

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY. No. 696, Craig Street, by J. GILLIES, G. E. OLBERT, Editor.

TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE: To all country subscribers Two Dollars. If the subscription is not renewed at the expiration of the year then, in case the paper be continued, the terms shall be Two Dollars and a-half.

all subscribers whose papers are delivered by carriers, Two Dollars and a-half, in advance; and if not renewed at the end of the year, then, if we continue sending the paper, the subscription shall be Three Dollars.

The True Witness can be had at the News Depot, Single copy 3c.

We beg to remind our Correspondent that no letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless they are addressed.

The signatures after each Subscriber's Address 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 Subscription from that date.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1868.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

APRIL - 1868.

Friday, 11. Of the Ottawa. Saturday, 18. Of the Octave. Sunday, 19. Of the Ascension. Monday, 20. St. Vincent Ferrer, O. Tuesday, 21. St. Anselm, R.D. Wednesday, 22. St. Soter and Gaius, P.P. M.M. Thursday, 23. St. George, M.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Fresh disturbances are reported, as having occurred at Cork, but details as to their nature, origin, and extent are not given. The late vote of the House of Commons on the Irish Church Establishment has greatly excited the fanatical spirit of a section of the Protestant clergy. These hesitate not to tell the world that their wanted loyalty is only "conditional"—the condition being the maintenance of Protestant Ascendancy as symbolised by a Protestant State Church. The Government Bishops however are setting their house in order, as per warning, and have it is said addressed a prayer to Mr D'Israeli, the burden of which is that he should endeavor to save one half the revenues of the Establishment by the sacrifice of the other half.—Parliament having adjourned over the Easter holidays, no steps have been taken to give practical effect to Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions; and the House having laid down the principle, it is probable that the final settlement of the question will be bequeathed to the next Parliament, elected under the provisions of the new law.

Prince Napoleon's mission to Berlin still offers a wide field of speculation to European politicians; but nothing definite is known. There are signs of growing discontent in France against the recent regime. Letters from Rome would seem to indicate that another Garibaldi raid is anticipated by the authorities. The financial difficulties of Victor Emmanuel's government are so great, and apparently insuperable that a revolution in the Italian Kingdom may be looked for any day. The people will not submit to the new taxation which the extravagance, and misadministration of their rulers have rendered inevitable, if the evil day of bankruptcy is to be longer postponed.

Nothing has been done in the impeachment case at Washington, and but little interest is felt in it.

We lay before our readers in a condensed form, such particulars of the assassination of Mr. McGee, and subsequent proceedings, as we have been able to gather up to the time of going to press on Tuesday.

On the night of the 6th inst., Mr. McGee spoke on a question respecting the Union, and the attitude of Nova Scotia. His language was conciliatory, nor did an expression fall from him calculated to wound or irritate the feelings of any one. About 2 a.m., on the morning of the 7th, he left the House in company with Messrs. McFarlane and Buckley, who separated from him about the corner of Metcalfe and Sparks streets. Mr. McGee passed along the latter to the door of his lodging house, with a lighted cigar in his mouth, and his usual walking stick under his arm. Whilst stooping down to apply the key to the door, the assassin who was then close to him, shot him through the head: the ball passing from behind, through the mouth, and lodging in the door.

Mrs. Trotter the landlady of the house was in the act of opening the door when the fatal shot was fired. Alarmed by the report and the flash, she started back, and gave an alarm. Dr. Robitaille and other boarders immediately rushed to the door, when they beheld Mr. McGee lying dead before them on the side walk, blood flowing profusely all around from the wound. The dead body was quickly spread, and in a short time the hearse, and many prominent members of the press, and of the Ministry were on the spot. Mr. Gillis made an examination of the body, and of the state in which it was lying, which he deposited on the Coroner's request.—The excitement was great throughout Ottawa,

and the whole Dominion, as to place after place, the telegraph flashed the tragic tidings.

The Inquest was held on the same day. The main facts as stated above were brought out; and Buckley, Eagleson and others were closely examined, but nothing appearing against them to warrant their detention, they were discharged. In the mean time, the Legislature had met, and a motion of condolence was proposed, and unanimously carried. Sir John A. Macdonald made the announcement that it was the intention of the Government to make provision for the widow and fatherless children of the murdered statesman—a declaration which will we are sure give general satisfaction.

In the meantime active steps to discover, and bring to justice the murderer, or murderers—for it was suspected that the crime was the work of more than one—were being taken by the authorities. Within a short time official notice was given that the General Government offered a reward of \$5000 for such information as should lead to the arrest and conviction of the actual murderers. To this a further sum of \$2500 was added by the local Government of Ontario; \$2500 by that of Quebec; of \$2,000 by the Corporation of the City of Ottawa for the apprehension of the actual assassin, and of \$2,000 for that of any person or persons in any way connected with him. Thus within twenty four hours the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars was offered as a reward for the detection and apprehension of the criminals. The Corporation of Montreal has also offered \$5,000, making \$19,000 in all.

In the course of the day a young man named Whelan was arrested on suspicion. In his possession was found a pistol, of which one of the barrels had evidently been recently discharged, whilst the others were loaded, and also exactly corresponded to the size of the ball found sticking in the door of Mr. McGee's lodging house; another man named Doyle was also arrested.—Whelan was at first much agitated; recovering his composure, he admitted to having been on Parliament Hill about 2 a.m. of the day on which the murder was committed, as also to having been in the galleries of the House in the course of the evening.

The sad news of the murder of her husband was communicated to Mrs. McGee with all possible delicacy by two of the Grey Nuns. The Rev. Father Dowd breathed to her words of comfort—but who shall venture to intrude upon the sanctities of domestic grief? If it be a consolation to the widow and orphan children to possess the warmest sympathies of all their fellow-citizens without distinction of race, creed, or politics, that consolation is theirs; but God alone can comfort them, and bind up their wounds. To His Fatherly care, and in His tender hands we leave them.

By the death of Mr. McGee, British North America has been deprived of its most distinguished orator, and one of the most gifted of its citizens. Of his political career we need say nothing now; but even those who most differed from him as a politician, must admit that as an eloquent speaker he had no superior, scarce an equal in Her Majesty's widely extended dominions. He was indeed in that respect no unworthy son of the land which gave a Burke and Sheridan to the House of Commons in England, and of which it has been said that every bush, if beaten, will furnish its orator. Mr. McGee had thoroughly the poet's soul within him. Every subject which he touched, he adorned; and the magic of his eloquence stirred the hearer's soul, and lingered long upon the ear, like a sweet strain of music. He was not only a natural genius, but a hard worker. He read much, and from out of the rich storehouse of his mind, knew on all occasions how to bring forth his carefully accumulated riches, with wondrous skill, and happy adaptation to circumstances. He needed but a greater stage on which to display the rare gifts with which God had endowed him, to have been one of the foremost men of the nineteenth century. To say that he had faults is but to say that he was a man. In that in his political career he made enemies, he did but share the common fate of all men who take a prominent part in public life. But in the grave to which we have consigned him, let the memory of his faults, of all little enmities be forever buried: let us remember only that in Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Canada has lost her most eloquent statesman, and that another name has been added to the long list of Ireland's illustrious dead. May his soul through the mercy of God repose in peace: this is the very worst wish that those most strenuously opposed to him during his life should now entertain towards him.

The body of the murdered man was brought by express from Ottawa to Montreal, where it arrived about 5 p.m. on the afternoon of Wednesday the 8th inst. Over all the public buildings, the St. Patrick's Hall, the Brooks, &c., the national flag floated half-mast high. At the depot which was draped in black, the body of the deceased was received by an immense crowd, composed of all creeds and races, anxious to testify their horror of the atrocious crime that had been committed, and to show their respect

for, and deep sympathy with, the widow and children of the victim. A procession was formed, and proceeded to Mrs. McGee's residence in St. Catherine Street, where the body lay till the forenoon of Monday the 13th, when with a public funeral voted by the City Council—the mortal remains of the great orator were, after due celebration of the rites of the Church of which he died an attached son, committed to the grave.

And now it remains only that justice be done upon earth upon the murderers. Surely the blood of their victim shall not cry aloud to heaven for vengeance in vain; and we have therefore full confidence that the efforts of our Judiciary and their subordinates will be crowned with success. Of the motives that led to the perpetration of this horrid crime we have as yet no positive evidence; and though we may strongly suspect, we do not feel ourselves at liberty to give expression to our strong suspicions. In like manner would we keep silence as to the guilt or innocence of the men under arrest, and would we deprecate the use of all language calculated to raise prejudice against them, or to injure their cause before the Jury which will have to determine upon the facts of the case. The greater the crime, the greater the indignation we naturally feel against its perpetrators, the more should we keep in mind the axiom of English law—that law which its enemies so bitterly and unjustly revile—that every man is to be held innocent until he shall have been proved guilty. Let the accused, in God's name, have a fair trial: and then, if their guilt be proved, then again we say, let there be no weakness, no maudlin sentimentalism, no foolish twaddle about "death penalty" and "political offences;" but let justice, swift, stern, inexorable, be meted out to the convicted assassins. A stout rope, a short shrift, and a long drop, are all the mercies that such a one deserves at the hands of man.—Not on earth, but in heaven, and from God's justice if truly penitent, should the convicted murderer be taught to hope for mercy.

THE FUNERAL.

We have left ourselves but little space for the details of this the closing act of the sad tragedy. On Monday the mortal remains of the murdered man were borne to the grave with a pomp worthy of the descendant of a long line of kings. The streets on both sides were lined with troops, who presented arms as the corpse placed high on a grand catafalque drawn by six horses passed along the line—the hand of each regiment striking up the Dead March in Saul. Before came a strong body of police, the firemen, the chief civic officers with the Mayor, members of the legislature, officers of the garrison, the Judges, the representative of the Governor General, Sir Charles Wyndham, K.C.B., and his staff: behind followed the mourners, a long line of carriages, the Clergy, the members of the Bar, of all the Universities and learned professions, the St. Patrick's Society and all the other National, Religious, Charitable and Literary Societies of the City: the rear was closed by the body of the citizens, whose numbers were swelled by thousands of visitors from all parts of the Province. The Procession was ably marshalled by A. Perry, Esq., assisted by several other officers of our prominent citizens.

And so—minute guns firing whilst the procession lasted, the body of the deceased was carried to St. Patrick's Church, where Requiem High Mass was sung, and an oration, such as few men living have listened to, was delivered by the Rev. Father O'Farrell. Its effect on the audience was overwhelming; but when in his righteous indignation against the supposed authors of the crime, the reverend preacher denounced secret societies, and called on every honest man "to stamp out with horror every vestige of them from amongst us," hardly were expressions of sympathy, rare in the House of God—to be restrained.

But the procession reformed—and again in the Parish Church of Notre Dame were the mortal remains of the victim of an atrocious crime laid before the altar of the living God. The Libera was sung, and a short powerful discourse suited to the occasion, and denouncing all secret societies, was delivered by the Bishop of Montreal.—Then at last, the religious rites concluded, the funeral cortege in the same order as before took the route for the last resting place of the sons of Adam. It was late in the afternoon when the body of Mr. McGee was deposited in the family vault in the confident hope of a joyful resurrection on that great day when the Judge of the living and of the dead shall summon the entire human family before His dread tribunal. On that day may the Lord be merciful unto the soul of His departed servant.

"Inter oves locum præsta."

In another column we publish the Resolutions of condolence with Mr. McGee's family, passed by the St. Patrick's and other Irish religious and charitable societies.

We are happy to see that the Very Reverend Superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice has returned from Europe in good health after his long absence.

We copy from the Montreal Witness:—

"Canada has gone to great expense in training soldiers for her own defence, and one class of them go off to Italy to defend the Pope as they term it, but as Protestants regard it, to fight against liberty, and prevent the Roman people from obtaining a representative government."

Does our contemporary remember the words of Mr. Bumble, when that astonished parochial official was reminded that the law regarded the husband as the master of his wife. "Then the law's an ass: the law ain't a married man," exclaimed Mr. Bumble: and in much the same terms do we reply to the Witness if he, or the little clique which he represents, really do regard the object of our volunteers to be to fight against liberty, and the coercion of the Roman people. We assert, and without fear of contradiction, because our assertions are based upon the avowals of the enemies of the Pope, and the confessions of the Garibaldian leaders—that the object of the assistance sent to the Pope is to protect the people of Rome as well as their legitimate sovereign, against the tyrannical designs of Piedmont, and the Garibaldians. We assert, and on the same grounds, that the people of Rome are warmly attached to their present government; that they would not, even if they could, and if allowed freely to select between the two, exchange Papal rule for that of Victor Emmanuel: and that they look upon the invaders of the Papal States as their enemies, as well as the enemies of Pius IX. We assert that—so strong is the hatred they entertain towards Garibaldi and his followers, so profound their horror of the political changes which these seek by arms to force upon them—on the occasion of the late raid, not only did the Roman people receive them, the Garibaldians, with every sign of hostility, refusing to their invaders food and water, but that the very women and children rushed out of their houses as they passed, to curse them, and to throw stones at the detested foe. These are the very words of the correspondent of the London Times, a witness who cannot be suspected of partiality towards the Pope; and their truth is confirmed by the testimony of eye witnesses, officers in the Garibaldian army. There can therefore be no room for the slightest doubt on this head; no excuse for the folly, or rather impudent meadacity of those who pretend that the object of the armed defenders of the Pope is to coerce the people of the Roman States.

But if so, what need of foreigners to protect the Pope and his people? Because they both are menaced by a vastly superior force: by the whole military power of Victor Emmanuel, who flatters himself that he again can use Garibaldi as a tool, and control the advance of the Revolution when in his opinion it shall have gone far enough, saying in its waves destined to engulf him, "thus far shalt thou come, and no farther?"—fancies foolishly that he can play against Rome, the same game that he successfully played against Naples. Had the Pope only his own subjects to deal with; were the few malcontents amongst these not backed by all the radicals and scoundrels of the Italian Peninsula with Garibaldi at their head, and Victor Emmanuel and his Ministers hounding them on, whilst with lying lips, they make professions to Europe of their regard for treaties, and the laws of nations—Pius IX. would need no aid, either in men or money, from abroad, to protect his throne, and the independence of his States. It is not against revolution from within, but against raids from without, that he has to be on his guard: and in a word, his position is precisely as is that of our Canadian Government, which though it has nothing to fear from Fenian revolution from within, is obliged to be constantly on its guard against Fenian attacks secretly backed by the government of the U. States, from without. This is why Canada with its loyal but small population, cannot suffice for its own protection against the formidable, because far more numerous, enemies by whom its liberties and independence are menaced, but is obliged to supplement its means of defence by appeals to Great Britain for soldiers and gunboats. This is why we have in Canada so many regiments from the mother country; not to coerce us, but to protect us against her enemies and our enemies: and this too is the reason why the Pope who has already been robbed of the greater portion of his Territories, and deprived therefore of the material means of defending himself against his external enemies, is fain to have recourse to the assistance of other countries, to enable him to make head against the numerous and formidable enemies by whom he is constantly menaced from without. The parallel is complete between Rome and Canada: and neither morally nor intellectually is he who regards the British soldiers in Quebec, Montreal and Toronto as sent out to coerce us, and to fight against our liberties, one whit more respectable than is he who regards the volunteers for the Pope, as going abroad "to fight against liberty" and to coerce the Roman people.

The Banner of the South is the title of a new Catholic paper published at Augusta, Georgia, of which the first number has reached us. Ably written, and in a truly Conservative as well as Catholic tone, it deserves and will we hope receive the patronage of the public to whom it addresses itself.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—As in order to be in time for the Mail, we are obliged to have our paper ready to go to press on Tuesday afternoon; and as the news of the murder of Mr. McGee reached us only a few minutes before we were compelled to "lock up," our readers will understand why we were unable to lay before them any details of the affair in our last issue. The fact is, no details beyond those we gave, had reached Montreal at the time of our going to press, and we did not deem it proper to invent details.

CIRCULAR OF HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP LYNOX TO THE REV. CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE, Toronto, April 3, 1868.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—In compliance with the laws of the Church, the regular Triennial Council of the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec, in Canada, has been convoked by the Most Rev. Archbishop of Quebec, to meet in his Metropolitan Cathedral on the Seventh of May next, the Feast of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr. The object of Provincial Councils is, not to define the doctrines of the Church, but to maintain its discipline; to correct abuses, if any should have crept in; to provide for the always increasing spiritual wants of the people entrusted to their pastoral care; and to extend the blessings of the Gospel to those 'who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death;' of enacting laws binding in conscience Christian people. In the true Church alone does this authority exist, and it comes from Christ, the Head of the Church, and resides in the true Bishops of the Catholic Church, successors of the Apostles.—'Take heed to yourselves, and to the whole flock, wherein the Holy Ghost hath placed you Bishops to rule the Church of God, which he hath purchased with His blood.' (Acts xx. 28.) The obligations of the Faithful to obey these laws is evident from the words of St. Paul, 'Obey your Prelates, and be subject to them; for they watch as being to render an account of yourselves, that they may do this with joy and not with grief. (Heb. xiii. 17.) Councils of Bishops have been always held in the Church on the model of that held in Jerusalem by the Apostles to settle matters of discipline, (Acts xv.) and of that when Matthias was chosen to succeed to the Episcopacy forfeited by the unhappy Judas. (Acts i.) Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised that where two or three would be gathered together in His name, He would be there in the midst of them. (Matt. xviii.) Now, may we not with confidence expect that Christ, who promised also to be always with His Church, will be in the midst of His Bishops praying and consulting together for the extension of His Kingdom on Earth? More than all others, the Faithful are interested that the Holy Spirit preside over and direct these solemn assemblies; consequently they ought to pray with fervor and constancy to obtain this favor from the Father of Lights, from whom cometh every good and excellent gift. (St. James i.) You will, then, Rev. and Dear Sir, engage your parishioners to acquit themselves faithfully of this important duty of prayer. For the receipt of this present letter until the end of the council, you will please to add to the other collects at Mass the prayer de Spiritu Sancto. In Parish Churches and Religious Communities the Litany of the Blessed Virgin will be recited, after Mass, with the people, that She, through whom we have received Him who redeemed us may obtain for us from Her Divine Son, the grace to sanctify us.

Yours faithfully in Christ, JOHN JOSEPH LYNOX, Bp. of Toronto.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.

At the Annual Meeting of this Society, held for the election of office bearers, Mr. Dowlin, the President, took the chair, and in addressing the meeting spoke as follows concerning the assassination of Mr. McGee:—

Gentlemen,—I avail myself of this, the first opportunity afforded me, of expressing my own, and your sentiments, no doubt, in regard to a recent event which has just excited a profound sensation throughout this country and wherever its horrid details have been made known. I need hardly remark that I refer to the assassination of the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. True it is, gentlemen, that we have had our differences of opinion with him; but still we bore willing testimony to his great and singular gifts; and, believe me, of all his effluential friends there is not one amongst them who more sorrowfully deplores the brutal, cowardly, and bloody crime of which he has fallen the victim than I do. Detestable in every respect, it has not one circumstance to mitigate its atrocity or to detract from its villainy. It was simply and purely an act of savage butchery—of cold blooded murder unsurpassed in the annals of crime.

I abstain from attributing the deed to any particular source at this moment. Our duty, and the duty of every one, is to await the result of the Inquest now being held, before pronouncing judgment against any man or number of men. In the meantime, let us hope that the perpetrator of the diabolical crime will not escape the vigilance of the officers of justice, and that outraged law, and I must say outraged humanity, will at least have the melancholy satisfaction of avenging as far as possible the blood so cruelly and wantonly shed.

Indeed, gentlemen, the crime is one of such terrible and revolting magnitude, that I can but give feeble expression to the indignant feeling which I know it has excited in the breast of every member of this Society,—of every Irishman in the city, and amongst all men. The universal grief, however, which it instantly and spontaneously elicited, and the signs of mourning visible at every corner, are surely to afford convincing proof that assassination is a heinous business in this Dominion—a crime as execrable in the eyes of its people, as it is occurred in the sight of God. Gentlemen, it only remains for me to say just now in the name of this Society