

were spent in getting their written answers to them, and in ascertaining whether or not these were satisfactory to the accusers. It was only when the Presbytery declined to produce evidence before a Commission proposed by the Attorney General, on condition that the affidavit of one of the accused magistrates did not satisfy them of his innocence; reiterated their charges against the magistrates; asserted that they were prepared to prove that a specific statement contained in the affidavit of McGillivray was contradicted by a number of witnesses, that the Government at last resolved upon the appointment of a Commissioner.

Before that Commissioner the Presbytery proved out of the mouths of the accused magistrates themselves that they failed to do all that they ought to have done. They proved by two witnesses that McIsaac, who had asked Chiniquy a question in the Church, and was not satisfied with his reply retorted, "you cannot answer my question, and the sooner you leave the better." They proved by several witnesses who swore that they did not see McLellan do any thing to quell the riot, that at the time that it was in progress, he was laying the blame of the disturbance on Chiniquy; that in different places and at different times, and while the crowd were in the act of throwing stones, he was heard saying, "It's a pity that that man came here to raise disturbance."

They proved by a number of witnesses that McGillivray made use of language substantially identical with that which in his affidavit sent to the Government, he denied having used. They proved from his own lips that at the very time that the riot was at its worst, he was accusing the Protestants of bringing "that blackguard here to raise disturbance." One man swore that he heard him say, "you brought that blackguard of a man down to insult and abuse us, and now take what you get."

Another swore that at the time that the crowd were throwing stones he heard him say, "Let them take it for bringing such a rascal down, they have brought it on themselves."

Another testified that after McGillivray had received a communication from the Attorney General, he (McGillivray,) had told the witness that on the night of the riot he had said, to some person who had suggested that he ought to get the priest out, "you brought it on yourselves, and you must take the consequences."

At a glance the members of the Synod will perceive the damaging character of the evidence. Now, when it is borne in mind that this testimony and more of a similar character was taken on the 3rd and 4th of

March last; that the Commissioner announced publicly that he would make his report to the Government as soon as he got home, that some few weeks afterwards the Convener of the Presbytery's Committee wrote to the Attorney General asking for information as to the course which the Government intended to pursue in reference to the matter; that an answer has not yet been received to that communication; that in the published correspondence brought down to the House an important letter from the Committee to the Attorney General, bearing date, Jan. 22nd, 1874, and Mr. Gillivray's affidavit, the veracity of which had been impugned in that communication have both been omitted; that at the close of the Session all the satisfaction that the Government could give the House was that the matter was under consideration; and that no intimation has yet been made either to the Presbytery or to the public of the decision which they have reached, the Synod will be able very easily to determine whether or not the Government have discharged their duty.

The Presbytery feel keenly that it is most unpleasant and undesirable to be brought into collision with the Government, but they believe that they have been placed in their present position by the action, or rather inaction of the Government itself, and by their own determination to endeavour to maintain those civil and religious privileges for which Presbyterians in the past have always so earnestly contended.

It will be for the Synod to determine whether or not they are prepared to sustain the course which has been pursued by the Presbytery, and, if so, to indicate what further steps, if any should be taken in the case.

There is but one other matter to be noticed. In conducting this business, there has necessarily been considerable expense entailed. From the minutes which have been passed, the Presbytery of Picton believe that other Presbyteries are desirous of sharing with them in meeting these expenses. They themselves have agreed to bear the half, and have instructed their Committee to inquire of the Synod as to the disposition to assume the other half.

#### **Deliverance of Synod on the Antigonish Riot.**

1. "That a violent riot took place in which Messrs. Chiniquy and Goodfellow suffered severe personal injury, their lives were endangered, and the right of free speech and worship violated."

2. "That in the matter of the riot there has been a manifest failure of justice; (1) to punish the persons who were engaged in the violent assault upon Messrs. Chiniquy