

Sultan. The Czar insists that the Polish refugees shall be given up to him, and the Hungarian refugees to the Austrians. He employs no argument in support of his demand, but he says that if his wishes be not instantly complied with he will take hostile measures against Turkey. He requires a short and explicit answer—yes or no. The Polish and Hungarian refugees are at present at Widin, and the Emperor says in his letter that the escape of a single one of these men from the place where they now are he will consider a *casus belli*.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* states that it is the intention of the Sultan to remove the Hungarian and Polish refugees who have taken refuge in his dominions to Constantinople. For that purpose a steamer was despatched secretly on the night of the 15th to Varna, to bring them to the capital, whence it would be easy to send them to England.

IMPORTANT LETTER.

(To the Editor of the Saint John Morning News.)

MONTREAL, Sept. 29, 1849.

Sir—Although but few subjects of mutual interest have heretofore at any time engaged the general attention of the people of the Lower Provinces and Canada, calculated to create strong feelings of sympathy, and establish a common bond of unity, both of sentiment and action, a period is rapidly approaching when the inhabitants of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will doubtless be called upon to co-operate with the Canadians upon a measure of the gravest importance to all parties concerned. The gradual change that has for some months past, been taking place in the tone of our Press, has doubtless in some degree prepared the minds of your people for such an event as that referred to. The Press, however, has been by far too much trammelled by political partizanship to keep pace with the public mind throughout this Province. A system of Government entirely unsuited to the condition and wants of a young and poor country, accompanied by a reckless and profligate expenditure of the public funds at a time when the provincial chest is totally exhausted, would of itself be sufficient to warrant the adoption of strong measures of relief. But when in addition to these evils, the country is thrown into a state of commercial distress, that has reached all classes and threatens something like universal bankruptcy, and that by causes over which as colonies, we possess no control, there can be no occasion to seek for pretexts for coming boldly out and demanding that which alone can afford permanent and satisfactory relief.

My object in writing you is merely to prepare the people of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for a movement of an important nature about being set on foot here, in which they will be called upon to participate. An organization has been commenced in this city, having for its object the separation, by peaceable and constitutional means, of these Provinces from the Mother-Country, with the view to opening negotiations with the United States for admission into the American Union. Upon this question there appears to be an astonishing degree of unanimity in this city, and indeed generally throughout Lower Canada; nationality, religious distinctions, and party feuds, are already nearly forgotten. A more complete and sudden fusion of opposing principles, has perhaps never occurred in any country. The departure of Lord Elgin from Montreal seems to have been the signal for organization. Men, who only a few short weeks ago entertained feelings of bitter animosity towards each other, have suddenly become friends and discuss the question of "Annexation" with perfect coolness. In all probability by the time this reaches you, an address will be published by the Montreal Association calling upon the people throughout British America to lay aside all differences of origin, religion, and party, and join in the grand movement for national independence and prosperity.

In Upper Canada nearly the whole Press in noticing the prospect of a new paper, to be called the Canadian Independent, about to be issued in Toronto, and devoted to the advocacy of this question, have expressed it as their opinion that the connection of these colonies with England, was merely a matter of time—and that Annexation would certainly follow Independence. It therefore only remains to point out to the people of that section of the Province that circumstances indicate the present as the proper time to make a movement in that direction. The comparative value of land and the price of produce on the two sides of the line, is making converts of thousands daily. Indeed it cannot be doubted that even now a large majority of the people of Western Canada regard Annexation as most desirable. When the people of the Lower Provinces shall be called upon formally and seriously to join the Canadians, it is to be hoped the same feelings will guide them on towards unanimity of action, as upon that every thing now depends.

The Ministry and the League will both fall to pieces before the Independence party, unless they chime in either directly or indirectly. Benjamin Holmes, Esq., the colleague of Mr. Lafontaine in the representation of this city, it is rumoured, intends placing himself in a prominent position in the contemplated movement, and will probably resign his seat and be re-elected on the Annexation ticket. The idea of a federal union of the North American Colonies is not entertained by any body of note or standing in Canada. It was merely put forward by the League as a suggestion—not adopted or recommended as a principle. Such a union could be of no practical benefit to any of the provinces. Each one has far more intercourse with the United States than with the others. It would therefore be folly to seek such a union where one offering so many greater advantages already exists, into which we may obtain admission on most favourable terms, by the asking, as soon as we have arranged with England for an amicable separation.

There is much discussion here about the removal of the Seat of Government. It is generally believed that it will be taken to Toronto—it removed from this. Now that all parties seem to be agreed there is no longer any danger of further disturbances, unless the Government should

persevere in their determination to bring the new mounted French Police into town. This corps has been drilling for the last two months at La Prairie, and are familiarly known in the city as the Prairie herd, alias the Elgin guards.

It is more than probable that Lord Elgin will not again visit Montreal. The opinion is daily gaining ground that he will return home shortly, and that the peerage conferred upon him is merely the prelude to his recall. It is to be hoped that he will be the last British Governor General.

STILL LATER.

(Extract of a letter dated Montreal, October 2d, received by a gentleman in this City.)

"Matters are in a strait here, and we are on the eve of great events; indeed the lightning may send this information to you before my slow coach can get cleverly on the road. Lower Canada is ready for annexation, and if the troops were out of this they would kick up a dust immediately. Wilson will soon have his paper out for Annexation. It is to be published in Hamilton, and Toronto, C. W. The Herald, the leading paper here, is taking high ground. Yesterday's number is a twenty eight pounder. A party is now about starting a new Annexation paper in the Courier office—the organ of the high church party.—The French papers are blowing away daily. Papineau is strong for annexation, and his aim is to break down the sway of England and LaFontaine, he hates both cordially. LaFontaine is the Attorney-General, and the present organ of the French party. A late insulting article in the London Times, has had a most wonderful effect in making Yankees out of that half horse material, Colonial Tories. But that is all chaff. A movement is now going on among the leading men here, of which I have been cognizant, for the last fortnight. Several meetings have been held, and a manifesto, an appeal, will be issued to the people of Canada in a few days. It will present the question calmly, and distinctly state the case, and then say that there is nothing left to right us but annexation. It will be signed by 200 of the leading men of Montreal to begin with. The member from this city (LaFontaine's colleague) Mr. Holmes, is one of the leaders, and the most wealthy men the main supporters. Mr. Holmes will resign and go to the people on the direct question—annexation. There is to be a vacancy in Canada West soon, and it is said a candidate will be elected on that appeal. We do not know what the Government will do. They are growing weaker and weaker daily. Lord Elgin will never come to Montreal again. Annexation is now the only subject talked of, and it is said a movement is on foot to disband the Orange lodges, in order to relieve them from their oaths, and there are 30,000 in Canada. The last struggle on this Continent between the shadow of Royalty, and something else, will soon be decided in the minds of the few who still waver. The League will be disbanded, or declare for annexation. We are anxiously looking to see how New Brunswick intends moving in the premises. At all events we expect to have from you a straight forward, honest and manly expression of opinion. Every thing or nothing, is now the watch word of the day in Canada.

RIOT IN PHILADELPHIA.—It is with sincere regret that we record the occurrence of one of the most dreadful and sanguinary riots that has taken place for many years in our city. So far as we have been able to collect the particulars, it appears that a party of men and boys, amounting it is said to several hundreds, and mostly armed with guns, pistols and knives, hovered about St. Mary street, which is chiefly inhabited by colored people, and those not of a decent and orderly class, generally speaking. At the same time, there were several knots or crowds of colored men hanging about, and two or three collisions occurred.

This was the state of things shortly after 9 o'clock.—Before 10, an attack was made on a tavern at the corner of Sixth and St. Mary streets, called the California House. This place was kept by a colored man, who was reported to be married, or at any rate living with a white woman. Whether such was really the case, or merely a rumour circulated to excite popular indignation, it is not in our power to state. At any rate, the house was soon in flames, the inmates driven out and fired upon, with many other persons—men, women and children—who were seen flying from their houses in extreme terror—chased by gangs, who pelted them with brickbats and fired after them with guns and pistols. Several were said to be wounded, and it was stated that more than one was killed; but this report we could not verify.

The assailants are described as being composed of the "Killers" and other and similar associations of disturbers of the public peace. Meanwhile the fire made rapid progress—but several Engine and Hose Companies were soon upon the ground. And here a truly frightful scene occurred. The fireman who went to the conflagration for the purpose of saving property, were fired upon—not in solitary cases, but actually by a running fire—and by volleys of several guns and pistols at once—the rioters being out in a very strong force. They were also assailed with showers of brickbats, and their hose cut in every direction.

In a word, the first companies that arrived were compelled, as the only mode of avoiding wounds or death, to leave the neighborhood. Still the firing continued. It is impossible to tell the number of killed or wounded—but we saw either five or six carried to druggists' shops or to the Hospital, on chairs or settees. We heard that two were shot while standing on an engine—and one was reported to be killed. The most moderate statements that were made at 12 o'clock, admitted that at least twenty were wounded and four killed.

Shortly after midnight, a body of Police forced their way to the scene of action, fire and bloodshed; and while standing in Sixth street, below Lombard, we heard at least a dozen shots fired between St. Mary and South streets, while bricks were showered by the rioters—but as the body of men which we were told were Police, were

not repulsed, it was fair to presume that the rioters had given way. Still the dangerous missiles flew in showers, and at this time, one or two Engines and Hose Companies—the Moyamensing and Hope, as we were informed, were exerting themselves to extinguish the flames.

The whole scene was fearful and mournful—a source of real sorrow to every Philadelphian. At the corners of all the streets, for many squares, were groups of citizens assembled, anxious for the latest intelligence, and mourning over the insecurity of life and property in that portion of our metropolis.—*Philad. Enquirer, Oct. 10.*

LATEST PARTICULARS.—Quiet continued until about 6 o'clock this morning, when the hose of the Morris Hose Company, which was doing service on the scene of action, was cut. This was a signal for the rioters to commence an assault. Brickbats and stones were hurled by them at the firemen, and fire-arms were used with considerable effect, several persons being wounded. The Mayor, Sheriff, and police were soon on the ground, and succeeded in restoring order.

The military, which had been down at the scene of the first riot, had returned upon the restoration of quiet, and it was some time before they could be collected again for the suppression of the renewed disorders. Many delays occurred, and it was nearly nine o'clock when a body of five or six companies, with their ranks but partially filled, marched to the scene of action. The whole were under the command of Gen. Patterson and Col. Bohlen. Their approach to St. Mary street soon became known to the rioters; and by the time they came upon the ground they had disappeared. The companies were assigned positions at the various avenues leading to the scene of riot. The military are provided with ball cartridges, and have full authority to fire, upon any renewal of the lawless and outrageous proceedings.

The leader in this, and indeed in the former riot is said to be a black man, named George Hosey, formerly a head dog-catcher in the city employ—a big, powerful negro.—About noon to-day he was arrested, after making a most desperate resistance. Several other arrests have been made.—*Philad. Bulletin, Wednesday.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN BANGOR.—A destructive fire broke out this morning in store No. 1 Strickland's block, on the west end of Kenduskeag Bridge, occupied by Albert Titcomb, as a jeweller's shop. From thence it extended to the other stores in the block—the whole was consumed, embracing the book store and bindery of David Bugbee, the clothing store of P. Moran, the apothecary shop of Curtis & Perkins, and the shoe store of William H. Flagg.

The entire stock of Messrs. Titcomb, Bugbee, and the principle part of Moran, and Curtis & Perkins' stock were consumed. Mr. Flagg's stock principally saved.

The chambers were occupied by the law office of Messrs Morrison & Bicknell, recently occupied by Jerome's Express, the office of the Maine Telegraph Company, the law office of Prentiss & Rawson. The books and papers of Morrison and Bicknell were lost, except Mr. Morrison's account books. The books, papers and furniture of the Telegraph office and Prentiss & Morrison were mostly saved.

Mr. Titcomb's loss estimated at about \$4000, besides about \$2000 in a safe, supposed to be saved. His insurance \$2000. Bugbee's loss probably about \$12,000, and \$4000 insured. Moran's loss not known. Curtis & Perkins' loss about \$6000, insured for \$3000. Flagg's loss probably covered by insurance. The block, worth about \$5000, belongs to S. P. & H. Strickland, was insured for \$3500 at the protection office.

The adjoining block, known as "Smith's Block," was for an hour or two in imminent danger, but by the vigorous efforts of the firemen it was saved without damage. The stock of Henry Little & Co., who occupied store No. 1 in this block was all removed and saved, but in a greatly damaged state.

A timely shower did much to prevent a further extension of the flames, as the surrounding buildings on the square were thickly covered with cinders.

Titcomb was insured at the Portsmouth Mutual office; Bugbee and Moran at the protection; Curtis & Perkins and Flagg at the Aetna; Messrs Little & Co. at Hartford.—*Bangor Courier.*

HALIFAX BOAT RACE.—ST. JOHN VICTORIOUS.—This long talked of boat race between the Halifax and St. John Gigs, has at length been decided in favour of St. John.—The race was for one hundred pounds aside—although it is considered that some five or six thousand pounds have changed hands privately, many of the Halifax folk betting on our boat. The distance run was between five and six miles, the course was as follows—the starting point was a little above the Dock Yard, and the flag ship of the Earl of Dundonald—then down the Eastern side of the harbour, round St. George's Island, and a boat anchored off the South West end of the Island, thence back again up the harbour in a direct line to the moorings of the Flag Ship. The St. John Gig came in several lengths ahead. The dock yard was thrown open to the public, and within its walls thousands of persons had congregated to witness the manly contest. As soon as the victory was decided ten thousand throats rent the air with hearty huzzas, in which the sailors on board the Wellesly joined, all of them manning the shrouds and rigging. The umpires were Captain Schomberg, R. N., and Frederick Passaw, Esq. The day was observed as a general holiday. No regatta in Halifax ever created such a sensation among the populace before. A military Band was stationed in the Dock Yard, and discoursed most eloquent music during several hours. The crew of the Halifax gig were picked men—they were those who pulled against and beat able oarsmen selected for a trial. So that we may say a second rate St. John crew beat a first rate Halifax crew—for if we be correctly informed, there is another Club in Carleton that can go ahead of every thing in this duck pond. We would now suggest that the victors send a challenge on to one of the crack boat clubs in Boston. If successful try it in New York. Let us go ahead of the Yankees in some way.—*St. John Morning News.*