

REMITTANCES

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THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 1855.

NOTICE.—Mr. P.H. McCawley's connection with this paper as travelling agent, and collector, has ceased from this date.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Baltic brings important news. A Ministry has been formed, with Lord Palmerston for Premier, and in which, with the exception of Lords Aberdeen, Newcastle, and John Russell, the members of the former Cabinet retain office. Parliament had adjourned until the 15th inst.

The Government was actively engaged in shipping troops to the Crimea, and a sum of three millions had been voted for the support of the war. From the seat of war the dates are up to the 30th ult.; but we have nothing new to report. The total inactivity of the Allies, and their utter inability to effect any impression upon Sebastopol, are gazed over with vague generalities, about "siege works advancing," and "renewed activity." These hackneyed phrases impose upon nobody now. Translated into plain English, they mean, that the besieging army is fast melting away, and that the Russian stronghold is as impregnable as ever. Provisions were coming into camp; but the troops were still very sickly. Several sorties had been made by the Russians, in one of which the French had suffered very severely, and Lord Lucan had been recalled. This is all that is known with certainty of the state of affairs in the Crimea. Rumors, however, are not wanting. Prince Menschikoff, so it is given out, is to attack Eupatoria and Balaklava; and for this purpose reinforcements are hastening to join him. On the other hand, the Turks, under Omar Pacha, are said to be marching on Sebastopol, in the vicinity of which a great battle will soon be fought. The Russians, it is hinted, are suffering greatly from the want of supplies; there is a report also that they had met with a repulse from the Turks in the Dobrukscha.

In the diplomatic world, there is nothing new; but a feeling in favor of peace is springing up even in Constantinople. Prussia still vacillates; the attitude of Austria is becoming more decidedly hostile towards Russia; and Holland and Denmark are said to be desirous of joining the Western Powers.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the serious illness of His Grace the venerated Archbishop of Quebec. His Grace was attacked with a severe stroke of paralysis on Monday forenoon last whilst assisting at the general service of Sister La Croix. He was immediately conveyed to the Archbishopric, where he again underwent another attack, which left him speechless and incapable of motion. On Tuesday he rallied again a little, and the doctors held out hopes of his recovery. Up to the last account the condition of His Grace was very precarious.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE.

We were unable in our last week's issue, from want of room, to say anything about the ceremony of conferring "Doctor's Degrees" upon several of our fellow-citizens, which took place in St. Mary's College on the 12th inst., in the presence of a numerous audience, and immediately after the festivities with which the fête of the venerated Rector of the College was celebrated by the pupils. These festivities concluded, the Rev. Father Martin took his seat on an elevated stage, accompanied and assisted by the Rev. T. Dégardin and Rev. T. O'Reilly. The latter, in the name of the Faculty of Fordham University and St. Mary's College, addressed the gentlemen on whom the "Doctor's Degree" was about to be conferred:

"St. Mary's College had contracted towards them a debt of gratitude for valuable assistance and encouragement at the beginning of the Institution. In founding a Law-school in connection with the College, this debt had been further increased: the advantages it procured to the law-student were, it was gratefully confessed, more the work of the citizens, than of the founders of the establishment.

"There was only one means in the power of the latter of testifying their sense of such valuable co-operation,—and that was, to obtain for the Patrons of the Law-school a 'Doctor's Degree.' That this might be at the same time a testimony of affection and gratitude from the whole Society of Jesus, towards Canada and the Canadians, the University of Fordham had joyfully seized the opportunity, and sent the Degree asked for, to the following gentlemen:—The Hon. D. B. Viger, the Hon. Justice Morin, the Hon. G. E. Cartier; J. B. Meilleur, Esq.; C. S. Cherrier, Esq.; Maximilian Bibaud, Esq.; Professor of Common Law in St. Mary's College."

The Rev. Speaker paid a compliment to each of these gentlemen in particular: to the Hon. D. B. Viger;

"For more than half a century of meritorious exertion consecrated to the promoting of his country's best interests. The mark of regard thus paid him by St. Mary's College, was only an evidence of the universal respect in which so distinguished and venerable a citizen was held in the community.

"Not less unanimous, undoubtedly, would be the feelings of respect and affection elicited by the mention of Mr. Morin's honored name. To say that he has been found worthy to fill on the Bench the place left vacant by a Magistrate so widely and justly revered as the late Mr. Justice Panet—would be no common praise. To say, however, that there was no reward high enough in his countrymen's estimation—for abilities of the first order, for devotedness superior even to these abilities, for a disinterestedness above both—was only to say what every one knew to be the simple truth. We trust, therefore"—continued the Rev. gentleman—"that the Laval University, which is to us all a source of legitimate pride—pride herself, and justly so, of this her illustrious son—will accept in this solemn homage paid her by Montreal, much more than St. Mary's College, the earnest of the feelings with which both regard the first of our institutions, and one of her greatest living glories."

Then after a becoming eulogium passed on the other gentlemen, amidst the applause of the audience, the Rev. President of the College proclaimed the Degrees, and the diplomas were handed to such of the gentlemen upon whom they were conferred as were present.

The President once more, in a few appropriate words, complimented the graduates; and impressed on the students the importance of following in the footsteps of eminent learning and merit.

Mr. Cherrier returned thanks in an elegant and appropriate speech, in which he paid a well merited compliment to St. Mary's College for the zeal which it had displayed in the cause of education, and congratulated its professors upon having been so happy as to secure the services of M. Max. Bibaud, for their Class of Common Law.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

In general, it is contrary to the principles of this Society to give publicity to any of their proceedings through the secular press. Their rule is, to do good in secret; not to let one hand know what the other hand giveth; to seek no applause from men, but to do all unto God, Who, seeing in secret, shall, on the last day, reward openly them that fear Him, and do works of mercy in His name. So strictly is this rule enforced, that, at their weekly meetings, it is positively enjoined that the contributions of each member to the common fund shall be made secretly; so that every one shall be at liberty to give, much, or little, of his substance as he pleases, without provoking the remarks of his neighbor. But to every rule there must be an exception; and since—as having been entrusted with the distribution of a portion of the public funds voted by the City Council for the relief of the poor—the St. Vincent de Paul Society owes an account to the public of the manner in which it has fulfilled the trust reposed in it, we give insertion to the following letter, which appeared in the *Montreal Gazette* over the signature of "Humanitas," whom the *Herald* pronounces to be a Protestant:—

Feb. 12, 1855.

To the Editor of the *Montreal Gazette*.

"Sir—For some years past it has been the received opinion of us Protestants, that whilst we, in relieving the poor, have done so irrespective of Creed or origin—our co-religionists of the Roman Catholic faith, have restricted their charities to the poor of their own Church. To remove so erroneous an impression, and to render to our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens full justice, permit me to narrate a few facts, which came under my personal notice yesterday.

"Called upon, in the discharge of my civic duties, to assure myself of the due application of the monies voted by the City Council a month or two ago, for the temporary relief of the poor, I had occasion yesterday to attend a meeting of the members of one of the branches of a charitable society which has existed in Montreal now about six years, known as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It was organized by our French Canadian fellow-citizens in 1848, for the express purpose of relieving the poor of our city in the inclement seasons and times of distress; and is composed almost exclusively, indeed wholly—with the exception of its Directors or leading men, who form a sort of council—of French Canadians of the industrial classes—most of them of very limited pecuniary means. It is divided, if I remember rightly, into seven branches or "Conferences" equally distributed over the whole city. That I visited is called the "Conference de Ste. Marie," and numbers about 180 members. Its only source of revenue during the 6 years of its existence, until it received lately for distribution among the poor, a share of the City Grant, has been the penny contributions of its members, raised in the manner I shall hereafter notice; and during that period, it has judiciously disposed of about £1,200 in relieving the pressing wants of the poor, indiscriminately, Protestant and Catholic. The different branches "Conferences," meet once every week, and the only condition of admission to membership is—the proposal by a member at one of the weekly meetings, unobjected to at the next meeting. No entrance fee is exacted, nor any stated or periodical subscription; but, on every occasion of absence from the weekly meeting, whether by reason of sickness or any other cause whatever, a contribution of three pence towards the relief fund has to be paid into the treasury by the absent member. It is by these means alone, save a few pence occasionally collected at special meetings, that the funds, to the extent of £1,200 already mentioned, were raised. Each branch elects its Visiting Committee, who carefully investigate each case brought under their notice, before relief is afforded, except in cases of great emergency. I was shown a list of the names of the persons relieved by this branch, the "Conference de Ste. Marie," since the commencement of the winter's distress in St. Mary's Suburbs. It embraces about 157 families, or 722 persons, of whom, at least, 40 families, or 87 per-

sons, were Protestants. This distinction between Protestant and Roman Catholics was, on this occasion, noticed on the list, to enable the Mayor to judge of the manner the funds entrusted to them had been disposed of. But after having satisfied myself as to the correctness of this list, I requested the Secretary to permit me to examine the Minutes—which, I may here state, much to the credit of the Secretary, are kept with the utmost care and precision, and at the cost of a large amount of his time and trouble; and I found, upon referring back over a period of three or four years, say to 1851 at least, that the statements made at the meeting—that the poor of all classes and creeds—Protestant as well as Roman Catholic—had indiscriminately received relief from the Society since its organization, were fully verified. No distinction of course had been made in the entries previous to the reception of the City Fund, by the addition of "Protestant," when such case of relief had occurred; but I had no difficulty, from the names and other circumstances, to assure myself of the fact, that relief from the commencement of their efforts had been extended by them, regardless of difference in religious faith, Protestant as well as Catholic.

"In noticing these facts, I have entered more into the details of the organization of this society, than I otherwise should have done, from a desire to draw the attention of our industrial classes generally to this admirable and effective system; convinced that by forming a similar society, assisted by the more affluent amongst us, they might do their part more effectively in relieving the wants of the really deserving poor, than by any expedient hitherto resorted to by them for that purpose.—I am, Sir, Yours, &c.,

HUMANITAS."

Whilst upon the subject of the St. Vincent de Paul, the following account—which appears in the *Univers*—of an interesting ceremony which took place at Rome on the 5th ult., when the Holy Father gave his benediction to the Sons of St. Vincent de Paul—may prove interesting:—

The Pope having expressed his intention to preside at one of the meetings of the Society, notice was given to the different Conferences in order that they might each send their representatives. The members who had assembled at Rome for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception met together on the 5th, to the number of 800, in the Great Hall of the Consistory, with M. Baudon at their head. Many Cardinals and other foreign Bishops also requested to join the meeting, to express publicly their sympathy in its proceedings, and they were placed at the right of the Pontiff's throne.

At a quarter past ten the Holy Father entered the hall, preceded by the pontifical cross. All rose as he passed on to the throne in the middle of the hall, blessing with an air of tender affection the soldiers of charity who were met together in this vast theatre. When he reached the throne he recited a short prayer. He then seated himself and signed to the Cardinal and Bishops to do the same. The rest of the assembly remained standing.

M. Baudon then, led by Mgr. Borromeo, Master of the Chambers, approached, and shortly and in French thanked His Holiness for the favors which he had granted to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, especially in this present meeting, adding that the report would be read in Italian by the Prelate President of the Conferences, at Rome; and he placed in the hands of the Holy Father the list of the foreign members who were present, of whom there was a large proportion from various parts of Italy, from Geneva, Paris, France, England, and America. The Holy Father appeared to listen with pleasure to the sentiments expressed by the President General; and Mgr. Borromeo, who is President of one of the Conferences at Rome, approached the throne and read the promised report.

"This report detailed all the proceedings of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Its spirit is clearly expressed in it, and its object defined to be the mutual edification of the members, and the corporal and especially the spiritual care of the poor and the suffering members of human kind. The birth of the Society is related, and its successive developments explained in order. It is stated that the great enlargement of the work only arose subsequently to the approbation afforded to it by Gregory XVI. In January 1855 the number of Conferences spread over the whole world exceeds 1500, and half this number belongs to France. This remarkable development is owing to the protection of the Holy See, and to the numerous favours afforded by it to the work. No Conference is ever established without the consent of the spiritual authority, and when once established its whole powers are exerted in perfect harmony with the appointed authorities. Of late this society, which had hitherto been confined to towns, has begun its operations in country places with great success. The report explains the ways and means used by the society to accomplish its mission of charity. These are numberless, varying according to the wants of those for whom it is undertaken. The details are most edifying; and many traits are recorded of sublime and perfectly heroic virtue, which, when published, will be most interesting."

After the report had been read the Holy Father arose, and in a voice full and sweet, but trembling with emotion, he pronounced the following words, of which we can only endeavor to collect the sense, not having the exact words:

"After the happiness we have enjoyed during the last few days, I rejoice to behold around me so many devoted sons of the Church who are employed in doing good by putting in practice the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ—the new commandment which He gave to us, to love one another—*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem*. It is this command which makes us seek to discover and to provide for our brethren of the lower condition; it is this commandment which makes it the duty of the greatest to be the servant of others. In this age of coldness and indifference to the most sacred interests of humanity, the world does not value the interests which Catholicity teaches. Protestants and infidels agree in treating humility as meanness, chastity as opposition to the rights of nature, apostolic zeal as fanaticism—charity alone is accepted by all. This is, then, a powerful motive to bring back souls to the faith—it is another motive to you to redouble your zeal, to give still greater testimony of your attachment to the Church by continuing to yield filial obedience to the spiritual sentinels of the people (the Bishops of the Holy Church). Thus prepared, return you to the world, and call back this corpse by your voice and your acts, as the Divine voice called Lazarus of old to light and warmth. On such condi-

tions will God multiply your numbers and your labors. I call down, then, upon you, and upon your society the blessing of Almighty God (here all present, except the Cardinals and Bishops, fell on their knees): of God the Father, who notwithstanding the sin, has drawn from the treasures of His infinite mercy a means of healing us; of God the Son, who deigned to shed the last drop of his blood for us; of God the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of light, of love, of power, and of understanding: of the most Holy Trinity, that he may shelter you under His most powerful protection all the days of your life and in the hour of your death. *Benedictio Dei Omnipotentis Patris, Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, descendit super vos, nunc et semper. Amen!*

"The Pope then retired much affected. His emotion gained the hearts of all present, which were deeply moved by his mingled kindness."

CITY COUNCIL.—At a special meeting of the City Council, held on Friday last, His worship the Mayor read the following report of the manner in which the £250 voted for the relief of the poor have been expended:—

"The £250 appropriated by the Council for the poor of the city, I am sorry to say, is entirely expended. The Council will permit me to observe that I would advise a further appropriation of a like sum, by means of which, it is expected, that the destitute will be provided for until the spring approaches and work is to be had. I have visited the Soup Kitchens with some of the Councillors; and it is most gratifying to know that the money already advanced, has, through this means, operated an amount of good, many times more than could have been effected, if it had otherwise been employed or distributed, besides being secure against an improper use of the relief tendered—for it is well known that debased and profligate parents have often, heretofore, sold the bread and meat given for the support of their children, to low groggeries for whiskey; whereas the soup cannot be thus bartered. It is eaten in the kitchens, or taken away in cans and kettles, and being of a highly nutritious nature and well seasoned, it is most wholesome and agreeable, as I know from experience, having taken a plateful at each of the establishments, where, I am most happy to assure you, gentlemen, that the needy are kindly attended to, irrespective of creed or origin. I am delighted to bear witness to the fact, that several Protestant clergymen have given soup tickets to some of their congregations; and such tickets are received with much respect by the benevolent Sisters of Charity, and the poor Protestant is at once attended to. Such proceedings are honorable alike to all parties, and betoken a true Christian spirit, the prevalence of which is equally honorable and beneficial to our common humanity.

"I am decidedly of opinion that the Council is not only warranted, but that it is incumbent upon it, to see that the Public Funds are not squandered or worse, by sustaining the idle and giving them the means of persevering in their vicious habits; the utmost caution is demanded that the assistance granted is not converted into a premium for improvidence, wickedness and idleness. The safest and most economical way of providing for the poor is through the soup kitchens.

"Councillor Thompson, with honorable feelings, informed me that there were several destitute families in his ward. A small sum was put into his hands, and, limited as it was, he has been enabled to do a considerable amount of good by the judicious measures he adopted for aiding the really necessitous; that is to say, by personally visiting the homes of the applicants. Deception and fraud are thus detected, while the deserving receive succor. It is this inspection of the abodes of the applicants for relief, which has made the operations of some of our charitable societies so exceedingly useful and efficient; and I don't know if it would not be proper to impose, as a condition for such distribution of the public money, that none is to be granted until it is perfectly ascertained how it is to be applied. It is my conviction that a £1000 distributed as is usually done, would not have been as beneficial as the \$1000 we have put into the hands of our charitable societies.

"As I have already remarked, another sum of £250 will be required for the soup kitchens, notwithstanding that the Rev. Mr. Villeneuve has kindly informed me, that he will see to the provisioning of the soup kitchens at the Grey Nun's and at La Providence; but the two remaining kitchens, one in the Quebec Suburbs, and the other in the St. Antoine Wards, are as yet to be sustained, as well as the one lately established under the auspices of Mrs. Fairford and the other philanthropic ladies, who have originated the Protestant House of Industry at Richmond Square, where an excellent description of soup is also made.

"Every effort is made for procuring labor for the poor. Hundreds of toises of stones are being broken, and the gentlemen of the Seminary have generously given over 400 toises of stones at one sixth of the contract price it cost them, that work might be had for the poor and willing laborer.

"By the united efforts of all the citizens, in the shape of Bazaars, Concerts, and Public Meetings, &c., considerable sums have been obtained for the succoring the distressed; the consequence is that there is an infinitely less amount of misery in our midst than there otherwise would have been, and I cannot but express my admiration of the noble conduct of our citizens, in abstaining from the usual assemblies and festivities of the season, that more might be applied to the indigent, and, at the same time, that the starving might not complain, that while they were suffering, the wealthy were revelling in abundance and frivolity. Montreal has every reason to be proud of the noble feeling which pervades every class of its community."

A motion of M. Valois to the effect that another sum of £250 be placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee was postponed, as being out of order.

We have been requested to insert the following letter from the Rev. M. Villeneuve, to the Mayor of Montreal:—

Mons. THE MAYOR.—When cholera by its frightful ravages commenced to freeze with alarm the hearts of the citizens of Montreal, I called upon your Worship to suggest to you a method proper to calm the minds, raise the courage of, and give succor to the unfortunate persons struck by the epidemic.

The Corporation failed in nothing that could be done to divert the scourge with which we were menaced by watching over the cleanliness and the sanitary condition of the city; but we had no hospital for cholera patients. People talked of removing the sick, first to Point St. Charles; afterwards to the sheds of