

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY At No. 210, St. James Street, by J. GILLIES.

G. E. CLERK, Editors

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The figures after each Subscriber's Address every week shows the date to which he has paid up. Thus "John Jones, Aug. '71," shows that he has paid up to August 71, and owes his Subscription from that date.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1874.

ECCLIESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

JANUARY—1874.

Friday, 9.—Of the Octave.
Saturday, 10.—Of the Octave.
Sunday, 11.—Sunday within the Octave of the Epiphany.
Monday, 12.—Of the Octave.
Tuesday, 13.—Octave of the Epiphany.
Wednesday, 14.—St. Hilary, B. C.
Thursday, 15.—St. Paul, Hermit.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Though the general opinion in France seems to be that the sentence of the Court Martial on Bazaine was strictly just, according to the severe French military code, there is also a general satisfaction that it has been modified by the executive; and that neither the death penalty, nor the public degradation, are to be inflicted on an old and brave officer. But though the condemned will not have to undergo the painful and humiliating ceremony of a public degradation; though in presence of his comrades his epaulets will not be torn from his shoulders, and his decorations from his breast, he will still have to suffer all the military and civil effects of degradation. These are many and severe enough; they comprise loss of rank, and the right of wearing the uniform of the soldier; incapacity to serve in the army in any grade; exclusion from all public employment; forfeiture of all political privileges, of the right to serve on a jury, or to act as a guardian, to keep a school, to carry arms, or to exercise any of the functions of a citizen. These penalties, together with 20 years in prison, constitute a pretty severe penalty, even for such an offence as that of which the old soldier has been adjudged guilty.

The investigation into the loss of the S. S. *Ville du Havre* is being proceeded with, but no important facts have been elicited. That the collision was the result of grossest negligence, and pig-headed stupidity was evident from the first, and on this point the investigation can make no new discoveries. As to the behavior of the captain and crew of the *Ville du Havre*, after the accident occurred, there has been much disputing; but the charges of cowardice and neglect of duty brought against the French captain, M. Surmount, seem to have been thoroughly disposed of. One witness deposed indeed that, when taken on board the *Loch Earn*, the clothing of M. Surmount was quite dry, thus making it appear that he had escaped in one of his own boats; but it is now clear that the witness who thus deposed mistook the pilot of the *Ville du Havre* for the captain of the same vessel. Indeed no blame seems to attach to the latter, but only to the officers of the watch on deck when the collision took place. The commander of the *Loch Earn* is completely exonerated from all blame.

We have tidings from the Gold Coast of a victory obtained over the Ashantees. They have been routed in a smart fight, and driven, with much loss of life, across the river Prabh. It was expected that General Sir Garnet Wolseley would follow up his victory by an advance upon Coommissie, the Ashantee capital. Reports reach us from the Cape of Good Hope of fresh troubles, and there seems to be danger that there also we may be drifting into another nasty little war.

The expected dissolution of our Dominion Parliament is now an accomplished fact, and in a few days we shall find ourselves in the midst of the turmoil of a general election.—As yet there is no great question of policy before the country, nor do we know wherewith, in any important particular, that of the present Ministry will differ from that of their predecessors. The words "Conservative" and "Reformer" have no sharp well defined meaning; for all who call themselves Conservative profess to be anxious to reform or amend all that is amiss; whilst we hope and, till the contrary shall have been proved, we will continue to believe that the Reform leaders are Conservative in the sense of being sincerely desirous to conserve the connection of Canada

with the British Empire, and to maintain what still remains of the monarchical element in our certainly very democratic constitution. Indeed it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to give a sharp concise definition of the words, *Reformer Conservative*; and he would be a smart moral draughtsman indeed who should be able to draw clearly the line which separates one from the other. The writs for the elections are dated January 2nd, and are returnable for Gaspe, Chicoutimi, Columbia, and Manitoba on the 12th of March; for the rest of the Dominion on the 21st of February.

As might have been expected the *Virginus* has gone to the bottom of the sea, having foundered, quite accidentally of course, when on her way to New York. This disposes of the claims of the Spanish government for her restoration; for as our readers must remember, these claims have been put forward by Spain upon the grounds that at the time of her capture the *Virginus* was not a *bona fide* United States vessel, and was not entitled to show, or to claim the protection of the United States flag. It was impossible to deny the justice of the Spanish claims; it would have been very disagreeable to the Yankees to have had, after all the tall talking there has been on the subject, to restore the *Virginus* to the Spaniards; therefore no body is at all surprised to learn that the difficulty has been disposed of by the accidental sinking of the *Virginus*.

So too it happened when the *Florida* was cut out of Bahia harbor, and brought into a United States port; that she too should have been quite accidentally run down, and sent to the bottom was the most natural thing in the world. It was impossible to resist the demands of the outraged Brazilian government for the restoration of the *Florida*; to have restored her would have been most displeasing to the Northerners; and so, of course by the merest accident, she was when at anchor run into one dark night, and sent to the bottom of the sea.

So too by another most providential accident the *Arapiles*, Spanish frigate, was effectually prevented from putting to sea the other day when hostilities betwixt Spain and the United States were hourly expected. The *Arapiles*, a very powerful frigate, had been undergoing repairs in a dry dock at Brooklyn. She was ready for sea; there was no honorable pretext for detaining her; so again—quite naturally, but quite accidentally, of course—a coal barge sank right opposite the dock wherein lay the *Arapiles*, and thoroughly blocked up the channel so that the Spanish man-of-war was unable to put to sea. Thus without any breach of good faith, or sacrifice of honor, and by the merest accidents, the United States government is always relieved from its difficulties.

We learn from Madrid that the Castelar government has been defeated; whereupon General Pavia occupied the palace of the Cortes, and dismissed the assembly. Much excitement prevails, but as yet no blood has been shed. It is expected that Marshal Serrano will be named President. One of the outlying forts of Cartagena has been captured by the besiegers. The Carlists are said to be in great force, and General Moriones in a very critical position.

There is much excitement in New York over the mysterious death, and secret burial of a Mr. French, Provincial Grand Master of Freemasons in Bahama. Detectives are at work to discover the murderers.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOL LAW.—The proposals made by Mgr. Sweeney to the local government of the Province of New Brunswick, but which the latter refused, would, had they been accepted, have settled this long vexed question. What His Lordship asked was this:—

That Christian Brothers, and Sisters of Charity, after having given satisfactory proofs of their competency, by means of a written examination, and answers to test questions from the Board of Education—should be allowed to act as teachers in the public schools; that the schools so taught should be open to all the Catholic children in the district. That from those schools books objected to by the Bishop should be excluded, and replaced by the books used on the same subjects by the Christian Brothers.

To these certainly not very unreasonable propositions, or terms of peace from the Bishop, the local government has refused to accede; not of course because their acceptance would have in aught impaired the efficiency of the New Brunswick schools, or deprived Protestants of any of their rights; but simply because they would have been satisfactory to Catholics. As the Puritans set their faces sternly against the once popular amusement of bear-baiting, not as Macaulay tells us, because the process of baiting gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators, so the Protestant majority of New Brunswick reject the truly liberal proposals of Mgr. Sweeney; not because they would, if carried into execution be injurious to Protestants, but simply because

they would be fair, and acceptable to the Catholic minority.

This is how the question stands at present. How, if at all, or to what extent the Federal government can interfere therein without violating the all important principle of State Rights—which is the one good thing in our Federal Constitution, the one thing which makes it tolerable; and upon the maintenance of which in its integrity the future of Lower, or French Catholic Canada depends—are questions of pure law which we have not yet seen answered, and which none but a Court of Law is competent to answer. When Upper and Lower Canada were united by a legislative Union into one Province, and when the Protestant majority of Upper Canada attempted to oppress the Catholic minority, it was the clear duty of the Catholics of the Lower section of the Province to rush to the assistance of their unjustly treated co-religionists; because the political ligature that then bound Lower to Upper Canada was a legislative or incorporating, not a Federal bond. Now it is otherwise. There is no analogy, however remote, betwixt the relative positions of New Brunswick and the Dominion to-day, and those of Upper and Lower Canada before Confederation. What it was the duty of Catholics under the old order to do, under the new or Federal order it may well be their duty not to do, if by so doing they in the least encroach upon the sacred, and all important domain of State Rights."

But if with due regard to the preservation of these—the preservation of which every other consideration must yield—the Federal government can do but little towards the redressing of the wrongs of the Catholic minority of the Province of New Brunswick, we are not without hopes that relief may be had from the action of the next New Brunswick legislature. In that Province, as in all the others, there is a party in opposition which if it can thereby increase its resources, will gladly bid high for the Catholic vote. Catholics therefore, though in a minority, will, if they be united, and disinterested, suffice by their votes to turn the scale in favor of one party or the other; and of the New Brunswick papers already there are several which profess to treat the present tyrannical system of State-Schoolism as doomed. We shall watch the progress of this battle for Freedom of Education in which the Catholics of New Brunswick are engaged with deep interest. If in the actual *melee* we may not take part, still we can heartily re-echo the cry "Down with State-Schoolism; *Eccrasens L'Infame*."

RITUALISM IN CANADA.—A writer in the *Montreal Witness* advocates the formation of a "Reformed Episcopal Church" in Canada, upon the model of that lately set up in the U. States by Dr. Cummins; one in which the "sacraments and the visible church shall be kept in the back ground as matters of secondary importance." To effect this however, the existing Protestant liturgy must be revised, and thoroughly purged of all traces of *Romish* doctrine, especially of "the soul destroying errors of baptismal regeneration, priestly absolution," and other kindred abominations. The writer also suggests that a meeting of the Anglicans be held in Montreal in the month of May next, for the carrying out of the above objects, and thus asserting the great principles of the Reformation now in danger from the rapid progress of "Romishness," aided by the culpable patronage of "so many of our leading bishops and clergy."

Whilst in Montreal the evils and dangers of Ritualism are thus denounced, in Toronto a society calling itself "The Church Association" has put forth an Address to the Anglican sect of much the same tenor as the letter in the *Witness*, though not quite so thorough in its demands. Ritualism has reached, even in Toronto, terrible dimensions. Protestant ministers, it seems, there ape the costume, and outward aspect of Catholic priests; they not only wear, M. B., or "Mark of the Beast" coat, and Roman collars—which are soul destroying things—but they make their appearance in soutanes; for we read in the Address that

"A clergyman of the diocese of Toronto has appeared as a delegate to the Provincial Synod in a soutane, hitherto the characteristic garb of a *Romish* priest."—p. 6.

Whilst—worse and worse:—
"Two others of our clergy, one of them only recently ordained, presented themselves at last Diocesan Synod in similar garbs, and one of them with a large cross hanging at his breast, by what resembled, if it was not, a rosary. Yet such significant assumptions pass unrebuked."—*Id.*

We doubt the reality of the Rosary. We have heard of young Anglican ministers who in the first flush of their Ritualistic zeal, adorn themselves for evening parties with silk or satin waistcoats, that look like "hair-shirts," or *eilices*; and we suspect that it is on somewhat the same principle that the lately ordained Protestant minister of Toronto sported a bogus Rosary at the diocesan synod. Still it is pretty evident that if such practices be not at once put down, the Church of England in the

Province of Toronto must be in considerable danger.

It is idle, however, for the Toronto Church Association to wax indignant upon the ravages of the *Romish* epidemic, to point out the symptoms of the disease, and insist upon its highly contagious character, unless it can suggest a remedy. This it shrinks from, for the only efficacious remedy that can be suggested is that proposed by the writer in the *Witness*—to wit, the thorough revision of the Anglican Liturgy.—This is the stronghold of Ritualism, and this therefore must be thoroughly cleansed before a cure can even be commenced. So long as the ministers of the Anglican denomination are expressly told that, in, and by virtue of their ordination, they "receive the Holy Ghost for the work and office of a Priest in the Church of God"—so long will they be justified, as against their co-religionists, in claiming the right to perform the peculiar functions of the priest, and as such to serve at the Altar.

The perils which environ the Angloian phase of Protestantism are many and great, and its friends feel that great and unusual efforts are expected from them. It is this feeling that inspires the writer in the *Witness* and the Church Association of Toronto; and it is this same feeling that has suggested the publication of a new Protestant periodical to be issued in Montreal on the 1st prox., under the title of *The Protestant*, and to be continued monthly. Prominent amongst the reasons assigned for this publication are these: "The *Attractions of the Jesuit Church on Sabbath evenings to Protestants*; and *The Insidious Teachings of the so-called Ritualistic Party*." Thus everything indicates that the Ritualistic movement is assuming large dimensions in Canada, and is causing no small uneasiness to the opposite party.

The *London Times* begins to entertain doubts of the final result of the persecution commenced by the German government against the Catholic Church; and, it is only, as the same authority admits, by success that the anti-Catholic policy of the government can be justified. As coming from such a source the words of the *Times* are worthy of being preserved.

"Tudor legislation in ecclesiastical matters is, it must be owned, such as can only be justified by success—in other words, by the possibility of obtaining the ultimate acquiescence of those to whom it is applied. Our Statesmen judged correctly that the Church of England as a body was prepared in the Sixteenth Century to accept the reforms which were essential to the healthy union of Church and State, and they were therefore fully justified in enforcing them. But the coercion by force of a Clergy conscientiously and irrevocably pledged to resistance is not justifiable, and is still less likely to prove possible. For many conceivable reasons it may be necessary for the Prussian Government to make the experiment of reforming the Roman Catholic Church within their country, and if they could succeed it would be an admirable achievement. But for our part we think it more likely that they will fail, and that the failure will be the means of rendering possible the other solution to which we have referred—that of the separation of Church and State. German civilization ought to be able to take care of itself in a fair contest with the Roman Church."—*Times*.

The *Illustrated London News* is violently anti-Home-Rule. As it so evidently wishes *Ireland* to continue to be ruled by *Englishmen*, it would doubtless wish *England* to be ruled by Irishmen. Let it try.

Doubting the Home Rule movement, the *Illustrated London News* proposes a critical test. "On the principle (strongly smelling of the shop) that *those who part with money never feign*" it writes:—

"Let these gentlemen agitators establish a 'Home Rule Bank of Ireland' with Mr. Isaac Butt, Mr. Sullivan of Cork and other distinguished patriots as trustees. Then let Irishmen be invited to take their money out of all the Saxon banks, savings banks and the like, and deposit it at the Home Rule establishment, taking, of course, such interest and dividends as will be satisfactory to enthusiastic but thrifty patriots. A few millions carried to such a Bank would do more to make England believe that Ireland is for Home Rule than all the blatant orations that could be delivered in the four provinces."

Now if the *Illustrated News* is in earnest in its proposal of "a critical test" (and is not merely "letting off bile") we will offer one we think more effectually crucial and less smelling of the shop. Let England withdraw from Ireland, if only for twenty four hours those 20,000 bayonets to which Goldwin Smith attributes the hold of the British Constitution on the affections of the Irish people, and we shall then see by an undubitable proof what hold Home Rule principles have taken on the Irish people, however distasteful they may be to English oligarchs. Nothing can shew more clearly to unprejudiced persons the great necessity of Home Rule for Ireland, than the rabid writings of such periodicals as the *Illustrated London News*. Better be ruled by a "blatant orator" than a rabid bigot.

SACERDOS.

The Sisters of Charity of the Providence Asylum tender their thanks to the Directors of the Montreal City and District Saving's Bank, for their liberal donation of the sum of \$700 in aid of their funds.

The Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick is to meet on Thursday, 5th of next month.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.

The date affixed 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 aggregate. 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 unscrupulous 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 subscription, 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 balance due from them to the office. Please to remember, that it is the punctual receipt of these small amounts, which decides the question of the success or ruin of every newspaper.

THE ELECTIONS.—There are many names mentioned in connection with Montreal and the approaching General Election. Up to the time of putting to press the only name brought formally before the public was that of our old, and long tried representative for Montreal Centre, M. P. Ryan, Esq. He, appealing to the record of his faithful services, again presents himself to the electors. Nothing is yet definitely known as to the candidates for the other divisions of the City.

THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.—The St. Patrick's Society will hold their Annual Concert in the Queen's Hall, St. Catherine Street, on Monday, the 19th January, in aid of the charitable fund of the Society. As the Society relieves a good deal of the distress of the Irish poor in this city, we hope the public will patronize the Concert, and thereby give the Society more means to extend in a greater degree their good work.

Galignani announces another schism in the French Protestant church. One party of course calls itself *orthodox*, and brands the other party as rationalists for putting "reason above faith." This is certainly a funny complaint in the mouths of men who, as against the Catholic Church, assert the supremacy of reason, and the right of private judgment.

We would inform our subscribers in Downeyville, that Mr. Michael O'Neill, Postmaster, has kindly consented to act as Agent for the *TRUE WITNESS* in that locality and is now prepared to receive subscriptions to this paper and grant receipts therefor. We hope our friends will keep him busy.

We return thanks to those of our subscribers who have answered the appeal made to them in the three last issues to pay up their indebtedness. There are yet numbers whom we would like to hear from.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE—Dec., 1873.—New York: The Leonard Scott Publishing Company; Messrs. Dawson Bros., Montreal.

The *Parisians*, is the first article; as the story draws to a conclusion, it does not diminish in interest, and the representation that it gives of Paris during its siege is no doubt drawn from authentic sources. The second article is entitled *International Vanities*, and treats of the ceremonial observances that characterize the intercourse of nations. Phidias and Elgin Marbles is next on our list, after which comes a Gibraltar tale—*A Story of The Rock*; followed by a political article on—*The Conservative Party and National Education*; whilst a critique rather hostile to the Comte de Chambord, concludes the number.

The following "Ode to Canada" may be sung to Converse's "Thinking of Thee," as found in p. 108 of the *Tip Top Glee Book*. Words by *Sacerdos*:—

Oh! thou fair Canada! land of my heart!
No other clime has power such joys to impart.
Ever I'll think of thee, where'er I roam,
Thou art my sweetest joy—thou art my home.
Oh! thou fair Canada! land of the free!
No other land has joys equal to thee;
No other land can boast freedom so pure—
God grant that freedom may ever endure.
Oh! thou fair Canada! land of my love!
Land of the beautiful lake! land of the dove!
No other land can boast forests like thine;
No trees may equal thy maple and pine!
Oh! thou fair Canada! land of clear stream!
Land where the rippling wave laughs in the gleam.
Of thy bright sunlight on thy bright shores,
Thou art the idol that my soul adores.
Oh! thou fair Canada! land of my heart!
No other clime has power such joys to impart;
Ever I'll think of thee, where'er I roam,
Thou art my sweetest joy—thou art my home.

The municipal elections for the Parish of Montreal take place on the 12th inst. A very hot contest is expected as it is likely a number of opposing candidates will be nominated.

CAPE BRETON COAL TRADE.—The shipping season for 1873 has about come to its close, says the *North Sydney Herald*. We have had a remarkably fine fall for business operations, in spite of occasional storms of considerable severity, which have caused great damage, but more at a distance than in our immediate vicinity. The aggregate shipments of our great staple from Sydney and outports are in excess of a half million of tons.