

Canada.

In consequence of the extensive ravages committed by the grasshoppers in some parts of Canada East, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal issued a Circular to his clergy, dated June 24, 1848, a copy of which is subjoined:—

"SIR,—I learn with deep pain that the grasshoppers are making terrible ravages in many parishes of this diocese; and it is much to be feared that they will spread in torrents over others, to devour the beautiful crop, which is now the only hope of the country in the frightful misery which weighs upon it. They are in great numbers, and so voracious that their passage through the fields is like a conflagration that sweeps every thing clean.

Descending from the sandy ridges, where they have begun by devouring the fall rye, they throw themselves with a kind of fury, not only on the young grains, but also on the herbs, the potatoes, the onions, and on all kinds of vegetables. One sees eight or ten of them attack, at the same time, the same ear, which speedily falls under their weight, and disappears under their teeth. The meadows that they traverse like armies in array, are so burnt or infected, that animals can no longer feed there; and when, after having ruined a field, they invade the neighboring farm, which, in its turn, is about to become their pasture, the fences are so covered, that we cannot distinguish the uprights from the rails, and the eye perceives nothing but heaps of insects, which the breath of the wrath of God has evidently driven nearer and still nearer to warn His people of the misfortune which awaits them.

I hasten to give you this information, and to indicate to you some means to be taken to arrest so-dreadful a scourge:—

1st. You will please to give notice to your parishioners of the misfortune which has already befallen their brethren, and which menaces themselves, unless God have pity on us. You may read to them these presents.

2nd. Announce to them that the clergy will do for their part, all that they can to arrest this destructive scourge, now that it only commences to make its ravages felt.

3rd. Consequently, let us have recourse to penitence, to tears, and to groanings in the recesses of our hearts, in the fear lest it may have been in great part because of our negligence in the accomplishment of our pastoral duties, that God has been obliged thus to visit his people in wrath.

4th. A mass will be celebrated every Saturday at the altar of the Archfraternity of the Cathedral Church, and in the Bonsecours Chapel, to touch the holy and immaculate heart of Mary, and to implore her powerful succour in favor of her children, whom the severe justice of God is pursuing.

5th. I authorize you to perform, when you think it convenient, the ritual prayers for the turning away of this threatening scourge. It will be necessary, too, that the parish should have at least one grand mass sung; and that every one should promise not to suffer any useless consortings of young people by themselves, (courtships,) in their houses.

6th. I recommend you, also, to require your parishioners to take the pledge of total abstinence; and in order that they may make this sacrifice with greater joy, and have more merit therein, you will please to give them a little course of instruction on the evils of drunkenness and the advantages of temperance. Once penetrated with the conviction that drink is the great enemy of bodies, souls, families, parishes, provinces, and kingdoms, it will not be difficult to gain them to a Society destined to regenerate the country and render it happy."

This is Popery in the nineteenth century. We have no room for comment.

Miscellanea.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.—It is said that no small number of the Jesuit priests who have been shipped from Europe to supply the great West, are ready for a return, in consequence, as they allege, of the impossibility of conforming themselves to the customs of Western life. It is certainly easier to sun one's self in idleness under a fair Italian sky, than to "rough it" among the wilds of America.—*Presbyterian.*

EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT.

We have great pleasure in informing our readers that the Rev. W. Taylor, A.M., Minister of the United Presbyterian Church, Montreal, has kindly consented to become one of the Editors of the *Colonial Protestant*, and will enter on his labours immediately. This arrangement will be highly satisfactory, we doubt not, to the friends of the cause in these Provinces.

A few back numbers are on hand. Persons wishing to become subscribers may be supplied with complete sets: but early application will be necessary.