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JEALOUSY AND ANTIMOSITY

The St. Antoine Abbee Scandal.

HISTORY OF THE PARISH TROUBLES.

THE TRIAL OF CURÉ PEPIN.

THE EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE.

The Charges Declared False by Eye-Witnesses.

Opposition from Saloon-keepers—Scheming Parishioners Wanting to get Rid of their Curé—Political Feeling and the Payment of Church Taxes at the Bottom of the Divisions—Interviews with the Curé and Leading Parishioners.

(From Our Special Commissioner.)

BEAUMARNOIS, P.Q., Tuesday.

After a long and disagreeable sleigh drive of over twenty miles I arrived here at day-break this morning to execute your commission, viz., to ascertain the true facts of the St. Antoine Abbee scandal, and to place an impartial account of the state of affairs existing there before the readers of THE POST. The duties of a journalist are often unpleasant and objectionable, but perhaps a more unpleasant duty never fell to the lot of a chronicler of current events than the investigation of the relations which at present exist between Curé Pepin, of St. Antoine, and a certain section of his parishioners. The readers of the daily papers for the past few weeks have been cognizant that offences grave and serious and shocking have been laid by a few parishioners against the curé. The public have been informed that divisions exist in the parish, and that whoever is to blame has a heinous crime to account for. The charge against Curé Pepin is that he indecently assaulted a little girl aged 10, and criminal information having been laid against him, the trial came off to-day in the District Court of Beaumarnois. On arriving at the hotel a rather busy scene presented itself. In a small parlor the witnesses were getting ready to repair to the court house, and among them I was enabled to get some idea of the affairs in St. Antoine parish. The small community from St. Antoine, who were for the time being staying in Beaumarnois, was an index of the feeling which exists in St. Antoine Abbee on a more extended scale. There were the staunch friends of the curé and his bitter enemies. Some were preparing to swear home the charges against him, and some equally zealous to prove that those who made the charges were actuated by base motives and were conspirators against the honor of one whom they looked upon as a worthy and revered pastor. Matters in the parish have assumed the same deplorable aspect. It is divided into two camps—one in favor of Curé Pepin and the other, as far as I could learn, the smaller party of the two in number, though not in wealth, striving might and main to have him removed from the parish. The position is quite perplexing, and for a stranger it is difficult to form an opinion. The first man I questioned was a farmer, healthy and comfortable. He is an Irish settler, has one son a priest and the other an ecclesiastical student. He is the bitterest enemy the Curé Pepin has in St. Antoine Abbee, and yet he is unquestionably a man who practices his religion and who seems conscientious. He is a witness for the prosecution against the curé, and, strange to say, the next person I spoke to was this gentleman's unmarried sister, an elderly lady, who is to appear on the trial as a witness for Curé Pepin, and who in conversation with me described the curé as the beau idéal of an excellent minister of religion. The same gentleman's sister-in-law, who is a rather accomplished lady, is also in favor of the curé, and deplored the action of those who brought about the prosecution. Homes have been divided on the question, and the feeling exists to a sad extent. Some of the Irish Catholics have joined with the French in denouncing the curé, while there is a strong Franco-Irish contingent in his favor. By the friends of the curé it is stated that the present charge is the outcome of a conspiracy amongst certain parishioners (which has been a long time brewing) to ruin the curé, and in Beaumarnois and the parishes outside Antoine Abbee the latter belief is universally adopted by the people. Political questions have been introduced into the unfortunate case as it well could be. I sought an interview with Curé Pepin.

(To be continued.)

"It can easily be done," said the curé. "There are many who are not the devout followers of their religion that I expect myself during my mission in the parish to make them, and I have touched some of their pockets in my endeavours towards a good end. When I went to the parish, there were five saloons there, and I had the number reduced to one, but since then two more saloons have sprung up. This brought a good deal of ill-feeling against me on the part of the saloon-keepers who were wealthy, and this class have since been endeavoring to get me removed from the parish for years. I have always had trouble with the richer portion of my parishioners, for I found the greatest difficulty in getting them to pay their tithes. I enforced the payment from the rich, although there are many poor families who pay no tithes. The result of my exertions is that there is a surplus in the church fund after all the heavy expenses."
"What is the extent of your parish?"
"There are, I think, 1,000 communicants, and altogether about 1,500 residents in the parish."
"Is it true," said your representative, "as I have heard stated, and as has appeared in some newspapers, that a great many of your parishioners have left the church?"
"It is not true that a great many have left. Only two abandoned the church, and they became 'Swiss' in order to escape paying their share to the building fund of the church."
"Have politics anything to do with the present trouble?" I inquired.
The curé replied: "They have a good deal to do with the ill-feeling of some of the parishioners against me. The ecclesiastical parish comprises in its limits four municipalities and the consequence is that there are four municipal elections in the parish every year. The curé, in the interest of the schools, is obliged to take the part of some one of the candidates, and the result is that a considerable amount of political feeling is imported into the sad troubles."
The arrest.
Our representative learned from Curé Pepin the following particulars of the arrest:— Curé Pepin was aware that proceedings were being taken against him, and he came to Beaumarnois and gave notice that if a warrant were issued he was ready for his arrest and prepared to answer the accusations. He made every inquiry about the warrant from magistrates and court officials.

Marsh Treatment
The warrant was out for eight days, yet it was not until Saturday evening at half-past six that a bailiff from Montreal came to put it into execution. The curé was then staying at the Beaumarnois presbytery. The bailiff came to Curé Pepin at the hour above stated and said he should take him to St. Antoine Abbee before Mr. Edwards, a drive of 30 miles. The curé prepared to go, but Curé Jasmin protested against this, and on the advice of Mr. L. A. Sears, advocate, the High Constable took charge of the warrant, and against the protests of the bailiff, took charge of Curé Pepin until the following Tuesday, the day after the feast of the Immaculate Conception. On Tuesday Curé Pepin was brought before Judge Loupret, who admitted him to bail on his personal recognizance.

Before Monsignor Fabre.
The father of the little girl, Noel Surprenant, appeared before Bishop Fabre at Montreal some time ago and lodged the complaint. He was accompanied by Mr. Robidoux, M. P. for the district, who also interviewed the Bishop on the matter. His Lordship examined witnesses and came to the conclusion that there was no charge against Curé Pepin. The curé continues to discharge his priestly functions, and last Sunday he said Mass and preached in St. Antoine Abbee. Tomorrow Curé Pepin will officiate at the funeral service of one who has been one of the most respected citizens of Beaumarnois.

THE TRIAL
The trial commenced in the Grand Jury room of the Court House this morning at 10 o'clock. District Judge Loupret presided. There were a number of clergymen present. Mr. Sears, advocate, Beaumarnois, and Mr. F. A. Quinn, advocate, Montreal, appeared for the accused. Mr. Brodeur, advocate, Montreal, prosecuted. Curé Pepin occupied a chair behind his advocates.

Before the Case Opened.
Mr. Brodeur objected to the jurisdiction of the court in the case. The warrant for the arrest of the prisoner, he said, had been issued by Mr. Edwards, J.P. All the depositions were made out before him, and therefore it was Mr. Edwards and not District Judge Loupret who should try the case. He contended that Mr. Loupret had no power in the matter, and he objected to his hearing the charges. The warrant was issued to bring the prisoner before Mr. Edwards and nobody else. The judge said that he saw no reason in the world why he could not proceed in the case. He was the District Magistrate, the Crown had sent him there, and the prisoner had appeared in court and accepted his jurisdiction. He, therefore, could and would try the case and overrule the objection of Mr. Brodeur. His Honor continued that he would endeavour, as he had always endeavoured, to discharge his duties honestly and impartially, and to see that justice was done.

The Case Then Proceeded.
The Clerk of the Crown then read the charge against Curé Pepin, alleging that he committed an indecent assault on one Melina Surprenant, aged 10, daughter of Noel Surprenant, at St. Antoine Abbee, about October, 1883. Curé Pepin pleaded "non coupable," (not guilty).

The Witnesses.
On the application of Mr. Quinn, all the witnesses were put out of court so that they might not hear the evidence given. The following answered to their names. Witnesses for the prosecution—Melina Surprenant, Madame Surprenant, Noel Surprenant, Phillip Brady, Pierre Moise, Louis Moise, Narcisse Goyette, Georgina Menivier, Tessie Thibaudan, and J. B. Gendron, High Constable. Witnesses for the defence—Miss Maggie Jane Brady, aged 10, Mrs. Brady, Miss Brady, Mr. Jasmin, Stanislas Huel, Rosalie Gaborien, J. Normand, Mlle. Kiel, J. S. Lassalle, J. B. Berthiaume, Pierre Daigneau and Hugh Brady.

THE EVIDENCE.
The first witness called was the High Constable, J. B. Gendron. He deposed that he had given him at Beaumarnois the warrant for the arrest of Curé Pepin, St. Antoine Abbee, on the 9th of December, 1883. He obtained the assistance of the Bailiff Cheneval and they arrested the defendant and kept him under his charge until he was admitted to bail. Curé Pepin was at the time staying with the Curé of Beaumarnois, at the presbytery, and witnesses went up to the presbytery, asked to see Curé Pepin and in a short time the curé came to him. He asked him if he had a warrant and said that he was ready to go into details.

Mr. Brodeur thought it was unnecessary to go into details.
Mr. Sears—Did your husband ever say that Phillip Brady gave him money to carry on this case against the curé?
Witness—I did not hear him.
Mr. Sears—Did he ever receive money for the purposes of this suit?
Witness—Whatever money he received he paid it back.
Mr. Sears—Did your daughter say that the curé did nothing to her?
Witness—She did, but she contradicted that.
Witness further stated that her daughter went to make her deposition before the magistrate, but she could not tell who sent the carriage for the little girl or to whom it belonged.
Noel Surprenant, father of the little girl, was examined. He deposed that he brought his daughter to the curé about 18th October, 1884. The priest said, "Is it true, my child, that I did anything wrong to you the last time you came to confession?" She said "Yes." "Now, child," said the curé, "tell the truth or you will go to hell?" His daughter then began to cry and she then denied that anything wrong to her. The priest spoke kindly to her at the time. Curé Pepin then gave her a medal and gave it to my daughter. He gave two medals to me—one for myself and one for my wife. Witness said to the curé then, "If I knew my daughter would tell a lie there is nothing so harsh that I would not have done to her," then the curé said: "Be calm, I don't want you to scold her," witness did not scold the girl when she went home, he merely said: "Why didn't you tell the truth at once?" He said also: "If you were put on your oath, would you say the same about the curé as you told me first?" His daughter then answered, "I would." He went to the curé's again and told him that his daughter kept up the accusation; he went afterwards to Father Pepin with Morisse Robeil and Alphonse Gervais and told the curé that if he did not leave within 48 hours he would give occasion for more scandal and have more trouble for the curé; he sent the complaint made before Magistrate Lamontellière to the Bishop of Montreal—Monsignor Fabre. He admitted he did not like the curé, but it was since this occurrence. His son had previously been dismissed from the school, and witness sent him off to the States to be at peace with the curé. He was told by the curé that he would send the curé to the States, and he sent his son away. Phillip Brady lent his vehicle to make the complaint against the curé.

Mr. Brodeur—He went a second time to Montreal to see Bishop Fabre, and not being satisfied with Monsignor's action he brought the present suit.
Mr. Sears—I did not tell Rev. Curé Pepin that I borrowed \$4 from Phillip Brady for expenses to Montreal to see the bishop. He had also a loan of Mr. Brodie's horse and vehicle. He did not know if Mr. Brodie was against the curé, but he never heard him speak ill of him. Phillip and Hugh Brady did not like the priest; witness did not know if subscriptions were collected to prosecute the curé; he might have said that he would expel the curé from the parish, but he did not say so. He did not say that he would send the curé to a penitentiary, but he may have said that he would get rid of him.
Witness continued—I don't remember that anyone said if you want \$500 to.

Drive Out the Curé
I will give it to you. It may have been said. One or two persons said, "If you want assistance in the suit you will get it." Mr. Narcisse Liebert said so. Phillip or Hugh Brady did not tell me this. He had Phillip Brady's horse and carriage three times in connection with the business, and Phillip Brady (Hugh's son) went with him to the magistrate.
This closed the examination of the witnesses.
At half-past six o'clock the court adjourned until nine o'clock this morning. The case may conclude.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS
BEAUMARNOIS, Wednesday night.
At nine o'clock this morning the enquiry in the serious charges against the Rev. Curé Pepin, parish priest of St. Antoine Abbee, was resumed in the grand jury room of the Beaumarnois Court House. District Judge Loupret presided. As on yesterday great interest was taken in the proceedings, and there were a considerable number of prominent residents in the Court House. The Rev. Curé Pepin occupied a chair beside his advocates, Mr. F. A. Quinn and Mr. Sears. The evidence went to show the great animosity that a certain section of the parishioners had for the curé, and to disprove the evidence for the prosecution.
Noel Surprenant, father of the little girl alleged to have been assaulted by the curé, was called. He had been under examination yesterday when the Court adjourned, and I furnished you a full report of the evidence.
NOW THE LAWYER IS PAID.
The cross-examination was resumed. He deposed that he paid no money to Phillip or Hugh Brady for the use of the carriages in which he had taken his daughter before the magistrate to swear information against the curé. He did not tell Petite Thierion nor Chas. Beaudou that his daughter had denied all her statements about the curé. What he did say was that she told differently from what she told first. The Bradys often visited his house. They were the enemies of the curé. The Bradys did not say they had anything against the curé only that they wanted another curé, and Alphonse Gervais, Narcisse Hélière Ronill and Pierre Moise, said the same thing. He was a shoemaker by trade, and he paid the lawyer \$55. He borrowed \$25 from Brady, but gave him no security—only a note. He thought that Brady knew that the money was for this affair.
Re-examined—The Bradys did not promise him money to carry on the charges against the curé, but they said that they would lend it to him. You Brady is very rich and lends money. The fact of the enmity of the Bradys to the curé had no influence on him in the matter.
Leonie Thibaudan, one of the girls in the sacristy at the time of the alleged assault, was called, but did not appear. She had not been subpoenaed by the Crown.

THE DEFENCE.
This closed the prosecution, and witnesses for the defence were called.
The Rev. Mr. Sears, curé, deposed—I saw Surprenant twice when this charge was rumored and I advised him to see Curé Pepin even before he went to the bishop. I heard that Melina Surprenant, when brought before the prisoner, denied the truth of the deposition which she made before Magistrate Lamontellière. I reproached Surprenant for bringing the case in, such a way as he did before the magistrate. I saw Surprenant a second time when I said to him he had done wrong to bring the child before the magistrate when she had denied the charges and said they were lies. The latter said his daughter had not denied anything, Curé Pepin had kept her from coming to confession, and she had told the child that the priest did anything wrong to her. I said to Surprenant, "How can you bring such an accusation against your curé," and he asked me to hear his confession to show his submission to the Church. Surprenant told me that he got no money to go to Montreal in connection with this case, but he afterwards admitted it, as he said he was too poor to go without aid. It is common talk in the parish that Surprenant has got money and presents to carry on the action against the curé. The first time I spoke to Surprenant he did not seem to oppose the curé, but the second time he said he did not like Monsieur Pepin for a long time, and he would make him leave the parish. As a Catholic and a confidant of the curé, I take a great interest in this case, but I did not speak to any of the witnesses. I did not speak of Surprenant from the pulpit. I know that the Curé Pepin has

MANY ENEMIES
In the parish who would not stop at anything against the curé. The last time I spoke to Phillip Brady was at the Howle on the 1st of August. He told me he had nothing against Curé Pepin except the support question. He had nothing against his

MORAL CHARACTER,
but he would not pay the support of the priest ordered by the bishop. I said if you had another priest you would pay, and he did not deny it, but left me under the impression that if he had another priest he would not object to support him. He said he would never pay as long as Mr. Pepin was there. When I saw Surprenant on one occasion I said, "You do not believe these stories; you are a wretch; you are doing this for money and it is money makes you give the scandal." He got angry and said he did not receive a cent. I told him that Phillip Brady had given him at least \$5, and that he had promised him fine presents if he succeeded in causing the priest out of the parish. He afterwards said he got money for the trip to Montreal, and I told him he was a mean wretch and ordered him out of my house. Phil Brady told me several times that the

Mr. Sears said it had been circulated in certain newspapers, by the enemies of the curé that he endeavored to escape from justice. They would now prove that these statements were lies, and that Curé Pepin, from the first time these charges were made against him sought the fullest and the most speedy trial in order to disprove them.
The High Constable in further evidence deposed that the Curé Pepin did not make any effort whatever to escape arrest. He made no promise or offer to witness, but simply stated that he would remain in Beaumarnois to be near his advocate.
Melina Surprenant, the principal accuser, then stepped into the witness box. She is aged ten and apparently more precocious and clever than little girls of her age usually are. She was well dressed, and gave her evidence in reply to Mr. Brodeur as fluently as if she were repeating a little song which she had committed to memory.
Mr. Sears examined her before being sworn with a view to see if she knew the nature of an oath. She said that she was ten years old, but she had not yet made her First Communion. The priest would not allow her to go to Communion, but she could not tell when he refused the permission. She defined an oath to be to tell the truth and hide nothing, and if she told lies she thought she would go to hell.
Examined by Mr. Brodeur, she deposed as follows:—She knew the Rev. Curé Pepin and she went to confession to him in the fall of 1883. She remembered the 1st of October; she couldn't tell in what year, but she thought it was in 1883. She remembered it, because it was the day Mr. Fontaine had his auction. When she went to confession to the curé he was in the sacristy. The curé was sitting in a chair, and the stool before him while making her confession.
The following details of the alleged assault which are unfit for publication.
Witness continued—She was crying at the time but the curé said nothing to her. She did not tell her parents that day. She did not know when she told them, except that it was in the summer. How many months ago she could not say. She was with Leonie Thibaudan, Georgina Menivier and Maggie Jane Brady, and the latter said that the priest had assaulted her and asked witness did she tell her mother. She saw Brady in the window when she told her. It was her mother first asked her about the matter. Her father afterwards took her to the presbytery to see Curé Pepin and witness accused him. The curé told her to tell the truth. When she made the charge he said: "Don't say that lie or you will go to hell."
Cross-examined, she deposed—When she went to confession there were three or four more little girls in the sacristy with her at the time of the alleged assault by the curé. She did not now remember the names, but on being questioned by Mr. Sears, she said that Leonie Thibaudan and Maggie Jane Brady were there. The priest was sitting in the middle of the sacristy and the little girls were around. She thought they had their backs turned. The little girls were waiting for confession, and they were standing about three feet from the priest and witness. Witness was crying, but not very loudly, and she does not know if the other little girls heard or saw the scene in any way. Maggie Brady told her mother the next Sunday. She never went to confession since that. Her father told her why he was bringing her to the presbytery. He told her what to say to the curé and that she was to answer him well, but he did not promise her a new dress or any present for saying it. The curé told her to speak the truth and if she did not do one would hurt her or scold her.

She Then Deposed
that the curé had ever assaulted her, but she was telling a lie then (une menterie); she only once at the curé's with her father; she denied that her father urged her to make the charges against the curé; she did not say to Maggie Jane Brady, "My father knows well the priest did nothing, but he wants to get him out of the parish," she made a complaint before Magistrate Rucio Lamontellière; she heard them talk about the curé in her father's house; they said that they would get the curé sent away, but she did not hear her father call him "a pig"; they said he should be chased out of the parish because he was not a good priest; when they were returning from the curé's house her father said to her: "Why didn't you say what you said before?"
The Court then adjourned for luncheon.

When the court resumed after luncheon the cross-examination of the witness was continued by Mr. Sears.
She deposed that Mr. Brodeur, the lawyer for the prosecution, had requested her a few times if she had told the court. She cried before this occasion when she went to confession. She cried most the first time she went but afterwards she used not cry. She lodged a complaint before Mr. Delemardelière, justice of the peace, and what she stated to him was the same as she now told the court.
Re-examined by Mr. Brodeur. Witness deposed that no one forced her to lodge the complaint. She was never threatened by anyone about the matter. No one tried to make her state anything that was wrong. She came into court of her own free will.
Marie Surprenant, née Dajouais, mother of the last witness, was then examined. In reply to Mr. Brodeur she deposed that she was 47 years of age.
Mr. Quinn objected to the leading manner in which Mr. Brodeur put some questions to witness. Such a thing was never done by a lawyer in practice, as it was considered unprofessional, and he asked that the examination be taken out of Mr. Brodeur's hands if he did not desist.
His Honor remarked that Mr. Brodeur should alter his mode of putting questions to witness.
Examination resumed—She knew the nature of the accusation which was made by her daughter against Curé Pepin. She went to confession three months ago to the prisoner and he told her to send her daughter regularly—once a month—to confession. Witness said "Yes, Father." She asked her daughter to go, and the latter said she would not answer. She insisted on knowing the reason, and the latter made the charge against the curé. Her daughter had never spoken of it before this time, three months ago, but in October last year, some days after it happened, little Brady stated the occurrence, but witness' daughter made a sign to her to be silent.
Cross-examined—It is now 14 months since the alleged offence occurred, and this was the first action taken in the matter. They spoke about the matter in the house, but she could not say if her daughter overheard the conversation. She never told her daughter that she would compel her to make a deposition before a magistrate, and she did not remember who their husband said so or not.
Mr. Sears—All you swear that certain persons did not go to your house and ask you to have the curé arrested and put out of the parish?
Witness—I don't know. I cannot swear that.
Witness continued—She did not hear the Bradys speak of arresting the curé.
Mr. Sears—Did your husband ever say that

Phillip Brady gave him money to carry on this case against the curé?
Witness—I did not hear him.
Mr. Sears—Did he ever receive money for the purposes of this suit?
Witness—Whatever money he received he paid it back.
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THE DEFENCE.
This closed the prosecution, and witnesses for the defence were called.
The Rev. Mr. Sears, curé, deposed—I saw Surprenant twice when this charge was rumored and I advised him to see Curé Pepin even before he went to the bishop. I heard that Melina Surprenant, when brought before the prisoner, denied the truth of the deposition which she made before Magistrate Lamontellière. I reproached Surprenant for bringing the case in, such a way as he did before the magistrate. I saw Surprenant a second time when I said to him he had done wrong to bring the child before the magistrate when she had denied the charges and said they were lies. The latter said his daughter had not denied anything, Curé Pepin had kept her from coming to confession, and she had told the child that the priest did anything wrong to her. I said to Surprenant, "How can you bring such an accusation against your curé," and he asked me to hear his confession to show his submission to the Church. Surprenant told me that he got no money to go to Montreal in connection with this case, but he afterwards admitted it, as he said he was too poor to go without aid. It is common talk in the parish that Surprenant has got money and presents to carry on the action against the curé. The first time I spoke to Surprenant he did not seem to oppose the curé, but the second time he said he did not like Monsieur Pepin for a long time, and he would make him leave the parish. As a Catholic and a confidant of the curé, I take a great interest in this case, but I did not speak to any of the witnesses. I did not speak of Surprenant from the pulpit. I know that the Curé Pepin has

MANY ENEMIES
In the parish who would not stop at anything against the curé. The last time I spoke to Phillip Brady was at the Howle on the 1st of August. He told me he had nothing against Curé Pepin except the support question. He had nothing against his

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