

Acton Free Press

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 19, 1877.

The Tragedy in Montreal.

The melancholy occurrences at Montreal on the 12th will be deplored throughout the whole Dominion. That men should be shot down in cold blood on the public street of a Canadian city, in broad daylight, for the offence of protecting a woman from violence, is a fact which must stir the indignation of every right-thinking law-abiding citizen. If the ghastly fact were not staring us in the face, it would be deemed incredible that such an outrage could have been perpetrated in our country. It is deplorable indeed that religious and sectional animosities should be carried to such terrible extremes, and that those who are the means of inciting the prejudices and inflaming the passions of others to an extent which leads them to break down the barriers of law and order, have upon them a grave responsibility. The cry of innocent blood rises from the ground against them, and if they are not legally convicted, the cannot survey the corpse of the unfortunate man Hackett without an unaccountable sense of a share in the responsibility for his murder. The conduct of the Mayor and officers of the peace is such as to call for the severest censure. It is a disgraceful fact that the Mayor and Magistrate of Montreal, on an occasion which clearly gave warnings of violence and bloodshed should have deliberately withdrawn from the public street protection which the machinery of the law placed solely in their hands, and that such protection was only afforded by the interposition of the Dominion government. We should be very sorry indeed, and very unjust, to attribute the blame to the instigation of the Catholic body. Both the Bishop and the leading Catholics of the city of Montreal did their utmost to restrain the passions of their people, and to prevent any interference with the proposed Orange procession. The bloody deeds were perpetrated by ruffians over whom no church can impose a controlling influence. They are only to be kept in order by the strong arm of the law, and that arm was paralyzed by the criminal inaction of Mayor Beaudry. So far as the Orangemen were concerned their forbearance is deserving of every credit. They waived actively their right to march in procession at all, and attended church few in numbers and singly, or in small groups. They afforded no provocation for the outrage perpetrated, and have met with a poor reward indeed for their courage and self sacrifice which they displayed in the interests of peace and concord.

War Notes.

The position of affairs in and around the Balkans is assuming a critical aspect for the Turks, and in the region of the Quadrilateral the latter also appear to be sorely pressed. Twenty-two thousand Russians have crossed the Balkans, and their forces dot the country for miles on either side of the substantial barrier. From present indications the Russians appear to have three points of attack on Rumelia. A great battle is reported to have been fought twelve miles from Yeuil Baghira, in which the Russians were defeated and driven back into the Balkan fastnesses. In Bulgaria, between the Balkans and the Danube, the Russians occupy the road from Bels to Terzestine, and are gradually closing up around Hunchok. The capture of Nikopol, which is now in ashes, has proved a most important advantage to them, as they are now able to secure their base of supplies, and to hasten the transportation of troops, as well as supplies, by unimpeded crossings of the Danube over new bridges to be constructed in that vicinity. In the west the Russians are also marching upon Widin, and their advance guard, when last heard from, was at Lon Palanka, thirty miles by road from that place. In the east the Turks have abandoned the Tchernavoda and Kustendji line of defence; Medjidie and Monogolia have fallen into the hands of the Russians, and the latter are now south of Silistria, which will be blockaded by cutting the Quadrilateral in two and protecting communications with the Danube. The disastrous news from the Balkans has had such an effect upon the Sultan that he is now reported to incline favorably towards peace, and even to have given Wanyk Pasha, at Stimula, instructions looking to negotiations for a termination of hostilities. The Sultan is clamorous for the proclamation of a holy war, but this the Porte has declined until the Russians threaten Adrianople, an event which, from present appearances, is by no means distant. From Asia come the important intelligence that all the tribes of the Caucasus have risen in revolt against Russia, and have captured the Russian General in command near Kars, is entreaching himself at Burakdara and awaiting an attack. Should he be defeated

The 12th in Montreal.

There is a strong feeling against the Mayor because he has not asked the assistance of the military, but contents himself with the ordinary police force. Mr. Stephen J. Meany states authoritatively, on behalf of the Irish Catholic Union, that it acknowledges that the Orangemen have kept their compact in good faith, and it disclaims all connection with the idlers and rowdies who provoked the act, and that it does not hold itself liable for the acts of men outside of their body. It is stated by a member of St. George's Society, that a proposition has been under consideration among some of the members of the national Societies, at whose request the procession was withdrawn, to show respect to that act and their protest against the outrage which has disgraced the city by attending the funeral of the young man who was murdered. The Orangemen met on Thursday evening, and passed resolutions to the effect, that in consequence of what has occurred they can no longer place the slightest reliance upon a profession of peace and good will that may be made in any period be addressed to them, and that they shall take such measures as will effectually protect them from the assaults of cowardly and blood-thirsty ruffians, and they shall not be bound to observe the right to parade the streets of Montreal in the same manner as other societies; also that they hold the Mayor to be in the highest degree culpable of all the evils that have occurred, and morally guilty of the murder perpetrated in our midst.

THE TWELFTH IN MONTREAL.

(From the Montreal Star, July 12.) Upon the calmest consideration of the events of yesterday, and in view of the enormity of the disgrace cast upon the fair name of Montreal, it is hard, indeed, to coolly review the shameful disorders perpetrated under the very eyes of authority, we cannot so strongly condemn the inaction which was observed from the first, by those in whose hands was reposed the care of the public safety. Ample warning was given of the probability of the day, but no preparatory steps were taken to keep the streets clear and obviate the chance of a collision, were taken. The Police force, as a fact, was held back until murder had been committed, and the mob held possession of the streets, and even then, when representative citizens waited upon the Mayor, and asked him if he had made any further arrangements for preserving the peace of the city, they were told: "We are sorry all we can do is to have good order preserved by the duly appointed civil force, the Police," and when the Chief of Police, an officer whose hands appear to have been tied all day, stated positively that he needed military force to assist his limited organization, he was told by the Mayor that he was not inclined to call out the military. The deputation was treated cavalierly, the Police Superintendent snubbed, and despite the volume of force actually at hand to repress disturbance, it may be said that the mob was wantonly allowed to take possession of the city, and work its nefarious will unopposed. The citizens of Montreal will not, we are sure, allow such trifling with an immense responsibility to pass unregarded, but will call to a proper account whoever is chargeable with the prolongation of a period of disorder.

The Foreign Crop Report.

LONDON, July 12.—The Mark Lane Express weekly review says the yield of hay is good, which does not promise so well, and there is not likely to be more than half a crop of barley. Beans and peas are doing well, and the imports of foreign wheat into London continued large, and although the arrivals from Northern Russia are less, the action of Germany and India has prevented the weekly receipts from indicating any decrease of importations. The stock of wheat in London on the 30th June was 300,000 quarters against about 180,000 quarters on the 31st of March, and for the same period the stocks of flour and oats show also a slight increase, while barley has decreased some 20,000 quarters. The estimated stock of wheat in the principal ports shows a diminution of over half a million quarters on the stocks in June, 1876. At Havana great dissatisfaction exists among the people, and business failures are numerous. An Englishman who is clever at anagrams has amused himself by transposing the names of "Disraeli" and "Gladstone," which somewhat appositely resolve themselves into "I lead, Sir," and "G leads not."

Pen and Scissor Selects.

South America has had another volcanic eruption. Wheat mostly harvested in Essex. Splendid crop. The temperance reform movement has reached Halifax. Colorado bottles have been found in large quantities on the Dublin docks. The Governor General will not leave Ottawa for Manitoba until the 30th inst. Upwards of 200 persons have taken the pledge under the Mirthly movement in Whitby. The Russian Government is purchasing large quantities of cotton in the United States. Not many people visiting Niagara Falls this season, but it is lower St. Lawrence is crowded. From all quarters of Ontario come tidings of a plentiful harvest. Look out for good times in the fall. It is asserted that a Mrs. Cox, of Holderness, N. H., aged 101 years, has whooping cough for the first time. Two or three fresh revolutions in South America. These South American republics are never happy save when in a row. The Grand Encampment of Old Fellows will meet at Belleville on the 31st inst., and the Grand Lodge of Ontario on the following day. The Perth Express learns that a parrot has attacked the grasshoppers about Lombardy. It bore a hole under the wing and kills them. It is disheartening to hear that the complete autobiography and confession of John D. Lee, the executed Mormon Bishop, will be profusely illustrated.

The Foreign Crop Report.

So many guests were at a London wedding recently that the ceremony was repeated for the diversion of those who had not witnessed the first performance. The Pickering, Reach, Schu, 900, and Port Perry bylaw, granting \$90,000 to the Toronto and Ottawa Railway, was carried last week by a majority of 273. The Hamilton papers record the death of Mr. Field, an old and respected citizen, and for many years a member of the well-known firm of Field, Davidson & Co. The Whitby and Port Perry and Lindsay Extension Railway will be formally opened on Tuesday, 31st inst. There will be a grand gathering on the occasion. The Grand Lodge of British Templars in session at Halifax, has resolved to resign from the United Temperance Association, and become a Provincial Lodge of that Association. Burlington has shipped this year by express, 1,650 cases, 90, 100 quarts of strawberries, most of which went to Toronto and Montreal. About as much again was sent to the Hamilton market. Two deaths are said to have been caused by the Spanish flu in the Cincin Niles district of Cuba. At Havana great discontent exists among the people, and business failures are numerous.

A DOUBT MURDER.

Last week the people of Owen Sound were shocked to hear that Mr. George Amer and his son were in custody on the Manitowish Island, on a charge of shooting a neighbor named Bryant and his son, and thereby causing their death. The cause of the sad occurrence was a quarrel between the parties of long standing. Their properties adjoined and were separated by a fence. This fence was either blown down by the wind or thrown down by the Bryants, who then complained of Mr. Amer's horses trespassing on their land and doing damage to their crops. Mr. Amer, it is said, on the one hand of the damage done, and threatened to impose his horse if he did not pay for the damage done by them. This notice Mr. Amer paid no attention to, and accordingly they (the Bryants) carried out their threats, and fired their guns. Upon Amer going for them, he was refused, when both he and his son fired, killing the father and mortally wounding the son. At the Coroner's inquest the jury brought in a verdict of "Willful murder" against George A. Amer and Label Amer, and they have been committed for trial. A school case of considerable importance was tried at the Huron County Court recently. It was an appeal from a conviction by two magistrates, in which a parent was fined five and costs for not sending his child to school. The child, twelve years of age, to school for at least four months in the year, or otherwise providing for his education. The conviction was affirmed, but no costs were given, as the law was new, and the present case was the first in which it could be got into what the colored population call a "trance," and in this apparently happy condition passed from earth. The Galt Reporter says: The wheat harvest in this part of the country will be on immediately. In fact, some cutting has already been done where the grain ripened unevenly. The crop prospects, so far as wheat is concerned, are now pretty well assured, and will be the best gathered for some years.

Annexation Talk.

The Boston Globe, discussing Mr. Blaine's speech at Woodstock, wherein he touched upon Mexican annexation, says: "Mr. Blaine threw out certain hints regarding the desirability of annexation in opposite quarters, and this has led to some serious discussion of the benefits which might come from adding the Canadian Provinces to our domain. The chief gain would be in the matter of a specially good thing for Canada: They say that the people of the Provinces are for the most part of our blood and speak our language, and are sober and industrious. There would be no objection to them if they wished to come, and the probability is that they would be glad to avail themselves of the advantage, but are not disposed to make overtures. Now we have never seen the slightest intimation that the people of Canada desire to join our United States, or would treat any overtures in that direction with anything but resentment. 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