

are three-deckers of 120 to 180 guns, thirteen from 74 to 90, fourteen frigates from 52 to 64, twelve corvettes, and twenty brigs and sloops. Her steam navy counts five fine steam frigates of 450 horse power each.

CANADA.

The Canadian Legislature was prorogued on Tuesday, June 14. We copy from the *New York Herald* the following remarks from the closing speech of the Governor General on the recent disturbances, and other matter relative thereto.

"The tranquillity," said his Excellency, "which has for some time prevailed in the province, and which has proved, in so remarkable a degree, so conducive to its progress, and to the establishment of its credit, has been, I regret to say, momentarily interrupted at Quebec and Montreal, by disturbances originating in religious controversy, and attended in one instance by very lamentable consequences. I have reason to believe that these occurrences, which are a scandal to the religion that we profess, are deeply deplored by the great majority of the inhabitants of the province, of all denominations; and that the authorities will be fully supported in adopting such measures as may be necessary to prevent their recurrence."

The members of the Assembly, with their Speaker, then retired; and the Governor General soon after left the building, under a salute and with the same military compliments as on arriving, and was cheered by the spectators as the coach passed them.

It may be as well to state that since the occurrences to which allusion has been made, a bill has been passed, making the cities of Quebec and Montreal liable for any destruction of property, caused by popular violence, which will render it the interest of the more influential classes of each community to aid in preserving the public peace. The measure, however, was probably the result of an address to the Governor General, signed by a large number of Protestants, which was presented to his Excellency last week, who in his reply to the deputation, stated that if Champlain and Jacques Cartier were to arise from their tombs, they would conceive that the country is inhabited by greater savages than they found here.

On Saturday last a very interesting ceremony took place at the boarding house of several of the members of the Legislature; some of whom had witnessed the proceedings at the church in which Signor Gavazzi was attacked, having raised a contribution for the purpose of testifying their approval of the conduct of Sergeant Lawson, of the Royal Artillery, who had exerted himself on that occasion in the cause of humanity and order. A number of the subscribers had assembled on this occasion to present Sergeant Lawson with a gold watch and chain and a large family Bible—the meaning of which portion of the donation will be easily understood. These were delivered to the sergeant by the Hon. Mr. Boulton, of the Legislative Council, with an appropriate address, which was replied to in suitable terms. "I shall never, whilst memory serves me," said the brave soldier, in conclusion, "forget this your kindness and great liberality, and I trust that should any such affair again happen—which God forbid—my feeble efforts, be forward to the rescue of life. This book I prize, and shall hold sacred for its character, as the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever; and as the remembrance of the present occasion. Gentlemen, accept my heartfelt gratitude."

The watch and Bible have the following inscription:—"Presented by members of the Parliament of Canada, to Sergeant W. A. Lawson, R. A., the brave defender of Padre Gavazzi, at the riot at 'Chalmers' Church.—Quebec, June 6, 1853."

Sergeant Lawson was attended by four of his brother non-commissioned officers, of the same corps, and a similar number of his superior officers were also present on the occasion.

I have read Signor Gavazzi's letter, giving an account of the occurrence at Quebec, which appeared in the *Herald* of Saturday, whose description of his assailants, I understand, is perfectly correct. It was the same class of persons who attacked the church at Montreal; but it is worthy of remark, that while sticks and stones were used at Quebec, firearms and dirks were the weapons resorted to at Montreal. Previous to my leaving that city, on Saturday evening, I heard it stated to the foreman of the Coroner's Jury, that two gentlemen, whose names were given him, that they might be summoned, saw nearly two hundred of the Irish population of Griffintown loading pistols in the afternoon preceding the attack of Thursday. The question naturally arises—and its investigation may lead to important results, having a bearing upon the occurrence—By whom were the weapons furnished?"

For the information of persons who are unacquainted with Montreal, it may be proper to state that Griffintown forms that portion of the suburbs of Montreal which is in the vicinity of the Lachine canal, and that a numerous portion of its inhabitants are Irish laborers, many of whom were employed on that public work, and who are remarkable for their lawless and insubordinate conduct. On the night of the riot, a person was severely beaten in that place, on his way home, on the following evening another was shot at and mortally wounded, in the same vicinity; and it is stated that one or two others have since been killed. The windows in the Methodist Church, and also that of St. Anne's, at Griffintown, have also been broken, affording unmistakable evidence of the existence of a deep rooted hostility towards Protestants in the breasts of these miscreants, which the slightest occasion will call

into action, and which will be met by an equally implacable spirit on the part of the Orangemen of Montreal, and other parts of Canada.

FATHER GAVAZZI'S ACCOUNT OF THE QUEBEC RIOT.—On the 8th inst Father Gavazzi wrote the following letter from Quebec to his friend A. F. Sechi de Caseli, of Boston, giving an interesting account of the assaults made upon him:

DEAR FRIEND:—I only write a few particulars of the shocking case which happened the day before yesterday; you will perceive it more amply described in the papers I send you. I will begin by saying that the appearance of the assailants was most despicable, for they came dirty, torn and in their shirt sleeves, the better to show their origin. It was their aim to secure me alive; in order to murder me without the church. Many were led to believe it when they had by repeated blows felled Paoli to the ground—for believing him to be me, they said one to another, "this is the very man." Another scheme of theirs was to blow out the gas lights, by turning the gas keys, for by so doing, from their concerted plan, they would have more easily succeeded in getting possession of me, seizing at the same time, every one present, mostly ladies and children. But man proposes and God disposes. It was not possible to turn the gas key, nor easily to capture me. Having rid myself of my first assailant by throwing him over the pulpit, I took off my cloak and brandishing the chair which had served me as orator, I defended my post as a true Italian crusader. I think that many of this gang will remember for some time this passage of the Italian missionary's lecture.

Having a pulpit about twelve feet wide, with the stairs exposed, facing the church, and compelled to defend it against more than sixty savages, was rather a difficult task. An artillery serjeant, who now enjoys the sympathy of all parties, to the great shame of the policemen, (who were standing by as idle spectators) leaped on these stairs, and succeeded in descending with me my citadel. After the first attack, Paoli, who was at the church door, was enabled to reach the stairs; and, having snatched a stick from one of the assailants hands used it in every direction, and we were enabled to retain the liberty of our platform for more than twenty-five minutes.

But again a gang of the outward assailants, to the number of more than seven hundred, rushed into the church. This is owing to another deplorable mistake of the police, the stairs and parapet were assaulted with redoubled violence. The artillery serjeant, feeling his equilibrium fail, clung to Paoli, who amid the great throng of assailants could no longer manoeuvre his stick; meanwhile two of the savages had seized Paoli to overthrow him from the stairs: he cries out to me "Gavazzi, help me." I abandoned the front of the pulpit, and with a desperate blow with the bench which I held in my hand fell upon the head of one of the two assailants, which caused him to bound from the stairs. I was returning to the front, while some other assassins having gained the ground I had abandoned to save my friend, lifted me from my feet and precipitated me headlong out of the pulpit from a distance of more than fifteen feet.

This was to have been the hour of my death, and could have been. The falling with such violence might have sufficed to crush my skull, but God was there to protect his poor but confident servant. I fell on a floor of enemies' heads and shoulders, and it was afterwards said that I was of iron disposition. I weighed also as iron itself; but I sustained no wound from my fall. The crowd then dispersing, I found myself stretched out on the ground, with a legion of savages over me, overjoyed at having been able to slay me. I then received a kick on my chin, which has produced a slight wound and a contusion on the jaw, as the great crowd prevented the use of sticks, then endeavoured to supply it with kicks. I perceived that nothing but a gigantic effort could save me, and I employed it accordingly I rose in spite of them, and by blows opened a passage to the staircase which leads to a subterranean place where the Sunday Schools are, and having met assassins on the stairs I overcame them, but the last who from his size impeded my passage as it were a barricade, and threatened me with his stick, calling me by the vilest names, I very coolly rolled down stairs, and jumping over him reached the entry of the Sunday School.

Fortunately the school was dark, having examined it in the morning, I became acquainted with its structure. I took the left path among an innumerable quantity of benches, while the savages, who were still pursuing me, were obliged to delay before they could reach the door. It was then I heard the cry of Paoli "God help me," which led me to believe that he was

assaulted and beaten again by the assassins. Being left half dead, he would have been killed by the people, had not an unforeseen hand conveyed him to the subterraneous school, where he found himself as it were miraculously saved from a certain death. After five or six minutes of total suspense some one of the police came.—

The lights were again lit, but this did not prevent the assailants from breaking all the windows of the school, by throwing large stones, one of which hit Paoli on the breast while Dr. Douglas was examining his wounds. But fortunately the military arrived and the assassins were dispersed, Paoli was the first to be led home. I followed in a coach, with the Mayor of the City, and all the streets were protected by strong patrols. On examining our bodies, it was discovered that poor Paoli had received eight wounds with sticks, one of which is six inches long. I was found to have a wound on my head from a stone, another on the occiput from the blow of a club. They, however, gave me no pain, as I contrived to let them bleed as much as possible. However, I have suffered nothing, and am as well now as on my setting out from New York.

But the sensation experienced from this brutal assault results now contrary to what the assailants had expected. There is no Roman Catholic Canadian but disapproves of this outrage. It is to be observed that the assault had been organized; consequently a premeditated murder. The most aggravating circumstances are of having attacked a church in which women and children were assembled, and to which the men had hastened unarmed. But who could have conceived organized and led so infamous a scheme?

Sunday, please God, we will gather together at our Italian service in New York, and I shall feel overjoyed in seeing anew my brethren, after having escaped the death of my assassins.

Meanwhile remember me to them all, and believe me to be your very affectionate friend.

ALESSANDRO GAVAZZI.

It appears that no less than 50 persons were shot in the Haymarket at Montreal, on Thursday evening last, of whom ten or twelve are either killed or mortally wounded. *The Transcript* of Saturday says:—

We shall endeavour to bring down to the latest hour the sad details of Thursday's butchery. It was not, in the least, exaggerated. Almost every hour records some victim whose corpse, or whose maimed body was hurried from the fatal ground by friends. We believe that our account of the matter was not a passionate, or an exaggerated one; and all our contemporaries, finding, like ourselves, that there was no occasion to add fuel to flame, have treated it with equal sincerity and composure. So far as we can learn, after careful enquiry, the number of persons shot is about fifty, and of those killed outright, or mortally wounded, from ten to twelve. This is a rough estimate; but it is the best we can form, and, we fear, not an exaggerated one.

The same paper adds:—

The dark tragedy of Thursday evening grows yet more mysterious as it proceeds.—The Mayor, Mr. Wilson, positively denies that he gave the orders to fire. The officer in command also denies that he gave the order to fire. Under what orders then, we should like to know, were it that the gallant regiment of Cameronians signalled their first landing in this colony by their uncalled for butchery, of which no man in office dares to take the responsibility?

PUBLIC MEETING AT MONTREAL.—A large meeting was held in the St. George's Hall, at 2 o'clock on Friday last, for the purpose of taking into consideration the safety of the city.

THE INQUEST.—At three o'clock yesterday, thirty-eight gentlemen were summoned to act as Jurors, out of which twenty-two attended, and were duly sworn in. The only business done, was the examination of the bodies of the different persons who had been killed.

The following are a list of the killed which the Jury visited yesterday.—Mr. Pollock, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Hutchison, and Mr. James Walsh.

An influential deputation of Protestants, consisting of all the Protestant Clergy, and about twenty leading citizens, waited upon His Excellency the Governor General on Saturday last, for the purpose of presenting the petition adopted at the Protestant meeting on Friday evening. After the Petition, which was read by the Rev. Dr. Cook, had been presented, His Excellency stated in substance as follows:—

"That he had heard with regret and shame of the scandalous transactions which had taken place—that he could scarcely be expected to give a decided answer to the prayer of the petition, which appealed to him to be that additional powers should be vested in the Executive to supply the deficiencies of Municipal authority, and to render the city liable for damages done during breaches of the peace. All therefore that he could at present say was again to express his regret and shame; indeed, it had occurred to him that if Jacques Cartier or Champlain could have witnessed the late occurrences, they would be doubtful whether the country had been advantaged by the change of the inhabitants from the Hurons and the Iroquois. He would give his best attention to the petition, and do all in his power to give the necessary protection."