

by the connection with the Church of Scotland, their Churches were broken into with brutal violence, the perpetrators of these acts of violence, Christian pastors! trusting to the peaceable dispositions of the God-fearing people, upon whom they tried to impose themselves. In other cases, legal proceedings are threatened against those who still hold possession of their Churches by an incontestable title, the presumption being that some technical error may be found by which a decision may be wrested from the judges in favour of those who seek to break away from the Church to which they once belonged and to seize hold of properties to which they have no claims, either legally or equitably. Yet we, who have decided to remain by our Church, are branded as greedy and unscrupulous.

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### COMMUNISM IN CANADA.

With what a feeling of horror was the news received here that the communists were committing excesses in Paris; that the Red Flag had been raised, and that no property was safe; no rights respected; nothing but the popular will, directed by demagogues, to be regarded as the rule for the disposal of all things. Such a state of affairs is one not greatly to be desired, yet there was no disguise in the matter; all this disorder was open and recognised as an overthrow of constituted authority, as an uprising against law and order, as the reign of lawlessness, and a contempt for courts of justice and the setting aside of existing rights. There was at least no hypocrisy about it, no pretence of appealing to law as a justification for doing away with all laws.

We do not pretend to deny that in great national crises, there may be a justification for setting aside legal rights; such was alleged to be the reason for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of Ireland. It was held by those who advocated that measure, that great irritation existed on the part of the Irish people at the existence of an institution, which, to the large majority, was a sign of the supremacy of a small portion of the community over the great bulk of the people, and that until this was removed there could be no peace, no cordiality between the two nations. That, on the one hand, there was a smouldering discontent, ready to break out into a flame of insurrection; on the other, a privileged class lording it over a conquered country and keeping watch and ward over a tributary province, from which it drew supplies to maintain a privileged class in ease and luxury. Such were the arguments used. We are not called on to express an opinion as to the truth or error contained in them. But strongly as the case was put by Mr. Gladstone, and earnestly as he advocated the putting an end to this state of affairs, which, rightly or wrongly, he held to be one great reason for Irish disaffection, he yet showed that he appreciated to its full extent the gravity of the measure which he had