

DEFENCE

OF

SIR CHARLES METCALFE

BY THE REV. EGERTON RYERSON.

REMARKABLE AND CELEBRATED POLITICAL LETTERS!

In defence of Sir Charles Metcalfe—Loyalty—and British Principles!

BY THESE LETTERS

THE TORONTO REFORM ASSOCIATION

(The Nest of the Canada Rebellion,)

Was Entirely BLOWN UP!

And the Elections in Canada

(In 1844,)

Secured for the Government

AGAINST

COMBINED ARROGANCE AND
TREACHERY.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

By the Reverend Egerton Ryerson.

FELLOW CHRISTIANS AND FELLOW

SUBJECTS OF WESTERN CANADA!

Permit me, the study of whose life has been the welfare of his native country, to address you a few words at this portentous crisis of our provincial history.

By the events of 1837, and the safety and welfare of your families, I warn you to pause before you tie yourself any closer to that knot of a certain class of lawyers, who, with the decoy of two or three honest stool pigeons, figure in the Toronto Reform Association.

In 1834, I gave a similar warning shortly after the then called "Constitutional Reform Association" was established in Toronto. In 1837, my warning predictions were realized to the ruin of many and the misery of thousands. What took place in 1837 was but a preface of what may be witnessed in 1847.

The principles of the Association of 1844 are constitutional; so were the principles of the Association of 1834.

The present Association includes names of the highest respectability; so did the former Association include the most respectable as well as most learned names of that day.

The former Association, with the profession of sound principles, distilled and breathed out a subtle poison against all that constituted

the health and stability of Colonial Government, which developed itself in the convulsions of 1837. The present Association with, the avowal of constitutional principles and the assertion of sound maxims, breathes in its recent "Address to the People of Canada," the deadliest hatred against the Representative of Sovereignty, and the darkest insinuations against all the exercises and ramifications of Imperial and Colonial Government—engendering and exasperating a spirit which may be neither under self-control nor legal control before 1847.

In 1834, I stated that I did not believe there was one out of one hundred of the members and disciples of that Association who contemplated any thing beyond what was lawful and constitutional, but there were active and leavening elements in their proceedings, which like the use of spirituous liquors, or the indulgence of the sensual appetites would urge them to deeds and to projects at which they then shuddered. I say the same in regard to the supporters of the present Association. But the spirit of the former Association was only a shade of the *virus* which circulates throughout several of the speeches and the recent "Address" of the present Association:

And if such a man, for example, as Mr. WILLIAM HUME BLAKE—Queen's Professor of Law in King's College—who, two years ago, spoke against accepting the Solicitor-Generalship of Canada West (should it be offered to him) because he would not be in a government with such men as Messrs. Sullivan and Hincks, can now not only organize with such men, but hold up Sir Charles Metcalfe under the character of Warren Hastings, and exhibit the King and Government, and even People of Great Britain, in colours of the deepest depravity and barbarism; what may not he and others like him be found doing against the British Sovereign's Representative in Canada two years hence?

I therefore solemnly warn all who have the safety and best interests of themselves and families at heart, to pause before they enlist under the banners of the "Toronto Reform Association." And I warn those who have been drawn into it, to disentangle themselves before they become inveigled to their ruin.

There is a political as well as physical in-