

THE CRUCIFIXION.

BY JOHN C. WHITTIER.

Sunlight upon Judea's hills !
 And on the waves of Galilee,—
 On Jordan's stream and on the hills
 That feed the dead and sleeping sea !
 Most freely from the green wood springs
 The light breeze on its scented wings ;
 And gaily quiver in the sun
 The cedar tops of Lebanon !

A few more hours,—a change hath come !
 The sky is dark without a cloud !
 The shouts of wrath and joy are dumb,
 And proud knees unto earth are bowed.
 A change is on the hill of Death,
 The helmed watchers pant for breath,
 And turn with wild and maniac eyes
 From the dark scene of sacrifice !

That sacrifice !—the death of him.—
 The high and ever Holy one !
 Well may the conscious Heaven grow dim
 And blacken the beholding Sun.
 The wonted light hath fled away,
 Night settles on the middle day,
 And earthquake from his caverned bed
 Is walking with a thrill of dread !

The dead are waking underneath !
 Their prison door is rent away !
 And, gastly with the seal of death,
 They wander in the eye of day !
 The temple of the Cherubim,
 The House of God is cold and dim ;
 A curse is on its trembling walls,
 Its mighty veil asunder falls !

Well may the cavern depths of earth
 Be shaken, and her mountains nod ;
 Well may the sheeted dead come forth
 To gaze upon a suffering God ;
 Well may the temple's shrine grow dim,
 And shadows veil the Cherubim,
 When He, the chosen one of heaven,
 A sacrifice for guilt is given !

And shall the sinful heart, alone,
 Behold unmoved the atoning hour,
 When Nature trembles on the throne,
 And death resigns his iron power ?
 O, shall the heart,—whose sinfulness
 Gave keenness to his sore distress,
 And added to his tears of blood,—
 Refuse its trembling gratitude !

The Miramichi Fire of 1825.

(From the Charlottetown Examiner).

It is just half a century since, on the 7th day of October, in the year 1825, one of the most extensive conflagrations known in history occurred in the province of New Brunswick. The chief scene of the work of the devouring element was in that part of the province through which flow the waters of the Miramichi River and its branches. This river rises in the northern part of the province, and not far from the boundary line between the province of New Brunswick and Quebec. The river rolls pretty evenly onward in south easterly direction, until its volume having been increased meanwhile by many tributaries, it enters the Gulf of St. Lawrence in about 47 deg. north latitude and about 240 miles from the place of its beginning. Fifty years ago a considerable proportion of the population of New Brunswick dwelt along the shores of the Miramichi. On the northern bank of the river and at the head of ship navigation, were the towns of New castle and Douglastown, and on the opposite side was the more important town of Chatham. During the summer of 1825 an unusually small amount of rain had fallen. The weather had been remarkably warm, the forests were therefore extremely dry and highly combustible. The drought and the heat continued throughout the whole of the month of September. During the first week of October extensive fires were raging in the forests. The extreme heat continued, and seemed not only extraordinary but unnatural. On the fifth night of October the forest fires were obviously drawing nearer the towns and settlements along the coasts. There were strange

flashings of light apparent throughout the day. The flashings towards evening became more vivid, and when the night came the gleamings of light were frequent and ominous, and were accompanied by a noise resembling distant thunder. The fire raged throughout the following day with unabated fury and over a wider area of country.

On the morning of the 7th of October the vast wilderness northward of the Miramichi appeared to be everywhere overspread with the rampant flames. The temperature was exceedingly hot and enervating. About noon a thick mist hung over the land. This was soon followed by a dense cloud which darkened the heavens. By three o'clock the cloud had drifted away. The heat then became oppressive, as if waves of hot air were passing by. For a short time during the afternoon a strange stillness existed ; not a breath of wind was stirring. About four o'clock a slight breeze sprang up. An immense pillar of smoke then arose from the burning forest and overspread the sky. About the time of the setting of the sun the northern heavens seemed all ablaze. By nine o'clock at night the wind had grown into a hurricane. Then came sharp and quickly repeated flashes of lightening, accompanied with terrific peals of thunder. In the intervals between the flashings and thunderings the heavens were filled with a lurid glare and with the dreadful roarings of the burning woods. The devouring flames were obviously approaching the habitations of the people. As midnight was drawing near, and the storm of thunder and lightning still raging, the flames, brought from the woods by the furious wind, swept over the settled part of the country for a hundred miles and more. Wild beasts from the forest, affrighted, tamed and trembling, domestic animals with wild fear ; and men, women and children fled for refuge to the waters of the Miramichi ; and in some instances men and beasts huddling together in their common peril. Women with newly born children and others who were prostrate with sickness were quickly carried into the flowing stream. Many persons overtaken by the flames were burned to death in their flight. The waters of the river became heated, and on the morrow immense numbers of fish of various kinds lay dead along the shores. A cry of distress and wail of sorrow rent the heavens, and the affrighted people during the night sought shelter from the fury of the fiery stream by escaping across the river, or by repeated immersions under its surface. Many, in attempting to cross the wide river, sank into its waters to rise no more. Those who survived the perils of that fearful night found it difficult to sustain life on account of the impregnation of the atmosphere with smoke. In many places the only air which could be received into the lungs at all was found in close proximity to the surface of the earth and river.

Towards the breaking of the following day a drenching rain came down all over the land, which stayed the progress of the flames. The morning of the 8th of October dawned upon a desolate land. Where had been the thriving town of Newcastle only twelve buildings remained. In Douglastown only six buildings escaped. More than four hundred towns of settled country were now a scene of smoking ruins. Five thousand and five hundred square miles of wilderness lands were overrun by the burning element, and its valuable timber of many kinds was reduced to ashes. From the Miramichi and the Bartibug river in the

east, to the St. John, the Nashwask, and the Oromocto rivers in the interior of the province, the smoke rose up to the heavens as if the whole land was one great fiery furnace. Fredricton, the capital of the province, contributed its proportion to the general destruction on the memorable day by giving several acres of its best buildings, and out of the very heart of the city, to the consuming fire. The smoke of the widespread burning extended not only throughout New Brunswick but over all of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, as far as the southern part of Newfoundland. Throughout Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia burned leaves and cinders fell in considerable abundance, and for several days the sun had a deep red appearance which is peculiar to it when seen through a densely smoked glass. The remains of one hundred and sixty persons, more or less burned, or who were drowned in their attempt to escape, were buried in a few days. Many others, through exposure, were prostrated with sickness, which in some instances terminated in recovery and in other instances in death. The loss in buildings, stock, and the gathered harvest and other property, and especially as the winter was near, was appalling in the extreme. Relief committees were appointed. The sympathies of public bodies and private individuals were aroused.

The papers of the relief committees, which are still preserved, show receipts of moneys and of other valuables from various places which are not without interest. Amounts were received for the sufferers as follows :—From Prince Edward Island, \$630 ; from Newfoundland, \$2,800 ; from Nova Scotia, \$14,459 ; from old Lower Canada, a legislative grant of \$10,000 and subscriptions amounting to \$21,337 ; from the United States and other places, \$73,891 ; from New Brunswick, \$22,587 ; and from Great Britain, £4,604.

The fifty years that have passed away since that fearful havoc was wrought have witnessed important changes in the valley and in the vicinity of Miramichi. But few traces of the fire are now to be found. Another forest has since grown where the forest of 1825 was consumed. A prosperous people inhabit the soil. And here and there a few elderly persons still live who remember that disastrous visitation, and who ever and anon repeat with thrilling interest the oft-told tale of the terrible scourage, and who declare, with intense enthusiasm, their conviction that nothing was wanting on that terrible night but the blast of the trumpet and the voice of the archangel and the resurrection of the dead to make that occasion equal, in solemnity and terrible-ness, to the great day of final judgment.

The Prince of Wales.

A GROUP OF NATIVE POTENTATES.

It was irritating to note the disregard of opportunities for spectacular display ; but as we waited for the landing of His Royal Highness, the scene on the ghát was full of intrinsic interest. There had gathered in the open reserved space the bearers of names familiar to every reader of Indian history—the descendants or representatives of native potentates with whom John Company had fought, made treaties, tinkered up alliances, quarrelled, intrigued, and whom ultimately that institution had deprived of more or less of their independence—generally more. Look at this tall, square-built man, with the keen, wily eyes, the