

11. Did a riot, or any act of violence, occur after the Poll was opened?—Yes; there was a riot about thirty minutes after the Poll was opened, and when I had only taken about sixteen votes.

12. Who had the majority of votes at the time?—Mr. Leslie had, I believe, eight votes more than Mr. Delisle.

13. Will you describe the nature of the riot, or acts of violence that occurred, and any other proceedings and circumstances connected with the Election?—If the Committee will allow, I will read out a memorandum that I took down shortly after the Election.

14. How many times have you been appointed and acted as Returning Officer for the County of Montreal?—I have been three times Returning Officer for the County of Montreal.

15. When were the papers you have read, drawn up by you?—They were, as I have already stated, written on the 24th March.

16. Are you willing to give them in with the documents therein referred to?—I have no objection. I here hand them in, with the documents concerning them.

(Translation.)

Memorandum of what took place at the Election at St. Laurent, on the 22d and 23d of March, 1841.

Monday, 22d March.

I repaired to St. Laurent for the purpose of proceeding to the election of a Member to represent the County of Montreal in the Provincial Parliament; and after having read the Writ of Election, and sundry Clauses of the Law relating to Elections, and while Messrs. Delisle and Cherrier were alternately delivering their speeches, I perceived a crowd of persons, armed with clubs, congregated at about two arpents distance from the Hustings, who appeared to me to be drilling, brandishing their clubs on the gallery of the House. I then looked behind me to ascertain who were on the Hustings, and there saw Mr. Benjamin Delisle, the High Constable of the District of Montreal; I imparted to him the result of my observation, pointing out to him, at the same time, the individuals armed with clubs. His answer was as follows: "It is very true; I see them myself."

*Question by me.*—Do you know whether they are Electors, or bullies hired to commit excesses during the Election?

*Answer by Mr. Delisle.*—I cannot say, Sir; I do not know why those persons are there. I know nothing about them.

*Question.*—Will you, Mr. Delisle, do me the favor to go there and report to me what may be their intention in thus remaining apart and flourishing their clubs. If I knew that they wished to disturb the peace, I might possibly put a stop to it before opening the Poll, which will doubtless be demanded, and thereby avoid trouble and accidents. Favor me by going, I beg of you. Moreover, (I observed to him) as a Public Officer, I do not see why you should not.

*Answer.*—I must say, Mr. Leprohon, that I should not like to do so, as it might possibly prejudice the

Election of Alexandre, my nephew. I replied that he ought not to refuse me.

I then withdrew, and took the place I had occupied while reading the Writ of Election. A moment after, while Mr. Delisle was addressing the Electors, I perceived a man (apparently an Irishman) armed with a large club. I pointed him out to Mr. Leclerc, who immediately ordered him to withdraw, telling him that he ought not to come with a club; and at the same instant I saw Mr. Stanley Bagg and Capt. Gabriel Roy, of St. Laurent, who came forward and appeared to me to intimate to him that he was not where he ought to be, and pointed towards the yellow house, where I had seen about fifteen men armed with sticks. I did not hear what passed between them, but only saw the signs made by Mr. Roy and Mr. Bagg to the Irishman with the large stick. I did not remark what direction he afterwards took.

At a quarter past one in the afternoon I opened the Poll and proceeded to take votes. After about a half an hour employed in taking the votes, Mr. Robert Weir, proprietor of the Montreal Herald, entered the room; it was at the precise moment when the question was raised whether I should continue to take the votes in the room, or whether it would not be more expedient to take them at the window. It was decided, by consent of the Candidates, that it would be more proper to take them at a window which opened on the road. Mr. Weir was highly pleased with this arrangement; and as soon as I had announced to the Electors that I should poll no more votes in the house, but at a window which I shewed them, Robert Weir left the room. It took about ten minutes before I could commence polling. After having taken four votes at the window, and while the fifth person, whose name was Jean Lemay, was about to vote, I saw through a glass door which led into the room, but which was locked, two or three Irishmen who attempted to force open the door of the Poll, saying at the same time, "we want the Poll room." I moreover perceived in the room where I had lately been taking the votes, several persons unknown to me, and armed with clubs, who had effected an entrance through a window at the back of the house. Finding that they were forcing the door, I opened it, and to my astonishment, perceived outside from 100 to 150 men, apparently Irishmen, all armed with clubs, and vociferating, "clear the Poll, we want to clear the Poll." I remarked among them Messrs. John Molson, Stanley Bagg, Dr. Arnoldi, senr. and his son, Dr. Daniel Arnoldi; I also saw Mr. Brodie, Justice of the Peace, from Lachine, who kept himself at some distance behind the Irishmen who pressed forward to commence an attack, with their clubs, on Mr. Leslie's supporters. On my right there were a still greater number of Canadians, armed with clubs, who said the Canadians were butchered everywhere, and that they would have revenge that day. I called out to both parties in English and in French, and declared if they resorted to violence I would adjourn the Poll, and cautioned them against coming into contact. At that moment I was struck with a club on the right side of the neck by an Irishman, but the force of the blow was broken by the hilt of my sword, which I held in my right hand. At the same moment a man fell at my feet bleeding profusely at the nose, ears, and head; he appeared to be senseless. I could not ascertain whether he was an Englishman or a Canadian. I then withdrew to the Poll-house, and adjourned the Poll till the next morning at nine o'clock. Mr. Cherrier, as Mr. Leslie's friend, approved of this step. I took with me my papers and portfolio, and took refuge at Captain Augustin Richer's house, situated at about ten arpents from the scene of the