

The True Witness
AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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G. E. CLERK, Editors.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1875.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

Friday, 14—Of the Feria.
Saturday, 15—Fast. Vigil of Pentecost.
Sunday, 16—Pentecost.
Monday, 17—Of the Octave.
Tuesday, 18—Of the Octave.
Wednesday, 19—Ember Day. Of the Octave.
Thursday, 20—Of the Octave.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

As the preparation of newspapers from publication offices must begin on the 1st October next, our subscribers are warned not to make prepayment of postage at the receiving offices beyond that date. In the meantime we request such of them as are in arrears to remit at once, and all others to renew their subscription, as after that date we shall, without exception, discontinue sending the True Witness to all who are in arrears, and also to those who have not renewed their subscriptions.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Czar of Russia arrived in Berlin on Monday. He was received on alighting at the Railway Station by the Emperor William and all the Princes of the Emperor's family, and Generals Von Moltke and Manoueff and other distinguished personages were present. The Emperor's greeting was exceedingly cordial. An immense crowd was gathered around the station, and cheered most enthusiastically. The city is decorated with flags. The Czar, accompanied by Prince Gortschakoff, has visited Bismarck.

A Berlin special to the Standard says Bismarck and Gortschakoff will decide during the Czar's visit whether Germany should answer the last Belgian note directly or appeal to the guaranteeing powers. Recent warlike rumors are declared to be the work of sensation jobbers.
The Telegraph, speaking of the meeting of the Emperors of Russia and Germany on Monday, says: "It is impossible to conceal the truth. The continental situation wears the very gravest aspect. If we were to say that the question of the future repose of Europe may be practically solved before forty-eight hours have passed, we would scarcely go beyond the facts. The tendency at this hour is decidedly pacific." Other London journals likewise comment upon the meeting, but the thought of war is generally discredited. It is reported from Paris that the French Government positively contradicts the assertion that Germany has recently made representations of a hostile tendency. The same despatch contains a statement—believed to be semi-official—that no cause of conflict exists between Germany and France, and that advances from all capitals in Europe are of the same tenor—that pacific ideas are everywhere in the ascendant.

The feeling in Paris is more hopeful. La Liberté says the Czar intends to propose a general disarming, and Germany will support the proposition.

The bill for the suppression of religious orders in Germany, passed its third reading on Monday in the Lower House.

A pamphlet, attributed to General Todleben, has appeared at Brussels, entitled "L'Angleterre et les Petits Etats a la Conférence de Bruxelles." It gives an account of the barbarous way in which England carried on war during the last century, and contends that its military weakness, as compared with the great Continental Powers, which its Government studiously conceals as far as possible, is the reason why England refused to take part in a second Conference. It maintains that the Eastern Powers, far from being gainers by the new Code, which almost exclusively favours the attacking party, would give up considerable advantages. It shows, however, that most of the small States made large reservations with regard to the acceptance of the Code.

The Prussian Government is proceeding steadily with its stringent measures directed against the Church. The documents relating to the proposed law for suppressing religious order in Prussia have been laid before the Emperor. The suffragan Bishop of Gnesen has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for officiating in the cathedral in place of the suspended Bishop.

If the Gazzetta d'Italia is to be credited a new form of attack menaces the Catholic Church. That journal remarks that the question between the Church and the State has entered a new phase, and, therefore, a design is on foot to assemble an International Congress to determine on a fixed mode of regulating international legislation concerning the relations between the Pope and Catholic or non-Catholic States. The aim of such a Congress would of course be to reduce the

Pope to be simply Bishop of Rome, to prevent the Bishops throughout the world from hearing the Pope's voice or obeying his injunctions, to make Pontifical acts depend for validity upon civil sanction, and thus to destroy Catholicism to please the despot of Berlin.

The last Government returns show that the population of Rome, which rose from 226,022 in 1870 to 244,484 in 1871 has been gradually falling since that year, the population in 1872 being 241,500, and in 1873 240,222. The returns for 1874 are not yet published.

Statistics of the Government Pawn-office in Rome have lately been published. From them it appears that the sale of unredeemed pledges produced in the year 1872 the sum of 240,000 lire, in 1873 301,000 lire, and in 1874 the amount of 437,000 lire. This progressive increase in the number of articles which distressed persons were compelled to deposit as security for loans, and which they were unable through poverty to regain by payment of the amounts borrowed, reveals in the plainest manner the increasing misery of the inhabitants of Rome. The excessive dearth of provisions, and the high rents of apartments, produce much suffering and wretchedness.

Letter. Apostolic, dated the 5th of March, 1875, have been issued in favour of the Government of Peru, conferring upon the President of that Republic, for the time being, rights and privileges similar to those formerly enjoyed by the Kings of Spain when Peru was subject to them. These privileges include the right of nominating fit persons to vacant Bishoprics, and to certain cathedral dignities and parishes, on certain terms and conditions. The President is to receive in all Catholic churches in Peru the same honours once paid by the clergy to the Catholic Kings of Spain. These Apostolic Letters are signed by Cardinal Vannicelli, Pro-Dataro, and by Cardinal Asquini, the Secretary of Briefs.

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Signor Minghetti, President of the Ministry, stated that the relations of Italy with Germany had always been excellent. A motion approving the ecclesiastical policy of the Government passed by a vote of 210 yeas to 140 nays.

The Intransigent prisoners who were engaged in the Cartagena insurrection have been set free.

The Tartar population of the Crimea is reported to be seriously diminishing. The obligation of military service leads large numbers of male adults to take flight into Turkey, and the smallpox, moreover, is committing great ravages. No sooner is a child vaccinated by a surgeon than the parents suck out the lymph lest the young Mussulman should have any impure Christian blood in him.

The Danube now runs in the new bed which has been constructed for it, and endeavours are about to be made to remove the obstruction to navigation caused by the rocks near Orsova, known as the Iron Gates.

The President of Buenos Ayres, Brazil, opened the Chambers on Monday, with a speech in which he proposed an amnesty for political offences, and announced that all difficulties with foreign powers had been settled.

A pastoral from Cardinal Manning was read in all the Catholic churches in England on Sunday. It protests against the persecution of the Church in Germany and Switzerland, and accuses Prince Bismarck of seeking to raise the animosity of the powers against the freedom of the next conclave.

The Duke of Buckingham has been appointed Governor of Madras. John Walter Huddleston, Judge Advocate of the Fleet and Counsel to the Admiralty, has been appointed to a seat on the Bench made vacant by the death of Judge Piggott; he will be succeeded by Mr. Lindley.

Lieutenant Governor Crawford of Ontario, is dangerously ill. It is feared that consumption has set in.

Reports from Capé Breton say that the present prospects point to the probability of the present year being one of the dullest ever known in the coal trade. The New York market, which at one time took a large quantity of Cape Breton coals, has, so far this season, been closed against them.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION.

A letter which lately appeared in the Witness from its special correspondent in New Brunswick invites discussion on the most important point in the School Law difficulty—whether the Catholic minority did, before Confederation, enjoy by law the Separate or Denominational system of education. According to the Witness correspondent they did; he says:—

"The question which is now and has for some time past perhaps agitated New Brunswick more than any other is the new Common Schools Act, passed in 1871. To understand this matter it would be necessary to review the educational position of New Brunswick previous to that date. Then the Government apportioned a certain amount of money for the benefit of the teachers of the Province. To secure this benefit a teacher had to find a district where the people were willing to guarantee a sum of money which together with the proportion of the Government would be sufficient for his or her support. On obtaining sufficient encouragement to ensure a subsistence, or possibly a little more, the school would be opened and conducted entirely according to the teacher's own ideas without any governmental system."

The School Law to which the correspondent refers was passed in 1858. It provided (1) that a teacher should find a district where the people were willing to guarantee a sum of money which together with the Government grant would be sufficient for his or her support; and (2) that the school would be conducted according to the teacher's own ideas without any governmental system. State-Schoolism was, therefore, unknown in New Brunswick prior to 1871. The denominational system was established in the Province by law. Wherever Catholics were in a majority, wherever they were sufficiently numerous to support a school, there a Catholic teacher would be employed, and the school conducted according to his own ideas, without State interference. Such was the state of affairs before Confederation and up to the year 1871. But the Act of 1871 did away with all these privileges, and set up the State or Common School system. Against this Law the Catholics protest, and will continue to protest, on the ground that it is unconstitutional in that it is opposed to

the letter and the spirit of the 93d section of the British North America Act, which reads thus:— "In and for each Province the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject and according to the following Provisions:—

"(1) Nothing in any such Law shall prejudicially affect any Right or Privilege with respect to Denominational Schools which any class of Persons had by Law in the Province at the Union," etc., etc., etc.

True, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has decided that the Act of 1871 is constitutional; but with all respect for that Court we may be permitted to say that it could not be expected of the gentlemen composing it to be as familiar with the letter and the spirit of the British North America Act as the framers of the Act itself, the fathers of our Constitution. Foremost amongst the promoters of Confederation and the framers of the Constitution stood the Hon. (since Sir) A. T. Galt, and the Hon. George Brown. Addressing a meeting at Sherbrooke in favour of Confederation on Nov. 23d, 1864, Mr. Galt said:—

"He now came to one of the most important questions—perhaps the most important—that could be confided to the legislature—the question of education. This was a question in which, in L. Canada, they must all feel the greatest interest, and in respect to which more apprehension might be supposed to exist in the minds, at any rate of the Protestant population, than in regard to anything else connected with the whole scheme of Confederation. It must be clear that a measure would not be favorably entertained by the minority of Lower Canada which would place the education of their children and the provision for their schools wholly in the hands of a majority of a different faith. It was clear that in confiding the general subject of education to the local legislatures, it must be accompanied with such restrictions as would prevent injustice from being done to the minority. Now this applied to L. Canada, but it also applied and with equal force to U. Canada and the other Provinces; for in L. Canada there was a Protestant minority, and in the other Provinces a Roman Catholic minority. The same privileges belonged to the one of right here which belonged to the others of right elsewhere. There could be no greater injustice to a population than to compel them to have their children educated in a manner contrary to their own religious belief."

Thus spoke Mr. Galt in 1864, immediately after the Quebec Conference, while the deliberations and resolutions of that body were fresh in his mind. Referring to his speech, Mr. Brown in the Toronto Globe of Nov. 29th, said:— "We published yesterday a splendid speech by the Hon. A. T. Galt, in which he gave a more detailed account of the Confederation scheme than has heretofore appeared. We hope that it will be faithfully read by the people of Upper Canada, etc."

And the Globe of Feb. 13th, 1865, answered some Protestant objections to the proposed 93d section of the British North America Act as follows:— "By the provisions of the Confederation scheme—which gives the local Parliaments control of education, saving the privileges already granted to the minorities in the different Provinces, we simply allow the separatists to retain what they now have."

Mr. Galt, in his speech which, according to Mr. Brown was "splendid," and "gave a more detailed account of the Confederation scheme than had heretofore appeared," and which he hoped "would be faithfully read by the people of Upper Canada,"—stated distinctly that the provisions concerning education in the Confederation scheme applied, not to Upper and Lower Canada alone, but to the other Provinces as well, and were intended to prevent injustices from being done to the minority in each. What injustice? That of compelling them "to have their children educated in a manner contrary to their own religious belief." And how, we ask, could these provisions, as stated in the 93d section of the British North America Act, apply to the other Provinces as well as to Lower and Upper Canada, if the same privileges which belonged of right to the minorities in Lower and Upper Canada did not also belong of right to the minorities in the other Provinces?—And why should Mr. Brown, when trying to appease the bigots of Upper Canada in 1865, say:— "By the provisions of the Confederation scheme—which gives the local Parliaments control of education, saving the privileges already granted to the minorities in the different Provinces, we simply allow the separatists to retain what they have," if he did not mean the separatists in the different Provinces?

THE O'CONNELL CENTENNIAL.

On the 6th of August next, the people of Ireland, as well as Irishmen and their descendants in every part of the civilized world will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great patriot and statesman, Daniel O'Connell. No name is dearer to the Irish heart, none deserves to be so and the anticipated celebration with all the pomp and enthusiasm no doubt to be manifested will be only a fitting tribute to the memory of the man who sacrificed everything on the altar of his country's welfare, whose public life was an example of whole-souled disinterestedness. With the outlines of the life and times of Daniel O'Connell, every reader of Irish history is well acquainted, and the benefits conferred on his race by that great patriot shall not soon be forgotten. Whether we review his character as a Christian, a patriot, an orator, or a philanthropist, we everywhere find a subject for admiration. No more devoted son of the Church ever lived. Of his patriotism it is unnecessary to speak. An agitator born, as it were, for the trying times in which he lived, he faced revolution and inculcated the lesson of moral force.

and by the marvels which his genius achieved showed how powerful that influence is. Without shedding one drop of blood, he liberated a whole nation from the most odious thralldom, and had it not been for the rashness of some brilliant and devoted but misguided men, the measure of his influence in ameliorating the condition of his countrymen could not well be calculated. It has been said of Berryer, the great French orator, that to attempt to judge of his eloquence by a printed report was like forming an idea of the intensity of a volcano by the cold cinders that lie around the extinct crater. The simile strong as it appears may be applied in full justice to the eloquence of Daniel O'Connell. On all hands it is admitted that for popular oratory he has had no rival in modern times. In his magnificent proportions he was every inch an orator—his flashing wit was boundless, his humor irresistible, his sarcasm withering, gliding imperceptibly from the grave to the gay; he mastered the minds and sensibilities of his hearers and moulded their fancies at pleasure. The genius of O'Connell was too mighty to be confined to the limits of any one country or empire; his noble philanthropy was exercised in every good cause; race, creed or color made no difference wherever the cause of freedom was to be served. His voice was raised on behalf of the oppressed, and to-day in every country and clime where the English language is spoken, his name is pronounced with love and veneration as one of the greatest benefactors of his fellowmen. The occasion of the Centennial of the birth of this great and good man should not be allowed to pass by the Irishmen of our own fair city, without substantial evidence on their part of their fond remembrance of one who has done so much for faith and fatherland. Already the various National and Benevolent Societies have assembled and means are to be adopted to make the celebration worthy of the grand commemoration. Nothing definite, we believe, has as yet been arrived at, but we understand the leading feature of the day's proceedings are to be a Solemn Requiem Mass in the forenoon; to be followed by a procession through the principal thoroughfares at the conclusion of which there will be appropriate addresses, and a subscription will be taken up for the purpose of erecting a monument to O'Connell in some prominent place in this city. We sincerely hope that this last suggestion may be adopted. We believe there is no one in Montreal who would not be delighted to see a monumental pile raised to the memory of the illustrious Irishman, who whilst laboring so earnestly in behalf of his fellow-countrymen was the friend of freedom everywhere. Let us hope that the Irishmen of the first city of the Dominion will do something worthy of themselves, in honor of their country's noble, generous and patriotic son, Daniel O'Connell.

"WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO TURN UP."

At a recent meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Irish Home Rule League, one of the speakers said: "If war broke out in Europe, as appearances threatened might be the case, then would be the time for Ireland to demand and obtain the rights of which she had been deprived." The Star thinks this language is too violent, and is sure the majority of Irishmen in Canada will repudiate it. We, on the other hand, think it moderate, free from utopianism, and full of common sense, and we are sure that the majority of Irishmen at home and abroad will endorse it. Ireland is now, has been for years, asking for the restoration of her Rights, to be answered by the sneers and jeers of a large majority in the British Parliament; and she will continue to ask in vain until "something will turn up,"—until England will no longer dare to refuse. Then she will demand but to obtain.

Our contemporary does not understand the philosophy of the Irish Question. He should read the history of the British Empire. In 1779, Grattan, taking advantage of the hostilities with France, obtained, without the shedding of a drop of blood, the removal of the restrictions on Irish trade. In 1829, O'Connell, finding England embarrassed in her foreign relations, wrung Catholic Emancipation from a King who, in signing the Act, shed bitter tears of rage and grief. And a European war—that war which Mr. D'Israeli says is very near—will give Isaac Butt an opportunity to regain, without firing a gun against England, that Home Rule for Ireland now so unjustly and foolishly withheld. "In that day," says Father Burke, "my position is that Ireland will be the mistress of her own destinies."

We are happy to say that there is an improvement in Mr. Clerk's health since our last.

Yesterday (May 13) was the eighty-third birthday of our Holy Father, Pope Pius IX., whom may God preserve to triumph over his enemies.—"Propter domum Domini Dei nostri, quæsi vi bona tibi."

CONVERSION OF THE HON. AND REV. LORD FRANCIS G. GEDOLPHIN OSBORNE.—The London Times of the 23rd April, says it has been informed that the Hon. and Rev. Lord Francis G. Godolphin Osborne, M. A., rector of Great Elm, near Frome, son of the late Duke of Leeds, and nephew of the Rev. Lord S. G. Osborne, was received into the Catholic Church at Bristol.

There was nothing menacing in that little note of Bismarck's to Belgium; it was only a friendly remonstrance. So Mr. D'Israeli assures an inquiring British Commoner, so the Saturday Review assures an anxious British public. Only a friendly remonstrance! Well may poor, helpless, Belgium cry out: "Save me from my friends!"

THE HULL SENSATION.—It was a sensation after all. There was no foundation for the rumor that the mill-owners of Hull had determined to discharge their French Canadian employees en masse. It was started by a few disappointed politicians for the purpose of provoking discontent and disturbance in the new city. They communicated it first to the Ottawa Free Press, next in a more startling version to the Citizen, and both journals published it without hesitation or inquiry, as if it were part of the evangel. Strange to say no contradiction has, so far, appeared in either paper. Is the wish in their case, father to the thought?

IRISH HOME RULE MOVEMENT.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Irish Home Rule League was held on the 4th inst., in the Hall of the St. Patrick's Society, corner of Craig and St. Alexander Streets, there was a large attendance. The President, Edward Murphy, Esq., in the Chair. The Minutes of last meeting having been read and approved of, the President, in reviewing the past month, said that he regretted he had no very late news to report as two mail steamers, en route, were now overdue. He referred in feeling terms to the death of Sir John Gray, M.P., editor and proprietor of the Dublin Freeman's Journal. Sir John's death is a national loss, and coming so soon after the lamented John Martin's is deeply felt by his countrymen at home and abroad as a double bereavement. He was a disciple of the illustrious O'Connell, and an earnest Home Ruler of the present day. He was one of the most active and energetic members of the old Repeal Association from its commencement. He had the honor of being included with O'Connell, Duffy, Tom Steele, and others; in the celebrated State Trials of 1844, and with them suffered imprisonment for his love of Ireland. The president next referred to the triumphant return of Mr. C. S. Parnell for the County Meath, as the successor of the late lamented Mr. Martin; his victory in Meath is a great and suggestive one, proving that although an overwhelming majority of its people are Catholics, yet, again as in the case of the late Mr. Martin, chose a Protestant to represent them in Parliament. He paid a graceful compliment to young Mr. Parnell, who is a member of a family whose services in the cause of Irish legislative independence and that of Catholic Emancipation, have become historical of which, Sir John Parnell, M.P., "the unpurchasable opponent of the Union" in the old Irish Parliament, and Henry Parnell, M.P., the Historian of the Irish Penal Laws, and the zealous advocate of the Catholic claims in the beginning of this century are noble examples. He reported having attended a meeting of the office-bearers of all the Irish Societies to organize for the celebration of the O'Connell Centennial in August next, and hoped that the office-bearers elected to-night would attend a meeting for the same purpose to be held on Friday evening next. No definite plan, he said, was yet proposed that would be for the decision of the representatives of the societies.

He read the report of the Treasurer for the year just ended, by which we learn that the association had made two remittances to the parent society during the year, amounting in the aggregate to about £100 sterling, leaving a small balance on hand, the report was audited by Professor McKay and Mr. F. Callahan and found correct.

Mr. Hatchette moved the adoption of the report just read and hoped they would before the next year's report subscribe a larger sum to the funds of the League.

Mr. McNamara seconded its adoption, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. McNamara then made a very able and eloquent speech in which he referred to the history of Ireland before the Union and subsequently, and said a country noted for music, poetry, &c., should be competent to govern itself. They say the darkest hour is that before the dawn; he hoped Ireland's darkest hour was now over, and that she would rise in all her splendor. Mr. McNamara also eulogized Mr. Murphy's service to the Home Rule League at some length, and said he was confident that it was the unanimous wish of the League that Mr. Murphy should remain in office, as his name was familiar not only all over the Dominion but in every part of Ireland, this sentiment appeared to be entertained by all present as his re-election subsequently was in the fullest sense of the word heartily cordial and unanimous.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. Mr. M. P. Ryan proposed, and Prof. W. McKay seconded the re-election of Mr. Murphy as President. Carried by acclamation.

Mr. Murphy briefly returned thanks. He accepted the duty with pleasure and said he would, as usual, spare no efforts to further the interests of the League.
1st Vice-President, J. J. Curran, Esq., B.C.L.; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. F. Callahan; Treasurer, A. Brogan, Esq., Notary Public; Cor. Secretary, P. J. Coyle, Esq., B.C.L.; Rec. Secretary, Mr. McNamara. Council: Messrs. John Murphy, John Gillies, Matthew Ryan, Miles Hatchette, Prof. W. McKay, William Doran, Bernard Emmerson, Thos. Hanly and Laurence Quinlan.

The President again asked the Council and officers to attend on Friday evening at the hall, when business in connection with the O'Connell centennial celebration would be carried on.

Some subscriptions were then received and the meeting adjourned.

THE O'CONNELL CENTENNIAL.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS.

Sir,—The approaching Centennial of the birth of Ireland's Liberator, as the illustrious Daniel O'Connell has been fondly styled the world over, is likely to be the occasion of general rejoicing and national enthusiasm. By the accounts that have reached us from all parts of Ireland, preparations are being made for celebrations on a gigantic scale and in Canada the patriotic sons of the Old Land are not less anxious to manifest their feelings in a manner becoming the occasion. How is the commemoration to be appropriately made? That is the question. The various national and benevolent organizations in this city, composed of Irishmen and their descendants, have already met, and joint action is to be taken to make the ceremonies of the day worthy of the memory of Ireland's greatest orator and purest patriot. But will a grand procession; will the display of unlimited bunting; will the waste of any quantity of gunpowder, or the delivery of speeches no matter how eloquent; or all the usual paraphernalia of such demonstrations, be doing justice to the day and all who honour the memories associated with it? I think not. It may be considered presumptuous on my part, but I run the risk and venture to suggest that something tangible should be done, something that will mark an era in the history of our city, something in which the money unavoidably to be expended on that occasion can be made to do honor to the immortal O'Connell and reflect credit on the land that gave him birth and his fellow-countrymen in the City of Montreal. And I think nothing could be more appropriate than that means should be adopted to secure the erection in one of our public squares of a monument to the great Liberator.

I throw out this suggestion; in the hope, that should it not meet the approbation of the masses, something more feasible may be adopted, but I hardly think that the funds requisite having been subscribed, and a considerable nucleus might be raised on the day of the celebration, our city fathers could very well object to a handsome monument in honor of Daniel O'Connell, erected in the available portion of Victoria Square, beneath the shadow of St. Patrick's Church.

Your obdt. servant,
J. J. CURRAN.

Montreal, May 6th, 1875.

ACCIDENT AT LACHINE.—On Saturday morning last an accident happened, whereby Pierre Veron aged 16, a native of France, was drowned; in one of those dangerous affairs known by the name of a "canoe," which latter the young man did not know how to manage. The body was recovered at noon on Sunday and inhumed next day in the Presbyterian Burial Ground at Lachine.