

Coroner's Inquest on the Body of James Fitzpatrick.

St. John's, } The Examination of the Rev. JOHN VEREKER, of St. John's, Clerk, taken
To wit. } upon oath before me, JOSEPH SHEA, Esq., of St. John's, Coroner, this 18th
day of May, A. D., 1861.

On the evening of Monday last, while on my way to the Palace, through the Cathedral ground, a gentleman named Jas. Walsh informed me that Kitchin's premises were being destroyed. I immediately accompanied him to Mr. Kitchin's premises, and succeeded in preventing any further destruction. Judge Little was present at the time when I repelled them from assailing the house, and by the aid with some others who were present, put up the shutters. On hearing their intention to go to Kitchin's upper place, I followed them immediately after. A part of the crowd turned to Byrne's, instead of going to Kitchin's, whom I accompanied and prevented their doing much damage to Byrne's place at the time. On approaching to the house I saw some few stones thrown at the upper windows, and the shutters partly torn from the lower windows. I remained a very short time at Mr. Byrne's, and proceeded, without delay, to Kitchin's upper premises, and there prevented them also, in a great measure, doing much damage to the place; and was soon assisted by Father Byrne and Father Condon and some other Priests. On leaving Kitchin's upper premises I requested Father Byrne to remain there, to prevent the people from doing further injury. Shortly after this the troops were reported to be brought out, and I met them opposite McBride's, on my return. Before the arrival of the soldiers all things were quiet and calm in the place. As soon as the soldiers arrived on the spot I went back to Kitchin's upper premises, and was there but a very short time when a section of the soldiers had passed westwardly, and appeared to have gone as far as Mr. Morry's. On their return through the crowd where I stood stones were pelted, probably by unruly boys, from ten to eighteen years old, and these I, in a great measure, prevented from continuing their pelting—I could not call these a violent volley of stones—they did not appear large. Mr. Carter, while in my company, received a blow of a stone—he was neither wounded nor probably hurt, as far as I could judge. The troops having passed on their way eastwardly through Water-street, I remained behind and used my exertions, and prevented the people from following them, lest any provocation might be given them, (the troops,) and on the street remained the entire evening, using the same efforts and exertions, by which exertions I prevented a large concourse of people from crowding and approaching the soldiers. A little time before the firing of the guns I received information that the soldiers and people were quarreling; and it was only after that I heard that a man had been stabbed by a soldier, I determined to go to the scene of collision. Before reaching the Market-house hill, where, I believe, this occurrence took place, I heard the firing of guns, and saw the people running in a westwardly direction. I retired for a few minutes, with Mr. Goss, into his house, imagining, with him, that the troops were coming in the direction in which the people were running. The firing now ceased. I immediately came to Market-house hill, which was a little east of Mr. Goss's—there were neither firing nor stone-throwing when I arrived. I remonstrated on the necessity or propriety of withdrawing the troops to barracks, guaranteeing that I would preserve the peace of the town, or words to that effect. I remonstrated with Colonel Grant on the propriety of withdrawing the troops, in the course of the evening before, and believe with Mr. Carter and Mr. Tunbridge, The troops did not remain long after the firing, and had withdrawn to barracks by the advice, I believe, of Judge Little, who, in my opinion, as far as I can recollect, had promised the same security for the peace of the town. When the soldiers left their position, and marched off, on the way to barracks, taking an easterly direction through Water-street, they were pelted by a few who were on the hill at the time, but could not, in my opinion, have received any