

HURON

THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER.

VOLUME III.

GODERICH, COUNTY OF HURON, (C. W.) THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1850.

NUMBER XVII.

HISTORY OF THE CLERGY RESERVE QUESTION IN UPPER CANADA.

No. VI.

The steps of these transactions produced a burst of astonishment and indignation from every part of the Province, and it received fresh strength from the publication of Dr. Strachan's letter to Mr. Wilnot Horton. Meetings were held, resolutions passed, petitions circulated for signature, and every other constitutional mode of expressing popular indignation resorted to through the land. On the meeting of Parliament, the various petitions on the subject were referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Bidwell, Matthews, Thompson of Frontenac, Hamilton and Perry. The labors of that committee we find thus ably summed up in our hand, in the series of articles on the University, published some years ago in this journal, from the pen of John Macrae, Esq.—

"This Committee performed their duties with the strictest impartiality. Before proceeding to the examination of the Letter and Chart, the Chairman transmitted to Dr. Strachan a copy of one of the petitions referred to them, and informed him that they would be happy to receive from him any information upon the matter submitted to their consideration. To this communication Dr. Strachan returned an answer, declining to avail himself of the Committee's offer to receive explanations, but adhering to the statements which he had made in England. 'For my opinions,' he wrote, 'I am responsible to no one. I had no desire to conceal them, and they were therefore publicly and openly expressed. No consideration could have prevailed upon me to deny or mis-state them; but in applying them, every candid mind will feel that the general expressions used admit the existence of exceptions. I desire it only to be borne in mind, that they were given from memory,' a circumstance which Dr. Strachan took ingenious care to conceal from Mr. Horton. The Committee framed a list of fourteen questions, and examined all fifty-two witnesses. Among the witnesses were all the Members of the House of Assembly, whose testimony they could obtain; some Members of the honorable Legislative Council of long residence, high standing, and large possessions in the Province; various Clergymen of different denominations in York and its vicinity; and a few other individuals of high respectability.

"The questions put by the Committee, related, among other things, to the birth-place and education of the ministers of the various denominations; the tendency of the instruction and the fitness of the Clergymen throughout the Province; the asserted increase of the Episcopal Church; and the tendency of the population toward it; the wishes of the inhabitants of Upper Canada in regard to the establishments of one or more Churches or Denominations in the Province, with peculiar rights, privileges or endowments; the interference in politics by the Clergymen of the various Denominations; the proportion of the members of the Episcopal Church to the whole population of the Province; the opinions of the witnesses as to which was the most numerous denomination of Christians in the Province; the asserted ignorance of the teachers of the various Christian Denominations; and the accuracy of Dr. Strachan's Ecclesiastical Chart of the Province.

"The interrogatories elicited a mass of curious and interesting information as to the early Ecclesiastical history of Upper Canada—and in every important particular Dr. Strachan's statements were proved to be false by the most irrefragable testimony.

"The assertion in Dr. Strachan's letter that the people are coming forward in all directions offering to assist in building Churches, and soliciting, with the greatest anxiety, the establishment of a settled Minister; and that 'the tendency of the population is toward the Church of England, and nothing but the want of moderate support prevents her from spreading over the whole Province' were completely overthrown by the evidence. It was proved, that although the Episcopal Church had always enjoyed peculiar advantages in Canada; although it had been the religion of those in high office, and had been supported by their influence, and countenanced more than any other Church, by the favour of the Executive Government; that although its Clergymen had possessed the exclusive right of marrying persons of all denominations; and that although the Clergymen of the Episcopal Church had also been liberally supported, and their Churches partly or wholly erected and maintained from the funds of a Society in England; still the number of members of that Church had not increased in the same proportion as that of several other denominations, and the opinion of the witnesses was decidedly expressed that the tendency of the population was toward that Church. On the other hand, the highest testimony was offered to the disinterested and indefatigable exertions of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and other Clergymen who had been called upon by Dr. Strachan's unfounded insinuations. Their influence and instruction, far from having been hostile to the religious and political institutions of the Province, had been conducive in the highest degree, to the reformation of their brethren from licentiousness, and the diffusion of correct morals, the foundation of all sound loyalty and social order. There was no reason to believe that, as religious bodies, they had failed to include, by precept and example, as a Christian duty, an attachment to the Sovereign, and a cheerful and conscientious obedience to the laws of the country.

"Compared with the whole population, the members of the Church of England were found to constitute an extremely small proportion. On this subject the Committee used every exertion

to inform themselves with accuracy. Besides obtaining answers from the witnesses to very minute questions, a committee was appointed to hold its meetings at York, called the Central Committee of Upper Canada, and was directed to correspond with the other parts of the Province, to suggest the appointment of District Committees, and to request that they would carefully collect and transmit the Central Committee at York, accurate information respecting the number of persons belonging to the religious denominations in their neighborhood. In consequence of these instructions, communications were received from the various parts of the Province, containing correct and full information upon this subject, obtained from personal knowledge or inquiry, and substantiated by the signatures of respectable inhabitants. A Chart was framed from the materials thus obtained, and presented, in the opinion of witnesses who spoke to it, a very complete and full view of the number of ministers and of the different religious denominations in the Province. The information conveyed by this Chart so completely and satisfactorily contradicted and falsified Dr. Strachan's statements, and bears so materially on the question, whether a Charter granted on false representations and calumnious insinuations, should not be set aside and cancelled, that we think it right to subjoin abstracts of the Charts framed by Dr. Strachan, and by the Committee of the House of Assembly respectively.

ABSTRACT OF DR. STRACHAN'S ECCLESIASTICAL CHART FOR THE YEAR 1827.

Episcopalians—39 Clergymen, and one under consideration—59 places of worship where regular or occasional services—45 churches, ten of them building.
Presbyterians—2 Clergymen, two others vacant—4 places of worship.
Independents—6 Clergymen—6 places of worship.
Methodists—From 30 to 30 Clergymen.

ECCLESIASTICAL CHART—HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Denominations.	Number of Ministers.		Number of Places of Worship.	
	Number of Ministers.	Number of Places of Worship.	Number of Ministers.	Number of Places of Worship.
Episcopalians	39	59	45	100
Presbyterians	2	4	4	10
Independents	6	6	6	6
Methodists	30	30	30	30
Other Denominations	1	1	1	1

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EDOUARD,
LAWYER,
No. 10, Front Street, East, 1848.

W. W. SODERICH,
SODERICH, & CO.,
W. W. SODERICH,
& Conveyancer,
ACCOUNTS, &c. &c.
No. 25

RACHAN,
D. ATTORNEY AT LAW,
City, Conveyancer,
Public Officer,
East Street, Goderich, 1848.

MR. LIZARS,
AT LAW,
Collector in Chancery,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1848.

WILLIAMS,
OF GODERICH,
LAWYER,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1848.

MYTHLE TAILOR,
GODERICH,
1849.

ODING,
NEER,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

GORDON,
MAKER,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

KES,
DRUGGIST,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

LINTON,
PUBLIC,
Queen's Bench,
Goderich, 1849.

LIZARS,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

HYDE,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

L HALL,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

FEED,
PAINTER, &c.,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

WILKINSON,
SURVEYOR,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

CE,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

DRAFT OF AN ADDRESS,

In answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, proposed on Friday, the 17th May, 1850.

The following are the Ministerial Resolutions on the Speech, as moved by Mr. Ferguson—

Resolved—That a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, thanking his Excellency for his gracious Speech from the Throne at the opening of the present Session of Parliament.

To assure His Excellency that this House cordially unites with him in deeply regretting the death of the Queen Dowager, a Princess whose many virtues endeared her to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects:

That the occurrences of the past year, and the necessity which had arisen for providing suitable accommodation for Parliament while in Session, having imposed on His Excellency the duty of considering, during the recess, the important subject contained in the Address of this House of last Session, relating to the place of holding the future meetings of the Legislature, His Excellency in giving effect to the prayer of that Address by summoning Parliament to meet at this place, has given additional proof of his desire to meet the wishes of the People, as expressed through their Representatives.

That this House trusts with His Excellency that the important changes recently made in the Imperial Navigation Laws, and the improvements effected in the Provincial Canals, will tend to promote materially the commercial interests of the Province, and to attract to the route of the St. Lawrence, a considerable portion of the emigration of Europe to this Continent:

That it affords this House much gratification to learn from His Excellency that recent advances from England indicate a great improvement in the value of Canadian Securities in the British market, and they assure His Excellency that nothing shall be wanting on their part which may have a tendency to encourage such reviving confidence:

That this House is fully sensible of the great importance of these Colonies of placing the trade between the British North American Provinces on the most substantial footing, and they rejoice to learn that His Excellency has, during the recess, been in communication with the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, and with the Governor of New Foundland, upon this subject, and to assure His Excellency that they are fully prepared to place such powers in the hands of the Executive Government as may enable it to meet the wishes of the Colonies in a liberal spirit.

That this House is pleased to learn that a measure for the establishment of Free Trade between Canada and the United States, in certain articles, the natural products of each, corresponding to that passed by the Legislature of this Province at its last Session on the same subject, is now under the consideration of the Congress of that country:

That this House is glad to learn that by an Act passed during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, the entire control of the internal Post in British North America is vested in the Provincial Authorities, and they are prepared to take such further action on this subject as may be necessary to secure for the Inhabitants of this Province, the benefit of a cheap and uniform Postage rate:

That the expediency of effecting an increase in the Parliamentary Representation of the Province shall not fail again to engage their attention:

That this House will give its best attention to any measure that may be introduced for its consideration founded on the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the conduct, discipline and management of the Provincial Penitentiary, and they feel that the increasing wealth and population of the Province, and the growing aversion to Capital Punishment, render it highly important that the system of discipline established in that Institution, and Gaols, should be made as far as possible effectual for the prevention of crime and the reformation of offenders:

That they will be happy to receive the communications from Her Majesty's Commissioners for the promotion of the Exhibition of the Works of Industry at all the Courts of the Province, and they feel the fullest confidence that the hope expressed by His Excellency that Canadian Industry and Produce will be fittingly represented on that occasion will not be disappointed:

That this House is happy to find that the practice and proceedings in the Court of Chancery in Upper Canada have been placed upon an improved footing, calculated to facilitate the business of the Court and lessens expense to suitors:

To assure His Excellency that they will not fail to take into their most deliberate consideration, as of analogous and perhaps even greater importance, the jurisdiction and practice of the Superior Courts in that part of the Province, with a view to the extension of their sphere of usefulness, and the lessening as much as possible the expense of litigation:

That the regulation of Municipalities and the construction of Gaols in Court Houses in Lower Canada, and the laws for the selection and return of Jurors, and those for the Assessment of property for local purposes in Upper Canada, shall also engage their best attention:

That this House will not fail to give their most careful consideration to the Accounts for the past and the Estimates for the present year, whenever they shall be transmitted to them by His Excellency:

That this House receives with peculiar satisfaction the recommendation of His Excellency to direct their attention to an enquiry into the Revenue and Expenditure of the Province, and trust that the consideration of this important subject thus introduced under the highest sanction, will not fail

Provincial Parliament,

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
FRIDAY, MAY 17.

DEBATE ON PETITION FOR INDEPENDENCE CONTINUED.

Col. GUGY said he could have no hesitation in stating that he was in favour of the petition for Essex. At the same time, there could be no kind of doubt that the House had a right to interfere in certain cases where the welfare of the community appeared to be in danger. And in his opinion, if there was one question more to be settled, it should be to give a general rule, not only to the House, but to the Executive Government, that they would not permit such a petition to be introduced, unless it was shown to be one involving the independence of the Province. Where was the Army? Where was the Navy? Where was the Ordnance? Where was the Militia? Where was the Police? Where was the Constabulary? Where was the Fire Department? Where was the Sanitary Department? Where was the Department of Agriculture? Where was the Department of Education? Where was the Department of Public Works? Where was the Department of Public Health? Where was the Department of Public Safety? Where was the Department of Public Order? Where was the Department of Public Morality? Where was the Department of Public Virtue? Where was the Department of Public Honour? Where was the Department of Public Respect? Where was the Department of Public Dignity? Where was the Department of Public Grandeur? Where was the Department of Public Splendour? Where was the Department of Public Magnificence? Where was the Department of Public Power? Where was the Department of Public Wealth? Where was the Department of Public Prosperity? Where was the Department of Public Happiness? Where was the Department of Public Peace? Where was the Department of Public Liberty? Where was the Department of Public Justice? Where was the Department of Public Equity? Where was the Department of Public Integrity? Where was the Department of Public Fidelity? Where was the Department of Public Obedience? Where was the Department of Public Reverence? Where was the Department of Public Awe? Where was the Department of Public Fear? Where was the Department of Public Terror? Where was the Department of Public Horror? Where was the Department of Public Shame? Where was the Department of Public Contempt? Where was the Department of Public Disgrace? Where was the Department of Public Infamy? Where was the Department of Public Infamy?

ABSTRACT OF ECCLESIASTICAL CHART PREPARED BY COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

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No. 1.—The Roman Catholics are not given in the chart, but it is well known that they were equal in number to any other denomination in the Province. There was also a considerable number of Lutherans and Quakers, of whom no notice seems to have been taken by the committee.

No. 2.—Return seems to have been obtained from the Episcopalian of the number of regular hearers. It would be impossible to hazard a conjecture as to their amount. In a Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for the year 1821, it is stated that "the greatest number of Church of England communicants at any one time during that year was 367."

No. 3.—The committee reported on the 17th March, 1828, and on the 18th the House went into committee of the whole upon it, when an address to the King, founded on the report, was adopted. The Journals show the following proceedings thereupon—

"Mr. Hamilton reported the report of the select committee, and an address to His Majesty founded thereon, both as adopted by the committee."

No. 4.—On the question for receiving the report, the House divided, and the yeas and nays being taken, were as follows:—

Yeas—Messrs. Beasley, Bidwell, Cameron, Coleman, Fothergill, Hamilton, Hemmer, Leffery, McCall, McDonald, of Frontenac, Morris, Perry, Peterson, Russell, Matthews, Morris, Perry, Peterson, Russell, White, Wilson, and Wilson—22.

Signal,
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MAKERS,
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SURVEYOR,
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WATCHMAKER,
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SHOEMAKER,
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Goderich, 1849.

BOOKBINDER,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

STATIONER,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

PRINTING,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.

TELEGRAPH,
No. 10, Front Street,
Goderich, 1849.