

The True Witness

AND
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1870.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

OCTOBER—1870.

Friday, 21—St. Hilary, Ab.
Saturday, 22—Of the Immaculate Conception.
Sunday, 23—Twenty-first after Pentecost.
Monday, 24—St. Raphael, Arch.
Tuesday, 25—St. Chrysanthus and Daria, MM.
Wednesday, 26—St. Evaristus, P. M.
Thursday, 27—Vigil of St. Simon and Jude, Apostles.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Prussians are, we strongly suspect, beginning to find out that Paris is a hard nut to crack, and that it will test to the uttermost the strength of their teeth. We are told indeed that they hold the same positions as those which they held about a month ago; but then, it is hinted that they are willing to lend a favorable ear to propositions for peace, and that the intervention of the other European Powers would not now be repudiated. The Prussians in short are in a very delicate, if not dangerous position, if the Parisians manage to detain them before the walls of the City for a few weeks longer. The autumn is advancing; cold wet weather is at hand; and disease, dysentery and typhoid fevers, added to hard work and short provisions will be powerful allies to the French. The Prussians ought to be glad, if after a three month's war they be able to dictate the terms of an honorable peace, beneath the walls of Paris.

The accounts of battles that we receive by cable, are very conflicting. On the 14th we learnt that the Prussians were in possession of Orleans, and had driven the French beyond the Loire; and on the 15th it was reported that the Prussians at Orleans had surrendered to the French with all their artillery. What seems certain is that the Prussians are bringing up their heavy siege guns, and expect soon to be able to commence in earnest the bombardment of Paris. General Trochu an able soldier, and the only man at the head of affairs at the present moment in whom it is possible to place confidence, will no doubt make a gallant resistance. The population of the City is represented as full of energy and as determined to defend themselves to the last; the troops for the defence are sufficient in quantity, if their quality be good, for this purpose; they are well supplied with food and ammunition, and under these circumstances may reasonably be expected to hold the enemy at bay, till the rigors of the season, till mortality in the ranks of the besieging army, and the difficulty of bringing up its supplies compel it to retreat. The political and social condition of France indeed is gloomy; but the military position is hopeful, if internal dissensions do not neutralize the advantages which at present the French seem to possess.

From Italy we have nothing new to report. A strange or ominous silence is still preserved as to the doings and designs of the Piedmontese invaders of the Holy See. The Sovereign Pontiff still remains a prisoner at Rome, and that is all that we can gather from the newspapers. A telegram on Monday announced that the British men-of-war at Civita Vecchia had in obedience to instructions from home, saluted the Piedmontese flag, thus recognising the monstrous outrage on the laws of civilised nations, and the independence of weak States of which Victor Emmanuel, or rather the Revolution of which he is but the tool, has been guilty. We may be sure that the disaffected in Ireland will not be slow to take this lesson to heart, and to apply it practically on the first favorable opportunity. The rule of Queen Victoria over Ireland, her right to the allegiance and obedience of the Irish are at their best not one whit more legitimate and sacred, than is the rule of the Pope over the Papal States; than is his right to the allegiance and obedience of the people of Rome. It is an old proverb that whom the Gods doom to destruction, they

first drive mad; and madness on the part of Great Britain it is—menaced as are its crown, its church, its aristocracy, its property and its social life by the ever advancing tide of revolution—to give to its adversary the semblance even of an argument in its favor. Russia too will in all probability soon improve the occasion, and apply to Constantinople and the independence of the Sultan, the principles which when applied by Piedmont to Rome, Great Britain applauds and officially recognises as sound. Why should not the Czar proclaim the great city on the Bosphorus the capital of a Russo-Greek or Slavonic Empire, and thereupon proceed to annex it, and the rest of the territory of the Sultan to the Muscovite dominions? solemn treaties to the contrary notwithstanding. No such treaties have been found strong enough to curb the usurping career of the Piedmontese; why should it be expected that they should offer any obstacle to Russian greed, and inevitable destiny? The Government of the United States too has now an excellent precedent for annexing Canada, and for marching an army upon Quebec and Montreal. The United States are *par excellence* called America; but geographically Canada is an integral part of America:—*argui*:—we leave our readers to draw the inevitable logical conclusion.

The President of the U. States has pardoned and set free the raiders who last May made an attack on Canada. He warns them that for the future they ought to be good boys and not do it again. We give below the latest and most important telegrams from the seat of war:—

LONDON, Oct. 14.—By a balloon that left Paris on the 10th instant, advices have been received that the city is amply supplied with provisions. There are enough on hand to last three months.

An official decree has been published postponing the payment of rent for three months.

The Odeon has been converted into a powder magazine.

The Grand Opera House is full of arms.

The fire from Fort Mont Valerien makes dreadful havoc among the Prussians, continually breaking their circle.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—A deserter from Metz reports that bread and salt are entirely exhausted, though there is an apparent plenty of other provisions.

A special despatch from the Hague says:—Great agitation prevails upon the discovery that the King was about to declare war with Prussia. There was a row in the King's Cabinet. The King was told that he must not take the initiative. The Crown Prince warned the Ministers if they did not take sides now, Holland would regret her inactivity. The Cabinet appealed to the people. Petitions from all parts in favor of giving the States General, not the King, the right to declare war, calmed down the bellicose feeling of King William. The majority of the population side with the Crown Prince.

LONDON, Oct. 15th.—The Prussian earthworks before Fort Marie Des Valerians are firksome to the French garrison, whose fire is incessant. The Germans are generally passive, and will remain so until all preparations for a general bombardment are complete. Sorties of French at Paris have all been successfully repelled.

A siege train of heavy guns has just arrived before Paris from Germany.

The Prussians have retired from Breteuil to Laon.

The Prussians say they will soon have rifled guns capable of throwing three hundred pound shells five miles. A number of these ponderous projectiles are on the way for the Baltic.

Much impatience is manifested in Paris at the inaction of the Prussians. The Parisians desire above all things to be attacked. As there is no immediate prospect of this, the French are preparing to make a formidable attack on the besiegers.

The Government authorities are making enormous steel guns to carry 9,000 metres.

From later telegrams we learn that General Trochu has made a sortie in force on the Prussian lines, driving them back with great loss of men and materiel. At the same time Marshal Bazaine has broken out of Metz, overturning the Prussian forces opposed to him, and is now at Thionville organising a movement against the enemy before Paris. On the other hand we learn that Soissons has surrendered to the Prussians, who thus obtain a new railroad to Paris, besides several thousands of prisoners, and much munition of war. The prospects of peace may therefore be said to be brightening. Prussia will moderate her tone, and probably accept something less than she previously demanded. Russia too, jealous of the too great aggrandisement of her neighbor, protests against the cession of any part of the French fleet to Prussia, and demands a General Congress. It is to be hoped that the bloody conflict is now drawing to a close.

Remittances crowded out; shall appear in our next.

DEATH OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC.

A sad duty, one of the saddest that as a Catholic journalist we have ever been called upon to discharge, devolves upon us this day; that of announcing the death of the highest dignitary of the Catholic Church in Canada, Mgr. Charles Francois Baillargeon, Archbishop of Quebec. This sad event, which however has been expected for some time, occurred on Thursday of last week, the 13th inst., at about half-past five o'clock in the afternoon, to the deep regret not only of the Diocese which for fifteen years he has governed so wisely and so well, but of all the Catholics of the Province.

The deceased was born in a parish about 30 miles below Quebec on the 25th of April, 1798, and was consequently at the time of his decease in the 73rd year of his age. He at an early period manifested a serious predisposition towards the ecclesiastical state; and obedient to the heaven given call he directed his studies in that direction, so that on the first of June, 1822, he received the Holy Order of Priesthood from the hands of Mgr. Plessis. Having filled the post of parish priest in several of the rural districts, the Rev. M. Baillargeon was in 1831 entrusted with the charge of Quebec, which post he occupied up to the Spring of 1850. In that year he visited Rome on a mission from the Archbishop and Bishops of the ecclesiastical Province of Quebec. In the month of October of the same year he was elected Coadjutor of the Diocese of Quebec, and received Episcopal consecration from the hands of His Eminence Cardinal Fransoni, Prefect of the Propaganda. In the early part of 1855, he undertook the Administration of the Diocese, and in 1862 he again visited Rome where he took part in the great festival of the canonisation of the Japanese martyrs, and was named assistant at the Pontifical throne, and received from the Sovereign Pontiff the title of *Roman Count*. In 1867 in the month of August he mounted the Archiepiscopal throne of the Province of Quebec, receiving on the 2nd of February, 1868, through the hands of Mgr. Larocque, Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, the *pallium* sent to him by His Holiness the Sovereign Pontiff.

In October of last year in spite of his increasing years, and his many bodily infirmities, this worthy servant of the Most High God, in obedience to the summons of His Vicar on earth, again undertook the voyage to Rome to assist at the Ecumenical Council summoned by the Holy Father. In the debates, deliberations and arduous labors of this august assembly of all the Prelates of the Catholic Church throughout Christendom, His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec took an active part; and by his incessant application to the great and important business therein transacted, weakened still more a constitution upon which already time, and the harassing cares of the Ministry were beginning to tell. Worn out, he obtained leave to return to his diocese which he reached on the 9th of May last, and where he was received with the honors due to his exalted position, and with lively marks of attachment from his diocesans, whose affections he had won by his zeal in their service, and his Christian charity which knew no bounds.

Alas! this exemplary Prelate returned to his native land only to die. The state of his health soon excited the serious apprehensions of his friends; still he lingered on during the summer months, till on Thursday the 13th, he closed his long and exemplary career. May his soul through the mercy of God repose in peace.

The mortal remains of the deceased were exposed in the Chapel of the Episcopal Palace, where they lay in state, and were visited by large crowds of those whose spiritual father he had been. On Tuesday the 18th they were finally committed to the grave with all the pomp and solemn rites which on such occasions the Church puts forth.

The Montreal Witness lately published some statistics concerning the *Protestant Infants' Home* of this City. From these we learn that of the children admitted to this institution upwards of 50 per cent have died—the chief causes of death being set down as "infantile cholera," and "infantile debility."

Now in alluding to these records we disclaim all thought or purpose of insinuating one word against the ladies in charge of the institution, or of attributing to their shortcomings the great mortality established in the columns of the *Witness*. We give the said ladies every credit for their good intentions; we willingly believe that they spare neither time nor money to promote the well being of their tender and frail charges; we impute to them neither cruelty nor negligence; and if their labors do not seem to be crowned with the success which they may perhaps have anticipated, we are sure that the fault is not their's, and that it would be most unjust in any manner to reproach them with a mortality which no human care, or human skill could avert.

No! our object is solely to show how unjust, how malicious are the insinuations which the

Montreal Witness is ever making as to the great mortality of the Foundlings taken charge of by the Sisters of Charity of the Grey Nunnery.

The "*Protestant Infants' Home*" is not a Foundling Hospital. It does not—as does the institution under the charge of the Sisters of Charity—receive the greater part of its inmates at the most critical period of human life, and in many, if not in most instances, when actually at death's door. The children committed to its care, are not, as is frequently the case with those entrusted to the Foundling Hospital, left naked at its door in the depth of winter, without a rag of clothing, wrapped up in old newspapers, crammed into carpet bags or filthy sacks, and otherwise in a state into the details of which from motives of decency we cannot enter, but which is such as to render their deaths within a few hours after their reception, inevitable. How then can we call the mortality amongst the infants a few hours old whom the Foundling Hospital receives exceptionally great, when we find that even amongst the infants whom the *Protestant Infants' Home* receives, and whose chances of life are incomparably greater than are those of the wretched Foundlings, upwards of one half, or fifty per cent perish!

Neither *Protestant Infants' Homes* nor Foundling Hospitals do all the good that their respective founders may have anticipated, but this is no reason why either should be decried. The one no doubt gives a comfortable home on earth, if but for a season, to many little ones who would, without it, have perished miserably and probably sooner; the other in like manner saves the lives of many children; procures to all whom it receives still alive the inestimable benefits of Baptism; and by diminishing the temptation to child-murder, preserves many an unnatural mother from the heavier load of guilt which but for it she would have incurred.

A PARALLEL TO CHINA.—This is the caption of a paragraph that we find in the London *Times* of the 23rd of September last. The writer finds a "parallel to China" in the matter of child murder, but where? does the reader suppose. Not in the countries lying in darkness beneath the shadow of Romish superstition; but in Protestant England, the land of the "open bible," and basking in the full blaze of that gospel light which flashing from a strumpet's eyes, gave to England the blessings of the Reformation, and of religion pure and undefiled.

Not that we believe that in the matter of child-murder England is worse than even, if so bad as, other Protestant communities—as the United States for example, upon whose statistics the hideous crime is telling with ever increasing force; but nevertheless in Protestant England does the writer of the paragraph in the London *Times* find the parallel for heathen China. We give the article as it is short, and recommend it to the careful perusal of those who prate of the superior morality of Protestant communities:—

A PARALLEL TO CHINA.—Yesterday Dr. Lankester held four inquests on the bodies of four murdered infants. The first was on the body of a newly born male child, which was found on Wednesday afternoon, wrapped in a piece of brown paper, on the wall of the Albany-street barracks. It was dressed, and the brown paper parcel had a name and address written on it which if published would frustrate the ends of justice. The child was taken to the St. Pancras workhouse, where it was examined by Dr. Ellis, the medical officer, who made a *post mortem* examination, and found the child had been suffocated. As the detectives have the case in hand, and as the persons suspected will be apprehended in a few days, the case was adjourned. On Sunday morning about half-past 9, a parcel was seen floating in the Regent's Canal, near the Zoological-gardens, by Henry Messenger, a shoeblack, who got it to the bank, and on opening it he found it contained the body of a newly born male child. It was wrapped in a newspaper of August 23, and a half brick was tied round the neck, to make it sink. The child had been in the water about a fortnight, and died from strangulation through the brick being tied round its throat. On Friday morning the body of a newly born male child was found wrapped in a parcel and put in a fish basket in Westbourne-grove. It was taken to the police station, where it was examined, and was found to have died from suffocation. The fourth body, that of a newly born female child, was found floating in the Grand Junction Canal, near the Edgeware-road, on Monday, wrapped in some old clothes. This child was found to have been suffocated, and in each case the jury returned verdicts of wilful murder against persons unknown.

RECEPTION OF THE BISHOP OF OTTAWA.

—His return from Rome to his diocesan city, of His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa was celebrated by the Catholics of that city with much pomp. Great preparations had for some time before been made, under the supervision of a General Committee named for that purpose, and the programme was well carried out. Addresses to their Bishop were presented from the French and Irish Catholics of the Diocese, from the Irish Temperance Society, the Canadian Institute, and L'Union St. Joseph; to all of which His Lordship made suitable replies. The entire proceedings of the day were highly creditable to the Catholics of Ottawa, and must have been highly gratifying to him in whose honor they were instituted.

Another occupant of the Spanish throne has been found in the person of Prince Amadeus, who with the approval of Victor Emmanuel has accepted the offer of the crown.

St. GABRIEL CHURCH.—The ceremony of blessing a Bell for this new church took place on Sunday last. The occasion was one of much happiness to the Congregation, as was evident from the gay and tasteful arrangements made, and from the cheerful and hearty response given to the appeal of the Pastor to do all that was necessary and becoming at such a time, and upon the first visit of their Bishop to the church. His Lordship arrived punctually at 10 o'clock, and was presented at the door of the Church by the following address which was read by Mr. Wall:—

To His Lordship, the Right Reverend Ignace Bourget, Bishop of Montreal:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,

The Catholic inhabitants of this humble locality avail themselves of this your first visit to St. Gabriel Church, on St. Gabriel Farm, to welcome your return from Rome, where, as a member of the Holy Council of the Vatican, we are well assured your Lordship contributed much to the good of Religion, and thereby to the glory of God, and the happiness of our common Father, the Pope, Infallible, Pius the Ninth.

Knowing, as many of us have long known, your Lordship's kindness of heart towards every member of your large Flock, and your anxious desire that they should advance, day by day, in all that is good, we are sure that you are pleased upon this occasion to meet in this hitherto comparatively unknown and neglected place an assemblage of Catholics who have, by hard labor, secured for themselves comfortable homes; and have been enabled, under the direction of a devoted and wise Pastor, to erect the church which your Lordship is now about to enter, and upon which you will this day confer a lasting benefit, that of blessing and dedicating to the service of God, the bell which for generations to come will daily summon a large number of the faithful to Divine worship.

We feel that it is not necessary to state to your Lordship how desirable it is that, as a Catholic community, we should be strengthened in our present position, and the ministrations of religion made as adequate as possible to our rapidly increasing numbers, to the wants of our children, and to those exigencies which beset a people engaged as we are, some in manufacturing establishments, others at labor still more toilsome and wasting,—all exposed to those accidents and trials which religion alone can alleviate, and combat the effects of. The disposition already shown by your Lordship to extend the Parochial system in your Diocese, to erect the Church, and establish the School, in the midst of the people, and there also to fix the abode of the Priest,—this disposition which your Lordship has so clearly made manifest affords to us abundant assurance that our particular case will not escape your Fatherly regard.

We again respectfully bid your Lordship welcome to St. Gabriel Church, and beg your Lordship's Episcopal blessing upon ourselves and our children.

Signed on behalf of the Congregation of St. Gabriel Church.

Edward McKeown, J.P., John McCarthy,
William Wall, James Curran,
Elie Asselin, Anthony Brogan, N.P.

His Lordship delivered a most affectionate reply in French, and requested Father Colovin to express his thanks in English.

Mass was then celebrated by His Lordship, assisted by the Revd. Mr. Lapiere, Revd. Mr. Salmon, and the Rev. Mr. Colovin, of the College of St. Laurent. A most instructive sermon was preached by Father Colovin, after which the Bell was solemnly blessed by His Lordship. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen from the city, all of whom were most generous in their donations towards the Church. We understand that not less than \$500 were contributed.

Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament took place at the usual hour in the evening.

The *Teutum Ergo* was sung by Mrs. Von Schaick from the City with touching effect.

The London *Times* calls on the Government to enforce the law against the Irish who are emigrating in great numbers to France, to enter the French army. We do not see how Government can interfere, if these men go out as emigrants; from Canada during the war with the U. States, great numbers crossed the lines to take service in the Northern army, and no steps to prevent it were taken by the authorities.

The King of Holland, expecting we suppose that his turn will come next and that the victorious Prussians covet his dominions for their sea-board is, it is reported, anxious to declare war with Prussia, but is thwarted in his plans by his Cabinet and his son. The country appealed to, declares that not to the King, but to the States-General should belong the right of declaring war.

The following letter of condolence from His Excellency the Governor General has been received by the Very Reverend M. Cazeau Grand Vicar of the Diocese of Quebec:—

"MONTREAL, Oct. 14th, 1870.

"Sir George Cartier has informed me of the death of the Archbishop. I beg to assure you of the sincere regret with which I have received the intelligence, and of my sympathy with you, and the people of Quebec in the loss they have sustained.

"LESGAR."

The cable reports that 290 Zouaves, most of them Canadians, were landed from the steamship *India* at Liverpool on the 14th instant. These brave men were to be taken care of by the local committees, and despatched to their respective homes on the 19th inst.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Received a letter from Belleville without a signature. Will the writer please send us his name.