

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY. A No. 696, Craig Street, by J. GILLIES. G. E. OLBERG, Editor.

TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE: No all country subscribers Two Dollars. If the subscription is not renewed at the expiration of the year then, in case the paper be continued, the terms shall be Two Dollars and a-half.

All subscribers whose papers are delivered by carriers, Two Dollars and a-half in advance; and if not renewed at the end of the year, then, if we continue sending the paper, the subscription shall be Three Dollars.

The True Witness can be had at the News Depots Single copy 3d.

We beg to remind our Correspondent that no letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless enclosed.

The names after each Subscriber's Address every week shows the date to which he has paid up. Thus "JOHN JONES, August '63," shows that he has paid up to August '63, and owes his Subscription from that date.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1868.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR. APRIL—1868.

Friday 24.—St. Fidele de S. M. Saturday 25.—St. Mark. Sunday 26.—Second Sunday after Easter, Holy Family. Monday 27.—St. Leo P. D. Tuesday 28.—St. Hermengild, M. Wednesday 29.—St. Peter, M. Thursday 30.—St. Catherine of Sienna, V.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were well received at Dublin, and assisted at a banquet given on the evening of the 16th inst., in their honor by the Lord Lieutenant and the Marchioness of Abercorn. Amongst the invited guests were several dignitaries of the Catholic Church in Ireland, His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop Dr. Cullen, and the President of the Catholic College at Maynooth.

The Fenian trials in London were to have commenced on Monday last before the Lord Chief Justice, in the Court of Queen's Bench. Meetings of the Liberal party have been held in London and elsewhere throughout England: the general tone of those meetings seemed to be in favor of the disendowment of all religions, and the conduct of Mr. D'Israeli in clinging to office after the adverse vote of the House of Commons, was strongly censured. The case of ex-Governor Eyre is again before the public, he having been arrested by a warrant from the Bow Street magistrate, on a charge of having illegally proclaimed martial law in Jamaica, on the occasion of the negro outbreak and massacre at Morant Bay.

A rumor, but unhappily not confirmed, had reached London to the effect that the British captives at Magdala had been released, and that its object having been obtained the expedition was about to be recalled. Latest despatches however represent Gen. Napier as still advancing, and as having reached within sixty miles of Magdala, where it is thought Theodore will offer battle.

A report was current that Garibaldi had left Capri for Naples, from whence it was inferred that a storm was brewing. The correspondent of the British papers writing from Rome as usual circulate alarming reports of the Pope's health. All however was quiet in the Holy City up to latest dates.

The impeachment farce in the United States is not yet brought to a close: people are weary of it, and seem inclined to treat it as a very poor or rapid burlesque upon the memorable trials of the first Charles of England, before the Parliament, and of Louis XVI. before the Convention.

The trial of the Clerkenwell Fenians has commenced in London. That of Burke will follow in Dublin the Prince of Wales after having been installed on the 18th as a Knight of St. Patrick, has been entertained with a grand review of all the troops in garrison.

Our Canadian winter is drawing to a close and already some steamers are in port.

The examination of the prisoner Whelan, charged with the murder of Mr. McGee was resumed in the Police Court Ottawa, on the 16th inst. Mr. O'Reilly appeared for the Crown, and the case of the prisoner was watched over by Mr. Buckley of Ottawa.

A. J. Turner deposed that he knew prisoner, who owned a revolver. That he had often heard prisoner use threatening language respecting Mr. McGee: that prisoner was a Fenian, but witness did not give any information of the threats that he had heard, as he thought prisoner was only blathering.

Mr. John McGee, half brother of the deceased, identified prisoner as one of two men who on the night of 1st January last, about 1.30 a.m., called at Mr. McGee's house in Montreal, and under the assumed name of Smith gave information of a design to burn the house. In consequence the deceased applied to the Police for protection. This was confirmed in part by Chief Constable McLaughlin of the Montreal Police.

Etienne Roy, a Messenger of the House had seen the prisoner's face somewhere. John Downs had seen prisoner loitering about the House on night of the murder. Patrick Buckley another Messenger had seen the prisoner hanging about the galleries on the same night. Several other witnesses also testified to the same effect.—Francis Kilby met prisoner in a drinking house about 5 a.m., or a few hours after the murder. Spoke about it, and prisoner turned to the counter and took a drink. When this was over noticed that Whelan had a smile on his face: he had on also a dark coat and light pants. Elizabeth Tiernay, a servant where Whelan boarded, deposed that he was out on the night of the murder but could not say at what hour he went out, or when he returned. Saw him in the course of the morning, when prisoner washed himself, and took no breakfast. Other witnesses were examined as to the boots which the prisoner had on, on the night of the murder, and John Doonan identified the pair produced in Court, as having been cleaned by him for prisoner the morning after the murder. There was not much mud on the boots.

On the 17th the examination was continued. Evidence was adduced to show that on the night of 1st and 2nd January, the prisoner about 5 a.m. was bearer of a letter from Mr. McGee to the Chief Constable. More important was the following, which we give in full:—

Ed. Armstrong, sworn.—Recollect last Saturday morning, examined the yard in rear of McKenna's facing on Wellington street; I had my attention called to these premises from hearing that a shot had been fired from that neighborhood on the Thursday night preceding the assassination; on the verandah at the head of the steps leading to the rear of the empty building next McKenna's, I saw, on Saturday, foot marks in the snow; I went into the house which is vacant, and passed through till I came to the door at the head of the stairs; I found all the doors open; going down stairs into the hall, I found a slab of wood, about three or four feet long; the square end of it rested against the door, and as the door opened the stick slid up; it offered no resistance to a person wishing to enter from the outside, but just kept the door shut; the hall door, on Sparks street, was not locked and a person could quickly push it open and pass through the empty building and yard; it is quite open; I searched the front room on the second floor particularly, and found there a piece of newspaper, a piece of red blotting paper, and other pieces of paper, now produced; the tissue paper among them appeared to be soiled with powder stains; there were scraps of writing on the papers; I watched the tracks on the verandah at the head of the stairs until Detective O'Neill came with a pair of boots; the boots and tracks fitted exactly in every portion—could not have fitted closer; the left foot track leading into the yard was very distinct, and this was more particularly marked; the one leading out was not so distinct; the boot produced I recognise as the one compared with the tracks; the nail marks in the heel of the boot produced were marked distinctly in the snow on the verandah; from the front windows up stairs I could see Trotter's clearly; the house next to McKenna's must have been vacant some three months; I remarked the window sill in Mrs. Trotter's where the bullet mark was; the shot could have been fired from Mrs. Kenna's door; the hall door of Mrs. Trotter's is in the west of the empty house; the window sill is only about fifteen inches from the door, and is east of it.

To Mr. Buckley.—My attention was drawn to this house on the Tuesday morning after the murder; I do not think it snowed after the murder; when I looked at the verandah on Saturday, there only remained this patch of old snow which was abraded; the rest was almost clear of snow; there were two foot marks plain as if made by one entering the door; one as if a person leaving but not so plainly marked; the verandah runs the whole length of the block but is boarded off in rear of each house; the lower part of the building is tenanted by Offord, shoemaker, but the upper part is altogether untenanted; the bullet mark at Trotter's traverses the window sill from east to west.

G. H. Perry, sworn.—I am a civil engineer, the plan produced is of Parliament Buildings and grounds with Wellington, Sparks, Queen and Albert streets, with intervening blocks as far as Buckley's studies and eastward from Sappers' Bridge to O'Connor street; the Hon. Mr. McGee's track as described by witness was 1430 feet from the Parliament Buildings to Trotter's; by going through the building at Offord's to the rear into Wellington street from Trotter's would be a distance of some 900 feet, while, round by O'Connor street, the distance would be 1230 feet; from the Parliament Buildings to Buckley's door was 1620 feet, so that Buckley had only 190 feet further to go than Mr. McGee; from the vacant house to Trotter's was 120 feet by the rear way Wellington and Elgin streets; to Russell House was 1180 feet; along Sparks street to Russell House 930 feet; by O'Connor, Queen and Elgin streets to Russell House, 1710 feet distance on map; to Buckley's from Trotter's door to the rear of the premises at McKenna's would be 170 or 175 feet, and, adding the yard, would make it about 318 from Trotter's door to Wellington street; this would be passing through the vacant house.

Detective O'Neill, sworn.—Examined boot tracks closely; there were two visible; quite as one showed as if the person was in a hurry; the other was disfigured; fitted one of the boots produced to the track; it corresponded; the snow appeared to be old; to have been there all winter; snow went off the same day, a thaw having set in.

Cross examined.—It snowed heavily next morning; the old snow remained; the left foot was the one which corresponded most closely; know one of Mrs. Cowan's sons; he is not full grown; they lived next to Mrs. McKenna's; had a verandah next to hers which did not communicate.

To Mr. O'Reilly.—It would take 58 seconds time to go from the Parliament Buildings to the verandah over fence and all; on leaving the rear of the vacant shed you get into Wellington street; thence to Elgin street to Russell House; could go all round in three minutes easy from Mrs. Trotter's, through the vacant house to Wellington and Elgin streets, thence to Russell House.

To Mr. Buckley.—There was no fastening on the front door connected with the verandah. At this stage of the proceedings Mr. O'Reilly said that in consequence of information received from Montreal, it would be necessary to adjourn until tomorrow, and that then he would pray that the lives of the witnesses be conducted with closed doors.

The examination was continued on Saturday but with closed doors, so that we are unable to say what new evidence was brought forward, or what transpired. At the close of the proceedings Whelan was fully committed to stand his trial for the murder of Mr. McGee.

It is stated that on Saturday morning a piece of iron was found by the detectives, concealed in Whelan's shirt, where he had hidden it with the

intention it is supposed of committing an assault upon some one against whom he had a spite.

This is all that as yet has oozed out, respecting this affair, and we do not feel ourselves at liberty to make any comments as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. These are matters upon which in due time a jury of his fellow-citizens will be called upon to pronounce, and in their hands therefore should they be left. We suppose however that the authorities know what they are about, and that they are in possession of information which in due time, and when the ends of justice require it, will be brought out. What seems certain is that the Government has reasons for believing that there exists, or did exist in Montreal and other places in the Province a regular Fenian organisation; and that the names of all those who are, or have been in any way connected with this association, are in the hands of the authorities. Many arrests have been made during the course of the week, and startling disclosures may be expected shortly. We have full confidence in the sound judgment, and determination of the authorities, and therefore wait with patience for the publication of such details as in due time they shall think fit to lay before the world.

Mr. Galt in a letter to the Governor General under date 11th of January last gives some very interesting details as to the manner in which the Union of the B. N. A. Colonies in one Confederation was forced upon the Government of Canada, and of the difficulties with which the promoters of the measure had to contend. We make some extracts:—

I was the first Canadian statesman who brought this subject before our Parliament as a means of reconciling the interests of Upper and Lower Canada; and, at the same time of uniting the dissipated elements of British power in North America. Shortly after, in 1858, I joined the administration formed by Mr. Cartier as Premier, having as the basis of our policy Confederation; the same year Mr. Cartier, Mr. John Ross and I were delegates to England, and pressed the subject unsavourily on the Imperial Government, then as now under my Lord Derby. The following year being again in London alone, it was once more brought by me under the notice of the late Duke of Newcastle, the Colonial Secretary under Lord Palmerston, but with the like ill success. Without having ever ceased to form the ultimate policy of the Government it slumbered until the political difficulties between Upper and Lower Canada culminated in such repeated failures to form an enduring administration, that some remedy had to be sought. By the suggestion and agency of two members of one Parliament, Mr. Alexander Morris and Mr. John H. Pope, negotiations were opened with Mr. Geo. Brown, the leader of the Upper Canada Liberal Party, and at the conferences held by that gentleman with Sir John A. Macdonald, Mr. Cartier and myself, a coalition was formed on the basis of Confederation. I do not propose to introduce the history of the various conventions held between the several Provinces. But it now becomes my duty to refer to the difficulties, political and material, which had to be overcome. These that were material consisted mainly of the adjustment of the relative burdens, assets and liabilities of the several provinces, in providing means for the local governments, and provisions to permit of a fair union of resources. In my position as Finance Minister of Canada I have had my full share of responsibility in dealing with these subjects, but I do not regard them as of such importance as to entitle any one to particular merit when all were striving for a common object. It was widely different with the political difficulties. They consisted, as your Lordship is well aware, in the peculiar position of Lower Canada, whose population was composed of a large majority of French origin combined with a wealthy influential and numerous British minority. The effect of Confederation was to place the French Canadians for ever in a minority in that Parliament which had to deal with general subjects, and the British minority in an equally doubtful position in Local Legislatures which was proposed for each Province. Mr. Cartier, as the acknowledged leader of his countrymen, had to face and overcome the fears, prejudices, and jealousies of a proud sensitive population, dreading infringements of their cherished religion, language, and laws while I had the relatively equally difficult task of satisfying my own countrymen that they could safely entrust their civil rights of property, and their educational interests to a majority of a different race and religion. We both succeeded.—Mont. Gazette

IS HE NOT A BRAND SNATCHED FROM THE BURNING?—It is asked whether the amusing vagabond of whom the following description is given in the Montreal Witness of the 6th inst., as a caution to its readers, be not a "converted priest?" seeing that he is evidently just the stuff out of which these idols of the conventicle are carved. We cannot say. Probably such may be the case; and if so the only marvel is that the F. C. M. Society have not secured his services for the evangelisation of us poor Papists. Here is the description of the "man of God?":—

A man calling himself John H. Morry, claiming to be a minister in the Scotch Presbyterian Church, just from Canada, came to Frankfort, Ill., a few months since, and represented to the Free Baptist Church in that place that he was in harmony with the doctrines of the church, and had been baptized by a Baptist minister in Canada, from whom he purposed to bring recommendations. The church being without a minister he was engaged to supply them for a time. Some suspicious circumstances occurred to cause doubt as to the genuineness of his pretensions, and a clue being obtained of his previous operations in Canada an investigation was instituted, resulting in the discovery of a chain of impostors coveting this man of being the most infamous of impostors. It came out that about nine years ago this man came to Canada from Scotland, and, under the name of John Mavor, married near Kingston, a Miss Catherine Wilder. He left that place, and, coming to B. th as a Presbyterian minister and teacher, married a Miss Amey, under the name of John Erskine.

A rumor of his former marriage following him he fled, and next turned up at Wandsworth, C. W., calling himself John Oshlers, where he was on the point of marrying a young lady, who was saved by a timely discovery of his previous marriage. He fled and was next heard from near Rochester N. Y., where he preached as usual and married under a new name; and fled again, after a few weeks, to New Orleans, Mich., where he pre- ed, and again

married under the name of John Melville Gordon Mavor. While there, publications in the Canada papers led to his detection, arrest, and conviction for bigamy, and his incarceration in the Michigan State Prison for three years. Six months of his time were deducted from the sentence; and he enlisted in the army, remaining until the close of the war.

POWERFUL LOGIC.—The Montreal Witness deals such dreadfully hard blows to the Papal system in Lower Canada, that it is a wonder how it manages to survive. The following is a specimen, as striking for its clear unimpassioned reasoning, as for the gentlemanly and truly Christian spirit that it breathes:—

"The time is not far distant when an oppressed and burdened people will bear the gospel sound in the temples erected by their sweat and blood, in which the blighting rituals of idolatry now chain souls."—Witness, 6th inst.

To many of our readers the above will be scarce intelligible without the aid of a Glossary. Be it understood then, that by "an oppressed and burdened people" is meant French Canadian Catholics; by the "gospel" the peculiar religious opinions of the illiterate clique that finds an appropriate exponent in the Montreal Witness; also that "sweat and blood" is a figurative or highly poetical form of expression for tithes and church rates, paid by Catholics in Canada—though of course it would be monstrous so to designate the same contributions made by Irish Catholics for the support of a Protestant establishment: that the "blighting rituals of idolatry" is a euphuism for the Catholic worship; and that the "chaining of souls" implies that these poor oppressed, burdened, blood-sweating French Canadian Catholics are booked for something very unpleasant in the next world, if they don't at once accept the gospel according to the Witness and the pedlars of the F. C. M. Society. Of course "reserved seats" are kept for the special use of our bishops, priests and nuns, who are aiding and abetting in the imposing of the chains upon the laity.

The N. Y. Herald, not a very trustworthy authority indeed, but one which in this instance is probably not very far from the truth, announces as the policy of the Republican, or revolutionary party in the United States, the repeal of the original Constitution—which virtually has been repealed since first the Northern States declared war against the Sovereign States of the South—and the establishment of a Dictatorship. The means by which it is proposed to accomplish these ends are the deposition of the President, and the suppression of the Supreme Court. Gen. Grant is to be elected, at the point of the bayonet, as the head of the Government for a term of ten years, and by martial law if necessary: and in the meantime to conciliate the masses, and to reconcile them with despotism, power to inflate the currency to any extent is to be given to the Banks. Whatever we may think of the radical programme as given by the N. Y. Herald, this much has long been evident to every one but a purblind fool—that the whole course of events in the United States since the unhappy defeat of the gallant Southerners has been setting decidedly towards pure military despotism.

The Report of the Registrar General for Scotland shows that 9.6 or nearly ten per cent of the total births in Scotland for the year 1867 were illegitimate. The most striking and melancholy fact brought to light is, that the greatest amount of impurity, obtains—not in the cities but in the rural districts, where it was supposed that the "social evil" is almost unknown. Another fact worth noticing is, that the greatest immorality amongst the rural populations obtains precisely there where the Calvinistic element is most preponderant, and where Sabbatarianism is most rampant. Not in the Southern and Western districts, where there is a large admixture of Irish Catholics with the Scotch Protestant population; but in the north eastern and southern divisions was impurity highest of all—in some counties "reaching 15 per cent," and in one to no less than 17.7 per cent. This is a horrid picture of the state of morality in the land of the "open bible," in the very stronghold of British Protestantism. Still facts are stubborn things, and their evidence cannot be impugned when it is given to the world by the Registrar General in an official document.

The Mayor of St. Catharines, it is said, has adopted the ball and chain for prisoners sentenced to hard labor, and employs them in breaking stones on the public streets. We do not see why in Montreal we should not utilize our drunkards, and loafers generally, by setting them to work as scavengers, and street cleaners. This would be better every way for the material and moral interests of society, than the present silly plan of stall-feeding them in the Government hotel. The prospect of two months street sweeping would deter many a hardened offender from again making his appearance before the Recorder.

The Catholic Chronicle is the name of a new weekly paper published at Albany in the United States. We heartily wish our new contemporary a long and prosperous career.

The Church Times, an Anglican, but Ritualistic organ, speaks in very hard, but very just terms of the Reformation, its promoters, and its effects. It denounces it as "an unmitigated disaster;" as "a hypocritical pretence to veil an insurrection of lust and avarice against religion." It adds that it—the Reformation—"corrected no evil whatever;" that "the superstition of the past has but given way to the infidelity of the present;" and that there is no reason to suppose that there is "any larger proportion of really God-fearing persons than there was before the reformation of religion was taken in hand by a conspiracy of adulterers, murderers, and thieves." This is the conclusion, adds the writer "at which most impartial and intelligent readers of Dr. Hook's Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury will arrive." It is really refreshing to find Protestants forming so true an estimate of the meaning of the great religious apostacy of the sixteenth century, from the study of their own documents.

The Daily News understands that two gentlemen, one French, the other English, have been appointed to perform the duties of Fire Marshal for the City of Montreal. The Daily News adds that both are members of the legal profession, and that Mr. Durbar Browze is one of the gentlemen so named; but we do not learn that either of them has any practical experience in the matter of fires, which after all is the one thing needful.

What are required in a Fire Marshal are the special faculties of a detective officer, rather than those of a judge or of a lawyer; and above all that he be one who at every fire, should be present on the spot, making himself master by personal observation of all the circumstances, that might have caused it. In short a smart bold and experienced Detective, would be the right man in the right place.

In the Montreal Gazette we find the annexed paragraph:—

"The astonishing number of sixty-six divorce cases are to be heard at the session of the Supreme Judicial Court which commences at Toronto on Tuesday April 21st."

We see not what there is "astonishing" in this, for we know that when once the dam is broken down, the waters will rush in. What is "astonishing" is, that despite the well-established demoralising effect which flow from legalising divorce, or not to put too fine a point on it, adultery—men will persist in the same vicious course of legislation, setting God's holy law of one with one and for ever, at defiance. But this law cannot be defied with impunity, and woe to the state and people that take upon themselves to set it aside, by setting up their filthy and demoralising Divorce Courts.

We learn by letters from Rome that our Papal Zouaves with their worthy leader Captain Taillefer met with a most flattering reception from the Sovereign Pontiff when they were admitted to the honor of an audience. The company have already commenced their drill, and we learn with much pleasure that Captain Taillefer has already received an appointment in the Papal army, as Corporal.

A pension of \$1,200 for the term of her life has been voted for the widow of the late Mr. McGee, and a further sum of \$8,000 for the benefit of the children. No one will deem this sum excessive; and we hope that in addition, the Legislature will undertake to discharge any debts that may have been due by the deceased at the time of his death. Though long in public life, he died poor, and this redounds very much to his credit.

Patrick Buckley has been again arrested on suspicion. It appears from the evidence of a Mr. E. Starr, a Messenger, that on the night before the murder the prisoner had repeated conversations with Whelan who was observed to shake his fist in a menacing manner at Mr. McGee. Rumors of course are plentiful, in the absence of anything definite till such time as the authorities see fit to lay the information of which they are in possession before the public.

Mr. M. P. Ryan, an Irish Catholic gentleman well-known, and wherever known highly esteemed for his excellent qualities of head and heart, has been decided upon, at a numerous meeting, as a fitting candidate for the representation of the West Ward. Mr. Miller is also before the public with an address to the constituency. We understand that the name of Mr. Redpath is withdrawn.

Mr. A. M. Delisle has been named as Returning Officer for the approaching election in Montreal West.

The yield of maple sugar is annually abundant this year. Seeing the quantities that are brought to market makes us regret that the maple forests of Canada have been so ruthlessly cut away. If they had been preserved, maple sugar might have become a considerable exportation and a consequent revenue of importance, in the otherwise fallow season, whereas it is scarcely more than an amusement.