

REMITTANCES

ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND & WALES

SIGHT DRAFTS from One Pound upwards, negotiable at any Bank in the United Kingdom, are granted on the Union Bank of London, London.
The Bank of Ireland, Dublin.
The National Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh.
By HENRY CHAPMAN & Co.,
St. Sacramento Street.

Montreal, December 14, 1854.

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON,
At the Office, No. 4, Place d'Armes.

TERMS:

To Town Subscribers. \$3 per annum.
To Country do. \$2 1/2 do.
Payable Half-Yearly in Advance.

THE TRUE WITNESS
AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 1856.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Since our last several steamers have arrived, but their news, in so far as the war is concerned, is but very meagre. One item will however gladden the heart of many a poor man, and cause the widow to sing with joy. Flour, and breadstuffs generally, have declined considerably in price, and it is thought will decline still more.

The *America* arrived at Halifax on the 11th inst. The following is a summary of the telegraphic report:—

Nothing new of an official character regarding the peace negotiations, but it is said in well informed quarters that negotiations will not terminate in a satisfactory manner. Count Nesselrode has addressed a circular to the representatives of Russia at the chief Foreign Courts, stating that Russia accepts the three points relative to the neutralization of the Black Sea in the following sense.

That Turkey's right to close the Straits be maintained; that no ships of war be admitted in the Black Sea, excepting those of Russia and Turkey. The number of ships to be so maintained be mutually arranged by Russia and Turkey, and that it be ratified by direct special treaty between these two powers, without the intervention of other nations; this interpretation the Allies consider inadmissible.

From Sweden the accounts are very war-like.

The military and naval manufactures work incessantly and indications are that Sweden will open the field in the spring.

Sweden has some millions thalers surplus revenue which is to be devoted to equipping the army and navy.

The Danish Government is reported to have consented to the establishment of depots of stores for the English fleet at Kiel and the fleet is to rendezvous there in April. Gortschakoff reports, Dec. 16th, the Cossacks in a sortie defeated a strong squadron of General Vivian's Anglo-Turkish cavalry near Kertch.

The English Commander and 47 men were taken prisoners.

The Russians have been reinforced by a regiment of the Hussars of the Guard, and by the Radetsky Regiment of Hussars, formerly stationed at Odessa.

A letter from Odessa of the 21st ult., says, large bodies of troops from the Crimea are marching into Bessarabia. There is not, however, any intention of evacuating the former, as their places will be filled by other troops from the reserves by the militia.

The Allies' gun boats which remained at Kinburn have been frozen in, and all efforts to release them have been fruitless.

It is rumored, but not confirmed that Pelissier is appointed commander of the Allied armies, and Admiral Lyons of the Allied fleets in the East.

The greater part of the Russian army will winter at Kars. Intelligence from Constantinople to the 24th states that many persons had already quitted Erzerum for Trebounak fearing that it would be attacked by the Russians.

Count Esterhazy reached St. Petersburg on 26th, and next day laid the propositions before the Russian Cabinet. Count Kuol telegraphed to Gortschakoff at Vienna the propositions of the Western Powers.

Count Nesselrode's Circular shows Russia's unwillingness to treat for the neutralization of the Black Sea. It is expected she will absolutely refuse to accede to the cessation of territory to keep open the Danube.

It is strongly suspected that Austria will not take the field against Russia in the spring.

Le Nord throws the blame of breaking up the Vienna negotiation on the Allies, and says Russia is willing to take up again the negotiations of peace on the basis of the Four Points.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

"The more it is stirred,
The more it will sink."—Prov. xvii, 1.

"The City Council has investigated the charge of misconduct of the Fire Companies at the late fire in the Nuns' property, as laid by the *True Witness*, and has found it utterly false and unfounded."—*Commercial Advertiser*, 14th inst.

"It will be seen by our report of the proceedings in the City Council on Friday night, that the whole matter has been the subject of a thorough investigation, and think that the *True Witness* story is entirely without foundation, saving in the imagination of some of our weaker Catholic brethren. We trust our zealous cotemporary will be satisfied as well as gratified with the results of the enquiry which had been made at the very time he was so loudly calling for it—and that he will inform himself better before giving circulation to so vile and groundless a libel upon the character of our city and its gallant Fire Brigade."—*Montreal Herald*, 14th inst.

"His Worship the Mayor opened the proceedings by some remarks on the article in the *True Witness* reflecting on the conduct of the Fire Brigade. He condemned the tone of that article, and denied that there was the slightest foundation for the allegations it contained."—*Id.*

"Councillor RYAN next spoke with great energy in the same spirit, saying that if it were possible it would be well if the author of that article could be brought to punishment."

"It was then moved by Councillor CAMPBELL, seconded by Councillor RYAN, That this Council entirely disapprove of the conduct of the writer of the article in question, and believe his insinuations were completely unfounded."—*Carried unanimously*—*Id.*

In the above extracts from our city cotemporaries there are almost as many falsehoods as there are lines.

1. It is false that there has been any enquiry—properly so called—into the disgraceful circumstances of the fire on the night of the 27th ult.

2. It is false that the *TRUE WITNESS* "laid" or originated any charges whatsoever against our "gallant Fire Brigade." It only repeated what had already been publicly stated, and in almost the very same words, by a Protestant city paper—the *Argus* of the 28th ult.; charges which were not only allowed to remain uncontradicted, but which were again made openly in the *Patrie*, a French paper. These grave charges the *Herald* and other city journals have endeavored to hush up; well knowing that they would not bear a rigid scrutiny.

3. It is false that the *TRUE WITNESS* has given circulation to any "vile and groundless libels upon the character of our city and its gallant Fire Brigade." Not a syllable of what we have said do we retract; we reiterate every word that we have written; and we pledge ourselves to make them good, and to prove them upon oath, if a PUBLIC investigation—one in which such witnesses as we shall think fit to bring forward shall be examined—be afforded to us. We challenge and defy our opponents to give us such a public and open enquiry.

4. It is false that the Mayor "denies that there was the slightest foundation for the allegations" of the *TRUE WITNESS*. In his speech before the Council, the Mayor not only corroborated all that we had previously said upon the subject, but actually showed that the case was far blacker, far more ugly looking, than we had presumed to represent it. Therefore is it, that the *Herald* of the 14th did not dare to publish the Mayor's speech—though a report of it had appeared in the *Pilot* of the 12th instant; but which report, with characteristic honesty, the Protestant press of this city, has carefully suppressed.

To make good our charges of dishonesty against the *Herald* and his brethren, we will first state again the charge against the Fire Department, as it appeared in the *TRUE WITNESS* of the 4th inst.; a charge which however had previously appeared in the *Argus*.

Having stated the fact that—at the fire in question the engines were quite inefficient, and that that inefficiency was commonly said, and generally believed, to have been owing to the wilful and malicious cutting of the hose—(suspicions which the Mayor himself, on the ground, and with the facts before his eyes, openly avowed; but of which rumors, we, with a scrupulous regard to fair play, remarked, that they were "unsupported by positive evidence")—we added:—

"Of two things, one—Either the hose were purposely cut—or they were in a most shameful state of repair—disgraceful to the parties in charge of them."—*True Witness*, Jan. 4th.

This—and not the cutting of the hose—is the charge laid against the Fire Companies—not however by the *TRUE WITNESS*, but by a Protestant paper, the *Argus*. We beg our readers' attention to the following facts.

The fire in question occurred on the night of the 27th December. In the issue of the *Argus* of the very next morning, appeared the following remarks from that Protestant journal:—

"Either through the hose of the fire engines being shamefully out of order, or from some other cause, they were found to be nearly useless. As fast as applied to the engines, and when the stream of water passed through them, they burst one after the other. Much time was lost in removing and affixing fresh hose in lieu of those taken away as useless. We hope the Fire Committee will investigate the cause of this."—*Argus*, 28th December.

A week elapsed, and no enquiry into the above disgraceful circumstances was instituted; it was "hushed up." The press held their peace, with the exception of the *Patrie*, which reiterated the charges of the *Argus*. On the 4th instant, the *TRUE WITNESS* followed suit, and called for a "PUBLIC investigation;" in order that the too generally entertained suspicions might be allayed, if ill founded; and that measures might be adopted to "prevent the recurrence of such a disgraceful scene of confusion, bungling, and general incompetence, as was displayed by the Fire Department on the night of the 27th December."—*True Witness*, 11th instant.

No such public investigation has been afforded.—The City Council, and the Fire Department, shrink from such an investigation; and instead of courting it, as honest men strong in conscious innocence would, they try to sneak out of it by the shabby proceedings of last Friday night.

On Friday night a Special Meeting of the City Council was held—of which no previous notice was given; so that we might be prepared to bring forward our proofs—at which no evidence whatever bearing upon the merits of the case was allowed to be heard—but at which the Mayor himself fully corroborated, and more than corroborated, every word of the charges made by the *Argus*, then reiterated in the *Patrie* and the *TRUE WITNESS*.

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Mayor made the following remarks. We copy from the report as published by the *Pilot* of Saturday; but which report, as we said before, the *Herald* carefully and most dishonestly suppresses:—

"He was"—said the Mayor—"at the fire alluded to, early on the ground. Statements were made to him at the commencement of operations that the hose were cut."

Here we pause, to enquire why the truth of statements publicly made to the Chief Magistrate were not immediately and publicly investigated into?—Why the Mayor did not, the very day after the fire, call upon the persons making such important statements, to come forward and support them upon oath?—Why the City Council, when investigating the matter, did not summon the authors of these statements before them? These questions are easier asked than answered. But to proceed with the Mayor's remarks:—

"He"—the Mayor—"placed policemen at the entrance to the Nunnery to prevent people from entering the yard. He saw two men busy with the hose near the gate, and, finding the hose had burst, he ran to the Nuns and asked for some ladders, which he wrapped round the burst places. When the fire first broke out it was supposed to be in Mr. Holland's building. There the hose burst. These breaks were mended, and again the hose burst."

AFTERWARDS, WHEN THE FIRE WAS FOUND TO BE IN THE NUNS' BUILDINGS, HE REMARKED THAT HE WAS NOT SUBMITTED TO FIND THE HOSE HAD BURST."

Here again we pause, to beg our readers to meditate upon the deep significance of this remark of the Chief Magistrate of the City, himself a Protestant; and to ask—if it is wonderful that Catholics should entertain suspicions which the Mayor himself entertained, and openly avowed? If to express such suspicions be to circulate "vile and groundless" libels, then is the Mayor a libeller; for it was he who first, in the honest indignation of his heart at the rascally scenes he was compelled to witness, openly avowed and gave publicity to them. Nor were these suspicions on the Mayor's part so very groundless—if what he himself says be true.

"In a little time the Police came to him, AND TOLD HIM THAT THE HOSE HAD BEEN CUT."

Here again we pause, whilst our readers will surely exclaim—"Well! here is something positive at last, not mere idle rumors. Here we have reports made by the Police, to the Chief Magistrate of the City, that a great crime had been committed—What did these Policemen depose at the 'thorough investigation'—as the *Herald* facetiously calls it—held by the City Council?"

Good, easy, unsophisticated reader! Little do you know how "thorough investigations" are managed in these snug family parties, determined to keep things pleasant; and where liberal Catholics—who wish to curry favor with their Protestant colleagues, and to be glorified by a Protestant press—betray the interests of the constituencies who have elected them, and who by their misplaced confidence, have given to these upstart "Jacks," power to insult better men than themselves, and to bring shame upon the name of Irishmen. Lord love you dear reader! these Policemen, who in the execution of their duty officially reported to the Mayor—as he himself tells us—"that the hose were cut," were not allowed to be examined at all!!! And the *Herald* and other papers of Montreal, have the impudent mendacity to tell the public "that the whole matter has been the subject of a thorough investigation"!!! We tell the *Herald* and his friends, that this sham investigation of the City Council has, we regret to say it, greatly strengthened the suspicions previously entertained.

God forbid that we should be understood to say that the hose were purposely and maliciously cut. Our rule is, always, with all men, to assume innocence until guilt be established. But—and we put it to every impartial person,—are not the facts, as given above, and which are all supported by Protestant authority, amply sufficient—we do not say to justify the worst suspicions—but to warrant us in calling for a PUBLIC investigation? It is not the *TRUE WITNESS* who makes a charge. It is the Mayor; the Chief Magistrate of the City himself. He tells us that statements were made to him that the hose were cut—that the Police on duty on the ground, and in the execution of their duty as guardians of the peace and property of the community, publicly reported to him in his capacity as Mayor, "that the hose were cut"; he himself tells us, with scarce concealed irony—that "when the fire was found to be in the Nuns' buildings, he was not surprised to find the hose had again burst." The Mayor then is the accuser; and it is absurd to attach blame to the *TRUE WITNESS*, because it repeats though very faintly, the suspicions of that Civic functionary, and asks for a public investigation into the truth of grave allegations, publicly made by the Chief Magistrate himself. Yes! the Mayor, more than any one else, is interested, for the sake of his own reputation, to call for a public investigation. For men will ask—"How came it Sir, that, when your Police made report to you, as Chief Magistrate of Montreal, that a grave crime had been committed, you did not cause the truth of their report to be immediately, publicly, and carefully, examined into? How came it that you, although openly requested to do so, did not order all the hose to be taken to the Station House, in order that they might be examined by competent and disinterested judges? What has occurred since the night of the 27th ult. to allay in your heart those strong suspicions which you then openly avowed—and to persuade you of the groundlessness of a charge, which you then openly professed to believe?" These questions must be answered.

We again repeat it. We originate, we make no charge. We merely repeat charges openly made on the ground to the Mayor—repeated by the Mayor in the presence of hundreds—and which, as coming from such a respectable source, are very generally believed. What we have said, we have said; and before God and man we pledge ourselves to prove every word we have written, by unexceptionable witnesses—if an open, public, enquiry be instituted; or to submit to be branded as infamous. Either, on the night in question, the hose were—as the Police reported to the Mayor—"cut;" or they were—as the *Argus* says—"shamefully out of order;" in a state highly disgraceful to the parties in charge of them; in a state which reflects infinite discredit upon every man connected with the Fire Department, from Mr. Bertram downwards.

THE ST. SYLVESTER AFFAIR.—Our readers must remember the report so industriously circulated a few weeks ago by the Protestant press, that a deliberate and murderous attempt had been made by certain Irish Catholics to cause the overthrow of the train in which were the party of soldiers and police sent by the authorities to aid in arresting the men suspected of having murdered the unfortunate Corrigan. They must remember too, with what earnestness the Protestant press denounced the atrocity of the crime—that not one of them had the candor or honesty to admit that there was "no positive evidence" either against the accused, or to show that any wilful attempt to upset the train had been made—whilst by

some, it was more than insinuated that the crime was—if not encouraged by the Clergy—the direct result of Catholic teaching, and the peculiar moral condition thereby engendered. These things must be fresh in the memories of our readers; as also the fact, that not only was there no evidence whatsoever against the accused—whose only crime consisted in this, that they were Irishmen and Catholics—but that it has been proved after a judicial enquiry upon oath, that the accused were perfectly innocent of the crime laid to their charge; and that the accusations urged so vindictively against them by the Protestant press, were, what the *Herald* would call—"vile and groundless libels." We thank thee, Jew, for teaching us that word.

Why then do we refer to this business, seeing that the matter has been thoroughly investigated, and the accused triumphantly acquitted? We do so for the purpose of pointing out the difference betwixt Protestant and Catholic notions of fair play.

When the *TRUE WITNESS*—Catholic—gave insertion to statements reflecting upon the conduct of certain Protestants; we, in doing so, took good care to qualify them with the remark that they were "mere rumors, unsupported by positive evidence." Thus is it that, Catholics act towards their Protestant brethren; and for so doing the *Herald* charges us with circulating "vile and groundless libels."

Now, how differently do Protestants act towards Catholics in perfectly analogous circumstances! Not only did they at once assume as incontestible the guilt of the men implicated in the St. Sylvester affair—not only did they never once, pending the investigation, caution their readers that the charge of wilfully compassing the upsetting of the train was a "mere rumor unsupported by positive evidence"—but even after the full acquittal of the accused, and after their discharge from custody, a large portion of them, continued, and still continue, to reiterate the same damnable calumnies against men whose conduct has been openly and thoroughly investigated, and whose innocence has been judicially established.

We are but stating a melancholy instance of the demoralising effects of evangelical Protestantism; the deleterious influences of which, like those of some poisons upon the human system, are incredible to those who have not witnessed them. Protestantism of the evangelical type is a moral poison; which, if long and habitually indulged in, seems to have the effect of destroying all sense of honor, justice, and truth in those who use it; of rendering them as incapable of entertaining a generous or gentlemanly sentiment, as a boar-pig is of appreciating a symphony by Beethoven. Thus it is, that, in the *Montreal Witness* of last week—in the *Hamilton Banner* of the 12th instant, another very Protestant journal—and other journals of a similar stamp—we find the charge reiterated that an attempt had been made to take the lives of the soldiers and police—and that the crime was the work of Irish Catholics, who—as the publishers of these atrocious lies well knew—had been tried and found innocent of the crime falsely laid to their charge by the unscrupulous and mendacious Protestant press of Canada. How is it that the *Herald*, under these circumstances, has no advice to give his brother Protestants, against circulating "libels" against the Irish Catholics of St. Sylvester; "libels" which are not only "groundless," but which have been judicially proved to be false?

BUFFALO CONVENTION.

A Meeting of the Irish Catholics of this City was held on Sunday last, immediately after High Mass, at the St. Patrick's House, to determine upon the appointment of Delegates to attend the Convention about to take place at Buffalo.

After Alderman M'Cambridge was appointed Chairman, and Mr. C. W. Sharpley Secretary to the meeting—

It was proposed by the Rev. Mr. M'Culla; seconded by B. Devlin, Esq., and unanimously—

Resolved—"That this Meeting heartily approves of the objects contemplated by the Buffalo Convention."

Proposed by J. Sadlier, Esq.; seconded by Dr. Howard—

"That B. Devlin, Esq., and G. E. Clerk, Esq., be appointed Delegates to represent the Irish Catholics of Montreal at the Buffalo Convention."

As an amendment, it was proposed by M. P. Ryan, Esq.; seconded by Isidore Mallon, Esq.,—

"That the name of a third Delegate be added to the two already mentioned."

Subsequently, the name of W. P. Bartley, Esq., was introduced; but this being considered not in order, was not submitted by the Chairman; and the original motion was adopted.

It was proposed by P. Ronayne, Esq.; seconded by Thomas Hanley, Esq., and

Resolved—"That a list be opened for the purpose of receiving subscriptions to defray the expenses incurred by the Delegates."

(The sum of £37 10s was subscribed.)

Proposed by W. P. Bartley, Esq.; seconded by the Rev. Mr. Murphy, and unanimously—

Resolved—"That J. Sadlier, Esq., act as Treasurer."

Proposed by Dr. Howard; seconded by T. M'Cready, Esq.,—

"That Alderman M'Cambridge do leave the Chair, and that W. P. Bartley, Esq., be called thereon." (Carried.)

Proposed by Dr. Howard; seconded by J. M'Cready, Esq., and unanimously—

Resolved—"That the thanks of this Meeting be expressed to Alderman M'Cambridge for his conduct as Chairman, after which the meeting separated."

ALEXANDER M'CAMBRIDGE, Chairman.
Chas. W. Sharpley, Secretary.

We are pleased to learn that the First Company of the Irish Volunteers of Montreal, will meet for drill, at the Bonsecours Market, this—Friday—evening.