

SIR FRANCIS HINCKS.

ON THE

ORANGE TROUBLES.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE "GAZETTE":

SIR,—I venture to assert without fear of contradiction that nine-tenths of the inhabitants of this city, irrespective of national origin or religious belief, are anxious for a restoration of that harmony which prevailed among us a month ago. It has been fortunate that the intense bitterness which has characterized our political discussions has chiefly prevailed among the more educated classes, who do not carry revolvers, and who do not allow their political feelings to get the better of their judgment. There is another cause for congratulation. In the violent party quarrels of thirty or forty years ago citizens of conflicting religious opinions were, as a rule, on opposite sides in politics, and this naturally led to increased bitterness of feeling. At the present time the citizens of Montreal are politically divided without reference to their religious belief, and it may, therefore, be reasonably expected that it will be more easy to allay the feud with which the city has been suddenly visited. I believe that I am correct in asserting that, as regards the Roman Catholic element in our population, considerable numbers both of French Canadian and Irish Catholics are to be found in the ranks of the supporters and opponents of the Government, and that the same remark will apply to all or nearly all of the various Protestant denominations. Surely if I am correct in my statement, all the influential citizens of Montreal should concur in a determination to resist every attempt that may be made to substitute a religious for a political party issue. I fear very much