

The True Witness.

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 4.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MAY—1866.
Friday, 4 St. Monica, W.
Saturday, 5—St. Pius, P. C.
Sunday, 6—Fifth after Easter. St. John at Latin Gate.
Monday, 7—Rogation Day. St. Stanislaus, B. M.
Tuesday, 8—Rogation Day. App. of St. Michael, B. D.
Wednesday, 9—Rogation Day. St. Gregory of Nyssa.
Thursday, 10—EAST OF THE ASCENSION.

REMOVAL.

The TRUE WITNESS OFFICE will REMOVE, after the first day of May, to No. 696 CRAIG STREET, opposite HERMINE STREET.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

According to notice previously given, Sir John Gray brought forward in the House of Commons, on the 10 ult., his motion on the Protestant Church Establishment of Ireland, couched in the following terms:—

"That the position of the Established Church in Ireland is a just cause of disaffection to the people of that country, and urgently demands the consideration of Parliament."

Considered as an abstract proposition, the above is so obviously true, that one would think that it would have been carried unanimously.—But it labored under this capital defect, that it proposed no solution of the difficulty. That difficulty consists in the appropriation of the vast revenues which now applied to a Protestant Church Established by Law in a country where Protestants number scarcely 700,000 out of a population of 5,800,000 of whom 5,100,000 are Catholics, furnish but too good reason for Irish disaffection. "What is to be done with these revenues? if the existing Establishment be disendowed," is the question that presents itself to the mind of the practical statesmen; and accordingly Mr. Fortescue, though he professed feelings of cordial sympathy and concurrence with the motion, declined to support it by his vote as a member of the Government. And so the motion, after a long debate, was, as it were, set on one side, no practical decision having been come to thereupon.

Yet we believe from the tone of the speeches within the House, and of the press outside, that a step has been gained towards the abatement of one of Ireland's monster grievances. The Liberal party will of course give their aid to the overthrow of the Irish Established Church, not because it is Protestant, and therefore a wrong in a country of which the overwhelming mass of the people are Catholic, but simply because it is an Established and endowed Church. The Conservative party, on the contrary, will support it, because it is such an Established or endowed Church, in spite of its anomalies, and its outrage upon the religious sentiments of the Irish Catholic people. As a middle term, it is by some proposed to endow the Church of the majority, out of the ecclesiastical revenues now exclusively held by the Church of the minority; but this proposition will hardly find favor with either Catholics or Protestants. Not with the former, because they have no desire to see the dignitaries of their Church reduced to the condition of stipendiaries of the State; nor yet with the latter, because of their intense hatred of the Pope, and their strong almost insuperable prejudices against a Church which they have been taught to identify with the improper female of Babylon.

And so the Church, which, upon its own merits, no one will attempt to defend, is still tolerated, still continues to be the weakness and the opprobrium of the British Empire, simply because no one knows what to do with it. The British Legislature with regard to the ecclesiastical revenues of Ireland is somewhat in the embarrassed position of our own Corporation with regard to the immense amount of valuable manure collected in the streets and yards of the City. This, though it would be a source of great wealth to the soil, could it be utilized; and though the City would be a great gainer could it be delivered of it, remains on our hands, a

nuisance to one part of the population, and useless to the other to which, if properly applied, it might be the source of untold wealth. To Conservatives of all men, to loyal British subjects jealous of the good name of their country and of their government, this should be a matter of deep regret; for so long as the Protestant Church Establishment is maintained by law, so long will the great majority of the people of Ireland have legitimate cause, and ample excuse for their disaffection; so long will it be in the power of foreigners, even of Russians and of Yankees—so unjust towards Catholics themselves—to taunt England, and to point the finger of scorn at her. A happy day will it be for England, far more so even than for Ireland, when this reproach upon the fair fame of the former shall have been wiped out.

The Ministerial Reform Bill will, it is expected, be sustained in the House of Commons by a majority of 30; and if the measure for extending the elective franchise be carried, in a new Parliament it will be no very difficult matter to obtain a fresh distribution of representation.—There is nothing, however, of that wild excitement that characterised the introduction of the first great Reform Bill; and it is almost impossible indeed to become much interested in a measure which deals only with details, and which involves no principle whatsoever. This question of principle must, nevertheless, as the tide of democracy in England rises yet higher and higher, be met and answered. It is this. Is the Elective Franchise a natural right, or a political trust? If the former, then should there be universal suffrage, male and female; nor would it be easy to say how the line which shall separate the political major, or adult with the right to vote, from the political minor, whose right has not yet arrived at maturity, should be drawn. If, however, the Elective Franchise be a trust, not a personal right which a man may sell or do with as he pleases, it matters but little whether the line of demarcation betwixt the voter and the non-voter, betwixt the *citoyen actif*, and the *citoyen passif*, be drawn at a £10, or a £7, level—for this after all involves only a question of ever shifting expediency.

We have as yet no inkling of the Ministerial plan for dealing with the Irish land question.—We have the *quasi* promises of the Government through Mr. Gladstone, that it intends to take the question up with a view to its solution; and we shall continue to indulge the hope that even this session something may be done to put the relations betwixt Irish landlords and Irish tenants on a better footing; and to give the latter assurance that his grievances have attracted the notice of, and shall receive due attention from the Imperial Legislature. There is perhaps in Ireland, as on the Continent of Europe, a Socialistic party which will be satisfied with nothing less than a measure of spoliation, and redistribution of property on Communistic principles; and this party no reforms that any British Parliament, that any legislative body now existing in the world could pass, would satisfy. But there is also a still larger party composed of all that is best and wisest in Ireland, with Ireland's natural leaders the Catholic Clergy, at its head, and represented by able and eloquent statesmen in Parliament, which asks only for such a modification of existing laws as shall, without disturbing the foundations on which the social system of the Empire reposes, secure to the industrious and improving cultivator of the soil, the value of all *bona fide* and permanent improvements by him made upon his farm, increasing its letting value, and unexhausted at the time of his giving it up to his landlord. If this can be accomplished, and if all existing artificial or law created obstacles to the easy transfer of land be done away with, so as to enable the Irish farmer to become an owner of some part of the Irish soil, all that legislation can do will have been done; and one great cause of Irish disaffection having been thus removed, the stability of the whole Empire will have been assured.

CONSTITUTION-TINKERING.—The London *Tablet*, reviewing the organic changes that have of late years occurred in the different Governments of Europe, remarks that, "France has had eleven Constitutions in seventy years; Spain has had six Constitutions in fifty years; and that Portugal has had five Constitutions in forty years." Finally, "since 1815 no fewer than One hundred and fifty-one Constitutions have been proclaimed in Europe; forty-two Constitutions have been proclaimed in the years 1848 and '49 alone." This is certainly not very encouraging to our Constitution-mongers; yet will the silly creatures still go on with their futile labors, spinning ropes of sand, and making their ephemeral Constitutions at the rate of one and a half per annum. Well? we suppose the race of fools shall never altogether cease from off the face of the earth.

Mr. J. C. Tache has returned from Grosse Isle, where he had been making the necessary quarantine arrangements for the season, and has ordered all pilots to report by Telegraph at Father Point if any vessel had cholera or any other epidemic on board.

PASTORAL OF HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF MONTREAL.

Inviting his Diocessans to aid in a Charitable work in thanksgiving for the Graces received during the last Jubilee, and to obtain the protection of heaven against those scourges with which the vengeance of God threaten us.

To the Clergy, Secular and Regular—To the Religious Communities, and all the Faithful of our Diocese.—*Health and Benediction in Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Great was Our anxiety, Dearly Beloved Brethren, to testify to you our delight on our return from our last voyage, in learning the wonderful works of Grace wrought in this Diocese during the last Jubilee; and it is with happiness that We avail ourselves of the first moment at our disposal to fulfil so consoling a duty.

And first of all, We have to thank you for your good prayers which brought down so many blessings on our journey: for it is to them that We attribute the special graces which We received, and which you solicited for Us, saying together with the Church when she prays for those who travel, *May the Almighty and Merciful Lord conduct us in the way of peace and prosperity; and may the Angel Raphael accompany us on the road, so that we may return to the bosom of our native land filled with health, and laden with the delights of peace and joy.*—*Illumine Cleric.* It is not necessary to tell you here, that during this long voyage, you were always present with Us in spirit, in all those many religious sanctuaries which We visited, and on all the great solemnities at which We have again on this occasion assisted. For are you not always and in all places the continual object of Our preoccupations?

We must also, before coming to that which is the main design of this letter, impart to you some of the impressions which during our voyage were made upon Us, by the persons whom We saw; the places that We visited, and the important events on which the attention of the whole world is at present fixed. Our sole intention in this is to make you partners in the advantages of the voyage, by warning you against the many fatal prejudices that unhappily hold so many minds as it were captives in the shadow of death, and hinder them from seeing the truth of those facts that are occurring beneath their own eyes.

And first We begin with Our Holy Father the Pope, of whom so much, for both good and evil, is said from one end of the world to the other; and whose long and cruel sufferings, touch and impress in so keen a manner the true children of the Church throughout the universe. Well then! Our immortal Pontiff, in spite of his advanced age, his 74 years, and the innumerable troubles by which he is besieged, enjoys a perfect health. In the calm which shines upon his majestic brow it is easy to read that it is Almighty God Who upholds him in the midst of his tribulations; and the heavenly joy with which his heart overflows is the ample proof that it is for the sake of justice that he suffers, and that even in this world he receives reward a hundred fold, whilst awaiting the eternal crown destined for him in the next.

Calmly seated on the Chair of Peter, he listens unmoved to the gates of hell raging with horrid noise around him. Holding with firm hand the tiller of the barque of Peter, he fears not the mad angry waves tossed about in this furious tempest. All his trust is in the Son of God Whose Vicar he is, and he ceases not to utter with the Apostles this cry of hope *Save us Lord or we perish.*

Placed by Divine Providence in these evil days at the summit of the immovable rock of Holy Church, he sees the foaming waves of the detestable impiety of the age dashing beneath his feet; and, in the firm confidence of the holiness of his cause with which he is inspired, he cries out with the Prophet, "Wherefore have the heathen raged so furiously together; and why have the people imagined a vain thing against the Lord and His Christ?"—*Ps. 11, 1. 2.*

Casting day and night his careful glances from the height of the Apostolic See into the black caverns of the Secret Societies, he beholds the sworn enemies of true religion, hiding therein, and preparing their horrid snares; and fearless for his own person, with a truly Apostolic vigor, he warns Sovereigns and subjects of the imminent dangers which on all sides threaten human societies, because he sees that they are gnawed by principles the most destructive of both faith and morality.

As a watchful sentinel over the fold of Jesus Christ, he sounds the note of alarm, whenever from afar off he sees the raging wolves who seek entrance into the Lord's sheepfold to devour His sheep. A Doctor infallible in his teachings, he guards with care the sacred depositum of divine truth, condemning all those errors which, like venomous serpents, are everywhere insinuating themselves, to the seduction of minds, and the corruption of hearts.

Eaten up with zeal for the interests of his Divine Master, he consecrates every moment of his immortal Pontificate to the Glory of God; to the honor of His Immaculate Mother of whom he never speaks but with a burst of affection; to those of the Saints whose happiness in the Church Triumphant he proclaims, in order thereby to raise up new protectors to the Church Militant;

and, in fine, to all those great and holy works which multiply his merits in this vale of tears, and prepare for him a bright crown of glory in the land of the living.

Father of unspeakable goodness, he is loved and venerated by all the good children of the Church, who approaching him with sentiments of the most profound respect, withdraw from the audiences which he grants them, with hearts sensibly touched, and which oft betray themselves by tears of joy. Only by the wicked is he dreaded, for they rage vainly against his irresistible opposition to their unjust designs, and the unalterable firmness with which he maintains the temporal and spiritual rights of the Holy See.

Universal Pastor, he has to help him to bear the load of his supreme dignity, the Princes of the Church, who are most eminent in science, doctrine, and piety; and who together with learned Prelates and illustrious Doctors, compose the Roman Congregations—those admirable institutions in which shines the spirit of wisdom that assures us of the good government of the Church.

These considerations will no doubt suffice Dearly Beloved Brethren to lead us to bless Divine Providence for having given us so wise a Pontiff to conduct us in such stormy times.—They will suffice also to put us on our guard against the calumnies and insults which impious men cease not to vomit against his person, his acts, and his Government. Penetrated with a deep respect for the divine character with which he is invested, we shall feel only horror for the books and journals which dare to speak blasphemously against so high a Majesty.

Far from giving ear to the words of deceitful men, who have undertaken to ruin by stealth the august Roman Pontiff in the minds of the people of Christendom, we will but approve ourselves the more devoted to him, the more they strive to inspire us with ill will to his sacred authority.—Nor will our devotion consist in words only, but in deeds: for at all hazards we will defend our chief: and on all occasions we will not shrink from declaring ourselves openly, to be on his side, and for that noble cause which he maintains with a courage at which the whole world is amazed. Thus never will we speak of him but in terms full of submission and veneration; and we will pray God that "He will long preserve him to His Church, that He will grant a happy issue to all his undertakings, and that He will not suffer him to fall into the hands of his enemies." *Ps. 40. iii.* This we shall do by joining daily in the prayers of the Priest after every Mass, and before leaving the Altar; and we will also manifest our filial piety by our fidelity in contributing towards the *St. Peter's Pence*—which in the eyes of all true children of the Church is a sacred debt.

We have also to communicate to you Dearly Beloved Brethren our impressions of the City of Rome, the seat of the dominion of the Pontiff-King, and of which you hear contradictory accounts in the world. No matter what the enemies of our Religion pretend, Rome actually enjoys all the advantages of a good and wise administration. Peace and plenty abound, and naught is wanting to the welfare of those who dwell beneath the paternal rule of this pacific King, in so far as happiness can be expected on earth.

Nevertheless it is always surrounded by enemies eager for its destruction, and exposed to the brutality of these furious passions which heaped up against Rome's ancient walls threaten to sweep all before them. But God keeps ward over this privileged City whose destinies are eternal: and from His infinite goodness, we may well trust that He will bring to naught the mad projects of her unjust spoilers.

And whilst awaiting her exemplary deliverance which is the constant object of the vows, and sighs of the Catholic universe, Rome still remains by a striking miracle of Providence, a lively image of the heavenly Jerusalem. Day and night are heard within her but the sound of fervent prayers, of glad canticles, and of harmonious concerts. The Solemn Feasts, which cease not to be kept within her walls from one end of the year to the other, are as it were a foretaste of the Everlasting Festival which the Elect will cease not to celebrate when in their glory. The grandeur of our religion, which there are so magnificently displayed are most fit to reanimate our faith, and to raise our hopes. The numerous and magnificent fountains that water this City are a fine figure of the sources of grace which, issuing from this earthly paradise spread over the entire world, and bring forth fruits of justice and piety.

After some lengthened enjoyment of this great religious spectacle, one is soon convinced, Dearly Beloved Brethren, that Rome is not, that she cannot be, like any other City upon earth. Breathing the perfume that exhales from the innumerable holy institutions therein established, one feels that this City, raised over the ruins of Paganism, is the City of Religion, moulded by the Popes to all religious exercises, in order that she may be the seat of the Sovereign Pontiffs, the centre of Catholicity—the capital of Christendom, the native land of the children of God,

the Holy City, the tomb of the Apostles and—as it were, the magnificent Reliquary of the millions of Martyrs who have watered it with their blood. Take from her this sacred and distinctive character and Rome would lose all her splendor, and would cease to be the common meeting place of thousands of strangers who yearly gather there together to assist at her solemnities. On the other hand, the whole world would find itself deprived of the blessings that this holy City draws down daily from the heavens by her continual prayers.

We partook abundantly Dearly Beloved Brethren of these heavenly blessings: for it is the holy Roman Church, our Mother, which strengthens us in the faith; which enkindles our courage in our tribulations; which shows us the rules we must follow, if we would never go astray from the principles of a sound morality; which gives us glad festivals to soften the pains of our exile; which determines the practice of our holy ceremonies, themselves the symbols of our faith and the signs of our piety; which finally, teaches us to walk in the paths of justice which lead to everlasting life.

Before such striking facts, how could We, Dearly Beloved Brethren but attach ourselves with true filial affection to so good, to so beneficent a mother? How could We give heed to the maliciously invented calumnies of the enemies of our Religion to discredit the Government which alone can give to Rome that splendor which causes her to shine with such dazzling light throughout the world? Oh Rome! Oh City full of charms, and pleasant memories, be ever the principle of our gladness. May our right hand forget us, and may our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth, if ever We should forget thee in the midst of thy sorrows and thy humiliations!

(To be concluded in our next.)

EVANGELICAL MISREPRESENTATIONS.—The evangelical journals of this City, and notably the *Echo*, a Low Anglican paper, gives circulation to the following report:—

"A Theatre has been fitted up under the Jesuit Church."

It would be well, if our saintly contemporaries were to restore to their version of the Decalogue the old precept against "bearing false witness." The truth of the matter with reference to the Jesuit's Church is simply this:—That the basement story, or part beneath the church, has been fitted up for, and is used as, an examination and exhibition room for the use of the pupils of St. Mary's College; wherein the usual exhibitions of elocution, declamation, music, varied with occasional dramatic entertainments, or carefully selected passages from classical dramatic authors are given, as is done in the case of all our other educational institutions in the Province. So in like manner occasional tea-parties, or *soirees*, are given in the basement stories of some of our Protestant churches; but we should think but poorly of the honesty of the Catholic writer who should thence take occasion to publish to the world that "eating and drinking saloons had been fitted up under such and such a Protestant church."

THE QUEBEC.—This magnificent steamboat, belonging to the Richelieu Company has now commenced her regular trips betwixt Montreal, and Quebec, and will, we are convinced, approve herself the finest boat in every respect ever yet placed on Canadian waters.

The *Quebec* is built of iron, sent out from Scotland, though the fitting up of the Cabins, and the ornamental work are by Canadian artificers. She is in length 290 over all, with about 65 feet beam. Her engines can work up to about 250 horse power; she draws when loaded only about 7 feet of water, and can easily make good her twenty miles an hour.

Of passengers she can accommodate in her handsome and airy cabins and sleeping berths from 400 to 500. The saloons have been fitted up regardless of expence. The chairs are of solid rosewood with cushions of dark green satin with which the rest of the furniture and hangings correspond. The Ladies' Cabin, especially, is a perfect palace, and everything that the imagination can desire for comfort and for elegance has been lavished upon this new steamboat without stint.

Not the least of her merits is in her commander, Capt. Labelle, a gentleman sincerely respected by all who have had the pleasure of travelling under his charge. His experience, carefulness, and never failing urbanity have made him a universal favorite; and when we add that it was the same gentleman who rendered such gallant and effective services during the inundation below Sorel last year, we shall have said enough to show that the Richelieu Company could not have entrusted their splendid new boat to better hands.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA.—We learn that a supply of lime is to be immediately provided for gratuitous distribution to the poor. It will be found at the Chaboillez Square and Panet Street Police Stations, and also on some portion of the lots recently appropriated on Craig street, in rear of the Champ de Mars, for the new drill-sheds.