

STRICTURES

Upon a recent Report of the Quebec Committee of Relief upon the State of the Funds, presented by a Sub-Committee appointed to report upon false and injurious statements.

ON the 18th May, 1846, J. C. Fisher, Esqr. LL. D., the Acting Chairman being in the Chair, Mr. D. Ross, in his place, read an Editorial article in the Montreal Morning Courier of the 6th, in which (among other things) it was alleged that the Committee had "determined to appropriate a part of the funds to defray the expense of widening the streets," and that this transaction was "nothing else than a species of fraud," and "a scandalous misappropriation." And he thereupon moved, seconded by Mr. Lemesurier, the appointment of a Sub-Committee of five members "to consider and report upon certain statements which had, on various occasions, been inserted in the public newspapers, reflecting falsely and injuriously upon the acts and proceedings of this Committee."

The Rev. Dr. Cook, seconded by the Honble. Mr. Cochran, moved in amendment—"That this Committee, having made it their constant endeavour to administer the funds placed at their disposal for the relief of the sufferers, in such a way as they conscientiously judged would most effectually relieve the general distress, and believing that this object, which alone the Contributors could have in view, will be satisfactorily attained, *decline noticing* newspaper attacks on their conduct, but are ready to afford any explanation to parties entitled to demand it, and who demand it in a regular way."

The Committee divided on the amendment, with ten on each side, when the Chairman gave his casting vote against it (stating his objection to be to the word "satisfactorily") and it was lost.

The Committee then divided on the original motion, with eleven yeas, and ten nays; so that the Committee decided to take the course indicated by Mr. Ross' motion, by a majority of *one*; and after much difficulty in obtaining the consent of five members to act, the Sub-Committee were at length named, consisting of Messrs. Ross, Lemesurier, Baillargé, the Rev. Mr. Parant, and the Honble. Mr. Cochran, *one*, if not two, of whom had voted against the motion.

On the 25th May, the Rev. Dr. Cook, who also had voted against the resolution, and had even made the counter motion, was added to the Sub-Committee, and *became their Chairman*.