

The True Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1873.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MARCH—1873.

Friday, 28—Precious Blood of Our Lord.

Saturday, 29—Of the Feria.

Sunday, 30—Passion Sunday.

Monday, 31—Of the Feria.

APRIL—1873.

Tuesday, 1—Of the Feria.

Wednesday, 2—St. Francis of Paula, C.

Thursday, 3—Of the Feria.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Having failed in his attempts to organize a
Ministry from amongst his friends and political
followers, Mr. D'Israeli recommended the
Queen to call back Mr. Gladstone, and the last
named has in consequence announced to the
country that he and his colleagues resume
office.

There was a very serious riot at Wolver-
hampton, on the 18th, betwixt the English and
Irish miners employed in the coal mines of that
district. Fire-arms were freely used, and
many of the combatants were seriously wound-
ed, though as yet no deaths have been reported.
We are not in possession of all the details;
but in so far as we can gather from the reports
sent us by cable, it would seem that the quar-
rel originated in the jealousy of the English
miners, who insisted upon the dismissal of the
Irish miners. The full truth has not however
yet reached us. A great number of persons
have been arrested.

Another serious defeat of the Carlites is re-
ported, from which we conclude that they are
in greater force than ever. An absurd story
about a parish priest, leader of a Carlist column,
is going the rounds of the press. We are told
that this priest is in the habit of flogging his
prisoners to death; but as details are carefully
avoided, the story may be put down as a lie.
In the south of Spain the Carlites are said to
have many partisans.

Foster, the ear-book murderer, was hung at
New York, on the morning of Friday last, and
honest men breathe more freely. It is hoped
that this may be the beginning of a new era,
and that henceforward the roughs and cut-
throats will not be allowed to have it all their
own way. From such juries as they manage
to get together in the United States it is diffi-
cult, no matter how clear the evidence, to get a
verdict of guilty against the murderer; even
when after many efforts the righteous verdict
has been obtained, judges are to be found who
will undertake to set it aside; and when nei-
ther perjury on the part of jurymen, nor dis-
honest quibbles by judges can save the mur-
derer from the gallows, the Executive generally
steps in to stay the carrying out of the law.
For once a Governor has done his duty in spite
of the many influences brought to bear on him;
and we may thence hope that there is to be for
the future some protection to human life even
in the United States. The firmness of Gov-
ernor Dix in the Foster case will, we trust, be
exercised in all other cases of the same kind
that may come before him, especially in the
Stokes case still pending. We do not see how
after the hanging of Foster, Stokes can be al-
lowed to cheat the gallows.

The Toronto Globe has raised a great excite-
ment by charging a Mr. Dodge, M.P., with the
crime of forgery at the late election. Certain
letters highly eulogistic of Mr. Dodge, and
purporting to be from a Protestant clergyman,
were extensively circulated in the form of a
handbill. These letters the Globe pretends
were forged; whereupon Mr. Dodge has brought
an action for libel against the editor—damages
\$50,000.

The Hon. Joseph Howe is, we are told, to
replace Sir Hastings Doyle as Lieut.-Governor
of the Province of Nova Scotia.

SPIRITUALISM.—Whilst amongst the edu-
cated classes of the Protestant world belief in
Christianity is dying out—in Great Britain, in
the United States, in France, in Germany, and
indeed amongst Protestants everywhere—so that,
as the great organ of Protestantism in its last
issue tells us, the "sign of the times most pa-

tent to the eye of the dispassionate observer,"
is "the gradual decay of old theological beliefs;"
on the other hand, there is fast spreading, in
England especially, and in the highest classes,
a belief in the diablerie of Spiritualism.

"The condition of religious thought in Ger-
many" is too well known, says the *Westminster
Review*, to make it necessary to insist upon the
dying out in that country of all belief in Chris-
tianity, considered either as a supernatural re-
velation, or simply as historical. "In France,"
he goes on to say, "the recent discussions in
the Protestant Synod have brought to light the
startling fact that a large proportion of French
Reformers have altogether thrown over a belief
in miracles. We are in possession of evidence
which would tend to show the immense pro-
gress of rationalistic views in America;" whilst
the religious condition of England is described
by Archbishops and Bishops of the Established
church, and by eminent clerical writers of all
ranks of the hierarchy in terms such as these:

"A wide-spread movement of the mind indi-
cative of the first stealing over the sky of the
lurid lights which shall be shed profusely
around the great anti-Christ;" "a wide-spread
unsettlement of religious belief;" and these
gloomy views are confirmed by eminent states-
men like the Marquis of Salisbury, who warns
us of the "hosts mustering, and field clearing,
for the greatest struggle which Christianity has
ever had to face." Indeed it may be said that
amongst the educated classes of Protestant so-
ciety, and all who have seriously reflected upon
the great religious problems that distract the
ages and press for a solution—you shall scarce
find one writer who would not deem it an im-
peachment of his intelligence, were you to
ask him whether he really accepted as historical
facts all the miracles recorded in the New Tes-
tament, to say nothing of those related in the
Old; or if he accepted the Bible statements of
doctrine as literal truth? Faith in the super-
natural element of Christianity is, amongst
Protestants, relegated to the illiterate, and is
entertained only by their old women, in or out
of petticoats as the case may be. Nor can it
well be otherwise amongst those who reject an
infallible Church, upon whose testimony to the
inspiration of the Scriptures, the authoritative
value of the latter depends. Upon this as a founda-
tion, you may logically erect a religious sys-
tem; but as the *Westminster Review* confesses,
"the corner-stone of Protestantism"—to wit,
the denial of the authority of the Church—"is
an admirable one for a temple of Free Thought,
and for nothing else."

That "Free Thought" then, or the dying
out of religious belief in the supernatural, is
the necessary result of Protestantism may not
only be predicated of it *a priori*, but, is con-
firmed by facts, and by what is daily passing
in the Protestant world. Christianity, consid-
ered as a supernatural revelation of God's
will, is steadily becoming extinct amongst the
educated members of every community that
has embraced the principles of the Reformation;
and who have lost sight of the one fundamental
fact that Christ established on earth a Church
indefeasible, and infallible, as the ground and
pillar of truth; as the sole medium through
which the contents of that revelation are com-
municated to all men to the end of time.—
Fracture this pillar, and the superstructure of
faith sooner or later must needs fall to the
ground; sever the medium of communication,
and men are isolated from the Kingdom of God.

But man by his own act of rebellion having
thus been isolated from the Kingdom of God,
comes inevitably into *rapprochement* with the King-
dom of the devil; and so it is that, as we said
above, as faith in the Christian supernatural
dies out, so springs up a belief in the diabolic
infraternal; or as the votaries of a new phase
of an old superstition, coeval with man's first
apostacy, call it, "Spiritualism." Indeed this
promises to be, for Protestants, the religion of
the future; just as Spiritualism or demon wor-
ship was the religion of the Gentile world.

That this religion or devil worship is grow-
ing rapidly in repute in England; that it is
making great progress, and is no longer a thing
to be passed over in contemptuous silence, is
evident from the large space which, in several
of its recent issues, the London *Times* devotes
to the discussion of its phenomena. In one
single number for instance of that journal, we
find no less than three columns and a half given
up to the discussion of "Spiritualism," and an
editorial statement of scenes at Spiritual seances
that the writer had himself attended. It num-
bers its converts by hundreds; its disciples by
millions; it finds recruits amongst all classes
of society; ladies and gentlemen of the highest
rank come forward to bear witness to its truth.
Amongst these says the *Times*, speaking of a
work lately published for private circulation
"are a Dowager Duchess, and other ladies of
rank, a Captain in the Guards, a nobleman,
a Baronet, a Member of Parliament, several
officers of our scientific and other corps,
a barrister, a merchant, and a doctor. Upper
and middle class society is represented in all
its grades, and by persons who, to judge by the

position they hold and the callings they follow,
ought to be possessed of intelligence and abili-
ty."—*Times*.

And of course it is argued:—If we are not
to believe the testimony of such witnesses, our
contemporaries, living amongst us, to things
which they assert to have seen and heard, how can
we be called upon to give credence to the equally
wonderful stories recorded in the Bible? If
the opponent of Spiritualism takes the ground
that no human evidence is sufficient to estab-
lish the truth of a violation or suspension of
what are termed the natural laws, he must
abandon his belief in the New Testament mira-
cles, which are not a whit more difficult to re-
concile with what we know of those laws, than
are the well attested facts of Spiritualism.

To the truth of the latter the *Times* adds
his editorial testimony. He has been "inter-
viewing" the Spirits in order, to determine for
himself; and though he still tells us that he is
not a "Spiritualist," he makes statements
which if true—and why should he lie?—are
conclusive as to diabolic intervention in these
seances as they are termed. He, the editor,
gives a description of several of these, at which
he attended with the firm determination of dis-
covering and exposing imposture if possible.
He testifies to having witnessed phenomena of
"levitation" or heavy bodies, in spite of the
laws of gravity, floating in the air.

"To give a detailed account of everything
which occurred would need more space than we
can now spare. Suffice it to say that the table
—which measured 4ft. 5in. by 6ft. 4in.—was
made light and heavy at our wish, that it
moved in every direction, that there were vibra-
tions on the floor, and our chairs; that on Mr.
Home holding the accordion under the table in
his right hand, and by the end furthest from
the keys, it played a distinct tune, Mr. Home's
left hand being on the table and his feet so
raised as to be visible." During all these pro-
ceedings, "the room was well lighted from a
gas burner overhead;" though later on in the
seance two lamps that gave a fair light were
substituted for the gas.

The editor thus concludes the detail of his
experiences:—

"There was nothing during the whole evening
except the phenomena themselves to suggest im-
posture. We tried our best to detect it, but could
find no trace of it. We searched Mr. Home, and
found nothing whatever upon him but his clothes."
—*Times*, Dec. 27th, 1872.

But the phenomenon to which we chiefly
desire to direct attention is this:—That
amongst the highest and best educated British
Protestant society, "Spiritualism," or a belief
in necromancy, is making such rapid progress,
that a journal like the London *Times* deems it
worthy of lengthy and reiterated articles, in
which it calls for "timely enquiry into this
apparently ridiculous, but really very serious
subject" or religion; which in the words of
Lord Lytton * leads its "devotees into dis-
grace and ruin;" which, according to the evi-
dence of Dr. Edmunds quoted by the *Times*,
is a frequent cause of "lunacy and paralysis;"
which numbers its disciples by millions; which
has extended its baneful influence in every
quarter of the globe; and which, according to
the *Australian Correspondence of the Times*,
Dec. 27th, "has already gained a foothold on
that young colony," which has already attained
the dignity of having its own Press; and
which though often sneered at by scientific
men, and slain outright by materialist philo-
sophers, has, never yet, so says the *Times* been
subjected to "an enquiry of that impartial,
authoritative, and thorough nature, which alone
can decide a prejudiced controversy." That a
belief in "Spiritualism" or necromancy should
have attained such dimensions amongst Pro-
testants in this enlightened nineteenth century,
is indeed as striking commentary upon the moral,
religious, and intellectual progress of the age.

* The *Times* says of the late Lord Lytton "that
he was evidently a 'loose hanger on' of Spiritu-
alism."

FIRE AT THE ST. JAMES' HOTEL.—There
have often been fires more destructive of prop-
erty in the city, than that of Monday night,
or rather Tuesday morning, but none which
have caused so much excitement; and that be-
cause of the loss of life with which it was at-
tended, and which, with a properly arranged
Fire Brigade, might have been prevented. To
the individual members of that Brigade no
blame can be attached. On the contrary the
highest praise is due to them. They worked,
as they always do, with zeal and great courage,
doing, considering the imperfect appliances at
their command, all that men could do. The
fault consisted in this:—That they were not
furnished with sufficient ladders and fire es-
capes. With these the horrors of the recent
tragedy might have been averted.

It was about one o'clock on Tuesday morn-
ing that the alarm of fire was given. The
flames had first broken out in a building used
as a laundry in the rear of the hotel, and rap-
idly spread to the main building, rushing up
the stair-cases, and thus destroying the means
of escape to those who were sleeping in the

upper part of the building, which has a height
of five stories. The firemen were soon on the
spot, and working with a will, and heedless of
their persons, they seemed at first to have ob-
tained the mastery—and indeed on the sides
of the hotel facing the mountain, and Victoria
Square, such was the case. But on the other
side towards Bonaventure Street, the flames
had it for some time their own way; and rush-
ing up the narrow stairway and passages of the
fourth and fifth stories, cut off all means of
egress to those who had not effected a timely
flight. We copy from the *Montreal Gazette*
the annexed details:—

"At the stairway there was a terrible battle
with the flames. No. 2 stream, with Abraham Anderson
as branchman, was brought first to bear on the
stairway to protect that as a means of following the
fire above, and then it was directed at the body of
flame in the passage way and it quickly succumbed
as if it had fulfilled its mission in firing the upper
part of the dwelling. The roaring of the flames as
they rattled up the narrow stairways was terrifying
in the extreme, and the water from the stream now
directed upwards came back on the men boiling hot.
At this juncture Nathaniel Cairns, guardian of No. 2
Station, rushed up and cried seizing hold of the
hose, 'Boys, there is a woman up stairs, we must
save her.' 'Give us more hose then,' cried Ander-
son, 'and I will get to her.' But alas! precious
minutes must elapse and the water must be turned
off before the extra hose could be got, and by the
time it was attached and the water let on again, the
fire had regained its hold of the stairway and was
audaciously coming down step by step. The stream
on again, the fire on the stairway was quickly put
out and into the suffocating smoke and intense heat
went the branchman. Looking upwards a great
great body of fire rolling about could be seen, as if
at a loss to know what to do with its immense pro-
portions. Now and again came, as from the other
side of the flames, a woman's weak voice crying for
the help which the brave fellows at the branch were
trying hard to take to her. A few minutes later and
the scuffle of numerous feet on the stairs were suc-
ceeded by the helmets and flushed faces of the men
of No. 9 branch in hand. McKibbin's cheery voice
was now heard amid the smoke, 'up the stairs with
you, and you will save her.' 'Never was an appeal
made for succor in woman's name more readily re-
sponded to for up stairs into the mass of flame, as
it seemed the shining helmets disappeared. Then
it was that the half suffocated men of No. 2 had a
sturdy ally and getting on another length speedily
followed the first, extinguishing the flames as they
went. 'We'll save her yet, we'll save her yet' was
the cry, but a loud ringing, cheering, sound of joy
thundered through the building and with a shriek
of joy a young fireman darted up with a fierce yell
of 'She's saved, Jack Nolan's got her.' And then
it was that the branches were dropped and a rack-
ing body of men took possession of the nearest win-
dow, and their watering eyes were greeted with the
sight of a woman's form with a strong arm around
it being softly, gently and yet so firmly carried down
the ladder. The woman safe, the smoking men re-
turned to the attack with the greatest sang froid."

"Jack Nolan,"—his name should be men-
tioned with honor—is, we suppose, from the
"Green Isle;" but all our brave firemen did
their duty, and had they been supplied, as they
ought to have been supplied, with the
regquisite materiel the dreadful scenes re-
corded below would have been spared us.
We still copy from the *Gazette*:—

The scene from the exterior was something novel
for the eyes of the Montrealers to behold. On one
side of the building a woman hanging from the win-
dow sill, swaying, as it were, with every gust of
wind—thick, stilling smoke pouring through the
window and a red background of fire. On another
side Guardian McCulloch, of No. 5 station, assisting
down from the fourth storey window five trembling,
shrieking women, one by one. From another win-
dow of the same flat a man is trying to let himself
down by a rope of hastily fastened sheets, too hastily
fastened indeed, for see the sheets begin to part and
break, and with a dull thud a well rounded manly
form falls to the ground, and is picked up a mass of
broken bones. A little earlier another man had
precipitated himself from another window all of a
heap, and falls, and is picked up all of a heap. No
wonder the eyes of the spectators glare with horror
and they whisper to each other in bated breath,
"Isn't this awful." Still another form of a man ap-
pears at another window, and glaring frightfully be-
hind him vaults on the window sill, and catching
hold of it in his hands, lets his body down and drops
as it were from window to window. He too is
picked up and carried away, and the next victim is
looked for, for the business is becoming wholesale,
and the spectators are actually prepared for anything
in the horror line. At the south side of the hotel
hangs the woman, holding on with mutilated hands
to a mass of ice on a window sill, with her feet rest-
ing on a projection of stone about an inch in depth.
The firemen have no means of reaching her, but by
some primitive ladders, and putting up one it is
found to be only thirty feet short. An immense
multitude of shivering eyes are turned upwards to the
black form, and as the ladder falls short curses loud
and deep are heaped upon somebody's head. Two
manly forms are bringing a ladder; they go up the
first ladder, and resting the other on a rung of the
former one of the firemen ascends while the other
holds the ends steady, and letting it gently slide
over to the woman it touches her feet. A fierce shout
announces the fact that the woman has her feet on
the ladder, and another the fact that she is slowly
but surely descending. It was a sight such as no
man in that multitude will ever forget. To have
seen a woman hold on to a perpendicular wall of a
house for twenty minutes and then come down with
firm step a ladder twenty feet long, balanced by the
sturdy arms of two firemen is something astonishing
enough to be well worthy talking about. Of course
the woman fainted when she arrived on the ground,
but the wonder was that she did not faint before.
Her motionless form was conveyed to the St. Law-
rence Hall, and soon kind ladies were busy in bring-
ing back the fluttering life. They succeeded, and
although much shaken the woman, Johanna O'Con-
nell by name was much recovered last night.

The fire having been at last subdued, the
body of another unfortunate woman, Mary
Brennan, was discovered in the servant's
room on the upper story: she had ap-
parently been suffocated by the smoke. The
mangled remains of the men who precipitated
themselves from the windows were promptly
conveyed to the Hospital. Of these Samuel G.
Hilditch, lately arrived from England, and con-
nected with the firm of Evans, Mercer & Co.,
Druggists, died, from the effects of the injuries
received, about 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

The amount of property destroyed was not
very large, and is covered by insurance; but
in this case property is a secondary considera-

tion. It is a fact now patent to every one,
that our Fire Brigade, plucky though its mem-
bers be, is not strong enough to meet the wants
of this fast growing city. The men have not
at their command the necessary appliances;
and, no matter what the cost, the citizens ex-
pect that the Civic authorities will apply a
remedy at once. There is much indignation
felt and expressed amongst the public, who in
this matter will not allow themselves to be
trifled with. One such a horror as that of
Tuesday morning is enough for us. Immediate
re-organization of the Fire Brigade must be the
first Order of the Day.

The remains of another victim, a Mr. Hyatt,
were discovered in a closet on the fifth story of
the Hotel on Wednesday morning. He was a
boarder, and had retired to his room at an early
hour. When roused from sleep by the alarm
of fire, he apparently gathered up his money
and most valuable effects, and made for the
stairs; but escape by these being cut off, he
must have taken refuge in the closet where he
soon was suffocated by the dense smoke. His
body was only slightly burnt.

Amongst the names of those who should be
mentioned with honor as having nobly exerted
themselves to give aid to the victims should be
included these of Messrs Perry, and of Boehing-
ham, who, together with Nolan, took an active
part in the rescue of the woman who, for thirty
minutes, was hanging betwixt life and death
from the fifth story window of the hotel. But,
again we say, to all the brave men of our Fire
Brigade credit is due for their heroic exertions.
Not to them, but to the apathy, or imbecility
of the Civic authorities, in not having made
ample provision of ladders and fire-escapes, are
the horrors of the morning of the 18th inst.
due.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN CANADA.

From all parts of the Dominion we have re-
ceived reports of the proceedings on this great
national festival of the Irish race. Everywhere
the Day was celebrated with due honors, and
in a style to rejoice every patriotic heart. A
paragraph that appeared in the *Evening Star*
of this city, stating that in Toronto small bills
had been circulated exhorting the Orangemen
to assemble and break up the St. Patrick's
Procession, may have given slight alarm to
some; but, even if the thing did occur as re-
presented, the exhortation to violence passed
unheeded.

TORONTO.

The several Irish Societies of Toronto formed
in front of the De La Salle Institute, whence
they marched in Procession to St. Michael's
Cathedral, when High Mass was sung by the
Very Rev. Father Jamot. The "Sermon of
the Day" was delivered by the Very Rev.
Father Rooney, who took for his text *Hebrews*,
13, v. 7: "Remember your prelates who have
spoken to you the word of God; considering
well the end of their conversation, imitate their
faith." After Mass the Procession reformed
and returned to the De La Salle Institute,
where Mr. P. Boyle addressed his fellow-coun-
trymen in a short but appropriate speech. He
was succeeded by Mr. Murphy, Mr. W.
Mitchell, President of the St. Patrick's So-
ciety; Mr. John Davy, President of the
Toronto Young Irishmen, and Mr. Thomas
Burns, President of the St. Patrick's Associa-
tion Ottawa. Our old friend, so well known
to, and respected by the Catholics of Montreal,
Brother Arnold, then came forward, and
uttered a few telling words of exhortation to
temperance, after which the Societies broke up.
In the evening there was a well-attended Con-
cert at the De La Salle Institute.

HAMILTON.

Here, too, our Irish friends celebrated the
Day with a Procession and High Mass at St.
Mary's Cathedral. Everything passed off in a
most friendly, brilliant manner; and in the
evening the rejoicings were brought to a close
by a Grand Concert in the Cathedral.

In London, Paris, Kingston and Ottawa the
Day was in like manner duly honored; in the
last named City the fine appearance, and length
of the Procession excited general admiration.

From the United States, we have the same
reports. In New York, and all the large Cities,
the Irish celebrated their National Festival
with public demonstrations, processions, the
religious offices of their Church, and social re-
unions in the evening. Everywhere the ut-
most harmony prevailed.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented
to act as Agents for the True Witness for the un-
dermentioned places:—

Mr. PATRICK HART, Osceola, Admaston and Dou-
glas.
Mr. PATRICK COPPS, Brudenell.
Mr. P. LYNCH, Escott, Caintown, Farmersville and
Charlestown.
Mr. D. O'SHEA, Picton and vicinity.
Mr. LAURENCE SLATTERY, Sheenboro'.

The Irish Catholics of Ottawa have presented the
Rev. Mr. Collins with a purse of money and a gold
watch and chain, on the occasion of the celebra-
tion of first Mass in the new St. Patrick's Church,
towards the erection of which the rev. gentleman
lent his valuable assistance.