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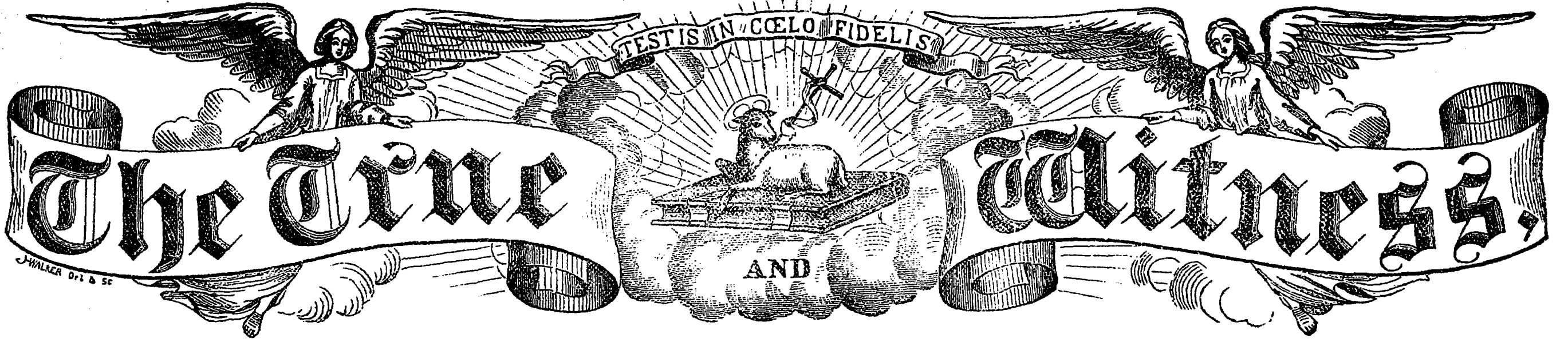
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CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. X. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1859. No. 2.

ASLAUGA'S KNIGHT.

BY BARON DE LA MOTTE FOUQUE.

CHAPTER IV.

At length the day fixed for the tournament arrived and a distinguished noble, appointed by the German Emperor, arranged all things in the most magnificent and sumptuous guise for the solemn festival.

In strange contrast appeared the tall and almost gigantic figure of a knight clothed in a mantle of black, glossy bear-skin, bordered with costly fur, but without any ornament of shining metal.

The kettle-drums rolled, the trumpets sounded, and led by the aged Duke, Hildegardis advanced, richly appareled, but more dazzling through the brightness of her own beauty.

And now the tournament began. At first the knights strove with blunted swords and battle-axes; then they ran their course with lances man to man; but at last they divided into two equal parties, and a general assault began, in which every one was allowed to use at his own will either sword or lance.

"I make known to all," she said, with solemn earnestness, "that according to the just decree of my imperial uncle, this hand can never belong to a vanquished knight, however noble and honorable he may otherwise have proved himself."

wrong in hiding aught from you; but after the tournament you shall know all. Now lay aside all needless thoughts of wonder, dear Edchen, and sit firm in your saddle; for I warn you that I shall run this course with all my might; not my honor alone is at stake, but the far higher honor of my lady."

"So also do I propose to demean myself," said Edwald, with a friendly smile. They shook each other by the hand, and rode to their places.

It was plain that the two noble animals shrunk from a second hard encounter; but their riders held them fast with spur and bit, and, firm and obedient, they again dashed forward at the second call of the trumpet.

Edwald remained for a time motionless, according to the laws of chivalry, as though waiting to see whether any one would dispute his victory, and appearing on his mailed steed like some lofty statue of brass.

The Duke was even now advancing towards the two warriors to lead them into the golden bower, but Hildegardis restrained him with a look of displeasure, saying immediately, while her cheeks glowed with anger, "Then you seem, Sir Froda, the Danish knight, to serve your lady ill; for even now you openly styled me the fairest of living ladies."

A slight shudder passed at these words through the assembly and through the heart of Hildegardis; but soon the anger of the maiden blazed forth again, and the more because the most wonderful and excellent knight she knew had scorned her for the sake of a dead mistress.

The Duke seemed about to reply, but she turned haughtily away, and left the bower. Suddenly a gust of wind shook the green wreaths and garlands, and they fell untwined and rustling behind her.

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CHAPTER V.

The two knights had returned to their apartments in deep silence. When they arrived there Edwald caused himself to be disarmed, and laid every piece of his fair shining armor together with a kind of tender care, almost as if he were burying the corpse of a beloved friend.

Edwald looked awhile with wonder in his face, and he answered kindly: "Beloved Froda, if it displeases you, I will surely sing no more."

At that very hour, an aged woman, muffled in many a covering, was led secretly to the apartment of the lady Hildegardis. The appearance of the dark-complexioned stranger was mysterious; and she had gathered round her for some time, by many feats of jugglery, a part of the multitude returning home from the tournament, but had dispersed them at last in wild affright.

The messenger found the place already deserted; and the strange old woman alone in the midst, laughing immoderately. When questioned by her, she did not deny that she had all at once taken the form of a monstrous owl, announcing to the spectators, in a screeching voice, that she was the Devil; and that every one upon this rushed screaming home.

The aged crone now stood before Hildegardis, and winked to her, in the midst of her low and humble salutation, in a strangely familiar manner, as though there were some secret between them.

Then, in the dusky gloom, the dark old crone rose from the low seat on which she had been sitting, as if she now felt herself well at ease, advanced towards Hildegardis, who sat as if spell-bound with terror, placed herself beside her on the purple couch, and embracing her in her long dry arms with a hateful caress, whispered a few words in her ear.

Froda felt his arm grow weary, and the warm blood was flowing from two wounds in his shoulder; he wished so to lie down in death that he might rise up with honor from his bloody grave to the exalted lady whom he served.

into a trance. She could indeed move her limbs, but only to follow those sounds, which like a silver net-work floated round the hideous form of the old woman.

Without the castle, accompanied by squire and groom, stood the gigantic Bohemian warrior; he laid on the shoulders of the crone a bag of gold so heavy that she sank half-whispering, half-laughing, on the ground; then lifted the entranced Hildegardis on his steed, and galloped with her silently into the ever-deepening shades of night.

Two of them, well known to us, remained inseparably together; but they knew as little as the others whether they had taken the right direction; for how and when the adored lady could have disappeared from her apartments, was still to the whole castle a fearful and mysterious secret.

And deep in the cool, dark shade there shone, as it were, a mild but clear sparkling light, and checked the speech of Froda, who at that moment was beginning to tell his friend the tale of his knightly service to his sovereign lady, which had been delayed hitherto, first by Edwald's sadness, and then by the haste of their journey.

When they came forth on the other side of the alder-thicket upon the bank of the Maine, which almost wound round it, Edwald saw well that another glow than that of evening was shining on them, for dark clouds of night already covered the heavens, and the guiding light stood fixed on the shore of the river.

Froda and Edwald were driven asunder, and only at a distance heard each other's mighty wacry. Hildegardis, startled from her magic sleep, uncertain whether she was waking or dreaming, fled bewildered and weeping bitterly into the deep shades of the alder-thicket.

CHAPTER VI.

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whole troop were scattered in dismay, while the exhausted knight remained wounded and alone in the darkness.

Then the golden hair of Aslauga gleamed once more in the alder-shade; and Froda said, leaning through weariness, on his sword, "I think not that I am wounded to death; but whenever that time shall come, O beloved lady, wilt thou not appear to me in all thy loveliness and brightness?"

But now Hildegardis came forth from the thicket, half fainting with terror, and said feebly, "Within is the fair and frightful specter of the foe of the north—without is the battle: O merciful Heaven! whither shall I go?"

Then Froda approached to soothe the affrighted one, to speak some words of comfort to her, and to inquire after Edwald; but wild shouts, and the rattling of armor, announced the return of the Bohemian warriors.

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"Froda! Hildegardis!" breathed a gentle, well-known voice at the entrance; and recognising Edwald, Froda bore the lady towards him into the starlight, saying, "She will die of terror in our sight in this deep cavern. Is the foe near at hand?"

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On the 26th ult., Mr. Carran attended before the Lord Chief Justice, at his lodgings in Tullamore, and applied for habeas corpus upon an affidavit made by a Mrs. Magee...

CARRICKFERGUS ASSIZES.—THE HIDDEN MURDER CASE.—Alexander Martin was indicted for feloniously killing and slaying James Kelly, at Hilden, near Lisburn, on the 6th of August, 1858...

THE SECRET SOCIETY MEN.—Henry Smith, Bernard Smith, James Donoghue, Francis McGowan, Wm. Lavery, Wm. Finnegan, Jas. Kelly, Patrick Kelly, David McVeigh, Hugh Finlay, John Finlay, Daniel McKenna, Daniel Barr, and Wm. John McAuley...

THE KINSALE ORANGE RIOTS.—Now that the inquiries have been terminated, and despite of some opinions that have been expressed, it does not seem to us very difficult to come to the conclusion, that the whole affair was an Orange display...

places for protection; we had the narrative of rows two or three days before, where the militia, in the opinion of all their officers, were very badly treated. One witness, indeed, gave a different version that was worth attending to...

RETURNS OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.—The statistical returns of the Dublin Metropolitan Police for the year 1858 have just been published. We are happy to say that they show a great diminution in the amount of crime—a diminution which has been progressive for the last six years...

IRISH RENTAL DOCTRINE.—On the 28th ult., in Committee of Supply in the Commons, a very important discussion took place on a little item of £29,193 required to make up the sum required for Protestant dissenting ministers in Ireland...

THE HARVEST.—The harvest is fast approaching to maturity. A good deal of corn has already been cut down in Westford, Waterford, and Kilkenny. There is at present at Mr. Cherry's mill, nearly opposite our office, some very fine white oats...

It is with feelings of the utmost pain, says the Tipperary Examiner, that we have to record the occurrence of one of those agrarian outrages which have happily become so rare in Ireland of late years. The victim in this instance, a farmer named Crowe, was shot in his own field at Doon, in the county Limerick...

LORD CARLISLE ON THE IMPROVED CONDITION OF IRELAND.—Lord Carlisle, at the banquet given in Dundalk, on Wednesday evening, by the Royal Agricultural Society, made special allusion to the improved condition of the country. The following extract from his Excellency's admirable address is well worthy the attention of statesmen at home and abroad...

THE "REVIVAL" IN PORTADOWN.—To the Editor of the Irishman.—Dear Sir,—Our goodly town of Portadown for some days past has been in an unusual state of excitement. What, with the heat of the dog days and the fervid zeal of the revivalists, the people seemed struck with a kind of religious frenzy...

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were rather puzzled to account for their conduct.—The Methodist shopkeepers are the greatest leaders of the movement, and they may be seen continually passing and repassing on their visits to the converts. From evening till midnight, and at daylight in the morning, groups are seen moving along, and are heard singing in the most vociferous strains...

A private letter from Coleraine contains the following with regard to the revival movement which has lately made so much stir in that vicinity:—"There is some sort of disease among the Presbyterians here they call 'reviving' that would make you laugh if you were sick to see and hear them...

GREAT BRITAIN. THE INVASION OF ENGLAND.—The Court Journal says it is a positive fact, at this moment, there is in the War Office a plan drawn by the Prince de Joinville for the invasion of England...

COAST DEFENCES.—Some very heavy guns, principally 68 pounders and ten-inch shells, have just been landed at Yarmouth, with their carriages, &c., for the north and south batteries. A detachment of the Royal Artillery, about twenty in number, are now busily engaged in placing these formidable engines of destruction in position...

ARMSTRONG'S LONG RANGE.—A few days ago we saw the range and accuracy of the new Armstrong gun tested in a way which demands a note. Cooling ourselves on the Essex coast, near the artillery practising ground, we were asked to see the firing...

Mr. Oobden has been so good as to give a lecture to all these, and particularly to journalists, who have urged the necessity of providing for the defence of England; and from that lecture it may be gathered that they are inspired by a wanton and reckless desire to excite alarm for which there is no sort of foundation...

reckless desire to excite alarm for which there is no sort of foundation. Allow one who never has been an alarmist to make a remark or two on this subject. When Mr. Oobden believes that there is no chance of the Emperor of the French turning his arms against England, his assurances would have more weight if he showed that the Emperor had recently disavowed his own declarations...

RESIGNATION OF THE BISHOP OF EXETER.—It is stated by the journal which is the organ of the extreme Tractarian party in the Church of England, that the Bishop of Exeter is about to resign the episcopal supervision of his diocese, and that he will be succeeded by the Right Rev. Dr. Eden, Bishop of Moray and Ross. Bishop Eden is in English orders, and was for many years rector of Leigh, Essex.—Star.

A Carlist paper gives some account of the meeting of two Protestant Societies, in both of which there is a tremendous loss, notwithstanding the advantages the societies possess over ordinary tradesmen. At the meeting of the Book Hawking Society, at which Bishop Wilberforce presided—Mr. Hurlston said it appeared it had cost the Society £117 1/2 sell £117 worth of books...

A strike which threatened to be general had taken place in the building trade. It commenced with the workmen in the employ of Messrs. Trotter and Sons, the demand being that the hours of labour should be reduced from ten to nine hours a day. The majority, who held a conference on Wednesday, have refused to comply with this demand, and the men on their side appear to be equally determined to fight their battle...

INTOLERANT LIBERALISM.—There are as many anomalies in British legislation as in that of any other country, and in many cases those anomalies involve quite as much injustice as inconsistency. The other evening, for instance, a bill was read a third time, providing that henceforward municipal officers of every kind should no longer be compelled, before entering on their functions, to take the oath in his capacity...

As a whole, there is an omission in it which, whether designed or not, detracts considerably from its merits in other respects. Proceeding in the direction of abolishing sectarian tests and invidious religious distinctions, another part of Mr. Haulefield's bill, after doing away with the disability which has hitherto prohibited Mayors, under a heavy penalty, from attending in their robes, any place of worship not of the Established Church, provides that Protestant Dissenters shall henceforward be permitted to attend divine worship in their robes, whenever they think proper so to do...

AGENTS FOR THE TRUE WITNESS. Alexandria—Rev. J. J. Chisholm. Adfale—N. A. Goste. Aylmer—J. Doyle.

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