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A REPLY

TO CERTAIN CHARGES PREFERRED BY REV. JABEZ SIMS, AGAINST CHARLES T. DUPONT, VISITING SUPERINTENDENT AT MANITOU-LIN ISLAND; AND TO THE REPORT OF S. H. STRONG THEREON.

OTTAWA, May 6th, 1868.

SIR,—I have the honor most respectfully to submit for your consideration the following facts in connection with a report made to you by Mr. S. H. Strong, of Toronto, regarding certain charges affecting my private and official character made by the Revd. Jabez Sims, and investigated by him.

My first knowledge of the nature of the charges preferred, and that an investigation was to be held, was obtained in Toronto on the eve of Mr. Strong's starting for the Manitoulin Island. I reached Little Current, situated twenty-five miles from my home and office, by the same steamer that conveyed to that place Mr. Strong, accompanied by the Revds. Drs. O'Meara and Saltern Givins.

We arrived on the Island upon a Friday morning, and I informed Mr. Strong that I should require time, to proceed to Manitowaning to procure official papers and instructions to show, that in many matters complained of, I was not a free agent, and not to be held responsible; as well as other documents material to my defence, and to send for witnesses.

He replied, that any official papers could be put in afterwards, and that he wished I would not detain him for witnesses, until, at least, they were found to be required on my side; but would stay where I was and allow the investigation to proceed that day. Awaiting therefore, the result of the testimony submitted by the Rev. Jabez Sims, and informing Mr. Strong that if he considered anything proven by them, I should call two witnesses to Mr. Sims one, in disproof; I consented not to delay or take time to make any preparations, but to allow the investigation to proceed, and the Rev. Jabez Sims' statements and witnesses to be heard.

At about four in the afternoon at the school-house at Little Current, there being admitted only the Rev. Dr. O'Meara and Saltern Givins as spectators, the Rev. Jabez Sims made his statement (which, with some questions I asked him, for the purpose of more effectually exhibiting his utter disregard of truth, when I should come to call my witnesses), occupied until six o'clock, when Mr. Strong adjourned until 7.30 P.M. On leaving the building, the three Reverend Gentlemen diverged in one direction, Mr. Strong and myself in the opposite direction to where our quarters lay. Mr. Strong came up and took my arm, and the first words that passed between us were from him. He said, "that man (alluding to the Rev. Jabez Sims) is a d——nd fool." I told him he should go on, and he would find out all about it for himself.

At 7.30 P. M. the investigation was resumed, there being again no spectators admitted but the Revds. O'Meara and Givins, when my statement was taken. On my asking Mr. Sims whether he had not followed me along the street calling me a villain and a scoundrel, and calling upon the Orangemen to avenge him, he prevaricated to such a degree, that Mr. Strong used these words to him with great impatience: "I am bound to