

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY.....JULY 25, 1883.

CATHOLIC CALENDAR

- THURSDAY, 26—St. Anne, Mother of the B. V. M.
FRIDAY, 27—St. Pantalon, Martyr.
SATURDAY, 28—St. Nazarius and others, Martyrs.
SUNDAY, 29—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Epist. 1 Cor. xv. 1-10; Gosp. Mark vii. 31-37.
MONDAY, 30—St. Martha, Virgin (July 29). St. Abdon and Sennen, Martyrs.
TUESDAY, 31—St. Ignatius Loyola, Confessor.
AUGUST, 1883.
WEDNESDAY, 1—St. Peter's Chains. The Martyrs.

The steady nerves and sure aim of the Irish told again at Wimbledon. In the shooting contest for the Echo Shield they were the victors, with the high score of 1,600 against 1,589 for the Scotch team, and 1,564 for the English.

The Baltimore telegraphers have taken a pledge that they will not drink any intoxicating liquor while the strike lasts. This is a highly sensible action, and it is worthy of imitation by the entire Brotherhood. We also see that the looked-out cigarmakers of New York, to the number of 10,000, have resolved to practise every economy during the strike. Will the telegraph and cigar bosses do as much?

The latest degree of the intolerance of the French Republic, which masquerades in the name of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," is a "refusal to allow priests to visit the patients in French hospitals, except during fixed hours." Thus, dying persons who call for the last consolations of religion will have to regulate their last breath and hold out until the stated hours (as from 4 to 6 p. m.) will have arrived for the visit of the minister of God. Any patient dying outside the State-fixed hours will have to do without the ministrations of a clergyman, even if he wanted one.

The Irish agricultural statistics, presented last week to the House of Commons, show that, according to the latest information, the number of separate farm holdings was 574,207, being 3,532 less than last year. The holdings which increased in number were: Those not exceeding one acre, 389; above 1, and not exceeding 5 acres, 180; above 5, and not exceeding 100 acres, 58; above 100, and not exceeding 200 acres, 16; above 200, and not exceeding 500 acres, by 6; and those above 500, by 53. The holdings which decreased in number were those above 1 and not exceeding 5 acres, by 1,645; those above 5 and not exceeding 15 acres, by 2,167; and those above 15, and not exceeding 30 acres, by 422.

The Cork Exhibition has been inaugurated under the happiest auspices, and promises to be a decided success, even without the glitter of official patronage. All political and social differences were sunk for the occasion, and on a platform designed to develop the industrial resources of Ireland, were to be found such men as the Earl of Bandon, the Conservative Lord Lieutenant; Sir George O'Connell, the Mayor of Belfast; and others of a similar way of thinking on the one side, and Mr. Parnell, Lord Mayor Dawson, T. M. Healy, K. D. Gray, and P. D. Sullivan, the Mayor of Cork, on the other. Such a combination was indeed a pleasant augury for the success of the enterprise and for the permanent consolidation of Irish interests.

Our Federal Government has been prodigal enough with the immense territories in the Northwest, but its lavishness has not left it in the predicament of having given away more land than it possessed, as has just happened to the legislature of Florida. This sunny State is even more obliging to railroad corporations than our own legislatures; it has given and disposed of 6,000,000 acres more land than are to be found within the borders of the State. A railway magnate, General Gordon, came to the capital a few days before the close of the legislature to get a charter for a new railroad scheme. It was only a short time before his arrival that a committee of the House had reported that charters already granted to railroads had exceeded by about 3,000,000 acres the amount of lands in possession of the State, including the surveyed and unsurveyed. Notwithstanding this immense deficit of land, the legislature granted the General a charter which allowed

him 18,840 acres per mile. Six million acres is a big tract of land to look for when it is not around.

A tremendous opposition has been organized in England against the agreement that Mr. Gladstone entered into with M. Delessers in relation to the building of another Suez Canal. The English capitalists, merchants and shipowners want a canal of their own, and, from their commercial point of view, the considerations of international obligations that have influenced the Government are but of a secondary importance. Mr. Gladstone would, in face of this opposition, like to drop all negotiations in regard to the Canal, but the situation will be made warm for him whether he holds on or lets go, as Sir Stafford Northcote, the Conservative leader, intends to propose a vote of want of confidence in the Ministry, even if the canal agreement is withdrawn. If the vote should carry, Gladstone would have no alternative but to give up the reins of government and order a general election, which will, no doubt, result in an adequate wiping out of the Whig regime.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

Already the business men and corporations of the United States and Canada are complaining of the heavy losses which they have incurred and will incur through the action of the telegraph companies in neglecting to fulfill their obligations towards the public. These companies seem to forget that they were chartered solely to serve the people and to do a public business; if they want to fight with their employees, they must do so without causing any detriment to individual, corporate or public interests. They derive their valuable franchises from the people and are in existence only by leave of the State, and to continue in the enjoyment of these privileges they must respect the rights of the public at their own risk and not seek to triumph over internal disagreements at the expense of the people. The companies are bound by law to give never failing facilities for communication, and they cannot close their offices and stop their instruments for any cause which human diligence and foresight can overcome. A strike of their employees is no excuse in law for not carrying out the provisions of their charters, and the companies can be held liable for any loss resulting from an unreasonable cessation of, or weakness in, their service. The Western Union has issued the following order to the General Superintendents throughout the country, which is not worth the paper it is written on, as far as its legal efficacy is concerned, to take the ground from under the feet of all those who would wish to institute actions of damages against the company for losses resulting from incompetent service; the order reads as follows:—

"Unofficially instructed all offices will be careful in receiving messages for transmission to notify sender that the same can be taken only subject to delay, and to mailing en route if necessary to complete the transmission to point of address. All such messages taken for transmission shall have written or stamped on the face of the same, over the signature of the sender, the words: 'Accepted, subject to delay or other delay.' Superintendents will cause to be printed and posted in the principal offices of their respective districts a placard bearing the following inscription:—Messages taken en route subject to delay and to mailing en route if necessary."

This is trifling with the public with a vengeance. This telegraph company will undertake to send the telegraphic messages of the people by mail! How generous the company will receive full rates for the message and will use a postal card or a 3-cent stamp to forward it to its destination. There is something decidedly rich about this impudence of the telegraph monopolists. What right have they to usurp the role of the post office and to neglect the fulfillment of their proper duties towards the public? Telegraph companies are on the same footing as railroad companies, as far as their obligations and duties to the public are concerned, and in this respect we find that the law has been clearly and emphatically declared by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of a railroad strike similar to the present telegraph strike. "We cannot bring our minds to entertain a doubt," said the Court, "that a railroad corporation is compellable by mandamus to exercise its duties as a carrier of freight and passengers, and that the power so to compel it rests equally firmly on the ground that that duty is a public trust, which, having been conferred by the State and accepted by the corporation, may be enforced for the public benefit."

As to the strike, the Court held that so long as the workmen committed "no unlawful act, no violence, no riot and no unlawful interference with other employees" they had a right to strike. "Can railroad corporations," it then asked, "refuse or neglect to perform their public duties upon a controversy with their employees over the cost or expense of doing them? We think this question admits of but one answer. The excuse has in law no validity. The duties imposed must be discharged, at whatever cost. They cannot be laid down or abandoned or suspended without the legally expressed consent of the State. The trusts are active, potential and imperative, and must be executed until lawfully surrendered, otherwise a public highway of great utility is closed or obstructed without any process recognized by law. This is something no public officer charged with the same trusts and duties in regard to other public highways can do without subjecting himself to mandamus or indictment." The principles and the law laid down in

this decision are as applicable to a telegraph as to a railroad company, and we have, no doubt, that if a similar case presented itself before our Canadian courts, our judges would arrive at the same conclusion as their American confederates.

The Rev. Mr. Lucas, who accompanied the Indian-Canadian Lacrosse party to England and acted as emigration orator, has just returned home. In an interview with a reporter the Rev. gentleman said that the English people still hold some very strange ideas concerning Canada. One of those ideas is that we are a nation of drunkards. The "idea" is quite original, and it is all the more surprising as it was given to Mr. Lucas by one of England's Knights—a baronet and man of position. This titled Englishman asked the Canadian clergyman why he advised Englishmen to go to Canada, as "there was nothing for them to do in the winter but to take to drink." Mr. Lucas, of course, assured him "that there was plenty for them to do besides taking to drink; that Canadians could not move their lumber in the winter save for the snow and ice; and that they carried on outdoor building works during the winter." We do not know what brought Mr. Lucas home before the rest of the party; but such gross ignorance as displayed by the baronet in question would be sufficient to disgust and discourage the majority of emigration agents.

Last Wednesday the election of a member for Parliament took place in Wexford borough, which was rendered vacant by the resignation of T. M. Healy to contest Monaghan. The candidates were a renegade Home Ruler, the O'Connor Don, and a Parnellite, Mr. W. Redmond, brother of T. Redmond, M. P., who is at present doing gallant work for the cause in far off Australia. The people of Wexford took the O'Connor Don's candidature as an insult, and they resented it in a most emphatic fashion. He was not only ignominiously defeated at the polls, but he was hissed and booed wherever he appeared. The people energetically impressed upon him that their good will and support are not to be gained by playing fast and loose with the interests and rights of the country, and by turning traitor to the cause. The excitement ran high, and for a while there was a dread that violence would be resorted to and that the renegade would receive a physical castigation. To escape the anger of the people the defeated candidate had to drive out of town under escort. The police were unable to restore order in the vast assemblage of the indignant electors; but what large equals of constabulary were unable to do, two men did it by simply raising their fingers. Healy and Sexton appeared on the tumultuous scene, and at their simple request the angry crowds ceased all violent proceedings and order was instantaneously restored to the aid of the police, who had withdrawn. It was a double victory for the Parnellite party.

IMPRISONING GLASGOW STOWAWAYS.

On the arrival of a Glasgow steamer in port Wednesday afternoon, intelligence was brought to the Water Police Office that eleven "stowaways" were on board the steamer. A squad of police was at once despatched to the scene, and the new arrivals were placed under arrest; brought before the Police Magistrate the following day and sentenced to four weeks in the common jail. Now it strikes us that all these proceedings, and especially the sentence were entirely uncalled for. These men, or "stowaways" as they are nautically called, committed no crime or offence against Canadian law; and if there was offence at all, it was committed in Glasgow and not in Montreal. The blame is not to be attached so much to the men, who simply took a "free ride," as to the officers of the company who were so inattentive to their duty as to allow eleven men to stow themselves away on board their steamer. If the company wanted to punish these men, it should have brought them back to Glasgow; and it is to be regretted that the Police Magistrate should have sent it to fill our provincial jail with so many foreigners, for whom the Province is in no way responsible and against whom it was in no manner called upon to protect itself. It will be admitted that we have enough to do to feed, clothe and house our own criminals without extending any hospitality to alleged foreign criminals. Quebec is always too ready to accommodate this class of persons. But as to the particular merits of the present case, we are of opinion that the sentence of imprisonment was altogether a mistake. We are informed that these "stowaways" were by no means a bad looking set, having fresh, bright, clean faces and sturdy bodies. All were young, only one man wearing a beard, and taking them all in all they looked like a sturdy crowd of Scottish country lads who did not know what a goal was like. Unfortunately their four weeks' visit will teach them.

If this be a correct description of the men, we fall to appreciate the wisdom of making them gain their first experience of Canadian life in a jail, and among Canadian thieves, drunkards and other disreputable characters. We could understand the law taking precautions to protect the citizens from the presence of these Scotch emigrants if they were an abandoned set of men, but otherwise, we repeat, it was a mistake to send them to jail for four weeks. Would it not be well that St. Andrew's Society take an interest in the matter and look after their case?

THE TELEGRAPHERS' STRIKE.

On Monday last the Executive Board of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers of the United States and Canada presented to the executive officers of the several American and Canadian telegraph companies a memorial setting forth the grievances of the operators and employees generally, and petitioning for the redress of the same. The demands of the telegraphers were reduced to four in number, viz., that Sunday work as a compulsory duty be totally abolished unless compensated as extra service; that eight hours constitute a regular day's work and seven hours a regular night's work; that both sexes shall receive equal pay for equal work; and, finally, that an universal increase be granted on all salaries.

The memorial was unaccompanied by any threat to strike in case the companies refused to comply with their demands, and simply requested an answer from the officials by noon yesterday. The employers unfortunately proved obtuse and manifested every inclination to resist the reasonable demands of a body without whom the commercial, political and newspaper world would have come to a standstill. At the appointed time no answer had been received from the companies, and at noon sharp, as a mysterious signal flashed along the wires, the finest concerted action the world has ever seen was taken without bluster or show by some 13,000 men and women spread all over the American continent. A general telegraphic strike had taken place. The question now suggests itself, are the telegraphers justified in resorting to this method of enforcing their demands? The answer should be emphatically in the affirmative, and, what is more, popular sympathy is with them in this their endeavor to improve their condition, physical and financial. Every workman has a right to demand for his services what he thinks they are worth, and he has a perfect right to quit work if he does not get what he asks; just as every employer has the reciprocal right to get labor, skilled or unskilled, on his own terms, if he can. Workingmen, moreover, have the right to agree among themselves to demand more remuneration for their services, and there is no law in this country against peaceable and orderly labor strike. On these principles the operators have a clear right to demand what they consider a fair compensation for their services and quit work unless they obtain what they ask. Are their demands unreasonable, or are they of such a nature as they can be justly insisted upon? They are entirely right and reasonable in their demand for one day's rest in the seven. Without this much rest the body is sure to prematurely break down and the mind is inclined to give way under an uninterrupted strain. Telegraphic occupation, such as it is at the present day, is confining and continuous, and is especially calculated to wear alike upon mind and body, and to almost irremediably impair the elasticity of both. One day's rest in the seven is not too much for human life, and the law of nature as well as of religion urges the laborer to block all inroads upon Sunday as a general day of rest.

Then, as to the second proposition in the memorial, that eight hours ought to constitute a day's work and seven a night's work, we do not see how the employers can offer any dissent. Employees are the best judges of what amount of labor or what duration of labor they are able to go through without unnecessarily damaging their health and their usefulness. There are some forms or branches of labor in which ten or twelve hours occupation would not tell half as hard on the physical or mental system as six hours in others. The telegraphers belong to the latter category. The late Mr. Orton, President of the Western Union, whose knowledge of and attainments in telegraphy cannot be questioned, testified before a Congressional Committee that telegraph operators could not perform daily more than six hours of continuous labor without endangering their health. Besides, their responsibility is almost boundless. Commerce, politics, public and private affairs, are largely dependent upon the attention and intelligence of the operator. To miss a cлик of his instrument, or misjudge the significance of one, may be not only to vitiate a long despatch, but to cause unlimited trouble or irreparable loss to the greatest interests of the individual or the community. Railroad travel is governed by telegraph, and hence the very lives of the travelling public are dependent upon the wakeful and intellectual condition of the operator. For these reasons we say it is quite enough to keep an operator bound down to his instrument for eight hours in the day.

Their third demand is one that affects the modern element in labor, the woman. This may prove a knotty question. Should a woman be paid the same wages as a man? We hold that a woman who satisfactorily performs the same amount of work as a man, should receive an equal amount of compensation. Employers have no right to regulate wages according to sex. Wages are a return made for services, and it is the worth of the labor and not the gender of the laborer that should be taken into consideration when putting a value upon the work accomplished. That both sexes shall receive equal pay for equal work, is a sound principle, and no compromise should be accepted on this particular demand.

As to the demand for a general increase of pay, that is a question for the employers and the employees to settle among themselves. Of course, if the companies are not doing a profitable business, they will be justified in refusing to make the concession; but it is hard to see how companies who can ward their stock to an enormous extent can decently or honestly refuse to comply with the demand of the operators

for a fair increase. A small number of capitalists' annually draw their millions from these telegraph concerns, while the poor operator, who makes the money, has to get his living out of a paltry salary, which, on the average, does not exceed the sum of \$37.49 per month. Notwithstanding the great inconvenience to which the strike will put the entire North American continent and in fact the rest of the world, the telegraphers will meet with the warmest sympathy of the people, who can appreciate a fair and honest struggle for legitimate and undeniable rights.

NELLIGAN VS. NELLIGAN.

Under the heading "Explanations Desirable" the London Catholic Record of the 13th Inst., referring to Father Nelligan's reported defiance of the Marquis of Lansdowne as a landlord, says editorially:— "The writer had the privilege of conversations with Father Nelligan in Ottawa on the 24th and 25th of June last, wherein the Marquis of Lansdowne was very fully discussed. In these conversations the rev. gentleman not only did not condemn the exposures made of Lord Lansdowne by the Catholic press in Canada as unjust and untrue, but reproached the conduct of that nobleman in certain respects in very strong language. The rev. gentleman in our presence read one of the articles of the Record on the subject of Lord Lansdowne's appointment, and substantially admitted the truth of the position therein taken by us. His opinions must surely be misrepresented by the Mail. We will, however, be very happy to open our columns to explanations on the subject." In the conversations here referred to, two other clergymen took part besides Father Nelligan and the editor of the Catholic Record. Father Nelligan was closely interrogated, and although at first evidently disposed to shield the Marquis, had to admit that the objections to his appointment as Governor-General were well taken. When asked if the improved condition of the Lansdowne tenantry under the present Marquis, for which he was inclined to give him credit, was not entirely due to the Land Act which that nobleman had so strenuously opposed in Parliament, and to mark his disapprobation of which he had withdrawn from the Cabinet, Father Nelligan confessed that it was, and added, in allusion to Lansdowne's resignation, "it was a shabby thing to do." That the reverend gentleman did afterwards, in an interview with an official of the Department of Agriculture, pronounce the attacks upon the Marquis of Lansdowne "unjust and untrue," (vide the Mail, July 3rd), is hard to believe. Strange to say, although a presumably full report of this alleged interview was telegraphed to Montreal, Toronto and elsewhere, not a word appeared about it in any of the Ottawa papers. Was this omission due to a fear lest those in Ottawa to whom Father Nelligan had, to use a common expression, "given the Marquis away," would rise on the spot to propound sundry questions which it might not be convenient to answer? Explanations are certainly desirable.

PAYING THE IRISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

About a year ago the question of paying the Irish members of Parliament was pretty well discussed in the columns of the public press, and it was generally acknowledged that good and honest members, springing from the ranks of the people, could not be secured unless some pecuniary return was given for their services. The question was at the time embodied in the programme of the National League, but no immediate effort was made to procure a satisfactory solution. The time, however, has now come for the Irish people to face the difficulty and surmount it. Many staunch members will have to retire, not being able to do their duty towards their constituents and attend to their private affairs, without some compensation which would enable them to support themselves and their families. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, one of the most brilliant members in the English House of Commons, and one of Parnell's most able and faithful lieutenants, has offered to place his resignation in the hands of his leader in consequence of his inability to live on his limited income and support the necessary outlay of parliamentary life. And again, true men who would willingly contest the seats with rich renegades will be deterred from doing so if they are not to be paid for loss of time, health and business; and the consequence will be that—notwithstanding the national spirit of the people, traitors and trimmers will steal their way into the next Parliament. We learn from our special cable despatches that steps are being taken to meet the exigencies of the situation and to place the Irish national party beyond the necessity of earning a livelihood over and above their parliamentary services. A fund will consequently be established for the payment of members of Parliament. We are told that much enthusiasm has been aroused in Ireland by the announcement that Mr. Parnell himself will come to the front and contribute a considerable part of the testimonial fund now being raised for him, to the use of the party. The Irish leader is not seeking his fortune, or to increase it, in battling for the cause of Ireland. We pointed out from the very beginning that the proceeds of the national testimonial would not be spent on himself or his family, but would be used where they would do the most good for his country. Parnell has already sacrificed, during the past few years, close on one hundred thousand dollars of his patrimony in the interests and in the service of Ireland, so that it is but an additional expression of the noble generosity and self-sacrifice of the man to find him ready and willing to use the people's gift for the nation's good. Wealthy Irishmen, not only in America but Australia, are being asked to contribute

when the time shall come, and answers which have been received indicate that the cash responses will be liberal. It is to be sincerely hoped that the movement will be eminently successful, for the experience of the last two or three years has demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that the maintenance of an Independent Irish Parliamentary Party is a thing well worth paying for.

WHITEWASHING THE TEWKSBURY ALMSHOUSE.

The Committee appointed to investigate the serious charges of indecency, cruelty and barbarism brought by Governor Butler against the infamous Tewksbury Almshouse and its management have concluded their labors and presented their reports to the State Legislature. The reports are two, a majority one, and one from the minority. The Republicans, who formed the majority of the Investigating Committee, had, from the outset, determined to defeat the object of the Governor in revealing the horrors of the Almshouse and the atrocities of its Republican management. Accordingly, in their report they haughtily pronounce the main charges of His Excellency groundless and cruel. They give the 3,000 pages of evidence, which had been piled up against this abode of suffering and death, a flat denial, with the utmost effrontery. They found the institution in good condition, and depict its charms, past and present, in the most polished terms of appreciation and admiration. They even confess in their report to have "blushed for the Commonwealth and turned away in amazement"; not from the stinking slaughter of infants, or from the inmates feeding on filth and having rats in their cells for companions, but from the indelicate attempt of the Governor to charge the management with such crimes. The majority, in alluding to the fact that human skins had been sold by the institution to tanners, to be turned into leather, could not see that there was any barbarity in the transaction and made very light of the occurrence. On the whole, their report was nothing but one daisy of whitewash for the almshouse and one continual rebuke or censure of Governor Butler for his officiousness in prying into Republican niceties. The report presented by the minority of the committee offers a most striking contrast to the foregoing, as it is more in harmony with the evidence adduced at the investigation. After claiming that much important testimony, which would have proved very damaging, had been excluded by the Committee the minority hold that the trustees of the almshouse were unfaithful to their trusts; that the retention of Superintendent Marsh in his place during this period of corruption and cruelty was simply a crime, and that the State Board of Health cannot evade responsibility in the matter. The report further says that the grossest abuses were practiced, and that the system of superintending the institution is without precedent as deserving of public censure. The officials, the minority declare, have been guilty "of the most wilful neglect, of penitents without parallel, of the most abandoned debauchery and most wanton cruelty, the evidence of which cannot fail to carry conviction to all intelligent, unbiassed minds. The testimony is cumulative to an overwhelming degree, that infants—foundlings and those born of patients and inmates—were purposely poisoned and willfully neglected, to linger in a starving condition till death. The death rate of infants at Tewksbury when compared with that at any other like institution is of itself conclusive evidence of the blackest guilt. With such a frightful mortality, when neither pestilence nor plague is pleaded in defence, the evidence stands on record unexplained." There is not much whitewash about this report; it forcibly shows the terrible Refuge, its working and its officers, in their true light. It is, however, to be dreaded that the perpetrators of these outrages on weak and suffering humanity will escape the punishment due to their crimes, and that the Republican party, who are still the majority in the Legislature, will condone the offences as the easier way to cover up their shame and humiliation.

In commenting on Mr. Mathew Ryan's very able letter in reply to Mr. Goldwin Smith's rabid attacks on the Irish people, the Ottawa Free Press says that Mr. Ryan furnishes ample historical evidence of the injustice of Smith's imputation on a section of the Irish race, and remarks that "it is not very wise in any Canadian writer to cast aspersions on any class of the community, and we are sure the great benefit a gentleman of Mr. Goldwin Smith's literary ability can bestow on his adopted country would be largely enhanced were he to refrain from observations that are open to dispute and calculated to create heartburning and animosity."

ONE OF THE ELECT.

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—The Plain Dealer reports that Hon. Martin A. Foran, congressman elect from the Cleveland, Ohio, district, has used St. Jacobs Oil in his family and has always found it safe and reliable, and it afforded him great relief to a lame knee.

OBITUARY.

Commodore N. Jeffers, U. S. Navy, died at Washington on July 23rd. A shoemaker named Dronen died suddenly last night on St. John street, Quebec. General E. O. Ord, U. S. Army, died at Havana, of yellow fever, on July 22nd. The death is announced of M. G. Mountain, wholesale grocer, an old and respected citizen of Quebec. Major Bruce, a well known old resident of London, Ont., and formerly an army officer, died on July 23rd.

A match race has been arranged to take place at Ogdensburg on the 8th August between Haulan, Courtney and Temmer, the distance to be four miles with a turn.