

# The True Witness

AND  
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,  
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

At No. 663, Craig Street, by

J GILLIES.

G. E. CLERE, Editor.

## TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE:

To 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.

The True Witness can be had at the News Depots, Single Copies, 5 cts.

To all Subscribers whose papers are delivered by carriers, Two Dollars and a half, in advance; and it not renewed at the end of the year, then, if we continue sending the paper, the Subscription shall be Three Dollars.

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

S. M. PETERSON & Co., 37 Park Row, and Geo. Rowell & Co., 40 Park Row, are our only authorized Advertising Agents in New York.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1870.

## ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

DECEMBER—1870.

Friday, 2—Fast. St. Biliiana, B. M.  
Saturday, 3—St. Francis Xavier, C.  
Sunday, 4—Second of Advent.  
Monday, 5—St. Peter Chrysologus, B. C. D.  
Tuesday, 6—St. Nicholas, B. C.  
Wednesday, 7—Fast. St. Ambrose, B. C. D.  
Thursday, 8—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Obl.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—A telegram has just been given to the public announcing that Paris is still confident, and that there is subsistence in the city for two months and a half, bread for eight months, and wine and brandy for a year. A telegram says further that the French are erecting additional defences on all sides. A telegram dated Tours, 25th, says that rumors are afloat that a great sortie from Paris was effected on the 24th. Fighting was going on at Montargis. Bourbaki has refused command of the 18th Corps. He says he has formed an army and has been deprived of its command, and will not submit twice to this usage. He wants active service, not organization work. A Versailles despatch says the military situation this morning is very critical. The advance guard of the Duke of Mecklenburg is at Coulommiers. The French, under General Tierck, occupy Le Mans. Another portion of the Duke of Mecklenburg's army, moving from Dreux to Curache, had reached Manners, on the north bank of the Semelle, 20 miles north-east of Conlie. The Germans from Coulommiers, 55,000 strong, under General Von der Tann, yesterday, in advancing toward Pithiviers, fell along the lines of General D'Aurelle de Paladines' entrenched position at Artenay and Bois Cramien. A serious engagement followed, but the result is not ascertained.

VERSAILLES, Nov. 27.—By a treaty just signed, the Baden troops are incorporated with the Federal army, and come under the sole command and direction of King William and the war office at Berlin. The *Tribune's* Berlin correspondence of the 26th, says: Gen. Hazen says that when he left Versailles on the 17th, not a single siege gun was in position, and that not a foot could be taken without a regular siege. Fifty thousand French troops, under General Gurcek, have arrived at Tours for Brittany. The *Tribune's* correspondent at Amiens says on Saturday afternoon there was some smart fighting. Some Uhlans crossed the Somme this morning, and now Amiens is threatened. The *Tribune's* Versailles special of the 25th says nothing definite is known of the progress made between Mr. Odo Russell and Bismarck; but the Prussian feeling is that war will follow the action of Russia.

BERLIN, Nov. 26.—Reports have been received here from time to time announcing that large bodies of citizens, and, in some cases, regular troops, at Paris have come to the Prussian outposts and offered to surrender, but were turned back invariably. These reports have latterly been confirmed by a despatch from the German headquarters at Versailles.

BERLIN, Nov. 27.—The main body of the Loire army is ascertained to occupy an entrenched position between Artenay and Orleans.

BERLIN, Nov. 28.—The North German Parliament has granted the extraordinary war credit demanded by the Government, by a vote of 178 to 8. The only opposition to the grant came from the socialist and democratic members.

LILLE, November 27.—An engagement took place on Saturday at Bouves, near Amiens. The French troops repulsed the Germans with the bayonet. The assailants suffered severely, losing three times as many men as the French. The army in and around Amiens is full of confidence.

TOURS, November 27.—The *Moniteur* says a

great battle is impending. Skirmishing so far has resulted in favour of the French. The Prussians demonstrated toward Montargis, but encountered a resistance which obliged them to make a change in their plans of attack. They made a parade of their troops from the centre to the right, seeking to overwhelm the French left. The enemy's movement was in such force that there had to be a heavy concentration of troops to resist it. Chateau d'Un was in consequence left uncovered, and has possibly been captured. The Prussians on Thursday bombarded Neuville.

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—The *World's* Tours correspondent telegraphs on the 26th: A great French victory was won yesterday near Vendome. The battle began at 2 in the afternoon, when the Prussians attempted to turn the left flank of De Paladines' forces posted along the Chartres and Vendome Railroad. The Prussians were repulsed and routed, suffering great loss, and were pursued until 9 at night. They retreated towards Chateau d'Un. Two guns were captured. The Government also has a despatch announcing engagements along the whole front and on both flanks of D'Aurelle de Paladines' lines, all of which resulted in victory for the French. A *World's* special from Tours, Sunday night, says that fighting is going on all along the line. The French have carried everything. The Prussians tried to turn the right of the French at Glen au Loire, and their left at Chateau du Loire, midway between Le Mans and Tours, but were repulsed in both attempts with great loss. There was also hard fighting at Vendome with the French left centre to-day. The French drove back the enemy, and took 500 prisoners. There is no doubt that a decisive battle has been won by the French.

LONDON, Nov. 28.—In reconnoitering near Orleans yesterday the 10th Prussian corps encountered the 20th French corps of De Paladines' army. An engagement occurred in which the French were driven from their strong position at Laden Maziers, with serious loss. Subsequently several French companies attacked the Prussian 10th corps; but were repulsed with a loss of 40 men. A French General was taken prisoner by the Prussians. The German loss was trifling. The following details of an engagement between the Prussians under Gen. Von Werder, and the French under General Garibaldi near Pasques, in the Department of the Vosges, have just been received, dated Dijon, Nov. 27th: The Garibaldians, while on their march from Pasques, late on Saturday afternoon, suddenly came upon the outposts of the Prussian rifles, which they immediately attacked with great impetuosity. The Prussians were at first compelled to fall back, but reinforcements coming up the Garibaldians were in their turn repulsed in great disorder, the soldiers throwing away their arms and knapsacks in their flight. Gen. Von Werder, next day, (Sunday) made a circuit around Plombieres, and in this way overtook the French. Another engagement occurred in which the French loss was again considerable. It is said Meoutti Garibaldi had 2,000 men under him in this engagement. In the capitulation of La Ferte 70 cannon of all sorts fell into the hands of the Prussians. The French claim to have won a great victory at Morecuil, 12 miles south of Amiens yesterday. The battle lasted till darkness interfered. The German first army is alleged to have been beaten, and driven back to its entrenchments before Amiens. The French army was greater in numbers and better armed. The losses are obscurely given. The Prussian husars rode down and cut to pieces a regiment of marine infantry. The German losses were severe. The Paris *Figaro* implores the French Government to conclude peace, the defence of Paris being impossible.

TOURS, Nov. 28.—A battle occurred yesterday near Amiens. The French maintained their position up to half-past four in the afternoon, when the town of Villers was abandoned before the superior forces and artillery of the Prussians. The French were subsequently beaten at Boves, a few miles west of Villers, but at Dury they maintained their position until nightfall. Three thousand Germans were engaged in the conflict at the latter place.

LONDON, Nov. 29.—A great battle is imminent, if not already in progress, between Chateau-dun and Montargis. At last accounts from the army of the Loire the French were buoyant and confident of the result. The German right occupy Montargis, still threatening the French in the forest of Cercotte. Prince Frederick Charles' army has been strongly reinforced with field artillery.

Advices are just received of a dreadful R.R. accident to the Holyhead express on the London and North Western Railway. The details are not yet known.

INFANTICIDE.—The *Times* Naples correspondent writing under date Aug. 21st, and exploring the great increase of serious crime under the present regime, gives some interesting and significant statistics as to the crime of infanticide, in revolutionised and partly Protestantised

Italy. First he tells us that Piedmont has a bad preeminence for this particular offence:—

"Piedmont stood at the head, the cases of that crime amounting to 22 per cent of the total of homicides."

In other parts of Italy the proportion was as under:—

"In the Abruzzi and Molise 21; in Tuscany and the Puglias 11 in each; in Emilia 1; and Sicily 2."

Thus it seems that the districts in which the crime of child-murder is least rife are priest-ridden Sicily and Emilia; that in which it is most rife is Piedmont, where Liberal and anti-Romish principles have obtained the greatest triumphs over Catholicity.

Infanticide may almost be called characteristic crime of this nineteenth century, so prevalent is it, so openly and unblushingly is the crime committed—especially under the form of feticide. There is no concealment about the matter. It ranks almost as one of the fine arts; it has its hundreds and thousands of professors on this Continent who openly ply their filthy trade; and you can scarce take up a paper either in Canada or in the United States without meeting an advertisement of a patent medicine for destroying the fruit of the womb. Under the operation of this horrid, and unnatural crime the Protestant population of the New England States is actually dying out, and is being supplanted by the children of Irish Catholics amongst whom, thank God, the crime of child-murder is comparatively unknown, owing to the confessional, and the teachings of the Church.

We do not exaggerate; we do but repeat the words of Protestant ministers and Protestant medical men in the United States. The crime of infanticide has increased, is fast increasing, and there are no hopes at present of its abatement. Listen to what a New York Protestant paper, the *N. Y. Independent*, quoted some time ago by the *Montreal Witness*, says upon this subject:—

MURDER OF INFANTS.—There is, at this moment, in the world a certain hideous tract of crime, of which he who approaches it may say, as Dante said when he entered Inferno.

"And to a place I come where nothing shines."

Whoever lifts the veil from the spectacle of secret, sure, unrepented, and unpunished murder now done, every twenty-four hours, throughout the earth, not by fierce men upon their fellows, but by gentle mothers upon speechless and helpless infancy, uncovers without doubt the sorrowfullest and ghastliest subject which can be looked upon.

The turpitude of any crime is not measured by the external commotion it makes, or by the conscious suffering it causes; but rather by the sacredness of the sentiment which is violated in its commission. What more sacred sentiment is there between human beings than that which God has implanted in the breast of parents for their offspring? When the old Hebrew prophet wished to point to the one human tie that would be the last to perish from the human heart, he cried out, with a sort of incredulous horror, "Can a woman forget her sucking child? Or alas! the question has lost all its ancient meaning. To ask if a woman can forget her sucking child is a tame inquiry in this age when for a woman to murder her sucking child is a commonplace event. And she who is able to rend in pieces the hallowed instinct of maternal tenderness, and then to trample it into the mire beneath her feet—what holy and consecrated thing is left for her to pollute?"

It is a painfully interesting study to inquire into the motives which, in various parts of the world, impel to the commission of child murder.

There seem to be seven principal motives. The sixth motive is shame. In France where foundling hospitals are common the murder of the child of guilt is not the only deliverance from exposure; but how frequently the dread of shame leads to murder in England and America, the files of any newspaper will indicate.

The seventh cause may be regarded as pre-eminently the gentle one among Christians—the selfishness, indolence, heartlessness of the fashionable Christian women of the period. In his tender and beautiful poem, "A Tale of Paraguay," Robert Southey speaks of an impious custom

—such as was wont to sear  
The unhappy heart with usages severe;  
Till hardened mothers in the grave could lay  
Their living babes with no compunctious tear:  
So monstrous men become, when from the way  
Of primal light, they turn through heathen paths  
astray."

It was we, not Southey, who italicized the word "heathen." Ah! "heathen paths" no longer a monopoly of the slaughter of helpless babes! It used to be one of the tremendous arguments of missionary orators that the gospel would go into heathen lands now bloody with the blood of infancy, and be a means of doing away with the foul crime. With what face or force could any sensitive man use that argument now in an assemblage of American Christians, a large portion of whom kill their children either before or after birth! One of the coroners of London recently said that every thirtieth woman you meet in the streets of London is a child-murderer. Probably not less than that statement would be the truth in New York, Boston, and Chicago. And what is it all for? In many cases, it is because the ladies cannot go to the opera so often, cannot see so much company, and cannot be so pretty, if they are obliged to take care of their own children.

Would it not be a good plan to have a few heathen missionaries invited to Christendom; for the heathen excuses for infanticide are far more creditable than the Christian ones. Pagan women kill their children because they would save them from a life of hardship, or because they are too poor to raise them; but it is reserved for refined and lovely Christian mothers to kill their babes because they are such a bother!—*N. Y. Independent*.

Here then are the facts of the case by Protestant showing. One woman of every thirty in the great Protestant cities of London, New York, Boston and Chicago is a murderer, and the vilest of murderers, the murder of her own children. And this not amongst the poor and ignorant mainly, but amongst the wealthy, the educated, and the leaders of the fashionable world! And is this then the result of high two thousand years of Christian civilisation, and three hundred years of Protestantism, and an "open bible?" Pagan Rome in all its turpitude, was not more filthy than, by Protestant

showing, are the great Protestant centres of commerce and civilisation at the present day.

"One woman in thirty" is a murderer, the murderer of her own child! Now, as not every woman is a mother, how fearful would the figures appear were we told the proportion of child-murderers, not merely to women, but to mothers, in England, and in the United States. We know however, from the *N. Y. Independent*, as quoted by the *Witness*, that a "large portion of American Christian mothers kill their children either before or after birth," merely because children are "such a bother."

There is one other fact alluded to incidentally by the *N. Y. Independent* to which we would call the attention of the reader. This:—That in France where "foundling hospitals" are common, "Child-murder, from dread of disgrace in the eyes of the world, is not so frequent as it is in England and America. This is all that the advocates of those institutions claim for them:—That they prevent to a considerable degree the crime of murder; and though the sin of impurity remains unaffected thereby; yet it is something to have checked the spread of the horrid crime which is so prevalent in all Protestant communities. True: even in the best managed foundling hospital and under the most favorable circumstances the mortality is and must be great; but then the parents of the children therein received, have not the burden of wilful premeditated murder on their souls. Even if but one were to live that one life would be so much clear gain to the community; for of this we may be certain, that every child sent to a foundling hospital would be murdered, if no such institution were in existence.

The advantages of such an institution are these:—1st. Some, if but a few, lives are thereby saved, and this is a clear material gain to the community. In the moral order this too is gained. If the institution be in Catholic hands the children there exposed receive the sacrament of baptism; and, at all events whether the child live or die, the parents are not, in intention at least its murderers. It is to be regretted that there should ever be any need of such an institution; but as things are we have to elect betwixt impurity, and impunity plus murder.

CONVICT LABOR.—It has been often asked "why should we not employ our convicts in the construction of national roads to the North-West?" Do they who ask the question know what road-making by convicts means? what a fearful expence it entails? and how cruel and demoralising it is to the troops who must necessarily be employed to guard the convicts? Have they ever heard of the "road gangs," as they were called in N. S. Wales?

Road making by convicts is a most dangerous and costly practice. It is dangerous, for spite of all precautions, the convicts will be constantly escaping. It is costly, not only because the amount of work done by convicts working in chains is necessarily small, so that a "government day's work" was a proverb in N. S. Wales to denote the least possible amount of work that could be extracted from an able bodied man in the course of 24 hours; but because road making by convicts implies stockades or strong barracks erected at short intervals all along the line of route, and a strong military force to keep guard over, and prevent the escape of the convicts.

And yet in spite of all precautions, in spite too of the physical conditions of N. S. Wales, which were marvellously adapted for those of a penal settlement, whose woods afforded no food, no means of sustenance to the run-away, who had but a choice betwixt death by starvation, death from the hands of the blacks or the mounted police, and death upon the gallows, escapes from the road gangs were frequent; though of course after a short and bloody career, of which robbery, rape, and murder were the chief features, the run-aways were almost invariably shot down, or captured and hung. How would it be in this country, with the chances of escape to the United States? Why it would take a military force as large as that employed in Ireland to keep guard over the convicts, unless indeed we were to bind them on their honor not to run away.

To the troops employed—as was clearly established in N. S. Wales—this work of guarding convicts employed on roads is the most harassing, the most demoralising of any service in which they can be engaged. Large bodies of convicts with dangerous tools such as shovels, pick-axes, and axes in their hands, are always formidable, even when heavily ironed, and even with a thirty-two pound shot strapped to their ankles. At night they must be locked up in strong stockades erected at a great cost for the purpose; and these stockades, or fortresses, must be repeated every few miles along the entire line, since it is evident that if the road-makers have to be marched every morning several miles to their work, and marched back again in the evening, little or no work will be done. For some heavy work on one particular spot, such as the making of a bridge, or the

excavation of a tunnel, convict labor may be employed; but even under such circumstances it is always costly, and very dangerous.

There is but one way of dealing with convicts whom we are too tender to hang, and against whom we wish to be protected. They must be locked up carefully like wild beasts, in the strongest of cages, whose bars they cannot break. To let them out to work on roads is just as mad a piece of business as it would be for the keeper of a menagerie to take his lions and tigers out for an airing in a public park, or to give his rattlesnakes the benefit of an occasional run in the woods.

If the journalists, who in happy ignorance of penal settlements, and the value of convict labor outside the walls of a Penitentiary, or strong fortress, were to calculate on the one hand the cost of a military force to guard the convicts whom they propose to utilise upon the roads to the North West; and the cost of erecting at every four or five miles along the proposed route stockades, or barracks in which at night the convict laborers would have to be locked up; and, on the other hand, the value of the amount of work done by men working under sentry's charge, with heavy irons on their legs—we fancy we should hear no more of these wild proposals for the utilisation of convict labor. We have seen the system in operation, and under the most favorable circumstances; we know its effects upon the convict guards, upon the convicts, and upon the country where such labor is so employed; and having seen all these things we do trust that our rulers may never be mad enough to attempt to revive the system in Canada. The annexed paragraph from the *Montreal Daily News* has suggested these remarks:—

TURNING CONVICTS TO ACCOUNT.—The authorities at Melbourne propose turning the labor of the criminal classes to profitable account. They have discovered that wages are high, while various public improvements are needed. There are swamps and marshes to be drained, roads to be constructed leading into the interior, harbors to be improved, rivers to be dredged and cleared of timber, jetties and breakwaters to be formed. The description suits Canada in every detail. We, like our fellow-colonists in Australia, are hampered in our efforts to reclaim the wilderness, owing to the excessive cost of labor as compared with farm returns; and we certainly cannot complain of any paucity of the criminal class. We have our penitentiary and jails crowded with stout, able bodied men capable of wielding the pick and spade, but no attempt has yet been made in Canada to construct public works with convict labor. The system was successfully tried at the Cape with the unruly natives. Noble routes leading north were completed, and the authorities reported that the moral and physical condition of the criminals were promoted by out-door work. The citizens of Toronto and Quebec are inveighing bitterly against the infamous condition of their streets. They might take a hint from Australia, and set the prison birds to sweep up the filth. There was at one time a popular prejudice against employing prison labor on Government works as improperly competing with free labor; but the honest men in Australia are becoming alive to the fact that the convict can be made to minister to their interests by reclaiming and improving the wilderness. We dwell so completely under the moral influence of the United States that we cling to penitentiary employment; but looking at the prices which every description of labor has attained, we might profitably copy the example of Australia.—*Daily News*.

From the *Minerva* we translate some portions of an excellent reply to the *Witness*, who, as usual, devotes its columns to slandering the Seminary of Montreal, and misrepresenting their dealings with the Indians whom it charitably and generously allows to live upon its property at the Lake of the Two Mountains. Not content with this, some of the Indians, incited thereunto by certain unprincipled adventurers who call themselves "missionaries of the Gospel," complain bitterly that they are not allowed to cut down and sell the wood on the aforesaid property, though the Seminary permits them to take as much of it as they please for their own use. In fact this seems to be the only grievance that the "poor Indians" can urge:—That they are not at liberty to cut down the trees belonging to the Seminary, and sell them for firewood. Because the wicked hard-hearted priests object to having their property thus made away with, the Indians have had their eyes opened to the errors of Popery, and brought to see "the truth as it is in Jesus." To their worthy advocate, the *Witness*, the *Minerva* of the 18th Nov. thus replies:—

"The *Witness*, before making itself the organ of the discontented Indians of the Lake of Two Mountains should not have left out of sight that they have no title whatever to the lands of Seignory of the Lake of Two Mountains. These assume to have rights, and an Iroquois chief has been known to take his stand on the domain of the *M.M. du Seminaire*, and solemnly allot to each of the Indians present the portion of land which thereforward he had the power to occupy. But this pretension will not be supported by the law which has repeatedly recognised the rights of the Seminary.

"For the Lake of Two Mountains Mission is not as is that of Sault St. Louis and many others, which in fact do belong to the Indians, but of which the Government has assumed the administration. The contrary is the case. The Gentlemen of St. Sulpice are the owners of this domain, as in the case of any private seignory; and except at the good pleasure of the Seminary the Indians have no right to stop there at all. This is what the *Witness* ignores, and which it would be well for him to learn."

Such are the facts of the case, as asserted by law, as recognised by all honest and intelligent men. "We have no doubt at all"—for instance said the *Montreal Herald* of the 26th of February last—"that the Gentlemen of the Seminary are as absolutely proprietors of the Seignory of Two Mountains as Major Campbell, or any other Seigneur is proprietor of his