

The True Witness. CATHOLIC CHRONICLE. PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY THE EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, GEORGE E. CLERK, At No. 223, Notre Dame Street.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOV. 29, 1861.

TO OUR READERS. Mr. Gillies, of the TRUE WITNESS office, is now on a collecting and canvassing tour through Canada West.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The enormous armaments of France have long excited not only the anxiety, but the wonder of Europe. Whilst they were a standing menace to other and pacifically disposed countries, they seemed to the statesman to offer a financial phenomenon; and men asked one another "how does Louis Napoleon contrive to pay for all these things?"

From Italy the tidings are most encouraging. Every where, in the North as in the South, there is springing up a general and intense disgust against the rule of Piedmont.

From one end of the Peninsula to the other, and across the straits from the Island of Sicily, the outcry against the rule of Victor Emmanuel rises up to heaven; and now that Cavour has gone to his account, there seems to be no man capable of coping with the difficulty.

The rupture betwixt Austria and Hungary is complete. The Constitution of the latter has been suspended, and superseded by martial law.

The cotton famine is telling seriously upon the artisans of England, even as the failure in the potato crop is spreading desolation amongst the peasantry in many districts of Ireland.

The capture of Messrs. Slidell and Mason on board of an English mail steamer by the U. States ship San Jacinto forms the chief topic of discussion amongst our republican neighbors.

This question will no doubt be discussed calmly and in good faith by the representatives of the two countries interested therein; and by the result of that discussion we are well content to abide, trusting that it may terminate honorably and amicably.

6th. Reduction of the Army. 7th. Evacuation of Rome. 8th. That, on taking office, he should be the intermediary of all communications between Ministers and the Emperor.

The Piedmontese Government announces a levy of 80,000 men; Cialdini has resigned. The King of Portugal is dead, and the Duke of Oporto is proclaimed as his successor.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INSPECTORS FOR ASYLUMS, PRISONS, &c., FOR 1861.

The question of secondary punishments is one of the most difficult, and at the same time the most important, with which the Statesman of the XIX. century has to deal.

Our prisons are threefold. They may be classed as simply places of detention—as reformatories—and as penitentiaries or places of punishment.

Nothing can be more unjust and more illogical than, from a comparison of the criminal statistics of communities existing under widely different social, material, and political conditions, to attempt to deduce conclusions as to the comparative morality of the communities themselves.

During the course of the year 1860, two hundred and fifty-five convicts in all, had been struck off the roll of the inmates of the Penitentiary; of these some had died, a few had been transferred to Reformatories or to Lunatic Asylums, but the majority had been discharged.

an infallible receipt for the outrages, or offences against the property and the persons of the intrusive minority. Scotch Protestants of Western Whigs, in the days of the last Stuarts, showed as little mercy towards the ministers forced upon them by Claverhouse and his dragoons, as did the Irish Catholic peasant of a quarter of a century back, to the Protestant tithe collectors, and other myrmidons who in the name of the law, and the Gospel according to Act of Parliament, confiscated his pig, and consigned him, his wife, and little ones to the long protracted agonies of famine.

Instead therefore of comparing the criminal statistics of Ireland, the victim of the above mentioned monstrous or abnormal social and political conditions, with the criminal statistics of Great Britain, where no such conditions exist, or exist only under a modified, and very mitigated form—as a test of the comparative moral influences of the respective religious systems of the above-named countries, let us, as is both just and logical, direct our attention to the criminal statistics of Canada.

Now the first thing that strikes us upon turning over the leaves of the Report of the Prison Inspectors, is the enormous, but constant disparity betwixt the criminal records of Upper and Lower Canada—of the Catholic and Protestant sections of our mixed community, respectively.

Of these Penal Institutions the chief is the Kingston Penitentiary, which is the common sewer, or receptacle of the moral guilt of both sections of the Province.

Table with 2 columns: Protestant, Catholic. Row 1: 599, 254. Row 2: 161, 94.

These figures are conclusive as to the morality of Catholics and Protestants, whose numbers in Canada, are very nearly equal.

Table with 2 columns: Upper or Protestant Canada furnished, Lower or Popish Canada. Row 1: 586, 198. Row 2: 784.

Have we not then abundant reason to say that, whatever may be the case in the Legislative Assembly, Upper Canada has fully its fair share of representation in the Provincial Penitentiary?

a series of years; as appears from the following Table of the number of "Convicts Received in the Provincial Penitentiary," from 1856 to 1860, published at p. 7.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Upper Canada, Lower Canada. Rows for 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, and Total.

In other words, during a series of years, Protestant Upper Canada has upon the average furnished annually upwards of Two Hundred convicts to the Provincial Penitentiary—Catholic Lower Canada not quite Fifty-eight.

Table with 2 columns: Upper Canada, Lower Canada. Row 1: 4,184. Row 2: 1,861. Row 3: Total 6,045.

Here then we have a series of figures, which establish the facts, that in proportion to its numbers the Protestant element in our community furnishes the immense preponderance of serious crime; and that the average criminality of Upper Canada is far greater than that of the Lower section of the Province.

A second considerator is this—That the same difference which statistics reveal as obtaining betwixt Upper Canadian and Lower Canadian criminality, obtains also betwixt the criminality of Catholics and that of Protestants; the latter furnishing more than two-thirds of the total number of convicts sentenced to the Penitentiary.

A CHEERING PROSPECT—OVERTHROW OF THE CHRISTIAN SUPERSTITION.—We copy from the European correspondent of the Montreal Herald of the 16th ult.:

Among the "signs of the times" most interesting to friends of Italy from a distance is the widespread movement of revolt going on here against the principle of ecclesiastical authority which is the basis of the Roman hierarchy.