

Jesus said to his disciples. Whom do you say that I am?

Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answering, said to him. Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jona. because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven. AND I SAY TO THEE. THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

AND I SHALL GIVE TO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven. and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven. S. Matthew xvi. 15-19.



Was anything concealed from Peter, who was styled the Rock on which the Church was built, who received the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and the power of loosing and binding in Heaven and on earth?—TERTULLIAN Preserip. xxii.

There is one God, and one Church, and one Christ founded by the voice of the Lord upon Peter. That any other Altar be erected, or a new Priesthood established, besides that one Altar, and one Priesthood, is impossible. Whosoever gathers elsewhere, scatters. Whatever is decreed by human frenzy, in violation of the Divine Ordinance, is adulterous, impious, sacrilegious.—St. Cyprian Ep. 43 ad plebem.

All of them remaining silent, for the doctrine was beyond the reach of man, Peter the Prince of the Apostles and the supreme herald of the Church, not following his own inventions, nor persuaded by human reasoning, but enlightened by the Father, says to him: Thou art Christ, and not this alone, but the Son of the living God.—St. Cyril of Jerusal. Cat. xi. l. v.

Calendar

- March 4—Sunday—St. Sunday and Lent.
5—Monday—St. Casimir King C. semid.
6—Tuesday—St. Symeon P. C. doub.
7—Wednesday—St. Thomas of Aquin.
8—Thursday—St. John of God C. doub.
9—Friday—Most Sacred Winding Sheet of Our Lord Great doub.
10—Saturday—The Forty Martyrs sem

The Cross

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, MARCH 3.

THE ROBBERY AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

We promised to return to this subject. The recent outrage has made an impression on the Catholic community which will not be speedily removed. Repeatedly has this Church been broken open, and wantonly profaned,—but in almost every case the sacrilegious perpetrators have been discovered—would that we could add, and suitably punished. Valuable ornaments are destroyed, vestments are wantonly torn and disfigured; precious Reliquaries, Crosses, Censers, Vases, Candlesticks, &c. are smashed to pieces or carried off. In one instance, several years ago, the very Chalice was robbed from the old Church of St. Peter, near where St. Mary's now stands, and broken in pieces, preparatory to being melted down. The fragments were discovered under a heap of stones at the Parade, and that robbery, like the two recent ones, was also perpetrated by soldiers in the garrison. It is really too bad that Her Majesty's troops should thus reduce, as it were, to a system Church-plundering in Halifax. What would "F. M. the Duke of Wellington" say to it? Many an unfortunate soldier was put to death in the Peninsula by his orders, for crimes far less than those committed at St. Mary's. In that Church, built by the Catholics of Halifax, and long since insufficient to accommodate themselves, the Military have been gratuitously permitted to attend at Divine Service. Those who built the Church pay for their own seats, and contribute to the support of its ministering Clergy. But the military have never been charged. They are interred gratuitously also, at the expense of St. Mary's Church; and for more than twenty years, all their spiritual wants were supplied by the Catholic Clergy of Halifax, without fee or reward. For the convenience of the Protestant Soldiers in the Garrison, more than £2000 sterling of the public money was spent in building a Church; and, as we are informed, their worthy Chaplain receives £100 per annum with allowances. Within the last two or three years, a paltry sum of £48 has been given for the attendance of the Priest in the Military Hospital, although it is well known that such attendance does not amount to one-tenth of what is done by the Clergy for the Military in Halifax. Add to all this, that for nearly six years have the officials of the Ordnance persisted in maintaining that abominable nuisance, the rotten gun-carriage Shanty, in the midst of the Catholic Bazaar Ground, as if for the very purpose of exasperating us. Under all these circumstan-

We have heard that Mr Ince has been assuring some Catholics that he had nothing to do with this affair, that he would not do any thing to annoy so respectable a body as the Catholics, and other luminaries of this sort. We tell him openly that we don't believe him, for we know that he was the main obstacle throughout.

ces, we do maintain that our Places of Worship ought to be secured from the sacrilegious invasion of those military robbers—nay, we think that full compensation ought to be made to the Church. The value of the things destroyed and carried off, at the two last military assaults on St. Mary's, would more than build a New Gun Carriage Store for the scrupulous Mr Ince, and we do not see why our Bishop should be forced to repair those damages out of his pocket, as we have been told was the case.

We now come from the Military to the Civil Authorities; and here we cannot help saying, that there is no adequate punishment for crime, and consequently no efficacious sanction of Law in Halifax. One main object of punishment ought to be, to prevent the repetition of crime in the punished individual, and to deter others from imitating his example. We find, from sad experience, that there is no such protection here. Confinement in the Penitentiary seems to be the maximum of rigour. Now the system there is, in our mind, a downright humbug. Barring the personal restraint—which, by the way, is imaginary enough—the condition of the convicts is easier than that of many poor men who are toiling for a daily subsistence in the world. We believe the managers of the Institution are influenced by very humane and honorable feelings; but we think their humanity is sometimes misplaced, and that not only in Halifax, but in many other parts of the world, there is much want of benevolence on this subject. It is not in order to make them happy and comfortable that culprits are put into prison. It is to make them feel the consequences of crime, and to protect Society from their villainy. Has this been done at the Halifax Penitentiary? Certainly not; the discipline there is too relaxed; it has no terrors for the evil doer; those who have been once confined, are sure to qualify themselves for a second committal, after they get out. Doherty, the former robber of St. Mary's, met Jones, the late burglar, in the Penitentiary. It was there the new robbery was planned, for which Jones is now to be tried. Those two Soldiers were only a short time out of prison, when the late disgraceful robbery was executed. Jones now declares that he was put up to the whole by Doherty, and we believe him. We thought from the beginning that Doherty had an actual hand in the business. It was only the other day that one of our farmers was robbed, in the open street, of £70. The accomplice, and very likely the plottor, of this audacious theft, is another hopeful bird from the gilt cage of the Penitentiary. But why need we quote examples? One fact which astonished the Province about a year ago, and which must have provoked the hearty laughter of all strangers who heard it elsewhere, will serve to illustrate the whole system. It is this:

One of the convicts made his escape from the Penitentiary (no difficult feat), and the Governor of the concern armed all the other convicts, and sent them in pursuit of him. They were out a whole day and a night from the Prison; and of course, would have never returned, but that their quarters were so comfortable. Now we defy the whole civilized world to match this ingenious Haligonian illustration of the adage, Set a thief to catch a thief. Our contemporary, Mr P. L., in the wildest flights of his merry fancy never imagined any thing half so droll as this. The Governor is there still, as a matter of course, for he only acted in accordance with the system that prevails in the Penitentiary, and its curious "code of honour" (among thieves).

We will conclude our observations for the

present, by directing the serious attention of our Legislators, and especially the Managers of the Halifax Penitentiary, (who amongst other things boast of teaching trades) to the following pertinent extract from an able article on Juvenile Criminals, in the November number of the North British Review.—

The prison at Perth is one of the most expensive model-prisons in the world. Though supported by large funds, and under the direction of men distinguished for their rank, their humanity, and their knowledge, it has failed to accomplish one single object of its institution; and the appalling fact has been admitted by one of its Directors, that no less than SIXTY-SEVEN PER CENT. of the prisoners who endure its discipline are recommitted. The reason may be traced to a system at variance with the character of punishment, and which has been treated by Lord Denman thus, in speaking of juvenile offenders:

I greatly dread the effect of giving them benefits and privileges which they never could have hoped for, but from the commission of crimes. I own myself extremely jealous of the gratuitous instruction of the young felon in a trade, merely because he is a felon, and of the displacement of the honest from employment, by his success in thus obtaining it. Perhaps this is the most important branch of criminal law; for the age inquired of is that at which the habits are formed, and the path of life is chosen. I hold the only legitimate end of punishment to be, to deter from crime, but I think I perceive in some of the theories of benevolence such a mode of administering the criminal law as to encourage instead of deterring.—Appendix to First Report, Lords, p. 3.

Whether or not this was intended to apply to the prison at Perth, it certainly hits off that great renovating shop for the enfeebled constitutions of exhausted criminals. The system there is, a literal reduction to practice of the precept, that when a man strikes you upon the one cheek, you are to turn to him the other also. The comforts of existence are liberally supplied by an injured community, to the ruffians who have wronged them. We take them from the streets—corrupted and corrupting,—place them in the bath,—cleanse them from outward pollution,—clothe them in warm and comfortable garments,—and locate them in an apartment, the possession of which they never anticipated even in their dreams. It is well lighted, ventilated, and warmed. They have employment given them to occupy attention and pass the time. They are addressed in the language of kindness: educated men interest themselves in their welfare. From a state of humiliation they are raised to a position of self-esteem. They have the privilege of conversing with books. Food of a healthy kind,—sufficient exercise,—instruction in many useful branches of education, and in a trade. This is solitary imprisonment at Perth. A cheerful gaiety is diffused over the severe brow of penal discipline. The suffering of the past is forgotten in the hilarious glow of present enjoyment. All goes merry as a marriage bell. If this be punishment, what is pleasure? What have the best of us different from this except the freedom—useless without leisure—to take a longer stroll than a comfortable airing-party permits? What depressing contrasts these things create! Compare them with the living in the noisome garret, or

Doherty, the Church-breaker, was taught the trade of Stone cutting in the Penitentiary. He seems to have been qualifying himself (if Jones is to be believed) for a more scientific mode of breaking open doors and windows than he was formerly acquainted with.

still more noisome cellar of the honest poor, who have never qualified themselves by a life of crime for the service of skilful teachers during life, and who have not as good a funeral when life shall be no more!

In reading the various reports of the inspectors, one loses patience at the extreme minuteness with which these gentlemen describe their anxiety to have everything clean and tidy. If a miserable spider has been left unmolested in a corner of a cell, or a bluebottle is found buzzing about the ears of a prisoner, these circumstances will be duly chronicled. The prisoners would be the most ungrateful of mankind if they did not consider themselves contented; accordingly, the chaplains and the inspectors of the prisons duly record as a great fact, that John Thomson, or Michael O'Grady, or Betty Mulligan, expressed themselves happy and satisfied; as if it was for their satisfaction they are kept in such comfortable quarters. The directors, however, with that candour which is due to themselves and their office, have arrived at a different conclusion, and entertain apprehensions that the murmurs which are heard in Scotland are justified. The Lord Justice Clerk has truly said that this circumstance has produced much discontent here.—Appendix p. 76. But Mr Whigham, Sheriff of Perthshire, clenches the matter by stating the results of his more varied and more frequent observations.

In periods of difficulty in getting work, when those parties know how comfortable the prisons are, they are less unwilling to commit an offence because they may be sent there.—First Report, p. 349.

Nay, according to the system upon which they began, prisoners were allowed the value of any overwork that their industry might get through; but this most pernicious course was properly given up, though contrary to the opinion of the inspectors.

Lord Brougham asks the question—'What part of the reformatory system is it which you think makes the expectation of the prison less hateful to those people who are to be reformed? because our general experience shows us that these people very much dislike that which is reformatory.'

Ans.—'The feeling seems to be that when they get useful and profitable labour, books to read, and the instruction of the teachers, and society for the time, the mind is relieved of the tedium of imprisonment.' He adds that all these things 'go to diminish the deterring effect. I do not think that our system has worked well with reference to prisoners generally, in so far as that combination of reformation and deterring has hitherto gone.' He describes the prisons in Scotland formerly as being 'very bad.' 'Now they are perhaps more comfortable than the houses the same classes of persons have to reside in while out of prison; there is not the slightest doubt of it as regards accommodation, food, clothing.'—Minutes of Evidence before Lords' Committee, p. 350.

Lord Brougham also puts this question to the learned sheriff:—

'You say that the attempt to combine those two results—the reformation of the criminal and the deterring of evil disposed persons—has hitherto failed, do you think your experience of it has gone so far as to enable you to give that opinion generally?'

Ans.—'I would speak with the caution which I feel to be proper in such a case, because we have not had very long experience; but looking to the experience of five years, and the result, which shows that sixty-seven per cent. of those who have passed through the General Prison have