

The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE. A WEEKLY EDITION OF THE "EVENING POST"

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24.

CALENDAR. THURSDAY 25—Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day. First Mass, Epist. Tit. II. 12-15; Gosp. Luke, II. 1-14. Second Mass, Epist. Tit. III. 1-7; Gosp. Luke II. 15-20. Third Mass, Epist. Heb. I. 1-12; Gosp. John I. 1-14.

NOTICE.

Subscribers should notice the date on the label attached to their paper, as it marks the expiration of their term of subscription.

Teachers' Attention! We are desirous of obtaining the name and post-office address of every Catholic lady and gentleman school teacher in each province of the Dominion and in Newfoundland.

Manitoba and British Columbia. We desire to engage the services of reliable and active agents in the interest of the Post and True Witness, in Manitoba and British Columbia, to whom we offer liberal terms.

CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is at hand, genial, merry Christmas, our welcome, annual visitor, who covers the land with gladness and says to the sad and sorrowful, "Cease your wallings for a short space. I am Christmas, come to make you happy; be joyous for at least this one day and you may weep again to-morrow."

sufferings and sorrows of the poor among whom he sojourned for thirty-three years. Dwelling on this great act of mercy gives birth to holy and solemn thought; our minds travel back to the Nativity, and we see the Creator and Saviour of mankind an infant lying in a manger, because, as the Catholic Rosary expresses it, "there was no room for Him in the inns at Bethlehem."

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 families here are too poor to purchase the Christmas turkey, or keep the stove at red-heat to answer for the jolly Yule log of their ancestors in the ancient times.

The Situation in Afghanistan.

The eyes of the world are this moment turned towards Afghanistan, for it is thought, rightly or wrongly, that it will shortly be the scene of a great catastrophe to a British army, to be followed by a struggle for Asiatic supremacy between England and Russia.

national army, or, as the London Daily Telegraph innocently terms them, the rebels. Roberts, therefore, has to depend upon his own resources, as, indeed, has each of his Lieutenants as well. Macpherson, Massey, Baker and himself has each in turn been defeated, and he is now entrenched at Shipur with the Military Bureau, plenty of cannon and six months' provisions.

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.

If 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 the law, but it is scarcely carried into practice.

European civilization in millions of English workmen and farm laborers, who in their turn will have to come across the ocean. Heretofore their opinion of Ireland was formed by 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.

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 Post had, like itself, got into difficulty with the ecclesiastical authorities of the Catholic Church.

A GRAND CONTEST OF ELEMENTS.

Montreal, December 22nd, 1870. Destruction of Henning and Barozon's Auction Warehouse and Stock-Exchange 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.

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'Connell—and to throw cold water on the ardor of those who now wish to come to the relief of their famine-stricken countrymen.

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 strif for relief for such as for those of the sister Isle?

2. If relief is called, and properly, for those in Ireland now suffering from party 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?

3. Am I right in believing—for so I do believe—that more has been done by Imperial 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 only?

4. Again, I ask, why is it that the agitation 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 agitations, are themselves among the most noted and reprehensible in their conduct towards their tenants; and yet against such a voice is or has been raised; nay, but that such are actually lauded to the skies as the benefactors of their people?

5. 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 unblushingly asserts that of those who have ever led "such agitations," pre-eminent "for the most noted and reprehensible conduct towards tenants, stands the great Daniel O'Connell!"

6. 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 all over England, Wales, and Ireland, and we declare solemnly, that in no part 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, Morris O'Connell."

7. "Observer" then asks triumphantly, with the air of a man who had hit upon an idea that had never occurred to the mind of man before: "And are matters different with this class of agitators? Poor, miserable wretches! you seek thus to belittle the genius of the immortal Agitator? To decry his virtues and the glorious services that he has rendered his down-trodden country and co-religionists?"

8. But who termed the above "Commission"? 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."

9. 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 a "cruel war 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!"

10. "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 PARNELLS—men whose aspirations for their country's weal are too exalted to be understood by Castlebrigs or their umbrs, who seek to expiate their anti-Irish spleen, whether in the congenial columns of the Gazette or out of it.

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LADYING 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 pantomimes.

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