

The True Witness.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1863.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

No progress has been made towards the pacific solution of the Polish Question. The insurgents still show a bold front, and the press credits them with several victories over detachments of the Russian troops. It is not expected that the Czar will make any concessions, except upon compulsion, and under the influence of pressure from the Great Powers of Europe. The Continental news presents nothing of interest.

The reported crossing of the Rappahannock, by General Hooker, and his advance against the Confederates, were speedily contradicted. These rumors were apparently started with the object of influencing the money market, and of deceiving the people as to the thorough beating received by the Army of the Potomac, and its consequent demoralisation. Its losses are now admitted, even by the Federal press, to have been very heavy, both in men and materiel; the dead and wounded alone, so we are now informed, exceed 22,000; twenty-four guns were left behind on the South side of the Rappahannock; and the quantity of arms of every description, of ammunition, provisions, and clothing, which has fallen into the hands of the victorious Confederates, is incalculable.

The victors have, however, to mourn the loss of one of their ablest Generals, the noble Jackson, who of himself was worth an entire brigade. His appearance on the field of battle was ever the certain presage of victory; and by his indomitable pluck, by his fertility of resources in moments of extremest peril, and by the confidence with which he knew how to inspire his gallant followers, he more than counterbalanced the advantages which the enemy possessed in their great numerical superiority. With good reason may his countrymen and the friends of liberty every where, mourn his loss, and honor his memory.

Since our last there have been no military movements of any consequence on either side; but the political atmosphere of the Federal States is charged with electricity, which at any moment may be expected to burst forth in storm. Terror is now the order of the day throughout the North—terror as intense as that which impended over France in the days of Robespierre. Unable to cope with the Confederates on the field of battle, the Federal Government carries on relentless but inglorious war with its own subjects—upon all those of them at least who retain, or who are suspected even of retaining, any disloyal attachment to civil and personal freedom. A criticism of the conduct of the war, or of the policy of the administration, is immediately visited with arrest, trial by Court Martial, and imprisonment. The wealthy, as was the case in the French Revolution, are especially marked out for persecution, and their property is summarily confiscated to the benefit of the petty military tyrants in command of the several districts—of whom many, like the ever-infamous Butler, have contrived to amass immense fortunes in a few months by a system of legalised theft. However low we may be inclined to rate the prowess of the Federal officers in the field, it must be admitted that as plunderers of unarmed citizens they have few equals and no superiors. Everything is fish that comes to their nets; nothing is too small to escape their grasp. Household furniture—sofas, tables, plate, and linen, the property of unhappy citizens, suspected of secession proclivities, or suspected even of being suspect, are looked upon as lawful prey; and the unfortunate owners are summarily ejected from their homes at the point of the bayonet, by the savage and ill-disciplined hordes of soldiery, by means of whom alone the power of the ignoble despots at Washington is still enforced upon the people.

Yet servile, and long suffering as the latter have been, there are already signs of an uprising, and reasons to hope that the 9th Thermidor is not very far off. The arrest of the eloquent Vallandigham, and his trial by Court Martial for the constitutional expression of political opinion, have already provoked a public display of indignation at Albany, which the soldiers vainly endeavored to suppress. The conscription, which is now imminent, will also severely test the patience of the unhappy Northerners, and must, if every sentiment of manhood be not squeezed out of them, provoke a general resist-

ance to the illegal Government, which attempts to enforce it. Democratic institutions, it is true, render men unfit for liberty, and apt for servitude; and thus no people with whose history we are acquainted, either in ancient or in modern times, have so rapidly and so completely lost their freedom as have the people of the neighboring republic; but low as they have fallen, it is hard to believe that they have lost also the traditions of their ancestral liberties, or that the memory of the Common Law of England—the glorious inheritance which their sires brought with them across the Atlantic—can have completely perished.—We therefore cherish the hope that the "Reign of Terror" shall ere long be overturned even as was that of the French Jacobins.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.—The first session of the Third Council of the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec was solemnly opened on Thursday, the 14th instant, the Feast of the Ascension, in the Cathedral of Quebec, and immediately after High Mass, which was celebrated by His Lordship the Bishop of Tloa, Administrator of the Arch-diocese. The following is the list of the Prelates composing the Council, together with the names of their several theologians, and the Officers of the Council:—

1. His Lordship, the Bishop of Tloa, Administrator, and officiating as Metropolitan. Theologians—The Rev. M.M. Taschereau, V.G., Rector of the Laval University; Auclair, of Quebec; Proulx, of Ste. Marie; Harkin, of St. Sillery.

2. His Lordship, the Bishop of Montreal. Theologians—The Rev. M.M. Granet, V.G., Superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice; Lavalle, Cure of St. Vincent de Paul.

3. His Lordship, the Bishop of Ottawa. Theologians—The Rev. P. Tortel, O.M.J., Director of the Great Seminary; and the Rev. M. Michel of Aylmer.

4. His Lordship, the Bishop of St. Boniface. Theologians—The Rev. P. O. Aubert, O.M.I., Superior of the Rev. P. O. of Montreal, and M. Pepin of Boucherville.

5. His Lordship, the Bishop of Three Rivers. Theologians—The Rev. M.M. O. Carron, V.G., and J. Carron, V.G., Superior of the Seminary of St. Nicolet.

6. His Lordship, the Bishop of St. Hyacinthe. Theologians—The Rev. M. Raymond, V.G., Superior of the Seminary of St. Hyacinthe, and M. Desaulniers, Professor of Theology in the same Seminary.

7. His Lordship, the Bishop of Hamilton. Theologians—The Rev. P. Holzer, S.J., and V.G., and M. Buteau, Director of the Great Seminary of Quebec.

8. His Lordship, the Bishop of Sandwich. Theologians—The Rev. M.M. Crinnan and Griffa.

9. His Lordship, the Bishop of Kingston. Theologians—The Rev. M.M. McDonnell, V.G., Superior of Regiopolis College, and Kelly of Peterboro.

10. His Lordship, the Bishop of Toronto. Theologians—The Rev. M.M. Walsh, V.G., and Northgraves.

Deputy of the Chapter of Montreal—The Rev. M. Pare.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Promoter—The Reverend M. Cazeau, Vicar General of the Arch-Diocese of Quebec.

Secretary—The Rev. M. Pare.

Assistant Secretary—The Rev. M. Ferland. Masters of Ceremonies—The Rev. M.M. Lecours and Legrave.

Chantres—Rev. M.M. Auclair and Laverdiere.

The Session was inaugurated immediately after High Mass. A table with a cushion, whereon reposed the Holy Scriptures, was placed in the middle of the Choir, whilst the prayers of the faithful were being made for the assistance of the Holy Ghost. The *Veni Creator* was intoned, together with the Litany of the Saints, and the *Te Deum*.

Then His Lordship of Ottawa, ascended the pulpit, and delivered a suitable discourse upon the text "*Euntes in mundum predicare evangelium omni creature*," insisting upon the promise of Our Lord to be ever present with His Church, and the marvellous accomplishment of that promise as evidenced by the continual existence of that Church throughout all ages. The sermon, which was listened to in devout attention by a crowded audience, being concluded, the Right Reverend Prelate resumed his seat in the Choir amongst the other Fathers of the Council. Then at the invitation of the Masters of the Ceremonies, the Bishops, one by one, knelt before the Altar, and made a solemn and public profession of their faith, promising never to admit or teach contrary to what Holy Church receives and teaches—to abjure all that she abjures, to condemn all that she condemns. This sublime act having been performed, the Fathers returned to their seats, and the Council was fully inaugurated.

It was expected that the sessions would continue until Thursday, the Octave of the Ascension. The faithful throughout the Province will not fail to pray in the interim for the blessing of God upon the deliberations of those to whom upon earth He has committed the care of the flock.

UNITY.—In three different countries—in Poland, Italy, and the United States—a war with the same object, that of enforcing unity upon a reluctant people, is being waged with ever varying success, and never ending torrents of human blood. The Czar, President Lincoln, and Victor Emmanuel seek the same ends, and by the same means. To the first the Poles are "rebels," who must be subdued for the benefit of Russian or Slavonic unity. The Confederates are "rebels" in the eyes of the Yankees, who for the same mad scheme of unity, have sacrificed their own constitutional liberties, and set up a despotism at Washington compared with which even the despotism of Moscow is free and enlightened. And lastly, the King of Piedmont denounces as "brigands," the brave patriots and loyalists of the Neapolitan Kingdom; and in the name of liberty and Italian unity, shoots down by scores all who presume still to make a stand for national independence and local self-government. It is always the war of the Jacobins and the Girondists over again.

As Canadians we must necessarily be deeply interested in the struggle going on at our doors, one which is of course destined to have important results upon the future of the entire Continent of North America. But as Catholics we should take an equally lively interest in the affairs of the Italian Peninsula, as these must have a most important influence upon our Church, and the cause of Christian civilisation all over the world. "Italian Unity" means the exile of the Pope from Rome, the persecution of the Church, and a relapse into the social and political conditions which obtained in the first centuries of our era, and before the Roman Emperors had embraced the religion of the Crucified, and submitted themselves to the teachings of the successors of St. Peter. The Pope must be either a sovereign or a subject; and if the latter, he can be independent only upon the same conditions as those upon which his remotest predecessors in the Chair of Peter were independent. No doubt even under those conditions the Church could, and would thrive, for the blood of the martyrs is ever the fertile seed; but betwixt the throne and the catacombs, betwixt the independence of sovereignty and the independence of persecution, there is no middle place possible, or even conceivable for the Vicar of Christ.

So long, however, as Naples holds out, and until the final conquest of the Southern portion of the Italian Peninsula by Piedmontese arms be accomplished, Rome is, humanly speaking, beyond the reach of the spoiler. It is therefore on Neapolitan soil, and by Neapolitan arms, that the battle for the temporal sovereignty, which is the synonym of the independence of the Pope, is being fought; and the Catholic must therefore watch the vicissitudes of that combat with keenest interest. This is why we constantly devote so large a space in our columns to a report of the fortunes of that which the Liberals term "brigandage" in Naples—just as the Czar and the Yankees apply the term "rebels" to the Poles and to the Confederates, respectively.

The latest intelligence from Italy is very cheering, and should fill the Catholic heart with joy. There is no longer any possibility of concealing, or indeed any attempt to conceal, the fact that hitherto the whole force of the Piedmontese army, numerous as that army is, and ruthless as are its commanders, has been ineffectual to complete the conquest of Naples, or to reduce the "brigands" to subjection. The atrocities of the Piedmontese Government are now fully confessed; and the truth of the statements which for months and months have been published by the Catholic and by the Protestant Conservative journals of Great Britain, is admitted; whilst the merciless policy which by Protestant writers is attributed to Philip of Spain and the Duke of Alva towards the Netherlands, is avowedly the policy which Victor Emmanuel and his generals have hitherto pursued, and are bent upon pursuing in the Kingdom of Naples. And yet in spite of these atrocities, and of this ruthless policy, the conquest of the dominions of Francis II. is, to all human appearance, as remote as ever.

Such assertions emanating from Catholic or Conservative sources would of course by Protestants and Liberals be scouted with disdain as an invention of the enemy; what however will they say when they find them publicly made in the assembly at Turin, called the Italian Parliament, and insisted upon by the London *Times*? For so it is. A lie cannot endure for ever; and truth which alone is immortal, is again beginning to assert her sway, even by the mouths of Italian Unitarians, conscience-stricken by the aspect of the gigantic crimes perpetrated in the name of Italian Unity, and through the columns of the great organ of the Anglo-Saxon Liberal and Anti-Catholic world—as shall appear from a few extracts from the "Italian Correspondence," and late editorials of the latter, which we lay before our readers. Under date 18th ult., the *Times' Own Correspondent* writes from Turin in the following terms:—

"In the House of Deputies yesterday the condition of Sicily was made the theme of an interpellation in which the deputies La Porta, Ricciardi, and

Crispi described the island as a prey to the most intolerable evils. Public security was every where at an end; 5,000 or 6,000 runaway convicts—the terrors of enforced military service in the ranks of their alien conquerors is, in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies as it is in Poland, one of the exciting causes of the insurrection—"had taken to the woods and had made common cause with runaway felons. The province of Girgenti alone numbered no less than 600 *renitenti alla leva*, and hundreds of prisoners had broken loose from gaol. The causes of these disorders were to be sought in the general discontent of the island at the dismissal of so many native functionaries who had been appointed by the Garibaldian Government, and the substitution of Piedmontese and other continental officials, at the disregard of the claims of the liberal party, at the mistrust and persecution of which they were the constant objects. The Prefects and their subalterns sent to administer the island, the police agents, the magistrates, however, able and deserving, were universally unpopular; the threatened sale of ecclesiastical property had alarmed the Sicilians, who would look on such an act as one of national spoliation.—The trial against the *pugnalator* had been unfairly conducted. Some of them, even now under trial, were innocent men. Crispi knew them well, and would go bail for their innocence. The Crown prosecutor and the executioner had both bungled in their work, &c."

The Minister attempted a reply and an apology, but was forced to admit the truth of the statements made by the preceding speakers. In the words of *Our Own Correspondent*:—

"It was a most awful picture that the Minister drew of the state of the island, and the tone of his delivery showed that he spoke from conviction, and it carried conviction with it."

The following day, we learn from the same authority that "a discussion on the horrors of Naples again gave rise to a storm of bitter invectives and angry denunciation," in the House of Deputies. The first speaker was Deputy Ricciardi—an ardent revolutionist to boot—who in spite of his revolutionary proclivities was disgusted with, and in the words of the *Times' Correspondent*: "took the Government to task," for its military executions in Calabria and the "ruthless executions" of that Government's agent, Fumel. Ricciardi was followed by Miceli, himself a Calabrian, and a Deputy of the Left, who:—

"confirmed the charges brought against Fumel, and asserted that no less than 300 persons had been shot without trial in the province of Cosenza only."

Another Deputy, and a member of the commission to enquire into "brigandage" was still more bitterly denunciatory against the Government; and in the words of the *Times' informant*: "broke out into a wild outcry against the Government who, he said, had inaugurated in the South a system of blood," and he summed up the conduct of the Piedmontese mercenaries towards the unhappy Neapolitans, in the following emphatic words:—

"In the Southern Provinces every man who wears a uniform or overcoat is bent on killing all who wear it not."

These, be it borne in mind, are the words of Italian Unitarians themselves, and may be accepted therefore as reluctant confessions. Let us see what the *Times* now thinks of the prospects of the robber King and his cut-throat associates.

To this subject the *Times* of the 22nd ult., devotes a long, and lachrymose editorial. It recognises "the feeling of depression" to which Italian statesmen are said to be just now giving way; and confesses that those feelings "are not to be made light of. It is useless," the *Times* continues, to try any longer to keep up the game of deception which it and its Liberal friends have so long played:—

"It is useless any longer to disguise the fact that there is considerable disaffection in the Southern Provinces, and that the efforts to put down brigandage have hitherto failed. Those who have attended to our Italian correspondence must be aware that these facts are admitted by the most warm supporters of the new Government. The idea of Italian unity, like most other ideas, does not correspond very well with the facts. Naples regrets its Court, and its hot blood is chilled by the cold Piedmontese. The Southern Provinces feel themselves an appendage to the Sardinian Crown, and are indignant at the subordination. Even the smaller Duchies cannot forget that they were Duchies, and Florence, Bologna, and Milan still have their local sympathies and pride of independence. These natural feelings of division are increased tenfold by the presence of an alien force in the most important city of the Peninsula, and every element of disaffection and every impulse of disunion are fostered and increased by the moral and political malaria which spreads from the unhealthy atmosphere of Rome. Besides all this, there are natural barriers which keep up even a physical separation.—*Times*."

The *Times* goes on to say that the Liberals of Italy ought to have foreseen these obstacles to the unification of people—so alien to one another as are those who inhabit the Sub-Alpine districts, to the races who inhabit the Southern extreme of the Italian Peninsula.—"What," he asks, "did they expect?"

"Did they imagine that Garibaldi's unarmed entry into Naples had really conjured away the feelings and the habits which had been the growth of ten centuries? Did they really fancy that the Neapolitans, like the Romans of old, were ready to bow to the name and authority of a self-made Dictator, and to lay aside, at the magic of an enthusiastic name, the character of their history and the impression of their laws?"

To comfort and encourage them, the *Times* tells the statesmen of Italy that they are only now "beginning to meet the real difficulties of their position;" that "they must brace up their minds to long, steady, hard, struggle," to more *fusillades* and to an unlimited shedding of blood; and since the regular troops of the Piedmontese have been unable to suppress the insurrection of the loyalists, and the sentiment of independent nationality amongst the Neapolitans, it recommends a policy for the future, the very counterpart to that which prompted the Yankees to issue *bugus* proclamations of emancipation to the

Southern negroes, in the hopes of inciting the latter to servile war against the whites. Call in, this is the advice of the *Times* doctor, call in the Garibaldians, and the filibusters to supplement the action of the regular troops. These undisciplined allies will be more ruthless than the soldiers of Victor Emmanuel, and "are not likely to fetter their freedom by the military rules of such a martinet as General La Marmora." Since you evidently cannot conquer the Neapolitans by means of hired mercenaries, says the *Times*, let loose upon them the devil with full powers to exterminate the "brigands," and to make their country a desert. This is the policy of the Yankee General Butler, and it is that of the warmest friends of Italian Unity.

THE GEOLOGISTS HOAXED.—Many of our readers must remember the scene in Sir Walter Scott's novel, the "*Antiquary*," where the supposed Roman relic is discovered; and the confusion of the enthusiastic old gentleman when the real explanation of the mystic inscription was given by the too well informed beggarman.—Something of the same kind has just occurred in the scientific world; and as religion is interested therein, it is well that the particulars of the case should be generally known.

For many years it has been the tactics of the enemy to attack Christianity through the Old Testament; and to throw discredit on the Mosaic cosmogony as recorded in Genesis, and on the historical accuracy of the Pentateuch. Especially has it been endeavored to prove that the ordinarily received chronology of the Bible must be erroneous; that the descent of the existing human race from a single pair is a myth; and that consequently the Christian doctrines of the Fall, of the Incarnation, and of the Atonement are but idle fables. Amongst the arguments employed by the Geologists to establish the great antiquity of man on the face of the globe, one of the most striking is derived from the fact that in certain deposits, or gravel beds, very common in the vicinity of Amiens and Abbeville, large numbers of flint weapons—apparently fashioned by the hand of man, have been discovered; thence came the conclusion, that man must have existed upon the earth before these gravel deposits were formed—but, strange to say, in spite of anxious search, up to the 28th of March last, no human bones had been found therein. Of course to complete their case, the discovery of these bones was necessary; but the Geologists confidently predicted that those bones would soon be found.

Accordingly, on the 28th of March last, M. Boucher de Perthes, a gentleman whose name is well known in the scientific world, and who has taken a lively interest in the great flint arrow-head controversy, was summoned to the gravel pits of Moulin-Quignon, to examine *in situ*, a substance that seemed to be the bone of a man projecting from the cliff. M. Perthes hastened to the spot, and speedily detached a mass, which, upon examination, proved to be the entire half of an adult human jaw, in a state of perfect preservation, and containing one solitary molar tooth. This discovery was accordingly announced with a great flourish of trumpets, and the case of the Geologists *versus* Moses, was assumed to be clearly established.

But these are, fortunately, sceptics in science as well as in religion, and the startling announcement of this grand discovery excited some other gentlemen of high scientific attainments to enquire personally into the real facts of the case. The results are communicated to the world in a letter in the London *Times*, dated April 23, over the signature of H. Falconer, M.D., F.R.S. Here is what this gentleman tells the public respecting those flint weapons, and the human remains discovered along with them:—

"Two practised experts, Mr. John Evans and Mr. Prestwich, preceded me on the 11th inst. to Abbeville, and their suspicions were instantly aroused. They pronounced the flint hatchets to be modern fabrications. I followed on the 14th, and got three of them out of the 'black seam gravel,' covered with matrix, and having every external appearance of reliability; but, on severely testing them on my return to London, they all proved to be spurious. M. Quatrefages, member of the Institute, and the eminent professor of Anthropology in the Jardin des Plantes, got two of them in my presence from the same spot on the 15th inst. What they have proved to be I know not as yet, but I anticipate the same results. The number which turned out to be marvellous, but the *terrestres* were handsomely paid for their findings, and the crop of flint-hatchets became in like degree luxuriant."

The handsome "reward to the *terrestres*, or diggers for their findings, fully accounts for the large number of flint weapons discovered in the gravel beds. The explanation of the mystery of the human bones is equally conclusive and satisfactory. On this point Mr. Falconer goes on to say:—

Now for the jaw itself. What complexion or intrinsic evidence did it yield? The craniological materials available at Abbeville for comparison were, of course, very limited; but the specimen presented a series of peculiarities which are rarely seen in conjunction in the jaws of European races, ancient or recent. Here I must be a little technical. 1. The posterior margin of the ascending ramus was extremely reclinate, so as to form a very obtuse angle with the ascending ramus. 2. The ascending ramus was unusually low and broad. 3. The sigmoid notch, instead of yielding an outline somewhat like a semicircle, was broad shallow, and crescentiform. 4. The condyle was unusually globular; and, 5, what was most remarkable of all, the posterior angle presented what I may venture call a *marsupial* amount of inversion. The first three characters suggested to M. Quatrefages—if I may venture to cite him for a preliminary impression