

THE FIGHT AT ST. CATHARINES, ON
12th JULY, 1849.

From a private Correspondent of the Colonist.

NIAGARA, July 13th, 1849.

I suppose, ere this, you have heard of the doings at Slab Town. Yesterday morning the troops were sent up to St. Catharines, to keep the peace. Hundreds of the Greeks were flocking thither, for the avowed purpose of attacking the Orangemen at Dinner, and a large party went to Centerville, where one of the Lodges met. The Lodge being few in number, they thought it advisable to dispense with a procession. While sitting at dinner, a party of from 300 to 400 Roman Catholics came in front of the house, jeering and yelling. They threw stones and fired shots into the house, one of which is said to have grazed the hand of one of the party within. The Orangemen inside numbered some twenty-five or thirty. They returned the fire of their assailants with interest, killing some two or three on the spot, and then sent a volley among them, which put them to flight. As soon as the Orangemen saw their assailants run, they sallied forth, fired and charged upon them, putting the whole body to flight.—From all accounts there are five in all now dead, and from ten to fifteen wounded. Not an Orangeman hurt. I think, from what I hear, that the attack was made on the Centerville Lodge, for the purpose of getting the troops out of St. Catharines, in order that an attack might be made there; but the manoeuvre did not insure the object contemplated by the Roman Catholics. The troops remained in St. Catharines. The Orangemen settled the business without much trouble, notwithstanding the smallness of their party, and the very large number of Roman Catholics by whom they were attacked, and to whom they were offering no provocation whatever. The attack was made on the Orangemen, while quietly sitting at their dinner, in Duffin's Tavern, so that any loss of life cannot be attributed to them, except in self-defence. It appears that, a fortnight ago, a meeting of Roman Catholics was held at St. Catharines, in their School House, and matters arranged for the attack, which took place yesterday. Priest McDonough has been among them, and passed through Port Robinson a day ago, a little in advance of a party of some 150 Canallers. Of course he keeps clear of any row, but it will be difficult to persuade people, that he was not at the bottom of this unfortunate business. "Public notoriety" is strongly against him in regard to this business, as well as with respect to his efforts, to get a number of lock tenders, who are Orangemen, discharged.

Some 800 stand of arms were brought into St. Catharines. The Orangemen, aware of this beforehand, were not altogether unprepared to meet the contemplated attack upon them, and to protect themselves; and had not the troops gone there, a bloody conflict must have taken place. This will account for the manoeuvre at Slab Town and the determination of the authorities not to be deceived by it, as the Roman Catholics evidently desired they should have been, when the latter endeavoured by violent conduct to induce the removal of the troops from St. Catharines, to the place where they attacked the small party of Orangemen in their Inn. The proceedings at Slab Town were witnessed by many respectable persons, who can bear testimony, when required, that the Orangemen offered no provocation, that no noise was heard from the house, that the Roman Catholics commenced the row, pelted the house with stones, and fired into it, before a shot was fired by the Orangemen in self defence, from within.

We have since heard that, on the Coroner's Inquest, the Jury returned a verdict of "Justifiable Homicide."

NEW BRUNSWICK COLONIAL ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last, pursuant to previous notice, a public meeting took place at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, of influential citizens of St. John and its vicinity, for the purpose of discussing the present deplorable state of the Province, and for devising and adopting measures for remedying the evils under which we are now suffering.—A large number of Merchants, Professional and other influential gentlemen assembled on the occasion, among whom we were pleased to see the Hon. Judge, Botsford, His Worship the Mayor, and a number of members of both Houses of the Legislature, &c. The proceedings of the Meeting were conducted with the utmost harmony and unanimity; but one spirit of patriotism, loyalty and good feeling appearing to pervade all present. The result of the deliberations of the day will appear by the subjoined Resolutions.

On motion of John V. Thurgar, Esq., seconded by Walker Tisdale, Esq., it was—

1. Resolved, That the extreme depression of the Commerce of this Colony, and the consequent depreciation of every kind of property, and injury to all branches of industry, imperatively require that the causes thereof should be investigated with a view of proposing and endeavoring to carry out measures which may tend to the revival of at least a portion of our past prosperity.

On motion of Hon. John Robertson, seconded by Edward Allison, Esq., it was—

2. Resolved, As the opinion of this Meeting that two of the great causes of our present difficulties are—First, The policy of the Imperial Government with regard to Trade generally, which, whatever may be the effect in the United Kingdom, has been extremely injurious to this Colony, by the ruinous depreciations of our staple Export in the House of Market—Second, The want of other Markets to supply the loss of the Home Market, which, for the reasons above stated, is no longer available to us to any good purpose; and therefore the conviction is irresistible that unless new Markets are opened to the Commercial enterprise of our Merchants, there appears to be no means of averting the otherwise inevitable ruin which is now hanging over our Commercial Establishments, and of consequence all other interests.

On motion of J. Pollok, Esq., seconded by W. H. Street, Esq., it was—

3. Resolved, That it is highly expedient that our present condition should, with the least possible delay

jointly with that of the other Provinces if it should be found advisable) be laid before our Most Gracious Sovereign, the Imperial Parliament, and the British Public, with a view of directing the attention of the Mother Country, to this, to us, vitally important subject, in order that Her Majesty's Government may be induced to remove some of the evils which are impending over us.

On motion of Dr. Bayard, seconded by Thomas Allan, Esq., it was—

4. Resolved, That if a joint application with the other Provinces cannot be accomplished, it will be expedient for us to bring our case before Her Majesty's Government, either by address, or by a deputation of Gentlemen intimately acquainted with the various interests of the Province, to urge our claims upon their most serious consideration.

On motion of James Whitney, Esq., seconded Mr S. L. Tilley—

5. Whereas, The future prosperity of this Province depends mainly, if not exclusively, upon the opening of new Markets for its Exports, and it becomes our duty to use all legitimate means to obtain this vitally important object: Therefore Resolved, That if it be incompatible with the general interests of Great Britain, that these Colonies should have protection in her distant, and their own market; it is but justice that she should find for them other Markets on reciprocal terms, where proximity or other advantages would enable them to maintain a Trade by which their existence as British Colonies may be continued.

On motion of William Parks, Esq., seconded by Mr. Edmund Kaye, it was—

6. Resolved, That the welfare of all the North American Colonies would be promoted by their cordially uniting in all legitimate means, to accomplish measures of relief from their present Commercial difficulties; and therefore it is expedient that an Association be formed to be called "The New Brunswick Colonial Association," and that such Association shall by delegation, or otherwise communicate and act with any similar Association which may be formed in this or any other of the North American Colonies; in order to devise some comprehensive and practicable scheme of general relief, to be submitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and that—

Hon. Chas. Simonds; Hon. John Robertson; James Kirk; F. A. Wiggins; George Young; John Wishart; Robertson Bayard; Edward Allison; J. H. Gray; Dr. R. Bayard; J. V. Thurgar; Dr. Botsford; J. M. Robinson; Robert Jardine; Walker Tisdale; William Thomson; and J. W. Cudlip, Esquires—

Be a Committee with power to add to their number, to prepare Rules for the Government of said Association, and that copies of these proceedings be transmitted to the different Towns and Counties of this Province, requesting that they will unite and act in concert with this Association.

St. John Observer.

COMMUNICATIONS.

St. John, July 28th, 1849.

Mr. Editor.—You will no doubt be surprised to learn that Mr. Joseph Coram of Carleton, and Mr. George Anderson, of Fredericton, have been arrested under warrants issued by B. L. Peters, Esq., and were yesterday committed to gaol to take their trial at the next Circuit Court for this City and County, on a charge of being in and forming part of an armed procession on the 12th instant!—You will also be surprised that four others who were in the procession have been arrested, and will be examined to-day, under the same heinous charge! Of course they will be dealt with in the same manner. But what will surprise you still more is the fact that no evidence was adduced against Anderson and Coram in reference to any breach of peace committed by them—no information had been lodged against them, nor did the Magistrate move in the matter until he received a letter from the Attorney General instructing him to do so in positive terms! Is this part of a Magistrate's duty, or part of the Crown Lawyers' duty? I think not. Again, after the parties were examined, Mr. Peters unhesitatingly expressed his opinion that there was nothing established against the prisoners which called for their committal, and that they ought to be discharged, and yet he committed them! It is true that he would have admitted them to bail but for the interference of the new Common Clerk, who assisted at the examination; but that gentleman thought that as the Crown Lawyers had moved in the matter, no one; but a Judge of the Supreme Court had power to take bail; and to that opinion Mr. Peters succumbed.

This, sir, is a case of such an extraordinary nature that we must hazard a guess at the motives of the gentlemen figuring in it, and also at the consequences likely to ensue. Is there any law against processions? No! Is there any law in this country against persons (whether in procession or not) carrying fire-arms for self-protection? No! Is there any law against a man making use of fire-arms when attacked? No! How, then, does the Attorney General dare to cause men to be arrested and thrust into gaol upon this ridiculous charge? He must know that it will end in a farce—that the country will have to bear the expense—and that it will stir up party strife which had better be allayed. But Mr. Wilnot is a vindictive man, and Anderson has honestly opposed him at elections. Professing a christian spirit, he knows not how to forgive, and he is thus guilty of taking petty revenge, although he must know that it will cause his victim merely temporary embarrassment, and be productive of consequences which every good man should abhor.

The Solicitor General is also to blame in this business. He has been in St. John this week, and openly expressed himself to the following effect:—"I'll teach these Orangemen whether it is lawful to walk in procession with arms in their hands, or not!" Poor man! If he attempts to teach Orangemen the law I fear he will but add to the

stock of his ordinary blindness. What has become of his senses? Has the serpent charmed him also? Does he not recollect the rascally attempt made to get rid of him when the present administration was formed? What prevented it? Nothing under heaven but the staunch adherence to him of the Orange party. The Protestants of Carleton, and those of York, both said, "If Mr. Kinnear is thrust out of his office, let him retire from the Council, and we will give him a seat in the Assembly." Let this gentleman now be told that, since he has evinced his ingratitude, and succumbed into a tool of that government that despises him, his fall is inevitable; for his are not the talents which can bear the possessor onward without strong support at his back.

In reference to the conduct of the gentlemen of this place, who have figured in the business, it is merely necessary to say that Mr. Peters is an applicant for the new office of Stipendiary Magistrate, and that Mr. Wheeler has for years been Mr. Partelow's factotum. Hence the facility with which Executive influence has been brought to bear.

I have good reason to know that after the melee of the 12th both parties were content to let the matter drop.—They met, through the negligence, or cowardice of the authorities; they fought, and as the contest was fair they harboured no vindictive feelings after it. But what are the authorities now doing? They are taking steps which must bring the law into contempt—steps which must result in failure, as for instance what jury can say who were the aggressors in individual cases which may be submitted to them—and they are doing more to stir up party strife in this Colony than any thing which ever happened in New Brunswick. Let this be remembered against them.

P. S. Since writing the above, I find that Messrs. Anderson and Coram have been admitted to bail, on the Judge's order. The examination of the other parties have not yet terminated.

I am, yours &c.,

A LOVER OF ORDER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE CARLETON SENTINEL.]

DEAR SIR,

As I perceive you have not had any information how the 12th of July passed off in Prince William, you will therefore please to give the following promiscuous account of it in a corner of your inestimable paper.

According to prior arrangements, the different lodges began to assemble at the District Lodge room, in Prince William, and I must say to the credit of Lodge No. 88, that they walked in procession from the Magundy Settlement, a distance of nine miles, so that the brethren of three lodges were convened at the District Lodge room, at nine o'clock, a. m.; where they were formed in marching order, of two men deep, by the District Master, and marched in procession with colours flying and music playing, to the church in Prince William, a distance from the lodge room of six miles, while the presence of a great number of beans and belles added greatly to the beauty of the procession. When they got within about a mile of the church they were joined by Lodge No. 73, with a beautiful banner, on one side of which was painted a likeness of our Sovereign the Queen in stately array, and on the other, mounted on a noble charger, the Hero of the Bayne; when they got to the church, they were met by the Rev. Mr. Elwell and the Rev. Mr. Tippet; the church, which is quite sufficient to contain 200 persons, was crowded to excess, besides a great many spectators who could not be admitted. The Rev. Mr. Elwell preached a very excellent sermon from 2 John, v. 18, 19. After which the Orangemen were placed in regular order according to the number of their warrants, when the District Master on behalf of the Orangemen returned his kind thanks to the Rev. Mr. Elwell for his praiseworthy services on the occasion, after which the Rev. gentleman responded in brief but affecting terms.

They then marched in procession about a mile, to Mr. Israel Atherton's where they stopped and gave three cheers for our noble and respected Queen, three for our District Master, and three for the British Constitution.—Here the different lodges returned to their respective lodge rooms, where they spent the evening in good order and brotherly love;—Lodge No. 83, on their return to their lodge room sat down to a very excellent dinner prepared by Mr. George Wheeler, at which they were honored with the company of James Taylor Esq. M. P. P.

And now Mr. Editor I have endeavoured to give you a brief account of how the 12th was celebrated in this Parish. In conclusion let me say that I hope the brethren of the order will walk orderly as becometh those to do, to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ, to be instant in season and out of season, for the higher we stand the more heed we should take lest we fall, and as we have been taught sacredly to reverence the pure word of God, and therefore, have been put in mind to be subject to principalities and powers; to obey magistrates; and to be ready to every good work, if an Orangemen do his duty he will never offend any man, let his religious belief be what it may. The Roman Catholics believe that we are banded together against them; but let us assure them that this is not the case.—Our organization is to resist tyrannical despotism, no matter whence its source. I would say to every brother, let truth be your standard; be guided by it in all your intercourse with each other, and with the world; extend charity to all men, and demonstrate by your actions that benevolence reigns in our hearts. I would say to every Orangemen, if we are spared to live to see another 12th of July, I hope we will all meet heart and hand with brotherly love to celebrate the day as it should be; but if it should please kind Providence to call us off this stage of time, we may all be prepared to meet in that happy place where the weary rest in peace.

I remain your obedient and

very humble servant.

AN ORANGEMAN.

Magundy, July 21st, 1849.