

which I then considered, and must still be permitted to consider, as one of the most innocent of my life. The next call on me for professional services occurred in the course of the last Autumn. The agent of the Hudson's Bay Company then applied to me for my advice, as to the civil remedy to be taken, on behalf of that Company, in order to cause them to be reinstated in the possession of part of the Seignior of *Mille-Vaches*, of which Mr. Lampson then recently before, by force and violence, had dispossessed them, and recover damages for the injury thus sustained by the Company. The facts of this case, as stated to me, were, that after the postponement of the criminal trials, and the giving of security by the defendants to keep the peace, as above-mentioned, one of the defendants, Peter McLeod, under the orders of Mr. Lampson, had proceeded with a party of men to the number of twenty-five or thirty, supplied with arms and stores, to the Seignior of *Mille-Vaches*, and had there forcibly taken possession of a tract of land of which the Company had been quietly possessed, as making part of that Seignior, from the period of the lease of it;—that this party of men had, under the same orders, and by force and against the will of the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, proceeded to erect, and had erected a house, buildings, fences, &c. &c. on the same tract of land, of which they continued to retain possession.—I could have no difficulty in pointing out to the agent of the Company the civil remedy provided for such a wrong, namely, the French Action of "*Réintégrande*," which singly and alone affords the redress, that, under the English Law would be obtained by an Action of Trespass, and an indictment for a forcible entry and detainer, and in which, as in the latter remedy, the title to the land claimed cannot be brought in question; the whole litigation in such cases turning exclusively on two facts, possession and forcible disseisin.—At the request of the agent of the Company, I consented to institute, and did institute, this action of "*Réintégrande*," to obtain the legal redress which was sought; and I did so, with as little consciousness of guilt, as in charging myself with the defence of the action of detinue above-mentioned.

At this stage of his differences with the Hudson's Bay Company, Mr. Lampson seems to have deemed it prudent and necessary, to transfer the cognizance of them, from His Majesty's Courts of Justice, in which the parties might and ought to expect justice, to other branches of the Government. His first object appears to have been to implicate the Crown in the litigation in which he had involved himself; and, under the false pretence that its rights and interests were concerned, to induce the Colonial Government to countenance, and assume the defence of his illegal acts.—Incidentally to this course of proceeding, it was found expedient to assail me personally, by false allegations affecting my character, and, as in some other proceedings which have recently occurred in Lower Canada, to nullify the office of Attorney-General, by giving to that officer the character of an accused, or suspected person. A convenient diversion is thus made in favour of the guilty who are under accusation, and the prosecutions against them, which it is the duty of the Attorney-General to carry on, are thereby either defeated, or injuriously delayed; while private resentments are gratified, at the expense of public justice.

With these views, it would appear, Mr. Lampson, on the 21st December, 1830, presented a Petition to His Excellency Lord Aylmer, Administrator of the Government, to which some attention is due, as having been the precursor of that which he afterwards presented, with amplification, to the House of Assembly, and as having, by its success, it is probable, given occasion to the latter. In this Petition, Mr. Lampson, among various unfounded statements, calls the attention of His Excellency, in an especial manner, to the action of "*Réintégrande*" above-mentioned, as being "*a subject of vast importance to the just rights of the Crown, and worthy of His Excellency's most serious consideration.*" An action" he proceeds to state, "has lately been instituted by the Hudson's Bay Company, as lessees of *Mille-Vaches*, by the ministry of the Attorney-General, against your Petitioner and his servants, for supposed trespasses, near the River Portneuf, (the scite in dispute), to which both the Hudson's Bay Company and your Petitioner, as lessee of the King's Posts, lay claim: A copy of the Writ and Declaration served on your Petitioner, is herewith submitted, and your Petitioner, at the same time prays most humbly for the interference of the Crown, to afford him the necessary assistance to defend the said action." He proceeds further to state, "The result of this action must be of the utmost importance to the Crown in this particular, that an extensive tract of valuable land will be wrested from the Crown, without title, should the lessees of *Mille-Vaches*, countenanced by the Attorney-General, succeed in the said action." The Petition concludes with the following remarkable paragraph:—"That your Petitioner, in laying his claims before your Excellency, for mature consideration, cannot pass over in silence,

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