

The True Witness.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 8.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MARCH—1867.  
Friday, 8—The Holy Crown of Thorns.  
Saturday, 9—St. Francis, V.  
Sunday, 10—First Sunday in Lent.  
Monday, 11—St. John of God, C.  
Tuesday, 12—St. Gregory, P. D.  
Wednesday, 13—T. S. S. Forty Martyrs.  
Thursday, 14—Of the Feria.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT.—All days of Lent, Sundays excepted, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday included, are days of fasting and abstinence.

The use of flesh meat at every meal is permitted on all the Sundays of Lent, with the exception of Palm Sunday.

The use of flesh meat is also by special indulgences allowed at the one repast on Mondays Tuesdays, and Thursdays of every week from the first Sunday after Lent, to Palm Sunday.—On the first four days of Lent, as well as every day in Holy Week, the use of flesh meat is prohibited.

OFFICE OF THE ROMAN LOAN.

At the Banking House of Duncan, Sherman & Co.,  
11 NASSAU STREET, CORNER OF PINE.  
New York, January 30th, 1867.

To ALFRED LAROCQUE, Esq.,  
Agent of the Roman Loan,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that I have received instructions to keep this Loan open, until the same is absorbed, as it is expected in Rome that the late direct appeal of the Holy Father to the Clergy will produce this result before the first of April.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
ROBERT MURPHY,  
General Agent for the United States,  
British Provinces and South America.  
Bonds of 500 francs are sold for \$66 00  
Do 125 do do 16 50

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It will be seen by an extract given elsewhere from the London Times, that there was a foundation in fact for the report of the Fenian raid upon Chester castle. The plan was to seize the place, which was only guarded by a handful of men, but contained a large supply of arms, and then to make for Ireland with the booty. The plot was betrayed to the British authorities by one of the Fenian leaders, said to be an officer in the Yankee army, and thus it failed. This is the Times' story. The Dublin Irishman, on the other hand, insists that there was no plot, unless on the part of the English detectives, who managed the whole affair, with the intent of giving to the Government an excuse for continuing the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland—but this version is not consistent with other well established facts. For instance, the intended raid on Chester having been defeated the Fenians took steamboat for Dublin; but their arrival there was expected by the Police, who arrested them upon their landing, and marched them off in custody. Strange to say we do not receive a word explanatory of, or confirming the reported riots at Killarney. It is affirmed positively that Stephens crossed the Atlantic in the Ville de Paris, and is now in France.

The Union Bill for the British North American Provinces has gone through its second reading in the House of Commons. The Ministry have withdrawn their Reform Resolutions, which gave satisfaction to none, and are about to proceed by Bill. This also we may be sure will be a failure, in so far as its object may be to satisfy the working classes.

On the Continent all is quiet; probably revolt at Rome will be put off to the autumn, when the Paris Exhibition shall have closed.

The President, as guardian of the Constitution vetoed the Bill passed by the rump Congress, for placing the Southern States under Martial Law. On Saturday the Bill being returned to the Houses, was immediately passed by the requisite two thirds majority. The Congress expired at midnight on Saturday last, and will be succeeded by one still more Jacobin in its com-

plexion, and still more regardless of law and justice. We in Canada, as we behold the troubles of our neighbors may learn a useful lesson or two. We may learn to be thankful to God, that we are not yet subject to the regime of an absolute democracy, the vilest and most degrading of all tyrannies; and we may learn how important it is for us to unite heartily in preserving these peculiar institutions and connections which alone save us from falling into the slough of democracy. The new form of Government presented to us may not be in all respects perfect; but if it tend to postpone the evil day of Annexation, then spite of all its shortcomings and imperfections, it is our interest as well as our duty to give to it our best support.

The following changes have been made in the English Cabinet:—The Duke of Richmond becomes Colonial Secretary; Sir John Pakington, Secretary of War; Sir Stafford Northcote, First Lord of the Admiralty; Right Hon. H. Corry, Under-Secretary for the Colonies; and Stephen Cave, President Board of Trade.

"AS YOU WERE."

"You are to-day, what you were yesterday." With these memorable words did Sieyes reassure the members of the National Assembly on the day of the famous sitting of the 23rd June, when somewhat disturbed by the attitude of the Court, they seemed almost inclined to forget the famous oath of the "Scance du Jeu de Paume." You are to-day, what you were yesterday, neither more nor less.

These words might well be addressed to some of our Canadian journalists, who seem to be perfectly deranged in their intellects by the passage of the so-called "Confederation scheme." You are, gentlemen, to-day, just what you were yesterday, neither more nor less; neither richer nor poorer; neither stronger nor weaker; neither better nor worse; neither more nor less free and independent; neither more nor less republican; neither more nor less democratic; neither more nor less aristocratic; neither more nor less monarchical. You are "as you were." Your climate, your soil, your climatic conditions, upon which, after all, depend your material well-being, and your material greatness as a nation, remain unchanged: your population is not increased in proportion to the frontiers which you have to defend; and in a word your wintery are as long and rigorous, as they were of yore. Your social condition, too, remains the same. If democratic in its tendencies heretofore, it is equally democratic still: if aristocratic, or tending towards feudalism, it was just as much so before, as it will be after, the passing of this great measure; and for yourselves, you are neither more nor less the subjects of Queen Victoria in 1867, than you were in 1866 and the preceding years. What then in the name of all that is farcical, is all this rumpus about?

In plain English, a great deal more is made of this same "Confederation" than it deserves.—It is not quite so good, as its friends pretend; and it is far from being so bad, as its enemies insist that it is. If it endure, which of course is very doubtful, it will make but little sensible change in any of us. Men will go on eating and drinking, buying and selling, marrying and giving in marriage, as they did in the days before the Union. There will be a greater number of Government situations to fill, and there will therefore be a proportionate increase in the number of place-beggars; there will be two or three elected legislatures where before there was but one, and there will a proportionate increase in the number of political adventurers; but except for place-beggars, political adventurers, and in a word all these who look for a living from the public purse, there is little in the measure itself for which any one has cause to crow or to cry, to laugh or to weep. It will probably, for a season at least, settle the "sectional" differences betwixt Upper and Lower Canada, and give us consequently a more stable government than that which we have had hitherto, when there were changes of Ministry two or three times a year; and when consequently, no man knew what principles he could prudently profess, nor he should vote, or what party it was the more desirable for him—with an eye to Ministerial patronage of course—to support. Here is one palpable benefit to accrue from Confederation.

On the other hand, the measure brings with it its burdens. It imposes on us, so says one of our morning contemporaries, the cost of maintaining an army, and a navy; a Vice-Regal Court with all the ensigns and trappings of royalty, and, he adds, "an aristocracy will spontaneously arise." Thus prophecies the Montreal Daily News of Friday last; and, with one exception, we admit his claims as a seer. We believe not in the growth of an aristocracy, for we have neither the soil, nor the climate that such a growth requires. A Bureaucracy—a very different thing from an Aristocracy—we may have; but our social conditions present an insuperable obstacle to the growth of an aristocracy, or anything resembling one. This, to grow, must have its roots in the soil, and to thrive it requires something very different from the trappings of a Vice-Regal Court. It requires the hereditary transmission

of landed property, for on this, and this alone, is all aristocracy, in the feudal sense of the word, based; and a non-feudal aristocracy is but a bureaucracy such as exists in China. By whatever name our country may be called, our social conditions are, and will remain as are those of our Yankee neighbors. The hereditary principle will never flourish here; and though without it we may be an agricultural people, a commercial people, and a manufacturing people, we never can be an aristocratic people; we can never reproduce the faintest copy even of the political conditions of England.

And this for the simple reason that our social conditions are essentially different. No political institutions can be permanent unless they have their roots in, unless they are the natural and spontaneous outgrowth of, unless they are in harmony with, the social system of the people. The social system of Great Britain naturally leads to a Government by King, Lords, and Commons, because in the social system of Great Britain there is a social hierarchy with corresponding distinctions and degrees of rank; because there exists there an indigenous aristocracy, the product of the soil, and the growth of ages; because there exists there an hereditary landed gentry, based upon the custom of primogeniture. The political order of Great Britain corresponds with, or is the transcript of, its social order—and therefore it exists.

In Canada, we have no social hierarchy, no distinctions of rank, no historic aristocracy, no hereditary landed gentry, no rule or custom of primogeniture. We cannot therefore, even if we would, create a political order analogous to that of Great Britain. We have but one class here, the bourgeoisie, for as yet we have properly speaking, no proletarian class. These are our social materials, the stuff with which we have to work; and as you cannot "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," so neither out of such social materials can you make a Government by Kings, Lords, and Commons—that is to say, a Government of Estate.—But the peculiarity of the British Government consists in this:—Not that it is a limited or an hereditary monarchy, for there are other countries in the world that are the same; neither does it consist in that it has a representative or elected legislature, for this also many other countries have; but its peculiarity, its excellence according to its friends, its inherent defect according to its enemies, consists in this:—That it is a Government by Orders, by classes if you will, mutually limiting and balancing one another. Take away, or destroy any one of these Orders, and the British Constitution would be destroyed. For the same reason, therefore, where through a defect in the social system, any one of these Orders does not exist, it is morally impossible to establish a political order analogous to that which we call the British Constitution.—If men would but bear in mind these elementary truths—we should not hear so much talk about establishing a Canadian, or rather a Borealian Kingdom.

GOVERNMENT BY PARTY.—There is one peculiarity of our new Constitution which we fear will not be advantageous, though hitherto it has been strangely overlooked—we mean the appointment of Lieutenant Governors to the several Provinces. These are to be named by the Governor General, who as a British nobleman himself, unconnected with Provincial politics, will never be looked upon as lead or chief of a party. But the Lieutenant Governors by him appointed will probably be Provincials: that is to say, persons already well known in the Provinces by their political antecedents, or in other words, strong "party men," for nowhere does "party spirit" run stronger than here. Now if the Lieutenant Governorships are to be mere honorary posts, or sinecures, this will be of little consequence; but if they are really to be of some weight in the State, then shall we have reproduced in Canada one of the worst features of American democracy—that, to wit, which renders it inevitable that the Chief Executive shall always be a strong "party man," and therefore the head rather of a political party, than of the State. It is the great advantage of hereditary monarchy that the Executive is of no party; it will be one inevitable disadvantage of the new form of Government in Canada, that the Provincial Executive will always be a "party man"—unless indeed the Governor General select to fill the seats of the Lieutenant Governors, obscure men, who have taken no prominent or decided part in Provincial politics. But this is unlikely.

Only fancy Mr. George Brown Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario! What respect for such a man or his government could the Catholics of that Province entertain? What confidence could they have in him, or in his administration? He would represent to them, not the Queen holding the scales of justice impartially, but the bitter, unprincipled, unscrupulous partizan. We do not pretend that such an outrage as making Mr. George Brown Lieutenant Governor will actually be perpetrated; but the thing is not impossible, and the appointment, if made, would be strictly legal. Yet would the

moral effect be most disastrous; more even than the appointment of Orange Magistrates would it bring the administration of justice into suspicion and contempt in Upper Canada, for the fountain would be poisoned at its source.

Better no Provincial Lieutenant Governors, than to have party men, or men who have taken an active part in Provincial politics, raised to the post; better by far that all Executive functions should be left in the hands of the Governor General. If we must have Lieutenant Governors, however, they should be named directly by the Queen, and selected, either from strangers to the Province—as is actually the case with all Colonial Governors; or it should be a strict proviso that if a Provincial be appointed, he be one who has never had a seat in the Provincial Legislature, or taken any part what ever in our Provincial politics. "Party men" in a Legislature are in their place; but in the Executive or Judicial branches of Government they are a curse to the community.

It is stated that the Rev. M. Langevin has been named Bishop for the newly erected Diocese of Rimouski.

THE PROVIDENCE ASYLUM.—The following figures, which refer only to some of the services rendered to the public by the Sisters of Charity, plead eloquently in behalf of the Appeal now being made to the charitable.

Since 1844, the Sisters have, at their own charges, and within their own walls, supported and educated 1,400 orphans, besides educating 3,658 externs since the year 1851. During the last named period, 130 deaf and dumb children have been educated, and the Institution has at this moment \$4 in charge. Annually the Asylum feeds 4,800 persons, on an average, who receive their daily bread at its doors; 500 families depend upon it for their means of subsistence; and upwards of 5,000 have in sickness called upon the Sisters for assistance.

If the above figures show how great are the wants of the poor in Montreal, how terrible is the destitution which, on account of our fearful climate, and our long winters, when for nearly half the year, the working classes are thrown out of employment—they show also how indefatigable are the Sisters in the great work of Charity, and how strong are their claims upon the public to whom they render services so important.

It has been attempted to create a prejudice against the Ladies of the Hospital General, and the Hotel Dieu at Quebec, because of their refusal to remit the amount of arrears due to their respective Communities, by their tenants who were burnt out last October. The Courier du Canada points out that the Ladies have no choice in the matter; that they are not proprietors, but merely administrators of funds destined by the donors to certain well defined purposes; and that consequently they, the administrators, have no moral right to direct those funds to any other purpose whatsoever.

L'ECHO DE LA FRANCE.—March, 1867.—The more this very entertaining and instructive periodical is known, the better will it be liked.—Its value consists in this—that it makes us acquainted with the master-pieces of modern French literature, and gives us the best selections from the best Continental writers of the day. We subjoin a list of the contents of the current number—1. Ecce Homo ou la critique religieuse en Angleterre; 2. Etudes Romaines: Une Visite a Saint Pierre; 3. Le Roi Voltaire; 4. Physiologie des Buveurs; 5. Memoires Anecdotes, Les Salons; 6. Conference de Notre Dame; 7. Histoire de Deux Ames; 8. La Clef d'Or; 9. L'Abeille Butinense de l'Echo.

The Courier du Canada has just commenced its eleventh year; we congratulate our contemporary wishing him long life, and prosperity.

LE SEMINAIRE DE NICOLET.—Mincree Printing Office.—A pamphlet bearing this title has been some days on our table. It gives a brief history of foundation and progress of the Nicolet Seminary, the first foundation after the conquest, the names of the pupils educated there, the course of study pursued, &c., &c., and has for frontispiece a pretty lithograph of the buildings of the institution.

That very excellent journal, the Pittsburg Catholic, comes out in a new dress, and much enlarged. We congratulate our contemporary on these outward and visible signs of prosperity, and wish him long life and success.

TORONTO, Feb. 27.—It is rumored in military circles that next month a large body of the Volunteers will be called out for frontier service. Several officers now attending the Military School have been instructed to report at their respective headquarters not later than the 8th of March, even though they have not succeeded in finishing their course at the School by that time.

We understand on good authority that contracts will be entered into this spring for the erection of an unusually large number of buildings during the summer, and that plenty of work will consequently be provided for all the artificers in the city; it even being probable that the unusual pressure of work which will likely be prevalent will attract many of the carpenters, stonemasons and bricklayers, who proceeded to the United States last fall and this winter in search of employment, back to Montreal again.—Montreal Gazette.

IRISH DISAFFECTION.—We would respectfully recommend a careful perusal of the annexed obituary notice, to such of our friends, as cannot understand why the Irish should be disaffected with British rule:—

Died, on Sunday, the 27th ult., at Kallinebar House, Cavan, the residence of her son, Dr. J. O. Waters, editor of the Anglo-Celt, Mrs. Rose Mary Waters, fortified by all the rights of the Church.—Mrs. Waters was dignified by being the lineal representative and grand-daughter of a Catholic gentleman, Arthur O'Connell, Esq., formerly of Maytown Castle, county of Meath, who was the last victim of the penal laws. Sooner than surrender his faith, Mr. O'Connell, the possessor at that time of a princely estate, where now it is likely his name is forgotten, gave up lands, position and fortune, and took as his choice the difficulties and trials which are not slow to beset those who have not the riches of the world. Before the repeal of those cruel and odious enactments near relatives of his own, having conformed to Protestantism, filed what is termed a Bill of Confession against him, which is at present extant in the records of the Court of Chancery in Ireland. Under this process for the confiscation of his property, Mr. O'Connell could take no defence unless to become a convert from the religion of his fathers. He was advised by eminent lawyers of the day, as he refused to think of such a proceeding, to make no replication, but allow the avaricious friends who grasped at his wealth to enter upon its possession, and, as the tone of public feeling tended towards the repeal of these laws, he might be able again to deprive him of it.—It did not even wait so fortunately for him, and the Statute of Limitations barred his heirs from regaining what ought to be, by all rights and justice, their possessions.—Universal News.

THE ST. MARY'S COLLEGE CONCERT.

The vocal, musical and English Dramatic entertainment for the benefit of the Church of the Gesu, on Wednesday night 27th ult., was attended by over two thousand persons. Every seat was filled: and to the lovers of music, the performance of the programme must have been delightful. Mr. Torrington—who seems in these affairs to be ubiquitous—presided at the melodeon and it is needless to say did his part with a force and power which cannot be otherwise than highly spoken of. Nor must we omit to mention the choir as a whole, the boys, especially, with their rich, sweet voices doing more than justice where their voices were called in and had to blend with those of the elder amateurs present. The programme consisted not of sacred, but of secular music also. Mr. Hamall, who was to have sung several popular and pretty songs, was unfortunately prevented by illness from being present; but his place was supplied, and other airs substituted. There was a drama in French before the first interlude, "the Weathercock," which to those who understood it must have been very interesting. Mr. John Henehey, who figured as "the gardener," and who, we believe, hails from Quebec, played his part admirably, and was, in fact, the master of the comedy. Mr. Wyse ought also to be mentioned as having done his devoirs well. In the song—"I'm not Myself at All,"—he especially distinguished himself, and a unanimous encore made him "put on airs," which the audience, by their cheering, also appreciated. Haydn's chorus—"The Heavens are telling," was a chef d'œuvre, and showed what musical talent there is in the Church. The band of the 25th Regt., K. O. B., greatly added to the harmony of the evening, and the Valentine Galop (vocal), by Mr. Relle, the bandmaster, was loudly applauded.

VOCAL AND DRAMATIC CONCERT AT SAINT ANNE'S ACADEMY.

On last Monday, the young ladies of St. Anne's Academy gave a most interesting entertainment, combining the vocal and dramatic element, to their friends and the general public. The Hall in which the proceedings were held, was filled to repletion, and tastefully decorated with evergreens, and appropriate mottoes and devices. Amongst the guests present were the Rev. Messrs. O'Farrell, O'Brien, Leclair, Bakewell, and other lay and clerical gentlemen. At the hour appointed, the proceedings were opened by a piano overture, executed by three young ladies of the Academy with much feeling and effect. Then followed a touching ballad, "Kiss me, Father, e'er I die," solo and chorus; the former sung by Miss Susannah Sheridan, a mere child in years, but possessing a voice of rare power and sweetness. Afterwards came a duet, "The Lily and the Rose," sung by Miss Maggie Sheridan, and Miss Emma Christin. This song, though unusually long, was rendered with such taste and dulcet vocalism, that everybody was sorry when it drew to a close—thus shaking our belief, for the nonce, in the current apophthegm, that all things good are "short and sweet."

The next item on the programme was a chorus, "The Merry Bell," which, as the name infers, was a blithe gay, sprightly composition, and failed not to delight the audience with ever-recurring notes of silver softness. We were then gratified by a most pleasing remembrance of the golden days of guileless childhood, in a "ring, a ring, a rosy" play, performed by a number of innocent little creatures of six years of age and downwards, whose tiny little voices, blending harmoniously together, as, hand in hand, they circled round the stage, fell on the ear in strains as soft and endearing as music of Aeolian harp, or the loved memories of long ago, when we were merry about the nursery rhyme of the "Snow-blow low," or "Open the gates and let the bride in!" But alas! these were bright and happy times now forever sped, never to return! Peace be to them.

The distinguishing feature of the Concert immediately succeeded, which consisted in a drama, called "The Queen of the Dummies," whose various characters were well sustained by the Misses Annie Johnston, (Queen of the Dummies) Elzilda Germain, Maggie Sheridan, Maggie Deery, E. McShane, Jane Costelloe, B. Hart, Mary Tierney, and Emma Christin. These young ladies acted their respective parts so well, that it might seem unfair to particularize; however, on the principal of "Honor to whom honor is due," we must especially mention, as deserving of more marked approbation, Miss Annie Johnston, Miss Elzilda Germain, and Miss Maggie Sheridan. These young ladies had the leading roles, and personated their different characters with a zeal and a genuineness, in action and delivery, which showed that they had studied and understood the nature and peculiarities of their respective pieces, and, in consequence, justly entitled to the rounds of applause that greeted them during the performance of the acts.

After a duet by one of the above young ladies, Miss Elzilda Germain, who is a delicious warbler, and another young lady, whose name we did not learn, and "The Fairies Song," a chorus, admirably rendered, the Concert was terminated by a few remarks from the Reverend Mr. O'Farrell, the spiritual Director of the district, thanking, in his own name, as well as in that of the rest of the audience, the kind Sisters and their pupils for the pleasure which they had afforded them that evening, hoping that it would not be the last time that they would all meet