

—is that he has been somewhat pertinacious in urging his claim. My honorable friend says he has been regarded as a “bur” in the eyes of the Government and the Colonial office. It is possible that in time I may learn to think that a great crime—(laughter)—but at present I have not learned to think that a very heavy accusation against a man who conceives that he has rights—if it be an accusation at all. Still I do not think that the House will be of opinion that Mr. Ryland needs a Committee of this House to clear his character. I think Mr. Ryland may be perfectly satisfied with the able statement made by my honorable friend, with the care and attention paid to his case by the Home Government, with the reference made to several distinguished Secretaries of State, with the decision made by the able and distinguished Arbitrator, with the substantial testimony of the award of £9000 which was liquidated in equal portions by the Canadian and Home Governments. And with these observations I must put it to my honorable friend whether he thinks it advisable to press his motion. I am quite satisfied that even if he gains his Committee, the result can be to gain no good to his client; and with respect to his client’s character, he may consider that already cleared. (Hear, hear.)

---

No person acquainted with Mr. Ryland’s case could read the above statement without coming to the conclusion that Mr. Fortescue had not himself personally examined the documents connected with the affair. Had he done so, and perused the Despatches of Lord John Russell to the Right Honourable C. P. Thompson, of the 7th September and 16th October, 1839, it is more than probable that he would have seen quite sufficient grounds for granting a Committee of Enquiry, whose verdict would have disposed of the question at once and for ever.

Adopting the course pursued by that gentleman it may be