

stables, judged it prudent to desist. From 1837 to 1841 there was a majority of Escheators in the House of Assembly; the time of the Members, while in session, was mostly taken up in considering the State of the Colony, that is, in debating the Escheat question. The Governors were harassed, the prosperity of the Colony retarded, and much of the public money spent in Crown prosecutions, special constables, and on troops to quell them.

A Delegate was twice sent home to England to advocate their cause: once at the expense of the Treasury, and once by public subscription. Things continued in this state till March, 1843, when the Escheators in my Parish resolved upon not allowing any proprietor or agent to exercise any right to the soil in the northern part of King's County; consequently they bound themselves by oath to be true to one another. They put in possession of a farm a person whom the agent had ejected: they prevented the Surveyor from surveying, as if his employer had no right to the soil: they paraded the country with arms, and other missiles, and sent about messengers to warn all their fellow Escheators throughout the Island to meet them on an appointed day in Charlottetown, the capital, in order to intimidate the Governor, and to frighten him into a compliance with their wishes. Sir Henry Vere Huntley, our present Lieutenant Governor, being aware of all this, immediately despatched fifty armed constables to apprehend the rioters, but knowing it to be useless to send constables among them, however well armed, unless backed by a military force, sent a company of the Rifle Brigade to support them. At the news of the arrival of the troops, the rioters, after having bidden defiance to the Government during twelve