

**WOMEN'S CANADIAN HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF TORONTO. EXTRACTS  
FROM THE DIARY OF THE REV.  
HENRY SCADDING, 1837-1838.  
TRANSACTION NO.6**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649239528

Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto. Extracts from the Diary of the Rev. Henry Scadding, 1837-1838. Transaction No.6 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**WOMEN'S CANADIAN HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF TORONTO. EXTRACTS  
FROM THE DIARY OF THE REV.  
HENRY SCADDING, 1837-1838.  
TRANSACTION NO.6**





*Amy Scadding.*

*From photograph of a portrait  
by Hoppner Meyer, December, 1841.*



"Deeds Speak"

Women's Canadian Historical Society  
OF TORONTO

---

TRANSACTION No. 6

---

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF THE REV. HENRY SCADDING,  
1837-1838.

This diary gives interesting descriptions of events and people connected with the Rebellion. It is dated from Montreal and Quebec.

---

1906

4

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY.

1837.

*Montreal, Dec. 12.*—A bright, cold day, streets very animated and crowded with sleighs. Another set of prisoners removed up to the new Jail, among them Jalbert, the assassin of Lieut. Weir,\* and Bouchette, the Surveyor-General's son, and Dr. Kimber—all pinioned and escorted by riflemen and cavalry. Saw letter from Mrs. Kimber to Sir John, commencing: "General—Grace pour mon mari." Sir John intends to proceed himself to the attack of St. Eustache to-morrow. Had letter from my brother at Toronto. All in arms there. Several persons murdered.

*Dec. 13.*—The expedition set off for St. Eustache with Sir John and his staff at its head, attended by escorts of cavalry. A large crowd of spectators attended and cheered enthusiastically. They are to rest to-night at St. Martin's, and then proceed on to St. Eustache to-morrow. Walking down Notre Dame Street saw great commotion, and the soldiers turned out before the prison barracks and cavalry riding up. Wolfred Nelson† and Dr. Valois were brought in by some Americans and were being lodged in the Jail. As they passed through the gates the crowd howled and uttered hideous cries of execration. The sentries everywhere almost are volunteers. The sleighing still good. Mournful separations to-day.

---

\*Lieut. Weir of the 32nd Regiment. He had been sent on 22nd November, 1837, with despatches to Sorel, missed connection with Colonel Gore's column, was taken prisoner by the rebels, and in attempting to escape was cut to pieces on the morning of the 23rd.

†Dr. Wolfred Nelson, a friend of Papineau, took an active part in the rebellion in Lower Canada. Colonel Gore, with an armed force of about 250 men of the 24th, 32nd and 66th Regiments, was sent to arrest him at his house. He and his friends made such a determined resistance that the troops had to retire. Dr. Nelson escaped to the frontier, was taken prisoner and confined for seven months in jail. He was then sentenced to transportation for life, and sent with other prisoners to Bermuda. The House of Lords declared this sentence illegal, and they were all released in 1838.

*Dec. 14.*—Kept in suspense without intelligence from St. Eustache until 10 o'clock. For several hours previous an extensive conflagration had been visible on the horizon in the direction of that place. At 10 despatches were brought by three cavalry volunteers. The place taken, the Convent, Church, etc., destroyed and the town fired. Some of the Royals killed and Mr. Gogy wounded. About 60 of the rebels killed; Sir John quite well. Troops proceed to-morrow to St. Benoit and St. Scholastique. Accounts to-day of the dispersion of the rebels at Toronto and the recapture of the Loyalist prisoners. Mackenzie\* not taken. An alarm last night of a force marching to seize the arms at Lachine, the whole town instantly in arms, but no action ensued.

*Dec. 15.*—Despatches received from Sir John this evening. The troops marched on to St. Benoit at 7 this morning, met by a party with flag of truce imploring mercy. On entering the village the habitans laid their arms on the ground and surrendered at discretion, the women falling on their knees in the balconies of the houses, from whence also white flags were hung out. The leaders, Girod, etc., and the priests escaped. Thus this village, notorious for many years past, escapes unscathed, whilst the village of St. Eustache, which has borne the character of loyalty for a long while, suffers. There is a great feeling of regret existing on account of this anomalous circumstance, but it could not be prevented: it would never have done to have fired upon poor wretches on their knees. The troops proceed to St. Scholastique and St. Therese. A proclamation out from the Governor of Vermont enjoining neutrality of his people. Fine, clear, bright, sharp weather, tolerable sleighing and brilliant moonlight. The glare of the fire visible behind the mountains in the direction of St. Scholastique, supposed to be the burning of some rebel's property by the force marching from Carillon to join the force marching to St. Scholastique. Some prisoners from Chambly taken up to the prison to-day. A report that Mr. Nelson is dead.

\*William Lyon Mackenzie, leader of the revolt in Upper Canada.



*Dec. 16.*—Sir John and his staff returned and joyfully hailed by us. St. Benoit, it appears, has been fired by the volunteers and will be laid in ashes. Rode with Graham\* round the mountain—2 mountains—a splendid ride. Air keen, sun bright, snow dry and flying like dust beneath the horses' feet. A brilliant glow after sunset. The little windows in the distant cottages on the opposite side of the St. Lawrence and the spires glistening beautifully. Met a party of volunteer riflemen. Saw cloud of smoke hanging in the distance over St. Benoit.

*Dec. 18.*—Deep snow falling. Girod, the rebel leader of St. Benoit, a Swiss, shot himself: Scott, another rebel, taken by the cavalry: £500 the premium for him.

*Dec. 22.*—Fast Day. Humiliation for sin. Dr. Bethune morning on 1 St. Peter 5-6. Afternoon, Mr. Robertson. Good congregations and very attentive.

*Dec. 24.*—Snow falling. Dr. Bethune on 1 Timothy, 3-6. Evening I preached on Phil. 4-4. A large congregation.

*Dec. 25.*—Christmas Day. No sermon in the morning—a very large communion; I assisted with Dr. Bethune, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Ramsay. A mild day and heavy atmosphere. Church not decorated. How different my feelings this day and the 25th last year. Then looking forward with the most intense anxiety to the January examinations, regardless of the joyful season; now comparatively at rest and peace. I would by no means exchange the present for the past Christmas if I could. How much a year brings about—how astonished should I have been the last 25th December had I been assured where I should be, and how engaged this 25th—preparing my sermon for the Orphan Asylum, where I am to preach next Sunday.

*Dec. 30.*—Splendid ride round the mountain with Sir John and Francis—mild. Capt. Philpotts here. Had letter from Toronto—no news.

\*Edmund and Graham were the sons of Sir John Colborne.

*Dec. 31.*—Preached for the Orphan asylum on John 14: 18. Collection £33 15s. Evening, Lundy of Quebec preached on the "7000 left" Mem. Elijah the Tishbite.

1838.

*Jan. 1.*—Made some calls. The town all alive with carioles and gentlemen making their congratulatory visits. Sir John's house quite crowded. A number of cards left for me. A mild, pleasant day, and particularly propitious. Rode with Graham round the mountain. The bells of the tower in the Place d'Armes ringing very furiously—three bells rung in no order at all. Evening, a basket of reciprocal presents brought into the drawing-room and delivered to each according to its address. A beautiful bronze candlestick and sealing taper\* stand given me by Lady Colborne.

*Jan. 2.*—Received letters from Mrs Simcoe, Sen.,† and Miss K. S. and Miss Ch. S.‡ All well, both at Penheale and Wolford.§ The receipt of this letter a great relief to my mind. Very mild and thawing.

*Jan. 5.*—Wet—rain—thaw. News of steamer, the purveyor of provisions to Mackenzie on Navy Island, having been cut adrift at Schlosser in the U.S. by some of our people and sent down the Falls with its crew. Dinner party to-day. Cols. Dundas,|| Wetherall,¶ Gore,\*\* Maitland,†† Mr. Lang, Wetherall, Lysons‡‡ and Mad. and Mdme. de Montinach, Mrs. and Miss Wetherall.§§

\*Now in my possession.—H. M. S.

†Widow of General Simcoe, formerly Lieut.-Governor of Upper Canada.

‡Katherine and Charlotte Simcoe, daughters of General Simcoe.

§Family seats of the Simcoes.

||Col. Dundas, son or brother of Col. Dundas after whom Dundas Street was named.

¶Wetherall—afterwards Sir George Wetherall, who was Adjutant-General of the Horse Guards during the Crimean War.

\*\*Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Charles Gore—afterwards Military Governor stationed at Kingston.

††Col. Maitland was brother of the Earl of Lauderdale, and Colonel of the 32nd Regiment, afterwards stationed at London, Ont., with his regiment in 1839. He died there and was buried there. The second Weth-

*Jan. 6.*—Had the account of the steamer affair at the Falls confirmed. Authorities in Toronto rather alarmed. The New York militia called out. Rode to Lachine. Sleighs on the ice, but river open. Troops to be despatched to the Upper Province—instantly.

*Jan. 7.*—Rain, mild. Dr. Bethune on the offerings of the wise men. Mr. Robertson on the "Return of the Prodigal."

*Jan. 9.*—Sent letter to Mrs. Simcoe by a despatch to New York. Party of young people here—Miss Selby, Miss Porter, the little Robinsons, etc. Some quadrilles and waltzes in the evening. Snow gone.

*Jan. 10.*—Colder this morning—slight poudre snow. The poor fellows go in for their degree to-day at Cambridge. Poor Ellis, Simmonds, etc. Well, it will be soon over for them.

*Jan. 17.*—Dined at Dr. Bethune's. Evening, on returning heard that Sir John was appointed Governor-in-Chief of the two Canadas. A special newspaper from London with most laudatory and complimentary despatches from Lord Glenelg, Lord Hill, Lord Fitzroy Somerset,\* etc., conveying this high charge to Sir John. There is no act of the Govern-

eral men tioned was Edmund Wetherall, son of Col. Wetherall. He afterwards became a distinguished officer.

††Lysons was a young officer who very nearly caught Papineau during the Rebellion. It is said that while chasing him Papineau fell into a ditch and Lysons jumped over and lost him in the dark. Had Papineau been caught at that time he certainly would have been hanged. Many years afterwards Papineau and Lysons, both then distinguished men and Papineau's past forgotten, met in England and became great friends. Papineau then told Lysons how he escaped. When Lysons left Canada with his Regiment, the First Royals, going down the St. Lawrence in the transport *Premier*, the transport was wrecked at Lake Chatte Bay. This was in the late fall. Lysons walked from the wreck to Quebec and obtained relief for the Regiment. For this he received a Captaincy. He afterwards became one of the distinguished Crimean Officers, and was knighted Sir Daniel Lysons. Late in life he wrote a very interesting book on Canada, which will be found in the Public Library at Toronto.

‡‡The Miss Wetherall was a daughter of Colonel Wetherall, and afterwards married Capt. de Crespigny.

\*Afterwards Lord Raglan.

The above notes were kindly furnished by Mr. Edward Harris.