

THE POPE-MACDONALD LETTER

In furnishing the portraits of Messrs. Palmer and Boyes, we append the remarkable evidence which withdrew the blame of the nefarious theft of Sir John A. Macdonald's letter to Mr. Pope, from an innocent man, to the shoulders of the true culprit. The Post Office Investigating Commission was just about closing its labors, and Mr. Mercier, the chairman, had openly stated that he would recommend the removal of Mr. J. L. Palmer, from the Montreal Post Office, when to the surprise of everybody, the following letter was handed to the secretary of the Commission.

"MONTREAL, 11th April, 1874.

"219 VISITATION-STREET.

"SIR,—Seeing that Mr. Palmer of the Montreal Post Office is suspected of complicity in the so-called abstraction of the Pope-Macdonald letter, I desire, for the purpose of clearing that gentleman's character, to state the following facts of the matter for the information of the Commissioners. On the morning of the 22nd September last I called at the Post Office for any letters there might be for the Militia Office, where I am employed as a clerk. I received a number, and when sorting them at the Militia Office I found one addressed to the Hon. J. H. Pope. The envelope had evidently been imperfectly fastened, for when I found it it was open. Noticing that the envelope was franked with the name of the Deputy of the Minister of Justice, and being aware of the position Mr. Pope held in the Government, I concluded that the contents of the letter were of a political nature, and made myself acquainted with them. Considering that Mr. Young was being unfairly treated, I addressed another envelope to that gentleman, forwarding the letter for his information, and I solemnly assert that neither Mr. Young nor Mr. Palmer nor any one else, either in or out of the Post Office, except myself, knew anything of the matter; and while I neither wish this letter to be understood as an attempt at justification or extenuation, I distinctly disclaim any idea of receiving any personal advantage, directly or indirectly, for the course I took. Mr. Young is ignorant of my existence, and I believe Mr. Palmer scarcely knows me by name. My only desire is at any cost to prevent others from suffering for an act of mine. Foreseeing a possibility of having to leave the country, as I have not the slightest intention, if I can avoid it, of becoming a martyr to political meddling, this letter will not be mailed to your address until

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MR. J. L. PALMER,
THE P. O. EMPLOYEE.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

I consider circumstances demand its production. In conclusion I beg respectfully to assure you that the history of this notorious letter is exactly as I have stated. Further means of comparison and identification of handwriting may be had at the Militia Office in this city, unless those infallible experts know more about the matter than I do.

"I remain, sir,

"Your obedient servant,
"THOMAS BOYES."

The above letter had been left in the hands of Boyes' wife to forward in case any one should be wrongly accused. Boyes left for the States immediately after writing the letter, and only returned to Canada on Friday the 22nd ult. He had the letter forwarded on Saturday, and again left the country.

On the 14th May, he had written the following letter to Mr. Dorion which sufficiently explains itself.

MONTREAL, May 14th.

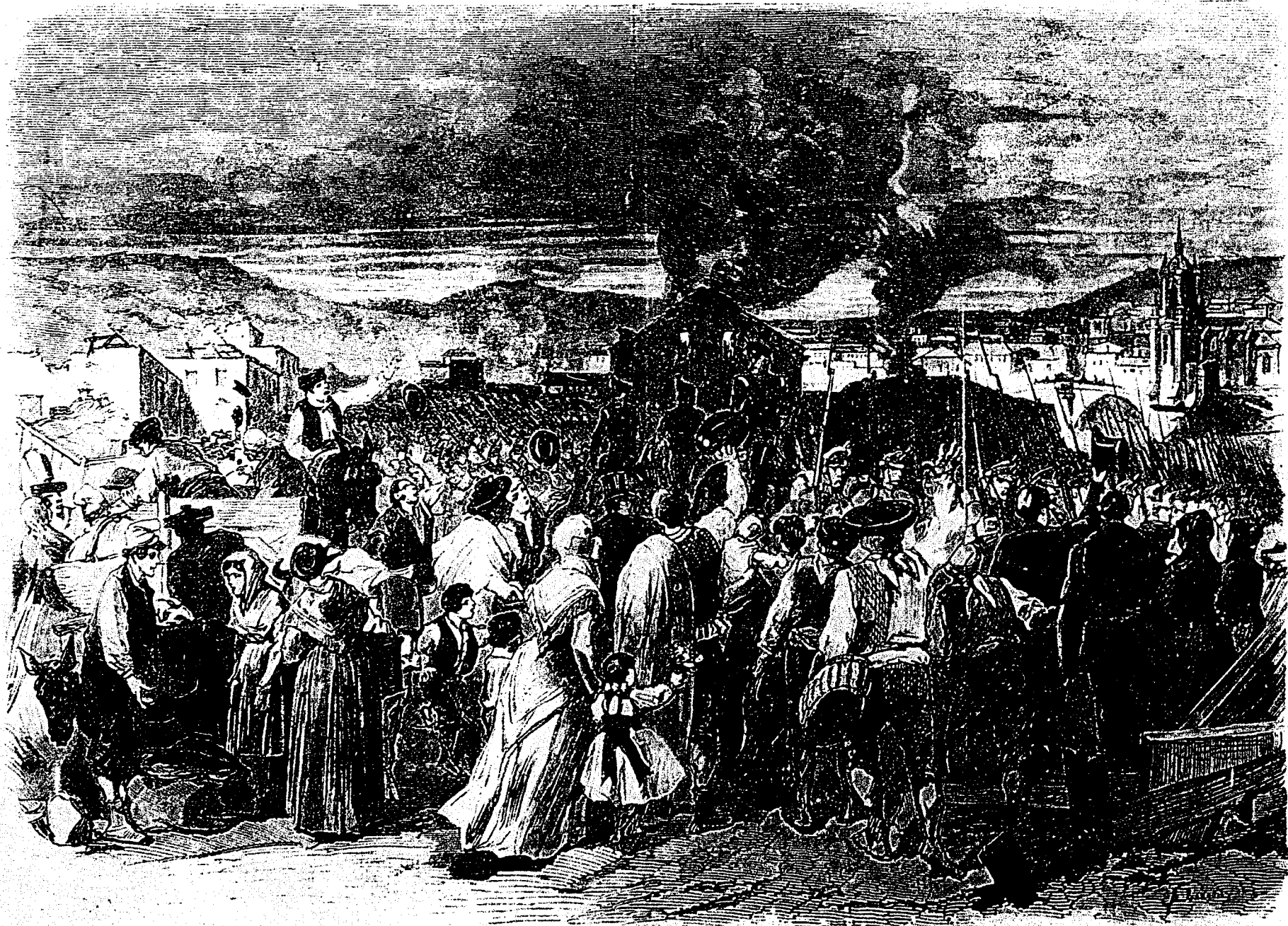
"SIR,—The Commission of Investigation at the Montreal Post Office having nearly completed their labors, I beg respectfully to submit to your consideration the following statement and proposition concerning the Pope-Macdonald letter case:—

"It appears that a considerable amount of evidence having been brought to bear against Mr. Palmer, that gentleman is at present suspended from duty. Now, there is no one better acquainted with the facts of this case than myself, and I most positively assert that Mr. Palmer is entirely innocent of any participation in the so-called abstraction of the notorious letter, and my object in now addressing you is simply to clear that gentleman of the stigma now resting upon him. For this purpose I am prepared to give you a detailed statement, over my correct name and address, covering the whole history of the letter case, providing that you indemnify me from subsequent punishment or exposure.

"With reference to the letter in question, I may here state that it was not stolen—that no breach of trust was committed—that I am not an employee in the Post Office, and that no one except myself knows anything of the way the letter reached Mr. Young and his party.

"If therefore the Montreal Herald of the 25th or 26th instant contains a notice to the effect that my proposition is accepted, I shall rely upon your acting in good faith, and on my part will immediately put you in possession of the facts relating to this case, the truth of which can easily be ascertained.

"I remain, Sir, your obdt. servt.,
"FAIR PLAY."



THE CARLIST WAR.—ENTRY OF THE REPUBLICAN ARMY INTO BILBAO.