

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY...DECEMBER 17, 1884.

TO SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.

All those indebted for subscriptions, and who have already received accounts, are specially requested to send their remittances without delay. The amount thus outstanding is so large that we are under the necessity of pressing all to an immediate settlement.

CATHOLIC CALENDAR.

THURSDAY, 18.—Expectation of the B. V. M.
FRIDAY, 19.—Ember Day. Fast.
SATURDAY, 20.—Ember Day. Vigil. Fast.
SUNDAY, 21.—Fourth Sunday in Advent.
Epist. 1 Cor. 15; Gosp. Luke 11:1-6.
MONDAY, 22.—St. Thomas, Apostle (Dec. 21).
TUESDAY, 23.—Feria.
WEDNESDAY, 24.—Vigil. Fast.

The "Salvation Army" which arrived in Montreal on Sunday has already proved itself as unmitigated nuisance. It led to a disturbance of the public peace and gave rise to unseemly commotion in the public squares and thoroughfares of the city. Blasphemy seemed to be the order of the day. The meetings of the "Army" are most subversive of morality, religion and decorum.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE seems to be gaining ground rapidly. During the past year complete suffrage for the fair sex has been established in Washington Territory, and municipal suffrage has been granted to unmarried women and widows in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Municipal suffrage has worked so well in England that the British Parliament has extended it to Scotland. In the Dominion, Sir John Macdonald has promised to go a step further and give them the parliamentary franchise.

Two of our most esteemed contemporaries, the Ottawa Daily Sun and the Quebec Daily Telegraph, are growing and prospering so well that they have burst their old dress and have assumed larger dimensions. We congratulate them on this exhibition of vigor and prosperity, and is happy to see the usefulness of Independent journals more and more recognized and appreciated throughout the Dominion. The Sun, in announcing its enlargement, remarks that "Independent journalism may therefore be considered a success at Ottawa. The old idea that a newspaper could have no standing, room apart from the two parties has thus been exploded."

TEACHING was never a very lucrative calling in Canada, and especially in this Province. In some instances fair salaries are attached to the principal positions in cities, but as a general rule a teacher receives about as much as a corporation laborer. To Quebec, however, belongs the palm for parsimony and meanness. We see by a report of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners that the highest salaries paid to the leading teachers of the schools under their control is one of \$600 and another of \$500. If the principals only receive this beggarly sum, what must the rank and file of the teaching fraternity be forced to live on?

In 1884 the Republican party, by one of the most corrupt and culpable political transactions in its record, admitted the mining camps of Nevada as a State into the Union. Since its admission, the State of Nevada has been scarcely able to stand on its own legs, and now it threatens a complete collapse. In 1880, or after sixteen years, the population of the State had only reached 62,266, of whom 25,053 were foreign born and nearly 10,000 were Chinese and Indians. That this petty population, which would but comfortably fill a ward in any of the leading cities, should exercise the same political influence in the government of the nation as any of the

other great States with their millions of inhabitants, is almost hard to understand or tolerate. The State of Nevada has its two Senators in Congress, just as if it were as important as New York or Ohio. Since 1880 a third of the white population is said to have emigrated and disappeared from the mining camps among the barrenness of the State. The total vote of the State is only 12,787, and these had the right of sending three Presidential electors to the electoral college. This disproportion, as compared with other sections of the Republic, is simply monstrous, and should lead to the extinguishment of Nevada as a State.

PRESIDENT McCORMACK, of Princeton University, says that the college which gives to the students a wide choice of studies during all the years of their course, commits a grave and serious error. He holds that there are branches, rudimentary and fundamental, which have stood the test of time, fitted to call forth the deeper and higher faculties of the mind, and opening the way to further knowledge, which all should be required to study. Such are the classical tongues with certain European ones; and, above all, our own tongue, with their literatures. Such are mathematics, physics, chemistry, and certain branches of natural history. Such are the study of the human mind, logic, ethics, and political economy.

The Marquis of Ripon, from the moment he announced his departure for England, has continued to be the recipient of enthusiastic demonstrations and of every mark of approval and esteem from the natives of India, which are without a parallel in the history of the country. Lord Ripon endeavored himself to the people by governing them without the spar or the whip. One of the principal newspapers describes him as "swimming down the country on a sea of flattery." Even his enemies feel compelled to bear reluctant tribute to the success which has attended Lord Ripon's policy. The London Times, which, for reasons of bigotry and partisanship, never ceased to attack His Lordship since his assumption of the Viceroyalty, has been forced to acknowledge the superior merits and success of his rule in India. When the Marquis of Ripon succeeded Lord Lytton, he found Afghanistan and its ruler fiercely hostile to the English Government. The Times now admits that as a result of Lord Ripon's wise and just policy the Russians have lost ground in Afghanistan and have forfeited the confidence of the inhabitants, while English influence has been re-established in the country and the friendship of the Ameer has been regained.

The strong and emphatic representations made by the Executive of the Irish National League of America to the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, held at Chicago last summer, against the suicidal policy of the American Government allowing the land of the great Western States and Territories to fall into the hands of monopolists, foreign or native, especially the former, are already bearing fruit. The note of warning which was then so eloquently sounded by Alexander Sullivan has been heeded, and acted upon. The landlords of Great Britain, finding their grip on the soil to be gradually growing loose, have, for the past few years been providing against calamity by grabbing millions of acres of land in the United States. The American people were seriously threatened with having the evils of landlordism transplanted from abroad to their midst. This peril to the Republic will now have to cease. The House Committee on public lands have unanimously agreed to report favorably a bill providing that no alien, foreigner or persons other than citizens of the States shall acquire title to or own lands within the States. Foreign born persons that have legally declared their intention to become citizens are eligible to acquire homesteads. There can be no doubt but that this unanimous report of the Committee will meet with a speedy approval and acceptance at the hands of Congress.

THERE has been another harmless dynamite explosion in London, and a great fear has come over the British metropolis in consequence thereof. We have not the slightest doubt but that, like unto the projected blowing up of the German Embassy and the other explosions which periodically occur in the capital, the present affair has been the cunning, but clumsy work of the police or of parties who are hungering after secret service money. The object aimed at was the London Bridge. The manner in which the dynamite was used to destroy the bridge was supremely ridiculous, as the experts who examined the scene are unanimously of opinion that the explosive used was thrown over the bridge and exploded in the air or on striking the water. That is just the way the police would go about their work. Then the damage done was the breaking of a few panes of glass and the frightening of a guardian of the peace who was not in the plot and who was unsuspectingly standing by. This policeman says he was almost stoned and that his helmet was blown some yard away by the concussion. It is fortunate it was only his helmet, but it is strange that the concussion only affected that part of his outfit; if it had torn off his unmentionables it would be more credible. When daylight appeared it was found that the bridge had not suffered a scratch. As usual the incorrigible press of London cry out that the "outrage" must be the doings of those invisible bloodthirsty Fenians, and that more coercion for Ireland is in order; but that cry is a stale, and has already rendered all the famous service it was capable of. The world is not to be any longer deceived by it. The crime bears too plainly the stamp of English manufacture to be palmed off on others.

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NATIONAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General of Ireland has issued a supplement to his last report giving a summary of the statistics of births, deaths, marriages and emigration for the past ten years. The figures are of peculiar interest, showing as they do how the growth of a nation can be attested by governmental process. Commencing with the most hopeful and interesting feature of the report, we find that the total number of marriages registered during the ten years 1871-80, was 250,162, being an average of 25,016 per annum, and at the annual rate of 4.73 per 1,000 of the population. The largest number of marriages took place in the year 1871, when they amounted to 28,560, or 5.37 per 1,000 of the population, and the smallest number in the year 1880, when they numbered 20,363, or 3.92 per 1,000 of the population. There is a well-marked tendency to a decrease in early marriages in Ireland among the males. Among females the decrease is even more marked. This may be easily accounted for when it is known that 73 per cent. of the great tide of emigration consist of young people of both sexes. Of the marriages registered during the decade 1871-80 were between Catholics; 39,901 were celebrated according to the rites of the late Established Church; 25,011 were in Presbyterian meeting houses; 3,245 according to various religious denominations; 5,567 by civil contract; 117 among members of the Society of Friends; and 23 according to the Jewish rite. It is interesting as a test of the state of education in the country to compare the proportion of those who "signed their names in writing" at different periods. In 1864, in Ireland, of the men, 61.4 per cent., and of the women, 40.7 per cent., signed the marriage registers in writing. In 1871 the proportions respectively were 62.5 per cent. and

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THE AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL.
Owing to the coming change in the United States Executive there has arisen a possibility that Mr. Stearns, the American Consul-General in Montreal, may be recalled. This gentleman, since his appointment to office, has steadily advanced in the favor and esteem of the citizens of all classes in the Canadian metropolis. His presence in our social circles is as welcomed as his dealings in the business world are highly respected. The manner in which he has fulfilled the duties of his office has won the approval of all who have had relations with the Consulate, and has never failed to give satisfaction. It is the desire and hope of the business community generally that Mr. Stearns be continued in his position; and, with this object in view, they have drawn up a memorial addressed to the President-elect, Grover Cleveland, urging upon His Excellency the advisability of making no change in the American Consulate. The memorial, which is thoroughly representative of the feelings of the community, is being circulated for signature, and we have no doubt will meet with very general support. The following is a copy of the document:—

"Your memorialists as representatives of the shipping, manufacturing, trading and other commercial interests of the city of Montreal desire to convey to you our sense of the prompt, business-like and courteous manner in which the important duties of the American consulate have been performed by Consul-General Stearns. We have on all occasions found that Consul-General Stearns has used his best endeavors to promote and facilitate the international commerce of Canada and the United States, and we venture to express the hope that he may continue to perform the duties which he has so well and ably discharged. Under any circumstances we desire that Consul-General Stearns will accept this memorial as an unsolicited tribute to and recognition of the value of his services."

President-elect Cleveland may be presumed to know his business best, and to say who shall or shall not fill office under his regime; but we can assure him that no illegitimate pressure nor unwarranted interference is meant by the present proceedings, and that this marked testimony to the official integrity, capacity and courtesy of Mr. Stearns would not be forthcoming unless he was highly deserving and our citizens more than anxious that he should be continued in office.

SOME OF THE DAILY WITNESS NONSENSE.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the Daily Witness, has a knack of piling the strangest conglomeration of nonsense into a paragraph that is as surprising as it is uncommon. For instance, in its issue of last evening it says:—
"One result of the Baltimore Council is the prospective foundation of a great American Roman Catholic university with an endowment of three million dollars. Of this move we are heartily glad. Almost all the reforms have sprung from the universities. The zeitgeist—the spirit of the age—has its breeding places in them. Neither a double rank of soutanes nor countless sprinklings can keep notions out of them. The only hope of mediocrity is in no reading at all beyond the lives of the saints. Once a student contracts a liking for history, for instance, he is a new man."
The last three sentences are decidedly rich. "A double rank of soutanes keeping notions out of universities" is something brilliant in its special line, and indicates a very large head on the part of the Witness paragrapher. If all the notions that have been put into universities by men who have worn out