

The True Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 15.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

JUNE—1866.

Friday, 16—St. Gregory, VII., P. O.
Saturday, 17—St. J. Fr. Regis, C.
Sunday, 17—Fourth after Pentecost.
Monday, 18—St. Philip of N. O.
Tuesday, 19—St. Julianne de Falcon, V.
Wednesday, 20—St. Anne de M., V.
Thursday, 21—St. Louis de Gonzague, O.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The news by the last steamer would almost encourage us to entertain hopes that the peace of Europe might be preserved. A Congress is to be held, and to this proposal it would seem as if Austria had given in her adhesion. But a Congress implies the proposal, at least, of the cession of Venetia to Victor Emmanuel, and of this Austria must be aware; so that in accepting a Congress she virtually agrees to discuss the cession, and the terms of cession, of her Venetian Provinces.

How the Piedmontese Government will act is the question, for the Italian revolutionary party seem bent upon war at all hazards. The Elbe Duchies may be disposed of, but the real difficulty of the position is in Italy and the Revolution, of which movement Italy is to-day in the vanguard, as France was in '93. It is one consolation, however, to reflect that the finances of the robber-King are in a hopeless condition; that already a virtual act of bankruptcy or breach of faith with the public creditor has been perpetrated; and that the first shot fired may well be the signal for an uprising against the throne of Victor Emmanuel. In the South of Italy, too, war is looked forward to by the Neapolitans with hope rather than fear; for they look upon war as holding out to them the prospect of throwing off the alien yoke of Piedmont, of reconquering their distinctive nationality, and of recalling their legitimate sovereign. There is still a strong feeling of loyalty in Naples, which may be seen from the *Times*, not all the tyrannical acts of the Piedmontese can crush, or repress; and with war in the North of the Peninsula, there would probably burst out in the South, a war of loyalty and patriotism against the hated Piedmontese invader.

The disease amongst the cattle of Ireland is by some denied to be the rinderpest, but a malignant form of lung disease. This, we hope, may be true; for poor Ireland has suffered so many things, that a serious diminution in her stock of cattle would be almost a death blow to the returning prosperity of that long sorely tried country.

The steamer *Hibernian* with news to the 31st ult., was telegraphed on Sunday off Father Point. Little change in the state of European politics is to be reported. That there will be a Congress is likely: that it will be able to discover a satisfactory solution of the problem that it will be called upon to discuss, is highly improbable. Yet, as the doctor hopes so long as the patient breathes, we may still hope that in the resources of diplomacy some means of averting the menaced evil may yet be discovered. There was no further talk of the spread of rinderpest in Ireland. Some few arrests on a charge of Fenianism had been made in Dublin: in one particular instance the prisoners were arrested as accomplices in the escape of Stephens from jail. The commercial world was slowly beginning to recover from the effects of the panic. In the political world of England, the Reform Bill, and the probable fate of that wing of the measure which relates to a redistribution of seats, formed the chief topic of conversation. The opinion still prevailed that the Ministerial scheme would be carried, if carried at all, by a very small majority.

GIVE THEIR NAMES.—We see by our Upper Canada exchanges that when the news of the raid on Canada reached Chicago, fifty-six noble hearted young fellows, doing well in that city, threw up their appointments at once, and returned to Canada for the defence of their native land. Why are not the names of these fine fellows made public?

OPENING OF THE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.—On Friday afternoon, the Governor General proceeded in state to the new Parliament buildings, and opened the session with a speech from throne, from which we give that passage which alluded to the Fenian invasion of the Province, and the legislation thereby rendered necessary:

The threats and preparations for attack on Canada constantly and openly made by a body organized in the United States of America, and known as 'Fenians,' compelled me since Parliament rose, by the advice of my Ministers, to call out for active service a large portion of the Volunteer Militia of the Province. The spirit displayed by the people, and their ready response to my proclamation have received the well merited approval of Her Majesty's Government. The events which have occurred within the last few days afford additional proofs of the necessity for the precautionary measure adopted. The Province has been invaded by a lawless band of ruffians; but I congratulate the country that they were promptly confronted, and within 24 hours compelled to make a precipitate retreat. I deplore the loss of life and sufferings which have been entailed upon the gallant body of the Canadian Volunteers in the engagement which took place in repelling so promptly the invaders who had attacked the country; and I feel assured that you will not omit to alleviate, as far as may be in your power, the miseries so wantonly inflicted on many families. But while I grieve for their individual loss, I must congratulate the country that the first note of danger has shown that Canada possesses in her volunteers a body of men ready to peril their lives in defence of their Queen and country. The entire people have been thoroughly aroused by the recent occurrences, and it must now be apparent to all that the whole resources of the country, both in men and money, will at any moment be cheerfully given in repelling any invasion of their territory. In the measures of defence which I have been called upon to take I have received the unremitting support of the Lieut. Gen. commanding, and of Admiral Sir James Hope. It is also a source of unfeigned pleasure to me to acknowledge the gallant devotion displayed by the officers and men of Her Majesty's military and naval forces in Canada.

I am happy to be able to state that the President of the United States has issued a Proclamation declaring that serious infractions of the laws of that country have been and are being committed by evil disposed persons within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States, against the British possessions in North America, and requiring all the officers of his government to exert every effort for their repression. I trust that the course thus adopted will be long prevent this country from being subjected to further attacks from the citizens of a nation on terms of amity with Great Britain. The maintenance of the force on active duty, which the Government has been compelled to call out, has involved an expenditure to a large amount, which was not provided for by the votes of the last session. The accounts of the expenditure will be specially laid before you, and I feel confident that you will immediately pass a bill indemnifying the Government for this unavoidable departure from the provisions of the Audit Act. Recent occurrences show the necessity of extending to Lower Canada the Act Cap. 98, Consolidated Statutes for Upper Canada, to protect the inhabitants of this section of the province against lawless aggressions from the subjects of foreign countries at peace with Her Majesty.

It has also been necessary for the preservation of law and order to adopt a course similar to that taken in the present session of the Imperial Parliament for the temporary suspension of the writ of *Habeas Corpus*. I invite your immediate consideration of these necessary measures.

The Legislative Assembly having retired to their own Chamber, Att.-Gen. McDonald, moved the suspension of all the standing orders, and introduced a Bill for suspending the *Habeas Corpus* Act for one year. The Bill was at once carried through the three readings.

Att.-General Cartier then introduced a Bill for extending to Lower Canada the provisions of an Act applicable to the Upper Province, and having for its object the referring to Courts Martial, composed of militia officers, the cognisance of such offences as those of which the raiders have been guilty, and authorising the said tribunals to pass sentence of death. This very excellent measure was at once carried: and both being sent up to the Legislative Council were passed; and received His Excellency's assent. The Houses then adjourned to Monday, when His Excellency's speech was to be taken into consideration.

THE FENIAN RAID.—In our last we brought down our narrative to Wednesday forenoon, the time of our going to press. We intend to continue this course, giving day by day an account of the facts as they occurred, omitting of course, for the most part, the wild and unfounded rumors in circulation.

On Wednesday evening, Sweeney, the leader of the filibusters, was arrested by General Meade at St. Albans in virtue of the President's Proclamation. Sweeney offered no resistance.

On Thursday morning news arrived that a gang of Fenians, estimated at from 1,500 to 2,000 men, were advancing on the frontier near Franklin, and menacing the village of Frelighsburg, County of Missisquoi. The 7th Fusiliers, and a detachment of Volunteers, with Armstrong guns, were sent off to the front. News arrived in the course of Thursday afternoon of the arrest of Roberts at New York. On the same day H. M. S. Duncan and *Wolverine*, with reinforcements, passed Father Point. Throughout the day there was of course much excitement amongst our citizens, but no feeling of alarm or of inquietude as to the result. The only fear expressed was lest the horde of plunderers, and horse thieves should effect their escape without punishment. Many ill looking loafers too, with "gallows" legibly imprinted on their villainous countenances, who for some time had been hanging about, and sneaking round, skeddaddled across the frontier; alarmed no doubt for their personal safety by the assurance that the Parliament which was about to meet on Friday would at once take prompt and energetic measures for dealing with them, and with all spies and traitors who may be in our midst.

On Friday the news was confirmed that a lot

of raiders had come across the frontier in the vicinity of St. Armand and Frelighsburg, and were stealing property in all directions. From other parts of the frontier there were no reports of an actual invasion, but the Fenians were said to be mustering in force all along the lines.

On the same day Sweeney was brought up before U. S. Commissioner Hoyt at St. Albans, and was released on giving bail to the amount of \$20,000. A man calling himself Col. Mahan—all these jail birds take unto themselves military titles—was also at the same time held to bail for \$5,000. Other Fenian leaders were treated in a similar manner.

Among the rumors in circulation on Friday was one to the effect that the Fenians had fitted out and armed a paddle-wheel steamer, formerly a blockade runner, with which they had put to sea to intercept the Cunard weekly steamer; but this rumor has not been confirmed.

On Saturday, during the early part of the day, the Fenians who were a short distance across the frontier near Pigeon Hill and Frelighsburg, continued stealing in a most gallant and scientific manner. They stole sheep, pigs, horses, poultry, and everything they could lay their hands on, with an amount of skill that could only have been acquired by long practise. In the afternoon however their courage was cooled by the announcement of the approach of a body of regular troops and volunteers. These consisted of a detachment from the 60th rifles and the Guides, under Capt. D. L. Macdougall; and whilst the former bore down straight upon the marauders, the latter did their best to intercept their retreat to the U. States territory. The road by which the Guides advanced was barricaded; but clearing these obstacles, they made a dash on the raiders, who broke and fled with such speed that there was only time to shoot down two of them, and to make a few prisoners. Missisquoi was thus effectually cleared of the raiders. In Upper Canada during this time, though there was of course, much excitement, there were no violations of Canadian territory. The reception of the Fort Erie raiders has apparently given rise to considerable doubts as to the prudence of a repetition of the experiment.

Sunday seems to have passed off quietly, and the news arrived in town that Sweeney had recommended his friends to give up their arms to the U. States authorities; and that acting upon this suggestion, Spear or Spier—we are not certain as to the spelling of the man's name—had surrendered to General Meade of the U. States army. So ended the Fenian raid.

On Monday forenoon a lot of prisoners captured on Saturday afternoon at Pigeon Hill, were brought into town, and taken to jail under an escort.

Many of these prisoners were mere youngsters; foolish lads, led away by the representations of others—and for these striplings it is possible to entertain feelings akin to pity. To them a slight punishment should certainly be awarded; but it would perhaps be desirable in their case to consider how far their youth may not be permitted to plead in extenuation of their crimes.

But for the older prisoners, for men of mature age, this plea cannot be allowed. To them the full measure of the law should be meted out, and justice, swift, stern, and inexorable should in their case be enforced. Justice to Canadians, mercy to Canadians whom it is the duty of the Government to protect against thieves and murderers, both require this; and we hope that no maudlin philanthropy will be allowed to oppose obstacles to the carrying out of the laws which all civilized nations enforce, not from motives of vengeance, but as a measure of protection to their citizens.

They should be dealt with by military tribunals, not as soldiers, but as criminals, not as prisoners of war, but as thieves and felons of the vilest description: and by thus dealing with the more prominent, and from their age, the more responsible among them, it will be the more easy for the Executive to be indulgent towards those other prisoners, for whom their years and inexperience plead strongly, and in favor of leniency. The salutary discipline of the Reformatory Prison for a few years might in their case be deemed a sufficient expiation of the offences into which they have been seduced, partly by a boyish love of adventure, partly by the evil counsels of older heads.

Though many of the prisoners are said to be professing Catholics, this is by no means the case with all. Many of them are set down as Protestants of the Methodist persuasion; one as of "no religion;" and there is one man who describes himself as having been employed as a correspondent to the New York *Tribune*.

The killed of the Queen's Own were committed to the grave with all military honors.—The wounded have been carefully tended. This is no more than just; and we hope that Parliament will make a suitable provision for the widows and orphan children of these brave men who fell defending their country from invasion. We ask not of what church, or of what political party these men were. They died as brave men should die, doing their duty, and their names should be held in honor.

The eloquent and impassioned appeal of the Rev. Father Dowde, of St. Patrick's Church of this city, to his flock, on Sunday, the 3rd inst., when he exhorted them as men, when he reminded them of their duties as citizens, and as Christians, to stand up in defence of their hearths and altars, menaced by the Fenians from the United States, was but the faithful expression of the sentiments of all true Catholics, whether laymen or priests. Nor do we see how any one can doubt this. Who, in case of a successful invasion, in case of the conquest of this country, would be such sufferers as the Catholics? Who have better cause to be thankful to, and to shed their heart's blood in defence of, their Government than have the Catholics? Under the shadow of that Government we all alike, whether Protestant or Catholic, enjoy the fullest protection for our persons and our properties, and find the best and surest guarantees for our civil and religious liberties; whilst strange to say, yet not more strange than it is true, under no professedly Catholic Government in the world, does the Catholic Church enjoy such ample freedom, such full protection, as she does in Canada, beneath the shelter of a professedly Protestant Government. Not in Spain or Portugal, not in France or Belgium, or in any country in Europe or America, is the Church so perfectly free, and at the same time so influential, as she is in this portion of B. N. America.

And thus we owe, under God, not as some mendaciously pretend to our vicinity to the U. States; not to the indirect influence which democracy and republican institutions exercise over our affairs, but to the British Crown, but to the monarchical and aristocratic influences which our political connection with the British Empire brings to bear upon our internal affairs. Let us, we do not say compare, but contrast, the condition of Catholics in Canada with that of their co-religionists in the United States, and we shall soon be convinced of this simple fact. In the last named country, Catholics, in spite of their numbers, are still little better than Helots; in some parts, as in Missouri, a cruel Penal code is rigorously enforced against their clergy, and religious; and everywhere they are subjected to a tyrannical and demoralising system of State Schoolism, compared with which the State Churchism of Ireland is a harmless, just, and almost beneficent institution.

Another proof of our thesis may be found in the significant fact, that the worst enemies of the Catholic Church in Lower Canada, that is to say the *Rouges*, are all ardent admirers of the democratic system of Government; are all anxious, if not for immediate Annexation, for the assimilation of our social and political system to that which obtains on the other side of the lines; and in the same way we see that all the Annexationists, all the democrats in Lower Canada amongst French Canadians are *Rouges*; that is to say enemies of the Catholic Church, whose watchword is still that of the men of '89—*Ecrasez l'infame*.

Why is this? Because they know that so long as we maintain our Imperial connection, their hostile designs against the Church are impossible of execution; because in Annexation, and in the assimilation of our social system and political institutions to those of the Yankees, they foresee the overthrow of the influence of the Church; and the pillage of her property. This is why the *Rouges* are naturally attracted towards Washington, because the two great anti-Catholic Powers of the world at the present day, are—in the East, Russia; in the West, the U. States.

Our interests as Catholics are so obviously on the side of loyalty, and the maintenance of the Imperial connection, that it is scarce worth while to insist upon these things; nor should we do so, were it not that in some quarters we find a tendency to confound Irish Catholics with Fenians, as if there were some connection or sympathy, instead of an irreconcilable antagonism, betwixt them. A Fenian Catholic is a contradiction in terms; and the language of the universally respected Pastor of St. Patrick's Church, addressed by him on the most solemn occasion to his flock, should suffice to convince all who are not the victims of an invincible prejudice, that in the docility of Catholics in Canada to their spiritual teachers, the government will ever find the best guarantee for the loyalty of its Catholic subjects. Sweeney and Roberts, it should be borne in mind, are staunch Protestants, and the enemies of the Catholic Church.

On Sunday last the Reverend Father Dowd in the St. Patrick's Church addressed another eloquent appeal to the conscience of his hearers; and pointed out to them how absurd it was for any of them, who had all voluntarily made Canada their homes, to hesitate about taking the oath of allegiance when tendered to them by legitimate authority. The oath imposes no new obligations on him who takes it: for every man who accepts the protection of the laws of a country for his person and his property is, in conscience, bound in return to render prompt and cheerful allegiance to the government so protecting him, and on its part fulfilling all its duties towards its subjects. Now who can say that the Government of Canada

does not do this? and therefore, with a safe conscience every man may take the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign in whose name the Canadian Government is administered.

Would to God that instead of listening to the ravings of whiskey-inspired pot-house patriots, of bar room orators, of half educated charlatans, and perfidious schemers intent only upon their own sordid designs, our Irish Catholic friends would submit to be guided by their true friend; by the learned, by the honest, disinterested patriot priest whom they have over them for their Pastor. In love for, and affectionate remembrance of the land of his birth, and the land of his forefathers, he yields to no man in Ireland or in America: as a learned doctor in theology, none so competent as he, as an adviser on all points of conscience: as a priest, and pastor of Christ's flock no friend so disinterested. Surely men who call themselves Catholics, will not discard the wise, authoritative, and paternally affectionate counsels of such a friend as they have the privilege and happiness of possessing in their Pastor, for the sustian ravings of unprincipled demagogues, the bloated hauntings of corner groceries, whose breath, reeking with the foul fumes of rot gut whiskey is not more tainted than are their moral principles!

Who are our enemies? All, we answer, who throw obstacles in the way of the volunteer movement; all who withhold from the civil and military authorities a hearty support: and above all, all who attempt to sow the seeds of jealousy or suspicion betwixt Her Majesty's Catholic, and Her Majesty's Protestant, subjects in Canada.

Such fire-brands, if any such there be, should be noted, and held up to public execration, as the best allies of the thieves now menacing our farmers with pillage, our women with outrage, and our churches with desecration. Union, brotherly union betwixt men of all races and of all creeds, is the great duty of the hour, and shame on him who neglects or violates it. Let there be no taunts of disloyalty, no sarcasms, no boastings of the superior loyalty of this denomination of Canadian citizens, or of that—for in very truth, all good men, of all creeds, and of all origins, are, in the presence of a common danger, equally loyal, equally prepared to do their duty to God, and to their country. Happy for the latter will it be should the present disturbances have the effect—which they should have, and will have, if we are wise—of obliterating all memories of past discords; and of knitting together in firmest friendship the hearts of Catholics and of Protestants, by teaching them both how necessary they are in the hour of danger, to one another. There is one prayer in which we can both unite, "God save the Queen, and confound her enemies. Amen;" and all who with a clear conscience can utter this prayer and confession of faith, should be to one another as brothers.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.—On the 6th instant the President of the United States issued a Proclamation admonishing and warning the citizens of the United States against taking part in the Fenian raid, and authorising General Meade to employ the naval and military forces of the said United States, to prevent the carrying out of the designs of the filibusters.—What effect this tardy action will have remains yet to be seen.

NEUTRALITY.—In many of our United States, exchanges we find it argued that, as in the war between the Northern and the Southern States, Great Britain professed neutrality, so, in the matter of the Fenian raids upon Canada, the United States Government would be justified in observing a similar neutrality. Thus, blinded by their passions and prejudices, do bearded men give vent to nonsense for the uttering of which little boys at school should be whipped.

Neutrality implies three distinct parties; of whom two at least are engaged in war, and a third, perfectly distinct from both, remains neutral. Thus in the case of the late war on this Continent, there were the States of New York, Massachusetts, and others, on the one hand, engaged in war with the States of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and others, on the other hand; whilst Great Britain, the third party, unconnected with either, remained, or professed to remain, perfectly neutral betwixt them.

In the case of the raids with which we have to deal, we have, on the one hand, Canada, and on the other hand the Fenians. But the Fenians are citizens of the United States, either by birth or by adoption; so that the proposed neutrality of the United States in the present crisis comes to this: that the United States are to remain neutral as betwixt themselves, and the people of Canada—which is absurd. There is no analogy, however remote, betwixt the two cases, and neutrality is impossible to the United States, when its own citizens are assuming the functions of belligerents; for no Government can recognize its own citizens, resident on its own soil, and subject to its laws, as belligerents, unless it be also itself a belligerent.

The elections in New Brunswick have for the most part turned out in favor of the Quebec scheme of Union betwixt Canada, and the Lower Provinces.