

The True Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1873.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

DECEMBER—1873.

Friday, 5.—Fast. Of the Feria.
Saturday, 6.—St. Nicholas, B. C.
Sunday, 7.—Second in Advent.
Monday, 8.—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Ob.
Tuesday, 9.—St. Ambrose, B. C.
Wednesday, 10.—Fast. Of the Octave.
Thursday, 11.—St. Damasus, P. C.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.

The date entered to your name on the margin of
your paper, indicates the time to which you have
paid up. You will therefore perceive that you are
indebted to this office, and you would oblige by an
early remittance.

This season is one of great difficulty to us owing
to the large sum due by our subscribers in the ag-
gregate. If then, you believe it important to keep
up a Catholic Journal in the Dominion, and to have
an organ which will faithfully defend the Catholic
Religion against the multiplied assaults made upon
it, and Catholics as such, from the slanders of which
they are constantly the object at the hand of an un-
scrupulous and bigoted press; and if you think the
True Witness has been, in the past, such an organ,
you will do well, not only to remit your own sub-
scription, but to do your best to extend its list of
paying subscribers, and its consequent influence and
ability to do good.

We hope that our subscribers therefore, will give
the above their earliest attention, and remit the bal-
ance due from them to the office. Please to remem-
ber, that it is the punctual receipt of these small
amounts, which decides the question of the success
or ruin of every newspaper.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

In the dearth of more important matters,
the nasty little war with the Ashantees in
which we have got ourselves involved is the
chief event of the week. Sir Garnet Wolseley,
the Commander-in-Chief, is brought to a stand
still by the cowardice of our black allies, who
cannot be prevailed upon to face the common
foe. He has applied for re-inforcements, and
until these arrive he will not be in a condition
to commence offensive operations, amongst
which a march on Coomossie, the Ashantee cap-
ital, is spoken of. In the meantime our troops
are exposed to all the dangers of a very un-
healthy climate, and it will be well if we are
able to get out of the scrape without much
material loss, and some dishonor. By latest
telegrams it would appear that there had been
some skirmishing, in which the Ashantees were
repulsed, with trifling loss on our side. The
fact, however, that our troops had to stand on
the defensive is not encouraging; for our ob-
ject, if definite object we have, is to force the
Ashantees to accept our terms of peace, by ad-
vancing upon and taking possession of their
capital.

The quarrel betwixt Spain and the United
States is settled. There will be no war, as the
first named has yielded to the demands of the
United States Government. She agrees to deliv-
er up to the latter the *Virginia*, and the
survivors of the crew and passengers; she
agrees also to salute the United States flag on
the 25th inst., unless in the interim, she can
prove that the *Virginia* was not a *bona fide*
United States ship, and not entitled to hoist
United States colors; in which case there is to
be no salute, but Spain will formally disclaim
any intention of offering insult to that flag.—
On the other hand, if it be shown that the
Virginia had no right to show United States
colors, the Government at Washington will in-
stitute legal proceedings against owners and
crew of the vessel. The question of damages
to be reserved for future consideration.

This settlement of the dispute does not seem
to be very much liked in Cuba. The fact is,
no doubt, that the party loyal to the Union
with the mother country feel, with regard to
the *Virginia*, much as we in Canada felt to-
wards the Fenian filibustering expeditions, or-
ganised and openly fitted out against us, by
United States citizens, and with the connivance
of the United States authorities. They—the
Cubans—naturally look upon themselves as the
aggrieved party, to whom, not from whom, re-
paration and apology are due; and even ad-
mitting that their action in the *Virginia*
affair was a little high-handed, they contend

that they were forced thereunto in self-defence,
and as the sole means left them of deterring
by example, the fitting out in United States
ports of filibustering expeditions. This is the
Cuban view of the position, nor is it altogether
a false view.

In Spain, no doubt, the settlement will be
received more favorably than in Cuba; for,
what with the Carlists, and the Insurgents, the
revolutionary government at Madrid finds
enough work out for it, without engaging in
hostilities with a first class Power like the
United States. The internal condition of the
country remains unchanged. The Carlists ap-
pear to have won some trifling advantages in
the field; and though Cartagena has been sub-
jected to a smart bombardment the place still
holds out.

The German government has been often
challenged to cite any one particular act of the
Catholic Clergy, of the Bishops, of the Jesuits,
of the Religious Orders, justifying the banish-
ment and spoliation of the last named, and the
severe laws against the others. No reply has
been made by authority; but the *Times*' Ber-
lin correspondent, writing in defence of the Bis-
marckian persecution, does his best to supply
the deficiency. He begins, for instance, a let-
ter under date Nov. 5th, with the following
stupendous announcement:—

"The Ultramontanes are determined to stagger
Germany by their extreme impudence."

Now leaving out of sight for the moment the
very important consideration that the Penal
legislation against the Church is older by many
months than the "extreme impudence" of the
Ultramontane or Catholic party, and therefore
cannot be its consequence, let us see wherein
this "extreme impudence" consists. The same
authority shall tell us:—

"The general meeting of the Bavarian Catholic
Peasants' Societies has issued a sort of political
confession of faith, the suicidal candour of which
beats everything which has proceeded from that
quarter. In this memorable document, the Bava-
rian Peasants' Societies loudly complain of Bava-
ria joining the German Empire, on the ground that
her doing so has not only robbed her of her legitimate
independence and position in the world, but also
sensibly diminished the happiness and prosperity of
her people. With feelings of indignation and exas-
peration they protest against the enactment of any
more laws for the strengthening of the new Empire,
which, with its Ecclesiastical statutes and other
modern and liberal innovations, they regard as
mainly a Prussian concern. To these grievances are
appended severe criticisms on the recent increase of
the army, which "will establish a militarism swal-
lowing up all other interests and concerns of the
people;" denunciations of the new undenomina-
tional schools; vows of rigid adherence to a most
uncompromising programme."

Now this act, whose "extreme impudence"—
if impudence at all there be in the publishing
of such a harmless political manifesto—has cer-
tainly not been understated by the *Times*' cor-
respondent, is, by that writer's own admission
the very worst act of which the Catholic party
has as yet been guilty. "So outspoken a de-
mand," he says, "has never been heard before,
even from the Ultramontane camp." We have
then fathomed the uttermost depths of Ultra-
montane wickedness, and Catholic depravity—
we have before us the one act of surpassing
turpitude, of "extreme impudence" on the part
of Papists, which, though long subsequent to
the enactment of the penal code against them,
is held to justify that enactment, and calls
loudly for still more stringent anti-Catholic
legislation; for we are told that "after this it
is to be foreseen that the war against the per-
severing adversaries of Unity will be carried on
with even a more unsparing hand than before.
Fresh laws are sure to be enacted both by the
Imperial and States Legislatures to put a stop
to the political meddling of the priests. Fines
will be superseded by banishment, and the day
may not be far off when, notwithstanding the
usual reluctance to make martyrs, imprison-
ment will be resorted to likewise. The stone
has been set rolling, * and somebody must be
crushed."—*Times Cor.*

"The Stone which the builders rejected, the same
is become the head of the corner. Whosoever shall
fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whom-
soever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."—
St. Luke, xx., 17, 18.

Such is the measure with which Protestants
measure out justice to Catholics; for with scarce
an exception the severe treatment of the Cath-
olics in Germany is, by Protestants, applauded.
Let us also see with what measure they mete
out the same commodity to themselves! If,
for instance, on the part of the persecuted
Catholics of Germany, it be the one act of "ex-
treme impudence," the sin against Cæsar, which
shall never be forgiven, to complain of the po-
litical union of Prussia and Bavarin, to mourn
over the loss of the latter's political independ-
ence, and to enter a protest against the Bis-
marckian penal code, what judgment shall we
form of the following language used by a Pro-
testant minister to James VI., of Scotland;
and which language we find held up to his
audience, as a noble and truly Christian de-
fence of God's truth, to be admired and imi-
tated by all men—by a Protestant minister in
Montreal addressing a Scotch congregation on
Sunday last, the 30th inst.

The Rev. Mr. Thornton was the preacher;
his theme, the firm adherence of Scotch Protest-
ants to the dictates of conscience and the Word

* Can this be the stone alluded to by Christ?

of God; his illustration was the language of
Andrew Melville, a Scotch Protestant minister,
to James VI., who had attempted to exercise
dominion over the Presbyterian church, and
against which the said Protestant minister re-
monstrated. The King charged Andrew Mel-
ville with sedition; whereupon—we quote from
Mr. Thornton's sermon:—

"He—Andrew Melville—"took the monarch by
the sleeve and said—"God's will vassal! 'Sire, we
will humbly reverence your Majesty in public, but
since we have this occasion to be with your Majesty
in private, and since, along with you, the country
and the church of God are like to go to wreck, for
not telling you the truth and giving you faithful
counsel, we must discharge our duty, or else be
traitors both to Christ and you. Therefore, Sire, as
divers times before I have told you, so now again I
must tell you, there are two kings and two kingdoms
in Scotland. There is King James, the head of this
Commonwealth, and there is Jesus Christ, the King
of the Church, whose subject James VI. is, and of
whose kingdom he is not a king, nor a lord, nor a
head, but a member. We will yield to you your
place, and give you all due obedience, but again I
say you are not the head of the church. You can-
not give us that eternal life which we seek for, nor
deprive us of it. Permit us then freely to meet in
the name of Christ, and to attend to the interests of
that church of which you are a chief member."—
Montreal Gazette, 1st inst.

This is the language, this is the behaviour of
a Presbyterian minister towards a King sus-
pected of Episcopalian proclivities, which a
Protestant minister holds up to the admiration
of his audience! Without passing any com-
ments thereon, we ask our readers to compare
it with the act of extreme impudence of the
Catholics of Bavarin, which is cited by the
Times as justifying and calling for the extreme
rigor of the law. Oh that men could remember
the words of Him who taught, saying: "With
what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged."—
St. Matt. VII. 2.

Mr. Cartwright has been returned for Len-
nox by an overwhelming majority. The policy
of the new Ministry was partly indicated by
the Hon. Mr. Dorion in his address to his con-
stituency. In its main features it will not, we
expect, greatly differ from that of the late Min-
istry. One great measure we are promised,—
and we heartily wish it success—to secure
greater purity at elections, to put a stop to
bribing and treating, and electoral corruption
generally. Such a measure is much needed;
and none will more rejoice in the passing, and
vigorous application of such a measure, than the
true Conservative, for such a measure is essen-
tially conservative of the representative princi-
ple in our political constitution. By all means
let us have a stringent law for detecting bri-
bery; for punishing both the bribers and the
bribed; and for putting a stop to the rascally
practice of "telegraphing," as it is called, i.e.
the personating of dead and absent voters. If
our Ministers will bring in a really good mea-
sure punishing these crimes with severe and de-
grading punishment, they will so far deserve
the support and thanks of all honest men.

WHOLESALE POISONING.—The demon of
drink has caused many a horrible tragedy, has
furnished matter for many a chapter of hor-
rors; but rarely have his doings been more
hideous than in the tragedy that has just been
enacted in Montreal, and which by Friday
night had already brought about the death of
seven persons. The following are the main
facts of the case.

On Thursday of last week a man named
Thayer who occupies a room in a lot of filthy
tenements in Tabb's Yard, off Hermine Street
—a place well known to the police, wretched
beyond the power of description, and a blot
upon our ranted civilisation—made his ap-
pearance at the Central Police Station to give
information that his son, a lad of about 14 or
15, had just died, from the effects of a glass of
liquor given to him by one of the neighbors.
Detectives Lafon and Murphy immediately
visited the place, where a scene of indescrib-
able horror awaited them. In the adjoining ten-
ements they found a number of other persons,
men and women, prostrate with vomiting and
purging, and many of the well known symp-
toms of cholera. The police officers imme-
diately called in medical assistance; Doctors
Dugdale and Major were soon in attendance;
and administered such relief as they could to
the sufferers, numbering in all about a dozen.

Naturally the first enquiry of the medical
men was as to the cause of this extraordinary
outbreak of disease. Then, bit by bit, it came
out that a man of the name of Flaherty had,
on Monday night, brought home a large bottle
filled with wine as he believed; that he had
swallowed some of the stuff, and given some of
it to his neighbors; that on the Tuesday he
and they had indulged in a regular carouse,
and that on the following day, signs of poison-
ing had displayed themselves amongst all who
had partaken of the contents of the bottle. This
was then produced, and upon examination it
was found to be labelled *Vin Colchici*, Wine of
Colchicum, a very powerful irritant poison used
in cases of gout and inflammatory rheumatism.
The mystery of the sickness was thus solved;
the next question was how came the bottle into
the possession of Flaherty? He accounted for
its being in his possession by affirming that he
had found it lying in a snow bank somewhere
in Alexander Street on Monday night. In

this statement Flaherty persisted up to the
moment of his death.

On the other hand a young lad, Hawkey one
of the witnesses at the Inquest, deposed on
oath that, on Monday night he had accom-
panied Flaherty on an expedition to pick up
wood; that on their way home, they saw an
Express sleigh, whose driver was absent; that
Flaherty ran up to it, and abstracted a bottle
which, he first hid in a gateway, and afterwards
came back for, and carried home with him.

The next step in the investigation was to
find out the Express driver, who soon turned
up in the person of Archibald Cameron, driver
for Messrs. Bancroft and Sharpe. From this
witness the following facts were elicited.

He deposed that on the 24th Nov. he re-
ceived from Mr. Bourque, Druggist in St. An-
toine Street, a bottle to be returned to Messrs.
Evans and Mercer, Wholesale Druggists—the
said bottle having been left by mistake at Mr.
Bourque's store some short time previous.—
This bottle the driver placed in his sleigh, in
which there were no other goods at the time,
and turned up Alexander Street to the stable
where he put up his horse, leaving the bottle
in his sleigh. When he returned to look for
it, it was gone; he reported the circumstance
to his employers, Messrs. Evans and Mercer,
by whom a note was made to the effect that the
bottle had been "misaid." This evidence
was confirmed by Mr. R. Strong an employee
of Messrs. Evans, Mercer & Co. He deposed
that on the 14th of last month, a bottle of
Colchicum Wine intended for the General
Hospital, had been left by mistake at Mr.
Bourque's store; that the latter had written a
note to Messrs. Evans & Mercer, informing
them of the error; and that in consequence the
driver Cameron had been instructed on the
24th ult., to go and fetch the bottle back. This
explained every thing. It was evident that
Flaherty had either found, or stolen from the
sleigh the bottle containing the poisonous mix-
ture, known as Wine of Colchicum.

This medicine or poison is prepared by
steeping in white wine, the roots or seeds of a
plant belonging to the *Melanthaceæ* order, of
which most are poisonous, and which includes
the meadow saffron. From a plant of this or-
der, the *Colchicum Autumnale*, is prepared the
medicine so commonly employed to give relief
to gouty patients; but the dose must be small,
as its effects if taken in large quantities are
very violent, and often fatal. The symptoms
in all the cases of which we are treating were
the same: Vomiting and purging, rapid pulse
but weak, and general loss of strength. The
victim retained consciousness to the last.

With these facts, and symptoms before them,
the medical men had a solution to the myste-
rious disease which they had been called in to
treat. They saw at once that nothing could be
done to save the lives of those who had most
freely indulged in the poisonous mixture, and
they warned their patients to prepare for death.
The Catholic priest and the Sister of Charity
were, as usual under such circumstances, quick-
ly in attendance, doing all in their power to
soothe the last moments of the wretched dying
creatures before them. Soon the dread scene
arrived; one after another, in terrible agonies,
and amidst scenes of horror, which no tongue
can adequately describe, they yielded to the
fatal effects of the poison, until in a short time
seven corpses were stretched out, a dreadful
warning of the consequences of yielding to the
beastly craving for intoxicating drink. At the
time of writing the names of the victims were
as under:—

1. Benjamin Thayer, aged 15.
2. Mary Jane Dreunan alias Canning.
3. William Flaherty.
4. Betsy Dreunan.
5. Widow Dunn.
6. William Dreunan.
7. William Hawkey.

An Inquest on the bodies was held on Fri-
day; and after a prolonged and careful in-
vestigation, the Jury found the following verdict:
"That the seven persons now deceased came
to their death by drinking and swallowing an
excessive quantity of sherry wine, mixed with
a poisonous drug, Colchicum, commonly called
and known as wine of Colchicum, taken and
drank in total ignorance of its poisonous nature
and character."

The jury before separating recommended
that the sanitary officers should use their efforts
to enforce obedience to laws of cleanliness
amongst the filthy hovels of Tabb's Yard;
which in their present condition are, and have
long been, a moral and a physical nuisance, and
a disgrace to Montreal.

THE SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.—In view of
the rapid spread of this disease, all are agreed
that a special hospital for the reception of the
infected is essential. They cannot, with justice
to the other patients, be received into any of
our existing hospitals, neither can they be left
to die in the streets. Something should be
done, and that quickly.

How far our Catholic institutions are pre-
pared to do all in their power to solve the

problem—"How to make provision for small-
pox patients?"—appears from a document from
the physicians of the *Hotel Dieu*, read at a recent
meeting of the City Council, in which the Lady
Superior made known the nuns' willingness to
erect on their own property such a building as
might be required for the said hospital, on the
condition, as Councillor Jodoin explained, that
they shall receive one half of the appropriation
for that purpose, made by the City Council;
and at a recent meeting of the Sanitary Asso-
ciation, it was resolved that it should be re-
commended to divide the sum at the disposal
of the City for the establishment of a small-
pox hospital, between the *Hotel Dieu* and the
Montreal General Hospital, on condition that
suitable and isolated accommodation for the
patients, be provided without delay.

This arrangement, the only satisfactory ar-
rangement that under the actual conditions of
our mixed society could be made, does not
meet the approval of the *Witness*. That jour-
nal recommends that if the management of the
much desired hospital be given to any existing
institution, it be given to the Protestant Hos-
pital in Dorchester Street, known as the Gen-
eral Hospital. This arrangement, we fear, would
never do; for whilst we would not undervalue
its services, or say a word against the present
management of that institution, against its
Directors, Physicians, or attendants—in that it
is exclusively under Protestant control, it would
not be just to assign to it the whole of the
funds raised by taxes upon Catholics and Pro-
testants alike. We have no objection to pay-
ing for special hospital accommodation for
small-pox patients; but if we do pay, we have
the right to insist that the funds which come
from our pockets shall be applied under Cath-
olic control. The priest—that is the minis-
ter of religion—is as necessary in a hospital as
the physician; the institution, therefore, nec-
essarily comprises a religious element, and
must, therefore, in a mixed community like
ours, be what is called "sectarian."

LEGITIMISTS AND ULTRAMONTANES.—It is
so much the fashion for the Protestant press to
sneer at, and misrepresent, the principles of the
Ultramontanes, as it calls them, or, in other
words, the Catholic and anti-revolutionary
party, whether in France, or in other lands,
that it is with much pleasure, not unmingled
with some surprise, that we find in the October
number of such a staunch Protestant publica-
tion as *Blackwood*, the subjoined appreciation
of the Legitimist party in France. It should
be borne in mind that in France the terms
"Legitimist" and "Ultramontane" are con-
vertible; that the Legitimists are Ultramon-
tanes, and the Ultramontanes, Legitimists;
that he who is a partisan of Henry V. is also
a partisan of the Pope. In a word, it must
be borne in mind that it is because such is the
case, that Pilgrimages have been denounced by
the radical press, as political as well as religious
manifestations, and as declarations in support
of monarchy as well as of religion.

Now what manner of men are these Legiti-
mists, or Ultramontanes? Here is what such
a staunch Protestant as *Blackwood* says of
them:—

"And yet it is in Legitimacy alone that a fixed
principle of action can at this moment be found
in France. It is there only that we see devotion to an
unvarying idea, fidelity to a faith, a flag, and a name;
it is there that loyalty and duty assume a tangible,
evident form; it is there, and there only, that re-
ligion is proclaimed to be a national necessity. But
these very merits, these very virtues constitute pre-
cisely the difficulties which bar the way to the
Comte de Chambord."—p. 498, 499.

And the same writer might have added
which provoke the hatred of the Liberals, and
anti-Catholic party throughout Europe, whom
Blackwood describes, and whom he contrasts
with the Ultramontane party, as men for the
most part without any fixed principles. He
continues:—

"But the Legitimists, on the contrary, are like
early Christians—they are simply rank Papists—
they speak a language unknown to our generation,
a language of honor and of faith, of self-sacrifice, and
patriotism; and like the early Christians again,
they practise what they preach. Every man of them
who could carry a musket was in the army during
the German war, and the list of their killed and
wounded includes all the great names of France.—
Now that peace has come again, as they can do
nothing in their villages, they are setting up schools
and clubs in the great towns in order to mollify
the people; they are publicly manifesting their
faith by pilgrimages, and prayers; they are strug-
gling honestly to do their duty."

And of course for so doing they get from
the anti-Catholic world, sneers, and abuse, and
misrepresentation; the title of "Ultramontane,"
and in Germany persecution from the State.—
This is not wonderful; for if they be the men
that *Blackwood* describes, it is natural that the
Liberal and anti-Catholic world should hate
them.

The Honorable M.M. Mackenzie and Dorion,
our new Ministers, have been re-elected, one
or Lambert, the other for Napierville, by ac-
clamation.

Cuppige, the young man in the Toronto Post-of-
fice who stole a batch of registered letters, with the
contents of which he departed to the United States,
returned \$3,861.43 of the amount of money stolen.
A Post-office circular has been issued to the owners
and senders of registered letters to make their
claims.