

vitality affecting all branches of the community, and of all shades and parties. We repeat, of all shades and parties, for it cannot be expected that this system of deliberate murder will go altogether unavenged. The passions of men are similar, no matter what the difference in their political creed, and if it be found that the laws are so inefficient, or their administration so perverted, that the smoking blood of the victim shall cry in vain for retribution, the knife of the avenger will be raised, and bloodshed, and desolation to the heart of the widow and the orphan, must stalk throughout the land. The country should unite and imperiously demand redress from the Government.

Five men have been pronounced guilty on evidence before them, by the jury empowered to investigate the circumstances attending the murder of Leonard—namely, James O'Donnell, Barnard Corrigan, Michael Palmer, Barnard Rafter, and Dennis Brennan. Of these, two (Rafter and O'Donnell) have, it appears, been arrested and committed by the Coroner. Of course, they will be tried, and on the result much that will have an influence over the morals and feelings of an indignant public will depend. The Magistrates and Judges, and the Jury who try them, will do well to think of this.

But, not the affair of Leonard alone indicates something wrong in our moral and judicial system. The *Morning Courier* of Tuesday, contains the account of not less than three other violent assaults upon individuals, committed by parties evidently seeking life, and two of them on the very route where should be stationed part of the Mounted Police force, which has been especially raised for the preservation of order on that particular line. What, we ask, is the use of this force, if people are to incur the risk of being beaten to death with bludgeons, without an attempt on their part at prevention? If the Lachine Mounted Police are precluded, by the Act, from leaving the banks of the Canal where the labourers are immediately employed, of course no blame can attach to their mode of distribution; but if, as we have reason to believe, and as is the case on other canals of the Province, their power extends as far back as three miles from the line of works, we conceive that, as a means of common precaution, part of the force ought to be stationed along the main road, where outrages are much more likely to occur than on the Canal itself.—These men should patrol the road day and night, and by their presence, check all disposition to outrage.—This duty is neither very great nor very difficult, especially when we consider that the force has had little or nothing to do since their first formation.—An active and vigilant Superintendent would soon put down all inclination to riot, were the system of patrolling adopted.

There can be no question that, had the limits of the jurisdiction of the Lachine Canal Police extended to the race ground, they ought to have been there, and on the alert to prevent any disturbance, in which case the unfortunate man Leonard would have escaped the cruel death he met with, while, on the other hand, his assailants would have been dispersed and captured, if not cut to pieces.

And what is the conduct of the Government—if indeed we may be said to have any Government at all—in a matter thus involving the safety and lives of her Majesty's subjects? Do they cause any enquiry to be instituted into the neglect, originating in some quarter, of those arrangements which ought to have been made for the preservation of the public peace? It is idle to pretend that no violence could have been anticipated, and that therefore no unusual precaution was called for. The answer is direct, obvious, incapable of refutation. Such is the disorganized state of the social system—such the weakness, impotence of the criminal law, that men who would tremble at the thought of committing similar acts at home in very apprehension of the iron grasp of justice, here find ample field for the indulgence of their worst passions, and are ready, at every moment, for the perpetration of crimes which they are sensible can be committed with perfect impunity: and this being the case, there is no moment when bodies of men are congregated, and labouring under the mingled excitement produced by angry feelings and ardent spirits, that some outbreak, some violence, may not be expected from them. We repeat, until the judicial system of Eastern Canada is made to undergo a radical change, and to be clothed with something of the dignity and sternness which invest the character of the criminal judge at home, no public meeting should ever be suffered to take place in or near Montreal unless the Police are in attendance.

A mounted Police Force is ever more efficient than a foot: witness the high and extraordinary state of quietude which pervades all France, which is chiefly under the surveillance of their inimitable *gend'armes*, or mounted police. A body of at least one half the number of the present constabulary should be raised, and be constantly on duty in the environs of the city, relieving each other at stated intervals. They should be in attendance at the summons of the Magistrate, at every popular meeting, whether for business or pleasure, in which case we should have none of those disgraceful scenes which are now of almost daily occurrence. The expense would be trifling compared with the evil avoided.

THE PROSSER STEAM CARRIAGE.

We have had an opportunity of seeing the ingenious miniature railway which has been constructed by Mr. Badgley, for the purpose of illustration of the utility and safety of the Prosser Steam Carriage. There is no doubt that, on short or limited routes, and with light weights, the action of this carriage on wooden railways would be all that could be desired; but, although we were impressed favorably with the principle at first sight, it has occurred to us on reflection, that a very heavy train would produce such wear by friction of the edges of the guide wheels upon that portion of the rail on which they rest, as to weaken the mass, or at least to lose their own directing power. The angular mode of formation of the

guide wheels is moreover unfavorable to their character for strength and durability. So at least it seems to us on consideration. There is one great advantage in favor of the Prosser principle, provided it can be shown, from experience, and after a due test of its efficacy, and this we submit cannot properly be done from a mere drawing-room model, which is that the pilchance is rendered unnecessary, the wheels of the carriage moving on the plain rail, and being kept in its place by the guide wheels. The experiment might be tried, in the outset, and over a limited space, when the result would soon be made manifest. A heavy train going with great velocity would, we are inclined to think, snap asunder the connecting parts of the guide wheel.

BURNING OF THE THEATRE AT QUEBEC.—

A highly interesting account of this fearful calamity, which filled so many of the families of Quebec with horror, mourning, and desolation, has been published in the *United Service Magazine*, and re-produced in the *New-York Albion*. It is from the graphic pen of that well-known writer, Sir James Alexander, and contains many minute details of interesting facts connected with the occurrence which have hitherto been unknown to the public. Should it not, in the meantime, be generally copied into the daily papers, we purpose giving it in the ensuing number of the *Weekly Expositor*, together with the plan of the building, shewing the fatal door at the entrance of which so many human beings perished by a cruel and lingering death, even at the moment when one single forward footstep would, had they been enabled to take it, have secured their safety. We have ever looked upon this melancholy accident as one of the most thrilling and soul-stirring disasters that ever befel suffering humanity, and willingly believe that there are few who do not share our sentiments. As a record of an event of so domestic and unexampled and painful a character, the reprint in the columns of this paper, we conceive, will be acceptable to our subscribers generally.

WINTER'S EXHIBITION.—We are no lovers of humbug. The excellence of these paintings, and the extraordinary effects produced by light and shade upon them, are admitted by all who have witnessed the exhibition; but when "clap-trap" is resorted to to awaken the public curiosity at the expense of their pockets, we think the matter fair subject for criticism. For some weeks past it has been announced that each would be the very last when the public would have an opportunity of seeing these paintings; and now, when almost every body has seen them, and a laudable curiosity has been so fully gratified as naturally to occasion a thinness of attendance, we are for the first time apprized that there is a second edition of two other paintings about to be exhibited. Thus the public—a very liberal public, if we may judge from the audiences we saw on the only two occasions when we entered these rooms—are to be made to pay twice for that which should have been a continuation, a part and parcel of the first; for we are not to be told that the paint-