

THE MIDNIGHT MASS.

Where the mountains gray and weary, Watch above the valley pass, Come the freeze-clad upland people, To the Midnight Mass;

No moon walks heaven's high hall as mistress, No stars pierce the drifting rocks, Only wind-gusts try back, whining Like dogs on a dubious track.

Shines a light; it is the Chapel— Softly 'tis the hour of God; Poor and small, yet far more lowly Was the infant Christ's abode;

Conficor! God of ages, Mercy's everlasting source! I have sinned, Oh! Thou give me Strength to stem my passion's force!

Gloria in excelsis Deo! About the pean to the sky! Eyes of faith, in you poor stable, See disguised Divinity.

Praise to God, the Eternal Father Who of clay created man! Praise to Christ, who trod the wine-press Till the atonement o'erran!

T. D. McGEH.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

SENATORIAL ELECTIONS.—PARIS, Dec. 14.—In the Assembly to-day M. Fourchard, Deputy for Girond and Member of the Left, was the only person elected Senator; all other candidates failed to obtain the requisite majorities.

ELECTIONS TO THE FRENCH ACADEMY.—PARIS, Dec. 16.—Jean Baptiste Dumas, Professor of Chemistry, and Jules Simon, statesman, were to-day elected members of the French Academy, to fill the chairs left vacant by the deaths of M. Guizot and Count Charles de Remusat.

In consequence of the recent Bonapartist meeting at Belleville, the Governor of Paris, by the advice of the Ministers, has resolved to exercise the powers conferred on him by the state of siege, and to prohibit in future any political meeting of a kind likely to excite disorder.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—Billeting for Senators continued in the Assembly to-day. The Right Centre withdrew from the struggle, and the Left alone presented a list of candidates. The following were elected:—M. Berenger, Deputy for Drome, of the Left Centre; M. Magnin, Deputy for Cote d'Or; M. Jules Simon, Deputy for Marne; Gen. Billot, Deputy for Corfiza, and Gen. Charlot, Deputy from Drome, all of the Left; M. Cazot, Pichat, Scheoelcher and Adam, Radicals; and M. Normandin, of the Lavegnist faction.

MURDERS IN FRANCE.—A married woman named Boyon has been condemned to death at the Lot Assizes for murdering her seven children and a grandchild by pushing needles into their bodies. She had ten children, seven of whom died under twelve months old, but it was not till the death of her granddaughter that an investigation was made. Her apparent motive for this last crime was that the child might die before its father, who was in a desperate condition, and that she might thus secure part of his property, to the prejudice of her daughter-in-law, whom she detested. When asked how she came to think of sticking needles into her children's bodies, she said that at the public-house she kept there was one day a conversation on infanticide, and it was said babies did not suffer when murdered in this way. The jury in this case could discover no extenuating circumstances.

ACTION AGAINST PRINCE NAPOLÉON.—The Civil Tribunal of the Seine has just given judgment in a suit brought by M. Dardel, a forage dealer, against the Prince Napoleon for 7,934fr. due for oats, hay, &c., supplied for the horses of his highness during the siege of Paris. The decision of the court was that, seeing that the goods were sent to Hubert, head of the Prince's stables, and that regular receipts were given; that no proof was furnished that Hubert had ceased to be in the Prince's employment on the 15th September, 1870, but, in fact, that the contrary appears from the document produced—this having been the case, as he received certain sums after the siege, either as salary or gratification, and was afterwards charged to sell the horses on behalf of the Prince; that as the prices charged are not excessive, the offer of 1,100fr. as a settlement of all claims was insufficient, and in consequence the defendant was condemned to pay the whole sum claimed and all the costs.

CONDEMNATION OF A FRENCH MURDERER.—The Daily News correspondent writes:—Sophia Gautier, a wealthy innkeeper at Bourg, has been condemned to death at the Cahors Assizes for having successfully murdered seven of her own children and a grandchild, by sticking darning needles into their intestines. In trying to kill the grandchild to prevent its mother inheriting from her husband's fortune, she drove a long needle into his heart, but she had already driven three others some hours previously into its abdomen. The suddenness of the unfortunate infant's death in the grandmother's arms arousing suspicion, a post-mortem examination was held, and the crime was discovered and confessed. In prison the woman stuck three threaded needles into her breast, one of them was extracted with difficulty. She says that there are yet in her body. The murderer is described as a thin, viperish little woman of forty-two, expressing herself with a certain elegance of diction. Though rich, belonging to a good family, and attentive to her business, she led a scandalously licentious life.

THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF FRANCE.—THE LAND FORCES.—The field force (les troupes de campagne) of the army consist of 19 army corps, including that of Algeria, which is mobilised in the event of a great Continental war. The army corps are supplied with men in virtue of the recruiting law of July 27, 1872, which makes all Frenchmen amenable to 20 years' military service, where 5 are to be in the active army, 4 in the reserve of the active

army, 5 in the territorial army, and 6 in the reserve of the territorial army. The first category, comprising the men between 20 and 25 years of age, gives a supply of 700,000 men; the second category includes the men from 26 to 29 years, and numbers 510,000 men; the third category (territorial army) is composed of men ranging from 30 to 44, and is estimated at 580,000 men; thus giving an aggregate of 1,790,000 soldiers. I mention only as a matter of fact (pour mémoire) the 625,000 men of the reserve of the territorial army which corresponds to the German Landström, and is only mobilised at the last extremity. This category has as yet neither organization nor cadres of any kind, nothing has been done save to take down the names of the men between 35 and 40 years of age.

The forces ready to take the field in a space of from eight to ten days consist of 144 regiments of infantry of the line, 4 regiments of Zouaves, 3 regiments of Turcos, and one foreign regiment—each three battalions strong—plus 19 battalions of foot chasseurs, giving for the infantry an aggregate of 475 battalions of 1,000 men, or 475,000 men in all. Then we have 74 regiments of cavalry, viz.: 12 of cuirassiers, 26 of dragons, 32 of chasseurs and hussars, 4 of Chasseurs d'Afrique, each regiment consisting of 4 squadrons, plus 19 squadrons of volunteer scouts (cavaliers volontaires), in all, 315 squadrons of 120 horses each—or in round numbers a total of 37,000 sabres. As regards the artillery, there are 38 regiments, forming 19 brigades. The first regiment of each brigade consists of six field and three horse batteries—i.e., 15 batteries or 90 guns for each brigade, or for the whole army 2,850 batteries with 1,710 guns, and 42,000 gunners and drivers; 19 pontoon companies, in all 2,800 men; 19 battalions of engineers, each three companies strong. Counting the battalions at 500 men, this gives a total of 9,500 sappers and miners. Adding up these figures we see that the active force ready to take the field at the outset of hostilities amounts to 566,000 men, with 1,710 guns and 37,000 cavalry horses.

The second army is as yet unprovided with artillery and the pontoon train, the want of cadres having compelled General de Cissey to leave, even in the 19th Corps d'Armée, four field batteries unemployed. In spite of this the Second Army gives an active force of 159,000 foot and 10,000 horse, which represents a total of 731,000 men, with 1710 guns and 47,000 sabres, able to fight at a week's notice.

TROUPES DE REMPLACEMENTS (RESERVE). So numerous an army in the field requires a large reserve of men to keep them effective. With that object there has been constituted in each regiment of infantry, cavalry, artillery, and engineers, as also in each battalion of foot chasseurs, a depot consisting of two companies and one cadre of officers in the regiments of infantry; two batteries and one cadre of officers in the regiment of artillery; one company and one cadre of officers in the engineers and chasseurs, and so on. In all, 318 companies of infantry, 76 batteries of artillery, 70 squadrons of cavalry, and four companies of engineers, which are to receive (en cadre) 159,000 foot, 10,000 horse, 15,000 gunners and 2,000 sappers and miners; total, 186,000 men. Adding these to the 731,330 men of the armies in the field, we arrive at an aggregate of 817,000 soldiers. Now as the recruiting law provides for the army and its reserve a little over 1,200,000 men, it follows that, in addition to the above, there are nearly 300,000 men available for the 57 batteries of dismounted artillerymen, and the 57 companies of the artillery train, and these are exclusive of the Algerian troops, consisting of 25,900 soldiers.

The naval army comprises the crews of the fleet, and the marine artillery and infantry. In the preface to the naval estimates the Minister states that in 1876 there will be 97 vessels in commission manned by 23,000 seamen and marines and that there will remain available a spare force of 18 vessels fitted out but not commissioned, and 78 vessels in the reserve. In case of war the French navy can take the sea with a fleet of 28 ironclads, 52 coast-guard ships, 34 cruisers, &c., with 45,000 seaman, recruited by the Inscription Maritime and by the unfortunate conscripts who draw low numbers, in case of need. This naval force is commanded by 1,600 highly-trained officers, ranging from the full admiral to the midshipman.—French Military Contributor to the London Daily News.

BELGIUM.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.—BRUSSELS, Dec. 16.—A terrible explosion occurred to-day in a coal mine at Fraireres, near Mons. It is reported that 110 miners were killed; eleven have been taken out injured. The accident was caused by firedamp.

GERMANY.

THE PENAL CODE BILL.—BERLIN, December 14.—In the Reichstag to-day, the clauses of the Penal Code Amendment Bill directed against offences such as Von Armin's passed a second hearing.

THE MOSEL EXPLOSION.—DRESDEN, Dec. 14.—The police have made a domiciliary visit to the abode of Thomas in Strehlen, but failed to discover anything throwing light on the terrible crime in which the man is implicated. His wife has gone to Bremerhaven.

THE BREMERHAVEN DISASTER.—BRESEN, December 14.—The man Thomas who is supposed to have owned the case of dynamite which exploded at Bremerhaven, is an American; he has been residing for some months at Strehlen, Saxony.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES THROWN OUT.—BERLIN, December 16.—The Reichstag, to-day, rejected the new taxes and increased army estimates proposed by the Government.

THE BREMERHAVEN EXPLOSION.—REVELATION OF A COLD-BLOODED VILAINY.—BRESEN, Dec. 15.—It is now ascertained that the passenger who owned the case of dynamite which exploded at Bremerhaven is named Thomassen, and not Thomas, as has been given heretofore. He has confessed to the authorities that he constructed the chest which exploded, and arranged a clock work attachment to cause the explosion after a certain time had elapsed. He was occupied for a fortnight in filling the chest, and worked in a couch house in one of the most frequented parts of Bremen. The police have examined the house alluded to, and found some of the packing material, but no explosive of any kind.

THOMASSEN.—LONDON, Dec. 16, 5 a.m.—A special from Berlin says Thomassen has repeatedly torn bandages from the wounds he inflicted in his attempt at suicide, and is now securely bound. He seems to be a Swabian by birth, but has been naturalized in the United States. He stayed a week last October in Liverpool, apparently trying to ascertain whether it would be best for him to put his infernal machine on board the steamer there or in Bremerhaven. The number of killed by the explosion already reaches eighty, and others of the injured are not expected to recover. Forty corpses were buried on Tuesday, together with some chests filled with unidentified fragments of bodies. The total number of killed and wounded is now estimated at 180.

DEATH OF THOMASSEN.—BRESEN, December 16.—Thomassen died to-day from the effects of the injuries inflicted by himself. He stated that his true name was William King Thompson, and that he was a naturalized citizen of Brooklyn, N.Y.; he is believed to be about 35 years of age. He confessed he was once captain of the vessel Old Dominion, and that he changed his name to avoid being prosecuted for running the blockade during the civil war in America; that he bought the explosive material in America, and that the clock-work attachment was manufactured in Germany, and was set to explode the charge in 8 days.

MANCHESTER, December 16.—It is stated here that Thompson, alias Thomassen, had his clock-work made by a mechanic named Fuchs, residing at

Beinburg, 23 miles from this city. The apparatus was constructed to run noiselessly for ten days; when it caused a fever to act and strike with a force of thirty pounds. Twenty similar machines had been ordered. Negotiations between Thompson and Fuchs have been carried on since 1873. When Fuchs visited Thompson in Leipzig, he was told by the latter that machines were required for a manufactory in the United States. Thompson has not revealed the names of his accomplices.

ITALY.

BOMB—HIS PRESENT CONDITION.—A correspondent of the Liverpool Catholic Times writes as follows to that Journal:—Having recently returned from a pilgrimage to the Eternal City, and having had the privilege of passing a month there some fourteen years ago, and being now able to judge for oneself, I deem it to the interest of your readers to endeavour to enlighten them on the present condition of Italy, but especially of Rome.

In 1861 the Holy Father still held possession of a considerable portion of the States of the Church. He had been despoiled of the eastern part, bordered by the Adriatic, but the western portion of the Mediterranean still remained to him. Then Rome drew tens of thousands from all quarters of the globe to witness those magnificent ceremonies, which the Church then held, especially at Easter time.

St. Peter's is now, alas, shorn of all these grand solemnities—the silver trumpets are now silent within its dome—the lamps which formed the celebrated illuminations of the Basilica are extinguished—the Porta Santa of Jubilee is now closed—the august Head of the Church is simply a prisoner in his own palace of the Vatican, the Italian Bersaglieri are quartered under the very shadow of the Piazza of St. Peter's. The religious houses throughout Italy are suppressed, and the priests are condemned to pay one franc per day to the government for offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and are only exempted from this iniquitous tax on producing a medical certificate that sickness (and this alone) prevented them so doing. The poor monks are despoiled of their lands, and are allowed a miserable pittance quite inadequate to their support. The name of God is prohibited to be mentioned in the public schools, and blasphemy in the public press reigns supreme. Some idea may be formed of the state of Rome from the fact that the paper, La Capitale, which is howled nightly along the Corso, and eagerly bought by thousands, recently drew a comparison between our Dialne Lord and Garibaldi, and gave the preference to the latter. A short time ago, also, in Milan, there was exhibited a travesty of Guido's "Ecce Homo," when, in place of our suffering Lord, Italy was depicted, crowned with thorns, and thus blasphemously appealing to the sympathies of those whose motto is "Death to the Church!" The very stations of the Cross are now blasphemous and Victor Emmanuel in these pictures takes the place of our Divine Lord, and is represented as undergoing the horrors of the Passion by the hands of the priesthood. The Church is undergoing a persecution, the like of which has never been seen—the blood of martyrs has ere now flowed in torrents, but the aim of her enemies is now not to kill the body, but the soul!

I paint no fancy picture—these are facts which I myself have seen, or gathered from the most reliable authorities. Italy is now simply a dependency of Germany—Berlin inspires her actions—she is but one of the *Fantocini* which dance to the strings which are held by Germany. I know from undoubted authority, that the question of the seizure of the catacombs by the Italian Government, was referred to Berlin, and the reply was "not to interfere with the existing state of things." The result of the meeting lately at Milan of the Emperor William and Victor Emmanuel, was the announcement by Minghetti (the former Minister of the Holy Father) that he was about to bring before the Italian Parliament a Bill, whereby the inferior clergy might bring actions against their superiors, and the people have the appointment of their own clergy. I may have occasion in another paper to refer to the grievous taxation which weighs down so heavily upon the people, and to the financial condition of the country—these are matters of the greatest importance.

But the moral that we may deduce from this deplorable condition of our poor persecuted Church is the necessity to show ourselves now more Catholic, more Roman Catholic than before—to petition, to memorialise; but, above all to pray that the clouds which darken the horizon, may be speedily dispelled, and that the Church may shine out brighter and more glorious than before.

And how should I speak of that sainted head, who though despoiled of his temporalities, is yet the greatest monarch of the world. Our supreme Pastor Pope Pius IX? As I gazed upon Him and thought of the heavy weight of sorrows which he had to bear, the words of Shakespeare, puts into the mouth of the Duke of York, when describing to his Duchess the griefs of King Richard came before me—

"No joyful tongue gave him his welcome home: But dust was thrown upon his sacred head; Which with such gentle sorrow he shook off— His face still combating with tears and smiles, The badges of his grief and patience." "That had not God, for some strong purpose, steeled the hearts of men, they must perform have melted, And barbarism itself have pitied him."

France, I believe, will yet show her right to the title of the "eldest daughter of the Church," and to her I confidently look, when she has once more recovered her strength and her former piety (which she is now rapidly doing), to come to the rescue of the Church—to no other nation can we at present look for ultimate support.

SAULT-AU-RECOLLET TRAGEDY.

THE VERDICT.

The jurors empanelled to enquire into the origin of the fire, which destroyed Lajeunesse's hotel, and was attended with such sad results, met Friday afternoon, 17th inst., towards four o'clock, and signed their verdict.

The address which Mr. Mousseau, Q.C., made to the jury on the day preceding, was as follows:—

Mr. Coroner, Mr. Foreman, and Gentlemen of the Jury: You have devoted four days to the discovery of the causes that led to the sad catastrophe which occurred at Sault-au-Recollet. The proof, which is very simple and very clear, establishes the following facts:—1st. That Lajeunesse had on the second story of his hotel a machine producing gas for lighting purposes by means of an oil called gasoline, an explosive material, also very inflammable and extremely dangerous in its properties, owing to the vapor which escapes from it constantly, as the explanations and experiments given and made by Messrs. Aubin and Lyman have incontrovertibly shown. 2ndly.—This apparatus was placed in a room above the kitchen, in which there was a large stove almost continually burning, and in which particularly there was a good fire on the evening of this disaster; the flooring of this room was of wood, thin, and shrunken, owing to the heat coming from the kitchen stove, while the hole through which passed the pipe supplying the kitchen with gas, was larger than this pipe. 3rdly.—That the apparatus in question was erected by Mr. Young, who is the proprietor or agent of these patented machines,—who was acquainted with all the surroundings,—who neglected to leave with Lajeunesse written instructions regarding the manner of using this apparatus, and who even, on one occasion, subsequent

to its being placed in position, told Lajeunesse to fill, and assisted him in filling the receptacle of the machine with gasoline, the hour being at night, by means of a light, precisely in the same way as Napoleon Lajeunesse and Menard were filling it on the evening and at the time of the fire; he further took such precautions to prevent his system acquiring the reputation of being too dangerous, that he informed Lajeunesse that they could enter the room where the apparatus was kept with a light, provided that it was held high in the air. 4th.—That on the evening and at the moment of the fire, Napoleon Lajeunesse and Elie Menard filled this apparatus, carrying the gasoline from the hotel yard in open pails, and passing moreover through the kitchen while Napoleon had in one hand a pail and in the other a lighted coal oil lantern which Menard held during the time Napoleon was emptying the pail filled with gasoline into the apparatus. 5th.—That the fire originated in the room where this apparatus was placed, and through the gasoline. The fire was discovered by Napoleon Lajeunesse on reaching the door of the room with his light and his pail three-quarters full of gasoline; he left at the very door both the pail and the light, and ran to give the alarm and ask his father to endeavor to extinguish the flames; the latter, however, was too late. The destroying element, fed by the gasoline contained in the pail mentioned, spread as rapidly as lightning—as a "tongue of flame," to use the very correct expression of one witness—Tessier. Napoleon, driven back by the fire, ran down stairs, in order to save his wife; the fire had preceded him, and was met in every part of the same time. 6th.—That the fire could only have broken out in the room where the apparatus in question was placed and could not have been caused otherwise than by the ignited gasoline; every person in the hotel—the guests as well as the members of the household—was perfectly sober; there were no lights on the second story, and the gas was completely shut off by Napoleon before he began to fill the receptacle with gasoline; several persons had retired to bed—the two priests, besides Mme. Champagne, Mme and Mlle. Lajeunesse, and Hormidas Lajeunesse. These are all the facts, grouped together briefly and as faithfully as possible—now where lies the blame? to whose imprudence, and to whose negligence, do we owe this fire, so disastrous in its results?—the blame rests no where in particular, because a portion falls everywhere. The law prohibits under certain circumstances, and regulates the sale and storage of gunpowder; gasoline certainly requires in a greater attention of our legislators; and the storage of gasoline in such considerable quantities—as the evidence has revealed in connection with this fire—in private houses, and still more strictly with regard to hotels, should have been long since prohibited. The trade in, the use, and the storage of gasoline, being neither forbidden, nor properly regulated, we find that one Mr. Young, who either in consequence of ignorance, or in consequence of a desire to vaunt the excellence of his words, has represented it to be slightly dangerous, and resembling coal oil in its character, telling Lajeunesse, Sr., that he could enter the room where the machine was kept, with a light; and these circumstances, it is not astonishing that Napoleon Lajeunesse is found to have carried gasoline as if it was water; but all this is simply monstrous, and deserves on your part energetic remonstrances; while the motives for your interference in this matter are particularly urgent. Not alone has this fire cost Lajeunesse a very considerable sum, but, moreover, an old lady, the mother of Mme. Narcisse Lajeunesse, whom the devotion of her grandson, H. Lajeunesse, could not snatch from death, and three lives have in consequence been sacrificed—two priests, young and talented—one of whom had already made his mark in the literary world, and in the rank of clerical orator, having met premature death by instantaneous suffocation. The extremely painful circumstances connected with these tragic deaths, so precisely related by H. Lajeunesse, explain this deplorable calamity, rendering unnecessary a defence of the pure and unsullied (or blameless) characters, as well as the sobriety of these two illustrious priests, who had retired about half an hour, sleeping their first and last sleep, when the fire broke out, leaving the door of their room open. They were first immediately suffocated by the flame and smoke suddenly entering the room through the bar kept on the second story, and open on both sides, on two passages, receiving on the one side, belching volumes of flame, coming from the room in which had been kept the gas machine, and communicating them on the other side to the passage leading to the open door of the room occupied by the two unfortunate deceased gentlemen.

Such are the facts, and such the appreciation of the facts, which it is your duty to examine carefully before making your report.

The verdict is appended:— We the undersigned jurors, convened by Joseph Jones, Coroner for the District of Montreal, for the object of inquiring into the origin of the fire which burned and destroyed, on the fourth day of the month of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, a building the property of Narcisse Antoine Raymond dit Lajeunesse, and occupied as an hotel, being and situate in the Parish of Sault au Recollet, in the District of Montreal, do respectfully report:—

That Narcisse Antoine Raymond dit Lajeunesse had on the second flat of his house and hotel, an apparatus for preparing an illuminating gas from a certain fluid called gasoline, of an explosive character, very inflammable, and extremely dangerous from its volatile nature, as explained and illustrated by experiments made before us by Messrs. Aubin and Lyman.

2nd. This apparatus was in a room immediately above the kitchen, where a large cooking stove, almost constantly hot, and in which there was a large fire on the night of the conflagration; that had wood was used for this cooking stove; that the flooring of this room was of board, which had shrunk by the excessive heat of this cooking stove, and had an opening through which passed a gas pipe for lighting the kitchen, which opening was larger than the gas pipe.

3rd. This gas apparatus had been put up by Mr. Young, who is the proprietor or agent of these machines, who was cognizant of the locality of the room in which he placed this apparatus, and as to the mode of using this apparatus, and who himself on a certain day, after having put up this apparatus assisted Narcisse Lajeunesse in filling the carbonizer with gasoline, during a certain evening, with a light, precisely in the manner as that followed by Napoleon Lajeunesse and Elie Menard on the night in question and at the time of the fire, and who neglected to give Mr. Lajeunesse, senior, written instructions as to the mode of using the apparatus. So confident was Mr. Young in the safety of his apparatus for lighting, that he told Mr. Lajeunesse that the room containing the gas apparatus could be visited with a light, if it was held up high in the air.

4th. That this night, and at the time of the fire, Napoleon Lajeunesse and Elie Menard filled the carbonizer of the apparatus, Lajeunesse carrying the gasoline from the yard of the hotel in an open bucket in one hand and a lighted coal oil lamp in the other, passing through the kitchen, which lighted lamp was held by Menard whilst Lajeunesse was emptying the bucket into the apparatus.

5th. The fire originated in the room in which was placed this apparatus, and took from the gas. It was discovered by Napoleon Lajeunesse on his arrival at the door of this room, with a

lighted lamp and bucket three-quarters full of gasoline. He left at the same door both lamp and bucket, and ran to give the alarm. Asked his father for assistance in putting out the fire, it was too late; the destructive element, evidently fed by this bucket of gasoline, spread like lightning, or as a tongue of fire, according to the expressions of the witness Tessier, Napoleon Lajeunesse, was driven back by the fire. He ran down stairs to save his wife; the fire had already preceded him, and was instantly throughout the building.

6th. The fire could not have originated elsewhere than in this room, containing the apparatus, and cannot have been caused otherwise than by the burning of gasoline. The inmates were all perfectly sober. There was no light in the second story, and the gas had been turned off by Napoleon Lajeunesse before he began to fill the apparatus.

The guests, that is the priests were in bed on the second flat, in a room in which they perished. Madame Lajeunesse, senior, was sleeping in a room adjoining that of her son Hormidas, and facing the room containing the gas apparatus. Her mother, the aged Mrs. Champagne, was sleeping in a room on the third flat, where she also perished; and Mrs. Napoleon Lajeunesse was sleeping in a room on the ground floor. Hormidas Lajeunesse was also asleep in his room.

These are the facts, as faithfully described as possible. Now, where is guilt? To whose imprudence and negligence must we attribute this disastrous conflagration? Where so many were guilty it is difficult to specify the party to whom we can alone impute guilt. The State prohibits in certain cases, and regulates the sale and storage of gunpowder. Gasoline certainly requires more strict attention. Such large storage of gasoline in dwelling-houses, and more especially in hotels, ought to have been prohibited long ago. The sale, use and storage of this gasoline has not been prohibited or properly regulated.

We express the strongest censure upon the placing by Mr. J. B. Young of a gasoline apparatus in such close proximity to a large cooking stove, separated by a thin flooring of boards, which had shrunk by the excessive heat, besides having openings in the floor.

That this state of things existing is surprising, and demands at our hands the strongest censure and our earnest representations to the proper authorities for immediate intervention.

Not only does this conflagration cost Narcisse Lajeunesse a large sum of money, but the loss of three human lives was the result of it; two young and distinguished priests, one of whom had already attained a well renowned fame in the world of letters and as a pulpit orator, were prematurely cut off by instantaneous suffocation.

The painful circumstances attending this tragical death, so correctly described by Hormidas Lajeunesse, explain this lamented catastrophe, without any defence being needed at our hands as to their sobriety and character. They had been in bed for about half an hour, and were in their first and last sleep.

Having left their bedroom door open, they were the first who were immediately suffocated by the dense smoke pouring into their room. The bar on the second flat opened on the two passages, receiving from one side the volumes of flames and smoke emitted from the room containing the apparatus, and driving it to the other side into the passage leading into the open bed-room of these two unfortunate gentlemen.

We are of opinion that the proprietors of the hotel did all they could to save life under the circumstances; and considering the fearful rapidity of the conflagration, it was impossible to save the Revd. Fathers Murphy and Lynch, and the old lady, Madame Champagne.

Before closing the report the attention of the jury has been called to a statement of the *Hamilton Times* relative to the reverend gentlemen who perished in this disastrous fire, connecting them with gross impropriety on the occasion. The concurrent and unanimous testimony of the witnesses examined proves such charges to have no foundation whatever, and the jury take this opportunity to condemn in the strongest manner possible the publication by the *Hamilton Times* of a charge so utterly at variance with the facts, and so calculated to wound the feelings of relatives and of the community, amongst whom the deceased reverend gentlemen were held in the highest respect and esteem.

JOSEPH JONES, Coroner. T. SIMARD, Chairman. JAMES B. M. CHIRMAN, J. LYMAN, S. J. LYMAN, J. FOGARTY, JAMES M. CLEARY, MICHAEL DONOVAN, DOMINIQUE ROSAIRE, C. F. VINET, JOS. BROUSSEAU.

The Coroner then thanked the jury as follows:— For the care and attention which you have devoted to this enquiry I beg to tender you my sincere acknowledgements, and I trust that the able and voluminous report which you just presented will be appreciated by a discerning public.

Mr. W. D. Drummond, on behalf of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, thanked the jury for the care, zeal, time and attention they had devoted to this enquiry.

The jury were then discharged.

The Soft Side.—A lady correspondent, who is evidently a tender-hearted schoolmarm, writes a letter to the *San Francisco Advertiser* on the training of children. In her florid and gushing style, she says: "Mothers should hunt out the soft, tender, genial side of their child's nature." The editor answers: "Such advice is entirely unnecessary, as every mother in San Francisco does it with an old shoe or some other equally hard or forcible means."

FATHER MURPHY.

The Subscriber is now prepared to fill orders for PHOTOGRAPHS (taken by Inelis of this city), of the late lamented REV. FATHER MURPHY (late editor of this paper). The peculiar sad accident which was the means of his death, together with his celebrity as an Orator and Divine, has rendered the sale of these immense. Every Catholic family should possess a copy. Orders from a distance promptly filled. Remittances by either stamps or P. O. Order. Prices—Cards de Visite, 15 cts; Cabinet Size, 30; large, 5x10, for framing, \$1.50. J. T. HENDERSON, Bookseller, 187 St. Peter St. Montreal—(P.O. Box 522).

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GRAND BAZAAR.

To be held on the 23rd JANUARY NEXT, for the benefit of the POOR of the INSTITUTE of the SISTERS OF MERCY, Montreal. Being their first Bazaar, they hope to meet with the same oblation and sympathy, that they always met in their yearly collection.