thunder word eternity receives free entrance. Now, also, are heard the trumpet calls to judgment, and the cry, "Awake thou that sleepest!" Voices enter that so long benighted chamber, calling upon the soul to haste for life's sake, and to take the narrow way. Formerly these same voices struck the outside of the heart's door, but entered not therein. Now the Spirit has opened the heart, and the call resounds and echoes all its walls.

Sinner, if you have heard these voices, be sure that the Spirit is opening that long closed door of the heart! It is in your power to exclude the heavenly visitor, but if you shut on him the gate of your heart now, remember that he will shut on you the gate of heaven hereafter.—*Krummacher.*

THE

# Protestant & Evangelical Witness.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1861.

## The late Troubles in Newfoundland.

Affairs in the sister colony of Newfoundland have been in a very disordered state for several months. The people have shown themselves to be utterly unworthy of the privilege of self-government. The immediate cause of the late disturbances was the determined effort made by the popish party under Bishop Mullock, to retain the ascendancy which they have enjoyed ever since the introduction of responsible government into the colony. It may be interesting to inquire how the Romanists, who are not half the population of the island, by several thousands, at that time obtained the principal control in political affairs. By far the most numerous Protestant body in Newfoundland is the Church of England, which through the aid of the Church and School Society at home, has been enabled to build churches and schools in all the inhabited parts of the island, and support a large number of clergymen, catechists and schoolmasters. Bishop Feild of this Church, who has been Bishop of the Colony for about twenty years, is a High Churchman of the highest type, and also now, we believe, all the clergy under him with one or two exceptions. Whether the laity there are generally as high in their notions as the clergy, we are unable to say, but it appears they have been accustomed for a long time to look upon other Protestant denominations as *only* Dissenters, and worthy of even less consideration than the Roman Catholics; hence under the old regime all the public offices in the colony were held by Churchmen, neither Dissenters nor Romanists enjoying a fair share of government patronage in this or in any other respect. No doubt many of the appointments were from home, but as the influence of the Church of England party in the colony was paramount at the Colonial Office, they obtained everything pretty much as they desired. Now was it in the power of all the excluded denominations combined to carry any measure in the Legislature, owing to the peculiar nature of the constitution of the colony, which was no doubt so framed to prevent the Romanists, who are very numerous in St. John's and in the districts adjacent, from obtaining the control of affairs. For a number of years the Legislature was what has been called, an amalgamated Assembly, being composed of some ten nominees of the Crown, and about fifteen representatives of the people, all in one body. In this Assembly the Anglican Church party could always command a majority, between the number of representatives they were able to return and the nominees of the Crown. Besides this advantage which the Church party had in the Legislature, the Executive Councillors were all the nominees of the Crown, and in no respect responsible to the people for their acts. The amalgamated system, which had been adopted on account of conflicts between the two branches of the Legislature, was suspended in 1847, and the old form of Constitution substituted, which placed in the hands of the Government and a Council of nine gentlemen, executive and legislative authority, and left the Assembly in a body by itself. Under this system the Church of England party continued to hold the sway, as they formed a large majority of the Council.

Newfoundland was the last of these North American Colonies to which the privilege of self-government was granted; but after much agitation on the part of the people of the colony, it was at length conceded. The Roman Catholics and most of anti-Church-of-England Protestants, who are there we believe chiefly Wesleyans, then combining their forces carried the day, and the government ever since, until last winter, was in their hands. By far the larger number of the supporters of the late government being Romanists, it was in almost all matters subservient to the priesthood. The pleasure of the Roman Bishop might be said to be the will of the government. From a majority elected chiefly by a popish rabble and directed by such a man as Bishop Mullock little could be expected; hence the business of the colony since the introduction of responsible government has been conducted in rather a disorderly manner. Before they had fairly assumed the control of affairs they passed an Act to increase the representation, and divided the constituencies in a manner to secure, as in they thought, an ascendancy of their party in the Legislature for all time coming. After holding the reins of government for some six years, they apparently began to think that no power could displace them, and became lavish in the expenditure of the public money, and so self-willed that they even refused to obey Bishop Mullock, in some matter in reference to Steamers. For this act of disobedience, and we suppose with some desire to check their extravagance, he fiercely denounced them last summer as "legalized robbers," and "state paupers." This denunciation had no doubt a much greater effect than his so-called Lordship ever intended, for when the House met last winter, and a vote of want of confidence in the Government was moved, it was carried, owing to several Roman Catholic members voting with the Protestant opposition led by Mr Hoyles, on account of Bishop Mullock's *exposé* of the conduct of their own leaders. Governor Bannerman then called upon Mr Hoyles to form a "provisional" government, which we understand was constituted as usual in such cases, excepting that the business of the House, then in Session, was to be concluded before a special appeal was made to the people. This the rabble would not permit, but took possession of the Assembly Chamber, and behaved in such a shameful manner that His Excellency was induced to immediately dissolve the House. Writs for a new Election were then issued, nomination day to be on the 20th of April, and polling day on the 23rd of May.

Now the tug of war commenced; Bishop Mullock, chagrined at what his own fulminations had caused, rushes into print, and thunders against the new Government, and urges all the Roman Catholics to support the tools whom he had [illegible] denounced as "legalized robbers," [illegible] them to be more pious than Mr Hoyles and his party. The English Bishop also comes out strongly in favor of the new Government. The Roman Catholic clergy [illegible] to stand by their old friends, the late Government. The Roman Catholics [illegible] regain their lost ascendancy; but it appears [illegible] the priests had no influence with their people, [illegible] the Protestant party had been [illegible] the priests, and had been [illegible] of the late government, which the short time between the dissolution of the House and the Election, and the difficulty of communication with the outports, prevented him from being able fully to counteract, a majority of three in favor of the present party in power has been obtained, notwithstanding the riots both on nomination day, and the day of election.

The real cause of the rioting appears to have been the determination of the popish rabble by fair means or foul to return a majority opposed to the Government, and thus place their leaders again at the head of affairs. They knew that on account of the change in the form of several of those who had formerly supported their party, they could not be confident of success, and this made them riotous in districts where the elections are generally closely run, no doubt with the view of deterring peaceable men from recording their votes, and at some places apparently only from a desire to vent their fury, and gratify their propensity for mischief. At St. John's on nomination day, a Mr M'Lea who had made himself obnoxious to the rabble by simply standing his ground, was followed to his store, and beaten with clubs until all signs of life were apparently gone. The offices of newspapers opposed to the Romish interest were sacked, and prominent citizens were in danger of their lives. Bishop Mullock, the man who had roused the passions of the people, and the only one who could have controlled the wild elements, held aloof the whole day, and allowed the mob to have full sway. On election day, the Volunteers of St. John's—all except two Irish Companies, who refused, and are consequently to be disbanded—did garrison duty, and order was preserved in the city. But at Harbor Grace, which with Burin are of great political importance, as the result of the elections in these districts commonly decide the fate of parties,—there was a perfect reign of terror for one or two days. The Protestants of Harbor Grace, being a decided majority of the population, thought it would be weak on their part to be defeated by Papists, and were determined to return Messrs. Haywd, and Moore in opposition to Mr Pendergast, the Roman Catholic candidate. The St. John's *Express* of the 4th May, thus describes some of the shameful proceedings in that town on the day of election:—

"One party, resident at Bear's Cove, when on their way home, were furiously set upon by an overwhelming force of Pendergast's men, armed with stones, bludgeons, and other deadly weapons, and, being few in number, were driven back into the town. It was during this treacherous and cowardly attack that John Munn, Esq., one of our most esteemed merchants, who was quietly sitting with a friend in the street, was struck down by a reflux armed with a loaded stick, and severely injured. Meantime, a small party of Protestants, who mustered hastily, being assailed by showers of stones, turned on the band of assailants and speedily chased them out of the town. By this time the military were called out; and the Protestant party being assured that the peace of the town would now be preserved by proper guardians, and being requested to disperse, retired peacably. While they were in the act of doing so, the mob reinforced by four hundred of the desperadoes refuse of the country, fresh from Carbonear, set upon them, in the most furious manner, with clubs and stones; but though for remembering the others they were soon repulsed. The military now interposed themselves between both parties; and Mr Pinsent, Stipendiary Magistrate, urged all parties to retire to their homes. The Protestants at once obeyed the representative of law; flung down whatever weapons they had hastily snatched to defend their lives, and began to retire homeward. The moment their backs were turned, they were assailed, they carried past the military, who were not commanded to prevent them, and again attacked the Protestants, now scattered and without any definite weapons, with savage fury; the soldiers, headed by the Magistrate and Captain Warburton, calmly looking on. The betrayed Protestants were now compelled to fly and shelter themselves as best they could. The mob took possession of the town, and the military quietly escorted them through it. Now the work of destruction commenced, amid yells and execrations worthy of fiends.

Then follow details of destruction done by the mob—houses gutted, stores robbed—windows smashed—gates and fences torn down. An attempt was made to murder Pendergast's opponents, in their own houses, but they were providentially rescued.

Having completely gutted all the houses of Protestants in the main street and other localities, the Carbonear tigers went home, and all took place. Next day (Saturday) they returned in large force; no Protestant dared appear out of doors; the most awful threats were uttered against all Protestants; the yells and imprecations were frightful in the extreme. In the darkness of the night Protestant women and children were flying for shelter, some to the court house and barracks where the military were stationed, and others wherever they could find protection. The state of the town cannot be described. If a foreign enemy had got possession of it, and it had been given up to pillage, matters could scarcely have been worse. The stores of merchants were entirely at the mercy of the infuriated mob. On Sunday, we learn, that the same reign of terror continued, but particulars have not reached us. The house of the Rev. Mr Lockhart, Wesleyan Minister, was completely riddled with stones; and he and his family had to take refuge in the Courthouse.

It is said that there was a sufficient number of military in Harbor Grace all the time of the riot to clear the town of the rowdies in half an hour; but instead of suppressing the disturbance, they coolly looked on, being under the direction of a Popish magistrate, who would do nothing to check his co-religionists in their work of destruction. The presence of the troops was thus worse than useless, for the Protestants trusted to their protection, and were cruelly betrayed.

Serious riots also took place at Harbor Main. The Government it appears with the view of rendering it less difficult to preserve order, arranged the polling booths there differently from what they had been at former elections. The Roman Catholic electors having created some disturbance near a polling place were fired upon by the soldiers, and one person killed and ten or twelve disabled. The Popish party being thus intimidated, and unable to carry their point at the proper booth, went and recorded their votes at another booth that appointed by the Government. In this manner a majority of votes were polled for Messrs. Hogsett and Furey, the nominees of the Popish party, but the Government of course refused to acknowledge them as duly elected.

The case of Messrs. Hogsett and Furey seems to have been the principal cause of the disturbance in St. John's, on the 19th of May, the day on which the Legislature was opened. Ten o'clock was the hour appointed for administering the oath of allegiance to the newly-elected members of the Assembly. Accordingly, they met in the Council Chamber, pursuant to notification, and were called up by the presiding Commissioner, the Hon. Laurence O'Brien, to be sworn. After nearly the whole of the members present had been called up, and sworn, Messrs. Hogsett and Furey, who claimed to be the returned candidates for the district of Harbor Main, having been passed over by the Commissioner, presented themselves to be sworn, but he refused to administer the oath, declaring that he could not acknowledge them as members of the Assembly. Mr Hogsett then [illegible] the validity of the election, but the Commissioner still [illegible] in the refusal to put the oath. Messrs. Hogsett and Furey then [illegible] in the usual form, and in the other [illegible] of the House, [illegible] in the Council Chamber, [illegible] the Commissioner [illegible] the Speaker, [illegible] the Commissioner [illegible] the Speaker [illegible] the Commissioner [illegible] the Speaker [illegible] the Commissioner [illegible] the Speaker