FEBRUARY 27, 1863. THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE-

Witness.

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 1863.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The fifth session of the Imperial Parliament was opened on Thursday, the 5th instant. The Royal speech alluded, of course, to the war betwixt the Northern and Southern States, and expressed a conviction that any overtures towards bringing about a cessation of hostilities would have been ineffectual. The addresses in both Houses re-echoed the same sentiment.

The Polish insurrection is assuming a serious aspect, and there have been several encounters betwixt the Russian troops and the insurgents. Brigandage as it is called, or armed resistance to the Piedmontese invaders, is as rife as ever in Nap'es. The Times' correspondent insists on " the necessity of immediate and energetic action"-as if there had not been enough already of energetic action, in the shape of fusillades, and wholesale massacres of the Neapolitan loyalists

The past week has been unmarked by any im portant operations in the United States. Vicks hurg has not yet been taken, but the Yankee mortar boats have been driven off by the fire from the place. Several of the American journals seems to apprehend a French intervention.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT .- The whole time of the Legislature has been occupied with making with the latter, so long as the relative positions and listening to long speeches on the Address, and of the two sections of the Province were inverted, the several amendments moved thereunto: the and the population of the Lower, was greatly in burden of the movers of the latter being to show excess of that of Upper Canada; but this was that on the question of Representation by Population there is neither honor nor consistency amongst our Canadian publicists. On this point right to demand and obtain. What is sauce for the speakers on both sides have been eminently the goose is not always sauce for the gander;successful; though whether it were worth while wasting so much time to prove that which nobody ever did, or could doubt, may perhaps be called

before the notice of the Legislature by a motion from M. Huot for the production of all documents and correspondence on the subject. In the debate on the Addres, Mr. Ferguson also took occasion to express himself very strongly upon the same subject. We give a report of his words, as published in the Montreal Gazette of Saturday from abroad, must continue to increase faster than the French Canadian, and will demand fresh fields last:

"He Mr. Ferguson- went on to cite the Aylward case, condemning in strong terms the Solicitor General West for prosecuting it to a conviction. The circumstances connected with the execution of these poor people were such as he hoped in the interest of bumanity would not occur again in Canada. The tragedy was a disgrace to the country. But the Government did not give time to the fair consideration of the case Some of their number were enjoying themselves in England; another was with the Indians on Manitoulin Island; whilst a third was running about the country giving two-penny-half-peuny lectures on the Four Revolutions. (Laughter.) He occused in bitter terms the hon, member for South Hastings [Mr. Wallbridge] for being instrumental in bringing these persons to the scaffold.

Mr. Wallbridge said he wished to state that what the hon member for South Simcoe had asserted both in reference to the conduct of the Solicitor General West, and in reference to his [Mr. Wallbridge's] conduct, was every word of it false-every single word of it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Ferguson would ask the hon, gentleman one question did he sign the petition to get these per-

sons reprieved? Mr Wallbridge Certainly not. Mr. Ferguson - Then they could well understand that the hon, member was as anxious to witness the herrible scene of the execution of husband and wife as any man could be. (Oh! oh!) They were hang-

ed like dogs, and not allowed a moment's respite to their end: Hon, Mr. Cartier-Hear! hear! And that by a Li

beral Government. (Oh! Oh!) Mr. Ferguson contrasted the action taken in this case with that taken in another case of murder, when a woman was the culprit, and who instead of suffering the extreme penalty of the law, was consigned to the penitentiary, which be (Mr. Ferguson) considered was the proper place for women, and in which they ought to be kept for life. He had another subject, and he would now address himself to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. He had heard a rumor that that Minister had made an arrangement with certain Indians of a most advantageous character, and in fact that he had fairly outwitted them. And it was also reported that some one with him had promised grog to mollify the Indians, who were found at first rather impracticable, and the grog had accomplished what could not be done without it. This statement he had received from the Hon. Mr. Reeser, who was probably at hand to bear him out.

An Excuse .-- We have heard it urged that the Solicitor General could not consistently, as a member of the Executive, favor the prayer for

that his professional reputation required that the couple should be hung. As a lawyer he had obtained sentence of death against them: in his capacity of one of the Executive, he was bound to have the sentence carried into execution. Professional etiquette required it. We give this excuse for what it is worth.

We fear that the people of Lower Canada are not sufficiently grateful to the editor of the Toronto Globe for the trouble which he takes in their welfare, and the gratuitous advice which he tenders them. Perbans they think that these services are officious, not to say impertinent; and that his counsels are dictated by motives not quite disinterested. Perhaps they suspect that the lively interest which he takes in them and their affairs, is analogous to that which the butcher takes in the condition of the lamb, whose throat the latter proposes to cut, whenever the state of the market shall justify the operation.

The Globe in the most paternal tone, and with the most patronising aspect imaginable, assures the "French Canadian" to whom he addresses himself, that "it is vain and useless to endeavor to preserve for ever the present geographical limits, and internal relationship of the two Canadas."-Nature evidently intended the Lower Province to be devoured, d'esre crocquer, by the Upper; and though the ' French Canadian' may object to the process as to him, highly disagreeable, it is in vain for him to offer any resistance; nay it would be improus on his part to do so, as he would be thereby endeavoring to frustrate the designs of divine Providence, which made French Canadians expressly to be devoured by the "superior race," even as in the course of time, and in the fullness of their fat, lambs were created to be slaughtered by the butcher, and eaten by the

As a preliminary to the devouring process, and as mevitable according to the decrees of Providence, the "French Canadian" must make up his mind to submit to "Representation by Population." It is true that such a measure, or system of representation, would never have been tolerated by the people of Upper Canada, so long as they were numerically inferior to those of the Lower Province; it is true thas the former obtained, and enjoyed Equality of Representation no more than the people of Upper Canada, as a "superior race," with an open bible," had a what is just as towards a mere " French Canadian" Papist, would be manifestly unjust towards an intelligent Anglo-Saxon Protestant, with a strong spice of the Yankee superadded to his cording to Population" must be accorded to the latter; for as the Clear-Grit and Reform organ

"It is just as possible to dam the waters of the St. Lawrence as to keep Upper and Lower Canada on an equality in numbers and representation. The Auglo-Saxon population receiving large accessions to occupy, and representation in the Legislature according to numbers. Further resistance to this result on the part of the French Canadian people is

as unwise as it will be futile." Hear this, " French Canadian" people, whom the Globe addresses, and be docile in time! Your position is that of the traveller who, having fallen into the hands of thieves, is by the latter warned that he had best make over to them his watch and other valuables, since further resistance, since prolonged struggles on his part, or cries for the Police, would be as unwise, as they would be futile, and would lead to personal injury, as well as to the mere deprivation of property. Besides, the thieves-we correct ourselves-the party of whom the Globe is the organ and fitting representative, are after all so well disposed towards the victim whom they have garotted and propose stripping, that resistance to their demands would be almost ungenerous on the part of him to whom they have administered the friendly hug. Why should they-the silly French Canadians-asks the Globe, be afraid of us? why should they shrink from our loving embrace?-"Why," he asks, "should they endeavor to segregate themselves from the rest of their fellowsubjects?"

"No one," continues the Clear-Grit organ in the most honied accents-" no one seeks to do them injury, to deprive them of any privilege they now possess in common with the British portion of the popu-

Poor silly lamb! exclaims the Globe in short, as the timid creature shrinks from his outstretched hand-why won't you come and have your throat cut, pleasantly and quietly?

To the Globe's questions, why the French Canadian people hold themselves aloof from the Upper Canadians? why they do not desire to place the preponderance of political power in the hands of the latter? why, in short, they do not wish to draw closer or tighter the folds of the cord which now binds them in constrained and mercy in behalf of the Aylwards, seeing that he | unhallowed union to Upper Canada ?- it is not dif-

French Canadians and the Anglo-Saxons two; and no amount of human legislation can ever make them one. Ethnologically, they are distinct; as distinct, to say the least, as are the Venetians, from the other and Teutonic races comprised beneath the rule of Austria; and if it be not a sin on the part of the Venetians to "segregate themselves" from their Teuton fellowsubjects, so neither can it be a sin on the part of the French Canadians to act in like manner towards their fellow-subjects of Anglo-Saxon descent. Nay! there are greater, infinitely greater, differences betwixt the French Canadian Catholic, and Upper Canadian Protestant, than a mere ethnological difference, such as that which alone divides the Catholic Venetian, from his other fellow Catholic subjects of the Austrian Empire. The Lower Canadians, and the Upper Canadians, are alien to one another not in blood and language alone, but in religion. Socially and ethnologically they form two distinct elements which will not blend, which cannot be fused into one homogeneous mass in any political crucible: and so long as legislators and publicist ignore this important fact, they do but make fools of themselves, and inflict irreparable injury upon those for whom in their folly they legislate. Apply, we say to the Globe, apply to the French Canadians the principles which you apply to the case of the Italian people subject to Austrian rule, and you will need no other answer to the silly questions which you propound. Indeed, far less than what you challenge for the Venetians, as their right as against Austria, would satisfy the people of Lower Canada: The latter do not as do the Venetians, ask to be allowed to transfer their allegiance to any other Power: they are content to remain toyal subjects of Queen Victoria, and members of the British Empire: but they demand only this, that their internal affairs be under their sole and absolute control, and that their domestic institutions, social and religious, be not placed at the mercy of an alien and hostile race; as they would be placed, were the Legislative Union betwixt Upper and Lower Canada to be continued upon those terms of "Representation by Population" upon which the Globe insists. Does the latter deem the Union as at present constructed, unjust and oppressive towards Upper Canada? If so, let him agitate for the Repeal, pur et simple, of that Union: and then, if the people of Lower Canada endeavor still to enforce it upon the reluctant people of the Upper Province, but not otherwise. will the Globe have good cause of complaint

against " the French Canadian." The Globe undertakes also to read the latter a lecture upon the " absurd pride of race," which induces him-the French Canadian-" to cherish his language as if it were a charm against the evil one, and to refuse to adopt any innovation on established usages, because it is derived from an alien people"- Globe. Let us imagine a German newspaper published in Vienna, speaking in simiother excellencies, natural and acquired; and so, lar terms of the "absurd pride of race" of the The case of the Aylwards has been brought | in the words of the Globe, "Representation ac- | Venetians, and of their obstinate preference of their native Italian, to the alien Dutch tongueand try to realize the outcry of indignation which the insolence of the Viennese journalist would provoke from the Liberal press of which the Globe claims to be a member! Has not-we ask the latter; has not the French Canadian as good and legitimate reason for his "pride of race," as has the Venetian, or, to come to that, as has the Great Briton? If this "pride of race," if this civis Romanus sum, be not " absurd," when manifesting itself by the mouth of Lord Palmerston, or prompting to the invasion of Austrian Provinces in Italy, wherein is it "absurd," or worthy of the sarcasms of the Globe, on the part of him in whose veins runs the blood of French sires? and when it prompts to preservation of the language of Racine, Corneille, Bossuet, Fenelon, Massillon, and the illustrious poets, and orators who have made the language and literature of France the property of the civilised world? The writer in the Globe may fondly deem that by his contemptible, and futile efforts to proscribe that French tongue, and that "absurd" French pride of race, he is giving proof of a wise and liberal policy: but we assure him, that he is but confirming those strong prejudices concerning English vanity, and bad manners, which low-bred, ill-mannered, or "snobbish," English visitors to the Continent, with far more money in their pockets than brains in their skulls, have unfortunately contrived to engender amongst all the peoples of Europe. The manners of the editor of the Globe in addressing the French Canadians, are those of an impudent, purse-proud snob, and are as alien to every true English gentleman, as they are offensive to those to whom, and for whose benefit they are especially designed. And yet, as it too often happens that the coarse, illiterate, but opulent "bag-man," who during the summer months deigns to honor Continental Europe by his sublime, presence, and his undisguised scorn of foreign manners, foreign language, and foreigners in general-is by the the question of Representation. latter accepted as the type of the genuine Englishman; so it may chance that our French contemporaries may in like manner fall into the error of accepting the Toronto Globe as a faithful ex-

ponent of the British national character. It is

and generous heart, the insolence, and low-bred in the Legislature, would be fatal to the cause fanaticism of the leader of the Clear-Grits or of Freedom of Education; for it cannot be Protestant Reformers of Upper Canada: we doubted, it, is not attemped to be denied that should certainly indulge in no "pride of race," should take no pleasure in our national origin, were these fellows, or their spokesman of the Globe, to be looked upon by our French Canadian friends as fair specimens of British gentlemen.

The Irish Canadian requests us to publish an article which appears in its issue of the 18th inst. We do not recognise either our contemporary's right to urge such a request, or any obligation on our part to comply with it. Yet as we would not give any one a semblance even of legitimate complaint against us, or of grounds whereon to base a charge of unfair treatment by the TRUE WITNESS, we comply with that request; with the understanding, however, that our compliance in this particular instance, be not considered as establishing a precedent, which we hold ourselves bound to follow :--

"THE 'TRUE WITNESS' AGAIN. "Our Montreal contemporary, in his last issue, favors us with another column and a half in reply to our strictures on his notice of the Irish Canadian He sets us down as 'unreasonable,' captions, 'unjust,' 'ridiculous.' Very well. In half the space we shall show (and in as good natured a way as possible) that our contemporary deals with us unjustly. He is a great hand bimself at inductive reasoning, and ne knows very well that correct conclusions cannot be derived from partial or incorrec premises. Then of two things one. The editor of the True Witness, in criticising the Irish Canadian has not carefully read this journal, or has wilfully misrepresented it. We told him so in our previous reply; we shall now demonstrate it. He says soand-so appears in our 'prospectus.' Now, we issued no 'prospectus,' and what he quotes from was simply an 'outline' of our enterprise, issued by the founders of the paper with a view to obtaining shareholders. No doubt the gentlemen whose names are attached to that document would have been a little more careful in their choice of language could they have imagined that our contemporary was, with spectacles on nose, and 'dictionary and grammar in hand,' prepared to exercise his powers of literary dissection upon their unpretonding production.

We objected before to his stating that our 'pros pectus' contained a declaration that the 'specialty' of our paper was 'national,' not 'religious.' We have shown that we published no 'prospectus,' and we now state that what he referred to was simply an editorial remark appended to the Leader's notice of our appearance. This is not much, to be sure, but it shows clearly that our contemporary was careless. But the principal point is this (and it is very un-

fortunate for our contemporary, as it goes to show that he writes upon matters without being fully informed, dogmatises and censures without just grounds): that he altogether ignores our statement of objects and principles as published in our first number, and which was embraced in the article headed 'the work before us.' It was after a perusal of this article, no doubt, that the editor of the Metropolitan Record concluded that ours were 'the principles which need to be disseminated wherever individuals of the Irish race are found.' That article was our 'prospectus' in reality, and it would have been well had the editor of the True Witness read it and given us credit or criticism for the 'principles' il contained, instead of going to work with 'cork block and razor' to split hairs over an advertisement

of the promoters of our enterprise.
'Of its' (The Irish Canadian's) 'principle,' says our contemporary, 'as we know nothing, so also we said nothing.' But what did he do? Why, he laudibly went to work and made 'principles' for us! But why did he not know something of the principles we laid down for ourselves? Simply because he did not read us. We hope this announcement will let the light in upon our contemporary's vision, and enable him to uncerstand why the Archbishop's organ stamped us with the seal of its approval. We shall again send our contemporary a copy of our first number and mark the article that we have reference to for his perusal. He will there find that we do not intend altogether to eschew 'those politico-religious questions' that make up so much his 'specialty,' and that upon that question, which of all others, he is so anxious about - the education question - we are not without settled views. We have declared emphati cally enough we fancy, that ' Freedom of education and the rights of the parent we shall strenuously main-

What says our contemporary to this? Has be not done us an injustice? Let him candidly confess it and lay aside his cavils. On 'the question of the integrity and inviolability of the property of our religious communities,' we have, it is true, said nothing, and we think that in stating the principles of a paper called The Irish Canadian it was altogether un necessary. Can the editor of the True Witness for one moment imagine that we could favor a work of spoliation, such as he here hints at? Our name ough to have been enough for that, friend Witness. On the question of the 'autonomy of Lower Canada,' we claim the right of exercising our 'independent' judgment, as it is not the interests of the people of Lower annda that we specially advocate, but the interests of the Irish people in the whole province, and in dealing with a politico-sectional question like this, we shall take such a position as will best tend to their welfare, when occasion demands."

With respect to two very important questions in which the Irish Catholics of Canada are vitally interested-the "School Question" and that of the integrity and inviolability of ecclesiastical property of every description, our contemporary's promises seem fair enough; and we therefore give him full credit for the soundness of his principles upon these two points-viz., the inviolability of ecclesiastical property; and the sole and absolute right of the parent over all that appertains to the education of his children-and, as the correlative of this right on the parent's part, the absence of any right on the part of the State, directly or indirectly, to control the edution of the child. But upon another point equally important, because essential both to the practical assertion of the principle of Freedom of Education, and to the integrity of our ecclesiastical institutions-the declaration of the Irish Candian is vague and most unsatisfactory. We mean of course his declaration of principle upon that most of them were elected to the present legis-

The integrity of the property of our Catholic nstitutions, and, the satisfactory settlement of the School Question, depend upon the maintenance of equality of representation in the Legislature as betwirt Upper and Lower Canada. Any for this reason that we give ourselves the trouble change in the system of representation which had himself prosecuted them to conviction, and ficult to find an answer. God has made the of holding up to the execution of every honest should give to Upper Canada a preponderance face."—Toronto Mirror.

the overwhelming majority of the people of Upper Canada-all of them in short with the exception of a small body of High Church Ano. licans-are opposed to "Freedom of Education," and are warm advocates of a system of "State-Schoolism." It is only by, and through the influence of Catholic Lower Canada-an influence of which Representation by Population would deprive the latter-that a partial instalment of justice has been, after hard stuggles won for the Catholic minority of the Western section of the Province; and since he who sincerely desires the ends, must also desire the means by which alone those ends can be attained, so he who is sincerely the friend of 'Freedom of Education" must also be the advocate of Equality of Representation, as the only means by which Freedom of Education can be obtained. He who pretends to be an advocate of the latter, and at the same time gives any countenance to a measure for assuring a preponderance in the Legislature to Protestant Upper Canada, must be either a fool, or a hypocrite.

And if our contemporary persist in looking at the Representation Question, from an Irish instead of from an exclusively Catholic, point of view, one would think that the loud and renterated complaints of the Irish people against a Legislative Union, forced upon them with a peonle" alien in blood, in language, and in religion," would convince him of the inconsistency of which Irishmen in Canada would be guilty. were they to lend their aid to impose a similar Union upon the French people of Lower Canada. If Ireland has a right to claim self-government so has Lower Canada; if the clamors of the Irish against their Legislative Union with Great Britain are well founded, so also would be the clamors of the French Canadians against such a Union with Upper Canada as that which Representation by Population would impose upon them; and therefore, unless Irishmen desire to be treated as the most inconsistent of mortals, claiming for themselves that which they refuse to concede to others, they will strenuously oppose a measure which, if carried, would establish betwix! Lower and Upper Canada, the very counterpart of these political conditions now subsisting betwint freland and Great Britain, and against which the Irish, both at home and abroad, so loudly and bitterly complain, as unjust towards Ireland.

The interests, no less than the honor, of the Irish Catholics in Canada, require of them to adopt this policy. No doubt that some amongst them may, by sacrificing the interests of their Church, and the rights of Lower Canada, curry favor with the Clear-Grits, or Protestant Reformers; and so establish a claim upon the latter for a larger share in government situations, government contracts, and dirty, though lucrative jobs of all kinds. But no matter what unprincipled demagogues may preach, or needy placebeggars practise, the only bonorable, the only truly profitable, course of policy for Irish Catholies to pursue is that which shall secure to Catholic Lower Canada an influence in the Legislature equal to that of Protestant Upper Canada; and which therefore will tend to promote a close union betwixt the Catholic minority of the Upper Province, and the Conservative Catholic majority of the Lower. The interests of the two are inseparably, for good or for evil, bound together ; and the only true principles of political action " which need to be disseminated wherever in Canada individuals of the Irish race are found," are those which we have indicated above, and which may be thus summed up-" Union amongst all Catholics. irrespective of national origin." Only by such a union can the country be saved from the curse of "Protestant Ascendency," with which, in the guise of Representation by Population," it is now menaced; only by such a union can the rights of the Church be secured, the property of her religious communities be guaranteed, and the inestimable boon of "Freedom of Education" be wrested from the hands of the tyrant majority of the Upper Province.

The Toronto Mirror has the following remarks as to the policy of the Irish Catholics of Upper Canada, on the question of Representation by Population :-

"Well, it is the business of the Catholics of Upper Canada, who, though they may be ignored upon the question, form no inconsiderable portion of the population, to see that the Tories are not 'strong' upon the question. After the amount of support which they have received from us as opponents of the measure, it is our duty to see that their present treason to Provincial interests is not successful. If we except a few of the more rabid amongst them-men whose secret intrigues, backed by the influence of Orangeism, was always a source of annoyance to the Conservative or Coalition Government of the dayevery man of them is pledged more or less against Representation by Population. It was upon their well-known opposition to this so-called reform, and upon their pledges favorable to Separate Schools, lature. If they turn around, therefore, now, because they are out of office, and vote for the enslavement of Lower Canada, and the destruction of the liberties of the Catholics of the Province, they will prove themselves worthy of all that has been said against them-they will stand forward as pledge-breakers of the first water. Their reticence on one motion may be looked over; but a steady policy in favor of sectional and illiberat measures will draw down upon them the execuation of those who were, at the last