

The True Witness.

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JAN. 12.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

- JANUARY—1867.
- Friday, 18—St. Peter's Chair at Rome.
 - Saturday, 19—St. Canute, M.
 - Sunday, 20—Second after Epiphany. Holy Name of Jesus.
 - Monday, 21—St. Agnes, V. M.
 - Tuesday, 22—St. Vincent and Anastasius, M. M.
 - Wednesday, 23—Espousal of B. V. Mary.
 - Thursday, 24—St. Timothy, B. M.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We do not vouch for the truth of the following account of the propositions which the representative of Victor Emmanuel at Rome is urging upon the Sovereign Pontiff. We give them for what they are worth, which perhaps is not much, seeing that they are taken from the Protestant and revolutionary press:—

- 1st. The Piedmontese Government is to carry a law for making Florence its capital.
- 2nd. The Cardinals are to be salaried by the same Government, and to be called Princes of Italy.
- 3rd. The subjects of the Sovereign Pontiff—with the exception of the people of Rome itself—are to be invited to declare by plebiscite whether they will remain as they are, or be annexed to Piedmont.
- 4th. Rome to be declared a free city, under the sovereignty of the Pope, with perhaps a small territory adjacent: the Government to be secularised.
- 5th. The Papal troops to be discharged, with permission to join the army of Victor Emmanuel.
- 6th. These conditions to be binding during the lifetime of the present Pope only.
- 7th. Pius IX. to recognise Victor Emmanuel as King of Italy, and to crown him at Florence.
- 8th. Italy to pay a part of the civil list which all Catholic States will contribute to the Sovereign Pontiff.

Such, in substance, are the propositions said to have been offered by the revolutionists, through their present chief, or rather tool, Victor Emmanuel, to the Holy Father; but as the latter cares more for the Pope, than he does for Pius IX.; as it is the honor and the interests of the Church and the Holy See that he has at heart, and not his own ease and personal dignity, we do not expect that he will accept them, or ratify a Treaty which would by implication admit the right of the Piedmontese to take possession of Rome alter his death. However we know that the interests of the Church are in safe hands, and that Pius IX. will never agree to anything which in any manner may impair the rights of his successors. Persecution, and exile, he can suffer, as he has suffered, and cheerfully accept, and death even if such be the will of God; but when asked to sacrifice a principle, and to barter away the rights of the Holy See, his answer will, we may be sure, still be, as it has been—"Non Possumus."

We are sorry to learn that France has met with yet another rebuff. Her expedition to the Corea is reported a total failure, and this is as much a European, as it is a French misfortune. Some how or another, the star of France is not so brilliant as it was some two or three years ago, when she occupied the proud position of protectress of the Holy See. She has been snubbed in Mexico, snubbed by Prussia, and now her arms have suffered a defeat in the far East.—Frenchmen lay these things to heart, and their practical conclusions will, we think, not be favorable to the present occupier of the Imperial throne.

It is still the same story from Ireland. Arrests of doubtful Fenians, seizures of indubitable arms. Still the excitement is dying out, and the general impression seems to be that there will be no fighting. Lord Langford, travelling with a double-barrelled gun in his possession, but without a license, has been arrested near Dublin. He was admitted to bail, but the gun was detained.

News of the total suppression, or stamping out of the Cretan insurrection, alternate with reports that the Turks have been baffled in all their attempts to reduce it, and that the spirit of rebellion is fast spreading amongst the Greek populations. There are rumors too of an understanding for joint action upon the impending Eastern Question, betwixt some of the great European Powers of the Continent. Great Britain will probably stand aloof, nor is it likely that she will allow herself to be provoked into a repetition of the blunders of the late Russian War. In so far as Great Britain is concerned, the "sick

man" will most probably be left to his fate, or at all events, to the tender cares of French and Muscovite doctors.

A report has reached this country of a baffled attempt to assassinate the French Emperor; particulars not given, and the report itself very doubtful. Mazzini has issued an Address to the Revolutionists at Rome; he exhorts them to fight at once, but, like Stephens, he, from constitutional motives, pretends standing aloof from the fray, and leaves others to do the fighting.—His forte consists in inciting others to deeds of blood; he furnishes the dagger to the assassin, as in the case of the infamous Galienga, but he will not strike the blow himself. Spain is also in a disturbed state.

The Eastern Question is becoming more serious. Greece appears about to make the cause of the Cretan insurgents her own, by declaring war with the Porte. She will be backed by Russia, perhaps by France, and the danger of another European war is imminent.

The impeachment of the President by the Congress of the Northern States will most likely be abandoned from want of grounds. Stephens, who is now used up, is said to have escaped from New York to Boston.

We are sorry to see that some severe attacks upon the St. Patrick's Society, have been made by an anonymous correspondent of the Montreal Gazette. We can say no more on the subject at present; and wait the action of the Society, which of course cannot condescend to plead to charges made by an anonymous assailant, who, in that he withholds his name, is certainly a coward, probably a liar.

Our Kingston correspondent, *Enquirer*, will, we trust, pardon us for our seeming neglect of his letter of last month, to which however we now tender the following reply. He tells us that a lecturer at Kingston has been holding forth against Popery; exposing its errors and inconsistencies; and that he insisted especially on the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Pope, as disproved by, and in consistent with, certain allegations which he, the lecturer, made against certain of the Popes.

To test the value of this argument we must determine what is the doctrine as to Papal infallibility; to what extent, and under what circumstances alone, infallibility is, by the most ultra-montane of Catholic writers, predicated by Papal decisions; and 2nd, we must determine what connection there is betwixt the allegations of the "lecturer," and these peculiar circumstances.

1st. The Pope is held to be infallible then, and then only, when addressing the Church, in the name of the Universal Church, *ex cathedra*, or from the Chair of Peter, upon a question of faith or morals, he defines any dogma, or deduces thence any proposition. Only to this extent, and under these circumstances, do Catholics necessarily predicate infallibility of Papal decisions. As a private doctor, infallibility is not predicated of the Pope; and far less it is believed that he is impeccable.

2nd. The facts alleged by the Kingston lecturer against certain Popes—even were we to admit their truth, which we do not—are quite irrelevant as against the truth and consistency of the Catholic doctrine; because in no one single instance does he adduce a fact falling within the limits of the definition of Papal infallibility above given.

For instance—Were it true that "one Gregory" permitted a man to have two wives; or if "a Boniface," or a "Pope John," or a "Stephen," or a "Pope," name not given, did the acts, or did say the things attributed to him, there would be nothing therein inconsistent with the Catholic doctrine, that the Pope is infallible when addressing the Church in the name of the Universal Church, *ex cathedra*, upon a question of faith or morals. So in the same way, even if Liberius had signed an "Arian creed" (which he never did do) the Catholic doctrine would be thereby unaffected; since Liberius did not pronounce that Creed to the Church as containing the true embodiment of the doctrines revealed to the Church. For, be it remarked, the Pope never does pretend to be the organ of a new revelation, or to have the right to declare of faith anything not contained, implicitly at least, in the original depositum of revealed truth. He claims only to declare wherein that depositum consists; to define its true meaning; and to draw up new formulas, as the exigencies of the case may require, against novel forms of error, *contra errores nascentes*.

Our correspondent will also notice how vague, how purposely obscure and indefinite, were the allegations made by the "learned lecturer."—He "spoke of one Gregory who permitted a man to marry," &c. Which Gregory? we ask, for were there many Gregories. He told his audience how "a Boniface"—which Boniface? again we ask, for there have been many Popes of that designation. And so with all the other instances of alleged misconduct, and erroneous doctrine.—Our lecturer has merely picked them up, second hand, out of some of the catch-peeny trash that

the Exeter Hall press circulates as Antidotes to Popery; no respectable Protestant historian publishes these silly stories over his own name; and it will be quite time enough for us to notice them seriously, when he who retails them shall condescend to particulars—to dates, and circumstances, and cite his authorities for his statements.

THE JANUARY FEVER.—Hares are said to go mad in the month of March. This may be a popular superstition; but what is more certain is, that what may be called "periodic insanity," breaks out in the month of January, amongst a great many of our Montreal Protestant fellow-citizens—otherwise and at other times, well behaved and amiable men; good neighbors, good fathers of families, good men of business, and in short the very last sort of persons in the world whom we should suspect of being subject to periodic hallucinations.

The periodicity of the disease is not its only, nor even its most marked characteristic. It is at least equally noteworthy for its virulence whilst it lasts, and the rapidity with which it runs its course. It generally breaks out on a Monday evening, in Great St. James Street, and in the vicinity of the Methodist chapel. It attacks people of both sexes indifferently, and of all ages; though old women, whether in or out of petticoats, are its favorite victims. It goes on intensifying in force, as the week advances, till on Thursday evening it attains its climax; but after this date it rapidly subsides again, so that by the beginning of the next week the traces of it are hardly to be discovered, even amongst those most severely attacked.

In many of its features this disease, which is in fact a kind of moral intoxication, presents some striking points of analogy with what is vulgarly known as the "blue devils." There is the same nervous excitement, the same morbid apprehension of some ill-defined, yet impending danger; the same outward and visible tokens of demoniacal possession. Its victims rave, and slobber; they are—if put upon platforms especially—subject to violent contortions, during which they oft foam at the mouth, and groan piteously; others, again, are comically affected, and the demon possessing them manifests itself in grotesque attitudes, and low buffoonery. We may remark *en passant*, that the tall, that the lean and spare of flesh are generally the subjects of the tragic manifestations; whilst the display of jocular madness is mostly abandoned to the fat, the corpulent and unctuous—to the spiritual Falstaffs of the comedy. It is a marvel to behold some of these "vessels" when under the influence of the spirit.

We said that the disease, or "January Fever," bears a close resemblance to what is known as the "blue devils," the chief difference betwixt the two being one of color. "January Fever" in short is an attack of the "Scarlet Devils;" the chief devil being a mythical old lady clad in red, with a preposterously developed hinder end, who is by our lunatic friends supposed to be devising all manner of evils and inflictions upon Canada. Just as in the "blue devils," or *deltirium tremens*, the patient fancies that he sees fiery eyed snakes, and ferocious bulls about to spring upon him, and devour him, so do those suffering under a smart attack of the "Red Devils" imagine that they see themselves and their friends about to be swallowed up alive by a dreadful monster called "Popery," or the "Scarlet Woman;" with which they are called upon to wage immediate, and active war.

Luckily however the last named disease is short lived. It never lasts beyond the week; and at its close our friends, for the most part perfectly comatose, return to their stores and to their merchandise, to their account books and their ledgers, as if nothing had happened. Here and there exceptions are to be met with, pitiful cases in which the disease has become chronic, and baffles all the skill of the professors of the healing art. But these cases are rare and exceptional in Lower Canada; and we may safely say that the periodic January attack having passed away, our Protestant acquaintances become as amiable, and as friendly as ever, not only perfectly harmless, but kind and courteous, even to the dreaded Papists.

The Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Quebec met in this City on Wednesday last, for the transaction of important business.

The friends of Mgr. Larocque, will be happy to learn that since his release from the arduous duties of the Episcopate, his health has improved. His Lordship was in town on Sunday and Monday last.

We learn from the *Journal de Quebec* that Mr. Hugh Murray, nephew of His Lordship the Bishop of Kingston, and at present serving in a battalion of Pontifical Zouaves, has been lately promoted to the rank of sergeant. It is satisfactory to know that Canada furnishes her quota of brave soldiers to the most honorable service in the civilized world—that of the Sovereign Pontiff, menaced by the hordes of the Revolution.

A VERY PITIFUL LAMENT.—We find the following touching complaint of the disappearance of rum, in the columns of the *Montreal Daily News* of Saturday last:—
 "Good, honest, wholesome rum, upon which many an old toper got drunk, and persevered in getting drunk till he reached 80 years of age, is no longer known. We have in its stead cheap whiskey, that fills our lunatic asylums, burns the brain, shatters the intellect, and paralyzes the human body."

WELL DONE KINGSTON!—The Catholics of the diocese of Kingston, if not so numerous as in other parts of the Province, are second to none in their zeal for religion, and in true Christian charity—as may be seen from the subjoined documents. The first is a letter from the Bishop of Portland to His Lordship of Kingston, acknowledging the receipt of a sum of \$975 towards the rebuilding of the churches and chapels of Portland destroyed by the great fire of July last. In like manner the second document contains a report of the sums collected in the different Missions of the Diocese of Kingston for the relief of the sufferers by the terrible fire of October last at Quebec:—

Portland, Nov. 25th, 1866
 My Dear Lord—I have received by Express the package containing the balance of the sum of \$975.30 Canadian currency, collected in your Diocese by your Lordship's order, to enable me to restore the chapels and other religious institutions, destroyed in this city on the 11th of July last.

I am most grateful for your kindness in thus coming to the relief of my afflicted people; and in union with them I will ever appreciate the generosity of the Catholics of the Diocese of Kingston, who have answered so effectively the appeal which their worthy Prelate made in our behalf.

My Dear Lord, be pleased, to return to them and to their Pastors our heartfelt thanks; it is all that we can offer at present; while He for whose sake they have been charitable will not fail to bestow on them His abundant blessing.

Recommending myself and my charge to your pious prayers, I am most sincerely your friend and brother in Christ,
 † DAVID W. BACON,
 Bishop of Portland.

QUEBEC FUND.

The following sums, collected throughout the Missions in the Diocese of Kingston, have been sent to the Mayor of Quebec for the relief of the sufferers by fire:—

Kingston Cathedral.....	\$309 25
Wolfe Island.....	145 00
Marysville, Tyendinaga.....	71 00
Prescott.....	50 00
St. Andrew's.....	68 70
Dooro.....	40 80
Osoberg.....	66 00
Baily.....	30 00
Landay.....	70 00
Brockville.....	43 60
Trouton.....	68 30
Cornwall.....	29 97
Gananoque.....	22 25
Belleville.....	100 12
Picton.....	140 40
Peterboro'.....	87 00
Locheil.....	18 50
Alexandria.....	42 15
St. Raphael's.....	44 61
Kemptville.....	33 20
Smith's Falls.....	20 60
Perth.....	75 25
Ganden and Sheffield.....	50 00
Tyendinaga, (North).....	23 00
Port Hope.....	22 00
Westport.....	25 00
Williamstown.....	33 46
Total.....	\$1740 48

Whilst upon this subject we may be permitted to express our regret at the carping tone adopted by some of our contemporaries towards the administrators of the Quebec Relief Fund. Their task is a very thankless one, at best—and a very difficult one; and as they are but men, it is not wonderful that errors of judgment should be imputed to them. But it is ungenerous to attempt to add to their difficulties by magnifying every error which they may have made, or which their censurers may think that they have made—and after all their censurers are not infallible: but it is impolitic, and cruel to the poor, to attempt to increase those difficulties, and thereby render the task of properly administering the Quebec Relief Fund still more arduous. Rather should every good citizen try to assist the administrators of that Fund in their difficult task, and to lighten their labors; and if he sees, or fancies that he sees, any thing amiss, to point it out temperately and in the spirit of Christian charity. In due time the accounts of the Committee will be made public, and they will then be the subject of legitimate criticism; but in the meantime it is very unjust to discuss its proceedings from a political, or what is called "sectarian" point of view. Let us give its members credit for being honest, even if fallible men, doing their best to solve a very difficult and intricate problem.

Our readers will hear with sorrow, of the death of that excellent and much loved Priest, the Reverend M. Lafrance of St. Hyacinthe.—For many years he labored as a parish priest in the diocese of Montreal, and by his parishioners his name will long be remembered with affection. May his soul, through the mercy of God, repose in peace.

GAVAZZI.—Our old acquaintance GAVAZZI is missing, and his friends—creditors perhaps—are in a state of great uneasiness about him. So we gather from a paragraph which we clip from the *Toronto Globe*:—

"The *Birmingham Gazette* says that Father Gavazzi who resided in that town for some time past, has disappeared in a mysterious manner."

The same journal hopes that the missing man has not been captured by the Jesuits. We would suggest that diligent and close search for him be made by the police in the groggeries, and houses of debauch. Probably some tidings of him may be there obtained; for certainly it is to such places that we should most naturally direct our attention were we in quest of a missing "converted priest," as the fitting or congenial *habitat* of the animal.

The recent elections in Prince Edward resulted in the triumph of the Liberal party who are now in a majority in the Legislative council.

PROFESSIONS.—On Thursday, 3rd inst., the following young Ladies made profession of religion at the Grey Nunnery of this City.

- Sister Eliza Desaulniers.
 " Zoe Mongeon, in religion Sœur Ste. Jean.
 " Helene Catherine Quinn.
 " Marguerite Gratton.
 " Rose de Lima Renaud.

The Very Reverend M. Rayle, Superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, officiated, assisted by the Reverend M. Bonissant, also of the Seminary.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY CONCERT.—This Annual Festival of the Irish National Society came off with great success on the evening of Wednesday last, in the City Concert Hall. Upwards of Three thousand persons were present, and all were delighted with the music, dancing, and entertainments of the evening.

Shortly after 8 o'clock the President of the Society accompanied by the Presidents and office-bearers of the other National Societies of the City, by His Honor the Mayor and the *élite* of our citizens, made his appearance on the platform, behind which was visible the Banner of the Society, supported on either side by the British Ensign. The President then stood forward and delivered the Address of the evening as follows:—

As having the honor to occupy the distinguished position of President of this Society, it is my duty to thank you for your co-operation in the benevolent objects for which this entertainment is designed. (Cheers) It is a source of congratulation to every member of the Society that we should commence this year 1867 with such evident marks of encouragement as now surround us, and that our efforts for the relief of our less favored countrymen have been crowned with success. It gives me infinite pleasure to see so many of the sons and daughters of old Ireland gathered under one roof, who actuated by the same generous impulses, united in the same lofty hopes, influenced by the same kindly feelings, are united by the golden bond of Christian charity and fraternity. (Loud cheers) It gives us all pleasure to unite in a common work of benevolence. And why not? Are we not all branches of the same tree, enlightened by the same faith, and knowing each other as children of St. Patrick. (Loud applause.) These considerations should warn us against the dangers of national shipwreck incurred by disunion. United we stand divided we fall. United, the Irish, as they have shown, are capable of high achievements, and may I not for one of these results go to Victoria Square, and taking my stand on the foundation walls of St. Patrick's Hall say, how richly and abundantly blessed are we with this proof of what can be accomplished by a united and patriotic people. (Cheers) When completed it will be, except our churches, the proudest monument of Irish industry and perseverance on this Continent. (Loud and prolonged cheers) To one and all who are within reach of my voice this evening, I would say, ask yourselves, have you done your duty to St. Patrick's Hall, and united with the others in this good work. I would ask my fair country women to assist with our countrymen, by every means, upon their assisting in the erection of this noble monument. Let young girls refuse every offer, unless the sutor has qualified for the matrimonial position by subscribing his name on the stock book of the St. Patrick's Hall. (Loud laughter and applause.) Leaving this subject I beg to congratulate the Society at seeing so many of our Protestant fellow citizens present this evening. It is gratifying to mark the fraternal intercourse which exists and to acknowledge how we have learned to know and trust each other. It is our duty, high and low, rich and poor, to afford each other mutual encouragement and mutual support. Let our mission be to spread good will and kindly feelings among all classes. I would now call your attention to the respectable position occupied by St. Patrick's Society. It is the guardian of our national honour; it is, as such, the duty of every one of us to take an interest in it. But more than that,—its mission is one of true benevolence. It clothes the naked, it feeds the hungry; it keeps alive the sacred love of fatherland—a love which proves that the spirit of the Irish nation never dies. (Cheers) Ireland will rise in the scale of nations, notwithstanding the disadvantages with which it has had to contend, and take a position to which every honest and right thinking man believes her entitled. (Loud cheers.) Every Irishman should, then, enrol himself under the banner of St. Patrick's Society, and share in its good deeds. Already it has been largely indebted to our fair countrywomen, many of whom are now actively engaged in promoting its interests. May God bless them for their pious and patriotic labours. (Cheers) Nor must we forget to render thanks to Mr. Brydges and the officers of the Grand Trunk Railway Company for the assistance they have rendered at all times; nor to Mr. J. H. Daley, whose services have always been cheerfully given. Mr. Devlin, thanking the audience for their attention, sat down amid loud applause.

The programme was then proceeded with, the Band of the 25th opening with the Overture to *Zampa*. Miss Burns, with great beauty and effect, sang, "the Blind Girl to her harp," a very difficult piece of music. Mr. Hamall sang Dublin Bay in a very pleasing style, for which on being encored he gave "Pat Molloy," received with the greatest enthusiasm. The trio sung by Messrs. LaVoie, Camboe and N. Beaudry from William Tell was admirably rendered, as indeed were all the pieces, the choruses being very effective. Nor must we omit Professor Swift's readings which were given with great ability, his keen sense of humor in the trial scene from *Pickwick* calling forth hearty cheers and laughter. Mr. E. Woods, Musical Director, had great credit, and the accompaniments played by Mr. A. Meilleur showed him to be an adept in subordinating his own playing to the interests of the vocalist, a thing sometimes forgotten. After the Concert the floor was cleared, and dancing was kept up with much spirit to a reasonable hour.

PRESENTATION.—A very pleasing episode of the concert of the St. Patrick's Society on Wednesday evening was the presentation of a beautiful gold medal to Mr. Hamall, the well known talented singer of this city. A beautiful lyre is engraved on it and the following inscription:— "Presented to Mr. Hugh Hamall, by his friends and fellow-citizens, as a mark of honor due his superior talents as a balladist. Montreal, January 1867." Mr. Hamall has reason to be proud of the beautiful gift and of the appreciation in which he is held by his numerous friends.

ST. PATRICK'S HALL.—The room occupied by the St. Patrick's Society as its place of assembly, in Nordheimer's Buildings, was burnt on the morning of Monday last. We understand that all the Books and Records of the Society, as well as its splendid and costly Banners, were destroyed. The origin of the fire is as yet a mystery.