

in every one of their obnoxious measures. When French tyranny becomes insupportable we shall find our Cromwell. Sheffield, in the olden times, used to be famous for its keen and well-tempered whettles; well, they make bayonets there now just as sharp and just as well-tempered. When we can stand tyranny no longer, it will be seen whether good bayonets in Saxon hands will not be more than a match for a mace and a majority."

6. To persons accustomed to the working of constitutional government in well-ordered communities it may seem incredible that such language should be employed by the organs of any respectable party in reference to a body comprising the freely chosen representatives of a constituency formed on a most popular basis; but the cause of the anomaly is apparent enough to all who are acquainted with the history of Canada. For a series of years the popular representative body and the executive, supported by the legislature council, were, in the lower province especially, in a condition of almost constant antagonism. To revile the one was the surest test of patriotism; to denounce the other, of loyalty. In a society singularly democratic in its structure, where diversities of race supplied special elements of confusion, and where, consequently, it was most important that constituted authority should be respected, the moral influence of law and government was enfeebled by the existence of perpetual strife between the powers that ought to have afforded to each other a mutual support. No state of affairs could be imagined less favourable to the extinction of national animosities, and to the firm establishment of the gentle and benignant control of those liberal institutions which it is England's pride and privilege to bestow upon her children.

7. I am not without hope that a steady adherence to the principles of constitutional government, and the continuance of harmony between the co-ordinate branches of the legislature, may lead in the process of time to the correction of these evils; meanwhile, however, I must ascribe mainly to the cause which I have assigned the tone of arrogant defiance with which the resolutions, not of the Government only, but also of the Parliament, are treated by parties who happen for the moment to be unable to make their views prevail with either, and the acts of violence to which this inflammatory language has in the present instance led.

8. That many persons conscientiously disapprove of the measure respecting the rebellion losses in Lower Canada which has been introduced by the Government, and which the local Parliament has passed by large majorities, and that in the minds of others it stirs national antipathies and recollections of former conflicts, which designing politicians seek to improve to their own selfish ends, cannot, I fear, be doubted. It is, therefore, emphatically a measure which should have been approached with calmness and caution, by all at least who are not directly interested in the issue. Unfortunately, however, this has by no means been the case. Not only have appeals to passion of the most reckless description proceeded from the local press, but they have received encouragement from quarters from which they had little right to look for it. Passages such as the following, in which a London journal of influence treats of the British population as affected by the measure in question, "They are tolerably able to take care of themselves, and we very much misconstrue the tone adopted by the English press and English public in the province if they do not find some means of resisting the heavy blow and great discouragement which is aimed at them," are read with avidity, and construed to mean that sympathy will be extended from influential quarters at home to those who seek to annul the obnoxious decision of the local legislature, whatever be the means to which they resort for the attainment of that end.

9. The scenes by which the city of Montreal has been lately disgraced are the natural fruits of an agitation of this character, operating on a people of excitable temper, who have been taught to believe that a race which they despise, and over which they have been wont to exercise dominion, has obtained, through the operation of a constitutional system, an authority which it could not otherwise have acquired. Hence, more especially, their vehement indignation against me personally; and the conviction, in many cases I doubt not perfectly sincere, that I have been guilty of a serious dereliction of duty because I have not, as my predecessors have often done before me, consented to place myself in the front of agitation to counteract the policy of Parliament. The nature of the constitutional doctrines which practically obtain in this section of the community is curiously exemplified by the fact, that it is not the passage of the bill by an overwhelming majority of the representatives of the people, or the acquiescence of the Council, but the consent of the Governor, which furnishes a pretext for an exhibition of popular violence.

10. When I left the House of Parliament after giving the royal assent to several bills, to which I have referred, I was received with mingled cheers and hootings by a crowd, by no means numerous, which surrounded the entrance to the building. A small knot of individuals, consisting, it has since been ascertained, of persons of a respectable class in society, pelted the carriage with missiles which they must have brought with them for the purpose. Within an hour after this occurrence, a notice of which I enclose a copy, issued from one of the newspaper offices, calling a meeting in the open air. At the meeting inflammatory speeches were made. On a sudden, whether under the effect of momentary excitement, or in pursuance of a plan arranged beforehand, the mob proceeded to the House of Parliament, where the members were still sitting, and, breaking the windows, set fire to the building and burned it to the ground. By this wanton act public property of considerable value, including two excellent libraries, has been utterly destroyed. Having achieved their object, the crowd dispersed, apparently satisfied with what they had done. The members were permitted to retire unmolested, and no resistance was offered to the military, who appeared on the ground, after a brief interval, to restore order and aid in extinguishing

the flames. During the two following days a good deal of excitement prevailed in the streets, and some further incendiarism were perpetrated. Since then the military force has been increased, and the leaders of the disaffected party have shown a disposition to restrain their followers and to direct their energies towards the more constitutional object of petitioning the Queen for my recall, and the disallowance of the obnoxious bill. The proceedings of the House of Assembly will also tend to awe the turbulent. I trust, therefore, that the peace of the city will not be again disturbed. The newspapers which I enclose contain full, and I believe pretty accurate accounts, of all that has occurred since Wednesday last.

11. The Ministry are blamed for not having made adequate provision against these disasters; that they by no means expected that the hostility to the Rebellion Losses Bill would have displayed itself in the outrages which have been perpetrated within the last few days is certain. Perhaps sufficient attention was not paid by them to the menaces of the opposition press. It must be admitted however, that their position was one of considerable difficulty. The civil force of Montreal—a city containing about 50,000 inhabitants of different races, with secret societies and other agencies of mischief in constant activity,—consists of two policemen under the authority of the Government, and 70 appointed by the corporation.—To oppose, therefore, effectual resistance to any considerable mob, recourse must be had in all cases either to the military or to a force of civilians enrolled for the occasion. Grave objections, however, presented themselves in the present instance to the adoption of either of these courses, until the disposition to turn out on the part of the populace unhappily manifested itself in overt acts. More especially was it of importance to avoid any measure which might have had a tendency to produce a collision between parties on a question on which their feelings were so strongly excited. The result of the course pursued is, that there has been no bloodshed, and, except in the case of some of the Ministers themselves, no destruction of private property.

12. The proceedings in the Assembly have been important. I enclose the copy of an address which has been voted to me by a majority of 36 to 16, expressive of abhorrence at the outrages which have taken place in the city of Montreal, of loyalty to the Queen, and approval of my just and impartial administration of the Government with my late as well as my present advisers. Some of the Opposition approve of the course which I have taken with respect to the Rebellion Losses Bill, as appears from the speeches of Messrs. Wilson and Galt, of which reports are given in the newspapers which I enclose. Mr. Wilson is an influential member of the Upper Canada Conservative party, and Mr. Galt's views are the more important, because he has been returned to Parliament only a few days ago by a Lower Canadian constituency which comprises a large British population. Generally, however, as the amendments they have moved to the address show, they desire to avoid committing themselves on this point. The votes against the address may be thus classed—Sir A. McNab and his party; my late Ministers and their party; and Mr. Papineau. The first acts with perfect consistency in voting as he has done on this occasion; for he has always contended that Government conducted on British principles is unsuited to Canada. The course of the second class is less intelligible; for, until the day on which they resigned their offices into my hands, they uniformly expressed approval of the principles on which my conduct as Governor-General was guided; and these your lordship well knows, have undergone no change with the change of administration. Mr. Papineau's vote conveys a useful lesson which will not, I trust, be lost on persons who had been induced to believe that the persecution of which I am now the object, is really attributable to my having shown undue lenity to those who were led by him into rebellion.

I have now furnished your lordship with as clear a statement of these important occurrences as I can give, and I can conclude by assuring you that the city is perfectly tranquil, and that there is no present likelihood of a renewal of disturbances. A few days will show what echo the proceedings of the violent party awaken in Upper Canada, and to what extent they are followed by reaction. Meanwhile, it is my firm conviction, that if this intonation be submitted to, the government of this province by constitutional means will be impossible; and that the struggle between overbearing minorities, backed by force, and majorities resting on legality and established forms, which has so long proved the bane of Canada, driving capital from the province, and producing a state of chronic discontent will be perpetuated. At the same time, I think that if I am unable to recover that position of dignified neutrality between contending parties, which it has been my unremitting study to maintain, and from which I would appear to have been for the moment driven—not as I firmly believe, through any fault of my own but by the unreasoning violence of faction—it may be a question with your lordship whether it would not be for the interests of her Majesty's service that I should be removed from my high office, to make way for one who should not indeed hold views at variance with mine, with respect to the duties of a constitutional governor, but who should have the advantage of not being personally obnoxious to any section of her Majesty's subjects within the province.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN and KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c.

DISASTER TO THE STEAMER MAID OF ERIN!—It is with much regret that we have to record the partial destruction of this fine steamer by fire. Shortly before 1 o'clock yesterday, an alarm was given, and on proceeding towards the Market Wharf, we found the whole of the upper works of the steamer in flames, which spread with great rapidity until she presented a complete sheet of flame.—The most energetic means were, however, adopted to save the boat, and in a short time, so great was the quantity of water thrown into her from the different engines, that the

fire was at length subdued, but not until the whole of her upper works were destroyed, including the Ladies Cabin which was burnt off.

The *Maid of Erin* was lying at the end of North Market Wharf, and was just about starting for Digby when the fire occurred. We learn that Capt. Leavitt, his officers and men saved nothing from the boat, and everything on board, including all the Cabin furniture fell a prey to the flames.

The damage is estimated at about £1000, and we are informed that Messrs. Parks, the enterprising owners, had no insurance.

The fire is said to have originated from the breaking of a jug of American spirits in the cook house, which ran upon the stove, causing instant combustion and spreading with a degree of rapidity which defied all attempts to subdue the flames.

In consequence of this unfortunate disaster, we understand that the favorite steamer *Admiral*, Capt. Hutchins, will renew her trips to this city, which we doubt not will be very acceptable to those of our citizens who are contemplating a trip to Boston.—*New-Brunswick*.

FREDERICTON CATHEDRAL.—The erection of this beautiful edifice has been resumed, and is now rapidly progressing. The porch on the west entrance is already completed, with the exception of the roof, and has a fine effect. The cornice over the arched opening bears the inscription, "Deo et Ecclesie, A. D. 1847," beautifully cut in what we believe is called "Church Text," with the Cipher of His Lordship the Bishop at either end. The foundations of the Tower and Chancel are also laid, and we believe it is expected that the entire edifice will be roofed in during the present season.—*Head Quarters*.

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM TEXAS.

NEW ORLEANS, Thursday, May 24.

The steamship *Globe* has arrived from Brazos Santiago with dates from Brownville to the 16th and Galveston to the 21st.

The express between Brownville and Palo Alto had been attacked by numerous and formidable bands of Camanches, and acts of the most startling barbarity were perpetrated.

The stage at Point Isabel had been intercepted and the proprietor and passengers all taken prisoners.

A train of transport wagons, containing valuable merchandise, had been captured, there being no forces to oppose the plunderers, nor any mounted men at Fort Brown.

The destruction of property is immense. Several head of horses owned by one gentleman were captured and killed.

Women and children were carried off in captivity.

Mr. Dorestes Zamora, a most estimable citizen was among the slain. Mr. Z. has just decided upon becoming a citizen of the United States, under the provisions of the treaty with Mexico. A son of Mr. Z. was also killed, another wounded, and his daughter, about fourteen years of age carried off.

At Rancho, Santiago, two men were killed, and one woman, with two children, taken captive.

From Rancho De Los Indios, Mrs. Wilsey, (wife of Capt. Wilsey,) with her brother and sister-in-law, were taken prisoners.

The aged mother of Mrs. Wilsey followed her children for some distance, regardless of savage menace, and finally the Indians seized her, tied her hands, and pierced her body with their lances and arrows, leaving her upon the ground apparently dead; but the poor woman recovered herself so sufficiently to alarm the neighboring rancho.—She was most shockingly mutilated, and was, at the last accounts, a maniac.

The destruction of property along the Rio Grand, is immense, as many as seventy houses have been burned.

A company of emigrants under the command of Mr. Bangs, had fortunately escaped from the savages but it is stated, that they were reduced to a mutinous condition.

Gen. Abalos, the military commandant at Matamoras has been applied to by the civil authorities of Brownville, for the assistance of a force of mounted dragoons. His answer was that he was ready to furnish all the force and disperse of it, if authorized by the commandant of the Texian Department to pass the frontier. The latter refused.

The Mexican Cavalry in a few hours were well equipped and facing the bank of the river, waiting for sanction to cross.

The whole American population of the Valley of the Rio Grande were in a state of the most extreme agitation.

The accounts from San Fernando, Western Texas, state that Major Berry's party was cut to pieces by the Indians. They were attacked 150 miles beyond the Hacienda of San Juan de Zandas, and all murdered, except one prisoner, five others, the Major, and a Commander from Malverton.

The ravages of the Cholera at San Antonio were awful in the extreme. The number of deaths reaching near five hundred. The disease broke out in the camp of the third Infantry and Quartermaster's encampment on and Salado—

The dead and dying were piled up in the open air unattended.

CHOLERA AT NEW YORK.—Sanitary Committee, Mayor's office, June 4.—Dr. Geer, resident physician, reports 23 cases of Cholera and 9 deaths as having occurred since his report of yesterday; sixteen of which were reported by physicians in private practice, and seven in the Cholera Hospital. Of the deaths, five were reported by physicians in private practice, and four in the Hospital.—*Advertiser*.

NEW ORLEANS, May 29.—The weather is clear; but the cholera still rages and there is much fatality along the Mississippi.