

This is the class of man brought by the Rev. Jabez Sims to testify against me by his companions, and his right hand man in the organization of the Orange Lodge, al- luded to in the evidence of James McGregor, and whom Mr. Strong says he believes. It is difficult to determine whether the latter gentleman's penetration, or his want of fairness in his dealing with this matter is most to be called in question, but I think he might reasonably have expected the Rev. Jabez Sims to have sustained his charge, by the evidence of at least *one* respectable man of the neighborhood, before so strongly condemning me.

In conclusion, Sir, I respectfully claim that it is most unfair that the opinion of Mr Strong, who was but two days in all upon the Manitoulin Island, and who had never before been in any part of the District of Algoma, in which my duties are performed, and who is manifestly utterly and entirely ignorant of the Indian character, should, unless supported by facts, be considered as conclusive against me. Is it to be expected that in so short a visit he could appreciate the influences brought to bear upon the Indians, or does it appear that he took the least trouble to apprehend the difficulties of my position? Has he acquainted himself with the nature of the instructions from the Department of the Government to which I belong, under which I acted, and the nature of which in some instances was distasteful to a portion of the Indians; and is my conduct, as set forth by the evidence submitted to him, such as to merit the utter condemnation he heaps upon me, most carefully abstaining from the least word that could be said in my favor, and insinuating blame for acts he dare not openly censure, and for the performance of which I merited and have heretofore received the full approbation of my Department. Sir, I have faithfully, zealously, efficiently, and honorably discharged my duty. Not one single official act in all the persecution that has been waged against me has been found for which I can be censured, and as regards my private character and personal integrity, my bitterest enemies and slanderers have not dared to breathe or even insinuate a word, as my character is thoroughly and well known. I have never in my life been under the influence of liquor; immorality of any description, I am as free from the taint of, as the day I was born, and I have never in my mature years told a falsehood. Had I been content to do so, or at least to be a party to them, by allowing statements prejudicial to the interests of the Indians to pass uncontradicted, perhaps I would not now have had any occasion to make this defence before you.

Can so much be said with regard to my detractors? I would that even-handed justice might cause as searching an inquiry into their conduct as has been made into mine.

Sir, in this matter you have to deal not merely with my living, but with my reputation, and which however humble an individual I am, is as dear to me as is his to the highest in the land. Am I then the "perfect rowdy and blackguard," the "robber of hay from Indians," the "overbearing, unjust and tyrannical magistrate," "the breaker of laws," and "ignorant man," which the refined and Reverend Jabez Sims has asserted—or does not his total failure to sustain in any way, manner or shape; these utterly unfounded accusations, and for which I am about bringing him before the Courts of Toronto, prove much that I have said of his capacity for giving me provocation which led to the unfortunate assault, and which Mr. Strong reports: "Was a blow given in heat—and was promptly apologized for to Mr. Sims—and also immediately apologized for to the Bishop," and for which, and for which alone, I submit that I do not merit the reproach, "that I am a man totally unfit to hold any office under Her Majesty's Government."

Is this, Sir, to be the reward of Her Majesty's Government for faithful services performed with some personal risk, and much annoyance of a life of six years' isolation and privation from every enjoyment of civilization, when the opposing influences may be such for instance, as that respectable body the Church Society of the diocese of Toronto, on the one side, and on the other, an isolated and absent man on an ice-bound Island, where for weeks and weeks at a time, not a letter or newspaper reaches to inform him of the plans of his enemies.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. T. DUPONT,

Visiting Superintendent Indian Affairs.

To the Hon. H. L. Langevin.

Secretary of State, Ottawa.