

To the Editor of the Sun.

SIR,—The appointment of Col. Guly to the charge of the armed police, lately added to the force of this city, * has naturally caused a good deal of remark, and I am glad to see that the public journals generally regard it as a judicious appointment.

Whatever may be my opinion of the gallant Colonel in his public capacity, can be of no consequence to any one, and I may state that I have no intimacy with that gentleman. My object in addressing you on the present occasion, is to make known to the public through your columns a circumstance of which I was an eye witness, and which struck me at the time as so extraordinary an instance of courage, coolness, and presence of mind, that at the present time it ought to be made known, in order to set at rest the fears or doubts of those who may be laboring under either of these emotions in regard to this appointment.

You will doubtless recollect the circumstance of the young man Mason having been shot in an attack of Mr. Lafont's house some years ago. At the inquest, which took place in a hotel opposite the Court House, a guard of the 71st Regiment was drawn up in the lobby.† *A cry of "Fire"‡* was heard, the audience rushed pell mell to reach the street, the soldiers partook of the panic and were in confusion, and some rushed down stairs, fixed bayonets and all. The officers in charge were nowhere! I happened to be outside the door of the inquest room, and close to the soldiers. I remarked to the sergeant that there was no hurry, and to let the men take care of their bayonets. In the confusion, out stepped Col. Guly, who immediately called out in the sharp, clear tones which soldiers instinctively obey—"Soldiers! order arms; unfix bayonets; left face; march! and get down stairs quietly, my lads—plenty of time." And so there was, but had not some man of mettle done this, what would have been the consequence? Several people must have been wounded§ with the bayonets, as all were in a dreadful hurry to get out. You, and most of your

* During the ferment caused by the Gavazzi riots.

† This was upstairs.

‡ This fire evidently the work of an incendiary, began in the story just above that in which the Court sat, and was extending to the latter before it was noticed.

§ Or killed?