

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

We beg to remind our Correspondents that no letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless prepaid.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 29.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

The conventional morality of Liberal Englishmen is one of the most astounding phenomena to be with. Mr. Stansfeld, Mazzini's friend and coadjutor, has just been compelled by popular indignation against assassins and their accomplices, to resign his situation as a Junior Lord of the Admiralty; from whence one might be apt to conclude that the abettors of assassination were looked upon with peculiar horror in England. On the other hand, Garibaldi, who is in every respect as bad as Mazzini, is at the same moment received with almost divine honors. Not only do the dregs of the people turn out to worship the revolutionary idol, but on his landing, far British maidens—so we read in the daily press—kneel down to kiss his blood-stained hand; and the Earl of Shaftesbury and Mazzini—well-matched pair—hurry down to greet him and to prostrate themselves before him. In their eagerness to do honor to the enemy of the Pope, and the Catholic Church, they conveniently forgot that on the "dagger question," Mazzini and Garibaldi are one; that if the former has written in favor of assassination, the latter has done the same, and has proclaimed the assassin to be worthy of the honor and gratitude of posterity. English Liberals affect to be shocked at Mr. Stansfeld's connection with Mazzini, because the latter entertains certain opinions with regard to the employment of poisoned daggers, and hand grenades as instruments for the moral and political regeneration of the world; but they cry hosannah to Garibaldi, who in September 1860, and during the time of the revolutionary government in Naples, declared that the memory of the assassin Milano should be sacred to the country; and awarded, to the widow of the murderer, and in recompense for his services, a pension of 30 ducats a month, and to each of his sisters a dowry of 2,000 ducats. It must be admitted that English Liberals have very elastic flexible consciences; and that in the generosity of their hearts they can forgive anything, even murder, to a man who has approved himself the enemy of the Pope, and the unremitting persecutor of the Catholic Church.

It is much doubted whether the Conference which assembled at London on the 12th instant, will be able to do much towards a pacific settlement of the Danish question. Amongst the Powers who take part in that Conference the greatest difference of opinion obtains, both as to its object, and the means by which that object is to be attained. Some will probably insist upon a faithful and literal adherence to the Treaties of '51 and '52; others will be for treating those Treaties as so much waste paper; and through the semi-official press the French Government has pretty clearly expressed its opinion in favor of leaving the questions at issue to be determined by the vote of the people of the Duchies. Hardly can it be expected that from such very discordant materials, an harmonious result can be obtained. The Prussians meanwhile, determined to make the war as bloody as possible, have bombarded the defenceless town of Sonderburg for twenty-four hours. The effects were terrible; numbers of the inhabitants were killed by the incessant fire kept up on the place; one third of the buildings were destroyed, and the sufferings of the aged and infirm, of women and children are described in harrowing terms by the spectators.

The Confederate Navy is said now to consist of 30 iron-clads ready for service, and it is added that 20 more vessels of a similar class are expected from Europe in the course of the summer. A Confederate ram had attacked and dispersed the Federal flotilla on the Roanoke, sinking several of them, and obtaining complete command of the river. In all quarters the Southerners are opening the campaign briskly, and with most cheering prospects of bringing it to a favorable issue. The Gold market at New York has been in a most unsettled state all the week, fluctuating from 64 to 84.

It will be in the recollection of many of our readers that this Agostino Milano was executed for an attempt to murder King Ferdinand II.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS.—On Monday last, the Rev. P. Vanderbergh, Visitor of the P. Oblats, started for Buffalo; and on Monday next, will leave Toronto for St. Boniface, Red River, accompanied by nine Sisters of Charity from Montreal.

At the Lecture of the Rev. Mr. O'Farrell on Tuesday evening last, he invited the people generally to assist at the Pontifical High Mass to be sung at St. Ann's Church, Griffintown, by His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, on Sunday next. The new decorations of the Church are now complete. Mass will commence at half past nine o'clock A.M.

Next to a Papist there is nothing that the *Witness* so cordially hates as a gentleman; and his ill-will to Pope, Bishops, Priests, and Nuns is almost equalled by that which he entertains towards all members of the aristocracy and landed gentry of Great Britain. The first of these passions our evangelical contemporary indulges with impunity; but to his cost he has lately learnt that the game of falsehood and calumny is dangerous when played with men who wear beards upon their chins; and that though almost as exciting, it is much safer to libel Sisters of Charity, and to insinuate charges of murder against the Grey Nuns, than it is to venture upon similar liberties with gentlemen who carry horsewhips, and are able to right their own wrongs. In short the *Witness* has at last met with the fate that sooner or later must befall the slanderer of his neighbor, and the hiring calumniator; he has come to grief. Thus has it come to pass.

In October last appeared an editorial paragraph in the *Witness*, in which it was asserted that the Marquis of Ailsa had shot three boys on his estate, who were gathering brambles-berries, killing one, and wounding the others. Some other comments followed, but this monstrous story formed the gist of the article.

A copy of the paper containing the atrocious libel was forwarded to his Lordship's man of business in Ayrshire, Thomas Dykes, Esq.; and the consequence was that in the course of a few weeks the editor of the *Witness* was duly notified to give up the name of the slanderer, or to stand the consequences in the shape of a criminal action. This being an argument of a nature that our evangelical correspondent can appreciate, had the desired effect; and in his issue of the 20th instant, the *Witness* gives, what he calls a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances under which the calumnious paragraph appeared, and an apology dictated by the aggrieved party, and signed by the chief criminal in the business.—We give the story as it appears in the *Witness*, as amusingly illustrative of the editor's moral sense, and ideas of right and wrong:—

"One day last winter, we were not a little astonished by a demand from the Marquis of Ailsa, (Scotland), through his lawyer, Mr. Torrance, of this city, for the author of a paragraph, which had appeared in the *Daily Witness* of the 31st October last, libelling his lordship. Curious to know how we could have libelled a nobleman of whose existence we were not even aware, we hastily turned over our file, and truly enough, we found the paragraph in question accusing his lordship of shooting boys—one of them fatally—and sundry other mad pranks; and, what was worst of all, the said paragraph was not copied from a Scotch paper, but actually appeared editorially upon the authority of a letter received by a respectable party in Montreal. Enquiries were immediately instituted to find out where the paragraph had come from, and how it got in,—none of the editors having seen it before it appeared in print. It was then found that a friend of the *Witness* had happened to hear a letter from Scotland read, containing the paragraph in question, and had requested the extract for our paper, which he had brought in just when the paper was making up. This gentleman knew nothing of the matter, except that the story, which he presumed was undoubtedly true, would make a good paragraph for the *Witness*; and the gentleman who received the letter had no intention whatever of giving any part of it for publication until thus requested. We need not add that the writer of the private letter could have no intention or expectation that any part of it would be published. Thus, without malice on the part of any one of those engaged in this somewhat singular chain of circumstances, but with more or less of culpable carelessness, a paragraph, false in point of fact, and with which we, at least, had nothing to do, obtained publicity through our columns."

The is much in the above, both curious and instructive. A person, or as the *Witness* more elegantly calls him "a party," hears a story read out from a letter, accusing a Scotch gentleman of a monstrous crime, and more than diabolical cruelty. Without pausing to enquire whether the story were true or false, though it bore the marks of falsehood on the face of it, "the party," with keen appreciation of the merits of the *Witness*, and its peculiar fitness as a channel for calumny, at once came to the conclusion, though "he knew nothing of the matter," that the said story "would make a good paragraph for the *Witness*;" and so "the party" rushed off to the office with his information, and in due course of time the community was startled by reading a well authenticated story of how a Scotch nobleman had shot three boys, killing one and wounding two, for gathering brambles-berries on his estate.

"Thus," continues the *Witness*, "without malice on the part of any one of those engaged in this somewhat singular chain of circumstances," the false and calumnious paragraph appeared in our columns! "The morality of the conventicle is peculiar! "Without malice on the part of any one engaged!" forsooth! Why! how could such a lie be originated or put in circulation without malice of the deepest dye? The *Witness* with his peculiar code of ethics, has yet to learn that the malice or moral guilt of him who publishes a story to the prejudice of the private character of his neighbor, not knowing it to be true, is before God's law and man's law scarcely distinguishable from the guilt of him who publishes a similar story knowing it to be not true. The receiver is as bad as the thief, says the adage; and he who without using all possible precaution to assure himself of its truth, gives publicity to a tale injuriously affecting his neighbor, is every whit as bad as the originator of the slander.

In so far as slandering gentlemen, not Catho-

lic ecclesiastics, is concerned, this lesson has been impressed upon the *Witness* by the attitude of the Marquis of Ailsa; but we should be too sanguine were we to anticipate that, in so far as the slandering of Romish priests and nuns is concerned, the *Witness* were about to adopt another line of conduct from that which he has hitherto pursued. His rule is that he is at liberty to publish anything detrimental to Catholic Religion, without any regard to the truth or falsity of the injurious allegations; and that the utmost that can be expected of him as an evangelical journalist is, that he should assert nothing which he knows to be not true. To this rule he will no doubt adhere in the future, as he has adhered in the past; but we do trust that the more intelligent and candid section of the Protestant world, now that they have been shown of what stuff the sensation stories of the *Witness* against the aristocracy are made off, will be cautious in giving credit to his stories to the detriment of their Catholic fellow citizens, and which rest upon no better foundation than did his calumnies against the Marquis of Ailsa. For the latter the only basis was this: that the Marquis was out shooting with a party of friends; and when firing at a covey of partridges, some children who were concealed behind a hedge were slightly injured by the discharge of one of the guns.—The injuries were fortunately very trifling; and every kindness was shown to them by the Marquis, who furnished them with money, clothes and the best medical assistance until they were recovered.

STATISTICS OF SWADDLING.—It is well, from time to time, to be posted up in the doings of the *Souper Societies*, to learn what ravages they may be making amongst the Catholic population in Lower Canada, and what prospects there are of their success in the future. This information is furnished us by the "Annual Report of the Evangelical Society of La Grande Lague," for 1860. "The year had been one," we are told, "of peculiar trial, but the hand of God had been upon the missionaries." From this apologetic whine by way of a preface, we were prepared to read of the no-results of the missionary efforts of the Evangelical Society aforesaid; and as we made ourselves masters of the facts and figures of its Annual Report, we found our anticipations agreeably confirmed.

The total receipts of the Society for the year 1863 are put down at... \$10,702 57
Total Expenses..... 10,741 88
Deficiency on the year 1863..... \$39 39

The Society has also to mourn over a deficit for the year 1862; so that upon the whole, in spite of the large sums of money collected, the financial condition of the Evangelical Society cannot be said to be flourishing. Let us now see what it has to show in the shape of conversions for all this lavish expenditure.

In the first place during the year, from 70 to 75 pupils have been under a course of instruction at Longueuil and Grande Lague. Of these "some"—number not stated—"have found the Saviour," whatever that unctuous piece of cant may mean. The others of course have not found him, and we fear will have a long search for him yet, if they remain in either of the above-named Swaddling institutions.

Besides the 70 or 75 pupils of whom "some have found the Saviour," we find noted the following operations of the Evangelical Society:

"24 persons have embraced the Gospel."
And:—
"24 families have left the Roman Catholic Church."
Since the Report draws a distinction betwixt "embracing the Gospel," and "leaving the Catholic Church" we must suppose that this distinction actually obtains. Now allowing three persons for each of the "24 families that have left the Roman Catholic Church," but "have not embraced the Gospel" we have a total of 72
From which we deduct "34 persons who have embraced the Gospel"... 34
Balance, Infidels... 38

We say infidels, because we think that it is a self-evident proposition that a person who has left the Roman Catholic Church, but who has not embraced the Gospel must be an infidel; and thus by the showing of its own Annual Report, the Evangelical Society has, at a cost of \$10,702 88c, succeeded during the year 1863 in making 38 infidels, or children of the devil.

Considering the large sum of money expended in the process, we do not think that the Society has much cause for congratulation. There is not a house of ill-fame in Montreal, not a low drinking saloon, or den of debauchery, which in the course of the year, does not cause as many defections from the Roman Catholic Church, and in proportion to its expenditure, defections far more numerous.

And yet this is all, literally all, that the Annual Report as analysed by the Montreal *Witness*, can show as the net results of its labors, and its expenditure for the year '63. With all the many material inducements to apostatize held out to them by the Evangelical Societies, out of the hundreds of thousands of our French Canadian Catholic population only "24 families have

left the Church;" and of those it may be affirmed with confidence that, when the wages of their apostasy shall have been expended, the clothes shall have been worn, and the victuals all consumed, the great majority will seek to be reconciled to the Church which they had left.

HUMILIATING BUT TRUE.—The disgraceful consequences that have followed the Foreign policy of the Liberal Government of England are implied in the following paragraph which we clip from an editorial of the London *Times* upon the war now raging in Denmark. The *Times* says:—

"The King of Prussia, or the Emperor of Austria, or the Emperor of France, could in an hour, send a telegraphic message into the Prussian camp which would explode with greater power than any shell there, and blow away the siege itself."

And why not the Queen of England? But for the ignominious Foreign policy of the Palmerston Cabinet, a message from the Sovereign of Great Britain would be as effective as would be a message from the King of Prussia, from an Emperor, either of France or Austria. As it is England is of no account, of no weight in the balance of power in Europe, and nobody seems to care what she says, does, or thinks. On this point, and with the London *Times* for its text, the *New York Commercial Advertiser* comments as under:—

"Alas for English supremacy and English influence, so weakened on the Continent that even the *Times* does not intimate that even a message from the Queen of England would be regarded in the Prussian camp! The whole tenor of British diplomacy of late has been such that Europe would laugh at any message emanating from England."

The Montreal *Herald* honors the TRUE WITNESS with a few remarks upon our article on the relative positions of Upper and Lower Canada: but either we must have expressed ourselves very indistinctly, or else the *Herald* misrepresents us. We will willingly adopt the former hypothesis, and will endeavour to explain ourselves. The *Herald* for instance says—that, according to the principles laid down by the TRUE WITNESS:—

"The Protestants in Upper Canada though in a majority must always submit to the dictation of the Catholics, lest the Catholics, being in a minority should have to submit."—*Montreal Herald*, 22nd inst.

Hereupon the *Herald* adds:—

"But it is a somewhat startling doctrine that for the sake of the Church the minority are always to be kept in a position to enjoy all the secular patronage: all the levying of public burdens: and all the distribution of the public funds of the entire country."—*Id.*

A "startling doctrine" indeed, but certainly not the doctrine of the TRUE WITNESS. On the contrary, it is one which we have always repudiated, and always will repudiate. "Secular patronage"—"distribution of the public funds"—"public pickings, and public plunder of all kinds have never been asserted by the TRUE WITNESS to be the legitimate prerequisites of either Catholic or Protestant, of either Anglo-Saxon, or French Canadian.

Neither have we ever insisted that it is just that the "Protestants in Upper Canada" whether in a majority or a minority, "must always submit to the dictation of the Catholics" of Lower Canada. We have argued indeed that, if two men will insist upon riding upon one horse, one must ride behind: but we have never insisted upon the *one* horse for the *two* men. Rather have we argued that, if neither will willingly accept the inferior position which riding double necessitates, the cheapest and most equitable plan is for each to get an animal of his own, to ride upon. So shall they both be able to jog on, pleasantly and harmoniously together, along the same road, and towards one goal. We have no desire to make Upper Canada ride behind us; but please God, we will never submit to ride behind Upper Canada.

NEO-CHRISTIANITY.—A novel, and to many a most acceptable view of Christianity has just been given to the world by the lately named Dean of Westminster, in a sermon preached by that dignitary and ornament of the Establishment, on the text, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." According to the views expounded by the Dean, Christianity "consists" essentially in the research after truth, since Christ is "the truth;" so that, no matter what may be the particular truth after which you are in search, if you pursue your researches diligently, and with a sincere desire to discover it, you are, even though unconsciously and unwillingly, following Christ Who is "the truth," and approving yourself His faithful disciple:—

"If any of those who were present 'said the preacher' had devoted themselves to science: if any of them were students in any sense of science, students of nature, students of language, students of history, students of theology—if any of them truth seemed to be the leading pole-star of their life, be they there, or be they away from church and abbey, they were, consciously or unconsciously, willingly or unwillingly, laboring in the service of Christ and His truth."

This will be a most comfortable doctrine to many: thousands will be cheered at thus learning that they had all along "been labouring in the service of Christ and His truth" whilst indulging their instinctive and apparently vicious curiosity. It matters not in what department or for what ends, they may have exercised their faculties; whether in physics or ethnology, in history or philology, in comparative anatomy or gastronomy. The newspaper correspondent ear-

nestly seeking after the truth concerning the last great Federal victory; the detective officer hunt upon the clue of an interesting murder; the inquisitive and garrulous old spinster, ever anxious to know what her neighbors have had for dinner? whether Mrs. Jones has paid for that fine new Brussels carpet just laid down in her drawing room? or whether that pert mix Miss Tabby Crinolone her maid, really encourages the young man from the grocery store round the corner? all, and each of these, if only they make the truth in the several matters which interest them, "the leading pole-star of their life," are *ipso facto* though unconsciously and unwillingly, "labouring in the service of Christ, and His truth." This is indeed a doctrine as grand and as consoling as it is novel: and one which will no doubt greatly tend to recommend Christianity itself to thousands who hitherto have looked upon it in quite a different light.

We are glad to see that the *Montreal Herald* is calling attention to the propriety, indeed necessity of legislative interference for the protection of the small birds, not provided for by the game-laws. Hardly do our pleasant and most useful Spring visitors make their appearance, but a gang of heartless, tasteless creatures turn out armed to the teeth for their destruction. From morning to night the crack of the gun is heard as this wanton and most destructive war is carried on against one of our most useful allies against the greatest plague of our gardens and orchards. The consequence is that the caterpillars have got the upper hand, their enemies the little singing birds having been shot down and driven away by the cockney sportsmen of Montreal. Orchards once gay with blossom in the Spring, and rich with golden fruit in the Autumn, present now to the eye but the aspect of desolation, as if the besom of destruction had passed over them: and unless some means be found to put a stop to the cruel and wanton destruction of our allies the birds, in a few years it will be in vain to attempt growing any kind of fruit or vegetable in the vicinity of the town.—About tastes it is useless to dispute; and if there are people with tastes so depraved as to take delight in shooting the robins, and the sweet songsters whom God in His mercy sends to cheer us, it is in vain to argue with them. But this destruction of birds is not a mere question of taste; it involves most important material interests; it is one upon which the Governments of Europe have not disdained to bestow their attention; and for the sake of our farmers and horticulturists to whom the increase of the pest of insects menaces ruin, our Legislature should surely see fit to bestir itself in the matter before it be too late, and the mischief be irreparable.

REPUDIATION.—The long looked for has come at last, as all men knew that sooner or later it must come. The State of New York has resolved henceforward to pay the interest of their debt, whether to native or to foreign creditors, in their depreciated paper currency—thus cheating the latter to the amount of the difference in value betwixt gold, and their flimsy green-backs. It is hoped yet that Governor Seymour will disallow this rascally trick worthy of the fraudulent bankrupt; but it is most probable that the course of the New York Legislature will be generally adopted both by those of the other States, and by the Federal Government. If men, however will be such fools as to risk their money in American railroads and Yankee securities, they deserve to be cheated out of both interest and capital.

THE ELECTIONS.—Everywhere in Lower Canada the seats vacated by the present occupants of places in the Cabinet have been filled up by the former members, thus showing that in this section of the Province the actual Ministry enjoy the confidence of the people. In the Western section they have not been so fortunate, as Mr. Foley after a severe and protracted contest has been defeated by a majority of 159 at North Waterloo. The name of the successful candidate is Mr. Bowman.

So nearly balanced are parties in the Legislature that the loss of one seat is a very serious matter; and it may be doubted whether the Ministry will now be able to command a majority in the House, or at all events a majority sufficiently large to enable them to carry out their policy. It is therefore very probable that we shall have another dissolution and general election.

Assuredly the Irish have abundant reasons to be enamored of the Yankees, and to shed their blood for the latter against the South. As a specimen of the high estimation in which, in return for their innumerable services, the Yankees hold the Irish, let us take the action of the Legislature of the State of Maine. This body has just passed an Act for the encouragement of immigration, incorporating a Society for the purpose, and awarding to it a premium of \$25 for every emigrant from Europe landed under its auspices upon the American shore; with one exception, however, for all Irish emigrants were expressly excluded from the benefits of the Act.