

you write and on all you do. And were it not that this admits a ready explanation from what is known of men who without valid reasons have abandoned the faith of their fathers, we should have deemed your sentiments and actions altogether inexplicable.

What then, Sir, must we think of your assertion that *they were the sufferers and to them the remuneration, be it great or small, of right belongs*. It surely became you as a teacher of truth, and a friend of religion to be particularly cautious in the statements you put forth, especially when these were in opposition to statements furnished by one who had ample means of procuring accurate information, and no motive but to put it forth fairly. Nothing could be gained by a departure from veracity, even did you conceive me capable of it, and nothing lost by my adherence to truth. But in the perusal of these letters, on part of which these strictures are made, nothing has more amazed me than the bitter promptitude, with which you assail the characters and motives of men, who are nothing inferior to you in public estimation, and the odour of whose names will remain sweet when it shall be reckoned an object of desire in the provincial church that yours should be forgotten.

After these statements, venerable dignity, I would fain ask what we are to think of your assertion:

"It is not easy to conceive a complaint so reckless or so completely discreditable in all its bearings. It is not made by the party suffering, but by one who had nothing to do in the matter, and received no damage."

Is not the first plainly a slander? Is not the last an untruth? I am aware that you will probably throw the *onus* on the documents before you.—Come out with the documents; let the author be known. We at least have nothing to dread from the consequences. And there are not a few people in Niagara better acquainted with its earlier state than I can be, who may furnish you and the author of the documents with some valuable portions of our church's history.

It is not my intention in this letter to make any general remarks upon your letters to Mr. Morris, though slandered by you in numerous instances, in common with the whole Presbyterian body, I might justly use the liberty. But I cannot pass by the opportunity now offered me of making one observation on one of your own reckless and insolent assertions in which I am more personally concerned. The concluding paragraph in the pamphlet containing Mr. Morris's correspondence, which you mention as the production of a "contemptible and venomous writer," seems to have produced in your own mind "a mortification altogether maddening." I venture to say the Hon. Delegate of the Presbyterians has not been half so maddened by it, nor even by the many "venomous" things that you have written against him, although it appears in a place where the inobservant may be led to think he is more concerned in its contents. That you should feel its sting cannot be deemed surprising—that you have not better concealed its effects, your sober minded friends will perhaps be inclined to deplore. That you are the fountain and origin of the evil that has arisen from the esta-

blishment of Rectories in this province—and who can calculate its amount present and remote? those best acquainted with the secretaries of its administration will very readily believe. I confess that I cannot entertain the opinion that the late Lieutenant Governor, a man with whom it was impossible to converse without being deeply impressed with his sincerity and honor—could have been guilty of an act pronounced unauthorised and illegal by the highest authorities in the realm—an act done within a few days of his resigning the administration into other hands—I cannot believe that it was entirely spontaneous on his part, or that had he continued in the government he would either have done it, or sanctioned it. To reconcile this hasty and illegal step with the views which I have always entertained of the character of Sir John Colborne, I have been compelled to surmise that some selfish and busy body had plied his jesuitical arts upon the unsuspecting veteran, & amidst the hurry consequent on his departure from the province, had overcome his better purpose, and persuaded him to an act which has proved a blot on his fair name, and a thorn in the side of his successor; & amongst all the officious meddlers in state affairs, of notoriety in the province, it did not seem to be safe to guess that any one would be more apt for such officious dealing, or more reckless of the consequences than the Archdeacon of Toronto.—While I think the act dishonorable because it was clandestine so far as the Home Government was concerned, and dishonest in so far as it has been pronounced contrary to law, I can easily conceive how an honorable man might be decoyed into its perpetration. But the decoyers—what can I think of them?—That they are blind, selfish, the tarnishers of an honorable name, the enemies of the peace of this province, and within it the subverters of British supremacy! Sir I can scarcely account for the "contemptible and venomous" effusions which have lately dropped from your pen in reference to this transaction, without a strong suspicion that you are very deeply implicated in the guilt of it; that the now obsolete despatches procured through your industry at the Colonial Office were obtruded into notice at a time when confusion and haste prevented their deliberate examination; and now when you see the detestation in which the act is held by nine-tenths of the people of this province, many of them the most enlightened members of your own communion, you have rushed forth an infuriated champion, and forgetting the sacredness of your profession and your official dignity, you have indulged in a strain of vituperation against the best in the land, in a style which you must have borrowed, not from the calm and chaste writers of the Church of England, but from the head rebel on Navy Island. Oh, how fervently I wish that his "contemptible and venomous" spirit had departed with him! But truly it is not easy to silence the suspicion that his tattered mantle has fallen over your surplice—and the thought is mournful!

I know right well, venerable dignity, the estimation in which your political, and perhaps I might also say, your clerical career is held in this quarter; and entertaining, as I have always done,