

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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G. E. OLIER, Editor.

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every week shows the date to which he has paid
up. Thus "JOHN JONES, August '63," shows that
he has paid up to August '63, and owes his Sub-
scription from that date.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 1.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.
MARCH—1867.

Friday, 1—Of the Feria.
Saturday, 2—Of the Immac. Conception.
Sunday, 3—Quinquagesima.
Monday, 4—St. Casimir, Conf.
Tuesday, 5—Of the Feria.
Wednesday, 6—ASH WEDNESDAY.
Thursday, 7—St. Thomas d'Aquinas.

OFFICE OF THE

ROMAN LOAN.

At the Banking House of Duncan, Sherman
& Co.,

11 NASSAU STREET, CORNER OF PINE.

New York, January 30th, 1867.

To ALFRED LAROCQUE, Esq.,
Agent of the Roman Loan,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that I
have received instructions to keep this Loan open,
until the same is absorbed, as it is expected in Rome
that the late direct appeal of the Holy Father to the
Olergy will produce this result before the First of
April.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT MURPHY,
General Agent for the United States,
British Provinces and South America.
Bonds of 500 francs are sold for \$66 00
Do 125 do do 16 50

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We are still without any well authenticated
facts as to the cause, nature and extent of the
riots in Ireland, which were last week announced
by Atlantic Cable as a Fenian outbreak; and
we are hence led to the conclusion that the
whole affair has been grossly exaggerated, and that
the riots were of a very trifling character indeed.
The report that Stephens was engaged therein
is contradicted, and it is denied that he is in Ire-
land. Where the man is, what he is doing,
or what he intends to do, nobody seems to
know.

We may hope that as the riots have been
suppressed without the least difficulty, without
loss of life, or any serious injury to property,
the Government will not find itself obliged to have
resource to any extreme punishments upon the
captured rioters. The period for the suspension
of the Habeas Corpus act has in consequence of
this unfortunate business, been prolonged, and
the authorities have announced their determina-
tion to deal with all aliens engaged in acts of
hostility against the Queen, as with pirates.

The news of these riots in Ireland, paltry as
they seem to have been from the meagre ac-
counts as yet transmitted to us, caused much ex-
citement amongst the Yankee Fenians, who
looked upon them as the commencement of the
long threatened uprising of the Irish against the
British Government. Another raid upon Cana-
da is also menaced before summer sets in.

The Northern section of Congress now sitting
at Washington has passed a law placing the
Southern States permanently under martial law;
dividing them, as England in the days of Crom-
well was divided, into military districts to be
governed by Brigadier Generals; giving to the
latter, authority to supersede the civil by
military tribunals, and declaring null all inter-
ference of the old constitutional and legitimate
State authorities with the military despotism
thereby set up.

This arbitrary decree is to remain in force
until the people of the Southern States, meekly
placing their necks beneath the feet of their
conquerors and oppressors, shall agree to accept
the new form of constitution which the North-
erners wish to enforce upon them. Till then,
they are to be governed by *prefets* and *sous-
prefets* appointed at Washington.

Well! England has been guilty of some very
harsh and wicked acts as towards Ireland; but,
thank God! never has she so grossly violated
justice, and liberty, even with regard to Ireland,
as has this so called Congress; even at its worst
the Government of England has been mild and
equitable in comparison with this military despotism
which, in direct violation of, and rebellion
against, the sovereign Constitution of the United
States, a tyrant majority has created. It is now
proposed to establish a pure despotism over the

Southern States, by right of conquest: for in
this, after all, alone consists the right of a
Northern majority to enforce its will upon the
Southern majority, and by the same right ex-
actly, did Cromwell impose upon unhappy Ire-
land the laws of the sword, expressed in the
significant formula,—"Hell, or Connaught." So
also does Russia proceed with the reconstruction
of conquered Poland.

For the present the Southerners must bear
this tyranny in patience, putting their trust in
the avenger time. It cannot last for ever, for
evil is only for a season, and either a reaction
will set in, or the occasion will present itself for
the South to vindicate its liberties, and to throw
off the yoke of its oppressors. "England's diffi-
culty," says the hackneyed proverb, "is Ireland's
opportunity;" and as the relative positions of
the Northern and Southern States is to-day as
were those of England and Ireland in the days of
Cromwell, we may easily conceive that the gallant
Southerners will await eagerly for the "North's
difficulty," and that they will not be slack to
seize and put to profit that favorable opportunity
when it does present itself, as present itself some
day it surely will. On their side are law and
justice, the Constitution and the fundamental
principles evoked by the people of the thirteen
Colonies when they rose in revolt against Eng-
land; and though for a season the voice of law
and right be stifled, the day will come when they
shall again be heard.

We learn by telegraph that Mr. D'Israeli has
laid before the House of Commons certain Reso-
lutions with reference to a Reform in these Reso-
lutions we know not, but from Mr. Bright's attitude
towards them, we infer that they fall far short of
the views of the extreme radical party. The
Irish policy of the Derby Cabinet has not yet
been developed.

We understand that the Bill for the Union of
the British North American Provinces has been
rapidly carried through the three readings in the
House of Lords. In all probability it will meet
with the same fate in the House of Commons;
for in England public sentiment is very strong
in favor of a measure which is looked upon as
preliminary to the severance of a political con-
nection not profitable, and often very dangerous
to the people of Great Britain. Some changes
in the Quebec scheme have been made, at the
request apparently of the Colonial delegates
themselves, since we may well believe that in the
Imperial Legislature the only feeling towards
these Provinces is, a desire to get rid of them
altogether, as honorably and as speedily as pos-
sible. They profit Great Britain neither materi-
ally nor morally. On the contrary, they
weaken her military resources in that they ab-
sorb a large portion of her small army; and
from their exposure to attacks, and their long
open frontier, they invite their neighbor to as-
sume an attitude towards Great Britain, which
that Power would not for one moment tolerate,
were it not for its existing relations with Cana-
da. Whatever may be true of Colonies in
general, it is not true that distant Colonies, con-
stantly exposed to attack from an unscrupulous
and powerful neighbor, as are these Provinces—
are a source of profit to the mother country, or a
source of strength, either moral or material, to the
nation that owns them.

Had the British Government really desired to
preserve its North American Provinces, it would
during the late war betwixt the Northern and
Southern States, have recognised, conjointly
with France, the independence of the latter. In
refusing to do so, in spite of the reiterated de-
mands of France, it virtually abandoned all its
North American possessions, or at all events
made that abandonment inevitable. The policy
adopted during the war may have been wise and
just; but that it was a policy incompatible with
the perpetuation of British rule on this Continent,
no one but an addle-pated fool could have failed
to perceive. The most short-sighted of politi-
cians must have seen from the first, that the po-
litical independence of Canada was inseparably
bound up with the political independence of the
Confederate States.

But it is too late now to talk of what might,
or of what should have been done; and all that
now remains for Great Britain, is to get rid of
her N. American Provinces as speedily, and with
as little loss of moral prestige, as possible. The
so-called "Confederation" of those Provinces
presents the means for accomplishing this: and
it is therefore eagerly grasped at by men of all
parties. Confederation in their eyes, means the
withdrawal of some 20,000 troops from the Pro-
vinces, and their concentration in England for the
defence of the Empire; it means the adoption of
a bolder attitude, and one more consistent with
British antecedents, towards the United States;
it means in a word, the rectification of the Im-
perial frontiers, which are nowhere so weak, and
at the same time so menaced, as they are in
North America. In fact here lies the one vul-
nerable point of the Empire; and as every cock
can crow on its own dunghill, and as no nation
can carry on a defensive war 4,000 miles from
its base, with another and equally powerful na-

tion, fighting almost on its own soil, it is not to
be wondered at that the Yankee cock crows
lustily, and that the British fowl shows, almost
the white feather. If the relative positions of
the two countries were reversed; if, in case of
war, the United States had to fight the fleets of
Great Britain in the Channel, and to give battle
on the plains of Kent, the latter would have
cause to crow, and the former would not be so
ready to provoke a contest.

The Consecration of the Right Rev. Dr.
Lafache, at Three Rivers, took place on Mon-
day last.

PERSONAL.—Mgr. Desautels, accompanied
by the Rev. Grand Vicar Truteau, and the Rev.
Mr. Hicks, Chanoiné of the Cathedral of Mont-
real, will set out on the 6th inst. on the way to
the Holy City.

DECADENCE.—It is now nigh two thousand
years ago since the Roman satirist pointed out as
one of the symptoms of the approaching deca-
dence of the Imperial race, the sterility of their
marriage unions. This phenomenon was peculiar
to the rich, and to that class of society which
had hitherto deemed itself the governing class;
but from whose hands, as the keen eyed satirist
could plainly discern—the sceptre was soon des-
tined to be snatched by the more virtuous, by
the less corrupt, and therefore more vigorous
and prolific class on whom the toga-wearing
lords of the earth, looked down with scorn as an
inferior race—aliens, fitted only to be hewers of
wood and drawers of water for their "native"
masters:—

"Sed jacent aurato vix ulla puerpera lecto;
Tantum artes hujus, tantum medicamina possunt
Quæ steriles facit, atque homines in ventre no-
candos
Conducit." . . . Juv. Sat. vi.

The phenomenon, and its causes—the *artes*
and the *medicamina*, as much practised, and as
popular in Rome of the first century, as in New
York, and Boston of the nineteenth, are here all
brought before us in strong and hideous relief.
Is it not strange, to see how history repeats it-
self? how phenomena reproduce themselves? how
closely the moral condition of so-called Christian
communities which have thrown off the restraints
of the Church, resembles that of the heathen to
whom the Gospel had never been preached?—
Even the modern doctrine—rather practice—of
"miscegenation," seems not to have been un-
known to the so-called matrons of Rome in the
days of Juvenal:—

"Nam si distendere vellet
pueris salientibus esset
Æthiops fortasse pater."—Jb.

From this similarity of phenomena, from this
moral identity of modern non-Catholic communi-
ties and of heathen Rome, may we not also con-
clude to a similarity of destiny? to the approach-
ing physical, as well as to the actual moral
decadence of the first—just as the Roman satirist
foresaw from the general dissolution of manners,
the inevitable break up of society? May we not
at least conjecture that this morally corrupt race
will be pushed from its seat of empire by one
more vigorous, and of purer morals; that in short
the descendants of the Catholic Celts, if they re-
main true to their ancestral faith, to their father's
creed, and the purity of their mothers—are des-
tined ere long to take the place of the descend-
ants of English Puritans, and to rule as masters
there where hitherto they have been to often
despised as drudges, and treated as slaves? We
think so.

In the hour of her material greatness,
when her star of Empire had just culminated,
when the whole known world stood
hushed in the presence of Cæsar, when not a
whisper, not a breath was to be heard,
disturbing the tremendous majesty of the
Roman peace—then did this sterility of the
nuptial couch, reveal to the world the hideous,
hopeless moral corruption of the world's masters:
from whence the moralist could easily conclude
to the inevitable national decadence of Rome;
and the coming vengeance of an outraged God.
The same phenomenon, the sterility of the nup-
tial couch amongst the rich—*aurato lecto*—re-
peats itself in the New England States to-day:
we see the same agencies at work in Massachu-
setts as those which were adopted in Rome to
frustrate the laws of God: and we may therefore
reasonably anticipate for the long dominant class
in the former, the same fate as that which be-
fell the people of latter.

An esteemed correspondent writes to us upon
this subject, and furnishes us with some of the
vital statistics of Massachusetts, which show how
deep seated, and of how long standing is the
disease:—

The Annual Report of Births, Marriages and Deaths
in Massachusetts for 1856, by Order of the Le-
gislation.

Total number of marriages 12,265; 64 less than in
1855.
Of these 6,818 were of American Birth,
" 4,322 " Foreign
" 382 " Mixed American & Foreign

Total number of Births were 34,445; of this number
only 15,908 were American, or less than one half.

Population. Marriages. Births.
American 80,100 55,100 46,100
Foreign 20,100 45,100 54,100

These facts excite, naturally, lively apprehen-
sions in the minds of intelligent New Englanders,

who know not where to seek a remedy for the
child-destroying practices of their fellow-country-
men, and fellow-countrywomen. On a late oc-
casion Dr. Nathan, of Lowell, delivered a public
address on the subject, of which the burden was,
that the native population, the Protestant New
Englanders, would soon be displaced by Irish
Papists and their descendants. In support of
this proposition he adduced the following facts:—

"In 1830 there were scarcely any foreign families
to be found in this vicinity, but now they compose
about one-third of our population. From a careful
examination it is found that the increase of population
is made up almost wholly of foreigners. In fact, in
several of the towns in this neighborhood, there has
been actually a decrease in the American portion of
their inhabitants. I find that in many of these towns
the number of deaths with the American portion, for
many years, exceed the births. If we include the
foreign element it is not so. Their families have two
or three times as many children as the number of
American families. The records in Lowell show that
for some time among the American population there
has been every year more deaths than births by about
one hundred. In the town of Dunstable, made up
almost wholly of American families, the record for
five years shows more deaths than births, and within
twenty-five years the population has been reduced by
over 150 persons. On the other side of us in the town
of Wilmington, made up mostly of American families,
there have also been more deaths than births, and
this town reports less inhabitants now than it had
fifteen years ago.

"It is about two hundred years since the settle-
ment of these towns, and their history will include
some six generations. Now, from actual examination,
it is found that the families composing the first gen-
eration had, on an average, between eight and ten
children; the next three generations average about
seven to each family; the fifth generation about four
and a half, and the sixth generation less than three
for each family. The generation now coming is not
doing so well as that. What a change as to the size
of the family now and in those older times! Then
large families were common—now it is the exception;
it was rare to find married persons having only
one, two, and three children, now it is very common.
Then it was regarded as a calamity for a married
couple to have no children, but now we find such
calamities on every side of us—in fact, they are
fashionable!

"From a census of the State taken in 1765—just one
hundred years ago—I find that almost one-half of the
population in these towns was under 15 years of age,
but now there is not one-fifth of the American popu-
lation made up from this class. Once the schools in
these towns did not lack for good material, but now
in some of the districts composed wholly of American
families, you can scarcely find children enough to
make a respectable school in point of numbers. If
this diminution of children is to continue, what is to
be the result? If there shall continue to be every
year more deaths than births—if the families now
upon the stage average less than three children each,
and these in each successive generation have on an
average a less and less number—if only about three-
fifths of those born ever live to reach adult life, to say
nothing about the decrease in the number of mar-
riages—is it not pretty evident that the Yankee race
is destined to run out? Beside, this diminution is
hereafter to take place far more rapidly than it has
in past years. When the natural increase falls every
year more and more to make good the original pro-
ducing stock, thereby cutting off continually the
supply, the population will diminish faster than
ever.

"As a further proof of the declension of the native,
and the increase of the foreign population, the fact is
cited that in 1850 there were 35,445 births in the
State, of which more than half were foreign; that is
260,000 foreigners produced more children than
nearly a million Yankees. In 1854 there were 6,000
more deaths than births among the Americans in the
State.

Coming down to 1855 we find the foreign
race increasing at a still greater ratio, as may be
seen from the annexed paragraph, which we clip
from an article in the *Pittsburg Catholic*, en-
titled *The Babies of Boston*:—

Out of 5,275 children, the entire number born in
1855, only 1,306, or 24.75 per cent, had parents who
were both natives of the United States. Both parents
of 3,255 children, or 61.70 per cent, were foreign
born; and the whole number of instances where one
or both parents were foreign born, were 3,941, or 74.71
per cent, while the births of children of Irish parents
made 48.35 per cent over the ratio of 1854.

This exhibits an extraordinary state of affairs—
almost two-thirds of the entire number of children
born in one year from foreign born parents, and
nearly one-half the entire number descendants from
Irish emigrants. We are not told how many of these
Boston parents who had children last year were
Catholics, but taking the above figures as a guide,
and bearing in mind that the Irish in this country
generally belong to our religion, while a fair
proportion of all foreigners profess the same faith,
we may reasonably conclude that out of the whole
number of children who were added to the population
of Boston in 1855, at least one half were baptized in
the Catholic Church.

There is not a medical man in the New England
States but what knows that his services are at
least as much in request to destroy life, as to
preserve life; there is scarce a Protestant news-
paper published that does not show from its ad-
vertisements, how extensive, and how lucrative is
the practice of child murder in North America.
The same fact is proclaimed by the above pub-
lished statistics; and as its cause lies exclusively
in the moral order, and as there is no prospect of
any moral reformation amongst that class of
New England's population which is remarkable
for the sterility of its marriage unions, we may,
we say, safely conclude that it is doomed to ex-
tinction, and that it will be replaced by a more
moral, and therefore more prolific race. In the
Old World the Puritans drove the Irish Papists
before them with the sword; in the New the
latter are avenged, and their higher morality
will ensure to them a more glorious and a more
permanent victory.

TURNED UP AT LAST.—Gavazzi, whose
mysterious disappearance was noticed some weeks
ago in the English papers, and attributed by some
to the plots of the Jesuits, by others to the at-
tractions of a certain class of houses well-known
to the police, has turned up in Venice, where he
is about to lecture. The cause of, and the place
of his retreat are not known; we suspect the
man has, as the saying is, "been on the spree,
or burst."

Remittances in our next.

Mr. Editor.—Will you please allow me to
say a few words respecting the strange antics
that Protestantism has lately been playing—
whether for edification or destruction, I know
not; but just take a case in point.

At the ranting absurdity called the "Conse-
cration of the Lord Bishop of Niagara," that
episcopal myth advances and swears:—

"I, Andrew Norman Bethune, do swear that I do
from my heart abhor, detest and abjure, as impious
and heretical, that damnable doctrine and position,
that Princes excommunicated or deprived by the
Pope, or any authority of the See of Rome, may be
deposed or murdered by their subjects, or any other
whatsoever. And I do declare—(Mr. Bethune de-
clares)—that no foreign Prince, person, state or
potentate, hath, or ought to have, any jurisdiction,
power, superiority, pre-eminence or authority, eccle-
siastical or spiritual, within this realm. So help me
(Mr. Bethune) God!

Classical lore tells us of a class of gentlemen
yclept stoics, who considered laughing beneath
their philosophy; but it was well—for this ob-
servance of such a theory, that they did not live
in our days. Artemus Ward himself would have
utterly failed perhaps; but the above oath would
have thrown them into convulsions. "No Prince
or person should be murdered," groans the minis-
terial chrysalis, and forthwith the Right, no
Wrong Reverend Box and Cox, &c., fashion
their visages to a most orthodox length, and sigh
—Amen. But mark! Mr. Bethune further
adds,—and, moreover, I declare to God I don't
believe the Pope has any right to murder any
body in this Realm." On with the lawn and
apron after that;—if that's not a sufficient proof
of orthodoxy I don't know what is. Now, Mr.
Bethune, by the grace of Harry and Bess and
the favor of Parliamentary Act, bishop of Nia-
gara—"what a mighty fall is there, my brothers"
(Shakespeare)—allow me to ask you a plain
question. If His Holiness the Pope has no
right to murder in this realm, who has?—
Surely a proposition universally acknowledged
needs not the support of an oath. If you, Mr.
Bethune, were to take an oath that the sun
shines at twelve o'clock, noon, would not your
friends gravely suspect that there was a screw
loose somewhere? And if it were necessary to
swear solemnly to the fact, would not common
sense infer from such a proceeding that I may
hold, at least, doubts on the subject! Come,
now, Wrong Rev. Sir, who has a right to mur-
der in their realms?

The right to murder! Well, well, Mormon-
ism and spirit-rapping are nothing to that!

But now, sir, see the contradictions of your
position. Mr. Archdeacon Patton has just been
striving,—with diverse convulsive struggles and
much sweating,—to show that you and he and
the rest of the elect have adhered, like a muscle
to a ship's bottom, to the doctrine and fellowship
of the Apostles. After talking a good deal of
what profanity might term—nonsense, he,—the
Archdeacon—lifts up his hands and cries out
with a lachrymose howl, "This day cuts off our
connection with the (step-) Mother Church.—
This day severs the bands of Church and State.
This day, dawns upon a colonial Church
drifting, say drifted, away from the immense
traditions of those honored years." Now, let
me ask the Wrong Rev. gentleman, how, in the
name of common sense, an oath, referring strictly
to England (see acts of Elizabeth *passim*)
could be conscientiously taken in a colony which,
according to the preacher's testimony, has ceased
all spiritual connection with the Mother Coun-
try? "Oh, but it was merely to acknowledge
the Queen's supremacy! The Queen's supre-
macy! What is supremacy? Is it not juris-
diction of some sort? But the Queen surrenders
her supremacy over the colonial convicts, yet,
in spite of this patent fact, Mr. Bethune
swears more disgracefully than the army in
Flanders, to prove his disbelief in her Majesty's
rejection of spiritual control. Ah, Wrong Rev.
Sir, the Holy Ghost never inspires such foolish
contradictions,—the fiery tongues of Pentecost
speak a different language.

The Spartans sometimes made a slave drunk
that the children of freemen, seeing the condition
of the wretch, might be deterred from falling into
a like excess. One would think that the Old
Spartan that prompted such a means, must have
had something to do with Mr. Bethune's oath,
for, if any one thing more than another could
make a system ridiculous and contemptible,
surely this must be it.

Listen again! The presiding bishop asks Mr.
Bethune:—

"Are you ready, with all faithful diligence, to
banish and drive away all erroneous and strange
doctrine contrary to God's word, &c."

Certainly he is, and anything else required.
But oh! bishop of the Reformation gospel,
have you ever read the following:—

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy
neighbor."

Then he is warned, amongst other things, to
be faithful in laying hands on people.

Oh, Reformation bishop, there is a being, who,
was chained for a thousand years, and he, too,
can lay hands on certain persons—liars, calum-
niators and perjurers!"

Is it not enough to make any honest man
grieve to see, in this advanced age, individuals,
otherwise mayhap estimable, adhering to a system
which makes folly necessary and bad faith a vir-
tue? No doubt the rare holiness and integrity
that presided at the birth of Protestantism may
have blinded these wandering lights of our days.
This renders them more excusable, but, after all,
history is there for them if they wish to open its
pages. Study the question impartially, Mr.
Bethune, then blush at the blasphemous wicked-
ness of your oath.

There is another feature in this beautiful ex-
hibition of calumnious bigotry, which, like a man-
gled sensation of pity and laughter, Mr. Bethune
so helps him &c., or "slops him" as Mr. Dickens
would say, "that no foreign person hath any
jurisdiction &c., within this Realm." Yet, in