

Saturday, May 26, 1849.

Ordered—

That the Resolution adopted by the House yesterday, on the subject of holding alternate Parliaments at the cities of Toronto and Quebec, be communicated to his Excellency, the Governor-General by such Members of the Executive Council who are members of this House.

(Attest)

CHARLES DE LERY,  
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

(No. 99.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Right Hon. the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Montreal, August 20, 1849.

(Received September 4, 1849.)

(Answered September 14, 1849, No. 417, p. 22.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, the copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Provincial Secretary by the Police Magistrates for the City of Montreal, reporting the occurrence of disturbances on the occasion of the arrest of certain persons charged with having demolished and set fire to the Parliament House in April last.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4.

SIR,

Government House, Montreal, August 16, 1849.

WE have the honour to report, for the information of the Governor-General, that warrants for the arrest of persons charged with having demolished and set fire to the Parliament House were issued, and were yesterday placed in the hands of the high constable of the city for execution.

From the time it was known that arrests were to be made great excitement prevailed in the city, the general idea being that the arrest of a very large number of persons was contemplated.

It was thought in consequence necessary to communicate the apprehension of disturbances of the peace to Lieut.-General Rowan, who was pleased to order a picket of 100 men to be posted at the Government House, near the Court House, where the prisoners were to be examined, in order to prevent any attempt at rescue, and to hold a troop of cavalry in readiness to escort the prisoners to gaol. A picket of 100 men, with a half battery of artillery, were in readiness to turn out in support, if necessary, and all the troops in garrison were confined to barracks during the day.

The arrests were made without any difficulty; one attempt at rescue was made which was promptly resisted by the troops.

The excitement increased towards the evening.

At half-past nine o'clock, P.M., it was reported that a large mob was collected opposite Mr. Stafford's shop, in Notre Dame-street; one of the magistrates proceeded to the spot to ascertain their intention and object; it appeared that the party assembled had some ill feeling towards Mr. Tully, a member of the City Council, who was then in the House, and towards whom they seemed inclined to direct their hostility.

On the return of the magistrate it was deemed necessary to call out the picket stationed at the Government House, and a detachment of cavalry, and the streets were cleared.

Shortly before this a report was made that a mob had started for the purpose of attacking the house of the Hon. M. Lafontaine.

A magistrate was instantly despatched thither with troops.

In the mean time an attack had actually been made on the house, when immediately a magistrate was despatched with a troop of cavalry to the spot.

On his arrival there he learnt that the house had been assailed with stones from a mob in the street which flanks it, who then forced the gate, entered the grounds, and discharged a volley of stones and one shot at the house.

The party within returned the fire, which was answered by a volley of seven or eight shots.

The mob was heard to say, "We are too weak, we must go back for more force," and retired. A party of troops were left in charge of the house for the night.