

STATEMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

ANTIGONISH RIOT.

At the meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, held in Truro, in June 1873, while the subject of the Mission to the French Roman Catholics was under consideration, the Rev. Charles Chiniqy of Kankakee, who was present, was invited to address the Synod. He did so, and in the course of his remarks, spoke at length on the general subject of Romanism, and also of his work recently and in the past. At the close of his address he received the thanks of the Synod, and was authorized to visit any of the congregations of the Church, with whose pastors he might make arrangements, and to receive one half of the collections which might be taken up at any of his meetings; the other half to be applied for the benefit of the Synod's mission, especially to the payment for the Church which is being erected at Grand Falls.

Under this arrangement, Mr. Chiniqy visited a large number of the Congregations connected with the Presbyteries of Pictou and P. E. Island. Among the rest he paid a visit to the Presbyterian Congregation of Antigonish. On the evening of the 10th of July, 1873, he addressed a large audience in the Presbyterian Church of that town. On the previous Sabbath the pastor of the congregation had announced that Mr. Chiniqy would speak on the specified evening on the Kankakee and Acadian Missions. In the course of his address, he gave an account of his life, opinions and mission work. His audience was mixed, at first mostly Protestant, but afterwards, to the extent of nearly one-third, Roman Catholic. Soon after he began his lecture, he was rudely and frequently interrupted. Excited Roman Catholics began to shout, and create disorder in a variety of ways. They loudly and repeatedly accused the speaker of falsehood. They endeavoured