

The True Witness.

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
At No. 683 Craig Street, by
J. GILLIES.
G. E. OLBERG, 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 Dealers. Single copies 3c.

To all subscribers whose papers are delivered by carriers, Two Dollars and a half, in advance; and if 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, August '63," shows that he has paid up to August '63, and owes his subscription from that date.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1870.

ECLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MARCH—1870.

Friday, 18—Of the Holy Shroud.
Saturday, 19—St. Joseph.
Sunday, 20—Third of Lent.
Monday, 21—St. Benoit, Ab.
Tuesday, 22—St. Gabriel the Archangel.
Wednesday, 23—Of the Ferias.
Thursday, 24—Of the Ferias.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT—All days of Lent Sundays excepted, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday inclusive, are days of fasting and abstinence.

The use of flesh meat at every meal is permitted on all the Sundays of Lent, with the exception of Palm Sunday.

The use of flesh meat is also by special indulgences allowed at the one repast on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays of every week after the first Sunday of Lent, to Palm Sunday.—On the first four days of Lent, as well as every day in Holy Week, the use of flesh meat is prohibited.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We continue from last week the *Times'* analysis of the Ministerial Land Bill. The latter part is a description of the machinery by means of which it is to be worked:—

Next, as to the procedure for the purpose of obtaining compensation. There is to be a written claim of compensation in a certain form stating particulars, which is to be deemed admitted, unless within a certain time there is a notice to dispute it, and upon which all equities between the landlord and tenant are to be considered, as set off, or unreasonable conduct on the part of either.

When the amount of compensation due is ascertained, it is to be a debt due from landlord to tenant, who may set it off against rent, and need not leave until it is satisfied or discharged. But the landlord may offer the tenant a lease for not less than 31 years, if empowered to grant such lease; and if it is accepted, then the tenant will hold under it; or, if not accepted, then he is to be only entitled to compensation as if voluntarily leaving. But this does not apply to cases under the Ulster tenant right.

So far as to the procedure. But this, of course implies some sort of judicature for the purpose, and to establish this,—that is, a Court to award compensation—is the object of the next head of the Bill. The Court for this purpose is to be the Civil Bill Court, as it is called in Ireland (a court resembling our County Court), or a Court of Arbitration, to be constituted under the Act. The Civil Court is to be assisted by an official valuator, or assessor.

There is to be an appeal from the Court to the two Judges of the Superior Courts, who may, if they think proper—reserve any question for the final decision of a Court of Ultimate Appeal, to be established under the title of the 'Court for Land Cases Reserved,' and to be composed of the Chief Judges at Law and in Equity. So much as to the Court of compulsory jurisdiction.

But if the parties prefer it they may refer the matter to the official valuator, or to any arbitrator to be appointed by themselves; such Court of Arbitration to have in substance all the powers of the compulsory tribunal, but no appeal to lie from its decision.

Such are the provisions of the measure under the first great head,—the law of compensation, which, by its being placed first, and from the scope of subsequent provisions, appears to be the pivot upon which the measure mainly turns, and constitutes nearly one-half its contents. Even these provisions, however, copious as they are, do not exhaust the provisions of the intended measure upon this important subject. There are to be some provisions as to 'limited owners' (i.e., tenants for life, or under settlements, trustees, &c.), partly intended to secure the payment or repayment of compensation, and partly to facilitate the granting of long leases, which, it will be observed, is one object of the Act to promote.

Such limited owners may create charges on the property in order to secure repayment of compensation by way of annuities payable to themselves. And such owners also are to be empowered to grant agricultural leases for long terms, under certain restrictions, of the usual character, not to exceed 31 years, for a fair yearly rent, &c.

Such are to be the provisions of the measure, either as to compensation to tenants or leases to tenants.

Then comes another great head of the measure—i.e., as to sales of land to tenants.

In the first place it is provided what landlords may sell,—that is, not only absolute owners in fee simple, but even tenants for life under settle-

ments, or lessees for lives or years, renewable for ever, or even for years, if sixty years remain unexpired.

The parties are to agree between themselves as to the price or purchase money; but when they have agreed, the Commissioners of Public Works may, upon their application, make proper inquiries as to encumbrancers or owners, &c., and if they think right, under all the circumstances, they may allow and carry out a sale, the purchase-money to be paid as they think best, and the land to be conveyed to the tenants by them; such conveyance to constitute a good title, free from all encumbrances, except certain specified charges,—i.e., the rent charges, charge for draining, &c.

The Board are to have full power to determine all necessary questions, and to determine finally, though with the power, if they think proper, to submit questions to the Court, that is, the Court for Land Cases Reserved, or the Civil Bill Court, according as the former Court may think proper. And the Privy Council in Ireland may make such rules as may appear to be required for carrying out this portion of the Act.

So much as to sales to tenants. Next as to advances to landlords or tenants, whether for improvements or purchases.

The provisions under this head appear to be partly in aid of the previous provisions of the Bill as to compensation to tenants and partly in aid of their power to purchase. The first provision is that landlords from whom compensation is due (provided it is not by reason of their disturbance of their tenants) may obtain an advance of it from the Land Board, subject to a charge of the interest.

So landlords may obtain advances for reclamation of waste lands. So tenants who have purchased lands they held may obtain advances of as much as three-fourths of the purchase-money.

Then there is to be an important provision that where a landlord is willing to sell his estate and his tenants are willing to purchase three-fourths of it, but are not able to purchase the whole, and other purchasers can be found to take the residue, the Board may, in like manner, make advances to them to enable them to do so. All such advances are to be charges on the land, and subject to interest. The Board, in making advances, is to be under the control of the Treasury.

Such are the main provisions of the Bill. The remainder are merely auxiliary or supplemental.

Among these, however, is a highly important provision—a positive prohibition of mere tenancies-at-will. No letting at will, or less than from year to year, is to be valid, except for some merely temporary purpose, and the tenant is to be deemed tenant from year to year.

Among the definitions there is also this, which must be kept constantly in mind, as it overrides the entire measure, that the Act is to apply only to farms or other holdings of an agricultural or pastoral character. That is, speaking broadly, the Act applies only to agricultural tenancies. Moreover, it is to be borne in mind that improvements are to be defined in the Act, and are to be taken to mean works which add to the letting value and are suitable to the holding; but there is to be a special provision that these include tillage, manures, fallows, and other like farming works, so far as they are unexhausted—a provision substantially similar to the customary tenant right of most of the English counties.

Finally, it is to be observed that there is to be a provision that the act applies to all agricultural tenants, whether from year to year, or for terms of years, or for life, or lives (except such tenancies as are expressly excluded by any of the provisions of the Bill), and such tenants, on their terms or tenancies existing or determining, are to be deemed to continue tenants until the compensation to which they may be entitled has been received by them.

It will be seen that, as already pointed out, the right to compensation—i.e., retrospective compensation—is the pivot of the Bill, the main provision upon which all the rest turns. It only remains to point out what is a necessary inference, though not expressly declared,—that upon a purchase by the tenant he will be entitled to set off any claim to compensation, for there is to be, as will have been seen, an enactment that the amount of compensation is to constitute a debt due from the landlord to the tenant, and until it is discharged the tenant is to remain entitled to the tenancy.—*Times*.

We have given in another column, extracts from many of the leading journals of England and Ireland, Protestant as well as Catholic, upon the Land Bill, whose most important provisions we have now laid before our readers, who are in a position to judge for themselves as to its merits, or its demerits. It may perhaps be objected to it that it is exceptional legislation, but the social condition of Ireland is in like manner exceptional, and this condition is the result of the unwise, wicked, and exceptional legislation of the last century. The proof of the measure however will be its working; and should it work well, should it serve the purpose of its designers, it matters little whether it be theoretically perfect, and to the Gladstone Bright Ministry will belong the honor of having solved the most important, and most intricate problem that has ever presented itself to the British statesman.

The Order for the second reading of the Irish Land Bill came up in the House of Commons on the 7th inst., but the attendance was thin. Mr. Bryan for Kilkenny, moved the six month's houn, seconded by Mr. White. Mr. Fortescue, Irish Secretary, defended the Bill, which was opposed by Mr. Ball of Dublin University.—The debate was continued on the 10th, but elicited nothing of much interest. Mr. Osborne the newly elected member for Waterford was loudly cheered upon taking his seat in the House.

A cable despatch—we do not vouch for its accuracy—assures us that the Right Rev. Dr. McGettigan has been raised to the dignity of

Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of Ireland.

We regret that we are unable to lay before our readers our usual extracts from the *Vatican* on the Council. Nothing has come to light since our last of any importance, but it is believed in high quarters that the question of the Pope's infallibility will soon be settled, and that the Council will conclude its labors by the end of June.

The debate on the second reading of the Irish Land Bill was closed by Messrs. D'Israeli and Gladstone, after which the House divided, and the result was that the second reading was carried by a majority of 431; the numbers being 442 to 11. The real fight will be in Committee, when several important amendments will no doubt be proposed.

SERIOUS DEFECTION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.—M. Mederic Lanctot, who acquired uneenviable notoriety in connection with some dirty transactions in the City Council, has abandoned the Catholic Faith, and having been set free by the "Truth as it is in Jesus," has declared himself a Protestant. The Anabaptist sect has the honor, such as it is, of numbering this "babe of grace" amongst its members. The corrupt old Romish Church will scarce be able to survive such a blow.

The *Montreal Herald* opines that the British Government will not actively interfere for the protection of the Canadian fisheries against the encroachments of the U. States fishermen: if so we see not how the announced policy of our Government with respect to them can be enforced. Our navy according to the *Herald* consists of six fast sailing schooners.

By the recent decision of the Court of Arches it appears that the ministers of the Anglican denomination are legally entitled to wear the vestments—the cope, chasuble, &c.—of the Catholic priest; but are strictly prohibited from, as indeed they, as mere laymen, are incapable of exercising any of the peculiar sacerdotal functions of which the vestments, and altar ornaments are typical. This is millinery with a vengeance.

The price of gold has been steadily falling in the United States, so that a speedy resumption of specie payment is looked forward to. Silver, too, is again making its appearance, and should this continue, Canada will soon be set free from the so-called "silver nuisance." We may perhaps have cause to regret its disappearance.

Senator Retels, the black successor of Mr. J. Davis for Mississippi, made his debut by a motion for the pardon of his predecessor.—Considering that Mr. Davis, after years of long and cruel imprisonment, has never been even tried for, much less then convicted of, any offence, we see not how he can be a fit subject for pardon.

It has been insinuated that Mr. Bright's absence from his place in the House of Commons is due, not to indisposition, but to his disapproval of the Land Bill. A letter written to Mr. Gladstone by Mr. Bright in which the latter gives his unqualified adhesion to the Ministerial measure, as "just and comprehensive," disposes of this rumor.

THE TECHNOLOGIST.—This is the title of a new monthly publication brought out at New York, devoted to the Engineering, Manufacturing, and Building interests of the country. It is handsomely got up, contains neat illustrations, and much useful information.

The steamer *Schmidt*, fifty-one days out from Bremen has just arrived at New York, giving hopes for the safety of the *City of Boston*. It must be remembered however that the heavy Westerly gales which retarded the *Schmidt*, were in favor of the steamer bound to Europe.

We are without tidings of the steamer *City of Boston* and little hopes for her safety can now be entertained. The Bremen steamer *New York* reports having encountered a large number of icebergs on her last trip.

It is said that the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess is about to pay a visit to Ireland.

Owing to the numbers of communications we have lately received, and their great length, we have been obliged to put some of them on our sixth page.

(To the Editor of the True Witness)

SIR,—On the 24th inst., I had occasion to visit Peterboro and I shall long remember the pleasure I experienced on the afternoon of that day. The children of the Convent of Notre Dame gave one of their charming entertainments. The Church (they have not as yet a hall sufficient to receive such an audience) was crowded, so that very few more could be accommodated within its walls. From the commencement to

the close of their performances every one was delighted with the little actresses. The Piano (an excellent instrument) was almost entirely monopolized by Miss Carey, a child from Quebec, whose success in that delightful accomplishment should satisfy any one that there is nothing to be desired in that department of education in the Convent of Peterboro. This little drama "Indolence Punished," was so perfectly executed that they might well challenge the proficient in the histrionic art, of their own age, to accomplish more than they. Long will poor honest Gossiping Nancy be remembered by those who so much admired her on that night.

Although I said Miss Carey monopolized the piano, there were other pianos and other performers too; who, from the applause that followed each performance, should and did satisfy them that their proficiency was admired and duly appreciated.

To give your readers a detailed account of the entertainment would be only to reproduce what they have so frequently heard of as having taken place in those institutions over which the gifted Sisters of Notre Dame preside. I will only add that nowhere have they ever succeeded in accomplishing a greater amount of good in so short a time, than in Peterboro.

Their house, a very beautiful one, is located on one of the highest grounds of that prosperous town, and is therefore one of the most healthy and desirable selections that could be made for an educational establishment. The town of Peterboro is of easy access either from Port Hope or Lindsay. Two daily trains connect Peterboro with North and South, so that if parents living in the neighborhood, or along the chain of lakes running out North, neglect to avail themselves of the advantages thus offered, they must give some other excuse than the lack of easy access to, or of efficiency in, the highly favored Convent of Peterboro.

I have purposely omitted giving you any report of the speeches at the close of the Concert, because I did not hear them, and because such speeches are always truly eloquent and very appropriate; but I must not let the present occasion pass without congratulating the gifted Vicar General, the Very Rev. O. Kelly, on the happy results of his labors, not only in Peterboro, where his exertions in favor of education are so well and widely known, but also in Brockville where stands one of the noblest Churches in Canada to attest his great energy and zeal.

Spec.

(To the Editor of the True Witness.)

MR. EDITOR,—One of the principal Catholic journals of the United States, the *Boston Pilot* of the 26th inst., contains the following, copied from the *Brooklyn Catholic*:—

"MORAL POISONERS OF SOCIETY.

"At St. Paul's Church, New York, Rev. Father Young delivered an effective sermon, to a large congregation that filled the aisles of the Church. He condemned most earnestly a certain class of weekly papers, with sensational stories, that found their way into the hands of the young and innocent, soiling their minds and tainting with impurity their moral nature.

"The stories in these papers were based upon the breaking of the Commandments, upon adultery, theft, and murder. 'I ask you,' said the reverend father, 'husbands, brothers, fathers, to lend me your assistance in repressing this vicious literature by carefully guarding your young people from perusing this style of paper. If you will give me your support in this matter rise in your seats as an answer to my appeal.'

"The effect was marked; in response the whole congregation, as by one impulse, rose to their feet."

Now, Sir, these wretched publications, so justly titled *moral poisoners* are almost as widely circulated in Canada as in the United States. We find them in the meanest cottage, in the most retired village, in the very backwoods, and too often alas, in the hands of Catholic boys and girls. They not only contain wretchedly written sensational stories, founded on adultery, theft, murder, gambling, and every other vice, but their pages are also ornamented with the most shameless illustrations which first attract the attention of the reader, and lead him or her to dig deeper, and search out what descriptions or stories these illustrations are attached to. The poison is thus imbibed, the disgraceful figures and sensational stories do their work, and soon the result becomes manifest; the young maiden ruined, the young culprit hanged, the broken-hearted parent led to the grave by the crimes of the child. And how long is this to continue? How long is society to be the victim of such a scourge? Catholic parents, you can arrest the progress of this sword of destruction, by tearing such publications from the hands of your children, by burning them before their eyes; and if there need be for so doing—by petitioning the proper authorities to prevent the introduction of these missiles of Satan.

Let our clergy also make one decisive and united effort, and with the help of God, this baneful weed will soon be rooted from the land. Both here and in the United States we have Catholic jour-

nals, without number, whose literature is both instructive and entertaining; and why shall not every Catholic parent, whose means allow him to do so, subscribe for at least one of them? If the clergy of the different dioceses, request their parishioners to subscribe for some one of those papers I am sure they will obtain a cordial support. I know that many have so done, and thereby shed lustre on their parish and on themselves, but all should do so.

That success may crown both efforts, is the fervent wish of

Yours, etc., etc.,
SHAMROCK.

Ottawa, March 3rd, 1870.
P.S.—Many thanks to friend "Spec." for his compliments. The musicians of Quebec have a worthy panegyrist.

S.

THE SEPARATE SCHOOLS—THEIR SANDY FOUNDATION.

To the Editor of the True Witness.

SIR,—The R. C. Separate Schools of Ontario rest on a sandy foundation beside the Common Schools which rest on a permanent and fixed basis. Any supporter of a Separate School may legally withdraw his children and his property at the end of any year from the Separate School and place them in the Common school. All the supporters of a Separate School may withdraw and leave the Separate School alone in its glory. The Separate School Trustees cannot tell what their resources will be beyond the end of any year, or whether they will continue to exist at all or not. They cannot borrow money to build and create a sinking fund providing for the extinction of their debt at the end of ten years from the date of the loan, or at any other term. They cannot make any calculations except on sand.

Not so with the supporters of Common Schools. No individual Protestant can escape the rate-bill for the Common School. If he dislikes the way in which the Common School is managed he may do so,—he may take his children away from it and even place them in the Separate School or in a Select School, or in no school at all if he likes. If he is very angry with Trustees or Teacher or children attending the schools of his section he enjoys the privilege of being angry—he may even nurse his wrath to keep it warm, if his taste leads him to indulge in that kind of pastime; but one inch of his property he cannot withdraw from taxation for the Common School. This is a wise provision of the law. Everyone who knows anything of the management of schools, knows, or ought to know, that the liberty to go off in a pout from one school to another, is an injurious liberty—injurious to parents who would thus be enabled to perpetuate their dissensions—to children whose progress would be retarded, and to trustees whose action would be paralyzed, as they would be unable to enter into any contract with anything like an approximate knowledge of their resources. This enactment of the law is wise, it protects all interests. It withholds a liberty of choice which would be destructive of the best interests of those on whose behalf it would exist, and of the Common School system. It places the Common Schools on a fixed, solid and permanent foundation—it gives to each one of them well defined dimensions, an individual and independent existence and power of action necessary for its continued maintenance and support. This is the foundation on which the Common School reposes. Now let us look at the Separate School. Its foundation is quite different, it exists from year to year. The parents supporters may withdraw and send to the Common School, or, if another Separate School exists within three miles of their residence, they may send to it. They may wander from school to school in the exercise of a liberty not enjoyed by their more fortunate neighbors. The Trustees never can make any calculations looking into the future for fulfillment; all is sand, uncertainty, doubt, and consequent paralysis.

A word of enquiry now, and I have done. Why has our Legislature provided so different a basis for the two classes of schools? So solid for the Common, and so sandy and shifting for the Separate? Was it the intention of the Legislature to make such unequal provision? If so, why? Is there anything in the nature of the Separate School that requires sand for its foundation? If not, has our legislature acted wisely with us—has it acted honestly?

HONOR CUI HONOR.

Lindsay, Feb. 22, 1870.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS—ANOMALOUS INSPECTION.

There is a peculiarity in the inspection of Separate Schools which appears to deserve a little notice. In cities, towns, and incorporated villages, the R. C. Separate School Boards like the Common School Boards, have the right to appoint their own Local Superintendents. In this respect the Common and Separate Schools are on a footing of perfect equality, with rights and duties identical. Not so in rural sections. There the Local Superintendent of the Common Schools is also Superintendent of the Separate Schools. The County Council makes the appointment, and has the right to appoint whom-