

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY THE PROPRIETOR,

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, August 18, 1876

ECCLIESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

August, 1876. Friday, 18—St. Hyacinth, Confessor. Saturday, 19—Fast. Of the Octave. Sunday, 20—ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.—St. Joachim, Confessor, Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Monday, 21—St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Widow. Tuesday, 22—Octave of the Assumption. SS. Timothy and others, Martyrs. Wednesday, 23—St. Philip Boniti, Confessor. Vigil of St. Bartholomew. Thursday, 24—ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE.

THE "TRUE WITNESS"—THE TEST OF TIME.

Our Twenty-Seventh Volume.

After twenty-six years of uninterrupted labor—years of many difficulties and some discouragements—in which private feeling had often to be sunk in the furtherance of public principle, and personal interests sacrificed for the general good, the True Witness enters this week on its Twenty-Seventh Volume.

There is no need that we should review our past in detail, or make promise for the future policy of the paper. The True Witness has borne that most searching of all ordeals "the test of time," and the best guarantee of, as it is indeed the most effective incentive, to continued effort in the same direction, is the continued and continuing support of our first patrons. Amongst our present supporters are many whose names appear on the subscription lists of our very first number, and who, for our twenty-six years of existence, have never withdrawn their allegiance from the paper or its principles; the children of these again, who had become familiarized with the name, as with a household word, have, in homes of their own, kept up the associations; whilst every day we add new names to our clientele, and new districts to our field of circulation; and thus, honored by the old support and encouraged by the new, we have only to say that gratitude for this patronage will be best evidenced by earnest desire and effort to deserve it.

There is, as we have said, no need to enter on review in detail of our past, but it may not be amiss to refer generally to the condition of things in Montreal—in indeed in the two Canadas—when such a journal as the True Witness became a necessity. Numerically strong the Catholics were nevertheless weak in influence; the Governmental system in great degree perhaps was in fault for this; in greater extent the prejudices of race, country and creed; English speaking Catholics—immigrants from the old countries and their descendants—were placed in especial disadvantage from the want of adequate representation at the press to voice their claims or defend their interests. Then as now there were journals ever ready to depreciate and condemn; to magnify indiscretion into crime; to manufacture complaint where no cause existed; to vilify our people and decry our creed; in a word, to make us feel that though we were in this country we were not of it, and that we should be bounteous in thanks even for the scantiest measure of toleration.

This is no fancy picture. Men—young men still—living to-day remember those times with pain and humiliation—not unmixed with pride at the zeal and energy that stepped into the breach to remove the reproach of unrepresentation from ourselves and defend our faith and its surroundings from the onslaughts of a common and not scrupulous enemy. To the late Mr. Clerk—the founder of the True Witness—was due the credit of the enterprise and the effort; it was vouchsafed to him to live to see the paper grow to be a power in the Dominion—to know that his project, launched under such adverse circumstances, had won the approval of the authorities of the Church—that he himself was honored by the appreciative love of the people for whom he labored; and if on entering on the twenty-seventh year our pride in results is damped by the bitter thought that since the beginning of our last volume the master hand that projected has been taken from the labor, we feel there is tribute to his memory in the undiminished influence of the undertaking that owes him parentage.

Other and sad calamities have within the year that is past come upon us; to these we need not particularly refer; they were of a character which forbids the comfort of forgetfulness—but we would not forget them if we could, for their remembrance is suggestive of prayer for the grand, great soul so suddenly snatched from his work of usefulness and love. These calamities have been survived too.—The True Witness is still a patent, let us hope a powerful fact; and if devotion to the sublime doctrine of our Holy Religion—a readiness to defend—not these doctrines for they need no defence of ours—but their ministers and exponents from the onslaughts of the enemy—if zeal in the service of our co-religionists of all nationalities, with a special and prayerful disposition to those of the Irish name and race, give us a claim to the distinction we may well assume it.

To labor then as we have commenced; to be true to our mission in season and out of season; to stand by our Church and sustain it; to be with our people and defend them; to be ever ready at the call of duty, no matter for the suggestions of self-interest; to be Catholic first, last and all the time, and Irish whenever the legitimate longings for native land call for sympathy and support. These are the main principles upon which we appeal to our old friends and solicit new; these the ideas that shall guide and influence the words and the works of

OUR TWENTY-SEVENTH VOLUME.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Reports from all parts of Ireland concur in apprehending that the prospects of farmers will be seriously affected by the prolonged heat. Fodder is scarce, and water in some of the districts cannot be had, as the wells are dried up. The potato crop is excellent, the best since the famine. The continuous heat has not been equalled since 1814.

The Univers of Paris has opened a subscription, under the title of "The permanent Subscription to the Catholic Electoral Union," destined to form a fund to defray the election expenses of all Catholic candidates in France. A committee has been formed for this purpose, and 16,000fr. have already been subscribed.

The National Zeitung asserts that the Emperors of Russia, Austria, and Germany, at their meeting at Reichstadt, concluded a secret understanding in case of Turkish victory or defeat. At Salzburg the Emperors agreed on the impossibility of maintaining a non-intervention policy considering the Turkish barbarities.

The Russian journal the Colos maintains that a revision of the Treaty of Paris is the only basis for the adjustment of the Eastern imbroglio.

President MacMahon has liberated 161 persons imprisoned for participation in outrages during the Commune troubles.

Thirty thousand Bulgarians, principally old men and women, it is stated have taken refuge in Servia. The atrocities committed in Bulgaria and Servia are reported as beyond description. Surgeons and officers are arriving at Belgrade from all countries.

A consultation of leading physicians has been held respecting the health of the Sultan of Turkey, in consequence of which the Sultan has expressed his willingness to abdicate, but upon the advice of the Ministers has determined to postpone his abdication until an armistice be concluded.

The latest news from the Newfoundland fishery is rather favorable. A change for the better took place at Green Bay, Bonavista Bay and Trinity. In St. John's the catch of the last few days has been better than for six weeks.

A despatch from Vienna to the London Standard says Prince Milan had a conference with the Austrian and English Consuls at Belgrade, and expressed a willingness to adjourn the war if England and Austria should support him in his negotiations for peace.

A despatch from London says that Disraeli has been raised to the Peerage, with the title of Lord Beaconsfield.

Although Disraeli has been elevated to the peerage he will remain Prime Minister. Sir Stafford Northcote will become leader of the House of Commons. It is the general impression that the Conservatives are weakened by the change, but Disraeli is physically unable to sustain the labor of leadership of the House.

Queen Victoria held Council at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, on Saturday. She delivered the seals of office of Lord Privy Seal to Disraeli, who took oath and kissed hands on appointment.

His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa left on Monday for a pastoral visit through the missionary district of Temiscamungue.

Cameron of Lochiel received a Highland welcome from his tenants the other day on the occasion of his home-coming with his young wife, Lady Margaret, daughter of the Duke of Buccleuch.

The report of the Chief of the Ottawa Fire Brigade shows that in the first six months of the present year, the loss by fires was \$8,215, on which there was insurance amounting to \$5,490.

The Turks are closing around the Servians, and all the available guns are being mounted on the fortress at Belgrade. Colonel Antitch has retreated to Ivaniaza, a place said to be surrounded by high hills, thus giving immense advantage to the Turks in affording excellent offensive positions.

Servia has pawned part of her crown jewels to Austria for 62,000 florins.

Prince Milan has declared his intention of continuing the war to the last extremity.

According to the latest advices received up to the time of going to press we learn that the Sultan of Turkey is daily sinking into a more confirmed state of melancholy madness.

The report of Terry's defeat of Sitting Bull has received confirmation, but the source of such information is said to be of doubtful authority.

A rumor is current that Lord Lytton will resign the Governor-Generalship of India next spring, to be succeeded by the Duke of Buckingham.

The military situation in Turkey appears to be materially unchanged, except that Osman Pasha's approach from Widdin is said to be opposed by Col. Bocker, commanding a detachment of the Servian forces.

A despatch from Victoria, V. I., states that a deputation waited upon Lord Dufferin there, and presented an address asking to be permitted through him to petition Her Majesty for secession from the Dominion of Canada, unless the Carnarvon terms were carried out in their entirety.

The French Assembly was prorogued sine die on Saturday evening by a decree of President MacMahon.

A verdict of wilful murder has been returned in the Bravo case, but by whose hand the verdict does not state.

We would inform our subscribers in Quebec that Messrs. James Murphy, and Martin Bannon, will act as Agents for the True Witness, for that city.

ASTHMA AND CATARRH.—See Dr. Langell's advt.

"AGGRESSIVE CATHOLICISM."

The intolerance of the New York Times—a paper said to be edited by an English Protestant in the English Protestant interest—is, judging by an extract forwarded us by a correspondent, becoming more manifest with time. We seldom see the paper; but strangely enough every copy upon which we lay hand proves that the Irish are obnoxious to the tender sensibilities of our contemporary, and that when Irishry and Catholicism are linked together, exhibiting the amazing spread of both, the editor loses all patience and forgets his politeness. We shall not easily forget the attention paid to our local affairs during the exciting events of the close of last year—how the bile of the said editor was stirred up, and how he fulminated not only his own thunder but permitted the old woman of both sexes to use his columns for acrimonious abuse of those who, swayed by conscience, upheld their principles. A St. Patrick's Day procession in the Empire City—when the mere Irish dare to offend Protestant prejudices by duly honoring the festival of the patron Saint of Ireland—is a nuisance not to be tolerated. But beyond and before all, in the horrid-stricken gaze of the Times, is the onward stride—"the aggressive demonstrativeness," as our contemporary hath it—of the Catholic Church in America. One would suppose that the Times had been borrowing a leaf from the book of its near neighbor of Spruce street, the terms are so choice and the reasoning so Christian, or that it drew a portion of its inspiration from our own St. James street, the brotherly love is so apparent.

The new Cathedral of New York, that is progressively raising its head to heaven a monument of the piety of the Irish race, and foremost in grandeur and beauty amongst the modern ecclesiastical edifices of the world, seems to constitute the crowning abomination in the eye of journalistic bigotry. What! "occupy the best part of the city with a mere Mass House"—"permit priestly corporations to acquire real property without limit"—"give wings to the aggressions of Popery and where will the flight terminate?" Intolerable,—cannot be borne; the assumption and the acquisition are alike abhorrent to Protestant instincts and puritanical pietism; the injustice is too patent to be tamely submitted to—and so proceeds the protest in a style and with a vehemence which would put our own "only religious daily" to the blush.—But, easy good master Times. There is a little island beyond the Atlantic in which, if you had been an observant journalist when at home, you would have witnessed in an exaggerated form "at 'other side'" all the evils which you suppose to exist in America. You would have seen or heard of the "Times Massacres," and the "Minister's Money" exactions; and the injustice of a people being forced at the point of the bayonet to the support of clergymen in whose teachings they did not believe.—to the sustentation of a Church which was not the church of their faith or their affections.—You would have known that, all this time, insult and contumely accompanied the exactions; and that amongst the foremost maligners of the Irish farmer, and peasant and trader were those who lived in luxury on a "tenth part" of the products of their toil of hand or sweat of brow. Now then, for the complained of "acquisition of Real Property," has the Times forgotten or wilfully overlooked the vast territorial "acquisitions" of Trinity College, Dublin—a great "ecclesiastical corporation" or regarded as too insignificant to remember the innumerable Glebe Lands, and Benefice Properties and Presentation Rights—all so many "priestly assumptions."—We would in all courtesy suggest to the Times—and to its congeners at this side of the Border—that when next they take the "fit" of assuming a dictatorship in Catholic affairs a little reflection on these facts which follow could do no harm—viz, that Catholics on this Continent do not exact, and have not exacted tithes on Protestants; that they have not ground Protestants to the dust in order that their priests may roll about in gilded chariots and dwell in magnificent mansions; that if they seek to acquire real property they do so with funds not raised by process of legal tyranny, and that if they erect, in aggressiveness of Catholicism, Churches "to the greater glory of God" not a trowel of mortar in any has been moistened by tears wrung from the widow or the orphan—not a stone in the edifice represents the daily bread of the poor.

We feel we are at fault in attaching so much importance to the bigotted outpourings of these evangelical journals at home and abroad; but we cannot help it; it is said to find in this enlightened age the old leaven of Know-Nothing intolerance again beginning to work. It never worked for good and thank Providence, here at least in this Dominion cannot now work for ill. The Irish people will outlive the malevolent burlesques of a hostile press; the Catholic Church will go on advancing and to advance notwithstanding the poisoned outpourings of press platform and pulpit.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

Thoroughly versed as the great "powers" of Europe may be on the craft of diplomacy the war in the Turkish provinces is steadily drifting beyond the control of diplomatic finesse. It is no longer amenable to that mode of treatment. There are givings out that the Servian effort has collapsed. This may be so; though at this distance there are visible signs of unmistakable vitality. But Servia beaten by the Turks or Servia successful in her resistance—either way the "powers" will be compelled to take some other course than that they are now holding.

The Moslem rule is an anomaly in civilized Europe, too gross to be tolerated in the face of the almost universal sentiment against it. It is a rule built upon the Koran—the rule of a fiercely fanatical sect, whose votaries are actuated by the hatred of race as well as religion, and by the insolence of the minority who are conquerors over the majority who belong among the vanquished. Excluding Roumania and Servia which have nearly six millions of people more or less indirectly subject to the Moslem Government,—there are about eight and a half millions of people in European Turkey of whom but three and three quarter millions are Turks. Nearly all the others are Christians, mostly

of the Greek Church; and they are constant sufferers from ruinous political misrule and Mohammedan fanaticism. If the "powers" had kept their hands off, these people could have freed themselves long ago. The oppressions they have to bear have become intolerable. It is patent to all but the "powers" that they must have quick relief, and that can only come by the cessation of Moslem rule in Europe. Russia, Germany and Austria—and even England—are playing their diplomatic games each for its own advantage—and are playing them as skillfully as the difficult nature of the case will admit. But they are bound to fall before the "logic of events." The Servian war may collapse; but the other irresistible war of public opinion against the monstrous anomaly of Turkish rule in Europe will go on. They are only postponing the inevitable day—and postponing it to the sore cost of the oppressed people of the misgoverned provinces.

THE LEGAL LORE OF "THE WITNESS."

In a recent issue we pointed out to our readers in a very brief manner, the distinction betwixt liberality in a Catholic sense and liberalism as understood in other circles. We then applied the test of actual facts and figures and took as our book of reference the census tables of the Dominion of Canada. No one attempted to dispute our assertions. In fact we never anticipated that those who control the organs of public opinion in this Province or in any other section of the Dominion, and who desire to see our people live in peace and amity should inaugurate a discussion on the subject; but we did think that the special mouth-piece of the conventicle, which has all along been seeking to create strife in our midst, would utter some slight expression even though it should be a suppressed whimper on the occasion. But not one word—the great Daily with such religious proclivities has been forced to allow our allegations to go unchallenged. We showed that not only in the Government of the Dominion, but in the local Government as well, eye, even in the very heart of Catholicity, in the city of Montreal, the best and most lucrative and influential offices have been secured and are now held by non-Catholics, whilst the Protestant majority rules there is so to speak, no quarter for the Catholic. As matters now stand one would naturally suppose that even the most exacting of our separated brethren would feel satisfied—not so—with an indecency which nothing can account for but the wretched state of depravity into which men fall who live on the dissemination of rancour amongst our population. The Witness has undertaken to raise a question as to the right of interference on the part of the crown in the matter of the appointment of Catholic bishops in the Dominion! Whatever the prerogatives of Her Majesty may be no Catholic is likely to dispute them; but this is really too absurd. In fact the expenditure of so much legal lore on an obsolete subject is more amusing than dangerous. As Canadians we protest against the rascally onslaughts which are being made day by day on the Catholic priesthood and people of the Province by the fanatical sheet which pretends to speak in the name of the Protestant people; and we have no doubt but that those who know better will fail to discover any sympathy with the insane pretensions of our contemporary.

THEOLOGICAL MORALIS S. ALPHONSE COMPENDIUM—A KONINGS, CSS.R.

A copy of this valuable work is the most welcome book we have received for some time, and we are very thankful to Benziger Bros, New York and Cincinnati, for their favor. It is a carefully prepared Compendium of St. Liguori with copious notes by Father Konings for use in the United States and Canada, and copies of many important Decrees, Declarations and Instructions of the Holy See relating to the science of saving souls, unpublished in any other text book of Moral Theology we are acquainted with. Amongst the latter there are complete lists of the condemned propositions of Wickliff, Huss, Luther, Bains, the Jansenists, Quietists, and others. There are also replies to the most important questions submitted during late years to the Holy See, and dispersed through the volume are the principal Decrees of the last Plenary Council of Baltimore, each in its proper place, thus saving the student much trouble and time. Father Konings' notes; compiled from the most reliable local sources, are of great value to the director of souls in this country, and to those who aspire to that exalted and responsible position—to the Priest on the mission, to the Professor, and the young Seminary. It is not generally known that the "Sons of Temperance" are a secret society incurring the censure of the Church, and we beg to refer our good friends who are willing to fight hand-in-hand with the "Sons" against the demon Intemperance—we beg to refer them to page 800 of the Compendium, where they will find the Fili Temperantie classed with the Libere Muratoris or Freemasons, on the authority of a Reply received from the Congregatio S. Officii and promulgated by the Plenary Council of Baltimore.

The printing and binding are worthy of the old Publishing house of Donahoe, Boston, from whom Benziger Bros. have purchased the entire stock and stereotyped plates. The price, all things considered, is reasonable—\$5.00 per copy—and we have no doubt but that Konings Compendium will shortly be used as a text-book in our Seminaries and be an indispensable hand-book for reference to the clergy of the Union and the Dominion.

"A NEW CATHOLIC DAILY."

Our contemporary "the only religious daily" in its issue of Monday says:—Rev. Father Salmon of St. Gabriel Church last evening made an announcement that an Irish Catholic Daily paper was considered by the clergy to be a necessity in Montreal, and after passing an eulogy on Mr. Stephen J. Meany and his excellent management of the late Sun, stated that he was the proper man to conduct either the Sun, whose light should be made to shine afresh, or a new paper on the same principles. Of course every one will readily believe that the "other" Witness is anxious to have in the field a daily antidote to its daily poison. This is Chris-

tian Charity at all events. Whatever the motive the organ of evangelism has with some slight inaccuracy managed to stumble on the truth in this regard. The Rev. Father Salmon, after Grand Mass, in his beautiful little church of St. Gabriel's did express himself in the manner indicated, with the addition that he represented the opinion and feeling of his Lordship the Bishop on the subject, and warmly recommended the project to his parishioners. Mr. Meany is somewhat reticent on the matter of his immediate intentions; he is determined to feel his way before committing himself to the risk of daily journalism; and he requests us to state that he proposes to visit the chief cities and towns of the Upper and Lower Provinces in furtherance of the newspaper idea; and is prepared to supplement the immediate object of his tour by "Lectures to the Irish People on Irish subjects." Communications from Irish Societies may be addressed to Mr. Meany, P. O., Drawer 393, Montreal.

ST. HUBERT.

The re-entrance of the Pupils of the Convent of St. Hubert will take place on September 4th. Undoubtedly the parents who have already experienced the advantages of this new institution will hasten to send back their daughters, it was the unanimous promise at the close of the examination.

The Convent is situated in one of the handsomest country places of the province, nine miles from Montreal.

The Convent is a beautiful three story building containing all the improvements of modern comfort. It is but fifteen acres from the Grand Trunk Railway station and a mile from Chambly railroad.

The Institution is conducted by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, a community of recent date, but that is called to play an active part in the annals of the religious houses of the country.

Conformably to the desires of His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal the most amiable simplicity reigns in the house.

All possible care is taken to give a solid education to the young ladies confided to the Directress of the Institution.

The English and French languages are carefully taught as well as all the branches of a superior education.

The pupils are besides initiated to the different occupations of domestic education.

The price of Board, Tuition, etc., for the scholastic year is but \$60. Impossible to find elsewhere a good education at such a low price.

The extra charges for music, drawing, etc., or for medical attendance are very moderate.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COLONNE FRANCAISE.

To the Editor of the True Witness. Mr. Editor,—There is a saying attributed to the celebrated Dr. Johnson, that next to an ardent lover he admired a good hater. I suppose it must have been a like sentiment in days gone by, that superinduced an unhealthy craving to peruse the egregious falsehoods, and often the filthy narratives that form the staple of the Religious Daily, now so wisely prohibited to all Catholics, and so justly ranked in the index of corrupting literature. But if there be any department of that ephemeral sheet more steeped in gall and bitterness than another, it certainly is the Colonne Francaise. By the merest accident, I have in my possession the number dated Aug. 5, and the old instinct reviving, I could not avoid taking a peep at my old acquaintance. The subject of his diatribe is the late melancholy accident at the cathedral. By implications he evidently lays the blame of the disaster at the door of His Lordship Bishop Bourget, who—he remarks—"has so overstocked his diocese with churches that the united funds of his diocese are unequal to defray the cost." One would naturally conclude that the bishop was better qualified to judge of the want and requirements of his flocks than any servile amanuensis of the devil. But I willingly concede to the Colonne that if all the churches contained within an area of three fourths of a square mile, commencing at Beaver Hall, including the Anglican Cathedral and other churches in the vicinity as far as Guy Street, were Catholic, under the episcopal jurisdiction of Bishop Bourget, professing one God, one Faith one Baptism as they ought to do,—then there might be some truth in the charge that the worthy bishop had overstocked the market, and that he had allowed his zeal to outrun his judgment.

It is written in an old book—"Who hath known the mind of the Lord, and who had been his counsellor." The answer to this question may be found in the Colonne Francaise under review. "The curse of God" it remarks "is upon the building. There were some indeed who regarded a previous disaster as a manifestation of the Divine wrath— one—two—three—next year it will be four, and the following five, if these works are not arrested." Thus you perceive Mr. Editor, that given the first term, the difference and the number of terms of this diabolical-arithmetical progression any school boy can calculate the sum of the catastrophe. As the scribe or amanuensis of the Colonne has a knack of winding up his contributions with a flourish from Holy Scripture, I suggest the following at his earliest convenience.

"A MAN THAT IS AN APOSTATE IS AN UNPROFITABLE MAN AND WALKETH WITH A PERVERSE MOUTH, WITH A WICKED HEART HE DEVISETH EVIL, AND AT ALL TIMES HE SOWETH DISCORD. Prov. vi. 12. 14. A. G. G.

"P. J. SMYTH AND HIS ASSAILANTS."

To the Editor of the True Witness. Degr Sir,—The subject of Ireland and the Irish, is one that has been so often dwelt upon, by orators, eloquent and otherwise; that it would be a difficult task, indeed, to say or write anything on the same theme that would savor of novelty. The Emerald Isle has been painted in various colors. By some, such as Moore,

"Rich and rare, were the gems, she wore" And by others, instance the late lamented Father Murphy, as "the grey hind, tear stained, anguish stricken Mater Dolorosa, the lone mother of many woes." But, it matters little in what garb she is presented to the mind's eye; it is not so much with Ireland, I have to do now, as with the Irish—and with one Irishman in particular. P. J. Smyth is a name that of late weeks has found a prominent place in journals, European and American. Our place in journals, European and American, are not, however, behind hand in Montreal papers, have not unfortunately been noticing the eloquent, though unfortunately too impulsive Irish patriot. The Star, in particular,