

sive, or of so little trouble to the inhabitants generally; the extension of the same system to other cities has been invariably attended with the same beneficial results.

Let us glance for an instant at the position of a large city community where the police force is wholly inadequate to the wants, or rather the vices, of a mixed society.

In the Havannah, for example, the most frightful license was allowed to all kinds of crime and laxity of principle. Assassinations were of nightly and hourly occurrence. The arrival of Governor Tacon was an era never to be forgotten in its annals. This celebrated man at once determined to check the unbridled insolence of the infringers of the law, and established a rigorous and active system of police, and in a short time, and after a few startling examples of necessary severity, order and peace were thoroughly restored, and Havannah, from being a Pandemonium, became as quiet and orderly as an English city.

But it is useless to attempt to multiply instances of the vast changes effected in thickly peopled communities by the introduction of an active, *well-paid* police establishment, for the fact is too notorious to need argument or illustration.

Let us now turn to Canada, and ask whether some modification of the present system is not peremptorily required. We understand that Lord Sydenham has introduced into Montreal and Quebec Stipendiary Magistrates and a police force. But as yet such functionaries are unknown either in the Upper Canadian towns, or the country generally. We know that the expense necessary for the establishment and maintenance of such a force, is considered a strong objection to its creation. We may also be told that the circumstances of the country do not require it, and that the public peace is sufficiently preserved, and public justice sufficiently vindicated as things now are.

We will take the last objection first. In the event of any breach of the peace occurring, or being apprehended throughout the country, or even in one of our towns, the inadequacy of the magistracy, either for the prevention of anticipated violence, or the apprehension of those guilty of its committal, becomes at once apparent. Suppose a murder to be committed in a distant township, and the fact proved by the

oath of credible witnesses; how is the magistrate's warrant for the apprehension of the guilty party to be enforced?—to whom is that functionary to hand it for execution? Will the neighbours, seized with a sudden zeal for the vindication of the laws, arm themselves in haste, and troop off to scour the forests, swamps, and shanties, to seize and bring to the district gaol, perhaps some fifty miles off, some criminal rendered desperate by the consciousness of guilt, and determined to sell his freedom as dearly as possible? We doubt much if the love of justice will prompt many of our fellow-subjects to such exertions for the detection and punishment of crime. Suppose a disturbance to take place in a town, and riotous proceedings endangering or affecting life and property; where is the well appointed police force ready at the summons of an *active and thoroughly responsible* magistracy, to put down tumult, and drag off the ringleaders to imprisonment and punishment? Well may echo answer—where?

We may be said to be supposing extreme or improbable cases. Are our readers aware that a cold-blooded and unprovoked murder was committed a few weeks since at the Durham Election, under the very eyes of the Returning Officer in the open day, and in sight of hundreds? Where is the perpetrator of that savage act? In the gaol of the Newcastle District, awaiting the punishment of his transgression? No. He is well known,—he is a resident of Cavan, a populous township, where magistrates abound, and yet he is abroad in the country, and to the best of our belief no attempt has yet been made to seize him. Could such things be in any country where there existed a Stipendiary Magistrate, whose duty it was to take care that the infringer of the law should if possible be apprehended, and who would be responsible to Government for a breach or neglect of duty?

Let us now look at the towns. The City of Toronto has recently been disgraced by the occurrence of a riot in which human life has been lost, and an unmeasured quantity of ill-feeling engendered in the minds of the community.—We have not now either the wish or the intention of attacking individual character, or assailing political opponents. No one can more deeply regret the occurrence of such melancholy scenes than we do, and we speak of these unhappy details with far more of sorrow than of