

Colonial News.

Canada.

Quebec Chronicle, April 27.

RIOT IN MONTREAL.—Destruction of the Parliament Building by Fire, &c.—We regret very much to give the news from Montreal, which will be seen at length under our telegraphic head, and also in the extracts from the papers this morning received.

We have invariably protested against the payment of all parties found in arms in 1837 and 1838, opposed to the sovereign, but we confess our disappointment at the extreme measures taken by parties in Montreal, as they will tend to lessen the credit of the Province, and to prevent many from settling in it. We lament the loss of the valuable libraries belonging to both Houses; indeed we are more than ordinarily sorry that the popular fury should have been directed against a building which contained all that was valuable to Canada, to a Legislative or Historical point of view. We are told that the Governor General was hooted and insulted. We cannot approve of even that, yet had nothing else happened, we could scarcely have felt much sympathy for his lordship. It must be to the Government themselves a matter of regret that a measure so obnoxious to the great body of the people, had received his Excellency's sanction. It would have pleased them better, had Lord Elgin vetoed the bill, and so have taken the blame upon himself; and such a course would have raised his Lordship in the eyes of that party who, if we mistake not, have now made necessary his recall. We cannot conceal our surprise that Lord Elgin and his advisers should, after the immense number of petitions against the bill, have determined on giving it the Royal Sanction. We can only excuse his Lordship's doing so on the supposition that the Right Honorable the Colonial Secretary had recommended it.

We regret to repeat it, that so mischievous a demonstration has been made; but we hope it will be productive of some good; and may teach those who shall in future legislate for the country, that it is unwise indeed to resolve upon doing that, which is by any considerable body of the people conscientiously believed to be wrong. All history points out how insane have been such lines of policy; and it is time for us to profit by the lesson. A ministry with a majority such as ours have had, needed not a measure of such magnitude to keep them in their places.

More Rioting.—9, A. M.—Lafontaine's house sacked. All his furniture destroyed. His stables burned.—Hinks, Holmes and Wilson (radicals) houses all smashed.

There is a meeting called to be held at the Camp de Mars, at two o'clock.

It is expected that the Government will endeavor to prevent it. If they do God knows what will happen.

Howard, Mack, Ferres, editor of the Gazette, and Montgomerie, partner of Edmonston, Allan & Co., are in gaol.

Montreal, April 25, 7 P. M.

By Telegraph.—This day, at 5 o'clock, p. m., his Excellency the Governor General proceeded in state to the Chamber of the Legislative Council in the Parliament Building, and gave his assent to forty two bills, passed during the present session, including an act to amend the law relative to duties of customs, and an act for the indemnification of parties in Lower Canada, whose property was destroyed during the rebellion of '37 and '38.

Montreal Herald, April 26.

Notwithstanding the great excitement which had been manifested outside of the Parliament House, after the Governor General's assent had been given to the Rebellion Losses Bill, the house continued in session, passing one or two measures through committee, with more than usual quietness and apparently in perfect confidence. It soon became known, however, that a meeting had been called, and the passing of carriage with bells, accompanied by some persons who proclaimed the appointment, caused a momentary rush to the windows.

About half past seven o'clock, being told that the walls were chalked with announcements that the meeting was to take place at 8 o'clock, at the Champ de Mars, the writer left the House and proceeded to that place.

At the Champ de Mars, a large number of persons were assembled. The Bank and stone steps going up to the Guard House were crowded with persons, who passed towards the front, and bore torches; but below the muster did not seem

so great as the ground they occupied seemed to indicate.

They were for the most part standing in groups at some little distance apart; and it was marked that a great number of females accompanied the men who were present. At the moment the writer reached the ground, some person appeared to be proposing a list of names for a committee; but the lights were extinguished immediately, and another voice addressed the assembly. There was then a cry of "to the Parliament House." The writer immediately proceeded there, and in consequence of the time necessary to enable the procession to form, reached the House some three minutes before the crowd. The doors at this time were locked, but making use of his privilege, the writer entered and passed immediately up stairs to the back of the Speaker's chair, meeting several clerks in the way, who anxiously inquired, 'are they coming, are they coming?'

Mr Price was in the news room the moment the writer passed the stairs of the smoking room, and there was only time to say 'are they coming' when a shower of stones appeared to have smashed every window in the House.

The passage of the house was the only place which afforded shelter from the stones that were pouring in on all sides. The apartments on each side protected that spot from the missiles, and there a large number of persons immediately congregated. We noticed the Speaker, Sir Allan McNab, Colonel Gagy, Messrs. Badgley, Bell, Chauveau, Papineau, Drummond; Madame St. Julien and her maid from the bar, and some other members, and employees of the Assembly. All was confusion. Some said 'they will fire the building,' others 'they are breaking in and will attack us.' Some desired to go up the stairs to the smoking room, but the majority appeared resolved to await the event, and face any persons who might pass through the chamber to the place where they were. Some one now asked 'who would go, and talk to the crowd?' Sir Allan McNab immediately volunteered to do so, and entered the Assembly Chamber for that purpose, but the volleys which were coming thro' the windows made it evident that he could not pass the length of the apartment without a certainty of being knocked down. There was an immediate cry for him to return. About this time it appears that some person entered the House and carried away the Mace, and in all probability there would have been no difficulty in passing through as they retired, and of descending by the great staircase to the front door. But those in possession still continued to suppose the crowd were without, and would refuse to allow them to pass.

The only hope was that the military would speedily arrive. Then some person opened the door of the news room, and raised the cry that the building was on fire. On looking through the glass door, which opens between the passage and the refreshment lobby this was found to be the case. The whole awning was in flames which were fast coming to the wooden gallery.

It was now time to make some effort to escape and risk a broken head, rather than incur the danger of remaining longer. The writer accordingly descended the back stairs to the large lobby below, where several clerks had assembled, and had determined to make a rush at any odds. The truth was however no difficulty existed; they had closed the doors which separates the lower lobby of the House of Assembly from the main Entrance Hall and great staircase, and had thus, like the persons in the passage above, remained in ignorance of the entrance of the men, who had carried off the mace, and the fact that they had left the front door open.

This, of course, they discovered in entering the Hall, and all present passed into the streets. The flames had already enveloped the whole of the building, which is situated in McGill street, and a crowd was drawn up on the front part during the conflagration, which lit up the entire city to the Unitarian Church, at the top of the Hay Market. Some engines were standing in the street, drawn up across the road way at the end of St. Paul's street; but they were not playing, and it was said that the crowd had forbidden them to do so. Mr. Murray, of the Montreal office, had striven ineffectually to get them to work. The wind was blowing a smart breeze, and the whole of the extensive building, in which there was a very large quantity of wood-work, was soon in flames from end to end, so that it was impossible to approach the front.

Then the wind changed the fire across the street, and caught the opposite houses. The house opposite the centre of the

Hall occupied by Mr McCrank was we believe totally gutted, and the whole range between McGill and St. Peter street was for some time in danger. The stores occupied by Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Holmes, Young, and Knapp and other parties, though at some distance from the building, were also for some time considered in considerable danger. Even the Inspector of Potash entertained great fears for his stores, containing many thousand pounds worth of goods, in consequence of the large quantity of burning paper which was carried by the wind towards that building. From the same cause some injury was done to the Grey Nunnery, which however was of little consequence.

We understand that the insurance on the public property destroyed amounted to £20,000; but a still worse loss, because irreparable, is that sustained by the destruction of the libraries of the Houses which contained books of which only a limited number have been printed, and which of course no money can restore to the world. With them it is to be feared have perished a large portion of the Public Records of the Province, another loss which will be felt throughout the country.

The Pilot office was visited in the course of the evening, and the windows smashed, but no other misdemeanor was done there.

The Parliament Building is completely gutted, nothing but the walls standing.

8 o'clock, P. M.—There is still a good deal of excitement in the city, consequent on these proceedings.

The sittings of Parliament have been resumed at the Market Hall.

When the Governor General came out of the Parliament House, from signing the bills, the people pelted him with eggs.

Rumour says he is at St. Helen's Island but nothing certain is known.

Montreal, April 26.

Yesterday afternoon, at about half-past five o'clock, the Royal Sanction was given to the Rebellion Bill. No previous notice has been made, and the public was taken entirely by surprise. Still some slight suspicion was excited at the last moment, and when his Excellency entered the Chamber of the Legislative Council at 20 minutes after five, a good many spectators had assembled. The part set aside for ladies, was, however, quite empty. There was a large number of bills assented to, and some seven or eight had been gone through, before the Rebellion Bill was come to. The title was read by the clerk in the same monotonous tone as he had read the others in, and then the assent was given in the usual form without anything, except a slight movement among the spectators, to indicate that anything extraordinary or out of the usual way had taken place. The news, however, spread like wildfire.

A number of persons rushed from the House, and carried the intelligence thro' the city, and in a very short space of time a considerable crowd had assembled in front of the building, where the excitement soon became intense. On His Excellency coming out, he was received with a shout of groans and a few cheers, and as his carriage drove away, a number of eggs, and some pieces of snow, were thrown at it. We are told that one of the former struck Lord Elgin on the breast; but the driver whipped on his horses, and the vehicle was soon out of the way of harm.

And so has been completed this most iniquitous measure, which has filled and will continue to fill the country with shame and indignation.

We may observe that the manner in which the Bill was thus attempted to be smuggled into full existence, is of a piece with the whole of the proceedings from the beginning.

Riot and Burning of the Houses of Parliament.—About 9 o'clock last night, while the House of Assembly were engaged discussing the Jurisdiction Bill for Lower Canada, a loud shout, mingled with yellings, gave the members unmistakable evidence that a riot was fermenting outside, and before a moment had elapsed, a number of stones were driven through the windows. Several members rushed behind the Speaker's Chair, and the stones continuing to be thrown incessantly, all the benches were promptly deserted by their occupants, as well as the stranger's galleries, many of the members flying up the stairs leading to the library. During this scene, the only member visible was Mr Stevenson, who had placed himself in one of the benches fixed between the windows, and who sat and eyed the havoc created, with the spirit of one who seemed determined not to flinch from his post. Presently the stones, which were for some time thrown only

from the front of the building, began to enter the house from the back, and before five minutes elapsed, few squares of glass were left unbroken in the whole range of building.

A slight cessation in the work of destruction occurring, several of the members entered the house, from both lobbies; but the rioters outside not content with what had already been done, commenced a fresh attack upon the building, from all sides, and the house was again completely cleared, there not being even one solitary member left, and the stones continued to enter through the now shattered windows, falling on each side and centre of the hall, with fearful force and violence.

At last the cry was raised from the library end of the building, "they come," and those who had taken refuge in that locality, rushed furiously along the centre of the hall and disappeared by the door behind the Speaker's chair, the lobby at that end being crowded with members and clerks.

Immediately after this about a dozen persons entered the Assembly Hall, from the Library end, armed with sticks, one of whom boldly walked up the steps and seated himself on the Speaker's Chair, while another stood on the steps and looked round the Hall, muttering something about dissolving Parliament. The others then commenced the work of demolishing all that came before them, but the lights from the ceiling of the Hall not being within their reach, sticks were thrown upwards at the glass globes till they were broken in pieces. The other gas globes speedily shared the same fate. One of the parties then visited the front row of the House, striking all the papers to the floor with the end of a stick; and after him came another even more determined on destruction, who tore the benches up, throwing some of them into the centre of the floor, jumping on them and breaking them into pieces.

The splendid Mace belonging to the Assembly, and which from the House being in Committee, lay under the table, caught the eyes of one of the party, who speedily brought it from its place, and marched off with it over his shoulder.

Quebec Chronicle, April 30.

Rumours are abroad, says the Montreal Transcript, that riots occurred at Toronto, Kingston and Quebec, on receipt of the intelligence by telegraph of the riots in this city. * * * * It is said that the houses of Messrs. Baldwin, Blake and Price, at Toronto, as well as the Parliament Houses at Toronto and Quebec, are burnt, &c.

It is not to be denied that the news of the royal sanction having been given to the Rebellion Losses Bill, and the occurrences, which took place in consequence, produced the greatest excitement here—indeed nothing else is spoken of since—and it is a fact that on Friday evening Lord Elgin was burned in effigy in the Place d'Armes in the presence of many people, the police and military; but it is far from true that the Parliament House was burned, for it still stands unscathed.

Subjoined is the account given by the Montreal Gazette of the meeting and doings in that city on the 25th and 26th April, after Lord Elgin's assent had been given to the bill for the payment of the Rebel Losses:—

Tremendous excitement ensued. The city turned out its thousands into the streets, and at eight o'clock they assembled on the Champ de Mars, to the number of five or six thousand. But all was perfectly regular and peaceable. The chair was taken by A. Heward, Esq., and the following resolutions were moved and carried.

Moved by Mr H. E. Montgomerie. Resolved, That this meeting desires to re-iterate the opinions of the meeting held in the Bonsecours Market, on the evening of the 17th February last, relative to the Rebellion Losses Bill, considering the principle of the measure as one designed to reward the disaffected and to punish the loyal, and therefore as altogether unconstitutional.

Moved by Mr Esdaile. Resolved—That this meeting deeply deploras the outrage which has this day been committed against their feelings as British subjects, by the act of the Legislature in passing the said Bill, without affording the people an opportunity of expressing their opinions thereon at the hustings, and in total disregard of their respectful petitions and remonstrance against it.

Moved by Mr J. M. Ferres. Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the act of the Earl of Elgin, in sanctioning the Rebellion Reward Bill, is a betrayal of the high trust committed to him by his Sovereign, the tidings of which will be received by every loyal man throughout the British Empire, with indignation and disgust.

Moved by Mr W. G. Mack. Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draft a Petition to a committee be appointed to draft a Petition to Her Majesty the Queen, respectfully praying Her Majesty to recall the Earl of Elgin, and immediately quiet the minds of the people by disallowing the said Rebellion Reward