

exchanging now and again words with the bar maid that aroused the jealousy of the river men who belonged to an entirely different sphere of life from his, resented their rudeness "with impertinent deprecation." All were more or less under the influence of liquor. This was enough to account for the assault without garnishing the circumstances by irrelevant moralising at the expense of a hardy class of useful laborers. It is uncertain whether the assault was made by one or more, as the lights were out when it was committed.

Later on the reader finds Charley Steele at bay before a court of inquiry held at his friends house in the Vadrome Mountain. The complainant was the Abbé Rossignol of the City of Quebec. The news of his living in the village of Chaudiere among Catholics, an infidel whose past was shrouded in mystery, had reached the ears of this ecclesiastic and disquieted him. It was learned by him that this strange man had appeared in the vicinity of Chaudiere with an injured head three days after the Cathedral at Quebec had been broken into and its gold altar vessels stolen by an unknown man who was also suspected of having blown up the Governor's house at Quebec the same day.

The efforts attributed to the Abbé Rossignol to fasten the crime committed at Quebec upon Charley Steele, upon such a paltry suspicion, present him as an intolerant bigot, the very opposite extreme of the type of the Catholic clergy of Quebec. He is also described as a man "beneath whose arrogant churchmanship there was a fanatical spirituality of a mediaeval kind." This reference serves as an introduction to the scene in the woods of Vadrome Mountain when Joe Portugais knelt at confession to the Abbé whose whole conduct and demeanor in this instance were placed on the defensive. His painful sense of responsibility was mentioned in veiled deprecation. Mr. Parker, however, could not conceal the fact that Joe Portugais' confession had one good effect, that of making the Abbé discontinue his endeavors to find Charley Steele guilty of the crimes for which he had been suspected by him.

M. Loisel, the Curé of Chaudiere, fares, however, very much better. He is represented as a gentle, kindly and tolerant spirit. And yet no hint is given that his goodness was the fruit of his religion. Agnosticism was made to appear as rather a merit in Charley Steele, an aid instead of a hindrance to his intellect. His attitude towards his Catholic acquaintances seemed like the patronising be-