



#### **Excerpts from-*The Full Particulars of the late Riots, With a View of the Burning of the Catholic Churches, St. Michaels & St. Augustine. Philadelphia, 1844***

#### PREFACE

In presenting this description of the ever to be remembered and [2]  
unfortunate Riot and blood shed of the 6th, 7th and 8th of May; it has  
been the aim of the publishers to avoid all party or sectarian views,  
wishing to furnish the most impartial account from the best recourses,  
which it is confidently hoped, will rather diminish than add to the already  
over heated passion of an outraged populace. This pamphlet is designed  
to give all a full description of the buildings burnt, and also containing  
correct drawings of the Churches destroyed, with every other detail that  
could be collected from the different reporters as well as by eye witnesses  
to the deplorable scene.

According to announcement a meeting of the Native Americans [3]  
was convened on the afternoon of the 3d of May, at the corner of Second  
and Master streets, Kensington, for the purpose of expressing their political  
opinions, a privilege granted to every citizen of the United States by a con-  
stitutional right. The following was the call for the meeting.

*AROUSE, NATIVES BORN! Take the scales from your eyes—take a  
peep through the curtain, and behold the sun arise.*

A meeting of the Native horn Citizens of the Third Ward Kensington,  
was held on Monday evening the 29th. After electing officers they  
adjourned to meet in mass meeting on FRIDAY AFTERNOON, May 3d,  
at 6 o'clock, at the corner of Second and Master streets All friendly to  
the cause are Invited to attend.

-----CRAIG, Pres't.

JOHN M'MANUS, Sec'y.

The American Republican citizens of Third Ward, Kensington, hav-  
ing been forcibly driven from their place of meeting, Second and Master  
streets, adjoining the Public School House, adjourned to the George Fox  
Temperance Hall, when Mr. WM. CRAIG was called to the chair, and Mr.

M'Manus appointed Secretary.

Mr. Longacre, of Spring Garden, was called for and addressed the meeting in an able and spirited manner, which was loudly responded to by those present.

The following preamble and resolutions were then adopted.

WHEREAS, The citizens of Kensington, have been violently assailed and maltreated at a meeting called for the expression of their opinions on public policy and for the declaration of their feelings and have, in pursuance of this same violent spirit, been driven by, outcry and clubs from the place designated for their meeting— therefore

*Resolved*, That we, the citizens of Kensington in mass meeting assembled, do solemnly protest against this flagrant violation of the rights of American citizens, and call upon our fellow citizens at large, to visit with their indignation and reproach, this outrage [4] of a vindictive, anti-republican spirit, manifested by a portion of the alien population of Third Ward Kensington.

*Resolved*, That in view of the above transaction, we invite our fellow citizens at large to attend the next meeting to sustain us in the expression of our opinions.

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn we adjourn to meet in mass meeting on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, at the corner of Second and Master streets.

Our friends in Kensington made a mistake last night. Instead of assembling in force, to beat off the foreign rabble, they were few in numbers, as peaceable men are wont, and of course were assailed in the most shameful manner. The staging was torn up under the speaker's feet, and shouts and hootings and clubs were resorted to force the Natives from the ground. These are the people who are deemed most worthy to be hailed American citizens. We have but one word to say, a popish priest was seen to leave the vicinity within an hour of the riot.

Our whole community was excited to an ungovernable pitch, by a most bloody and terrible riot, which occurred in the district of Kensington. We have never heard of a transaction in our city in which so much savage feeling and brutal ferocity were displayed. There was a new element at work in the causes which led to the riot, one, which, when excited into action, is productive of most serious consequences. Such, unfortunately, was the case attended with the distressing and deplorable consequences following, but no one will hesitate to say that the Native American party having called a public meeting, had a perfect right to carry on their proceedings in peace, undisturbed by any persons, and that the disturbance they met with, from persons opposed to the objects of the meeting, was as gross an outrage as was ever

perpetrated upon the rights of any body of free citizens. The citizens who composed the meeting were assembled in the exercise of a right which is guaranteed to them by the Constitution, and it has come to a pretty pass if, availing themselves of their constitutional rights, they are to be assailed by others, and their lives sacrificed in the streets. [5]

They were assembled by public call, their object being a perfect legal one, and the presumption is that those who were opposed to the meeting were attracted there from some mischievous motive. They were not embraced in the call, they could have had no proper object in being present at or in the neighborhood of the meeting, and the consequences which resulted, indicate very plainly the folly, if not to say the wickedness of their designs, in going in numbers to the place. The presumption that mischief was intended is confirmed by the conduct of a reckless set of ruffians, who, a few evenings before, broke up a meeting assembled for a similar purpose. Such conduct as this is not to be tolerated with impunity in any country, much less in ours, where the hand of fellowship and good feeling has always been extended to the emigrant from other shores, and political equality so liberally offered them.

It is a poor return for these favors if they are to turn round and strike at the liberty and rights of those who have so generously given them the power to do so. The circumstances which occurred are to be deeply deplored, both on account of the bold attempt to interfere with and abridge the rights of American citizens, and on account of the persons themselves who are charged with the act, against whom, judging from the nature of men, a determined hostility will be waged, and upon whom the effects of their own folly will be made terribly to recoil.

### **NATIVE AMERICANS**

The American Republicans of the city and county of Philadelphia, who are determined to support the NATIVE AMERICANS in their Constitutional Rights of peaceably assembling to express their opinions on any questions of Public Policy, and to SUSTAIN THEM AGAINST THE ASSAULTS OF ALIENS AND FOREIGNERS are requested to assemble on MONDAY AFTERNOON, May 6th, 1844 at 4 o'clock, at the corner of Market and Second street, Kensington, to express their indignation at the outrage on Friday evening last, which was perpetrated by the Irish Catholics, in tearing and trampling under their feet the American Flag, to take the necessary steps to prevent a repetition of it. [6]

### **THE MASS MEETING**

*(From the Native American)*

Concerns not alone Native Americans—we should say, American Republicans—that being the name by which our associates have agreed they shall be designated. The meeting does not concern them alone—it concerns every citizen who desires the preservation of freedom and democratic institutions—it is a practical test of the doctrine, long doubted by aristocrats, that the people are able to govern themselves. They certainly are not—nor never will be—so long as they put gags upon the mouths of those who advocate reforms of government; they certainly will not be, so long as a party renegade, a democrat in profession and a whig by purchase, can send a band of cudgel-armed ruffians to beat out the brains of any one who has the hardihood to utter truth and reason to his fellow citizens. We are not in error, we cannot be mistaken, in imputing the violence offered to the meeting of Friday last to the joint influence of political demagogues and Catholic Priests. We know that the Irish population, if left to themselves and not instigated by religious emissaries or political movements and too-free-and-easy, to bother themselves with arguments either for or against their privileges. We then boldly announce the man who sold the naturalized vote to the present Sheriff, to gratify his wounded vanity, with being at the bottom of this Movement; and we now call upon our countrymen, whether native or adopted, who respect the right most dear and of most value to freemen—that of publicly discussing any and every question—to rescue public proceedings of every kind from mob interference. [7] As conductors of the press, we would make no distinction in favor of such a gross outrage on the rights of citizens—be it perpetrated by whom it might. We would condemn it as strongly, if the act of our own party, as we now do knowing it to be the act of aliens; and we take this opportunity most solemnly to rebuke the indignant threats of some of our own friends under the exasperation occasioned by the late desperate and anti-republican violence of their opposers. Our cause must not be sustained by any Lynch law exhibitions of revenge. Leave it to those who have already violated their oaths of allegiance to this nation and to liberty, by brandishing their cudgels in the air, and boasting that the "have been stained in American blood years ago, and are ready for it again."

Our fellow citizens at large, but chiefly those who happen to be in party minority in any portion of the country, are deeply interested in this subject as the American Republicans. How can they ever hope to have their reasons heard, to have the slightest voice in public affairs—should this doctrine of submission to the strong arm of numerical force be received as the order of the day. If men are to be beaten into submission to the

wills of others, we would much prefer the bastinado of a Sultan or the knout of a Czar to the cudgel of a lawless and infuriated mob. One of the complaints of these colonies in their declaration of independence was that the people were prevented from assembling for the redress of grievances, and we are now about to have fastened upon us this same slavish restraint by a foreign mob in place of a foreign tyrant. In either case the essence of the tyranny is the same and the mob tyranny is rendered the more hideous inasmuch as it adds ingratitude to despotism. It assumes the most frightful aspect, when it exhibits itself among those who have been raised from the most degraded condition in their own land to the dignity of freemen in this. How worthy they have shown themselves of this high honor is well proved by their resorting to brutal force to crush down opinion.

These remarks are not made in an inflammatory spirit. On the contrary we desire only to wake up the feelings of those who love law and order—we desire our friends to show themselves in such force as not to invite aggression—that the meeting should be of such an imposing character as to cow down at once the few refractory and intolerant men, who have respect neither for their own great privileges nor the rights of those to whose benevolence they owe them. Let the people turn out in their majesty, and at once frown into silence the turbulent spirits whose intolerance and ignorance have been so signally displayed; and above all let us remember our own motto "FIRMLY BUT MODERATELY." [8]

Agreeably to a call of the Native American Republicans of the city and county of Philadelphia, a Mass Meeting was held at the corner of Master and Second streets, in the district of Kensington. After certain preliminaries having been settled, Mr. Kramer was called for by the meeting, appeared, and addressed the concourse of citizens assembled, in a speech which elicited much applause. Gen. Smith being introduced, entertained them for some time, by a very pertinent speech, the people upon the subject of the principles which guide the Native Republicans, in the course they have marked out for themselves on the great leading and important question of foreign influence upon the civil, political and religious institutions of our country. After which, Mr. Levin was introduced upon the stand, and was about proceeding to speak upon the deleterious effects of Popish interference in the elective franchise, and her consequence upon American liberty, through their minions of the poor degraded slaves of the church, when a storm blew up, and the rain began to pour down. A motion was then made and carried, to adjourn to the Market House. The meeting being there organized, and the speaker about to proceed in his speech, an onslaught was made by a band of Irishmen, said to be all Catholics,

upon the citizens composing the meeting and effort made to disband and break it up. A large number of determined spirits being present, an attempt [9] was made to defend and resist the outrage of the Roman Catholics, and to retaliate upon the Priest's menials in their effort to violate the constitutional rights of American citizens.

The scene which presented itself beggars all description. A general and indiscriminate fight between the Irish Catholics and the American Citizens. All kinds of weapons of defence and offence were used which could be collected within the vicinity of the meeting During the throwing of brick-bats and stones, several of the Native Republicans were struck, and so seriously injured that they were carried off the ground into houses of citizens of the neighborhood, their wounds dressed, and themselves properly taken care of.

During the hottest of the fight several reports of fire arms were heard, and the groans of men who proved to be wounded, and the lamentable exclamations of their friends, together with the cries for vengeance from all quarters, were truly terrific and appalling. One man named Patrick Fisher, on the side of the Native Americans, was carried out by four men, Mr. Albright at the head, shouting "American Citizens Arouse,—defend yourselves! one of your number has been wounded; shot down in the street." Fisher was taken to the Drug store of Dr. Davis, and his face and neck which were found to be wounded by buck-shot or slugs was dressed, and he was afterwards taken to his home.

Immediately followed another crowd of persons a portion of whom were carrying the dying body of a Native American, named George Shiffler, a morocco dresser, residing in St. John street below Beaver, who was shot with a whole charge of buck-shot in the right side of the breast. The scene which exhibited itself around this dying man was too much for every one possessing the ordinary feelings of sympathy to bear without shedding a tear. The old and the young appeared to be weeping; and the lamentations, appeared to be contagious, for the whole crowd wept, in sorrow. One grey headed old man, in the midst of his tears, raised his staff aloft, and exclaimed in the fullness of his heart, "On, on Americans! Liberty or death." At this [10] thrilling cry the old man led off, and the whole crowd followed him to avenge the death of their fellow citizen.

Another Native American, named John Deal, was wounded with a bullet, but we could not ascertain the particulars of this case. He was, however, carried off the ground in a perilous situations.

Another Native Republican named Geo. McCallister, was shot in the face and arm; and the wounds are such as to disfigure him, and arrest the

performance of his business for some time to come.

Another Native American, named Samuel Beatty, was shot in the lip. The ball came through the lip into the mouth. He it as taken to his home.

Another Native American named Chas. Vanstavern, was shot in body with buck shot.

Mr. Shiffler it appears was an apprentice to Mr. Shora, a morocco dresser. His death is mourned by every one to whom he was known.

Mr. S. had scarcely been carried off before another crowd was observed, carrying a young man named Henry Temper, a Native American, residing on Frankford road, near Master street, to the drug store. Mr. Temper, had been shot in the hip with a bullet, but not very seriously injured. Whilst this young man was being carried off, an elderly lady came rushing up to the Reporter, who was present, perfectly frantic, and with despair pictured in her face, exclaimed "My God, Sir, do tell me is that my son?" It proved not to be her son.

Another Native American, named Edward Spain was shot in the hip.

An old man, a Native American, was struck on the head with a brick-bat, and seriously injured.

Another Native American, named David Ford, residing No. 123 Moyamensing Road, received a severe wound on the head by a ball from a gun; also a serious contusion over the right eye from a brick-bat!

There were hundreds of others who received wounds from shots that were fired, but in the crowd and confusion which prevailed, it was impossible for the Reporter to collect one fourth of their names, or the [11] extent of their injuries.

The Reporter of the Native American, who, with others had been designated for a sacrifice, had a narrow escape of his life. By mistake he retreated into the IRISH CATHOLIC ranks, when he was assailed with clubs and bricks from the assailants, and slightly injured.

General Smith received some wounds about the body.

A. R. Deale, was slightly injured in the arm by a blow from a brick.

Wm. Springer [Carpenter] was seriously wounded.

Lewis C. Levin, Esq., Editor of the Sun, was violently maltreated.

### **MORE MURDERS**

#### *More Americans shot Down.*

The Meeting at the State House yard, contrary to the remonstrance of the officers, moved off in a solid column, formed and marched in procession up Fifth street to Kensington. The meeting organized in the Market House, above Master street. Just as Col. Jack mounted the rostrum to speak, a shot was fired from the direction of the Hibernia Hose House;

when a rush was made upon the hose house, and a volley of musketry was poured into the meeting, and SIX MORE NATIVE AMERICAN CITIZENS, were wounded in the legs, body and arms, and one man named John Wesley Rhinedollar, living in Front street, Northern Liberties, was shot through the back and instantly fell dead. All the stores and private dwellings .in second street, from Coates up were closed. The American flag was planted in front of Burk's Grocery store, and maintained its position until the last. Mr. Lee, a son of a distiller, near Second street and Poplar Lane, was also shot dead. Col. Albright was wounded in the arm, and was obliged to leave the ground of battle, after displaying a spirit of great bravery. John Brodhead, residing in Eleventh street below George, Locust ward, was struck on the coat button by a spent ball, and also on the cheek with a small shot. An Irishman, named John Taggert, fired a heavily loaded musket into the crowd of Natives, and wounded three. He re-loaded the piece and leveled it at an old grey headed man, who dodged at the instant the gun went off, and the shot did not, therefore take effect. The old man sprang forward, caught the Irishman by the throat, and the crowd rushed upon him, and before he could be rescued he was nearly killed. The Hibernia Hose House was then attacked, and the hose carriage taken and shattered into frag- [12] ments, and used some of the pieces as a means of defence, from the attacks of Catholics. During this fight, the fires from the Irish came fast and thick, and several of the Americans were wounded. Among the number are the following, every one of whom are Native American citizens: George Young, residing in Mariot's Lane near Sixth street, was wounded by a slug or musket ball in his left breast, passing through his lung, and coming out through his back, beneath his shoulder. He gave one leap and fell upon the earth groaning and writhing in his blood. Augustus R. Peale, wounded in the arm badly, by a musket ball—his arm is supposed to have been fractured by the ball. C. Salisbury, the keeper of the Washington house, in the Western part of the city, was wounded. We could not learn the nature or extent of the wound. Willis H. Blaney, constable, it is reported was shot through one of his legs, but the wound is not considered serious to any extent. Wright Ardis, a ship carpenter, residing in Southwark, also wounded in the hip, but could not ascertain the nature or extent of the wound. At this hour half past six o'clock the excitement in Kensington is unprecedented. Affairs have now taken a turn.—The Americans at this moment are triumphant, and the stars and stripes which was tattered and trampled upon, now float in victory. A small number of the Natives who were armed, surprised the Irish, who had possession of the market house, charged home upon them, when they precipitately fled the ground.

The military are now on their way to the scene of bloodshed, having two field pieces.

#### **EIGHT O'CLOCK, P. M.**

John Fagan, residing near Fifth and Cherry streets, was shot in the left shoulder, and was taken to the drug store of Mr. Horer. His wound is not dangerous. Lewis Greble, residing in Fifth near Christian street, had part of his head blown off by a musket ball, and fell dead. He was shot in the right temple. We saw this victim of Catholic fury expire. Thomas Funston, residing at No. 620 N. Second street, was shot in the head but not killed. Matthew Hammitt, a nephew of Mr. Hammitt, ship builder in Kensington, killed. William Hillman, a turner, residing in Kensington, was shot in the head and his wound is regarded as dangerous—he was carried into a neighbor's house. John Shreeves, house painter, residing in Front street above Green, was shot, but whether his wounds are serious or not, we are unable to ascertain.

#### **HALF PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK, P. M.**

The alarm of fire at this moment was caused by the burning of a row of frame buildings in Cadwallader street, in the neighborhood of Master street. These houses, it is said, were occupied by some Irish and burned to the ground. A rope maker in the district of Southwark, whose name we could not get, was shot dead. — Keyser, brother to Mr. Keyser who keeps a tavern near Market street wharf, was seriously wounded. A boy, name unknown, was shot in the left shoulder, while standing in the street.

[13]

#### **ELEVEN O'CLOCK P.M.**

The Hibernia Hose house was the first place where the fire was discovered. That building was burned to the earth, and the contiguous houses caught, and the flames spread with fearful and alarming rapidity. About thirty houses, north of the Hibernia Hose house, have already been consumed; and the fire is still raging. What became of the inmates no one can tell. Probably a number have been consumed in the flames. The excitement is intense. The military, to the number of several hundred, are upon the ground, looking passively on, endeavoring to keep the people from rushing forward.

The Carroll Hose, with one or two other companies, were throwing water on the fire. Charles Stillwell of Southwark, has died from his wounds. A man residing in Shackamaxon street, was mortally wounded in the breast. A number of persons were injured in consequence of the falling in of the walls; &c. of the burning buildings. An Irishman, name unknown, had one of his eyes knocked out by a blow from a club, about 9 o'clock, while looking from his window. The Catholic Church was strongly fortified, but no dis-

position was manifested to attack the same. Guns were heard firing in every direction.

### **TWELVE O'CLOCK.**

All is quiet. The fire is nearly out. The military are still upon the ground. Two Irishmen are reported as having been burned to death.

On the evening of the 7th the military were called out by order of the Sheriff, when the Natives had got their blood fully up, and were fast gaining the ascendancy, the peace officers thought it high time to interpose the authority of the law.

Whilst we were proceeding to the place where American citizens [14] were shot like dogs in the street, we encountered a body of men who numbered several hundreds, coming down Second street, towards the office of Alderman Boileau. We followed the crowd to the Alderman's office. Two Irish Catholics, named John O'Connor and Owen Daley, were brought in, having been arrested in the second story of a house near the corner of Second and Master streets; one of whom was recognized as the man who fired several shots from the windows of that house, wounding a young man in the leg, and is supposed to be the man who shot poor Shiffler. The other was recognized as having been a very active participant in the Catholic ranks on Monday evening. As no officer could be found to make these arrests a Mr. Alburger, a citizen of Southwark, volunteered, and at the imminent risk of his own life, proceeded to this house, walked boldly up stairs, seized a gun which stood in the corner loaded with buck shot and ball, and demanded these men to yield, and go with him. Resistance having been made by the reckless, infuriated men; assistance was procured, and they were taken before the Alderman. So intense was the excitement of the people, who surrounded these men on their way to the office, that it was with the greatest difficulty that violent hands were kept from their persons. The cry of the people was, "Kill them, kill them! Blood for blood!" Every moment these men were in the streets -and they hurried with great precipitation-it was thought they would be forcibly dragged from the hands of Mr. Alburger, and sacrificed in the public street, to satiate the vengeance of an outraged people. But through Mr. Alburger's firmness and determination, at all hazards, to have them dealt with according to law, they were got to the Alderman's office in safety. It appeared, while there, these men were two of the leaders of the Roman Catholics, by whose violence some of our citizens have been sacrificed; and, evidence before the Alderman, that O'Connor had fired repeatedly from the windows of the house in which they both were arrested, was produced, and his guilt made manifest.

The circumstances which led to the arrest of these two individuals, [15]

was a train of blood traced to their door, and their appearance, with the gun in hand, almost every moment, at one of the windows, looking as it is presumed, for an American to fire upon.

The fragments of the bursted gun was found near the school-house, together with a man's thumb. It is supposed that an Irishman had over-charged it, and consequently caused it to burst, carrying with it his thumb. This man it is supposed, was taken to the house where O'Connor and Daley were arrested, the bed clothes of a bed in the second story being saturated with blood, and the floor considerably stained.

Alderman Boileau held these two men, O'Connor and Daley, to bail for another hearing, in the sum of \$1000 each.

The Coroner held inquests upon the bodies of the two young men shot dead, Whright and Shiffler. No definite verdict rendered.

Brigadier General George Cadwallader, at one o'clock, called out the volunteers of the First Brigade, for the purpose of quelling the disturbances in Kensington, which it is said, existed there at that hour, and to check the Irish in their ruthless and lawless violence against the rights and liberties of American citizens.

The Sheriff came upon the ground on Monday evening "solitary and alone," for the purpose of quelling the disturbances, and arresting the ring-leaders. After viewing the scene for a few moments, he proceeded to the office of Alderman Clarke, and gave directions to the Irish about the Alderman's office, to put away their fire-arms, and then made his exit.

A large number of arms were secreted in St. Michael's church, and St. Augustine's church, there were several hundred Irish congregated.

A number of Native Americans were attacked at the corner of Germantown road and Second street, with paving stones, which were hurled from windows and the tops of houses by the Irish. The Natives rallied, stormed one of the houses, and put the Catholics to flight. The Irish held complete possession of the Market-house, and every man of them was armed to the teeth,—many with rifles, muskets and shot guns. This mob of aliens were intensely excited—brandishing their guns, cursing and swearing, and threatening death and destruction to every man who interposed even to pacify them.

[16]

The district on the early part of the 8th presented quite a peaceable aspect, and order reigned throughout. But towards the middle of the day, crowds of persons from the adjoining and other districts, and from the city, flocked there by thousands, perhaps more from motives of curiosity than for any thing else. Congregating in different parts, and coming in contact, discussions arose upon the all absorbing subject of the riots;

and inflammatory language being used, the excitement again broke out with redoubled fury, and the consequences are lamentable to record.

The entire row of houses on Cadwalader street, most of which were frames, extending from Master to Jefferson street, in addition to one or two on Master street, were destroyed; and four on Washington street. From all of these houses guns were fired by the Irish. Nothing remains of the Market house but the brick pillars.

During the morning, an Irishman named Oliver Cree, was taken from his house in the vicinity of Cadwallader street, and two loaded muskets were found in his possession. In conveying him to Mayor Cannon's Office, he was taken from the hands of the officers and beat most unmercifully, He was, however, got before the Mayor and placed in the lock-up-house.

About noon, a beautiful brick dwelling, at the corner of Washington and Jefferson streets was fired.

An alarm having gone forth, the firemen repaired and spared no efforts to arrest the progress of the flames. Before they could be arrested, the fire communicated to an adjoining building, and both were destroyed. [17]

Large numbers of individuals about this time were collecting around the Seminary, and at St. Michael's Church.

At 3 o'clock St. Michael's Church was fired, and with such rapidity did the flames spread that the church was enveloped and consumed in an incredible short period of time. Thousands gazed upon the burning edifice in silence, and not one effort was made to save it. The firemen who were upon the ground put their apparatus in motion, but played only on the buildings south of the church. From the church the raging element communicated itself to the dwelling of the Priest, Mr. Donahue, on the north, which was totally consumed.

The Seminary on the corner of Phoenix and Second streets, was about the same time discovered to be on fire, together with the buildings on the opposite corner occupied by a man named Corr, who kept a grocery, and was reported to have sold ammunition to the Irish. The Seminary and the other building were burned to the ground. Whilst these buildings were burning the Volunteers of the 1st and 3d Brigade, commanded by Generals Cadwallader and Hubbell, and headed by the city troop, marched and arrested further operations by the mob, in this portion of the district. The military kept parading in all quarters, where an outbreak was anticipated; but Alderman Clarke, who, we believe, is a Catholic, and suspected of having instigated and urged upon the poor [18]

priest-ridden souls to commit the first outbreak at the meeting on Monday last, appeared to be an object of revenge for the mob. They sought this residence, made an attack upon it, as well as upon the adjoining house occupied by his brother Patrick, and the furniture of both were thrown into the street, the windows and shutters broken; sash and doors demolished, and the houses themselves left untenanted wrecks.

The store and dwelling of Patrick Murray, S. W. corner of Jefferson and Cadwallader streets, was broken into and racked of every thing. The furniture was tumbled into the street, and torn into pieces. Murray and his family left the premises early in the morning. The excitement in the vicinity was intense. A portion of the Military, with Generals Patterson and Cadwallader, and Sheriff M'Michael, at their head, soon appeared. Great dissatisfaction was manifested at the appearance of the latter person upon the ground, and frequent groans were heard from the mob, while cheers were given in favor of the commanding generals.

During this time the presence of the military were required in Third [19] near Jefferson street, a crowd having collected in that vicinity, exhibiting a disposition to attack certain houses there. Up to seven o'clock last night the military kept the mob in check in this neighborhood, and no damage was done that we could ascertain.

Out of the windows of nearly every Native American and Protestant Irishman in the district, hung the American and tri-colored flags. This was regarded as sufficient protection from the mob. Upon some of the doors were observed the words "Native American," written with charcoal, and on others were posted the "Native American" newspaper—regarding these as a better protection than arms or the military. They were indeed a full protection, for instead of violence being offered to property bearing evidence of the Native principles of the occupant, the persons were greeted with cheers of approbation.

During the afternoon hundreds of families of Catholics moved out the district; and we observed women and children piled high up on furniture cars upon their goods apparently delighted to escape the scenes of turmoil and bloodshed which presented themselves to their eyes for the last three days.

We learn, the military being informed that in the Priest's house were fire arms secured, Col. Fairlamb, with a few of his men, repaired to his house and requested a search. They found a musket with slugs, and took the gun in possession and drew the load. The Priest was politely informed that if he desired his own safety it would be well for him to leave the district instantly. The advice was followed, for he took a cab

and made his exit.

We annex, so far as we have been able to collect the names of the persons who have been killed and wounded, since the commencement of hostilities on Monday evening.

...The military had assembled in front of St. Mary's Church. Fourth street below Walnut for the purpose of preserving order and saving the church and adjoining property, no attempt was made. [20]

About half past 6 o'clock information was received by Mayor Scott, that an attack was contemplated upon the St. Augustine church, in Fourth street below Vine, and that a large crowd had already gathered in its vicinity. He immediately repaired upon horse-back to the spot, with a body of city police, and addressed the crowd, the police were posted around the Chapel. The mass still increased until the streets were completely blocked up, the first City Troop were immediately ordered out, and were upon the ground in a short time but to no purpose, in consequence of this state of things, the Mayor issued a Proclamation calling upon the good citizens to meet immediately at the place of their usual Ward elections for the purpose of assisting the authorities in saving the property from destruction by the mob. Nevertheless the crowd still continued to increase at the Church above referred to.

Scene of the Conflagration of St Augustine's Church, in 4th st. below Vine, in the Evening May, 9, 1844. [21]

About half past 9 o'clock the throwing of stones and bricks commenced with unceasing rapidity until the windows and doors were forced amid the echoing shouts of the enormous multitude, when some entered the Church regardless of the troops and police. At about ten minutes before ten o'clock fire was communicated to one of the window curtains, and we believe the other parts of the Church. A boy it is said but eleven years of age was the incendiary, the fire increased with great rapidity, and dense masses of smoke curled out from every window, and the incense which presented the most beautiful yet terrifying appearance we ever witnessed before of the kind, in a few minutes the flames reached the belfry and burst out from the upper windows in broad sheets, the whole steeple was soon wrapt in the devouring element and presented a terrific aspect, the clock struck ten while the fire was raging in its utmost fury.

At twenty minutes past ten o'clock, the cross which surmounted the steeple, and which remained unhurt fell with a loud crash, amid the plaudits of a large portion of the spectators, in ten minutes afterwards the steeple, which had stood until burnt to a mere skeleton fell, throwing up a mass of cinders which fell like a shower of gold upon the buildings and streets. Northeast of the church the heat during the height of the [22]

fire was so intense, that persons could hardly look at the flames at the distance of half a square or more, and the light was so brilliant as to dim even the gas lamps.

The houses on the corners of New street opposite the St. Augustine church, were in imminent danger during the fire, and that on the Northeast corner ignited upon the roof from the extreme heat, the firemen, however, maintained their ground manfully, and threw copious streams of water upon all the surrounding property—through their efforts an immense amount of private property was saved, the building on the south side of the church, which stood within a few inches of its wall, was greatly damaged by the fire. The inmates, however, moved out in the afternoon, and thus escaped the devouring flames; the house on the Northeast corner of Third and Vine streets took fire from the sparks carried by the wind from the church, as were several others in the direction from the fire, happily the flames were suppressed before much damage was done, through the vigilance and activity of our firemen.

The parsonage of the St. Augustine church in the rear fronting Crown street, took fire from the church at the southeast corner of the roof and burnt downward until all was consumed to the ground. While the fire was burning in the third story, and the back part of the second story, men were busily engaged in the front of the second story in throwing from the windows and doors, books, which flew in every direction at the heads of those below—but little furniture was saved, we saw a sofa, and a large clock, with several small things of household goods, such as beds, small tables, chairs, Mahogany stools, and among the next we observed man come from one of the cellar windows, having a large loaf of, we thought home made bread, which he was throwing into the air and catching it, we suppose he was for feasting while others was amusing themselves by destroying the books. Half past 11 o'clock, the City Councils are now in session to adopt measures to subdue the riot. Fears are entertained that attempts will be made to fire two other, Roman Catholic Churches, and the military have been posted in the vicinity of them. The conflagration of St. Augustine's has nearly subsided, the parsonages yet burns, several houses in the immediate neighborhood were injured. At this place several of the Police Officers were knocked down, and the Mayor was struck in the breast with a stone. 12 o'clock,--All the avenues leading to St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Churches, in Fourth near Prone, and in Willing's Alley, have been guarded by troops, who suffer no person to enter the space unless they live within the square.

One o'clock, A. M. the alarm of fire is caused by the renewal of

the burning of the parsonage house of St. Augustine. Every thing is quiet in the district of Kensington, Southwark, Moyamensing. A slight demonstration was manifested by a collection of persons at the corner of Market and Thirteenth street, but it was promptly met and checked by the military force established in Thirteenth street, for the protection of St. John's Church, between Market and Chestnut. The City Councils are still in secret session.

#### **May the 9th, Fourth day of the Riot.**

Today the excitement throughout the city is very great, the feeling of the people, as exhibited on Tuesday in Kensington, seemed to have caught the people of the City. Nothing but confusion and dismay prevailed throughout the whole day. In the early part of the day, large crowds of persons collected in the vicinity of the Roman Catholic Church in 13th street above Chestnut, the military, however, guarded it, and saved it from the fury of the mob. Two pieces of artillery charged with grape were posted at the gates, and these perhaps, were more efficient in deterring the mob from making an onslaught upon the church than any other cause. [23]

All the property of value in the different Catholic Churches was early in the day removed to several private quarters in the City and County.

#### **Funeral of George Shiffler**

May 9th,—The funeral of George Shiffler, took place this morning at 10 o'clock. The procession was one of the largest and imposing ever, witnessed in that portion of the county. He was taken from his residence to the burial ground, at the corner of Hanover and Duke streets, Kensington. His coffin was wrapped with the tattered flag which was torn and trampled upon on Wednesday evening last. Several clergymen, together with a large number of Native Americans, officiated in the solemn ceremonies.

The following as far as can be ascertained is the loss of property. [24]  
A two story brick house in Germantown road above Muster, was riddled, loss of about \$100, Brick house adjoining slightly injured. Alderman Clark's loss about \$1000; Patrick Murray's loss \$4000. Mr. Murray has been affected in his mind in consequence of his losses. Mr. Lavery's house and furniture destroyed, his loss is about \$2000. House adjoining belonging to Mr Loy, destroyed \$150. Four houses on Cadwalader st. belonging to Mr. Sherry, all destroyed, loss about \$300, frame house belonging to Mr. McKee, burnt to ashes, loss \$4000. Mr, McCollough who occupied the above house, lost all he had \$1000. Three houses owned by Mr. Sherridan and occupied by his tenants in his employ, lost about \$2500. Mr. Kenan, frame house and back buildings burned to ashes, loss about \$500; on Washington st, six three story bricks all occupied, were destroyed, loss about \$9500. A large brick at the corner of Washington and Jefferson sts. suffered a loss of

about \$1500. Seven frame houses in harmony court, all consumed valued at about \$3200. A house on Cadwalader st. was damaged to the amount of about \$300, the loss to the Hibernia Hose house including all things, was not less than \$1000, of the Market house which was the property of the district of Kensington, nothing remains but the bare pillars, loss three or four thousand dollars. A carpenter shop in the rear of Cadwalader st. entirely destroyed, loss about \$500, another house on the same st. destroyed, loss \$1500, a frame house on the same street destroyed loss not ascertained. Four frames on Cadwalader st. burned to the ground, loss about \$2600, the loss of the St. Michaels Catholic Church, the parsonage house, and furniture, and ornaments, and the school belonging to the sisters of charity, for the education of orphans, is estimated at about \$75000, five frames on the right of the church all consumed, loss about \$4300, Mr. Carr's house at the corner of Phoenix and 2nd. streets, which was sacked, loss about \$1500, two large Brick houses at the corner of 2nd and master sts. were burned loss about \$3000, a tenant of one of them lost about \$600, a frame back of this valued at about \$400.

St. Augustine's Church, two brick houses in the rear on crown st. occupied by the priest, all burned and nothing but the walls left standing, loss about \$65000, and much other property damaged in the neighbourhood, which loss would amount to about \$3000.

In estimating this destruction of property, we have not taken into account a vast amount of material in the houses, and we feel warranted in believing that the amount far exceeds the above.

Friday, May 10th, the excitement in the minds of the people is rapidly subsiding; and a great many families are returning to their deserted dwellings, the military are still under arms, and are stationed at every Roman Catholic Church, Asylum, Seminary, and the Jesuits college on Race st. near Schuylkill.

May 11 and 12th, order still prevails through the city and county. As a precautionary measure, however, public worship was suspended on Sunday in all the Catholic Churches, by order of the Bishop.

The scene of the late riots was crowded with citizens, particularly Sabbath afternoon, and it is estimated that at least ten thousand persons were on the ground, which had been drawn there from motives of curiosity, numbers with their families have visited the spot in cabs and private carriages.