

6 PAPERS *relative to the* REMOVAL of the SEAT of GOVERNMENT,

CANADA.

Information of the construction of barricades reached the magistrate at the Government House at ten o'clock, when he called out the troops and proceeded to demolish them, which was easily done.

From this time the city was tranquil. At five o'clock on the following morning the police report having found barricades erected in the same street. All the attempts at barricades were most insignificant, and apparently thrown together for no practical object.

It was necessary to continue the same military precautions during the night of the 16th, in consequence of the excitement caused by the inquest then being held on the body of the man who died from wounds received in the attack on Mr. Lafontaine's house. Small mobs, composed of the lowest class, collected at several parts of the town, but were dispersed. Mr. Drolet, who gave evidence against one of the men arrested for arson, was attacked and severely beaten, and a number of blocks of wood, used for paving the street, were thrown together in Notre Dame-street, in humble imitation of a barricade. They were soon knocked down by the troops.

On the 17th the inquest continued its sitting, and the coroner requested a party of troops to protect the witnesses, which was granted.

The town was placarded with inflammatory notices of the funeral of the man who died of his wounds. The same military arrangements were made for the night; the guard increased at Mr. Lafontaine's house; and the mayor, who had issued a proclamation against assemblages, was on duty with the city police and two city councillors during the night, and Lieut.-General Rowan visited the different posts.

No disturbance took place. On the 18th strong military detachments were ready to turn out in the event of riot.

(Signed)

C. WETHERALL, Special Magistrate.

W. K. McCOURT.

W. ERMATINGER, J. P.

The Hon. Jas. Leslie, Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 5.

(No. 113.)

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Right Hon. the Earl of
ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Toronto. November 18, 1849.

(Received December 19, 1849.)

(Answered January 1, 1850, No. 442, p. 23.)

MY LORD,

* Page 22.

1. WITH reference to your Lordship's Despatch, No. 417,* of the 14th September, in which you express the opinion, that the spirit of insubordination existing in the city of Montreal, would appear to render it a very unfit place for the seat of the Provincial Government, and for the meeting of the Legislature, I have the honour to report, that I have resolved on the advice of my Council, and after full and anxious deliberation, to act on the recommendation of the House of Assembly, conveyed in the address of which a copy was transmitted to your Lordship in my Despatch, No. 55, of the 29th May, and with that view to summon the Provincial Parliament for the next session at Toronto.

† Page 2.

2. Exception is taken to the system of alternating Parliaments on various grounds, chiefly on that of its alleged inconvenience and expense. It is to be observed, however, on this head, that buildings which with moderate additions and repairs may be fitted for the uses of Parliament and of the departments of State, exist both at Toronto and Quebec, while the St. Lawrence and its canals afford the greatest facilities for the cheap and expeditious conveyance of the records of Government between these two points. Looking at these facts and to the considerations of public policy advanced in the address of the Assembly, I am disposed to believe that the advantages attending this arrangement will be found in practice to outweigh its inconveniences.

3. I enclose a copy of the Minute of the Executive Council embodying the decision of this Government on the subject of the removal of the seat of Government.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.