

The True Witness

Founded in 1850, by G. E. CLERK. PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, October 1, 1875.

ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

Friday, 1.—St. Remigius, Bishop and Confessor. Saturday, 2.—The Holy Guardian Angels. Sunday, 3.—20 P. Solemnity of the Holy Rosary. Monday, 4.—St. Francis of Assisi, Confessor. Tuesday, 5.—SS. Placidus and Companions, Martyrs. Wednesday, 6.—St. Bruno, Confessor. Thursday, 7.—Votive of the Blessed Sacrament.

THE LATE GEORGE EDWARD CLERK.

It is our most painful duty to announce the death of George Edward Clerk, Esq., founder and during twenty-five years sole Editor of the TRUE WITNESS

Mr. Clerk had been ill for several months, and though all hope of final recovery was abandoned by his relatives and friends, a change for the better appeared to have taken place a few weeks ago

George Edward Clerk, Knight of the Roman Order of St. Gregory the Great, born on the 18th of March, 1815, was the second son of the late Right Honourable Sir George Clerk, P.C. and D.C.L., Sixth Baronet of Penicuik, near Edinburgh, by his wife, Maria, second daughter of the late Ewan Law, Esq., and cousin of the Earl of Ellenborough, late Viceroy of India.

The late Mr. George E. Clerk was, in default of issue to the present Baronet, who is unmarried, the next heir to Penicuik.

The crest of the Clerks of Penicuik is a huntsman blowing a horn, with the motto, "Free for a Blast."

In early life Mr. Clerk entered the Royal Navy as midshipman, and served on the West Coast of Africa, being present at the capture of several slaves. He was on board the Man of War placed at the disposal of Sir Walter Scott to convey him to the Mediterranean: Sir Walter being an intimate friend of the Clerk family.

He left the Navy, with many other cadets of Tory houses, at a change of Ministry which was opposed to the interests of his family. He shortly afterwards went to Australia, with the younger son of an old Scotch family, Mr. Charles Lockhart, where he embraced the life of a Squatter, the then aristocracy of Australia, and leasing an extensive sheep-run from Government near the Buldunge range of mountains he carried it on in partnership with Mr. Lockhart, from whence he made several expeditions into the interior of Central Australia. These expeditions were of the most dangerous character, and were rich in ethnological, geographical and botanical results; but with that singular dislike to publicity Mr. Clerk could never be prevailed upon to give to the world an extended account of these heroic journeyings.

It was in the wilds of Australia that, through Divine Providence, Mr. Clerk met the occasion of his conversion to the Catholic Faith. Overtaken by a violent storm at a distance from his house, he sought shelter in a cabin inhabited by an Irish family. To pass the time he took out his pipe, and to light it, he laid hold of an old book he observed lying on the chimney-piece. Before tearing off the leaf he cast his eyes on the first sentence which struck him so much by its style and the matter it contained, that he sat down and continued to read till the storm was over. When about to retire he expressed his regret that he could not read the whole volume. The old man at once said, "take it with you and welcome." The old book was a copy of Cardinal Wiseman's Lectures on the Catholic Church.

The penetrating and logical mind of Mr. Clerk having been once aroused to inquire after religious truth, the result, through the grace of God, could not be long doubtful. For, with Mr. Clerk, to know the truth was to embrace it at any risk and at any cost. He returned to Scotland his native country in the early part of the year 1844, and on the

28th of June, 1844, he was admitted to the Communion of the Catholic Church at Edinburgh, by the Rev. George Bigger. Mr. Clerk was now twenty-nine years of age. His frank and honorable mind would not allow him to conceal the important step he had taken from his father, Sir George.

Accordingly, on the very day of his return to the church of his ancestors, Mr. Clerk informed his father of the fact, who, at once, banished him from the paternal roof, and forbid him ever again to seek its shelter. It was, thus, liberty of conscience and the ties of nature were understood in Scotland.

Thus excommunicated from his family, Mr. Clerk at once immigrated to Canada, where he arrived on the 7th of October, 1844. Having fixed his residence in Montreal, he married Miss Marie Louise Dupuis in 1849, by which happy union he has left a numerous family.

The first number of the TRUE WITNESS was issued on the 16th of August, 1850. It is in his connexion with this Catholic journal that Mr. Clerk is best known to the public. He was its founder, and until the last few months he was its sole editor. There were occasional contributions from other pens, but it may be said that all the leading articles were written by Mr. Clerk. Those who have a little experience in journalism will easily realize the amount of labor this supposes in one man, especially as many of the articles of the TRUE WITNESS, treating of doctrinal subjects, must have required serious and prolonged study.

For his services to the Catholic cause in Canada he was rewarded by his Holiness the Pope with the Order of St. Gregory. He was also presented by the Irish Catholics of Montreal with a splendid edition of the Holy Fathers.

The invaluable services rendered to truth, and to the Catholic Church by the TRUE WITNESS seem to be almost forgotten. The writer of this notice recollects well that at the time the TRUE WITNESS first appeared, you could scarcely take up a copy of any English journal published in Montreal without meeting some attack against the Catholic Church, or some insult to Catholics. It is however just to say that there was one honorable exception to this charge,—the old Montreal Patriot, then edited by the present Hon. Sir Francis Hincks. The good old Patriot, in the hands of its intellectual and just minded editor, not only refused to join in those ill-considered and mischievous attacks against Catholics, but not infrequently vigorously repelled them. On the appearance of the TRUE WITNESS a marked change came over the tone of the English press of this city—a change which for the general good lasts even to the present day. The impenitent "Daily Witness" is of course excepted from this remark.

Mr. Clerk was guided by a high-toned code of honor in conducting his journal. He was never the assailant; private character, however vulnerable, was sacred in his eyes; even in the most legitimate warfare, and under great provocation, he would never make a doubtful charge, nor publish an accusation before he had fully ascertained its truth. Owing to this caution, dictated by a principle of honor and of justice, the writer does not recollect a single instance in which Mr. Clerk had to recall a statement or accusation published by him in the TRUE WITNESS during the twenty-five years of his connexion with it. Honest, though erroneous convictions, always met in Mr. Clerk an uncompromising, but a chivalrous opponent, when it was his duty to combat them. On hypocrisy he had no mercy. That whining class of Christians amongst us who pretend to think that the interests of religion, (they mean their own interests) are best advanced by falsehood and calumny, and by sowing bitter hatred amongst men in God's name, have been the subjects of articles in the TRUE WITNESS from the pen of Mr. Clerk rarely equalled for their vigor, their killing exposures, and their incisive sarcasm. Dealing with such men delicate taste was out of the question. Mr. Clerk had to use the only arms by which he could reach and wound his hard skinned enemies. And it was no small victory to bring professional traders in falsehood, to tell lies with a little more prudence and reserve.

As a journalist Mr. Clerk's style was correct, vigorous, and rigidly logical. He seldom affected what is called fine writing, and yet there was that imprint of scholarship and of deep thought upon each of his sentences which would not allow you to stop till you saw the last word in the article. His knowledge was extensive, and always accurate. His retentive memory seemed never to forget anything once learned. To the day of his death the rules of Grammar, Algebra, Mathematics of his school days were as fresh, and as ready for use as when first studied. With this quality of mind, and being a hard reader, his remarkable familiarity with the facts of history is not surprising.

Though Mr. Clerk commenced the study of the Catholic religion rather late, his vigorous and penetrating intellect, his clear and logical judgment enabled him to acquire a knowledge of the groundwork of its dogmas, and of the spirit of its teachings seldom found in a layman either on this continent or in the old world. His study in this department embraced not only the authors accessible to ordinary students of theology, but also the Holy Fathers to whom, for many years, he devoted much of his time.

Whilst Mr. Clerk defended the Catholic faith with all the ardor of a convert, he submitted his opinions to the authority of his ecclesiastical superiors with the humble docility of a Catholic child. This is a rare merit now-a-days.

The gift of Divine faith, which he owed to the mercy of God, was so precious in the estimation of Mr. Clerk, that he deemed it but little in return to devote his whole being to the service of God and of His holy church; and hence the energy which he displayed in defence of the Church against external foes, was surpassed by the fidelity and love with which he fulfilled the precepts and duties of the Catholic religion in his private life. In all social relations Mr. Clerk was the man of truth and of honor; in every other respect he was the humble, charitable and fervent Catholic. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

We take the following account of the funeral of the late Mr. Clerk from The Sun of Saturday. This forenoon the mortal remains of this estim-

able gentleman were taken from the residence of the family, 26 St. Antoine street, for interment in the Catholic Cemetery. Nothing could perhaps better prove the popularity of the deceased in life than the general and deep respect evidenced for his memory in death. At the appointed hour, a large crowd of our most prominent citizens assembled to bear their part in the last sad offices. There were representatives of our leading merchants, professionals and officials, and such a gathering of the people as attested that the lamented deceased was loved and esteemed in every walk of life, and persons of every creed. The funeral arrangements were under the direction of Mr. Feron of St. Antoine Street, and if it were permissible to take pride in the pageantry with which loving hearts surrounded the last visible offering to the departed, we might refer to the charge and elegant results of the Undertaker's management. The pall-bearers were Hon. Thomas Ryan, Edward Murphy, C. T. Palsgrave, H. B. Gray, N. Valois, and L. Brault. The sons, son-in-law, and other close connections and friends of the family acted as chief mourners in more than the conventional meaning of the phrase, and then followed the funeral cortege, composed, as we have said, of our foremost citizens. Passing from St. Antoine to Craig street, and thence through Bleury street to Lagache street, the procession halted at the Congregational Church of Notre Dame des Arges, where the body was taken from the hearse and given in charge to the Society of the Immaculate Conception, of which the deceased was a prominent member. The Office of the Dead was recited by the Rev. the Cure of the Church, Father Giband, after which the office of the Immaculate Conception was intoned by the members of the Society. After prayer and blessing the coffin was again conveyed to the hearse, and then the funeral proceeded to the Church of Notre Dame (the Parish Church), where the coffin was received by the clergy in full canonicals, and a large array of acolytes. Within the spacious building, which was well filled, a Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of the deceased. Rev. Father Giband acted as celebrant, with Rev. M. de Valois and Chevrier as assistants. The services throughout were of a most solemn and edifying character: many Protestants participated in this last offering of friendship; and at the conclusion, the funeral proceeded to the Cemetery, where the remains of an earnest husband and father—a good citizen—an loving champion of the Church of his devotion and espousal—were deposited in their resting place until the Great Day. May his soul rest in peace.

On Tuesday morning last, a solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Mr. Clerk, was sung in the Bishop's Church. His Lordship Bishop Bourget decreed this as a mark of respect to the lamented deceased in consideration of the many valuable services rendered to religion by the late Mr. Clerk during the last twenty-five years. Right Rev. Bishop Fabre, officiated; Canon G. Lamarche, Assistant; Canon Joe. Seguin, Deacon; Canon J. Monjeau, Sub-Deacon; Rev. Joseph Charrette, Master of Ceremonies.

The following Rev. Gentlemen assisted in the Sanctuary:—Very Rev. Archdeacon Morcau, V. G.; Canon L. Plomondon; Rev. V. Rousselot, Cure of Notre Dame; Rev. P. Dowd, St. Patrick's; Rev. J. Hogan, St. Anne's; Rev. J. Archambault, Vicar of St. Joseph's; Rev. T. S. Fleck, S. J., President St. Mary's College; Rev. W. Moylan S. J.; Rev. J. O. Tortel, Superior Oblat Fathers; Rev. Jos. Belanger, Director Deaf and Dumb Institute, Mile End; Rev. Pere Chapelle, d'Issoudun, France.

The following assisted in the Choir:—Very Rev. Canon J. O. Pare, Very Rev. Canon P. Leblanc; Messrs. Desjardins, Gravel, Lefebvre, Hurtaboise, Beaudry, Trudel, Fiset, &c, &c.

We publish the following obituary notices from our City Contemporaries as showing the high esteem in which the late Mr. Clerk was held by all classes of our citizens:—

(From The Sun) Just as we prepare for press we learn of the death of George Edward Clerk, Esq., Editor of the Montreal TRUE WITNESS. Mr. Clerk had been ill for a considerable period, and though all hope of final recovery was abandoned by his relatives and friends, an apparent change for the better within the last week encouraged hope that he might yet rally in some degree, and escape all immediate danger. It was, however, ruled otherwise, and to day at noon Mr. Clerk expired at his residence, St. Antoine street, fortified by all the rites of the Church, to which he was a zealous convert, and of whose interests he was an earnest promoter and defender. Mr. Clerk, who was second son of the late Right Hon. Sir George Clerk, Penicuik, Edinburgh, Scotland, attained his sixtieth year in March of this year: he was received into the Catholic Church in 1844, and founded the TRUE WITNESS on the 16th August, 1850. Up to April last, when prostrated by illness, he continued in active exercise of the duties of his new position; he was a polished writer, deeply conversant with Church history, and an efficient advocate or skilful defender, as the requirements of his editorial position demanded. In private life he was respected by all; and we need not lift the veil enshrouding the new domestic sorrow to point out how, in his family circle, he was beloved and honored. May his soul rest in peace!

(From The Herald) It is with regret we announce this morning the decease of Mr. George Edward Clerk of the TRUE WITNESS, which occurred yesterday in this city, in the 61st year of his age. He had been seriously ill for some time past, the cause of his death being, we are informed, dropsy. Mr. Clerk was the second son of the late Sir George Clerk, of Penicuik, near Edinburgh, and was at one time an officer in the navy. Though not brought up as a Roman Catholic, he became a convert to that faith in 1844, and some years after, settling in this city, he established the journal with which his name has been associated for the past twenty-five years. Mr. Clerk was a man of high attainments, and the place rendered vacant by his death will not easily be filled. Though differing from him essentially on most subjects, we, in common with all, always entertained a great respect for the deceased as a journalist, the courteous and gentlemanly manner in which he conducted a controversy being specially worthy of imitation.

(From The Gazette.) It is with sincere regret that we announce to our readers the death of Mr. George Edward Clerk, known for so many years, to the community of Montreal as the editor of the TRUE WITNESS. Mr. Clerk was the second son of the late Right Hon. Sir George Clerk, of Penicuik, Scotland, for several years M. P. for Edinburghshire, and a Privy Councillor. Sir George was succeeded by his son, Sir James, who died in 1870, leaving the title and estates to his eldest son, the present Baronet. The late Mr. Clerk was born in 1815. He served for some time in the Royal Navy, after retiring from which he came to Canada in the year 1844. Although he had been educated in the Protestant religion, he found it a conscientious duty to join the Roman Catholic Church. Soon after his arrival in this country he started the journal with which his

name was identified, till the time of his death. He was a man of great intellectual powers, a deep student, especially of theology, and his kindred sciences, a brilliant and forcible writer. The conduct of his paper, however, he never departed from the golden rule of justice and courtesy in this particular, indeed, setting an example which many social and religious journals would do well to follow. In private life, Mr. Clerk was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. Modest and unassuming in demeanor; righteous in his dealings; generous towards those who differed with him; a staunch friend, pious, charitable, and honorable. Except in his own domain of journalism he did not meddle in public affairs, and his circle of friends and acquaintances included persons of all creeds, political and religious. But through life he was a consistent Conservative. Among his most intimate friends he numbered some of the most distinguished in literature and science, both clerical and lay, which our city has produced. Surrounded by such chosen associates, it was his delight to discuss the questions of high import with which his mind was generally occupied, and those who knew him best will recall with regret the many pleasant hours they have thus spent in his company. He was exceedingly fond of fishing, and in this sport he generally passed his summer holidays. He was, also, an ardent admirer of natural beauty, and would descend very pleasantly on any scenery which charmed him. It will be long before those who shared those pleasures with him, or who had the privilege of enjoying his always instructive and delightful conversation, will cease to miss him. They have the solace, however, of knowing that he always did what his conscience suggested to be his duty, and that he is gone to his reward, "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

From The Montreal Daily Witness. We regret to have to record the death of Mr. George Clerk, of the TRUE WITNESS which took place at his residence, St. Antoine street, this forenoon at half past eleven o'clock. Mr. Clerk who had been ailing for some time previously, having had a severe attack of congestion of the brain, was in his 61st year. He was second son of the late Sir George Clerk, Bart., of Penicuik, near Edinburgh. He received a thorough education, of which religion, however, formed little part. After a roving life as an officer of the navy and otherwise, he became a Catholic, having imbibed its doctrines from some of that faith, when he experienced the first religious convictions he ever knew. Two or three years after his arrival in Montreal he established the TRUE WITNESS, an uncompromising advocate of Roman Catholicism, which is now in its 26th year, and which by his death suffers a loss that will not easily be supplied.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The opinions of two eminent French literary men upon the future of their country have just been published. M. Emile de Girardin thinks that France should abandon her pretensions to military supremacy, and apply herself to attain commercial superiority on the Continent, at the same time insisting that compensation for the loss of Alsace-Lorraine may be obtained elsewhere with the consent of the Continental Powers. M. Victor Hugo, replying to an invitation to a Congress of Peace and Liberty, proclaims the necessity of an unamalgamated France for free Europe, and he predicts the advent of a European Republic and the brotherhood of nations. The Prefect of the Rhone will, it is expected, be removed to another post, his connexion with the Bourrier trial at Marseilles having subjected him to sharp attacks from the Republican press. The Minister of Education has declined to sanction the establishment of a Protestant Faculty of Theology in Paris, but efforts are being made to induce him to change his determination. The Comte de Chambord will, it is believed, shortly take occasion to reply to the suggestions of a pamphlet recently published, that he should abdicate in favor of the Comte de Paris. The Journal de Paris, which is regarded as the semi-official organ of the Orleansist party, states that the Orleans princes intend loyally to recognize the Republic. The recall of Admiral Le Noury from his command has been approved by all the Liberal papers in Paris, and even the Bonapartist journals have abstained from condemning it. Admiral Le Noury has arrived in Paris. The British Chamber of Commerce at Paris having addressed the French Postmaster-General respecting the possibility of an acceleration of the mail service between France and England, M. Le Libon has, in reply, stated that he has placed himself in communication with the Northern Railway Company of France and the British postal authorities in order to ascertain if such acceleration were possible. M. Le Libon also added that as soon as any definite argument had been arrived at he would communicate it to the Chamber of Commerce.

The Catholics of Posen have formed a defensive organization called the Polish Catholic Society with Prince Czartoryski, a Deputy of the Reichstag as its President. A numerous and enthusiastic meeting of the members has been held, at which a remarkable speech, delivered by a Catholic artisan, was to the following effect:—"I fought in the German army; I was at the sieges of Strasburg and of Paris; I returned home to find myself heavily involved in debt, incurred for the support of my wife and children while I was helping Germany to exact that immense indemnity from France. I worked hard, I paid off the debts, but I suffer more now than when I was with the army abroad. I have returned home to see my religion persecuted, and my clergy imprisoned, and my native language forbidden to be used in the schools where my children are compelled by law to be educated." A letter in the Monde says that the State persecution goes on with unabated rigour in Polish Prussia. Even the most innocent popular observances, which have been practised for centuries without offence to any Government, are now sternly prohibited by the Prussian police.

For the first time since 1848 the Austrian flag has again been displayed, and the Austrian national hymn performed at the Agricultural Exhibition now being held at Trent. This fact is much commented upon, as showing that the current of public opinion in the Tyrol has undergone a change favourable to Austrian rule. The Vienna correspondent of the Standard states that the Herzegovina insurgents have been guilty of gross cruelties. One band is reported to have set fire to a Turkish house, but the children which contained on "spits" and roasted them alive, and then have killed their parents. It appears that the sudden halt made by the Serbians in their war preparations was the result of an admonition received from Russia, and Austria, that

they should do so at her own risk and peril—that is to say, that Turkey would not be interfered with in any action she might undertake against Servia. General Skopli, the famous Hungarian insurgent leader, in a letter which has been published indignantly refuses to take the command of the Herzegovina insurgents. He says that when the Turks were the only friends Hungary had, the Servians were her bitter and cowardly foes. The Austro-Hungarian Government has sent a staff of surgeons to Montenegro in response to an appeal from Prince Nikitch for assistance in caring for the numerous wounded who have been transported into Montenegrin territory. In compliance also with a request from the Prince for aid towards the relief of 30,000 distressed refugees in Montenegro, the Governor of Dalmatia has been instructed from humanitarian motives to allow the necessary quantities of cereals and food to be sent to the Principality.

It appears that the greatest difficulty Turkey has now to contend with is the bankrupt state of its finances. The correspondent of the Times at Constantinople, in summing up the position of the Ottoman Empire, says that the stoppage of payments by the Turkish Government is known to be a mathematical certainty, and the real question the Porte has to consider is when and how this is to be done. The Journal de St. Petersburg commenting upon recent statements respecting the attitude of the Foreign Powers in reference to the Herzegovina insurrection, says:—"It was the St. Petersburg Cabinet which took the initiative in diplomatic action. Austria, however, being primarily interested in the events, Russia proposed to her that she should co-operate in whatever diplomatic steps might be taken, being convinced that both Governments were unanimous in only favouring the maintenance of an improved status quo. The Berlin Cabinet acted in a like manner, and an agreement having been arrived at upon this basis, the other Powers were invited to join, the three Northern Powers being convinced that the two-fold object in view was in accordance with the unanimous wishes of the former. It was, therefore, very improbable that any intervention had originally been contemplated, since an agreement was only possible on the basis of moderation and respect for treaties. All are desirous of achieving pacification and conciliating the two contending parties, as well as effecting a practical amelioration of the conditions of the Turkish provinces." In conclusion the journal says:—"A satisfactory result is expected with greater certainty since it is no one's interest that these sanguinary disturbances should be periodically renewed."

The famous hero of two worlds, or as he now is called the hero of two millions, is not content with Caprera. The great Garibaldi is about, it is said, to return to Civita Vecchia again, perhaps to enjoy the hundred lire banquets and the little suppers provided by the Municipality of that amiable city. He has given his name and a hundred lire to the association of Italians which is to aid the insurgents in Herzegovina, and his son Menotti is to join the first corps of Italian volunteers against the Turks.

The pupils of the Ecclesiastical Seminary of Mondooli (Italy) have generously given up the sum which their prizes would have cost in aid of the sufferers by the French inundation. Though the amount was but moderate (300 francs) yet was the conception of the action very generous, and is a noble specimen of the fruit of that clerical education which is so much run down. The Osservatore Romano states that the Convent of St. Laurent in Lucina is to be turned into a theatre, to contain 2,000 spectators, and at a cost of 600,000 francs. The Provincial Council not long ago appropriated the property, and handed it over to the Philodramatic Academy as a gift, and the latter body have passed it on to a professional entrepreneur. The Lucina adds to the above information that the basilica of St. Laurent in Lucina is one of the oldest in Rome, and one of those most venerated by the people.

The Ministerial changes at Madrid are supposed to indicate an intention to procure the restoration of Queen Isabella. The Army of the North is concentrating around Estella. Don Carlos reviewed a portion of his forces at Elizondo, and professed his determination to continue the struggle.

It is now definitely settled that the Prince of Wales will leave London on his Indian journey on the evening of the 11th of October, remaining in Paris until the 13th. Dr. Russell of the Times is to be the Prince's "assistant private secretary." In this manner the Times secures the presence of a correspondent on board the Royal steamer, to the exclusion of all other English papers.

From a detailed report on the condition and prospects of the potato crop, obtained from almost every county in Great Britain and Ireland, the Gardener's Chronicle arrives at the conclusion that while in most parts of England, and especially in the south, the crops are seriously diseased and the yield proportionately deteriorated, in Scotland and in Ireland the potato crop is abundant, and scarcely at all affected with disease.

WHAT IMPUDENCE!

Referring to the Temperance Convention now being held in Montreal, the Witness remarks that temperance has never gathered together in Canada so weighty and business-like an assemblage of persons. It is a subject for congratulation that men of all classes and denominations are found working for this common object. It is a joy, to which temperance men have long looked forward with desire, to see prominent members of the Roman Catholic Community joining together with Protestants for the promotion of a great moral reform. Independence of the hopefulness of this sign for the future of this movement, it is one of the healthiest omens for the general social welfare of the country, as nothing contributes so much as the isolation of any particular set of men to those misunderstandings which tend so much to discord, and which a very little mutual acquaintance would remove. In the temperance movement it is all important that the clergy of the Church of Rome should take a leading part, as no one hopes to see any uniform progress made in favor of legislation to affect the whole country without their co-operation. The following is a fragment from a late issue of a pretentious Ontario journal. It is, with a single exception, the most brazen piece of impudence we have ever set eyes upon, and were it not for the all