the fact itself there can be no doubt; neither can there be much difference of opinion amongst intelligent men as to the cause of the evil complained of. As all history shows, all forced unions of people so radically dissimilar to one another as are the Upper and Lower Canadians can produce nothing but discord and confusion in the body politic.

The most obvious, the simplest as well as the most equitable adjustment of the difficulty in the case of two ordinary riders would be to allow each to have his own animal; and in the case of the two Provinces the only possible remedy for the evil complained of would be to restore to each its

own Legislature. But this is not the remedy which Mr. George Brown aims at; this is not the "change in the constitutional relations between the two sections of the Province" contemplated by the Montreal Witness.

We believe nevertheless that the two riders would jog along the road much more pleasantly, much more amicably, and much more profitably, if each had his own nag, than if they were forced to be content with only one animal for the pair of them.

THE DOCTRINE OF TRANSUBSTANTIATION SUSTAINED: An answer to the Reverend Dr. Burn's strictures on Dr. Cahill's Lecture on Transubstantiation. By Archdeacon O'Keefe, St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto.

That we do no injustice to the Rev. Mr. Burns, Professor of Knox's College though he be, shall be evident to all who know what the real doctrine of the Catholic Church is, from the following extract from the Professor's pamphlet:—

"Do the inspired relations of the last supper state that Jesus took his own body, then alive and in full health, and that he divided it into parts, and distributed these parts to the members of the company sitting around the table?"

Before again writing upon the subject of any Catholic doctrine, we would recommend the Professor of Knox College to make himself acquainted with that doctrine.

We have the best of authority for asserting that there is not a shadow of truth in a statement which under the caption of "A Good Catch," appeared some short time ago in the Toronto Globe, and was copied by the Montreal Witness.

For the rest, seeing how lively an interest the good Globe and the pious Witness take in the property of Papists, and how keen and how righteous is their indignation against the artifices of Romish priests—we will venture to ask the Globe for a few explanations anent the Morrin College in Quebec, under the special care of a Rev. Dr. Cooke, who is said to have attended upon Dr. Morrin when the latter was on his death bed.

Perhaps the Globe, which seems to be the re-

peroire of all scandal, the cloaca maxima of the press through which all the moral filth of the Protestant community finds egress to the world, will comply with the suggestion of our Quebec correspondent, and furnish the public with the much-desired, and long-looked for explanation of a very strange transaction.

There has been a funny row and almost a serious fight at Belfast between two Protestant Ministers—one a Mr. Grattan Guinness, the other a Mr. Hugh Hanna, known as "roaring Hanna."

The Rev. Mr. Guinness, preaching at Belfast, took occasion to say that "he had never anywhere encountered so much religious profession with so little of religious vitality as amongst the Presbyterians of Scotland and Ulster."

We notice this affair, as it shows that, when their feelings are excited, Protestants are quite as pugnacious, quite as ready to take the law into their own hands, and just as determined to put down an obnoxious preacher, as they represent Papists to be.

THE MANITOULIN ISLANDS.—The Canadian Freeman tells the following story concerning the dealings of the Commissioner of Crown Lands with the Manitoulin Indians, and the "smartness" of the brother in law of that Government official:—

"The Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands was accompanied to the island by a brother-in-law, and it would appear that this last gentleman had an eye for land speculation rather than for the novelty of witnessing an Indian treaty, or seeing the savages.

ST. PATRICK'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

This flourishing Society will give their Sixth Annual Pic-Nic next Wednesday in the Victoria Gardens (late Gaults).

Need we say that we hope the friends of this truly useful institution (for such it now is) will visit en masse the beautiful grounds selection by our Teetotal friends for the entertainment of all who take an interest in the success of the cause of Temperance, and who may desire to honor them with their presence.

The arrangements for the day's amusements are now completed, and we can assure our readers, young and old, that nothing has been omitted or forgotten which can contribute to the hearty enjoyment of the Patrons of the day.

In connection with which we may mention that prizes will be given to the best dancers of the Irish Jig and Horn Pipe. Get ready your dancing pumps.

ANALYSIS OF THE VOTE FOR SPEAKERSHIP.

On the question of the Speakership for the Legislative Assembly the vote stands as follows:—For the Ministerial candidate—Upper Canadians 43; Lower Canadians 23; Against Mr. Wallbridge—Lower Canadians 40, Upper Canadians 18.

The Ottawa Gazette states that in Osgoode and vicinity the potato crop is already smitten by the rot or blight, and also that the wheat crop is nearly a total failure owing to the worm or midge.