

At this stage the matter rests at the present time. The object of the Presbytery in issuing the foregoing statement is, that the public may be put in possession of all the facts of the case, and thus be in a position to judge of the propriety of the course pursued both by the Government and themselves. They have instituted the process at Law with no very sanguine anticipations of success. They are not afraid of failure from want of evidence, but from those very peculiarities of the situation which induced them to hesitate so long about commencing a prosecution. Already their fears, as to the treatment to which their witnesses would be subjected, have been partially realized. One of them was pursued on the very night that the examination terminated. Another had the windows of his saloon broken on the same night. Within a few days the cowardly act of breaking the windows was again repeated. The Presbytery however are fully persuaded that notwithstanding the numerous and harassing annoyances to which their people in the mean time may be subjected, a searching investigation into all the circumstances of the Riot, accompanied by the publication of the evidence to the world, will serve a valuable purpose even if the Grand Jury of the County refuse to find a Bill of Indictment or a Petit Jury a verdict of guilty.

Already, and since the preliminary examination, they have heard with much satisfaction, that the Bishop has publicly in the chapel severely denounced the conduct of the Rioters, and expressed his hope that the guilty parties would be brought to punishment.

In closing this statement, the Committee on behalf of the Presbytery of Picton, wish to express their sense of obligation to all who have co-operated with them in their efforts to vindicate the rights of their people. Their thanks are due, not more to the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church Lower Provinces, which have almost unanimously joined in an expression of sympathy for the injured brethren, and of indignation at the outrage committed upon them, than to the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces, and the District Meetings of the Wesleyans, which have been equally cordial, hearty, and vigorous in their utterances.

They would also acknowledge their indebtedness to the conductors of those papers which have not only communicated the facts to the world, but have also contended earnestly, in some instances in the face of misrepresentation and abuse, for the vindication of our common rights, and the maintenance of our common privileges.