

The True Witness

CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
No. 696, Craig Street by
J. GILLES,
G. E. CLERK, Editor.

TERMS YEARLY IN ADVANCE:
To all country subscribers Two Dollars. If the
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terms shall be Two Dollars and a-half.

All subscribers whose papers are delivered by
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The True Witness can be had at the News Depots
Single copy 3d.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUG. 7, 1868.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

August—1868.
Friday 7—St. Cajetan, O.
Saturday 8—Vig. SS. Oryscus and Comp. MM.
Sunday 9—Tenth after Pentecost.
Monday 10—St. Lawrence, M.
Tuesday 11—Of the Octave.
Wednesday 12—St. Olave, V.
Thursday 13—Of the Octave.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Session of the English Parliament was
prorogued on the 31st July. The Queen not
being present in person, her speech was made by
the Royal Commission, and read, as usual, by
the Lord High Chancellor. In it we are as-
sured that the foreign relations of Great Britain
are most friendly and satisfactory, nor is there
any reason to fear hostilities in Europe. No
mention is made of England's relations with the
United States, whilst the Abyssinian expedition
is pointed to as vindicating the honor of the
crown. The Queen is grateful to the Commons
for the supplies voted for the Government, and
congratulates the members upon the passage of
the Irish and Scotch Reform Bill. The cessat-
ion of attempts at rebellion in Ireland is al-
luded to as rendering the further use of the excep-
tional powers granted by the two Houses needless.—
The speech also announces the speedy dissolution
of Parliament in order that the people may reap
the advantages of the more extended system of
representation recently provided.

The session has been of more than ordinary
length and importance, nor will the next be of
less moment to the kingdom. Justice to Ire-
land is the great question of the day, and we
have some hope that then at least we will see a
commencement of its solution. England must be
convinced of two things: that the pacification of
Ireland is of vital importance to her, and that the
Irish people will not be satisfied without being
allowed to enjoy every right accorded to their
English neighbors.

By telegram from Rome it is reported that
the Consistory to be held by the Pope next
month, Monsieurs Morode, Cuigi, Talbot,
Rodi, Ferrani and Segretti will be appointed
Cardinals. In Paris an Imperial decree has
been issued authorizing a new loan.

In Ontario the coming election for West
York excites considerable attention. Amos
Wright, an ex-M.P., and John Bell, a Toronto
lawyer, have been nominated, and the friends of
each candidate are making the most strenuous
efforts to secure his return. We are happy to
learn that notwithstanding the recent drought,
the different crops will not be below the average.

By telegram from London on Wednesday
afternoon, the 3rd instant, we learn that the
cable of 1866 had ceased to work on that day.
Test showed fault to be at the Newfoundland
side. The cable has probably been damaged by
iceberg.

HAVE WE THE INQUISITION IN UPPER
CANADA?—The inquisition, as understood and
denounced by Protestants was a tribunal for in-
quiring into, and punishing offences against God
and revealed religion, irrespective of the material
consequences of those crimes, or their effects
upon others. Now as understood in this sense
we certainly have in Ontario a tribunal arrogat-
ing to itself, and exercising the functions of an
Inquisition.—That is to say a tribunal visiting
with civil penalties acts which if crimes at all, are
purely spiritual crimes. Hence we find in a
late issue of the Montreal Witness:—

"Two boys have been fined in London 'for pro-
fanely cursing and swearing' in the public streets,
under the provisions of an act passed in 1746."

To which our religious liberty loving contem-
porary appends the editorial comment.

"A few similar 'cautions' in Montreal would be
positive of good."

Again in another paper we find the following
item of news:—

"Seventy men and boys were arrested in Toronto
for fishing on Sunday last."

"We, as Catholics, have not, cannot have a
word to say against the propriety of punishing

profane swearers, and blasphemers; but how Pro-
testants who generally lay down as a rule that were
religious error, that offences purely spiritual, do
not fall within the cognisance of the civil magis-
trates; but how the Montreal Witness, who, if
in Spain a foul-mouthed blasphemer of the
Blessed Mother of God, be arrested and punished
by the secular arm, cries out against tyranny and
persecution, and raves, poor creature, of fire and
faggots—can applaud the action of the Ontario
magistrates, and recommend its adoption in L.
Canada does indeed pass our comprehension.—
Unless indeed this be the logic of the Witness
and its friends.

That no one has the right to speak scornfully of,
or to treat with irreverence things which they hold
holy; but every one should be left at liberty to
deride, to hold up to mockery the superstitions of
mere Papists. Come, confess good Witness is
not this the principle which underlies both your
approbation of the blasphemy punishing magis-
trates of Ontario, and your fervid abuse of the
blasphemy punishing magistrates of Spain!

And if the Witness admit that the secular
arm may rightfully take cognisance of mere spiri-
tual offences, such as blasphemy, where does he
intend to draw the line, limiting the functions of
the civil magistrate? To promulgate false doc-
trine is as much an offence against God, and more
injurious to man than is cursing and swearing,
and taking His holy name in vain. Why then
should the law undertake to deal with one offence
more than with the other? why should it be
lawful to promulgate religious error, and thereby
to lead others into error; and right to punish with
fine and imprisonment the minor offence of cursing
and swearing? we say minor offence deliberately,
because whilst it is not more injurious to God's
honor than is the denial or perversion of His re-
vealed truth, it is far less injurious to man, since
it does not lead others into error. The Witness
will perhaps reply that the one offence, blasphemy,
is certain; but that no man can know with cer-
tainty what doctrines are false, or contrary to
God's revealed word. But this is even a greater
insult to God's wisdom and goodness than any
amount of blasphemy could possibly be: since if
God have made a revelation to man, and if we
cannot ascertain with certainty wherein that re-
velation consists, God is deficient either in
goodness or in wisdom, and not worthy therefore
of man's worship.

But if we have not a word to say against the
propriety of visiting with civil punishment the
spiritual offence of blasphemy, we cannot but
denounce as an invasion of the rights of freemen
the action of the Toronto authorities for merely
fishing on Sunday. "Seventy men and boys" so
we read were arrested and thrown into prison
for this purely conventional offence. It is not
pretended that they were by their fishing inflict-
ing any injury on others; that they were either
disturbing or molesting any one in the discharge of
what he deemed his religious obligations. And yet,
although no law of God prohibits fishing on Sun-
days any more than fishing on Tuesdays, the
magistrates at once treat these seventy men and
boys as felons, as if they were disturbers of the
public peace.

This may be according to law, for we know
that where Protestantism is in the ascendancy
there are no limits to the extravagances of our
puritanical Dogberries. Yet, if law, it is a law
which no one is bound to observe, and which
men with the spirit of freemen would scorn to
submit to. Talk of the tyranny of Italy, of
Spain, of Papal countries indeed after this! and
yet the men who do these things, who applaud
them, would lift up their hands with horror, if
they were to hear of the arrest of a single per-
son in Madrid for eating roast-beef on Friday,
or giving a ball in Lent. And yet—we say it
advisedly—that it is, to say the least, as rep-
ugnant to God's law to do either of these things,
as it is to fish on Sundays, so long as the fisher
does not encroach upon the property of others,
or disturb the devotions of his fellow-citizens.

Catholics have no cause to defend or apologise
for the Spanish Inquisition; for it was a tribunal
almost always in opposition to Rome, and for
the most part, a mere political engine in the
hands of the King. That many cruel acts were
perpetrated in its name, and by its authority, we
can readily believe, nay, we must believe, if we
hold with the Popes, who were constantly trying
to limit its action, and to modify its course of
procedure. But of the Spanish Inquisition at
its worst, we know nothing worse, or more in
violation of the fundamental principles of civil
and religious liberty, than the arbitrary proceed-
ings of the civic authorities of Toronto—than
this hauling to prison, and casting into jail of
seventy men and boys for fishing on Sunday—a
thing which generally had the fullest right to do
if it so pleased them.

MONTH'S MIND.—A solemn High Mass was
celebrated in the Church of St. Michael, Hunt-
ley, on the 15th July last, for the repose of the
soul of Mary, widow of the late Mr. Patrick
Vaughan. The deceased was sister of the Rev.
Thomas McCaffrey, of Westport, Co. Mayo,
Ireland, and mother of Rev. E. Vaughan, P.P.
of Huntley, at whose residence she died, on the
16th June last.—R.L.P.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MON-
REAL SANITARY ASSOCIATION.—The apathy
of the citizen, as well as of the authorities, on
the question of sanitary reform is a phenomena
for which it is not easy to account. We can
only note the fact—that, though the mortality of
Montreal during the summer months is, in spite
of its excellent site, and other natural advantages,
greater than that of any City in the civilized
world of which we have reliable statistics, scarce
the first step has been as yet taken towards
cleansing and purifying it, though the cost of
such reforms would not be very great, and though
the profits in the shape of human lives saved
would be large and immediate. Of the people
of Montreal a large number seem to delight in
filth, and to take an actual pleasure in stinks;
they resist all efforts made to deodorize this most
stinking of all stinking places, as an outrage upon
vested rights. And so it comes to pass that
through our love of dirt, and aversion to clean-
liness the average July mortality of Montreal is
three times as great as that of Boston, and—
we quote the words of the Report "the propor-
tionate deaths, both of infants and young chil-
dren (in Boston) was little more than half our
own during the entire year."

The cause of this excess of mortality over
that of the Cities of the United States is not
owing to any unfavorable peculiarities in our cli-
matic conditions: for that excess extends only
to our urban population. Its cause must then be
looked for in something peculiar in the condition
of our City, and may be found at once in its ex-
ceptionally beastly and stinking condition—a
condition so beastly that not in the filthiest and
most stinking cities of the Old World, not in the
dirtiest corners of Constantinople, not in Lisbon,
is there to be found anything approaching to it.
Indeed to walk through certain quarters of
Montreal is almost to invite an attack of typhus
fever, or small pox. Until a man has lived a
short time in Montreal, he does not know what
filth is; he has not realized the power to which
beastliness can actually be raised by means of
ignorance, and negligence of the first laws of
cleanliness.

The Report before us touches upon some of
the provoking causes of Montreal's hideous mor-
tality. In its opening paragraphs it alludes, very
gently, to the cemetery during the hottest months
of last summer; to the shovelling out of the remains
of the dead in a half putrid condition, and the
sale of the wooden coffins, impregnated with
putrid animal matter, for firewood. But one of
the most fruitful causes of disease and death is
the defective system of drainage—a system so
cunningly derived to ensure the exhalation of
stinks, and the generation of zymotic disease,
that it would be better almost to have no drain-
age at all. And yet people still continue their
filthy, and worse than useless wooden drains.—
These soon become rotten, and poison the houses
beneath which they are laid, rendering them mere
fever nests—and utterly unfit as habitations for
anything but swine, and things that delight natu-
rally in ordure. The public drains are no better
and, as the Report p. 10 observes:—

"The appalling nature of the stench which often
bursts from the street gulleys, even through the
deep snow drifts of winter, into the upper portions
of the City is a sample of what is always, and espe-
cially in summer, liable to enter our dwellings.—
Probably 9 out of every 10 of our house drains, even
in the best localities are either made of wood which
at once absorbs poisonous matter, and soon rots, or
else are connected with pipes unprovided with stench
traps."

Here too is a picture which is a fair rep-
resentation of a great part of Montreal:—

"At the bottom of Laing Street, the only path
across the swamp is a rotten box drain, filled with
horrible pollutions, partly boarded over, partly open,
along the edges of which women may be seen picking
their dangerous way. On each side of this rotten
gutter the land might be thought hard; for in dry
weather a film of solidly gathers over the surface;
but it proves to be a mass of putrid pulp, some feet
in depth, extending for acres above, and even in
the unusual cold of this month—May—diffusing a
most sickening stench. Yet over this are propped
not only a mass of rotting old wooden outhouses,
inhabited by squalid people and pigs, but a new
wooden house has just been erected and immediately
tenanted. We find that the rents charged for liberty
to sicken and die in these wretched hovels are often
as high as in decent habitations."—p. 11.

It turns one's stomach to read even of these
abominations which abound everywhere in Mont-
real—what then must be the effect of personal
experience of them? And yet there are men,
yea men in authority, so dull of sense, so inured
to filth, so hardened against stench, as to see in
this mass of putridity nothing to call for active
interference. Thus at p. 8 we read the follow-
ing story:—

"On one occasion two of the members, courage-
ously invited the officers of the Sanitary Association
to conduct them to some of the worst districts. One
hour's breathing of the stenches among which the
poor citizens are compelled to struggle for life suf-
ficed to send one of the gentlemen home, sick. The
other, standing over the grave while a putrid coffin
was being knocked open, and the most loathsome and
putrid mass within was pouring unutterably nauseous
fumes around, declared that he 'could perceive
nothing in the operation detrimental to health.'"

Such being the apathy of the rulers of the City,
the Sanitary Association has had up-hill work
before it. Still nothing daunted it continues to
prosecute its useful labors, from which however as
yet no great results have been obtained. We
must have patience however, and trust to the
eloquence of our weekly Bills of Mortality,
which must at last overcome the stolid apathy of
the Corporation, and prove more than a match

for the more than forty-aldermanic power of
stupidity that the Sanitary Society has to fight
against. But it is in vain to blame the autho-
rities unless individuals exert themselves; every
one according to his ability, to remove from
Montreal the odium and disgrace of being the
most beastly, the most dirty, the most stinking,
and in consequence the most deadly City on the
face of the earth. So long as private property
owners are foolish enough, or wicked enough to
continue putting up dwelling houses over those
useless or worse than useless wooden drains, it is
in vain to look for any important diminution of
our fearful annual death rate: and if nothing
else can arrest the evil, law should be invoked to
put a stop to a filthy and dangerous practice—
which as much at least as any other—contributes
to the mortality of this City, which with proper
precautions might be the healthiest in America.

The N. Y. Freeman is still sanguine that the
Union may yet be restored, meaning apparently,
the Constitution, or form of civil polity that ob-
tained before the war betwixt the Northern and
Southern States:—

"Democrats will not accept the war as a success
—for it has destroyed, not restored the Union of our
fathers. That Union will be restored—after further
sufferings, and humiliations."

Never for in politics there are no restora-
tions, but only further innovations, when once
innovation has commenced. "Restorations," as
in England, as in France, have been tried, and
have invariably failed, in virtue of the inexorable
law that in the political order everything is pos-
sible except the past, that everything may be, ex-
cept the thing that has been. As well expect to
see the man become a boy again, the boy a child,
the tree a sapling, or to see the rivers run up-
wards and backwards to their mountain sources
as to expect in the political order, after violent
civil and social convulsions, a return to the status
in quo.

Does the Freeman believe that it is possible,
even were men willing, to restore in England the
Constitution of the Stuarts, or of the four
Georges? does he believe that in France the
siecle of Louis XIV. and of Louis XV. can be
brought back? No! he would laugh to scorn
the dreamer who should in his presence venture
to talk of such "restorations" as within the
limits of the possible: yet as easy would it be to
reproduce the ancien regime in France, or the
pre-reform Bill oligarchy of England, as to bring
back to the United States the political and so-
cial order that obtained eight years ago.

This is not a thing for any man to exult over,
but it is nevertheless true. Constitutional
monarchy is possible in the United States:
Caesarism is probable: military despotism seems
almost inevitable; but a voluntary Union of several
free and independent States, delegating each a
well defined portion of their sovereignty for the
management of foreign affairs, to a central Govern-
ment—in which the old Constitution essentially
consisted—can never be again. Even were the
Southern States admitted to representation in
Congress to-morrow, and unconditionally, the
restoration of the Union "as it was" would be
as far off as ever. Recall the spoken word,
make to-day yesterday, and then but not before
will it be possible to restore that Union.

Through what phases the Revolution may yet
pass, ere wearied, languid, and exhausted, the
people of the United States take refuge from
anarchy in well organised despotism no one can
pretend to say: but as it is probable that the great
laws revealed in history are in force in America
as they were and are in Europe we can form a
guess from observing the strength and direction
of the revolutionary current at the present mo-
ment. One thing there certainly is, in the U.
States, to modify the working of the law—and
that is its peculiar physical conditions—the ex-
tent and fertility of its unappropriated soil, and
its almost boundless material resources. These
will to a certain extent guarantee the country
against the dangers which have their origin in an
empty belly, and of which rags are the outward
visible sign. There will be no bread riots, no
besieging of the doors of an august Congress by
hands of starving women, and breachless work-
ingmen as in France: nevertheless the Southern
States may yet furnish a La Vendee, and the
Noyades of the Loire may yet find their
counterpart in the waters of the Potomac or the
Mississippi. The foul spirit of democracy—we
use the word in its European not in its American
sense—at work now in the United States is
identical with that which presided over the Sep-
tember massacres of '92: and there are men in
the Congress on whom we may well believe that
the mantles of Robespierre and of Marat have
fitly fallen. Why then should not the U. States
have their "Reign of Terror," to be followed no
doubt by a 9th Thermidor? But the Freeman
will remember that even Thermidor did not re-
store either the feudal monarchy of Louis XIV.
or the constitutional monarchy of Lafayette.—
The French Revolution ran, and is still running
its inevitable course.

A REAL CASE OF POPISH TYRANNY.—Our
friends have at last got hold of a genuine case of
Romish cruelty, and illegality, which they are

making the most of, though that most is not much.
The facts as gleaned from the United States
Protestant papers are these:—

A Mr. Smith, a Catholic, and a widower, re-
sident in the State of New York, found that his
daughter, a young girl of 16 years of age was
going to the bad. She had left her father's
house, and got in with some young men with whom
according to the father's evidence "she had been
guilty of most unbecoming acts." Under these
circumstances, the father who had discovered the
retreat of his child, exercised his parental autho-
rity over her, and sent her to a convent to be
kept out of harm's way, to be educated, and if
possible, reformed in her morals.

But the child, who we must suppose had been
put up to the dodge, hereupon declared herself a
convert to the Methodist sect of Protestants,
and thus enlisted on her side the sympathies of
the great Protestant public, who raised against
the Popish father a cry of persecution, and
moved for a writ of habeas corpus in order to
obtain the liberation of the girl from the insti-
tution in which her father had seen fit to place
her. The case was accordingly argued before a
Protestant Judge, Judge Sutherland, who after
a lengthy hearing of counsel found himself by the
facts of the case, and the law of the land, com-
pelled to order the restoration of the child to
the custody of her father; much no doubt to the
disgust of her newly found Methodist friends, and
the "young men" of her acquaintance.

From this ruling of a Protestant Judge in a
Protestant community like that of the United
States, amongst whom a Catholic at best stands
but a poor chance of getting justice, we may be
sure that the case in his favor must have been
very strong indeed. What then is it that Protest-
ants cry out about, as tyranny and persecution?
This:—That by the law of the United States a
parent, even though a Catholic, has still the legal
right to send his children to the school, college,
or convent that he pleases: and that Protestants
cannot tear the child from the parent, the daugh-
ter from the father, to be educated and brought
up as they please. Had Protestants their will in
the matter, they would—so it seems from their
absurd complaints in this Mary Anne Smith case
—tear our children from us to be brought up in
heresy and immorality. And yet these same
casting hypocrites have the impertinence to
groan over the tyranny of the Papal government
in the so-called Mortara case. Catholic
parents, have no rights over their children which
Protestants are bound to respect.

Of all the amusing absurdities to which news-
papers ever gave circulation, the most absurdly
amusing is one now going the rounds of the press
to the effect that the Sovereign Pontiff has in-
vited the respectable gentlemen who by courtesy
are called Anglican Bishops to assist at the
coming General Council. We suppose that this
cock and bull story must have originated with
some of the members of the Anglican sect who
indulge in the silly delusion that the ministers
and office holders of their sect are really priests
and bishops as well as state dignitaries: but as
these gentlemen however learned or amiable they
may be, are but laymen, there is no more chance
of their being invited to assist at the forthcoming
General Council—than there is of a similar in-
vitation being extended to other eminent persons
in England, such for instance as the Commander
in Chief, the First Lord of the Admiralty, or the
Chancellor of the Exchequer, who are all of
them as much qualified to take part in an eccle-
siastical synod as is the so-called Archbishop of
Canterbury.

CHILD MURDER IN TORONTO.—The Globe
thinks that the statement made by Dr. Work-
man that a thousand cases of this horrid crime
take place yearly in Toronto is exaggerated:
but it admits that the crime is fearfully prevalent
amongst all classes of the community, and a
letter in its columns, over the signature of A
Physician confirms this opinion. The writer
referred to in the Globe, complains "of the great
moral obtuseness" on a certain subject "which
seems to be growing among us" in Toronto:
and adds:—

"The offence is, I fear, much more prevalent
among us than is generally imagined; and it is
only those whose position, and avocations enable
them to form an estimate of its extent that can speak
reliably on this subject."

We have but to cast our eyes over the adver-
tising columns of the Protestant journals of U.
Canada, and we shall see how very lucrative,
and extensive must be the business of destroying
infant life in that section of the Dominion, where
no less than seventy persons were cast into pris-
on for the horrid crime of fishing on Sunday.—
A little less Sabbatarianism, and a good deal
more Christianity is much to be desired for Pro-
testant U. Canada.

We take much pleasure in inserting the fol-
lowing report of an Exhibition and distribution
of prizes taken from the *Sarnia, British Cana-
dian* of the 8th July:—

OUR LADY OF LAKE HURON.
This popular Government held the first Annual Com-
mencement on Thursday last, in the E. C. Church,
which was kindly granted for the occasion, by His
Lordship the Bishop of Fanwick. Invitations were