

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.
SEPTEMBER, 1864.
16, Friday—SS. Cornelius and Cyprian, M. M.
17, Saturday—Stigmata of St. Francis.
18, Sunday—18th after Pentecost. Of the seven dolours of the B. V. Mary.
19, Monday—SS. Janvier, &c., M. M.
20, Tuesday—Vig. of St. Eustache, &c., M. M.
21, Wednesday—1st EMBROIDERY DAY, Fust. St. Matt. A. P.
22, Thursday—St. Thomas of Vil. E. O. d.
The "Forty Hours' Adoration" of the Blessed Sacrament will commence as follows:—
16, Friday—St. Valentin.
18, Sunday—St. Janvier.
20, Tuesd.—St. Cyprian.
22, Thursday—St. John of Matha.

NEWS OF THE WEEK
With Denmark prostrate, and Poland pacified there is for the moment no great European question to be discussed by diplomatists, or to furnish material for the journalist's editorial. The capture of the *Georgia* by the Federal Steam frigate *Niagara* is perhaps the most important European event of the past week, and is much commented on by the press.

The *Georgia* belonged originally to the Confederate Navy, but owing to some defect in her sailing qualities she was by her government sold to a Mr. Bates of Liverpool, by whom she was employed for purely mercantile purposes. At the time of her capture she was making her way to Lisbon, having been chartered by the Portuguese government to carry passengers to the Coast of Africa and to the West Indies; and the questions of maritime and international law at issue are very complicated. On the one hand it is pretended that a valid sale changes the character of the ship sold: on the other hand, the Federal captors of the *Georgia* contend that by the sale to a British subject the *Georgia* had not divested herself of her character of a hostile cruiser, and was therefore good and lawful prize. Law books innumerable will be ransacked, and many precedents relevant and irrelevant will be cited, but the issue will be a recognition of the Federal claims by the British Government.

As we mentioned in our last, the Belfast riots had been quelled, but they have left behind them much irritation which it will be difficult to subdue. All parties agree in casting the blame upon the Orange magistracy of Belfast: and in a speech delivered at a Masonic celebration, the Marquis of Donegal, the Lord Lieutenant of Antrim, expressly taxed the Mayor and his colleagues in the Corporation with gross dereliction of duty. A striking instance of the temper of the North of Ireland Orangemen towards Catholics is given by the *Portadown News*—an Orange organ—and therefore in this case an unexceptionable witness. The story is this:—

The Reverend Mr. Alexander, Protestant Rector of the parish of Druncree, has a daughter who some time ago married a Mr. Rollinson, a curate in the Anglican Establishment. Some time after this marriage, Mr. Rollinson and his wife joined the Catholic Church; and being lately on a visit to the father of the lady, the aforesaid Rev. Mr. Alexander, they attended Mass in the Catholic chapel. This of course excited the Orangemen, who waited upon the Rector, and ordered him to turn his daughter and son-in-law out of doors immediately, under penalty of having his house wrecked by the Orange mob. The Reverend Mr. Alexander was obliged to comply with this urgent request; and the Orange journal which recounts the transaction very much applauds the conduct of the people. One fact of this kind is sufficient to show what is the situation of Catholics in the North of Ireland, and what are the principles by which Orangemen are actuated.

The information vouchsafed to us by Yankee telegraph manipulators is even more confused and contradictory than usual. Sherman, the victor of Atlanta, is represented as retreating before the Confederate General Hood, but what is the actual state of affairs it is impossible to determine. Reports of the capture of Mobile were circulated but have been again contradicted. General Lee is represented as massing his troops as if for an attack upon Grant's left, and a serious engagement is momentarily expected. General McClellan has accepted the nomination of the Chicago Convention; but in so doing

has, by the determination he has expressed respecting continuing the war, given offense to the "Peace Democrats," as they are called—that is to say to those who adhere consistently to the doctrine of State Rights, and deny the right of the North to annex or unite the South by force of arms.

Our latest European dates are by SS. America, from Southampton, 31st ult. The Conference on the Danish Question has not concluded its labors. In Venetia there seem to be preparations for an outbreak. The police had discovered stores of arms and ammunition, and several arrests had been made.

THE ISSUE DEFINED.—Judging from the tone of the French Canadian press, we seem at last to be advancing rapidly towards a clear understanding on the great question of the day—that of the proposed constitutional changes, and the future relative positions of Upper and Lower Canada. We omit all consideration, for the present, of the Lower Provinces, because we do not believe that there is at present any probability of these consenting to a Union of any kind with Canada, other than that which already exists through the Imperial Government. The means of communication between Canada and Nova Scotia are not yet sufficiently developed to admit of a Confederation; and we suspect that it will be yet a long time before we shall see those means of communication completed by an inter-colonial railroad. Before this can be done money will be required; and unless it can be shown that such a railroad will pay, we do not think that European capitalists, from whom after all the money will have to be borrowed, will care to risk their funds in it. No doubt if the projectors of the scheme shall succeed in proving that it will be as cheap to send a barrel of flour from Montreal to England via Halifax and an inter-colonial railroad, as it will be to send it to the same destination via Portland and the already existing line of communication with that port—they will easily borrow the money. But it does strike us that for a long time, a very long time yet to come, the Canadian merchant will find it cheaper to ship his flour from Portland than from Halifax—in which case we do not see how our inter-colonial railroad would pay its expenses, or prove a tempting investment to foreign capitalists. In a military point of view such a road, running contiguous to the enemy's territory, would be a perfect humbug.

We may therefore dismiss, for the present, all thoughts of a general federation of the British North American Provinces, and confine ourselves to the question of the so called federation of Upper and Lower Canada—to which the present Ministry are said to be pledged. On this question public opinion has by this time pretty generally and rather strongly, declared itself. It is not in fact any longer a mere party question, but is rapidly becoming—a national question; the Anglo-Saxon press, of all shades of politics ranging itself on one side; the French Canadian press, Ministerial and Opposition, taking ground in like manner on the other.

The former advocates a Union which it calls for the sake of appearances, a federal union indeed, but which in reality will be, if carried out, merely a Legislative Union, with certain limited functions delegated to sectional municipalities to be created for the purpose of administering their local affairs. All real power and authority however to be vested in the hands of the central government in which the Anglo-Saxon and Protestant element would be supreme. This is the scheme which finds favor in the eyes of the Protestant and English speaking portion of the population; and to which alone it is prepared to give its assent.

We have already quoted the *Globe* on this point. We have shown what is the plan of Federation, as it exists in the head of Mr. George Brown, the President of the Council, and, as according to the same authority, agreed to by his Ministerial colleagues. It consists in a sovereign central authority, assisted by subordinate local or municipal bodies, to which it concedes or delegates certain strictly defined and limited functions, which it could not conveniently exercise itself. But as the *Globe* is the organ of the Clear-Grit party, it is well that we should hear what the Conservative section of the English Ministerial press says on the same subject. It will be found that it faithfully re-echoes the words of the *Globe*.

In Lower Canada the leading Ministerial organ in the English language, and the chief of the Conservative press is the *Montreal Gazette*.—It speaks indeed, not professedly in the name of its Ministerial patrons, but in that "of a large majority of the British inhabitants of Lower and Central Canada"—and thus it delivers itself upon the question of the relative positions of the central and the local governments:—

"We have said, and we repeat now, that any union between these colonies must be as nearly as possible, a legislative union, with as small an infusion of the federal element as will meet the necessities of the case. We quoted to commend it, the statement of the *Toronto Globe*, that the federal legislature must have supreme authority—the others subordinate municipal jurisdiction. We re-assert these as fundamental principles on which the Union

must be based—or it will be rejected by the practical statesmanship, and the common sense of the great majority of the people of this country.—*Mont. Gazette*, 2nd inst.

Thus it will be seen that, on this question of so-called Federation, there is perfect unanimity of opinion betwixt the *Clear-Grit Globe* of Toronto, and the *Conservative Gazette* of Montreal—who have only this in common, that in virtue of the Coalition, they are both Ministerial papers: The *Gazette* says more however, and pretty plainly hints to the French Canadians that they must make up their minds to submit.—It tells them that they are alter all but a minority in the United Province of Canada; and that, if they will insist upon a real Federation, upon a Union in which not the legislative, but the federal principle would be in the ascendant—if they will contend for real substantial power to be vested in the local or State Governments—why then the Conservatives of Lower Canada will make common cause with the Clear-Grits of the West to impose representation by population upon Lower Canada:—

"The French Canadians are a minority of the people of Canada and of British America: the British population of Lower Canada finds itself in a minority also. And if in the project offered to the people too great an extension is given to the Federal principle—one making the separate Provinces really supreme, and controlling instead of subordinate to the central Government—why then the British of Lower Canada, and of the Ottawa country will join the men of the West—oppose federation altogether, and grant representation by population pure et simple as far as the less of the evils. There is no help for it.—*ib.*

We trust that the words of this impertinent threat will be seriously read, and scrupulously weighed by our French Canadian and Catholic fellow-citizens. They are significant in that they come from one who has always professed hitherto to sympathise with the Southerners against the Northerners—that is to say with the champions of the Federal principle and of "State Rights," as against those who would reduce the States to the condition of "subordinate municipal jurisdictions;" but who, in the case of French Canadians and of Papists, recants, finds it convenient to have another and different set of principles which can be asserted in behalf of Anglo-Saxon and Protestant Ascendancy. Nor significant for this reason only; but doubly significant because as the words of a Conservative Ministerial journal, they tend to establish the truth of the statements lately made upon the same subject by the chief Clear Grit Ministerial organ of Upper Canada. At all events our readers will see that there is perfect harmony of opinion upon the great constitutional question of the day, between men who have hitherto been in politics wide as the poles asunder, and with naught in common, but their Anglo-Saxonism and their Protestantism.

On the other hand, the French Canadians of all shades of politics are rapidly approaching towards harmony of opinion, and we trust unity of action upon this vital question; on the solution of which so much—that both as French Canadian and as Catholics they value, is at stake.

The Opposition papers in the French language have from the first—we care not to enquire into their motives—opposed the Ministerial scheme, which on the other hand was but feebly defended by the French Ministerial press. The latter, however, have been aroused by a perusal of the articles in the *Globe*, the *Gazette* and other English Ministerial organs, to a sense of the danger which menaces their nationality and their religion; and at last boldly and almost unanimously declare themselves against such a scheme of union as that enunciated by the *Globe* the *Gazette* and their other English speaking contemporaries. We have already quoted from the *Canadien de Quebec* to this effect. *Le Journal de Quebec* speaks in the same tone: and in Montreal the *Minerve*, the leading Ministerial paper, finds itself compelled to set itself right with the public by expressing its views upon the question of federation. We translate from its issue of the 30th ult.:—

"The *Gazette* is certainly deceived if it fancies that in Lower Canada public opinion is in favor of a legislative union. On the contrary, the French Canadians will never cease to offer their most decided opposition to such a measure, because therein they see the annihilation of their nationality.

"We are for a Confederation in which the Federal principle shall be carried out to its fullest extent,—*appliquée dans toute son étendue*—and which shall leave to the central power, control only over questions of general interest and in no wise affecting the interests of the several sections; and to the local legislatures all that concerns their particular interests. On all questions relating to its particular existence we desire that each State be completely independent of each other.

"The federal power shall be sovereign no doubt, but its functions will extend only over certain general questions strictly determined—*bien déterminées*—is the Constitution.

"Such is the only plan of Confederation that Lower Canada will accept. . . . We think that the *Globe* went too far in saying that it is the idea of the Ministry to make the sectional powers delegated powers—that is to say, subordinate—*soumis*—to the federal power and under its absolute control.

"Public opinion in Lower Canada is on this point unanimous; nor is there one of our fellow countrymen who would have the audacity to approve a measure which would decree our decadence and our annihilation.

"For no consideration will we modify our opinions upon this subject, and to sustain them we will put forth all the strength at our disposal.—*Minerve*, 30th ult.

Times says, to maximize" the central power and to "minimize" that of the local or State Governments. It is the policy of democracy and of the Revolution, says the *Minerve*,—thus at last repeating our very words:—

"And the legislative union of these States"—(it is demanded only by the party of the Revolution who, as in Italy, tend towards absorption, and consequently towards the extinction of the independence of each particular State.—*Minerve*, 6th inst.

Of course; "Unification," "Centralisation," are the last words of democracy and of the Revolution, always, everywhere. The *Globe*, and the *Gazette* do but re-echo the sentiments of Marat and of *L'Ami du Peuple*; the avowed policy of Mr. George Brown is as that of Cavour and of Mazzini. These advocate Italian, the former Canadian Unity; but one spirit, one and the same soul devil of democracy speaks by the mouths of all three. Long ago the TRUE WITNESS put forward these views; and we rejoice to find that at last they have been adopted, endorsed, and put forward as its own by the Ministerial *Minerve*.

What will be the upshot of all this it is easy to perceive. It will be, as we foresaw from the first day the scheme was mooted, a renewal and intensification of "sectional strife." This is what the Coalition has done for us, this the inevitable consequences of its fatal policy. It has brought out into stronger relief than ever the essential ineradicable differences betwixt Protestant Upper Canada, and the Catholic and French Canadian section of the Province. It has arrayed nationality against nationality; and on a smaller scale indeed, has—as we pointed out in our issue of July 1st that it would—reproduced in Canada the same sectional strife as that which in the States of the late American Union, has culminated in bloody and disastrous war.

We translate from the *Journal de Quebec* of the 6th inst. The *Journal* it will be remembered is a Ministerial paper in the sense of being a supporter of the Coalition Cabinet. We know not however what importance should be attached to its utterances:—

"If we are to understand by the article in the *Globe* that the central parliament will have supreme authority, and that the local legislatures will be delegations from this authority, the guarantees given in local legislatures to the respective Provinces would be put idle words—*de vains mots*; and those things that the Provinces seek to defend would be subjected helplessly—*sans merci*—to the will of the majority. Therefore we cannot be willing to accept such an order of things, even though we may have accepted the principle of Confederation.

"Were we compelled to select, we would prefer a single legislature, to a central parliament and local parliaments, in case the former should have sovereign control over the others; we should be spared at least the inconvenience of an expensive tyranny. It might be despotism, but at all events it would be cheap despotism, whilst the other, whilst oppressing would beggar us.—*Journal de Quebec*.

Here again we see how perfectly the views of the *Journal de Quebec* upon the scheme of Federation, as propounded by the President of the Council through the *Globe*, agree with those long ago expressed on the same subject by the TRUE WITNESS. Our Quebec contemporary in the same article gives us his opinion as to the manner in which the Ministry propose to act with respect to "constitutional changes":—

"The Government will submit to the Chambers at their next Session, a plan of a constitution, in which will be defined the attributes of all the legislative bodies, and the present representatives of the people will accept or reject the project. If they reject it we shall not hear of it any further.

"If they accept it, it will have necessarily to undergo another trial before the Electoral body; and then if it comes forth victorious from this second trial, it will be sent to London to receive Imperial sanction.—*Journal de Quebec*.

This is the Ministerial scheme according to our Quebec contemporary; and it will be remarked with pain and surprise by many that it contains no provision for protecting Lower Canada against the danger of having imposed on it a new form of constitution by an Upper Canadian majority aided by a Lower Canadian minority. The "double majority," so essential to this section of the Province in so grave a crisis, is not so much as alluded to; and we must therefore conclude from the silence of the Ministerial *Journal* upon this all important point, that it has been abandoned by the Ministry, and that a bare majority of the legislature will suffice to impose upon Lower Canada a system of government to which the great majority of the people and representatives of Lower Canada may be opposed. "Call you this backing your friends? A plague upon such backing we say."

We would respectfully invite the attention of the *Journal* to this point. A measure of Federation, such as that announced by the President of the Council through the *Globe* as that to which the Ministry are by agreement actually bound, would, according to the *Journal de Quebec* place all the interests which we most desire to see protected, at the mercy of the central government, and would be but an expensive tyranny, that would beggar whilst oppressing us.

And yet this "expensive tyranny," for all that as yet appears to the contrary, may be imposed on Lower Canada by a simple majority, composed of the representatives of Upper Canada, aided by some six or seven of the representatives of the Lower Province, and against the will of all the rest of the Lower Canadians.—

Remember that, according to the *Gazette*—(whose word we doubt however)—all the British portion of the population are in favor of giving sovereign power to the central government, and of making of the local governments mere subordinate municipalities with delegated functions; and then ask yourself if, in the Ministerial scheme as by you announced, there is any safeguard for the autonomy of Lower Canada?

THE LOWER PROVINCES.—We have reasons to believe that our fellow subjects of the Lower Provinces are by no means very anxious to contract any closer union with us than that which already exists. But upon one point they seem determined to insist in case of union, and that is "Protestant Ascendancy." Thus the *Islander*, a journal published in Prince Edward Island, concludes an article on the subject with these words:—

"We however contend, and shall ever do so, that the Government of the Colony shall continue essentially Protestant."

MEETINGS IN UPPER CANADA.—We see by the *Toronto Mirror* that a preliminary meeting has been held at London, C.W., to consider the position and duties of the Catholics of the Western section of the Province in the present political crisis. It is proposed to hold a general meeting, composed of delegates from all the chief cities, and centres of population, in order to elicit an opinion from the Catholic body upon this important subject.

There can be no doubt that the Catholics of the West are deeply concerned in the results of the proposed constitutional changes, and we shall watch their proceedings with much interest. These may be of great importance, for though but a minority, Catholics often have it in their power at elections to turn the scale in favor of a particular candidate. It is not of course for us to presume to dictate what course they should follow; but we propose returning to the subject in our next, with a few remarks upon what seems to us to be the course which duty and interest alike enjoin the Catholics of Upper Canada to follow. In the meantime we wish all success to their proposed Convention.

THE "GLOBE" ON CONVENTS.—Our Clear Grit contemporary has for some few weeks, and for the sake of the alliance, restrained his tongue from its usual obscenities, blasphemies, and ribald insinuations against our Religious Sisterhoods. The enforced silence is however too much for him. As your confirmed drunkard, heedless of pledge and the horrors of delirium tremens cannot resist the temptation of the intoxicating glass—as the dog to its vomit, and the sow that has been washed to its wallowing in the mire, so does our Clear-Grit ally—in spite of Presidentship of Council, and the necessity of keeping up the delusion amongst Papists that he is a penitent and an altered man—return to his abuse of Catholics in general, and of Nuns in particular—with the keener relish no doubt because of his temporary constrained abstinence.

Our ally breaks out in great strength in his issue of the 7th inst. the subject being, the "Education of Girls," the object to point out and warn Protestants against,—

"The specious falsehoods, the blandishments and the wily seductions of pomps and mystery of Romanism."

Nevertheless, and in spite of all that the *Globe* can say or do, Protestant parents will persist in sending their daughters to the Catholic convent: from whence—horrible to be said—the latter too often come forth tainted with what the writer in the *Globe* so feelingly denounces as the "specious falsehoods of Romanism," or in other words bearing within them the germs of the Catholic faith, which often, after having been long years dormant, start into life, and bring forth flowers and fruit abundantly, when and where these are least expected.

The writer cites a harrowing case in illustration—by no means a solitary case; that of a young Protestant lady, the child of very Protestant parents, who having spent seven years of her life in a Convent came out a Papist at heart; and who though she subsequently married a Protestant, continued to be Catholic at heart all her life, and died professing the Catholic faith and leaving all her children with a bias the same way.

This is sad no doubt, but the worst remains yet to be told. The mischief of it is—as the Protestant writer in the *Globe*, very naively admit,—all unconscious of the significance of his admission—"that it is not most frequently your wild harum scarum girls, or your incipient heartless coquette that is won over;" that it is not the black sheep of the flock, the Messalinas in pinafores, or the Beckey Sharpes of the rising generation who are liable to take the Romish fever. For these Popery has no attractions. Nay! it repels them. The seed in their case falls as it were by the way-side where the fowls of the air—vanity and the lusts of the flesh—speedily devour it, and catch away that which was sown in their hearts. St. Matt. xiii. 19.

"No"—continues the *Globe*—"it is your gentle affectionate child"—who catches the infection; "it is your earnest, sober devout character" that bring home the poison. These are