

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

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MONTEAL, 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.

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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 wailings 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."

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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.

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.

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.

There is not half the suffering 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?

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 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 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. I am I regret to believe—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?

6. 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."

Montreal, December 22nd, 1870.

A GRAND CONTEST OF ELEMENTS.

Destruction of Henning and Barzon'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.

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.

which was almost palpable to the 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

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

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.

During the progress of the fire the horses attached to the Skinner Ladder wagon became attached 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.:

"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 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, and I hope something may be done; but all 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 is 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 MacCarthy, Esq., M.P., River-view, Cork.

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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 COMBITS or Worm Lozenges. Only 25 cents.

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