

REMITTANCES

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THE TRUE WITNESS
AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1855.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The tidings of the death of the Czar have been received with considerable mistrust by many of our Canadian journalists; yet though the event is sudden, and, in one sense, opportune, it seems to be well authenticated. The Emperors of Russia are very liable to attacks of a sudden nature, especially when their foreign policy is distasteful to the nobles; and though we must await the arrival of the next steamer for full confirmation of the truth of the report, there seems to be no reason to doubt its truth. In the House of Lords, on the 2nd inst., Lord Clarendon mentioned it as a well authenticated fact. Thus we may conclude that one great obstacle to the success of the peace conference now holding at Vienna, has been suddenly removed. Apoplexy is said to have been the immediate cause of the Czar's death; and "apoplexy" is a very good name for the disease.

We are happy to say that, at New York, and in the United States generally, St. Patrick's Day passed over without any violence on the part of the "Know-Nothings." The weather was stormy; and in consequence, the procession at New York was but thinly attended. The indoor festivities were however kept up with great spirit. At Poughkeepsie, a figure intended to represent St. Patrick, with a bag of potatoes around his neck, was suspended in front of one of the public buildings. But the intent of the cowardly blackguards to create a riot, was frustrated by the good sense and peaceable bearing of the sons of St. Patrick.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

The case of the Returning Officers committed to jail by the House of Assembly, for breach of privilege, and who moved to be released by writ of *habeas corpus*, has been decided by Justice Badgley in favor of the House. His Honor, maintained the competency of the House of Assembly to punish violations of its privileges, either by fine or imprisonment. The dignity of the House having been thus vindicated, we may trust that Returning Officers will, at subsequent elections, be a little more careful how they discharge the duties imposed upon them. We are sorry to say that a riotous mob endeavored to interrupt the proceedings of the House upon the occasion of the commitment of M. Hudon to prison. A rescue by force was openly spoken of; Sir A. McNab, and M. Cauchon, were assailed with abuse, and the windows of the first named gentleman were smashed by the mob. At last things looked so serious that the military were ordered to hold themselves in readiness; but this timely display of force, had the good effect of cooling down the courage of the rioters, and order was quickly restored.

On the 15th, the discussion on the new Legislative Council Bill was long, stormy and rather personal.—Mr. McKenzie, quoted Scripture, assailed the political honesty of M. Cauchon, and was repeatedly called to order by the Speaker. This debate was followed by another on Sir A. McNab's Motion for the second reading of the Militia Bill; a measure which does not seem generally to meet the approval of the country, as likely to be very expensive during peace, and very ineffective in time of war. Messrs. Holton and Brown demanded the postponement of the discussion of the question, in order to give time for further consideration of the principle therein involved. In the propriety of this proposition, the majority of the House seemed to acquiesce; and after a few words from members on both sides of the House, the question was allowed to drop.

On Monday, some private Bills were advanced a stage. The second reading of the Bill for abolishing the recitatives was deferred until Wednesday next; and upon motion of Sir A. McNab, the second reading of the Bill to secure the more convenient assembling of Parliament was fixed for "this day 3 months" by a majority of 68 to 35. The Lower Canada Municipal Bill was carried by a majority of 70 to 8.

The discussion on the Militia Bill was renewed, and again prorogued to the 25th. Petitions on disputed elections, and private matters, have chiefly occupied the time of the House.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

This great national festival was this year celebrated in Montreal with even increased splendor and solemnity. The early part of the day was remarkably fine for the season; and long before the time appointed for High Mass, St. Patrick's Church was filled to overflowing with the enthusiastic children of the great Apostle, anxious to assist in honoring his festival. When our two Irish Societies marched in with their respective bands, and ranged their banners around the walls of the sanctuary, every heart was full, and every eye moist under the strong inspiration of "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning." Never does that fine old melody (so racy of its soil) touch the heart as it does when played in an Irish procession on an Irish festival. His Lordship, the coadjutor-bishop, and the

Reverend Superior of the Seminary, arrived soon after, and their entrance was followed by a deep silence, so that you could hear a pin fall in that vast assembly, as the venerable procession of the Clergy moved up the aisle, and took their places in the sanctuary. The pillars along the grand aisle were all adorned with evergreen; so, too, was the sanctuary itself. The high altar was tastefully ornamented for the occasion by the good Sisters in charge of the Orphan Asylum. High above the altar, amid a forest of evergreen branches which formed the background of the picture, stood the noble statue of the Apostle of Ireland, the whole surmounted by a streamer bearing in large characters the inscription—"WE ENTREAT THEE, HOLY YOUTH, TO COME AND WALK AMONG US." It is superfluous to state that this was the cry of the (pagan) Irish people, heard by St. Patrick in a vision after his return to his own country.

A Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by Bishop Larocque, assisted by Rev. Mr. Billaudel, Superior of the Seminary. The first Gospel being intoned, the Rev. Mr. McCulla ascended the pulpit, and delivered an excellent discourse, taking for his text the 16th verse of the 4th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew:—"The people that sat in darkness, saw a great light; and to them that sat in the region of the shadow of death, light is sprung up."

Ireland, in the days of yore, was in spiritual darkness; the people there were ignorant of the true God and ignorant of themselves. Held in bondage by the devil, they worshipped the creature rather than the Creator; they paid homage to Satan in the shape of the world, and their minds were darkened by ignorance and superstition; but God, through his infinite mercy, dispersed the darkness of idolatry and spread the light of Christianity. Let us therefore rejoice in the Lord, and return thanks to him for his infinite mercy. Our hearts ought to be filled with sentiments of gratitude towards Saint Patrick, because he has imparted to us the knowledge of ourselves, and bestowed on us the truths of the Gospel; with sentiments of holy joy, because we have been put in possession of the Catholic Faith, that promises us immortality. If we are still in possession of this faith, we owe it to the prayers of Saint Patrick; he looks down on us with a special regard, as on the descendants of those whom he instructed himself in the elements of our holy religion. Let us, then, continue in the ways of our ancestors, and always be in the good odor of Jesus Christ.

It is time now to consider who and what sort of man was Saint Patrick. He was born of Christian parents who imbued his mind with holy sentiments. Already in his youth, during the six years of his captivity, he gave proof of his true faith; he did not yield to mourning and complaints; he was aware that we must enter the kingdom of heaven through many tribulations. Full of confidence in divine providence, he addressed his prayers for assistance to God Almighty a hundred times a day, and as often at night he could be found kneeling and praying. The Lord did not reject prayers offered up with such perseverance; he released him at the end of six years. Several visions induced him to prepare himself for the great work of preaching the Gospel in Ireland. He then presented himself to the Pope, and was invested with full power and authority to ordain Bishops and Priests in the Churches which he might found. Thus raised to the dignity of a Prelate of the Church, he undertook to break the fetters that bound the people of Ireland, in order to bestow on them the glorious liberty of the children of God. He had no rich supplies; he could not rely on the support of the wealthy of the earth. Was it, therefore, not rash to undertake such a difficult enterprise? No, I say, for the missionary that relies on the world is in the power of Satan. But St. Patrick's hope was in God, and, if he lacked riches, he had a great supply of charity. He was prepared to shed his blood like his Divine Master; determined to resist all the powers of earth and Hell combined. The humility of our Saint, as expressed in his confessions and letters was most eminent. In his letters he only assumed the title of a "Sinner." His favorite prayer was that of St. Augustine; a prayer that opens the treasures of Divine Grace, without which we cannot go to Heaven. I need not detain you with a recital of his victories; suffice it to say, the force of his eloquence swept away all the darkness of Paganism from the Island, which, not undeservedly, received the name of the "Island of Saints." St. Patrick was great, because he imitated the life of Christ in prayer and penitence. The humility of Christ was not a scandal or folly to him, but the greatness of the earth he considered as insignificant. He had another character, by which he elevated the character of all the rest of the faithful; he was a true Christian Priest, the faithful shepherd of his flock in the time of wrath and in the time of peace. We may say of him, he shone forth in his day as the morning star.—Yes; we owe him thanks, for he imparted to our ancestors the knowledge of the true God, and scattered among them the seed of the Gospel; established Churches, ordained Bishops and Priests, and accomplished thus faithfully the great end for which he was sent. After the lapse of seven centuries, great trouble arose in the centre of Europe, like a violent hurricane; false doctrines swept over the west, and carried away many a soul from the bosom of the Church of Christ. But the people of Ireland clung to their faith; they scorned those errors, and they rejected them with horror. The Priests admonished the flocks, and guarded them against those teachings of man. Flying before their persecutors, the Irish Catholics concealed themselves in the rocky glens, in the caves of the mountains, there to celebrate the divine mysteries. Thus, our faithful pastors transmitted to us the doctrines preached by St. Patrick—let us never renounce them. If the world frown upon us, let us remember the words of our Saviour: "Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you for my sake; rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great will be your reward in Heaven." And again: "If the world hates you, it hated me before—if they persecute me, they will also persecute you." You have a manifest proof that you are the children of Christ, and that your persecutors are the enemies of God. Let us be patient. Bless your revilers, pray for those that offend you, and show that you are the true children of your generous forefathers, the faithful children of St. Patrick. Let us imitate his charity, his zeal, his constancy, and his patience, and thus hope to be one day crowned with eternal glory.

The sermon being ended, Mass was resumed, accompanied by the excellent music of the choir, consisting on this occasion of boys from the Schools of the Christian Brothers. If we were at once delighted and surprised by the rich harmony of many voices blending as one, in the grand choruses of a solemn and beautiful Mass, we owe it exclusively to that devoted Brotherhood, one of whom even composed that Mass to suit the voices of his youthful pupils. This is another debt of gratitude which our congregation owes to "the Brothers" (as they are affectionately called by those for whom and amongst whom they labor.) None but a religious community like them could ever succeed in training a number of boys, ranging from fourteen down, so as to form an excellent and most efficient choir. By their means we shall have a band of from 150 to 200 boys ready to sing in St. Patrick's Church (and to sing well) by the time we have our grand organ completed. All honor, then, to the humble and ever-devoted sons of De La Salle; and many thanks to the crowd of their docile pupils who contributed so much to the grandeur and solemnity of our celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Let us hope that the good Saint whom they are thus early taught to venerate, will take them under his own special protection, and guard their faith through life.

When Mass was over, the procession formed again and moved in good order through the streets mentioned in the programme. The St. Patrick's Society, the Young Men's Association, and the Temperance Society, made a highly respectable appearance, with their numerous banners and their respective officers wearing the handsome insignia of their grades.

In the musical department, we particularly noticed the new St. Patrick's Band in their handsome green uniform, faced with white. If they didn't play "Patrick's Day" and the "Sprig of Shillelagh," no band ever played them in our hearing. Their appearance was a new and a very pleasing feature in the procession, and attracted general admiration. We wish our national music may never fall into worse hands than those of the St. Patrick's Band.

After the main procession had broken up in front of the St. Patrick's Hall, the Young Men's St. Patrick's Association marched through Wellington Street, round by St. Ann's Church, and back into town by St. Joseph Street to their own Assembly Rooms, where they dispersed.

The superb *pain-beni* was the gift of W. P. Bartley, Esq., President of the St. Patrick's Society.

The collection taken up at Mass exceeded seventy pounds.

We are indebted to the *Montreal Herald* for our report of Mr. McCulla's sermon.

On Sunday evening, the Rev. Mr. Connolly, as Pastor of St. Patrick's Church, entertained the boys belonging to his choir, at a very elegant supper, served in one of the large class-rooms of the school-house. Tea and coffee were provided in abundance, with an endless variety of those "good things" which boys and girls love. But better than all, in the estimation of the youthful guests, was the smiling approbation of their good Pastor, who was pleased to honor their little festival with his presence. It is hard to say whether the boys, or their reverend entertainer, felt the happier on this most interesting occasion.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE YOUNG MEN'S SAINT PATRICK'S ASSOCIATION.

The annual gathering of the Sons of Ireland took place at John O'Meara's restaurant, on Saturday evening last. The President of the Association, B. Devlin, Esq., occupied the Chair, and justice having been done to the good things provided by Mr. O'Meara, the President rose and proposed the following:—

The Day and all who honor it.—Responded to by Mr. Doherty.

The Pope.—Song "God save the Queen."

Napoleon III., Emperor of France.

Allied Armies.

Governor General.—Replied to by his Worship the Mayor.

Preacher of the Day.

Mayor and Corporation.—Responded by the Mayor, Alderman McCambridge and Thompson, and Councillor Ryan.

Our Brethren of the St. Patrick's Society.—Responded to Mr. Mallon.

The Sister Societies.—Acknowledged by the Mayor, Mr. Bristow, and Mr. Wilson.

Canada, the Land of our adoption.—Responded to by Mr. O'Reilly.

Ireland, the land of our Birth.—Responded to by the Vice-President, Mr. Doherty.

Song by Mr. Daley.

The Memory of O'Connell.

The Press.—Responded to by Mr. Bristow.

The Ladies.—Responded to by Mr. Hurley.

At about 12 o'clock the President left the Chair, and the party broke up, all well pleased with the annual social gathering of the Young Men's Saint Patrick's Association.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT QUEBEC.

We copy from the *Quebec Colonist* an account of the festivities with which our friends at Quebec celebrated the Festival of their Patron Saint:—

"The anniversary of Ireland's national festival was celebrated on Saturday with unusual *et al.* The sons of the Emerald Isle were favored with most delightful weather. The sun shone out brilliantly to do honor to St. Patrick, and to those who turned out to celebrate their country's national day. The procession was much more numerous, lengthy and imposing than on any previous occasion, and we noticed several very beautiful new banners, both belonging to the Society and to the Irish Fire Companies, which assisted in it. The fine Band of the St. Jean-Baptiste Society, under the direction of Mr. Vezina, lent the soul stirring impulse which music—the national airs of Erin can alone inspire in the breasts of its ardent sons. The Society was marshalled by about fifty foot-marshals and by eight Marshals on horseback, the latter being

dressed in very appropriate costume, and giving quite a *distingue* and martial air to the town. At half-past nine o'clock the procession started from the City Hall, the horse marshals leading, after whom followed Master Driscoll, as the marshal of the juvenile sons of Erin, very neatly mounted. The juveniles numbered about five hundred, and marched very regularly and in capital order. The members of the Society followed, divided into six sections, each section numbering about two hundred members, after whom came the officers of the Society, the President bringing up the rear. The St. George's Society was saluted at Russell's Hotel, the band playing the national anthem. The head of the procession having by this time reached the church, the members opened out, and the President marched up through the open ranks to the church to the tune of Patrick's Day, the officers and members following. The usual High Mass was celebrated, and the choir, under the direction of Mr. Burrage, sang a very fine musical service, the various banners hung around the church, and the national airs played on the organ before and after Mass, giving the whole a national character. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Mr. O'Grady—a reverend gentleman of great acquirements as a pulpit orator, and he delivered a beautiful, eloquent and most appropriate discourse. We have not heard the amount of the collection. The congregation, as usual, on St. Patrick's Day, numbered several of our Protestant fellow-citizens. After Divine Service, the procession re-formed in the same order, and proceeded through St. Stanislaus, Ann, Garden and Louis streets, to the Place d'Armes, where it saluted the President and officers of the St. Jean Baptiste Society—the Presidents of the respective Societies and the sons of St. Patrick and *les enfants du sol* cheering each other.

The next call was upon His Excellency, the Governor General, who received the Society by appointment at Government House. His Excellency looked remarkably well, and was surrounded by Sir Allan McNab and several other members of his Government. Mr. Alley, the President, addressed His Excellency to the following effect:—

"May it please your Excellency—We, the Members of the St. Patrick's Society, avail ourselves of the first opportunity afforded to us, on our anniversary festival, to offer to your Excellency our congratulations to you on having assumed the reins of government in this Province. And we confidently rely that your Excellency will find the three hundred thousand Irishmen of Canada as being among the most willing to uphold the dignity and observance of the law and good government in this fine, happy, and contented country over which your Excellency is called upon to rule as the representative of her most gracious Majesty."

His Excellency replied somewhat as follows:—

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the St. Patrick's Society—I feel much obliged by the compliment you pay me in calling upon me to-day. In this country Irishmen, Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Frenchmen enjoy equal privileges under a free government, and I hope to see all subjects of her Majesty long continue to live together in peace and happiness. I congratulate every member of the St. Patrick's Society here present on the very creditable display they make on this their national anniversary."

Three hearty cheers were then given for His Excellency, and three more for Sir Allan, and the cortege moved off.

The Society did not pay the usual visit to the Archbishop, owing to the lamented illness of His Grace, but passed his Palace in silence, and proceeded to the residence of His Honor the Mayor, Dr. Morrin. The Mayor said, in reply to Mr. Alley's address, "that he felt most happy to be afforded an opportunity of congratulating the St. Patrick's Society, and the Irishmen of Quebec, on their creditable and imposing display on that day. He (Dr. M.) had lived forty years among Irishmen, in Quebec, and he always noticed in them all the best qualities of the human character, and on behalf of the city he deemed it his duty to thank the Irishmen of Quebec on that day, for their uniform excellent conduct. As to himself, he (Dr. M.) desired no greater encomium than to have it said of him that he followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, the worthy and able President of the Society, whom, he was proud to see, surrounded by so fine a body of his countrymen." The procession then proceeded through St. Paul, St. Peter, Cul-de-Sac and Champlain streets to Cap Blanc, where it opened out and returned, dispersing at the residence of the President in Haldimand street."

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Last week we had the pleasure of inspecting the collection of objects which are destined to be sent from Lower Canada to Paris, for the coming Exhibition. We were reminded that the circumstances under which it had been brought together, the short time since it had been decided to send a collection, and the difficulties of transport at this season, were such, that many allowances should be made; but we saw no need of such excuses. The collection, as a whole, surpassed our expectations; and when compared with the one brought together in October, 1851, preparatory to the London Exhibition, exhibited a progress in every respect most gratifying to Canadians. We regard it as a fortunate circumstance, that our newly appointed Governor-General should have consented, as one of his first public acts, to open this exhibition; for nothing could have been better fitted to give a just idea of the richness and importance of this Province. The Government have wisely been most liberal in their appropriations for defraying the expenses of this collection, which will shew to the world, not only that Canada is singularly rich in raw materials, but that her artisans, have carried many branches of manufacture to a degree of perfection, which will contrast favorably with the neighboring States.

The Bonsecours Hall, which had been selected for the display, was decorated with great taste, and well filled with the various objects, which attracted crowds of spectators during the four days that it was opened to the public. It is not easy in a few words to give a catalogue of the collection; but we will endeavor to mention a few of the objects which appeared to us of the greatest interest.

Among the numerous mechanical contrivances, Mr. Romaine's huge steam plough attracted much attention, though its ultimate success is as yet a problem.