

town of Hastings. It is of this election I will try to give my recollections. I was under ten years of age at the time, but children often hear and see more than their elders think.

There had been violent scenes at elections in various parts of Upper Canada. A man named Kelly was shot in Toronto. In Huron the military were sent for, John Galt, jr., having walked sixty miles through the forest to London, the nearest garrison town, to summon them, as they feared to send an ordinary messenger by the road, lest he should be waylaid and prevented from accomplishing his mission. Miss Lizars, in "The Days of the Canada Company," says of this election that the local constable was reported to have said: "*Now, when the row begins, do some of you fellows knock me on the head, so that I won't be of any use.*" And a justice of the peace said: "*Boys, for God's sake don't let me read the Riot Act—don't; for as sure as I do the soldiers will fire at you.*"

In Montreal, to quote from "The Life of Lord Sydenham," by his brother: "There was not a doubt that, at these elections, a good deal of violence occurred, and that without it the result, in some cases, would have been different."

"Each party threw on its opponent the responsibility of having been the assailant, and, in the midst of the conflicting assertions maintained by each, it was impossible then, and would be still more impossible now, to decide with confidence on this point.

"It is probable, however, that the blame might not unfairly be divided. Thus, at the election for Montreal county, the French-Canadians, on the first day, took possession of the poll, and in the struggle of the British party to record their votes two Irish electors were struck down, one of whom died on the spot. The body having been brought into the city, the most violent excitement was naturally produced among his fellow-countrymen, and on the following day the English and Irish voters having flocked in great numbers to the polls, the French-Canadians, apprehensive of the consequences, abandoned the struggle and their member retired without further contest. There, at least, the first violence appears to have been on the part of the French Canadians, although the triumph 'was eventually with the British party.'

"Again, at Terrebonne, M. Lafontaine, who admitted that the 'great bulk of his followers had come from their homes armed with cudgels, and those who had not had halted at a wood to provide for themselves,' withdrew without polling a vote because he found that his opponents, though, according to his own showing, not more numerous than his followers, had seized what appeared to him the most advantageous position for a fight. In this instance no collision took place at the hustings, but as the French-Canadians showed themselves at least as much prepared for a conflict as the English, there is no ground for imputing to the latter any greater disposition to break the peace than the former.