The True Witness

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24.

CALENDAR. DECEMBER.

THURSDAY 25—Nativity of Gur Lord. Christmas Day. First Mass. Epist. Tit. ii. II-15; Gosp. Luke. ii. 1-14. Second Mass. Epist. Tit. iii. 4-7; Gosp. Luke ii. 15-20. Third Mass. Epist. Epist. Heb. i. 1-12; Gosp. John I. 1-14. FRIDAY 26—St. Stephen, First Martyr. SATURDAY II—St. John, Apostic and Evangelist

list. SUNDAY 28—Holy Innocents. Less. Apoc. xiv. 1-5; Gosp. Matt. ii. 13-18.
Monday 29-St. Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr.
TUESDAY 30-Of the Octave.
Wednesday 31-St. Sylvester, Pope and Con-

NOTICE.

fetsor.

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CHRISTMAS!

mas, our welcome, annual visitor, who covers supremacy between England and Russia. the land with gladness and says to the sad | Everyone is reading up the events of 1841 and sorrowful, "Cease your wailings for a short | and drawing a parallel between the situation space. I am Christmas, come to make you of the General Elphinstone of then, and the happy; be joyous for at least this one day and | General Roberts of now. Their positions with their thousand bells agitating the air tiger-like thirst, for their blood. The fearful with their tinkle, tinkle, jingle, jingle, over mistake made by the British from the first, the crisp, crackling snow of the Canadian notwithstanding that bitter experience should ground, and they see the large stores bril- have taught them different, was in imagining liantly dressed up and lighted, filled with that the Afghans were as easily dealt with as furred and ulstered customers, purchasing for the poor effeminate rice-eating millions their homes and little ones. All this creates of Madras and Bengal. They now realize bustle and excitement, and delights the heart | that it will take fifty thousand men to conof the golden youth. Then comes generous | quer Afghanistan, and at least half the num-Santa Claus to the still younger, and dis- | ber to hold it in permanence. The outside tributes Lis gifts with both hands. Santa world cannot judge very well of the present Claus, who is merely the Prime Minister of | military situation, owing to the extraordinary the Royal King Christmas himself, but who is precautions taken by Lord Beaconsfield more popular if possible than his master, against intelligence passing through the lines. whom he so much resembles, for he too is He may have thought the dribbling of news hoary and frosty and kindly, but mysterious now and again would lessen the public interto a degree. He enters while the little ones | est, and the complete subjugation of a counare softly sleeping, and leaving his treasures behind him departs as secretly, as noiselessly, dramatic effect if not suddenly announced. as mysteriously as he came. Blessings on Correspondents were therefore not permitted Santa Claus, and may a generation of men to accompany the invading army unless spring up like him, who will do good actions | they subjected themselves to military discipwithout ringing a bell on street corners, or line. They were to bear the rank of nonpublishing them in the newspapers, which commissioned officers, submit their reports to amounts to exactly the same thing. But here revision, and might be flogged and drummed we are growing cynical ourselves, for which out of the army like others of relative we deserve horsewhipping on Christmas Eve Turning from youth to age, let us observe old friends meet one another on the streets, and which shews that though he has been a mas and Happy New Year; the same to you and a great many of them." Are there not many of the men and women thus exchanging kindly greetings who throw retrospective glances and think of the friends who have gone forever? who linger in the memory of those they loved and wished a Merry shrouded in the graveyard with the stainless snow white and carpeted above them? While youth always looks forward, age sometimes glances backward. But here again we have stepped out of the Christmas track to moralize and indulge in melancholy, which is absolute high treason to the monarch of joyous festivity. But, leaving the worldly joys and sorrows attached to Christmas aside, and viewing it as a deeply religious festival, what memories does it not awaken in our hearts? Christmas, the anniversary of the most stuter its creation; it is the day on which our succor from Candahar, which is, no doubt, obtain something like a repeal of the Union Saviour, the Son of God and Second Person

of the Blessed Trinity, assumed human form,

sufferings and sorrows of the poor among whom he sojourned for thirty-three years. Rosary expresses it, "there was no room for says the Kilitary Bureau, plenty of canshepherd to whom the great event was first re- the sake of the galtant fellows the Man-God; we see the glorious star which by the brilliant charlatan who is their evil guarded the Eastern Kings until it rested genius, we hope this is true at all events, homage to the new-born King in offerings of emanates we are obliged to doubt. If Roberts gold and myrch and frankincense; we see actually has provisions enough he may be the sky ablaze with glory, and we hear the an- | able to hold out to Spring, if not he will have gelic hosts of Heaven sluging the joyous an- to make a dash through the besieging lines, them, "Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax | when, if victorious, he may reach Jellalabad, hominibus bonæ coluntatus." The Catholic and if unsuccessful he will be simply Church ushers in Christmas Bay with the annihilated. In either case an advance is solemn midnight Mass, and the bells of the out of the question, Eoberts and his army are different Churches, in unison, ring out a fighting for their precious lives. Taking for joyous peal to welcome the advent of the granted that the worst shall happen it time-honored anniversary, carrying the hearts | may be asked what next. The scenes of the of menalong with it until their beating seems | Indian mutiny may be repeated, and if to say, with the bells, "Glory be to God on so it will tax the might of Britain to high, and on earth peace to men of good will."

Christmas, then, is a day of happiness to those who can afford it, and, thank Heaven, they are the great majority in this land of Canada. Few familes here are too poor to purchase the Christmas turkey, or keep peninsula of Hindoostan. This is certainly the stove at red-heat to answer for the jolly Yule log of their ancestors WITNESS regularly should complain direct to in the ancient times. Still, we canour Office. By so doing the postal authorities can not shut our eyes to the fact that, after years of great depression, the gaunt shadows of which still linger as if reluctant in depart, poor people exist among us to whom Christmas brings not a dinner. It should be the pleasure as well as the duty of those who are in easy circumstances to make good this deficiency. There are thousands of poor children in our charitable institutions whom even Santa Claus forgets in his rapid rounds, children to whom a toy, be it ever so insignificant, would bring gladness for many days, children who have no parents, no relations, no friends, except the benefactors who think of them occasionally, and the guardians, who are themselves poor. Forget not the poor ye who have riches; remember the orphans, oh men and women of kindly hearts, and little ones of your own. We sincerely wish the readers of the TRUE WITNESS a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and many

The Situation in Afghanistan. The eyes of the world are at this moment turned towards Afghanistan, for it is thought, rightly or wrongly, that it will shortly be the Christmas is at hand, genial, merry Christ. army, to be followed by a struggle for Asiatic try never conquered before would lose its rank. Forbes refused to go out as correspondent subject to such degrading conditions, while they clasp hands exclaim "Merry Christ- | private soldier he possesses the instincts of a gentleman. Lord Beaconsfield may not be disappointed, for the news may any fine morning before the new year be of a character startling enough to create a profound sensasation throughout the British Empire. It is then extremely difficult to form an idea of the actual situation, for the absurd despatches Christmas a year ago, but who now sleep coming from army head-quarters of to-day are sure to be contradicted the day following. We know, however, that General Arbuthnot holds Jellalabad, Gough commands at Gundamack, while there is a British garrison also at Candahar. Jellalabad must be held above all things. It is half way between Peshawur and Cabul, and if taken by the Hill Tribes the last chance of Roberts is gone. He can, Gundamack, and, in fact, was on his way when he found himself brought to bay by the pendous event in the history of the world af- before Roberts. There is still less hope of favor of London and Liverpool. Let Parnell credit to Canadian enterprise. Readers of

ere this closely invested by the army

tional army, or, as the London Daily Telegraph innocently terms them, the rebels. Eoberts, Dwelling on this great act of mercy gives therefore, has to depend upon his own rebirth to boly and solema thought; our minds | sources, as, indeed, has each of his Lieutentravel back to the Nativity, and we see the ants as well. Macpherson, Massey, Baker Creater and Saviour of mankind an infant by- and himself has each in turn been defeated, ing in a manger, because, as the Catholic and he is now entrenched at Shirpur with, Him in the inns at Bethlehem;" we see the non and dive months' provisions. For vealed from on high visiting the birthplace of have been seat into this miserable rat trap over the manger; we observe them rendering | but considering the source whence the news bring a great rebellion in India to a successful termination. Fortune and blind chance may tire assisting British audacity and bravery, and if so, and if a rising be general, a month will sweep every white man off the taking a pessimist view of affairs, for there may be no mutiny; nay, more, it is yet possible that Roberts may, through one of those strokes of fate which comes because it is not expected, emerge from his perilous position. and thus restore British prestige once more on the continent of Asia. Even then there is Russia to meet in the spring, Gen. Alrahoff is in command of a powerful expedition marching on Merv, and the English papers say the capture of Merv will be a casus belli. All this is not pleasant. There is only one way to end it, and that is a change of Government in the formation of scientific frontiers no more than to a spirited foreign policy, and he would have no more objection to the Russians taking Merv than Disraeli had to their taking Khiva.

Ireland and its Friends.

The New York Herald, and papers on this side which follow that weathercock of public opinion in its somersaults and gyrations, afraid to say openly, "don't give any sympathy to the Irish," adopt the next best plan, and advise that they be given provisions, but no encouragement in their agitation. This is like giving a man charity, and refusing him the means of supporting himself without it. The amusing feature of this scene of a great catastrophe to a British is that the advice is given by those who entertain a foolish, but perhaps natural, prejudice against Ireland and the frish. Give them meal, cry those philantrophists, but let absenteeism still prevail, and let landlords be permitted to crush the people and regulate the rent. They seem to shut their eyes you may weep again to-morrow." "As for suggest a striking and threatening similarity, to the fact that if the land system was changed me," says the heavy, frosty, old holiday, with and if the finale be not the same it can there would be no periodical calls for charity. eighteen hundred and seventy-nine years on only be through a miracle or a supreme effort Mr. Parnell is hacking at the roots of the on his head, "I shall positively have no of genius. If Roberts possesses genius of a shameful, the tremendous evil which is altogether different, however, when a Catholic weeping. It is only the most flinty-hearted bigh military order he may escape with at corporate body, though a clergyman may be connected with it. We that the Irish people of this continent, and unprejudiced with wasting and lavishing the money have been gooded to madness by the content of the united shameful, the tremendous evil which is altogether different, however, when a Catholic kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, organ attacks a corporate body, though a clergyman may be connected with it. We that the Irish people of this continent, as well as the impartial and unprejudiced with wasting and lavishing the money endors of the united kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, such filth, such squalor, such misery of every kind to be seen, as are to be seen on Mr. O'Connell's estate, in the presence of his son, with wasting and lavishing the money endors of the united kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, such filth, such squalor, such misery of every kind to be seen, as are to be seen on Mr. O'Connell's estate, in the presence of his son, more where the united kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, continent, and the initial and unprejudiced with united kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, such filth, such squalor, such misery of every kind to be seen, as are to be seen on Mr. O'Connell's estate, in the presence of his son, with wasting and lavishing the money endown and the presence of the united kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, such filth. We cleare solemly, that in no part of the United kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, continent, and the presence of the united kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, continent, and the presence of the united kingdom is such neglected wretchedness, and it strikes us clergyman may be connected with it. We clergyman may be co ing with rapture, for in the Christmas times mercy, have been gonded to madness by the or an nationalities, will entirely agree they behold sleight rushing hither and thither afrocities of the favorers, and thirst, with a that his plan, though a radical one, is best adapted for saving the country. Parnell, in his | Church we are at a loss to discover. Our Ot- | before: "And are matters different with this speech at Birkenhead, declared he would first tawa contemporary will, therefore, have to class of agitators?" Poor, miserable nonentity! agitate a change in the land system and then try for Home Rule, or, perhaps, both at the same time. The former is the more urgent, but in the present state of the British Empire he can have almost anything he wants. It is to be presumed an Irish Legislature could deal with Irish land and Irish landlords, and if so, that we should hear no more of absenteeism, we should not again witness the spectacle of an impoverished peasantry and a wretched class of tenantfarmers toiling from the 1st of January to the 31st December in order that an English Duke who never trod the soil of Ireland may fatten and wrap himself up in purple. But we should see other changes. It is well known that Ireland for the most part, and the English aristocrats who hold land in Ireland: look to the crops for existence and rents. The crops are their only hope, and if they fail them a cry of distress is heard, and a fear of famine entertained. Failure occurs periodically, and, as a matter of course, famines. Wise editors and people who write letters to the people ask in astonishment why it is that when the crops fail in England and Scotland we do not hear of disturbance engendered by hunger. The answer is simple, they do not depend on the crops, but on commerce and manufactures. Ireland has little or no trade. In the seventeenth century a large woollen trade was growing up in Ireland, but the English Government asked the glorious and immortal Dutchman William to suppress it, and he cheerfully consented. While Ireland had a National Parliament from 1782 to the thrice accursed Union, her trade and manufactures increased to such an extent as to alarm the British Government and British merchants and manufacturers. Ireland is situated more advantageously than England the old works and the new. She great experience in the manufacture of organs therefore, expect no succor from there. Gough | possesses two of the finest harbors in is willing enough to reinforce his chief from the world, Cork and Waterford, but nevertheless these two ports have very little commerce, simply because they are neglected by Ghilzais, and may even fall a sacrifice the alien Government that rules Ireland, in

European civilication in millions of English workingmen and farm laborers, who in their turn will have to come across the ocean Heretofore their opinion of Ireland was tormed from the immigrants of the famine years, who delayed so long as they could, and then fled from their native country in their last and dire distress. The Irish in America then will welcome Charles Stuart Parnell, and look with suspicion upon those who asperse him and his motives. The same narrow-minded critics would malign our Saviour if he visited the sarth once more, and would abuse Ireland and the lrich under any shape. Truly the lot of the Irish patriot is hard; English ruling, malevolence, spite and bigotry have followed him over the earth, from the days of the Yankee amhassador, Rufus King, to the days of the English aristocracy loving son of the late Gordon Bennett.

Our Ottawa "Sympathizer." We regret being obliged to deprive the

Ottawa Herald of any little comfort it may

have given itself while laboring under the

delusion that the l'ost had, like itself, got

into difficulty with the ecclesiastical authori-

ties of the Catholic Church. Our contem-

porary is altogether mistaken. So far is the

Post from being "virtually at war with the

Church" that the Catholic clergy are in

sympathy with it in its agitation against

the School Commissioners, or more, correctly speaking, the agitation of the taxpayers, who view with honest indignation hundreds of thousands of their money equandered without benefit to the poor in whose behalf the tax was originally imposed. Our friend the Herald falls into the error common to anti-Catholic organs in thinking, or pretending to think, that the Catholic clergy would prevent poor people receiving an education. So contrary is this to the agents and rack rents. truth that those acquainted with the believe—that more has been done by Imperial real circumstances are aware that a large number of the children of poor England, for Gladstone is not committed to men have been gratuitiously educated by the priests in their schools and colleges who now occupy high positions in the different professions, though some of them are ungrateful enough to forget the source from which they have derived their present prosperity. Our contemporary ascribes the to the influence of the clergy, but this is another grand mistake. The great dailies of New York are as much Catholic as Protestant, tations, are themselves among the most noted and three of them are owned by Irish Catholics, while that element composes half the staff of the others. So it is with Chicago and the other great American cities. What gave journals like the Sun and Post a raison Tetre was the existence in Montreal of such pronounced anti-Catholic journals in a Catholic city as our esteemed contemporary the Witness and our Craig street ingly asserts that of those who have ever led friend. If the Post imagined it knew more about theology than the Catholic hierarchy and clergy, and presumed to criticise the discipline and doctrine of the Church, if, in a word, the Post became infidel and succeed at Christianity, it could scarcely expect any quarter from its authorized teachers -the Catholic priests and bishops. It is all over England, Wales, and Ireland, and we trusted to them for educational purposes, but what that has to do with the censures of the look elsewhere for consolation and companionship in the troubles It has brought the glorious services that he has rendered down upon its head. Pere Rousselot challenged the statements of the Post as a But who formed the above "Commission?" School Commissioner, and not as a priest, and the best evidence of this is that he threatens to bring an action for libel, thus appealing to the law, and not to the ecclesiastical

> Is the British Government does not succeed in conquering Afghanistan, it has at least the satisfaction of being able to send an Irish tenant farmer to jail for five years for knocking down a lord. It is a beautiful theory that all men are equal in the eyes of British law, but it is scarcely carried into practice. If Michael O'Shea had knocked down John Murphy or some discontented brother tenant, he would be fined ten shillings, but Lord Fermov-Oh! that is quite a different thing, you know.

> HIS GRACE Archbishop Lynch has returned from his European tour with renewed health, vigor and intellect. He has attentively studied the affairs of Ireland, and has already given some of his views as to the best means of ameliorating the condition of its people. Both clergy and laity of Toronto have given His Grace an enthusiastic reception, and all creeds and classes are glad to see the venerable prelate in their mid-t once more.

ORGANS.-The Dominion Organ Company. of Bowmanville, Ont., has entrusted their general agency for the Province of Quebec to Mr. L. E. N. Pratte, whose show rooms are very appropriately located in the commodious music store of Mr. A. J. Boucher, No. 280 Notre Dame street. The show rooms are large and well stocked with the Dominion organs, suitable for family or chapel service, and ranging in price from \$85 to \$1,200. These instruments have been manufactured from the best materials, and with the greatest care, under the personal supervision of meman entrepot of the commerce of bers of the Dominion Organ Company, whose in the United States is a good guarantee of their merits. These organs have taken gold medals, diplomas and first prizes wherever they have been exhibited, including Paris, France; the Centennial, Philadelphia; Sydney, Australia; and Toronto—a still greater proof of their superiority, and is a the Post or True Witness in want of a good organ would do well to place themselves in communication with Mr. Pratte, who will be and we shall hear no more of Irish famines, which left Herat three weeks ago. But even | the famines and the immigration will be then | able to accommodate them with a suitable and, for the salvation of the souls of men, if it were not so, Ghuzni blocks the way, and confined to England, and the people of instrument, and guarantee it for at least five rafters and beams suggested the presence of consented to live on the earth and share the this latter place is in the bands of the Na- this continent will see another type of | years.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Position of Ireland.

To the Editor of the Post and True Witness. Sir,-A scribbler, signing himself "Observer." has made use of the columns of the Gazette to slander the memory of Ireland's best and truest son-the great Dan O'Connelland to throw cold water on the ardor of those who now wish to come to the relief of their famine-stricken countrymen. He gives vent to his Celto-phobia in a series of questions, which we apologize for inflicting on your readers, with the answers that suggest them. selves.

"1. Are not many families in England and Scotland, and in as great proportions as those in Ireland, suffering from the same cause? And if so, why is there not an equal stir for relief for such as for those of the sister Isle ?"

There is not half the suffering in England and Scotland that there is in Ireland to-day. But even if there was, it would soon be relieved by the Imperial Ministers, who believe, in the words of Shakespeare, slightly altered, that one "touch of religion makes us wondrous kind." The great majority, unfortunately, of the people both in England and Scotland, and all the Rulers of the Queen's treasures (Pinafore) dig with the same foot," that there need be no fear of a severe famine in those two favored countries if the whole wealth of the Empire can help it. Oh, no-"the devil's always good to his own," and is sure to watch over their wants.

" 2. If relief is called, and properly, for those in Ireland now suffering from poverty and want, pray how is this owing to the disaster of the landlordism in Ireland, as being so different from that in England and Scotland, and of which we now are hearing so much?"

The failure of the crops in Ireland, the cause of the existing misery and poverty in that island, is intensified by the odlous system of landlordism, that curses, and has long cursed, its inhabitants—a system unknown either in England or Scotland. I allude to absenteeism and the consequent existence of the notorious "Crow-bar Brigade," unscrupulous landlord

legislation to meet the case (the wishes) of tenants as against their landlords in Ireland than in either England or Scotland, then how is it that all the cry for still further legislative interposition, and that to the actual despoiling of the landlords, comes from Ireland

The answer or answers to the foregoing are sufficiently given in my reply to "Observer's" first and second questions.

"4. Again, I ask, why is it that the agitaabsence of Catholic daily papers in the States | tion now, as that in former years, is all against landlords in general, and the Government in particular, when certain persons, not only joining in but actually leading such agiand reprehensible in their conduct towards their tenants; and yet against such not a voice is or has been raised; nay, but that such are actually lauded to the skies as the benefactors of their people?"

He more explicit, please; who are those "actually leading such agitations" (for redress of tenant grievances in Ireland)? But we are not kept long in doubt as to the drift of "Observer's" last query, for he unblush-"such agitations," pre-eminent "for the most noted and reprehensible conduct towards tenants, stands the great Daniel O'Connell!" Indeed! And where is the proof, "Mr. Observer?" Why, of course, " in the report of an English Commissioner, found in the London Times for December 1845, in which is the following declaration :-- "

"We have," say the Commissioners, "been eclare solemly, that in no part of the United

the air of a man who had hit upon an idea that had never occurred to the mind of man you seek thus to belittle the genius of the and I hope something may be done; but all immortal Agitator? to decry his virtues and his down-trodden country and co-religionists? were they genuine friends of O'Connell? or was the "Commission" packed like Irish juries under the Jeffreys of other days? But the most contemptible feature in "Observer's" attack on Ireland's Emancipator is his desire to show him up in the light of a cruel landlord, which is the character that foreigners and the unwary generally would give him on a casual perusal of that part of "Observer's' quotation that tells of "the wretchedness." "filth" and "squalor" "seen on Mr. O'Connell's estate." But "Observer" must know what history relates, that Daniel O'Connell was the most indulgent of landlords, and that, if his estate was found in disorder, it was owing to two causes-firstly. to his detestation of "crc wbar brigadism," and, secondly, to his excessive love of country, in whose interests he was absorbed to the exclusion of his own, from the beginning to the end of his high, patriotic career. Then, shame on such mean, petty maligners as "Observer!" _vipers who make themselves ridiculous by biting at steel-"blatherskites," whose bigotry or prejudices blind them to the extent of impugning the sincerity and purity of the lives and motives of Ireland's tried and trusted sons-of her O'Connells and Par-NELLS-men whose aspirations for their country's weal are too exalted to be understood by Castlerenghs or their umbrw, who seek to expectorate their anti-Irish spleen, whether in the congenial columns of the Guzette or out

Montreal, December 22nd, 1879.

Destruction of Benning and Barsolon's

A GRAND CONTEST OF ELEMENTS.

Auction Warehouse and Stock-Hard. ships of the Firemen-Narrow Escapes

One of the largest fires which the city has sustained for some time past took place Sunday evening about half-past seven o'clock. At that hour an alarm sounded from box 9, and as it was repeated the men from all the stations were called to the scene of the conflagration. The warehouse of Benning & Barsalou's, auctioneers, on St. Peter street, was in flames, and anyone who gazed upon the building a few minutes after the arrival of the firemen could not but suppose that the entire block would fall a prey to the terrible element. The fierce glare of the fire through each window of the doomed structure would readily lead the imagination to picture

A MINIATURE HELL raging inside, while the dancing, leaping flames, and horrid crackling sound of the revelling demons

LAUGHING IN THEIR GLEE.

And yet the sight was a grand one. The water from the hose, clinging to every object upon which it was directed through the intense cold of the atmosphere, formed myriads of icicles, which, reflecting the light from the flames, formed a sublime picture, resembling on a giant scale, the fairy structures represented in Christmas pantomines. The street, and adjacent thoroughfares, were packed by human beings, who, spell-bound by the splendour of the spectacle, had partially lost their sensitiveness to the cold, and it was cold. The term seems but a lukewarm expression of the state of the weather. The street was covered with ice, formed from the water bursting from hydrant and hose; the burning building and adjacent structures. were enclosed in ice; there was

ICE IN THE VERY AIR,

was almost palpable to touch. Away up towards the sky the millions of flying sparks formed a fit and pretty canopy to the magnificent spectacle beneath. The firemen were both to be pitied and admired. Drenched by the falling water, their clothes instantly became a mass of ice, a transformation which made it extremely difficult for them to move, and four times a relief was formed in order that they might change their clothing. Their outer coats had actually to be

CUT FROM THEIR BODIES.

One of the hydrants was frozen, and frequently the water in its passage through the hose was changed into ice. But even under theseterribly discouraging circumstances the firemen lost none of the energy or courage which has ever distinguished them, and were it not for their herculean efforts the entire block would have been annihilated. Two men from No. 2 station, Mangan and Gilbert, had a

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

They had mounted a ladder to the third story, and as they reached the top it slid, and for a moment their instant death appeared inevitable. The ladder, being covered with ice, could not find a firm rest against the stone wall, and, therefore, as the men reached the top rungs it slipped away with gradually increasing velocity as the sliding continued. Fortunately, however, as the two men passed by a window in their sidelong descent, Mangan managed to grasp the ledge and hung on with a strength and tenacity inspired by a full sense of his extreme danger. They gained the ledge and descended by another ladder. The fire was confined to two upper storeys of the building in which it commenced. The origin of the disaster is unknown, but it is supposed that it must have started from the furnace in the basement, for it is the duty of the storeman to light on Sunday afternoon so that the building may be warm on Monday morning. The two upper flats were occupied by packing boxes, fancy toys, and dry goods, and these were destroyed by fire, but in the lower flats the goods were only injured by water. The loss, which amounts to about \$15,000 is fully covered by insurance in the Royal Canadian, Citizens, Royal, and Lancashire Companies. The building is the property of Dr. Fisher's estate.

AN ACCIDENT.

During the progress of the fire the horses attached to the Skinner Ladder waggon became tired of waiting in the cold, and started on a gallop homeward, reaching the station before they were again secured.

The amount of damage sustained cannot be ascertained at present, but is exceedingly heavy. The stock and premises are insured to the amount of \$64,000 in the Royal, of England, Royal Canadian, Lancashire and Citizens, Insurance Companies.

Mr. Bright on Irish Affairs.

Mr. John Bright, M.P., has addressed the following interesting letter to Mr. John George MacCarthy, M.P. :-"ONE ASH, BOCHDALE

December 1, 1879.

" My DEAR SIR,-I wish I knew enough of your plan to be able to express my opinion upon it; but I do not, and I am unwilling to take the responsibility of urging the Government to some great scheme of expenditure, of which I cannot see the end or the result. What you have written seems to me most worthy of consideration by the Government, administrations are afraid of touching the proprietors of land, and the "rights of property" are, I fear, deemed more sacred than the comfort, and even the lives of the people. If the landowners are in favor of extensive schemes of drainage, then there would be no difficulty in passing them through Parliament, or in forming a commission to put them into execution.

"I am afraid anything that can be done now will be of little avail against the threatened suffering, but your whole Land question requires to be dealt with by a Government strong in Parliament, and not less strong in sympathy with the Irish people. I think there is nothing which is possible, and which it would be wise to do, that might not be done for Ireland, if her representatives in Parliament would unite with the Liberal party in a combined and honest action for the real benefit of their country. Whether such union will ever come, I know not; without it I fear your country and mine may suffer a long spell of the rule of the party which now directs the destiny of both.

I am, very truly yours, JOHN BRIGHT. John George MacCarty, Esq., M.P., Riverview, Cork.

A COUGH, COLD, OR SORE THROAT requires immediate attention, as neglect oftentimes results in some incurable Lung Disease. Brown's Bronchial Troches" will almost invariably give relief.

AN EMPTY HOUSE IS BETTER THAN a bad tenant, is exemplified in the case of worms, which afflict so many people. The surest and swiftest means of sending out such unwelcome tenants, is to serve them with a writ in the shape of BROWN'S VERMIFUGE COMFITS or Worm Lozenges. Only 25 cents.

IF LIFE AND HEALTH CAN BE ESTImated by dollars and cents, MRS. WIN-SLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, for all the diseases with which children are afflicted, is worth its weight in gold. It relieves the child from pain, invigorates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, and carries the infant safely through the critical period of teeth-

SOME ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY SUBject to bilious colic, which is one of the most excruciating painful diseases. Such should keep near them, ready for any emergency, BROWN'S HOUSEHOLD PANACEA and Family Liniment. Following directions, the pain will be soon assuaged, and danger avoided. Try it.

A NEVER-FAILING REMEDY for Bilious and Liver complaints, Indigestion, Wind, Spasms, Giddiness of the eyes, Habitual Costiveness, &c., is Doctor HARVEY'S ANTI-BILIOUS AND PURGATIVE PRIES, containing neither mercury or calomel in any form, mild in their operation, they create appetite and strengthen the whole nervous system.