

St. Eustache. I might have replied that that church was then garrisoned by armed men who opposed all access with gunpowder and shot. I had several other grounds of defence, but I confess that at that time I was not aware of the importance which I ought to have attached to that question.—I have since been made acquainted with it. I have learned that the part which I took in the insurrections of 1837 and 1838 has been fatal to me. I had believed that the world was not altogether ignorant of my heart, and have been rudely undeceived.

I therefore submit some facts which seem to me to be calculated to produce an impression on my French Canadian countrymen. They now admit that their failure was fortunate. On that single ground, then, I might expect to be pardoned the opposition which conduced to that failure. Let us, however, reflect for a moment. I have been forgotten by the party whose opinions, whose interests and rights I sustained with great warmth and perseverance. Going a step further, the government which I have served so well, the government for which I have often exposed my life, and for which I have shed my blood, has unfeelingly delivered me over to the vengeance of those whose hostility my loyalty and zeal have provoked. I have been thus deprived of all the distinctions to which I had aspired. Younger men occupy every desirable position.

Granting that I entered the church, is it not notorious that I was there struck by a musket ball fired by a PATRIOT. It passed through both my shoulders. At that moment a soldier of the regiment which I had led to the assault, and which I had necessarily preceded, seeing that I was wounded, drove his bayonet into my breast.

This certainly seemed to presage the fate which awaited me in the dissensions of my country. My temperament and my habits probably contributed to that result for I never could stoop or play the courtier. It accordingly followed that so soon as the danger was past, the courtiers, who had never exposed themselves, calumniated me. They thus contrived to deprive me of all the advantages which my services ought to have ensured. Rewards are, however, awarded more generally to suppleness than to merit, and in fine I am nothing, not even a Queen's Counsel.