

SCRAPS BY THE WAY.

MY DEAR SIR:—As I said in my last, we arrived at Pictou on Thursday, the 2d instant, I believe, and as the steamer Pocahontas was to sail next morning for Charlottetown, P. E. Island, five of us resolved to embark in her, while a sixth pushed on to Halifax, as his time was more limited than ours. The weather was beautiful, and we enjoyed the sail very much. The steamer had only about 25 horses power, so that our progress was rather slow, but the refreshing sea breeze and a good flow of spirits made the time pass pleasantly on. The distance between the two ports is about sixty miles, which we accomplished in about twelve hours, and arrived at our destination about twilight. The entrance to Charlottetown Bay and Harbour is by a narrow arm of the sea called Hillsborough Strait, which is capable of being made a place of considerable strength, but at present its solitary defence is an old block house tenanted by a solitary Royal Artilleryman as a sentinel, whose duty appears to consist in hailing vessels, demanding their port of sailing, tonnage, and number of crew and passengers. There may be some use in such nonsense, but it was not apparent. The coasts of the Island present a singular appearance, the soil being composed of red sand and red loam mixed, while cultivated fields and green woods add a charm to the prospect. The town has a neat appearance from the harbour, the houses being principally of wood, painted white. The streets are well laid out for a place of considerably greater population than at present is located there, but I fear it will be some time before the seeming prospects of the persons who laid it out will be realized. In preference to going to a hotel, we went to a private boarding house, kept by a Mr. Parkin, which we found to be a very snug hostelry, and were waited on by a very pretty little daughter of his, about 11 or 12 years of age, "a fawn-like child, of green savannahs and the leafy wild." After tea a council of war was held as to what we should do with ourselves, and on enquiry we discovered that the steamer would not return to Charlottetown till that day week, but would be at Georgetown, a port about 30 miles distant, on Monday, and return to Pictou on Saturday to Pictou, two remain in Charlottetown, and two go to New London, about 30 miles on the opposite side of the Island from Georgetown, returning on Sunday, and proceeding with the remaining two to Georgetown on Monday. One of the party and myself proceeded to New London on Saturday, through one of the most beautiful portions of country I ever saw or ever expect to see, unless I revisit the same spot when the waving fields of golden corn shall have been exchanged for the wilderness of wood. The land is agreeably interspersed with hill and dale, the soil of which is unsurpassed in fertility on this continent. The Island is about 150 miles long, and about 35 miles broad on an average, the rivers and arms of the sea are numerous, affording an abundant supply of water power for saw and flour mills, and there is not any spot of land which is more than seven miles from the tide mark. The climate is mild and salubrious, and free from those fogs which almost constantly brood over the Nova Scotia coast. On our road we came up to numerous good farm houses, and not a few shanties, all of which had a peculiarity which strikingly contrasted with those I had been accustomed to see in Canada. The very poorest of these shanties had a porch in front of the house door, built of substantial logs, which must prove very serviceable during the winter. The crops were about three weeks later than on the Island of Montreal, but they appeared heavier. The difference between the heat in the sun and in the shade has been established by thermometer to be only about six degrees. The summer is cooler than in Canada, and the winter is warmer, while during the former there is always a healthy sea breeze. Disease is almost unknown, and the island is not, therefore, a good professional residence for the leech tribe. The roads are truly beautiful, and would ravish the sight even of the great M. Adam. It appears that the local legislature of the colony have a mania for making good roads, which is one of the most commendable they could be infected with, and one with which it would be a good thing if they would infect the collective wisdom of Canada. Although a drizzling shower fell during the afternoon, and it rained pretty heavily all next day, the country was so enchanting that I did not regret a ducking, the more especially as at the various stages or rather farm houses where we took a temporary rest, we saw something of the manner and mode of living of the inhabitants, who are very hospitable. The Island contains about 50,000 souls, of whom about 4000 are in the town and Royalty of Charlottetown, which latter extends considerably into the country. In the town there are four Churches, the Presbyterian, in which Gaelic is preached in the morning, and English in the evening; the Episcopalian; the Methodist, and the Roman Catholic. There is also a congregation of Baptists, but they have not a settled place of worship. Queen Street is wide and spacious, and so also is Queen's Square, which branches off from it. In the centre of the latter is a circular building occupied as a market house, at which provisions may be purchased very cheap, as for instance: eggs, 4d. per dozen, sterling money; butter, 8d. per lb; beef, 3d; lamb, 3d; veal, 2d; mutton, 4d; partridges, 1s. 1d. per brace. I bought a good sized lobster from an Acadian, for 2d. sterling, and both lobsters and oysters are so plenty that it is only strangers who ever think of eating them. Before leaving Charlottetown for Georgetown on Monday morning, we got our bill for the conveyance to New London from the livery stable keeper, who had the impudence to charge us no less than £3 10s., of the Island currency, which would make £2 18s. 4d. of our currency. \* \* \* We gave him \$10, Halifax currency, which was too much, considering that the driver he sent with us was a rara avis in terra—an impudent Irishman, but an absence of twenty years from his native soil may account for the anomaly. On Monday, three of us left Charlottetown in the stage for Georgetown, leaving another of our little party to spend his remaining time in shooting and fishing, until the arrival of the Unicorn at Pictou, from which he intended to return to Quebec. The scenery on the road was even more pleasing than that to New London, as it was under a much higher degree of cultivation, and partook very much of the appearance of the county of Kent, with the exception of fences for hedgerows and the absence of the moss-covered gothic churches which there so agreeably relieve the eye of the traveller. The vales, crowned with the glories of an abundant harvest, the neat farm houses, the substantial barns, the rosy cheeked lads and lasses, the joyous gambols of the chubby cheeked children, and their Scottish dialect, almost transported me in reality, as they did in feeling, to the sunny cales of Gowrie and Falkirk. As on the other side of Charlottetown, the road was as smooth as a bowling green, and on one of the passengers remarking that the inhabitants had beautiful sleighing during the winter, I asked him if there were any cahots on the roads, but he could not understand what I meant even when I attempted to explain what they are and how they are formed. I need not say that I envied him his blessed ignorance. This Island would be a perfect paradise, were it not for the rapacity with which a few greedy officials prey like cormorants on the vitals of the settlers, and grind them to the earth with most vexatious exactions, and oppression only to be paralleled by Russian nobles towards their serfs. In every quarter did I hear complaints, and I saw many farms partly cleared, which were once more becoming wilderness, as the settlers had made up their minds not to spend their toil for their official tyrants to pounce on its proceeds at their sovereign will and pleasure. As you doubtless have read a series of letters on this subject in the Herald, from a settler in Prince Edward Island, I need not say any more on it than that I found his statements fully substantiated as facts of a crying nature, and calling for immediate redress, if the government have any desire that the colony shall continue a willing dependency of the empire, for the Americans have long been trying in vain to sow the seeds of disaffection, by representing, (what I believe would actually be the case,) what the colony would be in point of prosperity, to what it is now if relieved from the incubus of wealthy, monopolising landsharks. We arrived at George-

town about five o'clock, P. M. and found it to be a pretty straggling village, consisting of about 30 or 40 houses, situated on the shore of a noble bay, which has depth of water, security and good anchorage for thousands of vessels. It is taken advantage of frequently by American and French fishing vessels, when they are caught in a storm fishing within the limits of our waters, and on this occasion I counted 33 of the former and 2 of the latter, while, to the shame of the colonists be it said, there was not a solitary English vessel. The starred and striped Yankee bunting was paramount in a British port, and the riches of the ocean, so boundless and so freely offered by Providence, are totally disregarded by the islanders, and delivered up an unresisting prey to their more enterprising neighbours. It may be said that H. M. ships are stationed on the coasts to protect the fisheries, but we do not see how this service can be effected by dancing attendance at the vice regal festivities at Charlottetown, as has lately been the case with the officers of the two vessels of war which were there lately, and which were described to me as of not the slightest use. Sometimes there are as many as 150 sail of Yankee schooners in Georgetown harbour at a time, and I think their owners ought to pay for the protection afforded them as in other ports, which would be an addition to the provincial revenue, say \$5 for entrance and \$1 for each day in port. These vessels must occupy at least six weeks on an average in sailing from Boston, fishing, curing and returning, and the same could be done by Prince Edward Island vessels in six days or less, thus each of the latter would gain six times more fish than the former, at no greater expense than the extra salt, curing and barreling. Were a joint stock company to be formed with means to build and equip a hundred schooners, the emporium of the fish trade might be yet transferred from Boston to Halifax with signal benefit to the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island. Such a company would keep possession of the British waters and prevent Yankee poaching, but I am afraid the people of Georgetown wink at the Yankee smuggling tea, &c. into their town, and cannot see far enough before their noses to know their own real interests. As an instance of the general ignorance which prevails, I heard several intelligent and well informed persons (on other points) actually boast of the British shilling passing current with them for 1s. 6d. as a proof of the wonderful prosperity of the colony and of the cheap rate at which a person could live, for, say they, if a person arrives here with a thousand pounds sterling, it is at once transformed as if by magic into fifteen hundred pounds, without reflecting that a depreciated currency is a striking feature of national or colonial poverty and insecurity. The inhabitants of Prince Edward Island are principally Scotch and Irish, with a few English, and some Acadians and Indians. The Acadians are similar to the Lower Canada habitants in origin, but speak English more generally than the habitants do, and the females are much neater and more peculiar in their costume, especially in their head gear, which is very chaste and unique, consisting of a snow white fringed napkin tied under the chin, covering the head and descending in a peak as far as the waist, where it is fastened, showing off the full *tournoise* of the figure to the greatest advantage. I see that the sex is alike in this respect all the world over, and why should they not desire to be admired, by which they both confer and receive gratification? \* \* \* I forgot to mention that we met in with an incident during our voyage from Georgetown to Pictou, which not only took away from its monotony, but added to it a charm. This was our falling in with a schooner of Cape Bear, the Allandale, at anchor, for the purpose of getting up the cannon and shot thrown overboard by H. M. S. Malabar 74, in October 1838, when she ran ashore on a reef in 3 fathoms water. On that occasion 35 thirty-two pounders, weighing from 54 to 56 cwt each, and 100 tons shot were consigned to the deep and the actual spot having been discovered by diving for the purpose, the government offered half price for all which could be delivered to the ordnance department at Halifax. The guns are worth about £50 stg.; and the shot is worth £4 per ton even as old iron, so that the speculation will be a good one. On board the steamer was a gentleman with a diving bell, which was to be used for the purpose of enabling a person to fix ropes round the guns by which they might be hauled up, and to put the shot into iron buckets. Previous to our coming up to the schooner, one of the men on board of her had dived and had succeeded in securing two guns, which I saw in the hold of the vessel—they were very much rusted. I tried on a portion of the diving dress, which is very heavy on land, but is necessary so to prevent the diver involuntarily coming to the surface of the water. I would have descended in it had the tide permitted, but as it would not change for 2 1/2 hours, I was obliged to forego the novel gratification. The diver told me that he could remain under water with the greatest ease from breakfast time till dinner time, and that although the soles of his shoes were of lead, and two inches thick, he could walk as light as with pumps in a ball room. On Friday the 10th we left Pictou in the stage for Halifax, which we reached on Saturday evening about eight o'clock. On the evening previous we rested at a pretty village called Truro, which was settled by the Pennsylvania loyalists at the period of the American revolution. As in Prince Edward Island, the Country has plenty of hill and dale, but here the comparison must cease, and the contrast is presented of bleak and almost unbroken sterility, so much so that it only surprised me how farmers could be induced to cultivate the soil even though they had it for nothing. The roads, however, are very good, but the rate of travelling is slow, and the stages are long, varying from 20 to 25 miles each, which is far too much for one set of horses. We took 9 1/2 hours to go to Truro, a distance of 39 miles, and 15 hours to go from Truro to Halifax, a distance of 63 miles. I understand that owing to the numerous and well founded complaints of unnecessary delay on this route, the enterprising proprietor of the winter stages between Quebec and Montreal, intends to run stages during the summer between Halifax and Pictou, which will prove of advantage to the public.

Yours, &c.

CANADA.

MONTREAL, October 21.—We extract the paragraph given below from the Gazette, with only one observation to the wretches whose acts it contemplates—"Let them come if they dare"—"We learn from a source on which reliance may be placed, that the ruffians who, for the last few years past, have created so much disturbance on our frontiers, have been making extensive preparations for another series of attacks during the coming winter. Our informant, however, mentions, that it is not unlikely that those parties who were to have supplied the brigands with money, calculating on a warehousing on the conviction of Mr. McLeod, will now, on that gentleman's acquittal, back out from their engagement, and leave the reckless wretches whom they were to have supported to carry on their incursions unaided by pecuniary means. This Province is ready to defend itself at every point; and should any lawless gang, thirsting either for blood or money, again violate our territory, they will meet with a warm reception."

DINNER TO MR. McLEOD.—According to public intimation, a numerous party of gentlemen assembled at Orr's Hotel, on Wednesday last, at six o'clock, P. M., to do honor to, and to manifest their patriotic sympathy for their countryman, returned from, not Egyptian, but the bondage of the free and enlightened citizens of the Sovereign and independent State of New York. Mr. McLeod, accompanied by several friends, arrived about half-past six, when the company sat down to a dinner prepared in Mr. Orr's best style. When we consider the cause and object of this public dinner, we cannot but record our high approbation of the motive which actuated several of our citizens in getting up the "manifestation." Mr. McLeod was unknown personally to every individual at the table but two weeks since. Therefore no private feelings were concerned. It was because many among us looked upon Mr. McLeod as a political martyr, that many ardently desired to express their detestation of the conduct of our republican neighbours, that many were aroused to sympathy for a man whom too many of his own countrymen (we are sorry to say so) traduced by

retailing the slanders and calumnies, the falsehoods and perjuries of the "scum of the frontier." These led to the giving this dinner. We will now observe that we were not prepared to see in Mr. McLeod a man of such intelligence and respectability of address and manners as he undoubtedly possesses. We had heard so much and read so much that was defamatory of him both as a man and a gentleman, that we insensibly to ourselves we had formed the idea that he was a coarse and very vulgar person. We were therefore somewhat surprised at Mr. McLeod's appearance, to see before us an individual who in any society would not be remarked on as beneath the standard of a gentleman, as manifested by address and manners. We mention this because, having received the impression ourselves, we presume that others who are friendly to him, may have the same, and we wish to do all in our power to remove it from their minds. We would not have it supposed that we entertained the calumnies and slanders so busily propagated by the "scum of the frontier" against Mr. McLeod. Knowing the source of them, we placed no confidence in them, and we cannot but express our regret that any of Mr. McLeod's countrymen should have acted differently. In saying this, however, we cannot express our surprise, for we know that, unfortunately for the character of mankind, the mean and the base-minded predominate over the generous and noble minded, and to such people, defamation is the chosen food.

To return to the dinner,—we need not say that Mr. McLeod received all those attentions which the occasion called forth. Upon the cloth being removed, the Chairman proceeded to propose the following toasts:—  
1. The Queen,  
2. Our Mother Country! The sun of Liberty wherever pierce its rays, there springs forth civilization.  
3. Great Britain and the United States. May Peace reign over their mutual relations.

The fourth toast was prefaced by some observations by the Chairman, having reference to the case of their guest. He passed in review the circumstances which attended Mr. McLeod's captivity, and spoke in terms of merited censure of the conduct of our neighbours and of their Governments, General and State. He then gave the toast—  
4. Our countryman and guest, Alexander McLeod.

His sufferings for his country, from a lawless mob and the authorities of the State of New York, demand our sympathy, whilst his resolute bearing under very trying circumstances, commands our respect. It is scarcely necessary to say, the toast was received with loud cheering, and every manifestation of the warmest sympathy. Mr. McLeod rose and returned thanks in the most feeling manner. After which he gave a brief history of his sufferings in the goals of the Republicans, and then made reference to the calumnies invented against him. He spoke first of the false and malicious charge, namely, that he had boasted, in the language of the "scum of the frontier," that he was one of the men who destroyed the Caroline, and that he had killed a damned Yankee. He declared emphatically that there was not the slightest foundation for the assertion that he had done so,—that it was an invention of the scoundrels who had persecuted him,—a total fabrication, and that he was deeply mortified to learn since his arrival in Montreal, that many of his countrymen not only attached weight to it, but had adopted it as fact. "It is the characteristic of a generous mind," observed Mr. McLeod, "to reject imputations upon a man's character unless accompanied by proofs, but of proof my calumniators had none. What must then be thought of those citizens of Montreal who have given currency to slander and falsehood! I answer you, gentlemen, (he added,) this is the severest blow I have felt since I was seized upon by the scoundrels of Lewiston and Lockport. I was not surprised that the Yankees, even the most respectable of them, believed the stories against me, for they naturally wished for excuses for the conduct of their Government in retaining me in goal, and for justification of their countrymen in having conducted themselves towards me as ferocious tigers and ruffians. It was but natural that Britons should have entertained them that I am utterly confounded by knowing that many among them have done so. Had I even been the *bad character* these stories made me out to be, one would not have expected my own countrymen to have joined in the hue and cry against me, if not from a feeling of humanity, from a feeling of national pride, and from indignation at the conduct of the Government, and citizens of the adjoining Republic, practised towards an unprotected Briton. I can only account for certain facts by supposing the ramifications of the conspiracy against me to be laid even in this city." Mr. McLeod made many more observations of this nature, but the preceding will give an idea of his language and feelings. He next spoke of the charges that he had absconded from Upper Canada, that he was a defaulter, that he was a fraudulent debtor, in terms of indignant severity. He declared them to be as false and infamous as that of his having made the disreputable and disgraceful boast.

He afterwards alluded to the slander that he had invaded the retirement of a respectable family, and seduced the daughter of his friend. He denied this report,—and gave a history of the case of a totally different character. So far from having committed so villainous an act, there was no seduction at all, nor even the semblance of it, about the circumstances attendant on his acquaintance with the lady in question. A more triumphant refutation of calumny and detraction never was made. Mr. McLeod was on his legs about an hour, and delivered a speech as clear and fluent as it was powerful. We will not call it a defence, for none present even imagined there was truth in the reports. We should comment at greater length and enter more into details regarding the calumnies and their refutation, had we not reason to know that Mr. McLeod intends to publish all the circumstances attendant on his arrest, imprisonment and trial by the free and enlightened citizens of the Republic.

When Mr. McLeod sat down, the Chairman gave the fifth toast, prefacing it with an eulogy on the two gentlemen named in it, and a description of the scene exhibited in the Court Room at Utica, so different from that of our Courts of Law, where silk-gowns and three cornered hats, and the other paraphernalia of Courts, give them an air of form and ceremony and impressiveness,—all which were absent in the Court over which Mr. Gridley presided, but which was overlooked in the dignity so apparent on the Bench.

5. Mr. Justice Gridley, and Mr. Spencer, District Attorney of the United States, both of the City of New York. The former a dignified and firm administrator of the laws; the latter a counsellor of the highest reputation. As conducted with the late trial at Utica, their names are respected and honored in Canada. There were no other toasts from the chair, but several volunteers were given: Sir Francis Head—the gallant crews of the boats which destroyed the Caroline—the Duke of Wellington—Sir Robert Peel—the memory of the late Lord Sydenham—Sir Charles Bagot, the expected Governor. These were introduced by addresses from their respective proposers, which added to the enjoyments of the hour and the occasion, the brilliancy of eloquence and feeling.

Towards the latter part of the evening, it was drawn forth, accidentally, that Mr. McLeod is the fifth person who has suffered persecution at the hands of our republican neighbours, in consequence of supposed participation in the destruction of the Steamer Caroline. There was a general expression of indignation against our government for having suffered these things. Two names we remember, Mr. Lockhart or Lewiston where Mr. McLeod was confined, the name of 'Sparks' was cut on the same bed, and that unfortunate prisoner, Captain Christie was arrested at Buffalo, and suffered much indignity and insult before he was released. The names of the other two we have forgotten. We cannot refrain from characterizing such conduct on the part of our Colonial authorities as most infamous. It is low countrymen have been within the walls of Yankee goals on account of the Caroline affair, and that, even to

this hour, our government has not taken steps to protect our people from such brutality. If no British subject venture to Buffalo or Lewiston, without being persecuted in this way, we will begin to doubt if we have a government. The duties of the government and subject are reciprocal. Mr. McLeod very justly observed, reciprocal. If the subject bound to fight for the Crown, the Crown is bound to protect the subject; and if the Crown neglects its part of reciprocal duty, it is high time the subject kicked aside allegiance.

The party broke up at midnight. We may mention in connection with this matter what have hitherto overlooked,—that so general was the feeling of Utica that violence, assassination, or Lynch Law, was attempted on Mr. McLeod, that he applied for a military escort of United States troops. The Commanding Officer, Captain Anderson, Assistant Adjutant General, U. S. A., waited on Mr. McLeod, and although he expressed his intention to comply with his application, yet he advised a ney, via Schenectady and Lake Champlain under military escort as preferable, and as affording greater security. Mr. McLeod yielded to his suggestion,—and Capt. Anderson, Lieut. Brooks accordingly accompanied him from Utica to the lines. The Sheriff of Oneida County was with them. Their movements were rapid, and every precaution was taken against any attack by the "Sovereigns." There is a cause to say there would have been insult and violence offered, if there had been delay on the route. As it was one or two places, there were "manifestations" of the mob and enlightened, and some dark intentions, and a loud dogs don't bite."—Herald.

UNITED STATES.

TRIAL OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWELVE MEN FOR MURDER.—The correspondent of the Illinois Freetrader gives an account of the trial of the persons charged with the murder of the Driskalls, John and William, from which we make a few extracts. He says:—

"The September term of the Ogle Circuit has just closed, and its session has been marked by a trial which, in the number of the accused tried in one indictment for the same murder, is without parallel. One hundred and twelve men were indicted for the murder of John Driskall and William Driskall, in June last, near Washington Grove, in this county. About one hundred plead not guilty, and were put upon their trial. Judge Ford, whatever might have been his feelings, (the accused were his neighbours, Judge Ford living in Ogle county,) exhibited upon the bench a stern determination that the accused should be fully and fairly tried. However, the very fact of the great confusion occasioned by so many names in the indictment, left the accused without any evidence to contend against. The two or three first witnesses, whose names were endorsed upon the indictment, (and by the laws of this state, none except those whose names are so endorsed, can be called to prove the substantive part of the accusation,) only knew some of the preparatory steps taken, which led to the supposed offence.

The facts connected with the killing of the Driskalls are stated as follows: That the Driskalls were a part of an organized gang, embracing a large number of persons in the county of Ogle and the adjoining counties, who carried on a systematic scheme of operations against the lives and property of the inhabitants. That murders, robberies and larcenies, had been carried on by them for a number of years, and that, owing to the extent and perfection of their combinations, it had become impossible to convict, by the ordinary process of law. Perjured members of their gang, swearing to alibis, or such defence as were adapted to the occasion, had for a long time, defied and defeated the course of justice. That a few days previous to the execution of the Driskalls, a Mr. Campbell, a citizen of the highest respectability, had been wantonly shot in his own yard, for his presumed exertions against this gang, and that there was sufficient evidence to leave no reasonable doubt, that the Driskalls planned and incited, and probably perpetrated his murder. Further, that the Driskalls were the chief and most dangerous of the gang. They were shot after an examination which satisfied several hundred of the most respectable citizens of Ogle and the adjoining counties of the truth of the foregoing facts.

The case was submitted to the Jury, who, without leaving their seats, returned a verdict of 'not guilty.' This verdict was given partially from a want of confidence, and from what the jury considered the absolute necessity of success. The writer says the *laes* could not protect the community where the banditti committed their many enormities—the occasion was too urgent to wait for their uncertain management and adaptation to the emergency—individually they could not protect themselves—mob law they repudiated—they therefore resorted to a counter organization, ordaining new rules of evidence, and a new mode of proceeding such, and such only, as in their judgment were effectual to protect them. There may be those who are disposed to cavil, perhaps to condemn. The judgments and penalties of such would be essentially invigorated, could they have dwelt for a short time here, and suffered the manner of their friends, the burning of their dwellings, and the plunder of their property; and, when they called on the law to redress these wrongs, to see whom they knew to be the perpetrators escape with impunity.—U. S. Gazette.

BOSTON, Oct. 20.

DEATH OF MR. FORSYTH.—Hon. Mr. Forsyth, late Secretary of State of the United States, expired at his residence in Washington City on Thursday evening. He had been a short time from congestive fever. His age was 61 years. SICKNESS AT NEW ORLEANS.—A letter from a gentleman in New Orleans much among the sick, dated Oct. 14th, says the ravages of yellow fever are not at all abated, and the companies of passengers which have arrived in vessels every one has died.

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.

BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON!—DREADFUL SLAUGHTER!!!

The ship Narragansett brings news from Canton up to the 24th of May, and from Macao to the 1st of June. The British Forces had been bombarding the City of Canton for several days, and were storming it both by sea and land when the Narragansett left. The destruction of property and human life had been dreadful. Our previous advices were up to the 20th of May, and informed us of the extensive preparations for hostilities on the part of the Chinese. On the 21st, Capt. Elliot issued a circular recommending the British and all other foreigners remaining in the factories, to retire from Canton before sunset.

The warlike preparations made by the Chinese in every direction were so apparent, that it had become too palpable that the Chinese contemplated commencing hostilities probably on that very day; in many of the pack houses and even on their roofs, guns had been planted, every street leading to the river's edge had become a masked battery; and pennons and flags were flying over every one of them. All the foreigners left before six o'clock of the same day, except two Americans; they escaped subsequently with some difficulty. Four Americans were fired upon in a boat, and captured by the Chinese; but were afterwards set at liberty on the demand of the American Vice Consul.

Soon after six, H. M. Ships Modeste and Algerine moved from their anchorage in the Macao passage, and anchored as close to the town as the water would permit. At a little past ten, a blaze in the direction of the Fatee was observed, and was found to proceed from several fire rafts or junks floating down upon the cutter and schooner, which were in considerable danger, the tide ebbing, and weighing anchor would have brought them nearer to the range of the guns from the company's garden and others, which had by this time opened upon them.

The two small vessels were obliged to remain at anchor, exposed to the fire from the battery at Shaming, the cutter returning the fire and forcing six large cargo boats, that bore down upon them in the wake of the fire ships, to sheer off when the steamer Nemesis came down upon the fire ships and towed them out of harm's way, opening at the same time a fire from her thirty-two pounders. H. M. Ships Mo-