

affect lands which have been already allotted and appropriated under former grants ; for the manifest import of the forty-first section appears to us to be limited to this, viz. : 'the varying or repealing the provisions respecting the allotment and appropriation of lands,' and not to comprehend 'the varying or repealing allotments or appropriations which have been already made under provisions of the Act whilst such provisions continued unrepealed and in full force.' The provisions of the Statute of Wills might be varied or repealed without affecting the devises of land already made under it."

The interference of our local Parliament with the Clergy Reserves already appropriated is, therefore, unauthorized and unlawful : it is opposed to, and a violation of the Charter by which a Constitution was conferred upon our Province. The question is, legally and constitutionally, out of their hands : it cannot be legislated upon here without special authority from the Queen and Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Constitutional rights and the decisions of law are still, I trust, regarded and revered by a majority amongst us. If these are to be subverted at the bidding of every popular agitation, then there is no such thing as constitutional freedom left to us. We may have the name and the shadow ; but if the present movement is to take effect, and popular caprice is to be the arbiter of our possessions, whether as individuals or corporate bodies, then we shall have bid adieu to the reality. The hollow show and bitter mockery of liberty is all that we could glory in.

But the abettors of the present movement should look to the perils of the precedent which their success, if that should ever be attained, will establish. If this robbery of ecclesiastical endowments be a passion and a principle, it will not stop with the Church of England. Should the outstretched hand of spoliation touch and rifle us, the Church of Rome may well tremble for her property in Lower Canada. Stripped