

The True Witness

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1873.

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR. JUNE—1873.

Friday, 6—Ember Day. Of the Octave. Saturday, 7—Ember Day. Of the Octave. Sunday, 8—First after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday. Monday, 9—St. Angela Merici, V. (May 31.) Tuesday, 10—St. Margaret, W. Wednesday, 11—St. Anthony of Padua, C. Thursday, 12—Corpus Christi, Obl.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Since the election of Marshal MacMahon to the Presidency, things have been pretty quiet in France, indeed very quiet for France. There has been nothing for the new President to do, and that he has done well. At the same time, speculation is rife as to the use that he will make of his position. By some he is deemed a Bonapartist, by others, and perhaps with more reason, a Legitimist. What is admitted is, that he is a noble gentleman, a true patriot, a brave soldier, and a sincere Catholic. From these facts we may come to the conclusion that in his heart he desires the restoration of France's lawful king, Henry the Fifth.

In Spain the state of affairs remains unchanged. If the Carlists seem to have made no great progress, neither does it appear that they have met with any reverses. The health of the Sovereign Pontiff is now admitted, even by our own Correspondents, and the telegrams, to be good.

From Ireland we have news of the verdict of the Jury in the case of the Rev. Mr. O'Keefe, the suspended priest, against the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin for libel—the libel complained of being the publication of the decree of suspension by His Eminence. The jury found for the Plaintiff, Damages One Farthing! With this we hope the scandal is at an end; Mr. O'Keefe will get his farthing, and, we suppose, will have to pay his costs. His ecclesiastical status remains of course unaltered. All the decrees of all the Courts of the Empire cannot affect that; nor could an Act of the Imperial Parliament restore him to his parish, or make it aught but mortal sin for any Catholic layman to communicate with him in sacred things. If, whilst his suspension lasts, he were to say Mass he would be guilty of sacrilege; confessions heard by him would be a mockery; and an absolution pronounced by him would be but an additional sentence of condemnation on the unhappy wretch who should so far forget his duties as a Catholic to receive it. We must pray for the unhappy man's conversion, lest he fall lower than he has already fallen, even to the abyss of Exeter Hall.

A Bill most important to the stability of the Church by Law Established has just been thrown out of the House of Commons by an immense majority—four to one. At first sight the change proposed by the Bill seems simple enough; had it been carried, it would have been as the entering of the sharp end of the wedge destined to split up the whole concern.

With the law as it now stands, no person, not in Orders of the Church of England, can legally preach or lecture from any Anglican pulpit. The Bill proposed so to modify this law as to enable any person, whether in, or out of Anglican Orders, to preach. This, if carried, would have opened the pulpit to all non-conformist ministers whom a low church bishop or evangelical parish clergyman might have invited to preach, or even to a Catholic priest, or one of Mr. Newdegates "disguised Jesuits" should a Ritualistic minister have felt inclined to avail himself of said Jesuit's eloquence as a lecturer. In short the "Occasional Sermons Bill" would have been the death blow to the Establishment as a distinctive government institution.

There has been another great fire in Boston. It broke out on Friday, and the "devouring element,"—that we believe is the orthodox formula—inflicted damage to the amount of several millions of dollars. The Modoc war is at an end; several of the chiefs with awful names have surrendered, and have moreover offered

their services to run down their old captain, Jack. It is reported that the mortal remains of Sir George E. Cartier left Liverpool, on Friday, the 30th ult., and may be expected at Quebec about the 8th inst. They will be received by the Government steamer *Druid*, and brought up to Montreal. The funeral will take place on or about the 12th inst.

Several fatal cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis are reported as having occurred in Montreal. Amongst the provoking causes of this disease may be reckoned no doubt dirt, bad drainage, and eating of improper food; but it is also clearly established that the use of intoxicating liquors makes the drinker, especially, liable to the disease; which in his case generally proves fatal. Cleanliness and temperance in all things are the conditions on which alone bodily health can be maintained.

The new government of France proposes to abandon the commercial treaty with England. It is reported that the Bank of France will advance funds necessary to complete the payment of the war indemnity, and the evacuation of French territory by the German troops will follow immediately. The Orleanists have refused to coalesce with the Legitimists and, also, with the Bonapartists, are said to have made propositions to the party of the Left-Centre, or moderate Republicans, but without success. A Berlin despatch says the German Government is dissatisfied with MacMahon's address to the French Assembly, and will not enter into regular diplomatic relations with his Government until satisfied that France will faithfully adhere to the treaty of Frankfurt.

Mr. Bradlaugh, recently arrested by the Carlists, has been released. Hon. Joseph Howe, Lt.-Governor of Nova Scotia, died on Sunday morning at Halifax.

THE O'KEEFE SCANDAL.—We have scarcely ever alluded to the case now before the Court in Dublin, of the Rev. Mr. O'Keefe formerly parish priest of Callan, against His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin. It was a painful scandal, which every true Catholic would desire to have buried in oblivion, and which it was hoped might have been set at rest by the timely submission of Mr. O'Keefe to the authorities of the Church, to which, when admitted to Holy Orders, he had sworn obedience. These hopes can no longer be entertained, for the case is now actually before the Imperial tribunals, and the scandal will have to be carried on in the face of the world.

Of course every Catholic knows that by the constant law of the Church which every priest at Ordination binds himself to obey, it is not allowed to an ecclesiastic to take legal proceedings against a brother ecclesiastic or his ecclesiastical superiors, before the civil tribunal. In spite of this law, and his Ordination vows, Mr. O'Keefe did institute legal proceedings in a civil court against another priest, for which violation of the Canon law he was ultimately suspended by His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin, acting as Papal Legate, from the exercise of his spiritual functions as parish priest of Callan. Hereupon the suspended priest instituted an action for libel against His Eminence, in having published the fact of said suspension, which suspension was followed by his removal by the Education Board, from the position of manager of the schools of his former parish, and consequent loss of emoluments. To understand this, it must be remarked that the Law recognises as manager of certain schools the "parish" priest, or priest appointed by the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese in which the parish is situated; and the fact whether a certain person is or is not Catholic priest of a particular parish, is a fact which the Education Board can learn only from the Bishop himself, since it is the Bishop and not a Civil magistrate who makes all parochial appointments in the Catholic Church.

Mr. O'Keefe proceeds against his ecclesiastical superior on the grounds that he, the Cardinal Archbishop, had no right to suspend him; because the said Cardinal in so suspending him was acting not as Bishop of the Diocese, but in virtue of a Papal Rescript; and because in virtue of a certain Statute of Elizabeth, and which in spite of the partial abrogation of the Penal Code still remains on the Statute Book, all communications with the Pope are prohibited to subjects of the English sovereign; and acts of, and powers conferred by the Sovereign Pontiff are declared to be null and void. This sword drawn from the armory of the Protestant penal code of Elizabeth is the weapon which an ordained priest of the Catholic Church employs against a Bishop and Prince of the same Church. Need we say more. In this simple fact the whole merits of the case of O'Keefe ver. Cullen are summed up.

Protestants are of course delighted; and in the support that the tribunal to which Mr. O'Keefe has appealed must give to his plea, since of the existence of the Protestant penal law and as to its meaning, there can be no

doubt, they fancy that they see the overthrow of all spiritual authority in Ireland. They are mistaken. No decision of a civil tribunal can affect the spiritual or ecclesiastical status of Mr. O'Keefe. If he be indeed suspended, according to the laws of the Church, no Civil Tribunal can annul that suspension, or make it aught else than mortal sin for any one to hold communication in sacred things with the suspended priest. Such a law as that of Elizabeth to which Mr. O'Keefe appeals was as part and parcel of a gigantic and consistent penal code a formidable instrument of persecution; but to-day it is worthless unless the entire Code be restored, and it be made punishable by fine, confiscation of property and death if necessary for any one calling himself a Catholic, to refuse receiving the sacraments from the hands of a suspended priest. As at the present moment it is not likely that the British government is prepared to proceed to such extremities, the decision of its tribunals declaring invalid the suspension of a priest by a Bishop acting in virtue of a Papal Rescript will but provoke the laughter and contempt of the Catholic laity.

In fact the decision just arrived at by the Court of Queen's Bench in Dublin, would, could it be enforced, render the practise of the Catholic religion in Ireland impossible. It would be impossible for the layman to hear Mass; it would be impossible for him to receive, or for a priest to give him absolution; it would be impossible for a Bishop to ordain, or to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation; in a word every distinctive act of the Catholic Church would be a violation of the Protestant law. For instance, no priest can exercise sacerdotal functions in any diocese, say mass, hear confessions, or administer the Sacraments without permission from the Bishop of that diocese. All rightful ecclesiastical jurisdiction that any Bishop possesses in his diocese is derived from the Pope; and the law of the land evoked by Mr. O'Keefe declares illegal every act performed by a Catholic Bishop performed in virtue of authority conferred on him by the Pope.

It will be seen therefore that the case as now stated by Mr. O'Keefe involves the legal status of every Catholic Bishop and priest in the United Kingdom. The case as it stands is simply this. We have to the scandal and grief of the entire Catholic world, the spectacle of a priest impugning before an anti-Catholic tribunal the spiritual acts of his ecclesiastical superiors; and dragging forth from the armory of the Protestant Penal code of the XVI. century where they had long lain rusting and forgotten, old Acts of Elizabeth against the Popes and in support of Royal Supremacy wherewith to assail the authority of the Holy Father. Into the merits of the original dispute which Mr. O'Keefe had with other priests we care not to venture; but on the case as it stands at present there can be no two opinions amongst Catholics. That such a case should occur in Catholic Ireland is inexpressibly painful; inexpressibly painful because, in the words of the *London Times*, it raises "for the first time in this country" the important question "as to the status of the Roman Catholic Church." The Elizabethan Penal Law that the Rev. Mr. O'Keefe has invoked against the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin who in his capacity of Papal Legate has published the sentence of suspension complained of as a libel was, as Mr. Justice Fitzgerald expounded it from the Bench, designed for "the entire overthrow and extinction in this country"—the British Islands—"of the Roman Catholic religion," a design which were it possible to carry out the provisions of the said Penal Law would be fully accomplished. This of itself determines the merits of Mr. O'Keefe's cause, and it is needless to say another word about it.

We have seen in the papers the name of a notorious woman who has turned up at Toronto, and has, of course, been taken in hand by the Methodists and some others of the evangelical sect. We care not, if we can help it, to pollute our paper with this woman's name, or to insult our female readers by placing it before their eyes. There are things, there are names, on which a virtuous woman should not so much as look.

Suffice it then to say that this woman did lecture, or attempt to lecture in Toronto. The audience was small; several of that small audience, we are told, left the room; and the lecturer or lecturers, we know not which is the more correct term, was, so we are told, "unwell," and could scarce continue. Somehow or other it seems that she is very often subject to these fits of "unwellness."

The young man Isaacson whose accident from a pistol shot, on the 24th ult., we mentioned in our last, died on the following Monday. A Coroner's Inquest was held on the body, and though a verdict of purely "Accidental Death" was recorded, and the young man, the unintentional cause of the accident, was discharged, the Jury appended to their

verdict some very sound remarks with respect to the dangerous practise of carrying deadly weapons about the person; a practise which, if newspaper reports may be believed, is becoming very common amongst young men in Montreal. The remains of the unfortunate young man, who was much beloved, were followed to the grave, on Wednesday afternoon, the 28th ult., by a large concourse of citizens.

LACROSSE—SHAMROCK CLUB AGAIN VICTORIOUS.

Our readers have heard much deserved praise, from time to time, of this young band of adepts in the national game of Lacrosse, but their recent success at Toronto evoked applause still higher, and placed these excellent young Irishmen in a position at once famous and respectable. Going to what many might consider an enemies country, and where, to say the least, any mishap, moral or physical, would be exulted over, they bore themselves, from first to last, and throughout, like well-bred Christian men, and with that skill and bravery which, on all right occasions, so much distinguishes the race to which they belong. It is duly reported that they won the several games, in which they were encountered by the gallant youth of Toronto, and retired from the well-fought field amidst the hearty plaudits of an immense audience. Good Brother Arnold,—so well-known throughout Canada, not only for his great zeal in the Christian fraternity to which he belongs, but for his high tone and fervent feelings as an Irishman,—was ever singularly kind and attentive to the Shamrocks. He met them at the Railway-station upon their arrival, and under his direction the fine band of the Christian Brothers did them honor then, and upon their return to the cars on the evening subsequent. We heartily congratulate the Shamrock's, and wish them long possession of the honors they have so nobly won.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE GAME. Toronto, May 26.—At a quarter to three the men were in position and the ball faced for. It was immediately taken toward the Toronto goal, and after a brief struggle, during which it never repassed the centre of the field, it was forced through the flags in a hand to hand tussle.

AND THE FIRST GAME was counted for the champions in three minutes and a quarter, this unexpectedly quick termination showing by the cheers which it elicited how large a portion of those present sympathized with the Shamrocks, strangers though they were.

IN THE SECOND GAME the play was not so one sided, and although the ball was more frequently in the vicinity of the Toronto goal than at the other end of the field, still the Shamrock flags were frequently menaced and the tide of battle flowed up and down the field with no great preponderance on either side. After about twenty minutes' hard play the ball thrown by Moffatt was claimed to have passed between the Toronto flags, and the umpires, failing to agree, the referee decided in favor of the claim and adjudged the game to the Shamrocks.

THIRD GAME. After a good deal of delay the third game was started, both teams showing the utmost determination to win, and a great deal of very fine play being the result. The issue of the contest was in doubt for twenty minutes, when the ball, after traversing the field many times, was at length thrown in front of the Toronto flags and knocked through, the Shamrocks thus winning three straight games and again making good their title to the possession of

THE CHAMPIONSHIP. As they retired to the tent provided for their accommodation a crowd of their sympathizers swarmed after them, fairly covering the space which the instant before was unoccupied, save by the players, and cheer after cheer was given in honor of the victory won by the Irishmen.

After a brief delay the conquerors, preceded by a band and accompanied by a large crowd of people marched off the field, going thence to Clover Hill, where they had agreed if circumstances permitted, to play an exhibition for the benefit of the pic-nickers there.

PANEGYRIC OF THE VICTORS. While we must confess to having entertained a desire that our own townsmen should have won the match, we can hardly withhold an expression of our opinion that in this instance it was the best men who won. So far as could be judged from what was visible to an onlooker, the individual play of the Shamrocks was good, and their play as a team still better. Whether for attack or defense they have a club no superiors, and we do not think it possible that the championship, while they hold together and keep up their practice, can be wrested from them, unless some other club is able to turn out twelve men of equal individual ability, and still better handled as a team. The play of Giroux and O'Rourke as home men was always dangerous, and needed the most persistent checking, while at the other end of the field Hooban and Burke were as a wall in defence.

ON THE TORONTO SIDE. There were undoubtedly a great deal of pluck and skill shown. C. McVitte made a generally stubborn defence of his flags, while they were also ably guarded by T. Mitchell at point, whose quick throwing was very effective in removing the ball from a possible dangerous proximity. Nelson and Robinson, the latter especially, were excellent in general play, and Hodgetts was cool and steady. The home men, E. Mitchell, Hughes, and Massey, all worked like Trojans, but the checking was too sharp to admit of any very showy play, or, as the event proved, of play as effective as had been seen at their hands in many a previous encounter.

ERIN AND THE BRENNANS.—After a short but brilliant career in Montreal, this Exhibition left for Quebec on Monday. We can with a good conscience recommend the Brennans to the favorable notice of the people of Quebec. Their Exhibition has never been surpassed, and but rarely equalled in Canada; and to the Irishman and his descendants the beautiful panoramic views of the Old Land it contains must be truly gratifying.

Within the whole range of the tonic and alternative medicines known, none is entitled to more consideration than the Peruvian Syrup. In all cases of enfeebled and debilitated constitution it is the very remedy needed. The most positive proof of this can be adduced.

THE EMBASSIES OF THE MAN OF SIN.—The *Times* correspondent gives us an account of Sir Bartle Frere's Zanzibar, in the course of which he fell in with some of these agents of the "Man of Sin," and of whom the *Times* speaks in the following terms:—

"Sir Bartle Frere and suite left Zanzibar finally on the morning of the 17th inst., proceeding north via Mombasa, Lamoo, and Makallah to Muscat. The Enchantress being engaged in taking in coal and in repairing her machinery, his Excellency crossed over to Bagomoyo on the mainland in Her Majesty's ship Daphne, and was joined two days later at Pangani by the Enchantress.

"The principal object of the Special Envoy in visiting Bagomoyo was to inspect the French Mission establishment at that place, which undoubtedly reflects infinite credit on all concerned. The Reverend Fathers and Sisters, of whom there are some nine or ten altogether, cleric and lay, have under their charge 250 boys and girls, many of whom have been rescued from slave shows by our cruisers. Keeping before them the fact that one of the main objects of a Mission such as theirs is that it should, as far as possible, be self-supporting, these good missionaries have now under cultivation a very large piece of land entirely tilled and cultivated by the boys and girls of the establishment. Although the Mission has been established little over four years it has already the appearance of a prosperous and flourishing establishment which has taken healthy root. Most of the houses have been built by the members themselves, and though they did not escape the common ruin incidental to last year's hurricane, the cheerful energy of the Fathers has nearly repaired all ravages. The branch establishment at Zanzibar furnishes a school, where the boys can learn the useful trades of carpenter, blacksmith, &c., and in this way the Mission is rendered somewhat independent of extraneous aid, while the Negro boys are instructed how to gain their future livelihood. The children are well clothed, well fed, and well cared for; everything is done with the order and punctuality of a good English school, and I may add, the general community appears as happy and contented. Here again, as at Captain Fraser's estate at Kokotui and at Mr. Sunley's estate at Johanna, it is demonstrated how much may be done with Africans when they are superintended by the right sort of men; while it is proved beyond doubt that the Negro may not only be made a working, but also a profitable, member of society, without his losing that sense of happiness which so many tell us is only compatible with his absolute and perfect idleness.

"It is, I believe, the intention of the Fathers that as the children grow up they shall intermarry and form for themselves separate settlements in the proximity of, and under the superintendence of, the parent Mission; thus forming the nucleus of a society of which it is so impossible to foresee the future extent or influence, as it is to say how great a part it may yet have to play in the Christianizing and civilization of Eastern Africa. Should the success of its future be at all commensurate with that of its commencement, this Mission may indeed look forward to a brilliant and lasting success."

We find in the *Montreal Gazette* the following brief sketch of the career of Marshal MacMahon, the new President of the French Republic:—

The personal history of Marshal MacMahon, the newly-chosen President of the French Republic, is that of a soldier who, during forty-eight years of almost continuous service in the army, has always kept strictly to his duty. Descended from an Irish Catholic family who emigrated to France, his father in his later years being a Peer of France, the newly-elected President is a Frenchman by birth and training. Entering the Royal Military School of St. Cyr in 1825, he was afterwards sent to Algeria, that great training ground for French Generals. When, in April, 1855, at the outbreak of the war with Russia, MacMahon was recalled to Paris, he had served about twenty-five years in Africa. He proceeded from Paris to the seat of war in the Crimea, where he was appointed to command a division of infantry. In the final assault on Sebastopol he had the perilous honor of leading the attack on the Malakoff, which formed the key to the Russian defenses. In a few instants, owing to the irresistible ardour of his troops, he penetrated the fort; and there resisted for hours the desperate attacks of the Russians. While in this dangerous position, MacMahon received orders to return from Pellsissier, who had been told that the Malakoff was mined. Reluctant to give up advantages he had so dearly gained he answered: "I will hold my ground, dead or alive," and, true to his word, he remained until the Russians, baffled by the obstinacy and daring of the French, began a headlong retreat, and Sebastopol was won. This daring exploit, which virtually ended the war, won MacMahon world-wide fame, and secured him, with the Grand Cross, the rank of Senator. When peace relieved him from further service in Europe, he returned to the scene of his early campaigns, and was soon actively engaged in subduing the bold and intrepid mountain tribes of Khyalia. In a short time he received command of the land and sea forces of Algeria, and was reposing on his well-earned laurels when called to the field by the outbreak of war with Austria. It was in this war, that his military glory culminated. He was the virtual victor of the bloody field of Magenta, and was declared, on the battle-field, Duke of Magenta and Marshal of France. The record of MacMahon's career during the recent war between France and Germany is familiar to all. At the great battle and slaughter at Sedan he was wounded, and became a prisoner in the hands of the Germans when the Emperor surrendered his army. He was sufficiently recovered from his wounds to assume command of the army which M. Thiers organized against the Commune when Paris was taken. Politically, Marshal MacMahon has professed no bias or partisanship in the current complications of France. Since the Franco-Prussian war he has held the army of France under his control, being the idol of his soldiers. During a long military career he has zealously labored for the best interests of his country, and in entering upon the stupendous task of guiding the destinies of the French Republic he will have the warm sympathy not only of a large section of the French people, but also of their English neighbors, who hold the new President in high esteem.

THE IRISH IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the *Dublin Freeman*. Dear Sir—Will you kindly give insertion to the following letter in the columns of your paper, devoted to improvement of our people at home and abroad, and to their elevation in the social scale with all other nations. As it contains so many wholesome truths, and is endorsed by the signature of a most zealous clergyman, who has acted as another "Father Mathew" in his parish, the admonitions contained therein will have a tenfold force. HENRY J. LARKIN, Emigration Commissioner for the Dominion Government of Canada to West, Centre, and South of Ireland. Lindsay, County of Victoria, Province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada, April 20th, 1873. My Dear Mr. Larkin,—Mr. Kenley and promising family have just arrived here from Tasmania—all well. The children begin to attend school to-morrow. The school here is free. Our convent will be open in September next. For the ordinary course in it there will be no charge. Families coming from Ireland will find this convenient. If you find a farmer or two with £2,000 to £3,000 we can place them