

agreed that Mr. Chiniquy should visit Antigonish, and so some additional arrangements were made for him accordingly. Mr. Chiniquy went to Antigonish, and addressed a meeting in the Church on the tenth of July. That meeting resulted in a serious disturbance of the public peace. The details of the Riot which occurred on that occasion, the disorderly character of the meeting, the violence of the infuriated mob both during the meeting and after its close, the stoning of Messrs. Chiniquy and Goodfellow, and their narrow escape with life, have been detailed elsewhere, and are, no doubt, familiar to every member of the Synod. It will be remembered also, that steps were immediately taken to bring the matter under the notice of the Government. The Presbytery of Halifax appointed a deputation to wait upon the Attorney General with a resolution, calling "upon the Government of Nova Scotia to take order for the preservation of the peace at Antigonish, and the proper vindication of the honour of the country by the punishment of those who took part in the Riot." The Presbytery of Truro passed a Minute which they transmitted to the Government, "claiming a thorough searching inquiry on the ground of public right, in order that the guilty may be punished, liberty of assemblage and worship vindicated, the repetition of such scenes prevented, and the character of the Government for integrity and impartiality maintained."

The Presbytery of Pictou memorialized the Government in similar terms, appealing to the Attorney General "to take such measures as were best fitted to bring the Rioters to justice, to prevent the repetition of such outrages, and to conserve the civil and religious rights of their ministers and people." At the same time they charged some of the Magistrates of the County with countenancing the disturbers of the peace. Many more of the Presbyteries, both in our own body and belonging to the sister Church, as well as several of the District Meetings of the Wesleyans, adopted Minutes in condemnation of the outrage, and expressive of their desire that means should be employed to bring the guilty to punishment.

It is of the utmost importance that the Synod should observe that in answer to the deputation of the Halifax Presbytery, and to the communications from other bodies, the Attorney General invariably ignored the riotous character of the disturbance, and insisted that the injured themselves enter an action for assault. It will be noticed further that the Government neither called upon the magistrates of the County to answer for the breach of the peace which had occurred within their

jurisdiction, nor directed them to take steps for the discovery and trial of the offenders, that two months were allowed to elapse before they took any action whatever in connection with the charges preferred against some of them, three months more before they appointed a Committee to investigate these charges; and that they have never yet intimated to the public the action which they intend to take upon the Report of their Commissioner. Accordingly the Presbytery of Pictou representing as it would appear the sentiments of the great body of the Presbyterian Church, as well as of many connected with other Churches, believe that the Government of this country have failed in the discharge of their duty, both in reference to the Riot itself, and with respect to the charges which have been brought against some of their magistrates. A very brief statement of the case will enable the Synod to determine whether or not their view is correct.

First—The case as against the rioters, and

Secondly—The case as against the magistrates.

THE RIOTERS.

In reference to the procedure against the rioters, the Presbytery held from the outset that in view of the character of the disturbance, and the difficulty, if not the absolute impossibility under the circumstances, of vindicating the rights which had been assailed, by the efforts of any private parties, it was the duty of the Government, either by the instrumentality of their magistrates, by means of a Commission, or through the agency of their own Attorney General to take up the case and prosecute it to its legitimate issue. Accordingly they applied to the Government to take those measures which they regarded as best fitted to serve the desired purpose. The Government replied in terms which shewed that they were ignoring the peculiarities of the case and situation. The Attorney General expressed his full confidence in the administration of justice as Antigonish, in connection with a process of law conducted in the ordinary way. He informed them of his readiness to direct them as to the mode of procedure to be adopted in the case; stated that they should institute proceedings either before Magistrates, or before the Grand Jury of the County, assuring them that if the usual methods of bringing criminals to justice were closed against Messrs. Chiniquy and Goodfellow, the Government would lend any assistance within their legitimate functions to maintain the rights of the public, and to suppress any violation of law.

Though by no means sharing the Attorney General's confidence in the way justice