

The True Witness.

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.
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We beg to remind our Correspondents that no letters will be taken out of the Post-Office, unless prepaid.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JULY 15.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

The Conference is at an end, having done nothing. Great Britain must now either draw the sword for Denmark, or abandon the latter to her fate. When the *Asia* sailed, the more general opinion was that war was inevitable, but there were some still sanguine enough to believe in the possibility of peace being preserved.

The *Asia* brings us also the news that another plot, or attempt against the life of Napoleon had been detected and defeated. It is to be supposed that Mazzini, Garibaldi, & Co., are at the bottom of it, but as yet we have no details. It is reported that the Emperor of the French had given an interview to Mr. Slidell, Commissioner of the Confederate States; but we are not told whether this is to be accepted as an indication of the intention of the French Government to recognise the independence of the South.

Hostilities between the Prussians and Danes were about to recommence. The former were erecting batteries; and it was rumored, but not confirmed, that they had captured Alsen.

The plan of the Southerners is now developed. They have pushed forward a strong corps d'armee of from 20,000 to 30,000 men under Generals Ewell and Breckenridge, and are now menacing both Baltimore and Washington. It is thought that the effect of this demonstration will be to compel Grant to detach a portion of his troops from the attack on Richmond, and to send them North to the defence of the threatened points. The Confederates have in their front nothing but levies of raw militia, and a small body of troops doing garrison duty in Washington.

We have now full particulars of the action between the Confederate man-of-war *Alabama* and the *Kearsage*, in which the former was sunk. The Federal vessel was cruising off Cherbourg, within which port the *Alabama* was making good the necessary repairs; and Capt. Semmes of the Confederate Navy, having taken the precaution to place his most important papers and his chronometers in safety, went forth gallantly to meet his powerful adversary. But it soon appeared that he was fearfully over-matched.—The *Kearsage* was a vessel fitted to cope with one double the size of the *Alabama*, and with such tremendous odds against the latter, the result could not long be doubtful.

The action commenced at long ranges, but gradually the vessels closed to within about 400 or 500 yards. The heavy guns of the *Kearsage* firing shells, did immense execution upon her opponent; and the *Alabama*, after an action which she gallantly maintained for upwards of an hour, being in a sinking condition, was headed towards the shore in the hopes of giving her crew an opportunity of escaping.—The water gained on her rapidly, and she hauled down her colors; but still, according to Capt. Semmes' report, her adversary continued firing into her. At last down she went, and her officers and crew jumping into the sea were picked up, some by the boats of the *Kearsage*, others by the boats of the *Deerhound*, a yacht belonging to Mr. Lancaster, an English gentleman.—Amongst those rescued by the latter was Capt. Semmes, who was brought in safety to Southampton, and who it is expected will soon again be in command of another ship, fighting his country's battles.

We hope that there is some mistake about the report of the *Kearsage* having fired into the *Alabama* after the latter had struck her colors. We detest the cause in which the Federals are fighting; but it is but justice to them to say that they are as good and brave sailors as ever trod a plank; and we should regret to learn that they had been guilty of an act of which the vilest pirates would be ashamed. They fought their ship at all events skillfully and bravely; this much must be conceded to them.

As we go to press the news arrives that the Confederates had captured Washington by a coup de main. This is a mere rumor, and is, we fear, too good news to be true. It is certain however that the Confederates are in force in the vicinity of the City, that they have made great havoc of bridges, railroads, and property, and that, as a measure of legitimate retaliation for Yankee atrocities in the South, they have burned the house of the Governor of Maryland. The Confederate man-of-war *Florida* has made great captures of Yankee vessels, and the prospects are most cheering.

The Coroner's Inquest on the victims of the rail road disaster of 29th ult., has continued its investigations during the past week; but pending its verdict it would be indecorous for us to offer any remarks thereupon.

We copy from the *Globe* of the 1st July:—Hitherto, Canada, instead of being a united, has been a divided country. In the very means which were taken to bind the East and West together, the seeds of our present difficulties were laid. The sectional strife which has arisen was a natural outgrowth, irresistible, irrepressible. The two nationalities of the Province were brought into direct antagonism one with the other. The most distinct and opposite characteristics of the descendants of Britain and of France were compelled to strive for the mastery. Had the scheme of government under which we have lived been devised for the especial purpose of producing trouble and confusion, it could not have been more skillfully done. To get rid of the chains with which she was bound, Upper Canada has had to subordinate almost all other considerations. Not upon questions of internal economy has she had time to expend her strength. All has been concentrated in the one great effort to secure constitutional reform. On the other hand, Lower Canadians, deeming their political existence at stake, have pressed in everything to maintain the status quo. With little other thought than to this end have they legislated, intrigued, and ruled. Nothing have they left undone which could in their view, give strength to their position.

There can be no doubt that this state of matters was exceedingly detrimental to the interests of the country. Perhaps only one could have been worse, the continuation of the injustice against which Upper Canada strove. But let us hope that the time has now come when the causes which created the strife will be removed, and when Canadians, of whatever origin, will all be able to unite in seeking the common good. The people at large would hail such a consummation with the deepest satisfaction; but none among them with greater joy than the leaders of those party armies by whom the brunt of the conflict has been borne.—July 1st.

To every word that the *Globe* utters against the Legislative Union of the two Canadas, we can yield a cordial assent. The sectional strife complained of, and for which it is now proposed to find a remedy in a Federal Union!!!—is the necessary consequence of the iniquitous Legislative Union Act, the inevitable result of the blunder of binding, or of attempting to bind, together in one, those whom God Himself has made two. From such a Union nothing but strife, and ill-will could possibly proceed; and therefore did the people of Lower Canada protest against it energetically, though ineffectually from the beginning. Unfortunately the influence of Upper Canada was too powerful; and in the interests of that Province and with the express sanction of its Legislature, the injustice towards Lower Canada was consummated; and thus a degrading and iniquitous Union with an alien and hostile race was, at the point of the bayonet, imposed upon the people of the Eastern Province. In the words of Lord Ellenborough in the British House of Peers, "the Union of the two Canadian Provinces was imposed on one of them out of disbelief in the loyalty of a majority of its inhabitants; and was accepted by the people of the other, though aware of its injustice to their neighbors, and knowing that the consent of the latter had not been obtained, or even asked; the Upper Canadians thereby expecting to obtain fiscal advantages, and legislative supremacy to the detriment of a majority in the Lower Province."

In these terms did an English nobleman, of strong Conservative, or if you will, Tory, proclivities, describe the Union, and the means by which that iniquity was consummated; and strange to say, incredible indeed, were it not that the impudence of Clear-Grits knows no limits—the very men, who were the parties to that iniquity, for whose profit, and with whose consent it was consummated, now complain of the "injustice" thereby inflicted on them, and Upper Canada! The engineer, "hoist with his own petard," vilipends the poor creature salt-petre, and denounces as an agent of Satan the instrument by which he had hoped to accomplish the ruin of his weaker neighbor! We know not where in the records of the past to look for such an instance of pure unmitigated impudence as is to be found in the columns of the Upper Canadian press, when denouncing the "injustice" of that Union which they for their own base ends, cruelly imposed upon Lower Canada! The wolf reproaching the lamb for troubling the waters, for having persecuted him—the wolf's—sire, is a pleasant, perhaps rather exaggerated satire: but how tame does it not appear in presence of the reality?—how common-place and matter-of-fact, in contrast with the complaints of "injustice" uttered by the Upper Canadians against their victims of the Lower Province?—The powers of impudence and mendacity inherent in your Clear-Grit, or Protestant Reformer, transcend all that it has been given to the satirist or moralist to conceive.

Granted that, by the special interposition of Providence, the iniquitous designs of Upper Canadians upon Lower Canada have hitherto been frustrated, and their knavish tricks confounded; that they have as yet obtained neither those "fiscal advantages," nor that "legislative supremacy" for the sake of which they imposed their loathed Union on Lower Canada. But if this be an "injustice" to complain of, as well might the pick-pocket complain of having been unjustly treated by his victim, because in the latter's pocket which he had picked, he had not found the full amount that he had expected. We remember, indeed to have heard two old convicts in Australia condoling with one another over the great depreciation in the value of live stock; the one pointing out in melancholy accents to the other—"D—n it, Bill, if things go on much longer this here way, I'm blowed if

"Vide Garnett's History of Canada, iii. vol. c. iii."

cattle and horses will be worth the stealing."—But the wail of the *Globe* over the unprofitableness of that piece of iniquity the Union Act, and the whine of the Clear-Grits over the failure of their own measure, in so far as the degradation and spoliation of Lower Canada are concerned—are far more ridiculous than the lament of our old acquaintance "Red Jack" over the fall in the price of cattle, and the consequent stagnation in the thriving business. Our readers will, we trust, pardon us for introducing them to low company; but to find a parallel for the conduct of our Canadian Clear-Grits and Protestant Reformers, we must look amongst the convict classes, and professional criminals.

But, as we said, granted that the Union Act has failed to accomplish the end proposed by the Upper Canadians; that it has not given them either fiscal advantages or legislative supremacy over Lower Canada; and that therefore the people of Upper Canada are themselves anxious to undo their own work—is that any reason why we of Lower Canada should consent to exchange our present political condition for another, under which the enemies of our religion and of our race shall have it in their power to obtain that which they have hitherto vainly sought for in a Legislative Union? French Canadians should ask themselves this question; and should remember that in the present year of grace the Upper Canadians are animated by the same sentiments towards Lower Canada in agitating for Federal Union, as, according to the testimony of Lord Ellenborough, those by which they were animated when for their base purposes they imposed the Legislative Union of the Canadas upon the reluctant people of the Lower Province.

Cordially too do we agree with the *Globe* in the hope "that the time has now come when the causes which created the strife will be removed." The *Globe* itself indicates that cause as to be found,—

"in the very means which were taken to bind the East and West together the seeds of our present difficulties were laid."

What then, logically follows? To get rid of the effect you must first get rid of the cause.—That cause is the Legislative Union; and therefore the first, and essentially necessary step towards an entente cordiale is the repeal *pur et simple* of that impolitic, and, as towards Lower Canada, most iniquitous and unjust Union. Restore to each Province its Legislature and its autonomy: and then no doubt we shall be able to enter into such fiscal and commercial arrangements as shall be just, and mutually profitable, without other "joint authority" than our common Sovereign Queen Victoria.

The *Globe* already gives the summons to battle against the principle of separate, or denominational education in Canada. Mildly of course, at first; as he does not care to put on their guard those whom he intends to attack, and hopes to surprise; but still, in accents clear and perfectly intelligible to all who are accustomed to Clear-Grit tactics.

The occasion seized upon by the *Globe* was given by the Legislature just before it was prorogued. A sum of \$4,000 was granted to Trinity College, an Anglican educational establishment; and considering that other Colleges and educational institutions are also in the receipt of grants from the public purse, this was no more than our Anglican fellow-citizens had the right to expect. Hereupon, however, the *Globe* in great dudgeon comments as follows; and we beg of our readers carefully to note its words, as they more than dimly shadow forth the fate that is in store for the Catholic Separate Schools of Upper Canada:—

"As was very generally confessed on all sides the other evening, the system" (that of State aid to denominational institutions, or institutions in which positive religious instruction is given)—"is entirely wrong. The earliest opportunity should be taken to work a complete reform in this business. We fully recognise the duty of the country to sustain efficiently the public schools of the Province, from the lowest grade to the highest; there is no duty more important to the welfare of the people than that."—*Globe*.

Here we have the principle of Yankee State-Schoolism, against which for so many years the Catholic Clergy and laity of Canada have so resolutely contended, laid down in its broadest and most obnoxious form; and in the same paragraph the edifice of "Freedom of Education," is in the plainest terms menaced with destruction.—It is true that the *Globe* speaks more particularly of denominational or separate Colleges; but the same principle applies to schools as applies to Colleges; and the *Globe* admits that its design is to apply one rule to all the educational institutions "of the Province, from the lowest grade to the highest." This is no more than is consistent; for no plea can be urged why State aid in any form should be given to a separate or denominational school, and be withheld from the denominational or sectarian College. So the *Globe*, flushed with the prospect of a speedy and easy victory over Romanism and the separate schools of the "Dogans," as it calls Irish Catholics, thus divulges the tactics of its friends:—

"Can we not have from Parliament at its next Session, a thorough reform in respect to these sectarian grants? Judging by the tone of the recent debate, we should think that such a reform ought not to be difficult of attainment."—*Globe*.

Judging by the events which have lately oc-

curred, and from the prospects before us, we think that the reform sought for by the *Globe* and its friends is neither remote, nor difficult of attainment; and that the doom of all separate, or denominational, schools is already pronounced. At all events, if the Federation scheme be carried out, and whether Education be declared a matter of common or of particular interest, whether it be entrusted to Federal or to State legislation, the fate of Separate Schools in Upper Canada cannot be doubtful, and we shall be very lucky indeed if in Lower Canada we manage to escape the curse and disgrace of Yankee State-Schoolism. We may observe that the *Witness* follows in the wake of the *Globe*, and urges on a crusade against the Separate School system in the name of a "sound Protestant patriotism."

THE ONTARIO ELECTION.—Mr. McDougall, Clear-Grit Ministerialist, is opposed in the North Riding of Ontario, by Mr. Cameron of the Conservative Opposition. This gives rise to a great complication. If the Ministry support McDougall against Cameron, they break with the Conservative party, their friends and natural allies; if they side with Cameron, or even remain neutral, they expose themselves to suspicions of foul play as towards George Brown, and to the implied taunts of the *Globe* in the following article:—

We regret exceedingly to hear that Mr. Matthew O. Cameron has resolved to contest the North Riding of Ontario with Mr. McDougall. We regret it, not because we fear Mr. McDougall's defeat, but because of the effect that an act so hostile from the Conservative camp, may have on the combination that has just been formed, for a great public purpose. The leaders of the Conservative party invited three members of the Liberal party to enter the Cabinet for the purpose of settling a question that neither party was capable of settling alone, but which both parties are alike desirous of seeing settled. The Conservative members of Parliament formally ratified the invitation—the Liberal members of the Assembly as formally accepted it—and Messrs. Brown, Mowatt, and McDougall most reluctantly, but in full reliance on the good faith of the Conservative party acceded to the request, and accepted seats in the Cabinet. But no sooner is the compact sealed than a Conservative candidate is started full tilt against one of the three gentlemen who placed reliance on their honor, with the avowed intention of defeating his election!

We know that Mr. Mathew Cameron was not an original party to the compact. We know that he was neither a member of the Conservative caucus that endorsed the tender:—but we also know that Mr. Cameron is a prominent member of the Conservative party that acknowledges Mr. John A. Macdonald as its leader; we know that Mr. Cameron looks to that party for what support he may receive at the polls; and we do say that the honor of the whole Conservative party is directly at stake in this matter.

We are well aware that Mr. John A. Macdonald and his Conservative colleagues in the Government have no part whatever in Mr. Cameron's act. We know that they heartily desire Mr. McDougall's success. But who will acquit those of dishonor who one hour endorse the solemn compact made by their leader, and the very next hour trample it under foot? Let there be no mistake about this: that Mr. McDougall's defeat would be a defeat of the Government, and would seriously affect the success of the great purpose for which the Government has just been formed.

We have given elsewhere an article from the *Canadien* of Quebec on the same subject.

The Prince Edward Island *Vindicator*, a staunch and most ably conducted Catholic paper, discusses the question of Federation of the British North American Provinces. As might have been expected from his principles and his consistency he is strongly opposed to any such a Union, and announces his determination in the following words:—

We trust we may be wrong in our surmises; but we candidly acknowledge that we have very little confidence in the honesty or wisdom of men who could sell the interests of their constituents for the attractions of an aristocratic dining-room, and the bows and smiles of gallant Colonels, and others.—We are glad to see that at present the *Islander* is the only local journal that advocates the proposed union; and the last *Protestant* joins issue with the Government organ on that question. Unless self-interest, as in the case of the Award of the Land Commissioners, prove too strong for the patriotism of the editor of the *Protestant*, his opposition will, doubtless, assist in warding off the threatened evil.

We throw out these few hints at the present time merely to arouse the public mind to the consideration of a subject closely connected with the interests of all classes; and we also throw them out with the view of paving the way for more elaborate articles on this highly important topic sometime between this and the meeting of the Legislature. In the meantime we should like to see the *Islander* advance if it can, some good and sound reasons in favor of the union scheme, so that it may be fully argued.—We are quite ready to meet any of the champions, in this colony, of a federal or legislative union, and anticipate but little trouble in vanquishing them.—*P. E. Island Vindicator*.

We translate from *Le Canadien*, a Quebec journal favorable to the French Canadian section of the actual Ministry, the following remarks upon the Coalition and its probable fortunes:—

"For our part, we should see without anxiety these divisions in the Upper Canadian Ministerial camp. More Upper Canada is divided, the stronger will Lower Canada be. It is our well understood interest that the Clear-Grit majority do not absorb the Conservative minority; and that the two parties only unite sufficiently to enable ancient Conservatives and moderate Liberals to throw off the yoke of extreme men. The new alliance contains so many elements of division and discord that it is the part of wisdom to look ahead—*prevoyoir*—as to what may succeed it; that it is prudent to distinguish amidst our present allies, those who shall adhere to us, from those from whom we must break away, and with whom we must engage in fresh struggles."—*Canadien*, 4th inst.

These remarks of our Quebec contemporary are no doubt well called for, and *apropos*; but they bode no good, no long duration, to the alliance upon which they are made. To act according to the rule, "always deal with your friends to-day, as with men who may be your enemies to-morrow," is perhaps wise, but is not likely to result in any very *entente cordiale*. We know not how the *Globe* and the Clear-Grit organs of Upper Canada will take the hint given them by the *Canadien*.

COLLEGE OF MONTREAL.—The annual distribution of prizes to the students took place on Tuesday the 5th instant, in the presence of the Reverend Mr. Granet, Superior of the Seminary of St. Salpice, of the Director, the Rev. M. Le Noir, a large number of the Clergy, and of the laity, amongst whom we noticed His Honor the Mayor. The exercises commenced about 9 a.m., with a discourse on Optics by a pupil of the Natural Philosophy class, who gave ample evidence of the pains taken by the Professors to ground their young charges in every branch of useful knowledge. After this there were recitations and dialogues by the pupils of the other classes; the exercises being agreeably varied by vocal and instrumental music by the choir and band of the College. The seance terminated by the distribution of prizes to the fortunate competitors for scholastic honors; and after a brief address from the Reverend Superior, who assigned Tuesday, 30th of August as the date for the re-opening of the classes, the party broke up, after a pleasant and profitable forenoon's entertainment.

VILLA MARIA.—The closing solemnities of the scholastic year at this Convent, under the charge of the Ladies of the Congregation, were celebrated on the afternoon of Tuesday the 5th instant, and amidst a large concourse of spectators. His Excellency the Governor-General, accompanied by Lady Monck and his staff assisted, together with many of our most distinguished citizens, both of French and British origin.—His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal, although occupied with the arduous labors of his Pastoral visit, made a point of being present, and by his presence, of encouraging both teachers and pupils in the performance of their respective duties.

The proceedings were inaugurated by a piece of music brilliantly executed by the young lady pupils, after which an address in verse was delivered by Miss Pinsonnault. To this succeeded dialogues and recitations, and music both vocal and instrumental, after which the prizes were distributed. We wish it were in our power to give the names of all the young ladies who carried off the well earned trophies of the glorious though bloodless field; but honorable mention should be made of the Misses Chauveau, Delisle, Globensky, Quevillon, the two Misses Gravel, Perrault, Duchesnay, Power, Dorion, Montmarquet, Girard and Feron.

The distribution being finished, His Excellency the Governor General rose and expressed the satisfaction that the scene which he had just witnessed, had afforded him, and his ardent wishes, together with those of Lady Monck, for the prosperity of Villa Maria and its pupils. His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal then spoke a few touching words, appropriate to the occasion, and to his character as spiritual father of those before him. In the name of the Ladies of the Congregation he gracefully returned thanks to the Governor General, and the members of his family, for their kindness in assisting at this celebration. The visitors then retired, all deeply impressed with a sense of the services rendered to the public by the devoted Ladies in charge of this distinguished institution.

On Thursday, 7th instant, the distribution of prizes to the young Ladies, pupils of the Academy Ste. Marie, also under the charge of the Ladies of the Congregation, attracted a large concourse in the hall of the mother-house Rue St. Jean Baptiste. The Very Rev. Superior of the Seminary presided, accompanied by many of the Catholic clergy, the Superintendent of Education, and the parents of the pupils.—The proceedings were interesting, and exemplified in a forcible manner the excellence of the system pursued. The prizes were delivered by the Rev. Superior and the Superintendent of Education; and after a short address from the former, in which he paid an elegant but well merited tribute of praise to both teachers and pupils, the proceedings were brought to a close by the performance of *Vive La Canadienne* and the National Anthem.

EXAMINATION IN REGIOPOLIS COLLEGE.

(From Correspondent of Kingston British Whig.) I have been present at most of the examinations held in Regiopolis College for the last nine years, and I must in justice say that I never witnessed one without deriving the great pleasure and satisfaction. The examination which closed the scholastic year just past was in no respect inferior to former ones; on the contrary, it was decidedly the best that I have ever attended.

The English Classes were first called up. The readiness and clearness with which the pupils answered the various questions put to them in Grammar, Spelling, History, Arithmetic, Geography, Book-keeping, &c., plainly showed that the Institution still merited the reputation, it has deservedly acquired, of being without a superior in imparting a good, sound, practical Mercantile Education.

I must next proceed to the higher classes. Here all the Greek and Latin authors which are taught in Colleges of the present day were placed in my hands; Virgil, Ovid and Horace, Homer, Sophocles, Euripides, in poetry; Caesar, Sallust, Cicero and Livy; *Æsop*, Lucian, Xenophon and some of the Holy Fathers, in prose, were translated with a remarkable fluency and correctness. What struck me most forcibly