

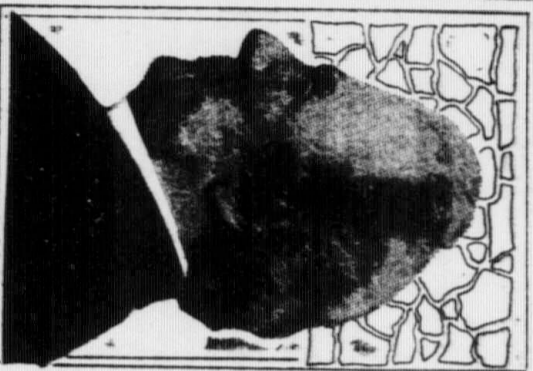
Subject.....

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VI.

By 1839 Strachan could survey the prospect with satisfaction and approval. He was managing the Clergy Reserves for the exclusive benefit of the English church; he had guided the educational system of the colony into the course he had determined for it, and he, personally, was at its head. There were great achievements, but by 1836 the scene had entirely changed; the rude, insistent voice of criticism was resounding in "violent protest against 'religious domination' and 'monopoly.'" These severe terms were being used to describe the situation which Strachan had so successfully fostered.

Strachan replied, by reaffirming the episcopal claim; and he then proceeded naturally to denunciation.



EGERTON RYERSON

He excoriated his critics as disloyal and seditious republicans whose attack on the "national church" was merely a precursor to an assault on the very foundations of the colony itself. These "idle and incapable" dissenters had the temerity to suggest that it had never been the intention of the act of 1791 that the episcopacy should be established in Canada and given ecclesiastical dominance and material monopoly. They were even saying that the revenues from the Clergy Reserves should be divided among all the Christian connections in the colony; that educational control should not be in the hands of the episcopacy; and they, curiously enough, resented the unflattering terms in which they found themselves described by the reverend councillor. It was decided that he could not be left unanswered, and they looked around for a suitable champion.

Strachan had singled out the Methodists for his heaviest abuse, and it was a young Methodist pastor, almost a lad, who, like a second David, marched out against the powerful churchman entrenched behind the ramparts of the Government. This young man was Egerton Ryerson, a youth reared in the English church, but who had been, very early in life, the recipient of celestial intimacies, and had, in consequence, moved into the more ecstatic spiritual atmosphere of Methodism. Ryerson threw himself into the struggle against a dominant episcopacy with all the fervor of his evangelical temperament; he was also, in other ways, admirably qualified for the encounter, lasting as it did, with certain intermissions, till 1854.

THE FIGHTING BISHOP

Being the story of John Strachan, first Bishop of Toronto. In this Section we find him encountering the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and the Famous Canadian Rebel, William Lyon Mackenzie.

BY THOMAS B. ROBERTON

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