

happ that it should be so; but it is one of the consequences of Protestantism, and of the removal of all semblance of connection between Church and State.

The report of a speedy adjournment of Parliament is gaining ground, though as yet the day is not fixed. The assistance of Catholics having been given for secularisation, Ministers have got all they wanted out of them, and seem now to be in no hurry to redeem their pledges in the shape of an amended "School Law." However, such a law is the less needed now, seeing that by their iniquitous appropriation of the spoils accruing from the Reserves, our liberal friends have left the School system at the mercy of the County Municipalities. These bodies, essentially Protestant in their composition, and notoriously hostile to freedom of education to Catholics, will now have it in their power to carry out their designs against Catholic separate schools: nor will it be possible by any subsequent law to repair the injury and injustice that the Clergy Reserves' Bill has inflicted upon the Catholic minority of the Upper Province, and by which the present government has justly forfeited all title to the support or confidence of Catholics.

Had the Ministry been in earnest in its liberal professions towards the supporters of Catholic separate schools, their sincerity would have manifested itself in a clause rendering it obligatory upon the County Municipalities to admit separate schools, established, or hereafter to be established, in accordance with the requirements of the School Laws, to a full share of all benefits enjoyed by the common schools, in consequence of the increase to the disposable funds of the County Municipalities, from the handing over to them of the secularised Clergy Reserves. In their refusal to insert such a clause, in spite of the oft urged claims of the Catholics of Upper Canada, in spite of the petitions of His Lordship the Bishop of Toronto and the Catholic Institute of that City, in spite of the palpable and irreparable wrong which the omission of such a clause must inflict upon the Catholic minority, we have convincing proof that the professions of the Ministry, in respect to freedom of education for Catholics, are unworthy of credit; and that they have been most egregiously duped, who have placed any reliance on them. At the next election, Catholic electors will, we trust, show by their votes their appreciation of such conduct, and thus not allow the following Resolution, unanimously agreed to by the Catholic Institute of Toronto, in May last, to remain a dead letter.

"That the Catholic Institute of Toronto pledges itself to oppose by all constitutional means, the re-election of the present Ministry and of any of their supporters, if at the next session of the Provincial Parliament full justice be not done to the Catholics of Western Canada with regard to the free working of their separate schools; and that this Institute invokes the sympathy and assistance of their fellow Catholics in Eastern Canada, to promote this object."

It seems scarcely necessary to remind our Catholic friends that, the "next session" alluded to in the above Resolution has come and passed away; and that, not only nothing has been done in favor of separate schools, but that a measure, destined to aggravate the hardships of which they justly complain, has been forced through the House by the whole influence of the present Ministry. It only remains therefore for the Catholic Institute of Toronto to redeem its pledge, and "by all constitutional means."

We have great pleasure in reminding our city readers that on this (Friday) evening they will have an opportunity of hearing Mr. McGee lecture in Odd Fellows' Hall, on THE FUTURE OF AMERICA. The subject is happily chosen, and we are quite sure that the distinguished lecturer will treat it in a masterly manner. Those who have already heard Mr. McGee lecture will need no inducement to go to hear him, and those who have not yet enjoyed that pleasure will doubtless hasten to avail themselves of the present opportunity. It is superfluous for us to say that Thomas D'Arcy McGee is beyond all doubt one of the most popular lecturers of the day. He never undertakes to lecture on a subject without having previously mastered it in all its bearings; his lectures are, therefore, highly instructive, and as for his delivery, any one who has once heard him speak will assuredly desire to hear him again.

The citizens of Montreal are much indebted to the Young Men's St. Patrick's Association, on whose invitation Mr. McGee visits our city. He will deliver another lecture in the course of next week, after his return from Quebec, where he is invited to lecture before the Catholic Institute.

The departure of Lord Elgin, which had been fixed for Tuesday last, has been postponed for a few days.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Robert Abraham, Esq., editor of the *Montreal Transcript*, who succumbed on Friday last, to the long-continued ravages of disease. This gentleman's death has deprived the Canadian press of its ablest writer, and leaves a blank in our literary world which it will not be easy to fill up.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.—On Monday evening, Sir A. McNab brought down a message from the Governor-General recommending a grant of £20,000 for the relief of the widows and orphans of soldiers killed during the present war. We see also that subscriptions for the same laudable object have been set on foot in this City, and that a "Patriotic Fund" has been started by the St. George's Society of Montreal. In such a cause, all national and religious distinctions should be forgotten.

We have to return thanks to Mr. O'Leary, our Quebec agent, and trust that our Quebec friends will promptly reply to the demands he is about to make on them. Subscribers throughout the country, from whom we have not heard, are respectfully requested to settle their little accounts, either by letter to this office, or with the agent for their districts.

We have received the "First Report of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts," which furnishes strange revelations as to the manner in which business is transacted in our public offices. A rigid enquiry will, no doubt, be instituted into the truth of the startling allegations of the Committee, pending which we abstain from comments.

MACLEAN & Co's, (late Scobie's) CANADIAN ALMANAC, AND REPOSITORY OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE—FOR THE YEAR 1855.

We have to return thanks to the publishers for a copy of this most excellent and carefully compiled Almanac, which we have much pleasure in recommending to our friends, as one of the most perfect of its kind published in Canada. It is accompanied with a map of the Upper Province, and is abundantly supplied with all manner of information—commercial, political, statistical, and ecclesiastical.

The *Quebec Colonist* gives an account of the failure of a merchant in Cincinnati; and adds that, upon the wall of a magnificent building which the bankrupt was erecting, the following inscription has been placed:—

"The building was erected by widows' tears and orphans' cries."

A similar superscription might very appropriately be placed over many of our Protestant churches and other buildings in Montreal; which, it is well known, were erected with the funds entrusted to the care of the Montreal Provident and Savings Bank, whose failure, whilst it brought ruin upon so many of our industrious laboring classes, enabled those by whose knavery it was caused, and who thrived upon the spoils, to build magnificent buildings for themselves, and to set up in business as gentlemen; a profession for which nature certainly had never intended them.

"SISTERS OF MERCY FOR THE HOSPITALS OF SCUTARI.—There are, it is stated, at present twenty-five Sisters of Mercy in Baggot street (Dublin) Convent, the central house of the institute in Ireland, prepared on the shortest notice to leave for the East, in order to undertake the duty of nurses for the sick and wounded soldiers. Some of these devoted ladies have come, accompanied by the reverend mother, from Westport, and more from the Convent of Mercy at Kinsale, the summons of Charity having been sent to them from the central house to come to Dublin with all speed, and hold themselves in readiness."—*Telegraph*.

"On Tuesday, three religious from the Convent of Mercy, Kinsale, namely, Mrs. Bridgman, the Mother Superior; Sister Mary Clare (formerly Miss Keane, of this city), and Sister Mary Joseph (formerly Miss Lynch, of this city), proceeded to Dublin, en route to Constantinople, to minister to our brave soldiers and sailors who may be wounded in the eastern war. It is on the application of the Government, thro' the proper ecclesiastical authority, that these devoted ladies have volunteered to go on this mission of mercy. They will, we understand, be joined in Liverpool by some 20 or 30 more of their order, and by a Catholic chaplain, who will accompany them to the seat of war."—*Cork Reporter*.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* states that "a letter from Constantinople alludes in terms of great praise to the organisation of the hospital service for the French at Constantinople, and to the indefatigable devotedness of the Sisters of Charity. Owing to their exertions and the care taken of the sick and wounded, the mortality was comparatively small. On the second there were only 50 deaths."

To the Editor of the True Witness.

Montreal, November 14, 1854.

DEAR SIR—In looking over the last number of the *Dublin Weekly Telegraph*, the above paragraph arrested my attention; and lest it might escape your notice I beg to send it with some remarks incidental to the subject. I read with great pleasure your excellent article in last week's issue, under the caption—"WUX HAVE WE NO SISTERS OF CHARITY?" and it strikes me that this scrap from the *Telegraph* is a sort of appendix to your observations.

Never, at least in our time, has the retributive justice of God been more strikingly manifested than in this demand for Sisters of Charity to minister to the suffering victims of British glory. It is only a few short months since these same heroic women, in common with all their sisters in religion were threatened with the profane and tyrannical intrusion of the hired myrmidons of the Government into their peaceful retreat, on the pretext of investigation. Yes, truly; the dark secrets of the Convents were to be revealed to a gaping world. "Awful disclosures" were expected—nothing was talked of in certain circles but the anticipated success of the "Nunneries' Inspection Bill." Well! times are changed since then, short as the interval has been. The great British lion has at last come into "grips" with that great fierce bird the Russian eagle—the noble brute has suffered sadly in the contest; his huge members are rent and torn; and whom of all the world does he call to his assistance but the poor, despised, maligned "Nuns!" From the shores of the Crimea comes the thrilling cry:—"Send us Nuns—send us Sisters of Charity—send them or we perish!—have pity on us, you for whom we bleed—you for whom we suffer;—we are dying, and there are none to succor us—none to minister to our wants—send us the devoted ones who have consecrated their lives to Christ in the person of His suffering members!" Strangely does that piteous cry echo the foul calumnies, the atrocious falsehoods of Spooner and Drummond! Where are those brothers in obscenity now?—why do they not urge on their "Nunneries' Inspection Bill?" Now would be the time to visit the nunneries, when so many of their inmates are gone to minister to British soldiers in a foreign land! Yes, now would be the time for Spooner, Drummond & Co., to lead on their "inspecting" forces;—they have a grand opportunity to fathom the mysterious depths of the convents, for the entertainment of Exeter Hall! Only fancy, Mr. Editor, the Government of Protestant England "applying through the proper ecclesiastical authorities" for Catholic Sisters of Charity, to go out on their errand to the far-off shores of the Black Sea! What right had they to demand or expect such a favor at the hands of "the proper ecclesiastical authorities?" Ah! it is because they know in their hearts that our Sisters of Charity—the conse-

crated virgins, who are the Church's brightest ornament—are, indeed, animated with that divine flame which Christ came on earth to kindle. They know full well that the charity which is ready to lay down its own life for that of its neighbor, is only to be found within the pale of the Catholic Church; that none but she—the spotless Spouse of Christ—can bring forth either Sisters or Brothers of Charity. It is only when war, or famine, or pestilence stalks abroad over the earth, that the divine beauty of Catholic faith, Catholic hope, and Catholic charity, is seen in its full lustre. What a cheering light will it shed on the wretched hospital-bed, where the poor wounded soldier writhes in agony, when the soft hand of some (perhaps) high-born lady raises his aching head from its hard pillow, and moistens his parched lips with the soothing draught which herself prepared, while her soft voice whispers words of heavenly import! This very summer, and in our own city, how many a Protestant death-bed was soothed by Catholic Nuns;—aye! and when all others had deserted the agonized victim—when even the closest ties of nature were rent asunder by the fear of contagion—it was, in many instances, the poor Popish "Sister" who closed the eyes of the Protestant dead, and laid them in their coffins—yes, when the very ministers, who stand up week after week in their comfortable pulpits, denouncing "monastic institutions," would not so much as come near the plague-stricken house, on the plea that "they could do no good, and might endanger their families!" Very natural, was the exclamation of a worthy Scotchman, who had gone for two or three ministers, one after the other, to visit a dying man, a friend of his, and who, unable to induce any of them to go on the dangerous errand, had at last to bring him a Priest—"Well! well!" said he, "I always thought till now that I had the true religion; but I begin to think, mon, that our religion came into the world fifteen hundred years too late!"

These are the times, Mr. Editor, that "try men's souls," aye! and nations' souls, too. Can any one read without emotion the descriptions of the different treatment received by the French and English soldiers when in hospital? Who can help contrasting the truly paternal care with which the French Government provides for the spiritual and corporal wants of its soldiers, with the callous indifference of our own government? This difference is admitted even by the English papers, disposed as they are to laud everything English.

Having accidentally referred to the French army, I cannot refrain from noticing (even at the risk of making my letter too long) the religious spirit which seems to pervade its ranks. Thanks be to God, the French soldier of to-day is like in nothing, except his valor, to the French soldier of the last century—dissolute, wild, and irreligious. To-day, we have the consolation of seeing the soldiers of the most Christian kingdom doing honor, from high to low, to that illustrious nation which has been aptly styled "the eldest daughter of the Church." The recent defence of Rome and its sacred rights, has drawn down a blessing on the realm of France; religion appears in renovated splendor throughout her noble provinces, shedding her benign influence on all classes—the soldier and the sailor more than any. The grateful orisons of the faithful over all the earth, and the paternal blessing of our Holy Father have been as a tower of strength to Louis Napoleon and the Christian nation over which he is called to rule. Did not every Catholic heart throb with joyful emotion on reading the account of the Emperor's presenting his fleet with a picture of our ever Blessed Mother, to be hoisted on the Admiral's vessel, thus placing the entire French fleet under the tutelar care of Mary, the Most Powerful Virgin? Since then we find General Canrobert writing to thank the pious Empress Eugenie for the medal of the Immaculate Conception which she gave him at his departure; gratefully acknowledging that it had saved his life, when a ball struck him on the breast, and but for it would have caused his death.—May God protect those pious soldiers and sailors who "go up to battle" under the tutelage of Mary; and that He will, no faithful soul can doubt. Now is the time when great wonders will be wrought through Mary's intercession; for now the Fathers of the Church are solemnly assembling in the capital of Christendom to do her public honor. To her care let us also commit those legions of Irish soldiers who are fighting the battles of ungrateful England.

I am, Dear Sir, &c., &c.,

AN IRISH CATHOLIC.

REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

Laprairie, T. Cullen, £1 5s; Baverton, J. Merry, 2s 6d; St. Bridget, O. Donnelly, 10s; St. Andrews, C. W., A. McIntosh, 12s 6d; Calumet Island, J. O'Donovan, 5s; S. Durham, W. J. Alexander, 15s; Cornwall, T. O'Callaghan, 6s 3d; River David, P. Stonham, 3s 14d; Ecnreuil, Rev. Z. Gingras, 12s 6d; Berthier, J. Dignan, 12s 6d; Sherbrooke, T. McGovern, 12s 6d; Richmond, C. W., M. Brady, 12s 6d; Alexandria, D. Kennedy, 5s; Williamstown, D. McDonald, 12s 6d; St. Anicet, P. Barrett, 15s; Rawdon, E. Cahill, 6s 3d; St. Andrews, A. Chisholm, 8s 9d; Nicolet, Rev. A. Audet, 12s 6d; Bonaventure, Rev. J. L. Alain, 12s 6d; St. Basile, J. Kelly, 6s 3d; Huntington, Rev. Mr. Doyle, 12s 6d.

Per M. O'Leary, Quebec—P. O'Brien, 7s 6d; Mr. Fahy, 15s; P. Moss, 15s; J. Leonard, 15s; R. Finn, 15s; J. Jordan, 15s; H. Martin, 7s 6d; W. Hannon, 7s 6d; J. Lilly, 7s 6d; T. Murphy, 7s 6d; Mrs. D. McGlory, 7s 6d; T. Fitzsimons, 7s 6d; J. Foley, 7s 6d; W. Downes, 15s; W. Johnston, 7s 6d; T. Kenefick, 3s 9d; J. McKenzie, 7s 6d; T. Corrigan, 10s; P. Connor, 15s; J. Enright, 7s 6d; Rev. Mr. Desroismaisons, 12s 6d; St. Pierre Riviere, D. O'Leary, 12s 6d; Valcartier, P. Cassin, 12s 6d.

Per Rev. Mr. Kerrigan, Frampton—J. Walsh, 7s 6d; T. Walsh, 7s 6d.

Per Rev. Mr. Giroir, Arichat, N. S.—Self, 15s; Rev. W. McLeod, 12s 6d; Grand Narrows Bras D'Or Lake, Rev. J. V. McDonnell, 12s 6d.

Per T. McPaul—Wellington, P. Macceasey, 6s 3d.

Per A. M'Paul—Cobourg, J. O'B. Scully, Esq., 10s.

Per Rev. Mr. Quinn—Tracadia, N. S., Self, 18s 9d; Havre Bucher, M. Corrigan, 6s 3d.

Per Rev. Mr. McLachlin—Alexandria, Self, 15s; Falkirk, Scotland, Rev. P. McLachlin, 12s 6d.

Per Rev. J. B. Proulx—Whitby, L. Mntari, 10s.

Per J. Flanagan—Cornwall, Self, 6s 3d; C. Galaher, 6s 3d.

Per P. H. McCawley—Kingston, M. Hawkins, 12s 6d; J. Johnston, 12s 6d; J. Mahony, 12s 6d; P. O'Reilly, 6s 3d; M. Dolan, 6s 3d; Camden East, W. Whelan, £1 17s 6d; Rev. B. Higgins, 12s 6d; R. Dowling, 6s 3d.

The following able remarks on State interference with religious observances, are from the *Toronto Colonist*. We agree with our cotemporary so far—that the State has no right to legislate of itself on religious questions, and no man is bound to obey it, or respect it when it does:—

"The Spectator apparently thinks that the observance of the Christian Sabbath, is entirely a distinct question from the connection between Church and State. We think otherwise. If governments—whether monarchical or republican—make laws for the observance of the Sabbath on religious grounds, they, by so doing, acknowledge their obligation to govern according to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures, which from first to last inculcate the duty of national religion (?) This is the principle of all State Churches, and applies as well to France, where all Christian pastors are supported by the State, as to England and Scotland, in each of which one only is acknowledged; or to Canada where we have as many State-paid establishments as there are denominations benefited by Parliamentary grants.

"If, on the contrary, the observance of the Sabbath is a mere police regulation, dependent on the will of the majority for its duration, then we deny the right of Parliament to enforce any such regulation; inasmuch as it involves an arbitrary act of tyranny towards the Jew, the Deist, and the man of no acknowledged creed. Unless enacted upon religious grounds, and as a consequence of national responsibility in religious matters, the observance of the Christian Sabbath cannot be justly required by law at all.

"So with the teaching of the Bible or any other religious book in our common schools. If not as a matter of national religion, we know of no other ground upon which its compulsory introduction can be justified.

"We can admit of no half-principles. Christianity is as much a part of our political creed as monarchy, and when we cease to contend for the former, we shall feel very little interest in the maintenance of the latter or indeed of any other specific form of government whatsoever.

"Since writing the above, we observe that the *Leader of Saturday*, actually argues at great length against compulsory Sabbath observances. We congratulate the *Spectator*, and his radical allies, upon the fruits of the anti-reserve agitation!"

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT QUEBEC.—On Saturday morning a fire broke out in the Lower Town which destroyed an entire range of buildings, with nearly all their various contents. The buildings were occupied by Harrison, Chronometer-maker; Flaherty, ship chandler; Railway Office of Grand Trunk; Lloyd's Shipping Office; Dr. Rowland's, Dean & Co's, and James McKenzie's Offices, and the extensive bureau of the Supervisor of Customs. The Neptune Inn, and Messrs. Hartigan's paint store were also more or less included in the conflagration. The amount of property destroyed is very great.—*Montreal Pilot*.

The Quebec and Richmond Railway, it is confidently expected, will be opened on the 27th instant.—*Pilot*.

LARGE FIRE IN KINGSTON.—Nov. 11.—Last night, about 11 o'clock, a fire broke out in the Chequered Store, corner of Princess and Bagot streets. The wind was blowing a gale, and the flames spread with great rapidity, destroying the buildings occupied by Messrs. Sullivan, Bradford, Hanlon, Cone, and others, with the back stores of Messrs. Delaney and Bowes. St. Paul's church also fell a prey to the flames. Most of the buildings were partly covered by insurance.—Hardly had the fire been checked, when at about four o'clock another fire broke out, in what was formerly known as the St. George's Assembly rooms, a large wooden building off Wellington street, which, with other wooden buildings, forming the corner of Wellington and Barrack streets, were soon destroyed. The wind continued strong in a northerly direction, which soon spread the flames across the street to Meagher's buildings, which, with two of the store-houses owned by Mrs. Benson, were soon destroyed. The flames continued to spread, until three or four buildings in Rideau street were consumed, when it was checked. A large number of families are rendered homeless, and many others will suffer much, by their goods being carried into the streets in the rain which was falling at the time. The steamer Prince Albert was also discovered to be on fire at Shaw's Wharf during the night, but this was soon got under. Had this gained headway to the large storehouses there, the consequences would have been very severe.

ORDINATION.—On Sunday, 29th ultimo, His Lordship the Bishop of Toronto held an Ordination in his private Chapel, when the Rev. John Walsch received the Holy Order of Deacon. On All-Saints' Day His Lordship officiated pontificaly at St. Michael's Cathedral, when the same Rev. Gentleman was promoted to the Sacred Order of Priesthood.—*Toronto Catholic Citizen*.

BAZAAR OF THE "HOLY CHILDHOOD."

TO-DAY (Friday) and TO-MORROW (Saturday) will be opened in Quebec Suburbs, in Visitation Street, at the NEW SCHOOL-ROOM, a BAZAAR for the benefit of the unfortunate CHINESE CHILDREN, who are daily perishing in myriads—cast into rivers, or exposed in the open streets to be devoured by swine and dogs.

Moved by the sad fate of these innocent creatures, the principal Ladies of the City of Quebec, have instituted a Bazaar, which has realized upwards of £100.

The object of this Bazaar is too important for us not to cherish the hope, that it will be liberally encouraged by the charitable and generous; and that it will obtain at Montreal, as well as at Quebec, a numerous attendance.

Montreal, Nov. 17, 1854.

INFORMATION WANTED.

OF Mrs. MARY KENNEDY, formerly of Athlone, County Westmeath, Ireland. It is supposed that she is accompanied by her two sisters, brother and mother, and two cousins. Any information concerning the above person will be thankfully received at the Office, or by her husband, James Kennedy, at the Chequered Hotel, Cornwall, C. W.