

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, IN ENGLISH AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

At No. 663, Craig Street, by J GILLIES.

G. E. CLERK, 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 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, 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, JANUARY 13, 1871.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

JANUARY.—1871.

Friday, 13.—Octave of the Epiphany. Saturday, 14.—St. Hilary, B. C. D. Sunday, 15.—Second Sunday after Epiphany. Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Monday, 16.—St. Marcellinus, P. M. Tuesday, 17.—St. Anthony, Ab. Wednesday, 18.—St. Peter's Chair at Rome. Thursday, 19.—St. Canute, M.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Telegrams report French victories over the Prussians, or Prussian victories over the French, according as they are transmitted to us from French, or from Prussian sources.— Though perplexing, this mode of conveying intelligence has this advantage, that it satisfies both Prussian and French sympathisers; as every one readily believes to be true, that which he wishes to be true. If we might hazard an opinion, we would say that we think that, on the whole, the prospects of France are brightening. She has armies in the field which have acquired some amount of moral consistency or power of cohesion; which can fight well, and which can retreat in good order when circumstances require it. On the other hand, the Prussians, far from their base, must be hard put to it to keep their men in condition, to fill up the ever recurring blanks in their ranks, caused by disease and shot, and to drag to the front the vast supplies of ammunition required for the arduous task of reducing Paris by bombardment. The weather has been also severely cold in France, causing much suffering to both the belligerents, but, one would suppose, more especially to the besieging army. In spite of the bull-dog tenacity of the Germans, we think therefore that the heroic resistance of Paris, seconded by the French armies in the field, will ultimately compel the first named to relinquish their hold, and to fall back upon their own resources.

The death of Prim had not been followed, up to the receipt of our latest telegrams, by any general outbreak in Spain. The young Piedmontese prince had been received in Madrid without enthusiasm, but without any strongly displayed signs of hostility. This quiet can not be expected to last long; nor is the reign of Amadeus likely to prove one whit more happy than was that of the intrusive King Joseph, whom the first Napoleon set up.

Rome has had a flying visit from Victor Emmanuel, who however remained there but a day. During his sojourn it seems that he took up his abode in the Quirinal Palace, the property of his illustrious victim, whose palace he—Victor Emmanuel—has confiscated—or to use a novel and appropriate Yankeeism applied to dishonest appropriations of property—has "Jinfiscated."

The released Fenian prisoners may shortly be expected on this Continent, where no doubt a great public manifestation awaits them.— There is still a good deal of excitement on the "Fishery Question" amongst our neighbors to the South. It is to them an object of much importance that they should have the run of the fishing grounds now the exclusive property of British subjects, and the free use of the canals which make the St. Lawrence the outlet from the great Lakes to the sea. For these advantages they are not however willing to pay the price asked by Canada, that is to say, "Reciprocity," and therefore, as they cannot buy, they propose to take them, either by force, or by bullying us into "Annexation." That this would be the policy of the Northern States if victorious over the South; that the success of the former would be fatal to the independence of Canada; and that the subjugation of the sovereign and independent States of Virginia, Carolina, &c., would be followed by insolent and aggressive designs upon British North America—every one not a born fool must have foreseen from the outbreak of the war betwixt North and South. The news to be lamented

issue of that war is now producing its natural and inevitable results in the insolent demands of the Yankee government for our Fisheries and our Canals. In short, on the first favorable opportunity we are to be treated, so the Yankee press tells us, as Rome has been treated by Piedmont.

A report has reached us from that unhappy Red River, that Riel has been poisoned. This has not been confirmed, and God grant that it may prove untrue; for if it be fact, it will be the signal for the outbreak of fresh troubles in that remote and inaccessible corner of the world, with which, in an evil hour, and with an insane lust for more territory, we were foolish enough to burden ourselves.

We give below the latest telegrams from Europe and the seat of war. It will be seen that Fort D'Issy is reported to be silenced by the Prussian fire. This, if true, is a serious blow to Paris, but as it reaches us from Prussian sources, it must be received with caution:—

VERSAILLES, Jan. 5, via LONDON, Jan. 6.—The German batteries to the south of Paris, whose armament has been effected without interruption by the enemy, to-day bombarded Forts Issy, Vanvera and Montrouge, as well as the French entrenchments at Ville Juif and Point Jour, and the French gunboats on the Seine. The bombardment on the north-east part of Paris has also been continued with great energy, partly by the newly erected batteries. The results, thus far, have been most favourable to the Germans, notwithstanding the prevalence of heavy fog.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—It is said that the casemates of Fort Rosny, east of Paris, have been destroyed by the fire of the German guns.

The German heavy guns at Meudon, south-east of Paris, as well as other batteries in that direction, are now in position and ready for use.

The average mortality of the German regiments engaged in the siege of Paris, up to the 31st ult., is stated at 2 per cent.

The Prussian garrison at Rouen has been reinforced.

The advance of the French from Havre, which is to be aided by gunboats, awaits the departure of the ice from the Seine.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The French under General Roy are retreating. They were beaten by the Prussians in two encounters on the 4th instant on the left bank of the Seine.

The Prussians report an effective bombardment of Paris on the south and north-east sides of the city, and also from gunboats on the river.

Count Von Bismarck has expressed his reluctance to accept Earl Granville's denial of the violations of neutrality.

The King of Holland has issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Luxemburg promising them his unwavering attachment, and reassuring them of the maintenance of the Duchy, which, he points out, is guaranteed by the signatures of the chief European Powers.

It is proposed to increase the strength of the regiments of the English army as follows:—Cavalry, 1,800; Infantry, 1,200; Artillery, 5,000; Engineer Corps, 300.

A crowded meeting was held at Liverpool to-day in favour of the reorganization of the army.

The London Observer says the conference of the Powers will certainly meet before the end of January. The refusal of France to attend is not considered final, but whether France is represented or not, the conference will assemble.

Herald special dated LONDON, Jan. 8.—It is semi-officially announced that it is impossible to fix a definite time for the meeting of Conference, in consequence of the absence of the French representative. The true cause of the difficulty, however, is the embarrassing position of England, by reason of the formal notification of Russia that the Black Sea clause of the Paris Treaty has been already abrogated by the action of the Emperor, and that it is out of the power of the Conference to alter the decision.

O'Donovan Rossa and other Fenians were released at Chatham to-day, when they proceeded to Liverpool, for the purpose of leaving the country.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The British Government, it is said, pays the expenses of the released Fenian convicts to the United States.

The Government of Paris has issued a decree announcing the consolidation of all military organizations, and the entire able-bodied male population, with the regular army, for the defence of the city.

LILLE, Jan. 7.—Faidherbe, in an official communication, says his army did not retreat on the night after the 3rd, but remained in occupation of the villages they had conquered, and went into their encampments only on the following morning.

As to the pursuit of which the Germans boast, the only fact to support it is, that on the morning of the fourth two squadrons of cavalry charged the French rear-guard; one of them

was annihilated, and the other wheeled off and fled.

Most of the French captured at Nuits have escaped since the evacuation of Dijon, or have been delivered by Franco-Tireurs—a reign of terror is commencing, a battle is imminent between Werder and the forces of Garibaldi. Bourbaki's army of the North has been refitted and will shortly be prepared for offensive action.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 5.—Eight arrests have been made in the department of Saone and elsewhere of suspected Bonapartist agents. They will probably be tried by Court Martial.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The Times' special correspondent with the army of Prince Frederick Charles describes the fighting along the Loire in the forest of Vendome and at Montaine on the 6th inst., and says the French retreated to the westward. The Prussians are following them, and meet with but little resistance.

The German prisoners captured by the French are sent to the Island of Oleron, on the west coast of France and opposite the mouth of the Charente.

BERLIN, 9.—The King telegraphs to the Queen as follows:—

VERSAILLES, 8.—Frederick Charles continues his victorious advance on Le Mans. Everything has been quiet in the North since the 3rd. The bombardment here is proceeding favourably. The barracks in Fort Vanvers are on fire.

(Signed,) WILLIAM.

The advance columns of the German forces in the Valley of the Loire have leveled Nogent, Le Rotroy, Sarge, Lovigny, and La Chatre. They encountered an obstinate resistance along the whole line.

A detachment of the army investing Belfort stormed the village of Doujouton, south of that city, on Saturday, and took 700 prisoners.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Telegrams from Versailles to the Times, to-day, say the American Consul has been permitted to leave Paris, and has arrived here. The Prussian guns could easily shell the city; there are several houses in Paris on fire; there has apparently not been much firing to-day. The French redoubt at Notre Dame de Clamart is occupied by the Prussians and its fire turned against the French; there are no appearances of a sortie. The Prussian losses are still insignificant.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 8, eve.—The bombardment of the Paris fortifications is kept up with vigor and effect. The barracks of Fort Montrouge have been set on fire and destroyed. It is reported some shells have fallen in the gardens of the Luxemburg. A correspondent at Margency says Forts Rosny and Nogent have suffered severely and that it is believed there are no French infantry outside the fortifications on the East and North-East. Paris is active, and offensive operations are expected immediately.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The Standard to-day intimates editorially that if new negotiations upon the subject of the Alabama claims should fail to be entered upon, the fact will prove that the delay is due to the United States, and not to England.

DUBLIN, Jan. 9.—The majority for Mr. Martin, elected to the House of Commons from Meath, is 456. In response to a call made upon him by the inhabitants, however, Mr. Martin expressed doubts as to whether he should attend the British Parliament.

The subjoined is a copy of the letter addressed by Mr. Gladstone to the late Lord Mayor of Dublin on the subject of the release of the Fenian prisoners:—

DOWLING STREET, Dec. 15, 1870. GENTLEMEN—I have to inform you that Her Majesty's government have carefully considered the case of the convicts now undergoing their sentences for treason and treason-felony, and that they have recommended to the Crown the exercise towards them of the royal clemency, so far as it is compatible with the assured maintenance of tranquillity and order in the country. They will therefore be discharged upon the condition of not remaining in, nor returning to, the United Kingdom.

These prisoners were most justly condemned for participation, either secretly or by open violence, in a conspiracy which, if in any degree successful, would have filled Ireland with misery and bloodshed; and the same principles of justice which dictated their sentences would amply sanction the prolongation of their imprisonment if the public security demanded it.

It is this last question, therefore, which has formed the subject of careful examination by Her Majesty's government; and they have been able to come to the conclusion that, under the existing circumstances of the country, the release of the prisoners, guarded by the condition which I have stated, will be perfectly compatible with the paramount interests of public safety, and, being so, will tend to strengthen the cause of peace and loyalty in Ireland. There happily appears to be a concurrence of circumstances favorable to such an exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy. Ireland is at present remarkably prosperous, and generally free from turbulence or disorder.

Its quiet condition shows a most marked improvement upon that which prevailed a year ago. Since that time Parliament has again proved, as it had done in the previous session, its readiness to confront the most difficult questions of Irish legislation with a view to sincere reforms, and effectual remedies; while it has not failed to maintain the authority of the law by conferring special and necessary powers upon the Irish government. These things have swelled the numbers and strengthened the hands of that great body of men of all parties and creeds representing the property, intelligence, and religion of Ireland which is on the side of order and loyalty, while they have weakened the powers of disaffection and revolution. The earnest desire

of Her Majesty's Ministers is to act in all things so as to favor the advance of this healing process; and it is because they believe that the release of the convicts now suffering under sentences of imprisonment for treason and treason-felony will assist in this work that they have arrived at their present decision. That decision, they are well aware, is in accordance with strong opinions and compassionate feelings very widely prevalent in Ireland, but happily not displaying themselves in any popular agitation or any turbulent demands, such as would render compliance inconsistent with the due authority of government or afford to the evil-disposed an excuse, of which there cannot now be a shadow, to misrepresent an act which is one of pure clemency on the part of the Queen. I leave the honor to be gentlemen, your very faithful servant.

W. E. GLADSTONE.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.—It is proposed by some to find a solution for the insoluble problem—How to make "unsectarian" education religious. Thus it was a short time ago announced that,—

"The Times expressed confidence in the belief that the House of Commons would exclude sectarianism, but not religion from the Education Bill then before that body."

The problem is, by its very terms insoluble; if by religion is meant Christianity, as distinguished from pure deism, or natural religion; and if by "sectarianism" is meant these positive religious teachings which are peculiar to some bodies calling themselves Christian, but which are repudiated by some others.

There is no one distinctive Christian doctrine, or doctrine which distinguishes Christianity from natural religion, bare theism, or rationalism, that is not repudiated by some one Protestant body, or another; not one distinctively Christian doctrine on which all Christians or at all events persons calling themselves Christians, agree. The doctrine of the Trinity is "sectarian" because by a very large portion of the Protestant community it is repudiated; the doctrine of the "Incarnation," or of "God made man"—that of the Conception of Jesus in the womb of the B. Virgin, by the Holy Ghost—that of the Atonement—that of the eternity of future punishment for the wicked—that of the Inspiration of the book commonly called the Bible, are all in like manner "sectarian," because there is not one which is not in whole, or in part, repudiated by some section or another of the Protestant community. Even the first clause of the creed—"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth" is not universally admitted by all Protestants; since as we have shown from the columns of the Montreal Witness, many sound evangelical Protestants hold to the eternal existence of matter, of which God was not the Creator, but merely the manipulator. From the *Credo* down to the *Amen*, there is not one item in the Apostles' Creed to which the term "sectarian" may not be applied.

The problem, which the Times was so sanguine as to believe that the House of Commons would be able to solve in the interests of primary education, is the self-same problem as that which it has hitherto not been able to solve in the matter of University Tests. That problem is how to maintain the distinctively Christian character of the great English Universities; and at the same time to throw those national places of Education open to all British subjects? In a word, how to rid them of their "Sectarianism" without purging them altogether of their Christian character. This problem was discussed at length in a late number of *Blackwood*, and a perusal of the article should suffice to convince the most sanguine that no solution is, in the nature of things, possible.

It is not merely that Christianity, as considered in its relations with the religions professed by numbers of Jewish and Mohammedan British subjects is itself essentially "sectarian," or exclusive; but there is as yet no common Christian faith, no one article of faith on which all who call themselves Christians are agreed. No matter then how much the existing Tests for admission to the dignities of the Universities may be enlarged or relaxed, so long as a single religious Test of any kind be exacted from a postulant for these honors, the higher offices of the Universities will be beyond the reach of numbers of the Queen's professing Christian subjects; and so long as any are, because of their religious views, excluded, the Universities are, and must remain, "Sectarian," not "national" institutions.

The writer in *Blackwood* has a glimmering of this truth, and it is amusing to see how he tries to shut his eyes to it, and to ignore its existence. "Tests" we must have, he argues, of some kind or other; or else our Universities will cease to be Christian; but how is this to be accomplished without excluding the members of some dissenting Protestant sect? is the question which he has to answer—and he adds "the question must be answered we entirely admit?" In groping after an answer he stumbles, and splashes up words, and flounders from one logical quagmire into another, till the aspect of the man is pitiable, so debauched is he with absurdities. First he suggests as an answer, that there be imposed as a form of Test "a declaration of a general adhesion to the Christian belief;" but then what is the "Christian belief?" So as he can evidently

find no answer to this question, he proposes to relax even this Test as too stringent, too exclusive; and to require in lieu thereof a profession of belief in "the existence of a God," and "in a future state of rewards and punishments, as the condition of education in the English Universities." But as the Jew, but as the Mahomedan, but as the majority of rationalists would all make such a profession, there is evidently nothing distinctively Christian about it; and so by implication the Conservative writer whose object is to maintain exclusive Tests as the only means of upholding the distinctively Christian character of the Universities, finds himself forced to accept a Test which has nothing distinctively Christian about it; and which Jews and Mahomedans, and Hindoo idolaters, might subscribe to, without violation of conscience. In a word, it is impossible to "unsectarianize" the Universities, without, by the same act, "un-Christianising" them.

And what holds true of the Universities holds true of the schools which the State proposes to set up in England and Scotland. If these are to have any distinctive Christian religious character at all, they must needs be "sectarian," not only as against Jews, and Mahomedans, and other non-Christian subjects of the Queen; but they must also be "sectarian" as against some who call themselves, and who are commonly called Christians. Mr. Forster, the author of the Bill lately under consideration clearly saw this, and objected therefore to the use of the book called the Bible, and the giving of religious instruction of any kind in schools—as the rock on which the State-School system of the U. States was going to pieces. Mr. Forster is right, quite right. Every system of education that is not utterly godless must be more or less "sectarian;" the reading of the Bible if it imply anything, implies that the book is the Word of God, and is therefore "sectarian" as against the large and daily increasing class of Protestants who deny the inspiration of the whole, or at all events of parts of the Bible; who refuse to admit it to be the Word of God in any higher sense than the *Koran*, or than the *Talmud*, or than *Moses' History of England*, is the Word of God. Religious Education necessarily implies Denominational Education; and it is upon this principle—a self-evident principle, we may call it—that Mr. Forster's Bill was framed, and that the youth of England were, according to its provisions to be thenceforward educated. In order to get rid of "sectarianism" it is now proposed to force Christians to pay for the support of a non-Christian school system; and this is what Liberals call justice!

"ABOVE ALL GENTLEMEN, NO ZEAL."— Though not forming actually a portion of the Ordination service of the Anglican denomination, these words do most faithfully express the spirit, or vital principle of that section of the Protestant community whose faith is defined, and relations with God are determined, by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. To pray moderately, to believe moderately, to love God moderately, to do all things in moderation, is the fundamental principle of Anglicanism. Thus in our very able contemporary, the *Montreal Gazette* of the 3rd inst., in a short review of the most important events of the past year, the following brief, but most significant paragraph is devoted to the Church of England and its fortunes:—

"The Privy Council has during the last ten years been forced by circumstances to a minute study of the catechism, articles and canons of the church. The result of their decisions has been to show that, while they allow considerable latitude in the interpretation of scripture and Articles of Belief, they feel it their duty to restrain a too demonstrative exhibition of faith in the doctrines of Christianity."

The Privy Council, and the other authorities of the Anglican Church do more; not only do they discourage any "too demonstrative exhibition of faith in the doctrines of Christianity," but they to the utmost of their ability, discountenance, as alien to the spirit of Anglicanism, "too firm a faith, or belief in those doctrines." Its members are required to believe moderately, and its ministers are exhorted to preach moderately, and to be careful not to insist too strongly on any article of the Christian creed.

We have before our eyes the analysis, as made by the London Times, of "the fourth and last Blue Book of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the rubrics of the Prayer Book," and of the "final report" of the gentlemen to whom the important and difficult task of revising the Prayer Book was committed. Of course as it was the Ritualists, who by their immoderate belief in the doctrines of Christianity, and by their too public demonstration of the faith that was in them, who gave occasion to this Commission, they, the offenders against moderation, come in for a large share in the Report. But not the Ritualists alone, for there are others, who without being obnoxious to the charge of Romanism, are nevertheless a stumbling block and an offence because of their immoderate faith in the doctrine of the Trinity, and their too demonstrative exhibition of that faith as displayed in the reading in their respective