

The True Witness.

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DEC. 24, 1869.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

DECEMBER—1869.

Friday, 24 Fast Vigil of Christmas. Saturday, 25 Christmas. Sunday, 26—St. Stephen M. Monday, 27 St. John, Ev. Tuesday, 28 Holy Innocents Wednesday, 29—St. Thomas, B. M. Thursday, 30—Off. Sunday within the Octave.

TO OUR DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBERS.

We take this opportunity of informing all Subscribers in arrears to this Office, that, wearied out with reiterated and fruitless appeals to their sense of justice and common honesty, we have commenced handing over their accounts to a lawyer for collection; and shall for the future continue so to deal with all those who will not, except on compulsion, pay their just debts.

A Registered Envelope, posted by some one in the district of Port Hope, and addressed to this Office, when opened contained neither letter nor money.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The next, or second Session of the Council will, we are told, be held on Thursday, the Sixth of January, Feast of the Epiphany. The Protestant papers amuse their readers by telling all kinds of stories about what the Pope intends to do, and what the Bishop's intend to do, and how the latter protest against what the former has done, and so on. We need scarce remind our readers that these stories are all inventions; that "Our Own Correspondents" know nothing of what takes place amongst the Fathers, and that no reliance is to be placed on any of their statements.

Again we are assured that Louis Napoleon has entirely recovered from his late indisposition. For the sake of Europe, and in the interests of peace, we trust that it may be so; but this incessant anxiety to assure the world that the French Emperor is in good health is ominous. M. Rochefort has started a new journal under the significant title of the Marsellaise; as yet the authorities have not interfered with it.

The condition of Ireland is still such as to inspire great uneasiness. Disturbances at Londonderry on the occasion of the anniversary of the siege were apprehended on the 18th, and troops were forwarded to the city in case of a riot. The clergy and laity of the late Established Church do not seem to be working very harmoniously together, in the way of settling their new creed, and new organisation.

From the Red River country reports are contradictory, but we fear that matters are really getting serious. In so far as we can gather from the various telegrams, a proclamation from Mr. McDougall calling upon the Queen's subjects to rally for the support of legitimate authority, has been seized and suppressed by the insurgents. Men on both sides are said to be arming for the expected conflict. In the meantime, cut off geographically as we are from the district which we have to rule, we must idly look on, impotent to interfere effectively.

We have been honored with instructions to publish the subjoined,—

CIRCULAR

TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

Montreal, 30th November, 1869. Forty-Seventh Anniversary of the Elevation of Mgr. Ignace Bourget to the Priesthood.

Sir,—My purpose, in addressing to you this Circular, is to speak to you of the reconstruction of the Cathedral, which as you are aware, was destroyed by the great fire of the 8th of July, 1852. You no doubt remember that in 1857, His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal announced to his Diocese his resolution to begin the restoration of the ruins of that building, and that for the accomplishment of so praiseworthy a design, he

hesitated not to impose on himself the painful task of going in person round his episcopal city, in order to solicit subscriptions in favor of the work. These subscriptions reached a pretty high figure, and several subscribers then began to pay in whole, or in part, the sums by them subscribed for; but the bad years that followed having determined Monseigneur to suspend the work, the payment of subscriptions was not called for; and on several occasions sums tendered were refused, seeing that the execution of the project had been postponed indefinitely.

I have since repeatedly heard it regretted that Monseigneur had no Cathedral, but with this all stopped. However during the Pastoral Retreat in the month of August last, MM. the Parish Priests who were met together for its religious exercises, resolved of their own accord, to open a subscription to enable Monseigneur to resume his project; and in order that their subscriptions might be relied upon, they declared themselves ready to grant their promissory notes for the several amounts by them subscribed for—adding that they would all do their utmost within their several parishes, to engage them to contribute, according to their means, for so honorable a work.

A conduct so noble could not be concealed from His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal; therefore I made it my duty, and my pleasure, to make it known to His Lordship who, as I was convinced, could not be but very sensible of the attention on the part of his Clergy to whom he is so warmly attached. The following extract from a letter which he wrote me in reply, under date 25th September last, shews that in this I was not mistaken:

"M. l'Administrateur, the subscription of the Clergy, of which in your last, you inform me, for the rebuilding of the Cathedral, appears to me in the actual circumstances to be really providential. Indeed it would be difficult not to recognise therein the hand of God which declares to us, that it is His will that we set to work to put the crown upon the many works undertaken at Montreal since it has had a Bishop. This last enterprise will be proceeded with during the Jubilee, and during the sitting of the (Ecumenical) Council, that is to say whilst the hearts of all the faithful, excited by the voice and the example of their pastors, are animated by all those sentiments which faith and piety inspire. It is a favourable moment which we must not lose, for surely in the future no other will present itself, and will offer so many chances of success. Montreal cannot dispense with a Cathedral Church, and it requires one that shall correspond with its present importance, and its future wants. As you represent me in the affairs of the Diocese, place yourself at the head of this movement as if you were indeed myself."

As you see, Monseigneur de Montreal gratefully accepts the aid proffered by his Clergy for the rebuilding of his Cathedral, and looks upon this step as a sign that it is God's will that he should commence the work of its restoration; and to show how warmly I for my part applaud the act of the Clergy, I cheerfully accept the order given me by his Lordship to put myself at the head of the movement, as if I were indeed myself; for with the powerful help promised by the Clergy, whom no doubt the faithful will also strive to rival in generosity, I feel assured of success. And here is my opinion as to the steps to be taken, so that all the faithful may with ease contribute towards the execution of the projected work. I say all the faithful, for the Cathedral being the Church of all the Diocesans, no matter in what part of the Diocese they may reside, it is but proper that all should contribute towards its construction. It is therefore a Diocesan work; it will remain also a monument of the Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, since it is in the year of its opening that the Diocese has taxed itself for the purpose.

It is usual in the rural parishes to make about Christmas time a collection called the collection of the Infant Jesus. Well, this is the contribution that I ask for from the faithful of the rural districts whilst we are building the Cathedral, since that contribution appears to me to bear the least heavily on them, seeing that they are accustomed to make it every year, and that the Parochial Clergy will not be obliged to impose a new burden on themselves, since every year they visit each family in their several parishes, whilst the Church-wardens take up the collection.

As to the collection to be made in the City parishes, and those of the Banlieu, I will arrange as to time and mode with the MM. the Cures and the members of the Committee formed in 1857 to accompany Mgr. de Montreal

in his visits throughout the City, and to assist him in the means to be taken for rebuilding the Cathedral: in due time I will have announced these particulars at the Pranes of the several churches. In the meantime any offerings that may be sent here will be thankfully received.

As I said above this is a Diocesan work, one in which all should take part, poor and rich, young and old alike. In our Colleges therefore, in our Convents, in our Schools and even in private families, the children I feel sure, will make it their pleasure to put aside every year, some few pennies from their New Year's gifts, in order to contribute to a work whose necessity and importance they will when older better understand.

And what young man is there who will not be glad to make once a year the sacrifice of some pleasure trip, concert, or kindred amusement, to give the cost thereof to the work of rebuilding the Cathedral?

What young girl is there who will not take a pride in stinting herself in some ornaments of her dress, so that she may throw the price thereof into the treasury of so honorable a work?

In the old Testament, in the Book of Exodus, we see how, at the voice of Moses, the people of God with hearty good will, promptly offered for the construction of the tabernacle the first fruits of their goods. Men and women brought forth their earrings, their ear-rings, their rings and their bracelets; all the vessels of gold were put on one side to be presented to the Lord; with cheerful hearts, men and women made their offerings to complete the work which by Moses, the Lord had ordered. I dare not ask such precious gifts from you; but what I do desire is that you make those which I ask for with cheerfulness and love, remembering that the Lord loves the cheerful giver.

By these means, means within the reach of all we shall surely succeed in the execution of a project which at first sight may appear strange, but which we shall be agreeably surprised to see accomplished as if by magic. When a man wills a thing in earnest, he is indeed powerful. I reckon then upon all the members of the Clergy, upon the Superiors and Directors of our Colleges, Convents, Schools, and upon every head of a family, for the realisation of a project so worthy of the faith of a people such as is that of this Diocese.

And in conclusion I have but to express to you a wish which I hope may please you all, and may encourage you to contribute freely to the work which occupies us, especially during the next three years.

It is needless for me to sing the praises of our Venerable Bishop. You all know as well as I know, how blessed we are in having such a Pastor.

We must all pray God to spare him to us for many years to come, to consolidate all the works which he has commenced. It was under the inspiration of this sentiment that some one wrote to him at Rome last summer, to acquaint him with the desire of several priests and laymen that he would allow the rebuilding of the Cathedral to be commenced next Spring; so that, if as it was hoped, he should live long enough to celebrate his fiftieth year of priesthood, he might have a fitting and sufficiently spacious place to celebrate it—in the presence of his Clergy, the Religious Communities, and of numbers of his Diocesans. To this His Lordship replied: "It seems to me that my life is strangely calculated upon. But never mind, even though the Cathedral should but suffice for my burial, I willingly agree that the work be commenced. I think that God will bless us, and that we shall succeed. I will invoke all the Saints of Rome who dwell in so magnificent temples that they help us, to find worthy lodging for our great St. James, and his beloved brother St. John."

Now it will be on the 30th November 1872, that Monseigneur de Montreal will attain his fiftieth year of priesthood. Of course we do not expect by that time to be able to offer him a Cathedral completed; that would I fear be exacting too much. But by that date let us be content to have the walls, the roof, and the planking. For this we have three summers before us; time will not be wanting—shall we then fail in the means? I should but insult you to suppose so. Let us then set seriously to work, and to console our dear Bishop for his long absence, let us prepare everything so as to let him have the pleasure of blessing the first stone of his Cathedral on his return amongst his dearly loved children; this I am sure will be the best proof of our attachment to his sacred person, and of our gratitude for all that he has done for the temporal and spiritual welfare of his diocesans.

I beg of you to publish from the pulpit of your Church this Circular, and so to comment thereon as to make the faithful understand, both the high importance of the work, and the ease with which it may be accomplished.

I remain very respectfully, Sir, Your very humble obedient servant, A. F. TRUTEAU, Vic. Gen., Administrator.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Jubilee only received as we were about to put to press; shall appear in our next.

A correspondent of the Montreal Gazette over the signature To-morrow, describes the effect produced upon him by hearing sung for the first time, the Litany in the Anglican Prayer Book. "It is true indeed," he says, "that the Litany of the Anglican Church is so perfect in its form, and so pure in spirit, as to need no aid from art. \* \* \* How proud I felt of the Anglican ritual. Its capacity and comprehensiveness were more than ever marvels to my mind."

The writer seems not to be aware that the Litany whose perfection of form, and purity of spirit he admires—of whose comprehensiveness and capacity he feels so proud, is no more entitled to be called "the Litany of the Anglican Church," or to be spoken of as part of the "Anglican ritual," than has the Lord's Prayer to be so designated. The so-called Anglican Liturgy is but a translation—a beautiful one, all will admit—of part of the Roman Litany: the invocations to the Saints in heaven, to aid with their prayers their fellow-worshippers on earth in their common adoration of the Tri-une God, being omitted; and the supplications for the "Lords of the Council, and all the Nobility," for Magistrates, for our most Gracious Queen and Governor, for the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family, being thereunto added, and the only portions thereof which are truly "Anglican." All the rest is Roman in form and spirit, and was borrowed by the modern Anglican, from the old Roman Catholic Church, which gave to it that perfection of form, and that purity of spirit which To-morrow so justly admires. Again then we say, Honor Qui Honor.

AN APOLOGY FOR THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—In the Montreal Daily News of Saturday last, we find the following excellent, indeed unanswerable, argument, though unintentional—for the existence of the above-named Society formed for the purpose of rescuing French Canadians from their thralldom to the "French Canadian clergy," to whom the country is indebted "for the order and morality they enforce," and which qualities are so conspicuous in the rural districts of Lower Canada. Unintentionally—for the matter treated of by our respected contemporary is a proposed Police Bill—the Daily News has given us a most excellent apology for the F. C. M. Society.—Who indeed can doubt its utility, the consistency, and the pure intentions of its members, when they realize the following facts?—

"It is but a simple truth to affirm that in no other land can there be found a larger measure of security for life and property than in the rural parishes of Lower Canada. We know how deeply we are indebted to the French Canadian clergy for the order and morality they enforce. but we cannot, at the same time, be insensible to the mobile elements out of which they have moulded harmony and repose. We rarely if ever bear of any grave crime being perpetrated in the parishes. Exceptions affright society and send a thrill of horror through the country; but their rarity only establish the more conclusively the prevailing love of law and order. One can travel for hundreds of miles in this Province without finding lock or bolt on a door, such is the perfect confidence of the people in each others integrity and honesty, and if any outrage occurs, the entire community turns out to ferret out the offender. There is no sympathy with the criminal class; no one harbors or abets a thief or murderer. We speak now of the long established parishes and townships of Lower Canada. We are aware that loafers, vagabonds, thieves and drunkards flock to our cities or are bred in them; but the absence of a criminal class in the country has been noticed and lauded by every intelligent traveller.—Daily News.

We can safely venture to promise that when the French Canadians shall have been converted to what the Witness calls "the truth as it is Jesus:" when they shall have thrown off the corruptions of Popery, and shall have been brought to the religious condition of the people of the neighboring States—then also will Lower Canada closely resemble in its moral features, in its integrity, honesty, immunity from outrage, in its respect for the marriage tie, and in security for life and property, those of that noted Republic where a Reverend Mr. Beecher stands up to invoke publicly the blessing of God upon murder, lust, and adultery.

The Daily News contrasts the alacrity of the Police to pounce upon and send to the police station, there to herd for the night with unclean knaves, drunkards and prostitutes, any unfortunate little fellow guilty of the monstrous crime of sliding or skating on a side walk—with their apathy with respect to the continual infraction of other City Laws, such as those about cleaning the snow off the roofs, and cleaning the side walks. These laws are never enforced; in practice they are a dead letter, and in consequence for a great part of the year, the streets are almost impracticable for people on foot. Why are not the laws enforced against all those proprietors and householders who violate them constantly, and with impunity, as well as against little boys who skate and slide? Justice is very indifferently administered indeed in Montreal.

THE MAYORALTY.—We are happy to learn that Mr. Workman yielding to the desire of his fellow-citizens, expressed to him through a deputation of our prominent men, has consented to allow himself to be nominated for the Mayoralty of Montreal for the coming municipal year.

In a late number, Dec. 4th, of the Dublin Irishman we find published a correspondence on the subject of the late Tipperary election, from which we make some extracts, illustrative of the spirit of hostility to the Catholic clergy which certain politicians are doing their best to excite: "Of course you know before this that Ross is the member for Tip. We fought a great battle for him, and it was not Heron alone we had to contend with. Our good priests (confound them) went in for Heron. They threatened and abused us in an awful manner; but it was no use, thank goodness. I think their power is over after this, and 'tis time."

The evangelicals of England will no doubt rejoice at this, and hail it as a proof of the dying out of Popery; but we do not believe that the hostile sentiments of the writers in the Dublin Irishman are generally entertained by the people of Ireland.

Before his departure for Rome, His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin issued another Pastoral, from which, in another column, we give some extracts, which set forth in clear and forcible language the sentiments of the Catholic Church, upon the great social and political events of the day. We bespeak for these extracts a careful perusal.

It is a highly significant fact that at the late Tipperary election only 2,162 votes in all were polled, of which 1,132 were cast for O Donoran Rossa. This is highly significant, for the constituency of the county is by some reckoned as about 10,000. At the election four years ago no less than 6,282 votes were polled, of which the successful candidate, Mr. Moore, received 2,622, or more than twice as many as were given the other day for Rossa. The fact is the great majority of the respectable tenant farmers either took little interest in the proceedings, or else were prevented by intimidation, and threats of violence from attending at the polls.

The special correspondent of the London Times, so we learn, has been refused admittance to the Papal Territory, there to report the proceedings at the Council. When we add that this correspondent is the infamous Gallenga, the hireling assassin whom Mazzini engaged some years ago to murder King Charles Albert, furnishing him with funds and a dagger with a lapis lazuli handle, to carry out his bloody design, wonder at the action of the Pontifical government will cease. Mazzini the apostle of the dagger, and Gallenga, are together with Garibaldi, the special pets of the Liberal world, and are therefore not in good odor at Rome.

WELL DESERVED.—We see by a report of our City Council proceedings that a motion for considering the expediency of awarding the sum of \$2,000 to Mr. Alfred Perry as an acknowledgment of his services in saving life and property at fires, has been carried. We are glad of it, and congratulate Mr. Perry on this public recognition of his services. No one can call in question his intelligence, his zeal and his pluck, by the exercise of which facilities he has been the means of saving much property, and many lives. For the sake of the City we trust that we may long have the benefit of his services.

NICE PORK.—The French papers contain a curious story about pork, which will prove interesting to eaters of the flesh of the unclean beast. It seems that Tropmann, the hero of the Pantin murders, has a brother living in Prussia, who is sexton of the village where he resides. Being of an enterprising turn of mind, he availed himself of the facilities which his profession of gravedigger afforded him, by digging up at night the corpses of those whom he had buried during the day, and feeding his pigs on them. This story we find in the Minerne of the 16th inst.

An Anglican gentleman, Mr. Cobb, of some notoriety for his high literary attainments, and his position amongst the High Churchmen, writes to the London Tablet defining the position of the Unionists, that is of those amongst his brethren who desire and believe that the Church is or should be one. Mr Cobb thus writes:—"We hold the Catholic Faith as summed up in the Creed of Pope Pius IV., and as expounded under express Papal sanction, by Bossuet and Veronius; and we hold it too as Anglicans; that is to say, we believe that it is perfectly reconcilable with Anglican Formularies."

LINDSAY CATHOLIC SCHOOL HOUSE.—We understand that the ladies of Lindsay are organising a Bazaar, the proceeds of which will be devoted to paying off the outstanding debt on the new Catholic School House of that district. The sum of \$3,500 has already been paid thereon, but \$1,500 are still owing, and the Bazaar aided by a Prize Drawing which the Trustees are getting up, will it is hoped raise funds sufficient to meet the debt which falls due in March next.

The objects for the Prize-Drawing are estimated at a value of \$500, of which \$300 are a gift from Protestants, who have in this matter generously co-operated with their Catholic fellow-citizens. The Bazaar will be held on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of March; and all persons who may have received tickets are requested to return duplicates on, or before the 25th of February.