

F102P
16292

W. L. Carter
York: A

TO MR. GEORGE RYERSON.

SIR,

The following remarks are made on the evidence given by you before the Committee of the House of Commons, on the Civil Government of Canada, in 1828. If you think proper you can answer them: if you decline to reply, your silence must be construed into an acquiescence of their correctness.

You assume the population to be 200,000.
And at page 222, of the minutes of evidence, you say that about
one fifth part of that population is Methodists, or 40,000.

Which leaves 160,000,
for other denominations.

How you account for the whole 200,000, I shall endeavour to ascertain from your evidence; for if you are condemned, it shall be on your own shewing—out of your own mouth.

At page 217, you say, without any qualification whatever, that “the Methodists are the most numerous”—and you are a Methodist yourself. For argument sake, take we this for granted,—it may possibly be so in fact.

You are then asked, “What denomination is *next* to them (the Methodists) in number?” to which you answer—“I think the different classes of Presbyterians.” Now, before I go any farther, to preserve order, I take what you term the *most* numerous.

1st. The Methodists, 40,000.

2d. *Next*, “the different classes of Presbyterians,” giving you fair play, say 39,999.

3d. Following this mode of interrogation, you are again asked, “What denomination do you conceive to be *next* to them (the Presbyterians) in number?” you answer, “I think the *Church of England*, and the *Baptists*, are about *equal in number*, and *next* to the Presbyterians.” Now if we can ascertain the number of Baptists, we shall come pretty nearly at what you would represent as being the number of the Church of England; for you say they are about equal. Here then, there is not much of difficulty to shew what you would represent that number to be, although you do not speak it out in terms. I come at it in the following manner:—You say, with respect to Mr. Morrison’s Chart, that, “much pains was taken to ascertain the correctness of its returns.”—That Chart gives the Baptists 5740: the *Church of England* then, according to your account, “about equal,” will give as her number, 5,740.

4th. And for the *Baptists*, the same, 5,740.

5th. Then, with respect to the *Catholics*, you are asked—“Do you conceive them to be very numerous?” You answer generally, that, “in the Upper District there are a *few* Townships of *French Canadians*,—and in the lower part, a Township of *Highland Scotch*, who are Roman Catholics”—you are further asked—“Are there many *Irish Catholics*?” you answer, “there are *some few* in the new Townships recently inhabited.” Supposing them, however, to be “*next*” in the order assumed in your evidence, we shall have, giving you fair play again, 5,739.

6th. For *other* sects and denominations, I take the following as my guide, and as I mean, Mr. Ryerson, to make you speak for yourself, I ground it upon your own words. You are then asked, “how Mr. Morrison’s Chart was formed, and what means were taken to insure its correctness?” You tell the Committee in reply, that, “much pains was taken to ascertain the correctness of the returns”—that the “Secretary (of the Central Committee) wrote to