

## Judge Wilmot's Speech at the Bible Meeting.

(From the Freeman of January 15, 1859.)

As everybody in St. John must be aware the Anniversary Meeting of the Bible Society was held at the Mechanics' Institute on Thursday evening. For some days previous a portion of the St. John Press was in a fluster about Judge Wilmot, on one day announcing as something wonderful that he was to be at the meeting; on another, informing their little public that he was unwell and unable to leave home on the day appointed; and on another, that he would be at the meeting after all, and the *Freeman* would be unable to exult at his absence. Then rumours of various kinds went afloat through the City, circulated by partizans of the Judge. He was, one said, to prove the story of the flogging true; he was, another had it, to explain away some error as to the place, &c., but to show that it was substantially correct. He was in short to prove to the satisfaction of the public that in telling that story he had done nothing unworthy of his position as a Judge, or of the character of a sincere Christian.

Having been always willing, as we professed to be, to publish any proofs or explanation Judge Wilmot had to offer, we thought it right and proper now, when every one expected that the Judge would say all that he could say on his own behalf, that his statement should appear in the same paper in which he was first called on to prove or retract the story, and then, when he could do neither, branded as a convicted liar. It had been said that the Judge, although he could with such facility tell such stories to a multitude, could not condescend to defend himself in the papers from the charge made against him by the clergyman, who, feeling that his character was impugned, believed he had a right to demand particulars and dates and circumstances—that the serious accusation levelled at him and his order may be fully proved or fully refuted. The Judge was deaf to demands obviously so just, and it was said by his apologists that it was beneath his dignity to do justice in this case. But no one imagined that it would be beneath his dignity to vindicate his conduct on the platform where he had first told the story, and his friends promised that he would there prove that he had spoken the truth.

Our reporter being a Catholic sought and, under the circumstances, obtained from his ecclesiastical superior permission to