

Gatton on the course of English Parliamentary Reform? And if a Parliament could be found base enough to disregard the protest of the Brethern of Laud against all acts passed in their absence as being the acts of a Parliament no longer free, what amount of temerity will resist "the Memorial of John, by Divine Permission, Bishop of Toronto"?—Alas! we fear such is the arbitrary power now vested in and exercised by our Parliaments that the validity of their acts will scarcely admit of a question, even though the whole Bench of Bishops should record their dissent—or even, as in the case of the Act of Uniformity, the very name of the Lords Spiritual should be dropped from every part of the Bill. If the only opponents of a legislative measure are the unfaithful stewards who have betrayed their trust what better argument could their exist for the legal and moral necessity of a change!

The betrayal of trust and subversion of the law by the College Council, deprive Mr. Draper's argument of even the appearance of plausibility. The contest is not between the people of Canada and the vested rights of the College Council—but between a corrupt Council and the vested rights of the people. All those "privileges, rights and franchises," for which Mr. Draper has so eloquently contended, were vested in the community: the College Council have, in violation of the law, perverted them to private purposes: and have had the effrontery to appear at the Bar of the Commons in defence of a contraband traffic with a public endowment. Those who talk of vested rights being invaded or infringed by the University Bill, should look at the original grant—its fraudulent appropriation—the deceptions practised in obtaining the Charter—the long and arduous struggles by the people to reclaim their birthright—the supposed termination of those struggles in the Legislative Act restoring the endowment to its legitimate purposes—and the defeat of those purposes by parties who have neither the capacity nor the integrity—neither the ability nor the inclination to promote any public good. If the system at present in operation were carried on under the sanction of a law, however inexpedient—it might in some respects be defensible as a right—but carried on as it is under a flagrant violation of positive law and on the strength of a usurped power it calls for immediate alteration as subversive of the legal constitution of the Establishment, and inimical to the interests of the country.