

COPIES of a PETITION addressed to Her MAJESTY by certain ROMAN CATHOLIC INHABITANTS of the Province of *Ontario*, in the Dominion of *Canada*, transmitted on the 17th of July last to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for Presentation to The QUEEN :—And, of the LETTER of Mr. *Butt*, M.P., accompanying the PETITION, and of the REPLY to that LETTER.

No. 1.

*Isaac Butt*, Esq., M.P., to the Right Hon. Sir *M. E. Hicks Beach*, Bart.

Sir,

House of Commons, London, 17 July 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you for presentation to Her Majesty a Petition, signed by more than 25,000 of Irish Canadian Catholics, inhabitants of Her Majesty's Province of *Ontario*, in the Dominion of *Canada*.

The Petitioners complain that an Act giving special privileges to the Orange Society in the Province of *New Brunswick* had received from the Lieutenant Governor of that Province the Royal Assent, and that this Assent had been forbidden, and has not since been recalled by the Governor General of the Dominion.

In contemplation of an attempt to obtain a similar enactment in the Province of *Ontario*, the Petitioners humbly pray that Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to forbid the Governor General of the Dominion, and the Lieutenant Governors and their successors, sanctioning by the Royal Assent any enactment giving a Charter to the Orange Society.

The Right Hon.  
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State,  
Colonial Department.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Isaac Butt*.

No. 1.

*Isaac Butt*, Esq.,  
M.P., to the Right  
Hon. Sir *M. E.*  
*Hicks Beach*, Bart.  
17 July 1878.

Enclosure in No. 1.

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TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The PETITION of the undersigned Irish Canadian Catholics, Inhabitants of Your Majesty's Province of *Ontario*,

Humbly showeth,

That the Orange Society, which has kept alive in the land of our origin memories of evil passions, to the disgrace of religion, the violation of law, the fosterage of discontent, has been transplanted to the several Provinces of Your Majesty's Dominion of *Canada*.

That condemned as that society in *Ireland* is by the spirit of the age as embodied in the judgments conveyed against it by the Right Hon. the Marquis of *Hartington*, the Right Hon. *William Ewart Gladstone*, and other exponents of public opinion in *England*, its importation, outside all the circumstances of its origin, into this young Dominion is an evil which can find no apology whatever in either policy or decency.

That whatever be the dangers from which Orangeism assumes to protect Protestantism, they certainly cannot apply in the Province of *Nova Scotia*, where the Protestants are 67 per cent. of the population; in the Province of *New Brunswick*, where the Protestants are 62 per cent. of the population; in the Province of *Ontario*, where the Protestants are 84 per cent. of the population; and that, therefore, Orangeism in these Provinces can find no excuse whatever for its existence in the old cry, which has fallen amongst the enlightened into ridicule since the days of *Dean Swift's* announcement, that "the lion has been let out of the Tower of *London* to destroy Protestant religion."