

despairing of obtaining justice in Canada, are preparing to leave for a country where they can worship God in freedom.

The entire property of the Church of Scotland, real and personal, to the value of millions, was, on the 15th of June 1875, confiscated to the use of a new and hostile sect, her temporalities parted among strangers, her churches, manses, and lands, and her very colleges seized by the same, and even her widows and orphans deprived and robbed of their rightful funds by the same locust army of unionists. Funds, donations and grants, property of every description, from Imperial gifts down to the last dollar of the hard-working men's collections—every green leaf, is devoured by the union legion of grasshoppers!

But not only is the Church of Scotland plundered; she is insulted at the same time by her members being even asked to *vote* whether they will be *true to her or not*! And this vital question of their *very existence* as a Church they must decide in six months, according to the Mowat Act, or be stripped of every vestige of their property. It is the same thing as if the children of a beloved mother were bribed to leave her—as if they were asked whether they would be dutiful or undutiful—whether they would retain their *own mother* or take a *strange woman*! When the insulting clause met my eye exposing the venerable Church of Scotland, with all her blood-bought privileges, to the hap-hazard of a vote, my blood boiled with indignation, and my advice was for her members to take no such vote. To vote on the question of *retaining or abandoning* a religion more sacred to us than all the things of this world—of standing *true* or proving *false* to principles for which our fathers bled and died, and which we have been taught from infancy to regard as dearer than life itself, was simply an outrage to our feelings.

It was indeed a fiery trial; yet not to lose their churches, and have old and young deprived of the benefits of a public ministry, many congregations, in terms of the tyrannical Acts, submitted to the revolting measure of voting *whether they would be true to their Kirk or betray her*! How the hearts of thousands heaved, with indignant sorrow at being reduced to this degrading step, and how the heart of Scotland will heave with indignant wrath when she hears of it, I need not describe. And how did our Church stand the fiery ordeal? In her long and glorious history she has passed through many trials, but this was the most degrading. It will scarcely be credited out of Canada that *one* of a majority of her opponents, though obtained by bribery, could decide the fate of her property—to obtain which every species of corruption, false oaths, and violence was employed by the unionists, under whose threats many were driven like cattle into the Union, part believing they would still be the Church of Scotland, and part the Free Church. Terrorism was as rampant as at an elec-