

The True Witness

MONTEAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1858.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Orsini and Pierri have suffered the just punishment of their dastardly crimes. They were guillotined on the 13th ult. before a large crowd of spectators...

We learn by the Persia that the French Ambassador, disgusted with the refusal of the Derby Government to proceed with the "Conspiracy Bill," is about to return to France.

Our friends in Toronto deserve the thanks of the community for the prompt and energetic action which, to their credit, they have inaugurated against the aggressions of Orangeism.

That your Petitioners have learned with deep regret of the introduction of a Bill into your Honorable House for the Incorporation of a secret politico-religious association...

Within a few years past, your Petitioners have seen this secret politico-religious organisation revived with new vigor, and with higher pretensions than before, throughout this Province...

We have therefore much pleasure in inserting the following petition against Orangeism from the citizens of Toronto, and in warmly recommending their public spirited conduct...

PETITION TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA:

The Humble Petition of the undersigned, Inhabitants of the City of Toronto and its vicinity,

HUMBLY SHewETH— That Your Petitioners have learned with the deepest concern that a Bill is now before Your Honorable House...

That membership in the said Association is admitted confined to persons professing one set of religious opinions, a fact which of itself establishes its exclusively sectarian character.

That the anniversary of the said Loyal Orange Institution is the 12th day of July, the anniversary of a battle fought in the native land of a large section of the population of Toronto and vicinity...

That during the present year, and the year 1857, the Prime Minister of England, and the highest authorities in Ireland, have enforced, in the most conspicuous manner, this settled policy of the Empire.

That Your Petitioners have the best reasons to believe, should this Institution be legally recognized in Canada, that counter Associations for purposes of defence or retaliation will be formed...

As loyal subjects of the Crown, and sincere friends of the peace and prosperity of the Country, the undersigned beg most earnestly and respectfully to submit to Your Honorable House...

Nor have the citizens of Montreal been altogether wanting at the present crisis, in the duty that they owe to themselves and to their country. The following petition has been prepared...

exclusively Catholic question. French Canadians and Irishmen are alike concerned therein; Protestants as well as Catholics, have an interest in discouraging the further spread amongst us of secret politico-religious societies...

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA.

The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the City of Montreal and its vicinity,

HUMBLY SHewETH—

That your Petitioners have learned with deep regret of the introduction of a Bill into your Honorable House for the Incorporation of a secret politico-religious association...

That in consequence of that Parliamentary investigation, and of an address to the Throne by the House of Commons, and of the reply thereunto of His late Majesty William IV. strongly condemning the existence of Orange Lodges...

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray— That the application of the Orange Association to be incorporated by Act of Parliament, may at once be rejected by your Honorable House...

We are happy to learn from an esteemed Quebec correspondent that the citizens of the ancient capital of Canada are taking steps to petition against the Orange Incorporation Bill.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN QUEBEC. To the Editor of the True Witness. Quebec, March 26th, 1858.

DEAR SIR—The festival of Ireland's Patron Saint was celebrated here in the usual manner. At nine o'clock the St. Patrick's Society marched to Saint Patrick's Church, where a Grand Mass was chaunted by the Very Rev. C. F. Cazeau, V.G., assisted by Deacon and Sub-Deacon.

Mozart's Twelfth Mass was nicely sung by a choir of ladies and gentlemen—M. A. Tuore presiding at the organ. A splendid carpet, the gift of the ladies of the congregation, covered the sanctuary floor...

so much to that after that hour it was impossible for a person to get in further than the doors. At eight, the Rev. B. M'Gaurin opened the proceedings of the evening with some very appropriate remarks; showing the motives why all were there assembled.

The choruses—"Thou' dark are our sorrows," "I'd mourn the hopes," "Soggarth Aroon," "God save the Queen," "Let Erin remember the days of old," "The Shamrock," "As slow our ship," and "Fly not yet"—were very nicely sung by a choir of ladies and gentlemen under the direction of Mr. Henry Carter, organist of the English cathedral.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN PERTH. To the Editor of the True Witness. Perth, March 18th, 1858.

SIR—You may from some other source receive a more eloquent and correct description of the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Perth, C.W.; if you do, throw this aside. A stranger among the people of Perth, and I may say a guest of the St. Patrick's Society on the occasion, so agreeably surprised, and so highly delighted was I with every thing I witnessed on this my first visit to that thriving town...

The morning was cloudy, and threatened to grow into a very unfavorable day; nevertheless, from early dawn, crowds were seen thronging in from all the surrounding townships. At nine o'clock the members of the St. Patrick's Society formed into procession at their rooms; and with flags streaming, with banners reared aloft, and headed by the Perth St. Patrick's Band, they marched in order to the church.

High Mass was celebrated by the Pastor, the Very Rev. J. B. McDonagh, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Hay of St. Andrews, as Deacon, and by the Rev. Mr. O'Connor of Cornwall, as Sub-Deacon—the Rev. Dr. Madden acting as Master of the Cereemonies. This last named gentleman was also the preacher of the day.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN OSHAWA. To the Editor of the True Witness. Oshawa, March 24th, 1858.

Mr. Editor—Allow me to ask insertion for a few brief remarks in the columns of your valuable and talented paper, concerning the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The mornings of the 17th, and the previous day, were extremely wet and disagreeable; and the roads were indescribably bad. Notwithstanding all these obstacles, the church of St. Gregory was densely crowded.

The memory of the deceased Bishops of the Diocese of Kingston, the Right Rev. Drs. M'Donnell, Gaulin, and Phelan. These were the representatives of the three nations which the Church in Canada is chiefly composed—Canadian, Scotch, and Irish. The Catholic understands the significance of this toast. In the Church all are of the one household of the Faith, and equally dear to all must be the memory of the great and good, no matter of what clime, or of what nationality.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN PERTH. To the Editor of the True Witness. Perth, March 18th, 1858.

The ceremony of the day having concluded, the people returned to their respective homes, delighted and gratified with the proceedings of the day, which were characteristic of Irishmen and Christians.

ORANGEISM.—We would call the attention of our readers to the subjoined important document; being a despatch from Lord Glenelg to a former Governor of Upper Canada, who, like the present Governor-General—though not to the same extent—had manifested a disposition to encourage, and promote the growth of Orangeism in this portion of the British Empire.

SIR—I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of a return which has been presented to the House of Commons in pursuance of an Address of that House to His Majesty, adopted on the motion of Mr. Hume, M.P. I am aware from a comparison of the dates, that at the time when you received the Address of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, a copy of which is contained in the enclosed parliamentary paper...

tion with them in discountenancing those passions and animosities which, especially when connected with religious differences, are the fruitful sources of innumerable evils, and throw the greatest obstacles in the way of the welfare and prosperity of any country. I have however, felt it incumbent on me to call your attention to this return; in the full confidence that it is your purpose to administer the Government which His Majesty has confided to you, with the strictest impartiality, and with the single object of advancing the real interests of every class of His Majesty's subjects in the Province.

We would particularly request the reader to take notice of the passage marked in Italics; and to remember that it is not Mr. McGe'e, not a Papist, who therein gives utterance to his natural feelings of hostility to Orangeism; but that it is the calm and deliberate judgment of a British Protestant statesman upon that institution, and the formal declaration of the policy which the Imperial authorities desire to see adopted towards Orangeism throughout the Empire.

From the above despatch we may also judge with what sentiments of regret, surprise and indignation that Government—unless it has within the few last weeks renounced the policy which it has under every successive administration, consistently followed for the last twenty years—would learn that a secret politico-religious society, discountenanced at home, as the fruitful parent of riots, of bloodshed, and of murder, is, in Canada, openly countenanced by the Governor-General, protected by the first Law Officers of the Crown, and recognised as the supreme power in the Legislature; and that, though in Canada as in Ireland its path is stained with blood, it defies the law, mocks at our tribunals, and claims from the Provincial Parliament a formal recognition in virtue of a special Act of Incorporation—an Act for which we say, without hesitation, there is no precedent in the History of Great Britain, or of any other community.

Yes; it is not enough that the Law officers of the Crown, instead of being the guardians of the rights, the lives, and property of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, should connive at, if not openly encourage, the murder of Papists, and outrages upon their persons and property; it is not enough that Orange Magistrates should shelter Orange criminals from the punishment due to their crimes—that Orange Law Officials should set a premium upon perjury, and should systematically pack the juries, in order to procure the condemnation of innocent Papists, and the acquittal of their "Dear Brother" Orangeman with hands still reeking with the blood of the Irish Catholic whom he has murdered—it is not enough that a Governor-General, unmindful of what he owes to His Sovereign, and to the people of Canada, should give official sanction to an organisation, condemned by statesmen of all parties at home, and odious in the eyes of all Her Majesty's Catholic subjects. That all these things should be, is not enough to satisfy the cravings of Orangeism after absolute power, and uncontrolled "Ascendancy." No; it must assert that Ascendancy in the Courts of the Legislature as well as in the Courts of Law; even Parliament—nay! the Crown itself, in the person of the Vice-Roy, must do homage to it; and every authority in the State must bow down and do it reverence, as the one supreme authority in Canada.

This is the sole meaning of the present effort to obtain an Act of Incorporation from the Legislature. It is the recognition of Orangeism by the Legislature, as a legitimate and useful organisation that the promoters of this measure aim at; for this recognition obtained, they know that it would speedily become irresistible. It is for this reason that we are bound as Catholics, as the maintainers of religious equality, and therefore the opponents of Protestant Ascendancy, to offer to this Act of Incorporation our united, determined, but strictly constitutional opposition. We ask not that Orangeism be proscribed; we ask against them no Bill of Pains and Penalties; we propose no Penal Statutes, and seek not to inflict upon them one iota of those accursed laws which they in the day of their power imposed upon the Catholics of Ireland, and which, if we be fools enough, or traitors enough to give them the means so to do, they will ere long impose upon the Catholics of Canada. No—we ask none of these things; we ask from the law no action against Orangeism, but a bare neutrality. We ask that it shall abstain from encouraging, or promoting the growth of, a secret politico-religious society in Canada, which long years of bitter and bloody experience have proved to be most prejudicial to the welfare of society in Ireland; which Great Britain's wisest statesmen in both Houses of Parliament have repeatedly and forcibly condemned; and which the recent murders of O'Farrell and of Sheedy, and the late brutal Orange riots at Toronto, have clearly shown to be incompatible with the peace of Canada, or the civil and religious liberties of Her Majesty's loyal subjects of the North American Provinces.