

the face of this, His Holiness the Pope has jurisdiction, and surely He is not an Englishman! Oh, but, that's merely a tolerated jurisdiction, say you; Parliamentary Acts may fix the spiritual boundary lines of a human system; it cannot affect a supernatural order in which the Pope's jurisdiction lies. To talk, therefore, of a number of Country squires, farmers or lawyers, not to speak of the gentlemen with handles to their names, legislating on the subject is simply absurd. Besides a large number of the Protestant clergy—in fact, if it were put to the test—the majority of them—acknowledge the Pope's supremacy and, therefore, his jurisdiction. Witness, for instance, the address from one hundred and thirty ministers lately sent to Rome. The number is not so important as the indication it furnishes us of the state of feeling amongst Churchmen in England. With these facts before him, is it too much to hold that Mr. Bethune was, to say the least, very rash in subscribing to an oath which had its origin in party hatred and a system of legislation which sought, by such means, to protect itself from any earthly accountability for its robbery of monasteries, &c., &c.

And now let me ask you, sir, one question more. When you sang the *Veni Creator Spiritus*—(a hymn, which you, of course, know, was composed by a strong believer in the Pope's supremacy)—when you sang this hymn, I repeat, did you feel no qualms of conscience in daring to mention the adorable name of the Holy of Holies in the same breath with an oath terrible in its blasphemy and full of all uncharitableness? Did you really imagine that the tongue that belied the Vicar of Jesus Christ and through Him, the Holy Spirit, could call down a blessing upon you? No, no! the heavens are as a wall of brass to such a petition. "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church." The God of mercy and sweetness and charity and truth said that; and neither Alexander Neil of Niagara nor the roar of the waters His Hand fashioned, can affect that divine commission.—Stand up before that assembly, Alexander Neil, take the perverted Book in your hand, swear a solemnity in the sight of the Holy Ghost—but remember, sir, that Ananias and Sapphira fell dead at the feet of Peter! And, remember, too, that the Hand that struck them down is neither shortened nor weakened. "Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be scattered: let those that hate Thee, flee from before Thy face!"

Of course, when we come to meditate on the matter, the legislation that framed such an oath was wise in its generation. It was a state necessity; and every body knows and must admit that right and justice and eternal law ought to go by the board in such a contingency. And the state necessity that made Mr. Bethune's oath—that immortal (without any admixture of "P") Rosinante upon whose skeleton ribs so many persons have cantered into fat births on this earth and, perhaps, warm ones in another region—that state necessity, I say, was this:—

1st, Harry coveted a strange woman, his lawful wife being alive, and the Pope would not let him.
2nd, Harry's extravagance and a pious desire to give Englishmen a taste of the blessings of work-houses made him covet the Church property. To this, the unjust and inhuman Pontiff objected.
3rd, Elizabeth coveted the English crown with a conscientious conviction that illegitimacy would add vastly to its lustre.

This was the state necessity, and certainly that man must be very unwise, say rash, who would dare question it. But, for all this, I imagine, it must be a very uncomfortable sort of oath. It is a kind of Reformation Magna Charta, yet, very, very different from the old document which the Papist Langton gave Englishmen. Its letter should be always printed in blood, for there are terrible associations connected with it. Tyburn and its hangings, drawings, quarterings, howlings, boilings, &c., &c., &c., overshadow that oath. The greatest, most illustrious and most virtuous names in English history loom up about the oath and point their bloody and mutilated fingers at the monster with thrilling significance. We see the oath beheading England's greatest Chancellor, More; murdering the sainted Fisher; strangling, cutting and burning the life out of the great Campion; slaughtering thousands had thousands of the holiest and purest of Englishmen—men for whose honored heads, Cato, pagan though he was, would have voted a crown, yet for whom the oath had but a—gallows; hundreds like him see it, still it remains if not a necessity of state, at least a *rubric* of their so-called ordination. Any one who has read Poe's lyrics will remember the weird fancy, of his heart nevermore going out from the shadow the raven made upon the floor. Surely the oath's shadow should cloud forever the heart and mind of him who dares pollute the pure air of heaven with its devilish echoes. The "Raven" came from the "dark Plutonian shore." Perhaps the same bird of ill-omen brought the oath to the upper world. It smells horribly of the Styx.

I have a proposition to enunciate: That religion for the maintenance of which a life is necessary, cannot be inspired by the Holy Ghost.

Now the oath, a notorious lie, is necessary for the maintenance of a bishop in the state of orthodox Protestantism, otherwise it would not be considered incumbent on the "well-beloved" to take it. And as the last appeal of Anglicanism is to the majority of bishops, and as all must take the oath, that religion may be justly considered as holding the oath necessary for its maintenance. The conclusion I leave to the shrewd wits of Mr. Bethune and his confreres.

J. M. J. G.

We are glad to learn that, at the last regular meeting of the Board of Notaries, held in this city, on the 14th ult., Mr. A. Brogan was duly admitted to practice the profession of Notary, after having undergone a creditable examination. We wish Mr. Brogan every success in his profession.

The case of the Indian girl at Caughnawaga, to which we alluded in our last, has been investigated, and a verdict of death from natural causes has been returned.

The Rev. M. Babin publishes in the *Ottawa Times* a very ill-advised letter, imploring the public at large—"not to allow themselves to be diverted by the storm of reviling that is now showering on me, from the more important work of discovering and punishing the perpetrators of the crime of which I was accused, but—thanks be to God—declared not guilty." Not declared guilty would be a more correct interpretation of the verdict to which the Rev. M. Babin refers, but to which there is no necessity for him to refer at all. He has the right to demand the full legal benefit of that verdict, in that he shall never again be put in peril of his life on the charge of having murdered his sister. This he may ask, but no more; he cannot expect that that verdict shall in any manner influence, favorably or unfavorably, the opinions of the public, upon his guilt or innocence.

But there is another charge—that of cruelty towards his young helpless sister—on which he has not been tried, on which no jury has pronounced any verdict, but on which a verdict strong and unanimous has been pronounced by the public. The Rev. M. Babin having been arraigned, and put upon his trial before the country on the charge of having murdered his sister, has "not been found guilty," of that particular offence, and has in consequence been discharged, now and for ever, from all legal pursuit on that point; and on this trial, this verdict and its consequences, we have no remark to offer, favorable or unfavorable.

On the other charge—that of gross cruelty to his sister—the Rev. M. Babin stands convicted by his own testimony: and if this testimony be false, if therein aught untrue have been insinuated, or aught true have been repressed, so that an unjust verdict has been recorded against him, he, and he alone, is to blame. He tells us himself that, of a dark night, in the middle of the road, he handed over his young sister to the tender mercies of a man of whom he either knew nothing, or knew everything that was bad; that no person of her own sex, no male relative accompanied the unhappy girl, to be a check upon the lust or brutality of the blackguard to whom, in the dead of night, and without witnesses, he, a minister of the Gospel, gave absolute control over a young and helpless sister; that he did not even so much as know where, or to what kind of a house, the poor girl was to be taken; nothing of the people with whom she was thenceforward to associate. This is the story which the Rev. M. Babin put forward in his defence, or at all events, which he allowed others to put forward for him; and accepting that story as true—monstrous, incredible almost as it must appear, to every brother, to every man not lost to every sentiment of humanity and decency—the public came to the unanimous conclusion that it mattered little, morally, whether the brother who could so act towards a helpless sister, whether the man who could so outrage female modesty, did, or did not, throw the poor girl into the river with his own hands. This may be a harsh verdict; but it cannot be cancelled until the falsity of the Rev. M. Babin's own explanations be established, until his own version of the affair be proved to be a lie.

In his letter he asks us "to believe it to be only just possible that I may have told the exact truth in every word I have uttered respecting my sister." This is what we must call a suicidal request; for if because in default of any other hypothesis to account for the mysterious murder of Miss M. A. Babin, the people were to believe that the hideous story told by her brother might be true, they could not but bring in a verdict against him for cruelty. To vindicate himself in the eyes of the public, morally as well as legally, he must disprove his own story, and show, not that it may be true, but that it is, and must be, false.

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—The mails by *Jawa* correct the statements of the Atlantic telegraph respecting the cool reception given by the people to the Queen on her way down to the Houses. According to the telegrams she was badly received; but it appears that in reality she was well and enthusiastically received by her loyal subjects. We must be very careful how we credit the statements we receive by telegraph. These, instead of arriving to us direct, pass through a foreign country where they are manipulated and distorted. Indeed as a general rule, everything that the Atlantic Cable via New York brings us may be set down as a lie, if Great Britain or Ireland be therein mentioned.

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.—To recommend these Ladies, or their work, to the Catholics of Montreal would be ridiculous: and the simple announcement of the fact that an appeal is now made to the public to aid them to meet the pecuniary liabilities which in their zeal for the service of the poor they have contracted, will suffice to excite the sympathies of our Catholic fellow-citizens. For in extending a helping hand to the Sisters we are but helping ourselves, for we are all directly, or indirectly, profited by their labors. They succor our poor, mitigate the sufferings of the wretched, and in seasons of epidemic such as that with which we are menaced by the Cholera raging in England, they confer upon the entire community services which it is difficult to appreciate, impossible for us to remunerate.

THE NEW PLAN OF CONFEDERATION.—The *Toronto Globe*, says the *Montreal Herald*, has a telegram professing to give the particulars of the changes introduced into the draft of the Constitution framed at Quebec. They are as follows:—

The name of the Confederation is to be 'Canada'; Upper Canada to be changed to 'Ontario,' and Lower Canada to 'Quebec.' The other Provinces will retain their present names.

Larger grants from the Federal treasury are to be given to New Brunswick.

The Crown is to have the power to enlarge the number of legislative councillors to a limited extent when necessary to prevent a dead lock.

The control of the fisheries and penitentiaries will be transferred from the local to the general Government.

Any privileges granted to separate schools in Upper Canada are to be granted to separate schools in Lower Canada.

This is all very well in so far as it goes, for no one in Lower Canada will object to the granting to the Protestant minority all advantages in the matter of schools, that are granted to the Catholic minority of Upper Canada. There was no need in fact for such a stipulation—but let it stand. Here, however, is the form in which a guarantee for equal justice should have been couched.

"Any privileges granted to Separate Schools in Lower Canada are to be granted to Separate Schools in Upper Canada."

What does the *Globe* say to this proposal? or would it prefer the abolition of all "State-Schoolism," and the adoption of the voluntary system for the School as well as for the Church?

WESTMINSTER REVIEW—January, 1867.—Dawson Bros., Montreal.—The contents are of the usual character, and marked by the ability, and intensely protesting tone that always characterizes this periodical. The articles are on the following subjects:—1. The Battle of Sadova and Military Organisation. 2. The Ethics of Aristotle. 3. The Ladies Petition. 4. Winckelmann. 5. Irish University Education. 6. Edmund Spenser. 7. Social Reform in England. 8. Reform and Reformers—Contemporary Literature.

SADLIERS' CATHOLIC DIRECTORY, ALMANAC AND ORDO FOR 1867.—This is a very useful and neatly got up Directory, giving, as it does, full returns of the various Dioceses in the United States and British North America; with a list of the Archbishops, Bishops, and Priests in Ireland, alphabetically arranged. Price 75 cents. Sent by mail by the publishers, D. & J. Sadlier, Montreal, C. E.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Agents for the TRUE WITNESS for the undermentioned localities:—

Mr. Timothy O'Sullivan for Ferguson's Falls and vicinity.

Mr. Jas. McCrae for Burnstown and vicinity.

CONCERT FOR ST. ANN'S BAND.—This Concert took place last night, the Mechanics Hall being crowded in every part.—The proceedings were opened by the Band playing St. Ann's March, composed by Signor Baricelli, who conducted the Band.

Mr. W. O. Farmer, Advocate, said he had been requested to apologize for the absence of Mr. Hamall, caused by a severe cold, for that of Mr. Ackerman on account of severe domestic affliction, and for that of the Rev. Mr. O'Farrell detained in Upper Canada, but who had confidently expected up to the last to have been able to be present. He then stated that the Concert was giving on account of the band, which had been organized by Mr. O'Farrell to stimulate the cultivation of music among them, and to be a means of preserving a knowledge here of the fine old airs of old Ireland, (Cheers.) He then passed a glowing eulogium upon these and trusted that notwithstanding the absence of those who had been announced that such arrangements had been made as would prove satisfactory. Master James Wilson then sang Pat Malloy and received a hearty encore, his voice for a mere boy, possessing great power. A corset solo with variations by his brother, a boy of fourteen, was really a wonderful display for one so young, and showed a command of the instrument, and a facility for producing a clear and brilliant tone which augur well for his future attainments. Miss M. J. Wilson sang 'Aileen Mavourneen' with great beauty, giving, what is rarer than good a voice the true expression of the ballad. The band does great credit to the teacher and performed exceedingly well, but when the fife and drum band went on to play the applause was tremendous, the right hand man being probably two feet two the size rising to the left where it culminated in three feet six. They played their part well and would have been worthy of notice even if they had all been twice as old as they were.—Mr. Baricelli performed his part, as usual, well, and Mr. Torrington who accompanied on the piano was most judicious.—*Montreal Herald* 22nd ult.

THE CONCERT AT THE LACHINE CONVENT.

The Order of the Children of St. Ann, founded at Vaudreuil, and having its noviciate for some time past in the parish of St. Jacques de Lachine, it presently established in the village of Lachine. About four years ago, this enterprising Order, under the supervision of the Revd. M. Marechal, purchased the valuable property formerly owned by the late Sir George Simpson, in the above place. Here they opened a boarding school, which was soon filled by pupils living in the thriving village of Lachine, and the parishes adjoining. Encouraged by the success that crowned their first efforts, the good Sisters immediately set about laying the foundation of a Convent, destined to be the mother house of their Order, and the following year saw arise a noble

structure contiguous to the fine residence of Sir George Simpson, over eighty feet in length, by forty feet in width, and three stories high. An elegant cupola, surmounted by a fine statue of St. Ann, the patroness of the community, crowns the edifice, and hence its name of "Villa Anna."

Fronting on Lake St. Louis, on whose banks it is agreeably situated, and, in summer, surrounded by verdant meads and flowery gardens. No better Convent can be found for the health and comfort of their inmates. So that it is not surprising to hear that it counts one hundred and twenty boarders, and a considerable number of day scholars who reside in the neighborhood.—Montreal has also furnished its full quota of pupils both this and the preceding years.

On last Thursday it was our good fortune to be present, through the kind invitation of the good Sisters, at a literary and musical soiree given by the pupils to their parents and the patrons of the institution, in testimony of their gratitude for the valuable present made to the Convent at the beginning of the year, in the shape of a parlor carpet of great work and beauty. A large number of guests were present, including the Cure, the Rev. M. Piche, who filled the place of honor, having on his right and left, the clergy of the surrounding country.

The following is the programme:—

PART I.

1. Musical Quartette—Piano, Harmonium, Harp—Pupils of the 3rd Course; Misses A. Leduc, A. Labrauche, E. Choquette, E. Ocororan.
2. Dispute of the vowels before the Academy.
3. Duette; The Misses M. Anger, Z. McMahon.
4. Jenny, or the Giddy Little Girl.
5. Quartette: The Misses A. Rosell, E. McDonnell, F. Lavigne, A. Deschamps.
6. Song—Miss P. Gougeon.
7. Fables.

PART II.

8. Quartette—accompanied by the Harmonium, and Harp—the Misses Aur. Garsan, A. Garsan, A. Deschamps, F. Lavigne.
9. The Virtues.
10. Song: Miss Gougeon.
11. Trio: The Misses P. Prud'homme, A. Godin, G. Barre.
12. Duette: [2 pianos:] Misses Z. McMahon, C. Merizzi.
13. Ruth and Naomi: Misses Holland and Davis.
14. The Queen of the Dummies.

This programme was well executed, but lest we should give umbrage by particularizing excellences in some, which were common to all, we think it more prudent to abstain from all special laudation. But what particularly struck us in the pupils was their natural grace and modest bearing; so long as the good Sisters discipline their wards in those two excellent qualities, they may be assured that, besides developing the other solid and practical qualities which tend to fit their pupils for the duties of water-familias, they must thereby gain more and more on the good will and esteem of every beholder.

The principal branches of education taught here are French and English, the number of English scholars attending being quite considerable. This happy blending of the two national elements is calculated to produce the most beneficial results, as the pupils, from mutual and constant intercourse, soon acquire a familiar knowledge of both languages.

In conclusion, we thought we could no better show our gratitude to the kind Sisters, for the pleasure which we received from their invitation to assist at this soiree of their pupils, than by taking this means of acquainting the public with the advantages of the Convent of Villa Anna, and earnestly recommending it as a seminary entirely worthy of their consideration and patronage.

MOVEMENTS OF HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF KINGSTON.—His Lordship, Mr. Horan, passed up to Lindsay on Saturday, 9th inst., and on the following Sunday administered confirmation to about 230 persons in the church in that town. His Lordship remained in Lindsay until Tuesday morning following, when he was escorted as far as Oromocto, on his way to Peterboro', by a large number of the people of Lindsay and the Township of Ops. He remained but a short time in Peterboro', however, but during which time he visited the Separate School, where addresses were presented to him by the teachers of the principal departments. On the following day (Wednesday) he held a confirmation in the South Dorco Church. He visited other localities in this Diocese, and arrived in Hastings on Friday of last week, and on last Sunday administered confirmation to a large number of persons in the fine new Church at Hastings. He returned to Kingston on Monday morning.—*Cobourg Sentinel*, Feb. 23rd.

OBITUARY.

"Death, the dread reaper of souls is still near us. We know not the moment this sickle may fall. When least we are thinking there's reason to fear us 'Tis then that he sounds the loud summoning call!"

It is with feelings of the deepest sorrow that we record in the *Ottawa Citizen* of the 13th inst., the death of Robert Donnelly Ackert, one of the first settlers in the village and Township of Buckingham C. E. where he resided for over thirty-five years, during fifteen of which he filled the honorable position of Municipal Councillor and Justice of the Peace. Such was the esteem he enjoyed when living, that his mortal remains, when dead, were escorted to their last resting place by over two thousand people, some of whom had come from a distance of thirty miles, the train of the funeral Cortege counting in its ranks the representatives of every class and creed. And indeed, whether we view him in public or in private life; in the pursuit of honest industry, or reclining in the bosom of domestic felicity; whether we regard him in his intercourse with strangers, or in the closer ties of amity; whether we consider him as a public functionary in the faithful discharge of official duty, or as a Catholic and a Christian in the unostentatious performance of acts of charity and unfeigned piety:—invariably do we find him the same man of honor and trust, the same kind father and affectionate husband; the same tried and valued friend, the same lover of justice and paragon of official integrity; the same true and devoted son of the Church and the strict observer of every social and moral rectitude. The loss of such a man at such a time in the prime of manhood, and almost without warning, cannot but be felt as a severe blow to his many friends and the deepest affliction to his bereaved and loving family, who, assured by his robust health and active habits, which he preserved up to a short period previous to his demise, had every reason to suppose that a long and useful career was still before him. But Providence had willed it otherwise, and, in this snatching him suddenly from amongst us, has shown us the transitory nature of all earth-born hopes and aspirations, and fully illustrated the truthfulness of the lines which we have quoted above, as forming no inappropriate text to this short but heartfelt tribute to the memory of one whose virtues and personal worth the writer has always held in the highest esteem. *Requiescat in pace.*

NOTICE.

THE Regular MONTHLY MEETING of the ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY will be held in ST. ANN'S HALL, on MONDAY, 4th inst., at eight o'clock P. M. A full attendance is required. T. HARDING, Secretary.

COBourg ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the *Cobourg Sentinel*. Sir,—I am directed to forward for publication in your paper the following Resolution, adopted at a Special meeting of the Cobourg St. Patrick's Society, held in their Hall on Wednesday evening a place in your next issue:

Moved by D. McAllister, seconded by P. O'Flynn, and Resolved,—That we, the members of the Cobourg St. Patrick's Society, having learned with profound regret of the death of Terence Duignan, Esq., of Ottawa, for many years a resident of Cobourg, and an active and worthy member of this Society from its first formation, take this the earliest opportunity of putting on record an expression of our deep sorrow for the loss of one to whom we had so long looked for counsel and assistance in conducting the affairs of the Society, and who for two years, ably and to the best interest of the Society, filled the office of President; and we deeply and sincerely sympathize with Mrs. Duignan and family in the great affliction they have sustained by the loss of a kind husband and an affectionate and indulgent father; and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Duignan, and also that it be published in the *Cobourg Sentinel*.

ANDREW McALLISTER, Cor. Secretary.

Birth.

At No. 4 Clontarf Place, on Friday, the 15th ult., Mrs. James Donnelly, of a son.

Died.

On the 20th ult., Dominick O'Hara, late of H. M. Post office Department, a native of the County Sligo, Ireland, aged 63 years. May his soul rest in peace.

At Buckingham Village, on the 11th ult., Robert Donnelly Ackert, aged 48 years.

In St. Alphonsus, on Saturday, 16th ult., James Kelly, aged 95 years, a native of the town of Oarlow, Ireland; he emigrated to this country in 1827, and was beloved by all who knew him. His remains were followed to the grave by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. May his soul rest in peace.

At Cote St. Andrews, C. E. parish of St. Polycarpe, on Wednesday morning, the 18th February, in the 50th year of her age, Isabella McGillis, the beloved wife of Allan McDonald, Esq., after a long and lingering illness which she bore with Christian fortitude and resignation. On Wednesday morning a solemn High Mass was offered up for the repose of her soul, in the Church of St. Polycarpe, and her remains were deposited in the consecrated ground attached to it. May her soul rest in peace.



THE Regular MONTHLY MEETING of the above Corporation will take place in the

BONAVENTURE BUILDING,

ON MONDAY EVENING NEXT, the 4th inst.

A full attendance is particularly requested, as business of importance will be brought before the Meeting.

Chair to be taken at Eight o'clock. P. O'MEARA, Rec. Sec.

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WANTED,

BY A LAW STUDENT, with good recommendations, a situation in an English family, where he could give lessons in French to some members of the family.

Address, OFFICE OF THIS PAPER, Montreal, 21st Feb., 1867.

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1864.

In the matter of FRANCOIS X. BEAUCHAMPS, Insolvent.

Public Notice is hereby given that on the 24th of April next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the undersigned will sell by public auction at the domicile of the said *Frs. X. Beauchamps* the following properties belonging to said Insolvent: 1st and situated at Cote St. Louis, parish of Montreal; 1st.—A lot of thirty-two feet front by eighty feet deep, bounded in front by St. Lawrence St. rear by Stanley Olark Bagg, Esq.; north-east by Joseph Guernon and south-east by the said *Frs. X. Beauchamps*; with a house and other outbuildings thereon constructed upon condition of paying to the said S. O. Bagg, a rent of five dollars, payable the first of May in each year. Another lot of twenty-eight feet front by eighty feet deep, bounded in front by St. Lawrence St. rear by the said S. O. Bagg, north-east by the said *Frs. X. Beauchamps* and south-east by Louis Lapierre, with a house and other outbuildings thereon constructed, upon condition of paying to the said S. O. Bagg, a rent of four dollars payable the first of May in each year. Another lot of forty feet front by eighty feet deep, bounded in front by St. Lawrence St. rear by the said S. O. Bagg, north-east by Angustin Crivior, and south-east by Charles Lepage, with a house and other outbuildings thereon constructed, upon condition of paying to the said S. O. Bagg, a rent of eight dollars payable the 29th of September in each year. Another lot of forty feet front by seventy-five feet deep, bounded in front by St. Lawrence St. rear by the said *Frs. X. Beauchamps*, north-east by Cesar Leclaire, and south-east by Francois Leclaire, with a house and other outbuildings thereon constructed, payable one third in cash and the balance in one year with interest at six per cent.

FRANCOIS FERRIN, Syndic. Montreal, 20th February 1867.