

NEW GLASGOW, Aug. 16th. 1873.

SIR:—I am directed by the Committee of the Presbytery of Platon in connection with the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, appointed in terms of the accompanying minute, to enclose to you a copy of the minute containing their appointment and instructions.

I am also instructed to send you the enclosed statement of facts connected with the riot at Antigonish, which has been prepared by the Committee, some of whose members visited that place for the purpose of securing reliable information, respecting the character of the disturbance, and to ask if you will do them the favor of laying the same before the Government of this Province, at your earliest convenience.

I am instructed further, to inform you that though some of the Magistrates of Antigonish are known to have been in the crowd at the time of the Riot, on the evening of the 10th July, so far as the Committee can ascertain, they made no effort to quell the disturbance. On the contrary, it is believed, that at least two of them, Archibald McGillvray, Esq. and a Mr. McLellan, can be proved to have acted in such a way, and to have made use of such language, during the progress of the riot, as would justify the charge that they were giving their countenance to those who were so lawlessly, and with such extreme violence disturbing the peace of the community.

I am directed to state still further, that though some of the ring-leaders in the riot are well known; that although the man who struck Rev. Mr. Goodfellow such a severe blow can be identified; so far as has yet appeared, no steps have been taken either by Magistrates or others, to bring them to justice.

Under these circumstances, the Committee feel constrained to appeal to the Government, and to you as Attorney General for the Province, to take such measures, as in your judgment, you may think best fitted to bring the rioters to justice, to prevent the repetition of such outrages in the future, and so to conserve the civil and religious rights of our ministers and people.

They would respectfully submit also, whether it might not promote the ends of good government, to have an investigation of the charge against the above mentioned Magistrates, Messrs. McGillvray and McLellan, so that if guilty, they may be dealt with in such a way as will effectually deter officials of government, from giving any countenance whatever to disturbers of the public peace.

Requesting the favor of an early reply, as the Committee are instructed to report to the next meeting of the Presbytery, which is to be held on the 27th August.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

E. A. McCURDY,

*Con. of Committee.*

HON. H. W. SMITH, M. P. P.

*Attorney General.*

To this letter they immediately received the following reply :