

The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1875.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

- Friday, 18—St. Bernard.
Saturday, 19—St. Juliana Falconieri.
Sunday, 20—Fifth after Pentecost.
Monday, 21—St. Aloysius Gonzaga.
Tuesday, 22—St. Mary Magdalene of Pazzi.
Wednesday, 23—Vigil of St. John Baptist.
Thursday, 24—St. John Baptist.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Judgment has been given by the district court of Leobuch, in Sillesia, against the Prince-Archbishop Frederic Egon von Furstenberg, of Olmutz, and the two parochial administrators (ad interim suspended from their office). Francis Ullmann of Kreuzendorf and Robert Sterz of Sappau, for offences against the May Laws. The two priests were sentenced to fines of 150 marks each.

The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung announces that addresses of congratulation and sympathy have been forwarded to Cardinal Ledochowski by the Metropolitan Chapter and the secular and regular clergy of the archdiocese of Lemberg, and by the leading laymen of Galicia. Among the signatures of the lay address are the Princes Leo Sapieha, Joseph Jablonowski, and Francis Waronicki, the Counts Dzieduszycki Scipio and Prusicki (who is an "active" Privy councillor), and quite a number of the professors of the Universities of Cracow and Lemberg, including Professor Wenzelowski, a native of Posen, whose adhesion to the address seems to annoy the semi-official paper very much.

The Prussian Bishops, replying to the statements made by the Ministry in answer to their memorial to the Emperor, maintain that their position is a rightful one, and explain that the infallibility dogma having been enunciated with the absolute certainty of faith, the could not refuse obedience to it without forsaking their religion.

It is as evident as possible that Bismarck is determined to carry on "a war to the knife" against the Church and her Institutions, not alone in Prussia but throughout Germany. The North German Gazette an inspired organ in an article printed in prominent type, draws attention to the extraordinary development of the Catholic system of religious orders and associations in Germany. It concludes as follows: "To a vigilant and resolute Government it appears absolutely imperative to deal with this organization which, apart from the special objects of some individual associations, is only an instrument in the hand of its leaders. Another question remains—namely whether the new Convents law, if its operation be confined to Prussia, will have the effect which is expected of it in the struggle for supremacy of the State?"

The Bishop of Liege has addressed himself to the King of the Belgians on the subject of the interdiction of the religious processions by the Burgomaster of that city. His Lordship denounces the proclamation as unconstitutional and reminds his Majesty that the faithful subjects of the kingdom are the Catholics and not those who imitate the Jews of old by deciding religion and promoting disorder and conflicts.

The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung announces that the Prussian Government has prohibited all Jubilee processions, on the ground that "under present circumstances there is reason to apprehend danger for public order from such processions." According to the law of 11th March, 1850, all processions which are not of established and ancient usage require an authorization from the police authorities.

A letter from Ratisbon of 11th May states that on the previous Saturday a notice was posted at all the church doors in that city announcing that the Jubilee processions, which had been previously appointed for the month of May, were not to take place, having, it appears, been forbidden by the provincial authorities of the Upper Parliament. No reason was assigned. But it is assumed that the Government is acting on the same authority as in Prussia, viz, that these processions are "extraordinary," and hence can be forbidden. There has been no precedent for such conduct of the Government, and it is said to find that the Berlin "Culture-champions" have such influence in Bavaria.

The announcement of the Times that England will henceforward take an active part in European politics, and make her influence as a great Power felt, has elicited some sarcastic comments from

the Nord. The organ of the Prussian court hints that in an emergency the action of the British Government would not be found of much practical value, and reminds its readers "of the more than reserved reception by the English Foreign Office of the proposal of energetic mediation in favour of peace which came from St. Petersburg in July, 1870." In our days, the Nord says, diplomacy does not suffice, because counsels and remonstrances must be supported on solid bases, and these bases England refuses to give herself. It concludes by saying:—"We shall salute willingly the reawakening of the British lion, but before doing so we should like to know whether he has preserved his claws." The semi-official journals at Berlin, also speak of the intervention of England in rather contemptuous terms.

A special despatch from Rome to the Daily News says a Ministerial crisis is impending on account of the Public Safety Act, for the suppression of brigandage, which is opposed by the Left, not approved, as incorrectly stated in a previous dispatch. There is much excitement over the situation. It is thought that if a change is made Signor Bella will become Premier.

A bill for the regulation of the newspaper press which will soon be submitted to the French Assembly by M. Dufaure, minister of Justice, is published. It provides that attacks on the form of government and the President of the Republic shall be punishable with imprisonment for not less than two months, or more than three years; and fines of from \$100 to \$1000 penalties are also attached to the publication of news and of petitions asking for modifications of the constitution. President MacMahon on Sunday reviewed 36,000 troops at Long Champs in presence of 300,000 spectators.

The special reports to the London journals that the abdication of the King of Greece is imminent and that several foreign men-of-war have arrived in Greek waters are untrue. The country is perfectly tranquil.

News has been received at Havana, via St. Thomas, of a terrible earthquake in New Grenada. The destruction was greatest in the valley of Cucuta on the Venezuelan frontier. It is reported that 16,000 lives were destroyed by the calamity.

His Worship the Mayor of Quebec, Owen Murphy, Esq., with Alderman Morris and the City Treasurer, L. E. Dorion, left on Saturday, by the Peruvian on a mission to England to negotiate a municipal loan of \$200,000.

Her Majesty has conferred the distinction of Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George upon Col. John Dyde, the oldest militia officer in the Dominion.

THE OLD CATHOLICS.

The Times' Prussian correspondent, writing from Berlin under date May 24th, supplies additional proof of the insignificance of the Old Catholic movement, taking his figures from the official report issued at the annual meeting which opened at Bonn on the 22nd. Out of 150 Old Catholic congregations existing in Germany only 100 sent in statistics. These show that there are 47,737 souls attached to the "faith" delivered direct to Dr. Dollinger, and through Madame Merriam to M. Loysen. This grand total includes 15,006 grown up men and 22 parsons—the correspondent erroneously calls them priests. Prussia, the cradle of the sect, has raised only 18,765, who are administered to by 22 parsons. In the Grand Duchy of Baden the new denomination is comparatively strong, having doubled its numbers during the last year, "the increase," according to the correspondent, "being mainly produced by the law allowing Old Catholics to share in the Church funds." In Bavaria they count only 13,000. "Notwithstanding these discouraging figures," says the correspondent, "the report looks confidently forward to a moral and numerical access of strength in the near future. It is, indeed, easy to foresee that the Bill now passing through the Prussian Parliament, which allows Old Catholics to be summarily put in possession of Catholic funds, will sensibly augment the devout little band gathered around a few distinguished leaders; but as to anything like real life being infused into the new denomination, I confess I am not very sanguine." And he continues, "the great enemy of the Pope in Germany is neither the Old Catholic party, who object to him for conscientious reasons, nor the German Government, who regard him as a political adversary artfully disguised in cassock and gown. The force the Vatican has to fear in this country is the determined rationalism of the educated classes." We have put the word conscientious in italics, because it seems to us it is a very peculiar kind of the "conscientious" that will join or adhere to a sect for the purpose of obtaining possession, through legal fraud, of Catholic funds. It reminds us of the palmy days of Irish souperism, and how the Reverend Oliver Stiggins, who had a saintly white in his eye, sent one of his "brands from the burning" to talk to Biddy, his wife,—"About ribbons, and cotton, and Protestant life, And to ask her, with dear Mrs. Stiggins' regards, What stuff would convert her, and how many yards."

As long as the funds last converts to Old Catholicism will be found, and the wonder is that they are not more numerous. But the correspondent is correct in saying that the real enemy the Vatican has to contend against in Germany is the rationalism of the educated classes. Germany is the centre of that Rationalism and Materialism, called "modern science," of which the Tyndalls in England and the Drapers in the United States are the faithful and zealous apostles. Between the Church, the Divinely commissioned guardian of Revelation, and this monster which seeks to destroy Revelation, war has been declared and will be waged to the bitter end—until the fall of one of the conflicting parties. As Catholics we know that party cannot be the Church, and hence we entertain no fears for the issue.

Last week we had the pleasure of a visit from P. Boyle, Esq., Proprietor of our esteemed contemporary, the Irish Canadian. We were extremely gratified to see Brother Boyle looking so well.—May his shadow never grow less.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT.

Grant is out of the way. He has written a letter intimating that he will not enter the field, and the free and independents are now looking out for a new man. If the present tenant of the White House had consented to be run for another term, the contest would turn on the cry of "Caesarism," and be a purely personal one, no matter who the opposing candidate might be. But as he has backed out, the leaders of both parties will be forced to recast their policy for 1876, and fight the battle on their respective political platforms.—"The next President," says the New York Herald, "will have to devise measures to relieve industry of burdens under which it has sunk to the lowest level during General Grant's administration. Irredeemable paper money, extravagance and corruption among office-holders, a tariff which has prevented the revival of our foreign trade and disabled us from selling our surplus manufactured products abroad—these causes have demoralized American industry and caused a prolonged stagnation in business which seems hopeless, and which covers the country with gloom and apprehensions for the future, in spite of a succession of good crops. . . . 'Hard times' is the universal complaint, and it will be the watchword of the next election. We cannot have relief from the pressure of adversity until misgovernment in the Southern States is cured; until extravagance and corruption in the federal administration are remedied; until a sound currency of gold and silver makes the laborer's reward sure and definite; until the shackles are removed from our foreign commerce, and the ingenious hands of our skilled mechanics and artisans are once more allowed to labor for the whole world and not confined to the limited home market."

It is very easy to talk—very easy to indicate abuses and wrongs, and state and demand reforms, but not so easy to find reformers. Who is going to remodel the United States after the above admirable fashion? Dr. Brownson, who is a keen observer and ought to be well informed, says in his Review for April, Art. II, p. 179.—"We have never much admired President Grant; we have never regarded him as a high-toned gentleman, as a man with an acute and lively moral sense, who cares much one way or another for the public weal. He seems to look upon his office as held for the benefit of himself and relatives and personal friends, and we presume he is determined to make the most of it, let the politicians clamor as they may! And yet we much doubt, were we President, if we could perform the duties of the office much better than he does. We did not vote for his re-election in 1872, and we certainly shall not vote for a third term in 1876; but if we had the naming of his successor, we should not know who to name. The Republican majority in Congress are for the most part small men, if you will, but not overstocked with honesty or public spirit, but they are faithful representatives of their constituents, that is the banks, railroad corporations, manufacturing companies, and the business men who employ credit instead of capital; and it is very doubtful, if a Democratic Congress would not find itself obliged to do the bidding of the same constituents, for their interests rule the country." Nothing better illustrates this moral degradation of parties in the United States, and the proximate impossibility of electing an honest administration, than the serious suggestion of such a veteran politician as Wendell Phillips to nominate General B. F. Butler, whose name is connected with everything low and corrupt in politics. The Herald sneers at the mention of Ben as a possible candidate, but how many prominent men with a much purer public record than General Butler's can the Herald point out in the Republican or Democratic party?

The next President will, we are inclined to think, be no better than the present one, if he is even as good, and therefore we heartily sympathize with our American cousins in advance of the election.

THE JUBILEE.—The congregation of St. Patrick's Church completed the Jubilee Procession last Sunday. Processions from the Parishes of Notre Dame, St. Ann's, St. Bridget's, St. James' and St. Joseph's also took place. From 2 up to about 7 o'clock the streets were thronged with those performing the exercises of the Jubilee, and it was edifying in the extreme to notice the deep religious feeling which pervaded those taking part in the Processions.

DEATH OF MRS. B. DEVLIN.—With sincere regret we have to announce the death, after a long and painful illness, of Mrs. Bernard Devlin. It was Mrs. Devlin's lot to see several of her children taken from her by the hand of death, and the grief thus occasioned doubtless greatly aggravated the disease which at last carried her off. A loving wife, a kind mother and a good woman has gone from among us.—R. I. P.

THE CELTIC NATIONAL.—This is the title of a new weekly Journal devoted to General News, and to the Promotion of Irish Literature, and Irish National Independence. Published in New York, every Saturday. The Rev. J. V. McNamara, is the Editor. We are promised that The Celtic National will be intensely Irish in tone and character, and from week to week will vindicate the claims of the Irish people to political independence, and will in every issue exhibit a faithful reflex of Irish National feeling, and of the actual status of public opinion on Irish questions at home and abroad.

As the prepayment of newspapers from publication offices must begin on the 1st October next, our subscribers are warned not to make prepayment of postage at the receiving offices beyond that date. In the meantime we request such of them as are in arrears to remit at once, and all others to renew their subscription, as after that date we shall, without exception, discontinue sending the True Witness to all who are in arrears, and also to those who have not renewed their subscriptions.

PERSONAL.—Mr. C. DONOVAN.—This gentleman, for many years Agent for the True Witness in Hamilton and vicinity, leaves Hamilton on the 3rd of July for a brief visit to Ireland, and will be present at the festivities in Dublin in honor of the Centennial of O'Connell's birth. We wish Mr. Donovan a pleasant voyage, and hope that he will return from the "Green Isle" in renewed health and vigor.

NEW AGENT.—We would inform our friends in Hamilton and vicinity that Mr. JAMES QUINN is our new agent there. Mr. Donovan, our former agent, having through press of business given up the agency, speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Quinn. We hope our subscribers when called on by Mr. Quinn will receive him kindly.

It is said that Mr. Gladstone will contribute an article on "The Prince Consort and the Court of Queen Victoria" to the forthcoming number of the Contemporary Review. That will be more in his line.

We observe that an Ottawa contemporary is trying to be witty at the expense of young men "doing the Jubilee," as it calls it. The journal referred to is the clown of the secular press in Canada, and no Catholic young man will be influenced by the gibberish of a buffoon.

SHORT SERMONS FOR SINCERE SOULS.

(No. 71.) "THOU SHALT NOT SPEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR."

Evil speaking or detraction may be considered as one of the commonest of vices. Other sins are generally confined to certain classes; and each class has its peculiar sin. The rich and the great ones of the world have their vices; whilst workmen, merchants, citizens have theirs. But the crime of evil speaking is common to all classes and to all conditions of life. The rich detracts; the titled nobleman detracts; the senator detracts; the citizen detracts; the townsman detracts; the villager detracts; the merchant detracts; the workman detracts; to say it in a word all men and all women without exception are guilty of this vice. Shall I say more; not only people of loose religious principles detract, but also even those who lay claim to piety and virtue. Yes! alas! those who would scruple to retain a single cent of their neighbour's goods; those who would not for their lives tell a lie; those who say long prayers and mortify their bodies with fasting; those who give their substance to the poor; even these sometimes make no difficulty in telling again, the evil they have heard against their neighbour: even these hesitate not to listen to evil reports. They say a spiritual writer, know how to refrain from this vice; though they may have resisted the most violent temptations, they will doubtless end by yielding to this sin which may be called "the devil's last arrow. And yet alas! man of piety and religion, of what will your piety and religion avail you, if you are thus cruel to your brother? What will your fasts, your watchings, your prayers, what will your bleeding shoulders torn by the knots of the discipline avail you, if you draw the blood of your neighbour by the piercing dart of an evil tongue? What will those alms avail you, which ought to cover a multitude of sins, if you rob your neighbor of his honor?"

The crime of evil speaking consists in the robbing of our neighbor's honor: hence the detractor is a robber. And alas! Christian soul, a robber of the worst kind, because a robber not of earthly riches and earthly goods, which can again be replaced by thrift and industry, but a robber of that reputation, which once lost, not all the thrift, nor industry, nor skill, nor prudence in the world can again repair. For what is this reputation, which the detractor despoils? Listen to that eternal Wisdom, which knows all things and sees all things, and hears all things.—He has thousands of years ago declared to the world that it is above all riches: "Better is a good name than many riches." And with the counsel of His eternal wisdom He bids you guard it carefully. "Have a care of a good name, for it will remain with you rather than a thousand precious and great treasures." Yes, Christian soul, silver and gold cannot go with you past the grave, but a good name, your honor, your reputation will cling to you as long as the remembrance of you lingers upon the earth. Behold here then what it is you steal; O robber detractor, Other robbers only steal silver and gold which we cannot take with us to the grave—you steal that reputation which should be ours not only in life but in death—not only in our time but in the time of all those that come after us. Can you doubt then, that you are the worst of robbers? O detractor! or that your robberies are the worst of crimes?"

But besides being a robber, the detractor is a murderer. Nay! he is a double, if not a treble, murderer. Every man has three lives—1st, his natural life (or the life of the body); 2nd, his civil life (or the life of his honor or reputation); and 3rd, his spiritual life (or the life of the soul). Now although detraction does not of necessity destroy the life of the body, though it sometimes does, it undoubtedly destroys the other two lives which are the most precious of all, the civil life, and the life of the soul. Do you ask me how it kills the life of the soul? It kills the life often of many souls—always of two souls—the soul of the detractor and of the willing listener—always of as many souls as listen willingly. For the sin of the detractor and of the listener is always in grave matters a mortal sin.

Do you ask me how it kills the body? Alas! how many hundred tender souls, who have loved their reputation more than life, have hastened to destroy their body, rather than survive the reproaches of calumny and detraction? And when they have not perhaps sought at their own hands a violent death—how many have died of a broken heart, because they could not live under the invisible wounds of the detractor's dagger? The doctors called it a decline—or perhaps were baffled by some mysterious unknown disease—but the poor sufferer knew full well whence the disease sprung, who struck the blow with a poisoned stiletto, and when the steel had entered the soul.

Detraction of necessity destroys the civil life by taking away that honor or reputation in which that life consists. Take away honor or reputation and what remains? Nothing but reputation's corpse. In what account is that man or woman held think you who is without home or reputation before the world? This young woman has been detracted; (truly or falsely it matters not) of what account is she before the world for the rest of her life? no one perhaps will ever be found to marry her—none will perhaps even seek her company. And who has done her this injury? The detractor with the slanderous tongue. This young man has had evil things reported of him, (truly or falsely it matters not) in what esteem will he be held for the future perhaps of a long life? none will employ him—no one will make of him a friend.—And who has done him this injury? this deep and lasting injury? The slanderous tongue! You, O detractor! it is you who have wrought this ruin; you, O detractor, it is you who have worked this in-

calculable injury. And remember it is an injury which you can never remove. Honor is like the vessel of the potter—once broken, it may be repaired—it may be pieced—but can never be renewed—after all your repairing, after all your piecing, it is only the broken vessel still. The mark of the crack or the break will be there, the flaw will be seen by all men, the strength, the utility of the vessel is gone, it can never take its place again amongst sound and useful vessels. O slanderous tongue! could you but fully understand the extent of the injury you inflict—could you but take in and see at once glance the whole evil you do—you would despise yourself as the basest of beings—you would recognise in yourself the most malignant of demons; and in your remorse and despair, in the hatred of the black crime you have committed, you would bite off and spit out from you that tongue which had made you so base, that tongue which had transformed you from an angel of light, into so malignant a demon.

And this crime, so black and hideous, how incalculable are the ways in which it is committed. Besides slandering one's neighbour by alleging false crimes against him; or by making public secret true ones; it is often committed by interpreting falsely the most innocent and holy actions. An alms has been given to a poor person. Ah! says the slanderous tongue, this is not given for nothing, charity is not the spring of this man's action. He wants to be praised by the world, he wishes it to be known that he has money to spare and can afford to give; he wishes to be spoken of on the streets and in the squares as that charitable and good man, he will require some equivalent.—Nor is the tongue absolutely necessary for slander. A shrug of the shoulders, a light laugh, a turn of the eyes, a lifting of the eyebrows, a turning of the body, when our neighbor is spoken of, may convey a more deadly and lasting slander, than the vilest and most unbridled tongue. Even silence may be slander. A young woman is praised for exemplary conduct—a young man is proposed for an advantageous position, the slanderer hears, listens, and stands by in silence. Perhaps that silence has been more eloquent than words, perhaps that silence has struck deeper, than the most unenvied speech, because an unseen and an understood evil is always more feared than one known and seen. O slanderer! are you not truly a robber and a murderer and worse far than both.

THE LOSS OF THE VICKSBURG.

The following despatch received from New York on the 9th inst., caused considerable excitement and deep regret in the city:—

"The SS. State of Georgia which arrived this morning, picked up a boat containing five seamen of the Dominion line steamship Vicksburg, from Montreal for Liverpool. The men were nearly dead from exposure, but are recovering. The Vicksburg was sunk by ice on Tuesday, June 1st. The rescued men tell a fearful tale of suffering."

The Vicksburg, of the Dominion Steamship Line, a vessel of 3,500 tons, passed Father Point on her way to Liverpool on May 28th. She had on board a cargo of bread-tists, and a consignment of cattle shipped by James McShane, Jr. The information received from those of the crew saved is as yet scanty, but it appears that after passing Newfoundland the vessel encountered icebergs, which she must have struck, as the ship foundered at ten o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, June 1st.

There were on board at the time, seven cabin and 25 steerage passengers, besides the crew, under command of Captain Bennet, late chief officer of the Allan steamship Prussian. The Georgia reports having picked up a boat with the boatswain's mate and four men in latitude 47 deg., longitude 43 deg. The mate, with thirty persons, left the steamer in one boat; and the second officer and nine persons in another. A private despatch states that the Captain and about forty others were on board the vessel when she foundered. None are known to be saved except those picked up by the Georgia one hundred and twenty miles south-east of St. John's, Nfld. The cabin passengers on the Vicksburg were Brian McShane, of Montreal, Miss Sutherland, supposed to be of this city, A. H. Betts, of Kingston, Mr. and Mrs. Bloom, Rev. C. A. Adams, from Upper Canada, and Mr. Vipond. The vessel was valued at \$225,000, and is said to be fully insured. Her cargo was worth \$85,000. The 92 head of cattle shipped by Mr. McShane were insured for \$14,000.

The following additional particulars were received from New York:—

New York, June 10.—The five men rescued from the steamer Vicksburg had their feet and legs very much swollen, so much so that their boots had to be cut from their feet. They are still suffering from great exposure to wet and cold, but are recovering as fast as could be expected. Their names are James Crowley, of London, boatswain's mate; Thomas O'Brien, of Liverpool, seaman; Patrick Grogan, of Liverpool, seaman; John Williams, of Liverpool, seaman; and Jonas Wilkinson, of Liverpool, seaman.

JAMES CROWLEY'S STATEMENT.

We left Quebec on Thursday morning, May the 27th, with a ship's crew of 80 men, all told, and 8 saloon passengers—5 gentlemen and 3 ladies—and about 26 in the steerage, of whom 4 were females. The weather was fine until 9 o'clock on Sunday evening, May 30th, when we fell in with field ice, and were soon surrounded by it. The ship was stopped till daylight, when we proceeded again, with but little ice in sight. At 9.30 p.m., on Monday, all hands were called to shorten sail, the ship was stopped amongst the heavy ice and headed to south, when we proceeded at full speed to get clear of the ice. At 1 o'clock, at half speed, we struck ice. The engines were immediately reversed. The ship struck heavily aft, on the port quarter, carrying away the fans of the propeller, and a hole was knocked through the plates on that quarter, through which the ship made a good deal of water. We got the sails over and stopped the hole up, so that but little water came in. All hands were employed in heaving the cargo overboard. The second officer and myself were taken from the cargo to clear away the boats. This was about 6 a.m. on Tuesday. The captain ordered the forward wells to be sounded, and six inches of water were found, the after-steerage then being full of water. The main hold wells were also sounded, and five and one-half feet of water were found. The captain called me on to the bridge, told me not to mind the boats and then called everybody aft, and told them not to have fears, as he could take the ship to St. John's Newfoundland. It was then discovered that the fires in the engine-room were drenched out. The captain then gave orders to launch the boats with their respective crews, and told them to mind that the distance from St. John's was 120 miles north-west. I proceeded to launch No. 1, which was my boat, and it was capsize in lowering, losing chronometer, watch, charts, rudder and part of the provisions. She was full of water. O'Brien and I bailed her partly out, when Grogan, Willson and Williams jumped in. We could not hang on to the ship, owing to the sea and the ice about. O'Brien saw the Captain on the bridge beckoning the boat back, we having drifted about 150 yards from the ship. We saw the second officer's boat lowered all clear with nine hands and himself in her. She came around the bow and pulled to windward about 60 yards. The ship sank about 10 o'clock, floating boat No. 2 from her stocks, with the chief officer and about 30 people in her. She got clear and pulled to windward. O'Brien, after the ship went down, saw the captain and some person floating on a able