

on the dispositions of some of the people, and on the nature of the discontent and troubles which have disturbed the Island for several years; for some may imagine that the inhabitants of this small and obscure Island, are like those of the neighbouring Magdalen Islands, a harmless inoffensive people, and in their native simplicity. This may be true of the inhabitants of some parts of the Island, but certainly it is not so of the whole, and especially of King's County, in which are situated my late Parishes.

The right to the soil in this Island is owned by a comparatively small number of large proprietors, who reside out of the Island, and the great body of the population pay rent to those proprietors. The obligation of paying rents in this Colony, while all the other adjoining Colonies are free from this obligation, is considered by them a hardship, of which they have endeavoured to rid themselves. In 1831 a regular association was entered into, principally by the inhabitants of King's County, in order to procure the revocation of their grants of the proprietors. No rents, in six townships in my parish, have been paid since 1831. All attempts to recover them by distress have proved ineffectual. Continued resistance is offered to the constables sent for that purpose. The late Bishop M'Eachern, whose age, dignity, long services and merit should have secured to him great influence over them, totally failed in advising them to desist from such conduct: his warnings and admonitions were totally disregarded by them; they took such a hatred at him, that they testified their joy for his death, by parties of pleasure. When in 1835 I took charge of that district, I thought it the most prudent part to keep aloof altogether from their temporal matters; which rule I invariably followed to the day of my