

Tamandare gave her two or three solid shot—from her six-inch guns—which went clean through her. The *Parahyba* then stopped, two *Brigrificos* ranged alongside and took possession, tore down the Argentine flag and replaced it with that of Brazil, at the same time hoisting the white flag of the insurgents. Then great numbers of prisoners were transferred to the *Ilha das Cobras*.

Just after this occurred the *Tamandare* received a shot (shell) from Gragoato, which went into and through her, setting fire to some bales of cotton. A great piece of her wood sheathing which covers her entire sides, was knocked off.

On the 8th some firing was done from *Ilha das Cobras* at night. On the 9th, under date of the 7th December, Saldanha's manifesto was passed from hand to hand. He adheres to the revolt, or rather he now heads it. A few days before, water was cut off from the *Ilha das Cobras*, and Saldanha is reported to have sent Floriano the following message:—"If water is not immediately turned on I will open a road from the Arsenal da Marinha to Itamarity with my cannon shot." The water was therefore turned on. The *Paiz* and other papers published Saldanha's manifesto.

Several men were killed and more wounded on the *Parahyba* on the 9th. When the *Tamandare* was hit her second lieutenant and some other seamen were killed.

On the evening of the 9th extremely heavy fighting took place between the ships, *Ilha das Cobras*, and the troops on shore; the roll of firing was continuous for several hours. More than ten mule-waggon loads of dead soldiers were taken away the next morning. This means not less than one hundred and fifty men. A number of buildings were wrecked by cannon shot, and many citizens wounded.

On the same evening the cruiser *Liberdade*, carrying Saldanha's flag, anchored in the canal between Cobras and the Arsenal da Marinha. The next morning's *Paiz* simply reported an "extraordinary movement of troops."

On the 11th it was decidedly dangerous to approach the water front. Everyone seen was fired on, and many people, not less than fifty, were wounded in the streets. A man had his head shot off in the Ouvidor. Many business houses and banks closed. Boats in the Customs dock were badly damaged by shot. Saldanha was denounced as a traitor by decree of the Vice-President, and declared subject to penalties of military law. Bravo! Floriano—to make hare soup, first catch your hare.

On the 12th all communication was cut off from vessels. Saldanha's men fired on Customs House with machine guns and rifles, and no goods were permitted to pass. Peril lurked everywhere, and wounded people were all about the streets. Many buildings were struck and two balls fell in your correspondent's office. The telephone wires on the roof were cut and the tiles broken. Other places suffered similarly, but offices were open all day. A letter from Captain Lang was sent ashore, warning everyone to keep off the water.

The 13th saw affairs simply dreadful. The shy of shot and rattle of small arms were incessant. Balls struck all around, but business places continued open. Again dozens of killed and wounded. Our office again hit.

The following day (yesterday) was a repetition, only varied by the cannon—more

killed and wounded. Two Englishmen were killed and one wounded in the leg. The police entered the Royal Mail office and tore down a notice referring to the sailing of the *Tamar*.

In the matter of the *Parahyba*, the Argentine Consul went on board the *Tamandare* to see about it, and while treated with all courtesy, he was told that the ship was a legitimate prize, and that she would be kept, as she had no right to fly the Argentine flag. Many people would like to know why the Government here permitted the despatch of cattle and sheep to Rio Grande. It is like carrying coffee to Brazil.

To-day at 5 a.m. heavy firing began all along shore. A naval battle is reported between the *Tiradentes* and *Republica*—the latter victor. *Aquidaban*, *Republica* and *Tiradentes* reported north of Rio, probably waiting for Floriano's fleet. If these ships are met flying the Brazilian flag, and are taken, the mercenaries on board stand a good show of being shot.

The Englishman wounded yesterday is named John Whitworth. He was shot through both legs and will die. Although told several times to leave the fire zone he would not go.

News of a revolt in Para has just come. If true it means a heavy blow for Floriano.

At one o'clock fire began again.

C. B.

Rio, December 15th, 1893.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN HISTORY.

To the Editor of The Week :

Sir,—In my hasty survey of "Recent Contributions to Canadian History," which appeared in THE WEEK of December 1, 1893, I allowed myself to make the statement that the library of Mr. J. P. Edwards, consisting mainly of *Canadians* of great value, was about to enrich the shelves of the new Redpath Library of McGill University. I have just learned that my forecast, though based on information which I had reason to consider trustworthy, has not come to pass. In a letter received a few days ago, Mr. Edwards thus explained the non-fulfilment of a transfer to which several friends of McGill College had looked forward with confidence and pleasure. "The Librarian and Library Committee of that institution expressed last summer so strong and hopeful a wish to purchase the collection that it was kept under offer to them for several months while they endeavored to obtain the necessary amount from friends of the University. In this, however, they were unsuccessful."

I have had the privilege, on several occasions, of consulting some of Mr. Edwards' treasures, so that my opinion of its worth is not founded on hearsay. It may be said to consist of three main divisions: (1) a general library comprising standard works of poetry, fiction, criticism, history, books of reference, etc.; (2) a collection of the most important treatises on military history and tactics, selected chiefly to illustrate the wars of Great Britain, especially those that had their stage in the New World and in which Canada had a share; and (3) a perfect thesaurus of books printed in Canada, of books relating to Canada, of maps, newspapers, pamphlets of Canadian origin or relating, directly or indirectly, to Canada as a whole or to some of the provinces or to the colonial period of the United States.

It is to be hoped that that precious collection will, at any rate, not be forced to cross the frontier. Yours etc.,

JOHN READE.

Montreal.

MISSTATING BRITISH POLITICS.—III.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

Sir,—In your issue of February 9th there are several statements which I venture to question.

THE HORNCASTLE ELECTION.

With reference to this the *Toronto Mail* truly stated that in no other rural constituency represented by a Unionist, could the Gladstonians have fought under such favorable circumstances. Your leader-writer challenges the fact; stating that the Gladstonian—a very strong candidate—"was an avowed opponent of Welsh Disestablishment and that for this reason large numbers of the friends of disestablishment refrained from voting."

The facts show the exact contrary. According to the official register in 1892 there were 9,555 voters; but at this bye-election the number was slightly less, owing to deaths, removals, etc. At the general election in 1892, which was keenly contested, 85 per cent. polled, above the average ratio, and the Unionists got 4,438, and the Separatist 3,700, being a Unionist majority of 738. At the recent bye-election, the Unionist being a stranger to the constituency, the struggle was intensified greatly owing to a large influx of outside leading Gladstonians. This time 87 per cent. of the voters polled. The Unionist got 4,582, being an increase of 144, and the Separatist obtained 3,744, an increase of 44. Thus the net Unionist gain since the general election was 100, raising the majority to 838.

With regard to the statement that "large numbers" of Gladstonians abstained, a reporter of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, on the 12th of January, interviewed Mr. W. J. Carvel Williams, M.P., the secretary of the Society for the Liberation of Religion, etc. (anti Church of England), when the following conversation occurred: Reporter—"Do you think that the Church question has had any appreciable effect in securing the return of the Conservative candidate?" Mr. Williams—"How can it when there have been no abstentions? Each side has polled more than it did at the last election."

These facts conclusively prove that the alleged abstentions as stated by Gladstonian journals are purely imaginary.

Probably not twenty journalists raised and permanently residing on this side of the Atlantic, are aware that since 1885 there has been a great falling off in truthfulness and fairness in many party journals in England. This helps to explain many errors on this side—unwary writers often quoting published wilful distortions or inventions as facts.

ACCRINGTON BYE-ELECTION.

Your leader-writer conceding a gain at Horncastle, adds, "It hardly offsets Accrington," as if the Separatists had wrested a seat at the bye-election from the Unionists. Accrington was won by the Gladstonians in 1892 after a very hard contest—92 per cent. of the voters polling. The Gladstonian had a majority of 547. A fresh election being necessary in consequence of his obtaining a public appointment, the same candidates presented themselves again. The Gladstonian obtained 5,822 votes, being a diminution of 197, and the Unionist polled 5,564, being an increase of 92. Thus the Separatist majority was reduced from 547 to 258, a loss of 289. This was a Pyrrhic victory, and not as your leader-writer suggests, a real and fresh one.

The following will show the result of such Pyrrhic victories on a large scale. Suppose that at the next general election the Gladstonians achieved similar Pyrrhic victories; that is to say, that their present majorities in England were all reduced by 289; what would be the result? I have carefully examined the returns and find that if it so happened as at Accrington, the working would be as follows: The Unionist would win from the Gladstonians 6 seats in London, 24 in the provincial boroughs and 23 in the counties—total 53—each counting two on a division; thus raising the Unionist majority in England, excluding Wales, from 71 to 177; and turning Mr. Gladstone's majority of about 41 into a Unionist one of 65. We can, therefore, easily under-