

The True Witness.

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE;
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G. E. OLBERG, Editor.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1868.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

JULY—1868.

Friday, 17—St. Alexis, O.
Saturday, 18—St. Camillus de Lellis, C.
Sunday, 19—Seventh after Pentecost, St. Vincent of Paul, O.
Monday, 20—St. Jerome, Emiliano, C.
Tuesday, 21—St. Praxedis, V.
Wednesday, 22—St. Mary Magdalene.
Thursday, 23—St. Apollinaris, B. M.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Our home files of this week are almost exclusively taken up with the very lengthy speeches delivered in the House of Lords upon the Irish Church question. The friends of the most absurdly iniquitous Establishment that ever disgraced an enlightened nation did not fail to muster in all their strength, nor in that august assembly was any argument deemed too irrational or inconsistent which served to arouse the fears of the weakminded or excite the passions of the prejudiced. Those noble Lords claim for the Church of the State a divine origin, and yet they proclaim to the world that one of the chief corner stones of the edifice is injustice itself, and that to remove or diminish that injustice would cause the building to crumble to dust. Some considered the Suspensory Bill as the commencement of an enormous revolution, whilst others voted against it lest it would be imagined they were intimidated by the useless threats of the impotent Fenians. Assuredly they understand very little of the noble Irish character, who harbour the idea that they can proselytize any number of that people whilst the palpable iniquity of their acts is the only mark they can point to as indicating the truthfulness of their teachings.

To the eternal shame of these Lords be it said, Gladstone's Suspensory Bill, the first step towards the pacification of Ireland, was thrown out by nearly a double majority. Every patriotic, intelligent man must deplore this result especially at a time when it was fondly hoped that at last England was about taking a step in the right direction towards the righting of the many wrongs of poor Ireland. Our Continental news is meagre and unimportant. Every eye appears to be watching the movements of Napoleon, whilst France declares that if her army is increased it is only a new pledge of peace, and that the only way possible for her would be one in defence of her territory, her honor, or her influence.

Horatio Seymour, Ex-Governor of New York, has been unanimously nominated for President by the Democratic Convention. From what we can learn he appears to be a favorite with his own party, and will no doubt prove himself a worthy opponent of Gen. Grant. At this distance from the election it is utterly impossible to pronounce on the relative chances of the candidates.

We regret to say that the recent hot weather has to some extent diminished our prospects of a very plentiful harvest, still we trust Providence will not disregard the just wishes of the husbandman, who may even yet rejoice in the collecting of the multiplied fruits of his hard labor.

ORPHANS' PICNIC.—Where such a spontaneously benevolent spirit exists towards the relief of the poor as distinguishes this city, we feel that it is only necessary to call the attention of our citizens to our advertisement of the coming Orphans' Picnic, to guarantee its complete success. True Catholics require no incentive to bestow their patronage on such truly charitable objects, and especially is this the case with those of Irish origin, whose unwavering kindness to the afflicted has placed generosity amongst their noblest national characteristics. The orphans have many claims on us and we are fulfilling a high duty in seeing that they suffer nothing either from want of food or proper raiment. It is true they are under the vigilant care of the good Sisters of Charity and will receive every attention possible, yet, if the public come not to their assistance those little ones must necessarily suffer.

Apart from religious obligations, the preparations being made by the able Committee of Management are a guarantee that the Picnic will be the most attractive of the season. The grounds are the best that could be selected, being at present in splendid condition, so that we feel satisfied that an afternoon's recreation at Guilbault's will more than compensate for the trouble and expense.

We find the following in the Toronto *Canadian Freeman*, of the 9th inst. It seems incredible that in the 19th century, that in a country which boasts of its liberty and its intelligence, such monstrous acts of tyranny should occur—that an innocent man should be arrested, and treated as criminals for playing the violin in his own rooms on a Sunday. Had the airs he played been of a "party" character, we could understand the action of the magistrates; but nothing of this kind, as the reader will see from the *Freeman's* report, was laid to the prisoner's charge.

If the law authorises the proceedings complained of, the law is an outrage upon the civil rights of Her Majesty's subjects, and the citizens of Toronto should never rest till it be repealed. We, too, in Lower Canada are interested in this matter, for if this foul and accursed spirit of Sabbatarianism be allowed to spread and triumph in the Upper Province, we may well expect that it will attempt to assert its baneful presence here. We should then make up our minds never to submit to the revival of the Blue Laws in any part of Canada:—

REVIVAL OF THE BLUE LAWS.—The puritanical Sabbatarianism of Toronto are determined to "rule the roost." It will be no fault of the sectaries, who worship at the shrine of Calvin and Knox, if the execrable Blue Laws of New England be not revived and rigidly enforced against all who offend against the Presbyterian idea of observing the "Sabbath." Last week we had to protest against the cruel imposition of a fine upon a number of little boys who were brought up before the Police Magistrate, for the heinous and shocking crime of fishing on the "Sabbath." We thought this an extreme stretch of justice. There is a worse case still. A young Irish immigrant, recently arrived in this city, was dragged from his lodgings by a policeman, on the evening of Sunday before last, was confined in a loathsome cell in Yonge Street Police station all night, in company with drunkards, rats and cockroaches, was brought before Police Magistrate McNabb, and was by that functionary fined and lectured severely—and for what? Because the poor fellow, to while away a sad and wearisome hour, or, in memory of other lands and other days, perhaps, took his violin, and, horror of horrors! actually played, in his own room, as he was accustomed to do in Dublin, "The meeting of the waters," and "The last rose of summer!" For this Mr. Nicholas Mackey was arrested, subjected to shameful indignities during Sunday night and Monday morning, and was ultimately fined and lectured upon "Sabbath desecration" by Mr. Police Magistrate McNabb.

At the risk of incurring the displeasure of the whole brood of Sabbatarianism, we pronounce this conduct disgraceful, illegal, tyrannical, and not to be tolerated in a free country. Throughout the length and breadth of Ireland, the national music has never been considered unfitting or ill timed in the family circle on a Sunday evening. No one, with the exception of the "blue nose" Presbyterian, of exotic growth, took exception to secular music in that land, where the people are more truly religious, moral and God-fearing than in those countries where Sabbatarianism flourishes. The bands of the various regular army regiments in changing guard at the Castle, in going to and from Church, play the most lively Irish airs; and are we in this country of boasted civil and religious freedom, clinging to the traditions and customs of fatherland, to be subjected to the grossest tyranny at the instigation of a handful of bigots, for simply doing what our consciences approve of? If, in imposing a fine on Mr. Mackey, Mr. Alexander McNabb was justified by the law, the sooner such a law is repealed the better for the character of our Statute Book. If, on the other hand, as we have been assured by eminent legal gentlemen, Mr. McNabb stretched the law to meet the Sabbatarian notions of himself and his co-religionists, he should be made to feel the consequences.

We, for our part, respect the law, and intend to observe it, so long as it is just and impartial. But with all due deference to Mr. Police Magistrate McNabb, and to his recent judicial decision, we shall sing and play "The meeting of the waters," "The last rose of summer," or any other song or air we may think fit, on "Sabbath" evening, in our own domiciles, whenever our fancy or our pleasure may prompt, and we shall abide the consequences.

The Liberals, or Garibaldian party in Rome have discovered another, a new weapon worthy of their cause. They now seek to get rid of the brave soldiers of the Pope, whom they dare not meet in the field with rifle and bayonet, by means of poison. The dodge is to sell cigars of which the tobacco is impregnated in some deadly poison, to the Papal Zouaves, of whom one, as we learn from the *Witness*, nearly fell a victim to their gallant exploit, so characteristic of modern Liberalism, so completely in harmony with the antecedents of the Garibaldians, whom British Liberals delight to honor as the moral renovators of Italy.

The United States Government, so the papers say, has declared that to enroll or enlist men for the service of the Sovereign Pontiff is illegal, and must be discontinued. This, if true, is certainly a significant commentary upon the apathy, to use the mildest term, with which the same Government has for years looked on whilst its citizens were ostentatiously enlisting, and making preparations for an attack upon Canada.

Mr. Morley Pynchon, an itinerant preacher of the Methodist sect, who has been lately "starring it" in Lower Canada, gives it as his opinion that "it is evident that any progress as it is in Jesus must be against active and violent opposition." The Lower Canadians, we fear, do not feel duly grateful to these "vessels" who take so deep an interest in their spiritual well-being, and fancy that some how or another they may be able to get to heaven without them.

A ridiculous Fenian excitement having arisen in the townships of Brighton and Cramabe, Ont., in consequence of certain catechetical instructions given weekly by the Priest of Trenton to some score of little children of the village of Brighton. The Rev. Mr. Brettargh addressed to the local press the following humorous letter which we reprint for the amusement of our readers:—

FENIANISM UNBARTHERD!—A VERY LARGE MAN'S NEST.—To the Editor of the *Courier*.—Sir, For the re-assurance of those timid souls in Cramabe who are daily expecting a Fenian raid for the conquest of our infant Dominion to issue from the house of Mr. Patrick Egan, near Brighton, allow me through your columns, to assure them that there is not the slightest ground for alarm. The oldest Fenian who "we kly attends drilling" there is a boy of some thirteen summers, and the most deadly exercise which the whole battalion (some fourteen or fifteen children most of whom were girls) undergoes, is a course of instruction in "Dr. Butler's Catholic Catechism." As to the 20 barrels of flour with which these ferocious Fenians are weekly (weekly?) fed, allow me to say that Mr. Egan will any day be glad to sell them untouched to any of her Majesty's Loyal Subjects, who will pay him cash down what he paid for them.

These senseless and continued alarms of Fenianism point only to one of two things; either our Cramabe farmers are a race of cowards to be frightened out of their wits by every bug-bear; (which I am unwilling to believe), or there are men found base enough for their own bad ends to play thus heartlessly upon their innocent credulity; (which I can readily believe.)

It is certainly hard that a poor inoffensive Catholic, who kindly offers the use of his house in order that the Catholic children of his neighborhood may have a roof over their heads whilst they are being instructed in the first principles of their religion, by their priest, should be forthwith accused of Fenianism, and that intelligent merchants should be found to circulate for a signature in Brighton, a memorial calling for Governmental interference in the matter. We have heard of hedge schools in Ireland, but we did not think that the disgraceful tyranny which rendered them necessary there, had been transplanted to our fair Dominion of Ontario.

In order, however, to allay the fears of these timid farmers of Cramabe and intelligent merchants of Brighton, and to enable them henceforth to sleep nightly in their beds, I would wish to give notice that the Catechetical instructions hitherto held weekly in Mr. Egan's house, and which have been the cause of so much terror to Brightonians will for the future be held upon the public highway, to enable all timid farmers and intelligent merchants to attend, either in person or by deputy, that they may assure themselves, that innocent children of from 3 to 14 years of age, are not, under the flimsy pretext of religious instruction, drilled weekly in the deadly exercises of gunnery and the broad sword.

The most ridiculous phase of this truly foolish affair is seen in this, the whole Catholic body of Brighton and its neighbourhood does not number ten able bodied men, all told; and it is this immense force that keeps hundreds of stalwart farmers and valiant Brighton merchants in daily alarm and nightly dread. Valiant Cramabe! Brave Brighton! If Mr. Egan or any other Catholics similarly circumstanced will take my advice, they will follow up authors of these slanderous reports in our law courts. A few convictions for defamation of character will teach mischievous tongues to wag more warily, and to use the word Fenian more sparingly.

I have the honor to remain, Your obedient servant,
H. BRETTARGH,
Priest.

The annual distribution of prizes at St. Laurent College took place on Monday the 6th inst. A large number of spectators were present. The present number of pupils is 275. An interesting event was the presentation of three handsome gold medals by H. J. Clarke, Esq., Q.C. The first was presented to Azarie Brodeur, and bore the inscription "Excellentia;" the second, inscribed "Merit," to Joseph McCaffrey; and the third, inscribed "Satisfaction," to Erasme Barsalou.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT ST. DENIS ACADEMY.

On Monday afternoon, 6th inst., a large and appreciative audience filled the hall of the imposing building in St. Denis street, where the Nuns of the congregation devote themselves exclusively to day scholars. The annual ceremony of the distribution began at 4 o'clock precisely. Long before the appointed hour all the seats were occupied, and numbers of people had to be contented with standing room, yet any one would willingly have borne this slight inconvenience to enjoy the rare treat in store for them. M. Bayle, Superior of the Seminary, and several other distinguished members of the clergy, entered the tastefully decorated hall amid the joyous strains of a well executed overture. A refreshing sight greeted them. The pupils, numbering some hundred and sixty, filled the stage, their bright young faces radiant with expectation, and their pure white dresses so simple and becoming; drooping evergreens hung round them, and, towering above all, rose the statue of the Virgin Mother, gazing, as we thought, with maternal fondness on the happy family gathered at her feet. The very youngest children contributed their quota to the festive scene. Before receiving their prizes they sung, as blithely as possible, "Merry little Birds are we," and got through their parts with true childish grace. Miss Power read an appropriate address with taste and feeling. As she modestly withdrew, the Misses Dorion and M. L. Desbarats sung an exquisite duet. A chorus of industrious young girls next came forward, smiling, talking and singing with as much ease as they might have done in their play room. This was the introduction to a most interesting dialogue in French—*La femme comme il la faut*—to which the senior pupils did equal justice. Woman's social qualities were discussed with all the charms of poetry and the solid reasoning of true Christian philosophy. Some of these maiden orators insisted almost exclusively on the humbler details of life, others, more aspiring, indulged in dim visions of literary celebrity, while some

spoke and sang rapturously of Music and her sister arts. Many celebrated authors were quoted—Fenelon, ever gentle and persuasive; Moliere, so merciless against the *femme savante*, and last of all, the great authority, Miss Regnaud, wound up this truly charming debate with a poetical version of the chief traits of the "valiant women" taken from the Book of Proverbs.

A brilliant quartette followed, prizes were distributed to the medium classes, then came an amusing piece intermingled with music and pretty songs, which delighted the audience.

The pupils of the Superior Course received the honours of their class. A silver medal was awarded to Miss Gauthier for proficiency in French; to Miss Power, for English, and to Miss Desbarats, for both language. Miss Gauthier won laurels upon laurels in the various branches of learning, and the most coveted of all, that awarded to the most punctual and faultless pupil.

Gold and silver wreaths rested lightly on those unruffled brows, satisfaction beamed on those youthful countenances, and Miss Dorion claimed our attention for a few minutes—in those very few minutes she charmed all present. She told us in sweetest rhythm, how an under-current of sadness must needs be felt even on this glad day, because the parting hour had come, she took a bird's eye view of the scholastic year, and ended with a heartfelt wish that all those favoured children might prove themselves worthy of the pious teaching and enlightened training which had been bestowed upon them. Her words found an echo in the hearts of all her hearers, and they too, were almost loth to hear the notes of a gay piece of vocal music, suited for the occasion. We thought of the rare combination of apostolic zeal, of sublime devotedness and of motherly tenderness required to bring about such results; with this thought rose our hopes for the future. When the blossoms were so fair, surely the fruit would be sound to the core.—*Gazette*.

CONVENT OF BEAUHARNOIS.

The Public Distribution of Premiums to the pupils attending the above Institution, took place on Wednesday last, 8th inst. The large Hall of the Convent was tastefully fitted up for the occasion with that art and ingenuity which the Sisters alone know to exhibit.

There were present the Rev. M. Charland, the zealous Pastor of the place, with several other priests, the parents and friends of the pupils, together with a large number of other persons composing the *elite* of the town of Beauharnois. The programme consisted of music, vocal and instrumental, with dialogues and other plays in French and English. They were all given, we need hardly say, in first rate style. The music especially was excellent *sous tout rapport*, and afforded a rich treat to all present. The plays and dramas were not in any way inferior. We have seldom, if ever, seen anything better played than a comedy in French entitled: "La Correction Mutuelle" by nearly a dozen of the young lady pupils of the Convent. The piece in itself was rare, but was rendered doubly pleasing by the manner in which it was given, with gestures natural, graceful and simple; with voices loud, sweet and distinct. It took admirably and was frequently and loudly applauded. The English play called, "The Stolen Sister," met with a similar success. It was quite surprising to see French Canadian pupils of only a few years in the Convent speaking English with such correctness and fluency.

Now came on the programme the distribution of the premiums and "Crowns of honor." The Rev. M. Charland, Chaplain of the Convent, presided. The premiums were numerous and rich, as were also the "Crowns of honor." The Rev. Gentleman had the happiness of distributing more "Crowns" on the occasion than Napoleon I. ever did to his friends.

After the distribution, one of the pupils delivered the closing address in which she paid a just tribute to the venerable Parish Priest for his presence and for the great sacrifices he had made to found the Convent which now imparted education to so many. At the conclusion of the address, the Rev. Gentleman rose and expressed the gratification he always felt in assisting at the exhibitions of the Convent. He felt convinced, he said, from the programme before him, and from the able manner in which they had all acquitted themselves in the different parts they held therein, that the present one was not in any way inferior to the past ones at which he had the pleasure of assisting. He exhorted them to practice the good lessons and virtues which were taught them in the Convent, and in so doing they would be the consolation of their good parents and the edification of all with whom they came in contact.

The Rev. Gentleman took occasion, likewise, to congratulate the parents of the pupils on the success of the latter. He said they must now, after what they had seen, feel convinced, as he did himself, that the sacrifices they had made to send their children to the Convent, and thereby procure them a fitting education, were amply remunerated. For his own part, his most sanguine expectations were fully realized. He closed his long and interesting address in felicitating the

good Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary, who direct the Convent, on the success which attended their exhibition, and on the good system of education they employed. It was one, he was glad to know, which, though not neglecting the higher branches of education, yet bestowed particular attention to those offices of housekeeping, &c., which were useful and necessary for every one, or at least the generality in this country to know.

The Convent buildings are spacious and commodious; the grounds attached thereto large and surrounded with trees and a beautiful garden; the site, both as regards health and scenery, is one of the finest in the Dominion of Canada. Situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence, it commands a complete view of that noble river and of the steamers daily ascending and descending it.

The Sisters have lately purchased a large and beautiful house adjoining the Convent, the house of the late Right Hon. E. Ellis, Proprietor of Beauharnois, which they intend, should the number of pupils increase to require it, to convert into the same building.

Another *Seance*, similar to the one recorded above, took place on the following day in the College directed by the Christian Brothers at Beauharnois. One of the large apartments of the College was very tastefully decorated for the occasion with festoons, evergreens and paintings. The attendance was quite numerous, and much the same as at the Convent the preceding day.

For three hours the pupils stood a most searching examination on the different matters which were taught them during the year, and by their prompt and correct answers, gave conclusive proof of the good use they had made of their time during the year, and of their proficiency in the different matters on which they were interrogated. The course of studies pursued in the College is one calculated to prepare young men for the higher professions, and generally, all that is required for a good country education.

At different intervals, the pupils sang English and French airs with effect, to the great delight of all present.

After the distribution of premiums, at which the Rev. M. Charland presided, the Rev. Gentleman rose and expressed the great pleasure he felt in assisting at the Examination. He was most happy to know that the pupils had made the best use of their time during the year now about to end, ample proof of which they had just shown in the different classes. He also congratulated the good Brothers who direct the College, and have directed it for the last 19 years with great credit to themselves and to their pupils, in having the happiness of seeing their good efforts during the year, crowned to day with the most gratifying success. He was glad to see that special attention was paid to English. That was quite necessary, for to-day English was useful to every one, and necessary to many in the cities, especially of the Province of Quebec.

Yet this was done and should be done without neglecting the French language. It would be a shame for French Canadians to be ignorant of their own mother tongue. In knowing it well they could then acquire other languages with greater facility.

It only remains for me to add in conclusion Mr. Editor, that education at Beauharnois is in a most flourishing state. This is due chiefly and I may say almost exclusively, to the labors of the zealous and indefatigable *Cure* who has sacrificed a large fortune to lay the foundation of those fine houses, the fruits of which the citizens of Beauharnois and surrounding districts to-day reap.

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY.

The Annual Exhibition, given by the students of this Institution came off on Tuesday, June 30th. The grand drama of "Alfred the Great" was selected for the occasion. The *Dramatis Personae* performed their respective parts very creditably; and the costumes and stage scenery were admirable. The hall was densely crowded, and the deep interest, and loud applause from the audience, showed the respect of the inhabitants of the Capital, for England's "Immortal Alfred." And all praise is due to the directors of the institution, for this selection, for in whatever light we look upon Alfred, we behold in him, the "Victor King," the just legislator, and the Mæcenas of his age. The music and singing, under the direction of Rev. Father Derbel, gave universal satisfaction, comprising several beautiful operas. We cannot lavish too much praise on this *amateur* who entertains the public of the Capital, with several choice *morceaux*, every year.

At the conclusion of the drama, the distribution of the Premiums took place, by Father Lavoie stating that the students had spontaneously given their premiums towards the support of the Papal Zouaves, who lately quitted our shores.—He said, in consequence they would only receive testimonials for the premiums obtained. It was then a beautiful scene to witness those who had distinguished themselves during the year, coming forward to get crowned, like those competitors