

## The True Witness

AND

## CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
BY THE PROPRIETOR,

JOHN GILLIES,

AT NO. 195 FORTIFICATION LANE.

TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE:

To all country Subscribers, Two Dollars.

To all City Subscribers whose papers are delivered  
by carriers, Two Dollars and a half.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, Dec. 22, 1876.

## ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

DECEMBER, 1876.

Friday, 22—Ember Day. Fast.  
Saturday, 23—Ember Day. Fast.  
Sunday, 24—FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT. Vigil of  
Christmas.Monday, 25—NATIVITY OF OUR LORD. CHRISTMAS  
DAY. Holyday of Obligation.Tuesday, 26—ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR.  
Wednesday, 27—ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST  
Thursday, 28—THE HOLY INNOCENTS.

## A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS.

In the days of Merrie England, long ago, before the Poor Laws had chilled the touch of charity, ere Political economy had calculated the percentage of paupers allowable according to its philosophy, when the humble peasant left the field of his labor and found at his threshold his wife and children to welcome his return, when wife and daughter spun and wove by their own heartbeats, ere the factory system, that cruel, heartless system, had snatched him and them to toil from morn to night, in hateful monotonous labor, amidst the din of machinery, without thought or hope, like the machines around them, through the long long day and weary months and years, ere competition and the laws of demand and supply had made bread so dear and human flesh so cheap, that the very children, before the age of discretion itself must be drawn into that vortex, before the roast beef of England had given place on the poor man's table to his miserable meal of bread and cheese, and the pure home brewed ale had not been supplanted by the soul destroying gin and the vilely concocted beer, when all went forth on the bright Sunday morning in happy innocence to the nearest Chapel and in the evening of that blessed day gambolled and talked, young and old, on the village green under the shadow of the Cross, when the monk was there and everywhere to instruct, to console and advise and prove to all that religion was not for the proud and rich alone, but principally for the poor and lowly, and when casting his look before him the poor could see near at hand the monastery, certain that there in sickness and distress, he would find relief and if need be support; and not grudgingly, by letter of the law, the compulsory tax from the rich, but with charity, with loving words and cheerful smile the dole which held the widows mite mingled with the gold of the lady and the baron, then the greeting of a Merry, Merry Christmas had a Merry, Merry sound. Washington Irving in his sketch book gives us a charming account of those happy festivities of the olden time; the yule log and the mistletoe, the peasant and retainers assembled in the old Baronial Hall, the old games and quaint pastimes, and in the midst dominant above all other ideas, the thought that it was a religious festival. Our pleasures of to-day are less coarse and are even refined; but are they more innocent? The play of our youths must not be boisterous, else it would be unfashionable; our dances must be the stately swaying of the quadrille, and even if we do give way by times to more rapid movements, it must be in the giddy whirl of the waltz, and the polka; it is no longer the innocent reel and jig. Our children themselves must be calm and dignified in their play; they must remember the proprieties. At one season alone, custom yields somewhat, fashion unbends its rigid rules, and young and old without fear of censure give way to joy and glee. That season has come again to us; Christmas, the happy Christmas morning will soon dawn; the absent ones will come back to partake of the festivities of the home circle, and those too far away will send greetings of love and good will to the dear ones at the old homestead; and there around the festive board all the members of re-united families will, in happy talk and pleasant association, celebrate the joyous day which was the dawn of salvation to the world, and has been to them and theirs for generations past, the one unclouded day of the year, the time when all are again united, and united in love and happiness. To our readers, to each and every one of them do we wish that pleasure; may father and mother, son and daughter meet on Christmas morning and bless God in common prayer for all His love to them; and if, during the year, sorrow or sin has clouded the memory of the past, may all be forgiven and forgotten; and if Death should have thinned the ranks, may the survivors be consoled by the thought that they can, by their prayers, make of that morn, even to the departed, a happy day. To all, the living and the dead, to parents and relatives, to friends and neighbours, to acquaintances and readers, do we wish, with our whole heart and soul, a Merry, Merry Christmas.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS MAGAZINE.—This is a first-class illustrated Magazine for boys and girls. It is designed to supply the place of the trashy publications which now so widely circulate and which vitiate the minds of the young. We earnestly recommend it to Catholic families. Editor and Publisher: Rev. Thomas Scully, Boston. Price, \$1.00 per year.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A Government despatch from the seat of war in Granada, Columbia, announces the defeat of the revolutionists by the royalist troops under General Trujillo.

The plenipotentiaries on the Eastern question concluded the preliminary conference on Saturday, and though no definite resolution has been passed, mutual concessions have aided them to arrive at an amicable understanding among themselves, and they are now waiting for the instructions from their respective governments, when the date of the full conference meeting will be fixed. Meanwhile Turkey continues actively her armaments, and is forwarding troops to the Danubian and Asiatic frontiers.

The series of peaceful reports received from the East during the last few days has been broken in upon by a rumour from Berlin—said to be based on high authority—to the effect that notwithstanding the favourable news from Constantinople a Russo-Turkish war is inevitable, and that Russia is merely playing fast and loose with the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers in order to gain time to complete her preparations. St. Petersburg advices confirm this statement to a certain degree, asserting that Russia is determined to rectify existing grievances, but will take no decisive step until she is sure of success. From Turkish sources we are informed that the Sultan's advisers are equally stubborn in their determination, not only to oppose any foreign occupation of Ottoman territory, but to object to the disarming of the Mohammedans and the control of the administration of the Provinces by an International Commission. Several other measures which the representatives of the Powers intend pressing upon the Porte will also be unfavorably received, and in the meantime active preparations for war are under way. On the other side a Russian general has been appointed to command the Servian troops who have received orders to join their colours on the 22nd inst. The Austrian plenipotentiary has been appointed to report on the reforms needed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is likely that Lord Salisbury will undertake the same task with regard to Bulgaria.

Writing of the late debates in the French Chamber on relations of the Church and State in France, the Times correspondent observes that the speech of Prince Napoleon is regarded as the entry on the scene of a "Pretender." The Prince's nine months' silence proves that he did not lightly ascend the tribune, but that having during that interval studied the Chamber and observed the country, he chose his hour and his ground—the hour when a conflict between the two Chambers, awaiting only the occasion to break out, seems to loom before us. There are in the Senate men impatient to seize on power, alarmed at the prolonged duration of the Republic, and anxious, at any price, that it should not appear too definitive. In the Chamber the Bonapartists and Radicals are equally tired of the patient attitude imposed on them by the composition of an Assembly in which neither is strong enough to direct the debates or regulate and hasten the march of events. There is thus in both Houses a coalition majority apparently not afraid of a conflict, a dissolution, and fresh elections. It will soon be seen to what extent the Prince is formidable, for around him will range themselves all those who are looking for a chief ready to serve anti-religious passions, only to make a passing tool of him; but it will be a mistake to disdain an adversary who has the two great qualities of a dangerous conspirator—patience and audacity—together with the moral impassability of a man who has been so often and for so long insulted that he has become insensible to abuse.

Much indignation is said to exist in Paris over a report of the conclusion of a treaty between Germany and Spain; and the irritation is heightened by the publication of a despatch from Bismarck severely censuring the French Government for the injury done to German commerce by the French export duties on iron.

In consequence of the refusal of the Basque Provinces to pay the 18,500,000 reals demanded from them for the maintenance of the army of occupation, the Treasury of the Provincial Deputies was seized by General Quesada's orders when it was found to be empty. The resignation of the deputation and Municipal Council is probable. Troops have been despatched. Great excitement prevails.

In the South Carolina Democratic House on Friday it was announced that General Hampton's majority over Chamberlain for Governor was 1,184. An official statement from the Secretary of State was read endorsing these figures. Mr. Simpson, the Democratic Lieut. Governor, has sent to the State Senate a letter claiming his seat as presiding officer of that body, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Right Reverend Bishop Brinckman, of Munster, Westphalia, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment, nominally for withholding public documents, and embezzlement, but really for refusing obedience to the iniquitous ecclesiastical laws of Prussia. Several priests were also sentenced to short terms of imprisonment.

The President of the United States has received through the Japanese Minister a letter of congratulation from the Mikado on the success of the Centennial Exhibition, and stating that the intercourse brought about thereby between the United States and Japan will tend to strengthen the friendship already existing between the two countries.

At a meeting of the New York Board of Aldermen on Monday, a series of resolutions were offered reciting the present prostration of business, the large number of mechanics out of employment, and the necessity to take means of relief of the destitute during the present winter. A resolution also requested the Board of Apportionment to appropriate \$100,000 for the relief of outdoor poor. It was adopted.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario has issued his proclamation setting apart and withdrawing the City of St. Catharines from the jurisdiction of the Council of the County of Lincoln, and constituting it a separate and independent municipality, subject nevertheless to all equities and statutory enactments in that behalf attaching.

## MR. TAILLON'S BILL.

For some time past, considerable discussion has taken place in the press of this province, concerning the amendments sought to be obtained, by the nuns of the Providence convent to their charter. The objects of these amendments is to give them the power to manufacture certain medicines, more particularly a compound known as the syrup of spruce gum, which has acquired considerable celebrity owing to its curative properties. The protestant journals of this province, more especially, those that bid high for the monopoly of fanaticism, have been terribly exercised over the demand of the nuns. Certain druggists who have been acquiring large fortunes in this community, have also been aroused into violent opposition to the Sisters, and petitions signed by numbers of persons, more or less informed on the subject, but who had swallowed wholesale the theories of the *Witness*, and kindred organs, have been forwarded to the Quebec Parliament, protesting against the granting of these privileges sought to be obtained. Counter petitions have also been forwarded, and the Bill of Mr. Taillon member for Montreal East, praying for the proposed amendments to the charter of the Providence nunnery, despite the greatest opposition, has been passed through the private bill committee with some trifling alterations. The great cry which has been raised against the demand of the nuns, is that such legislation interferes with the rights of other manufacturers, that they cannot compete with the convent, in the preparations of medicines, owing to the cheapness of labor in the nuns establishments, and that the bill is just introducing the thin edge of the wedge, towards the establishment of a principle, which, they contend, will sap the foundation of our commercial and manufacturing prosperity, by placing in the hands of religious orders, facilities for carrying on manufactures, to the detriment of those who are legitimately engaged in business. The exemption from taxation of the Providence Nunnery, has also been made the greatest possible use of and the fears, prejudices, and cupidities of the people, have been aroused, in every conceivable shape and by every device. In the first place the nuns are perfectly willing to be taxed for this manufactory of medicines, at the usual rate, so we can dismiss that objection without further comment. Now as regards the more serious question—Are our religious bodies to be allowed to extend their charters, and absorb within themselves the means of livelihood that ought to belong to the people at large? Once for all, we emphatically say: no catholic ever entertained such a preposterous notion. The case of the Providence nuns is an exceptional one, and could never be used as a precedent on any future occasion. Let us examine the facts briefly, and we think, the most violent enemy of the Sisters of Providence, if he be a man of common sense, and possessed of the faintest idea of justice, must admit, that their demands are well founded—Firstly the Sisters have no revenue whatever—they are a body corporate but are possessed of no estate which enables them to provide for their own wants, or those of the poor committed to their charge. Now what have they to provide for? Fortunately in the now celebrated case of Kerry Watson *et al* against the Providence nuns for infringement of their patent, in the manufacture of the syrup of spruce gum, facts were brought to light, which otherwise could never have been known, as our readers are well aware, that it is not the custom of religious bodies in the Catholic Church, to announce from the house tops the good works which they accomplish. The Honorable Mr. Trudel, who conducted the case on the part of the nuns, proved the following facts which were fully set forth in the eloquent plea addressed by him to the court. This is a list of their gratuitous services during one year.

1. The Sisters taught 3,257 children apart from those they board.
2. They boarded, clad and educated 553 orphans.
3. They distributed to the poor of the City 33,385 meals.
4. They caused the Medical gentlemen connected with their dispensary to pay 927 gratuitous visits to persons unable to procure medical assistance.
5. They cared for, fed and clad 213 old men and infirm persons who were totally destitute.
6. They furnished from their dispensary 25,547 prescriptions to the poor of the City.
7. Apart from the insane patients paid for by the Government they have kept gratuitously 22 patients extra.
8. Of all the deaf mutes under their charge numbering 176 not more than three pay the full amount of their board and education, and there are not ten who pay anything at all.
9. They received into their hospital 418 indigent sick, for whom they provided food, medicine and all other requisites.
10. They sent Sisters to attend the sick and dying, spending the night with them at their houses—3000 visits.
11. The number of day visits paid by the Sisters to the sick was nearly 43,000. There is part of the labour of love performed by these good Sisters, free of all charge during twelve months. What a years' work! We might go on and make calculations as to the amount they have saved the community in taxes for the support and relief of these unfortunates, even if any secular method could reach the cases half as well, as they are cared for by the nuns. This is unnecessary however, the question is, the Sisters who have made all these sacrifices have been enabled to do so up to the present time by the proceeds of the sales of their medicines. They have been attacked and persecuted in the carrying out of their good work. They have no other earthly resource except public charity, to carry on the gigantic beneficences, some of which we have enumerated. They require an amendment to their charter to entitle them to manufacture these medicines, out of which they have heretofore realized sufficient to carry on their work of benevolence and christian charity. They do not desire to make money, nor to invade the territory of others who are engaged in the pursuit of riches. They simply want the privilege of earning what will support the indigent, the sick, the blind, and the lame, the deaf mute, the helpless widows, the orphans who have

heretofore found in them the merciful hand of Providence. The next few days will show whether our legislature will turn a deaf ear to their demands.

## THE WORLD BEFORE THE REDEMPTION.

Nineteen centuries ago the World offered to the sight of angels and men a saddening, sickening spectacle; since the deluge idolatry and iniquity had stalked forth proudly and triumphantly. One people alone had retained the idea of the true God and how many were the falls from virtue of Israel, the chosen. Peoples and kingdoms had flourished and were annihilated because of their sins; Babylon and Nineveh, raised their proud walls in the sight of heaven, and under the wrath of God those walls crumbled to the dust; the great conquerors wielded in turn the sword of the Almighty, and in turn their own empires fell under the same vengeance. In Rome, the proud Mistress of the World, Liberty had given way to Licentiousness, Virtue had yielded to the abominations of pleasure; the poets had defiled the vices of mankind, in Jupiter they adored his pride and in Venus his degradation. The intellect of man, of the proudest philosophers themselves, was so abused as to give the very lessons of vice, Plato was not shocked at the destruction of human life for the mere purpose of pleasure or at the whim of the tyrant, Cato defended suicide by his eloquence and inculcated it by his example, Cicero repudiated his lawful wife to embrace a younger love, Caesar and Pompey devoted their genius to their country's ruin and on the altar of their ambition sacrificed the liberty and the lives of their fellow-citizens. In social life, the spectacle was as desolating: in the Commonwealth there were but two classes, the oppressor and the oppressed. With the former virtue had no longer charms, the domestic tie was loosened, men had lost their courage and women their virtue. In the midst of the multitude, the evil example set by their superiors had borne its fruits. The Roman Citizen was no longer the proud soldier, mercenaries did his work, his wife no more gloried in the laurels won by her soldier husband or sons, nor in the respect which in her lonely station her industry and her fidelity wound around her household; both must now be supported by the state, the City had become a vast eleemosynary institution, in Rome alone at one time 500,000 citizens must be fed by the public, and amused. *Panes et circenses*, was the cry of the people; the proud Roman was then nothing but a coward, a libertine, and a mendicant his days were passed in howling for bread and in gloating over the frightful combats of the amphitheatre, his nights in vices and pleasures the thought of which alone would make a Christian shudder. In the Provinces, in former days, proud Empires and Republics Corruption and Avarice and Ambition with all their horrors held universal sway. The aristocracy had been annihilated, in the fight for liberty, or been sold into slavery, or worse fate still had adopted the name and the vices of the conquerors; and the people, the poor people, with none to defend, none to guide them in a new effort for liberty, the victims of tyranny, crushed by poverty, debased by ignorance, liable at any moment to be driven to fight in the quarrels of their victors, or to struggle with reluctant arms the liberty of their neighbors, they bent powerless under the yoke; whatever of wealth or superfluity they might produce would be swept away by remorseless executions, with no other example before them and no hope for the future they fell lower than their masters, and if at Rome the streets and public places reeked with the abominations of iniquity, in the Provinces Earth itself called to Heaven to avenge the crimes which polluted its bosom. And what vengeance was sent? Did the Almighty again overwhelm in rushing waters man with all his crimes; did the thunderbolts of His Hand fill the heavens with terror and the land with death? Or did that mercy which had so often breathed over the rebellious sons of Abraham again waft its healing breezes amidst the sufferings and desolation of the Earth? Human Nature had done its best and its worst; the nations left to themselves had each of them spent the few first years of their existence in virtue and centuries after in vice and idolatry. His Arm would now appear and Peace the wide world over spread its gentle sway, Wars had ceased and in the Mountains of Bethlehem under the clear December stars, in a lowly stable, in weakness and poverty was born that wonderful Babe, the Prince of Peace, the Restorer of God's Kingdom, the Saviour of man, and from the mouths of the angels was taken up that thrilling song which down through the ages have been sung by Saint and Sinner, Prince and People, and will resound again and again for centuries to come:

Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis.

## THE LATE LIEUT. GOV. CARON.

We regret to announce the death of the Hon. Rene Edouard Caron, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec, which occurred at half-past four o'clock yesterday (Wednesday Dec. 13th) afternoon. His Honour, as our readers are aware, had been in a very precarious state of health for some time past. A few weeks ago it became necessary to appoint an Administrator. Since that time the Lieutenant Governor has been gradually sinking, and his decease was therefore not unexpected.

Mr. Caron was born in the year 1800, at St. Anne, Cote de Beupre, County of Montmorcenc, where his father Augustin Caron, a farmer, had also been born and lived. The elder Caron, who was in easy circumstances, twice represented the County of Northumberland in the old Lower Canada Assembly. The deceased was educated at the Seminary of Quebec and at the College of St. Pierre, Riviere du Sud. At the latter institution he received his classical education, and made the acquaintance of several persons who subsequently occupied a conspicuous position in Canadian annals. Having concluded his general studies in 1821, Mr. Caron's attention was turned to the law, and in the same year he entered upon the study of the profession in the office of Mr. Andre Hamel, and was admitted to practice in the District of Quebec in 1826. The time is said to have been a propitious one for about this date a number of the prominent members of the legal

profession had either passed away from life or been raised to the Bench; and Mr. Caron's abilities were sufficiently marked to secure for him very speedily an influential clientele. His professional progress was therefore rapid. At the first election of City Council in Quebec in 1832, he was chosen a member. In the following year he was elected to the Mayoralty, a position which he continued to hold until the incorporation Act expired in 1837. He was also elected in 1834 to the Lower Canada Assembly for the Upper Town of Quebec, and held the seat until 1836, when he was induced to send in his resignation in consequence of a demonstration which some of the electors got up and which he had reason to believe reflected on his conduct as their representative. In 1838 he was nominated a Legislative Councillor by Lord Gosford, but the Union of the Provinces being accomplished shortly afterwards, he did not take his seat. From June, 1841, he sat as Legislative Councillor until March, 1857, he sat as Speaker of the Council from November, 1843, to May, 1847, and again from March, 1848, until August, 1853, when he was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court for Lower Canada. He was also appointed by Lord Sydenham Mayor of Quebec for two years when the city was again incorporated, and he was subsequently elected each year to the same office until 1846. Before his legislative career terminated he was a member of the Lafontaine-Bincks administration.

In January, 1855, Mr. Caron was transferred to the Court of Queen's Bench, and remained a Judge of this Court until the 11th of February, 1873, when he was appointed to the office of Lieutenant Governor of Quebec. During a considerable part of his judicial career he was engaged as a Commissioner in the codification of the civil law of the Province, conjointly with Messrs. Morin and Day. He also held at different times several offices of a minor and unprofessional character. He was President of the *Institut Canadien*; of the Literary and Historical Society; and of the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Quebec. He was created a Q. C. in 1848 received the degree of LL.D. from Laval University, 1855; created a Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in 1873, and a Knight Commander of the same Order in 1875.

The foregoing sketch of Mr. Caron's life shows that his career was eminently busy and prosperous. As a Judge his opinions were received with much respect, and his labors on the Codification Commission have been frequently the subject of commendation. In manner he was grave and courteous, and his style of speaking clear and concise. He was very regular in his attendance at the terms of his Court, and at a time when the dignity of the Bench was frequently ruffled by scenes of a peculiar character he was distinguished by uniform courtesy and politeness.

Mr. Caron was married on the 15th of September, 1826, to Josephine, daughter of the late Mr. Germain de Blois, of Quebec, by whom he had a large family. The Lieutenant-Governor has passed away at a good old age and full of honors. His life affords a signal example of an active and successful career. Contemporaneous with the century, he played an important part in the changes which have occurred during the last fifty years in our constitution and government. Elevated in his old age to the highest position in his native Province, he has discharged the duties of the gubernatorial position with intelligence and dignity. In him Quebec has lost one of its most distinguished men.

## THE FUNERAL.

Quebec, December, 18.

The funeral of His Honor Rene Edouard Caron, second Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Quebec, took place this morning, in the midst of one of the wildest snowstorms that has visited this city for some years past. According to appointment, a very large majority of the members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly met at the Parliament House at 8.15 a.m., the court-yard of which was crowded with sleighs and carriages, covered and uncovered. As soon as possible the vehicles were occupied, and started for Spencerwood, where, since yesterday, the body of deceased had been placed in a handsome oak coffin, decorated with silver. The body was clothed in the Windsor uniform, in which it was buried. The coffin bears on the lid a massive plate, with the coat of arms of the deceased, his name, and date of his birth and death; on the sides and at each end are circular handles, and at each corner is a cross, all of silver. The body lay in state in the "Chapel Ardent," and was visited by nearly every one of the two thousand visitors to Spencerwood this morning, who took a farewell glance at the well-remembered features, through the glass over the coffin. Shortly after nine o'clock the small lid was screwed down, and the coffin placed in the handsome hearse waiting at the front entrance. The hearse drawn by four black horses, was draped in black and silver, surmounted by a silver crucifix, with four plumes one at each corner. At a given signal the hearse, attended by a guard of honor from B. Battery started, followed by a procession of nearly three hundred sleighs.

The journey from Spencerwood to the Government house on the St. Louis road was one of the most trying description; obliged to proceed at slow march, the wind whistling over the Plains of Abraham, bearing on its wings drifts of frozen snow, produced a result that will long remain in the memory of those who took part in it. The coachman who drove the hearse suffered considerably, the frozen snow cutting upon his chin, and causing a wound of no trifling nature.

On arriving at the Government House at about half-past ten, all sleighs were stopped, and the occupants having alighted, the marshals, Messrs. Vohl Hatt, Roy, Colfer, C. Pentland, and G. Amyot, did their very utmost to form the procession as previously arranged. In the meanwhile the various public bodies had been waiting in and around the Government House since 9.30, and being exposed to the tempest, were covered with powdered snow, and of course anxious to proceed. As soon as possible, the marshals, with commendable zeal, worked hard to put the procession in order, and succeeded in forming them as near as possible to the following programme:—

## ORDER OF MARCH.

Detachment of the Provincial Police.  
The Brothers and scholars of the Christian Brothers School.  
The students of the Seminary.  
Band.  
Guard of Honor.  
THE BODY.  
Guard of Honor.  
The members of the family and relatives.  
The family physician.  
Chief Justices.