

THE TRUE WITNESS  
AND  
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 1852.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The following letter, from his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, has been received by the Secretary of the Montreal Branch of the Catholic Defence Association:—

London, January 18, 1852.

Dear Sir—A variety of circumstances, among which I may mention indisposition, now, thank God, past, have prevented me from earlier acknowledging the Address forwarded to me, by you, through the Rev. Mr. Quibbler, from the Catholic Branch Defence Association.

Allow me now to supply my apparent neglect, and to express to you, and all who had the kindness to join in that Address, my sincere gratitude for its warm and most friendly sentiments, and assure you, and them, how highly I value their regard and sympathy. Nothing indeed could have been more encouraging to the Catholics, during their late trial and struggle, than to see how generously, how affectionately, and how fraternally their cause in England was adopted by their brethren over the whole world; and none have discharged their duty of brotherhood more nobly, or more kindly, than you and your Canadian friends.

In return, allow me to invoke upon them every true blessing which their hearts can desire, and express my humble prayer for their temporal and eternal welfare.—I am ever, dear Sir, yours very sincerely in Christ,  
N. CARDINAL WISEMAN,  
Archbishop of Westminster.

The loss of the *Amazon*, an account of which we gave a fortnight ago, is being made the subject of judicial investigation. A subscription has been set on foot, in order to raise a fund for the relief of the families of those who perished in that ill-fated vessel; the Queen and Prince Albert have headed the list with a donation of £150. The conduct of the Admiral in command at Portsmouth, in delaying to send out a steamer, to cruise on the ground where the catastrophe occurred, has been severely commented upon, and has been unfavorably contrasted with the behaviour of the French naval authorities at Brest, who immediately despatched a war steamer, for the purpose of seeing whether there was not a chance that some of the *Amazon's* passengers and crew, might yet be picked up, floating about on rafts, or in the other boats which have not yet been accounted for.

The strike of the operative engineers, and their employers still continues, and there appears no prospect of any accommodation of the differences betwixt them. The demands of the men have been met by the master manufacturers with a counter strike—the latter have closed their workshops, and upwards of ten thousand operatives have been thrown out of employment: neither party seem inclined to give in; the leaders of the workmen encourage their fellow-workmen, to hold out stoutly, and have induced the general body to devote one day's wages in the week, for the support of the discharged men.

The British Government seems to be earnestly setting about putting the defences of the country in order. We read of new works upon the coast, of heavy batteries to carry 100 guns, to be constructed near Spithead, and of a very considerable increase in the Army and Navy for the ensuing year. The actual military force which England can at the present moment command, is put down at about 8,000 cavalry, 12,000 infantry, and 4,000 artillery, from which must be deducted the number of men required for garrison duty, so that not much more than about 12,000 men, of all arms, would remain actually available for field service, in case of a sudden attack. The inefficiency of the muskets in present use, when compared with the arms of the French troops, has given rise to much correspondence from military men, in the London journals. Colonel Colt has received permission to export to the Cape of Good Hope, about 450 revolving fire arms, of various sizes, for the use of officers serving in that colony.

A document, approving of the decision of the Privy Council, in the Gorham case, by which Baptismal Regeneration was declared to be no part of the doctrine of the Church of England as by Law established, has been signed by 3,262 of the State clergy, "among whom were seven Deans, twelve Archdeacons, and a large number of the dignitaries of the church throughout the kingdom." The signers, amounting to about one-fourth of the whole clergy, testify "their thankfulness for the judgment so delivered," and deprecate any attempt to nullify the authority of her Majesty, as supreme governor in all things spiritual, as well as temporal. Dr. Sumner, the Government Archbishop of Canterbury, and his brother of York, received this declaration of their brethren very graciously, hoping that the decision of the Privy Council may be, for the future, considered as a final settlement of the point in dispute, and that all parties will henceforth agree in looking upon the Sacrament of Baptism, which was instituted by Christ for man's redemption, as an idle, and very unnecessary piece of humbug.

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, has published an appeal to the German nation, in behalf of the German Catholic population of London:—

"Owing to an uninterrupted succession of misfortunes, hundreds and thousands of this people have, in former times, and even at the present moment, lost their Faith, and it is to be feared that great numbers of these unhappy persons have not only ceased to be Catholics, but have fallen victims to infidelity and licentiousness of life.

"To rescue the German Catholic population of London from dangers so many and so grievous, three things are especially requisite.

"Firstly—A church in some measure, at least, equal to the wants of the German Catholics.

"Secondly—Schools, especially poor schools, in connection with this church.

"Thirdly—An hospital exclusively for the benefit of Catholics, and at first of German Catholics only."

The *Times* expresses great surprise at the tranquil state of the Southern counties of Ireland:—

"It is a somewhat novel feature in the annals of Irish crime to find its scene transferred from those localities where, up to within the last few years, neither life nor property could be counted safe between the rising and the setting of the sun, to a quarter where, of all others, security for both was regarded as certain as they would be in Kent or Middlesex. The Southern counties are enjoying perfect tranquillity. The Magistrates of Limerick and Kerry are calling for reductions of the Constabulary; the occupation of that excellent body being nearly altogether gone. In the far West the state of society shows a similar improvement."

The Monthly Meeting of the General Committee of the Catholic Defence Association, was held on the 14th ult., and was numerously attended, both by clergy and laity.

The French Constitution has been published, the following is translated from the *Moniteur*:—

THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION.

The following is a translation of the text of the new constitution from the *Moniteur*:—

CONSTITUTION MADE IN VIRTUE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED BY THE FRENCH PEOPLE TO LOUIS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE BY THE VOTE OF THE 20TH AND 21ST DECEMBER, 1851.

The President of the Republic, considering that the French people has been called upon to vote upon the following resolution:—"The people wills to maintain the authority of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, and gives him the powers necessary to make a constitution on the bases laid down in its proclamation of December 2nd."

Considering that the bases proposed for acceptance by the people were:—

- "1. A responsible chief named for ten years;
- "2. Ministers dependent only on the executive power;
- "3. A Council of State, formed of the most distinguished men, preparing the laws and supporting them before the legislative body;
- "4. The legislative body support and voting the laws, named by universal suffrage, without scrutiny of the list which falsifies the election;
- "5. A second Assembly, formed of the most illustrious men of the country, an equipping power, the guardian of the fundamental pact, and of the public liberties."

Considering that the people have answered affirmatively by seven millions five hundred thousand suffrages,

PROMULGATES THE CONSTITUTION AS FOLLOWS:

CHAP. I.

Art. 1. The constitution acknowledges, confirms, and guarantees the great principles proclaimed in 1789, and which are the bases of the public right of Frenchmen.

CHAP. II.

FORMS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

Art. 2. The government of the French Republic is confided to the Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, at present President of the Republic, for the term of ten years.

Art. 3. The President of the Republic governs, through his ministers, the Council of State, the Senate, and the legislative body.

Art. 4. The legislative power is exercised collectively by the President of the Republic, the Senate, and the legislative body.

CHAP. III.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

Art. 5. The President of the Republic is responsible for his acts to the French people, to whom he always has the right of appealing.

Art. 6. The President of the Republic is the chief of the state; he commands the land and sea forces; declares war; makes treaties of peace, alliance, and commerce; nominates all persons to any official employment; and makes all orders and decrees necessary for the execution of the laws.

Art. 7. Justice is done in his name.

Art. 8. He alone has the right to initiate laws.

Art. 9. He has the right of granting pardons.

Art. 10. He sanctions and promulgates the laws and the *senatus-consultes*.

Art. 11. He presents every year to the Senate and the legislative body, in a message, the state of the affairs of the Republic.

Art. 12. He has the right to declare any department or departments in a state of siege; but must consult the Senate with the least possible delay. (The consequences of a state of siege are provided for by a law.)

Art. 13. The ministers are accountable to no one but to the head of the state; they are only responsible for the acts of the government as far as they are individually concerned in them; there is no joint responsibility amongst them, and they can only be impeached by the Senate.

Art. 14. The ministers, the members of the Senate, the legislative body, and the Council of State, the officers of the army and navy, the magistrates, and public functionaries, take the following oath:—"I swear obedience to the constitution, and fidelity to the President."

Art. 15. A *senatus-consulte* fixes the sum allowed annually to the President of the Republic during the continuance of his functions.

Art. 16. Should the President of the Republic die before the termination of the period for which he is elected, the Senate will convocate the nation to proceed to a new election.

Art. 17. The chief of the state has the right, by a secret act, deposited in the archives of the Senate, to give to the people the name of any citizen he may wish to recommend, in the interest of France, to their confidence and their suffrages.

Art. 18. Till the election of a new President, the president of the Senate will govern the country, with the concurrence of the ministers holding office, who form themselves into a council of government; questions brought before them to be decided by a majority of votes.

CHAP. IV.

THE SENATE.

Art. 19. The number of senators shall not exceed one hundred and fifty. For the first year the number is fixed at eighty.

Art. 20. The senate will be composed: 1, of Cardinals, marshals and admirals; 2, citizens whom the President of the Republic may deem fit to elevate to the dignity of senator.

Art. 21. The senators are appointed for life.

Art. 22. The functions of the senators are gratuitous; nevertheless, the President of the Republic will have the power to grant to senators, by reason of services rendered, or of their position as to fortune, a personal donation, which cannot exceed 30,000 fr. per annum.

Art. 23. The president and the vice-presidents of the senate are named by the President of the Republic, and chosen from among the senators. They are named for one year. The salary of the president of the senate is fixed by a decree.

Art. 24. The President of the Republic convokes and prorogues the senate. He fixes the duration of its sessions by a decree. The sittings of the senate are not public.

Art. 25. The senate is the guardian of the fundamental pact and of the public liberties. No laws can be promulgated without having been submitted to it.

Art. 26. The senate may resist the promulgation: 1st, of laws which should be contrary, and which should tend to be subversive of, the constitution, religion, morality, liberty of worship, individual liberty, the equality of citizens before the law, the inviolability of property, and the principle of the immovability of the magistracy; 2nd, of such as would compromise the defence of the territory.

Art. 27. The senate regulates by a *senatus-consulte*: 1, the constitution of the colonies and of Algeria; 2, all that has not been provided by the constitution, and which is necessary for the operation of the same; 3, the meaning of such articles of the constitution as may give place to different interpretations.

Art. 28. These *senatus-consultes* will be submitted to the sanction of the President of the Republic, and promulgated by him.

Art. 29. The senate maintains or annuls all the acts which are submitted to it as unconstitutional by the government, or denounced for the same reason by petitions from citizens.

Art. 30. The senate, in a report addressed to the President of the Republic, may lay down the bases of the projects of law of great national interest.

Art. 31. It can likewise propose modifications of the constitution. If the proposition is adopted by the executive power, it will be enacted by a *senatus-consulte*.

Art. 32. Nevertheless will be submitted to universal suffrage any modification of the fundamental bases of the constitution, as proposed in the proclamation of Dec. 2nd, and adopted by the French people.

Art. 33. In case of the dissolution of the legislative body, and until a new convocation, the senate, on the proposition of the President of the Republic, provides, by measures of urgency, all that is necessary for the carrying on of government.

CHAP. V.  
THE LEGISLATIVE BODY.

Art. 34. The election to the legislative body has population for its basis.

Art. 35. There will be one deputy in the legislative body to every thirty-five thousand citizens.

Art. 36. The deputies are elected by universal suffrage, without scrutiny of the electoral lists.

Art. 37. They receive no salary.

Art. 38. They are named for six years.

Art. 39. The legislative body discusses projects of law and of taxation.

Art. 40. Any amendment adopted by the commission charged with the examination of a project of law shall be sent, without discussion, to the Council of State, by the president of the legislative body. Should the amendment not be adopted by the Council of State, it cannot be submitted to the legislative body.

Art. 41. The ordinary sessions of the legislative body shall continue for three months; its sittings shall be public; but, on the request of five members, it may resolve itself into a secret committee.

Art. 42. The reports given of the sittings of the legislative body by the journals or any other means of publication, shall contain nothing but the *propos-verba* drawn up at the conclusion of each sitting under the care of the president of the legislative body.

Art. 43. The president and vice-president of the legislative body are named by the President of the Republic for one year. They are chosen from among the deputies. The salary of the president of the legislative body is fixed by a decree.

Art. 44. The ministers cannot be members of the legislative body.

Art. 45. The right of petition applies only to the senate. No petition can be addressed to the legislative body.

Art. 46. The President of the Republic convokes, adjourns, prorogues, and dissolves the legislative body. In case of dissolution, the President of the Republic must convocate another within six months.

CHAP. VI.  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Art. 47. The number of the councillors of state in ordinary service is from forty to fifty.

Art. 48. The councillors of state are named by the President of the Republic, and revoked by him.

Art. 49. The President of the Republic presides over the Council of State; and in his absence, by the person whom he names as Vice-President of the Council will preside.

Art. 50. The Council of State is charged, under the direction of the President of the Republic, to examine projects of law and matters concerning the public administration, and to decide on any difficulties that may arise in the administration of affairs.

Art. 51. It discusses, in the name of the government, projects of law in the presence of the Senate and the legislative body. The councillors charged to speak in the name of the government will be designated by the President of the Republic.

Art. 52. The salary of each councillor of state is twenty-five thousand francs per annum.

Art. 53. The ministers will have a right to sit and vote in the Council of State.

CHAP. VII.  
THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

Art. 54. The High Court of Justice judges, without appeal, all persons brought before it charged with crimes against the President of the Republic or against the safety of the state. It can only be formed by decree of the President of the Republic.

Art. 55. A *senatus-consulte* will determine the organisation of the High Court.

CHAP. VIII.  
GENERAL AND TEMPORARY REGULATIONS.

Art. 56. Articles of existing codes, laws, and regulations, which are not contrary to the present constitution, will remain in force till they are legally abrogated.

Art. 57. A law will determine the municipal organisation.—The mayors will be named by the executive power, and it will not be absolutely necessary to select them from the municipal councils.

Art. 58. The present constitution will have force from the day on which the great bodies of the state which it organises shall be constituted.

The decrees issued by the President of the Republic from the 2nd of December to that date will have the force of law.

Done at the Palace of the Tuilleries,  
Jan. 14th, 1852.  
LOUIS NAPOLEON.

Witnessed and sealed with the Great Seal.  
The Keeper of the Seals, E. ROUHER,  
Minister of Justice.

We copy from one of our exchanges, the following account of a brutal outrage upon an English resident at Florence:—

Florence, 30th Dec., 1851.

The openly-avowed principle of rendering the continent uninhabitable by Englishmen has received a new development in an incident that has just occurred here. Yesterday morning, a young Englishman, named Mayther, who had only been a short time in Florence, after standing to listen to the band of an Austrian regiment, was quietly proceeding along one of the narrow streets which issue from the Piazza del Duomo. He had not gone far, when he perceived a *bonoivino* advancing towards him with all the speed at which these country cars are usually driven. To avoid the danger, he jumped suddenly back, and in doing so, came in contact with a young Austrian officer, who was at the same moment coming up at the head of his guard. A smart blow from the flat of a sabre on the back was the mild rebuke for this purely accidental collision. The Englishman, very naturally indignant, demanded in his imperfect Italian, the meaning of the outrage. A few angry words were interchanged on either side, when another officer, who accompanied the party, stepped forward and cut the young Englishman down, laying his head open by a sabre wound of fully a finger's length. This done, the party proceeded on its way, and our countryman, whose blood covered a considerable space in the street, was conveyed to the City Hospital.

It is quite unnecessary to append one word of comment or remark to so brutal an incident. The simple fact, of which I have endeavored to give you the details in the fewest words, is far more powerful than any reasonings or reflections upon it.

This is a melancholy state of affairs, but one at which it is impossible to wonder, and of which Englishmen have no right to complain; they cannot demand redress, for they cannot go into court with clean hands. The answer that the Austrian government would give to all complaints from British subjects, demanding protection against, and redress for, outrages at the hands of Austrian subjects, would be "Remember Marshal Haynau. Such protection, and such redress as the laws of your country afforded to him, will we afford to you." The nation, which almost unanimously applauded the cowardly brutality of the coal-heavers and dray-men of London, against a foreigner, an infirm old man, harsh and cruel though he may have been in the field—and which, by that applause, made that brutal act its own,—has no right to complain, if Austrians exercise reprisals upon unoffending Englishmen, whom chance has thrown into their power. We are no apologist for Haynau, we have no respect for him; but until the brutal outrage inflicted upon him, shall have been signally avenged, we have no right to condemn the Austrians, for doing unto English visitors, in Florence, as Austrian-visitors have been done unto, in London; we must take the beam out of our own eye, ere presuming to criticise the mote in our brother's eye.

THE MONTREAL PROVIDENT AND SAVINGS BANK.

"All that we think it necessary to say on the subject is, that we believe his" (THE TRUE WITNESS) "accusations touching the integrity and uprightness of the parties he indicates to be totally unfounded; and farther, that these parties were not the cause of the loss sustained, but, on the contrary, did all in their power, and with much success, to alleviate that loss."  
—*Montreal Witness*.

"Having thus brought down the history of the Savings Bank to the time of its suspension, we feel bound to express our conviction, that that unfortunate event was entirely occasioned by the gross mismanagement, which it has been our duty to bring under Your Excellency's observation. No losses worthy of record other than those to which we have adverted, had occurred at the time of the failure; and if the public confidence in the stability of the Bank had been shaken, it was probably on account of the notoriety which some of the irregularities in its management had obtained. It is true that at the time, the commerce of the country was prostrated; but had the Bank been conducted in accordance with the provisions of the law, it could, by a judicious pledge of its assets with some of our monetary institutions, have got through without much either of difficulty or of loss. Unfortunately it was not so. A large portion of its funds had been dissipated beyond the power of recovery, and another portion had been locked up in unavailable securities, which could only be realized after long delay, and with heavy ultimate loss. These two causes combined, led to its inability to fulfil its engagements to the depositors; and for both causes, we conceive the Directors to be clearly responsible."  
—*Parliamentary Report*, p. 75.

"It is perfectly manifest that the whole of these transactions benefitted a fraction of the creditors at the expense of the remainder, and that the Directors in sanctioning them, did gross injustice to those who were made the victims of the arrangement.—*Id.* p. 110.

"It will be observed that in the epoch subsequent to the suspension of the Bank, as in the epoch before it, we consider the proceedings of the Directors to be liable to the gravest censure. As nearly all the losses prior to the failure are directly traced to the negligence and mismanagement of the Directors; so, the heavy losses on transfers of deposit books, sustained since that time by many of the creditors of the Bank, are attributable to the Directors also.—*Id.* p. 110.

From a perusal of the above extracts, the first taken from our evangelical cotemporary, the others from the *Reports* published by order of the Legislative Assembly, it will be seen that there is a glaring difference of opinion as to the "integrity and uprightness" of "parties," and that "parties" are not only accused by an official document of having caused the losses of the Bank through their mismanagement of the funds committed to their care, but, that "parties" are also taxed with doing "gross injustice to the victims of their arrangement," subsequent to the failure. Our cotemporary is evangelical, and therefore his ideas of integrity and uprightness are very different from those of non-evangelical men: we do not doubt that he believes what he says, and that he is incapable of discerning any thing dishonest in conduct which, though the tabernacle may approve it, the world in general condemns as swindling. Nothing so distorts the moral vision as evangelicalism. "If the choice rested with us," says the Rev. Sydney Smith, and there are many who agree with him, "we should say—give us back our wolves again—restore our Danish invaders—curse us with any evil, but the evil of a canting, deluded, and Methodistical populace. Wherever Methodism"—or as it is called in the cant of the present day—evangelicalism—"extends its baneful influence, the character of the English people is constantly changed by it. Boldness and rough honesty are broken down into meanness, prevarication, and fraud." This is the testimony of a Protestant, and had he lived in Canada, or been acquainted with the proceedings of the F. C. Missionary, and other evangelical Societies, he would have had stronger reason for so testifying. Perhaps our cotemporary has never read the Report; we recommend him to do so forthwith, and if he should then be willing to enter into any discussion as to the "integrity and uprightness" of "parties," we shall be very happy to accommodate him. In the mean time, we would take the liberty of asking him, what he believes about "parties" and their "integrity and uprightness," in the affair of the loan to the Montreal High School? Here is what the Report says about the transaction:—

"The loans were actually made by themselves to themselves; they were taken from moneys, the little property of the poor man, or the hard earnings of the mechanic, deposited with them for safe keeping, and applied to the benefit of themselves, with other wealthy co-proprietors, in purchasing property and rearing a costly edifice. On every principle of honor and integrity, then, they were responsible for the punctual re-payment of the moneys so appropriated."  
—*Parliamentary Report*, p. 58.

It is a pity for the depositors that "parties" and "evangelical Protestants" were not of the same opinion. Here, again, is an extract from the same page, on the same subject:—

"There cannot be the least doubt that all the Directors of the High School, and still more particularly such of them as were Directors of the Savings Bank, were under the strongest moral responsibility adequately to secure the latter institution from loss by the loans; nor have they ventured to deny that responsibility, since they distinctly admit their duty to 'set an example' to their co-proprietors, by subscribing to repay the sum borrowed. It is a pity, however, that they did not strengthen the example they appeared anxious of setting, by actually paying back into the chest of the Savings Bank, some portion of the sums they were the means of abstracting therefrom, to put into the coffers of their own institution, the High School. Their philanthropy and love of justice, however, unfortunately for the Depositors of the Savings Bank, did not carry them so far.—*Id.*

Should our evangelical cotemporary desire to have any further information as to the "integrity of parties," we are ready to supply him to any extent, and at the shortest notice; we will take his silence