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Canadian Rights and Canadian Independence.

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PUT DOWN THE TYRANTS!

They never fail who die in a great cause; The block may soak their gore, Their heads may sicken in the sun—their limbs be strung to city gates And castle walls, but still their spirit walks abroad; Though years elapse, and others share as dark a doom. It but augments the deep and sweeping thought Which empowers all others, and which conducts The world at last to freedom. BYRON.

People of Canada! Remember that the blood of martyrs in the cause of FREEDOM calls aloud for vengeance at your hands.

ORIGINAL BIOGRAPHY.

NARCISSE GREGOIRE was the son of Mr. Nicolas Gregoire, of the Parish of Ste. Marguerite de Blairfindie in the county of Chambly. He was born in the year 1814, and was brought up by his father to agricultural pursuits. His education was limited to the station he was destined to occupy in society. From early youth he was always distinguished for his superior intelligence, and for his benevolent kindness. When he became of age he inherited a considerable property, and made it his special duty to be economical, and frugal in his way of living. His exertions during the elections of 1834 were unceasing in favor of the radical party, and to his activity, combined with that of many other influential reformers, the successful candidates of the county of Lacadie, who were pledged to carry out the great principles laid down in the celebrated 92 Resolutions of the House of Assembly, owe their election. Since that time Mr. Gregoire although a very young man, has manifested a degree of activity in political affairs very uncommon in young men of his age and of his profession. His conduct was such that he always maintained an honorable reputation, and he wielded great influence over all with whom he became acquainted. His hatred to British government was equal to his love of country; and when an occasion presented itself to display the one or the other, he never failed to do it. When Lord Gosford in his imbecility and vacillating policy, dismissed several Militia officers and Justices of the Peace, because they had attended public meetings which had censured the divers acts of his tyrannical administration, and the unconstitutional and despotic conduct of the Imperial authorities towards Canada, Mr. Gregoire with many of his countrymen feasted with pleasure at a public dinner, those noble minded and persecuted men, who preferred losing their commissions under the British government rather than prove traitors to their country's cause. When the people were driven to rebellion in Nov. 1837, by the mad schemes of Lord Gosford's foolish advisers, Mr. Gregoire was mindful of his pledge to his country, and nobly did he redeem it. He was one of the first who proclaimed and advised resistance in the County of Lacadie, and had not fortuitous circumstances conspired to prevent, he would have been among the first to draw the sword for Canada. Unfortunately, owing to some misunderstanding, the County of Lacadie did not act in concert with the brave Patriots of St. Dennis and St. Charles, and the fatal consequences are yet felt throughout the province. Had the Counties of Lacadie and Chambly moved together, according to the expectation of some of the leading men, the fate of British dominion would have been sealed forever in the Canadas.

After the total and complete discomfiture of the patriot party, it became necessary for Mr. Gregoire to be on his guard, so as not to be apprehended. He remained concealed for a long time, when through the influence of some friends he managed to return peaceably to his home.

As soon as he found that there was another chance of freeing Canada, he lost not

a single moment in enrolling his name among those who were willing to spill their blood to redeem their unfortunate country from British oppression. Not only was he willing to inscribe his name among those who were ready to make any sacrifice whatever to chase from their once happy homes, the enemy who was bringing desolation and ruin upon them, but he was also true to his word; and braving death under whatever form it might present itself, he was willing to spill his blood for the dear and beloved land of his birth.

When the alarm was sounded at an early hour on the morning of the 3d of November last that two of the most influential patriots of the Village of Lacadie had been arrested the night previous, Mr. Gregoire instantly mounted his horse and rode to a certain place to advise with a person that he knew to be there, and with whom he laid new plans for the coming night. Although many seemed to be disheartened, because every thing was not going according to their wishes and in strict conformity with the orders previously received, yet Mr. Gregoire was always cool, deliberate, and full of courage, and by his superior management he succeeded in putting the whole affair in tolerable order again. To his deliberate and dispassionate judgement, and to his extraordinary activity as well as to his well merited influence, a great deal of credit is due, for allaying the wide spreading confusion in the Parish of Ste. Marguerite de Blairfindie on the morning of the 3rd Nov. His whole mind was bent on encouraging those who seemed to show signs of fear, and restraining the ardour of the impetuous, who wished instantly to be revenged upon their enemies for the new insults which had been offered them the night previous in the arrest of Messrs. Ranger and Bouchard, and in the barbarous and murderous outrages perpetrated that same night at the house of Col. Gagnon upon the person of his unoffending mother-in-law, and his young children. Mr. Gregoire was busily employed the whole day, and when the proper hour had arrived, the signal was given and the people rose in arms against a faithless and corrupt government, which had never ceased to ill-treat them.

Mr. Gregoire accepted the appointment of Captain, to which certainly no one was more entitled than himself. He was promptly on the ground with his company at Napierville on the evening of the 3d November, resolved to conquer or to die. He commanded the respect of all who witnessed the ability with which he fulfilled the important duties that devolved upon him. His influence over the men under his command was unlimited. He was naturally a very mild man, yet he could show sternness and severity when the case required it.

On the morning of the 6th November, Capt. Gregoire received orders to proceed under Col. Gagnon to Rouse's Point, to escort from thence arms and ammunition to Napierville. The party, to the number of forty horsemen left head quarters about nine o'clock A. M., and arrived at Lacolle at the house of Mr. George Hay, after two hours march, where they were joined by the men under the immediate command of Brigadier General Touvrey, who numbered 60. The whole party marched towards the line, and when they had proceeded as far as the celebrated Stone Mill of Lacolle, they were attacked by a party of volunteers who had taken possession of the Mill, some neighboring barns, and a small thicket of bushes. During the engagement which lasted about 10 minutes, none showed more courage and decision of character than Capt. Gregoire. He was every where encouraging his men. By the undaunted courage and cool judgement of such men as Capt. Gregoire and Captain Joseph Morin, whose biography we have given in No 16, the loyalists were forced to give way before the patriots in spite of their strong entrenchments. In chasing the enemy no one was more zealous, or more actively employed than Captain Gregoire; he was constantly urging his men to give no rest to the enemy,

but to pursue them with the utmost alacrity. And so hotly were they pursued that Capt. Gregoire soon found himself at the Provincial line, beyond which a great number of the loyalists had taken refuge.

As soon as the main body of the patriot band had arrived, they encamped on British ground near the line, expecting that during the night the principal object in view would be accomplished, and that they should next morning, with a considerable acquisition of men and arms, take up their line of march to join the main body of the patriot army, which was at Napierville. But the vigilance of the enemy had been awakened, the AMERICAN SPIES* were on the move. The notorious DAN-FORD MOTT and his crew of despicable wretches, were using and mis-using every means in their power to prevent arms and ammunition from being sent to the patriots, and a sloop loaded with these necessities was seized by this tory, this pretended Democrat, this republican officer. All impediments possible were thrown in the way of the patriots, and it was under such circumstances that day light overtook them while they were yet on the line. By this rascally manœuvring on the part of American officers, the enemy had gained time to collect their forces and prepare for battle. They received reinforcements from the counties of Beauharnais and Missiskoui, and when their numbers had increased to 600 men, they again attacked the patriots, who, although they had been reinforced, could muster only 161 undisciplined men. These had however a six pounder which was discharged 6 or 8 times with deadly precision, managed by Gen. Bryant, when the ammunition fell short; the remainder of the ammunition being on board the sloop above referred to, the gun was necessarily silenced, and soon fell into the hands of the enemy.

It was during this desperate struggle between a small body of determined men with but a small quantity of ammunition and all supplies cut off, who were fighting for freedom, and a large body of slaves, wearing the badges of British subjection, who were well armed, well equipped and well disciplined, that many acts of heroism were displayed on the part of the Patriots. Among the Heroes of the day the name of Captain Gregoire stands high. His position was very much exposed, he knew it; he felt that the conflict was a desperate one; but honor and patriotism were dearer to him than life. "My life" said he to a friend near him, "is nothing in the scales of freedom; I am ready to spill my life blood fighting against the enemies of my country." It was not a long while after he had pronounced these remarkable and patriotic words, when a ball struck him in the chest and he fell to the ground mortally wounded, but yet he encouraged his men not to yield. A friend came immediately to help him, and raised him from the ground. A dreadful hemorrhage from the lungs greatly impeded his speech, but he was distinctly heard to ask—"How do we stand? Oh, my unfortunate country! are you again unsuccessful in repelling your tyrannical foe? I am dying, God have mercy upon me! I am gone." These were the last words he uttered, and a few seconds after he was a corpse. Such was the death of a brave hero who in the political struggles of his country had shown himself a real lover and admirer of true Republican liberty and who, when the time arrived to fight for it, did not fear to expose and sacrifice his life on the battle field in support of those principles which he had so sincerely professed when there was no appearance of danger. How many great men and patriots there were, who, when there was no danger to be apprehended, were very loud and eloquent in their denunciations of British despotism, but who are now reduced to contemptible silence, either in their own country or in a foreign land. But the names of true patriots will live for ages to come, whilst the names of cowardly agitators will sink into well deserved insignificance.

* Webb, Morehouse, Cady, M'Callum, Priest, Dugas, Capt. Porter and many others.

JOURNAL OF A POLITICAL PRISONER.

[Translated for the North American.]

(CONTINUED.)

2nd July.—Lord Durham who, as I have already said, was expected as the great liberator of the country, has been at Quebec for more than a month. Many believed that as soon as he arrived, he would clear the jails, yet, up to this day there is no such thing. He appeared to be totally undecided between his desire to set at liberty the state prisoners and the fear of displeasing the British faction. Perhaps however he was waiting for the prisoners or the people to beg from him the Amnesty he had a right to grant, but self-respect would never allow the prisoners to humble themselves so much as to beg for pardon, whilst they still considered their resistance to the government justifiable; and their friends were too much afraid of compromising the fate of the prisoners to sign a petition for an amnesty.

Things were in this state when on the 18th June, Colonel Simpson from Coteau du Lac, well known by many of us, arrived from Quebec, and wished to see seventeen of the principal prisoners of which he had a list. They were—Drs. Kimber, Simard, Lacroix, Gauvin, Masson and Wolfred Nelson, with Messrs. Bonaventure Viger, DeBoucherville, Des Rivieres, Oimet, Dumouchelle senior, Girouard, Simeon Marchessault, Goddu, Boucher Belleville, Bouchette and Coursolles. He told us that his mission was not official, but that his object was to arrange business in such a way as to leave Lord Durham at liberty to grant an Amnesty, which was so much desired by all. For this purpose he wished that some of those whose names he had given, should sign a memorial of which the following is a copy. He assured those who would sign it that there was no evil to be apprehended by them in signing this document.

MONTREAL NEW JAIL, }
JUNE 18, 1838. }

MY LORD:—You came among us with a character not of a class—not of an order—but of yourself;—a character that entitles you to our confidence and we yield it. Do not imagine our minds are subjugated because our persons are under restraint, or that we seek, by an unmeaning compliment to conciliate your favor—we would not—we will not propitiate unworthily to obtain clemency for ourselves. We belong to our Country and make the willing sacrifice on the altar of her Liberties.

We rebelled, my Lord, but start not at the avowal. We rebelled neither against Her Majesty's Person or Government, but against Colonial mis-government, and we abide the issue—the penalty is ours.

Had your advent been earlier, it had been blessed—it will be blessed. If our efforts are the cause of your coming we have effected what we sought to effect—the happiness of our country, and we murmur not.

Had your advent been earlier, mis-government had ceased—justice would have triumphed—the laws would have been administered faithfully & impartially—grievances would have been redressed, and we had happily beheld a government commanding at once the confidence and affections of all.

We remonstrated—we were derided—the Press assailed us with calumny and contumely—invective was exhausted—we were goaded on to madness, and were compelled to show we had the spirit of resistance to repel injuries, or be doomed a captive, degraded and recreant people. We took up arms not to attack others but to defend ourselves. Did the government put us down, or attempt to put us down? No! If it did not encourage, it tolerated the attempt—we will not say—we will not think, why. The country became excited—the people wretched & then reckless.—Lord Gosford, by Proclamation, invited back to their homes the inhabitants that had fled. Did the magistrates give effect to his beneficent views in this respect? No! the tools were set. Did they not issue

Warrants indiscriminately against all who had used their birthright as British subjects to canvass public men and public measures? Thus, my Lord, we were goaded into resistance, not less by the authorities than by the violence of that class of the people opposed to us in politics. We wish, however, to forget as well as to forgive.

You come without limits to your power—with views unincumbered, with honor untarnished. High in the councils of your country and ours, your voice can reach the Throne.

Ardent in the pursuit of Civil Liberty, you can feel for a people animated by the same principle, but deprived of the same advantage. We felt and we deplored the violation of our constitution—we struggled not for independence; we laboured only to maintain the true spirit of the British Constitution and British Liberty.

We desire not to distract your Lordship's attention from the great and glorious objects of your high mission. We will not occupy your time by supplicating for ourselves, nor embarrass your Lordship with attempts to avert our fate. We desire to avoid all the ceremonies of a trial, convinced as we are of the impossibility of obtaining an impartial tribunal, before which we should have nothing to fear. We wish to tranquilize the minds of a generous and confiding people. We pray thus to be allowed to establish peace and order. We implore no mercy for ourselves. We would not shock your high and noble mind by any act unworthy the dignity of man. We have ties, my Lord, that render life as dear to us as to your Lordship, and yet we cannot ignobly invoke even your Lordship's sympathy.

As a parting prayer, however, we supplicate for the restoration, to liberty and to society, of the rest of our unfortunate fellow-prisoners, as well as the recall of the fugitives, in the firm conviction that they will one and all shed the last drop of their blood in defence of a Government that can appreciate and uphold the rights of its subjects, however remote their abode from the seat of the Empire.

We pray God for the success of your Lordship's peaceful mission, that worshipping one God, the people may become one people, and imitating your Lordship's example, in repudiating as we ever have done, all distinctions of origin, we hope for the future, this our wish as hitherto our endeavour may be crowned with success.

We pray, my Lord, that you may be recognized as the saviour of this distracted country, and long enjoy the domestic happiness our fate denies to us.

We implore God's blessings on your Lordship and, if there be guilt in high aspirations, we confess our guilt and plead guilty.

(Signed.)

Wolfred Nelson,	H. A. Gauvin,
R. S. M. Bouchette,	T. Goddu,
Bonaventure Viger,	R. Des Rivieres,
S. Marchessault,	L. Masson.

To the Right Honorable the Earl of Durham, Governor-General, &c. &c. &c.

These eight gentlemen only would consent to sign the memorial; at the same time they wrote the following letter to Mr. Simpson, wishing him to submit it to the Governor together with the memorial.

Montreal jail, 18th June 1838.

DEAR SIR,—We the undersigned beg from you that you would take charge of the address herein inclosed for our noble Governor-in-Chief. We are desirous that you should do us the honor to present it yourself to the Governor.

In taking this step, we believe it our duty to express openly that it is not our intention to submit in any manner whatever to a certain ordinance passed by the Special Council of the Province, which we repudiate as contrary to the principles of justice and honor, which ought to be the basis of English laws.

We are actuated by motives far more honorable in leaving, as we do, Lord Durham the sole judge of our political acts.

It is our express desire that this dis-