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SKETCHES

OF THE

LIFE, TROUBLES, AND GRIEVANCES

OF A

FRENCH CANADIAN LADY.

CAUSED ESPECIALLY BY

CIVIL AND RELIGIONIST POLITICAL  
PERSECUTION.

---

WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

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TORONTO:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN AID OF THE WRITER.

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1857.

227

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## SKETCHES OF THE LIFE

OF A

## FRENCH CANADIAN LADY.

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I, SOPHIE BERTHELETTE, wife and widow of John Baptiste Chaureth, both natives of Canada East, but lately residents in the city of Toronto, of the mechanic, builder, and farmer classes, having somewhat recovered my bodily health and raised my spirits again from the many cruel shocks that a mortal being may be the object of, or subject to, whether in a pretended free country or a slave state,—my principal object in writing the particulars of my life is simply this: “The Public Good;” and I sincerely hope that the facts and truth that I am about to relate will draw the serious attention and duties of the sound portion of the civil and religious officials of the Government, and also the better portion of the people and citizens, who will understand, by the reading of this pamphlet, how their civil and religious rights and freedom are involved or endangered by the system of fraud, deception, corruption, and violence practised and traitorously directed against individuals and families, and by the mal-administration of the laws and justice in Canada, calculated to crush down the spirit and life itself of the most useful and honourable members of society, in order to keep them from the noble courage of telling the truth, and complaining against the tyrannical persecutors and enemies of all progress in moral, social, intellectual, and material improvement, by the abuse of their official power and the influence of their private and public offices.

Those immoral officials, civil and religionist, to which I have made allusion, appear to have formed a secret league together in combination, for the benefit and purpose of that bad system ; and they have dishonest politicians in their behalf, editors of public papers, members of the legislature, and others in many other places and offices of the government, without distinction of origin or belief, and whose private or political intrigues lead me to the conclusion that many honest and useful individuals have lost their property, the fruit of their labour and honest industry ; and, moreover, their reputation and life itself. And as I myself, my late husband, and our son (and only child) have been innocent victims of that cruel system in the hands of traitors, either in Canada East and West, and perhaps also in the State of New York, by which we have been tyrannically persecuted and defrauded of our honestly acquired property, moveable and immoveable, the loss of our said son, and many other troubles and grievances in Canada East ; for which we came to the city of Toronto, about the 7th of May, 1855, in order to petition the Government against those abuses, and seek redress for so many injuries. But persecution and annoyance followed myself and my husband from place to place, whether in our dwelling or in the employment of my courageous husband ; and whether by the friends, spies, or agents of that league, and a party of the said system,—we were in constant danger and fear for our lives and security, even here in the city of Toronto. And while dishonest and deceitful politicians contrived to prevent us from complaining to the Government, or otherwise moving for our own rights and grievances, it seems to me—and I have reason for the belief—that they secretly plotted our destruction, either by assassination or poison, until my late husband took sick, by vomiting, at the building by H. Jackson (for Robinson, tailor), on Yonge street, on the 21st of May last, and died on the 15th of July of this year (1857)—the whole of his sickness having been a complaint about his heart, and a constant struggle to vomit. Since his death it has been hinted to me, and I have no doubt of the fact, that my husband died from the effects of poisonous drugs or arsenic, administered to him by some spies or agents of that league and party—likely in some water—at that build-

ing and some other places ; and which sickness I would have cured by some proper medicine and true kindness, if Dr. Richardson, whom I—with my late husband's consent—called in for medical attendance, had prescribed proper and operative medicine, which I got at Beckett's, on King-street ; and if I had not been continually deceived and annoyed by some hypocritical neighbours, who came into our dwelling under the false appearance of kindness, but in reality to betray us both, in taking our lives ; for only three days before my late husband died, I was myself poisoned by taking some water and other food which had been spoiled during my necessary absence from home the day before ; and then my husband told me that he felt he must die soon—that he thought he had been poisoned by the league—and begged me to have his body examined, and some other matters, which I solemnly promised to do. But while I was gone to Coroner Duggan, before the funeral took place,—on the 16th, the next day after my husband's death,—my dwelling was broken open ; and on my return with the said Coroner, on the same day, my husband's body had been stolen away and buried, against my consent, by those same bad neighbours and others who were interested in the crime of our destruction, in order to avoid the *post-mortem* examination ;—and myself forced to leave my dwelling, with my furniture, books, papers, and everything we had there—(at William Mark's, on Temperance street, in Toronto)—in order to save the remainder of my life, if possible ; in the secret hope of obtaining justice, by telling the truth. And I do it with a deep sense of my duty to God, to my husband's memory and will, to our son and only child, to our grandchildren, and to other friends and country people, and to all the people generally, without distinction of origin or belief ; as also to myself in particular. And although very conscious that our lives were in jeopardy, for the purpose of keeping us from telling the truth and complaining, and in spite of constant danger for my life—which I saved by the will of God, for I was followed by persecution and poison in two hotels wherein I took my board since and was annoyed ; which injuries I will give some more explanations of hereafter. But to be short now, I may say

that I have been reduced to beggary and slavery, and to the most cruel position, especially by the loss of my late husband, who was my only companion and support. However, I have laid my complaint, in writing, to His Excellency Sir William Eyre, Lieutenant General and Administrator in Canada, through his private secretary, Mr. Pennefather, in Toronto, on the 23rd of July of this same year; and that on the 31st the poisoning case on Temperance-street was published in the *Leader*, with the fact of having petitioned the Government on the subject; from which I have had no satisfaction up to this day, through the intrigues of that league and party who have avoided justice by the same means for many years, and who wish to conceal their guilt, and that of those who assisted them, by avoiding the regular inquest in my cause and that of my family, as I have begged and wished to be done, in order to obtain the desired effect of the said petition.

In reply to the *Leader*, the *Daily Colonist* of Toronto, Aug. 1st, 1857, contains an article of great deception on the subject of poisoning on Temperance-street, which left me no doubt of the intention of its author, who, I have reason to believe, is very anxious to shield some guilty hypocrites, by making some provision for the widow, in order to cure her from her ailments, after the league fashion—as they have cured and saved the life of her husband! I have been threatened of the said cure by the Chief of Police of Toronto; and I thank God and the good people for having escaped from it. However, it is true that everything was done to save my husband's life by me, and in faithful kindness; but not by the false charity of those neighbours alluded to in the said *Colonist*, who called in Dr. Aikin, who came but once, and afforded no relief to my sick companion. And I have also reason to believe that the pretended charity of my neighbours opposed the medical attendance of Dr. Maitland, of the military, whom I had called in myself, and who ordered cod-liver oil, and would have relieved my sick husband, with other proper care,—only for the continual annoyance of my neighbours, who forced me to leave my sick husband in the house alone, to seek the protection of the police against their bad design of murder. And I have further been told, that an

examination of my late husband's body has since taken place, and that a false report in some public papers in this city has been published—but the whole against my consent, and carefully concealed from me ; as many other lies, told and written in papers, and false proof, with which that league and party deceive individuals, and prevent the more upright officials and others from protecting our own rights and sympathising with our sufferings ; and I am conscious that our persecutors of that league and party have done to me, to my late husband, and family and friends, as much wrong and outrage as they could, for which they have spared no craftiness or crime. And I have no doubt they will do so as long as they can, to prevent me from obtaining my own rights, redress, or justice. For that reason I addressed a letter to the Grand Jury, at the Toronto Assizes, on the 19th October last, which letter has been given to Mr. Duggan, Queen's Counsel, and in which I complained of the intrigues of my persecutors to prevent the Government from instituting an inquiry on the subject of my petition of the 23rd of July last ; the whole of which, and other truths and explanations, I am ready to write and maintain under oath, in the hands of any magistrate or impartial tribunal, with proof by papers and witnesses, and myself to become personally responsible for the truth of the whole. The deficiency of my knowledge and information, together with the cruel afflictions and grief of my heart and soul, do not allow me to write all at full-length or more grammatically ; but I hope that the reader will overlook such trifles, on account of the importance of the subject and my desire to do the public good, of which I am a part ; and my real hope is a favourable judgment and the protection of an honest, intelligent, and Christian public, to whom I present this sketch of my plain and unhappy life, with a part of my petition aforesaid to the Government, and the conclusion.

## CHAPTER I.

### MY LIFE—CORRECTED AND ABRIDGED.

How I remember the plain, moral advice of my kind parents to all the family ! “ My children,” they would say, “ never raise your hands to take what is not your own, or raise your

tongue to tell a lie. And more, my children,—do not depend too much on your parents' wealth ; but strive and learn to work for your own living, as well as the poorer people, for no one knows what is in the future for them." It appears to me, from papers and documents, besides the telling of my mother, that I was born on the 9th day of April, 1799 ; and my first remembrance of the time is the year 1806 : that I was then at a small settlement called Ste. Catherine, about two miles from the city of Montreal, near the mountain of that name, and that I was in the same stone house where I was born—living plainly but very comfortably, by the honest and useful labour and industry of my worthy and kind parents, who had earned a certain competence for themselves and family, so that we lived in the abundance of all sorts of the necessaries of life. And as long as I lived under the guardianship of my parents, I, nor any of the family, never knew the want of anything ; but generally we were supplied before our desires or wants were made known. There were barrels of pork and beef sometimes, which I never saw empty ; besides the wholesome bread—with butter, cream, and milk from the cattle ; and a great quantity and variety of vegetables and fruits—such as cabbages, onions, carrots, potatoes, cucumbers, melons, and apples. I remember to have seen my father's trees so heavily laden with fruits as to require the support of strong sticks under their branches to prevent them splitting ; and how many currants, plums, French cherries, gooseberries, London berries, and many other good things too numerous to mention ! But I only state these things to prove to my readers how steady labour, coupled with industry and economy properly understood, is apt to bring bodily comfort and happiness of mind ; for I am not only owing a debt of gratitude to the memory of my good parents for the enjoyment of those temporary good things, but I feel the deepest acknowledgement for the spiritual improvement which their parental devotion has bestowed upon the whole of their offspring—of which I am one ; and perhaps if my three brothers and two sisters have not equally profited by the bountiful instructions of our common parents, it is surely not those dear parents' faults—but perhaps through the neglect of their advice and example. It is cer-

tainly not my intention to bring any improper reflection upon any one of my relations or friends, as I have sometimes remarked worse in several other families of respectable parents in Canada; and either by experience, reflection, and study, I have come to the conclusion that the greatest part of the misfortune and misery, both of body and mind, that generally prevails in our country—and probably in many other places—is due to the want of sound, moral, and social improvement in many families and in schools, which render the children unfit for the fulfilment of the different and several duties to themselves and others, in the course of this short and mortal life; and which defective education leaves them to the rule and power of their coarse passions and physical wants or selfishness. And if such children happen to be of naturally vicious dispositions, and come to occupy offices—whether in the Church or in the State—they are apt to do a great deal of wrong and injury to their contemporaries or fellow-creatures, and sometimes to become very unhappy themselves—for generally the impression on mind and heart remain for life, whether for evil or good. As for myself, I strived to reform myself by those same impressions from my parents at home; and I hope to retain the same character and habits the whole of my life. I remember, also, the principles of the Gospel, as stated by Christ himself, where He says, in answer to a certain question, “You shall love God with all your heart, with all your soul and mind, and your neighbours as yourselves.” And again, in another verse, “That is all the law and the prophets.” And in the course of my life I have observed the same in practice, and inculcated the same in my family and others; and especially to our son, saying “Do no harm to any one, and do good whenever you can.” But as I am in a position which forces me to be brief, and whereas many particulars of my life and family are already written in the petition heretofore mentioned—and more may be said and written. But to avoid a repetition, I will give hereafter the substance of the said complaints, which were first written and intended to be presented to Sir Edmund Head; but since his absence from Canada, the same—with some additional complaints—have been presented to Sir William Eyre,

Lieut. General, on the 23rd July, 1857, and which are as follows:—

“*To his Excellency Sir Edmund Walker Head, Governor-in-Chief of Canada, &c., &c.*—May it please your Excellency, that I, Sophie Berthelette, and John Bte. Chaureth, my husband, of the mechanic, stone-mason, and farmer class, now residing in the city of Toronto, but formerly of Canada East, both natives, most respectfully beg to be admitted to your Excellency’s presence, in order to make complaints against some lawyers and public officers, and the rancorous influence of some religionists, of the district and court of Montreal and Three Rivers; and especially Roman Catholic political priests, and their corrupted friends of the civil authorities and agents, who appear to have formed a secret league together in combination, and in a spirit of injustice and domination, calculated to crush down the civil and religious rights and freedom of the people, and all sorts of moral and social improvement, to the injury of private and general comfort and prosperity, by the abuse of their power and the influence of their offices. They pretend to politics and religion; but, by their party spirit, it seems that they only aim at full power to dispose of the property, persons, freedom, and honour of the most worthy and useful persons and citizens, according to their caprice or interest. They rule the people in ignorance and immorality; and by their worst passions and prejudices, turn them against each other. Even weak-minded or corrupted members of families, to bring destitution, desolation, and final destruction upon those who, in the conscientious discharge of the several duties of life, or in the defence of their own personal rights or their country people’s rights, have the moral courage to oppose the misdeeds or unsound influence of those powerful men, or to expose them by telling the truth, or to seek some reforms by lawful and honourable means,—it appears that that league has drawn into its party several immoral men and women of intrigues, to carry on their private design of unjust interest and rancorous hatred against myself and family, calculated to make us all perish, and obtain our honestly-earned properties in a long series of the most tyrannical and dangerous persecutions, which have fol-

lowed myself and family almost from place to place, to annoy us, until here in the city of Toronto; evidently for having done my duty in my several stations of life, according to my honour and conscience; and for having dared to expose the wrongs of some of those powerful men, by telling the truth, in the just defence of my own private rights and my husband's right, for our honestly-earned properties; and for having left the Roman Catholic Church, for good reasons; and likely because John Bte. Chaureth, *alias* Charte, our only son, has also done his duty, with moderation, in the principles of true honour and justice, either as a public servant or in the defence of the oppressed poor, with disinterested integrity, and for his ability to become an assistant in the reform of the laws. It appears, also, that the rancorous hatred, rage, and design of that league and party had greatly increased against us all, for the establishment of a Reformed School that I, with my husband, had obtained from the French Canadian Missionary Society of Montreal, for the benefit of our family and the public generally, in our locality at La Baie du Febvre; but the league and party aimed at its entire abolition, by obtaining again our honestly-earned property, in common labour with our son, and to cause our final destruction, by all sorts of craftiness and crimes—even murder by false imprisonment—or otherwise to keep us from complaining and seeking redress for the many grave wrongs we have suffered from that league and party of lawless men, by their spite of justice and good order, in support and assistance of fraudulent pleaders and riotous robbers and others, whether from the State of New York or from the district of Montreal and Three Rivers, who have stolen or unlawfully obtained and kept possession of our honestly-earned property; and to shield all guilty parties by all sorts of fraud and deception—for which wrongs and abuses we have sought justice and relief in vain from the proper authorities at the court of Montreal, and from some justices of the peace in the district of Three Rivers, until we were threatened by more new wrongs and danger for our personal safety—even by the police of that town—by the unsound influence of that league and party and other circumstances, for which we came here to the city of Toronto, to seek your

Excellency's power of government as a last resort to appeal to for protection and justice by the laws in our cause, according to the following exposition of the principal facts and circumstances, to the best of my knowledge and conscience, for which we beg most respectfully from your Excellency an impartial perusal and hearing. Here follow the causes in which we have had no justice at the courts of Montreal:—1st. In the Inferior Term of March, 1830, No. 60, and others: Joseph Chaureth, plaintiff, by transport from John Bte. Chaureth, *vs.* Patrick Healey and others. Charles Sabrevois de Bleury, attorney for the defendants' committee, who acted fraudulently in behalf of the committee; and our attorneys, Hippolite Gui and A. Bourret, selling our rights. Father La Mothe, Roman Catholic parish priest of Ste. Scholastique, by his rancorous hatred against me, by his unsound and unjust influence ruled the whole; and from that time, in the long series of persecutions of which I, with my husband and family, have been the innocent object, I have often felt and seen the evil influence of the Roman Catholic priest and religionists. Even from some unnatural relation, likely ruled by some priest (Arrau) of Montreal, we have suffered oppression and damages. My own confessor, then Father Richard, has also tried by his influence as a priest to support the same. [The whole of the circumstances in these causes being too long for this pamphlet, I can give but the principal at present.] 2nd. A case of robbery by riot, with intention of murder, by Lucian Perry, Charles Moore, and William Wipple, of Champlain, in the State of New York, and several others. On the 9th of May, 1835, No. 1195, June Term, 1835, King's Bench: Lucian Perry, who was apprehended twice for the offence of the 9th of May, but, to shield himself and accomplices, and by his attorney, Charles Dew Day, came as a plaintiff in that case; and his said attorney maintained the same fraudulently; and our attorney, Jean Cassimir Bruneau, agreed with him to sell our rights, for which we complained to the sitting court—Judge Read and Judge Gale and others—but all in vain. And Alex. de Lisle, clerk of the peace, and other public officers, including Attorney General Ogden, all seemed to act in behalf of the said Perry and others, who had stolen our

property. 3rd. This is a case in which I have been defrauded of my moveables and the possession of a house and dependencies on the main street of the St. Lawrence suburbs, in Montreal, of the value of above £600 cy., under the No. 391 Inferior Term, of March 12th, 1840. Charles Sabrevois de Bleury and Gossin, attorneys for Marie and Pierre du Fresne. I paid Pierre Moreau and Leblanc, attorneys, to defend my own rights; but they probably received more to sell my cause, and they left the management to de Bleury, who caused more unlawful summonses, in the names of the said Marie and Pierre Dufresne, for the purpose of dispossessing me of the said house, under No. 2629, King's Bench, June Term, 1840,—signed Boston and Barron, Sheriffs of Montreal; for which I employed no attorney, but complained to the sitting court—Judges Pyke, Rolland, and Gale—several times, but all in vain. And de Bleury fraudulently maintained the whole, by which I have had stolen a great deal of my house furniture and house rent, and finally dispossessed of the said house and dependencies, after a fraudulent sale of the same by de Bleury and other officers of the court at Montreal, who abetted the same; such as Monk and Morogh, prothonotaries; A. Conrad Gogy, police magistrate; Alexander Delisle, clerk; and several others. The remainder of these last causes contain very important facts and circumstances, which would be apt to explain to the reader how the persecution first began against myself and husband, in Ste. Scholastique, by the evil spirit of old Father La Mothe, the parish priest of that place, in 1828 and 1829, who took advantage of the existing bad system to carry out his private designs and rancorous hatred against us all, according to the old spirit of the inquisition, as I have read it in several books and papers; with the only difference, as it seems to me, that the inquisition was carried on by a sort of very bad laws and the brute passions of cruelty by the strongest. And now the same evil spirit is doing the same mischief, or stirring to that end; but as it is against the laws and the opinion of the kind-hearted and honest people, the persecutors act with more conceit and deception, by false pretences, and all the false appearances of the laws and rights, as it may be proved afterwards. But as the

following of the aforesaid petition to our Governor contains facts and circumstances which have grieved my heart and mind in my dearest affections, I thought to omit some of the past and hasten on to the next or last part of the said petition: and said, furthermore, that in the summer of the year 1844, I, with my husband and family, went to live in the county of Drummond, district of Three Rivers, Canada East, and my husband being unschooled, we entrusted all our earnings into the hands of John Bte. Chaureth, *alias* Charte, our son and only child, to whom, beside a sound and liberal education both in English and French, I dutifully inculcated in him, by precept and example, the principles of true honour, justice, and equity; and he became an upright, honest, and useful man, both to his family and to the public generally; and who, by his learning and good management of business, we earned some property and a lot of land in the township of Wendover, where he deserved so well the confidence of the people, that he was successively chosen secretary-treasurer of the municipality of Grantham, elected counsellor of the same, and a member of the committee of agriculture for the county of Drummond. Besides, several oppressed poor came to him for advice in law and justice. One of them, Francis Caya—likely a victim of the capricious interest of O'Grady, priest, curate of Drummondville in 1845. All those duties my son discharged with the most disinterested integrity in behalf of the public good. But it seems that the league and party from Montreal made a common case with our political enemies, in the said district of Three Rivers, who were dissatisfied with our son's honest policy and his ability to become an assistant in the reformation of the law; and they were afraid that he might have also obtained his parents' rights for the property and wrongs, as stated in the former exposition; and they spared no means to prevent it, by making a political capital of religionist, inhuman brigands, and all sorts of craftiness and crimes, to cause our final destitution and destruction, as it will be seen by the remainder of this declaration, which, although painful to my feelings, I consider an imperative duty to perform. That I, with my husband, had founded our last hope of relief and family happiness on a suit-

able consort for our son, to whom we could look up to as a daughter for the rest of our lives ; but for the utmost degree of our misfortune and disappointment, Emilie Hamel, of St. Antoine de la Baie du Febvre, to whom our son, by pure love, but without knowing sufficiently her natural disposition and habits of life, had married about the 29th of February, 1848. She proved to be a weak-minded, artful, and false woman, whose bad education and company from home had rendered unfit to marry an honourable man like our son. But in the hands of our factious foes she has been a fit instrument for their bad, private design against her husband and his good parents ; as, by our circumstances of family interest, we were forced to live together in common with our son, our position became very difficult ;—for the said Emilie Hamel almost constantly played the coquette, and almost in our ocular sight, so as to provoke our parental feeling ; but carefully concealed from her husband—our son—that she violated the marriage-bed with her friends and our enemies, probably with the consent of Julie Chevalier and Jean Bte. Hamel, her parents at home ; and likely also secretly approved of by Michel Carrier, curate, and her parish priest at La Baie ; as on remonstrating to her, the said Emilie Hamel, on the probable consequences of her misconduct, and her dutiful obligation of fidelity as a married woman—that she ought not to follow her parents' bad advice to the contrary, nor even that of any priest (I suspecting some intelligence from these quarters), when she replied, dryly, that she “ would always behave herself according to the advice of Mr. Carrier.” I repeatedly remonstrated with her, the said Emilie Hamel, on the same subject, and strived to bring her natural feelings even for the sake of her innocent children, but all without success. She, regardless of law and reason, yielded entirely to the sway of the league and party, and she became unsatiable, hypocritical, and a most perfidious woman ; she persecuted us all by her misconduct and falsehood, in spite of all our kindness to her and her family ; insomuch so, that we feared to live apart from our son ; but we remained in forbearance with our son, and his wife, for our mutual safety. In the month of March, 1850, we and all the family went to live at St. Antoine de la

Baie du Fevre, in the County of Yamaska, in the District of Three Rivers, aforesaid, where we continued our useful labour and honest industry, either by farming, stonemason work, or otherwise, in common with our son, of which they were masters; and our son became proprietor of a considerable quantity of moveable and immoveable property in the place, and we had greatly improved the lot on which we lived near the village; where our said son continued to deserve the confidence and consideration of the people and the public generally so well, that he was spoken of as the future member of Parliament for that County; but some unworthy politicians, without the majority of free voters, contrived to return Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin, whose measures in Parliament and otherwise have caused several inhabitants of that County to come to our son for advice and justice. And several nominations of unworthy Magistrates, such as Louis Manseau, Boucher, and Vezina, brought to office by intrigues of said Dumoulin and others; it appears to me also that those events connected with the more immediate annoying expedition of armed men as an escort to a commission, was rather against the peaceable inhabitants of La Baie and others, when and where, Alex. Delisle, Clerk of the Peace of the Police of Montreal, who acted as commissioner of inquest,—which I considered also dangerous to us, on account of the abuse of official power of the league from Montreal, of which the said Alex. Delisle was a party as above stated. And I considered it my duty to expose the evident abuse of the said commission against some of the poor, honest and peaceable, but illiterate farmers of the place and others, who seemed to be victims of some particular intrigues, either at La Baie and around it, and at the Court of Three Rivers, for which I wrote an address to the Grand Jurors of a term of Jurisdiction Court in the fall of 1850 or 1851, which was almost disregarded; likely by the influence of the said league and party, and perhaps the fault of one Burns, Attorney at Three Rivers. So those farmers suffered nearly a year of unjust imprisonment in the Gaol of Three Rivers, to the silent fear of many, and to my great terror in particular, for I considered my country very unsafe. However, the troops were withdrawn, but the spirit of the league

remained in force ; but still I continued in forbearance, and in spite of all annoyance, to contribute to the comforts of the family and all around me, and to keep the honor and order of our dwelling to the best of my ability. But I have reason to believe, and do sincerely believe, that the said Emilie Hamel—by means of her parents and friends—that she continued to and often met secretly with men of debauchery, such as the young Cotrels in their neighbourhood, and Champeau, Vigneau, Joseph Duguay Oliver Houle, almost all the Priest's intimates, whom I refused to welcome in our dwelling, and several others, when very likely she received from some of them much bad advice how to annoy and persecute us all. And she did all in the power of an artful woman to do it, and so she made us all very unhappy, especially her husband, our son, as he was the more deceived. And she came to that degree of poignant effrontery as to artfully bring the said Oliver Houle and his father, and another of the gang, to our dwelling at once, so as to provoke our parental feelings by imposing upon our honest son's credulity, so that for a moment I lost my usual forbearance with them. Furthermore, in the year 1853, some of the farmers—about twenty—of the school section of the village of La Baie du Febvre had come to my son for the writing of a complaint against the School Commissioners of that place for no progress, which had been disregarded, and as I sincerely believed that ignorance and immorality was the cause of much mischief round me, as likely in many other places, which caused me much grief, so I resolved to strive for something better, least in our locality ; and in the month of January, 1854, I, with the consent of my husband, obtained the establishment of a Reformed School in the said Village of La Baie from the French Canadian Missionary Society, from Montreal, for the benefit of our family and the public generally ; of which school Mr. Israel Mathieu was the teacher of about twenty-five or thirty children, who were making considerable progress in the different branches of knowledge, to the mutual satisfaction of the teacher, the children, their parents, and to ourselves ; and to which school I with my husband and son, were satisfied to send Sophie, one of our grand-children. But the rancorous hatred of the priests of the league

and party, who were not filled by our son's honest policy, had now increased to fury against us all, for the real improvement of education that we supported with success in that said school, for which we had made considerable sacrifice of about fifty pounds currency, and which would have honourably prospered but for the diabolical machinations of that league and party who conspired for its entire abolition, by conveying into our unfortunate family the long anticipated catastrophe of their design, to operate our destitution, desolation, and final destruction, as further said. It is evident that Michael Carrier, the said Parish Priest of La Baie, was secretly opposed to the progress of sound education in school, and that he had, whether directly or otherwise by his friends and agents, calumniated and depreciated or otherwise annoyed the said Reformed School, either by causing some scholars to leave without reason, or to spread some false reports on the said school or master teacher, and perhaps likely on myself, or unworthily used his priestly influence over his parishioners minds or otherwise, calculated to abolish the said Reformed School. And likely he, the said Priest, had caused secretly a private letter to be conveyed to the said Emilie Hamel, our son's wife—whose spite in the family had also increased a great deal since the beginning of that said Reformed School—and likely the said letter ordered her to oppose her child from going to the said school. And she did oppose it, and that on the 17th of April, 1854, the day that the child was to begin at school, some words happened to pass on the subject in the family, and the said private letter carelessly mentioned by my husband to his son, whose mind and heart was overloaded with grief by such a long series of family troubles and persecution, and likely his wife refused to show him the contents of the said private letter, and that he became exasperated, and in a moment of rash despair, but without doing any personal hardship to his wife or family, he our said son resigned his immovable property, the fruit of our common labour, for the sum of about five hundred pounds currency, into the hands of one of his worst and secret foes, the aforesaid Joseph Duguay of La Baie, from which sum it appears [that our son left two hundred pounds currency, nto the hands of the said Joseph Duguay for the said

Emilie Hamel, his wife, and that our said son left also all the moveable property in our possession for his father and me, besides a letter or full power to dispose of the same, dated the fifth of September, 1853, and other depositions ; but as our unhappy son was yet under the influence of a cruel deception by the artfulness of his wife and the league, he our son, careless of danger, trusted to the rapacity of his and our factious foes, to fulfil his will in his absence, and on the same day the said 17th of April, 1854, the said John Bt. Chaurette, *alias* Charte, our son, himself in a hurry but quietly and peaceably, left the said Parish of St. Antoine de la Baie du Febvre up to St. Francis and St. Thomas de Pierreville, where Joseph Moreau, Priest, resided, and where we have been informed that our said son passed also quietly and peaceably but sorrowfully on his way towards the United States of America, where he intended to go, likely in the sad hope to make better his unhappy condition, and too conscious in his clear conscience to suspect any personal danger by the dark plots and designs of his and our factious foes of that league and party. But it appears that our said son has been the victim of some further treason, that the aforesaid Oliver Houle had the word from others of the village to come to tell the said Emilie Hamel, our son's wife, that she was wanted there, where she went in a moment, and likely the spirit of the league have made use of her to obtain some false warrants, likely maliciously shaped by Vezina, Clerk of said Louis Manseau, Justice of the Peace at La Baie, and creature of Dumoulin as aforesaid ; and likely that said Michel Carrier, Priest, may know, but it is evident that said Joseph Duguay knew that our son carried with him about one thousand dollars, and they hastened to send some of their obedient servants to overtake our unaccompanied son, to steal his money and murder him, with those said false warrants or false papers. And we have been sufficiently informed by personal knowledge, and it appears that our said son have been really overtaken and forcibly and treacherously transported to St. Hyacinthe, Canada East, and from thence we cannot say what has become of him. But various reports of robberies and murder, and otherwise, conduce our mind to the conclusion that our unfortunate son has fallen an innocent victim in the power

of that lawless and treacherous league and party, who retain him secretly in their dangerous power, either alive or dead, perhaps until this day to keep him from complaining and defending his rights and that of his parents and friends. It appears also that a man named Paul Rageot, mail carrier from La Baie, has knowledge of our said son's particular transportation to St. Hyacinthe, but we could not bring him under oath to declare what he did know about it, for it appears that he, the said Rageot, has been sworn under some particular oath to say nothing, or otherwise threatened to be himself murdered or injured for telling the truth on that subject. And a few days after our son's departure, Dr. Joseph Smith of La Baie, in a provoking manner told to my husband that he knew that our son was in the Lake by the river St. Francis. It appears also that a man named Robillard, of the firm of Roy and Robillard of St. Thomas de Pierreville, is deeply concerned in the destruction of our said son, and that by his words and gestures I have had reason to fear and have been really afraid for my personal safety by the contrivances of the said Robillard and Boucher, Justices of the Peace of the same place, and a creature of said Dumoulin, also opponent of my son's honest policy, and some others. Furthermore, that in the month of June following we found in the English Cemetery ground of Three Rivers the corpse of a murdered man, which corpse had the lower jaw entirely off, and other marks of violence, which corpse corresponded to our son's description by some fragments of clothing and teeth missed on the front of the upper jaw, which corpse had been buried there after a coroner's inquest. It is also evident that the aforesaid Joseph Duguay, Vezina, Blondin and others, knew well what had become of our son and that he was out of their way, so that on the 18th of April, the next day after our son's departure, the said Blondin and Edward Vezina, Junior, who had written the Deed of Sale for the said Joseph Duguay the day before, and the said Blondin, Notary, had refused to deliver a true copy for our information, but that on the said 18th, after new advice, they concluded to deliver to us a false copy or fraudulent deed, likely to make a pretence to plunder our property. And furthermore, the said Pierre Blondin and Vezina, Junr., accompanied by others, came

to our dwelling at La Baie, and by declamation excited and instigated the people and Jean Bte. Hamel, in the name of Emilie Hamel his daughter, our son's wife, under the false pretence that she was left with her family in want, and that they ought to take possession of all the moveable property lately left by our son and in our possession, for which I had a letter of full power to dispose of, in date of the fifth of September, 1853, which power I exhibited to the said Blondin and Vezina, and representing to them the probable consequence of their unlawful proceedings ; but they disregarded, and I with my husband went to old Vezina, clerk to Manseau, Justice of the Peace of La Baie to stop the probable plunder of which we were threatened by that conspiracy, but we could only obtain a partial warrant to arrest the said Jean Bte. Hamel, who was instantly released under bail of said Joseph Duguay, and as we returned home the said Jean Bte. Hamel had already returned with several others, whose numbers continued to increase to about forty or more individuals in a riotous way and bad design until the darkness of evening, when a man named Dominique Dutour, the said Joseph Duguay's Clerk, came in with a load of empty bags to carry away our grain ; and one of the mob, Jeseph Turcotte of St. Zepherin, carried away a bag of flour which I tried to oppose, but I was threatened and feared violence by one of the priest's friends, Moyre Lemire, and the said Emilie Hamel, who seemed to give the signal to seize our persons ; when, fearing for our personal safety, I with my husband took refuge at the said Reformed School house with Mr. Mathieu the teacher and his wife, leaving our dwelling and all our things in the care of a man named Gabriel Desfosse and Marcelline Senneville, his wife, and pay them for it. But afterwards, whether with or without their consent, in our absence, the mob continued from that day to steal, either secretly or openly, night and day, with the aforesaid Joseph Duguay, who no doubt lived in adultery with others and the said Emilie Hamel, and they carried away about eighteen bushels of seed wheat, some Indian corn, and about two barrels of Indian meal, seven or eight hundred pounds of wheat flour, and about three hundred bushels of oats, cattle, house furniture, and farming utensils, books and

papers, and many things else, to the value of more than two hundred pounds currency. That on the 20th of the same month of April, 1854, my husband wishing to conciliate in the family matter proposed to the said Emilie Hammel the concession of two thirds of all the said moveable property on the condition of having her two eldest children, Sophie and Alfred, that we had brought up in our particular care, and for which she, Emilie Hamel, had consented, but afterwards it seems that she yielded again to the party spirit of the said league and party, and my husband was again abused and deceived in his want of reading, and in his good intentions for those cherished children ; that the said Pierre Blondin, Notary, drew the agreement in a wrong way, as he had done before, to shield Joseph Duguay and all guilty parties, for which I never consented freely but for fear of worse, and against which my husband protested by tearing the fraudulent paper as soon as he understood the deception. In this way our factious foes of the said league and party have succeeded in destroying our family happiness, comfort and prosperity, and obtained and kept possession of our honestly earned properties unto this day. Those properties were not intended for sale, but to be kept for the support of our family in our old age, which we lost by the tyrannical persecution of the said league and party as aforesaid, to our great grief and damage, as also for the entire abolition of the aforesaid Reformed School, to the gratification of the said league and party, to our private grief, and to the public loss in moral and social improvement.

Since then I, with my husband, in the summer of the same year, 1854, started a boarding house on a respectable footing in the Town of Three Rivers, where we would have made an honorable and comfortable living only for the intrigues and party spirit of that league and party aforesaid,—but persecution followed us again in our dwelling, and whether by turning out our boarders and servants, or rendering them undutiful, and we were threatened and feared some more injury, especially by the moving of one Henry Clarke, who appeared to act as agent of the said league and religionists there, and whether by denying the true agreement with the owner of our house, and telling falsehood, we have been forced to pay the rent of the said

house twice the second time to the said Burns, Attorney of Three Rivers, and we lost also the privilege of the said house for a few years more to our new grief and damage; and we had even reasons to fear some injury from the police of that town, and we left the place in fear for our personal safety, as we considered the jail there unsafe for honest prisoners; for the wrongs we have suffered at the said Parish of La Baie we have applied to justices of the Peace at La Baie and lawyers at Three Rivers, and to Montreal by the press and otherwise, without success, likely by the evil influence of the said league and party. So I ventured once more in the state of New York in search of our said son, as it had been hinted to me that he was kept down with his own money, which was in the priest's chest, but I took particular caution on account of the contrivances of the aforesaid league and the aforesaid Perry and others of that State. And I caused there several advertisements in public papers, in order to find out our said son, in the *Sun* of New York of the 14th of April, 1855, in the *Tribune*, the *Courier des Etats Unis*, and in the *Albany Evening Journal*, all in the same month; and by hints and informations I was assured that my son was kept in some strong place of confinement about there for which I was advised to apply to the Mayor. And I did write to his Honor Fernando Wood, Mayor of New York, on the 23rd of April, 1855, begging his official justice on the subject and to have a search from one station of the police to the other, in order to find out our said son,—but there also I felt the spirit of the said league, and I could not be admitted in the Mayor's presence in his office. I also applied to Mr. Anthony Barclay, the British Consul at New York, all without success. I was then kindly advised, that as the intrigues started from Lower or Canada East, I ought to apply to the British Government of Canada for redress and protection in our cause, and for that purpose we came to the City of Toronto. Through a great cost and many dangers, by the power and influence of that said league and party, for we are firmly convinced that if it had not been for the kind and timely interference of the more worthy persons from the different places, and our extraordinary precaution, we would also have personally fallen innocent victims in

the power of that traitorous league and party who have made several attempts to decoy and ensnare us, even here in the City of Toronto, or fallen into the hands of their hired assassin, to keep us from telling the truth and complaining,—as they did of our said son to keep him from telling the truth and complaining and defending his rights and those of his parents and friends,—failing in those heinous designs, they had recourse to their usual deception, and they hypocritically spread calumnies, transpositions and misrepresentations upon their victims as forerunners of future mischief against us all. They likely accused us in falsehood of what they are really guilty, or able to do, as I know their diabolical system of forgery, perjury, exaggeration, and corruption, and all sorts of immoralities, to conceal robberies, murder, and false imprisonments, and all that they think proper to carry out their purpose and design, and shield all guilty parties, themselves and those they need, as also to prevent the upright and more worthy persons in office, or otherwise to protect my own rights and the rights of my own family, as likely the many other good people who have been also wronged by their bad system. (And I hope this last circumstance will have its due weight with your Excellency.) Even through corruption or deception, and by persons of standing in society, either from New York or Canada, they have tried to influence my mind to prevent me from the fulfilment of the most sacred duty,—natural duty,—that to seek for the finding out of our lost son or what has become of him, but I am happy to state the truth, that my husband possesses the same feelings with me on that subject, and that we both shun such advice as unsound and unworthy of us. And that as we never received news directly from our said son, as we hoped by the means we have adopted since his hasty departure on the said 17th of April, 1854, we remain firmly in our conclusion that the aforesaid John Bte. Chaureth, *alias* Chartre, our said son, is perhaps yet in the power of the said league, who keep him secretly, whether alive or dead, until this day, or prevent him from communicating with his parents and friendly family for their bad purposes, as heretofore described in the above declaration ; for which we, most respectfully but firmly, beg your Excellency and the more sound portion of the

Government, to cause a regular inquest to be made before an impartial tribunal, for an investigation of the whole matter, and to bring both parties in confrontation, with their witnesses, papers and records, in order that the Government, the public generally, and the French Canadian Missionary Society may judge, that I and family have suffered an unmerited civil and religionist persecution, and that I deserved well to patronize the said Reformed School at La Baie du Febvre. In order also to obtain a similar judgment on the subject of obtaining back again the possession of our hereinbefore described properties, with damages and interest. And according to cases, that we should obtain also, with us, our said son's children, to preside over their better education and comfort. But above all, the finding out of our said lost son, or what has become of him ; and the perpetrators of his destruction to be dealt with according to law ; we wish and hope also, that according to case, the highest price shall be offered by the Government for the information wanted on the subject of finding out our said lost son. And that some change and reform in the laws and administration of justice, by filling the different offices, according to case, with better and worthy men, so as to insure to the people generally their own right to property, the fruit of their labour and honest industry, honor and personal safety, and all their civil and religious rights and freedom, to improve their moral and social condition, either by a better system of education in schools or otherwise lawful. As for what remains forgotten or otherwise unwritten I wish to be permitted to write and annex it to the present in time after. But as we are conscious that by those present proceedings our personal safety will be more endangered than ever by the intrigues from the powerful aforesaid league and party, who will do their utmost to prevent its termination. Even here in the City of Toronto, but we wish and hope that not only our personal safety will be insured, but that the public will be sufficiently informed of the whole proceedings by the liberal press of Canada and otherwise, as also to undeceive our friends and all from the many deceptions which have been secretly spread on our own accounts by the evil spirit of that said league and party. And that we sincerely hope and wish that all the true friends of

the law, justice, and good order, and good christians, either from United Canada, English and French, or from the State of New York, so far as they are concerned in the present matter, will cordially join in support of Your Excellency's Government, and take all proper means so as to insure the desired effect. And your most respectful petitioners will ever pray and beg justice.

(Signed,)

S. B. C., and

J. B. C., his × mark.

The following gentlemen and ladies have signed their names in testimony of our good character :—

MRS. VALLEE, Mother, and others, all respectable citizens of Montreal, C. E., 1840.

MR. THOMAS WILSON, and others, of the most respectable citizens of Kingston, C. W., 1844.

—Since the above has been written, and His Excellency Sir Edmund Head left Canada, I do respectfully beg leave to address the same that was intended for Sir Edmund Head, and the following, to his successor, Sir William Eyre, Bart., as the proper administrator of the government of Canada :—May it please your Excellency to take this whole matter into your most serious consideration, as a matter which is affecting not only an individual or family, but as affecting the best portion of the people and citizens, and the more sound portion of the government. That since we came here to the city of Toronto, —myself and late husband,—we have been often annoyed by the steady and secret persecution of our enemies from Canada East—or rather by their friends and party here—who have worked their wicked designs so hypocritically combined. And they have succeeded ; as I have reason to believe that they have caused the death of John Bte. Chaureth, my husband, who died in the greatest suffering, on Wednesday, the 15th of this month. I myself also have been very sick, from having tasted poisoned food from some unknown hand of that party, who came into our house under the false appearance of kindness —at the house belonging to William Marks, on Temperance-street, Toronto, where we lived since the 12th of August, 1856. That since we lived there, at the said William Marks', we have

had reason to suspect himself and Ellen his wife, as also some others of the neighbourhood, as treacherous towards us, in behalf of that league and party, in spite of our honest and peaceable behaviour. I have reason to believe, and do sincerely believe in my own conscience, that they had formed a plan to murder us both; and about the 27th of June last, I was under the cruel necessity of leaving my sick husband alone in my dwelling, to call in the protection of the police. I went first to the station on Yonge-street, and next to the Market hall; and finally to the foot of York street, from which I have been somewhat relieved by policeman No. 15 (to the best of my knowledge) and one of his friends (which I have learned since to be Serjeant Cummings), but not sufficiently to prevent my poor husband's death; for I am sincerely under the impression that he would have recovered from his sickness, by my kind care of him and a little help from proper medicine—especially from Dr. Maitland; but I am afraid that some bad designed persons have worked intrigues, to prevent him from extending further his medical attendance. And although he, Dr. Maitland, of the military, had promised to visit my sick husband as a doctor, he never came back again to us; and I have been deprived of all proper aid and relief for my husband and myself. But only a few true kindnesses have been given to me, which have helped me to save my life and liberty until now. But I thought it an absolute necessity to leave my dwelling, and all my little furniture and clothing in it, and take my lodging in some safer place, which I have found, with difficulty and expense, at Lamb's Hotel, where I now reside, at No. 23. I wish very much to have a regular inquest upon the body of my late husband, but I know not to whom to apply; and I submit the whole to your Excellency's government, and wish very much for the desired effect.

I am, very respectfully, your complainant,

SOPHIE BERTHELETTE CHAURETH.

As for our character, I do by the present solemnly certify that I have always known John Baptiste Chaureth, my late husband,

for an honest and a most courageous working-man, unable to do any intentional wrong to any one, and the most devoted father to his son and family; and that John Bte. Chaureth, *alias* Charte, our said son, was also an honest and useful man, in strong and steady labour, a good son, kind husband and father, and a good citizen—a gentleman of the greatest sobriety, being entirely free from the use of any intoxicating liquors—who would have rendered the most important services to his parents and family and to the public generally, by his literary knowledge, his honest policy, and his talent and desire to do good. And for myself, I have always found my own pleasure in doing what I conscientiously considered my duty to God and my fellow-creatures to the best of my ability, being just and true and kind to all—whether as a daughter, sister, wife, and mother, and a good respectable Christian citizen; that I have contributed greatly to the common prosperity and comfort of the family, by my own hard labour, industry, economy, and morality; and that in almost every place where we have lived, we have left proof of material improvement, even more than heretofore described; and that we deserve well the protection of the laws, having never given any one reason for bad feelings; and that the aforesaid Emilie Hamel and family would have been very happy with us all, if she had only behaved herself dutifully as a married woman.

P.S.—Since it has been lately hinted to me that my late husband had perhaps tasted some poisonous drugs previous to his falling sick, at the building by Jackson, on Yonge-street, on the 21st of May last; and after reflection I thought it may be possible that some treason of that sort had been worked there, and as I am aware that those who feel themselves guilty, and their friends, will do all in their power to prevent and crush all inquiry into the whole of these matters; but I hope and wish that your Excellency's government will protect my own rights on the whole, and especially on the subjects of my son's loss and my husband's death, and the perpetrators of so many traitorous and cruel deeds, to be dealt with according to law: and your

most respectful complainant will ever pray, in the name of God and outraged humanity.

(Signed,) SOPHIE BERTHELETTE CHAURETE.

No. 23, Lamb's Hotel, Toronto, July 23, 1857.

[Presented to His Excellency Sir William Eyre, Bart., July 23, 1857, through his private secretary's office, Mr. Pennfather.]

And on the same day I received an answer through the same private secretary, Mr. Pennfather, to inform me that my said petition had been received and transferred to the Provincial Secretary's department. Upon which I went to the said department, where I was informed by Mr. Parent, assistant secretary, that my said petition had been returned to the Governor General; and since then again another paper, with Mr. Parent's name to it, has been given to me by a messenger in the old hospital, likely for the purpose to prevent the inquest taking place, as this last paper is in about the same terms as I have already received from other secretaries. That is,—one in answer to a petition to His Excellency the late Governor Thompson, in the year 1840, in Montreal, Canada East; and the other, from the secretary of the late Lord Metcalfe, in 1844, at Kingston, Canada West. All these petitions were on the same subject of the wrongs which form a part of my present complaints; and from which complaints our persecutors have succeeded to shield themselves, by craftiness, deception, and intrigues, in secret and apart from us; and whose number has increased so much, and emboldened by impunity, as to commit far greater crimes than before, as the reader may judge by the perusal of this pamphlet; and more proof may come to light by the truth that may be said and written on the whole subject; as I am ready to take the proper oath, before any impartial tribunal or persons appointed by the proper authority for the execution of the laws in this country; and I do wish and hope it to take place, in order to obtain my own rights and that of my family and friends. And I also hope that all the friends of public good order and justice, whether in office or citizens and people, will cordially unite in support of such authority, in order to obtain the desired effect of my aforesaid petition of the 23rd of

July last, part of which is published in this present pamphlet. But as I am conscious of the rights of my cause and of my duty, and in the pursuit of which I presented an address to the Grand Jury of Assize, in Toronto, on the 19th of October last, in which address I mentioned my aforesaid petition of the 23rd of July last, and the no satisfaction on account of the intrigues of our enemies of that said league and party; and I expressed that they spoiled the people's mind, judgment, and hearts so much as to turn them against their better contemporaries; and, moreover, they deluge the country and the people's mind with lies and false proofs against their victims, to shield themselves and those they need (and some other truth to the same meaning), and begged their protection and advice on the subject. Dated at William Ashall's, jeweller, Yonge-street, Toronto, which address was given to Mr. Duggan, Queen's Counsel; but that gentleman told me since, out of his office, that he could not do anything with the said address. And whereas I had lately lived at the said William Ashall's, where, beside the hard and useful work I have done for themselves and family, I have taught their children some lessons in French reading, and continued, by precept and example, to teach them their duties, and to keep order and peace in their house, to the best of my capacity, without pay, but my board and lodging—but under the impression that I should be free to act and speak the truth, according to my own conscience, in the defence of my most sacred rights and duty as a wife, a mother, and a worthy Christian citizen; but, to my new great grief and disappointment, I found that the said William Ashall and his wife were both spoiled in their mind, judgment, and heart, by the party-spirit of that said league of persecutors; and especially in behalf of the aforesaid William Marks, against whom and his accomplices I often complained for the murder of my late husband, and myself poisoned; as also for the wrongs done by that said Marks, for having caused my furniture and my late husband's best clothing to be sold, to the value of about £15 cy., unknown to me, and who kept several articles of value, likely for his share of the spoils. And I was forced to accept their own terms, by Kendrew, bailiff, in order to obtain the remainder of my things

and my own clothing, of which I was in great want. And that about the 27th of August last, all those wrongs I mentioned before the said Ashall and his wife and family; and they know also that I had presented the above-stated address to the Jury of Assize; but likely they were influenced by the evil spirit of the aforesaid league and party of dishonest politicians; and in order to operate my final destitution and destruction of body and mind, they both provoked me by harsh words. And the said William Ashall himself ordered me to leave their house, for having told the truth, according to my own conscience, against the said Marks and others. And I did leave the said William Ashall's house, on the 31st of October last, to my new injury and woe; for which I went to the police magistrate's office (Mr. Gurnett) in Toronto, on the 10th of the present month of November, for the purpose of complaining of the continual secret and open persecution of our enemies of that said league and party, who have followed me from place to place, with poison or other bad design of destruction; of which I have been in more fear and danger since the death of my late husband than before. Especially also for the late injury done to me by the said William Ashall and his wife. But it appears that these destructors are safe there also, by some of their usual false pretences or excuses, according to the old system of inquisition. The said police-magistrate told me that they all said I was crazy, and that he could do nothing for me. Upon which I simply replied, that I was not crazy; and if I was found to tell the truth, and my enemies to tell the lies, it would go to prove that I am sound and honest and they criminally crazy; and I then left the said police office. But I wish and hope that Mr. Gurnett, the aforesaid magistrate, will, in proper time and place, exhibit to me the names and bodily presence, if possible, of those who shield the traitorous deeds of my persecutors and those of my family and friends—for such exhibition may be conducive to justice. And whereas I am left in such cruel poverty, by the persecutions, of which I and my husband and family have been the innocent objects, and especially by the loss of my late husband, who was my only companion and support,—I respectfully beg to say that I have applied to several

places of public relief—such as to Mr. Grasset and to his Honor the Mayor Hutchison—without any relief; and to Mr. Arnold, to whom I was directed by Mr. Justice Gurnett, and where I received only a trifle of a quarter dollar, and I suffer yet uncomfot and anxiety of mind for the want of such temporary relief, until my own rights are acknowledged by the proper authorities; for which I respectfully beg my readers to request the more liberal officers and citizens to use their power and influence in my own behalf, in order to obtain that said temporary relief for me; and I hope also that my life and freedom will be secure from further injury, and shall be thankful to all those who will take an interest in my cause and the cause of outraged humanity.

I am, Sir, your respectful petitioner,

SOPHIE BERTHELETTE CHAURETH:

45, Richmond Street, Toronto,  
Nov. 19, 1857.

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*Buy the Life of the worthy but persecuted Widow;  
and give what you please above Sevenpence-Halfpenny, for  
a temporary relief.*