

learned as you proceeded. Had you been furnished with a copy of the instructions by which Mr. Clark was guided in reference to the claims and rights of Squatters—had you been officially informed of the conditions on which Squatting had been permitted, of what was really meant by "Squatting," of how a right of pre-emption could be acquired, and of the nature and extent of that right, the "Commission" would have been a thing of short duration, its labors would have been limited and easy, more than two-thirds of the cases could have been settled at the table, and your lacrymose imitations of the Crocodile over Brackenridge's numerous and perilous Journeyings to Goderich, would have been rendered entirely superfluous, as a single glance at your "Instructions" would have shown whether the lad was Journeying for his own amusement or whether his Journeying actually resulted from injustice and oppression on the part of the Local Agent and the Department. But you did not wish to learn this common sense way of conducting the Enquiry. You were afraid of short methods. There was cash capital to be made out of the *ten dollars a-day*, and there was *political Capital* to be made out of the settlers in the new Townships. You make a wonderful bluster about having dragged to light "no fewer than eleven Lists" of Lands in the hands of Speculators, but, you made no such discovery. The lists needed no discovery, most of them I presume were like Mr. Widder's list, publicly advertised either in the columns of a newspaper or in printed hand bills. Not one of them, nor one lot contained in them, belonged to Thomas McQueen, but *one* of the eleven was, or had been, in the hands of Colin Clark, and the other ten in the hands of—come now, Mr. Gowan, out with it—not in the hands of "a certain Clear Grit Patriot," but, in the hands of the *Family Compact—the Solicitors, Ex-Mayors and Judges of the City of Toronto!*

The "Commission," sir, was very industrious in their efforts to prejudice me in the estimation of the settlers of the new townships, by representing me as the enemy of the actual settler—a speculator and the friend of speculators. This, sir, is very flimsy, to say the least of it. My efforts at actual settlement in the township of Grey, have already cost me a great deal of money. And my candid opinion is that it would be better for me and better for the country that every lot in the four townships was in the hands of industrious actual settlers, even if they were unable to pay the instalments,—

If they resided on the lot and cleared away a few acres of the forest and paid their taxes and wrought their statute labor, they would be aiding the progress of the settlement and spending their labor in a way that would be amply remunerated a very few years hence. But I do not think your proceedings were at all conducive to this end. I do not think your mode of effecting actual settlement would result in a peaceable, industrious community. In short, I believe the "Commission" has done more evil than good in the new townships, and I will show why I think so.

For three days previous to your lecture on Orangeism, in the hall of the Exchange Hotel, Goderich, you had been back in the new townships, and according to Sancho's report, you had had a "busy time of it" in making out Deeds or Assignments, of building sites for Orange Lodges. Now I see no reason why the *Goosevilles, Hogvilles* and other numerous villages in the wilderness, should be without their Orange Lodges, and it is quite possible that in making out these Deeds or Assignments at the public expense, you were fulfilling your mission and promoting Mr. Cayley's election interests, just as much as you could have done in any other way. But according to the following extract from one of a number of letters, on the subject, the "Commission" had been doing something worse than propagating Orangeism. The letter is dated "Howick Sept 4th 1856," only about twelve or fourteen days after your visit.

"Since the Commission was round we have had squatting on a large scale. Wallace is sending forth her legions and settling up every vacant lot—even lots purchased at high prices by poor men who intend to come upon them this winter, have been taken possession of by these worthless who with gun in hand, dispute the right of the real owners, one of these Wallace invaders,—by name, says that they will wade to the knees in blood rather than yield the lands. I fear, sir, we will have serious work before this is ended. *They say the great "Commission" gives them encouragement*"

Now, Sir, I have no faith in this "brute force" method of encouraging actually settlement. I think it was adopted through sheer ignorance of your duty, and not from any intention to do wrong, and I was much pleased to see that either, you or the Head of the Crown Lands Department, had discovered the sad error, and promptly endeavored to correct it by the following notice in the *Huron Signal*, October 20th.—

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