

*into the hands of the unmerciful.* I tell you if I had a thousand years to live I would never commit that mercy into the hands of others. Before your living eyes, you have a scene which brings to your minds the days of Cromwell, when such acts were committed, and one of these acts stands before you in the Church of God. You are now called upon, my friends, through the merits of the Passion of Jesus Christ, to implore His Mercy upon the souls of the departed. And I believe from the heroic and Christian manner in which they died, that God will have mercy on their souls. I say it because they had but few hours to prepare for death. Petitions were sent down to the Government, signed by the leading and most respectable men of the country and a favourable answer was anticipated. And, a petition was sent down to that Government to grant the poor creatures a *respite of one solitary month to prepare them for death, but that petition was denied.* If that month had been granted them, they never would have been hanged, for things would have been brought to light which would have acquitted them of the murder. And I repeat in the most emphatic language I can address to you, and I want you all to remember it—never commit into the hands of men that mercy which they refused. There is no clemency there. In addressing you I tell you to show respect to those what signed those petitions—they signed them because they were merciful. God grant them a merciful heaven. To-day, my friends, is the greatest day Aylward and his wife have seen on earth, for they have suffered innocently before God and man (sensation). For fear I may be misunderstood, I will explain,

and say they suffered innocently in the design or premeditation of it. No being should be condemned to death unless for wilful murder. And I am happy to say from all the circumstances connected with the affair, and my own knowledge of their conduct, *they were not guilty of that crime for which they this day have suffered.*

The following letter is from the pen of the Venerable and Reverend Mr. Cazeau of Quebec. We translate it from the *Colonisateur* of Montreal.

MY DEAR SIR:—

No one could be more surprised than I was, on hearing that some persons have placed on my shoulders the responsibility as to the execution of the poor Aylwards, (man and wife.)

Had I possessed the influence so freely attributed to me in this case—most certainly humanity—particularly my character as a priest would have inclined me to mercy—I shall just give you the facts.

The 6th of December last, viz: 3 days before the Execution fixed for the 8th, I received a letter from my Venerable Colleague and friend Mr. Brennan, Catholic Pastor of Belleville, entreating that I would use my exertions for the 2 convicts.

Mgr. the Bishop of Tloa and I were prepared to visit His Excellency the Governor General.

But as Mr. Brennan's letter did not contain any particulars, as to