

ter informed than he could possibly be, of the situation of things in Scotland. I attended the trial, in Edinburgh, of one of the chief offenders, and remember well, on what grounds he and others were transported.— They were charged with holding secret meetings, with administering oaths of secrecy, and having warlike arms in preparation for carrying their designs violently into execution. Who would not wish to see men convicted of such practices, “sentenced to transportation?” Have I done anything of this sort? have I held secret meetings? have I sworn any one to secrecy, or been an advocate for oaths? have I or my proselytes, anything to do with warlike arms? Mercy on us, for, by and by, the Hon. Thomas Clark will accuse us of sedition for eating our food, and of treason, for meeting together, in church, to put up our prayers to the Almighty!

After the public, to whom Mr. Clark’s placard is dedicated, have been so grossly insulted by him, I am persuaded it would be but further insult, should I say another word on this part of the subject. I only wish that I could here stop, and let Mr. Clark rest in quiet, among “visionary enthusiasts;” but my duty, both to myself and the public, calls loudly for further explanation.

From the first paragraph of the placard, it would seem as if I was dependant on Mr. Clark, and that, without the approbation and countenance of this very self important personage, I had a right to do nothing in this world. I flatter myself that I am in any way dependant upon him, or that at any stage of my statistical inquiries, I have been ruled by his advice or authority. My first address, printed at York, was never, till its publication, shown to Mr. Clark; and with respect to my “recent improper and unwarrantable publication,” who could ever suppose me under his patronage, who now does his “duty to the Government, the province and himself,” by protesting against them? The insinuations of the placard, groundless as they may be, are yet nothing to what Mr. Clark has uttered in public, regarding me. Yesterday, he attended the meeting of his own township, and there I am sorry to say, disgraced himself, in a manner beyond all precedent. Mr. Clark stood forward at the Stamford meeting, and declared that I was a person wholly without means of subsistence—that the dollar he gave Mr. Heburne, was meant for my private aid, as a poor man—that he had lent me money, in England, which I had squandered—that I had not a

foot of land belonging to me, in Upper Canada; and that my sole object in what I was now about, was to get possession of the money subscribed by petitioners. If a dozen honest men had sworn that Mr. Clark was capable of such declarations, I would not have believed them, before the absolute fact was proved; and I trust that, under circumstances, the public will excuse my stating the truth, as to my private affairs, which, upon any ordinary occasion, would be quite impertinent.

I became acquainted with Mr. Clark, for the first time, when he was at home, during the war. He then came to Wiltshire, and spent a few weeks at my house. I am the oldest son of my father, who, at that time, was in possession of a landed estate, in Scotland, worth, with its stock, upwards of £130,000. Having, for some years, been involved in a law suit, on a question which unluckily my father had misconceived, he had withdrawn from me his countenance, and I was left to the support of other friends, in prosecuting my suit. My situation being known to Mr. Clark, he volunteered to me a loan of £500. Little more than a year after this, my father’s affairs became involved. Till the age of seventy-five, he had carried on the most extensive agricultural operations of any man in the kingdom; and for integrity, as well as perfect knowledge of business, ranked in the very highest class. When the exposure of affairs took place, not only my father and family were confounded with the result, but the whole country was so. It could be accounted for in no way but from the natural decay of age. My father had lost his memory, and for several years had been the prey of all who had the wickedness to impose upon him. Within a month after this, seeing that I could no longer expect to return to my native country, and keep up the rank which I had from my infancy enjoyed, I resolved on going abroad, and had my intention communicated to Mr. Clark. The fall of my fortune, increased the rancour of the person with whom I was at law. He would consent to no terms of settlement, and I had to remain more than a year fighting out the battle. My lawyers failed to carry my cause before the Assizes. I instantly published an address—had this address put into the hands of most eminent counsel, in London, with a suitable fee, and thus obtained a confession that I was right. I then sued in Chancery, for a new trial, and carried my point, though opposed by five lawyers, who wasted several days in pleading. My cause