



CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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AGENTS.

Mr. Maurice A. Egan, of Woodstock, is our duly authorized travelling agents in Ontario.

SPANISH LOYALTY TO THE POPE.

Spain now as ever remains loyal to the Pope. The Allocation has brought forth expressions of attachment from all quarters in the land of the Cid, to the Vicar of Christ.

The Allocation of Madrid publishes a declaration of loyalty and devotion to the Sovereign Pontiff, in answer to the Allocation, which has already secured many signatures, and will probably be signed by thousands before it is despatched to Rome.

THE STATE OF ITALY.

Lawlessness was never so ripe in Italy, as it is at the present moment. Life and property are insecure, and bands of armed men appear to carry all before them in many parts of the country.

The news that a band of about sixty armed men, calling themselves Internationalists, but behaving as brigands, as the Standard said—the 'but' implying, we fear, that our Conservative contemporary has too high an opinion of the general behaviour of the members of the International.

CATTLE V. PEOPLE.

To make Ireland, what Lord Carlisle so often predicted, she would become "the fruitful mother of flocks and herds," has been the ambition of many British statesmen.

"It will not 'pay' to spend so much money on the raising, fattening and exporting of cattle when prices tumble down. Thus a great deal of Irish land will in course of time return to its natural condition, in a country whose fertility is proverbial.

Princes and peers may flourish or may fade, A breath can make them as a breath has made; But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, If once destroyed can never be supplied.

The Pope—A Rome despatch reports that some of the Catholic Governments sought information relative to the basis on which it is desired negotiations should be opened in favor of the Holy See.

ROUMANIA AND THE WAR.

While Turkey and Russia are drawing to close quarters upon Roumanian territory, the principality itself does not mean to remain idle.

"A Bill is about to be introduced in the Chamber of Deputies suspending the Constitution, endowing Prince Charles with discretionary powers, and authorizing military preparations on the largest possible scale.

SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE WAR.

As usual speculations as to the intentions of the European Powers are busy flying around the world. With Turkey £12,000,000 deficit, and Russia supposed to be prepared for the campaign, it might not be difficult to foretell the issue if the struggle was left between them.

"The story that Russia had contracted a hundred million rouble loan with the Hamburg firm of Bleichroeders is a mere fabrication. Other reports of general interest are to the effect that the Turkish Budget shows a deficit of twelve millions sterling; that Austria and Russia are contemplating an arrangement whereby Bosnia will be ceded to Austria; that the Italian Government has issued, and the United States Government is about to issue, a proclamation of neutrality; that Greece is only waiting to declare war until the Russians shall have crossed the Danube; that the Russians fearing a British occupation of Crete, have ceased to tamper with the inhabitants and to furnish them with supplies; and that the son of the famous Schamy! will assume the command at Kars."

WHAT WILL ENGLAND DO?

If the Standard is the inspired organ of Lord Beaconsfield, then England means to fight Russia. In an article which appeared in that Journal about twelve days ago the following ominous passage occurs:—

"Europe has asked Turkey to display a willingness to come to terms with Montenegro, to show herself in earnest in introducing administrative reforms, and to consent to disarm simultaneously with Russia. To all these requests Turkey has responded affirmatively, and it is in our opinion the duty of Europe to say plainly that it is satisfied with the reply. We cannot, and we will not, permit ourselves to be dragged along that slippery and dangerous incline over which Russia labours to make us travel. Russia seems to imagine that diplomacy is the art of duping. We are determined that we will not be duped, just as Turkey is determined it will not be humiliated. We have no confidence left in Russia's sincerity."

England will build no more 'golden bridges.' In plainer words, it is to be hoped that the recent Protocol will be the last diplomatic document drawn up by Russian statesmen which England will consent to sign, and that Lord Derby, declaring that he is satisfied with Turkey's reply, will commence at last to take cognizance of the Russian intrigues in Bosnia and Montenegro, which now constitute the greatest danger to the peace of Europe."

THE WAR.

At last Russia and Turkey are face to face. England, from policy may be forced to take sides. Ireland, from principle cannot sympathize with either one or the other. As Catholics we can have no sympathy for the autocrat of the North, who has been the consistent enemy of our Church, and as Irishmen we must dislike a power that has barbarously treated gallant Poland. As for Turkey, Catholics may be a little better treated there, but the brutal manner she suppressed revolt in Bulgaria, has alienated from her whatever sympathy she otherwise might have.

"Another sensational story respecting England's attitude with regard to the war in the East is served up this morning. The authority in this instance is the Manchester Guardian, which states that a conflict of opinion exists between Earl Beaconsfield and some of his colleagues, and that an army corps of thirty or forty thousand men is being rapidly prepared for despatch to any point where English interests may require them. It is also rumored that an English fleet has been ordered to proceed to Alexandria to protect English interests in Egypt. Apropos of Egypt, the Khedive finds himself in an exceedingly unpleasant position. On the one hand, his allegiance compels him to render active aid to his suzerain, and on the other, Russia warns him against granting any assistance in the shape of troops, while France cautions him against diverting to military purposes any sums he has set apart for the payment of his creditors.

THE IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS.

In our Saturday edition we shall publish an account taken from the Irishman of a recent visit paid to Sergeant McCarthy, the political prisoner now in Chatham. Meanwhile we learn that:—

"A meeting was held in London, for the purpose of forming a committee to arrange for regular visits to the Irish political prisoners and establishing a fund to defray the expenses. Mr. O'Connor Power, M.P., presided, and Messrs. Biggar and Parnell, M.P.s, were amongst those present. The meeting was a large and influential one. Among the offers to work with the new movement were those contained in letters from Mr. Dutt, M.P.; Mr. Shaw, M.P.; Chevalier O'Clery, M.P.; Mr. O'Sullivan, M.P.; and Mr. F. H. O'Donnell, M.A. A committee for carrying out the movement was appointed."

ENGLAND AND THE POPE.

England is day by day becoming more Catholic. No one knows this better than the Holy Father. He is to receive an English deputation on the 10th inst., and the Roman correspondent of the Universe says:—

"We learn that his Holiness recently received a deputation of English, who were presented by Monsignor Stonor. Monsignor de Stacpoole delivered an address to the Holy Father on the occasion, thanking him for having raised Monsignor Howard to the dignity of Cardinal. The words of the prelate were marked by the love and devotion which filled his heart. In reply, after having tenderly eulogized the new Cardinal, his Holiness said that he loved and admired this great nation of England. 'You have, he said, great authority; you have the genius of enterprise—you possess enormous wealth; your ships traverse every sea. But I do not envy you all this—I pray, ah! I pray with all my heart for the conversion of England!'"

THE BRITISH ARMY.

The following figures may be interesting just now. The numbers refer to the regular army alone:—

"The Pall Mall Gazette says: It appears from the general annual return of the British army for the year 1875, that the effective strength of the regular army on the 1st of January in that year was 186,432, all arms, and on the 1st of December, 183,745. The average strength during the year was 184,669, composed as follows: Household Cavalry, 1,282; cavalry of the line, 15,142; Royal Horse Artillery, 5,520; Royal Artillery, 28,702; Royal Engineers, 5,647; foot guards, 5,550; infantry of the line, 115,357; Army Service Corps, 3,002; Army Hospital Corps, 1,299. The average strength at home was 97,193, and abroad, 87,476. Of this latter number 63,195 were in India. The total number of recruits who passed into the service was 18,375, exclusive of those enlisted for the colonial corps and others raised abroad. The number of desertions was 4,373, the number who rejoined from desertions was 1,914, and the net loss from desertion was 2,449. The nationalities of the non-commissioned officers and men on the same date were as follows: English, 118,721; Scotch, 13,818; Irish, 39,366; foreigners, 2,503; not reported, 1,444. Their religious denominations were: Church of England, 114,143; Presbyterians, 14,336; other Protestants, 6,371; Catholics, 39,374; Mohammedans, Hindus, Jews, etc., 131; not reported, 1,501. As to educational acquirements, 9,294 could neither read nor write; 79,336 could only read and write; 77,690 were better educated; and 1,591 are described as 'not reported.'"

THE DUBLIN CORPORATION AND THE CLERICAL ABUSES BILL.

The Dublin Corporation has taken action in the matter of the Clerical Abuses Bill—or the new penal law in Italy—as it should be called. Are there not enough of Catholics in the Corporation of Montreal to pursue a similar policy. We recommend the suggestion to our Irish Catholic representatives. If they take it up, no doubt the French Canadians will support them. If it can be done, Montreal will stand to the front in the Catholic world. An Irish contemporary tells us that:—

"The Corporation of Dublin adopted a petition to the Prime Minister praying him to use his influence with the Italian government to have the Clerical Abuses Bill withdrawn. Amongst those who supported the petition in speeches were Alderman M'Sweeney, Alderman M'Cann, Mr. Dennehy, Mr. Dawson (who delivered a very eloquent speech), Mr. G. O'Neill, Alderman Fry, and Mr. Dwyer Gray—the two last-mentioned gentlemen being, as is well-known, Protestants. His Eminence Cardinal Cullen has issued a pastoral letter on the same subject, in the course of which he suggests that members of Parliament, corporations, and other representative bodies might assist, by petitions and protests, in restoring and preserving the liberty of the Holy See and the Catholic Church; while next week a meeting is to be held in Kilkenny, under the auspices of the Bishop of Ossory, to give the Catholic people of that part of the country an opportunity of uttering a protest against the outrageous acts of the Italian Ministry."

MESSRS. BIGGAR AND PARNELL.

Messrs. Biggar and Parnell continue to pursue their policy of obstruction in the House of Commons. They are fighting the whole Parliament. They oppose every English measure introduced. Mr. Butt remonstrated with them, and Mr. O'Connor Power has replied to

Mr. Butt in support of their policy. The House of Commons and the British press are very angry, but they are only being paid back in their own coin. Irishmen should not be too scrupulous as to the "anger" of the Imperial Parliament. Meanwhile the Nation writes:—

"As a result of these proceedings in Parliament, several significant pronouncements have been made in the Newspapers and otherwise. The English journals bewail the fact that the tactics of Messrs. Parnell and Biggar have thrown the business of the House of Commons much more into arrear than has been the case for years; and, secondly, they admit that none of the various plans for defeating them is likely to prove successful, or can be adopted without injury to what is called the dignity of the House. Irish feeling, on the other hand, so far as it has yet found expression rejoices at this state of things. We may add, as will also be seen by reference to our news columns, that the branches of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain continue to pass resolutions of a similar character."

It appears, too, that the people are generally in favour of the "obstructive" policy, and although we know that it cannot result in obtaining Home Rule for Ireland, still it will teach Great Britain a lesson that she will never forget.

THE CAXTON 400th ANNIVERSARY

William Caxton, "a papist," and of course a "friend of popular ignorance," according to some of our censors, introduced the art of printing into England 400 years ago. The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal are anxious to celebrate the fourth centennial of this event by a Conversazione, which is announced for June 26th, and they appeal to the public for such works of interest as will enable them to hold an Exhibition on the following days. The Society would, in the words of the prospectus:—

"Feel grateful for the loan of such articles classed in the appended schedule, as may be in the possession of either private individuals or Public Institutions throughout the Dominion, the Society undertaking the cost of transmission, the care and custody while here, and the immediate return of the Exhibits, at the close of the celebration. Schedule.—1. Missals or Manuscript Books, prior to the Art of Printing. 2. Books from the Press of William Caxton, Colard Mansion, Wynkyn de Worde and Pynson. 3. Books from the invention of the Art, to 1650. 4. Books subsequent to 1650, having merit in illustrating the special development of the Art, 'Etditio Princeps,' uncut Editions, large paper Editions, Rare and Curious Books, Works from celebrated Printers. 5. Early and Rare Editions of Bibles and Prayer Books. 6. Illustrated and Illuminated Books from the earliest epoch, to the present day. 7. Books having reference to the early History of Canada, (Nouvelle France.) 8. All Books and Newspapers printed in Canada prior to 1840, thereafter, Books illustrative of the progress of the art in Canada. 9. Prints, Etchings, Woodcuts and Engravings up to 1800, thereafter, specimens illustrative of Canadian Engraving. 10. Specimens of Calligraphy, up to 1700. 11. Maps and Plans relating to America prior to 1800. 12. Coins and Medals."

We trust that our readers will do whatever they can to forward the success of this undertaking.

ENGLAND PREPARING FOR WAR.

As we go to press the news continues to be more warlike. England is preparing for war with all haste. Seven 12 ton naval guns have been shipped to Portsmouth from Woolwich, and 400 tons of ammunition and arms are being shipped for Malta. The dockyards are busy, and recruiting is brisk, and it is said that nearly every regiment in the service is full. France has declared that she will remain neutral. Events move so rapidly nowadays that before the first issue of our Saturday edition we may be face to face with some fresh difficulty. Our latest telegrams inform us:—

London, May 1.—A Vienna correspondent telegraphs that the British Government will possibly be the only one to return a regular official answer to Russia's representation that she is acting in accordance with the wishes of Europe. For the moment at least there is an end to anything like a concert of European policy, each power being intent upon its own interests.

Recruiting has been going on so briskly lately that nearly every regiment in the service is full. The military artificers at Woolwich arsenal were exused yesterday from monthly muster and parade because of pressing work in the preparation of wagons and ambulances. Seven 12 ton naval guns have been shipped to Portsmouth, and 400 tons of ammunition and arms are being shipped for Malta. A special from Chatham says the Admiralty have made enquiry at Chatham dockyard as to the earliest date when the ironclad "Temeraire," of eight guns, 7,000 horse power, and the iron corvette "Euryalus," of 16 guns, 3,932 tons, and 520 horse power, can be ready for sea.

According to instructions from the War Office, several companies of Royal Engineers at the school of military engineering here are being made up to their war strength. Robert Pasha's steamer "Bethna" ran the blockade at Galatz by keeping close to the shore while

in front of the Russian batteries. The gunners were unable to depress their guns far enough to take aim.

In the House of Lords this afternoon Lord Derby said the Government had prepared an answer to the Russian circular. It will be sent out to-night and laid before the House as soon as delivered.

VERSAILLES, May 1.—In the Chamber of Deputies the Duc de Casca said "In the Eastern question the most absolute neutrality will remain the basis of our policy."

THE WAR.

THE COMMANDERS OF THE HOSTILE ARMIES. The commanders of the hostile armies are no men of much practical military experience in the field. Neither Abdul-Kerim Pasha, nor the Grand Duke Nicholas, have "faced the music" in many great campaigns. A contemporary gives an account of the lives of the two men. It says:—

"Abdul-Kerim Pasha is an unassuming man over seventy years of age, with no pretensions to a brilliant pedigree, but with a solid reputation as an excellent soldier. Abdul-Kerim Pasha's official title is that of Serdar-i-Ekrem, or Commander-in-Chief, as distinguished from the Minister of War, Redif Pasha. He is, however, the senior of the minister, both in age and experience, and Redif Pasha is much under his control. The old soldier was himself Minister of War during the reign of Abdul-Aziz. The fame of the old General has not hitherto been special in the outside world, partly on account of his modesty and constant desire to keep in the background, partly because the living military men of Turkey have had only one chance to show their abilities, and that was during the war of 1853-54.

The Grand Duke Nicholas is fine-looking, tall, forty-six years old, a brother of the Czar, as haughty a prince as the House of Romanoff has ever produced, and a soldier as devoid of a military history as any review and parade guardsman. Abdul Kerim Pasha is the actual commander-in-chief of his army. The Grand Duke Nicholas is a mere figurehead, guided and commanded by his chief of staff, Gen. Nipokoytchizky, the Molika of Russia. He has been in active service since the age of sixteen, or for thirty years past; but he has scarcely any field experience. He spent a few days in Sebastopol during the siege, and was, when quite a youth attached for some two years to the general staff of the Army of the Caucasus, where he took part in a few skirmishes with the Cossacks. He was brought up as a field engineer, and is at present the chief of all the military engineers of the empire, with Gen. Todtoben as his assistant. The Grand Duke is married to the daughter of Prince Peter of Oldenburg, and has two sons, one of whom, the Grand Duke Nicholas, Jr., a youth of twenty, is with him in the capacity of an aide-de-camp. The Grand Duke is the third son of Czar Nicholas, and is accordingly an uncle of the two princely sailors at present in this country.

The Russian Army about to operate in Asia Minor against Mukhtar Pasha is under the orders of the Grand Duke Michael, younger brother of the Grand Duke Nicholas, and the Czar's Lord Lieutenant of the Caucasus, a much brighter and more experienced officer than the Commander-in-Chief of the army of the Danube.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Ottawa, April 28. Parliament was prorogued this afternoon at two o'clock. His Excellency delivered the following speech:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons: In relieving you from further attendance in Parliament, I beg to convey to you my thanks for the diligence with which you have applied yourselves to the performance of your duties.

Among the numerous measures you have passed are several of considerable importance. The improved provision for the incorporation of joint stock companies will, I trust, tend to the establishment of such companies under the operation of sound general rules, rather than by special and exceptional legislation.

The law, as to insurance companies, will add to the existing securities of Canadian insurers. The alteration of the duties on petroleum will confer a great boon on the masses of the population.

The vast shipping interests of our great inland seas will be benefited by the extension to the trade on those waters of right and remedies, the utility of which has been recognized by long experience. The law providing for the extradition of fugitive criminals will enable Canada to discharge efficiently her part of the engagements of the Empire in this important particular.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:— In Her Majesty's name I thank you for the supplies you have so cheerfully voted.

I will take care that they are expended with due regard to economy.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate and Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

The Commissioners to be named under the Treaty of Washington having been at length appointed, the Commission will shortly be organized at Halifax.

I have taken steps to insure a full and fair presentation of the case of Canada. I trust the negotiations may realize all our expectations. I have now only to give expression to my earnest hope that on your return to your several homes you may meet with evidences of growing prosperity, and that before you are again called upon to meet together in your representative capacity, the passing cloud on our trade and commerce will have disappeared.

Remittances and Markets unavoidably crowded out this week.