

The True Witness

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1874.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

FRIDAY.—Good Friday.
SATURDAY.—11th of Holy Saturday.
SUNDAY.—Easter Sunday.
MONDAY.—Of the Octave.
TUESDAY.—Of the Octave.
WEDNESDAY.—Of the Octave.
THURSDAY.—Of the Octave.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

That our soldiers and sailors have got back safe from Coomassie, we have good cause to be thankful; as good cause, as had the stork when it got its head and neck safe out of the jaws of the wolf from whose throat it had volunteered to extract a bone. This is about the sum total of our gains or reward for our hazardous enterprise; and though our men behaved with all their accustomed gallantry, and though their leader approved himself both brave and skilful, the only material result we have to congratulate ourselves upon is that we have escaped a great calamity, in that he and they have got back safe.

We have burnt Coomassie the Ashantee capital, a collection of habitations composed for the most part of mud cabins bedaubed with blood, and whose streets are described as one vast charnel house; but from the defeated monarch we have extorted no material guarantee that, upon the departure of our troops, he will not recommence, with scarce diminished resources, the policy which provoked the late war. The facts of the case seem to be, that, the very day of the entry of our troops into Coomassie, the weather became threatening, and that fierce storms gave warning that the rainy season was close at hand, when the swamps, which our troops had traversed with difficulty on their advance, would become quite impassable; when the swollen rivers which when low the engineers had bridged, would overflow their banks and sweep away everything before them; and when the retreat of the army to the sea coast would be effectually cut off, whilst fever and the diseases incidental to the tropics in the rainy season, would soon make havoc of the men. Under these circumstances Sir Garnet Wolsey saw that if he would avoid ruin, there was not a day, not an hour, not a moment to be lost. He would not so much as wait to carry out his intention of destroying the more sacred city of the Ashantees, or royal burying ground which he had already given orders to destroy; but setting fire to Coomassie he hurried away at once, lest a calamity similar to that which overtook the great conqueror who lingered too long at Moscow, might also befall him. In short, having done all that man could do with the means at his disposal, and having given the Ashantees a lesson that Great Britain has a long arm which can reach across the seas, and African forests, he retired quickly and in good order, whilst yet retreat was possible.

The defeat of the amendment proposed by Mr. Butt seems to have by no means disheartened the Irish members of the House of Commons who are in favor of Home Rule. They held a meeting on the 25th ult., at which it was determined to press the subject during the present session, and M. D'Israeli will perhaps be brought to look complacently on their policy. The new Premier seems to be a lucky man in the matter of patronage, for scarce has he taken office but one of the most valuable government appointments—that of Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, will be at his disposal; the gentleman who holds the situation at present being about to resign—not that it is customary for Protestant bishops to resign or go out with the Ministry that made them, but because of indisposition. On the 27th ult., Mr. Anderson, in the House of Commons, put the question to the Ministry whether in their opinion, the time had not come for granting a pardon to the Fenian prisoners. Mr. Cross replied that there were in all 16 convicts now undergoing punishment for their participation in the Fenian disturbances; that of these two were connected with the Manchester murder; and

that of the others, 11 were soldiers sentenced for life for supplying arms to the insurgents. Mr. Cross concluded by announcing on the part of the Government that it had no intention of interfering to shorten the sentences, an announcement which the House received with loud cheers. The mortal remains of Dr. Livingstone, having been identified, are now on their way to England.

There has been hard fighting in Spain near Bilbao. The advantage is claimed by some for the revolutionary army, by others for the Royalists. The Emperor of Austria is about to visit Italy. Bismarck is reported as being seriously indisposed.

At the next Consistory the name of His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster will be amongst those of the new Cardinals; such at least is the general opinion.

Latest telegrams, their contents must be received with caution as they all pass through the hands of the revolutionists, announce a victory by the Spanish republicans over the Carlists, in which the latter had some 80 men killed and 200 taken prisoners. In Austria the Liberals are agitating for the banishment of the Jesuits, of course without form of trial, or such trifling formalities as substantiating specific charges against them.

We have good news from Spain by a telegram from Bayonne, under date 30th ult. It tells us that on Saturday there was a hard fight; that the republicans were repulsed on all points with a loss of about 4,000 men in killed and wounded, whilst the loss of the Royalists did not exceed 1,000. Prince Bismarck threatens to resign, because of the resistance to his army Bills.

PASTORAL LETTER OF HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF THREE RIVERS, CONCERNING THE INSTITUTION OF THE SEMINARY OF THREE RIVERS.

LOUIS FRANCIS LAFLECHE, by the Mercy of God and Favor of the Holy Apostolical See, Bishop of Three Rivers, &c., &c.

To the Reverend Clergy, to the Religious Communities, and to all the Faithful of Our Diocese, Health and Benediction in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN.—Our venerated predecessor, the late Mgr. T. Cooke, on assuming the administration of this Diocese, found in the Seminary of Nicolet an institution preciously adapted to give a classical education to the young men who were preparing to enter the ecclesiastical state, or the different liberal professions. As there existed at the time in the Diocese one Seminary properly so called, or Grand Seminary, to form the young ecclesiastics, to imbue them with sacerdotal virtues and initiate them into the different branches of ecclesiastical sciences, the venerated Prelate thought he could do nothing better, in the circumstances he was placed in, than temporarily to entrust the Directors of that Institution with this important task; confidently hoping that Divine Providence would soon enable him to establish a Grand Seminary in his Episcopal town, according to the desire of the Council of Trent. The difficulties he had to encounter at the creation of a new diocese, wherein everything had to be created, obliged him reluctantly to postpone indefinitely the execution of this project. He beheld nevertheless with pleasure the forming of the new classified College, similar to that of Nicolet, which, through the generous concurrence of the citizens, was rising up under his direction, in Three Rivers.—Notwithstanding the impossibility of lending the new establishment any material assistance, and the doubts of many as to the use of a foundation which appeared to them premature in the then difficult circumstances of the diocese, the venerable Prelate, in his vivid faith and unbounded confidence in Divine Providence, looked upon the rising institution as probably destined to give birth to his future Diocesan Seminary. He wished to take part in the laying of its foundation, and consequently to put it under his high protection, and lent it the support of his influence by furnishing it with the body of professors. He presided in person over its opening by the celebration of the holy Mass, and by the special blessing he bestowed on it in his quality of Diocesan Bishop. It was on that occasion that he placed the institution under the patronage and special protection of St. Joseph, Protector and Foster Father of the Holy Family. This solemn inauguration of the College of Three Rivers took place on the 6th of September, 1860.

The rapid progress of the new establishment surpassed the hopes of its founders and best friends, and even surprised those who had entertained least confidence in its success. It had nevertheless to encounter afterwards those characteristic trials which test the works of God. It passed through them successfully, and has since seen brighter days, and a more prosperous future open before it.

For our part, on taking in hand the administration of the diocese, we felt it was our duty to give the establishment the encouragement and support it had received from our venerated predecessor; and that in the designs of Providence this institution was destined to render immense service to the Diocese. Since then God has showered upon it abundant benedic-

tions, and promises it a prosperous future.—During the last two years especially, the affluence of students from the different parts of the diocese, from the neighboring dioceses, and even from the United States has been, so great as to render the actual premises quite insufficient, and necessitate the construction of a more spacious building. Meanwhile the extensive piece of ground on which this new edifice is already under construction has acquired considerable value, and will thus greatly contribute to consolidate the establishment. In presence of this rapid progress, the Directors and the members of the Corporation have thought it was time to give the Institution the final organization which its founders had in view, and raise it to the position of a Diocesan Institution.

They consequently addressed to Us, in November last, a petition to that effect, in which amongst other things, they exposed:—

1st. That the intention of the founders of the College of Three Rivers, and that of all their successors in office up to the present day, had been to found a College entirely dependent on the ecclesiastical authority, as are the other institutions of the kind in this country.

2nd. That owing to the protection of our predecessor, and to the generous aid given by the citizens and by friends of superior education throughout the diocese, they had been enabled to place the institution on a standing that seems to ensure its future, by purchasing an extensive piece of ground in the very centre of the town, on which they have under construction an edifice proportionate in its dimensions to the development and to the wants of the Institution.

3rd. That in their opinion the erection of the College into a Seminary would not fail to give the institution a new impulsion by giving it the nature and character of a diocesan establishment, according to the intention of its founders.

4th. Finally, that they thought it was time to place it entirely under the control and direction of the diocesan authority; and they asked Us in consequence to accept and raise it, under whatever special organization We might think fit, to the position of a Diocesan Seminary, according to the rules of the Church, whilst continuing to give therein at the same time the ordinary collegiate course of studies.

They moreover promised to obtain from the Legislature the modifications which this transformation might require, to their Charter of Incorporation.

In a matter of such importance, We had recourse to the counsels of our diocesan advisers, before whom we laid the petition.

After a mature examination of the question, they were unanimously of opinion that it was better to accept the offer, and thus procure to the diocese the inestimable benefit of a Grand Seminary.

In consequence, after having implored the light of the Holy Ghost, and carefully examined the whole affair before God, We have, according to the unanimous advice of our counsellors, given regularly the canonical decree raising the College of Three Rivers to the position of a diocesan Seminary, as you will see by the tenor of the said decree, which will be read to you after this letter.

We heartily rejoice at an event of so much importance to the diocese of Three Rivers, and we invite you to unite with Us in returning to God the most sincere thanks. For indeed a regularly organized Seminary, to form the Clergy, is one of the institutions most essential to the progress of religion, to the salvation of souls and the prosperity of a diocese, since it is in the Seminary that the young Levites are formed to virtue, and imbued with the knowledge of ecclesiastical sciences, and that from the Seminary especially, come forth learned and holy Priests, virtuous and zealous Pastors.

This erection, whilst enlarging the horizon of the College of Three Rivers, will not divert it from the primitive object of its foundation, which was to impart a classical education. On the contrary, this primitive object is thereby completed, and the erection will not fail to give the institution renewed impulsion by increasing its influence. Moreover, the decree of the Council of Trent which relates to Seminaries, has not merely in view the teaching of ecclesiastical sciences and the forming of Priests to sacerdotal virtues; it embraces also the instruction of youth in letters, in the knowledge of the different languages, &c., &c.—Thence two kinds of Seminaries: the Grand or Ecclesiastical Seminaries, destined to form the Ecclesiastics; and the Minor Seminaries or Colleges, in which youth receive a classical education. The college course of studies comprises also, an introductory course, commercial and industrial matters, which are so necessary to a great number of young men who do not intend to complete their classical course. Therefore the diocese of Three Rivers will henceforward possess its Grand Seminary, as do the more ancient dioceses of Quebec and Montreal; and also two minor Seminaries or Classical Colleges; that of Nicolet and the one of Three Rivers. The relations of both those

establishments with the diocesan authority and with the Grand Seminary are determined by the rules of the Church, and by the decrees of the Provincials of Quebec relative to the Grand and to the Minor Seminaries of the Province.

We wish to inform you also, Beloved Brethren, that Our intention is to follow the example of the first Bishops of Quebec, and to retire with our assistants into the Seminary as soon as the edifice shall be ready; for the Seminary is the most becoming residence for a Bishop, when he has no house of his own.—There we shall have apartments sufficiently spacious for the wants of the diocesan administration; and We shall also be able to offer a more becoming hospitality to our clergy and to the distinguished persons who visit Us from time to time. We shall at the same time be enabled to economize in order to completely restore the affairs of the Episcopal Corporation, and to wait until Providence shall have given Us means to build a house without imposing too heavy a burden upon the diocese.

We have indeed to return the most heartfelt thanks to Divine Providence, Dearly Beloved Brethren, for the visible assistance granted to us during the difficulties We have had to encounter. Yet when We consider the future, We feel that We must exhort you to pray most earnestly that God may continue to grant Us His merciful protection, for We have still a very heavy task to accomplish. We are not however dismayed; and the past gives Us confidence in the future. To all those therefore who have at heart the progress of our holy religion and the prosperity of the diocese, We recommend the cause of Our Grand Seminary as the first in importance to be placed on a good standing and in a position that may do honor to Our clergy, and procure spiritual benefit to the faithful of our diocese.

The holy Council of Trent, charging the Bishops to establish as soon as possible a diocesan Seminary, exhorts them to select with care, especially from the poorer families, children whose good qualities and inclinations offer hopes that they may culist to serve all their lifetime in the service of the Church; to entertain them gratuitously, to bring them up in piety, and instruct them in ecclesiastical discipline. This indeed is Our most ardent desire, knowing well that God reveals the secrets of his wisdom to the humble, and that He often is pleased to select his apostles from amongst the poor and the lowest among the children of men. We would like to have means to favor the vocation of those select children, gifted with piety and talents, and who might render service to the Church and to society, had they means to procure instruction. We should like especially to be able to assist the young ecclesiastics whose parents, after paying their college course, are unable to pay their entry to the Grand Seminary. We hope therefore that there will be found generous souls who, guided by Providence, will come to Our assistance in the accomplishment of a work of so much importance, and which will so greatly contribute to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. We have not failed to adopt the views of our Venerable Predecessor, and to place this institution under the patronage and special protection of the Great St. Joseph, Foster-Father of the Holy Family, Patron and Protector of the Universal Church and of Canada. We trust that his protection will sustain Us in future as it has done during the past, and bring to a happy issue a work it has hitherto so visibly and powerfully assisted.

We must not let this occasion pass without informing you that we forwarded to the Pope last year's contribution to the fund of St. Peter's Pence. The Holy Father has expressed to Us how agreeable the assistance offered by the faithful is to him in his present trials; and in return His Holiness grants to the clergy and to the faithful of the diocese, and especially to the contributors, his apostolical benediction.

The present Pastoral Letter, and the subjoined decree shall be read at the Parochial Mass in all the churches and chapels of the diocese where the public office is celebrated, and in Chapter, in all the religious communities, the first Sunday after its reception.

Given under Our hand, and the seal of the diocese, and the countersignature of Our Secretary, on the Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, this nineteenth day of March, one thousand eight and seventy-four.

[L. S.]
† L. F., Bishop of Three Rivers.
By command,
ED. LING, Pst., Secretary.

DECREE

OF HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF THREE RIVERS, INSTITUTING THE SEMINARY OF THREE RIVERS.
LOUIS FRANCOIS LAFLECHE,
By the Grace of God and favor of the Holy Apostolical See, Bishop of Three Rivers, &c., &c., &c.
To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Whereas the increase of our most holy religion, and the peace and prosperity of human society result principally from the good education of youth, and especially from the diligent and accurate forming of the Clergy, the Pastor intrusted with the salvation of his flock can indeed have nothing more at heart than to provide good establishments wherein young children, withdrawn from amidst the dangers that surround their youth, may receive a solid and Christian education; and wherein all those who are

divinely called into the service of the Lord, may be carefully formed to piety and virtue, and imbued with the knowledge of letters and sciences, of those sciences especially which pertain to their sacred ministry; so that by the gravity of their demeanor and the splendor of their wisdom, they may shine forth as luminaries in the house of the Lord, and be a benefit to the Church and an ornament to society.

And indeed if it were ever necessary to use the greatest vigilance and solicitude, in order that all those who wish to enlist in the service of the Lord might be duly prepared for their mission by a pious and holy education, and by solid instruction, no one certainly can fail to see of what high import it is to both Church and society, especially in these evil days, that each successive day should swell the number of good priests, who, shining forth in all the splendor of the purest virtues, and armed with sound and solid doctrine, may thereby perform with prudence and piety their sacred functions, instruct the Christian people, watch with tender care over the souls intrusted to them, recall the erring towards the paths of truth and justice, ably and courageously viadicate the rights of God and of his holy Church, unmask the ambushes of perfidious men, dispel their errors, refute their folly and temerity, and repel their attacks.

Wherefore, from the very beginning of our Episcopacy, fully adopting the views and designs of our Venerable Predecessor, and wishing to comply with the express desire of the Holy See, We anxiously looked forward to the day We should be able to erect, possess and maintain in our episcopal town, a diocesan Seminary, wherein the young ecclesiastics of the diocese might be trained up with care in piety and sanctity, and imbued with the knowledge of letters, of theological sciences, of the holy Fathers, ecclesiastical history and canon law, and learn all whatever relates to the important functions of the Sacred Ministry.

Our hopes brightened as we beheld the College of Three Rivers emerge forth and rapidly develope itself in our presence; and to-day our ardent desires are realized, since the Corporation of the said College, clearly foreseeing the interests of both civil and religious society, and of the Institution itself, have by letters dated the 15th of November last, spontaneously offered Us the said College with all its property, that We might accept and raise it, under whatever special organization We thought fit, to the position of a diocesan Seminary according to the rules of the Church, whilst continuing at the same time to give therein the ordinary collegiate course of instruction. This, added the request, had ever been the intention of the founders of the said college and of their successors up to the present day.

Having convened our diocesan Counsellors to consider the matter, and received their unanimous advice, We accepted with gratitude the generous offer. And now the preliminary civil formalities that appeared necessary having been complied with, We have deemed it expedient, and have resolved to raise this Institution to the position of a regular Canonical Seminary.

Consequently, in order to draw more abundant fruit from those signal favors of Divine Providence, and more completely fulfil our pastoral duty, for the greater glory of God, the good of His holy Church and the salvation of souls, and also for the greater benefit of civil society itself, We do hereby erect in perpetuity, change and radically transform the said College of Three Rivers into a diocesan Seminary under the name and title of Seminary of Three Rivers; placing it under the invocation and special protection of the glorious Saint Joseph, Protector of the Universal Church; to be the said Seminary entirely subjected to Us and to our successors according to the rules and prescriptions of the Council of Trent, and the Provincial Councils of Quebec respecting the Grand and the Minor Seminaries.

The holy Council of Trent has prescribed (Sess. xxiii., cap. 18, De Reformat.) that two counsels be elected to assist the Bishops in the direction and administration of the Seminary: one for spiritual, and the other for temporal matters. Until circumstances shall allow Us to institute those two counsels in the manner prescribed, We will ourselves see to the direction and administration of the Seminary with the assistance of our ordinary Counsellors in spiritual matters, and with that of the legal Corporation in temporal affairs; and We shall in due time endow it with such special rules of direction as We may think most appropriate to ensure its wise administration, its regularity and prosperity.

Given at Three Rivers under Our hand and seal, and the countersignature of Our Secretary, on the Feast of St. Joseph, this nineteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four.

[L. S.]
† L. F., Bishop of Three Rivers.
By command,
E. LING, Priest, Secretary.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.—The Federal Legislature met on Thursday the 26th inst., and the House of Commons at once proceeded to the choice of a Speaker. The Hon. Mr. Anglin, proposed by the Hon. Mr. McKeuzie, and seconded by the Hon. A. Dorion, was chosen unanimously. After a few words of congratulation to the Speaker, the House adjourned till next day.

On Friday His Excellency the Governor General opened the Session with the usual speech from the Throne. He announced the introduction of measures with reference to Parliamentary elections, and Vote by Ballot; also of measures relating to the Militia and Insolvency. He invited the attention of Parliament to the C. P. Railway, and held out hopes that the Intercolonial would be opened in about a year, and that a Reciprocity Treaty might be adjusted betwixt Canada and the U. States.—On the subject of finance a deficiency in the receipts of the current year was admitted.—The consideration of the Speech was appointed for Monday.

On Monday, the Speech from the Throne was considered. In the Senate, the Address moved by the Hon. Mr. Penny, and seconded by the Hon. Mr. Panet, was carried without opposition. In the Commons Mr. Moss, seconded by M. Laurier, moved the Address.—Sir J. Macdonald said he would offer no opposition to it. A conversation ensued, in the course of which the N. B. School Question and the Manitoba troubles were discussed; finally the Address was passed.

Mr. Riel, member for Provencher, was sworn in on Monday. His election is disputed on the grounds of disqualification. Mr. Bowell moved for the production of certain papers connected with the election.

Several articles unavoidably crowded out; shall appear in our next.