

"We wish we could state that the day passed without anything serious occurring in any part of the province. But we are compelled to add that human life was sacrificed by the demon of faction. The massacre of Slabtown, near St. Catharines, will long be remembered as one of the painful results of the introduction of Orangism into Canada. It appears that a procession was contemplated at St. Catharines and fears being entertained that such a display would lead to a breach of the peace special constables were sworn in and a request was sent to Col. Muter at Niagara, who at once sent soldiers to protect the processionists. Finally the idea of the procession was abandoned, and the Catholic party was induced by the priest to disperse, but as they passed through Slabtown they had to go by the building where the Orangemen were assembled. While passing an intoxicated man in the party of Catholics fired a pistol at the house. Immediately the fire was returned with murderous effect. Two men killed and many wounded."

This article is believed to have been written by James Lesslie (of the firm of Lesslie & Sons, who issued the "Lesslie two pence") a strong opponent of the Orange Association hence its bias. A shorter but more correct account of the affair, from *St. Catharines Journal*, gives the facts more concisely :

"The Orangemen not being very numerous in this neighbourhood no procession was formed but they dined together two miles from St. Catharines where they were attacked by 300 or 400 persons which resulted in the death of five and fifteen wounded of the latter party. Verdict of coroner's inquest. *Justifiable homicide.*"

The attacking party here mentioned was a company of labourers on the Welland Canal. The "Slabtown" of the newspapers or "Centreville Mills" of medal was situated on one of the locks above the town of St. Catharines, at probably what is now known as Thorold.

- 3 *Obv.* THE GLORIOUS AND IMMORTAL MEMORY *Ex.*
1690 | L. O. A. William III on horseback, to the
right, cantering, a mountain in the distance.