

tion of his Press and Types, which were thrown into Lake Ontario by the sons and dependants of those whose dishonest conduct he had brought to light. But this outrage only added fuel to the fire that burned in the public breast; it confirmed those who had previously doubted the purity of the Government, and provoked those who had witnessed its corruption, and felt its oppressions, to a more determined opposition. Mr. MACKENZIE appealed to the law; a verdict against the destroyers of his property was the result, and his newspaper was soon on its accustomed round, every day enlarging the circle of its influence. In 1827, when the attempt was made to disfranchise a large portion of the population of Upper Canada by the infamous ALIEN BILL, Mr. MACKENZIE took a prominent part in the measures then adopted to secure its defeat. By his advice that cruelly-persecuted patriot ROBERT RANDALL, was quietly sent off to England before the Government were aware of the movement; and armed with the remonstrances of a wronged and indignant people, he happily secured its defeat by the veto of the King.

In 1828 he entered the Legislature as one of the representatives of the County of York, and there labored with the same untiring energy as at the press, for the public good. His faithful and vigorous exposures of corruption and maladministration of public affairs led to his being violently expelled from the Assembly no less than five times, but in every case he was again returned by overwhelming majorities.

It was during this year that the warfare in Canada against Ecclesiastical usurpation and intolerance may be said to have commenced. The attempt to lay broad and deep the foundations of a State Church, by the crafty circulation of false information, relative to the numerical strength and the character of the religious denominations in the Province, among the members of the British Cabinet and Parliament was discovered and exposed. Upwards of fifty witnesses were examined before a Committee of the Provincial Legislative Assembly upon this subject, many of whom were intelligent Episcopalians, and their testimony gave the lie to Doctor Strachan's pretended "Ecclesiastical Chart of Upper Canada," and a correct chart was that year transmitted to London, accompanied by a loyal address from the Assembly, to which no reply, if received by the Upper Canada Executive (of which Doctor Strachan was a member), was ever communicated to the House. Mr. MACKENZIE took a very active part at this period in thus endeavoring to arrest the progress of Ecclesiastical intolerance, and to establish universal religious liberty and equality, and his zeal in defence of the cause has never abated during a long and weary warfare of nearly thirty years. Thousands of the inhabitants of Canada are not aware that up to this period (1828) no religious community, except the Church of England, could legally hold a piece of ground as a site for a church or a burial-place, and