

The True Witness

AND  
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,  
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPT. 9.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

SEPTEMBER—1870.

Friday, 9—Of the Octave.

Saturday, 10—St. Nicholas of Tolentino, C.

Sunday, 11—Fourteenth after Pentecost.

Monday, 12—Of the Octave.

Tuesday, 13—Of the Octave.

Wednesday, 14—Exaltation of the Cross of Our Lord.

Thursday, 15—Octave of the Nativity.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

In our last we left Marshal McMahon engaged in a series of operations on the North Eastern frontier, and close to the Belgian boundary, having apparently for their objects, the release of Marshal Bazaine from his critical position at Metz, and the delaying of the march of the Prussian armies upon Paris. The Prussians however swung round to the North, to meet McMahon, and to prevent his junction with Bazaine, and a series of desperate conflicts thence ensued, in which however the unsurpassed gallantry with which the French fought was unavailing to ensure victory. Outnumbered, overpowered, but fighting to the last—their brave leader McMahon wounded, they had to succumb, and on Saturday last the startling intelligence reached us by telegram that Louis Napoleon had surrendered himself a prisoner to the King of Prussia; and that Gen. De Wimpfeldt, who had succeeded to the command of McMahon's army, had capitulated.—This was confirmed on Monday by a Proclamation to the people from the French Ministry, acknowledging the reverses, but breathing at the same time a bold and determined spirit. The French armies may have been defeated, but the French people are still unconquered.

The King of Prussia announced these great events in a letter to the Queen dated Sept. 2, 1.22 p.m., which he closed with these words:—"His Majesty's residence I shall appoint after an interview with him, at a rendezvous to be fixed immediately."

Does this close the war? The great wars of a former epoch closed with the fall and abdication of the great Napoleon it is true; but then Europe was in arms, not against the French, but against one man, the Emperor, whose insatiable ambition was the cause of those wars. But to-day the case is very different. The Prussians are fighting for the idea of German unity; it is a German Empire under a Prussian Emperor, that is the object at which they are aiming; the war is the uprising of the Teutonic race, aspiring to European supremacy, and proposing to itself the humiliation of the Latin race. We scarce expect therefore that the war will close with the fall of Louis Napoleon: or that a mere change of dynasty, or form of internal government in France will allay the war fever of the now thoroughly aroused Germans.

Neither Russia nor Great Britain can be indifferent spectators of the aggrandizement of Prussia, and the humiliation of France. To Great Britain, especially, it is of utmost importance that France should be great and powerful, that her voice should be of supreme weight in Europe. France, in case of war with Russia, is our best, our only ally, the only counterpoise in the European system to the weight of the Russian giant. Therefore the British diplomatist must insist: "Vive la France."

And the non-official people of England! how should they receive the news of the disasters that have befallen the arms of France? They may, and must admire the admirable military qualities of the Prussians, their organization, the skill of their leaders, the heroism of the soldiers. But they should not forget that the defeated, are the men who side by side with our soldiers scaled the heights of Alma; who rushed to the assistance of the hard pressed British troops on the day of Inkermann; who covered the retreat, and saved from destruction the remnant of our Light Brigade at Balaclava. He is unworthy of the name of Englishman who, remembering these things, and calling to

mind how bravely, how loyally the French soldiers fought side by side with our troops in the Crimea, does not sympathise with France in this hour of calamity; who does not pray that she may yet come with honor out of her difficulties; who does not, in a word, re-echo the diplomatist's cry of "Vive la France."

A humiliated, a dismembered France will be a standing danger to the peace of Europe.—Prussia may wrest from her for the moment, Alsace and Lorraine; but never will it be able to efface from the hearts of Frenchmen the memory of their losses, or their determination to recover by the sword, that of which the fortunes of war had spoiled them. There will be, there can be no permanent peace for Europe, if France be in any degree dismembered. Besides, are the people of the Provinces which it is proposed to annex to Prussia to have no voice in the determining of their political status? Now these people are we know French to the backbone, more so than the people of Paris, or of Brittany.

We do not think therefore that the Great Powers of Europe will stand by idle, or allow Prussia to exert the extreme rights of the conqueror over France; nor do we think that the case of France is even now desperate. If the spirit of '93 be again aroused, Europe may again have to marvel at the exploits of an army starting like magic from the earth; of peasant soldiers, whose proud boast it was that with bread and powder they could march to China.

Yet at present all speculation as to what France will do, what Prussia will exact as the price of peace, what the other Powers of Europe will sanction, must needs be idle. There are still the elements of a successful defence in France, and by the extravagance of its demands the Prussian government may arouse these into action; and even should France succumb now, we may be sure that it will be but for a short season, and that the entire energies of France, no matter how or by whom governed, will be thenceforward directed to the recovering of her lost military prestige, and her captured Provinces.

Rapid has been the course of events in Paris since the promulgation there of the sad news recorded above. The Legislative body met, and a vote of *dechéance* having been proposed was quickly carried. The Empire which, at the cost of so much blood, Louis Napoleon restored, was declared at an end; and the Republic was proclaimed. Excited crowds rushed through the streets pulling down the Imperial arms and ensigns from all the shops and public places where they were exposed, but in spite of the excitement, no other acts of violence are reported. The people in this hour of calamity still showed an undaunted spirit, and proclaimed their determination to fight for France, and if necessary to die for France. History shows that in the mouths of Frenchmen these words have a meaning, and the world may yet see what a people roused by disaster to a state of heroic madness can accomplish.

By some accounts Trochu, the military Governor of Paris, is said to have been proclaimed Dictator, and at all events he seems the man of the hour. The Palikao Government has retired, and the following list of Officers of a new provisional government has been published:—Minister of the Interior, Leon Gambetta. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jules Favre. Minister of Finance, Pierre Magne.—Minister of Public Instruction, Jules Simon. Minister of Justice, Emanuel Cremieux.—Minister of War, General Trochu. President of the Council, M. Grevy. Secretary General of the Provisional Government, Andre Lavertigne.

The death in consequence of his wounds, of McMahon, the chivalrous, the brave, is reported but not confirmed. As his name indicates this gallant soldier was of Irish origin, his ancestors having been soldiers in that Irish Brigade to whose valor France is indebted for some of her most glorious days. Marshal Bazaine had again attempted to cut his way out from Metz, but had again been driven back with severe losses by Prince Frederick Charles' army. It is supposed that he too with his brave soldiers will have to capitulate at last. Many soldiers, 15,000 it is said, from McMahon's army had escaped into Belgium, and there laid down their arms.

The ex-Emperor had an interview with the King of Prussia on the 4th inst., and a German fortress, it is said Mayence, was to be assigned as his place of residence. As his hold upon the affections of the French is not great as was that of his uncle, and as his name is no longer a word of power to conjure with, it is not to be supposed that after the conclusion of the war, any restraint will be placed upon him. He is politically dead, and can no longer inspire dread. It is to be hoped that Prince Napoleon, or as he is more commonly called Plon-Plon, may at the same time sink into oblivion. Eugenie it is said proposes to rejoin her husband; the poor boy lately called the Prince Imperial has it is said fled to Belgium, but this is not certain, and other accounts state that he gave himself

up at Sedan. The siege of Strasbourg continues; much injury has been inflicted by the besieger's fire, and the noble Cathedral with its world renowned clock has suffered severely.

The position at Rome is critical. The Garibaldians, or Italian Fenians, encouraged no doubt by the withdrawal of the French troops, and probably by the Piedmontese authorities, now loudly boast of their intention to commence another raid upon Rome, and the territory of the Holy See. The Papal Government is taking all precautions; but though its population is loyal and heartily detests the Garibaldians, its army is so small, that the Garibaldians, backed as they will be by the Piedmontese, may succeed in driving the Sovereign Pontiff into exile.

FATHER NUGENT AND CATHOLIC ORPHANS.

—In our last we had barely time to mention the fact that Father Nugent had arrived safely in Montreal accompanied by some twenty-eight orphans, boys and girls, whom it was the design of the reverend gentlemen to place in respectable families in the rural districts. We may now mention that this, which we may call Father Nugent's trial trip, has been eminently successful; and so encouraging that the reverend gentlemen will speedily return to England to organize another band of immigrants.

It is the duty of every Catholic in Canada to encourage this religious, this patriotic work.—To the Irish Catholic it recommends itself in a particular manner; for there can be no doubt that the orphans and destitute children whom Father Nugent proposes to rescue from a life of distress, sin, and shame are for the most part descended from Irish parents. Why should the devil claim them as his own? Why should they be allowed to grow up and develop from paupers into criminals, when it is so easy to transform them into good and useful citizens?

Miss Rye is doing after her manner a great work amongst the Protestant destitute children. Of her and of her work we would not speak but in terms of sincere respect, for we honor charity and zeal wherever we find it. But as a Protestant herself, Miss Rye is not suited to take charge of Catholic orphans. We by no means intend any slur on that lady by this, for as a conscientious Protestant she must of course prefer placing her young charges in the hands of persons of her own way of thinking. We need therefore some one to do for Catholic orphans, that which Miss Rye is, and has been doing for the destitute of her own denomination—and this work Father Nugent with great zeal, and tact, vivified by the highest charity has undertaken. It is for the Catholic laity of Canada to extend to him the same sympathy, the same active co-operation that Miss Rye's co-religionists have extended to her.

Father Nugent, who we may mention *en passant* brings with him the highest testimonials and warmest recommendations from his ecclesiastical superiors in England, makes no demand on the purses of the Catholics of Canada; all he asks and expects is that they will assist him in finding for his charges honest and profitable employment, which will be of course as profitable to the employer as to the employed. Any therefore of our country readers who may want on their farms smart young lads of good character should put themselves in communication with the Rev. Mr. Nugent, who will be only too glad to attend to them, and to supply their wants. The lads he brings with him are fitted for all kinds of field labor, and several of them have already learned the trades of blacksmiths, shoemakers, painters, and others. For lads of this description, able, and willing to work there is room, and every prospect of success in this country, especially in U. Canada.

LIVES OF THE IRISH SAINTS; from Saint Patrick down to St. Laurence O'Toole. By D. P. Conyngham, with an Introduction by the Rev. Thomas S. Preston. D. & J. Sadlier, Montreal. Price, \$2.00.

We have just received this really valuable work on the "lives of the most distinguished Saints and Missionaries of Ireland." A glance at its contents confirms us in the belief, that it is a work of labor and research—and that it will realize the author's aim throughout "to make it so that the masses might learn to look back with pride and satisfaction upon the Christian zeal, great sacrifices and missionary labors of the Fathers of the Primitive Church in Ireland." We transcribe a few passages to give our readers an idea of our author as a narrator. We have only had time to peruse the sketch of St. Patrick with which the work begins. After dismissing the question as to St. Patrick's birth-place—which according to the received opinion was at Boulogne-sur-mer, in Gaul—the author proceeds to our Saint's encounter at Tara with the Druids. St. Patrick, it seems, intended to celebrate Easter in the plain around the Royal Residence, and to be in the neighborhood of the grand convention held by the princes, nobles and pagan priests. It was penal to light a fire before the King's bonfire appeared at the solemn convention. St. Patrick, however, whether ignorant of the law

or not, is unknown—lit a blazing fire which was plainly visible at Tara. The monarch became indignant and hastened with a large retinue to extinguish the fire and punish the offender. The Saint was summoned to the King's presence, the latter meanwhile warning his people not to rise at the Saint's approach. But when the Prelate drew near, a certain youth rose up and did him honor; and Patrick boldly proclaimed the truth of Christianity before King Laghaire and was finally invited by the latter to preach again before the nobles at Tara. After some further details of our Saint's courage and firmness, the author thus alludes to the old pagan times and the so-called Reformation period—"We find that Laghaire though he did not believe, allowed the Saint to preach his religion while he would not disturb the people. How different was the conduct of a people calling themselves Christians, a few centuries ago, in Ireland. English conquerors, not only ruled the country by the sword but also proscribed the Religion of Patrick and subjected its followers to the rack, the torture and the gibbet. The conduct of those English reformers is diabolical when compared with that of the Pagan Irish King, Laghaire. The religion of pagan Ireland was one of poetry and romance, and approached nearer to Christian conception of Omnipotence than that of any other pagan country. . . . Such was the simple poetic religion of the pagan Irish, and so easy was the transition to Christianity, that St. Patrick found its very forms a basis upon which to establish Christianity."—*Vide*, p. 62.

Before closing our remarks on Mr. Conyngham's work—to which we may return hereafter—we would simply add that as to style and finish the publishers have produced an elegant volume, and as to matter, the author a most interesting and readable book. A cross encircled with a wreath of shamrocks on the cover first strikes the recipient of the book; and on further observation, the simple device which surrounds the cross—"What country on earth is not full of our labors." We bespeak for this work a large sale, as it well deserves.

Our readers will learn with pleasure that the health of His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, has decidedly improved; may he long be spared to the country! is our sincere prayer.

We learn from a correspondent at Crysler, Ont., that, in spite of the serious losses inflicted on the farmers of the district by the bush-fires, the Catholics have completed their new Church, which was opened for divine service on the 1st. instant.

HORRORS OF WAR.—A sad incident of the siege of Strasbourg is reported. A shell fell on the roof of the girl's school near the Cathedral, and exploding killed seven of the young ladies, besides wounding, and fearfully mutilating many others.

A body of recruits for the Papal Zouaves left Montreal on Thursday last. They numbered about 115, and were accompanied by their indefatigable Chaplain, the Rev. E. Moreau. May the blessing of God be with them, and strengthen them to overcome the enemies of the Holy See!

The rigid enforcement by the Canadian authorities of the new regulations by which U. States fishermen are excluded from Canadian waters, is creating much feeling amongst our neighbors, who find themselves deprived of a very lucrative branch of business. It is not pretended however, that our authorities have outstepped their rights.

We beg to inform our Subscribers in Prince Edward Island that Edward O'Reilly, Esq., of Charlottetown, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the TRUE WITNESS at that place. We request all those on the Island, who are indebted to this office, to have the kindness to settle their accounts with Mr. O'Reilly as soon as possible.

From time to time we receive orders for the TRUE WITNESS unaccompanied by the subscription, (which is \$2 per annum, in advance). We wish, therefore, to inform all those who may order the paper that, unless the orders are accompanied by the subscription price, we will not pay any attention whatever to them.

After many months of weary travel the Red River Expedition reached Fort Garry in safety on Wednesday the 24th ult. Riel and his immediate friends ran away just before the troops entered the place; and this would seem to be a satisfactory rebuttal of the Amnesty story, for surely Riel would not have bolted had he known that Col. Wolsley had an amnesty in his pocket. What to do with our precious acquisition is now the question. It certainly does not seem as if a territory so difficult of access as is the Red River district, were worth the keeping.

The International Railway Guide for September contains the Official Time Tables of the various Lines collected up to date; also a glance at the recent improvements on the Grand Trunk Railway; comparative traffic returns and interesting miscellaneous reading for the traveller. Published and for sale by C. R. Chisholm & Co., and by Booksellers and News Agents, and on the trains and river steamboats. Price 10c.

New Ireland is the name of another Irish National paper which we are happy to reckon amongst our Irish exchanges. Its policy is Ireland for the Irish, and ruled by the Irish, but it is not a revolutionary paper, neither does it advocate the appeal to any but legitimate means to attain its objects, which in themselves are perfectly lawful to the Christian. If it be impossible to unite Great Britain and Ireland morally as well as legally, by motives of interest as well as by Acts of Parliament, why then separation becomes a necessity. We hope, however, that by conciliatory and equitable legislation such an alternative as separation betwixt the two countries may be rendered unnecessary.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW—July, 1870. —Messrs. Dawson Bros., Montreal:—1. Unpublished Letters, written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge; 2. Indian Taxation, Lord Cornwallis' Land Settlement; 3. The Nationality Question in Austria; 4. The Future of the British Empire; 5. Shelley; 6. Colonial and American Pauperism; 7. Roman Catholicism: Present and Future; 8. Contemporary Literature.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE—August, 1870.—Messrs. Dawson Bros., Montreal.

This is a capital number. The contents are as under:—1. Who Painted the Great Murillo De La Merced? 2. New Books; 3. Earl's Dene, part x.; 4. About What The Old Egyptians Knew; 5. The Wishes of a Dumb Waiter; 6. Lady Fair; 7. The Greek Mosaic.

LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW—July, 1870. Messrs. Dawson Bros., Montreal.

This number opens with an interesting review of Earl Stanhope's History of the Reign of Queen Anne; after which comes an article on the Church and the Age, which concludes with an expression of the opinion that after all "we think we need not despair of the future of Christianity, or of the Church of England"—though there is no necessary connection betwixt the two. Then we have a review of D'Israeli's Lothair, on which the reviewer passes much the same verdict as did Blackwood a few weeks ago, condemning it as a trashy, not to say thoroughly "snobbish" production. The other articles are as follows:—The Police of London; Dr. Newman's Grammar of Assent; Baths and Bathing Places, Ancient and Modern; The Rig Veda; Letter Writing; Administration of the Army.

RECEPTION OF BISHOP HORAN.

(From the British Whig.)

On Tuesday the Right Rev. the Bishop of Kingston returned to his diocese after an absence of several months at Rome, in attendance on the Oecumenical Council, in answer to a call from the Holy Father on all his faithful prelates. His people delighted at his promised safe return, made preparations during the past four days for his reception in a manner that would express in some adequate measure the great pleasure they felt and the earnest, cordial welcome they desired to extend to him.

Yesterday morning about eight o'clock the Excursion party started down the river to meet his Lordship. It was composed of two steamers, the Watertown and Bay of Quinte, both of which left Kinghorn's wharf crowded with all classes (and notably the fair sex) of the Roman Catholics of Kingston, among whom it was a complete gala day. The steamers were decked off with flags, and as they moved out of the harbor and down the river presented an unusual appearance of gayety and life. There was quite a "blow" on the water, but this did not seem to effect the spirits of the crowds on board ere they left, whether it was appreciably felt later or not. The day otherwise was remarkably fine, and the excursion, apart from its interesting object, was delightful.

The Congregational Nunnery and St. Mary's Cathedral were decorated in honour of his Lordship's arrival, and other intended demonstrations of welcome were visible. At five o'clock crowds of people found their way to the St. Lawrence wharf, at which dock it was expected his Lordship would arrive. However, the public had made a miscalculation. It was understood by them that he was coming from Montreal in the Royal Mail boat, which would, in the ordinary way, have enabled him to reach the excursion party in good time for them to return here at that hour.

It may be imagined, therefore, that the telegram from Prescott, announcing that the steamer was eight hours late, created a bitter disappointment, which was, however, alleviated by a telegram from Brockville, which announced his arrival there by Grand Trunk Railway from Montreal, and his departure for Kingston with his friends on the Str. Bay of Quinte at 3.30. The people then dispersed more satisfied, to return at 8.30; pleased, after all, that they had not altogether to forego their