

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY.....DEC. 20, 1882

CATHOLIC CALENDAR.

DECEMBER.

THURSDAY, 21.—St. Thomas, Apostle. Sp. Res. Detroit, died, 1871.
FRIDAY, 22.—Ember Day. Fast.
SATURDAY, 23.—Ember Day. Fast.
SUNDAY, 24.—Fourth Sunday in Advent.
Vigil of Christmas. Epist. Rom. 1:1-6; Gosp. Matt. 1:18-21.
MONDAY, 25.—Christmas Day. First Mass. Epist. Tit. II. 1:1-5; Gosp. Luke II. 1:1-4.
Second Mass. Epist. Tit. III. 4:7; Gosp. Luke II. 1:1-4. Third Mass. Epist. Heb. 1:1-2; John 1:1-4.
TUESDAY, 26.—St. Stephen, First Martyr.
WEDNESDAY, 27.—St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

It has become necessary once more to call the attention of our subscribers to the large number of subscriptions which remain unpaid after repeated appeals for prompt settlement. Prompt payment of subscriptions to newspapers is an essential of its continuance and usefulness, and must, of necessity, be enforced in the present case. Good wishes for the success of our paper we have in plenty from our subscribers, but good wishes are not money, and these who do not pay for their paper, only add an additional weight to it, and render more difficult that success which they wish or want to be achieved. All who really wish success to THE TRUE WITNESS must realize that it can only succeed by their assistance, and we shall consider the non-payment of subscriptions now an indication that those who so neglect the paper have no wish for its success. We have made several appeals to our subscribers; but we hope that it will prove absolutely effectual, and we justly expect to receive the amount of all cases, without being put to the expense of enforcing collections. Money can be safely forwarded to this office by Post Office order or registered letter. We hope that not one will fall in remitting at once.

The Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury is about the fattest position in the gift of the Queen, or rather of Mr. Gladstone, who is practically the head of the English Church; it is worth \$75,000 a year, besides what can be derived from 177 livings which are at the disposal of the Archbishop. The candidates for the office are numerous, but a personal friend of the Premier, the Bishop of Winchester, is likely to be handed the keys of the Cathedral.

The notorious Judge Lawson is evidently bent on arousing popular indignation, or rather, enmity. His latest sentence was to send a poor farmer to penal servitude for life for an assault upon a bailiff, an offence which would be punished in our courts by a fine of \$10 or one month in jail. Justice is singularly administered in Ireland, but it is not singular that judges such as Lawson should be so heartily execrated, as they are by an outraged people.

Mr. Jones, the sub-professor of Eton College, England, who was ordered by the head official of the Institution to suppress his book in which he depicted the condition of Ireland as it is and according to facts, has, we are now told, been further punished by being dismissed from the college. There is evidently an element of bombast and bosh in all the long talk of British fair play and liberty. It is no credit to be an Englishman if his usefulness must go when he dares to tell the truth about an ill-governed portion of the Empire.

There is still considerable illiteracy in the United States, more than one would expect, when the educational facilities of the country are considered, but not so much as to be ashamed of it, when compared with the chief European nations. According to the latest statistics, the proportion of those unable to read or write in France is 30 per cent; in Germany, 12 per cent; while in England the proportion runs up to 33 per cent. In the United States, on the other hand, in a population of 36,761,807 persons of ten years of age and upward, there were 4,233,451, or a fraction over thirteen per cent returned as unable to read, and 6,239,959, or seventeen per cent as unable to write. The Republic, as can thus be seen, does not suffer from the comparison, as its proportion of illiteracy is brought down quite low. It is in the Southern States that ignorance prevails to the greatest extent; in the sixteen States

of the South the proportion of illiteracy is about 20 per cent, while in the twenty-two States of the North it is scarcely three per cent, so that but for the South the United States would be the most literate in the world. The most ignorant State in the Union is North Carolina, where the proportion of the illiterate is 31.7 per cent, and the most enlightened State is Massachusetts, in which the minimum of illiteracy is found, the proportion being only 0.7 per cent. On the whole there is room for improvement, and with their system of free education illiteracy ought to be completely wiped out in the Republic.

A rival of DeLesseps has come to the surface in England. His name is J. C. King; he has drawn up and published a detailed plan of a grand land junction between England and Ireland. He proposes to build this Anglo-Irish isthmus from Cantyre to Antrim a distance of 19 miles, and to employ thirty thousand able-bodied prisoners to do the work. The English press do not favor the scheme, for much the same reason as they cried down the tunnel between France and England; the London Globe was thoroughly alarmed at the possibility "of thousands of able-bodied Irishmen being able to walk over to Great Britain," and at once set its foot down on the scheme. The physical or bodily union between the two countries was too awful to contemplate, when they fare so ill under a legislative union.

THE "PASSION PLAY"

The project of producing the "Passion Play" in New York has been revived by Samuel Morse. It will be remembered that the idea of presenting this sacred drama two years ago was taken hold of by Mr. A. J. A. a storm of indignation burst over his head. The press and pulpit were united in condemning any attempt at such a cringeous representation, and Mr. A. bowed to the will of the public and stopped his preparations. Mr. Morse, in reviving the project, has awakened popular hostility to the production on the stage of a drama representing the most sacred scenes in the life of the Redeemer of the world. The City Council of New York decided two years ago that "the production of this play in this country, in any public place, would be an insult to the Christian community," and that it was ready to prohibit the presentation if necessary. It was considered that the exhibition would have aroused neither respect for the holy characters represented nor reverence for the Sacrifice of Calvary, but the laughter and jeers of the rabble and the irreverent criticism of infidels. These considerations, which prevailed then, have lost none of their weight since, and should prevail now. The belief that the representation would be a sacrilege highly offensive to a Christian community is as strong now as it was two years ago. Public sentiment is overpowering in favor of its suppression and Mr. Morse should be made to yield to it.

CAPTAIN SHAW RIDICULED.

The American press could not resist the temptation of poking fun at Captain Shaw over the recent disastrous conflagration which laid a large area of the business portion of London in ashes. It will be remembered that this Captain Shaw is Chief of the London Fire Brigade, and that he paid a visit to the principal American cities to inspect the fire systems in use and ascertain if they were run in a better fashion than in England. Shaw was a pretty severe critic in the fire line, just as his imported fellow-citizen, Major-General Luard, is in the militia and volunteer circles. American perfection would not pass for English mediocrity in his eyes. He had no points to gather from our fire systems, but found fault in many instances, and he was in no way bashful in pointing out where they were inferior to the London department. In fact, he made himself, immediately on his arrival, particularly disliked in New York by twitting the Brigade of that city with incompetency and being about as good as useless. The New York firemen felt insulted and they let him know it, so that in the rest of his travels he kept a better guard over his disparaging tongue. The press have not forgotten him, and on the first opportunity have taken their revenge by holding him up to ridicule. The New York Herald thinks he is too "fresh" for anything, and ironically remarks that any blunderer could put a fire out after it had burned over fifteen millions worth of property, covering two acres of land. The New York Star had to laugh at the idea, and could only repeat Shaw's! Another says the next time there is a fire in London that the gallant captain should cable for assistance, and that American brigades would get over to England in time to put in some effective work. There is not much to sneer at in America, and Englishmen should not forget it when they come across.

MEDICAL CO-EDUCATION.

Some little excitement has been created in and around the Queen's University of Kingston by a rather awkward incident which occurred in the Medical Department. The University is run on the co-education principle, that is, the fair sex enjoy equal rights with the other half of mankind in the pursuit of higher education for a professional career. The Medical Department is well patronized by young girls in their teens, and since the opening of the session they mingled with the male students and attended the lectures together, occupying the same benches. It was supposed that when those young ladies consented to form a mixed audience and lend a joint ear to the matter of fact explanations of the critical points of the medical science, they had petrified their sentiments and blind-

folded their young imaginations, or else that they had cast aside all feminine modesty and delicacy. This supposition was unfounded, for they have done neither one nor the other and they have in consequence upset the whole medical department, by going on a strike against a lecture which dealt with a very important point in physiology, but which could not be listened to by a mixed audience unless there was a total absence of imaginative power and passion or a lamentable lack of delicacy. The female students were evidently in an awkward position; to get up and leave the room would be an insult to the Professor, who by the way was as nice as the subject would permit, to remain would be more than their modesty could stand. They decided to march out in as indignant a manner as possible; the Professor was embarrassed; the male students saw that he was insulted, and they either hissed or stamped as the girls marched out and banged the door. The system of co-education, which forced these young girls to retire to a secluded room as far as the medical science is concerned; it is calculated to sap and undermine the morality of the most angelic of the sex; while an adequate knowledge of the science has not been imparted to the male students, who maintain that in every class in the college, owing to the presence of these females, facts and explanations and illustrations, which are essential for them as medical men to know and understand, have either been suppressed altogether or lightly touched upon. Clinical lectures, especially, which are of such importance to students of medicine have, since females have been admitted, been reduced to a minimum, and but little attention is paid to that branch of the science. The male students also complain that there are several diseases which the Professors refrain from treating at all, or at least as they should, although they form a very important part of a doctor's work. Now, these complaints or rather charges are to be taken seriously, for ignorance in a doctor too often means death to a patient; the consequences, as can be seen, are not to be trifled with. Would this Queen's University of Kingston be justified in sending out medical men or women but half equipped and prepared to cure the ills to which humanity is heir, and all for the sake of encouraging the system of co-education. What the University would be acting a criminal part towards the community; to suppress knowledge in this case would be a crime, and that is what the faculty is accused of by the male students. It was wrong in the first place to mix the male and female students; it was very wrong in the second place to withhold essential knowledge of the science from the students, and finally it was wrong for the faculty not to have entertained the protest from the male students on that score. If the University is bound on opening its doors to all indiscriminately, let the two sexes attend the lectures in separate school rooms, let no important information be suppressed and let the faculty acknowledge the injudiciousness of the system of medical co-education.

CHANGES IN THE ENGLISH CABINET.

The reports that Gladstone intended to retire at the present time from active political life, are now proved to be baseless. There has, however, been a general Cabinet shake up, and several changes have been made. The "grand old man" saw that his place could not be easily filled, at least, from the mere aristocratic sections of the Whig party, although clever successors could be found among the more advanced men of the party, the Radicals, but their time has not yet come. Mr. Gladstone had therefore to remain, so that his skill and influence might preserve cohesion among his followers. He, however, severed his dual office, resigning the Chancellorship of the Exchequer and retaining the post of the First Lord of the Admiralty, while Mr. Childers, Secretary of War, will assume the duties of the vacant office. The offer of a seat in the Cabinet to Lord Derby, an ex-Tory, is sufficient proof of the Premier's intention to strengthen and conciliate the Whig landowners. Lord Derby has accepted the offer and he has been given the Secretaryship of India. His presence in the Cabinet is intended to fortify the Whig element in both houses of Parliament, for his family connection and territorial influence are equal to those of any member in the Conservative party.

It is indeed a remarkable sign of the times to see the noble Earl, whose early instincts and associations were of the bluest Tory, mixing up with Liberals, Radicals and dogmatists. Further changes in the Ministry are still under consideration. It is looked upon as quite probable that Sir Charles Dilke, whose political principles are well known to be in opposition to the present form of government, will be taken into the Cabinet as a further concession to the English Radicals; he would be placed at the head of the War Department, in which he is now Under Secretary. Lord Hartington, however, is a candidate for the same office, and his claims may prove paramount to those of the Radical element, and if they do, the ascendancy of the old Whigs will be complete—a fact which will, it is feared, bode ill, not only to the progressive programme of the advanced Liberals and Radicals, but also to the Irish cause. Gladstone has evidently enough on his hands to "unite men who have so little in common, for there is as much antagonism between these conflicting elements of the Liberal party as there is between the Tories and the Whigs. If the Premier can for any

length of time prevent the ill-assorted components of his party from undergoing a process of disintegration, it will be not the least remarkable achievement in his career and an unmistakable evidence of the strength and influence of his leadership. There can be no question but that the Liberal party would go to pieces if Gladstone were to make his exit from off the scene of Parliamentary life just as the Conservatives have been all smashed up since Disraeli died.

LORD DERBY AND BUCKSHOT FORSTER.

Lord Derby did not delay in justifying the predictions made in his regard, that his presence in the Cabinet would bode no good to the Irish cause. One of his first official utterances bore down on the demands of the Irish people. He thought the Government should refuse to listen for an hour to the claim for Irish nationality, in whatever disguise presented. It is, therefore, to be presumed that whatever influence he may possess, is to be exercised against the Irish people. The noble Earl is sure that an Irish Parliament would lead to separation, as two and two make four, and he says "if we don't desire this to become a practical question, we must avoid giving vague pledges which will be construed to mean more than they do." Lord Derby in using this language evidently meant to have a slap at Mr. Gladstone, who but a few days ago acknowledged in the House of Commons that Home Rule was what Ireland was most in need of. Who will dictate the policy of the Cabinet, the chief or the subordinate, Gladstone or Derby? While the new-made Minister was thus inveighing against Ireland in Manchester, Buckshot Forster echoed the same sentiments in Glasgow. He said he was sure that the most powerful Government that ever existed in England would be overthrown if it attempted to introduce Home Rule, which would never be granted, as it involved absolute separation and a great probability of civil war in Ireland. It is to counterbalance such men as Forster and Derby that O'Donovan Rossa and his brigade are in existence. The former would keep the Irish people down with the bayonet to their throats, the latter would keep the Forsters and the Derbys off with the dagger and revolver. There is no difference between them, but in spite of them Ireland will march bravely on to the goal.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE AND THE FENIANS.

Some of the gentlemen of the Associated Press must take great pleasure in getting up "Fenian scares" and telegraphing false and ridiculous stories to the newspapers. Since the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise have gone on their British Columbia tour, we have been informed on several occasions that the Fenians were laying traps for their capture, or were to attempt some other wild and murderous exploit. Another of these contemptible stories has been wired across the continent from San Francisco, stating how the Marquis and the Princess had applied to the American Secretary of War for a military escort, as they feared they might become the victims of a Fenian plot. The Associated Press liar then added that the Secretary of War had ordered ten men and an officer to accompany the party. Stories such as these are used for a purpose, to bring discredit upon the race to which the Fenians belong; but we are happy to see that the immense majority of the Press do not, as of yore, touch such meaningless canards, either on first sight or first hearing, and make them the basis of a fierce attack upon all that is Irish. There are a few journals which will rise up on receiving the news and ask what the Irishmen mean in attempting to harm His Excellency and her Royal Highness? Well, they generally mean no harm, for a contradiction of the lying telegrams generally follows within forty-eight hours. And thus it is in the present instance; the Marquis's Secretary takes the wire after the Associated Pressman has accomplished his dirty work, and telegraphs that "the Royal party's enthusiastic reception on American soil would prevent their asking for an escort even if they desired it, and such a thing has not been thought of." Lincoln, the Secretary of War, says he knows nothing about the military escort, and nothing relating to the matter has been received in any of the branches of the War Department. The Marquis and the Princess are not in the way of the Fenians, and consequently the latter could have no object in removing them. If the Fenians are neither fools nor cranks, Lorne and Louise would be as safe in their midst as within the four walls of the Vice-Royal Lodge at Ottawa.

THE TORONTO "WORLD" AND SECTARIANISM.

The Toronto World, one of these few organs of public opinion that is bound to neither party in politics and seeks the national independence of the Canadian colony, refused the use of its columns to two letters, one of which wanted a North of Ireland Protestant to be made a Senator, and the other complaining that in many offices in the Ontario Civil Service not a single Catholic was employed. The reason why our contemporary refused publication to these letters was because it did not wish to encourage or cultivate sectarian appeals, for it recognized no claim to office other than that of good Canadian citizenship and capacity for the work. Now we entirely and heartily agree with our contemporary, and endorse to the fullest extent this principle, so concisely laid down, and would like to see it made the practical and guiding rule in the matter of appointments to all offices in the Civil Service. But we

think that our contemporary, although actuated in its refusal by a proper spirit, neglected to take a comprehensive view of the civil and official situation of the whole people, and in consequence failed to add that "good Canadian citizenship and capacity for the work should not be ignored in a portion of the population because it belongs to a certain nationality and professes a certain religion. If the Toronto World would cast but a half opened eye around, it would see that Irishmen and Catholics generally are not officially treated as their citizenship and capacity would entitle them to, but which, on the contrary, avail them little or nothing in the eyes of our rulers who happen to represent other elements and other creeds. The fault of these sectarian appeals lies not so much with the people who make them as with the governing powers who give more than sufficient cause and reason for so doing. This sectarianism is not the work of the people who are ignored, it is the result and product of Governmental partiality. To those who govern us must be attached the blame and discredit of what the Toronto World calls sectarian appeals, and not to the citizens who complain of the evident partiality and unfairness which characterizes the distribution of public appointments. By all means, let good Canadian citizenship and capacity be the only claim to office; that is all we want and demand, for then we would be willing and ready to accept the results, but let not the circumstance of a citizen's nationality or religion be destructive of that claim, that is what we do not want and against which we protest, and the results of which we are neither ready nor willing to abide by.

EUROPEANS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

In the next Congress of the United States there will be more than double the number of foreign-born representatives than now hold seats in the present Congress, which will be dissolved on the 4th March next. There are in the present Congress nineteen Senators and Representatives who were born outside of the United States, and in regard to nationality they are divided as follows:—Six Irishmen, two of whom are Senators and four Representatives; six Englishmen, one a Senator and five Representatives; four Scotchmen, one a Senator and three Representatives; three Germans, all Representatives. In the next Congress there will be a remarkable increase of the foreign element, and nearly all in favor of Irishmen. The number of foreign-born Senators remains the same; the number of Representatives runs up to thirty-seven, an increase of twenty-two on the whole. Of the thirty-seven, twenty-seven are Irishmen, or twenty-three more than in the expiring Congress; one is an Englishman, or four less; one is a Scotchman, or two less; eight are Germans, or five more; and a new nationality is represented by one Swede. Counting in the Senators, the numbers would stand: Irishmen, 29; Germans, 8; Englishmen, 2; Scotchmen, 2; Swede, 1. The results are a practical and brilliant demonstration of Irishmen's worth, of the influence which they wield throughout the great American Republic, of their unquestionable capacity for self-government, and of their undoubted ability to rise superior to any other people, when not bowed down by feudal tyranny or exactions, and when not fettered by brutal laws. Irishmen, like water which is not obstructed, will find their level in an atmosphere of freedom and equality. They are coming to the front while other nationalities are sinking into insignificance. The above statistics make a creditable showing as far as they are concerned and will be very valuable and useful for reference when "inferiority of the race" is whispered. Besides there are more to be heard from, and the number twenty-nine, cannot yet be considered a complete return. It is enough, however, for the purpose and Ireland may well remain proud of her exalted sons who triple the number of representatives that the nations of Europe combined can send to sit in the halls of the freest and most popular Legislature in the world.

IMMIGRANTS AMONG CASTLE GARDEN THIEVES.

If the poor emigrants leaving Europe knew what awaited them in Castle Garden, New York, they would certainly select some other port wherein to land on the shores of America. The immigrant depot at Castle Garden is nothing short of being a den of thieves. The whole place is filled with a lot of harpies who victimize the famished immigrant with the greatest impunity; they grow rich out of the mass of human poverty which each steamer throws upon the quays of New York. The immigrants are cheated and robbed in the most barefaced fashion, as has just been shown before a committee of investigation. Extortionate prices, violated contracts, bogus tickets and swindling of every description are among the perils to which they are subjected. It has been ascertained that \$200,000 worth of railroad tickets are annually sold to immigrants at exorbitant rates by dealers and brokers around Castle Garden, who take every opportunity of swindling the new arrivals. The immigrants are not allowed to carry their own little bundles, even if it were only across the road, but must pay the sharks of Castle Garden from forty cents to a dollar and a half for the service. They can scarcely move without being fleeced, and for victims they have been made to purchase them at exorbitant prices, for instance, a sandwich that would cost but two cents would be sold to them for ten. The officials in this den of thieves have gone so far as to give the immigrants hot water to drink, to make them thirsty, so that they would have to buy bad beer which is sold at ten cents a glass. The

New York press admit that this wholesale pillage, reflects severely on the metropolis, and on the whole country; the business is nefarious, and intending emigrants should be made aware of it. There are other ports besides New York, where they will be treated on their arrival in a more human and Christian manner. Castle Garden has been the ruin of many a poor emigrant, and the fewer that pass through it the better for themselves and for their adopted country.

LABOR REPRESENTATION IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

Of all the countries where Parliamentary Government obtains, England is the one in which the workingman is the least represented in the halls of the Legislature, although the nation is largely composed of that class. Labor representation, in fact, is almost unknown in Great Britain, where commerce, industries and manufactures flourish, but in Ireland, where an insignificant minority of the people have but the slightest opportunity of following up the various branches of labor, there is at least a fair attempt at securing representation of this interest. Of course no one wonders at the absence of workingmen from the House of Lords, but from the House of Commons their absence is beginning to attract public attention, and we find that public sentiment is rapidly awakening to the advisability and even necessity of recognizing in this respect the claims of the toiling masses, who are not only the number, but the backbone of the nation. The Conservatives were the first to broach the question of introducing workingmen into the House of Commons. The proposal was no sooner made by them than the Liberals took it up and a letter was written to the Prime Minister on the question of labor representation, and asking whether he did not think workingmen should occupy seats in Parliament. A few weeks ago Mr. Gladstone's Secretary replied as follows:—

Sir.—Mr. Gladstone desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the subject of the representation of labor in the House of Commons, and I am to say that he earnestly desires to see a larger number of workingmen in the House. Representatives of labor should certainly be more numerous in Parliament, and Mr. Gladstone hopes that upon every practicable opportunity workingmen will be brought forward as candidates for seats in Parliament. He fears that workingmen themselves are greatly to blame that they are not more fully represented in the House of Commons. Hitherto the territorial magnates in Great Britain and Ireland enjoyed an excessive monopoly of popular representation to the unfair exclusion of the labor element, whose interests have, as a natural consequence, been inadequately cared for in the matter of impartial and disinterested legislation. There can now be some hope that this monopoly of parliamentary privileges and rights will cease to exist, in face of the Premier's declaration. Gladstone evidently believes that among the workingmen there are many fitted by intelligence and education, who could render important service to the impartial and effective legislation of the country. He says he would like to see a larger representation of the labor element in the House. If this is a sincere conviction on his part and not a simple bid for popularity, he will use his influence to have workingmen brought forward as candidates for seats in Parliament on every practicable opportunity. Mr. Gladstone fears that workingmen themselves are greatly to blame that they are not more fully represented in the House. Now we doubt if the Premier can be justified in attributing the blame to the workingmen instead of to the parliamentary system. Good men could be brought forward as candidates, but the ponderous sterling are not there to cover the immense sums which the landlords are ever ready to plunk down on the election boards. Workingmen who have to struggle for bare existence cannot, even if willing to, meet the expense of an election. Moreover, the members of Parliament receive no emolument, and it would be impossible for a workingman to cover the expenses which would be entailed by a seat in the House. The objection to pay for parliamentary service is pretty well rooted in Great Britain, and while it exists English workingmen cannot hope to effect much progress in their struggle for labor representation, unless they follow the example of the Irish constituencies that have adopted the patriotic proposition of providing pay to meet the expenses of their representatives. It would be preferable and much better for the country to pay its representatives for parliamentary service, and have the feelings of the working classes respected and their interests looked after, than to have an unremunerated Parliament in which the members grow rich and fat by legislation which benefits themselves and not the people.

The Government in Ireland is falling more and more into disrepute. The people loudly cheered Mr. Biggar, M.P., when he denounced the Lord Lieutenant as a blood-thirsty English peer who hanged Lynes and Myles Joyce, although satisfied of their innocence to gratify the English Whigs. A Government which, in popular estimation, is guilty of official murder, can not well lay claim to respect or obedience. Yesterday the Castle issued an order prohibiting a meeting of the National League at Loughrea, but over three thousand members assembled, despite the prohibition, and resolutions to support the League and condemnatory of Gladstone's policy towards Ireland. The end of the agitation is evidently not near at hand, and the people are resolved not to submit until their demands are heard, and their rights are fully conceded.

The ice on the Hudson river is six inches thick.