

That Orangeism in any part of this Dominion may find a justification in the fact that the great majority of the population of the Province of Quebec is Catholic, is a consideration which, even if the tolerant and inoffensive majority of that Province were disposed to exercise its right of local government as illiberally as the Protestant majorities of New Brunswick and of Prince Edward Island exercise theirs, cannot be entertained short of an acceptance of the practice of the 2,000 armed Orangemen of the Province of Ontario who invaded the Province of Quebec on the 16th of last July, to thrust their insult and outrage on the Catholic population of Montreal by insurrectionary violence.

Your Majesty's Petitioners humbly show also, that the Orange body as an organisation menacing the freedom of religious conscience, is in conflict with the spirit of the constitution, and in direct violation of the guarantees of religious liberty, when it makes annually a demonstration of physical force under banners that demand suppression of the Catholic faith.

And your Majesty's Petitioners humbly show further, that the Orange Society outrages publicly with its banners and its music and religious faith, and its visible head, which one million and a half or 42 per cent. of your Majesty's subjects in this Dominion hold most venerable and holy.

That the said Orange Society perpetrates by its banners, music, and exhibition of physical force, wanton outrage on not only the religious faith, and its visible head of half a million of Your Majesty's Canadian subjects who are Catholics of Irish birth or blood, but aggravates that wanton public outrage on those unoffending citizens by the insults conveyed in the Orange presence and the Orange music, to the memories of those of our forefathers who, now half a century in the repose of Irish graves, laid down their lives in a resistance of desperation against what subsequent action of the estates of Your Majesty's realm has confessed in effect to have been cruel oppression.

That though animosity, strife, and bloodshed result here, as in Ireland, from those violations of good citizenship on the part of our misguided fellow-subjects of the Orange Society, Your Majesty's Memorialists are willing to bear, and as far as human nature may be subdued by religious restraint and civil obedience, to forbear in a recognition of the general principle of the right of public procession, and they do not seek to interfere in anywise with that or any other right or privilege enjoyed by the Orange body (so far as that body may be lawful) in common with all similar bodies in this Dominion.

That the Orange Society is, however, not content with rights and privileges in common with all similar bodies in this Dominion, but that it seeks to obtain for itself special rights and privileges through legislation; that it has actually obtained such in the Province of New Brunswick, and that having made several unsuccessful attempts to do so in the Province of Ontario, it contemplates a renewal of those attempts in Ontario now.

That the indecent legislation which has given in the last quarter of the 19th century the Orange Society of New Brunswick the authority of law by special enactment, has received from the Lieutenant Governor of the Province the Royal Assent, and that that Assent had not been forbidden, or has not since been recalled by the Governor General of the Dominion.

And on all these grounds your Memorialists humbly pray that Your Majesty will graciously cause the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors of this Dominion and their successors in office to be forbidden to sanction any enactment so revolting to the spirit of the Constitution, so well calculated to alienate the affections of a million and a half of Your Majesty's subjects in Canada from the Throne and Government as a special Charter of the Orange Society; and that while saving thus the self-respect, the religious sense, the constitutional equality of ourselves and our co-religionists in this part of the Empire, Your Majesty will save your person and throne before the civilised world, and especially before a vast body of your people, from responsibility for the sanction, by your Royal Assent, of annual outrages on a million and a half of your Canadian subjects through their faith, and on 500,000 of that number through the memories of their fathers.

And your Memorialists shall ever pray.

Here follow the Signatures.