

the courts till last October; and, indeed, previous to that time, it was understood that the case of the Seminary had, for the time at least, been withdrawn. It was, however, brought up again in October, and in such a way as to prevent the counsel engaged for the Indians from putting in his defence. The result was what has been termed a "snap" judgment, on which it would be premature to hazard any opinion, as the whole circumstances will probably have to be judicially inquired into. The judgment was promptly acted on in the entire demolition of the church, and removal of its material, by a band of men under the direction of the Sheriff. It is to the credit of the Indians and their advisers, that they abstained from any demonstration of the feelings which this sacrilegious outrage must have excited, and meekly witnessed the tearing down of their little sanctuary in a land that had belonged to their fathers, and, where at once the tradition of the devotion of their ancestors to the fortunes of the settlers of New France, and the vaunted protection of all creeds by the free flag of Britain, should have protected them in the exercise of their religion, and allowed them space for their little church in the domain reserved for their use.

We would express no opinion as to the legality of the decision of the Court, or as to the manner in which it was carried out. Of its moral aspect, however, there can be no question. In that respect, it was an outrage against all the better feelings of humanity, of which any nation may well feel ashamed, and which is in no respect palliated by the circumstance that the victims were the too often ill-treated aborigines of our country, or that their religious creed was different from that of the majority of the inhabitants of the Province of Quebec. Both were considerations which should have stayed the hands of the persecutors, and which, even on the grounds of good taste and right feeling, would have prevented men of ordinary susceptibilities from committing themselves in the presence of the world to such acts. That these considerations had no effect on the minds of the gentlemen of the Seminary, shows, to say the least, how very unfit these men are to be entrusted with any