

solle have the case in hand, and a reward of \$500 has been offered for such information of their whereabouts as will lead to their recapture. Detective Sheehan, the officer to whom the execution of the warrant was entrusted, was placed on his trial yesterday before the Police Commissioners, charged with neglect of his duty in the non-execution of the warrant, and with knowing, but refusing to divulge, the place of concealment of the robbers,—having taken money from them as an inducement to remain silent. The written order of Mr. McNabb, forbidding the re-arrest of the parties, was a sufficient answer to the first accusation, and no evidence is being given to sustain the other charges, the Commissioners dismissed the case. This mysterious case is getting more and more involved. It is the general opinion that there is much transpiring behind the scenes in this connection of which the public are not informed. The powerful argument of money has, it is said, been used, or attempted to be used, by both parties; and I have it on good authority that the prosecution offered a large amount—said to be \$10,000—if the police magistrate would commit. Had any of our officials been dishonestly inclined, the case offered them such a chance of making money in the shape of bribes as rarely occurs; but so far as has transpired their integrity has been sufficiently strong to stand the test.

It is intended by the directors of the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway, to appeal to the rate-payers of Toronto for a subsidy of \$250,000, which there is little doubt will be readily voted for the construction of a work so beneficial to the city. Nothing would have a more powerful effect upon the municipalities which are to be asked to contribute than the practical proof of the sincerity of the Toronto people. The directors have announced their intention of carrying on the work in division, the first section of the line to be proceeded with being that portion situated between Toronto and Arthur, or, perhaps, Mount Forest. The 1st of January, 1870, is named as the time when they expect to have this portion of the road in working order. The Presidency of the Board, lately held by Mr. H. S. Howland, has been conferred on Mr. J. J. Gordon, of the firm of Gordon, McKay, & Co., a leading dry-goods house, and Messrs. R. A. Harrison and S. B. Harman have been placed on the directorate.

There have been several deaths of late caused by intemperance, under circumstances of the deepest misery and sorrow. One of these cases, which occurred on Friday last, it was thought that Mrs. Lee, the deceased, had come to be ended through violence, and some parties were arrested in consequence; but as the medical testimony negatived this conclusion, they were discharged.

Reformers are jubilant over the failure of the overtures made to Mr. Aikins by the Coalition Ministry, and his refusal to accept the vacancy in the cabinet. The premises and equipment of his having done so made by the *Telegraph* is chinked over by the *Globe* in very gleeful style. If the government do not succeed in inducing a reformer to enter the Ministry, the Coalition will be practically at an end, however the semblance may for a while longer be maintained.

The *Globe* is to come out on Saturday next enlarged in size, and reduced in price. An evening edition is also to be issued, which will be the same size as the enlarged morning paper, and also sold at two cents. The animus of this move is apparent, the intention being to crush out the *Daily Telegraph*, which, becoming older in its opposition, has dared to "bark the lion in his den," and issue a morning paper in competition with the great *Globe* itself. The latter has capital and the advantage of possession in its favor, while the *Telegraph* has hitherto been conducted with more energy and enterprise, and is looked upon as a representative of "Young Canada" ideas. I should be sorry to see it succumb to the influence of a monopoly, but if it becomes a question of who can afford to lose the most money in publishing a paper, the *Globe* can hold out the longest. It would have been better had each confined itself to a sphere of its own; and had the *Telegraph* been content to remain an evening paper, this ruinous competition would have been avoided.

CONVENTION OF FRENCH-CANADIANS AT SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

A meeting of French-Canadians was held at Springfield, Mass., on the 7th instant. It was called to consider their position in the States, and to devise means for the preservation of French-Canadian nationality, &c. About 800 delegates were present, including some from Canada, all of whom presented a respectable and business-like appearance. The meeting was held in Fallon's Hall, Union street, which was very handsomely decorated with banners, evergreens, &c., and a band of music was in attendance to enliven the proceedings. The chair was temporarily taken by Mr. A. Mounette, chairman of the county organization, having the mayor of Springfield, Mr. Winchester, on his right; and Mr. Leboeuf, delegate from Cohoes, on his left. Among those present were Mr. Green, of the Springfield Republicans; Mr. Cadieux, Mr. Roy, Mr. M. Lanctot, Jalige Dean, of Detroit, and others.

The temporary chairman opened the proceedings with an able and practical address, in which he set forth the object of the convention, showing what had been done and what still remained for them to do. He concluded by saying:—"It is our duty to unite and form an imposing organization to show to other nationalities that the Canadian exist here in great numbers and influence; to obtain respect from all for our mother tongue, our religion, and our national costumes. Long live Canada, who gave us birth. Our friends there have not forgotten us, since they have sent representatives here. The Canadians always and everywhere show themselves to be a respectable people. We have nothing to do, and don't wish to meddle, with the business of our neighbors when we are not called upon to do so."

The chairman then introduced Mr. Winchester to the meeting. He (Mr. W.) said:—"To say that I am surprised at this imposing assembly would not be expressing my feelings. I had heard before of the noble attachment of the French to their race. It gives me pleasure to proclaim the honor you have done to Springfield. We are always ready to have our public records and country visited and examined by all who may desire to do so. I cannot forget that the best friend of our immortal Washington was a Frenchman, and from the very foundation of our country to the late struggle against rebellion, Frenchmen, natives of Canada, fought side by side with our noble soldiers for the flag of their adopted country. For their services I now, on behalf of the city, thank them. Canadians and all foreigners are admitted to our privileges—they can choose their own rulers, make their own laws and execute them. To their children all the public schools are accessible."

Mr. Winchester took his seat, amidst overwhelming applause. Mr. Leboeuf, who was elected President of the Convention, spoke in response to the mayor's welcome. He alluded with pride to the names of Lafontaine and Ruchambert, and also to the 60,000 Canadians who served the country during the war.

Mr. Mederic Lanctot, being called for, addressed the Convention on the merits of the cause they were engaged in,—that of raising themselves up to a position where they could claim their rights in this country. He believed it best to work and to educate the public mind here and in Canada till all should demand that the measure of annexation be carried out. He thought it best to earn liberty by laboring and waiting for it. He was repeatedly interrupted by applause, and sat down amid loud cheering. Other speakers delivered eloquent addresses, and in the evening another session was held. The hall was crowded, and several respectable French ladies were present.

Mr. Roy was called for, and answered to the call in some appropriate remarks, of which the audience expressed their approval by frequent applause. Then the real work of the convention commenced, and after some discussion the following resolutions amongst others were adopted:—"That a society of Canadians be organized in each locality."

That the paper *Le Protecteur Canadien* be recognized as an organ of the Canadians in the United States.

That all political questions shall be excluded from this organization.

That encouragement should be given to the formation of St. Jean Baptiste Societies in the United States.

To encourage the formation of Temperance Societies amongst the Canadians.

For the establishment of French schools, and the help of all Canadians.

It was past midnight when the resolutions were finally adopted. After this session, the delegates partook of a sumptuous repast at Ban's dining room, where speeches and songs enlivened the proceedings. When your correspondent left, Mr. Lanctot was addressing the audience. He was received with enthusiasm.

Yours, &c., A CANADIAN DELEGATE.

THE LATE "DEAF AND DUMB" CONTROVERSY.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

Sir,—I hope you will pardon me for troubling you again so soon upon this subject, when the public have hardly recovered from their surprise at the doings among the deaf and dumb of Montreal; but the fact is, that I have been favored with two queer epistles since the appearance of my last communications, and, which I have no desire to conceal from the public, and from your obstinate foe,—the *True Witness*,—who has been so zealous in defending the supposed writers of these epistles, and attacking and contradicting me in the face of uncontrovertible facts. For the edification of your readers, with your kind permission, I will publish the two letters. No. 1 runs as follows:—

"Thomas Widd vous note s'ice dans montreal l'ave montreal soon vous tell lifes about le holy Catholicque vous ma emery. i shoot vous soon."

The signature to this letter is a coffin, on which is the head of a strangulated individual, and under which is written in the same hand "widd."

Epistle No. 2, which came to me three days after its predecessor, and which also was stamped, and bore the Montreal post-mark, was a coffin, on which was a skull and two bones, to imitate the picture of death. Under this ominous sketch is my name—"Widd." Alongside the coffin is a dagger, on the blade of which is "death" written in a bold, clear hand.

The enterprising detectives of Montreal were put to work to ferret out the writers of these letters. They were supplied with a deal of information and the names and addresses of certain individuals, whom I strongly suspected, and who openly declared their intention of putting me hors de combat by foul means. The detectives appeared to persevere in the search, and brought me the gratifying intelligence that one of the persons most suspected—to whom every one that knew him gave a bad character, and who was understood to hail from the States, and attended the meeting in the house in Margaret street—where the plot against me doubtless originated—had migrated. This pacified all my fears, and I felt quite satisfied with the detectives' vigilance and skilful management of the affair; but, this good opinion of the Montreal detectives did not last long, for I was amazed to meet this very individual in Notre Dame street, returning from his work as usual! Moreover, I further learned, from a private source, that the poor, ignorant deaf-mutes were more violent than ever against me, and the whole staff of the *Daily Witness*, for bringing to light the pernicious teaching of their "learned and holy" instructor.

Now, Mr. Editor, I think this shows that a lamentable state of ignorance prevails among

th as poor outcasts, and the Catholic teachers deserve a sweeping censure at the hands of their superiors and the public generally, for they (the teachers) well know that my real object is to benefit my fellow-creatures in misfortune in an intellectual point of view, and, for this purpose, "bink a voyage across the Atlantic; but these "blind leaders of the blind" will not see it nor will they allow others to do so. They falsely accuse me of trying to overthrow the Roman Catholic school at the Mile End, and busily circulate this accusation, causing me to be looked upon as the "Wickedest Man in Montreal," in the eyes of the Catholic deaf-mutes, and many of the Catholic people,—especially the *True Witness* and its diligent readers; while your valuable paper and staff of employes are regarded as the "offspring of the lower regions!" Such expressions are not my own, and I might quote a deal more that has recently been propagated at the meeting-house in Margaret street.

If my humble endeavors to benefit mankind brings a reformation in the teaching of the deaf-mutes in Montreal, I shall be amply compensated for the trouble and risk I have undergone. The long years that have passed since the opening of that "religious service" in the Roman Catholic Bishop's school-house have their record; and the public may now conjecture the amount of abuse and slander showered upon Protestantism by these speechless recipients of benevolence.

Yours respectfully, THOMAS WIDD. Montreal, Oct. 2.

OPENING SERVICES OF RUSSELL HALL, MONTREAL.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

Sir,—In the month of May last, you inserted an account of the laying the corner-stone of this building, by Major-Genl. Russell, O.B. You will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that, by the blessing of God, the Hall has been completed and set apart for public worship. All the services are under the auspices of the First Baptist Church.

Russell Hall is situated on St. Catherine street, a little east of St. Lawrence Main street, and was opened on Sunday, September 20th just four months, to a day, after the laying of the corner-stone. At 7 o'clock a.m., there was a prayer-meeting for one hour—a goodly number attended,—including nearly all the Sunday-school teachers. At 11 o'clock a.m., the Rev. J. Donovan, late of Glasgow, preached an impressive sermon; at 3 p.m., there was a Sunday-school gathering, at which short addresses were delivered, and singing by the children; T. James Claxton, the Superintendent, presiding. At 7 p.m. the Rev. J. Alexander, pastor of First Baptist Church, conducted a very interesting meeting, when the Rev. C. H. Emerson, Missionary connected with the Hall, took part, and the Rev. D. McPhail, of Ottawa, gave a thrilling account of the remarkable revival now in progress at Clarendon and Thuroso, on the banks of the Ottawa, in which Lieut. Dunlop and Lord Cecil are the principal workers. Notwithstanding the day being wet and stormy, all the meetings were well attended.

On Tuesday, the 22nd, there was a Sunday-school tea-meeting, when 300 children were present, and about 75 adults.—Joseph Richards, Asst. Supt., presided. A pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation to Mr. Claxton (Supt.), by the teachers, of a beautiful frame containing the photographs of all the officers and teachers (33 in number) who are associated with him in the labors connected with the Sunday-school, as a token of their affection for him, appreciation of his efforts in the school, and a pledge of their continued support.

On Thursday evening, the 24th, there was a public tea-meeting, when the Hall was filled to its utmost extent. It was a very interesting and profitable occasion. All these meetings were characterized by a hearty unanimity, earnestness, and deep religious interest.

I will now give you a short description of the Hall. It is built of brick, with stone facings in the front, giving an air of comfort to its outside appearance. The front is quite attractive. Over the entrance, in large gold letters, is the name—"RUSSELL HALL,"—and a list of all the public services to be held in the Hall: Sunday, preaching morning and evening, S. School at 3 o'clock; Thursday evening, prayer-meeting. Its size is about 76 x 40 feet. It is divided into five apartments; in the front are two rooms to be used for library and a bible-class room. The central room is 40 x 45, and very tastefully decorated. At the end of the building are two rooms; one used as an infant-class room, with circular, raised seats, which will accommodate 100 children; the other, used as the pastor's Bible-class room, which will hold about 70;—the whole building to seat about 500 persons.

The school for which this building is now erected was commenced nearly seven years ago, with 8 teachers and 23 scholars. It continued with varied success until within the last two years, when a marked progress had been made. The attendance, last Sunday, Sept. 27th, being the first session held in the Hall, was, in the infant class, 90; in the rest of the school, 194;—33 teachers and officers,—total 317.

This shows what can be done by earnest Christians, heartily and cheerfully co-operating with each other, having but one object,—leading the dear children to Jesus; only one desire, to work for our blessed Master; one motive, love to the Saviour. The teachers hope, with God's blessing, in a year to have the building filled with scholars. Looking back at the progress made, with continued harmony, and nothing to interfere with its present efficient working, and with the continued cordial support of the Church thus far bestowed, there is every probability of their hope being realized. Several of the scholars have been converted during the past year, baptized, and added unto the Church. We hope and pray that soon many more of them will give their hearts to Jesus, and follow Him.

The cost of the land was about \$2,000, and of the building, furnishing, and residence for the Missionary, \$4,000. D. B.