

The True Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUG. 19.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

AUGUST—1870.

Friday, 26.—St. Jane Frances of Chantal, W.
Saturday, 27.—St. Joseph Calasanz, C.
Sunday, 28.—Twelfth after Pentecost.
Monday, 29.—Beheading of St. John the Baptist.
Tuesday, 30.—St. Rose of Lima, V.
Wednesday, 31.—St. Raymond Nonnatus, C.

SEPTEMBER—1870.

Thursday, 1.—St. Augustine, B. D.

We return thanks to those of our subscribers who have paid their subscriptions in advance, and request those in arrears, of whom there are many, to forward theirs, in order that we may be enabled to meet the considerable expenses which we have incurred by the purchase of new material for the paper. The type came from the well known Establishment of C. T. Palgrave, Esq., of this City.

Friends who take an interest in the success of the True Witness will show their kindly feeling by not only becoming subscribers themselves, but also by inducing other friends to do the same.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

From the confusion of telegrams from the seat of war, it would be a really difficult task to discover a particle of truth as to the actual losses of either of the combatants—their reverses—or the true position of the leaders of the French or Prussian armies. The greater part of news received, hailing from Berlin of course informs us of the rapid advance of the Prussians to the French Capital—Now and then we have a word from Paris but always with a contradiction of the report of French success from Prussian sources. The latest news whether true or not, informs us of the Prussian encounter at the French fortification of Metz, which according to accounts seems to have been captured—still this however may or may not be true but one thing is yet, probable that some very hard fighting must ensue before the Prussians reach Paris and it is very probable also that they will not reach the French Capital as soon as telegrams would have us believe.

LONDON, August 20.—The following is an official despatch of King William, dated Bozoville, Thursday evening. We have defeated the French under Bazaine after a battle which lasted ten hours; there were forty thousand killed and wounded. The garrison were taken prisoners. I commanded. The defeat of the French was complete.

(Signed,) WILLIAM.

All private despatches to bankers agree precisely in the terms regarding the victory of the Prussians.

The Bombardment of Strasbourg, from a point near Kehl, began on Friday morning, and continued till noon, when it was suspended for two hours. The return fire of the garrison was almost harmless.

BRUSSELS, Aug. 20.—A Paris letter to the Independence Belge says Marshal MacMahon is retreating on Paris, and will avoid an engagement unless he can form a junction with Marshal Bazaine. A Council of War at Paris, as a defensive measure, have ordered the partial destruction of the Bois de Boulogne.

LONDON, August 20.—There is great joy at Hamburg, Berlin and Frankfurt, over the recent Prussian victories.

PARIS, August 20.—The inhabitants of Chalons have received orders to get their grain away within 24 hours.

Part of the Prussian army have re-entered Nancy, and named a Mayor for the city.

The Prussian invasion of Luxemburg is considered imminent, from orders lately given for the subsistence of their troops.

The Presse says: "Trustworthy advices state the Prussian losses have not been less than 90,000 in the battles of the last three days.

Nothing has yet been received from the front. Public very anxious."

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Advices from a private source state that M. Olivier is still in Paris; he is keeping out of sight. Our informant dined with him on Thursday.

It is stated there are now more than 400,000 Germans between the Rhine and Paris.

The French have succeeded in victualing Strasbourg.

It is admitted that the corps of Prince Frederick Charles has suffered severely.

It is stated that Marshal Bazaine had to weaken his forces while under fire, in order to send regiments to defend the Emperor's person.

PARIS, Aug. 20.—A Prussian officer with a flag of truce in hand, demanded the surrender of Strasbourg. He was received with the shouts of the populace, "We shall never surrender." The commander of Strasbourg then dismissed the Prussian with the words, "the people have given you my reply."

LONDON, August 20.—A Paris correspondent writes:—Silence has settled on the name of Napoleon, more astounding than even the Prussian victories. He is dead, civilly and Imperially. Where will he drag his despised worn-out carcass? For a fortnight his name has been unpronounced in the Chambers, and he is as much disregarded as the Pope.

PARIS, Aug. 20.—In the Corps Legislatif Palikao made a statement. He said: The Prussians assert that they were victorious on the 18th; I affirm the contrary. I have communicated a despatch to several Deputies showing that three Prussian army corps united and attacked Marshal Bazaine. They were repulsed and driven into the Quarries of Taugumont. My reserve about this despatch will be understood. I need not mention the small advantage near Bar Leduc. We are now actively completing the fortifications of Paris. In a few days all will be assured.

PARIS, August 20.—The report of the contemplated destruction of the Bois de Boulogne and Vincennes is confirmed. The people protested, but it was declared a military necessity for the defence of the city, and to afford a clear sweep and view.

Advices from Chalons are encouraging. They show the presence there of a large and well appointed force, which, combining with that of Marshal Bazaine, must effect much. Marshal Bazaine, whose retreat the Prussians say they have stopped, on the contrary is in a position enabling him to support the French either at Metz or Verdun, according to circumstances. He still keeps his plans and movements a profound secret.

The Gaulois publishes a letter from Luneville to-day, relating to executive requisitions on the French by the army of the Prince Royal, who demands beyond the share of the inhabitants fairly to meet, are harshly insisted upon, and many needless acts are committed, such as the people will take deadly revenge for should the Prussians be forced to retreat.

The Presse to-day has the following relative to the movements of the Emperor: Since the Emperor left Metz on the 14th, he and his suite have traversed all villages where combats have taken place since battles around Metz began. He was at Longeville on the 14th, and Gravelotte on the 15th. In the latter neighborhood the Prussians were hidden at several points, and the Emperor had barely passed through when sharp fighting commenced. Several French regiments had to be detailed to protect him on his way. Next day he passed through Conflans, breakfasted at Erston, and slept at Verdun. Only a few minutes after he left Erston the Prussian Etat-Major breakfasted at the same place on his way from Verdun to Chalons. The Emperor passed in plain view of the enemy's pickets. To-day he is at Rheims.

PARIS, Aug. 20, evening.—The grave rumours circulated here yesterday relative to the health of the Emperor were unfounded. I have the best assurance of this. Signed.—The Press Agent of the New York Associated Press.

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Clergymen are attached to all the Prussian army.

As an instance of the perfect organization and preparation of the Prussian army, it is said that a Prussian regiment recently captured some Turks, when almost instantly a perfect sketch of the group was executed by photograph, and a copy handed to the soldiers to identify in case of escape of prisoners.

The Prussian reserves in readiness at the various posts amounted to 200,000 men.

The story started by the Paris Patrie that Prince Frederick Charles is wounded, is untrue.

PARIS, August 21.—Private letters describe the conduct of Marshal Canrobert, who took part in the battle of Dancourt as heroic in the extreme. During the entire day he placed himself in the forward part of the lines, and personally headed the charges of his troops. His aide-de-camp, Commandant Bossenard, had an arm shot off while by the Marshal's side.

Advices from Littleton and Pont a Mousson, represent that the Prussians continue to make exorbitant demands. They endeavour there to make 5,000 inhabitants feed 150,000 troops. Journals demand that energetic reprisals be made by the Baltic fleet for those exactions.

A despatch, from Prussian sources, which has been reproduced here, announces the commencement of the bombardment of Strasbourg.

General Trochu has issued another proclamation, the meaning of which is that Paris will have to stand siege. The following is the text:—To the National Guard, to Guard Mobile, to the troops and seamen in the army of Paris, to all defenders of the capital:—In the midst of events of the highest importance, I have been appointed Governor. The honour is great, peril also. I depend on your patriotism should Paris be subjected to a siege; never was there a more magnificent opportunity to prove to the world that long prosperity has not effminated the country. You have before you the example of an army which has fought one against three. Their heroic struggle compels the admiration of all. Show by your conduct that you have the feeling of profound responsibility resting upon you.

The statement of Count Palikao that the French won a victory on the 18th, and drove the Prussians into the quarries of Tourmont, is repeated from other sources. Tourmont is between Metz and Thionville.

PARIS, August 21, noon.—Prince Frederick William is reported at Tourmont.

The Bourse fell to-day in anticipation of the proposed issue of a loan of 750,000,000 francs. Count Von Bismarck is at Port-a-Mousson with the King of Prussia.

The despatches claiming a victory in the battle of the 16th are false. Gen. L'admirault came up at five o'clock in the afternoon with fresh troops and crushed the Prussians, and a corps of 30,000 of the enemy was withdrawn from the road from Epnel to Metz.

Strong bodies of troops belonging to McMahon's army are being pushed into Vosges.

LONDON, Aug. 20.—At Berlin the publication of the King's despatch, announcing the defeat of Bazaine, created tremendous enthusiasm. The whole population were in the streets, flags everywhere displayed, and churches thrown open and thanksgiving services had. Thousands of citizens assembled outside the royal palace, congratulating the Queen with deafening cheers.

Large supplies of hospital stores were being forwarded to the front.

Mr. Gladstone returned to England at the request of the Queen, to hold a Cabinet Council to consider the feasibility of interceding for peace. The Queen addressed an autograph letter to King William. It is understood England favors the cession of Alsace and the deposition of Napoleon, and the liberty of France to choose her own government.

PARIS, August 22.—Late advices from Ernestin say that the Prussian army is besieging Strasbourg, and had caused the people of Ernestin to change the course of the River Ille, in order to stop the supply of water from the city. The Prussians had appointed a Mayor for Ernestin. The General of Strasbourg had driven out of the defences all who consume army stores.

LONDON, August 22.—It is said that Marshal Bazaine is absolutely cut off from his resources. General McMahon is also believed to be surrounded.

Convoys with provisions have gone forward to supply both armies. One hundred and sixty thousand men have passed through Paris to the front since Friday morning.

It is generally thought here that the march of the Prussians cannot be arrested before reaching Paris. It is said that there are now nearly 300,000 good troops at and near Paris.

It is believed that one more decisive battle gives Paris to the Prussians.

PARIS, Aug. 22.—Le Journal Official says the Minister of the Interior made public a note from the Minister of War, that the government have received no despatches from the army of the Rhine for two days on account of the interruption of communication. It thinks the plans of Bazaine have not succeeded. The brave conduct of our soldiers in facing an enemy of superior numbers, permits us to hope for the success of the other operations. The enemy's picket appeared at St. Dezier.

Two sons of Count Bismarck have both been wounded in the recent battle.

A large number of heavy siege guns have arrived at the Prussian fort.

FLORENCE, Aug. 22.—Prince Napoleon is here. His mission is to demand the mediation of Italy.

LONDON, Aug. 22.—The Marquis de la Valette, French Minister to England, has been instructed to make demands here similar to those of the Prince at Florence.

PARIS, Aug. 22.—The destruction of the Bois de Boulogne commenced to-day. A part however is not to be touched. Only those por-

tions near the wall of the city are to be cleared away. The ramparts are strongly fortified with large cannon. The forts are fully prepared, and the entrance to the city may be closed at any moment by draw bridges. It is reported that in case of siege all strangers are to be compelled to leave.

LONDON, August 22.—The French Government has forbidden the exportation of food.

The Prussians are surrounding Verdun, which is imperfectly defended. It is said that Marshal McMahon is performing some strategic movements, preliminary to an action, while Marshal Bazaine is prepared to support. Bazaine has at last been supplied with food and ammunition.

A despatch from Meiers to-day, says the loss of the Prussians in the last battle was fearful; more than 40,000 wounded remained on the field of battle without assistance. The Prussians have asked permission to send their wounded home through Belgium.

New York, Aug. 22.—A cable special to the Herald from London, says: A despatch from Paris states that an alarming demonstration among the people took place on Saturday, occasioned by the report of the defeat of Bazaine. The disturbance was only quelled by the bold declaration of Palikao that Bazaine had not been defeated, which statement was posted on the walls throughout the city, and had the effect of quieting the people.

BLESSING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE NEW R. C. CATHEDRAL OF MONTREAL.

On Sunday next (28th inst) at half-past three, His Lordship, the Bishop of Montreal, assisted by the parish priests present at the pastoral retreat and other members of the clergy, will solemnly bless the corner stone of his Cathedral. This Ceremony will be preceded by two discourses—the one in French and the other in the English language. The Cathedral being the Church of the whole diocese in the same way as the Parochial Church is the Church of the whole Parish, we hope to see present as large a body of the Catholics of this City as possible in order to give ample proof of the lively interest they take in this enterprise, the success of which will redound to the glory of Religion and to the honour of our City and of the whole Diocese.

We would wish our readers to observe that the Bishop of Montreal, in deferring until this period the reconstruction of his Cathedral, which was destroyed by the Conflagration of the 8th of July, 1852, desired to leave full scope to the development of the different charitable establishments which seek to alleviate the numberless human miseries which prey upon Society.

Relying now upon the zeal and good will of the faithful committed to his care—his Lordship courageously undertakes this work with the hope of being enabled, before the close of his days, of raising a Cathedral, which all admit to be a necessity, and which is certainly a void in the list of monuments which already adorn our fair city. His Lordship then appeals to all generous hearts to attain so worthy an object. To us, then, Catholics of the City and Diocese of Montreal, it belongs to realize the hopes of our venerable Bishop by our prayers and generous contributions in aiding him to build this Temple, which will be a new sanctuary for religion within our own City of Montreal.

The Cathedral will be constructed in the form of a Greek Cross and the montant will be 158 feet long, so that it will admit of being ornamented with a Portico. The exterior will be simply built with stone similar to that which was used in the construction of the various churches which surround it; for, it is proposed above all, when feasible, to have all the beauty in the interior—*omnis decor ab intus*.

It is hardly necessary for us to add that, from the proverbial generosity of the Catholic citizens of Montreal in religious patronage, we feel that this appeal will meet their hearty approval. And as has been said above, "every one admits the necessity of a new Cathedral," indeed, a Cathedral in keeping with the spread and demands of the Church in this ancient city—the Rome of the New World,—a specimen of architecture worthy of the good taste and tact of our truly Catholic people, and a religious monument of edification to the whole community.

With such a hierarchy as that of Montreal and a venerable Bishop so devoted to everything conducive to the welfare of the Church, and so thoroughly master of the minutest details of the Roman Rites—one would expect to visit the Cathedral on solemn occasions and receive therefrom the lasting impressions of the touching ceremonies of the Sixtine Chapel at Rome—so familiar to all tourists in the Eternal City. The new Cathedral will pave the way for the promotion of this and numerous other advantages to the Catholic community, and to the cause of Religion—it will be a model of architecture—a monument, we repeat, of our religious zeal and devotedness, and

a token of the ecclesiastical spirit which marks the declining years of the pious Bishop of Montreal.

We are requested to say that, according to custom in raising buildings of importance, persons desirous of depositing their names among the contents of the corner stone of the new R. C. Cathedral can do so on next Sunday by enclosing them in a small scrap of paper with a piece of silver or other weighty material to hinder the wind from carrying them off.

AN INFALLIBLE POPE, AND AN INFALLIBLE BOOK.—Amidst all the trash, or chaff, that has been emitted by our Protestant brethren on the subject of the recent definition by the Oecumenical Council of the Vatican, it is refreshing to find a grain of sound common sense. This we discover in the columns of the London Spectator, one of the ablest of the Protestant periodicals of the British Empire:—

"Nor can we affect to wonder, as most of our contemporaries do, at the triumph of the Papacy. They call the dogma new, but though not formulated as dogma, it has been accepted as fact by the Church for generations. The assent of the Bishops was held to be needful to any decision of the Papacy, but the assent was never withheld. They declared that it was an insult to reason; but an Infallible Person is no more contrary to reason than an Infallible Book, and has the advantage of being able always to explain himself, and fix the application of truth to the necessities of the time."—Spectator.

This is plain speaking, and sensible speaking; and but that the Spectator fails to notice that the privilege of declaring to the Church with infallible certainty the truth upon all questions of faith, and of morals thereon depending, is a privilege attached not to the man, but to the office of the Pope, as successor of St. Peter, and therefore inheritor of all St. Peter's peculiar prerogatives—there is little, if anything, therein to which the Catholic can take exception.

The dogma is no more a new dogma, or fresh article of faith than was the dogma of the substantiality of the Son to the Father "a new dogma" or belief in the fourth century.—Though then for the first time defined or "formalized"—to use the Spectator's expression—"as dogma," it had in substance been accepted and taught by the Church from the beginning; the novelty was on the side of Arius, and of those who with him Protested against or impugned the dogma.

It is a dogma that has always been held as beyond dispute by all the great Doctors of the Church. "Rome has spoken, the controversy is at an end" has always been the language of the faithful in all countries, and in all ages. Some of the present day, may from motives of human respect and of worldly prudene, and that timidity from which even good and saintly men are not always altogether exempt, have questioned the expediency or opportuneness of defining, or formalising the dogma; but that any one calling himself a Catholic should ever have doubted of its truth, seems to the simple minded son of the Church a thing impossible, incredible.

But where the Spectator is strongest is where he replies to the Protestant objection that the dogma of Papal Infallibility as defined and formulated by the Fathers of the Council of the Vatican—(not as defined by the writers in the Protestant press)—is contrary to reason, and therefore false; for everything that is contrary to reason is manifestly false. "AN INFALLIBLE PERSON IS NO MORE CONTRARY TO REASON THAN AN INFALLIBLE BOOK." Of course it is not; and they who in this controversy sin against reason, are they who maintain that a certain Book called *par excellence* THE bible is infallible; whilst with the same breath they urge against Catholics that it is contrary to reason to believe that the Pope in virtue of Christ's special promise—is so guided by the Holy Ghost when declaring to the Church what is the truth by Christ revealed, and what the duties which that revealed truth imposes on all men—is infallible, or supernaturally, and by the grace of God, preserved from error, to which as man he is naturally liable.

Every argument based upon natural reason that can be urged against an infallible Pope, tells with equally fatal effect against an infallible book or bible, and in a word against revelation or the possibility even of a revelation *ab extra* of God to man. That supernatural revelation if made at all, must either be made immediately to every man, or through some medium or other; and that medium must needs be infallible—or it is worthless: for God might just as well never have made a revelation to man at all, if the medium through which the contents, or subject matter of that revelation are transmitted to us, be itself fallible, imperfect, and therefore as likely to lead men into error as to the truth. It is therefore to sin against reason, to tax God Himself with actual stupidity, if not with something worse than stupidity, to argue that He has made a revelation of His will to man, imposing on the latter the awful responsibility of accepting that revelation in its integrity but has given him no means of knowing with certainty, wherein that revelation consists. A malignant fiend might