

time of day to talk about himself as the "vicar on earth" of the Almighty. That assumption is a relic of the days when he really had power to awe the nations of the earth into obedience to his will—when, in place of issuing a simple letter to the losing side in a struggle, the Pope of Rome would have issued a bull commanding the belligerents to make such a peace as he desired, on pain of excommunication. But in this age of the world it seems just as silly for his Holiness to assume the impious title of "vicar on earth," as it would be for him to issue a bull calling upon President Lincoln to recognize the independence of the South, and dooming him, in case of disobedience, to suffer in this world and the next the fearful punishments which the Romish Church assumes to have at its command. The "Vicar on Earth" has sense enough not to do that. Why cannot he have the wit to abandon a title at once blasphemous and ridiculous?

From the above extracts, which are all that we can afford room for, our readers will judge of the sincerity of the conversion of Mr. George Brown and his friends, and of the propriety of acknowledging them as our reproducing them; for surely we should deem it beneath us to attempt even a defence of our Church against the aspersions of a writer who has been so often publicly convicted of evil speaking, lying, and slandering as the editor of the *Globe*, and who but the other day tried to excite the rabble of Toronto to acts of violence against our Churches and Chapels, by mendaciously affirming that therein were stored arms and ammunition in large quantities for the wholesale massacre of the Protestant population. A very precious set of convicts indeed, are Mr. George Brown and his Clear-Grit friends.

We are glad to see that the *Journal de Quebec* evinces a determination to make a decided stand against the monstrous pretensions of the *Gazette* on the Education Question. We hope that all Lower Canadian Catholics will on this point be unanimous, and that they will evince a stubborn determination to resist all State grants for purposes of Protestant Education, exclusively.

Already the Protestants of Lower Canada enjoy many advantages which are refused to the Catholics of the Upper Province: already they receive as their share in the distribution of the public funds for school purposes far more than by their numbers they are at all entitled to receive. This has been clearly proved by the Report of the Superintendent of Education, the accuracy of whose statistics is admitted by the *Gazette*. We copy from the latter:—

"The Superintendent of Education showed among other things in reply to a complaint against the administration of the Superior Education Fund, that out of that Fund Protestant institutions received 30.28 per cent, while according to population they were only entitled to 14.71 per cent, according to the number of pupils to 17.42 per cent."—*Montreal Gazette*, 4th instant.

Were the Catholic minority of Upper Canada dealt with by the Protestant majority, as are the Protestant minority of Lower Canada by the Catholic majority of this section of the Province, we should be unreasonable indeed were we to agitate for greater privileges for our co-religionists of the West. As it is—seeing that the Protestants of Lower Canada are about to open again the School Question on their own behalf—and though we have no desire to disturb the arrangement concluded by the Macdonald-Sicotte Ministry, we think that we should profit by the action of the Lower Canadian Protestants to insist upon and secure greater advantages for the Upper Canadian Catholics: we should take care at least that every thing, every privilege in the matter of education accorded to the former, be also guaranteed to the latter.

The *Canadien* of the 18th inst. announcing the opening of the legislative session and the great questions about to be laid before the country—wisely and in the true spirit of patriotism exhorts to unity amongst his fellow-countrymen. Together they should support the plan of Union of the B. N. A. Provinces about to be laid before Parliament; or together, as one man, they should oppose it, or insist upon such modifications therein as their interests may require.—The *Canadien* concludes his excellent article with these words of solemn warning:—

"The actual situation is full of perils and of difficulties, and in avoiding the one, we must be careful not to fall into the other."—*Le Canadien*, 18th inst.

One great danger that menaces us is the party spirit in which the proposed constitutional changes will be discussed: by some they will be supported unconditionally with a view to supporting the actual Ministry: by others they will be unreflectingly opposed out of party hostility to the present holders of office and dispensers of patronage.

To us it seems that these proposed changes, should be discussed irrespective of the results which their acceptance or rejection may entail upon the Ministry. This—the supreme moment for Lower Canada, and in which her autonomy is at stake—is no time for party discords. Any Ministry uncompromising in its assertion of that autonomy should receive the support of Catholics and Canadians no matter by what name called. If M. Cartier and his friends will but do thus; if they will only insist that Lower Canada be left mistress of her own fate: that no political system be imposed on her, in whole or in part, to which she has not, through her own representatives given her assent: if in short they will insist upon the application of the "Double Majority" to every clause, line and word in the Union Bill—

which is about to be laid before Parliament—so far from opposing them, it would be our duty, the duty of every sincere Catholic and patriot, to rally round them, to try and strengthen their hands against their enemies and our enemies, both without and within the Cabinet; especially against the latter, for these are by far the more dangerous.

Upon this point there should be no concession. Lower Canada must be left as free to accept or to reject the proposed Union scheme, as will be the neighboring Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P. E. Island. For this the "Double Majority" in its vigor, and fullest extent, must be applied to the scheme in general, and to every one of its details. We have the right to expect that our representatives in the Cabinet and in the Legislature will insist upon this point: and should they do this, they in return will have the right to reckon upon a frank and hearty support from all Catholics, for the latter are all interested in maintaining the autonomy and preserving the political influence of Lower Canada. This question of the "Double Majority" should in fact be settled before the Union Act be allowed its first reading; and sadly wanting in patriotism must be our French Canadian Ministers if they do not settle it so as to secure freedom to Lower Canada, from all Upper Canadian interference.

THE LOWER PROVINCES.—From our Newfoundland exchanges we learn that the project of Union is regarded with general dislike. The people of P. E. Island seem to be generally and strongly opposed to it; in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the opposition is apparently not so strong, but even in these Provinces the scheme is not at all unanimously approved of.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.—Everything illustrative of the moral results of Divorce Laws should be to the Catholic legislators of Lower Canada at the present time when an effort is about to be made formally to endow the civil government with the right of legalising for Divorce, of deep interest. Men who care not for theories, may sometimes prove less stubborn to facts; and therefore we present them with the following facts illustrative of the working of Divorce Laws amongst our neighbors in Massachusetts. Our authority is the *Newburyport Herald*, a journal of the above mentioned State:—

"In this little State of Massachusetts one (divorce) per day would be a mere fraction of what annually occurs. There are probably more in this little city in one year, than there were in a generation, in the whole State, prior to a century ago. There is a single law office here that does up more than one a month; and it is not uncommon to have fifty or a hundred upon the docket of a county court at one term. Go into the court, and one perceives that sundering the ties is not considered of any consequence. The whole process does not often consume more than a half-hour, and perhaps not half of that. It may be the prevailing opinion that this is all right, and tells well on the community; but we cannot help believing that our entire action in the divorce business is demoralising and degrading to the utmost extreme."—*Newburyport Herald*.

As with liquor, so with divorce, the appetite gains strength by indulgence; and as he who once commences the pernicious habit of drinking intoxicating liquors is but too often unable to arrest his rapid down-hill progress, so a community which begins by divorcing in moderation, soon finds that it is impossible to assign any effectual limit or restriction to the demoralising and degrading custom. Will not our Catholic legislators be warned in time, by what is occurring amongst our neighbors; will they not pause before committing themselves to a system of legislation whose effects we see in the filthy moral condition of the neighboring State of Massachusetts.—*Facilis descensus Averni*; but the mischief is that when once you have let yourselves go, there is no stopping, and that you keep on running down with an ever accelerating velocity. There is no ground logically tenable betwixt the top of the hill occupied by the Catholic Church, and the abyss of moral degradation which already some of the neighboring States have reached; and to which all communities that have once admitted in theory even, the legality of divorce, or the dissolubility of the marriage tie, are rapidly hastening.

EXTRADITION.—In the case of Burley before the Toronto Courts, the Recorder has decided that the prisoner's act came within the provisions of the Ashburton Treaty, and has committed him accordingly. Burley will apply for a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, and the whole case will have to be argued before the Superior Court.

As this decision of the Recorder appears to establish a precedent in the case of the so-called St. Alban Raiders, it is of great importance, since the acts of Burley were recognised by his government as their acts, and as having been done by their authority. The law of the Recorder of Toronto may be good law, but it has a very peculiar twang about it.

One question in both these cases—that of Burley and that of the prisoners in jail here, naturally presents itself: it is this. How would the men whose extradition is demanded of us have been treated had they been captured in the Northern States, and by the Federal military authorities? Would they have been dealt

with by the ordinary civil Courts, or by a military tribunal? If by the latter, if their offences were justifiable by a Court Martial and if the prisoners might have been handed over to such a Court for trial by the Federal military authorities—then most certainly their case is one that does not fall within the provisions of the Ashburton Treaty. This point has been ruled by the legal authorities of the U. States in the case of the soldier noticed in our last, who having stolen a large amount of money, deserted to the U. States but whose extradition was refused by the American Courts.

The following extract from the address delivered at the great Irish meeting in Dublin on the 29th ult., by His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, merits the serious attention of every Irish Catholic at home, or in the British Colonies:—

For my part, believing in the providence and justice of God, knowing that there is great faith, great piety, great virtues in Ireland, I am confident that God will not abandon us. He may chastise us, but in His own good time He will stretch out His hand to save us from the troubled waters which threaten us with destruction.—The country was oftentimes in a worse state than at present, yet God always watched over us, and raised it up. But while putting great confidence in God, it is meet that we should use all just and constitutional means to obtain relief from the evils that press on us. I say just, and legal, and constitutional means; for it is foolish, it is wicked, to speak of having recourse to violence and bloodshed, or to expect anything good from illegal combinations and secret societies. Those who invoke the aid of foreign armies; those who talk of a civil war, resistance to established authorities, and revolutionary movements, are the worst enemies of Ireland and its ancient faith, they seem to be mere emissaries of the Priests' Protection Society; at least, the stories and dialogues published by the *Irish People*, the organ of the friends of violence, seem to be borrowed from the tracts of that society, or the columns of the Orange press.

NORTH BRITISH REVIEW.—November, 1864. Messrs. Dawson Brothers, Montreal.

We have articles on the following subjects:—Commercial Philanthropy—Latham's Johnson's Dictionary—Liturgical Reform—Early Roman Tragedy and Epic Poetry—Wildbad and its Water—Ginseppe Giusti and his Times—The Late John Richardson.

To the Editor of the True Witness.

Wheatland Wickham, Jan. 14, 1865.

Sir,—I take the liberty of trespassing on your readers' attention while I make a few remarks on the agitation lately got up by the Protestants of Lower Canada on the School question. I should not enter into the subject now, as I find more able writers taking it up, were it not that I have been engaged in a dispute already with a Mr. William Bothwell, Secretary to the Dissident Trustees of Wickham. Certain exaggerated statements having been made in regard to Wickham at a meeting in Montreal in September last, I contradicted them in the *Herald*. Mr. Bothwell came forward to sustain those statements by others yet more fabulous, which I again contradicted in the *Herald*, showing among other things that Mr. Bothwell, in making up his number of 47 Protestant pupils, had counted 6 Catholic children, and several who did not exist at all. I was the better enabled to do this, as he was silly enough to give the names of the parents. After some time, Mr. Bothwell brings forward his statements again, publishing also a number of certificates from the parents to prove the number of pupils; but this time he reduces the number from 47 to 22. I replied to this last, but the editor of the *Herald* did not publish it; I suppose he thought that if the Wickham story was proved false, the other statements would also be looked upon as suspicious. I do not intend to enter into any argument to prove the fallacy of Mr. Bothwell's statements at present, but if he think he can maintain them I challenge him to prove them in the following manner—viz., Let him choose one or more inhabitants of Wickham who know the circumstances; I will choose a like number. Let him appoint the time and place of meeting. Let these men investigate both our statements, and let their decision be published. If there be any expense incurred, let the greatest liar pay it, as he is saying it. But if Mr. Bothwell decline to accept this challenge, I hope he will be good enough to keep silence in future on the subject of schools.

Mr. Editor, if this be the way the Protestants of Lower Canada expect to obtain justice, I wish them luck. They need not expect that sensation stories like Bothwell's will do them any good; for even though the *Herald* denies the right of reply, there are other means of contradicting falsehood.

I have not heard of any reply having been given to the pertinent questions asked by *Patricius* some time since in the *True Witness*.

By publishing the above, you will oblige a subscriber,

I remain, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,

P. FITZSIMON.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC AND LITERARY INSTITUTE, QUEBEC.

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1st Vice-President—J. Lane, Jun., Esq.  
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Hon. C. Alley, J. Lilly, W. Delaney, M. J. O'Donogherty, T. O'Connell, E. Foley, M. Shee, J. McKenna, J. Fitzpatrick, and M. McAvoy.—*Daily News*.

THE MONEY OF THE ST. ALBANS BANKS TO BE REFUNDED.—We learn on very good authority that the Canadian Government have determined to refund to the St. Albans Banks a sum of money equal to that stolen from them on the 19th October last by the Raiders, and returned to the latter by the late Chief of the City Police. We have good reasons for believing that the exertions of Mr. B. Devlin have tended in no inconsiderable degree to this result.—*Mont. Herald*.

ANOTHER FENIAN SHOT.—A correspondent writes us that a farmer of the name of Blackwell, living in McGillivray, shot his own dog on Thursday night last, mistaking him for one of a body of Fenians which he supposed had surrounded his house. Such ludicrous scenes are of daily occurrence in this vicinity, owing to the absurd reports of Fenian organizations in Biddulph, which are utterly without foundation.—*London Prototype*.

THE REMOVAL TO OTTAWA.—A writer states that the Governor-General contemplates a visit to England in May next; and as an indication of His Excellency's views on the Seat of Government question, and as to the hopes of Ottawa being fulfilled next summer, he mentions the fact that His Excellency has given orders to have the residence at Spencerwood thoroughly renovated and refitted upon his return to this country in October next. Some surprise was expressed that allusion to Ottawa was omitted from the speech, and the members from that section feel somewhat uneasy as to an early removal of the Government to that place.—*Transcript*.

It is curious to witness how frequently the enemies of Catholicism shift their ground of attack—how often they change their weapons of misrepresentation. At one time they charged it with being the enemy of kings and the fomentor of rebellion. That was when Popes shielded the peoples of Europe against the tyranny and despotism of their rulers. Now, they accuse it of being the friend of despotism and the enemy of the liberty of peoples, because it proscribes the wicked principles and acts of modern revolutionists, believing them to be utterly subversive of true liberty. And who are those who now-a-days accuse her of despotic tendencies and sympathies? They call themselves Liberals, for the reason, we suppose, that *Lucius* is so called a *non lucendo*; for your modern Liberals are the verriest tyrants and the enemies of all rational liberty. By the word Liberty—which they have ever on their lips—they understand perfect freedom for themselves and the right to trample under foot the liberties and rights of others. But this is tyranny, and not liberty; and it is the characteristic of modern Liberals, wherever they exist. In this Canada of ours, the Liberals, George Browns, Clear Grits, and the Rogues of Lower Canada, are the enemies of freedom of education, one of the dearest liberties and most sacred rights of subjects. In the neighboring Republic, they wage a bloody, unrelenting war on the liberty and independence of the sovereign States of the South. In Italy, they are the friends and favorites of the most cruel and despotic government that has ever cursed that fair land—of a government which robs its subjects of their lawful property, and sends them into exile if they complain of being so robbed. In Belgium, those Liberals are so enamored of liberty, as to endeavor so deprive Catholics of the right of Christian burial, and to confiscate to the State moneys that have been left for the education of others than their own compatriots.—*Toronto Freeman*.

BRUTAL ASSAULT—A BOY SHOT.—On Thursday afternoon some boys playing at snow balls near the Marine Hospital, so irritated a resident named Michael Beaumont, against whose door some of the balls struck, that he opened his door, and discharging a pistol, shot one of the lads, named Jean Bte. Rancourt, perhaps fatally, in the abdomen. Dr. F. E. Roy was sent for, and was immediately in attendance, and succeeded in extracting several grains. He also sent for a policeman, and had the heartless ruffian arrested who it appears had, by the time of the policeman's arrival, re-loaded his pistol. Beaumont was brought before the Police Court yesterday, and remanded, pending the doctor's report on the condition of the boy, who is said to be still in a precarious condition.—*Quebec Daily News*.

ARREST OF AN M. P. FOR FORGERY.—A few days ago information was laid before Judge Coursol by one of the officers of the Ontario Bank in this city to the effect that two notes, one for \$500 and the other for \$300, bearing what was believed to be the signature of Mr. Desforge, of the parish of St. Laurent, were discounted for J. B. Daoust, Esq., of St. Eustache, C.E., and member of the Provincial Parliament, for the County of Two Mountains, and that the signatures had been forged by Mr. Daoust. A warrant for his arrest was issued on Thursday by Judge Coursol, and entrusted to Mr. High Constable Bissonette for execution. The same evening the High Constable proceeded to Quebec, and on Friday evening arrested Mr. Daoust at the hotel where he was stopping, and returned without delay to Montreal with his prisoner, where he arrived on Saturday morning. The prisoner was committed to goal to await examination on the charge of forgery.

Mr. Daoust has represented the County of Two Mountains in Parliament since 1854, and the parish of St. Laurent in the Parish and Municipal Councils since 1845. He is a lieutenant in the 1st Battalion Two Mountains Militia, a Commissioner for the summary trial of small causes, and has also been a *Projet* of the County for four years. He is described in the Parliamentary Companion for 1864 as a member of the "British Constitutional" party.—*Mont. Herald*.

A BARRISTER FROZEN TO DEATH.—St. Catherine's, Jan. 19.—This morning Mr. Lewis A. Bell, barrister of Thorold, was found frozen to death in his cutter on the road near Slabtown, about two miles from here. He was about forty-five years of age, and generally much respected.

THE HON. BILLA PLINT ON FENIANISM.—This noted gentleman has published in the *Belleville Intelligencer*, a silly letter capable of doing a great deal of mischief in the present excited state of the country. It can do no good whatsoever, inasmuch as there is no danger to guard against, and it can have no other effect than to alarm the timid and weak-minded and induce them to fancy that such a thing as Fenianism exists in Canada. There may possibly be along the frontier, and in the large cities, a few worthless vagabonds, for whom any change must be for the better; but that a single Canadian Lodge is in existence, or that a single Canadian Roman Catholic of the slightest respectability has joined the Association we utterly deny and repudiate. Canada is the stronghold of Catholicity in North America. Here the Roman Catholics are a people with place and power at their command, with very large landed estates and great personal property to enjoy and protect, and to imagine that these advantages would be jeopardized or lost, by aiding or abetting an horde of lawless men, who know nothing of the rights and privileges of their Canadian Obedience, knowing well that if by any chance such a Raid were successful, it would be followed by a greater one by the Yankees, who would sweep Catholicity off the face of the Province, or place it in the degraded condition of Louisiana; Mississippi and other States where it once reigned; para-

mount. No, Fenianism is as much the abhorrence of the Irish Roman Catholics in Canada, both Clergy and Laity, as it ever can be of the staunchest Protestants alive.

#### Married.

In this city, at St. Patrick's Church, on the 23rd instant, by the Rev. Mr. Dowd, Mr. J. J. Curran, Advocate, to Miss Lizzie, daughter of Mr. P. Brennan, all of this city.

At St. Jean d'Iberville, on the 16th instant, by the Rev. Messire N. T. Hebert, cure of St. Louis de Kamouraska, and brother of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. Messire Laroche, J. B. C. Hebert, Esq., Notary, of Quebec, to Miss Julie Louise Lang, daughter of the late T. Lang, Esq.

#### MONTREAL RETAIL MARKET PRICES.

(From the Montreal Witness.)

	Jan. 24.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 24.
Flour, country, per qtl.	12	9	12
Oatmeal, do	11	6	12
Indian Meal	9	6	10
Powder per lb	3	9	4
Beans, small white per min.	0	0	0
Honey, per lb	0	0	0
Lard, do	0	7	0
Potatoes, per bag	3	3	3
Onions do	0	0	0
Sheep	0	0	0
Lambs	0	0	0
Eggs, fresh, per dozen	0	10	1
Butter, fresh per lb	1	3	1
Do salt, do	0	11	1
Barley, do, for seed per 50 lbs.	0	0	0
Oats do.	1	10	2

#### MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS

Montreal, Jan. 24, 1865.  
Flour—Pollards, \$3.00 to \$3.10; Middlings, \$3.20 to \$3.30; Fine, \$3.60 to \$3.75; Super. No. 2 \$4.17 to \$4.20; Superfine \$4.25 to \$4.40; Fancy \$4.40 to \$4.50; Extra, \$4.60 to \$4.75; Superior Extra \$4.75 to \$5.00; Bag Flour, \$5.00 to \$5.00.  
Oatmeal per bbl of 200 lbs. \$4.75 to \$5.00.  
Wheat—U. Canada Spring, ex-cars, sold at 87c. Ashes per 100 lbs. Pot. latest sales were at \$5.55 to \$5.45; Inferior Pot., \$5.00 to \$5.00; Pearls, m demand, at \$5.40 to \$5.45.  
Butter—Store packed in small packages at 16c to 20c; and a lot of choice Dairy 00c.  
Eggs per doz, 16c.  
Lard per lb, fair demand at 00c to 00c.  
Tallow per lb, 00c to 00c.  
Cut-Meats per lb, Hams, canvassed, 9c to 10c; Bacon, 00c to 00c.  
Pork—Quiet; New Mess, \$19.00 to \$19.50; Prime Mess, \$20.00 to \$20.00; Prime, \$20.00 to \$20.00.—*Montreal Witness*.  
Dressed Hogs, per 100 lbs. \$7.00 to \$7.50  
Hay, per 100 bundles \$8.00 to \$12.00  
Straw, \$5.00 to \$7.50  
Beef, live, per 100 lbs 4.00 to 6.00  
Sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.00  
Lambs, \$2.00 to \$3.00

#### TORONTO MARKETS.—Jan. 23.

Flour, extra Superior per barrel, \$4.50 to 4.60; Fancy, \$4.00 to 4.10; Superfine, 3.90 to 3.97; Wheat, Fall, per bushel, 85c to 92c; Spring, 78c to 83c; Barley, per bushel, 65c to 70c; Peas, do, 15 to 16c; Oats, do, 13c to 14c; Potatoes, do, 30c to 40c; Beef, per 100 lbs, \$3.50 to 5.00; Eggs, per dozen, 00c to 15c; Butter, fresh, per lb, 18c to 20c; tub, 16c to 18c; Chickens, per pair, 25c to 35c.

#### CATHOLIC GAELIC PRAYER BOOKS, FOR SALE.

THE undersigned has for Sale several dozen of the Rev. R. Rankin's Catholic Manual. Parties at a distance, by sending five cent postage stamps, can have a copy at 75 cents, including the cost of mailing. If postage stamps cannot be conveniently had, by remitting one dollar bill a copy will be sent with 25 cents in stamps.

A. S. McDONALD,  
Alexandria, C. W.

Jan. 19, 1865.

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THE Subscribers beg to call attention to several splendid Rosewood PIANO FORTES, of the finest New York and Boston makers, including the celebrated VOSE PIANOS of Boston, which have been sent to them for Sale. Each of the Pianos are warranted for five years; and in purity and brilliancy of tone are unsurpassed. They are now used in some of the finest residences in Montreal.

Apply to  
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Jan. 25, 1865.

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Montreal, Jan. 5, 1865.

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#### TO LET.

PEW No. 136, opposite the Pulpit. Enquire at this Office.  
January 12, 1865.

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July 21st, 1861.

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Newspapers; Periodicals; Magazines; Fashion Books; Novels; Stationery; School Books; Children's Books; Song Books; Almanacs; Diaries and Postage Stamp for sale at DALTON'S NEWS-DEPOT; Corner of Orange and St. Lawrence Streets, Montreal.  
Jan. 17, 1865.