

called Guy Street, near the spot where the red cross stands. On the other side of the road, and a little higher up, lived one Jean Favre and his wife Marie-Anne Bastien. Favre was reputed to be well off and to have money in his house. This excited the cupidity of Belisle, who formed the project of robbing his neighbour, and accordingly, one dark night, broke into the house and fired his pistol at poor Favre, which, however, only wounding him, he stabbed him to death with a large hunting knife. Favre's wife rushing in to help her husband, Belisle plunged the knife into her breast, and then despatched her by a blow of a spade which was in a corner of the room. Belisle was suspected, and soon after arrested, tried and convicted.

The object of this paper is to set the public right about the legend of the "Red Cross," and to give its true history; also to show by the following copy of the "Réquisitoire du Procureur du Roi," dated 6th June 1752, that the terrible punishment of "breaking alive" (*rompu vif*) was then in force under the French régime in Canada. Belisle was condemned to "torture ordinary and extraordinary," then to be broken alive on a scaffold erected in the market-place (the present Custom House Square) in this city.

This awful sentence was carried out to the letter, his body buried in Guy Street, and the Red Cross erected to mark the spot, as fully described in the following document, referred to above, which is exceedingly interesting and historically valuable:—

*Extrait du Réquisitoire du Procureur au Roi.*

"Je requiers pour le Roi que Jean Baptiste Goyer dit Bélisle soit déclaré dûment atteint et convaincu d'avoir de dessein prémédité assassiné le dit Jean Favre d'un coup de pistolet et de plusieurs coups de couteau, et d'avoir pareillement assassiné la dite Marie-Anne Bastien, l'épouse du dit Favre, à coups de bêche et de couteau, et de leur avoir volé l'argent qui était dans leur maison; pour réparation de quoi il soit condamné avoir les bras, jambes,