

## The True Witness.

AND  
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,  
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
At No. 636, Craig Street, by  
J. GILLIES.  
G. E. OBERK, 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 3d.

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

The figures 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 Sub-  
scription from that date.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1868.

## ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

APRIL - 1868.

Friday, 11. Of the Cleave.  
Saturday, 18. Of the Ocfave.  
Sunday, 19. Low Sunday.  
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 oc-  
curred 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  
vaunted loyalty is only "conditional"—the con-  
dition being the maintenance of Protestant As-  
sessment as symbolised by a Protestant State  
Church. The Government Bishops however are  
setting their house in order, as *per* warning, and  
have it said addressed a prayer to Mr. D'Is-  
raeli, the burden of which is that he should en-  
deavor to save one half the revenues of the Es-  
tablishment by the sacrifice of the other half.—  
Parliament having adjourned over the Easter  
holidays, no steps have been taken to give prac-  
tical 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 brought to the next Parliament,  
elected under the provisions of the new law.

Prior to Napoleon's mission to Berlin still offers  
a wide field of speculation to European politi-  
cians, 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 Garibaldian raid is an-  
ticipated by the authorities. The financial dif-  
ficulties of Victor Emmanuel's government are so  
great, and apparently insuperable, that a revolu-  
tion in the Italian Kingdom may be looked for  
any day. The people will not submit to the  
new taxation which the extravagance, and mis-  
administration of their rulers have rendered in-  
evitable, 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. Ro-  
bitaille and other boarders immediately rushed to  
the door, when they beheld Mr. McGee lying  
dead before them on the side walk, blood flowing  
copiously all around from the wound. The sad  
news quickly spread, and in a short time the  
neighbourhood, and many prominent members of  
the press, and of the Ministry were on the spot.  
Mr. Gillies made an examination of the  
body, and of the state in which it was lying,  
which he deposed to on the Coroner's inquest.—  
An 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 unani-  
mously 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 states-  
man—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 authori-  
ties. Within a short time official notice was  
given that the General Government offered a re-  
ward of \$5,000 for such information as should  
lead to the arrest and conviction of the actual  
murderers. To this a further sum of \$2,500  
was added by the local Government of Ontario;  
\$2,500 by that of Quebec; of \$2,000 by the  
Corporation of the City of Ottawa for the appre-  
hension of the actual assassin, and of \$2,000 for  
that of any person or persons in any way con-  
nected with him. Thus within twenty-four hours  
the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars was of-  
fered as a reward for the detection and appre-  
hension 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 pos-  
session 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 stick-  
ing 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 pos-  
sible delicacy by two of the Grey Nuns. The  
Rev. Father Diwd breathed to her words of  
comfort—but who shall venture to intrude upon  
the sanctities of domestic grief? If it be a con-  
solation to the widow and orphan children to  
possess the warmest sympathies of all their fel-  
low-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 distin-  
guished 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 domi-  
nions. He was indeed in that respect no un-  
worthy 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 sub-  
ject 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 in-  
creasedly 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 Wed-  
nesday the 8th inst. Over all the public build-  
ings, the St. Patrick's Hall, the Banks, &c., the  
national flag floated 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 chil-  
dren 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 ex-  
pression to our strong suspicions. In like man-  
ner would we keep silence as to the guilt or in-  
nocence 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 deter-  
mine upon the facts of the case. The greater  
the crime, the greater the indignation we natu-  
rally 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 Soci-  
ety and all the other National, Religious, Char-  
itable 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 others of our prominent citizens.

And so—minute guns firing whilst the proces-  
sion 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 *Litania*  
was sung, and a short powerful discourse suited  
to the occasion, and denouncing all secret so-  
cieties, 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 resurrec-  
tion 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 re-  
presentative government."

Does our contemporary remember the words of  
Mr. Bumble, when that astonished parochial offi-  
cial was reminded that the law regarded the hus-  
band 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 de-  
signs of Piedmont, and the Garibaldians. We as-  
sert, and on the same grounds, that the people of  
Rome are warmly attached to their present go-  
vernment; that they would not, even if they  
could, and if allowed freely to select between the  
two, exchange Papal rule for that of Victor Em-  
manuel: 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 im-  
pudent mendacity 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  
flattering himself that he again can use Garibaldi  
as a tool, and control the advance of the Revo-  
lution when in his opinion it shall have gone far  
enough, saying to its waves destined to engulf  
him, "thus far shalt thou come, and no farther!"  
—fancies foolishly that he can play against Rom-  
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 scound-  
rels of the Italian Peninsula with Garibaldi at  
their head, and Victor Emmanuel and his Minis-  
ters 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 indepen-  
dence 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, be-  
cause 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 gun-  
boats. 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 him-  
self against his external enemies, is fain to have  
resource to the assistance of other countries, to  
enable him to make head against the numerous  
and formidable enemies by whom he is con-  
stantly menaced from without. The parallel is  
complete between Rome and Canada: and  
neither morally nor intellectually is he who re-  
gards the British soldiers in Quebec, Montreal  
and Toronto as sent out to coerce us, and to  
fight against our liberties, one whit more respect-  
able 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 after-  
noon; 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 LYONS  
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 Coun-  
cil 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 enact-  
ing 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 pur-  
chased 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 mat-  
ters of discipline, (Acts xv.) and of that when  
Matthias was chosen to succeed to the Epi-  
scopacy 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 al-  
ways 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.  
From 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 LYONS,  
Bp. of Toronto.

## ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.

At the Annual Meeting of this Society,  
held for the election of office bearers. Mr.  
Dyelin, the President, took the chair, and in ad-  
dressing 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 assasina-  
tion 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 afflicted 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  
barbarism—of cold blooded murder unsurpassed  
in the annals of crime.

I abstain from attributing the deed to any par-  
ticular 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 perpetra-  
tor of the diabolical crime will not escape the  
vigilance of the officers of justice, and that out-  
raged law, and I must say outraged humanity,  
will at least have the melancholy satisfaction of  
avenging as far as possible the blood so cruelly  
so 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 Irish-  
man in the city, and amongst all men. The un-  
natural grief, however, which it instantly and  
spontaneously elicited, and the signs of mourn-  
ing 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