

make. In a few minutes the church itself was obscured by the volumes of smoke thrown out; and at the same time that the insurgents were escaping, the troops marched up and surrounded the church. The poor wretches attempted to get away, either single, or by twos and threes; but the moment they appeared a volley was discharged, and they fell. Every attempt was made by the officers to make prisoners, but with indifferent success; indeed, such was the exasperation of the troops at the murder of Lieutenant Weir, that it was a service of danger to attempt to save the life of one of these poor deluded creatures. The fire from the house soon communicated to the church. Chenier, the leader, with ten others, the remnant of the insurgents who were in the church, rushed out; there was one tremendous volley, and all was over.

By this time many other parts of the town were on fire, and there was every prospect of the whole of it being burnt down, leaving no quarters for the soldiers to protect them during the night. The attention of every body was therefore turned to prevent the progress of the flames. Some houses were pulled down, as to cut off the communication with the houses in the centre of the town, and in these houses the troops were billeted off. The insurgents had removed their families, and most of their valuables and furniture, before our arrival; but in one house were the commissariat stores, consisting of the carcasses of all the sheep, pigs, &c. which they had taken from the loyal farmers, there was a large supply, and the soldiers were soon cooking in all directions. The roll was called, men mustered, and order established.

The night was bitterly cold; the sky was clear, and the moon near to her full; houses were still burning in every direction, but they were as mere satellites to the lofty church which was now one blaze of fire, and throwing out volumes of smoke, which passed over the face of the bright moon, and gave to her a lurid reddish tinge, as if she too had assisted in these deeds of blood. The distant fires scattered over the whole landscape, which was one snow-wreath; the whirling of the smoke from the houses which were burning close to us, and which, from the melting of the snow, were surrounded by pools of water, reflecting the fierce yellow flames, mingled with the pale beams of the bright moon—this altogether, presented a beautiful, novel, yet melancholy panorama. I thought it might represent, in miniature, the burning of Moscow.

About midnight, when all was quiet, I walked up to the church, in company with one of Sir John Colborne's aid-de-camps: the roof had fallen, and the flames had subsided for want of further aliment. As we fire, we heard a cry, and on going up found a poor wounded Canadian, utterly incapable of moving, whom the flames had just reached, in a few minutes he would have burned alive; we dragged him out, and gave him in charge of the soldiers, who carried him to the hospital.

But what was this compared to the scene which presented itself in the church! But a few weeks back crowds were there kneeling in adoration and prayer; I could fancy the Catholic priests in their splendid stoles, the altar, its candlesticks and the ornaments, the solemn music, the incense, and all that, by appealing to the senses, is so favourable to the cause of religion with the ignorant and uneducated; and what did I now behold? nothing but the bare and blackened walls, the glowing beams and rafters, and the window-frames, which the flames still licked and flickered through. The floor had been burnt to cinders, and upon and between the sleepers, on which the floor had been laid, were scattered the remains of human creatures, injured in various degrees, or destroyed by the fire; some with merely the clothes burnt off, leaving the naked body; some burnt to a deep brown tinge; others so far consumed that the viscera were exposed; while here and there the blackened ribs and vertebrae were all that the fierce flames had spared.

Not only inside of the church, but without its walls, was the revolting spectacle. In the remains of the small building used as a receptacle for the coffins previous to interment, were several bodies, heaped one upon another, and still burning; the tressels which had once supported the coffins serving as fuel; and farther off were bodies still scathed by fire, but frozen hard by the severity of the weather."

**SPEECH OF GOV. THOMSON—OPENING OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UPPER CANADA—Dec. 3.**

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

In discharge of the duties of Governor-General of British North America, confided to me by our gracious sovereign, I have deemed it advisable to take the earliest opportunity of visiting this province, and of assembling Parliament.

I am commanded by the Queen to assure you of her Majesty's fixed determination to maintain the connection now subsisting between her North American possessions and the United Kingdom, and to exercise the high authority with which she has been invested, by the favour of Divine Providence, for the promotion of their happiness, and the security of Her Dominions.

It is with great satisfaction I can inform you, that I have no grounds for apprehending a recurrence of those aggressions upon

our frontier which we had lately to deplore, and which affixed an indelible disgrace on their authors.

If, however, unforeseen circumstances should again call for exertion, I know from the past, that in the zeal and loyalty of the people of Upper Canada, and in the protection of the Parent State, we possess ample means of defence, and to those I should confidently appeal.

I earnestly hope that this state of tranquillity will prove favourable to the consideration of the important matters, to which your attention must be called during the present Session.

It will be my duty to bring under your consideration, at the earliest possible moment, the subject of the Legislative Union of this Province with Lower Canada—recommended by her Majesty to the Imperial Parliament. I shall do so in full confidence that you will see, in the measure which I shall have to submit, a fresh proof of the deep interest felt by the Queen, in the welfare of her Subjects in Upper Canada; and that it will receive from you that calm and deliberate consideration which its importance demands.

The condition of the Public Departments in the Province, will require your best attention. In compliance with the Address of the House of Assembly of last Session, the Lieut. Governor appointed a Commission, to investigate and report upon the manner in which the duties of those Departments are performed. The Commissioners have already conducted their enquiries to an advanced stage; and the result of them will be communicated to you, as soon as they shall be completed.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.*

I am commanded again to submit to you the surrender of the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown, in exchange for a Civil List; and I shall take an early opportunity of explaining the grounds on which Her Majesty's Government felt precluded from assenting to the settlement which you lately proposed. They are of a nature which lead me to anticipate your ready assent to their removal, and to the final settlement of the question."

Well may you speak, Mr. Poulett Thomson, of the "Commission to investigate and report upon the manner in which the duties of the public departments are performed." You knew well that the whole scheme was a complete humbug, invented to impose upon the public. You was aware that this Commission which was to investigate and report upon the public departments, was composed of the Executive Councillors, the Vice-Chancellor, the Inspector-General, two members of the Legislative Council, four Judges of the Queen's Bench, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, one Colonel of militia, the Queen's Counsel, the Dean of the College of Upper Canada, a rector of the church of England, the Civil Secretary, the Clerk of the Court of Chancery, and a man named Hopkirk, the only one in that commission who receives no pay from the Government. You knew very well, Mr. Thomson, that the president of that commission, Mr. Sullivan, was a defaulter to the government in his agency for the public lands, to the sum of more than \$28,000. You knew well that the commissioners appointed by Sir George Arthur were all interested in concealing their corruption and robberies of the public money; and yet, Mr. Poulett, you come forward and boldly (because you knew well the duplicity of the body you was addressing—you knew well it had been elected by fraud, and did not honestly represent the people of Upper Canada, and you knew well also that the great majority of the members of that House were corrupt and perverse men, and were seeking offices,) and told that House that the commission would soon report. We ask Mr. Thomson, what kind of report can be expected from a commission, composed of men interested in concealing from the public eye their own defalcations. We see, Sir, that you are not more honest than your predecessors.

**A QUANDARY.**—The authorities of the New York state prison, at Sing Sing, are in a dilemma about a little black baby prisoner they have got there. It is about six weeks old, and was born in state prison at Auburn, during the imprisonment of its father and mother, from whence it was removed with its mother, the father remaining at the former place. What may they legally do with the child? that is the question. He cannot be liberated without due process of law, yet there is no law authorizing his imprisonment; neither can a nurse-child be lawfully separated from its mother. It appears to be a knotty case, and we should think the easiest way to dispose of it would be for the governor to pardon the mother forthwith. If not, we apprehend it will puzzle the courts most plaguily, if it once gets into them.—*Bull. Sun.*

**TEXAS.**—The British government has not acknowledged the independence of Texas. Mr. Daniel O'Connell having set his face against the recognition, in consequence of their being no express provision in the constitution of the young republic against slavery.—Texas has already been recognized by France.

**A KNOWN SINNER** placed himself on the "anxious seat," at a late camp meeting, and when asked if he was prepared to turn to the Lord, replied, "No, but I am anxious to get place in the custom house."

**RATHER BAIKY.**—A young Jonathan took it into his head one day to get a wife. He accordingly looked about him and very soon made such a selection as suited him, and was not long in striking a bargain and settling the preliminaries. He applied to a clergyman to perform the ceremony. "But are you prepared for such an important change in life?" said the clergyman. "I guess I be," says Jonathan, "for I've got my land *een jett* paid for, and own a good yoke of steers and a cow." "Very well," said the holy man, with a long breath and a sober face, "all those worldly things may be very proper in their places—but have you never thought of salvation?" "*Sal-Vation*," says Jonathan, who in thunder is she?"

Shun the company of bar-room loafers, political brawlers, bedbugs, fleas, and other vicious characters.

**IO U** are the vowels which create more disagreeable sensations in the minds of all honest men, than all the rest of the alphabet together.

Dr. Burdell of N. York, in a letter to Dr. Alcott of the city of Boston, says, "not a case of the sick headache has ever occurred within my knowledge, except with the drinkers of tea and coffee; and not a case has failed of being cured on the entire renunciation of them."

The New Banking Law of Vermont presents some novel features. There must be security on bond and mortgage by the stockholders to twice the amount of their stocks—and one half of the capital must be actually paid in gold and silver before commencing operations, not to be withdrawn. This we should think would pretty effectually wind up banking in Vt.—*Exchange.*

**NORTH AMERICAN:**

SWANTON, DECEMBER 18, 1839.

**LIST OF THE FRENCH CANADIANS THAT ATTENDED GOV. THOMSON'S LEVEE.**

(CONTINUED.)

**66** **ANDRE OUIMET.**—This man was PRESIDENT of the "Sons of Liberty," of which so much has been said and written. We have now before us the *Franklin Gazette*, of the 6th Dec. 1837, published at Fort Covington, N. Y. in which appears the famous address of the "Sons of Liberty," signed **ANDRE OUIMET, PRESIDENT**, for holding which office he was arrested early in the month of Nov. 1837; he remained in jail till July 1838. We give our readers an extract of that address; it will enable them to form an estimate of a man who could sign such a document, as President, in 1837, and in the present year is found bowing and scraping before a British Governor. It is as follows: "The present degraded position of our country, being the result of three-quarters of a century of warm devotion to British connexion, and of mistaken reliance upon British honor, it would be SLAVISH and CRIMINAL to confine hereafter our resistance to simple remonstrances. The wicked designs of British authorities have severed all ties of sympathy for an unfeeling mother country. A separation has commenced between parties, which will never be cemented, but which will go on increasing, until one of those sudden and unforeseen events, which attend the march of time, affords us a fit opportunity for assuming our rank among the independent sovereignties of America.

Two splendid opportunities have been lost. Let us not be unprepared for the third. Is it possible, Andre Ouimet, that you, who signed such an address in 1837, could in so short a time after prostitute yourself at the feet of the representative of that same government you wished to upset in your oppressed native soil? Were you honest when you signed that document? Was it your cowardice that brought you to such a prostitution, or were you naturally a traitor to your country's cause? Bring to mind the day that you left Dominique Mondelet's office, because he had forsaken the cause you so strongly professed to cherish! Two respectable Tory Jews, lately passing through Burlington, spoke of you and your com-

rade, little George Et. Cartier, in the following terms: "We respect a consistent patriot, even though he has taken up arms against us; but we despise most heartily those low and miserable wretches who, while they suppose the patriots have the advantage, shout "Success to the patriots, and down with the English Government," but the moment their old friends are routed, annoy us with protestations of fidelity and loyalty to the British crown. We spit in the faces of such knaves as George Cartier and Andre Ouimet."

Governor Thomson could not but feel highly pleased at shaking hands with the Ex-President of the "Sons of Liberty," more especially as that individual had once entertained such friendly feelings for the power of Great Britain in Canada. Departed spirit of the noble and generous Duquette! if thou couldst but witness the base and degraded conduct of the President, how indignant must be thy feelings? Thou hast suffered on the scaffold for the maintenance of those principles that Andre Ouimet had signed with his own hand, while he, the vile creature, after having been treated in the most contemptible manner by the English Government, crouches before that power whose iniquities and injustices he had so well exposed in the address of the "Sons of Liberty!!!"

**67.** C. S. Rodier, an ignoramus of the first kind; once a shopkeeper in St. Paul's Street, Montreal, and afterwards a wholesale merchant; he is brother in law to Paul Joseph Lacroix, before noticed, and was a very zealous patriot until 1836, when Lord Gosford set his patriotism at rest by making him "Commissioner for the trial of Small Causes," for the city of Montreal, accompanied also by the appointment of Justice of the Peace. He is one of those French Canadian magistrates who, in company with the most honorable, and now the great martyr, D. B. Viger, signed an address in the fall of 1837, to the Canadians, desiring them to keep quiet, and not take any part in the UNNATURAL rebellion then going on against her Majesty's sacred authority. For his apostasy, Sir John Colborne made him something in the Commission for estimating the losses of the loyal subjects in the two last rebellions. He is a complete renegade, whose name is a bye-word of ridicule. With E. M. Leprohon, whom we described in a preceding number, he voted in August, 1838, as a grand juror, to bring a true bill of murder against Messrs. Nicolas, Dautais, and the two Pinsonnault, as being concerned in the Chartrand affair, and also against the venerable Captain Jalbert, for the murder of Lieutenant Weir at St. Denis. Those were the only two Canadians base enough to comply with the views of a sanguinary Government.

**68.** Jacques Viger. This man it appears is not satisfied with having brought his country to ruin by his apostasy, but again thrusts his important self on the public. He is dead to shame. The reader must be informed that this Mr. Viger is a cousin of the Hon. L. J. Papineau, now banished from Canada, and cousin also of L. M. Viger, who was twice imprisoned by the English Government. He is related to Mr. D. B. Viger, who is yet kept in durance by the English Government. As many as ten of Mr. Jacques Viger's relations were persecuted by the hypocritical Lord Gosford, whom he devotedly supported. He was a staunch radical as long as the House of Assembly required his services as witness before its divers committees, and as long as he could resent an injury received from Lord Dalhousie in 1828, by depriving him of his commission as a militia officer. But the administration of Lord Gosford worked wonders in the spirit of those who were willing to sell themselves, and Mr. V. all at once became a firm supporter of the English Government. He is Inspector of the Roads of Montreal, for which he receives a salary at the disposal of the magistracies. He is a fit match for his cousin, the holy Bishop of Montreal, noticed as No. 1. "Birds of a feather," &c.

To be continued.

**DESCRIPTION OF DR. BRIEN,**

Whose treachery sent 12 of his brethren to an untimely grave, and 58 into far distant slavery. Dr. Brien is a French Canadian, 23 years of age, of slender form, about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, round shoulders, bends forward, and carries his head down. His features are small, eyes

dark blue-grey, forehead high and broad, hair sandy and much curled, crown bald, and has an enquiring suspicious look, speaks broken English and good French.

We are informed that Brien is now in the City of New York. His description is given for the purpose of putting Canadians and Americans on their guard against his treachery in future. We hope every paper with whom we exchange will copy this, so that he may reap that scorn and contempt which is so justly due him.

**THE HON. FRANCOIS QUIROUET AGAIN!**

It will be recollected that in November 1838, this execrable old wretch, in order to shew his absolute subservency to the blood-hounds of Colborne, *quirouetted* his near relation and intimate friend, C. Drolet, Esq., who had sought a temporary asylum under his roof, and sent him, as he thought, to certain death. This paragon of loyalty, whose tyrannical sway the quiet, moral, and peaceable inhabitants of the village of St. Gervais have long endured, has lately been dragged from his residence and brought before a magistrate to answer to an accusation of rape, alleged to have been committed under the most revolting circumstances. The facts sworn to were so shocking that this loyal magistrate, although his *confere*, was reluctantly compelled to hold the honorable Legislative Councillor to bail. He will therefore, perhaps stand a mock-trial in March next; I say perhaps, because with a judiciary such as exists now in Lower Canada, such loyal and devoted servants are sure of impunity.

Really when one considers the corrupt materials of which that den of miscreants called the honorable Legislative Council was composed, it is not surprising that they have involved the unfortunate Canadians in their present insuperable difficulties. How could the British government, who nominated and appointed the members of that important branch of our Legislature, exhibit such monstrous ignorance of the character of the men to whom they entrusted the destinies of so important a part of the British dominions? or rather how indignant must the ministers have been towards their nominees, to have, for more than twenty years, shut their ears to the complaints of an injured people, claiming deliverance from oppressions as clearly proved as incontrovertible evidence can make them. The mere facts that Sir John Caldwell, Baronet, Receiver-General of the Province of Lower Canada, held a seat in the Legislative Council more than ten years after he had been convicted of having robbed the province of \$800,000, and that he shamelessly discussed the several provisions of the laws to repress dishonesty! that the Hon. W. B. Feltus continued to form part of that illustrious body, long after his numerous frauds in the land department, of which he was chief, had been detected; that the Hon. Judge Kerr, who was dismissed from the Bench some years after his impeachment by the House of Assembly, for corrupt and tyrannical conduct in the discharge of his high functions; that the truly honorable Francois Quirouet, whose ignorance is only equalled by his imbecility and baseness, was appointed to the Lower Canada Senate, to reward him for having acted as Lord Blymer's spy in the House of Assembly, of which he was a member—I say even these few facts are enough to shew the character of that body and the benefits that the people could derive from it. The fact is that nothing was expected to flow from so depraved a source but injustice, and an obstinate opposition to every measure tending to alleviate the sufferings of the people by checking the rapacity of the public servants who composed the majority of the Council, and were, consequently, interested in perpetuating the growing abuses.

If another trait were wanting to complete the likeness of the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, we find it in the readiness, nay, the eagerness, with which the men who betrayed their compatriots were received into that body. No sooner had a man proved himself unworthy of the

\*The verb "to quirouet" was introduced to perpetuate the unexampled treachery of the Hon. F. Quirouet who received his relation and friend into his house, when pursued by the Police of Quebec, and from what he could find out in conversation with the man, who trusted to his friendship, made out a warrant for high treason, and got his relation arrested under his roof and sent to the gibbet.