

OFFICE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA,  
50 Church Street, Toronto,

21st July, 1887.

TO MR. JOHN RUSSELL,  
Agent, Goderich.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge yours of the 20th. The General Assembly declined to take up your Petition, which I now return along with this. Yours truly,

W. REID.

And in the "Acts and Proceedings of the Thirteenth General Assembly" it says: "Dr. Reid presented a Petition from John Russell, agent, Goderich. Dr. Reid indicated generally the character of the document. On motion of Mr. Peter Musgrove, seconded by Mr. Justice Taylor, the Assembly declined to receive the Petition."

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, mark this well—now is the history of my Petition through the church courts unheeded and falsified. A Petition is an application made by an inferior to a superior, and especially to one having jurisdiction; a Petition is on land what a signal of distress is on the ocean—a cry for help. Who can look upon either with stoical indifference? But mark again, I charge the church with being the agent of breaking the contract between the New York Life Co. and me, from earning my bread and butter from that source. But I thank the church from the very bottom of my heart for lifting me into a more profitable sphere of usefulness—to lecture or show Providence our Monitor and Electric Power. The man who claimed to love his God, while he did not love his neighbor, is a liar. The best of all duties is to be fighting for one's country and God.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have now shown you that man is a co-worker with God in matter and mind, as shown by Columbus in matter and my Petition in mind and crime. What the scraps of the vegetable kingdom—light in the darkness—and a piece of wood marked by an iron instrument were to Columbus the following scraps of circumstantial evidence were sure proof to me of the conspirators against my purse, person and truth. Carry this, then, the grand lesson of my lecture with you, through life;