

**The True Witness.**

AND  
**CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.**  
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
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J. GILLIES,  
G. E. OLERK, Editor.

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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, APRIL 28.**

**ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.**  
APRIL—1865.

Friday, 28—St. Anselm, B. D.  
Saturday, 29—St. Peter, M.  
Sunday, 30—Second after Easter—Patronage of St. Joseph.

**MAY—1865**

Monday, 1—St. Philip and James, A. P.  
Tuesday, 2—St. Athanasius, B. D.  
Wednesday, 3—Finding of the Holy Cross.  
Thursday, 4—St. Monique, W.

The "Forty Hours" Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will commence as follows:—  
Saturday, 29th May—St. Joseph, Montreal.  
Monday, 1st April—Good Shepherd, Montreal.  
Wednesday, 3—St. Sophia.

**NEWS OF THE WEEK**

Another debate in the House of Commons on the Defences of Canada, has again aroused public attention to the relations subsisting betwixt Great Britain and her North American Colonies. The debate was started by a motion from Lord Elcho for copies of papers and correspondence relative to the proposed Canadian Defences, and the share of the total cost to be respectively borne by Great Britain and Canada. There was an immense amount of discussion on the motion of course, but no decision was arrived at.

The question of defence is in itself a very simple one. Can a country with a population of about three millions, destitute of all material of war, without a navy, without an army, without arsenals, without fortified places, without guns, and without coal, and means of internal communication, successfully compete with an adjacent country with a population of upwards of twenty millions, with a powerful and veteran army, with a navy, and abundantly supplied with all the necessary material of war? Most persons would answer this question in the negative without a previous long debate; and then arises the question—Can England defend Canada, in Canada, if the latter cannot defend herself? To this question the answer seems obvious. Yes: provided only that England furnish Canada with an army, with a navy, and with all material of war, in sufficient abundance to put Canada in all these respects upon a footing of equality with the United States.

It should be borne in mind, however, that Canada is the most unfavorable field of battle on which to fight, that Great Britain could possibly accept, should she unfortunately be forced into a war with the U. States; whilst for the same reason, it offers to our neighbors the most favorable field. "Every cock," as the proverb says, "can crow on its own dunghill;" and so of course the U. States can with good show of reason boast of the mighty things they would do, and of the ease with which they could crush an antagonist who should come across the Atlantic to fight them, some four thousand miles distant from his base of operations, and from which base he would also be entirely cut off during some five or six months of the year by ice and snow. Whether, therefore, in case of a war with the U. States, Great Britain would consent to fight on such an unfavorable field as Canada, under such disadvantageous conditions, and against such tremendous odds as she would be exposed to, is we think very doubtful; and unless she makes up her mind to accept Canada as the battle field, it would be useless for her to go to the expense of sending out troops, or ships to, or erecting fortifications in this country. Indeed to send out a small force, to expend a small sum for the purpose of Canadian Defence would be worse than useless, for it would be to incur the certainty of moral as well as material loss.

The news of the surrender of General Johnston and his command, made in our last, was premature. It cannot however be much longer postponed, and for the present the fighting part of the business is over. President J. Davis was reported as on his way to Augusta, G. A., thence to cross the Mississippi in the hopes of being there able to make a stand for freedom and independence. In Richmond collisions have already occurred betwixt the citizens and the invaders, and blood has been shed. The tone of the Northern press would indicate an intent upon the part of the Federal government to deal with the Confederates as "rebels"; and to subject them to the penalty awarded to "traitors." Considering that, whilst the Confederates had arms in their hands, and Federal soldiers in their prisons,

the Federals recognised them as belligerents and entitled to the ordinary treatment of belligerents, exchanging prisoners with them, this indicated change of policy on the part of the Washington Government is by no means creditable to it. If the Confederates are to be treated as "rebels" and "traitors" now that they are disarmed, they were "rebels" and "traitors" from the beginning, and as such they should have been treated. Confederate soldiers should, when captured, have been tried for treason and hung as traitors, not exchanged as prisoners of war. Fear of reprisals prevented however the Federals from so acting with their prisoners, whilst the Confederates were yet in strength, and had Federal prisoners in their hands; and it would be inexpressibly mean and cowardly on the part of the Northerners were they to-day, when they have naught to fear from reprisals to their own troops, to adopt towards the conquered enemy a line of conduct different from that which for their own sakes they pursued towards him whilst he was yet in strength. This would indeed be to reverse the old maxim of the Roman:—

"Parcere submissis, sed debellare superbis."

Besides, what is a "rebel" or "traitor"?—A "rebel" is a subject who revolts against his legitimate sovereign; and unless the Northern States pretend that they stand to the Southern States in the relation of sovereign to subject, the latter cannot, in that they took up arms to defend themselves from invasion by the Northern States, be "rebels." A "traitor" is one who is false to his legitimate prince or ruler.—But the citizen of the sovereign and independent State of Virginia or North Carolina who merely obeyed the commands of the Governor, or legally constituted authorities of his own State, is not, cannot be, a "traitor." He who should have refused obedience to the authorities of his State would have been the "rebel," and the Virginian who in the hour of struggle should have proved false to the legally constituted government of the sovereign and independent State of Virginia would indeed have been a "traitor" and worthy of a "traitor's" doom.

We regret to say that, up to the time of going to press, the assassin of the late President of the Federal States had not been arrested. It is not yet known who, or how many were his accomplices; nor is there as yet anything to indicate that the brutal act was the result of a conspiracy on the part of Southerners. By some writers it is indeed attributed to them; by others, with equal show of reason and perhaps mendacity, to Andy Johnson, betwixt whom and the Presidential Chair, President Lincoln interposed.—The truth will no doubt come to light at last; and in the meantime it would be unjust to prejudice a cause, or to lay on the backs of others the load of an infamous and cowardly crime which—most probable hypothesis of all—was the work of a depraved individual of ill regulated mind and morals, and influenced by a morbid hankering after notoriety which he mistook for patriotism. This is we say far more probable than that either the Southerners as a body, or drunken Andy Johnson, were the instigators of the foul and execrable deed.

We are at last arriving at the facts in the case of General Johnston, and the army under his command, said to number about 80,000 troops. It appears that he has been in treaty for a surrender with General Sherman, but that the latter, exceeding his instructions, entered into discussions as to the terms of a general peace. In consequence he has been superseded by General Grant, who has gone to take command of the Federal forces, and we may therefore expect to hear shortly the news of the surrender of General Johnston confirmed. All manner of strange stories concerning Booth are afloat; the latest is to the effect that by a fall from his horse he broke his leg, and was lying concealed in Washington. Mr. Secretary Stanton pretends that the assassination of President Lincoln was the result of a plot hatched in Canada. For this there is not a shadow of evidence yet published to the world, and we may treat it as altogether unworthy of credence; as also another statement to the effect that the plot was known and approved of at Richmond, and that the assailant of Mr. Seward was one of the St Alban Raiders.

On Wednesday, the 19th inst., the day when the mortal remains of the late President Lincoln were removed from Washington, the City of Montreal, and all the Cities of the British North American Provinces, were in mourning as a mark of their detestation of the horrid crime committed on the head of a Government with which our Queen is at peace. The public buildings were surmounted by the national colors half-mast high, and many of them were draped in black.—A public meeting, numerously and respectfully attended was held in the Mechanics Hall; and Resolutions expressive of the horror and disgust which the assassination of President Lincoln has provoked amongst all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, were proposed and unanimously adopted.

At a meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Society, which took place on Sunday, the 23rd instant, Mr. P. McLaughlin was elected Treasurer for the remainder of the ensuing term, in place of Mr. W. Dally, resigned.

**IMMORTAL HATE.**—From an article reproduced from a United States paper by the *Evening Telegraph*, we make the following extract:—

Around the corner of a square opposite the Capitol there suddenly burst, at noon yesterday, a brilliant cavalcade of northern officers and ladies. The dust from their horses' hoofs surged to the sidewalks, and into the faces of a group of the daughters of Richmond who were returning from church. The eyes of the female riders, aglow with excitement and pleasure, were first lifted towards the statue of Washington, immediately in front, then fell, with a curious look, mingled of irony and wonder, upon the ladies on the sidewalk. In the gaze that returned the look, flashed that keener of the varied lightnings of a woman's eye—a quivering scorn. One of the equestresses could not have observed it. Reining her horse up to the curb, with an expression of girlish ardor and delight, she bent a sunny face crowned with golden hair, above the astonished group of Southerners, and singling out one haughty figure from the rest, said eagerly:—

"I beg pardon, but is it not true that I recognize a friend. Can it be that this is really—?"

"You are mistaken," the Southerner responded, with the same fixed gaze. "I have no friends where you abide."

Lifting her dress at the curb, the woman passed on with just the slightest bow that was not in the slightest degree returned. And these women will be the mothers of the next generation of the men of the South; on their laps, from their lips, and at their knees will the children of the present day learn to hiss "OUR FATHER," and at the same time to cherish in their hearts, as a duty second only to their love of God, hatred, undying hatred of their subjugators, of the victorious enemies of their native land. Little matters it that the men of the South be conquered, if the proud bitter spirit of the Southern women be unsubdued; for it is the mothers that mould the men, and it is from the breasts whence he draws his first nutriment that the child also imbibes his first, his strongest, and his most abiding loves and hatreds. Politicians may talk of "reconstruction;" but "reconciliation," which is the one thing needful, is impossible so long as the hearts of the women of the South are full of gall and bitterness towards the North.

England has its Ireland, Russia has its Poland, Austria has its Venetia, and the U. States have now their thorn. They are now entering upon a new, and to them untried state of existence, which will necessitate a political revolution, the abandonment of all their old traditions, formulas, and maxims of government, and which will in many respects assimilate them to the most despotic States of the Old World.—Whereas hitherto, political society in the neighboring republic has been composed of but one class, "citizens," it will henceforward consist of two classes, "subjects and rulers." The North henceforward will rule over the South in right of conquest alone, not in virtue of the free choice and consent of the people of the South; and the former, unless it intends to hold itself up to the world as a model of inconsistency, must revise its "Declaration of Independence," whose fundamental principles it has now formally renounced. It is not enough for the North that it has conquered the South; for to do this, with the immense material resources at its command was, in comparison with what it has to do, but child's play. It has to govern and to retain military possession of the Provinces it has conquered, and this it cannot do without a revision of its own Constitution. "We are a self-governing people" has hitherto been the proud boast of the people of the United States; but this boast can no longer be their's, when they have not only to govern themselves, but to govern a people still numbering several millions, and who in the emphatic language of the Southern women, "have no friends where the Northerners abide."

The "self-governing" theory has thus been tried, weighed in the balance, and found wanting; or rather it has been formally repudiated by those who most noisily proclaimed it as the great political discovery of modern times, and who most ostentatiously made parade of it, as their peculiar inheritance. In this sense certainly it may be said that the American experiment has failed, that democratic government has broken down, on the first severe strain brought to bear upon it. As Austria rules Venetia, as Russia rules Poland, as Piedmont rules Naples, so henceforth must the Northern rule the Southern States—by the sword, and in virtue of conquest. What this means we may learn from the example of Naples, where for the last four or five years, 80,000 Piedmontese troops, have been engaged in vain in the endless task of subduing the "brigands," as the partizans of the legitimate government are styled; just as the Southerners who in obedience to the commands of their legitimate governments took up arms in defence of the sovereignty and independence of their several States are by the Northerners styled "rebels."

The Northerners have triumphed no doubt, but at the cost of their own Constitution. They can call themselves lords and masters of so many thousands of square miles of territory; but the price which they have paid for those square miles, is their political liberties and those of their descendants. Truly they have paid dear for their whistle, or, perhaps we may say their "elephant." And yet to keep their dearly acquired purchase will cost even more than they have yet paid for it; for if there be one thing more costly than another, one thing more unprofitably expensive, it is the sovereignty of one

class over another class who have no friends where their rulers abide." England's difficulty it has scores of times been repeated, is Ireland's opportunity, and no one can doubt that Ireland is England's weak point. Can any one doubt what henceforward will be the weak point of the now victorious Northern States, or what the "opportunity" for which Southern men will wait, and for whose advent Southern women will teach their children to pray? God knows! the worst wisher to republican institutions in general, and the institutions of the United States in particular, could never have desired a greater evil to befall them, than that which the conquest by force of arms of the South has entailed upon the American Republic; the hate, the immortal hate of a brave though conquered people, of too high a spirit, and of lineage too noble to bear their chains meekly.

We have seen in some of our Upper Canada exchanges a communication from a Mr. McDermott, who a short time ago made a display of oratory in Toronto. A copy of this communication has, so the writer states, been addressed to the editor of this paper; but up to the time of writing, it has never come to hand, otherwise, in justice to ourselves, and in justice to the Bishop of Toronto whom it fully exonerates from an insulting accusation brought against His Lordship, we should have noticed it last week.

It will be remembered perhaps, by some of our readers, that the *Globe* published and commented upon a report, or pretended report, of a speech said to have been delivered in New York by this Mr. McDermott after the latter's return to the United States from Toronto; wherein the said Mr. McDermott was represented by the *New York Daily News* as having boasted that he had had an interview with the Right Rev. Dr. Lynch, and that the latter had "expressed himself highly favorable to the Fenian cause." Hereupon the *Globe* insolently called upon His Lordship for explanations; and more than insinuated that that venerable Prelate was a traitor to the British Government, and a hypocrite in his denunciations of secret societies.

To the impertinence of the *Globe* we replied in our issue of the 7th ult. We argued that a gentleman in the position of Dr. Lynch was not called upon, either by the laws of honor or those of morality, to exonerate himself from such a charge made upon such slender authority; and arguing from His Lordship's declarations on many an occasion, and his well known principles, we without hesitation pronounced the statement that the Bishop of Toronto had "expressed himself highly favorable to the Fenian cause," to be an unmitigated lie and a cowardly slander well worthy of the *Toronto Globe*.

Mr. McDermott endorses this our language, as will be seen from the annexed extracts from his communication; for he gives the most "unqualified denial" to the statement that he had in any speech by him delivered, represented the Bishop of Toronto as a Fenian at heart, or as favorable to Fenianism. Thus, in so far as Dr. Lynch is concerned, there is an end of what the *Globe* calls a "grave charge;" and our language with respect to that charge is fully justified by Mr. McDermott himself, who in the most unqualified manner, denies ever having used the offensive language attributed to him; and to whom therefore the expressions of liar and slanderer cannot apply, and were not applied by the *TRUE WITNESS*. The *New York* newspaper reporters however, who reported Mr. McDermott's speech, and who put into his mouth language which he never used, and which conveyed a most wicked and slanderous accusation against the illustrious Bishop of Toronto, are justly obnoxious to the charge; and in justice to himself and the maligned Prelate, Mr. McDermott should call them (the reporter for the *New York Daily News* in particular) to account for falsifying his language, and for giving a mendacious report of his speech. It is of them, not of us, that Mr. McDermott has the right to complain, for all that we affirmed was this: that the statement that the Bishop of Toronto had declared himself "favorable to the Fenian cause," was—

"An unmitigated lie and a cowardly slander."

And Mr. McDermott says:—

"Of one thing I am however positive, and that is that I never made the above assertion or anything like it. It would be a lie if I did."

We have therefore no hesitation in assuring Mr. McDermott that we make no attack upon his veracity; that we attribute no untruth to him; and that we entirely absolve him of all suspicion of being the author of what he calls "a lie," and the *TRUE WITNESS* calls "an unmitigated lie and a cowardly slander," against the Bishop of Toronto.

For the rest we have no quarrel, no right to quarrel with Mr. McDermott's political opinions. As an American citizen he is under no obligations of loyalty to the British Government. He is as free, both in morals and in honor, to speak, and wage war against that Government as he is to speak and to war against any other alien Government; from which he receives no protection in person and property, and to which therefore he owes no allegiance. But it is in had

taste, very bad taste, for a stranger to come over here, and to abuse, or use hostile language against the British Government; and this bad taste, we have reprobated, and do still reprobate. A Canadian who should go over to New York, and there speak of the Federal Government, as in Toronto Mr. McDermott spoke of the British Government, would scarcely escape a horsewhipping or tar and feathers, even if he were to be so lucky as to escape the notice of the legal authorities.

We do not expect that American citizens of Irish origin, when in the United States, should hesitate to give public expression to their ill will towards Great Britain; but when in British territory and addressing an audience composed of British subjects, they insult, they impugn the honor of the latter, if they suppose that to them the expression of that ill will can be anything but distasteful and offensive. There is no analogy betwixt the position of an Irishman a citizen of the United States, and that of an Irishman a subject of Queen Victoria in Canada. The latter is here of his own free choice. No one asked him to come here; no one asks him to stop here one moment if he dislikes the country, or its Government. But so long as he remains here, he is bound in law and honor to be in heart and deed a true and loyal British subject; and if he cannot be this, he will, if an honest man, leave this country, and transfer his allegiance to some other Government under which he will be at liberty to hate and abuse Queen Victoria's rule to his heart's content. The alien therefore who comes here from the United States, and makes a tirade against our Government, evidently implies that his hearers are hostile to, and seek the overthrow of that Government, and are therefore not honest men, but simply sneaks. Why? the mere fact that a man of his own free will settles in Canada is a formal profession of loyalty to the political order that obtains in Canada; and he who so settles in this country has no more right to entertain hostile designs against the Queen or her rule, than would have the Irishman settling in the State of New York, to meditate the overthrow of the Federal Government.—The Irishman in Canada is as much bound to be truly loyal to the British Government, as are the Irish emigrants, settled in the State of New York, to be loyal to the Federal Government under which they have voluntarily placed themselves; and just as we should be guilty of impugning the honor of the latter, were we to insinuate that they hated, and desired the overthrow of that Government; so the alien from the United States who comes over here, and by his language insinuates that the Irish in Canada hate and desire the overthrow of the British Government under which they have voluntarily placed themselves, is guilty of a grave charge against the honor and the morality of his hearers.

This, and his bad taste are what we reproach Mr. McDermott with; but we are happy to have in our power to exonerate him from the imputation of having slandered the Bishop of Toronto.

Here is the essential part of Mr. McDermott's communication relating to His Lordship, and in which alone we take any interest:—

I learn that the *Globe* insinuates or asserts openly that on my return to New York from Canada, I publicly declared Bishop Lynch to be a FENIAN—or words to that effect. Before proceeding further, permit me to give this statement my most unqualified denial. 'Tis true that since my return to this city I have delivered several public addresses, and in one of them I took occasion to comment on the state of affairs in Canada, and referred to the Bishop of Toronto requesting the Hibernians not to turn out in procession on St. Patrick's Day last, I am unable to give what I said *verbatim*, from the fact that all of those addresses were delivered impromptu. Of one thing I am however positive, and that is, I never made the above assertion or anything like it. It would be a lie if I did; for during the lengthy and pleasing interview I had with His Lordship of Toronto, I did not ask whether he was a Fenian or Fenian sympathiser—nor did he me.

**THE PLAGUE.**—The rapid progress of, and fearful ravages caused by, some new form of epidemic, which following the usual course of these scourges flows from East to West, and is now devastating St. Petersburg, is naturally exciting much attention in England. The epidemic in question, though called the plague, is by some said to partake of many of the characteristics of Asiatic cholera; and its ravages are of course greatest there where dirt does most abound. Under these circumstances, the hint contained in the following communication to the *London Times* might well be addressed to those who have the management of the affairs of Montreal, one of the filthiest and the most stench contaminated cities in the world:—

**THE RUSSIAN EPIDEMIC.**  
(To the Editor of the Times.)

Sir,—My object in writing this letter is to call the attention of medical men to the fearful contagion now raging in Russia, with a view, if possible, of preventing its introduction into this country. This epidemic, I learn from the papers, resembles Asiatic cholera in its worst form. Originating, I believe, in Siberia, it has gradually progressed westward, until now we hear of its ravages in St. Petersburg, where its virulence has utterly baffled the efforts of the medical men there. On the approach of summer its effects will, in all probability, be still more to be dreaded. Should not some efforts be made, through our Minister in St. Petersburg, to obtain information touching the nature of this disease, with the view of adopting precautions against its spread into this country on the opening of navigation next month? It is scarcely necessary to say that the subject is of vast importance. Surely, then, some active measures should be taken at once, and while there is yet time. Your obedient servant,  
G. N.