

The True Witness

AND
CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1872.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR.

MARCH.—1872.

Friday, 15.—Precious Blood of Our Lord.
Saturday, 16.—Of the Feria.
Sunday, 17.—PASSION SUNDAY.
Monday, 18.—St. Gabriel, Arch.
Tuesday, 19.—St. Joseph, C.
Wednesday, 20.—St. Patrick, B. C. (March 17th.)
Thursday, 21.—St. Benedict, Ab.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The political situation in Europe remains
unaltered, but the impression daily grows strong-
er that M. Thier's career is nearly at an end. Af-
ter him, what shall be? the deluge? no one can
tell. The Alabama difficulty has not as yet
been got over; but the language in which it is
discussed on both sides of the Atlantic is
moderate, and inspires hopes of an amicable and
honorable solution. It was expected that the
Queen would start on her visit to Germany on
the 20th inst., and would be absent for nearly
a month.

The lad O'Connor, charged with the assault
upon the Queen, has been examined by a com-
mittee of medical men, and pronounced sane,
but an enthusiastic Fenian. His acts would
indicate that, if not insane, he is a cracked
brained fool. The Commission of Enquiry
into the loss of the *Megara* has published its
Report, severely censuring the authorities of
the Admiralty; this can scarce fail to have an
effect prejudicial to the Gladstone Ministry.

All kinds of rumors as to the Pope are afloat,
but they are not authenticated, and are un-
worthy of credence. In the best informed
circles it is believed that the Pope has no idea
of leaving Rome; and there is no truth in the
statement of his having applied, either to the
Austrian or to the British Government for an
asylum. The attitude of the German Govern-
ment towards the Catholic Church is, if we
may judge from the language of the Prince
Bismarck, becoming decidedly hostile.

Mazzini, the apostle of the dagger, and a bird
ominous of evil, revolution, and blood, is said to
be at this moment in the Tyrol making pre-
parations for an outbreak in Italy.

The notorious Tweed, commonly known as
Boss Tweed has, it is said, skeddaddled from
New York, fearing the investigation into the
gigantic frauds in which he has been mixed up.

Latest telegrams announce the death of the
infamous Mazzini, in Pisa. The *Montreal*
Gazette gives a short obituary notice of the
man; but strange to say, omits one of the most
characteristic features of his life:—That is to
say, his hiring of Gallenga to murder Charles
Albert; and his furnishing to his accomplice, a
dagger "with a lapis lazuli handle," where-
with the assassination was to have been accom-
plished. There have been stormy discussions
in the French Assembly, at one of which the
Prince of Wales, who is travelling in France
with the Princess, was present.

CITY MORTALITY.—We publish in another
column an article from the *Montreal Gazette*
of the 6th inst., containing some very serious,
not to say alarming, facts, which should arouse
to action the members of the Corporation; and
should awake the citizens of Montreal generally,
from their apathy, or apparent indifference to
the most important question in reference to the
prosperity of their City. It is no use attempt-
ing to disguise the fact:—That Montreal, one
in respect of position, of the most favored of
cities, is without exception, the unhealthiest
city in the world in proportion to its popula-
tion. There is the fact, which cannot be got
over, unless the figures given be false.

During the four weeks of February last, out
of a population of about 118,000 there were
532 deaths, and that at a season of the year
when the mortality is generally at its lowest
point. Even were the death rate not to rise
with the summer heats, a thing which judging
from the past, we cannot reasonably expect, the
actual mortality of Montreal would reach the
fearful amount of 55 per thousand per annum.

For such mortality we should search in vain
the statistics of any other city in the world;
and what the above figures really mean may be
estimated from this:—that the average annual
city death rate of Great Britain is not more
than 28 per thousand.

There is, there must be, a cause for the ex-
cessive mortality in Montreal: and that cause
is dirt, or neglect of the most obvious laws that
govern our physical well-being. The extent to
which an epidemic obtains amongst a commu-
nity is always in the direct ratio of its filthy
habits, of its disregard of cleanliness, of its con-
tempt for good sewerage, and good ventilation.
Dirt and disease always go together: where the
one is, the presence of the other may be predi-
cated; and the mischief is, that the disease, or
well deserved penalty of dirtiness, is not con-
fined to the dirty, but from them spreads to
those who are themselves scrupulously clean.

What is to be done to arrest, or to mitigate
the action of the life destroying causes now in
operation? Not much we fear can be done
before the summer be upon us, liberating the
frozen up-stinks of our sewers, and filthy back
yards. Besides, for years past, and in spite of
the remonstrances of men like Dr. Carpenter,
we have actually been doing all in our power to
invite disease to take up its permanent abode
with us. From disused cemeteries we have
carted the fetid remains of the dead, and util-
ised them in the grading of our streets; and in
vain have magistrates been appealed to * to put
a stop to the filthy and revolting proceeding.
In a word, for years past we have gone on sew-
ing pestilence, and making the very soil whereon
the city is built the hot-bed of disease; and
to-day we are beginning—but only beginning—to
reap the consequences of our cynical disre-
gard of decency, and of the laws of hygiene,
which inculcate the absolute separation of the
dead from the living.

Still something—though not much—might
be done even in the few weeks left to us for
preparation, before the warm weather, and un-
healthy season sets in—would the civic author-
ities but seriously address themselves to the
task of purifying the City, and the purging
away of some of its abominations. Something
might be done by establishing public baths, by
constant police visits to back yards, and by the
rigid uncompromising enforcement of existing
municipal regulations. † Something too might
be done, or at all events attempted, in the way
of ventilating the sewers, so as by furnishing some
outlet for the noxious gases therein generated,
to diminish considerably the tendency of these
poisonous messengers of death, to force their way
into our dwelling houses. Something too might
be hoped from a thorough system of scavenger-
ing, were it not apparently the fixed rule of the
Corporation, that the dirt when raked together,
should not be carted away, but must only be
gathered up into heaps, to be scattered abroad
again by the first breeze. These things might
be done; and if well done, might in some degree
mitigate the scourge with which in conse-
quence of our sins against cleanliness and de-
cency, we must expect to be visited in the
course of the coming summer, when as a gen-
eral rule, even without any epidemic, the
mortality is twice as great as it is in winter.

But whatever is to be done, must be done
quickly, and regardless of expense. To the
immediate amelioration of the sanitary condi-
tion of the City, that is to say to the radical
reform of its system of sewerage, everything
should be postponed as of very second-
ary importance. The lives of thousands are at
stake, and should not be trifled with. Now
that pestilence has taken up its abode amongst us,
and threatens to remain; now, whilst from morn-
ing to night the mourners go along the streets,
so that scarce an hour of the day, even in this
the healthiest season of the year, elapses but
what we see the death-carriage carrying its
burden to the cemetery behind the mountain;
and when we know that this awful amount of
mortality—an amount without a parallel in any
city of the world—is the direct consequence of
our own neglect, and stupid disregard of the
natural laws—it is idle, worse than idle, it is a
sin to talk about spending money on, or incur-
ring debt for, any other purpose whatsoever—
however great its advantages—than that of
purifying, no matter at what cost, our city, and
rescuing from death, the thousands whom
in default of these precautions we annu-
ally consign to the tomb. Would to God
that now, even now, the people of Montreal,
and their rulers would awake from their in-
credible apathy to the things that concern their
health, and set to work to redeem their City
from the well earned disgrace of being the un-
healthiest city in the world; the unhealthiest
because the dirtiest, the most stinking city in
the world, and that in which all the laws of

* As was actually the case in the month of May
last.

† Unfortunately municipal regulations are not
enforced. There is for instance a wise law against
putting up wooden buildings within the City limits;
nevertheless openly and ostentatiously such build-
ings are being constantly erected, and the law is not
enforced against the proprietors. It is not then so
much new laws that we require, as the rigid enforce-
ment of the good laws that actually exist.

decency and cleanliness are the most systema-
tically disregarded. Interest as well as duty
should prompt to this: for until it be done,
strangers should be warned to avoid Montreal
as they would a pest ship; to keep afar from
it as they would from the abode of lepers.—
Thus of old were the afflicted with leprosy
wisely cut off from all communion with their
fellow-men; and in unsightly garb compelled,
lest they should contaminate others, to walk
abroad, ever uttering the melancholy note of
warning, "Unclean, Unclean, Unclean!"

The great Tichborne case, the most extra-
ordinary in all its details that ever Court of
Justice had to adjudicate upon, has come to a
sudden, but by no means unexpected conclu-
sion. On Monday the 4th inst., the jury ex-
pressed themselves satisfied with the evidence,
and as prepared to render their verdict accord-
ingly: on the Wednesday following the Counsel
for the claimant announced that he withdrew
his case; whereupon immediately the said
claimant was committed to jail on a charge of
perjury. He will be tried for his offence in
the coming month of April.

Now that the affair is over, the first sensation
is one of surprise that it should ever have
originated; that so transparent an impostor, as
the claimant, should ever have been able to dupe
honorable men, and to impress them with the
belief that he was the real Roger Tichborne,
drowned in 1854 when the ill-fated *Bella* was
lost together with all on board. There are
evidently no limits to human gullibility, a fact
which the history of the Tichborne case
conclusively proves. That for one moment, a
coarse illiterate blackguard like the claimant,
the associate of thieves and the companion of
the lowest felons of N. S. Wales, should have
been able, by dint of sheer effrontery and
audacious lying, to palm himself upon gentlemen,
as a gentleman, is a melancholy instance of how
readily people allow themselves to be hoaxed.

This story, even as told by himself, about
the wreck of the *Bella*; about being picked up
near the Brazilian coast by a ship, name and
nationality unknown, bound to Melbourne, was
in itself so manifestly a lie, a clumsy lie to boot—
was so intrinsically incredible, that no quantity
or quality of evidence could ever make it credi-
ble. Hence it was that, not only did the
claimant fail to prove his case—that he was the
long lost Roger Tichborne, representative of one
of the oldest and wealthiest Catholic families of
England; but the counsel for the defendants
had no difficulty, when their innings came on,
in proving that he was not Sir Roger Tichborne.
That he is really Arthur Orton is highly prob-
able, though not fully proved; but that he is
not what he pretended to be is established
beyond the possibility of cavil. Lord Bellow's
evidence alone settles that point, and it is not
alone.

What followed Lord Bellow's fatal evidence,
we as yet know not; but it, coupled with the
withdrawal of Mr. Ross, the claimant's Attorney,
from the further management of the case, and
the letters put into Court from two of the most
respectable witnesses to the claimant's identity,
desiring to be allowed to withdraw their evi-
dence in his favor—seems to have given the coup
de grace to the imposture so long and boldly
maintained. The jury declared themselves
convinced, and the claimant threw up the
game.

That he had partners in his guilt can hardly
be doubted; that there was a conspiracy to
defraud the rightful Tichborne heir is almost
certain; and every honest man must hope that
all the parties to this wicked fraud may be
brought to trial, and punished in so far as the
existing laws permit. 'Tis true, that any
punishment that the law can award to them
will fall ludicrously short of their deserts; for
the good old institution of the whipping-post,
has most lamentably been allowed to fall into
desuetude. To be whipped at the cart's tail, by
short and easy stages, from Westminster to
Tichborne would be a moderate but most just
and appropriate sentence on the claimant, and
on all his accomplices.

The sufferings this trial have inflicted on a
noble Catholic family can never be compensated,
though the material injury inflicted by the
fearful expenses of the long protracted lawsuits
may in time, and by careful nursing of the
Tichborne property, be made good; but it will
always be a cause of congratulation that our
legal machinery in England is keen enough to
unravel the most elaborate of frauds, and strong
enough to punish, in some degree at all events,
the rascally actors therein. But we do confess
that we feel sad when we reflect that, thanks to
the modern ascendancy of maudlin philanthropy,
the blackguards cannot be dealt with as Titus
Oates and his colleagues were dealt with.
They managed these things better in England
some two centuries ago.

The schedule of convictions before the Mayor
and magistrates of Lindsey, for the quarter
ending 12th December, 1871, contains the
names of fifty-three offenders. Fifty-two Pro-
testants, and one Catholic.—*Comm.*

It is with much regret that we learn from the
Montreal Witness, of the 8th inst., that an An-
ti-Catholic Society under the name of the
British Protestant League, is in process of
organization at Quebec. Such a Society, if it
do come into being, can have but one effect:
that of reviving and intensifying the national
and religious animosities which we had hoped
were well nigh extinct in our somewhat hetero-
geneous population. It will, it is to be feared,
provoke into being, as a measure of self-defence,
a *Canadian Catholic League*; and so shall we
see Her Majesty's subjects in Canada divided
into two hostile camps.

For Leagues of this description, whether
Catholic or Protestant, there is assuredly no
excuse in Lower Canada. A few fanatics
there may be, who live in perpetual tremor lest
the "Man of Sin" should suddenly fall upon,
and cruelly maltreat them; and there may be
not a few cunning intriguers who seek to profit
by this strange superstition. But as a general
rule, Catholics and Protestants in Lower Canada
have learnt mutually to respect one another,
and have agreed to remember that they are alike
subjects of the Queen, and members of a com-
mon political society.

We hope therefore that good citizens of all
denominations will, ere it be too late, combine
to discourage the formation amongst us, of all
Leagues, whether *British or Canadian*, whether
Protestant or Catholic. There is no need for
such organizations, because our laws are just,
and are by honest judges, impartially adminis-
tered.

The *N. Y. Freeman* has been pursuing its
enquiries about the aged and venerable priest,
whose conversion to the Holy Protestant
Church on the 7th of January last was trump-
eted in the *Montreal Witness*; the following
is the result of our contemporary's researches:—

Some thirty years ago, about 1842, there
was a person of the name of Newell, who
claimed that he had been a priest, and that he
had officiated as such at Newark, and at Al-
bany, a position which he abandoned about the
time indicated above. Since then, without at-
taching himself to any Protestant sect, or pro-
fessing any religion, he wandered from place to
place, turning up, sometimes in South America,
and sometimes in England; disappearing from
public view one moment, to emerge again in the
Western States of the N. American Union.
For some years he taught a school in Cincin-
nati; on another occasion he seems to have
buried a wife in Mississippi; and the *N. Y.*
Freeman conjectures that it is this waif from
the Church, that the Protestants at Memphis
have picked up, and made a minister of. We
wish them joy of their bargain: of such is the
—well, not the "kingdom of heaven" exactly.

We are in possession of a little pamphlet,
being an able reply by the Rev. J. L. O'Con-
nor to a sermon by the Rev. Wm. Stevenson,
wherein the latter exposed the reason why he
was a Protestant. Of course the reason as-
signed by the latter was that, he considered
the holy scriptures a sufficient rule of faith;
and to the discussion of this rule, the Rev.
Mr. O'Connor addresses himself—for after all
this is the one question at issue between Cath-
olics and Protestants. In other words, the
simple historical question—"What means, if
any, did the person called Christ appoint, as
the means for preserving, and disseminating,
to all time, and amongst all nations, the gospel,
or glad message from God to man, of which
He professed Himself to be the bearer?"—is the
only question that Catholics can ever discuss
with Protestants, because it is a question
purely historical, and within the natural order;
but from its discussion with Catholics, Pro-
testants prudently shrink, although upon it
depends the long protracted controversy of cen-
turies.

POPULATION OF MONTREAL.—The City
Census, just completed, and that was under-
taken to correct the assumed inaccuracies of
the Government Census of 1871, has finished
its labor, and the result is before the public.
The actual population of Montreal is about
118,000, and thus it seems that allowing for
eleven month's increase—the Government
census was not far wrong, and has been un-
justly criticised. It gave the population as
107,000.

Accepting the 118,000 given by the last
taken Census as about correct, and comparing
it with the actual mortality of Montreal as
gathered from the weekly return of interments
it will be seen that even at the present moment
the city mortality is at the rate of nearly 60
per thousand per annum. The *Montreal*
Gazette assumed the population to be 125,000,
but this is apparently too high.

A NEW EXCITEMENT.—A Swiss astron-
omer, M. Plantamour, by name, is credited with
a prediction to the effect that, on or about the
12th of August next, the earth must come in
collision with a comet of enormous dimensions
—and will be snuffed out. Nervous old women

may take the matter quietly; there is no dan-
ger, even if there be a comet in our way. Such
is the tenacity of these bodies, that even were
the earth to get mixed up with the thin gaseous
matter of which they are composed, no serious
consequences to mother earth would follow. It is
asserted that some years ago Jupiter managed
to collide with one of these erratic bodies; but
no appreciable results, even upon the orbits of
its moons, which are of but trifling dimensions
as compared with those of the planet we in-
habit, could be detected.

Some strange misapprehensions as to the real
ecclesiastical status of what is called a *vicaire*
in French, seem to exist amongst our Protes-
tant contemporaries, when discussing the de-
fection from the Church of the Rev. M. Mi-
chaud. They translate the French *vicaire* into
the English *Picar*, thereby giving to the de-
faulting priest a much higher status in the
ecclesiastical world, than is meant by the
French word *vicaire*.

Vicaire in French is best translated by the
English word *curate*. It denotes a deputy of,
or an assistant to, the Parish priest, or *Cure* as
they call him in French, and indicates there-
fore a position subordinate to that of the latter;
just as in England the position of the
curate, is understood to be subordinate to that
of the Rector, or parson of the parish. This
was the position that the Rev. M. Michaud
held; *vicaire* or as he would be styled in Eng-
land, *curate* to the Priest of the Madeleine.

We direct the attention of our readers to the
advertisement of the St. Patrick's Society, an-
nouncing their Annual Concert for Monday
night next; and of which the proceeds will be
applied to the relief of the poor who have suf-
fered so severely this winter from the high
price of fuel. It is to be hoped that the Con-
cert will be well attended.

PROTESTANTISM VERSUS PROTESTANTISM.
—After "the Archbishops and Bishops, and
the whole Clergy" had agreed upon the Thirty-
Nine Articles, His Majesty, the good King
Harry "upon mature Deliberation, and with
the Advice of so many Bishops as might con-
veniently be called together, thought fit to
make this Declaration following:

That the Articles of the Church of England
(which have been allowed and authorized here-
tofore, and which Our clergy have subscribed un-
to) do contain the true Doctrine of the
Church of England agreeable to God's Word;
which we do therefore ratify and confirm, re-
quiring all Our loving Subjects to continue in
the uniform Profession thereof, and prohib-
iting the least difference from the same Articles,
which to that End We command to be pre-
sented, and this Our Declaration to be pub-
lished therewith."

There is one Article which thus reads:—
"VIII. of the Three Creeds. The Three
Creeds, *Nicene Creed*, *Athanasian's Creed*, and
that which is commonly called the *Apostles'*
Creed, ought thoroughly to be received and
believed; for they may be proved by most cer-
tain warrants of holy Scripture."

The *Ottawa Times*, expatiating upon its
proposed changes in the Church of England
says "a strong and influential party" are call-
ing for them. One of the reforms desired by
this "strong and influential party" is "the
total disappearance of the creed of St. Athanasius,
it being held that the damnable clauses
are at variance with ordinary Christianity."—
(*Times* of March 4th.)

So "a strong and influential party" (lead-
ing Archbishops, Bishops and clergymen) in
1872, take up arms against the saintly Founder
of the primitive Apostles, "the Archbishops, the
Bishops and the whole clergy of 1562. Such
is Protestantism; such, human authority and
human faith; such, the Bible, the whole Bible
and nothing but the Bible. MARK.

St. Croix, York Co., N.B.,
February 28th, 1872.

MR. EDITOR,—
Can you explain why your valuable paper
not come to hand for the last three weeks? Is it
fault yours, or is it owing to the very inefficient
Post Office Inspector which we unfortunately saw
to put up with in New Brunswick? Yours,
ARCELS.

We would inform our correspondent that his
paper has been regularly mailed to him from
this Office.

The *Northern Journal* of the 9th inst., has
an able and courteous article on the "Church
and the Bible," in which our contemporary
directly refers to the TRUE WITNESS. We
will do our best next week to reply to him in
the same tone as that in which he addressed
himself to us.

THE CATHOLIC WORLD.—March, 1872.
Messrs. Sadlier, New York and Montreal.
The March number of this truly Catholic
periodical has been later than usual in coming
to hand, but the excellence of its contents
makes up for the delay. The first number
alone, "An Uncivil Journal" is worth the
years' subscription; and we especially beseech