

benefit his country without making sacrifices—it may be of worldly goods—it may be of life—it may be of fame. Many men may be popular at some period of their lives, and unpopular ever after, or vice versa. Assuredly Lord Elgin was at one time the most decidedly unpopular of men. In the estimation of many he has not redeemed himself, and never will. He might, I think, have remembered that in April, 1849, when he contrived to excite the British population almost to frenzy, when they could be restrained neither by the Police, nor by the French Canadians, whom he had armed, nor by the Queen's troops, I was not unpopular.

But for my intervention on three several occasions, he might have been hanged or torn to pieces in his own house; but for my intervention, sir,—it is a solemn fact attested by scores of witnesses—the troops would infallibly have slaughtered hundreds of my Protestant, protesting fellow-citizens. At that time thousands of armed sympathizers, with decided military instincts and some discipline, in the neighbouring States, were ready to advance to the rescue. In Upper Canada, too, hundreds eager for the fray could scarcely be restrained from pouring down like a flood to our relief. Had the collision (which by God's providence I prevented) taken place, Canada must have been severed from Great Britain. Have I not done something, and that not a little thing—for I prevented the effusion of blood, and possibly, as a consequence, saved a Province;—have I not done something, I say, which after my death may induce my descendants to respect my memory? Need I, after this statement, enter into my defence? Need I refer to illustrious examples? I will not cite the apostles—but Wickliffe, Luther, Ridley. Were they popular? Why, at the close of the Revolutionary War, that incarnation of patriotism, the heroic Nelson, then captain of a man-of-war, was so unpopular that had he stepped ashore upon any West India island, he would have been apprehended. He was frequently chased by bailiffs and constables, and the Admiral commanding on the Station censured, reprimanded and suspended him. All these were the consequences, simply, of *his determination to do his duty*,

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